Over Three Decades of Successful Partnerships

Ahfad University for Women

USA Links & Programs
Ahfad University for Women
A Success Story in Internationalization of Higher Education & Links with USA

Ahfad Beyond 50 Years: Excellence & Globalization

INTRODUCTION

Internationalization is gaining recognition as being pivotal for the advancement of knowledge, scientific research as well as transfer and exchange of technology. Ahfad University for Women (AUW) has adopted internationalization as one of its strategies to ensure quality and excellence in higher education, by utilizing international cooperation and exchange in enhancing education and research; its international recognition; better access to the world’s best academic resources for its staff, students and researchers; attracting advanced knowledge and technologies; and gaining more access to international funding resources. This document illustrates the successful story of AUW’s journey of internationalization and links with the US, which began some 40 years ago.

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 Sudanese society using a combination of well-articulated academic programmes, professional training, research, and community outreach activities.

Vision Statement
To be a prominent university nationally and a leading institution worldwide recognized for its academic excellence, research, women empowerment, civic engagement and social responsibility.

Ahfad University for Women has partnerships and joint activities with 18 Universities and Institutions in the US:

1. Iowa State University (MOU)
2. Tufts University: School of Nutrition Science & Policy, Feinstein International Famine Center (MOU)
3. Ohio University: African Child Institute (MOU)
4. Howard University (MOU)
5. Case Western Reserve (MOU)
6. University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (MOU)
7. University of South Carolina, Centre of Global Strategy and Moore School of Business (MOU)
8. Harvard University, School of Public Health
9. University of California Los Angeles
10. University of Wisconsin Madison
11. Smith College
12. Mount Holyoke College
13. International Medical Corps, Santa Monica
14. Woodrow Wilson International Centre
15. National Endowment for Democracy
16. US Institute of Peace
17. African Women’s Cancer Awareness Association
18. Michigan State University, Immunohematology & Serology Laboratory
19. Duke University, Departments of Medicine & Physiology

THE BEGINNING AHFAD UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN - IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY LINK

In 1983, Dr. Burchinal and Dr. Grotberg who were at the time teaching at AUW proposed an institutional cooperation between Ahfad University College for Women in Omdurman, Sudan, and Iowa State University (ISU) in Ames, Iowa, USA through Dr. Donna Cowan, Associate Dean and Coordinator of International Affairs, College of Family and Consumer Sciences, at Iowa State. Ahfad and ISU entered into a five-year Memorandum of Understanding committing to reciprocal contributions to teaching, research, extension, and faculty development. At the time, no linkages existed between an American university and any Sudanese institution in the social sciences, making it a unique one. The link proposal was sent to the United States Information Agency (USA) in March 1984 and funded in July 1984. The grant enabled the continuation of the AUW-ISU link program.

At the time, no linkages existed between an American university and any Sudanese institution in the social sciences, making it a unique one.

Through the collaboration, the Ahfad Journal: Women and Change was launched in 1984 by Drs. Lee Burchinal and
Gasim Badri, and AUW then established the Sudanese-American Foundation for Education (SAFE) to facilitate the transfer of higher education resources to Sudan. The AUW-ISU international link continued to foster more academic and research links as well as invaluable support to AUW. Burchinal, Grotberg and Cowan later received honorary doctoral degrees from AUW.

**LINKS FOR IMPROVING MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH**

AUW faculty participated in Ohio University’s conference for "Women and Children's Health in Africa: Clinical and Social Perspectives" in 2013. The conference aimed to raise awareness about women and children’s health and assess the efforts to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health in Africa, including abandonment of harmful traditional practices such as female genital cutting.

AUW implemented a three-years community awareness project with the Packard Foundation between 2003 and 2005 to improve maternal and child health services and awareness AUW attachment areas and provided two years of trainings to Sudanese nationals on Visionary Leadership in Population and Health, Management of Health Programmes, Advocacy and Monitoring and Evaluation Skills.

In 2005, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) held a joint research on citizen views on Sudan's future after the CPA. The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in collaboration with the Babiker Badri Scientific Association for Women Studies (BBSAWS), an NGO affiliated to AUW, held several activities on violence against women, in 1997-99 to introduce VAW as a concept and hence BBSAWS produced booklets on VAW and laws, women’s health and others. In 2005, BBSAWS and NED worked on election education and mobilization and art for peace in 2007-2008 and on strengthening civic engagement in Schools in 2005/2016.

In 2009 AUW and Case Western Reserve University conducted a ten days training on "Disaster Management: Focus on Children and Families" six faculty members and experts from the US were part of the training team.

With support from the USAID, the Regional Institute for diversity, Peace & Rights (RIG/DPR), AUW implemented a project on Constitution Building in Sudan (2012-2013). The experience driven project targeted constitution content to address diversity, federalism and women’s roles and rights. State level workshops in partnership with four state universities, a conference and publication of 4 booklets and a book on the workshops proceedings were all completed through the project.

The American Charge d’Affaires Joseph D. Stafford, III at the Evaluation Workshop of the Constitution Building Project, supported by USAID, on 30 March 2013

In 2016, the RIG/DPR with USAID, also implemented a project on the Dialogue for Participatory Development of Election Systems Project. Through the project more than 50 members of government bodies and commissions, media, and women’s groups were targeted through dialogues, trainings, publications and use of social media. 200 members from civil society organizations became knowledgeable about election system in some countries and Sudan & Alternative election systems were discussed and recommended.

**LINKS RELATED TO NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY**

AUW and Tufts University jointly organized a National Training in Nutrition during Emergency with the Feinstein International Famine Center in 2004.

The Nutrition Center for Training & Research at AUW offered an online course on Feeding in Emergency Situations through the African Studies Program and the Institute for the African Child at Ohio University.

In collaboration with the USAID, AUW implemented a project on the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition in collaboration with Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA), a US based Institution. This project focused on capacity building programmes for hospital cadre on implementing the CMAM using WHO guidelines. It is now run by the AUW Nutrition Training and Research Center.

In 2005, the National民主机构 (NDI) held a joint research on citizen views on Sudan’s future after the CPA. The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in collaboration with the Babiker Badri Scientific Association for Women Studies (BBSAWS), an NGO affiliated to AUW, held several activities on violence against women, in 1997-99 to introduce VAW as a concept and hence BBSAWS produced booklets on VAW and laws, women’s health and others. In 2005, BBSAWS and NED worked on election education and mobilization and art for peace in 2007-2008 and on strengthening civic engagement in Schools in 2005/2016.

The American Charge d’Affaires Joseph D. Stafford, III at the Evaluation Workshop of the Constitution Building Project, supported by USAID, on 30 March 2013

In 2016, the RIG/DPR with USAID, also implemented a project on the Dialogue for Participatory Development of Election Systems Project. Through the project more than 50 members of government bodies and commissions, media, and women’s groups were targeted through dialogues, trainings, publications and use of social media. 200 members from civil society organizations became knowledgeable about election system in some countries and Sudan & Alternative election systems were discussed and recommended.

In 2009 AUW and Case Western Reserve University conducted a ten days training on "Disaster Management: Focus on Children and Families" six faculty members and experts from the US were part of the training team.

With support from the USAID, the Regional Institute for diversity, Peace & Rights (RIG/DPR), AUW implemented a project on Constitution Building in Sudan (2012-2013). The experience driven project targeted constitution content to address diversity, federalism and women’s roles and rights. State level workshops in partnership with four state universities, a conference and publication of 4 booklets and a book on the workshops proceedings were all completed through the project.

**CONFLICT, PEACE, RIGHTS & DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

In 2005, AUW, Tufts University and York University in Canada, conducted a study on livelihoods and conflict in Darfur, resulting in publications that influenced humanitarian aid policies. An AUW faculty member enrolled in Tufts’ Master in Humanitarian Assistance and Tufts assisted in the development of the same Master programme at AUW.

In 2005, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) held a joint research on citizen views on Sudan’s future after the CPA. The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in collaboration with the Babiker Badri Scientific Association for Women Studies (BBSAWS), an NGO affiliated to AUW, held several activities on violence against women, in 1997-99 to introduce VAW as a concept and hence BBSAWS produced booklets on VAW and laws, women’s health and others.


In 2009 AUW and Case Western Reserve University conducted a ten days training on "Disaster Management: Focus on Children and Families" six faculty members and experts from the US were part of the training team.

With support from the USAID, the Regional Institute for diversity, Peace & Rights (RIG/DPR), AUW implemented a project on Constitution Building in Sudan (2012-2013). The experience driven project targeted constitution content to address diversity, federalism and women’s roles and rights. State level workshops in partnership with four state universities, a conference and publication of 4 booklets and a book on the workshops proceedings were all completed through the project.

