



**AUW** A h f a d  
University  
for Women  
جامعة الأحفاد للنساء



## AUW Communication on Progress 2022 - 2024

*"Freedom, Peace and Justice  
for Our Beloved "SUDAN"*



*AUW is Pioneer in Mainstreaming Women  
and Gender Studies in higher Education  
Creating a Core of Women Change Agents  
Dedicated to Community Service.*

12<sup>th</sup> November 2022

<https://www.auw-sd.com/>

## ***AUW Statement of Continued Support***

*It is to confirm that Ahfad University for Women (AUW) re-affirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption, in addition to Business 4 Peace, and the SDGs. By this we express our commitment to advance these principles within our influence and will make clear statement to our stakeholders and the public.*

*This is our fifth Communication on Engagement (COE) report. It presents description of the activities that AUW has undertaken to support the UNGC principles, Peace and Development, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), during 2022 - 2024. The report also covered the activities done in relation to SDG 5 Gender Equality, since AUW was selected the UN Academic Impact Hub for it during 2018-2021 that was extended for extra years up till 2024.*

*Our commitment to the UNGC is a natural response of AUW, coinciding with its mission to enhance and promote Sudanese women's education, and empower them to effectively participate in the socio-economic development of the Sudan.*

*Stemming from our social responsibility, we renew our commitment to continue to propagate the UNGC Ten Principles, objectives and goals within our curricula, research, community outreach programs and extra-curricular activities, as well as, to collaborate and work in partnership with the national, regional, and international institutions for realizing these goals.*



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gasim Badri'.

Gasim Badri

President/ Ahfad University for Women

## ***Preamble***

*It is our pleasure to place our fifth Communication on Engagement (COE) report in your hands to reflect AUW support and commitment to the UNGC principles, initiatives and SDGs.*

*The report shed light on some of the university civic engagement activities implemented throughout the two years; 2022 and 2023, in areas of relevance to the UNGC Principles, Peace and Development, and the SDGs. However, as our beloved country “Sudan” has been under unprecedented, cruel, and fierce war, leading to “one of the world's largest displacement crises”, as been described by the United Nations, its impact affected severe destruction to AUW premises and forced most of our staff to flee their homes, ceasing all activities since 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023 , except of online teaching and learning coping with the surrounding academic needs.*

*It is to mention here that despite the turbulent environment and instability that the university has been passing through, AUW was still attempting to provide all possible support to serve the community via its staff and students undertaking counselling and supplying food to needy families. through organized group cooking kitchens “Takaya.”*

*We avail this opportunity to renew our commitment to continue supporting the UNGC principles, the Business 4- Peace initiative, and the SDG, wishing peace, stability, dignity, and progress to our country.*

*Great appreciation is due to all those who participated in providing the data and materials compiled to prepare this report.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Sumaia El Zein A. Badawi'.

*Sumaia El Zein A. Badawi (Ph D)  
Representative of AUW at UNGC  
Member of the UNGC Organization- Sudan*

## **Glossary**

AUW	Ahfad University for Women
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
EEG	Emirates Environmental Group
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GRACe	Gender Reproductive Health and Rights Resource and Advocacy Centre
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNAI	United Nations Academic Impact
UNGC	United Nations Global Compact
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

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## 1. Ahfad University for Women (AUW) in brief

AUW is a non-profit making institution that was established in 1966. It enrolls women from all over the Sudan and empower them to play productive role and lead their families and the community at large. Civic engagement and corporate social responsibility have constituted integral parts of its academic programs as well as its rural extension activities, stemming from its philosophy to develop the rural communities and Sudanese women in general. That was clearly reflected in the mission of the university.

All AUW students (9.639 in 2022) and staff (almost 650 in 2023) participate in implementing its academic programs and activities, which follow community-oriented curricula in line with the international standards and the national needs. Seven academic disciplines are run in addition to 16 postgraduate programs including an MBA with three

concentrations, an M Sc program in Public Health with two tracks and an M Sc program in Global Health, M Sc in Nutrition and Dietetics, another master program in Gender and development with three tracks (Multiculture and Migration, Peace Studies and Governance), Counselling and Trauma, Sustainable Rural Development, MSc in Humanitarian and Post Disaster Development, M Sc of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, besides the Doctorate programs The university curricula covers issues related to gender, democracy, poverty, diversity, population education, human rights and peace, which are imbedded in the undergraduate and postgraduate programs.

