

Media Release



Three Areas Stakeholder Networking Event 2010

24th -26th November 2010, Damazine, Blue Nile State, Sudan.

Between 24th - 26th November, 2010 Pact Sudan's Three Areas Peace Fund Project (TAPF), with support from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Humanity United, held its second Three Areas Stakeholder Networking Event, themed along Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding in Sudan. The three-day event successfully brought together a diverse mix of stakeholders from across Southern Kordofan, Blue Niles States and Abyei Area, many for the first time; to share peacebuilding practices and knowledge, strengthen individual and organisational linkages and relationships, and provided much needed space for dialogue on key issues of conflict and peace. Some one hundred and fifty stakeholders representing civil society, government officials, traditional authorities, female representatives and youth participated in the event.

The workshop was facilitated by Friederike Bubenzer, Great Horn Project Leader at the Institute of Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) in South African and Sibusiswe Ncube, an experienced conflict transformation and peace dialogue expert from Zimbabwe. The facilitators utilising concepts and tools from the Transitional Justice sector and the experiences of conflict from South Africa and Zimbabwe, took the participants through a series of critical exercises to create a foundation for experiential learning, empathetic relation building and dialogue in the Three Areas. For communities still in conflict the event, it is hoped, opened up essential opportunities for individuals to share different Sudanese perspectives of conflict and peace and develop constructive solutions to addressing conflict and mistrust.

“Sudan is at an important crossroads in its history and indeed in the history of the continent. Irrespective of the outcome of the referendum, work still lies ahead that will require the addressing of many wounds of the country's history... Many countries in Africa have crossed similar junctures to tackle the injustices of the past- some successfully, others less so,” noted Freiderike Bubenzer in a presentation on Transitional Justice.

Sibusiswe Ncube on a talk on post-conflict transformation stressed the need for self reflection, and transforming cultural aspects that perpetuate conflict and instead move towards a culture of peace.

Participants in turn highlighted the need for government, civil society and individuals in the Three Areas to respect the rich diversity of populations in the region, learn from each other and work together towards a sustainable peace.

This event marked an important step forward in developing realistic relationships and encouraging local, regional and national cooperation in building a culture of peace and tolerance

Media Release

that was set in motion at a similar networking event held in Dilling, Southern Kordofan in February 2010.

Pact Sudan is committed to supporting Sudanese people towards the goal of peace and stability in the Three Areas and will continue to support local actors to gain the capacities and resources they need to achieve these goals collectively.

For more information on this story, please contact;

Logo J. Maya/Information Officer/Pact Sudan/Tel: 0926 592 713/ Email: mlogo@pactworld.org

About Pact Sudan

Pact Sudan is a capacity building organization that operates in the 10 states of Southern Sudan and in the Three Areas; Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. Our programmatic focus areas are; peacebuilding, natural resource management and, provision of safe and clean drinking water.