



Sudan Radio Service
(Associate Cooperative Agreement HDA A 03 0015 00)

Semi-annual Report
01 October 2007 to 31 March 2008

Implemented by:
Education Development Center, Inc.
1000 Potomac St. N.W.
Washington D.C. 20007

April 2008



This report is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

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"My suggestion is on Nuer language program on Sudan Radio Service. Why Nuer language program or news is not PUT on air daily by Sudan Radio Service. I would be grateful for your feedback. Thanks."

- Daniel Dak Gai, writing from Leer County in Unity state



SRS Producer Agou John Wuoi interviews local merchants in the main market of Abyei town in late November 2007. SRS was in Abyei to cover the Mercy Corps' civil society cross-site visit.

"I really appreciate your work and I have interest to contribute on which program you usually bring up. But what I am complaining is that the government has forgotten Lakes state to bring for them the faster company to sat for them mobile phone. We are really in the dark. Thanks, Garang."

- Stephen Garang Ajith in Rumbek, Lakes state

"I am very happy because I hear the sound of Sudan Radio Service. This is my first time to got your website and now I hear the news Nuer language other language and thank remember me from Sudan Radio Service and send me a message."

- Johnson Gatkek Manyang Riek, writing from Bentiu, Unity state

"I greet you in peace. For the good work that you have been doing for our land and people. We appreciate every thing and indeed are very happy at Sudan Radio Service. But for us here in Lotimor Payam we have no radio apart from yours. Even Ojetuk he's just make empty promise all the time that a radio FM he is going to bring but it is just political talking. Now why you are not bringing Toposa, we hear good voices Clement Wani and our man Yosef Lorika but he has stopped. If you are for the people of Sudan make sure you treat us equal. Not Shiluk better than Toposa or Dinka better than Didinga and others. I thank you very much and please make sure you have aired this program because we have no other way of news and information. We have begged your assistance for some radios, please you reply this message. God bless Sudan Radio Service. Yours truly, Lojore."

- Phillip Lojor, writing from Kapoeta-South, Eastern Equatoria state

For more listener comments, see Appendix C of this document.

1. Executive Summary

This report outlines progress in carrying out the activities and achievements of the Sudan Radio Service (SRS) under the terms and conditions set forth in the Associate Cooperative Agreement HDA A 03 0015 00. The period covers program activities from October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008. This covers the first and second quarters of FY 2008. Among the project's many achievements during this period:

- Coverage of key issues such as the census; reforms of the public service sector; the power and roles of emerging political parties; the role of the judiciary in government; and how civil society organizations can be a positive agent for change.
- SRS producers trained a large number of journalists from both independent and state-run media outlets
- Progress made towards the establishment of the SRS Advisory Board
- Bureau up and running in Malakal, Upper Nile state

Read more about these achievements and other activities of the Sudan Radio Service project in the following pages.

2. Production and Broadcasting

Disseminating targeted information from DG implementing partners and others

In quarters one and two, SRS counted "messages" towards this indicator by the number of themes that were highlighted or focused on in SRS programs. Each theme is only counted once, no matter how many times it airs and no matter how many programs it might appear in. So, for example, the census might be the theme in "Road to Peace" and in "Know Your Government," but it only counts as one theme.

SRS' target in the first and second quarters of FY 2008 was to air 24 civic education thematic messages—12 per quarter. SRS aired 20 civic education thematic messages in the first quarter and 26 in the second quarter. Messages were disseminated via the civic education programs *Road to Peace* and *Know Your Government*, the NDI-supported *Let's Talk* program, as well as in public service announcements (PSA's), and other regular programming. First quarter themes included education about government finances (through interviews with Stephen Dau, Minister of Finance in Upper Nile state and James Wani Igga, Speaker of the SSLA), land issues, census, demining, and corruption, among others. Second quarter themes included education about local government (including an interview with Ceasar Arkangelo, Chairperson of the Local Government Board), and review of the CPA through SRS' audio summaries.

Some highlights of SRS' programming are summarized below:

"The Road to Peace," Political Parties: In this program we looked at the Political Parties Act and its impact on political parties. We also looked at traditional and new political parties in the Sudan and the role of these parties in the implementation of the CPA. The program also looked at the political parties' preparation for next year's elections.

"The Road to Peace," Corruption: This program highlighted the mandate of the Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission. The program featured an interview with the chairperson of the Commission, Dr Pauline Riak, who elaborated on how the commission handles information about alleged corruption. She

points out that the commission has no mandate to prosecute people accused of corruption. The commission only investigates cases and makes recommendations to the GOSS President.

Another program looked at the problem of ghost workers. We aired excerpts from a speech by GOSS Public Service Minister Awut Deng on her ministry's research into the problem and proposed solutions. We also spoke with the Upper Nile state finance minister, who described how the state government had streamlined the public service by introducing identification cards for government employees and other measures.

"Al Hadaf," The Judiciary: This program features an interview with the president of the high court in Upper Nile state, in which he talks about common crimes and how the court handles them. He also talked about challenges faced by the judiciary, including backlog of cases and language barrier – most of the judges are only knowledgeable in Arabic, making it difficult for them to interpret southern Sudanese laws that are coded in English.

Another program was recorded in Western Equatoria state and featured traditional leaders talking about the payam courts, claiming that civil courts were interfering with their work and overshadowing the role of traditional leadership at the payam, or village, level.

"Summaries of the CPA": Due to popular demand, we repeated our 6-part series on the protocols that constitute the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. This series explains the CPA in simple language, not legal jargon, and explains what the protocols mean in practical terms.

"The Census": Much SRS programming during this period, particularly the second quarter, looked at the census. We focused on the importance of a census in government planning and provision of service like roads, water, schools, and hospitals. We interviewed the chairman of the Southern Sudan Census Commission, Isaiah Chol, and let him counter the many incorrect beliefs and fears that many southern Sudanese have about the counting exercise.

"Our Voices," Coalition Building: This four-part series was about women civil society organizations coming together to discuss matters of mutual interest like affirmative action and build the capacities of women. One part centered on women in Darfur, who were interviewed in Khartoum for this program. They discussed issues of rape and the Darfur peace process.

"Women and Peace," Violence Against Women: This program looked at the burden women as heads of their families face when traditional gender roles change. The program also focused on how some women are denied their rights, due to negative cultural practices and the abuse of women by their husbands.

"Health For All," GOSS HIV/AIDS Policy: This program focused on the Government of Southern Sudan policy on HIV/AIDS. We interviewed the chairman of the Southern Sudan AIDS Commission, Dr. Belario Ahoi, who described the government's efforts to fight HIV and AIDS infections in southern Sudan since the peace agreement.

After consultation with USAID, SRS will begin counting differently in quarter 3. Under the new method, each program and PSA, including repeats, will be counted, even if on the same theme.

Non-State News Outlets Using SRS Stories

In the first and second quarters of FY 2008, SRS news items were re-printed or re-broadcast by a total of eight Sudanese media outlets, meeting our target.

