



Through IOM's Rapid Response Fund (RRF) and with thanks to USAID/OFDA, NADA Elazhar Organization for Disaster Prevention and Sustainable Development (NADA) implemented a protection project between March-July 2016, to support IDPs displaced in Kutum, North Darfur.

*“Before attending the awareness sessions, I did not know that FGM is forbidden and it causes all those harmful illnesses. I did not know that I could be protected by laws if I face any type of violence. I did not hear about my right to participate in different community and national activities.”*

Halima and her family of seven were displaced during January 2016, together with 120 other families, when armed conflict ravaged her village Bawa Delaba, in North Darfur. They fled to Kutum locality where she and other families sheltered at the IDP camp. Here they struggled to meet their daily needs, having lost all of their belongings and livelihoods. This traumatized IDP community received no assistance for many long months until National NGO, NADA Elazhar Organization for Disaster Prevention and Sustainable Development (NADA) approached IOM to apply for the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) a unique emergency grant from USAID/OFDA, with a fast turnaround time. Recognizing the critical needs of this under-served community, IOM and USAID/OFDA supported NADA's application and their proposal was rapidly approved. NADA focused on protective interventions to include referral services for vulnerable individuals, mapping out the services available and developing/strengthening community-based social support structures. For example, the project identified the Zakat Chamber, a government body established in 1986 in Sudan to promote social cohesion and poverty alleviation through the collection and disbursement of alms.

Through this RRF project, women and girls in Kutum and surrounding villages established an open, mutually respectful dialogue with members of their traditional justice systems (El-Maglis); together, they were able to better understand where practices, deemed acceptable under the traditional system, were incompatible with the National Justice system. In this united effort, women stood up for their rights, and actively participated in decision-making that affected them, in order to influence positive change at community and national levels.



Dignity kits are provided in sturdy school-sized bags

By focusing on strengthening services at the grass-roots, families like Halima's are able to receive sustainable support that simultaneously builds local capacities. NADA worked closely with the Ministry of Social Affairs and State Council for Child Welfare, who have been able to maintain many of the services after the end of the project. The RRF also funded the purchase and distribution of 2,500 dignity kits, the importance of which is expressed emphatically by

Halima, *“Those [dignity kit] items [which includes women's sanitary items] allowed me to move freely. I took my kids to the vaccination center and I visited the doctor and my family. The underwear and cotton pads are very critical- it saved my dignity.”*

With the support and partnership of the Government of Sudan, this RRF project built the knowledge and capacities of local communities through different information-sharing sessions at a wide-scale community level, as well as at group and individual levels. NADA's emphasis on building community knowledge was very much appreciated, especially by women and girls, who are commonly the most vulnerable groups. Halima proudly states, *“Women and girls are stronger now and aware about their rights and know how to address their protection concerns.”*



Families read about mine awareness with interest

*The Zakat Chamber exists in Kutum, and we IDPs coming from Anaka, did not think it was accessible to us. Back at home we cultivate crops and we can survive, but now we are very poor and do not have any means of income. We have been here since January and we didn't know that we could be supported by the Zakat Chamber. We were thinking about moving to West Darfur and leaving the country through Libya despite the danger from that journey because we are living a very tough life without hope. This was until NADA and CBN members [through the RRF project] referred us to the Zakat Chamber where we were provided with food. We are also now on their list for small income generating projects. This intervention opens hope for a better future through improvement of our socio economic status and therefore our well being,” said Fator, who, with his wife Saida, was also displaced to Kutum.*