### USE OF FUNDS

1. Please attach receipts and a detailed budget, including a breakdown of how grant funds were used. See attached.

2. Please describe how the funds were used for the situation for which the grant was requested.

**SIHA** has used the funds to conduct its interventions to support tea and food sellers, in three ways.

- **a) First,** to support advocacy campaign activities, including advocacy meetings with locality officials and administration related to working conditions and violations against women street vendors, and overall support to the work of the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union. SIHA covered transportation and communication costs for the activities detailed in question three (3).

- **b) Second,** SIHA has provided materials to 20 women who were directly affected by the ban on their work. The material consisted of essential goods that are used for their work: sugar, tea, coffee, and flour. These materials represent the capital needed for women to restart working again and alleviate some of the debts they have acquired while they weren’t allowed to work.

- **c) Third,** the cooperative union along with SIHA staff members have conducted field visits to reach out to sub-groups of tea sellers and food vendors in remote areas of Khartoum, in the hopes of strengthening the connections and work of the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union. Five field visits took place: Alfatih, Wed AlBashir, ElRashid, Mayo, and Soba. These field visits included advocacy planning and training, as well as legal awareness session and legal support to all women who needed help with legal matters, provided by SIHA network lawyers. Funds were used for transportation, refreshments, and facilitation for these field visits.

### INTERVENTION

**d) How has the situation changed due to your intervention?**

A large part of Khartoum’s informal laborers consists of vulnerable women, many of them originating from conflict-ridden regions of Sudan, who survive through undertaking precarious forms of self-employment including selling tea or food and street vending. These women rely on the meager day to day income they earn to feed their children and support their families. In October 2016, surrounding the closing public ceremonies of the National Dialogue, street vendors were denied their right to work in several key locations around Khartoum. While originally barred from work for 15 days, street vendors in one area, known as the Green Yard, continued to be denied their right to work months beyond this period. Denying these women their...
The constitutional right to work comes as the latest of many violations they experience at the hands of local authorities. Tea sellers shared with SIHA how being denied their right to work affected them and their families. The loss of income prevented some from paying school fees for their children, while others had to start selling personal belongings, such as furniture and cooking utensils, to be able to provide for their family’s daily needs. Efforts to organize themselves and advocate for their right to return to work were curtailed by limitations in funds and income, political know-how, and lack of coordination with the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union.

In order to address these urgent needs, SIHA supported the following interventions in partnership with the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union:

- **Advocacy meetings**: Meetings were organized with local officials and authorities to claim street vendors’ right to work, demand an end to police harassment and raids, and discuss improved working conditions. Leaders from the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union met with the second Commissioner in Khartoum Locality and submitted an official letter demanding that street vendors be permitted to return to work following the National Dialogue. The Second Commissioner promised to follow-up on this issue with the Commissioner. The Union leaders, alongside some of the women street vendors from the Green Yard, met multiple times with the Green Yard Administration to demand their right to return to work. In Jebel Awlia Locality, Union leaders met with the muhtamid to raise violations experienced during kasha police raids, advocate for health insurance for street vendors, and request reduced fines levied against tea and food sellers by police. Union leaders also met with the Ministry of Social Affairs Department for Women to educate them on the situation of tea sellers in Khartoum, advocate for social insurance and health insurance, and explore alternative income-generating activities for IDP women in Khartoum.

Notable achievement: As a result of these interventions, all tea and food sellers were permitted to return to work in the Green Yard in March 2017 after more than 150 days without work, with minimum harassment from the locality. On their first day back at work, leaders from the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union joined the Green Yard tea sellers and worked alongside them.

- **Situation assessment exercise**: SIHA undertook an assessment with women street vendors from the Green Yard, Nile Street, and Jackson, three of the areas impacted by the street vending ban surrounding the National Dialogue. The Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union met with these groups to discuss their needs and advocacy strategies in response to the situation. As the women in Nile Street and Jackson are not members of the Union, they emphasized the benefits of joining advocacy efforts to protect themselves.

- **Distribution of in-King Supplies**: The Union identified 20 women from the Green Yard to receive in-kind distribution of supplies to support their return to work. These women were selected based on financial need, with priority given to single mothers and primary bread-winners. SIHA and the Union coordinated a one-day distribution event for these 20 women. Union leaders explained to these women how to use the distributed goods in efficient matter to capitalize on the material and increase their daily income gains. Due to in-kind distribution of goods, 20 women were able to return to work and earn their daily income while minimizing the amount of debt they accumulated while they were forbidden from working.

