



Elections Assistance Monthly Bulletin

The UNDP Support to Elections Project releases this first issue of the Sudan Elections Assistance Monthly Bulletin. The Bulletin seeks to provide updates on activities and operations of key stakeholders involved in elections related activities.

Sudan Elections Events:

Announcement of the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the Political Parties Affairs Council

National Electoral Commission (NEC):

The nine commissioners of the National Electoral Commission (NEC) were approved on Monday Nov 17, 2008. The commissioners are immediately responsible for naming State High Committee members consisting of 130 names for 26 high committees (Southern Region plus 25 states). Support to the NEC remains a central priority to the United Nations. A formal request for assistance is pending.

Chair of the Commission:

Abel Alier

Deputy Chair:

Abdullah Ahmed Abdalla:

Commissioners:

Philster Baya Laury

James Wol Calmal

Abdullah Al-Hardallo

Mahasin Haj Al-Safi

Mohammed Tahir Abu Samra

Mukhtar Mohammed Mukhtar Alasam

Al-Hadi Mohammed Ahmed

(For biographies of NEC, please refer to page 5)

Members of the Political Parties Affairs Council:

Announced alongside the NEC, the Political Parties Affairs Council registers political parties with candidates planning to run for office in the 2009 election. The Council has been formed in accordance to the Political Parties Act passed in 2007.

Members:

Mohamed Bishara Dosa

Hassan Abdin

Hussein Khartoum Darfur

Saydna Saeed Hamid

Osman Musa

Iwil Parmina

Angel Issac Jirjis

Daniel Kot Mathiew

Ceazar Arkangelo Salman

Current Activities

BRIDGE Voter Ed Training
Nov 24-26: read on page 3

Radio Miraya Training
Dec 10-12: read on page 3

NDI Civic Ed trainings and focus groups
December: read on page 3

UN EAG Director visit
Dec 4-5: read on page 2

Gender Civic Workshop
Jan 12-14: read on page 4

Contributions

Contributions are managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Sudan from the following partners:

Partner	USD
Italy	2.8 million
DFID	2.2 million
Denmark	2.8 million
Norway	2 million
Total	10.8 million

United Nations Electoral Support Events:**Visit by Director of UN Electoral Assistance Division to Sudan**

Craig Jenness, Director of the UN's Electoral Assistance Division in New York, visited Khartoum and Juba on 4-5 December. During the visit, Jenness met with:

- National Elections Commission chairman Abel Alier
- Under-Secretary at the Foreign Ministry, Dr. Mutrif Sadiq
- Ambassador Al-Shaffie
- Director of Political Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Assessment & Evaluation Commission's Power-Sharing Working Group
- GOSS Minister of Presidential Affairs Dr. Luka Biong Deng
- Donors and UN officials.

Chairman Alier and MFA officials indicated that the official request to the UN for electoral assistance is expected to be issued within a few weeks.

(submitted by UNMIS EAD)

Working Groups Description and Activities:**Working Groups of the Electoral Assistance Group (EAG) and the Southern Sudan Electoral Donor Group (SSEDG)****Overview**

The Electoral Assistance Group (EAG) based in Khartoum and the Southern Sudan Electoral Donor Group (SSEDG) based in Juba meet monthly. Working groups have been established to coordinate and communicate activities in the following areas:

- Civic & Voter Education
- Media
- Gender Elections Taskforce
- Donor Working Group

To be added to the EAG/SSEDG email list, please email Annie Michele Kamgais Wabo at: kamgaiswabo@un.org

The following pages provide an overview of the group and then highlights current activities.

Civic & Voter Education**EAG Civic & Voter Education Working Group Developments:**

Beginning on 12 November 2008, the former EDG working groups for Civic & Voter Education and Domestic Observations have been merged into the 'Civil Society' working group of the newly formed Electoral Assistance Group (EAG) to streamline donor coordination and operational activities.

This working group will soon form an **Civil Society Advisory Panel** comprised of Sudanese civil society leaders to inform the planning process. Collaborating closely with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, the Working Group is in the process of identifying and approaching the experts for the Panel to be functional by early 2009.

(Submitted by EAG Voter Ed Working Group)

SSEDG Civic & Voter Education Working Group Developments:

In Juba, the SSEDG Civic & Voter Education Working Group has been sharing information and networking between UNMIS, UNDP, NDI-National Democratic Institute and other providers. State-level communication is greatly encouraged.

