



PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN DARFUR FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: WHAT UUSC IS DOING

Although the situation on the ground is dangerous for all people in Darfur, women and girls are especially vulnerable to violence in camps for the internally displaced. Through our work with our partners, UUSC is helping to weave a web of protection for these women and girls.

There are many factors contributing to the increased vulnerability of women and girls in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. Among them are: women's need to leave the relative security of their camps to search for firewood to cook with or to sell for extra income, the lack of understanding of women's vulnerability by camp leaders, women's own lack of experience in speaking about their rights and their protection needs to mainly male camp leaders, and the lack of training of U.N. troops and police. In one camp where we work, 73 percent of households are headed by women. This means that these women heads-of-household must provide for any of their family's needs beyond what is provided through camp rations.

UUSC is helping to establish vibrant women's centers inside two IDP camps to help empower women. We are also training male camp leaders in 10 other camps. We are:

- Conducting educational programs for women on income-generation activities, such as goat and poultry raising, food processing, tree planting, and making items used in the camps, like mats.
- Creating a market space for Darfurian women to sell what they produce.
- Accompanying UNAMID police on firewood patrols. This entails going along with UNAMID forces to reassure women of their safety, training UNAMID forces on how to treat women, and ensuring there is a translator.
- Coordinating work with other NGOs to promote the use of alternative fuels.
- Training women in women's centers on how to raise and discuss their protection needs with camp leaders.
- Training women in income generation and basic business skills.
- Training leaders (who are all male) in 10 camps about women's protection needs and how men could support them.
- Training UNAMID soldiers and police on how to strengthen protections for women.

For more information on how to support our work, please visit:

www.uusc.org/drumbeatfordarfur