



## Federal Governance Chamber × Ahfad University × SMAPII

# WOMEN & EMPLOYMENT & PEACE in Darfur

SMAPII project aims to bring better life for people of Darfur by enhancing peace through capacity development of the State Governments, and the main counterpart is Federal Governance Chamber. Since women manage their livelihood for their family issues, child's education and so on, the project considers that enhancing of women livelihood contributes to general stability in family, community and society. Therefore, women's economic empowerment takes an important role for peacebuilding in Darfur.

There are various ways of economic empowerment of women in Darfur states and each way has different types of happiness. In order to find good linkage between their economic empowerment and happiness, the project cooperates with Ahfad University and discussed with 20 Darfur students at Ahfad University on 18<sup>th</sup> December. The students dialogued the two topics about "women and employment in Darfur", and the results are in the below column. In addition, the project interviewed with a professor of Ahfad University and a director general of Federal Governance Chamber about their idea and activities about "women and employment in Darfur", see the below column. Through the discussion and the interview, the Project learned the practical and useful ways to promote the linkage between women's economic empowerment and happiness, and implements the project activity based on them.



### "Women's economic empowerment increases happiness!" by Ahfad University Students

**Dialogue Topic:** *What kind of economic empowerment can make happiness for women?*

**Background:** There are various ways of economic empowerment of women and each way has different types of happiness. The students discussed the connection between women's economic activity and their happiness from various viewpoints.

**Dialogue Result:** *Economical self-empowerment enhances self-confidence and happiness of Women*

Students suggested many income generation activities (craft work, making of dairy products, managing of restaurants etc.) for Darfur women can not only enhance their vocational skills but also increase self-confidence and the level of happiness. The increased self-confidence and happiness will support them to overcome various kinds of challenges and difficulties.

**Dialogue Topic:** *How do we increase women's internal motivation to attend vocational training?*

**Background:** For better women employment activities, the vocational training takes an important role. However, some women's motivation to attend the vocational training is not high. The students discussed the way to increase their internal motivation.

**Dialogue Results:** *Positive feedback from family and customer increase their internal motivation.*

Students proposed that hearing the positive feedback from family and customer is a great source of the internal motivation. Therefore, the trainings to meet their needs and demands of their family and customers are necessary. Family encouragement is also a key for the internal motivation, so that it is important to promote family member's understanding of women's work.



### "Happiness is a key factor of women's vocational training" by Prof. Balghis Badri from Ahfad University and "the government promotes the right of women" by Mr. Babekir Sirelkhathim from Federal Governance



From left: Mr. Osama (SMAPII), Mr. Farha (FGC), Prof. Balghis (Ahfad), Mr. Tajima (SMAPII)

**SMAPII:** What is your organization's idea and activity about women and employment in Darfur?

**Prof. Balghis:** Women and employment is a main way of our approach, and Ahfad University enhances self-empowerment of women by providing academic and vocational opportunity to consider ethnic diversity in Darfur.

**SMAPII:** We provide various types of vocational training with women with focusing on individual trainee's mind, such as their self-esteem and happiness.

**Prof. Balghis:** The approaches of SMAPII are new

and important. Paying attention on happiness is necessary because self-esteem and happiness are key factors of the vocational training.

**Mr. Babekir:** Federal Governance Chamber (FGC) considers the role of women in Darfur as important. We encourage our relating authorities to ensure good services and education for the women. Also we promote the right of women to participate in public activity including social and political participation.

**SMAPII:** SMAPII, Ahfad University and FGC share the same idea for the women and employment in Darfur. Let's work together to make the idea come true!



Mr. Babekir, Director General of Peace and Peaceful Coexistence Department (FGC)

## About SMAPII Project

**Name:** The Project for Strengthening Peace through the Improvement of Public Services in Three Darfur States (North Darfur, South Darfur, West Darfur)

**Donor:** Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Government of Japan

**Sector:** Health, Water, Employment, and Monitoring & Evaluation

- **Health Sector** aims to improve community health through awareness raising at target communities and strengthening the capacity of human resources.
- **Water Sector** aims to strengthen the capacity of the water supply service through new/rehabilitation water yard construction.
- **M&E Sector** aims to assist the Ministry of Finance in the three states in managing, monitoring and evaluating the progress of development projects.
- **Employment Sector** aims to improve livelihood of Darfur's people (Men and Women) through human resource development for improved livelihood.

SMAPII welcomes the project partners! More details of the project activity are on Facebook page, please visit "SMAP2 & FGC" and send your feedback!



**Women integrated training:** This training is implemented by the Labor Department (State Ministry of Finance) in collaboration with the Sudanese Women's General Union. It aims to provide women with a set of essential skills and knowledge to start business. The training lasts 3 months, consists of six elements, 1) Tasty and modern bakery training, 2) Business skills training, 3) Internship at bakery shops, 4) Motivational talks from local women entrepreneurs, 5) Facilitation for micro finance loan, and 6) Startup kit (oven & gas canister). The training targets mostly those who have been affected by the conflict. The first batch training has completed by October 2016, and the second batch has just started in December 2016, and two more batches are planned for 2017.