

BULLETIN

Quarterly update on UNDP's work across Sudan

Volume 2



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Supporting Darfur Law Graduates to Join Legal Profession

In Darfur, where conflict continues to place significant strains on the justice system, UNDP's Rule of Law Programme is sponsoring low-income law graduates to sit for the Bar Examination held in Khartoum, allowing them the right to practice law in the region.

The formal justice system in Darfur has suffered greatly from the conflict, but statutory courts continue to operate in the main cities. Despite instability, lack of resources and restrictions on movement, an increasing number of people are seeking justice and legal redress. However, there aren't enough lawyers to meet these demands, and most of the Darfurian population cannot afford to pay for legal representation. In response to this situation, UNDP in collaboration with national and international development partners, has established a legal aid network of 61 lawyers who provide legal aid to vulnerable groups.

UNDP's Rule of Law Programme in Darfur also provides support to law graduates who are unable to sit for the Bar Exam due to the ongoing conflict. To practice law, graduates must pass the Bar Exam that is held in Khartoum twice a year. However, only a handful of students from Darfur can afford to spend the approximately 800 dollars to cover the airfare, course fees, accommodation, and reference books needed for the exam.

This year UNDP has sponsored 45 law graduates from Darfur to sit for the Bar



Exam. The exam lasts a full week and covers Sudanese legislation and jurisprudence, British Common Law, and Sharia. As part of the agreement, students who qualify for the scholarship programme must commit themselves to providing free legal advice for a minimum of six months.

The sponsorship of Darfurian law graduates is closely linked to UNDP's ongoing collaboration with Nyala, El-Geneina and El-Fasher's state Universities in Darfur. In 2006, UNDP helped establish legal libraries on campus to provide students and academia with access to Sudanese domestic law and international legal documents. Libraries are also equipped with computers with broadband internet access. With the establishment of full-fledged law faculties in Nyala and El Fasher, UNDP's cooperation with the Darfurian academic institutions will be significantly enhanced.

Good Night's Sleep in Osaif

The world seems a kinder place after a good night's sleep. In the harsh desert climate of Osaif in Red Sea state, Sudan, more and more community members are reaping the benefits of a sound slumber.

“Before I bought these beds, my five children had to sleep on the floor, where insects would crawl on them,” says 40-year-old Hashimia Mirgna. “Having this furniture is more than having somewhere comfortable to sleep; it gives my family a sense of pride.”

With the help of UNDP's Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme (RRP), families who might otherwise never have the chance to own a chair or bed have been offered an opportunity to do so through a revolving fund scheme that allows community members to borrow money for furniture and pay it back in installments until their debt is cleared.

This is just one of many micro-credit schemes being implemented by the RRP, the largest recovery initiative across Sudan that strives to use community driven approaches that focus on sustainable development rather than relief.

The RRP is the largest post-conflict community-

based recovery and rehabilitation programme across Sudan. The €54 million initiative is funded by the European Commission, and managed by UNDP on behalf of the Government of National Unity and the Government Southern Sudan.

The programme is implemented through a consortia of 47 national and international NGOs in 10 project locations: Abyei, River Nile, Red Sea, Blue Nile, South Kordofan, Upper Nile, Warrap, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal.



Recovery and Rehabilitation: Quarterly accomplishments

- Provided 12,046 households with agricultural tools, seeds, and agricultural implements to start food production in Blue Nile, River Nile, South Kordofan, Upper Nile, Warrab and Northern Bahr Elghazal states;
- Contributed to the mine awareness raising of 19,461 people in the Blue Nile State by holding Mine Risk Education sessions for communities affected by mines;
- Supported school construction that allowed 2,000 children to attend school in safe structures in Blue Nile, Red Sea and Upper Nile States;
- Provided access to improved water sources for 10,225 households through drilling of new boreholes and repair of dysfunctional water systems in Blue Nile, River Nile and Upper Nile States;
- Constructed new and refurbished health care centers accessed by approximately 36,955 people in Red Sea and South Kordofan States; and
- Identified, collected and destroyed 128,692 UXOs in South Kordofan.

