

# Report of the Rural Women Survey:

## Gadarif State

August 2006

Zenab for Women in Development (ZWD)





## Acronyms

SD	Sudanese pound	
Feddan	4,200 square meters	
Malwa	Volumetric measure	(1 Malwa of sorghum = 3Kg) (1Malwa of sesame = 2.36 Kg)

## 0. Context

### 0.1 General

Like most of Gedaref rural areas the 20 village selected for the study are mostly depend on agric . women are basically work in agric. on small area ranging between 5 -100 feddan around the villages

### 0.4.1 The Study Objectives

The study objectives are to conduct a base line data describing the present situation of women farmers live in rural area

**0.4.2 The Research Methodology:** Methodology followed by Pds in conducting the study utilized a number of methods and tools to generate in-depth information, these included:

- Groups and individual interviews with target group, community leaders, ant/household level.
- Groups meetings were conducted at various communities covered by the study to incorporate stakeholders' views and opinion
- Observation methods of data collection are complementary for the above methodologies.

## Part 1

### 1. Population and Demographic Characteristics and Housing

#### 1.1 Population

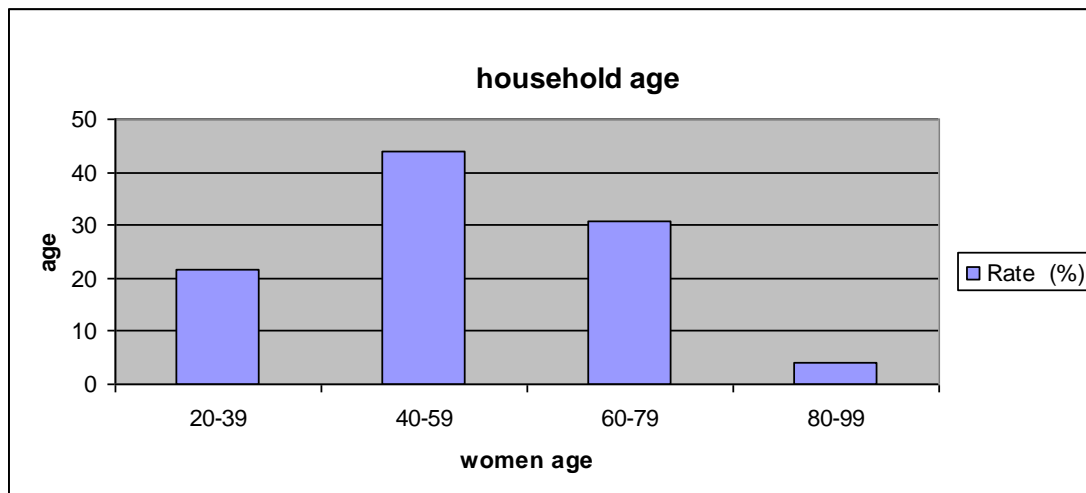
Gedaref locality is constituted of 64 villages and has a total population of 289,000 people and an average household size of 6.2 persons (Source statistical department/Gedaref State).

#### 1.2 Demographic characteristics

The general characteristics on the survey the 10 villages studied including ElKradis, AboELng, ELshrf, DarELzaian, ELhssainat, ELhria.Aum khnger, ELGadmbli

##### 1.2.1 Household Age structure

The histogram below shows the age of women covered by survey



### 1.2.2 Household Size

- The average household size is 8.5 people. This is above the state and the national figures where respective household size is 6.2 and 7 persons per household. It is found that 15% of household members are from relatives in the order of parents, sisters and brothers, which is an indication of an extended family pattern.
- Male-headed households are 30% of total households and female-headed households are 70% of total households.

### 1.3 Housing

Like many other Sudanese locality, Gedaref locality has undergone a process of establishment of spontaneous settlements in the peripheries of the town; followed by re-planning, land distribution to needy households, removal of the spontaneous houses and reconstructions carried out by individual households. This is quite the case for the studied communities except for Murabaa village which is a typical rural community.

#### 1.3.1 House acquisition

- The research findings indicated that 92% of households own houses, 8% of households is given free accommodation by relatives or friends.

