سعيمة

العـــــدد 14

اصدارة ربع سنوية

إعداد وتحرير

تهاني سعدان - مشاعر رمضان



Girls Clubs and Educational Intervention to Leave Girls Saleemat

Saleema Website

Girls Clubs are societies initiated, organized and run by children under the supervision of teachers and / or facilitators in schools. An integrated project adopted and supported by the UNICEF Sudan in a number of states of Sudan to improve the quality of education of children, whereas the Ministry of Education, the UNICEF and schools consider the child-friendly legroom, provided by the club, a place wherein the children enjoy learning and energetically participate in a safe, healthy and conducive school environment. A vital partnership between the UNICEF Sudan Child Protection Unit and the Ministry of Education's Girls Education Administration, which is a member of the State Child Protection Mechanism (the Program of Abandonment of Female Circumcision) through girls' education (Saleema Program - Child Marriage).

The goal of the club is to promote the children participation and provide them with the basics and conceptions of participation and life skills to help them live in peace, coexist and cooperate with others and encourage girls to engage in dialogue and partake in educational decision-making, peace building, health awareness, comprehensive development and achieve excellence in education and assist them to be aware of and claim their rights and understand the gender issues and otherwise rights and create and promote friendships and inter-ethnic groups dialogue in addition to the creation of methods and ways for the protection and safety of girls, fighting exclusion and gender-based discrimination, diseases, corporal punishment and instill leadership merits in girls and facilitators and create an environment of security, safety, protection and peace and promote the socio-economic empowerment of girls.

Lately, the UNICEF Sudan organized and held, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, a number of training workshops for male/female facilitators and teachers in a number of states, including: the Blue Nile State's Locality of Ed Damazin, Badous Administrative Unit and the Southern and Northern Sectors. In Khartoum State in the Eastern Nile Locality and in the Northern State's Localities of Dongola, Al-Goalid, Al-Borgaig, Ed Dabah and Marwe. In Northern Kordofan State's Localities of Sudary and Jabrat Al-Sheikh and in El Gezira State's Localities of Medani, El Hasahiessa and Southern Gezira, whereas a number of male/female facilitators were trained to form girls' clubs after they were outfitted with the necessary skills to manage serial social dialogues for the different groups of the society; men, women, married and unmarried.

Finally, the establishment of such clubs and training male/female teachers and facilitators focuses attention on girls education in the community, promotes their roles in the schools, and helps provide due protection to girls against female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C).

Girls Clubs' Training Workshops Wrap Up In Dongola and Khartoum





Khartoum, Dongola, Saleema

Girls Clubs Facilitators' Training Workshops wrapped up in Khartoum and Dongola on 14 October and 28 November 2021, respectively.

Organized by the Administration of Girls Education in the Northern State's Ministry of Education and Guidance, in coordination with the Protection Division of the UNICEF Sudan under the slogan: "The Girl is Born Saleema, Let Her Grow Saleema i.e. healthy, faultless, uncut, " the training workshops targeted 150 female teachers in Dongola, Al-Borgaig and Al-Goalid localities.

The Director General of the Northern State's Ministry of Education and Guidance, Saif Eddin Mohammed Awadallah vowed, in a statement to Sudan News Agency (SUNA), his Ministry's keenness and resolve for girls education, reasserting the Ministry's full sponsorship of all programs and activities implemented in girls primary schools in the State to transmit Saleema concept and show the devastating lifelong harms caused by the female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C). He lauded the UNICEF Sudan efforts and support to the education issues in the Northern State.

In turn, Saleema Initiative for Communication National Expert and the UNICEF Child Protection Consultant, Dr. Nada Habash said the aim of the girls clubs in the Northern State' schools is to discover the female pupils' talents, innovations and capabilities in the cultural, educational, social and sports fields and empower them to practice extra-curricular activities and programs within the schools.

Meanwhile, the Directress of Girls Education Administration in the Northern State Ministry of Education, Ustaza/ Zahra Abdullah, said the training workshops focused on the themes of Saleema and underage marriage of child-girls. She also highlighted the roles of the female pupils, schools, teachers, boards of education and surrounding communities and their contribution to the success of such matter.

