



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

## AUW Communication on Progress 2018 - 2019



September 14 th , 2020

[www.ahfad.edu.sd](http://www.ahfad.edu.sd)

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

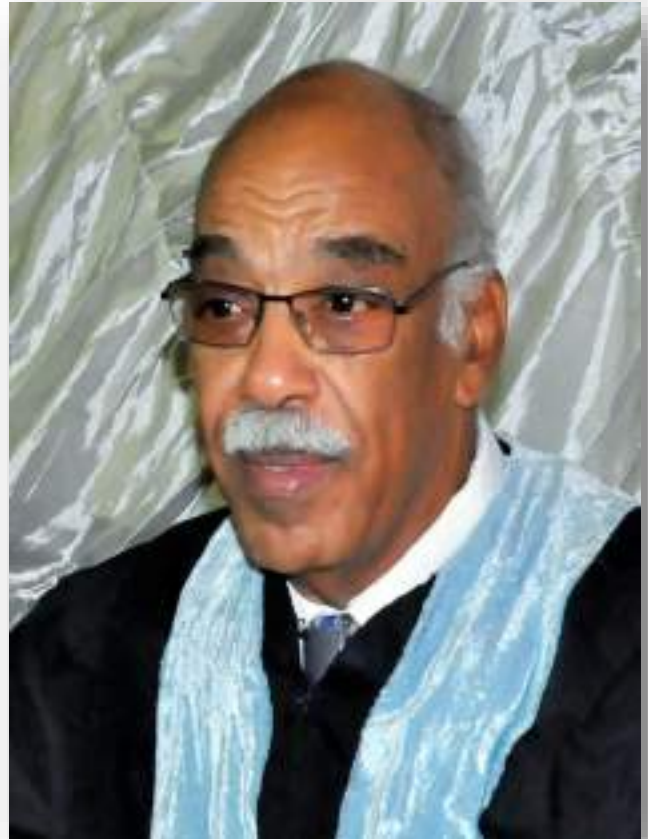
*I am pleased to confirm that Ahfad University for Women re-affirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption, in addition to Business 4 Peace, and the SDGs*

*With this commitment we express our intent to advance these principles within our influence and will make clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.*

*This is our third Communication on Engagement (COE). 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 2018 and 2019. Special focus has been placed on SDG 5 Gender Equality, since AUW was selected the Academic Impact Hub for it (2018-2021).*

*This commitment to the UNGC is a natural response of AUW coinciding with its philosophy and mission, being a non-profit institution that is pioneer in women's education and focuses on the empowerment of Sudanese women to play productive role in the promotion and development of the Sudanese community.*

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



  
Gasim Badri  
President/ Ahfad University for Women+

## **Preamble**

*We are proud to place our third Communication on Engagement (COE) report in your hands to reflect Ahfad University for Women (AUW) support and commitment to the UNGC ten principles, initiatives and SDGs.*

*The report shed light on some of the university civic engagement activities implemented throughout the two years; 2018 and 2019, in areas of relevance to the UNGC principles, Peace and Development, and the SDGs.*

*It attempted to highlight the activities AUW undertakes to support and develop the Sudanese community, through its scholarship program, curricula, applied research, community outreach programs, and community development partnerships. Special consideration was also given to activities implemented under the umbrella of the SDG 5 for which AUW was selected the Impact Hub.*



*We avail this opportunity to renew our commitment to continue supporting the UNGC principles, the Business for Peace initiative and the SDGs.*

*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, appearing 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
Aust-Aid	Australian Aid
CAFA	Community Animator Friendly Association
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
FMoH,	Federal Ministry of Health
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GRACe	Gender Reproductive Health and Rights Resource and Advocacy Centre
IFHE	International Federation for Home Economics
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MPH	Master of Public Health
NCCW	National Council for Children Welfare
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPC	National Population Council
PoS	School of Psychology and Pre-School Education
REED	School of Rural Extension Education and Development
RH	Reproductive Health
RIGDPR	Regional Institute for Gender Diversity Peace and Rights
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHS	School of Health Sciences
SMS	School of Management Studies
SFPA	Sudan Family Planning Association
UNGC	United Nations Global Compact
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WHO	World Health Organization

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## 1. AUW Profile in Brief

Since its foundation in 1966, AUW was dedicated to educating women and empower them to strengthen their role in national and rural development. The university integrates civic engagement into research and the development of knowledge through teaching, research, training programs, and applying integrated community-oriented curricula, in addition to extra-curricular community outreach programs.

Adopting Civic engagement in AUW aims at making a difference in the Sudanese community by achieving long term development goals that combine knowledge, skills, values and motivations. It also aims at promoting a better quality of life by advocating for targeted issues such as Human Rights, Gender Equity, Democracy, Youth Empowerment, Child and Maternal Health.

We seriously take our responsibility to enhance learning opportunities for students from all backgrounds particularly disadvantaged areas.