#### 1.3.2 Type of houses

Houses for 99.1% of households are huts constructed from local materials including poles, sticks and grasses. The wall is sealed with mud treated with animal dung while the roof is thatched with grass. The hut is round shape, spacious and well suited to the local environment characterized by black cracked clay soils and heavy rains during the rainy season (June – October).

However only 0.9% of the houses is built from permanent materials mainly bricks and corrugated zinc or concrete. House fences are built from local materials including wooden poles, sticks, millet straw or grass mats. In most developed parts of the town the fences are mostly built from corrugated zinc.

#### 1.3.3 House size

The house size is determined by the size of the area and the number of huts/rooms. The research findings indicated that:

- The houses for 48.2% of households is composed of more than two huts
- The houses for 33% of households composed of two huts
- The houses for 18% of households composed of one hut.

#### **1.3.4 Housing and Environmental Sanitation**

- The availability of house latrine in any community would have implication on the sanitary situation for the whole community. In the communities studied, lack of pit latrines is more serious among Lahwein (100%), followed by Arakein (66.7%), Ben Amir (65.7%), Massaleit (63.2%), and Hawsa/Fellata (40%). Generally 46.4 % of households do not possess house latrines and people go for open defecation which create a lot of sanitary problems manifested in multiplication of houseflies causing wide spread of diseases like dysentery, diarrhea, eye infections and many other diseases.

#### **1.3.5 Livestock production and sanitary problems**

Environmental implications of keeping livestock within the settlements manifested in wide spread of houseflies and associated diseases like dysentery, diarrhea, eye infections and others. There the health authorities need to help keeping diary farms separate from the human settlements. An incentive like connecting pipe water to new sites to be planned for diary farms is advisable. While diary farms should be kept apart from human settlement it should be within a walking distances from it to help easy commuting and facilitating works in the diary farms.

## Part 2

### 2. Social Services

Gedaref locality has a total population of 289,000 settled in 64 villages. The basic social infrastructures includes, 64 basic schools, 112 shops,, 122 grinding mills, 40 communication places, (source Gedaref locality records).

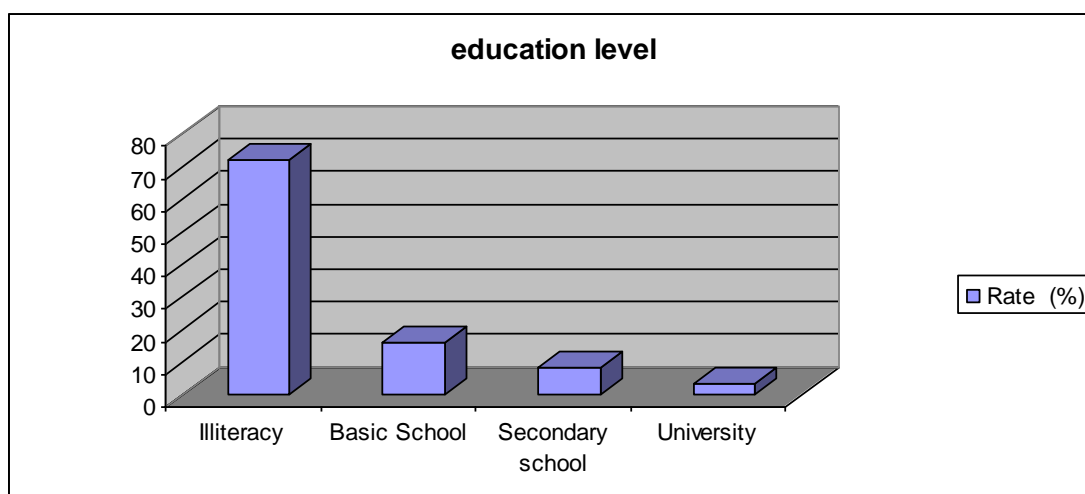
#### 2.1 Education

The education situation analysis carried for households 72.2%, 16.1%, 8.3%,3.3 %, of the population respectively are illiterate, , basic school, secondary school, University.

Education level	Rate (%)
Illiteracy	72.2
Basic School	16.1
Secondary school	8.3
University	3.3

People opinions as how to prevent school dropout and enable poor children to continue educations are the followings:

- The state should invest in providing an attractive and conducive educational environment to attract children to education.
- Also provide and incentive for the poor by providing free meals to pupils, exemptions from school fees and educate parents on the importance of education.