Legal aid clinic and Advocacy training: SIHA also supported a legal aid clinic and advocacy training session during the distribution event. The legal aid clinic focused on handling issues with police and preserving their rights, covering inspection orders and arrests. The advocacy training session focused
on tools and techniques for advocacy, as well as benefits of joining advocacy efforts under the protection of the Union

- Support and Follow up Visits: In order to address some of the structural issues within the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union that contributed to the lack of coordinated advocacy response following the work ban related to the National Dialogue, SIHA carried out field visits alongside Union leaders to specific cooperatives in Al Fatih, Wed Al Bashir, Mayo, Soba, and Al Rashid, reaching a total of 100 women. The purpose of these visits was multi-faceted. The visits began with an opportunity for women in the cooperatives to tell Union leaders about recent kasha police raids and violations they have experienced, enabling the Union to raise these issues with local government officials. Then, any tensions between the Union and the cooperatives were addressed, with the aim of promoting trust and increasing coordination. Union leaders explained to the cooperatives how to use and leverage the Union for advocacy in response to harassment and violations. Finally, two lawyers from SIHA’s network provided a legal aid clinic and brief on Public Order Laws and locality laws.

Field visits to targeted Cooperatives resolved specific coordination issues that had previously prevented full engagement of certain sub-groups within the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union. The legal aid clinics included in these visits demonstrated that there continues to be a gap in knowledge among women in remote areas of Khartoum related to basic legal understanding of the law and rights.

Finally, the interventions have led to the expansion of the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union, which has developed new membership from fledgling cooperatives along Nile Street and Jackson.

From March to September 2017, the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union have been actively negotiating on behalf of tea sellers in East Soba, Jackson and Nile Street localities of Khartoum, with 5 meetings held to discuss issues with local authorities.

- Nile St vendors discussed the issue of confiscation of resources and the locality is demanding higher rates for permits. Officially the rate is 1000 sdg per month but it varies and localities will confiscate the vendors items, demand a fine, and demand women buy their items back.

- In Jackson, a transportation hub of Khartoum, the tea sellers face the same issues as well as additional restrictions due to their location. The whole area is surrounded by government institutions and there has been a local order issued banning tea sellers around government institutions because it does not fit the image of the area. The Union intervened and discussed terms with the authorities and they were permitted to work there again.

- Soba did not previously have union group and were experiencing issues of confiscation, and not being permitted to work in the evening. Union started up a structure in this location and held a council meeting which documented issues. The president of the group talked to the local authority and successfully negotiated a stop to the confiscations and to get the items back.

**e) Briefly provide us with a quote or paragraph on the significance of this funding.**

One of the women who received in-kind supplies to begin working again in the Green Yard said how grateful she was to be able to pay for her children to return to school: “I can finally start working and pay the school fees for my children.”
One of the leaders of the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union who took part in the field visits to marginal sub-group areas said, “Being able to reach out to sub-member groups of the union and seeing their accomplishments and challenges reopens our eyes to why we do what we do.”

f) What would you say is the most significant change that you experienced as a result of this intervention? Why do you consider this change significant?

The most significant change is the return of the women in the Green Yard back to work and the successful negotiation with the locality. The women who were forced to stop working have suffered massively from the lack of work and income. Those returning to work and having the necessary goods to work again ensured they can repay their debts and generate income to support their families. Also, the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union being able to negotiate on behalf of the Green Yard women with the locality has proved to be useful. The locality allows them to work and harasses them less because of the Union’s influence. While the locality still does conduct routine confiscation of chairs from the women, whenever that happens the Union members get involved and they acquire the chairs back with minimum fines being paid.

In the 6 months following the intervention, SIHA has been monitoring developments and has found that, despite the growing engagement and influence of the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union in negotiating on behalf of tea sellers, it has not been possible to address the root cause. The incentive for local authorities and Public Order Regime officers to extract income from vulnerable street vendors is an ongoing issue and means that the cycle of confiscations, restrictions and fines has not been eliminated. New orders are being issued which do not have any legislative basis and are being used against the women. Women are being told not to work after 5pm and not to work on the main streets, only on side streets.

In an effort to find a long term solution, the Union has been reaching out to government institutions to discover the legal basis of these new orders and begin negotiations at a higher level. It has not been possible to pinpoint which institution is responsible and the Legislative Council and the Ministry of Security and Social Development have not engaged on the issue. As a result, the Union has determined to organize a peaceful protest to raise awareness of the issues.

g) Please describe any other actors that contributed to the change.

