

each life matters



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

Implementing the gender approach in shelter projects in Sudan

Eng. Patricia Gomez, Senior Global Shelter and Settlement Advisor

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



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

- **Medhi**, 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...

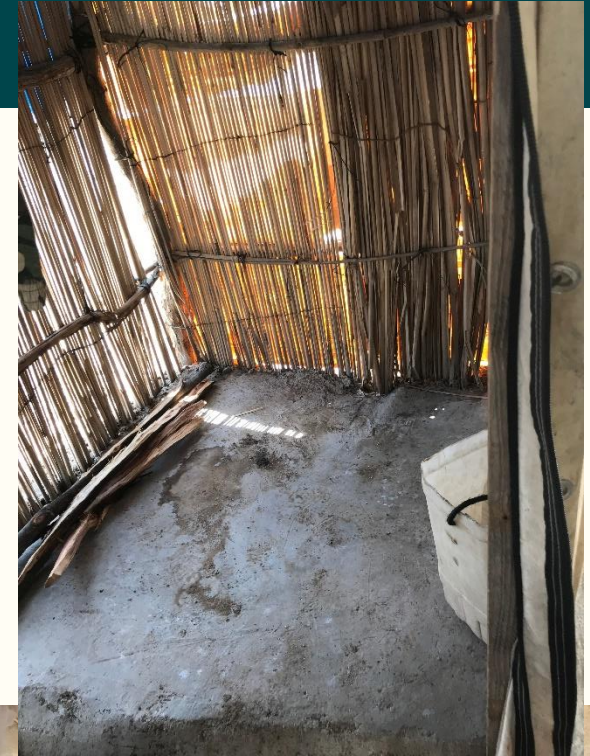
- The development of skills in construction works in women, for their own homes but also as a source of work
- Empowered women, who are an example for their own children



they keep improving their houses



- They know how to build their kitchens
- They build showers inside their rakhubas (protection)



recognition in the community and among men builders

- 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



For additional information: patricia.gomez@medair.org