

# UNDP Southern Sudan Update

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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.



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## The 2010 Elections: UNDP gears up to support key CPA milestone



Photo: Tim McKulka/UNMIS

Voter registration is a key step in the preparation for the historic April 2010 elections in Sudan.

Regular, free and fair elections are a defining feature of modern representative democracies. Elections not only help confer legitimacy on government officials, they also serve an important accountability function. In terms of state-building, elections are crucial.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) calls for national elections to be held in 2010. This key milestone is an opportunity for Sudan to consolidate

peace and gain international recognition. The process will also ensure that appointed politicians are replaced with officials chosen by the people.

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has been tasked with implementing Sudan's elections. The body, which is based in Khartoum, sees this event as a vital first step towards improving democratic governance, sustainable peace, and development in Sudan.

UNDP's *Support to Elections and Democratic Processes Project* is assisting the NEC through the provision of material, logistical and capacity-building support. In recent months, it has focused on the establishment of registration sites and on the administration of the registration process itself, carried out in liaison with offices located in Sudan's 25 states. Registration for the 19 countries home to large Sudanese expat communities was part of this exercise as well.

The Project is also working with local groups to ensure that the elections are transparent. One such group is the Sudan Domestic Election Observation and Monitoring Programme (SuDEMOP) — a conglomerate of civil society and faith-based organizations. In December, this group deployed 160 national observers to nine Southern Sudanese states to observe voter reg-

istration and the presentation of voters' lists. In a statement, SuDEMOP commended the "extensive efforts of stakeholders and parties involved in the voter registration process" and said that they "performed their duties professionally and in line with the legal framework, even while facing highly constraining and logistically challenging conditions". Training and support to SuDEMOP is provided by The Carter Center's *Domestic Observation Programme*, funded by UNDP. In the coming months, the capacity of similar groups will be enhanced so that they can perform this kind of observer role during the elections.

Increasing people's knowledge about how and why to vote is another of the Project's objectives. To this end, UNDP recently supported 20 civil society organizations to train and deploy voter education teams. These teams were sent to remote rural areas — where illiteracy rates are high and understanding of democratic processes is low — to explain the registration procedure, encourage people to participate, and dispel misunderstandings. "If you do not register, you will not vote" was their underlying message to the community leaders they worked with.

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### Citizens will vote at the following levels:

- Presidency of Sudan
- Presidency of Southern Sudan
- National Assembly (Khartoum)
- Legislative Assembly (Southern Sudan)
- State Assemblies
- State Governors

## The 2010 Elections: Southern Sudan's Supreme Court prepares

A well-informed and competent justice system is central to sustainable peace and stability in Southern Sudan. It helps lay the groundwork for strong rule-of-law, and can also support community-driven approaches to mediating and resolving conflict. In short, access to justice is a key part of the region's recovery.

But as it tries to rebuild after nearly 25 years of war, Sudan will need a justice system that does more than

### UNDP establishes combined Governance and Rule of Law Unit

In mid-2009, UNDP combined its Governance and Rule of Law Units so that it was better positioned to strengthening institutions of democratic governance in Southern Sudan. This new Unit is supporting the upcoming elections and advising key ministries and commissions at the GoSS and state level.

merely ruling on court cases. The upcoming national elections are an example of where the judiciary can play an important role. With this in mind, UNDP recently initiated a project to help the Supreme Court of Southern Sudan and the high courts appropriately support this historic process.

In December, UNDP facilitated a three-day high-level roundtable which looked at the judiciary's role in disputes and objections to the electoral registration process. The workshop brought together members of the Supreme Court, high courts, the National Elections Commission, the Southern Sudan Elections High Committee, and a number of guest speakers.

In addition to training on electoral law, voter registration, and other electoral procedures, participants learned about the challenges faced in post-conflict election settings such as Kenya and

Uganda. Speakers focused specially on sharing their experiences of judicial interventions.

On the last day, Justice John Wuol Makec, President of the Supreme Court, congratulated the participants for their hard work and said: "the lecturers, presenters, and guest speakers have done their jobs, now the rest is yours."

UNDP has been promoting access to justice and fostering a culture of human rights in Southern Sudan since 2006. It does this through community training and awareness raising; strengthening rule of law coordination mechanisms; supporting Justice and Confidence Centers (more details below); developing traditional authorities and customary courts; and providing technical and material support to the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission.

## Justice and Confidence Centers enhance access to justice options

Decades of instability in Southern Sudan devastated the delivery capacity of local law enforcement and justice institutions, leaving individuals and communities with extremely limited legal resources. In response, UNDP and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are collaborating to establish local Justice and Confidence Centers (JCC). The main aim of these centers is to enhance access to justice options to communities across the region — particularly in rural areas.

Accessing justice is not just about having the infrastructural mechanisms in place. It requires building up the confidence of a population devastated by conflict to approach these mechanisms, and make informed decisions about how to seek redress for disputes. As such, raising aware-

ness of rule of law, justice, and human rights has been an important component of this UNDP activity. This has been strengthened by linking authorities and justice institutions with community and civil society groups to disseminate information through multiple networks.

So far, JCCs have been established in field offices in Rumbek, Aweil, Malakal, Wau, and Juba. At these centers, legal advice and guidance is given to a variety of actors including paralegals and legal experts. General rights awareness is also provided.