### *AUW Mission*

*“To provide quality education for women to strengthen their roles in national and rural development, and in seeking equity for themselves and fellow women in all facets of the Sudanese society using a combination of well-articulated academic programs, professional training, research, and community outreach activities”.*

## **2. Incorporating UNGC principles into Activities of AUW**

### **2.1. AUW Scholarships Program and Financial Aid for 2022-2024**

The policy of students' intake to AUW stipulates providing financial support and waiving of tuition fees to students who come from poor families and remote disadvantaged areas in Sudan, including South Sudan, as well as, needy foreign students who join from neighboring countries under strife such as Somalia. In the academic year 2022/2023, almost 21% of the students received full scholarships as a grant, 19% has been enrolled with reduced or waived fees, while the remaining 60% paid full fees.

By the break of the war on 15<sup>th</sup> April in Sudan, study was ceased. However, on continuing its education on line in April 2024, all students who were on scholarships were decided to continue receiving the financial support they granted before the war, catering for the economic hardship families were facing in addition to the war trauma. The decision was intended to encourage female students to continue their education and to support their families. Accordingly, almost 3000 students were covered by the financial grants.

## **3. Incorporating UNGC principles into Activities of AUW**

### **3.1 AUW Alumnus Celebrating the First Place in the CSR Arabia Award**

In 2022, AUW Alumnus Safiya Elfadni, graduate of the School of Medicine achieved the first place in the prestigious award of CSR Arabia, which recognizes businesses leading Social Impact in Middle East and North Africa. Safiya is the founder and chairperson of Salam Social Enterprise.

The Arabia CSR Awards recognizes and honours organizations in the Arab Region that demonstrate outstanding leadership and commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility and sustainability. regionally and globally as the sustainability benchmark of the Arab Region, the award has grown and expanded its ambit considerably.



### 3.2. AUW Celebrating the 16 Days of Activism

As part of AUW celebrations of the annual 16 days of activism against violence against women, a competition was called for by the Gender and Reproductive Health, and Rights Resource and Advocacy Center (GRACE) in November 2022 to AUW students to use their talents and creativity in making use of photography, painting, poetry, art designs and writing to participate in setting solutions for ending violence against women and girls, within a month. AUW used to hold various activities annually coinciding with the annual international campaign that seeks to end all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV).



### 3.3. Ending Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

On December 2022, GRACE and Ahfad Trauma Center in collaboration with NCA celebrated the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV), under the theme "Orange Ahfad: End violence against Women Now". The celebration targeted Ahfad High School female student (130) and 10 teachers. It also included 120 AUW female workers. Besides, on December 5, 2023 GRACE held a Training of Trainers "TOT" in Advocacy Skills for ending FGM and Child Marriage in collaboration with NCA".



*16 Days of Activism against VAWG (Art, Debate & Sports) – March 2022 - AUW Premises*

### 3.4. AUW Students Celebrating the International Day of Breast Cancer

As an annual trend for celebrating the International breast Cancer Day, AUW students together with GRACe participated in the campaign of raising women's awareness sessions held within two days the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022 regarding breast Cancer that was accompanied with an exhibition and demonstration on detecting the symptoms early enough preparing for medication and cure.

### 3.5. AUW the HUB for SDG 5 : Gender Equality



Aiming to exert change in the society for the better, and to energize youth towards working for it and its sustainability a presentation was delivered by AUW students Sustainable Development Goals, on the 14th-15th March 2023 at Alsadaqa Hall at Khartoum. It explained SDG 5 : gender equality In a conversation that reflected its importance together with its important priorities in the society.

The United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) in continuation of its effort in engaging higher education in the

achievement of SDGs and in recognition to research, innovation and scholarship, invited AUW to become the hub of the SDGs by extending its period to an extra four years within 2021-2024. Stemming from its commitment towards achieving the SDGs , which coincide with its philosophy of developing the Sudanese community, empowering women to play productive and leading roles, gender mainstreaming, struggle for equity and justice, human rights (including child rights), AUW shoulder the great responsibility of realizing them.

