

# Amadi Rural Development Institute

## Introduction

Amadi Rural Development Institute (ARDI) is one of the oldest Notional training Institutions in Southern Sudan. Its existence is traced back to 1976 soon after the signing of the Addis Ababa Agreement that led to establishment of Regional self-government known as the High Executive Council (HEC) for Southern Sudan. Its establishment came as a result of lack of manpower in the field of Rural Development and it was aimed at spearheading the training of skilled rural/community development officers to avert the phenomena of poor health and malnutrition; high rates of illiteracy and mortality; lack of accessible clean disease-free drinking water; lack of basic infrastructure (transport and communication); lack of self confidence and organizations and initiatives for self-help activities; low attitudes due to inflexible traditions; lack of political awareness and commitment, above all shortage of manpower to alleviate those problems. In short the Institute was to address the lack of capacity to face the challenge of reconstruction of a Southern Sudan ravaged by the seventeen (17) years civil strife.

The Institute is a specialized one, the first of its kind in the Country and unique in its own right; its curriculum is deliberately designed to offer inter-disciplinary training as a practical approach to community development. It was founded as a joint venture between the then Southern Sudan Regional Government and Euro-Action ACORD. Right from the time of inception the institute was run by expatriates from Britain, Canada and India as both as Principal and Principal instructors/trainers.

In 1982, the management of Amadi Rural Development Institute (ARDI) was handed over to the Southern Sudan Regional Government and a Sudanese National Dr. Ateyeb Wani Sule became the First Principal. But unfortunately, a year later, Southern Sudan was divided into three Regions of Equatoria Region, Bahr el Ghazal Region and Upper Nile Region, with Equatoria Region Government taking over the management of ARDI. However, Students continued to be accepted from the two Regions until 1987 when Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) attacked the institute and forced it to be displaced to Juba. This displacement of the institute to Juba unfortunately prompted the Donors to stop its funding. Between 1990 and 1996 there were no activities at the Institute due to intensification of the war and lack of funds. It was during that period that most of the Principal trainers left the Institute.

In 1994, when the Sudan was further decentralized into twenty-five States, Equatoria was divided into three States of Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria and ARDI management once again changed hands. The Institute fell under the administration of Western Equatoria State. During 1997, the Institute was reorganized and it started to offer nine months Certificate Courses in Community Development with funding drawn from some Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs). The Institute continued to offer both long term and short term course until 2005 when the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed between Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) and then the Government of Sudan (GOS).

In 2005, after the signing of Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the management of ARDI reverted to the newly established Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS). In 2007, GOSS granted some funds for the renovation of the Institute. We hope that once the renovation work is completed, the Institute will return to its original home at Amadi. Meanwhile, the institute continues to offer short term courses in Juba to the cross-section of the Southern Sudan population. However, the nine months Course in Community Development has been put on hold for lack of facilities.

### **Vision statement of ARDI**

Amadi Rural Development Institute strives for a rural community where there is quality, peace and improved live for all.

### **Mission statement of ARDI:**

Amadi Rural Development Institute exists to build the capacity of poor people, Government employees, and civil society groups through training, extension, research and consultancy so as to develop rural areas.

### **Core Values:**

Diversity  
Transparency  
Participation  
Integrity  
Equity  
Accountability  
Collaboration

### **Overall Objective:**

Improvement in the capacities of individuals, communities, and community based organizations (CBOs), and Government officials to contribute effectively toward the development of the rural areas, through various capacity building and learning interventions.

### **Specific Objectives:**

- To train community development officers to mobilize and organize rural communities for effective involvement in the development process
- To equip rural development workers with the skills and knowledge necessary to perform their work effectively in relation to the peoples' needs and within the Government's policy for National development
- To provide research and consultancy services to the Government, civil society organizations and community based organizations with the aim of revitalization of rural communities

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- To provide outreach trainings to the individuals, communities and Government officials in developmental aspects as well as civic education in the proposed centers in the capital cities of the ten states of the Southern Sudan.