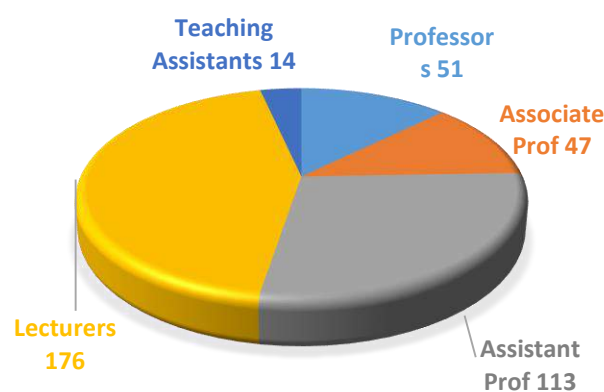
In 2018/2019 the number of students enrolled were almost 8000. Of them 300 join **19** Master programs and eight Ph D programs, while 7670 undergraduates study in **seven** schools offering the B Sc in Health Sciences, Psychology and Pre-school Education, Management Studies, Medicine, Pharmacy and Linguistics.

AUW caters for the diversity of its employees and their inclusion, preserving their rights and providing them friendly and healthy work environment, in which they enjoy freedom of expression, trust, respect and good social relations. Figure (1) and (2) reflect AUW Classified Human Cadre in numbers in the academic year 2018/2019.

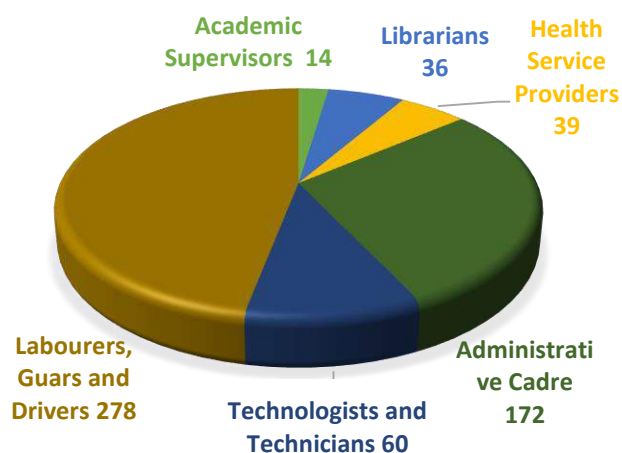
### Our mission is:

*“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”.*

**FIG 1. AUW ACADEMIC STAFF**



**FIG 2. AUW SUPPORTIVE CADRE**



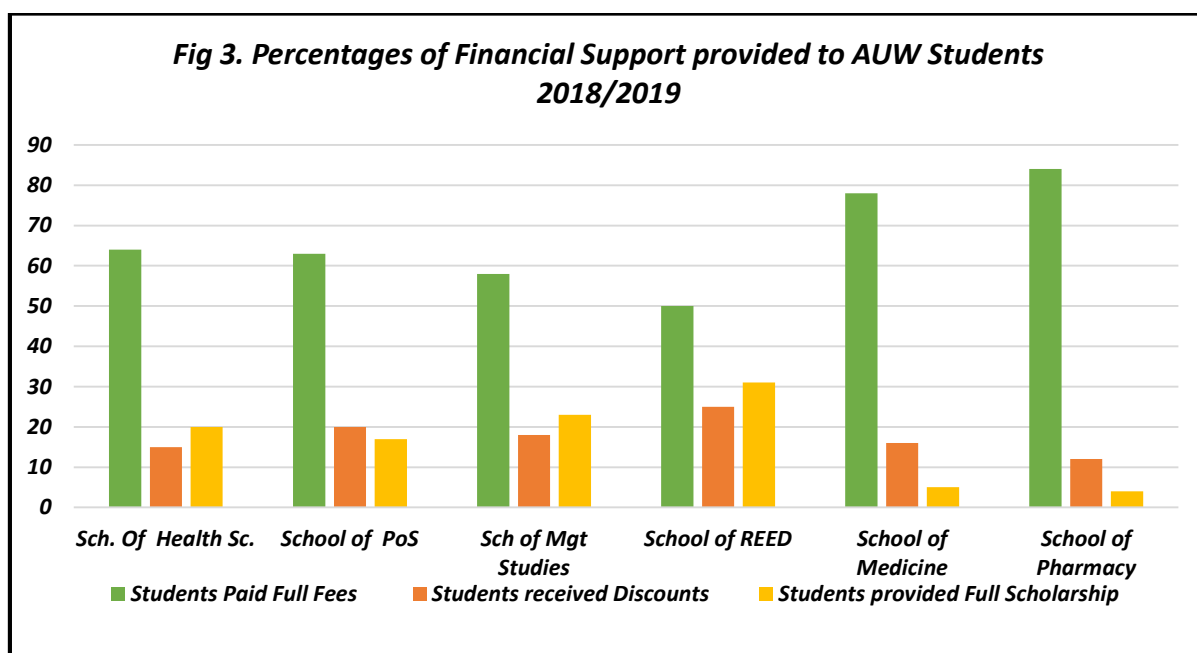
Source: Faculty and Staff Statistics - Human Resource Unit – AUW- 2019

## 2. Incorporating UNGC principles into Activities of AUW

### 2.1. AUW Scholarships Program and Financial Aid for 2018 - 2019

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 e.g. Somalia. Such students usually comprise almost 25% of the annual intake. This allows the university to contribute to the development of different States in Sudan, bring peace and paves way for diversity to prevail, as such commits to its corporate social responsibility.