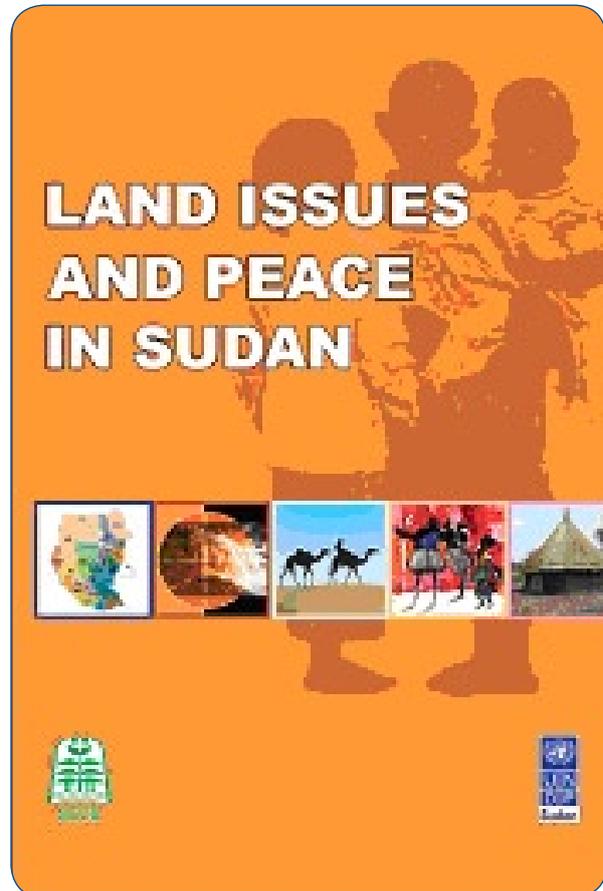
New Book about Land Issues and Peace in Sudan Published

The Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society (SECS) in partnership with UNDP's Reduction of Resource Based Conflict (RRBC) project launched a book entitled: *Land Issues and Peace in Sudan* on August 1 in Khartoum.

The book is a compilation of articles written by Sudanese academia who address various aspects of land use and tenure in Sudan. The topics include an introduction to laws governing land; customary laws and practices; land tenure and challenges to livelihood security and social peace; and mechanized farming and conflicts in Sudan. It also tackles the issues of land use and peaceful coexistence in Abyei Area, natural resource-based conflicts resolution in Darfur; Dinder national park; and land tenure in the Gezeira Scheme.

“The policy, legal and institutional framework created during the past century has been rendered inadequate by the tremendous changes in the social, political, economic and cultural circumstances of the country over this period. The increase in population and the large-scale process of population redistribution have resulted in a heightened demand and competition for access to land and other natural resources. In addition, the changes in the global environment brought about by the globalization of economies and politics have combined to create a reality that is significantly different from the one conceptualized when the existing frameworks were created”, explains Dr. Omer Egemi.

The *Land Issues and Peace in Sudan* book was sponsored by the RRBC project, an initiative funded by Canada, the Netherlands and UNDP. During the book launch, a round-table discussion reflected on key issues raised in the publication and a seven member committee from the Ministry of Agriculture, UNDP, SECS, academia, and the media was formed to promote the book's recommendations.



In addition to examining the scope and limitations of the National Land Commission and Southern Sudan Land Commission, the book made 42 recommendations. These included revising the Quarter-Century Strategy to ensure the incorporation of the proper principles of land accessibility and usage of natural resources; defining responsibilities, duties and roles at the various levels of government with respect to land including land issues in economic and social development policies; and freezing the investment drive until the outstanding land issues are resolved.

Around 1000 copies of the book were disseminated. The book is the fourth in a series of publications commissioned by the RRBC project on land issues. All publications are available through UNDP website (www.sd.undp.org).

HIV Media Campaign in Kassala: Three languages, One Message

To raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and encourage the rural population in Kassala State to test for HIV, UNDP, in collaboration with Sudan National Aids Control Programme (SNAP), and Kassala State Radio and Television, organized a media campaign during the month of Ramadan with the participation of a number of religious leaders.

Kassala State, on the border with Ethiopia and Eritrea, is believed to be one of the most vulnerable northern states to HIV infection. Even though the pandemic has affected a large number of people, especially in rural areas, many still don't know how HIV/AIDS is transmitted or how to protect themselves from the disease. Traditional beliefs, a long conflict, and high levels of illiteracy have left AIDS awareness efforts far behind most other countries in the region.

Over the past few years, SNAP, the State Ministry of Health, UN agencies and NGOs have increased their AIDS awareness activities in Kassala. However, with the exception of a few cases, such as the UNICEF supported community radio programme in Kassala, these efforts remain insufficient as they do not often reach out to rural communities in their local languages.

