



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on the Status of Women

Sixtieth session

14-24 March 2016

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”**

### **Statement submitted by Al-Birr and Al-Tawasul Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## **Statement**

### **Social Development and girls**

Dealing with girls at early ages makes a big difference in upgrading the communities. We started dealing with the pregnant women to ensure giving birth to healthy infants, following their growth and taking care of vaccination.

In the developing countries where people suffer from crisis and disasters, which lead to displacement, the people live at the outskirts of cities which lack the ability to meet the needs of the citizens. In these communities girls study at overcrowded schools that lack fences, toilets and sometimes seats and even roofs. The majority of the kids go to schools with empty stomachs and are unable to have breakfast at school, which leads to dropout and bad performance.

Educated girls play important roles in improving the communities in all areas: health, hygiene and environment, coexistence, poverty reduction and all human rights that enable people to live in dignity.

We started a project in the capital of Sudan-Khartoum targeting the schools at the outskirts where the people there are poor and displaced. We provide breakfast meals to the kids of 6 primary schools the majority of which are girls. According to the principals of these schools the provision of food on a daily basis has affected the attitude of the children. The dropout rate has decreased and the diseases from malnutrition are less after the project.

The mothers encourage their daughters to go to school as the need for food is met, and the communication between the schools and the mothers improve.

We plan to raise the awareness on issues like early marriage, importance of education, risk of child labour, hygiene and environment. In many states of Sudan girls are not able to go to schools because of poverty and inability to continue to study with empty stomachs. Many move around either begging or working.

We believe encouraging education of girls through the provision of a meal per day will make a change to the whole community.

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