Media outlets picked up 142 of SRS' original news stories, or about 33% of all news items generated by SRS. This is a proxy measure of news quality, since other media outlets would only re-print or re-broadcast news items that are relevant, timely and credible. It also indicates increased access of the Sudanese public to SRS news, as readers and listeners have eight additional avenues through which to get SRS news.

SRS news was used on popular Sudanese news websites such as Gurtong, Red Orbit, Anyuak Media, and the Sudan Tribune, as well as public information sites, such as the GOSS US Mission website and the Sudan Daily News bulletin generated by the Sudanese Embassy in Nairobi.

Most significant, however, is SRS' partnership with Radio Bakhita, the Juba radio station of the Sudan Catholic Radio Network (SCRN). In quarters 1 and 2, Radio Bakhita re-broadcast 85 SRS news items. Every morning, the station receives an email with the latest SRS news stories.¹ The Radio Bakhita news team then selects relevant items to integrate into their own daily news broadcasts, requesting accompanying interview soundbites as needed from SRS. Radio Bakhita enriches their news broadcasts by including stories that their own reporters have not been able to cover, and SRS is able to reach a Juba audience of FM listeners. Last quarter, SRS also used a few stories generated by Radio Bakhita journalists. As SRS has conducted several trainings with SCRN, we are pleased to see this demonstration of the improved skills of Radio Bakhita journalists.

The news exchange partnership between SRS and Radio Bakhita is successful because we have cultivated a strong relationship by offering training and providing other programming, such as "Let's Talk" programs, CPA summaries, etc, for the station to use. It is also possible because Radio Bakhita has a reliable internet connection and an enthusiastic news team.

The Internews-supported community stations have occasionally re-broadcast SRS news, but have been unable to make SRS news re-broadcasting a regular part of their program schedule, due mostly to unreliable internet connections. (Because the SRS news re-broadcasts are not regular and we don't have reliable information about when SRS news was aired, we have not included the Internews community radio stations in this indicator.)

We have found that newspapers in Sudan also often carry SRS stories, but it is more difficult for us to track these, as there are too many papers for us to review every day. We've also found instances wherein a newspaper will run an SRS story, but make no mention or citation of SRS at all. In February, COP Jeremy Groce was reading a copy of the Southern Eye (a paper reportedly owned by GOSS Telecommunications Minister Gier Chuang) and found an SRS story reprinted verbatim. Credit was not given to SRS, but we are counting it in our tally of this indicator, as it was 100% an SRS story, most likely copied and pasted from our website.

In addition, Capital FM in Juba has begun testing a system for downloading and replaying daily SRS news broadcasts. If this test goes well, Capital FM will begin re-broadcasting SRS next quarter. We will continue to seek ways to provide FM stations, particularly those with poor internet access, with ways to access SRS programming, for example via a satellite feed.

Programming Summary

During this reporting period of 130 broadcasting days, SRS aired 1,363 programs. This includes programming created under the sub-award from NDI (*Let's Talk*), but not Toposa language programming created under our award from VSF-Germany.

Programs by Category and Language, October 2007 – March 2008

The following chart does not consider repeats, so only counts the total number of programs, not the number of times they air. Also included in the chart are newscasts. Because Simple Arabic programming includes a full top-of-the-hour newscast, as well as a bottom-of-the-hour review of headlines and an in-depth discussion with a producer known as "The Debrief," news and current events programming is SRS'

¹ *The daily SRS email news list has become an increasingly important avenue for informing the public. The list has grown from a few dozen people in 2005 to nearly 150 people in 2008.*

largest category of programming. The second largest category is civic education programming, which encompasses “The Road to Peace,” “Know Your Government” and some of SRS’ special programs.

	<i>Farming & Livestock Issues</i>	<i>Business & Econ. Issues</i>	<i>Civic Education</i>	<i>Culture & Entertainment</i>	<i>Education Issues</i>	<i>Gender Issues</i>	<i>General Development</i>	<i>Health Issues</i>	<i>Human Interest</i>	<i>News & Current Events</i>	<i>Conflict and Peace Efforts</i>	<i>IDP and Refugee Issues</i>	<i>Special Programs</i>	<i>Totals</i>
English	0	0	194	47	42	26	10	60	3	135	8	2	15	542
SA	26	24	78	47	97	54	50	77	91	499	81	29	15	1168
Dinka	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	54
Zande	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	52
Moru	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	52
Nuer	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	52
Bari	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	52
Shilluk	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	54
TOTAL	26	24	430	94	139	80	60	137	94	792	89	31	30	2026

3. Training Journalists

SRS’s target for the first and second quarters of FY 2008 was to train 3 or 4 female and 11 or 12 male journalists each quarter, for a total of 30. During this period, SRS provided journalism training for 45 people (41 men and 7 women). SRS also trained 3 interns (2 females, 1 male) and 3 new male members of staff during the same period, bringing the total number of journalists trained to 51.

SRS also coordinated a visit of 20 (17 men and 3 women) southern Sudanese journalists, officials and voter educators to an independent media house in Kenya for a training session on elections reporting. We are not counting these 20 people as part of this indicator, however.

Interns and New Staff Members

SRS regularly accepts Sudanese communications and journalism interns. The internships range from 8 to 12 weeks and give the interns the opportunity to work in virtually all aspects of SRS radio production and news. Interns are expected to meet the requirements of SRS’ full-time employment and be treated like employees, except they are not paid and do not receive benefits (they do receive a weekly stipend to help them meet transport costs).

They sit in on daily production meetings and are given basic assignments, such as rewriting a story from the internet, writing and voice a tease, and editing a soundbite. As they carry out these assignments, they sit with producers to review basic skills and production techniques.

SRS trained two young women and one young man as interns in the first half of FY 2008.

New members of staff also undergo rigorous training at SRS. Nairobi-based staff are groomed into the job much like interns are, at least in terms of the way work is assigned to them and they are gradually given more and more responsibilities. Sudan-based staff training is much more intensive and formal, as they must be able to fend for themselves in many ways once they return to their place of work.

In quarters 1 and 2 of FY 2008, SRS hired three new producers—one bureau producer in Malakal and two full-time Nairobi-based producers.

Simon Kuol Kuor spent 6 weeks in Nairobi working with SRS in October and November 2007 undergoing standard employee orientation, plus learning SRS' history, programming, and style of work. He was given basic computer training so he could access e-mails, write scripts, edit audio digitally, and upload sound files to SRS in Nairobi. A follow-up technical training in Malakal was also done in early 2008.

Also in early 2008, SRS hired Gabriel Galuak and Moses Ruai Lat. Gabriel was a veteran IRIN (Integrated Regional Information Network, a radio programming project of the UN) producer and joined SRS as an experienced creator of quality programs, but with virtually no news background. As such, much of Gabriel's training has focused on news gathering, writing, and reporting.

Moses Ruai Lat began work as a stringer and an actor/translator with the NDI-supported "Let's Talk" program. His strong translation work and tenacity as a news stringer prompted SRS to hire him full-time. He is an energetic addition to the team and is also learning much about news and program production.



