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The organization Al-Tasamuh for Women's Rights and Child welfare was established in 2012 to help with the empowerment of women in the rural areas of West Darfur. The organization formed peace committees with farmers, nomads and IDPs in the area.

The team of Tasamuh has extensive experience of dealing with violence against women due to the war around Zalengei. In 2009 Zamzam herself was abducted together with other men and women, by a group of rebels. On that occasion, the women were separated from the men and the rebels tried to rape them. Luckily the women were set free when the police arrived but they were warned by the rebels not to report the rape attempt.

Later, letters were delivered to their homes threatening that they would be raped if they reported the attempted rape to the police. Because they were intimidated and frightened, no report was made. Confronted with this situation, the team understood that fear is the major reason why women refrain from reporting rape incidents. From that time on, the team started to provide legal assistance to women in rural areas, more especially to internal displaced persons.

There is a village in the heart of the state of Middle Darfur called Bieja; it is a complex of three villages surrounded by four *damars* (Nomad dwellings) and it lives in a continual state of conflict with its neighbors. In an attempt to reconcile these conflicting parties, the team of Tasamuh approached the women from Bieja to try and understand their way of living. Bieja women trade yogurt and cheese with other villages and when the team asked them where they got their milk, they answered: "From the *damars*". The team then went to the nomad dwellings in the neighborhood to inquire where the women bought their grain and the women answered: "From Bieja village".

However, milk and grain were not the only businesses connecting the women. For example, after the harvest, the animal fodder to feed their cattle was bought by the nomads from the farmers in Bieja. The team of Al-Tasamuh discovered that the conflicting parties had strong mutual interests, so they explained this situation to the women on both sides. The team advised the women to look after their own economic interests and then they convinced them to have a discussion with their husbands about the importance of peaceful co-existence based on that interdependence. The team of Al-Tasamuh also formed a committee to further encourage mutual trading and subsequently, peace building committees were established. Finally, in



October 2015 the committees organized a workshop on the basis of peaceful coexistence that was attended by groups from both sides of the conflict.