In the academic year 2017/2018, about 25% of students received scholarships as a grant, 22% with waived fees, while the remaining 53% paid full fees. While in 2018/2019, 68% of the total students in all schools paid full fees, 17% received discounts and 15% was granted full Scholarships. Figure 3 displays the percentages financial support provided to students per school in 2018/2019.



*Source: Finance Office, Students Information System – AUW- 2019*

### 2.2. Integrating UNGC Principles and SDGs in the Curricula of AUW Programs

The curricula of AUW are community oriented coinciding with its philosophy and mission. They are relevant to the Sudanese context, and permits students to mix knowledge with real practice through training, internship, and community outreach activities. Some offered courses are university required courses, that are compulsory for all students. Thus, it largely encompasses almost all concepts in relation to UNGC principles as well as the SDGs (*See table 1 below*).



**Table 1. Some of the Courses offered at the graduate and post graduate levels at AUW**

Programs offering the Course	Course Title	Course Description
RIGDPR	<b>Gender Studies GDWD302 (2 crs)</b>	A university required course. The course focuses on gender mainstreaming frameworks, approaches and methodologies. It enables students to address issues of gender gap and discrimination in community development to achieve gender equity.
School of REED	<b>Rural Extension REXT301 (4 crs)</b>	A university required course. It provides students with the knowledge and mechanisms required to identify and analyze problems in the rural areas they visit. It is based on problem solving approach and community work.
School of REED	<b>Environmental Studies ENVS101 (3 crs)</b>	A university required course. It discusses environmental issues combining perspectives from social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities.
School of Management Studies	<b>Corporate Social Responsibility and Business Ethics SRBE501 – (3crs)</b>	It casts light on public - private partnership and the responsibility of the private sector towards the prosperity of the community. Students are also exposed to a wide array of ethical issues in business to build more ethically-informed rationale for decision making.
M Sc Program in Gender and Governance- RIGDPR	<b>Public Policy and Governance GEGO 704 (3 crs)</b>	The course covers the fundamentals of public policy and the tools necessary for setting a policy, its concepts, approaches and processes. It reflects the challenges associated with its application to apply good governance.
M Sc Program in Trauma and Community Counseling- School of PoS.	<b>Childhood Trauma and Child Counseling TRCC705- (5crs)</b>	This module provides students a comprehensive understanding of various types of Childhood trauma with skill-based training in counseling of children and youngsters who had undergone traumatizing events or incidents individually or within their communities.
M Sc Program in Humanitarian Assistance and Post Disaster Development- School of REED	<b>Gender, Gender Based Violence and Humanitarian Response – (3crs)</b>	The course examines situations of armed conflict, civilian experiences of these crises, and the international and national humanitarian and military responses to these situations from a gender perspective.
M Sc Program In Gender, and Development and Peace Studies- RIGDPR .	<b>Peace and Conflict Studies GEDP 701 – (3crs)</b>	It introduces the concept of peace, theories of conflict and consequences of violence. Students study and analyze the theoretical aspects of conflict studies and develop an understanding of the complex and interconnected of challenges in relation, and the possibilities for conflict resolution

*Source: AUW – Courses Catalogue – 2018 -2020*

### 2.3. Research Studies in Line with UNGC Principles and SDGs

Most AUW researches respond to areas and topics identified through its community oriented programs, or/and issues at business institutions related to Diversity, Environment, Corporate Social Responsibility, Gender, Women Empowerment and Policies. Examples of the research tackled by the faculty within 2018 -2019 are displayed below.