SRS COP Jeremy Groce and Producer Agou John Wuoi Training Journalists in Abyei

Abyei, 26-30 November 2007

SRS Chief of Party and Radio Programming Advisor Jeremy Groce, along with Producer Agou John Wuoi, conducted a five-day training in Abyei for 14 journalists (4 women and 10 men) of two independent media organizations. Of the 14 trained, 13 were from the Internews community FM radio stations and 1 from The Citizen newspaper, formerly of Khartoum but now of Juba. The training covered the fundamentals of journalism. Participants learned about news gathering, fact checking and news writing.

Rumbek, 14-21 February 2008

SRS Executive Producer Rebecca Okwaci and Producer Agou John Wuoi conducted training for 26 journalists (25 Men and 1 Female) with the state-owned Lakes FM in Rumbek. The participants included reporters, producers and technicians.

The training lasted for 8 days and covered the ABC's of professional journalism. Participants learned what is news, the elements and values of news, media law and ethics, and radio production. As a practical exercise, participants were asked to write a brief story which was reviewed soon after the sessions. They went out on field assignments and brought back news stories that were reviewed by the trainers.

They also learned the basics of interviewing, techniques of newsgathering and practiced on small recorders. Participants also learned about the structure of news writing and organization, writing leads and different types of leads, the difference between writing for print and broadcast.

Juba, 17-31 March 2008

SRS Chief of Party Jeremy Groce, Executive Producer Rebecca Okwaci and Producer Agou John Wuoi conducted two weeks of training organized by the Sudan Catholic Radio Network for 5 journalists (3 male and 2 female) hoping to work for Radio Bakhita or other SCRNs stations in southern Sudan. The sessions covered news writing, what is news, elements and values of news, interviews, the ABC's of professional journalism, broadcast writing tips, the difference of writing for print, radio and television, radio production, and media law and ethics.

Nairobi, 22 December 2007

SRS Civics Education Specialist Lisa Hartenberger coordinated the visit of 20 southern Sudanese journalists, information officials, and voter educators to Kenya's independent Royal Media Services (owner of Citizen TV and radio) on December 22.

The group consisted of a few producers with Sudan Radio Service, representatives from the southern Sudanese election drafting committee, officials from the Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission, as well as voter education workers and civil society representatives.

As a major independent media house, the experience of Royal Media was very instructive as participants met with journalists and producers who have been covering the Kenyan elections. They learned how the media house constructed its voter education programming and tips for planning Election Day coverage, as well as challenges Citizen has faced.

4. Listenership

Audience Size

Our target for quarters 1 and 2 was to have 40% of NDI's focus groups say they listen at least sometimes to SRS. Recently, after lengthy discussions with USAID, it's been determined that a different tool should be used to assess SRS listenership.

At the time of writing, a broad USAID-supported media assessment survey is being designed and will be implemented in three states. USAID hopes that this survey will complement one commissioned in July 2007 by the United Nations radio network that covered 7 states. If the UN radio will share their data, USAID will share theirs, and the two surveys will together form a relatively comprehensive view of media outlets in southern Sudan.

We expect that by the time we submit our next semi-annual technical report, we will have details of this survey to share.

Meanwhile, SRS does track visitation of its website, www.sudanradio.org. The website continues to be a popular way for Sudanese in the diaspora to access SRS, though we are seeing more and more people within Sudan and in neighboring countries access SRS via the website, as well.

Broadcast Audibility

In Q1 and Q2 SRS's audibility was 81% of the broadcast hours monitored. In the first quarter SRS was 83% audible of the broadcast hours monitored in Sudan. The second quarter stood at 79% audible, down by 4 from Q1. In both quarters the SRS audibility was slightly below our target of 85% broadcast hours monitored in Sudan. However, the percentage of audible hours in the second quarter was very close to the 85% target.

Despite the fact that we did not hit the quarterly target of 85%, SRS audibility was generally good in Q2. The month of February rated highest in the number of hours monitored in Q2. Forty out of the 44 hours monitored rated above the average of 3. Perhaps this was because we received audibility feedback forms from seven towns (Rumbek, Yambio, Khartoum, Juba, Maridi, Kurmuk and Malakal). In January, 21 out of 30 hours monitored rated above the average of 3. We will continue to look for ways to have more monitors in Sudan.

On January 27th we dropped our parallel frequency 13,720 kHz as it was not cost effective to have two parallel frequencies. Instead we retained the 9,590 kHz which had better signal during the Q1. On March 31st the SRS summer seasonal frequency shift took effect. One of our new frequencies, the 11,805 was monitored on that day. It rated well in Juba, Rumbek and Maridi, but was not audible in Khartoum. We will continue to monitor this frequency next month, and will have additional information on other new frequencies.

Our attempts to work with partners organizations to monitor SRS reception fall short of our expectation. We will therefore develop our own networks of monitors who will be reporting to us on monthly bases. In order to have an overview of clear audibility of reception in Sudan, we have lined up few trips to Damazine, Port Sudan and Wau in the coming months. The SRS station manager will be going to Damazine, Marketing coordinator to Port Sudan and other areas which will be accessible given the fact that it is rainy season now in Sudan.

Reception was less than our target in quarter one largely due to poor performance of our transmission site in Kigali, Rwanda, which aired at 5,975 kHz from 6 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. After seeing that it was consistently poor, we asked our transmission services provider, VT Communications, to help us find an alternative. Fortunately, they were able to shift the early morning transmission from Kigali to Dhabayya in the UAE, which now means all 3 hours in the morning are broadcast from UAE, which is a good site that reliably sends an audible signal to Sudan.

In quarter 2 we began seeing a worsening of some of our evening transmission on 9,840 kHz, which emanates from Russia. We also contacted VT Communications about seeking an alternative to this site. At the end of March they were able to shift SRS' broadcasts from 6 to 8 p.m. to Sines, Portugal. Early indications are that this brings a significant improvement over Russia. It also costs less.

In summary, all of SRS' transmissions current come from Dhabayya in the UAE (4 hours per day) and Sines in Portugal (2 hours per day). Both sites have high-strength transmitters of 250 kW and are close enough to our target area of Sudan that the signal only needs to make a single hop (shortwave signals are bounced off the radioactive ionosphere layer of the atmosphere; the more "hops" the signal makes the more it deteriorates). As such, we are optimistic that we will be able to meet our target of 90% audibility in quarters 3 and 4.

5. Administration and Miscellaneous Issues

Due to a change in the way work permits and tax exemption documentation are processed in Kenya, SRS' success in obtaining work permits for its Sudanese staff and obtaining VAT and duty exemption for its purchases has greatly declined. Previously, SRS was able to apply for work permits and tax exemptions directly. Now, USAID must take the lead.

In the coming quarter, SRS will intensify its communications with USAID in order to see what more can be done to expedite these processes.

Expanding the Stringer/ Bureau Network in Sudan

SRS had established a goal of having a total of three full-time bureaus in quarters 1 and 2 of FY 2008—one in Juba, one in Malakal, and one in Khartoum.



New Malakal Bureau Producer Simon Kuol Kuor interviews street children in Malakal.