SIHA partnered with the Sudanese Women’s Cooperative Union to achieve these successes. Since 2014, the influence of the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union has increased significantly and it is now recognized as a political force with important connections and relationships within different ministries. Its lobbying power has achieved the improvement of the tea sellers’ situation, for instance in Jabal Awlia locality, where the Union successfully got fines reduced, stopped police raids and got rent reduced for chairs. The Union and its cooperatives were also awarded government contracts: In Jabal Awlia, they were granted the locality a cleaning contract which created jobs for approximately 500 women and youth. In 2016, they were awarded the government contract to supply catering services to the Khartoum Book Fair.

Additionally, Awadiya Mahmoud Kuku, the head of the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union, has been awarded the U.S. State Department 10th Annual International Women of Courage Award in 2016. Ms Awadiya has been given this award in recognition of her fearless attitude in confronting government authorities, challenging unfair social norms, and overcoming economic obstacles.
CHALLENGES /OPPORTUNITIES

h) Did anything unexpected happen (positive or negative)? (For example, a new opportunity or an unexpected challenge). Please explain.

The field visit in Wed Al Bashier illuminated successful business models initiated within the women’s cooperative itself. This group had taken full advantage of micro-credit schemes provided to them by local banks and launched a brick-making business. The Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union was very impressed with this successful initiative and will share the example with other groups and cooperatives they visit in hopes of replicating the success.

SIHA did make one adjustment to implementation – rather than providing stipends to 20 women in critical financial situations in the Green Yard area, SIHA made in-kind distributions of supplies instead. The Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union agreed to this approach, recognizing that direct distributions of cash tend to create friction, competition, and resentment, which would undermine efforts to reduce mistrust and promote coordination.

i) Did any collaboration with any groups emerge to carry out this activity? If yes, will these collaborations continue beyond this intervention?

Other cooperative members within the Union have collaborated to support the Green Yard women. For example, women from the Nile Street group and Jackson Square, two groups who have similar challenges to the women in the Green Yard, have been affiliated in the goods distribution activity, and Union is taking planning on bringing all three groups together to have long term advocacy campaign.

BENEFICIARIES

j) Who were the main beneficiaries of your action?

IDP women street vendors in urban settings and in this case Green Yard tea and food sellers, and sub-member groups in marginal areas of Khartoum.

Case study: A woman in Hizba, in rural Khartoum North, was working in the evening from 9-10pm. As she was finishing her work she was harassed by a police officer customer who tried to blackmail her into giving sexual favours. She tried to fend him off by saying her husband was a police officer. She was arrested for two hours and released after which he continued to harass her and eventually he left her alone. She says this is a common experience for the women.

k) If you were funded to hold a meeting, convening, or any similar event:
   a. How many people attended? NA
   b. Please provide contact details for at least 4 women’s rights groups/WHRDs who were in attendance, if possible. NA

l) Kindly indicate if there are any other materials used in your intervention that you would like to submit with this report (Photos, media reports, videos, etc).

See attached photos.
m) If applicable to the nature of activity carried out, please indicate if there was any media coverage of your intervention? (If yes, provide links).

The Sudanese Women’s Cooperative Union has been engaging with the media to highlight ongoing issues for the tea sellers. The president of the Union has been interviewed in Al Jareeda newspaper and activists have been discussing the situation on social media.

FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

n) What specific activities will your organisation carry out as a follow up to this intervention?

Along with the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union, SIHA will support further visits to other marginal member groups in Khartoum, and, as requested by the sub-member groups, further legal education and awareness raising events will be conducted to those groups.

o) Have you been able to raise sufficient funds to continue this effort? What are your current funding needs around this action?

SIHA’s general support to the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union is funded through varies Regional SIHA projects to enhance their technical abilities and skills. However, supporting women rights defender at the grassroots level remains a challenge. Hopefully UAF will continue to collaborate with SIHA in the future to provide direct support to women activists and defenders at the grassroots level.

CONFIDENTIALITY

p) To what extent may UAF-Africa share the details of your grant or use this information in our publications? Are there certain details that you would like to be kept confidential?

In this particular grant SIHA has no reservations towards UAF sharing information about the purpose and the nature of the grant.
Women street vendors from the Green Yard area, out of work for more than 150 days, receive in-kind supplies from SIHA and the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union to support their return to work:
A woman street vendor and member of the cooperative in AlRashid raises issues and concerns during a meeting with leaders of the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union:

Awadiya, leader of the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union, listens to concerns raised by Union members in AlRashid:
Women’s cooperative members in Soba listen and participate during a session on advocacy and communication within the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union:

The leader of the Help Yourself Women’s Cooperative in Mayo asks questions during the legal aid awareness session during the field visit from the Sudanese Women’s Cooperatives Union: