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UNDP to Recruit 150 UN Volunteers to Support Capacity Development



Bernard Mugisha, IUNV from Uganda, serves the community in Malakal as the Rule of Law Officer.

If the vision of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is to be achieved in Southern Sudan, solid and effective governance infrastructure is essential. Without it, credible, transparent, and participatory institutions cannot thrive and efficient service delivery is nearly impossible.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is launching a new initiative to strengthen key ministries so that the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) is better able to deliver peace dividends to its citizens. In part-

nership with GoSS, United Nations Volunteers (UNV), and other relevant organizations, UNDP plans to rapidly identify and deploy up to 150 highly qualified international UN Volunteers (IUNV) to develop national capacity in weakened government agencies.

Specialists will be recruited in a number of areas – including finance, law enforcement and urban management – and embedded in national and state-level positions to enhance service delivery. This will lay the groundwork for an expanded intervention, with a considerable scaling up of IUNVs in the health, education and food security sectors.

In addition, a coherent technical assistance scheme will be developed based on the specific needs of GoSS ministries. This will include support to policy development as well as to human resource exchange programmes with Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.

services while assisting the host government in re-building local capacity through training and direct support to existing public sector personnel.



Amy Byron-Sadiki, IUNV from the United States, works as a Psychosocial Officer.

These deployments are designed to complement ongoing UNDP programmes in the areas of governance; rule-of-law; crisis prevention and recovery; and HIV/AIDS. They also link well with other public sector reform schemes, including the *Government of Kenya and GoSS Technical Assistance and Cooperation Project*; and the *Capacity Building Institutional and Human Resource Development Project* implemented by the World Bank.

The activities proposed under this initiative directly contribute to UNDP's state-building mandate. They also support the emergence of solid governance infrastructures; the promotion of rule-of-law and judiciary; and the development of an effective and capable public service.

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Parajuli Udhadab (second from right), IUNV from Nepal, is serving as UNV Programme Officer.

This approach builds on successful interventions in Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland and Zambia. In these countries, UNVs were successfully utilized as technical assistants to provide urgently needed

Malakal's Rule of Law Forum Protects Juvenile and Returnee rights



Major David Bil Jing of the Criminal Investigations Department of Upper Nile addresses issues related to the safety of street children.

The Rule of Law Forum in Malakal convened at its 28th meeting on 27 August at the Upper Nile State Judiciary Headquarters. Justice Stephen Simon, President of the Greater Upper Nile Court of Appeals Circuit, chaired the meeting with Justice Alexander Jada. They were assisted by UNDP's Rule of Law Officer in Malakal and the Forum's co-chair, Mr. Bernard Mugisha.

Each forum, brings together a cross section of people including representatives from the police and prison services; the courts; social affairs organizations; community councils; and paralegals.

UNDP's Rule of Law Unit, which has recently been incorporated into UNDP's **Governance Unit**, supports rule of law institutions in Southern Sudan by providing technical advice, capacity building, and infrastructure support. It also promotes access to justice by linking justice institutions with community and civil society initiatives. By working directly with the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development (MoLACD), the Judiciary of Southern Sudan (JoSS), the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission (SSHRDC), the Police and Prisons Services, traditional authorities, and civil society actors, the Unit is supporting the establishment of sustainable, accountable, and transparent law and justice systems in Southern Sudan.

The most recent meeting focused on how to promote access to justice as a basic human right. Protection issues were also discussed, particularly in relation to returning refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The meeting opened with the confirmation that 4000 sq. meters of land have been secured by the Ministry of Social Development for the construction of a juvenile center. This is an important step towards fighting juvenile injustice in Upper Nile. It was agreed that UNDP should provide support to construct the center, in consultation with other stakeholders and the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure. Members of the Forum were urged to provide any help they could for this much-needed refuge.

A committee formed at the previous meeting to assess the situation of street children in the Upper Nile region, was commended for its excellent work. The committee reported that two suspects

accused of sexual abuse against street children were being prosecuted, but that several other suspects were still at large.

On the provision of legal services and protection to returning refugees and IDPs, the Forum noted that many returnees are occupying land that is not surveyed, de-mined, or allotted by the authorities. However, attempts to evict people may result in violence. In a recent forced eviction, a young girl was accidentally shot.



The **Rule of Law Forum** brings together partners from government, UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and civil society groups.

In response, the UNDP Rule of Law Unit, the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure, and UNMIS will organize a workshop on land rights and the procedures for lawful land acquisition. UNDP also offered to engage Radio Malakal to bring sensitization programmes on-air. "Public awareness of legal rights is paramount to fighting injustice. Returnees and other disadvantaged people cannot seek remedies for injustice when they do not know what their rights are," explained UNDP's Bernard Mugisha.

Anti-Corruption Commission Helps Promote Accountable Governance



The new Anti-Corruption Bill will enable agencies to investigate and prosecute corrupt practices.

In a consolidated effort to enhance the accountability, transparency, and integrity of government institutions, the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) approved the Anti-Corruption Bill in August 2009. The Bill was signed in the wake of soaring levels of corruption at all levels of government.

Prior to the Bill's endorsement, the Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission (SSACC) was powerless to take action against government officials suspected of engaging in corrupt practices. The legislation was simply not in place to grant the Commission the correct investigative or prosecution powers.

During a presentation at the recent Governors' Forum in Juba, SSACC Chairperson, Dr. Pauline Riak, informed lawmakers that the Commission was in the process of putting together a nationwide anti-corruption strategy for GoSS. To support the implementation of the strategy, participants at the Forum recommended the Anti-Corruption Commission be factored into the government's planning and budgeting process.

What does the Anti-Corruption Commission do?

The SSACC is one of a number of independent institutions established by the Interim Constitution of Southern

Sudan and the SSACC Act to carry out the following functions:

- Protect public property
- Investigate cases of corruption involving public property
- Coordinate with government agencies on investigations of corruption
- Combat conduct which promotes or encourages corruption
- Combat administrative malpractices in public institutions
- Educate the public and foster public support in combating corrupt practices
- Require public officials to make transparent declarations of their income, assets, and liabilities

To support the SSACC to implement its mandate, specific directorates have been established including: corruption prevention and education; investigations and legal services; state coordination; administration; and finance.

What have their greatest achievements been so far?

Started in 2006, the SSACC is a young institution and the only government organization of its kind in all of Sudan.

Despite limited support over the past few years, it has moved forward in preparing itself for active intervention and investigation of corruption. Offices have been established in six out of the 10 states and staff have been recruited and trained. In addition, public information materials have been produced to raise awareness about corruption and how to prevent it; and an anti-corruption strategy for the government is in the process of being finalized. The SSACC has also been called upon to participate in a number of national and GoSS level corruption investigation committees.

What challenges have they faced?

The list of challenges is long, but the main problems have been caused by limited staff, insufficient funding, and logistical issues.

How will the people of Southern Sudan benefit from the Commission's intervention?

In a place like Southern Sudan, where systems are neither stable nor particularly well defined, abuse of power and resources is likely to be a prevailing threat. The SSACC is the people's watchdog, working to ensure the correct use of public resources for the benefit of all.

Who are their main partners and what are the major activities or projects they are working on?

The Commission's partners provide logistical, technical, and monetary support to vital programming. Key partners include the GoSS Executive Branch; the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly; the Norwegian Government; USAID and the US Embassy; the Joint Donor Team; the World Bank; UNDP and; the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime.

Are there lessons to be learned from other countries?

Many of the countries that neighbor Sudan have had similar post-conflict experiences. They have the potential to provide rich lessons that the SSACC can draw upon. Three key lessons stand out:

- Fighting corruption requires political will and support, including availing the necessary resources;
- Citizens must be part of the fight against corruption change;
- A foundation that garners commitment, dedication, and sacrifice from government agencies and public officials must be established.



Sudan

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Knowledge Corner:

NDI Survey Gauges Public Opinion on Policy Key Issues

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) recently released the results of their recent public opinion poll. The poll covered a variety of general topics – such as livelihoods and development – but the upcoming elections was its main focus. Unlike many polling organizations, NDI focuses on qualitative rather than quantitative research. This allows them to understand *why* people have the opinions they have, not just *what* their opinions are. Although people's perceptions are sometimes factually incorrect, it is nevertheless important for policy makers to have access to this information. It could help government design more effective public information strategies.

The poll targeted 515 Southern Sudanese citizens from across all ten states in 23 locations. When asked how they felt about day-to-day life, the majority of participants said they were unhappier than last time they were asked (in 2007). Their main complaint was that development has been extremely patchy, but some cited increased insecurity as a key factor. Government corruption was mentioned and linked directly to slow development. Interestingly, there was a complete lack of awareness about the economic crisis.

When asked whether they had experienced *any* development in their respective areas, respondents ac-

knowledged that there had been some but credited NGOs for it rather than the government. People consistently mentioned education, health-care and roads as their top priorities.

The questions then shifted to the election. Most participants agreed that the election is important because it is part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and one step closer to the referendum. More importantly, however, it will enable people to choose more effective leaders. When asked how they would judge whether the elections had been free and fair, people said that the presence of international observers and the absence of violence and intimidation would be key indicators. Transparency on how votes are counted and the presence of an independent election commission would also be vital.

Many respondents spoke about the need for political parties and candidates to be unifying forces and agents of real change. There is also near unanimous support for women in all offices except that of the president. On the whole, however, people are nervous about multiparty competition due to the possible conflict it could create. Many also feel that the process may be too confusing, particularly because of the number of offices that are also on the ballot. Nevertheless, there is a strong commitment to voting and a feeling that

traditional authorities should provide leadership on parties and candidates.

“We will be divided, even children know that.”

The main factors that would stop people from voting are insecurity, polling location and the requirement for identification cards. Respondents showed limited knowledge of voter registration, or of the voting process itself, which may also be an issue. Only half of the groups interviewed mentioned ballot boxes and some thought that there would be public voting. When the voting process was explained, most people said they liked the system but some were concerned about the high level of illiteracy in their communities and how this would impact the process.

With regard to the referendum, the vast majority of participants said that they would vote for separation, regardless of whether President Salva Kiir wins the national election or not. As one respondent put it, “We will be divided, even children know that.” It should be noted that people have high hopes for the post-separation period with many expecting a massive change in the quality and quantity of basic services delivered.