



# USAID | SUDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## SUCCESS STORY

### Combating Violence Against Women in Darfur through Gender Education



USAID/OTI/SUDAN

Ninety civic leaders from the Darfur region and surrounding areas participated in USAID/OTI-funded training on conflict and development from a gender perspective.

*The overarching goal of the USAID/OTI Sudan program is to strengthen Sudanese confidence and capacity to address the causes and consequences of the political marginalization, violence, and instability that has plagued the country for nearly 50 years.*

*Working within the context of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the OTI Sudan program focuses on promoting the emergence of responsive and effective civil authorities, establishing peaceful dialogue within and among communities, fostering the emergence of an active civil society, increasing the availability of independent information, and protecting vulnerable populations from grave human rights violations and related abuses.*

U.S. Agency for International Development  
[www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)

**August 2006** – Widespread conflict has plagued the Darfur region of Sudan since February 2003. Despite recent efforts for peace, violence against women remains a disturbing factor in the ongoing struggle in Darfur. Women in this region continuously fall victim to rape and other human rights violations.

As part of the \$15 million initiative launched by the U.S. Secretary of State in 2005, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) is challenging the climate of impunity that surrounds violence against women in Darfur. USAID/OTI recently funded training for male and female leaders from various schools, civic bodies, and nongovernmental organizations in South and West Darfur. Ninety men and women attended six days of workshops facilitated by the El-Madina Center for Gender and Development and the University of Khartoum. The training focused on mainstreaming gender concerns into peace-building programs.

The workshops, which were held in Nyala, Kas, and Zalingei, increased the participants' capacity to address violence against women in Darfur and created a new network of citizens focused on gender, conflict, and development in North and West Darfur. Sessions included topics such as increasing understanding of gender discrimination and strategies for strengthening the weak linkages between the victims of violence and the key agents of social change in Darfur and Khartoum.

This gender-focused conflict and development training program is one of many activities USAID/OTI is implementing in Darfur to mitigate violence against women. Other efforts include the creation of safe income-generating activities for women and awareness-raising campaigns.

Contact: Victoria Rames, Program Manager  
e-mail: [vrames@usaid.gov](mailto:vrames@usaid.gov); telephone: (202) 712-4899  
Internet: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: OTI