Ustaza/ Zahra Abdullah noted that the forthcoming term will witness the implementation of various programs and activities in the primary schools of girls, in addition to the distribution of aide materials to the female facilitators to help establish girls clubs and conducting field tours by the Girls Education Administration to the targeted state localities and units and establish girls clubs in them to oversee the extra-curricular being implemented in the primary schools for girls in the Northern State.

Furthermore, in Khartoum, the Secretary General of Khartoum State Council for Child Welfare (KSCCW), Ustaza/ Sara Hassan Mustaf vowed, while addressing the final session of the workshop, to keep holding meetings and making contact with the community-facilitators in the Eastern Nile Locality to reach a clear vision around the Program of Abandoning the Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting (FGM/C) in the Locality.

The Training Workshop for Male and Female Community Facilitators was organized by Khartoum State Council for Child Welfare (KSCCW) in cooperation with Eastern Nile Locality and the UNICEF Sudan during the period 09 to 14 October 2021 in Technical Naft (Petroleum) Center Hall in Khartoum in the presence of FGM/C Abandonment Program Official in Charge at KSCCW, Ustaza/ Adillah Abdullah.

Moreover, KDCCW Secretary General, Ustaza/ Sara applauded the role of the community facilitators and their ethical, professional and voluntary commitment to ensure access of all the society sectors to the social awareness programs.

The community facilitators received training on the skills required for the societal awareness and the roles of the social development in the neighborhoods of the Eastern Nile Locality, besides developing a joint floor with Khartoum State Council for Child Welfare (KSCCW) for the progress and implementation of the program.

The Training Workshop was presented by two professors from Al-Ahfad University for Girls: Professor Nada Habash and the UNICEF Consultant in Sudan Free from FGM/C Program.

The Workshop included practical training on the implementation of the societal dialogues and awareness of the Program, along with the merits and skills of the community facilitators, the community sectors targeted by the societal dialogues, the skill to implement societal dialogues and winning advocates for the Program from the different society segments in the neighborhoods of the Eastern Nile Localities.

UN Guidance and Recommendations Package to Eliminate FGM/C

The Joint Evaluation Report of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Program on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting (FGM/C) recommended developing a humanitarian approach to commit all countries to include the female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C) within the global gender-based violence in emergencies guidelines and minimum standards and urged for political commitment and the activation of accountability systems.

Khartoum, Saleema

The Joint Evaluation Report studied the contributions of the Joint Program through the findings of its Third Phase to draft UNFPA and UNICEF joint vision within the framework 2030 planning of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and urged for including FGM/C within the political agenda of regional entities, besides the Report recognizes the necessity for supporting the accountability systems. It indicates the partnership with African Union (AU) helped expand the political commitment sphere although it was more limited with other regional entities.

The Report stresses that the Joint Program has modernized its activities to provide national legal and policy environments, responsive to each country unique situation, noting that the Joint Program design recognizes the importance of working on complex issues development on FGM/C practice, in particular medicalization i.e. purported medical justifications and alerts for focusing on gender-based issues and the importance of coordination between FGM/C and child marriage programs.

The Report underlined the Joint Program adaptation with COVID-19 which helped crystallize a global concept of FGM/C, and slams FGM/C marginalization in humanitarian systems and programs.

It is noteworthy that the Report is based on a deep-dive study and opinion polls besides it gathered 17205 social media posts and conducted series of interviews leading to the issuance of a package of guidance and recommendation for the elimination of female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C) representing in continued strengthening of international policies and strategies for the elimination of FGM/C practice by the year 2030, and clearly articulating and recognizing the exerted efforts along with the political commitment and development of accountability systems at the local, national and regional levels, in addition to coordination with the other programs especially those concerned with the child marriage and endorsing the community declarations of abandonment of FGM/C practice as an indicator of the progress of the Program.



