UNDP Southern Sudan

Monthly Newsletter

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

UNDP
Sudan

Local Government Act Passed

Local Government Bill passed the Legislative Assembly, paving the way for more effective Local Government in Southern Sudan.

"Without strong local government in Southern Sudan it will be difficult to deliver on the peace dividends promised by the CPA". —Ceaser Arkangelo Suleiman, Chairman Local Government Board

The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) passed the Local Government Act in April, paving the way for the dissemination of authority to local government councils. "Support to local government is a key element of UNDP's efforts to strengthen government structures in Southern Sudan", said Joe Feeney, UNDP Southern Sudan's Head of Office. "Without strong local government structures which have control over their budgets, it is difficult to deliver basic services and maintain the rule of law", he continued.

To prepare local authorities for the establishment of the Local Government Act, the Local Government Board and UNDP supported the training of 110 local government officers. These officers have returned to their communities and are active in training their respective government officials on the necessary functions of local government and community service delivery.

At a recent training, H.E. Ceaser Arkangelo Suleiman, chairman of GoSS' Local Government Board noted that good governance is critical for GoSS and for sustainable development in the region. He spoke of the need for a collective response from all members of the community, from citizens to politicians, to strengthen local government to improve and expand service delivery for the people. Suleiman further noted the need for the local governments, GoSS and State governments to work together to achieve good governance, saying "without strong local government in Southern Sudan it will be difficult to deliver on the peace dividends promised by the CPA".

Boniface Rutagira, acting Project Manager for UNDP's *Local Government Recovery Project*, is positive about the future of this bill, commenting that "the main challenge now is to provide the material resources for the utilization of the trained officers and officials to ensure broader community access to services".

Strong local government is crucial for the delivery of basic services in Southern Sudan.

Community Security Project Gears Up

The *Community Security and Arms Control Project (CSAC)* connects components of security and development in Southern Sudan at the GoSS, State and county levels. The project is being piloted in Jonglei State where it supports both county authorities and police networks in Jonglei State by equipping them with communication equipment and transportation, increasing their resources and ability to maintain rule of law and to respond to rapid-onset conflict.

David Lochhead, CSAC Field Programming Manager, describes the CSAC project, as one which "builds on the existing peace processes and state and county strategic planning in support of conflict sensitive development".

In one of the counties served by CSAC activities, communities identified major obstacles to development as insecurity and the threat of violent conflict, which ultimately affects food security and fuels instability in the area. Community groups suggested immediate solutions such as the need for communication equipment and transportation means for patrolling border points to identify threats early. Lochhead explained that with improved and stable security, people would be to return to abandoned rural areas, repopulating them and opening a safer environment for development.

By working closely with State and county authorities, as well as with the community and civil society, CSAC interventions can strategically address the main security priorities, which shape the future of development and economic growth in Jonglei State.

UN Election Mission Visits Southern Sudan

"There are many challenges ahead for the country, and Southern Sudan in particular, due to the complexity of these elections."
—Joanne Cheah, UNDP Senior Elections Advisor

As part of a broader assessment mission in preparation for the 2010 elections, a needs assessment team from UNDP and UN headquarters visited Southern Sudan from 5 to 7 May 2009.

The mission identified some of the necessary requirements the country must meet in order to fairly and transparently conduct the elections and upcoming referendum. The team also examined what role UN partners should play in this system.

During assessment trips in Juba and Bor, members of the mission met with representatives from the government, security forces, various political parties, civil society organizations, and community members to discuss the future, possible challenges, and the impact that the elections will have on the country as a whole.

"There are many challenges ahead for the country, and Southern Sudan in particular, due to the complexity of these

elections and the relatively short time frame", says Joanne Cheah, Senior Elections Advisor for UNDP. Through its *Support to Elections and Democratic Processes Project*, UNDP is providing assistance to the electoral authorities and the Political Parties Affairs Council. UNDP will also support domestic observation, media training, civic and voter education, and promote the participation of women and youth to ensure full voter participation and fair representation in these pivotal elections.

Traffic Police Training Kicks Off in 5 States

Traffic accidents are a widespread crisis across Southern Sudan. More vehicles on the roads is increasing the availability of transportation for people, goods, and services, but neglect of road safety puts drivers, passengers, and pedestrians at risk. UNDP's *Police and Prisons Project*, UNMIS, and the Southern Sudan Police Service (SSPS) know that now is a critical time to establish workable public

policies for safety, obeying rules, and public conformity with the law.

Comprehensive five-day traffic law and safety trainings kicked off in May 2009 in Juba, Rumbek, Bor, Aweil, and Bentiu, as part of the joint UNDP/UNMIS/SSPS Southern Sudan Road Safety Campaign, "Protect the Peace: Share the Road". This campaign will train 300 traffic

police officers, 30 from each of the 10 states across Southern Sudan, in basic traffic laws and road safety.

The trainings will equip traffic police with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect Sudan's people from traffic accidents and other dangers that unsafe roads and untrained drivers can pose to the community.

Danielle Botti

Traffic Police are one of the keys to road traffic safety.

Local Government Workshop Brings Government Together

Danielle Botti

In conjunction with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, UNDP held a two day "State & County Planning & Budgeting Workshop" in Juba on the 21st and 22nd of May. The event was facilitated by UNDP's *Support to Economic Planning Project*, *Support to States Project* and *Local Government Recovery Programme*. The workshop was attended by 120 senior members of GoSS, including the Director Generals of Finance for each State, Director Generals for Public Service for each State, the Chair of the State Legislative Assembly for Finance &

Economics for each State and the Executive Directors of each of the 78 counties.

