AHFAD UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

REACHING OUT & FOSTERING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
How we work

Rural Extension Program: started in 1973, involves annual field trips to rural areas by fourth year students (around 1200 students supervised by 120 faculty members) across all specializations where they spend one to two weeks residing in a rural village conducting awareness raising activities (targeting particularly women and adolescents) in diversified health issues, such as RH, maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, family planning, family nutrition, children development, environment, democracy, education and women's wellbeing. Many community based organization have been formed as a result of this program as well as the impact it had on encouraging rural communities to allow their daughters to pursue higher education.

Family attachment program in the School of Medicine: students are attached to families in the poor neighboring areas of the university and other underserved urban areas. These students carry out regular weekly visits to the families they are assigned using problem-based approach, focused group discussions and perform educational, follow-up, counseling and referral services for these families. About 240 families are covered annually in Ombadda area, Western Omdurman inhabited by over 2 million internally displaced populations with information on child, maternal and general health needs of the family.

Student attachment program in the Schools of Psychology, Health Sciences and Rural Development: students are attached to many organizations in urban and rural areas of Sudan to serve for one month during their studies in the university. They are attached to organizations such as hospitals, health centers, feeding centers prisons, psycho-health centers, and psychiatric wards at hospitals, kindergartens, special handicapped centers, under privileged primary and secondary schools and NGOs working in under privileged areas.

Moreover, AUW provides training services targeting different groups: women, youth, community leaders, policy makers, health personnel and others. Through these service learning activities, faculty members in the university build their capacities in teaching and find opportunities to engage in serving the community. Many of these training programs have also informed the university curricula, such as the WHO Regional Training on Integrating gender and Rights in reproductive Health, which has informed courses in health education and behavioral and social health.