



**QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT NO. 3
April 1- June 30, 2005**

**CAPABLE PARTNERS PROGRAMMATIC OBJECTIVES:
Sudan Advocacy Program**

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Quarterly Report

I. Introduction

The Capable Partners Program (CAP) Associate Cooperative Agreement was awarded by the USAID Sudan Field Office on September 13, 2004.

The purpose of the Associate Cooperative Agreement is to make possible the participation of the African Organization for Relief and Development (AORD) in the Capable Partners Advocacy Fellows Program. Under the Associate Cooperative Agreement, AORD is a Participating Organization in the Advocacy Fellows Program and is represented by John Kwaje, AORD's Executive Director.

The Advocacy Fellows Program is designed to build a cadre of Advocacy Fellows from a strategically placed group of NGO networks committed to strengthening their own advocacy capacity and that of the local organizations they serve. It is an 18-month initiative that involves organizations from fifteen countries in all regions of the world.

Below is a brief description of the main components of the program (outlined in the Associate Cooperative Agreement Program Description) and the progress to date relative to each.

II. Program Elements and Progress

A. Advocacy Fellows Program Participation

The CAP Advocacy Fellows Program initiative includes two, one-week workshops, with technical assistance provided by the Advocacy Institute for the duration of the program. The first week-long workshop took place in Accra, Ghana from February 22-27, 2004; the second took place in Istanbul, Turkey from June 8-13, 2004.

The workshops focused on the presentation, application, and refinement of advocacy skills and approaches; the development of Advocacy Action Plans; and the use of NGOConnect.NET as a communication tool for Participating Organizations.

Mr. Kwaje participated only in the Accra workshop. He was not able to participate in the Istanbul workshop due to visa complications. Instead, CAP team members provided in-person training to Mr. Kwaje during a visit to Nairobi in August 2004.

In addition to concepts, materials, and experiential exercises presented at the workshop, Mr. Kwaje has received the following advocacy resources to keep for future AORD use:

- A Guide to Budget Work for NGOs
- A New Weave of Power, People and Politics: The Action Guide for Advocacy

- Advocacy for Social Justice: A Global Action and Reflection Guide and Citizen Participation
- Advocacy Resource Manual
- Influencing Public Policy Through Advocacy and Networking
- News for a Change: An Advocate's Guide to Working with the Media

In addition, AORD has access via NGOConnect.NET to more than 50 additional advocacy books, resources and websites (with more being added all the time).

B. Advocacy Action Plan

A major emphasis of the program is the preparation and implementation of an Advocacy Action Plan. As a member of New Sudanese Indigenous NGOs Network (NESI Net), AORD formulated an advocacy action plan to further a NESI Net advocacy campaign. During the reporting period, AORD further refined its advocacy plan, particularly to respond to new challenges and opportunities arising from the signing of the Peace Accords. The objectives of the plan are:

- To ensure protection and respect/adherence to the signed treaties.
- To empower non-state actors and the general citizenry in understanding and participation in guarding and respect of the signed peace treaties.
- To inform and educate the people of Kenya, East Africa Countries and the international community on the progress of the peace process.
- To highlight human rights violation in both South Sudan and Western Darfur.

The specific objectives of AORD in advocacy work in Lainya County are:

- To advocate for women's empowerment and promote their rights.
- To work with local community on other issues that affect their lives—such as the resettlement of returnees.
- To work with women's groups within the network on awareness raising around HIV/AIDS.

C. Organizational Development

In addition to receiving training on advocacy and assistance to develop their Advocacy Action Plan, each Participating Organization is eligible to receive an individually tailored package of training and technical assistance to strengthen its institution. This involves a participatory organizational assessment, facilitated by the CAP team, using CAP's Institutional Development Framework (IDF), and the subsequent design of an Institutional Improvement Plan that specifies training and technical assistance to be requested from CAP.

The technical assistance, designed to achieve organizational development, will be based on the priority needs of participating organizations which were identified during the IDF application. The initial IDF application will also serve to set a baseline, against which changes in

organizational capacity can be tracked and Performance Management Plan indicator data can be collected.

Organizational Assessment and Institutional Improvement Plan

As mentioned in the previous Quarterly Report, seven AORD members participated in an institutional assessment in August 2004 resulting in an Institutional Improvement Plan. AORD requested technical assistance from CAP based on key areas of the Plan as follows:

- Developing a financial and administrative procedures manual.
- Producing a 3-5 year strategic plan.
- Fostering a more active Board of Directors.

D. AORD Progress

AORD has achieved significant progress in all the areas described above, including the following:

- AORD continued to monitor the activities, started in the last reporting period, of its Advocacy Action Plan.
- AORD continued networking and sharing information with civil society organizations by attending NESI's monthly meetings and meeting with other humanitarian organizations. AORD has participated in monthly consultative meetings with Operation Life Sudan (OLS)/UNICEF – as finances allow, because the meetings take place Kenya, Uganda, and Sudan. These meetings have helped AORD and the other civil society organizations formulate strategies to address advocacy issues in south Sudan.
- AORD has been monitoring the last phase of activities resulting from an HIV/AIDS sensitization workshop in Lainya (AORD's headquarters). Begun during the last reporting period, the project aimed to reduce HIV/AIDS prevalence in the Lainya area by working with community leaders and a local CBO to promote HIV/AIDS awareness. The campaign focused on twenty, female-headed households.
- AORD's Executive Director was invited by the SPLA/M government to help develop and formulate agricultural policies for the New Sudan. Through this process, AORD hopes to be in a position to influence the decentralization of agricultural policies, encouraging policies that will spur economic growth and improve the living standards of southern Sudanese communities.
- AORD has been working closely with UNHCR, and the local authorities to resettle Internally Displace Persons (IDPs) and refugee returnees in Lainya. AORD has helped design quick-start programs for the resettlement.

E. NGOConnect.NET

CAP's Knowledge Management staff designed and created a World Wide Web presence for NESI Net and all its members, including AORD, on CAP's Web portal, NGOConnect.NET. NGOConnect.NET has enhanced programmatic opportunities for AORD and other CAP stakeholders by facilitating discussion forums on various topics, serving as a point of reference and a library for NGO strengthening resources, and allowing Advocacy Fellows Program participants to post their reports and deliverables on the site.

AORD continued to use NGOConnect.NET to download advocacy tools and other resources.

F. Next Steps

AORD has submitted a request to CAP for technical assistance and is preparing a detailed plan and time line for it relative to the priority areas identified above. Nairobi-based organizational development firm PDConsult has been selected to provide the TA, which is scheduled to take place during the last week of July or the first week of August 2005.