As they develop and strengthen their partnerships with local groups, JCCs are

beginning to serve as an important source of legal information to remote communities. They are also linking people with legal services through lawyer-referral plans, advocacy, and mediation.



Photo: Joey McCallum

Raising awareness of rule of law, justice and human rights is an important component of UNDP's activities.

## Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission launches new strategy



Photo: Carolina Kern

Members of the Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission celebrate the launch of the new Anti-Corruption Strategy in December 2009.

Corruption destroys development, people and governments. It can mean the failure of essential public projects like schools, hospitals, and roads. These basic services are all desperately needed in the Southern Sudanese context so it is important that measures are put in place to ensure that these facilities are delivered to the people.

In December, the Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission launched its new five-year strategy for 2010-2014. Speaking at the launch ceremony, H.E. Dr. Pauline Riak, Chairperson of the Commission, outlined how her organization plans to tackle corruption over the coming years in partnership with government agencies, civil society, private sector, and development partners. "Corruption is a huge monster that inflicts a lot of harm to people emerging from war, like in Southern Sudan, and fighting it is big challenge," she said.

The event took place on International Anti-Corruption Day at the Nyakuron Cultural Centre in Juba and was attended by a wide variety of stakeholders. A number of local students

H.E. Mrs. Awut Deng, Minister of Labor, Public Service and Human Resource Development, was asked to stand in for H.E. President Salva Kiir who was unfortunately unable to attend the formal launch of the strategy. "Our president has given the Commission powers to prosecute those involved in corruption. This is a step forward," she explained. H.E. Deng is at the forefront of the fight against corruption in Southern Sudan. Her ministry is leading a range of government-wide public service reforms including the Payroll Cleansing Initiative, which aims to stamp out the practice by public officials of claiming multiple salaries from multiple government departments.

Joe Feeney, Head of Office at UNDP Southern Sudan, also spoke at the event. He explained that UNDP has sup-

ported the Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission from the start through the provision of infrastructural as well as technical assistance. UNDP's *Support to States Project* is currently developing a project to support the Commission in the implementation of its strategy. "We believe institutions – such as the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Public Grievances Office, the Human Rights Commission, and the Office of the Auditor General – are key components of an effective and transparent state" he said.

### What is corruption?

Simply put, 'corruption' is the misuse of public office for private profit or gain. As more countries transition towards democracy and development, few public policy issues have attracted the attention of governments, civil society institutions, and international bodies more than the issue of corruption. Corruption affects all levels of government and is also present in the business world.

To address this serious problem, the United Nations adopted the UN Convention Against Corruption in 2003. So far, 128 countries have ratified the convention and Sudan is a signatory.



Photo: Carolina Kern

Students from local schools helped celebrate Anti-Corruption Day by performing songs promoting a corruption-free Southern Sudan.



Sudan

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Deputy Project Manager (LGRP), apply by 1 March 2010  
Deputy Project Manager (Judiciary), apply by 30 January 2010

#### International:

Technical Specialist (Inter-governmental and Public Finance), apply by 2 February 2010

## Knowledge Corner:

# Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development



Photo: Carolina Kern

H.E. Mr Simon Kun, Chairman of the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (left) and Mandisa Mashologu, Team Leader of UNDP's Poverty & MDGs Unit (right) at the HDR launch in Juba.

UNDP has been producing annual Human Development Reports for almost 20 years. These reports aim to link human development to the agenda of policy makers by highlighting relevant topics and themes within the development world. The most recent report, *Overcoming Barriers: Human mobility and development*, focuses on how migration – both across and within national borders – has the potential to greatly improve human welfare: if we get it right.

On 10 December 2009, UNDP Southern Sudan hosted a launch of the Human Development Report in Juba which was opened by UNDP's Country Director, Mr. Claudio Calderone. The event began with a presentation by Ms. Mandisa Mashologu,

Team Leader of UNDP's Poverty & MDGs Unit, which gave an overview of the report's key findings. A panel of experts then examined the specific issues facing migrants and refugees in Southern Sudan. The panel was led by H.E. Mr. Simon Kun, Chairman of the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, and featured input from Mr. Gerry Waite, Head of Office at the International Organization for Migration, and

Mr. Geoff Wordley, Assistant Representative at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The barriers that face many migrants can thwart their potential for development. For this reason, the report argues that governments should take steps to help migration advance. It also analyzes the wide-ranging impacts of human movement on migrants and their families and on places of origin and destination.

In Sudan, migration issues tend to come to the forefront when conflicts happen between host communities and returnees. Southern Sudan has a huge number of displaced people who have been forced from their homes by violence or in search of food, water, or grazing land. It has

also experienced large refugee influxes from neighboring countries. In areas where returnees put a strain on already weak housing and food supplies, this can be a particular problem. This is because local governments often lack the capacity and resources with which to help residents overcome the urgent food and security issues facing their communities.

UNDP recognizes the urgent need to build the government's capacity to deliver basic services to its people. It also knows that peace and stability depend on the ability of societies to transform themselves. This means much more than enhancing the knowledge and skills of individuals. It also involves enhancing the general organizational capacity of government institutions and creating an enabling environment where key policies and legislation can be properly embedded.

UNDP already has a number of projects in place aimed at building up government structures, and many of its newest initiatives concentrate specifically on building up institutions at the local level.

Copies of *Overcoming Barriers: Human mobility and development* can be downloaded at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2009/>.