**Table 2. : Researches done by Faculty of AUW in relation to UNGC Principles and SDGs, 2018 and 2019.**

School / Institute	Research Title	Area	Publication Details
School of Management Studies	Exploring Corporate Social Responsibility within the Sudanese Business Context using Carroll's (1979, 1991) Pyramid.	<b>Corporate Social Responsibility</b>	Ahmed, A., <u>International Journal of Social Science and Business</u> , Vol. 4 No 3; October 2019 ISSN: 2519-9161(Online), ISSN: 2519-9153(Print); Center for Academic Research), Vol. 6, Issue 10 (2019).
SHS and RIGDPR	Decision-making in the practice of female genital mutilation or cutting in Sudan: a cross-sectional study	<b>Female Genital Mutilation</b>	Sabahelzain M., Gamal Eldin, A., Babiker, S., Eltayeb, M. and Kabiro, C., <u>Global Health Research and Policy</u> , Vol. 4, No. 5, (2019)
School of REED	Incidence and Prevalence of Child Marriage in North Kordofan State in Sudan: Implications for Education, Health and Development	<b>Early Marriage</b>	Gindeel, R. and Etim, J.; <u>European Journal of Research in Social Sciences</u> , Vol.7 No. 5, (2019) ; ISSN 2056-5429, Progressive Academic Publishing, UK. <a href="http://www.idpublications.org">www.idpublications.org</a>
RIGDPR	Gender Analysis of Environmental Governance in Formal Institutions .	<b>Gender Analysis</b>	Elabbas, M. and Abdel Rahman, W. ; The Ahfad Journal :Women and Change, AUW, Sudan, December 2018.
RIGDPR, School of Medicine and SHS	Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting Decision-Making Process and the Role of Gender Power Relations in Sudan.	<b>Female Genital Mutilation</b>	Gamal Eldin, A., Babiker, S., Sabahelzain, M. and Eltayeb, M. The Population Council Publication: Reports Evidence to End FGM/C, October 2018.
School of Languages	Factors Shaping Decision of Girls' Basic Schools Dropout: Focus on Jabarona Internally Displaced Population in Daressalam in Ombada Locality Omdurman, Sudan.	<b>Girls' Education</b>	Badri, A. The Ahfad Journal Women and Change, Omdurman, Sudan, June 2018.
SoP and School of Medicine	Factors Shaping Attitude of Sudanese Adult Men in Omdurman Local Market towards Females' Marriageability.	<b>Gender Study</b>	Hamad, S. and Hassan, H.; The Ahfad Journal Women and Change, Omdurman, Sudan, December 2017

*Source: Research and Grants Unit - AUW- 2020*

### 3. On-going Civic Engagement Programs and Services at AUW

The university approach to civic engagement is to prepare Sudanese women to assume greater roles in their families and the community as a whole. Thus students are prepared to be proactive change agents and leaders. Civic engagement constitutes an integral part of AUW academic activities. These include building partnerships with the private sector, government and civil society organizations, and organizing outreach programs to raise community awareness and establish networks.

#### 3.1. Rural Extension Fieldtrips 2018 and 2019

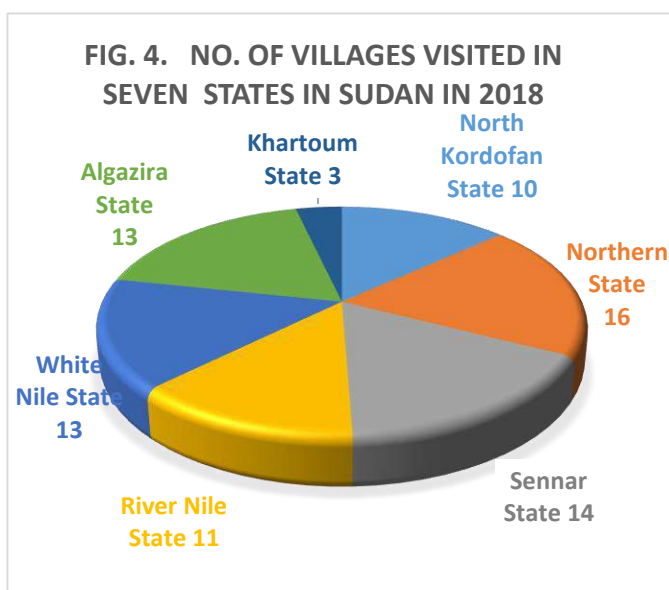
The university commitment to rural communities is reflected on its Rural Extension Program, which involves annual fieldtrips that aims to empower rural women, and to realize sustainable socio-economic development.

Students across all disciplines supervised by faculty members spend around one week in rural villages and engage in awareness raising activities including home visits, groups and individual discussions, and Seminars. The fieldtrips are usually guided by an annual theme, on which the students develop Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, role plays, songs and audio-visual shows.



*Orientation Workshop on the Field trips – 2019*

**3.1.1. The fieldtrips of 2018 were organized around the theme: "Sustainable Development starts in the Countryside".** 1015 students were distributed among 83 fieldtrips that targeted the rural communities in 7 different states as figure (4) showed. The areas tackled by the students included *women's education*, environmental issues and sanitation, child protection *early marriage* and *reproductive health*. Almost all of them are related to the SDGs.