The Malakal bureau kicked off in October 2007, when the producer, Simon Kuol Kuor, came to Nairobi for a six-week training and orientation. Simon was working out of Pact's EPPIC program office in Malakal, though with the closure of the Pact program a new office will need to be located. In March 2008, SRS made a training visit to Malakal to help Simon improve his technical skills of editing and using his computer to send audio and text to SRS in Nairobi. Overall, Simon has performed well in his first six months and has reliably provided a weekly program and news almost daily.

SRS' Juba bureau producer, David Dau, has also worked on the NDI "Let's Talk" program to provide audio for the education and discussion segments. After discussions with NDI, SRS has decided to put David full-time on NDI and hire a new bureau producer who will work entirely on news and SRS programming (though much of the material obtained for "Let's Talk" is useful for SRS).

In February 2008, SRS advertised the Juba bureau position on Radio Juba, in the Juba Post, and in the Citizen newspaper. They also circulated the ad via the SRS website and several popular listserves, including that of the Juba-based NGO forum. In response, SRS received over a dozen applications. These were narrowed down by a committee of SRS' senior staff to a shortlist of five candidates. In March 2008 COP Jeremy Groce and RSM John Tanza John Tanza visited Juba to interview those on the

shortlist. At the time of writing, SRS has selected a final candidate and successfully negotiated terms. As he is currently a senior producer with the UN Miraya radio network, he will join us after his resignation notice period ends.

SRS' goal for quarters 3 and 4 is to add two more bureaus. Our first will be in Damazine, in Blue Nile state, and the second will be in Wau in Western Bahr El Ghazal. We hope that the Wau bureau will also be well placed to cover Abyei.

SRS' goal with stringers, or freelance correspondents who are paid piecemeal for stories they submit to SRS, was to have 8 consistent stringers each quarter in the first half of FY 2008.

In quarter 1, SRS received news from 10 stringers, who together submitted 49 news stories to SRS.

In quarter 2, SRS received news items from 6 stringers, who together submitted 27 news stories. The decrease in the number of stringers was due, in part, to SRS' hiring one stringer as a full-time producer. Another stringer joined the Western Equatoria state government as a press officer.

We will actively recruit more stringers over the coming months.

Progress on Establishing the SRS Advisory Board

SRS has proposed not creating the Advisory Committee as laid out in the original project description. The project description says the primary tasks of this committee are to "help coordinate and facilitate radio service activities in the field, to suggest program content, [and] to participate in marketing and promotion of the radio service." Through our very regular contacts with the organizations and agencies active in Sudan, including the SPLM, all this was already being done. To formalize these collaborations through monthly meetings seemed redundant, not to mention impractical.

Now that virtually all NGOs and governmental authorities have relocated to Juba or elsewhere in Sudan, it is important to ensure that this kind of collaboration continues. Fortunately, it has continued thanks to strong ties and communication between SRS and USAID, the UN, and the many implementing partners on the ground in Sudan.

SRS has been working to reestablish what we are calling the SRS Advisory Board, but with a focus on Juba instead of Nairobi. This body will eventually set goals, define the mission and provide general oversight of the radio service, but while EDC is the implementing agency and USAID is the sole donor, this board will act more as advisors and undergo some orientation and training.

SRS had formed an Advisory Board and it met in February 2005, but the events of 2005 overtook the members. Some joined government and went to Khartoum, Juba, and elsewhere.

The first step in reviving the board was to develop an SOW. This was completed in quarter 2 (see Appendix B). SRS has since been seeking participation from men and women who meet the qualifications and are willing and able to carry out the duties detailed in the SOW. We expect to have five or seven individuals committed to participating on the board by the end of July 2008 so that by the end of August 2008 SRS can have its first board meeting. So far, SRS has received commitments from 4 people.

Thereafter, the SRS board will seek to meet annually or twice a year in Juba or another location that is convenient for the members and will minimize travel expenses.

SRS advisory board members might be called upon, for instance, to advocate for the release of an SRS journalist from detention or jail (Khartoum bureau producer Nichola Mandil was arrested in Omdurman and detained without charge or access to legal recourse for 5 days for attempting to cover a police-SLM shootout). To accomplish this, the member would need to have some high-level connections, but be

independent so that he couldn't be "ordered" as a government or party subordinate to leave the matter alone.

Finding such individuals in Sudan has been extremely difficult, as most people with connections are in government or are senior political party officials. To have a board with top SPLM or GOSS officials would undermine SRS' independence and could engender animosity amongst the northern Sudanese government and media. Others may hold views about media or free speech that are inappropriate to representing SRS in such a capacity. So the search for members is taking time, but we are making progress and expect to successfully hold our first meeting by the end of the year.

COP Jeremy Groce and RSM John Tanza have spent time in Juba and managed to recruit Mr. Albino Okeny as the first board member. Albino is a southern Sudanese pioneer of independent journalism. He is one of the founder of the Khartoum Monitor newspaper and later worked for Radio Juba. He was a media trainer for Panos for several years and most recently was the managing producer at SRS. He is now in Juba as a public relations officer with the World Bank.

Albino helped Jeremy and John refine the SOW and brainstorm potential members. By the time of writing this report, SRS received news that two other influential southern Sudanese have expressed interest in becoming members of the advisory board. This means the number of apparent board members has reached three. We have two other potential candidates lined up, including a prominent northern Sudanese. We will communicate with them in the coming months.



SRS Executive Producer Rebecca Okwaci training a Lakes FM radio station producer in good interviewing techniques.



SRS Senior Producer Koang Pal Chang interviews Mayom Co. (Unity) Comm. Martin Machot Deng.

Appendix A: SRS Website Data

SRS programming and news is available on our website, www.sudanradio.org. Every day hundreds of people around the world visit the site to read our news and download programming. Below find daily visit data to the SRS site. You'll see that the figures vary from day to day, but go as high as 832. Many of these visitors are outside Sudan, particularly in North America and Australia, but an increasing number are accessing the SRS website from within Sudan or neighboring countries, such as Egypt and Ethiopia.

The number of "hits" indicates the number of times the website is visited, but "visits" indicates the number of individual visitors. Looking at day 1 in October 2007, for example, you see 513 visitors with over 16,000 hits. This means that each visitor clicked on about 30 items, likely news stories and audio. The number of "sites" indicates the different pages of SRS that were visited. Looking at the same day, it appears that most visitors only went to one page. "Kbytes" refers to the amount of material downloaded from the site. Again looking at day 1 in October 2007, 2,619,608 KB were downloaded from the site. This is equal 2.6 gigabytes of data. This means that most visitors to the website were downloading SRS audio.