The Ninth National Youth Conference... Aspirations and Hopes for Social Change







The Ninth National Youth Conference in the Blue Nile recommended re-legislation of Article (141) of Sudan Penal Code, which criminalizes the practice of female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C) and launching an advocacy campaign for the law by the youth themselves within clear-cut programs and plans to be developed and implemented by the youth, in addition to awareness-raising and education on social norms issues, moving the society and providing a healthy and safe environment for the children and the youth along with the participation of the persons of special needs in each state in the gatherings, forums and workshops in the future. The Conference, held by the Blue Nile Region and the UNICEF Sudan during the period 11- 13 October 2021 in Ed Damazin under the motto: "The Youth Are the Leaders of the Youth Change," to illustrate and reflect the state efforts to deepen the role of the youth in bringing about the desired change by the promotion of positive social norms relating to the female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C) and underage marriage of minor girls within the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Program for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Accelerating Change and the Program for Sudan Free of FGM/C. Two hundred (200) participants, including 120 men and 90 women, partook in the Conference, which included civil society organizations (CSOs), the UNICEF Sudan, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Sudan and H.E. the ambassador of Somalia and H.E. the Ambassador of Sweden, and the implementation partners including the Blue Nile State Council for Child Welfare (BNSCCW) and the Youth Mechanism for Child Protection and the Youth Peer Education Network.

Ed Damazin, Saleema:



The Conference Objectives:

The Conference sought to highlight and integrate the role of the Blue Nile Region particularly in the Joint Program for the Elimination of Negative Social Norms including the female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C): "Accelerating Change" and establishing secure and empowering platform to raise the voices of Sudanese youth activists to help promote gender equality, ending gender-based violence through a wide space to support the youth to express themselves and to benefit from and exchange experiences and innovate new approaches to confront the negative social norms and providing the members of the conference with required knowledge and skills to illustrate the arguments for the abandonment of FGM/C and underage marriage of minor girls, besides availing a space for the youth to contribute to peace-building in the region to include the process of peace and its phases and the making of peace as a kick off point for the social change as well as the encouragement of the organizations of the members of the Conference to engage in the work for the abandonment of the female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C) and underage marriage of minor girls and confirming the mobilization of resources and expanding the youth network and partnerships.

The Conference Activities:

A number of scientific papers on the female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C) and underage marriage of minor girls were presented in the Conference in the Hall of the Legislative Council in Ed Damazin Locality and the Hall of Er Rossairiese Dam in addition to sessions of dialogue and discussion, coordination and networking and lectures, expos, songs party.

see next page



The Conference concluded with outputs, expos and sideline program.

Obligations and Demands for Provision of Health and Education Services:

The Youth Mechanism Chairperson, Fawziah Ahmed Aliyan said the Conference coincided with the celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child. She reiterated the requisite for the promotion of the role of the girl, the exchange of knowledge and experiences amongst the youth besides availing a space for the youth to participate in building peace in the region and reflect the efforts exerted to change the negative social norms.

She expressed gratitude for the Blue Nile youth participation in the process of peace and democratic transformation spearheaded by the transitional period and the achievement of the Revolution goals. She appealed to the officials in charge to adopt and implement the Conference recommendations.

The Child-Girls Representative, Child-Girl Wala'a Abdul Mone'im appealed to the Blue Nile Government to support the girls' clubs, and to activate Article (141) that criminalizes the practicing of female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C). She expressed pleasure for participating in the Ninth National Youth Conference, which coincided with the International Day of the Girl Child, saying: " This periodical celebration, pronounced by the United Nations for the protection of girls, preserve their rights and protect them from discrimination and violence, and uphold their right to development, eliminating marriage of child-girls and ending the practice of female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C)."

Wala'a said the aim of the Girls Union in the State is social awareness raising, providing education service, getting the schools ready, increasing school openings in addition to raising awareness of girls and encouraging and persuading them to enroll in education.

She said the girls club in the State is run by the youth under the supervision of the teachers, asserting that the Club provides the youth with the required skills and fights the female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C), stressing: "Every girl has the right to subscribe to the Club."

Meanwhile, the Secretary General of the Blue Nile State's Council for Child Welfare (BNSCCW), Ustaza/ Hoidah Daldom cited some challenges facing her work as the State recent come out of war with bad toll on the region and this necessitates extensive efforts for recovery and developing a plan for raising awareness in the local communities, advocating childhood issues, ending violence against children and eliminating underage marriage of minor girls and the female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C).