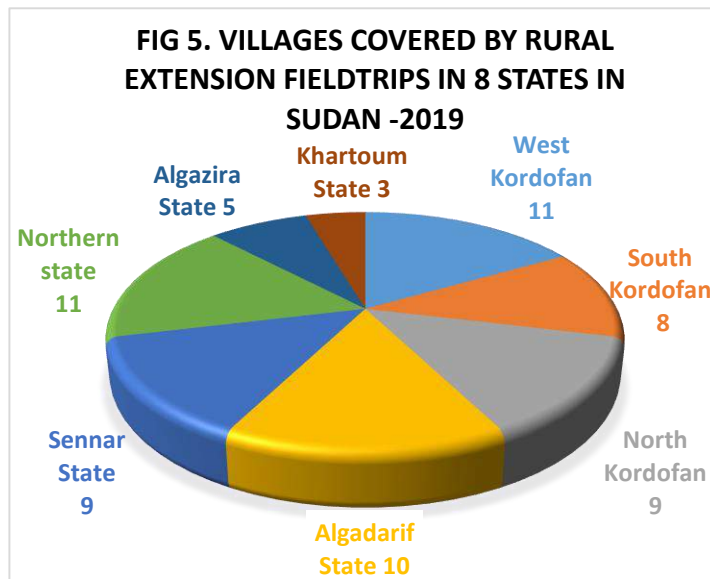


*Source: Rural Extension Reports – School of REED*



*Students delivering a talk to villagers - 2018*

3.1.2. In 2019 the theme of the fieldtrips was; *"The Role of Community Mobilization in Sustainable Development: Youth are the Pillars of Change"*. Eight hundred and forty (840) students participated in 66 fieldtrips that targeted 8 states in Sudan as displayed in figure (5). The fieldtrips addressed different issues related to 'Women and Child Health', under Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The areas covered included; reproductive health, Violence Against Women and Girls, girls' education and women's and child rights.

AUW believes in the important role its students can play in transforming and developing their communities. Thus on their return, they are asked to present collective reports to reflect the villages profiles, the problems and challenges they confront, and to suggest practical solutions and / or to design projects, to develop the visited rural areas.

*Students sending awareness raising messages via role play during 2019 fieldtrips*



*Demonstration Session of Students to villagers during 2019 fieldtrips*



*Social Interaction of Students with villagers during 2019 fieldtrips*



*Orientation Session of AUW students in a school at North Kordofan - 2019 fieldtrips*



### 3.2. Yousif Badri Civic Engagement International Prize (YbCEIP)

To pay tribute to the founding father Yousif Badri remarkable and life-long service to women's education and civic engagement, on 2016 AUW launched YbCEIP to promote and extend his values and to encourage civic engagement programs in universities worldwide.

Three prizes are offered to the competing universities / higher education institutes, sponsored by AUW and Hagar Foundation, allocated by Ms. Alice Hagar, a staunch supporter of women's education, philanthropy, and social responsibility, to the three winners in the annual celebration on December of each year (<http://ahfad.edu.sd/index.php/news-1/59-ybceip>).

*The ceremony of awarding the 3rd YbCEIP was held on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018 at AUW Premises at*

*Omdurman – Sudan. The three winners were as follows:*

- **The 1<sup>st</sup> winner: MBARARA University of Science and Technology – Uganda:** for their "Student-Community Twinning Project" that aims to create students as change agents with holistic practical skills for future employability and self-reliance via engaged community based training, where students interact, and diagnose community needs to generate appropriate interventions for socio-economic transformation.
- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> winner was Addis Ababa University – Ethiopia:** for their program "Bridging Gaps and Building Opportunities: Reflections on my experience of engaging in Community Development in Azena", which focuses on promoting and engaging the community in planning and building infrastructure.
- **The 3<sup>rd</sup> winner was University of El Imam El Mahdi – Sudan:** for their program "Education First", which aims at raising awareness on the importance of Education in achieving desired goals at both the individual and community levels, correcting misconceptions about education, specially females Education, that modify negative trends and to contribute to eradicating illiteracy among housewives and elders.



*President of AUW in the Opening Session of YbCEIP - 2018*



*President of AUW, Members of YbCEIP Committee with the three Winners - 2018*

### 3.3. The International Symposium of the Elderly

Under the theme of "*Never Too Late for Elderly Well-being: A Home Economics Perspective*", the School of Health Sciences –AUW- hosted a Symposium in collaboration with the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) within the period 13<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018.

Several experts presented papers on the potential responses and opportunities to changing global views on resource scarcity, families and best practices to care for the elderly, and highlighted research issues and ways to meet the elderly societal needs.



*Some of the sub-themes of the Symposium covered included;*

- Sustainable Healthy Lifestyle for Elderly (Elderly Health and Nutrition, Elderly Housing and Care Homes, ...etc);
- Understanding the Elderly Needs in Normal life and Emergencies; Ethics, Rights, Policies and
- Laws for Elderly Well-being (UN Policies Elderly, specially the WHO).
- Elderly as culturally Portrait and Valued.



*Some of the activities and social interactions during the Symposium of the Elderly-2018*



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

The United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) announced the inauguration of the UNAI SDG Hubs. The UNAI member institutions were selected as exemplars for their innovative scholarship and engagement related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) who serve as resources for the best practices for the UNAI network.

On the anniversary of the program launch, AUW was selected a hub for SDG 5: Gender Equality for 2018-2021.

