

What in the World is MU doing? ...

For Literacy Development in Sudan

Wherever it occurs, illiteracy is a prison which traps people in a cycle of poverty because of their inability to read, write or accurately count change. In 2000 Mothers' Union responded to that need with a Literacy & Development Program (MULD) and offered it in Sudan.

The program is designed to do more than just make people literate and numerate. An evaluation of the programs in 2009 showed other results as well. Partnerships and cooperation between women and men are being promoted and gender relations transformed. It also revealed that women's profile in the community is improving and more women are accessing positions of influence in society.

Learners in Gudele Displacement Camp designed a cultivation calendar for their farming project. They discussed the different roles of men and women in work and decision-making, and how to organise their workloads. Now they are turning their minds to other means of survival.

They have put small amounts of money together to buy cups and plates which they are hiring out for weddings and other social events. Other groups in Khartoum and Renk are making beautiful jewellery, undertaking chicken projects and joint agricultural schemes.

Involvement in post literacy activities has also increased accredited learners' confidence and self esteem and inspired them to achieve greater goals.

"Being in a group is good. It is good because we learn from each other. As a group, we are always invited to attend meetings, etc. We are always invited to talk in front of people. This has helped us to travel and meet other people. It has exposed us. For instance, I now know that I can do anything. I am no longer shy. That is why I can travel and sell my perfumes."

Accredited learner, Khartoum, Sudan