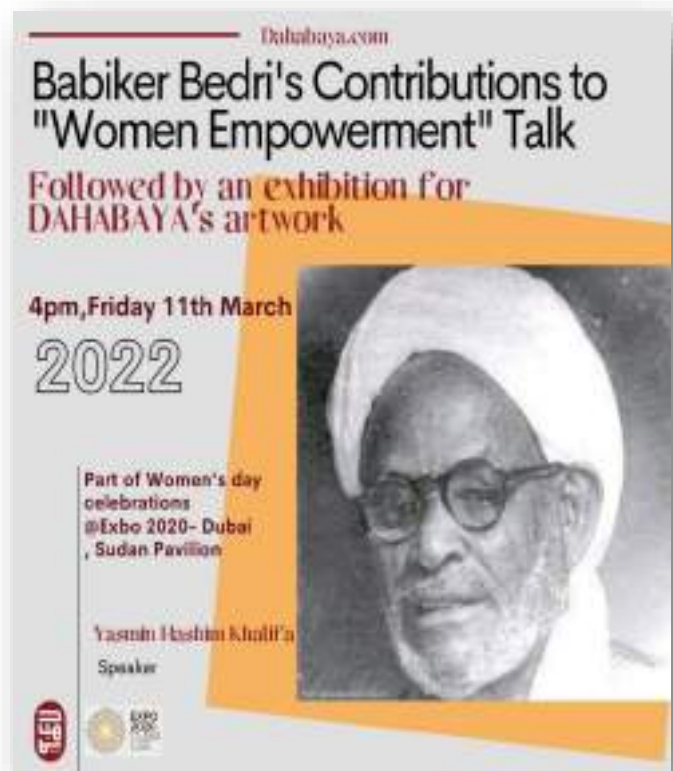
### 3.6. A UW Students celebrate the Rural Women International Day

Under the theme of “Rural Women, Key for a World Free from Hunger and Poverty”, the students of AUW held various activities in relation to the theme that included International and local gallery, seminars, lectures, play and music. The activities were held at Ahfad Club and Lecture Halls, and were attended by students of different classes , their families . invitees and faculty.



### 3.7. Annual Celebration of Women’s Day 2022

As part of the international Women’s Day Celebration, that AUW students used to hold annually under different themes, the student Yasmin Hashim Khalifa, delivered an interesting talk on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022, about the Memory of Sheikh Babiker Badri, the founder of the Primary Girls’ education in Sudan, and how he struggled hard and stood against the opposition of the British Administration, to start the first class at his own house, enrolling his nine daughters and few girls from the neighbourhood in 1907, at Rufaa city. That was the sparkle that ignited the move towards women’s education in Sudan which later on was developed by his son ‘Professor Yousif Badri’ to establish Ahfad University for Women, resulting in an influx of more than 28,000 graduates feeding the Sudanese labour market with various specialization, and becoming a pioneer in mainstreaming women and gender studies in higher education and research.

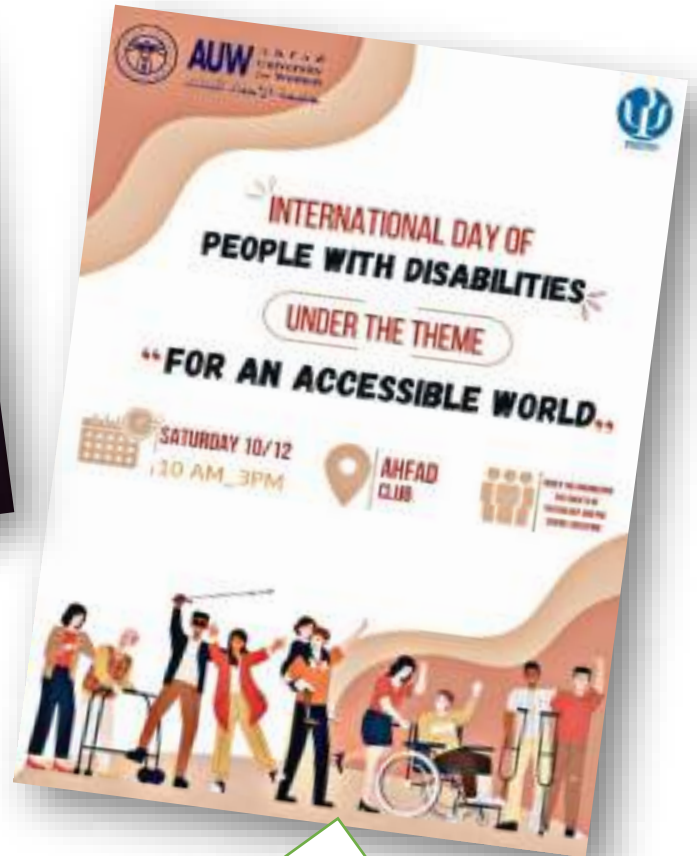


**Sheikh Babiker Badri Founder of Girls’ Education in Sudan 1907 at Rufaa City**

### 3.8. School of Psychology celebrates the International Day of Disability



*Celebrating the International Day of Disability 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022 - under the theme "No Disability with Strong Will" - A UW Club.*