In turn, the Secretary General of the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW), Dr. Abdul Gadir Abo hoped the society would lead change of negative social norms to positive norms.

Dr. Abdul Gadir Abo sent three messages to the Governor of the Blue Nile Region to build an edifice for the Child Welfare Council in the Region to achieve child development, wellbeing and protection and to oversee the implementation of the settlement items belonging to this State and develop a roadmap with the Blue Nile Region to protect the children who have suffered from wars to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He stressed that the Child Welfare Council is the governmental mechanism that must be linked with the international organizations to activate their role in protecting the rights of the child and coordinate with the Child Welfare Council.

He underlined the importance of providing education and health for children in the Blue Nile region, especially since the state has suffered from the aftermaths of war, displacement and discrimination.

Dr. Abdul Gadir Abo emphasized the importance of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the benefit of children, saying: "This requires a roadmap to be led by the Blue Nile Governor."

In the same context, the Blue Nile Region Governor, Ahmed Al-Omdah Badi underscored the importance of training and the educational doses incorporated within the training curriculum in the Conference and urged for their execution on the ground of reality and making sure that they were fully understood by the participants.

The UN and International Partners Accentuate Gender Equality and Children Protection

The Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Shahin Mohammed elucidated, in his speech, that Sudan can a new exemplary model through the lessons learned, adding: "I am very, very happy for this conference coincides with the celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child, a herald of a promising future." He said that big number of girls in Sudan who need empowerment, which is one of the most important tasks of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to work for the empowerment of girls and women to become the mainstay of building the society. He explained that the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) chose to celebrate this day by holding the Conference in the Blue Nile Region to leave no one behind. He added: "We must help all the girls, among the displaced, the incomers, and other communities so that no one is left behind." He reiterated UNFPA commitment, with the generous aid of the Swedish Government, which is directed to the development of knowledge in the two fields, saying the first opportunity will be given to Sudan through electronic programs designed for young girls to be equal with the other party in technical knowledge through their inherent stamina.

In the same context, the UNICEF Representative said: "I feel the huge positive energy filling this hall, I am happy for this and I thank you for this huge energy," and recommended directing this energy to a specific goal to bring about the positive change to eliminate underage marriage of minor girls, adding: "For the first time, we can say that the UNICEF Sudan is the closest to provide protection and haven for girls and women," and thanked the Blue Nile Region Governor for the constitutional and legal amendments made by the State in favor of children and women. He vowed his organization's pledge to support of Saleema Initiative movements to bring about the positive change in the local communities in behavior and customs. He said he visited Darfur States opening big opportunity for partnerships, saying that several people raised their ceilings to become be a mechanism for change in various fields, such as bringing children back to school, however the most important thing we heard is the entry of young children into form mechanisms for building peace for the Sudanese nation, especially since 60% of Sudan population are youth. He indicated that the Blue Nile Region has engaged with eight other states and secured the position of women and prevented underage marriage of minor girls in society, however, the rates of underage marriage and the female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C) are still very high, reaching 62% per annum, pointing out that the Blue Nile region is one of the most youthful states in Sudan, and "this makes you a force capable of doing a lot for Sudan and the youth. He urged the youth conferees to adopt innovative ideas in different methods.

The Representative of the Swedish Delegation explained, in his speech, that today, the youth face many challenges; however, the gender equality is one of the important agendas that the United Nations included in its agenda (2015-2030), saying: "For these reasons, Sweden a female premier and a female minister of foreign affairs, which means that the rights of women is an essential central point in everything they do, and we do so through the rights and the representation of resources. As for the rights, he explained: "With regard to the rights, there are laws that support the issues of women's rights. In Sudan, for example, we support the rights of women and help for the elimination of female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C), so we work to support the women as you all know that the women' rights are still limited, and the practice of female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C), and the marriage of minor girls is still going on at a high rate, which delays women. He urged for fighting these violations of the women and girls rights by the law and awareness raising and change of behavior. He said the economic situation in Sudan is now difficult and helped the spread of some issues, which made many families take other decisions. He affirmed Sweden's pledge to assist Sudan, not only through aid, but through other programs, as well.