October 2007 Data

Day	Hits		Visits		Sites		KBytes	
1	16069	2.84%	513	2.71%	488	7.03%	2619608	3.67%
2	13713	2.42%	504	2.66%	435	6.27%	2120532	2.97%
3	17067	3.02%	601	3.18%	546	7.87%	2468271	3.46%
4	15377	2.72%	536	2.83%	452	6.52%	2346878	3.29%
5	14239	2.52%	539	2.85%	513	7.40%	1928887	2.70%
6	14264	2.52%	521	2.75%	491	7.08%	2150151	3.01%
7	12506	2.21%	457	2.42%	417	6.01%	1615444	2.26%
8	15349	2.71%	546	2.89%	477	6.88%	2141017	3.00%
9	14365	2.54%	533	2.82%	484	6.98%	1839217	2.58%
10	14806	2.62%	584	3.09%	505	7.28%	1904155	2.67%
11	19070	3.37%	632	3.34%	584	8.42%	2662057	3.73%
12	25341	4.48%	714	3.77%	618	8.91%	3276574	4.59%
13	17786	3.14%	608	3.21%	557	8.03%	2128586	2.98%
14	16018	2.83%	511	2.70%	460	6.63%	1785032	2.50%
15	26847	4.74%	681	3.60%	557	8.03%	3089235	4.33%
16	20374	3.60%	669	3.54%	549	7.91%	2727987	3.82%
17	21313	3.77%	675	3.57%	578	8.33%	2706727	3.79%
18	18813	3.32%	595	3.15%	563	8.12%	2325066	3.26%
19	20138	3.56%	696	3.68%	592	8.53%	2759695	3.86%
20	14033	2.48%	494	2.61%	441	6.36%	1711041	2.40%
21	14731	2.60%	529	2.80%	464	6.69%	1796656	2.52%
22	21687	3.83%	639	3.38%	592	8.53%	2551755	3.57%
23	20557	3.63%	638	3.37%	573	8.26%	2265499	3.17%
24	21692	3.83%	738	3.90%	649	9.36%	2956900	4.14%
25	22964	4.06%	780	4.12%	689	9.93%	2842960	3.98%
26	22609	4.00%	729	3.85%	606	8.74%	2448134	3.43%
27	15531	2.74%	603	3.19%	471	6.79%	1614519	2.26%
28	15688	2.77%	607	3.21%	433	6.24%	1455986	2.04%
29	21514	3.80%	747	3.95%	601	8.66%	2421898	3.39%
30	20581	3.56%	728	3.79%	595	8.51%	2401723	3.25%
31	22847	3.92%	782	3.98%	612	8.32%	2530923	3.41%

November 2007 Data

Day	Hits		Visits		Sites		KBytes	
1	19188	3.28%	715	3.77%	588	8.70%	2429355	3.48%
2	20144	3.44%	658	3.47%	535	7.92%	2441814	3.49%
3	16655	2.84%	559	2.95%	490	7.25%	1903635	2.72%
4	15928	2.72%	514	2.71%	492	7.28%	1642609	2.35%
5	17357	2.96%	609	3.21%	494	7.31%	2000475	2.86%
6	22394	3.82%	674	3.55%	565	8.36%	2456437	3.51%
7	22945	3.92%	719	3.79%	642	9.50%	2890821	4.14%
8	18283	3.12%	638	3.36%	553	8.18%	2201822	3.15%
9	19328	3.30%	695	3.66%	634	9.38%	2189667	3.13%
10	15398	2.63%	579	3.05%	480	7.10%	1834872	2.62%
11	16425	2.80%	604	3.18%	491	7.27%	1631523	2.33%
12	18413	3.14%	832	4.39%	586	8.67%	2357934	3.37%
13	21222	3.62%	603	3.18%	476	7.04%	2143726	3.07%
14	21325	3.64%	638	3.36%	555	8.21%	2420192	3.46%
15	19200	3.28%	664	3.50%	602	8.91%	2471989	3.54%
16	15947	2.72%	595	3.14%	561	8.30%	1962543	2.81%
17	14913	2.55%	494	2.60%	485	7.18%	2137378	3.06%
18	14392	2.46%	509	2.68%	492	7.28%	1700654	2.43%
19	20211	3.45%	667	3.52%	592	8.76%	2455732	3.51%
20	23071	3.94%	669	3.53%	607	8.98%	2615823	3.74%
21	24076	4.11%	714	3.76%	563	8.33%	2963895	4.24%
22	20239	3.46%	610	3.22%	577	8.54%	2634286	3.77%
23	19906	3.40%	629	3.32%	555	8.21%	2443268	3.50%
24	17884	3.05%	509	2.68%	465	6.88%	2167050	3.10%
25	16113	2.75%	523	2.76%	437	6.47%	1733770	2.48%
26	22539	3.85%	637	3.36%	555	8.21%	2599706	3.72%
27	20756	3.54%	603	3.18%	551	8.15%	2909429	4.16%
28	23440	4.00%	679	3.58%	575	8.51%	3027028	4.33%
29	24614	4.20%	752	3.96%	657	9.72%	2851910	4.08%
30	23307	3.98%	742	3.91%	603	8.92%	2683313	3.84%

December 2007 Data

Day	Hits		Visits		Sites		KBytes	
1	17330	3.27%	575	3.35%	521	8.48%	2101964	3.36%
2	17086	3.22%	566	3.30%	519	8.45%	1962641	3.14%
3	23643	4.46%	686	4.00%	569	9.26%	2975216	4.76%
4	22546	4.25%	691	4.03%	611	9.95%	2491124	3.98%
5	23137	4.36%	714	4.16%	611	9.95%	2626921	4.20%
6	18244	3.44%	618	3.60%	567	9.23%	2196281	3.51%
7	17962	3.39%	609	3.55%	525	8.55%	2144311	3.43%
8	14540	2.74%	494	2.88%	445	7.24%	1709917	2.73%
9	12188	2.30%	431	2.51%	388	6.32%	1280075	2.05%
10	19146	3.61%	588	3.43%	483	7.86%	2428356	3.88%
11	19248	3.63%	586	3.41%	493	8.03%	2429005	3.88%
12	20014	3.77%	640	3.73%	538	8.76%	2605702	4.17%
13	18896	3.56%	602	3.51%	555	9.03%	2188845	3.50%
14	18744	3.53%	625	3.64%	614	10.00%	2224907	3.56%
15	13641	2.57%	463	2.70%	402	6.54%	1533041	2.45%
16	14581	2.75%	445	2.59%	412	6.71%	1521169	2.43%
17	21159	3.99%	621	3.62%	530	8.63%	2384110	3.81%
18	16508	3.11%	550	3.20%	463	7.54%	2073462	3.32%
19	17152	3.23%	581	3.38%	495	8.06%	2128729	3.40%
20	16166	3.05%	586	3.41%	516	8.40%	2023774	3.24%
21	14938	2.82%	535	3.12%	432	7.03%	1775395	2.84%
22	13352	2.52%	448	2.61%	408	6.64%	1328640	2.12%
23	15658	2.95%	453	2.64%	417	6.79%	1766928	2.83%
24	17268	3.26%	544	3.17%	452	7.36%	2649586	4.24%
25	16631	3.14%	523	3.05%	434	7.06%	2052859	3.28%
26	15489	2.92%	486	2.83%	426	6.93%	1671901	2.67%
27	19300	3.64%	571	3.33%	489	7.96%	2079835	3.33%
28	16035	3.02%	553	3.22%	473	7.70%	1570241	2.51%
29	12643	2.38%	491	2.86%	414	6.74%	1596040	2.55%
30	13731	2.59%	481	2.80%	402	6.54%	1501373	2.40%
31	13286	2.51%	475	2.77%	423	6.89%	1506909	2.41%