The workshop was heralded as the first time that GoSS, State and county level authorities have been brought together to discuss budget issues. The outcomes of the workshop will ensure that counties are fully involved and integrated into the Southern Sudan planning, budgeting and execution process. Thanks to this workshop, counties have a clearer idea on how to draft county plans and budgets which are realistic, prioritized, and quantified.

A key theme of the 2009 budget is decentralization, and the workshop was instrumental in promoting this policy. HE Minister of Finance Kuol Athian Mawien opened the workshop, highlighting the importance of collaboration of all levels of GoSS. Counties will be fully integrated into the Budget Sector Committees at State level to enable them to follow a sectoral approach to planning & budgeting—in line with the GoSS framework, allowing them to plan better for service delivery at the local level.

BCPR Mission Assesses Rule of Law and DDR

UNDP's Rule of Law (RoL) Unit hosted a top level delegation from the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) in UNDP offices in Geneva, from 5 to 12 May 2009. Yasmine Sherif, Head of BCPR's Justice, Security and Governance Team and Sebastien Gouraud, Programme Officer met with implementing partners, donors and key stakeholders of UNDP's RoL and Community Security and Arms Control (CSAC) projects. Charles Breifel, DPKO-Rule of Law Head and Richard Kuuire, DPKO-Corrections Head from New York also joined the mission to examine DPKO interests within the ROL and Security sectors.

The mission was a follow-up to last February's TAM mission, and they also supported the RoL team as they develop a project proposal for support under the Global Rule of Law programme. The delegation met with partners within the UNDP system, civil affairs officers in UNMIS, locally based donor representatives and other stakeholders.

One of the key outcomes of the BCPR mission was a pledge for funding for Rule of Law and Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) programming. The new funding will provide an increase in UNDP staff, vehicles, and resources to support a strong and unified presence in Jonglei State, an area plagued by violent conflict and a recent rise in civilian casualties.

By working with the local authorities and community security and rule of law groups, UNDP helps local communities in establishing and strengthening rule of law. UNDP intervenes in areas where communities are trying to prevent further deterioration of the situation and address the underlying causes of the conflicts, as well as to ensure a quick delivery of humanitarian aid to the affected populations.

UNDP supports rule of law projects in Jonglei State, including with the construction of new prison facilities and training of personnel.

UNDP Welcomes New Head of Office

Mr. Joe Feeney assumed responsibilities as UNDP Southern Sudan Head of Office on 1 April 2009. His tenure comes at a pivotal time in Southern Sudan, as the UNDP office provides vital support to the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) to ensure the peaceful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the realization of sustainable peace in the region. Looking forward to the new assignment, Joe says, "This is an exciting time to be in Southern Sudan –at such an important stage in its development, working with my Sudanese and international colleagues to provide basic services and strong local government to the people of this country."

Joe has been working in international development for more than 20 years. He began his career in Bangladesh in the NGO sector. He then worked for the Irish Embassy and the UN in different regions of Africa on issues ranging from poverty reduction and HIV/AIDS to governance. He credits this work with teaching him the importance of strengthening state institutions. Reflecting on his development work in Africa, Joe says, "I have learned that the most important quality in mangers and leaders is empathy that allows you to see the world through the eyes of others. This is especially important when you are working with people under pressure and in difficult environments."

Joe joined UNDP in 2003, and worked in Ethiopia and Lesotho. Before coming to Southern Sudan, he spent six months as a Strategic Advisor to the DSRSG in Khartoum in 2005. Prior to joining UNDP, Joe worked with the Irish Government from 1994 -2003 as Deputy Head of Mission, and was responsible for Development Programmes in both Ethiopia and Lesotho. He also worked with the NGO sector covering Emergency and Recovery projects in both Africa and Asia. Mr. Feeney has worked in Bangladesh, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda among other countries.

"This is an exciting time to be in Southern Sudan –at such an important stage in its development, working with my Sudanese and international colleagues to provide basic services and strong local government to the people of this country." — Joe Feeney

United Nations Development Programme
UNDP Compound
Juba, Southern Sudan

Do No Harm...

Experience shows that even when a project is effective in achieving its intended outputs, it interacts with the conflict situation and at times can reinforce divisions in the community – doing more harm than good to the community.

There are a number of ways in which project interventions can play a positive or negative role in the context of conflict or post conflict situations. The <u>distributional effect</u> is particularly relevant in the context of recovery. That is an impact related to how limited resources are allocated in a community.

Project inputs can interact with a context either through reinforcing connectors (i.e. factors that bring people together) or affecting intergroup relationships through reinforcing dividers (factors that divide people). When recovery interventions are targeted towards a certain group others can feel excluded fuelling competition. When agencies label people according to their needs (for understandable reasons mainly because of limited resources), they can reinforce sub-group identities and accentuate sub-group differences.   Conflict sensitive programming is critical in such context.

Conflict sensitive programming can best be defined as: **"**_the ability of your organization to:_ "_understand the context in which [it] operates; understand the interaction between [its] Intervention and the context; and act upon the understanding of this interaction, in order to avoid negative impacts and maximize positive impacts._ Conflict sensitive programming is especially critical in the context of south Sudan with its experiences of communal conflict, often resulting from competition for limited resources. Intervention decisions based on community consultation can help avoid a potential backlash from groups that feel left behind in the recovery process.

Consultation and effective communication with the community and clan leaders regarding investment decisions in the recovery process can help to reverse potential negative impact.

— From SRF Newsletter April 2009

Recovery projects can contribute to community conflict if not planned carefully in post conflict environments.