

### Pact urged to support NGOs, monitor CPA implementation

September 22, 2010 (JUBA) — A senior official in the southern Sudan government has lauded the joint partnership between Pact Sudan and the newly-created Ministry of Peace and Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) Implementation, describing it as a ‘milestone’ in maintenance of peace, harmony and peaceful co-existence among Southern Sudanese communities.

Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Minister, James Kok Ruei, the founder and former Chairperson of Southern Sudan Peace Commission (SSPC), now peace ministry, made these remarks during yesterday opening of a two-day South Sudan Peace Fund (SSPF) review conference organized by Pact Sudan in the Juba-based Beijing hotel.

While giving a historical synopsis of SSPC, the Minister said the commission, which started in 2001 as an Upper Nile peace and reconciliation integration office, later transformed into Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) peace desk and Sudan Peace Commission in 2004, fully gained its status in June 2007.

Kok said the government fully supports SSPF; a Pact Sudan-managed initiative started in March 2009 and will run till February 2012, aimed at providing financial and technical assistance to peace-building partners in Southern Sudan. The fund is a result of contributions from the British Department for International Development (DFID), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

So far, 16 peace-related activities have been accomplished under the joint MPCPAI-Pact Sudan partnership, in the form of conferences and peace-building trainings. Others include research and dynamics of conflict mapping done last year, the 2010 peace review committee, all funded to a tune of SDG 751,600 (\$300,600).

Reacting to this partnership, the Minister said, “The joint collaboration between Pact Sudan and the Ministry of Peace and CPA Implementation has had positive impact and improved the security, harmony and peaceful co-existence among our communities.”

“This kind of partnership should involve other indigenous organizations because attaining peace is not a one day, week or monthly job. It’s a continuous effort that requires changing the culture of war into culture of peace,” he added.

The Minister urged Pact Sudan to continue playing a role in monitoring the CPA Implementation by supporting indigenous NGOs though building their capacities and assessing their grass root activities.

“Build the capacity of local people though supporting indigenous NGOs so that they can become agents and ambassadors of peace. Also though supporting NGOs, Pact Sudan will be able to get regular updates in the happenings on the referendum process,” Kok said.

Judy McCallum, Pact Sudan’s Country Representative told Sudan Tribune in a separate interview that the organization remains committed towards working with government, especially on peace-building at grassroots, support on the CPA implementation, conflict assessment, providing support to activities that promote dialogue among communities as well as natural resources management. Over the past decade or so, McCallum noted, Pact Sudan has worked closely with the southern government, having played a vital role in developing the SSPC strategic plan in 2007.

Meanwhile, the peace fund, which strives to foster a peaceful and secure environment for recovery and sustainable development in Sudan after over two-decades of civil war, has benefitted 64 different peace partners, 54

community based organizations 5 indigenous non-governmental organizations and 5 government institutions. To-date, a total of SDG 12,900,000 (\$4,800,000) has so far been awarded.

**This article was written by Uma Julius, a Senior Correspondent with Sudan Tribune**



### Comments from partners

“Women should be prioritized”

“The shadows under which we have been standing is this peace. We need to cooperate regardless of tribes”-**Samuel “Maluele-YUATISS”**

Our goal should be that one day our government will be able to support our CSOs. You are very important, there are some things you do that the government cannot do therefore you should continue rendering the services that you are rendering... Let’s not think that the referendum is a magic wand..let me assure all of us that whatever happens in January will be the beginning of a new era in our lives. We should work even harder- **Mauro Tadiwe Programs Team Leader, Pact Sudan**

## Pact Sudan website

On September 13, we revived our website and went online. Log on to [www.pactsudan.org](http://www.pactsudan.org) for more information on our Sudan Program.

## Staff Retreat

All staff converged in Yei for a retreat between September 28-30. This event drew sixty eight staff from all departments to strengthen team relations, orient new staff on Pact



achievements and *Staff during one of the sessions at the retreat.* approaches, and *Photo: Gwani Samuel.* identify ways of working in the next year.

## Peace and reconciliation conference Resolutions Passed into Law.

Between July 09 and 15, 2010, Pact funded conferences involving the two communities, the Dinka Agar of Rumbek and Jur Bel of Wullu to resolve the long standing conflict that has existed in this state. It provided a platform for the two communities to discuss and resolve their differences.

As a result of these conferences, the Acting Director of Ministry of Peace and CPA Implementation has revealed that there has been free movement of people between the two communities and no further killings have been reported. In addition to that he confirmed that the resolutions that were reached at were presented to the Governor of Lakes State, the state Council of Ministers and the Legislative Assembly which has passed them into law.

## Grantee Training Sessions in the Three Areas

Two grantee trainings were conducted in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states in July (21-23, 2010 in Blue Nile and 26-28, 2010 in South Kordofan). These sessions were aimed taking our partners through finance and grants management, MERL and proposal writing.

In total, the training targeted 43 participants (25 male and 18 female) from 17 CBOs in Blue Nile and 32 participants (25 male and 7 female) from 18 CBOs.

## Conflict mitigation between local communities and the oil companies

Pact through Peace Direct conducted a feedback session between August 20-23, 2010 for participants from Unity, South Kordofan and Jonglei states. This was a follow up on a training that was given to them on technical aspects of environmental and social impacts of the oil industry.

Between April and August, participants were deployed to their home areas to collect data on environmental impact assesment and research on possible conflict issues around oil field communities in Jonglei, Unity and Southern Kordofan.

They converged in Juba to give feedback from this exercise.

## Organizational Capacity Assessments (OCA)

In August, Matt Reeves, Pact's Director of Capacity Building and Knowledge Management and Stephanie Marienau Turpin, Project Officer for Sudan, trained staff on the OCA methodology. The training targeted staff that were going to get involved in assessing the capacity of partners under the CBO Excellence Program that was launched in May.

Pact carried out a number of Organizational Capacity Assessments (OCA) of local partner organizations (who had been identified for Long Term Funding initiatives. The goal of these assessments was to identify the kind of support implementing partners need to successfully carry out their activities and manage sub-grants. The purpose was to identify areas of strength and weakness that will inform Pact's training program for improvement of these organizations.



## MERL briefings sessions

*Partners during the exercise*

As a strategy to enhance our CBO excellence Program that was launched in May, our MERL team gave sessions for CBOs that were selected for long term grants in July. This event brought together 19 participants from 13 CBOs.

This workshop was aimed at encouraging partners to develop their own monitoring and evaluation plans, conduct baselines, mid term reviews and evaluations on their own.

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