January 2008 Data

Day	Hits		Visits		Sites		KBytes	
1	15430	3.08%	497	2.94%	431	7.20%	1582676	2.73%
2	17699	3.53%	613	3.63%	520	8.69%	2096255	3.62%
3	16258	3.24%	565	3.35%	504	8.43%	2012450	3.47%
4	13121	2.62%	487	2.88%	411	6.87%	1657455	2.86%
5	13958	2.78%	469	2.78%	396	6.62%	1517930	2.62%
6	13737	2.74%	504	2.98%	479	8.01%	1645954	2.84%
7	16970	3.38%	548	3.25%	460	7.69%	2093365	3.61%
8	17582	3.50%	553	3.28%	451	7.54%	2174570	3.75%
9	16622	3.31%	578	3.42%	484	8.09%	2184352	3.77%
10	15990	3.19%	571	3.38%	478	7.99%	2206969	3.81%
11	17065	3.40%	580	3.44%	465	7.77%	2057866	3.55%
12	15875	3.16%	545	3.23%	440	7.36%	1918404	3.31%
13	14295	2.85%	467	2.77%	414	6.92%	1296383	2.24%
14	17997	3.59%	508	3.01%	420	7.02%	1821285	3.14%
15	18000	3.59%	632	3.74%	532	8.89%	2044860	3.53%
16	19871	3.96%	635	3.76%	541	9.04%	2555048	4.41%
17	18132	3.61%	606	3.59%	525	8.78%	2226359	3.84%
18	17454	3.48%	565	3.35%	461	7.71%	1861645	3.21%
19	15381	3.07%	482	2.85%	412	6.89%	1661923	2.87%
20	14024	2.80%	450	2.67%	381	6.37%	1447611	2.50%
21	16831	3.36%	538	3.19%	435	7.27%	2021790	3.49%
22	18650	3.72%	631	3.74%	558	9.33%	2230285	3.85%
23	15954	3.18%	573	3.39%	487	8.14%	1898561	3.28%
24	16313	3.25%	587	3.48%	476	7.96%	1947382	3.36%
25	17418	3.47%	510	3.02%	468	7.82%	1963839	3.39%
26	14205	2.83%	514	3.04%	461	7.71%	1536179	2.65%
27	14545	2.90%	507	3.00%	420	7.02%	1300854	2.24%
28	15000	2.99%	536	3.17%	459	7.67%	1716045	2.96%
29	15500	3.09%	573	3.39%	458	7.66%	1833928	3.16%
30	15948	3.18%	618	3.66%	451	7.54%	1705235	2.94%
31	15807	3.15%	510	3.02%	448	7.49%	1750927	3.02%

February 2008 Data

Day	Hits		Visits		Sites		KBytes	
1	17603	4.02%	543	3.63%	460	8.05%	1760376	3.45%
2	13003	2.97%	465	3.10%	401	7.02%	1340014	2.63%
3	11839	2.70%	458	3.06%	404	7.07%	1279936	2.51%
4	12729	2.90%	461	3.08%	392	6.86%	1462289	2.87%
5	15602	3.56%	498	3.33%	434	7.60%	2060975	4.04%
6	15863	3.62%	492	3.29%	452	7.91%	1661671	3.26%
7	17122	3.91%	529	3.53%	503	8.81%	2060179	4.04%
8	15342	3.50%	531	3.55%	507	8.88%	2015230	3.95%
9	14679	3.35%	470	3.14%	452	7.91%	1617254	3.17%
10	11944	2.72%	421	2.81%	426	7.46%	1413548	2.77%
11	16416	3.74%	496	3.31%	439	7.69%	1760545	3.45%
12	16642	3.80%	521	3.48%	458	8.02%	2411326	4.72%
13	16865	3.85%	491	3.28%	431	7.55%	1895397	3.71%
14	15941	3.64%	557	3.72%	538	9.42%	1946798	3.81%
15	15166	3.46%	532	3.55%	449	7.86%	1773727	3.48%
16	13509	3.08%	438	2.92%	390	6.83%	1533058	3.00%
17	11254	2.57%	466	3.11%	398	6.97%	1300435	2.55%
18	16861	3.85%	557	3.72%	485	8.49%	1916450	3.75%
19	17744	4.05%	594	3.97%	524	9.18%	2087206	4.09%
20	17299	3.95%	566	3.78%	473	8.28%	2050883	4.02%
21	17625	4.02%	610	4.07%	512	8.97%	1996267	3.91%
22	13750	3.14%	524	3.50%	450	7.88%	1583647	3.10%
23	14066	3.21%	505	3.37%	431	7.55%	1450796	2.84%
24	11420	2.61%	426	2.84%	381	6.67%	1339934	2.63%
25	15119	3.45%	568	3.79%	515	9.02%	1980894	3.88%
26	15930	3.63%	599	4.00%	518	9.07%	1825170	3.58%
27	16451	3.75%	582	3.89%	511	8.95%	1984785	3.89%
28	15727	3.59%	569	3.80%	558	9.77%	1843732	3.61%
29	14841	3.39%	552	3.69%	516	9.04%	1685575	3.30%

March 2008 Data

Day	Hits		Visits		Sites		KBytes	
1	12929	2.77%	465	2.57%	452	6.82%	1401200	2.83%
2	14545	3.12%	453	2.50%	373	5.63%	1500683	3.03%
3	19009	4.07%	602	3.33%	526	7.94%	2303590	4.65%
4	16840	3.61%	549	3.04%	479	7.23%	1966636	3.97%
5	16687	3.57%	530	2.93%	455	6.87%	1932975	3.91%
6	16050	3.44%	531	2.94%	476	7.19%	1848071	3.73%
7	16256	3.48%	667	3.69%	618	9.33%	1892706	3.82%
8	11913	2.55%	506	2.80%	489	7.38%	1295904	2.62%
9	12802	2.74%	473	2.62%	456	6.89%	1177847	2.38%
10	14937	3.20%	529	2.93%	465	7.02%	1543483	3.12%
11	18630	3.99%	614	3.40%	542	8.18%	2083815	4.21%
12	18750	4.02%	648	3.58%	579	8.74%	1807387	3.65%
13	17429	3.73%	601	3.32%	523	7.90%	1785897	3.61%
14	13578	2.91%	579	3.20%	507	7.66%	1478743	2.99%
15	14645	3.14%	508	2.81%	519	7.84%	1450730	2.93%
16	13954	2.99%	500	2.76%	441	6.66%	1360424	2.75%
17	18149	3.89%	597	3.30%	512	7.73%	1577069	3.19%
18	15012	3.22%	770	4.26%	650	9.81%	1406989	2.84%
19	16105	3.45%	487	2.69%	418	6.31%	1608793	3.25%
20	14713	3.15%	474	2.62%	358	5.41%	1587481	3.21%
21	12320	2.64%	497	2.75%	432	6.52%	1282936	2.59%
22	13205	2.83%	750	4.15%	670	10.12%	1305746	2.64%
23	12946	2.77%	617	3.41%	599	9.04%	1225097	2.48%
24	14673	3.14%	617	3.41%	557	8.41%	1455452	2.94%
25	14687	3.15%	763	4.22%	692	10.45%	1682831	3.40%
26	15298	3.28%	649	3.59%	611	9.23%	1781928	3.60%
27	14924	3.20%	546	3.02%	480	7.25%	1822828	3.68%
28	13605	2.91%	601	3.32%	563	8.50%	1540556	3.11%
29	11918	2.55%	697	3.85%	670	10.12%	1337019	2.70%
30	13484	2.89%	629	3.48%	602	9.09%	1457915	2.95%
31	16834	3.61%	693	3.83%	636	9.60%	1592353	3.22%

Appendix B: Advisory Board SOW

Scope of Work for SRS Advisory Board (Pre-independence from EDC/USAID “ownership”)

Purpose:

While SRS remains a USAID project, the main purpose of the Advisory Board is to promote and protect SRS's status as an independent media house, review SRS's mission statement and annual goals, and assist in development efforts.