## Core Programmes of ARDI

### 1. Training and outreach

This unit is in charge of both long and short term courses. The long term course is mainly the nine-month Community Development Course that offers a Certificate in Rural/Community Development. It is proposed that in a near future ARDI will establish a three year Diploma programme under the same unit to cater for those community development officers who would like to upgrade their certificates to a Diploma as well as for those secondary leavers who would want to acquire vocational training in the areas of Rural development. The examination and certification will be provided by the University of Juba. Meanwhile, the short course is of high quality, demand-driven and results-oriented. It is both organized and conducted at the main centre of Amadi as well as at the proposed centres in the Major towns of the Southern Sudan. The short course covers civic education as well as fundamental disciplines that affect the lives of the communities.

### 2. Community Extension Services

The ARDI has a big role to play in community development. Thus, there is need to interface with the local communities through commercial and non-commercial services and training courses. This unit works with local communities and partners to test and demonstrate various approaches taught at the Institute. This unit provides a link between capacity building and practical action at community level.

### 3. Research and Consultancy

This unit is newly introduced to cater for growing demands of information users. ARDI will be the main rural development research and consultancy institution in the southern Sudan. Due to demand for highly specialized services, ARDI resolved to set up a consultancy Company, known as ARDI Consults Ltd. to provide first class consultancy services in community development and other related areas. The members of the Company shall comprise of the highly qualified and experienced staff of the ARDI and Associates with several years of experience in offering consultancy services.

### 4. General Administration

The ARDI is expected to undergo rapid expansion in terms of staffing, student enrolment and new programmes. This unit deals with the renovation and construction of physical infrastructure at Amadi to meet present and future needs

of the Institute. The goal is the improvement of the institutional capacity of ARDI for effective service delivery.

### **Training courses offered:**

The course offered at ARDI provide the basic skills and technical approach, more practical straight-forward and relevant to the needs and aspirations of the various rural communities. There are three main courses that constitute the training curriculum for the ARDI, the Nine months Certificate course in **Community Development** being the main Course, **Leadership training** Courses and an **Extension programme**.

#### **1. The Nine Months Community Development Course:**

**This** is the main course of ARDI that draws its participants from the successful Secondary School leavers who are well motivated and perseverant enough to work in the rural areas. During the training the fresh students undertake practical orientation course. The purpose of the orientation is twofold: first to reorient the students from the white collar job education (a legacy stemming from the present structure of educational system) that alienates them from the realities of the rural life despite the fact that most are of a rural background. Secondly to initiate the new student trainees to the practical nature of training programme that they would expect while at the Institute. Later on during the course, a one month field placement programme is launched in which groups of students under the supervision of the Tutors are placed with the serving community development officers in the field of various locations in the Southern Sudan. The nine months community development course graduates students with Certificate in Rural/Community Development. The training of Community Development Workers is generic in approach and aims at preparing the Community Development Officer to function effectively in different situations. It is therefore, inter-disciplinary and the outlines of the course are:

- Adult Education theories and Practices
- Rural Development
- Community Development
- Sociology
- Disaster Management
- Family life Education
- Appropriate Technology
- Cooperative Studies
- Agricultural Extension Education
- Project Planning Management & Monitoring and evaluation
- Beekeeping and Management
- Gender Studies
- Research Methodology

#### **2. Short Courses**

The short course consists of two parts: the **first part** is a three-month course intended to refresh our serving community development officers as well as the middle line

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managers in the Ministry of cooperatives and Rural Development at GOSS level as well in at the ten Southern Sudan States in the area of **Project Planning and management**. The **second part** is comprised of a Leadership course of **one-four weeks** that is offered to women groups, village community leaders, progressive farmers an, village level technicians. It is offered to CBOs working in the areas of Civic Education, Gender Awareness, Human rights, Democracy, Good Governance and Rule of Law, Peace Building and Conflict Resolutions and also in the areas of Livelihoods such as Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Food Processing and Handcraft. These courses are usually practical, easy to understand and run in a local vernacular or colloquial Arabic. They are usually conducted for the benefit of the nine-month course students who are on attachment with the aim of helping to improve their communication skills.



*Amadi Rural Development Institute (ARDI) undergoing rehabilitation*