see next page









The Secretary General of Child Welfare Council: A roadmap must be developed with the Blue Nile region for the protection of children who have suffered from wars



Dr. Omaima Abdel Wahab: The habit of practicing the female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C)is one of the worst forms of women targeting violence.





per annum %62 The UNICEF Representative: Prevalence of female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C) is very high, reaching

Action Plan to Combat Female Genital Mutilation And Cutting (FGM/C)

Ustaza, Alaa Abdul Rahman gave a presentation on the action plan to combat the practice of female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C)- the roadmap for Article 141, in which she explained in details the legal memorandum, which was approved and widely disseminated to all the states of Sudan to activate Article 141. In addition to launching a communication campaign for the abandonment of female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C), and a strategic campaign for Article 141 with the assistance of a foreign expert to disseminate it on a large scale. Besides, training the employees of the judicial institutions on enforcement of Article 141 In the same context, Dr. Omaima Abdul Wahab presented a legal paper titled: Criminalization of Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting with Special Emphasis on Article 141, in which she addressed how to get messages through the detailed presentation and establishing rights under the Islamic Shari'a and laws, namely: the right to life and the right to health and the terms of references besides an overview of female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) in terms of community concepts (reduction, Sunnah..etc..) Where did these names go? And the legal terms of references (the Constitutional Document).

- The National Terms of Reference
- The International Terms of Reference (the Child Rights Law Reference)
- Regional Terms of Reference (the African Child Charter)

Regarding Article 141, she mentioned some questions: Is the Article sufficient? Can the training of lawyers protect it from being written off? Does the Child Law have a relationship with the Criminal Law of 1991?

She said that the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that the practice of female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C) is one of the most heinous forms of violence against women.

Dr. Omaimah showed rates of FGM/C prevalence whereas the highest reached 97% in North Kordofan State, 59.7% in the Northern State whilst it reached 45.5% in Darfur.

Interventions and Discussion:

The participants inquired about what should be done after the issuance of the law, follow up of complaint-reports, training prosecutors on Article 141 and educating the society about the degrees of litigation. Meanwhile a participant asked "is the pecuniary fine a discretionary power for the judge to assess? Is it binding? And How much is it?." He suggested rewriting the text to be 'imprisonment or fine, instead of imprisonment and fine,' and asked: Is practicing FGM/C equal to wrongful manslaughter? One intervention talked about the failure of the legislator for not explaining the relation of the doctor regarding the criminal liability, besides another intervention inquired: Is it the punishment against practicing FGM/C on a minor girl same as practicing it on a mature woman?

A number of challenges facing the roadmap to combat the practice of female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C) were identified, including the weak participation of women in power, too little training opportunities, the lack of research and studies, and the difficulty to access some areas, no acceptance of the other and respecting religions and wrong societal concepts of customs, traditions and beliefs, besides no inclusion of the crime of female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C) and underage marriage of minor girls in the educational curricula. Following the presentation of the roadmap, the participants divided into three groups of discussion and brainstorming, which proposed activities and events within projects in cooperation with the partners, including marches from all the states of Sudan calling for Saleema girls (i.e. 'whole', 'healthy in body and mind' and 'unharmed', 'intact') to be proud of themselves and produce materials of contents that support the march to broadcast simultaneously with the start of the march campaigns combined with awareness programs in schools, universities and otherwise and train the imams of mosques.

Ed Damazin Conference Agenda for 2021

The conference came out with agenda focusing on innovation and peace-making as follows: The youth shall work for reviving cultures and local heritage in local dialects and slangs using PowerPoint to present factual data relating to children protection and fighting harmful while getting all segments of society onboard. The Youth and Peacemaking: For the empowerment of the youth programs and in support to their efforts to express the nation's issues, the youth from the City of Ed Damazin call the United Nations Secretary-General to hold the General Assembly in Sudan to strengthen and support the youth in their different categories and multiple issues.