The tasks of the advisory board during this period would include:

- Promote the independence of SRS and the free flow of information based on the principals enshrined in the SRS journalistic code of ethics.
- Promote and defend freedom of expression principles laid out in the constitution and the CPA.
- Defend SRS against unreasonable government interference
- Review mission statement
- Review annual goals
- Review semi-annual and other reports provided by EDC
- Review project successes and challenges and make recommendations for future activities.
- Advise in development efforts, especially as pertains to ensuring the sustainability of SRS
- Oversee the creation of a business plan

Membership and selection criteria:

Initial appointees would be agreed upon by EDC with advice from USAID. Members would then be elected by the rest of the Board and 3 SRS representatives, likely the Deputy Chief of Party, Managing Producer, and a Senior Producer. Elected members would require a majority vote.

Selection criteria:

- As a group, representative of the regional, linguistic and gender diversity of Sudan
- Independent status, ie. does not hold a formal post with particular political parties.
- Able to provide specific services that contribute to SRS's independence and sustainability, ie. credibility and influence within particular constituencies, legal expertise, business skills, etc.
- A strong commitment to SRS and independent media for Sudan
- Experience in a managerial position

Meeting schedule:

- Bi-annual, specific dates contingent upon the members' schedules. The board will set its own dates for meetings
- Required quorum of five members
- Meetings to be held in Juba or wherever mutually agreed and convenient, with travel expenses borne by SRS

Appendix C: Listener Comments

Most listener comments that SRS receives comes via e-mail. However, we get a number of telephone calls and direct comments from people within southern Sudan who encounter SRS staff. Following are just some of the most interesting comments SRS has received in quarters 1 and 2 of FY 2008.

"We really appreciate what you People have done for us. We (Sudanese) are learning a lot through the Radio Programmes you air. Thank you so much and please, keep up the Spirit of lifting Sudan"

-Quinter a Sudanese living in Nairobi praises SRS for transmitting educational programs.

"My comment is that I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ AMEM. I am very happy because I hear the sound of Sudan radio service. This is my first time to got your website and now I hear the news Nuer language other language and thank remember me from Sudan radio service and send me a message."

-Johnson Gatkek Manyang from Bentiu County in Unity State is delighted to listen to SRS news in his local language, Nuer, on the internet.

"That is huge progress and it made different form present and past, 400 girls three years ago and over 40,000 this year and big hope for unity state university to be open soon. That is good example to others south Sudan state. Well done Mr. Minister. Lets all celebrate GEM all over south Sudan."

-Pal Deng, writing from Australia, reacting to news he heard on SRS that Unity state had seen a 100-fold increase in its enrolment of girls in primary school.

"Dear colleagues I am very please to have this moment on line Thanks GOD. My point is only one. I would like to comment on Bher {Murlei}. They have come all for Bor to Killed people as you heard and the Government is silent I don't know if we revenge again will there be a government Protection for Murlei, The Whole Community is endured this many attacking of Murlei, But one day we will do the same to them"

-Daniel Makuac Nyiwei Mamer writing from Bor County, Jonglei State, reacting to news he heard on SRS on the latest fighting between the Murle and the Bor communities in Jonglei State. The two pastoral communities have a history of fighting over cattle.

"Dear SRS. I am hereby informing you that, There were two soldiers from battalion 110 departed from Akobo west to Akobo east, they were ambushed by Murle at the place call Liem 2km away from town 1 officer was shot dead and 1 private was run away up to location call Kier Payam of Akobo County in Northern part of Akobo town. The road going from Akobo town to Akobo West is blocked by Murle no moving people are living in fear"

-Chuol Deng writing from Akobo County in Jonglei State informing SRS that the road joining Akobo East to Akobo West County has been blocked by the Murle community in a wake of new attacks.

"Announcement The Sudanese Gospel Mission Church in Sudan will ordinate Pastor James Geri Durku on 5/01/2008 Time at 11:30 am-14:30 pm in Kiri Alusi Kajo-Keji County South Sudan. Join hands with us to make this ordination successful. Thanks, yours in Christ Bishop C.D. Drale see www.sudanese-gospel-mission.org"

-Bishop Drale a member of the Sudanese Gospel Mission Church in Sudan requesting SRS to broadcast an event held to ordinate a pastor in Kajo Keji County, Central Equatoria.

"Dear SRS. How are you? The ongoing here in Akobo is very worse. Why not the GOSS did not say any thing on the issue of the Murle? Communities are facing a lot of problem because is raiding cattle and also killing people. Do you know that the biggest problem in Sudan is in Jonglei? Especially Akobo, Nyirol, Poktap, Nasir, Uror and Bor town are facing a lot and there are some communities which were disarmed by GOSS. Why Murle was not disarmed by GOOS? Are they friend to GOSS?"

-Choul Deng writing from Sudan is concerned about GOSS laxity to disarm the Murle Community. He was reacting to a story he listened to on SRS on the state of insecurity in Akobo County, Jonglei State.

"I really appreciate your work and I have interest to contribute on which program you usually bring up. But what I am complaining is that the government has forgotten lake state to bring for them the faster company to sat for them mobile phone. We are really in the dark. Thanks Garang"

-Stephen Garang appreciating SRS programming and expresses interest to contribute to the programs. Mr. Garang is writing from Lakes State and is reacting on a story he heard on SRS that the state of Mobile phone communication in Lakes State is poor.

"Dear sir/madam, I will be in Nairobi on 21 November enroute to South Sudan for official business---taking Canadians who have donated tractors for agriculture for southern Sudan. I would appreciate if I could have an interview either live on this issue or other issues that we are working on in Canada. Thanks, Peter L Both"

-The GOSS envoy to Canada wanting SRS to underscore his diplomatic obligations. Mr.Peter Lam Both writing from Canada requesting SRS to do an interview on some agricultural incentives donated by Canadians to Southern Sudanese.

"Last week I send you message and now I like to send you a message because I am a southerner boy or SPLM/SPLA LOST. I send you message. But it is better to me send message to know more about Sudan Radio Service and thank by Bentiu boy send me a message to know more about program"

-Johnson Gatkeke writing from Sudan expresses his desire to know more about SRS.