*Under the theme "For an Accessible World", the School of Psychology and Pre-school Education celebrated the International Day of People with Disability -10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022- AUW Club*



*Ahfad Trauma Center Celebrating the International Mental Health Day under the Theme of "Mental Health in the Workplace -2022 at Awatif Imam Hall-AUW*

### 3.9. School of Health Sciences celebrates the World Food Day

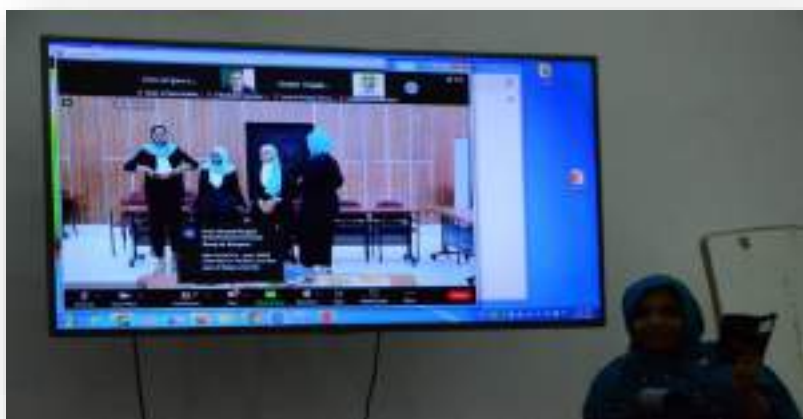
Under the Theme “Fight and Bite: Boost your Immunity Against Dengue Fever”, the students of Nutrition and Dietetics Specialization at the School of Health Sciences held a festivity displaying various activities at AUW Club on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The festivity was attended by students from different schools at the university in addition to guests from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, faculty and other invitees.

### 3.10. Participation of AUW Students in the Regional Inter-collegiate Public Speaking Competition of the Environment

*A regional inter-collegiate public speaking competition that encourages global responsibility over the environment is set to conquer the international stage as it fans out its wings in 2023 for other youth from across the world to have their voices heard.*



*AUW Students participated on-line in the Regional Competition for Environment held in November 2022. The presentation, delivered talk and discussions were coordinated by the Students, School faculty and the IT Unit at AUW Conference Hall.*



*The opening the competition in 2023 to colleges and universities all over the world will be on the occasion of COP28 (Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) that took place in the UAE.”*



*The statement of his Excellency Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, Chairman Global Compact foundation and Vice Chairman U N Global Compact Board, upon his visit to AUW in 2014.*



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Dr Babikar A. Bedri,  
Ahfad University for Women,  
Omdurman,  
Sudan

30<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

*Dear Dr Bedri,*

On behalf of the United Nations Global Compact and the Local Network of the UNGC in Sudan may I thank you most sincerely for your support and that of Ahfad University for Women of the launch of the UN Global Compact Business for Peace Initiative in Sudan. Your support made a great difference and was truly welcome.

I should also like to thank you very much for your hospitality during our visit to Ahfad. The university is such a shining example as to what can be done over the years by commitment and enterprise. It is really exciting and encouraging to see it. The fact that it can flourish in the economically difficult situation in Sudan is inspiring.

I believe very strongly that business has a major role to play in building a peaceful society and in bringing people of different views together to work on common solutions. While I was in Sudan I saw numerous examples of outstanding work being done by businesses to develop sustainable livelihoods and to build understanding between communities. There are many truly world class examples of this in Sudan. But it is not just business, for institutions such as Ahfad clearly play a major role, not only in the development of young women but also in active engagement with communities across Sudan. Many congratulations for this work!

I very much hope that sanctions will be lifted or at least modified so that businesses can grow and play a full role in this important contribution to development. I personally will continue to speak in support of this.

It was encouraging to see constructive business links being built with fellow business people in the new Republic of South Sudan.

Thank you again for your support and cooperation of Ahfad University. Judy and I will continue to sing the praises of the University around the world.

*Yours sincerely Mark Moody-Stuart*

Mark Moody-Stuart

Chairman, Global Compact Foundation  
Vice Chairman, UN Global Compact Board

***AUW Beloved Leader Professor Gasim Badri among the University Students and its Staff.***