*Some of AUW activities done in relation to SDG 5 included:*

##### 4.1. The 16 Days of Activism

This is an annual international campaign that seeks to challenge violence against women and girls and to end all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV). It usually starts on the 25th of November to end on the 10th of December. As AUW continues to be a pioneer in advocating for women's rights, GRACe in collaboration with the Pan-African Youth Union celebrated the 16 Days of Activism on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019, under the local theme "**Kandakat Against Gender Based Violence**". A 2-days event and festivities was hosted that took place in different spots around the campus.



*Part of the annual 16 Days of Activism held to eliminate GBV in Sudan – AUW 2019*



*AUW Students March celebrating the VAWG international day - 2019*

The first day started with a march against violence with AUW students, staff members and their families, and the guests of the Pan-African Youth Union . Besides, an indoor program included speeches on how women can empower themselves to battle GBV, the One Billion Rising Dance performance outdoor and a match of volleyball between AUW team and the African University team.



*Two of AYW Students Ambassadors participating in the VAWG March with Enthusiasm*

On the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the university as well celebrated the International Day of the Girl, *under the global theme: "With Her: A Skilled Girl Force "*. Focus was placed on equipping girls with the education and training they need for a successful transition into the world of work, to bring together stakeholders to advocate for the most pressing needs and opportunities for girls to attain skills for employability.

#### **4.2. AYW Annual Job Fair Enhancing graduates Employability**

The annual Job Fair is an event held at AYW Club to help its students overcome the intimidation of seeking employment and work experience by directly connecting them to employers and possible recruiters and allowing them to network. It ascends the students towards a variety of career options and offers them an insight on professional behavior. It as well, familiarizes them with the application procedures.



*Ahfad Ambassadors providing info about AYW Schools in the Exhibition – 6<sup>th</sup> Job fair*

The second day of the GBV international day at the university witnessed a debate - in English and another in Arabic - under the notion **"GBV is the Responsibility of Individuals "**. That was followed by a self-defense session, done by a representative from the Brazilian Embassy and the celebration ended with a Kenyan band performance at the University club, accompanied by a gallery and Bazaar .



*AYW Oranges the World – 2018 - 2019*

The 6<sup>th</sup> 2-days Job Fair held on February 2019 was a real success. Thirty Three business enterprises participated, constituting 50% increase from the first Job Fair held in 2013. Over 1500 students and graduates looking for employment, training opportunities or planning ahead for their respective careers



Several seminars and lectures accompanied the exhibition of business enterprises and recruiters, where various staff members participated. The AusAid, a funding partner, also had special contribution through providing the spot tips for CV writing and interview skills needed, as well as the major advices needed to join the labour market.



Big companies like Aramaex, the Central Trading Company Group, SUR International, Amphipharma, United Capital Bank, and Morouj, have been recurrent guests of the Job Fair. They previously recruited

AUW graduates who impacted their companies positively which allowed them to be confident about their performance.

There were also some visitors who were hoping to bring about positive change for their organizations, such as Faisal Islamic Bank by *“opening up to more women and hoping that AUW graduates neutralize the male -dominated atmosphere”* as their representative commented.



*Part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Job Fair Exhibition at AUW*

#### **4.3. Dissemination Forum of FGM/C Research Studies**

As part of its activities, on 2018 GRACe held its FGM/C Research forum, that presented the main results of three studies on carried out in Khartoum and Gadaref States as part of the Population Council International lead FGM/C Research Program.

The researches constituted an integral part of the efforts and initiatives of AUW to end Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, to provide quality evidence needed to bring social change in combating FGM/C. The population Council International is leading the FGM/C Research Program consortium, which includes African organizations in Africa's Anglophone, Francophone, Arabic, and Horn sub-regions. GRACe is a member of the PC consortium.



*Director of GRACe giving a talk in the FGM/C Research Forum – 2018 - AUW*

#### **4.4. Women Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming**

Stemming from its mission, the RIGDPR undertakes certain activities to influence policies to achieve gender equality, management of diversity and respect for human rights, with special emphasis on women empowerment and leadership, in turn it supports SDG5. Activities done during 2019 included the following:



*Group Discussion in a Gender Mainstreaming workshop - RIGDPR*

**4.4.1. Gender Mainstreaming:** A training manual on gender concepts and gender mainstreaming in development policies, programs and gender budgeting, as well as, good governance principles and peace was developed. The manual was used to train almost 400 participants between October and November 2019, who are going to replicate the experience within their own communities.

**4.4.2. Gender equality in Education:** On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019, RIGDPR contributed to the celebration of the African Universities Week by participating in a dedicated seminar where the Director of the center, delivered a session on the new perspective in defining and conceptualizing quality education in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with emphasis on SDG 5. Gender equality, gender needs, women's empowerment and potentials were the highlights of the session.