Recommendations and Objectives:

The Conference recommended: a- Activation of clear programs for the youth at the regional level, b- working on plans to be developed and implemented by the youth, c) Raising awareness and education on the issues of social norms and community mobilization; d) Creation of a healthy environment safe and conducive for the children and the youth; e) Empowerment of the youth to assume jobs in the public sector to reduce the unemployment rate; f) Developing an educational curriculum that takes into account all differences; g) Providing advanced technological means; h) The youth participation in the formulation of public rights through elections, taking into account the children's rights; I) Rehabilitation and training of the youth in all skills and requirement; j) Nurturing youth talents; k) Providing job opportunities based on desires and talents. Moreover, they emphasized three strategic objectives embodied in educating the Sudanese youth about their role in contributing to change and raise their awareness of issues related to the Conference and integrating the youth segment as an important and effective group in bringing about change and focusing attention to the issue of female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C) and underage marriage of minor girls.

Representative of Sweden Delegation: Gender equality is one of the important agendas within the United Nations agenda (2015-2030).

Conclusion of Conference:

The conclusion culminated with the presence of the communities that declared the abandonment of female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C), previously supported by UNFPA and UNICEF through the Blue Nile State Council for Child Welfare (BNSCCW) and the Community Development College. Namely, Al Shaheed Affendi Area in Bau Locality and Goneis Sharq Area in Er Roseires Locality and Al Wifag Neighborhood in Ed Damazin Locality and El Madinah 6 in Wad Al-Mahi Locality and Khor Al-Gana, Shabra and El Madinah 3 in Qaisan Locality.. The closing session was attended by the Minister of Social Welfare, the Representative of UNICEF, UNFPA staff, UNICEF staff and a number of youth initiatives and civil society organizations (CSOs)in the region.



Male / female
journalists and media professionals pushed
for the provision of factual health information, the formation
of a contingency plan and provision of contact phone numbers to access
'COVID-19 isolation centers' and continuously update information besides conducting
interviews with MOH officials to raise the public awareness of epidemics and pandemics, in
general and the present COVID-19 Pandemic in particular. The journalists and media cadres pre-
sented the demands at the Consultative Gathering on Boosting the Media Role in Covering Health Issues,
organized by Al-Alag Center for Press Services in collaboration with the Primary Health Care Administration
at the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), at the Naft House Hall on the Nile Street on 28 December 2021. They
emphasized the importance of fresh up-to-date health information from reliable MOH sources, timely, for all journal-
ists without discrimination to inform the public and shatter rumors, indicating that they have sufficient spaces for the
health information.
The Directress of Al-Alag Center for Press Services, Ustaza/ Sabah Adam reiterated the right of the journalist to get
detailed factual information, but, she nevertheless, said some intersections constantly emerge in reference to rumors
and fake news in the light of the lack of the accurate information. Ustaza/ Sabah Adam elucidated, saying: "We, in
Al-Alag Center, work for building partnerships with the state institutions since the information is not a minus, but it is
rather a mission." She said the Consultative Gathering seeks to restore and boost confidence between the media
and the Ministry of Health (MOH) as a spearhead of a true partnership between the journalists and MOH Primary
Health Care Administration. In turn, the Directress of the Primary Health Care Administration, Dr. Daliya
Mohammed explained that her Administration works for the promotion of health through the programs
of mothers and children vaccination, nourishment and health education. She emphasized the
importance of a strong confidence between the Ministry and the media, citing the doubt
casted around the Corona vaccination, for instance, which necessitates net-
working with the journalists and the mass media with a strong media
plan to shatter the rumors and confirm the safety and
availability of the vaccines.

