Sudan

ERD
Organization

Newsletter - December 2025

Standing with Sudan in Times of Crisis

Dear readers, friends, and partners,

2025 has been a truly impactful year, full of unexpected challenges and meaningful achievements. In our December Newsletter, we reflect on these milestones and share the progress ERD Organization has made.

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omen, Peace
Security
25: Leveraging Multilateral Diplomacy
Women, Peace and Security Agenda
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AU High-Level Forum on Women, Peace and Security, 9th-10th December 2025.
From right to left:

- Amb. Liberata Mulamula, African Union Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security.
- H.E. Joyce Banda, former President of the Republic of Malawi MW and the second woman to serve as President in Africa.
- H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde, former President of Ethiopia.
- Ms.Rounag Shimila, Head of ERD Organization

ERD Joins the 6th African Union High-Level Forum on Women, Peace and Security

ERD was proud to take part in the **6th African Union High-Level Forum on Women, Peace and Security in Tunisia**, 9-10 December. Following a kind invitation from the Office of the AU Special Envoy, our team joined leaders and experts from across the continent at the **International Diplomatic Academy**.
The forum served as a powerful platform for exchanging experiences and strengthening the partnerships necessary to advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Africa. **ERD** is grateful for the opportunity to have contributed to these critical dialogues and remains committed to driving continued impact through future collaborations.

Bridging The Gap: Initiative Of Amplifying Young Women's Voices In Sudan Peace Processes And Post-Conflict Future

On the 1st – 2nd of December 2025, the ***Environment and Rural Women's Development (ERD) Organization*** in collaboration with ***Peace Women Across the Globe (PWAG)*** launched its initiative titled ***"Bridging the Gap: Initiative of Amplifying Young Women's Voices in Sudan Peace Processes and Post-Conflict Future."***
The initiative was introduced at a critical time in Sudan's ongoing crisis, recognizing the essential yet often underrepresented role of young women in peacebuilding and political transition efforts. The initiative sought to strengthen the leadership, participation, and influence of young Sudanese women across all levels of peace processes and governance. It focused on empowering emerging women leaders, rebuilding intergenerational connections within the women's movement, and creating meaningful platforms for young women to shape Sudan's post-conflict trajectory.

As part of the initiative, *ERD Organization* convened a high-level **Roundtable Discussion** that brought together a diverse group of women leaders across generations, civic actors, and key stakeholders engaged in Sudan's peace efforts. The gathering provided a collaborative space for participants to exchange insights, address challenges facing women's engagement in peace processes, and identify collective priorities reflecting the aspirations of Sudanese women.

ERD Organization Extends Its Appreciation To The IGAD Special Envoy To Sudan, His Excellency Mr. Lawrence Korbandy At Roundtable Discussion

On behalf of the “Bridging the Gap” initiative, **ERD Organization** extends its sincere gratitude to **H.E. Mr. Lawrence Korbandy**, IGAD Special Envoy to Sudan, for his invaluable engagement with young Sudanese women during our recent roundtable. We deeply appreciate His Excellency’s willingness to listen to these essential, yet often overlooked, voices.

We also thank **IGAD** for its steadfast leadership and regional commitment to peace in Sudan. The Special Envoy’s involvement is a vital pillar in advancing a negotiated resolution to the conflict. **ERD** remains dedicated to collaborating with IGAD and our regional partners to amplify women’s leadership and support Sudan’s long-term stability.

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ACTION AGAINST HUNGER
In partnership with Canada

PROJECT UPDATE: “Multi-Sector Humanitarian Response to Conflict-Affected IDPs and Host Communities in Central Darfur and South Kordofan, Sudan (2024-2025)

Partners: Action Against Hunger – Spain (Sudan Mission).
Funder: Global Affairs Canada.
Key Locations: Gadeer, South Kordofan

Operational Status: Concluding Activities in Al-Tadamoun Localities In South Kordofan due to Ongoing Conflict

We bring an important update regarding our project, While we initially shared the successful launch of this Project in **, South Kordofan**, the escalating and ongoing fighting in the Kordofan region has created significant challenges for sustained operations. Consequently, ERD Organization and our partners are now bringing the current phase of this activity to an end in the affected areas.

A Reflection on the Initiative

The project was built on a foundation of:

- **Collaborative Engagement:** Working closely with local authorities and community representatives in Al- Tadamoun to ensure a needs-driven response.
- **Local Grounding:** Utilizing local perspectives to lay the groundwork for inclusive humanitarian support.
- **Multi-Sectoral Aid:** Addressing the interconnected needs of conflict-affected populations during a critical time for Sudan.

Looking Forward

We deeply appreciate the support and warm reception our teams received from the community in Al- Tadamoun during the implementation period. While the current security environment in Kordofan necessitates the conclusion of these specific activities, ERD Organization remains committed to its mission of supporting vulnerable populations across Sudan.

We continue to monitor the situation closely and remain dedicated to exploring safe, effective ways to serve those in need as the humanitarian landscape evolves.

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This picture shows the resilience of people in Kalugi locality, South Kordofan, following a drone strike, with ERD supporting solid waste management as part of its intervention.

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Part of Project: **Strengthening Resilience and Sustainability of Food-Insecure Households in Underserved 5 Communities in Elreef-Elshargi and Gadeer Localities, South Kordofan states, Sudan**. in partnership with **Action Against Hunger Spain – Sudan Mission (ACF)**
Funded by: **Agence Française De Développement**. As part of the project completion, **ERD Organization** successfully implemented a set of integrated **WASH** and **community-based** activities aimed at improving public health, environmental sanitation, and community resilience, including the following:

- **Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)** pre- and post-triggering activities were conducted in the targeted communities to promote behavior change, eliminate open defecation, and encourage community ownership of improved sanitation practices.
- **Capacity-building training sessions were delivered to community leaders, women, youth, and WASH committees,** strengthening their knowledge and skills in water safety, hygiene promotion, and sustainable management of water resources, thereby enhancing community-level leadership and accountability.
- **Solid waste management** activities were carried out to improve environmental cleanliness, reduce health risks associated with improper waste disposal, and support safer, healthier living conditions within the targeted communities.

Critical Developments: December 2025

Scenes from a locality in Kordofan where displaced persons gather and recollect after a harrowing journey, Dec 2025

Fighting Intensifies in Kordofan Region

The conflict has entered what UN officials describe as a deadlier phase, with the Rapid Support Forces making significant territorial gains in the Kordofan region. On December 1, RSF forces captured Babanusa in West Kordofan, followed by the seizure of the strategic Heglig oil field on December 8. The Heglig facility, which processes oil for both Sudan and South Sudan, represents a critical economic asset.

Following the RSF advance, Sudanese Armed Forces units withdrew across the border into South Sudan, where they surrendered their weapons to South Sudanese forces. In an unprecedented arrangement, South Sudan's military has moved into Heglig under a trilateral agreement with both warring parties to secure the oil infrastructure and prevent its destruction during combat.

Civilians Bear the Brunt

Drone warfare has become a particularly deadly feature of the conflict. Between December 4 and 16, at least **104** civilians were killed in drone attacks across South Kordofan. The deadliest incident occurred on December 4 in Kalogi, where a kindergarten was struck, followed immediately by an attack on the hospital treating the victims. This single attack killed 89 people, including **43** children and eight women.

On December 13, drone strikes targeted a UN peacekeeping base in Kadugli, killing six peacekeepers and injuring eight others. UN Secretary-General António Guterres condemned what he termed "horrific" attacks, warning they may constitute war crimes.

Food Insecurity Hits Women Hardest in December

December reports revealed alarming gender disparities in food security. **75%** of female-headed households now face food insecurity, with the proportion experiencing severe food insecurity nearly doubling from **14%** in 2024 to **26%** in early 2025. Women and girls face heightened risks of gender-based violence when seeking food, water, or standing in aid distribution lines.

The recent US aid cuts have severely impacted response capacity in December, more than **80%** of emergency food kitchens operated by women have closed, and three-quarters of facilities offering clinical support for survivors of rape are now non-functional.

SUPERIOR LEAGUE
76
BASEBALL STAR CHALLENGE

Picture taken in Kalogi, South Kordofan following recent bombing campaign by the RSF, Dec 2025

Healthcare Under Attack

Sixty-five attacks on healthcare facilities have been documented in 2025, killing over **1,600** people. In December alone, hospitals in **Kalogi**, **Kadugli**, and **Dilling** were struck, with medical personnel among the casualties. These attacks violate international humanitarian law and leave vulnerable populations without access to essential medical care.

Emergency Response Rooms Continue Operations

Despite being systematically excluded from formal peace negotiations, **Sudanese women** remain at the forefront of humanitarian response. *Women-led Emergency Response Rooms* have become essential lifelines, coordinating evacuations from conflict zones, distributing aid, and providing critical services to displaced populations. Through partnerships with over **60** *women-led organizations*, **UN Women** has reached more than **15,000** women in the most affected areas with household essentials, protection services, and skills training.

International Response

European Union

Funding Gap Threatens Response

The UN and partners are seeking **$4.2 billion** to deliver life-saving aid to **20.9 million** of the most vulnerable people in Sudan in 2025. As of late December, the humanitarian response plan was only *36% funded*, leaving critical gaps in food assistance, healthcare, shelter, and protection services. As we enter 2026, we remain steadfast in our commitment to the people of Sudan. With your continued support, we can help build the foundations for lasting peace and recovery.

In solidarity,
ERD Organization