**4.4.3. Women Equality and Decision Making:** In further support to promote SDG 5 on Gender Equality in Sudan, on August 2019, AUW met a High-Level Delegation from the African Union. Members of the Delegation included prominent female leaders, the former President of Republic of Central Africa, the former Minister of Mauritania in charge of women promotion, child protection and family, and the Deputy Director-General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of South Africa. Both parties called for the promotion of Sudanese women's basic needs and equality in decision making positions and political participation.

**4.4.4. Political Empowerment:** Believing that women's political empowerment is critical for a democratic, peaceful and inclusive Sudan, on October 2019, AUW hosted a seminar entitled "**Women's Role in Civil Government**". The seminar, led by the Director of RIGDPR, focused on the active participation of women in government. Eighty three participants attended including; a representative of the UNICEF, NGOs representatives, female activists and politicians. Based on the discussions, the Director of RIGDPR prepared a proposal for a Gender and Women's Commission that was refined by a group of gender experts. The final paper was submitted to the Prime Minister of Sudan, hoping that with the



*Director of RIGDPR with the African Union Delegation - 2019*

new democratic government, the formation of the commission will address Sudanese women's needs and demands.

#### **4.5. Towards a Developed Reproductive Health in Sudan**

As part of celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child, the sixth GRACe Research Forum held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019, targeted the current status, challenges, opportunities and future prospects for promoting Reproductive Health in Sudan.. Eleven papers were presented by seven entities including FMOH, NCCW, NPC, SFPA, Sudan Obs. and Gyn. Society, Sudan Midwifery Association, CAFA, and some faculty of AUW.

The forum was attended by over 70 participants including JICA, Italian Cooperation, UNICEF, UNFPA, and national bodies and NGOs. Many AUW MPH and other students participated as well. Fruitful discussions were held where all participants tackled important current RH issues as well as shared their own experiences for developing RH programs in Sudan.



#### **5. AUW Students Engagement in Civil Activities**

##### **5.1. Mahaba Association wins McJanets Prize : A Success Story**

AUW Students' Association " Mahaba" won the First Place in the McJanets Prize for Global Citizens on 2018. The selection Committee was very impressed by the students' initiative and wished to recognize and support AUW continued civic and community engagement work.

*The following is the success story as communicated by the students:*

The Sudan been a developing country is suffering from severe poverty. Many women in Sudan are forced to go into debt to make living for their families. Additionally, the financial struggle many Sudanese go through does not permit them to have access to health care services and much less medicine.

Mahabba Association was founded by two students of School of Medicine (Safia and Sara) aiming to help people who cannot afford to get their need for medicine, through providing it to them. The founders of Mahabba, realized that this was financially unsustainable for students - run initiative due to the rising cost of pharmaceuticals. They started to raise fund via Facebook and on campus, to pay for people's health insurance, to allow people not only to have access to medicine but also to other health care services.



***Members of Mahabba Association - AUW***





***Mahabba Students sell imprisoned Women's products in AUW Campus***

Through this experience, Safia and Sara realized that the root of the problem for those women, beside many others, was that they did not have means or ways to become economically empowered.

To empower the imprisoned women, Safiya and Sara began to encourage them to teach each other whatever handicrafts they knew hoping that the women might learn a craft for making living.

The women learnt to make beautiful bags and satchels that Safiya and Sara sold at the weekly bazaars on campus and online. Thus, the women began to pay their debts and to give a portion of the profits back to Mahabba's initial goal of paying for people's health insurance

<https://talloiresnetwork.tufts.edu/mahabba-association-ahfad-university-for-women-sudan/>

## ***5.2. "GADRA" Students' Initiative - RIGDPR - AUW***

The "GADRA" event is a project initiated by Batch (23) of the Master of Science in Gender, Development and Peace Studies program, at RIGDPR on March 2019. The event was held by the students under the framework of the Gender and Peace in Media course, an initiative to be continued by the batches that will follow. GADRA reflects the reality of major issues that women frequently face across all regions of the Sudan.

After two years of doing this, they met a woman who was soon imprisoned because she had a small debt. Safiya and Sara were stimulated by her story and decided to investigate.

The students went to the prison and met many women who were in similar predicaments. They wanted to help the women but didn't know how.

They went on social media "Facebook" and began to raise awareness of the issue by telling the stories of those women. The online community was mobilized by raising funds to help to pay off some of the debts to ultimately release them from the prison.



***Women's hand-made bags offered by "Mahabba" Students for selling***



***Part of Batch 23 of the M Sc in Gender, Development and Peace Studies program, at the RIGDPR - 2019.***



The name 'GADRA' is an Arabic word which means 'able'. It was chosen by the students believing in women's ability to overcome the obstacles and reclaim their voices and space in the society, and most importantly, their ability to achieve gender equality and equity. The exhibition displayed at "GADRA" event portrayed fighting different community harmful practices such as FGM, and empowering women to stand for their rights in issues related to early marriage, VAWG, ..etc.

