Providing foundations for women to build their homes... build their lives

Implementing the gender approach in shelter projects in Sudan

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July 2022
Tunaydbah refugee camp

Source: Humanitarian relief
About the Shelter project

- Refugee camp for Tigrinya refugees
- From tents to more permanent solutions
- Cultural acceptance
- Community involvement
- Construction of 200 + 650 tukuls, following different designs
Participatory approach

- Discussion with community to decide interventions
- Drainage system to prevent floods (Cash for Work) During this time 64% of our Cash for Work was done by women
- Tukul design, material selection
- Families involved in the whole construction process
Different designs
Family responsibility

- Move their rakhubas
- Foundation digging
- Curating
- Backfilling
- Plastering of walls
Challenges becoming opportunities

- In consultation with the community, women participated in construction works
- At the beginning: 6 crews, four men and one woman per crew
- After a while... the male workers were pushing the women out of the crews
- A training for women on masonry work was organized
- Selected number of participants (40)
Training topics

- How to read plans?
- Foundations
- Masonry work
- Mortar mix
- Roof prefabrication
Women crews

- After successful completion of training
- They form women crews, to improve their skills on construction works
Women crews

Global Shelter Cluster Meeting, July 2022
Women led by women

- **Salma**, architect from Karthoum. Senior Shelter manager, provides technical assistance in different projects
- **Azmera**, civil engineer from Tigray, worked in the local government

She started as a shelter technician volunteer in previous flood preparedness interventions

Currently, she has a supervision role
trained by a woman

- **Mehdi**, directed all the trainings. She used to be a masonry trainer at a construction school in Tigray.
- Throughout the whole construction she has been mentoring and guiding the women.
in general, many women supporting the process
Achieving...

- The development of skills in construction works in women, for their own homes but also as a source of work

- Empowered women, who are an example for their own children
they keep improving their houses

- They know how to build their kitchens
- They build showers inside their rakhubas (protection)
• The entire community, technical team and the beneficiaries, have seen the women workers perform their duties with skill, speed and strength
• Men have noticed these efforts and are now inviting these women to join their crews
and the beneficiaries live in better conditions
Thank you

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