In 2016, the RIG/DPR with USAID, also implemented a project on the Dialogue for Participatory Development of Election Systems Project. Through the project more than 50 members of government bodies and commissions, media, and women’s groups were targeted through dialogues, trainings, publications and use of social media. 200 members from civil society organizations became knowledgeable about election system in some countries and Sudan & Alternative election systems were discussed and recommended.
CAPACITY BUILDING FOR STUDENTS

The Population Council International, a US based research organization, through its two Regional Offices in Kenya and Egypt is collaborating with AUW in a global partnership on Evidence to End Female Genital Cutting supported by DFID and includes 7 African partners and two experts from US HEIs.

Engender Health and AUW partnered in a two years programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other partners. The programme aimed at providing training and capacity strengthening for health care providers and administrators in reproductive health and maternal health.

Through the US Department of State ‘Africa Women Peace and Security Initiative’, AUW implemented a project on building the capacity of local women at community levels and service providers in the area of trauma counseling and the innovative use of art.

The project (2012-2014) "Empowering Women in an Emerging New State was implemented in four states in Sudan. It provided training for university staff and hospital providers on trauma counseling. Trauma counseling centers for women were established in the four States including at AUW.

WOMEN, EMPOWERMENT AND ECONOMY

AUW, is one of the members of the Women Education Worldwide (WEW) network of women Universities that was initiated by Smith College and Mount Holyoke in Massachusetts, US.

AUW participates in the WEW faculty and students conferences and initiated links with partners in the Arab World in areas of creative writing for students.

In Dec 2007, AUW School of Management Studies organized the conference “Sudan in Global Economy” in collaboration with the Centre of Global Strategy, the University of South Carolina and Bridges, a Sudanese organization. The conference was part of a series of seminars aiming to strengthen the commercial & investment relations among Sudanese and American businessmen.

Young Women Speaking the Economy is a project of the International Museum of Women in partnership with the Sudanese Women’s Museum and Ahfad University for Women in the Sudan; the Women’s Museum and Aarhus University in Denmark; the Ayala Museum and Miriam College in the Philippines; and Mills College in the United States. The project was funded by the US Department of State and through the project four AUW students shared their experiences with students from four different countries.

STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE

Through the support of the Population Council International, AUW implemented a two year project on management information system and health capacity building for health care providers, university faculty and young people. The project included establishing a management information system and improving the quality of care at the Ahfad Health Center, and offering a series of capacity building workshops in research methods in population and health issues.

Evidence to End FGM/C

Furthermore, through the support of USAID, the programme continued to build the individual resilience and community healing in conflict states in Sudan through the establishment of trauma centers in Darfur, and Blue Nile.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR STUDENTS

AUW and USAID, carried out an integrated, intersectional, intergenerational capacity building programme to empower and enhance the capacities of Sudanese young people on, peaceful coexistence, equality, sustainable development, human rights and good governance. A youth training package on civic engagement and human rights was developed. The program also provided scholarships for 20 young female academicians from South Kordofan and the Eastern states, to enroll in the MSc programs of Sustainable Rural Development, Gender and Migration and Gender and Multiculturalism at AUW.
Six AUW students have participated in the US Department of State Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSIs) for Student Leaders. The five-to-six-week academic program for foreign undergraduate leaders hosted by U.S. academic institutions throughout the US, includes an intensive academic residency, leadership development and a unique opportunity for participants to get to know their American peers.

The AUW RIG/DPR invited Prof. Etim from Winston-Salem State University, who is an editor of journals to give a course on publishing in refereed journals to PhD staff in June 2014.

In 2017, AUW received the first Fulbright Scholar since the resumption of the programme in Sudan after 20 years. Professor Steve Howard, from Ohio University. Howard has more than 30 years of experience working in international education with a focus on African studies and communication.

---

**AUW IN NUMBERS**

- **52**: Years of Pioneering in Non-governmental Higher Education in Sudan & Beacon of Light for African Women
- **8,000**: Students from 29 Countries
- **8**: Schools providing Undergraduate and Graduate programs
- **17** Masters & 8 PhD programs
- **1,679**: Scholarships provided for Low Income Students in 2016/2017
- **25**: National Philanthropists & Foundations offer Scholarships for the Students
- **23,136**: Alumni up to date
- **400**: Faculty members, 62% are Females
- **50**: Years of Links & Partnerships Internationally, Regionally & Nationally
- **45**: Years of Rural Extension Field Trips raising Awareness & covering annually over 60 Villages
- **9**: Specialized Institutes & Centers providing Capacity Building, Research & Services for Community Development

---

**Ahfad University for Women**

جامعة الأحفاد للبنات