***"GADRA" Exhibition  
organized by the Students of  
the Master Program of Gender,  
Development and Peace  
Studies - at the RIGDPR –  
AUW - March 2019***



***A self-explanatory sketch  
reflecting challenges that  
face women and girls in  
Sudanese community.  
GADRA Exhibition AUW  
- March 2019***

***"Shatter the Silence"***

***A Portrait that calls for  
empowering women to  
fight for seizing their  
rights.***

***"GADRA" Exhibition  
AUW - March 2019***



## 6. A UW Students Celebrating the International Women's Day – March 2018 and 2019

Under the theme " *Women are original partners in Sustainable Development*", and throughout five days; 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, AUW students celebrated the International Women's day, participating with various activities that included drama, corall, music, exhibitions, debates in English and Arabic,..etc. Besides, their involvement in various types of sports and physical environment activities.



On March 2019, the celebration of the women's week was held under the theme; "*The Role of Community Mobilization in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals* –

*Youth are Pillars of Change*". Some of the topics addressed included; establishing community based associations; good governance (democracy, human rights, fighting corruption); peace keeping and conflict resolution; the importance of partnership to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; maternal and child health; water and environmental sanitation and education (schools environment and the role of parents' councils).

<http://www.ahfad.edu.sd/.../253-the-role-of-community-mobiliz...>



*Students Playing Music - 2018*



*Part of the drama activities displayed by the students on the stage during the Women's week celebration – AUW Club – March 2018*



## 7. "Ahfad Rise Against Hunger ; Alhafeeda Holding the Keys to achieve Zero Hunger"

Under the above theme, the School of Health Sciences - AUW - celebrated the World Food Day on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2018. The festivity program included Seminars, Exhibition, Orchestra, Drama....etc. The Minister of Agriculture , the FAO representative, and other guests participated.



*Some of the participants and Visitors enjoying the exhibition that accompanied the World Food Day Festivity - AUW Compus - October 2018.*



*In addition to the Exhibition, the World Food Day Festivity included students activities in relation to the general theme such as a role play, a Debate , corals, and a seminar in which participants from the FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture, and Faculty were involved.*

## 8. AUW Students and Staff Participation in the Glorious Revolution of December 2019

### Calling for Freedom, Peace and Justice

The year 2019 witnessed the white peaceful protests of December in Sudan that was calling for freedom, peace and justice. Despite protestors commenced their demonstrations in small groups scattered in different areas at Khartoum state beside other states, they rapidly spread out regionally and globally, with Sudanese diaspora holding their own protests in many countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States, beside others.



*Muna Ghorashi, Graduate of AUW holding Sudan Flag during the Demonstrations*

AUW students and Alumni were in the front line among their peers protesting at the sit-in location in front of the Army's Head Quarter, during the uprising calling for social change, equal representation and more civil and political rights for Sudanese women.



*AUW Students demonstrating against the Dictatorship Regime raising Sudan former Flag – Dec 2019*



*AUW Students protest calling for Women's rights, Justice and Peace – May 2019*



*AUW Students standing in Solidarity for Freedom, Equality and Human Rights wearing white national Sudanese "toub's" that represents Women Empowerment as well as independence, strength and purity.*





***Graduates of AUW Occupying Leading positions in the Current Civil Transitional Government***



***Her Excellency Ms/ Lina Elsheikh Mahgoub- Minister of Labour and Social Development - Graduate of School of Management Studies AUW - 1998***



***Ms/ Khadiga Osman Elhag - General Director of Hospitals in Sudan , Ministry of Health - Graduate of School of Medicine – 2010- was AUW Faculty prior to current position***



***Ms/ Muna Abdalmutaal Ghorashi – Manager of the Minister of Industry and Commerce Office - Graduate of School of Management Studies – 2009***



***Ms/ Natalina Yacoub - Communication Coordinator at Prime Minister Office of Sudan- Graduate of School of Management Studies- 2009***



***Ms/ Walaa Hassan Elradi – Member of the Commission of Youth and Sports- Khartoum State - Graduate of School of Management Studies – 2009***



***Ms/ Sulaima Mohd Ishag Elkhalifa – General Manager/ Elimination of Violence Against Women and Child Unit - Graduate of School of Psychology and Pre-school Education - 2000***

## 9. AUW Celebrating Diversity in the Annual International Day

Under the theme *"Welcome to Ahfad Globe"*, AUW celebrated its 6<sup>th</sup> International Day in 2018. The festivity is annually held to provide enough room for its diverse students to exchange information about their countries, culture, habits ..etc and to create channels of communication and close relationships among themselves and the university staff.



Students of more than 19 nationalities, beside the Sudanese and South Sudanese participates with various activities such as dances, music plays, exhibitions, national dresses shows, varieties of food..etc.

Beside the families and staff, Ambassadors and/or other countries representatives are usually invited beside members of Local and International NGOs.



*Some Scenes of the International Day Festivity at AUW Club - February 2018*



## AUW (1966) is from the Community and to the Community