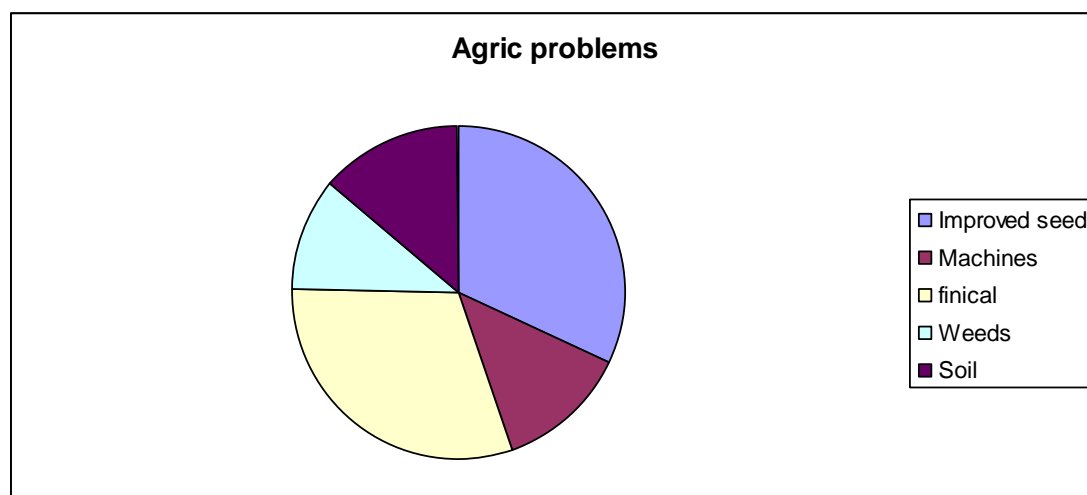


### 3. Livelihood

#### 3.1 Household income and Expenditure

The main occupations for households studied are farming and animal herding labors, employment, respectively practiced by 64.3%, 19.6%, 11.6% and 4.5% of households interviewed. The main problem facing women in Agric are Seed, machines, finical, weed & soil

problem facing women in Agric	percentages
Improved seed	31.7
Machines	12.8
finical	30.6
Weeds	10.6
Soil	13.9



This is based on theoretical assumption that households allocate income among 7 basic expenditure items. Each household representative is given 7 stones to allocate among these seven items including food, health, education, water, clothing, transport, social events and others. The data collected is analyzed and presented below.

### 3.2 Agricultural activities

99% of household in the study area are engaged in farming activities, which is predominantly subsistence small-scale rain fed-farming. Farmland acquisition is through inheritance (60%), purchase (8.6%), rent (22.8%) and grant (8.6%).

The average total farmland size per farming household is 7.6 feddans ranging from 4.8 feddans to 10.5 feddans. The average area cultivated per farming household is 5.9 feddans and ranges from 4.8 feddans to 6.7 feddans.

Sources of farm labor: family labor constitutes 51.4% of total farm labor while hired labor and collective labor (Nafeer) constitute 42.9% and 5.7% respectively. The main crops grown by farmers are sorghum (Feterita and Dabar varieties), bulrush millets and sesame (light and heavy varieties are grown).

### **3.2.1 Sorghum Production**

Approximately 26% of the total households in the sample are subsistence farmers. 21% of total households studied grow sorghum under rain fed cultivation. The average plot size cultivated with sorghum is 8.1 feddans, productivity (2002/2003) is 2.9 sack/feddans; average yield per household is 15 sacks per household and ranges from 1-160 sacks/household.). It should be noted that productivity is extremely low and this is attributed to the following factors: wide spread of witch plants which is a parasite on sorghum plant, rats at planting times, birds infestations, high weeds population. Farmers reported problems of transporting crop yield from the field to respective houses. Cost of production reported by farmers to be extremely high. One major obstacle for improved production is lack of agricultural services (Improved seeds, hand tools, tractor plowing, crop protection) and credit for the poor small farmers who lack collateral.

### **3.2.2 Sesame Production**

9% of households in the study area are cultivating sesame under rain fed farming. Average area grown per household is about 4 feddans and land productivity is 1.5 sacks/feddan. Under favorable situation productivity on average is 3 sacks per feddan (1 sack=71Kg). Average sesame yield per household is 5 sacks .