(Submitted by UNDP Elections)

Civic & Voter Education: Activities

BRIDGE-STYLE TRAINING November 24-26

First Training: UNDP organised a Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) training for UNMIS Civic and Voter Education officers and CSO members in Juba. The training was the first in a cascade style "Training-of-Trainers" (TOT) to roll out into all southern states early next year and hopefully to expand north.

(Submitted by EAG Voter Education Working) Group)

CIVIC EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

The first civic education workshop supported by UNDP and carried out in collaboration with UNMIS took place in early December in Bentiu, Unity State. These workshops, to be rolled out in each of the Southern states and possibly in the North as well, are aimed at enhancing understanding of what is civic education and how to design, implement and evaluate civic education activities.

(Submitted by UNDP Elections)



Participants performing a short democracy song written as part of activities of the Bentiu Civic Education Workshop. *(Photo: Koki Muli)*



UNMIS Voter Ed Officer for Unity State, Mr. Vanna Ross, co-facilitating the civic education workshop in Bentiu. *(Photo: Koki Muli)*

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE (NDI) ACTIVITIES December

Election Forum (December 5): On behalf of the SSEDG, NDI facilitated an Election Forum attended by over 60 participants in Juba at the Star Hotel. Presenters shared information on Sudan's Electoral Law, Process, and basic issues for consideration when planning Voter Education and Domestic Election Observation Activities.

Malakal Meeting (December 8-9): NDI facilitated a meeting of 43 civic group participants in Malakal, Upper Nile State to discuss Sudan's Electoral Law and Process; and also to conduct a basic training on Domestic Election Observation.

Bentiu Meeting (December 12): NDI facilitated a meeting of 40 civic group participants in Bentiu, Unity State to discuss Basic Election Principles, the Electoral Law and Process, and Domestic Election Observation.

(Submitted by NDI)

Media

SSEDG Media Working Group (Juba)

Active from September 2008, this working group is co-chaired by DFID and Norway and strives to:

- 1) promote coordination of media-related activities in the run up to the election
- 2) identify key issues to address or monitor as part of ongoing elections-related advocacy

The Media Working Group meets regularly with the GOSS Minister of Information and Broadcasting and they have also met with representatives of media houses and associations in the South to facilitate communication and future cooperation. Discussions include developing a legislative framework for media in South Sudan and the establishment of a printing press. The Working Group strives for an overview of the different donor-sponsored media activities in South Sudan, including programmes supported by the UK, USA, EC, Germany, UNMIS/UNDP and Norway.

(Submitted by SSEDG Media Working Group)

CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION TRAINING FOR RADIO MIRAYA STAFF December 10-12

The UNMIS organized a Voter Education training for Radio Miraya staff in Juba from 10 to 12 December. Radio is one of the key channels for information dissemination across Sudan and ensuring that radio reporters are well-informed about the elements of the upcoming electoral process is therefore vital to the preparations phase for the upcoming elections. *(Submitted by EAG Voter Education Working Group)*

Gender Elections Taskforce (UNIFEM)



On-going Activities:

- **Empowering women-focused CSOs** to support the gender agenda in the upcoming election: UNIFEM, in a partnership with Sudanese CSOs, UNMIS, and UNDP organizes a monthly capacity building forum with CSO participants. Four forums have taken place so far and the next will focus on civic education training and will take place on 12th – 14th January 2008.
- **Set up of the Gender Election taskforce (GET):** In August, UNIFEM initiated the Gender Election Taskforce comprised of UN and donor stakeholders. The group seeks to map international and Sudanese CSOs efforts in supporting women as voters and candidates in the upcoming election.
- **Empowering women in politics:** UNIFEM, in collaboration with International IDEA, started the Women's Leadership Forum to support women with political aspirations. Capacity building remains central to its goals.

(Submitted by UNIFEM and the Gender Election Taskforce)

Upcoming events:

- Jan 12-14: Civic education workshop for gender CSOs.
- Jan 26-28: Domestic observation workshop (tentative).
- Ongoing: Women's political participation baseline survey.

Elections Donor Working Group

EDG Donor Working Group (DWG) was established in November 2008 to facilitate policy dialogue, share information and improve international coordination in order to:

- *develop* a common approach to electoral assistance,
- *support* meaningful and productive dialogue between the government and the intl. community,
- *advocate* for conducive legal and political environment,
- *monitor* results of the electoral development on the ground and
- *enable* the UN to implement its election mandate to the fullest extent possible.