In view of the situation, UNDP's HIV programme in collaboration with SNAP and Kassala State Radio and Television, organized a 10 minute daily radio program during the entire month of Ramadan in the three languages spoken by the Hadandawa, Beni Amer and Hawsa tribes. Each radio program hosted an imam who was trained

by UNDP to convey a message of care and tolerance in line with the Islamic message of love and peace, and encourage HIV testing and AIDS treatment.

In addition, an hour long weekly TV show hosted imams, health officials and SNAP representatives who urged the people of Kassala to overcome the fear and ignorance that surrounds HIV/AIDS and approach the Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centers in Kassala State.

During the month of Ramadan, there is an increase in the number of people listening to the radio and watching TV. A radio program during this particular month offers a good opportunity to use trained religious and community leaders to persuade the Kassala population to learn about HIV and make arrangements to get tested.

With five hours of broadcasting per day, Kassala Radio covers Kassala and Gadaref states as well as some parts of the River Nile State, while Kassala TV broadcasts three hours per day and reaches 80% of the estimated 2,5 million people living in Kassala State.



Shifting to Electronic Health Records in Soba Hospital

With the help of UNDP and a Sudanese expatriate who volunteered his expertise to assist in the improvement of healthcare in Sudan, Soba University Hospital will be one of the first hospitals to switch from a paper filing system to a computerized medical records system tied to a database.

Established in 1975, Soba University Hospital provides primary health care to the local population as well as secondary and tertiary health care services to patients from all over Sudan in addition to offering several courses and training programs. During the past 30 years, the hospital has accumulated an overwhelming amount of paper files that have started to pose several problems.

When new or old patients visit Soba Hospital, they must spend a great deal of time taking forms from one service to another, and seeking approvals and signatures. The time consumed, especially in emergency situations, is a major inconvenience to most patients especially those who are seriously ill and might not be mobile. In addition, when using paper records former treatments and prescriptions might be misplaced, previous consultations cannot easily be tracked, and referrals to other specialists difficult to find.

Last year, Soba Hospital solicited UNDP's Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) project to help bring a Sudanese expert to lead the process of shifting from a paper-based filing system to a computerized one. By storing medical records electronically rather than on paper, the hospital hopes to cut health costs while improving quality.

Launched by UNDP in 2006, TOKTEN Sudan aims to bring back to Sudan the expertise of highly qualified Sudanese professionals living abroad.

In response to this request, TOKTEN liaised with Dr. Tillal Abdellatif Eldabi, a Sudanese



expatriate with a Ph.D. in healthcare modeling, and a lecturer at the University of Brunel in United Kingdom. Dr. Eldabi agreed to volunteer his time and experience to support the establishment of an electronic patient record system in Soba Hospital.

Dr. Eldabi was first deployed by TOKTEN to Soba Hospital in August 2007. During his first assignment, he designed the pilot phase of the outpatient department system. He also outlined the planning for upcoming phases and trained 30 medical staff on the computerized records system.

This summer, on his second assignment, Dr. Eldabi designed a detailed interface and data flow of the outpatient department system and began implementation of the system

in collaboration with the hospital's IT department among others. Dr. Eldabi also trained 35 staff how to use the new electronic recording system. During his next assignment, Dr. Eldabi is planning to tackle the other inpatient records system.

Dr. Eldabi was one of the six TOKTEN volunteers who were deployed between July and September 2008 to help strengthen the capacities of Sudanese institutions and improve the lives of citizens. Since 2006, TOKTEN Sudan has deployed 32 expatriate Sudanese who helped build and strengthen the capacities of several local and national institutions.

Port Sudan Moving from a Top-Down to a Bottom-up Approach to Development

As part of the process of decentralizing development planning in Sudan, Red Sea State has become the first state to establish information and planning units at the locality level, and to initiate local development planning for localities across Port Sudan city.

Port Sudan, the capital of Red Sea State, is one of the less developed cities in Eastern Sudan. According to the 2006 Nutritional Survey, the Global Acute Malnutrition rates range from 19.7% in rural Port Sudan to 30.8% in Sinkat locality. In addition to suffering from chronic malnutrition and food insecurity, the rural population has a very high unemployment rate and lacks access to basic health, education, and water and sanitation services.

The widespread poverty and unemployment in rural Port Sudan increases the demand on localities for development services. But responding efficiently to the situation requires moving from urban-centered development planning to a rural planning. This requires that rural citizens and local government can work together to lead a bottom-up development process.