"I wish to thank SRS for the good work. However we are also dismayed at the lack of Toposa programming these weekends. If you chose another frequency or day, please inform us"

-Mary Kuron writes from Eastern Equatoria regretting the discontinuation of the Toposa programming from the SRS program schedule.

"Dear Sir/madam 2 days have passed since I send this message and it has come back, but please I greet you in peace. For the good work that you have been doing for our land and people. We appreciate every thing and indeed are very happy at Sudan Radio Service. But for us here in Lotimor Payam we have no radio apart from yours. Even Ojetuk he's just make empty promise all the time that a radio FM he is going to bring but it is just political talking. Now why you are not bringing Toposa, we hear good voices Clement Wani and our man Yosef Lorika but he has stopped. If you are for the people of Sudan make sure you treat us equal. Not Shiluk better than Toposa or Dinka better than didinga and others. I thank you very much and please make sure you have aired this program because we have no other way of news and information. We have begged your assistance for some radios, please you reply this message. God bless radio Sudan service. Yours truly Lojore"

- Phillip Lojore writes from Kapoeta South in Eastern Equatoria saying people of Lotimor Payam do not have an alternative radio station apart from SRS. They rely exclusively on SRS for news and would like SRS bring back the Toposa programming.

“First of all I would like to pass my warmly greeting to all Sudanese people as well as Southern Sudan in particular and also Sudan radio service which is my lovely media, I am the listener of Sudan radio service please dear Sudan radio service I would like to have more information about things happen here in South Sudan as well as Sudan at all. Please for your kindness allow me to ask you one question and you will reply it to me why Sudan Radio Service no extra programme as other radio? To have this it is to more about the idea of other collect the information from them and give them to public and listener of Sudan radio service and thank by Yoal Manyang Riek Bum may God please you all my dear”

- Yoal Manyang Riek Bum writing from Bentiu county in Unity State wanting to know why SRS does not have a full day broadcasting schedule.

“Dear all Sudan Radio Service staff, we appreciated your role but as a voice of southern people we need your main office in Juba and its branches all over the south, no need for your office in Nairobi and you claim to be our voice. Not you alone any organization or company in the name of south Sudan must be in south the war is over we need to develop our Nation South Sudan. John Tadayo”

-John Tadayo writes from Juba requesting SRS to relocate from Nairobi to South Sudan.

“Your Programmes are very good but the Radio frequency is very high and not accessible sometimes, if possible try to connect to local FM Radios in the south. Many thanks and God bless you and your work”

-David Amule Benjamin a Librarian at Yei Crop Training Centre in Central Equatoria lauds SRS programming; he is however displeased with the frequencies and is proposing that SRS converts from a shortwave radio to broadcast on Frequency Modulation (FM)

“I am a student teacher at the National Teacher Training Institute Maridi. I got shocked when I read through the media about the death of my colleague at the University of Malakal. Therefore, I am suggesting that government should not force students to write exams on the dates which are not of their choice if the government really meant peace. DANIEL”

-Daniel Agoli writing from Maridi reacting on a story he read on the SRS website that a rioting University student in Malakal was shot dead by police during a demonstration by the students to protest against the institution's administration.

“In life, there is nothing important than allowing your kids to go to school. Whoever prevents children to go to school him/her denying their future? Many thanks to Nasir Students Association in Khartoum and to Nasir County government for addressing that issue”

-Pal Deng Mading writing from Australia reacting to a thematic program he heard on SRS on the rights of children to education.

“My suggestion is on Nuer language program on Sudan Radio Service. Why Nuer language program or news is not PUT on air daily by Sudan Radio Service. I would be grateful for your feedback. Thanks, Daniel Dak Gai Leer County-Unity State Bentiu.”

-Daniel Dak writing from Leer County in Unity state wants the Nuer Language programming hours prolonged.

"I am very much impressed by the educational program you always conduct for children. Furthermore, I've to convey my heart felt gratitude for the frequent deliverance of the CPA. However, we, the south Sudanese students here in Ethiopia are facing some political division among ourselves. Because last month the so called the students under the National Congress Party (NCP) came and talked to the students here that they were able to offer scholarships for the southern Sudanese students at different levels of education. And that came to my mind that they are campaigning for the elections right now. Hence, I am forwarding this case to be heard by the mass because this may bring differences among the southerners in the exile. I am requesting your corporation to keep my name as a secret."

- A Sudanese student at the University of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia commending SRS for airing a thematic program for children. He also appreciates SRS for transmitting issues relating to the CPA.

"Once more, my comment to your services outside the country is not nice. Why don't you people come and operate in the Southern Sudan here like others"

-John Duku Alfred an insurance worker writing from Sudan wants SRS to carry out its operations in South Sudan.

"Please my fellow south Sudanese avoid corruption, maintain peace, unity, law and order as we are waiting for the 2009 election and to be the citizens of the true South Sudanese"

-Lawrence Logira Narebo writing from Eastern Equatoria urging Southern Sudanese to refrain from corruption and to focus on the upcoming elections in 2009.

"We listeners would like to know why there is a Period of news from Sudan Radio Services on weekend. While events happen 24.7 and information flow around the World 24.7 Listeners should be updated with news 7 days a week and 24 Hours a day"

-Apaiyo Alex Ngbahda writing from Sudan wants SRS to broadcast timely news in the weekends.

"We are really delighted for the road that reached our County. We are tired of carrying the goods from Port Tayar to Ganyliel, Nyal and Payinyiar. We are going to benefit a lot because the community will get the commodities they don't produce. We suffered, how? in terms of transportation from Bentiu to Leer then to Port Adok. imagine we are paying Bus fare 20 Sudanese Pound from Bentiu to Leer then from Leer to Port at 5 Sudanese pound, yet you have not pays 40 pounds at the port to Boat owner's, despite that if you have many commodities it's a must you paid 5 pounds per a sack. If you have many you end up paying 300 pounds which is equivalent to 150 dollars. This is a huge loss to us as payinjiar traders. Now God and Government of Unity State heard our prayers, we are happy for good response from the Government. Our goods which are being taken by water will not be taken again, in case ship collide with Boat. Is there any incidents happened like the one you mentioned? yes in November ship from Juba and a boat from Port Adok collided; it led to lost many commodities. Can you remember one person who was in that incident? Yes. Yak Poul Deng was among those who lost their goods and many more others traders. Only traders faced all these? Is not even traders alone even those who are going to Bentiu or Leer for medication do suffered alot. Will you be happy if the road from Rumbek to Payinjiar reached you? that will be good to us because those from Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Congo will pass via payinjiar if they want to go to Bentiu. They will sleep in our Lodges and eat in our hotels now we will get money hence lead to development of payinjiar County. Lastly thanks to Government of Unity for that job done. SPLM Oyeee!!!!!! Thanks you very much."

-James Kai Maker writing from Payinjiar County in Unity State reacting to a story he heard on SRS that the Government of Unity State is repairing the Rumbek Payinjiar road to enable traders in the state transport their goods.