These purposes will be met by a provision of common analysis to the Electoral Assistance group and input to the Ambassadorial Working Group through briefing papers. The DWG also seeks to coordinate political messages to target audiences, coordinate financial support efforts, and cooperate closely with the United Nations to strengthen their role in the elections mandate. Membership to the DWG is open to countries involved in the Ambassadorial WG members of the donor community providing financial assistance to the electoral process in Sudan.

DWG co-Chairs: European Commission (Edoardo.manfredini@ec.europa.eu) and UK (lisa.maguire2@fco.gov.uk)

DWG Deputy Chair: The Netherlands (ingeborg.denissen@minbuza.nl)

(Submitted by DWG)

Support to Political Parties

Two key actors supporting political party development in Sudan are:

- UNDPs Political Party Development Project (PPD) with its implementing partner, International IDEA.
- International Republic Institute (IRI):

"IRI continues to work with political parties in Southern Sudan on a one-on-one basis. IRI's current programming is focused on sensitizing political parties to the distinct activities that parties generally undertake throughout an election cycle. At the same time IRI maintains its support to political parties as they build their structures in anticipation of elections. In the next year IRI looks to expand its elections work in multi-party settings. IRI is also holding consultative meetings in Khartoum in anticipation of expanding its work there." *(Submitted by IRI)*

National Electoral Commission Biographies

Chair

1- Abel Alier —(born 1935) Abel Alier Kwai is a distinguished public servant, legal expert, and he is well-received by both north and south. Born in the south, Alier studied at the University Khartoum and then in the United States. Having served in various ministries, he was Vice-President under President Nimieri's regime (1971-81) and first President of the High Executive Council of southern Sudan until 1983. He sits on the Permanent Court of International Arbitration in the Hague and has chaired the National Constitutional Review Commission since 2005.

Deputy Chair

2- Abdullah Ahmed Abdalla —(Born 1933) From Northern Province, Abdullah Ahmed Abdalla earned a doctorate from University of California in the USA in 1963 and served as Dean and then Director of the University of Khartoum. Under President Nimieri, he served as Minister of Agriculture, then as the Governor of Northern Province. Abdalla was appointed Ambassador to the United States in 1989.

Commissioners

3- Philister Baya Lawiri —(Born 1954) Ms. Philister Baya Laury received a Masters in Development from University of Juba. At present, she is Chairperson of the Southern Women Solidarity for Peace and Development and director of administration for Ivory Bank.

4- James Wol Calmal—(Born 1936) James Wol Calmal studied Law and served in the Judiciary. Previous posts include chair of the Legal Affairs Committee in the Upper Nile council, chair of the committee preparing the Upper Nile state constitution, and Deputy Governor. He was a member of the former Southern Sudan Council.

5- Lt General (Police) Abdullah Al-Hardallo—(Born 1940) From Ghadarif, Abdullah Al-Hardallo joined the Police Academy and in 1962 and earned a diploma in Police and Law. He retired in 1989 from the police force and then served as Ambassador to India and as former National Assembly member

6- Mahasin Haj Al-Safi – (Born 1941) Ms. Mahasin Haj Al-Safi is a scholar who received her Doctorate from University of Edinburgh. She served as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Omdurman Ahlia and the University of Khartoum. She is member of several scientific and educational councils.

7- Dr. Mohammed Tahir Abu Samra —(Born 1943) Mohammed Tahir Abu Samra holds a Masters from the University Of Pennsylvania in the USA and a Ph.D from the Sorbonne in France. He was the Dean of Faculty of Law at the University Of Khartoum and chaired the research and *Fatawa* section at the Ministry of Justice. He headed the legal affairs department at the Arab Bank for Economic Development. and sits on International Arbitration courts in Paris and London.

8- Mukhtar Mohammed Mukhtar Alasam – (Born 1938) Mukhtar Mohammed Mukhtar Alasam holds a Masters in Public Policy from Uni. Of Birmingham and a PhD from University Of Wales. After serving as Dean at the University of Khartoum, he has served as former Deputy to the Minister of the Federal Government and was on the National Assembly under President Nimieri. He has written extensively on the technical side of the election process.

9- Lt. General Al-Hadi Mohammed Ahmed – (Born 1954) Al-Hadi Mohammed Ahmed holds a Bachelor of Arts in Law and was the former director to the Northern Kordofan Police Force. At present, he is the Deputy Director for the General Directorate for Passport, immigration and Naturalization.

(Submitted by UNMIS EAD)

For more information on the Electoral Assistance Bulletin or the UNDP elections support project, please contact UNDP Electoral Officer Mary T. An in Khartoum, Sudan at mary.an@undp.org