Khartoum, Saleema

Boosting Confidence Between the Media and Health,,, the Ball in MOH Court



We Have Sufficient Press Spaces, MOH Should Fill Information Gaps:

For their part, the male / female journalists underscored the importance of the health issues and reporting and highlighting them in all press spaces in all mass media, by all the journalists, not only those interested in covering health stuffs. They pointed out that the press institutions administrations are interested in political and economic more than health issues. Sudan News Editor-In-Chief, Abdul Bagi Jubarah urged for changing the editorial policies and pay attention to health issues, saying "however the second party (the Ministry of Health) work based the civil service hierarchy, which shackles performance, especially with regard to the media, because the other party (the media) is an industry that requires the comprehensive journalist who covers all issues and not specialize in a specific matter. Abdul Bagi called for developing a plan for the media coverage of the health issues and hold workshops in coordination with the other journalistic bodies. For his part, Nader Shalkawi of Youth and Sports Radio blamed the MOH Media Administration, saying: "I find great challenges in obtaining health information, although there are big spaces in radio programs to cover the health issues such as the news and drama programs, so coordination is needed to use these spaces." Participant Adut Ker agreed with him with regard to the media readiness and spaces, noting "In many cases, I cannot find medical staff to host in the programs that I prepare." However, Manal Ahmed Musa of Khartoum State Radio confined her intervention in COVID-19 Pandemic, saying: "There is a big gap in information, especially with regard to the isolation centers, the new mutilated virus, the response teams and their work." Mahasin Atim, a People's Correspondent, also underlined the importance of coordination between the ministries of health and social welfare and the relevant entities with regard to COVID-19 Pandemic to provide facemasks and clean water, noting: "The majority of communities are poor and have no or limited access to clean water and the COVID-19 prevention requires hands washing, wearing masks and using sanitizers." She cited wrong vies about the vaccines against Corona virus. Journalist Zahir Mansour agreed with Mahasin Atim regarding to the information messages about Corona Pandemic and vaccines, saying: "The Ministry of Health exerted big efforts in raising awareness of the Pandemic, and despite this the rate of vaccination is still weak, which requires reviewing the media messages."
Meanwhile, journalist / Najdah Ali Bashir, of Al-Ssaiha Newspaper proposed developing a contingency plan and providing phone numbers for the journalists to contact the



health departments and the isolation centers to get and update information in time, besides conducting interviews with the officials in-charge to raise the public awareness on the Pandemic and its aftermaths, adding: "Previously, the Minister of Health put a wall between itself and the journalists, but there are some initiatives such as Al-Alag Center Initiative to Boost Trust between the Ministry of Health and the journalists." Furthermore, journalist/ Mohammed El-Fatih of Darfur 24 Radio underlined the importance of the provision of timely and detailed information, especially with regard to the rates of vaccination, the number of the citizens who got the vaccine and their classification in men and women, with follow up and timely updating because the rhythm of events pace is accelerating.
The People's Correspondent, Hanan Musa emphasized the importance of designing messages based on the communities' concepts, noting: "Some communities do not recognize the existence of COVID-19 Pandemic and do not believe in vaccination because of the rumors and false information amid the lack of the reliable information from the authorized sources. Then journalist/ Safa Sa'eed directed the discussion to the borders areas (the displaced and refugees), asking were they vaccinated, and the link and coordination between the Ministry and the states with regard to the issue of vaccination.

We Have the Strongest Vaccination Program and Safe Corona Vaccines:

The Directress of FMOH Primary Health Care Administration, Dr. Daliya Mohammed responded to the male / female journalists' interventions. She confirmed that they have a media plan for COVID-19, which is updated continuously. She said: "We need to consult with the journalists and media professionals to develop strategies to activate the partnership, review the media messages and develop new ones around the vaccination and the safety of the vaccines.
She mentioned daily programs of one-hour joint broadcast in last June and July, saying coordination with the Ministry of Information is underway to re-broadcast in all channels, besides making a schedule and developing a media format.
As for the vaccines, Dr. Daliya confirmed that the vaccines are safe and available, asserting: "We have a strong vaccination program and a potent sequence of cooling, and the vaccines are approved by the Pharmacy and Toxins Administration and the World Health Organization (WHO)," confirming that no vaccine is better than another. Assuring that the presently available vaccines are the best vaccines. Dr. Daliy said" We reach everywhere all over the country for vaccination including the remote and contact areas and the internally displaced people (IDPs) camps," adding: "Even the routine vaccination, we launched two national campaigns for polio. She unveiled her Administration endeavor to pass a binding decision to make vaccination mandatory.

