

Imagine how you would spend your days if forced to flee from your home—not just for weeks, but for years. You have only a small plot of land to plant some crops, a temporary shelter, and few resources. How would you spend your days? Below find an interview with Kaltoum, an adult literacy student at Sekali camp in Darfur who was interviewed by ZOA staff.



Adults going to school for the first time!

Q: Tell us about yourself.

My name is Kaltoum. I was 38 years old when I arrived at Sekali Camp. I have been here since Darfur conflict started in 2003.

Q: Tell us about your school experiences.

I have never been to school. I started it last year after ZOA came to Sekali camp. I had been in my house when someone came to house and told my husband that the ZOA organization intended to open literacy class for women and girls over school age. I immediately agreed to be one of the students of the class then I registered myself and became regular member of the class.

Q: Tell us about your literacy class.

I received a textbook, and curriculum. I have benefited from this study. My life has changed from being an illiterate woman, to a woman who knows how to read, write and work with numbers. I serve as a member of women's committee for women development activities in the camp now. I improved my skills and knowledge. Now I feel that my husband respects me and talks to me better than before. I can say my life is changed.

Q Were other women willing to join literacy class?

Yes, most of my neighbours joined. They have an interest to attend literacy class because they saw how I benefited from ZOA literacy class. It is easy for them to attend, because it does not cost much because the facilities and materials are provided by ZOA Refugee Care.

Q, Madam Kaltoum, what do you want to say to your sister who did not get chance for education yet?

OK, I would say to them, "Please join literacy classes so as to progress and develop into a better person as I have experienced."

Q: What do you want to say at the end of this interview?

Thanks are to God. I thank ZOA Refugee Care for offering me the opportunity to learn. I have gratitude and give thanks to my teachers and facilitators for their advice, guidance and patience.