Until a few months ago, local communities could only hope to see development projects trickle down from the cities to counties and villages. With the support of the Netherlands and Danish International Development Agency, Port Sudan's ten localities and Red Sea State Government in collaboration with UNDP's Poverty Alleviation-Oriented Governance Project have embarked on a rural centered development planning process.

In an attempt to build local communities' technical capacity to formulate strategies and successfully implement them, UNDP conducted from 2 July to 7 August 2008, three workshops focused on locality planning, project design and management, and data collection, management and analysis. In addition, UNDP's Local Development Advisor developed a manual outlining guidelines for project design. This, along with Arabic and English handouts, were distributed to 25



planning officers from Port Sudan localities and Red Sea State.

By October, information and planning units were established in nine localities. Depending on its size, each locality was staffed with one or two planning officers. The Poverty Alleviation-Oriented Governance Project has fully equipped the ten offices and provided staff with vehicles, computers, printers, photocopiers, and other office equipment. To ensure the sustainability of this initiative, localities will bear the administration and running costs of their respective units.

Following a series of workshops in which local communities were given the opportunity to identify and map critical risks and challenges to recovery and development, the localities of Agig, Tokar and Sinkat have developed locality profiles within which they have formulated their own development plans. This process has been undertaken with the technical supervision of the Red Sea State Strategic Planning Council and the support of UNDP's Enhancing National Capacities for Conflict Management in Sudan project.

Similar planning processes are underway in Halaib, Gebeit, Almadin, ElGunub, Oleeib, Port Sudan, Suakin, Haiya, and Dordeib localities. Through this process, Red Sea State is moving from a top-down to a bottom-up approach to development, thus making Red Sea State the first state in Sudan to undertake a comprehensive rural development initiative.

6th Governors' Forum of Southern Sudan in Juba

Under the chairmanship of First Vice President of the Republic of the Sudan and President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, the 6th Governors' Forum of Southern Sudan was held from 29 September to 2 October under the theme: "Operationalizing Decentralization for Effective CPA Implementation". The Forum was organized by the GoSS Ministry of Presidential Affairs with the support of UNDP in Southern Sudan.

The 6th Governors' Forum was marked by a strong commitment from Vice President Salva Kiir, Vice President of the GoSS, H.E. Dr. Riak Machar, ministers, state governors, UN and other development partners to decentralization in Southern Sudan. Addressing the opening ceremony, Vice President Salva Kiir announced the launch of a series of reforms in the Southern Sudan public service, declared the year 2009 as "the year of Decentralization", and called on relevant government institutions in Southern Sudan to "expedite the legislations related to local government, civil service, taxes, public audits, financial management, corruption and public grievances."

During the 6th Governors' Forum, several progress reports were presented to update participants on achievements, challenges and lessons learned. The quality of reports was commended by the

government and development partners who acknowledged that for the first time the states were able to demonstrate clearly what they had achieved since the 5th Governors' Forum.

The concept of the Governors' Forum of Southern Sudan was developed by UNDP in 2006 in response to the Government of Southern Sudan's request. Following the endorsement of the proposal by the government of Southern Sudan, the first Forum convened in May 2006. Since then, the Forum has been meeting at least twice a year to discuss issues related to political, fiscal and administrative decentralization and reforms in Southern Sudan; local government; foreign aid and decentralization; CPA implementation; and peace dividends.

To highlight the work of the Governors' Forums, UNDP added to its Web site a web page covering this very important platform: <http://www.sd.undp.org/governors%20forum.htm>



Developing the capacity of South Kordofan Civil Servants

In support of developing the capacity of local governments to adequately plan and manage their resources, UNDP's Democratic Governance in South Kordofan project provided 30 civil servants from the western sector of South Kordofan with a two-month basic computer skills training programme. Facilitated by AFAQ Centre for Computer and Internet in Al Fula, the training helped build the computer literacy of civil service institutions. The project also provided 17 computers and 11 printers for eight line ministries in South Kordofan.

Also in South Kordofan, UNDP in collaboration with the State Ministry of Local Government and Civil Service organized a public sector

training programme for Diling locality officials from 27 to 31 August. The training benefited 56 participants from locality and sub-locality levels and covered strategic planning for public sector organizations, principles of fiscal decentralization, local government financial management and basic management skills.

South Kordofan State counts some 21, 255 civil servants. With 11,844 civil servants, localities employ a larger number than the State which accounts for about 9, 411. South Kordofan state is planning to integrate 4, 044 SPLM civil servants into the State civil service by the end of 2008. This will increase the total number to 26, 299 civil servants.

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