Meanwhile, Omer Yousef cited, while defining the vaccines and their safety, slight side effects that fade out in 48 hours, whilst the side effects that require medical care are very rare. He confirmed that the vaccination against Corona lessens admission to hospital by 98%.



News Events

Launch of Regional Report on Situational Analysis of Women and Girls in MENA Region

The UNICEF MENA Regional Office held, on 30 November 2021 to 09 December 2021, the workshop of "Releasing the Regional Report on Situational Analysis of Women and Girls in the Middle East, North Africa (MENA) and the Arab States," with the participation of representatives of governments and the United Nations agencies.
The Report describes the outcomes of the situational analysis of the status of women and girls in the pillars of health and well-being, learning and education and livelihoods, freedom from violence and access to justice and participation.
The analysis covers the situations in the region, the major developments impacting women and girls during the period 2010-2020.
The Report was launched online on 30 November 2021, during the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (25 November - 10 December).
It is noteworthy that the workshop sessions were held online and discussed different issues including the issue of women participation, health, food security and livelihoods besides a report on the situations of women and girls plus one session on education.

Red Sea State:

Numbers of Schoolgirls Rising Steadily

Khartoum, Saleema

The numbers of schoolgirls are rising steadily in the Red Sea State in both urban and rural areas, said the Directress of Girls Education Administration, Maryam Mahmoud in celebrations of girls clubs in Sinkat Locality.

Organized by the Girls Education Administration in Sinkat Locality and Saleema Program the celebrations of the girls clubs comprised theatrical performances, folkloric songs and dances in Bija slang advocating for and encouraging girls education in the presence of UNICEF Sudan and Locality executive directors.

Directress Maryam Mahmoud said the festival sought to activate the girls clubs and see their activities in Sinkat Locality, which includes 12 girls clubs in the City of Sinkat, Gabait and Ercuit. She noted a significant rise in the number of schoolgirls and undergraduate girls, saying: "This gathering is organized in Taha Belia School which includes 700 schoolgirls, which is an indicator of the rise in the numbers of schoolgirls in the rural area, thanks to training and awareness raising by the UNICEF Sudan and Girls Education Administrations," indicating that a big number of girls resumed their education after marriage.

The Directress of Girls Education Administration in Sinkat Locality called for provision of aids to the girls to carry out handcrafts works, housekeeping and sewing to help them establish small investment projects, especially as 300 girls had received vocational and handcrafts training.

She reiterated the Red Sea State and the Ministry of Education commitment to introduce technical and technological education in girls' schools.

Maryam said her Administration launched an awareness raising campaign on the importance of girls education and the abandonment of the female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C), which targeted the parents of girls in seven localities in Halayib, Port Sudan and less accommodative rural areas for twenty clubs.

She complained of challenges representing in the failure to prepare female teachers housing, difficult transport as well as the shortage in school aides.

Doses of Pfizer Vaccine from USAID to Sudan 774,540

Khartoum, Sudan:

Sudan Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) received, 774,540 doses of Pfizer Vaccine against COVID-19 from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Friday 11 February 2022, Saleema Initiative Website learned.

The Acting Minister of Health, Dr. Haitham Mohammad Ibrahim, said "these doses represent an addition to the doses previously delivered for combating the Corona virus," and thanked the US Administration and the US Aid for the continued aid through COVAX mechanism.

US Chargé d'Affairs in Khartoum, H.E. Ambassador Lucy Tamlyn, said "this batch raises the number of doses of Pfizer vaccine donated to Sudan to one million seven hundred and seventy-four thousand and one hundred and thirty doses since 06 October 2021, whereas the total of these vaccines is considered one of the largest donations given to Sudan by one country," indicating the United States commitment to purchase and donate 1.1 billion vaccines to more than 110 countries, including Sudan

The World Health Organization (WHO) Representative confirmed hard work and cooperation afoot with the USAID to deliver Corona vaccines and assist the Federal Ministry of Health (eH-FMOH) to deliver these vaccines to all states of Sudan.