



## South Sudan Transition Initiative OTI Small Grants Program for Southern Sudan



*Pact, Inc.*

**Pact/OTI Quarterly Report #4  
(April 1-June 30, 2004)**

**SSTI** SOUTH SUDAN  
TRANSITION INITIATIVE

### **Background/Description**

On June 16, 2003 Pact signed Contract No. HDA-D-00-03-00136-00 to implement the USAID Office of Transition Initiatives program entitled “South Sudan Transition Initiative”. This two-year OTI small grants initiative focuses on promoting and supporting good governance, local-level peace initiatives, and the development of civil society. The program will support the transition from a culture of war to one of peace and good governance. Under this goal, there were three, clearly identified objectives that were revised effective June 2004. The revised objectives (now four) are as follows:

1. To restore peace among communities through support to local dialogues
2. To support the emergence of an accountable and transparent civil authority
3. To assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society
4. To increase access to quality, independent information

The Sudan context under which the SSTI program has been implemented during this reporting period has changed slightly from an environment of increasing skepticism to one of greater optimism owing to the fact that the Peace Protocols were signed by both parties on 26 May. With the signing of the protocols, Dr. John Garang had this to say: “The six protocols are the core of the peace agreement; I don’t want what happened in Anya’Nya 1 to happen again. You should read, understand and own these protocols”. While the protocols are commonly recognized as an essential next step in the process, their signing has had a double-sided effect on the Sudanese population. On the one hand, the population seems genuinely relieved to see the process moving forward and it has renewed their confidence that a comprehensive deal may be reached. On the other hand, the content of the protocols with their perceived contradictions and ambiguities (at this stage, inevitable) have raised concerns regarding the intent of the GoS and the ability of the SPLM to deliver against the high southern expectations. While the protocols are merely guidelines to a comprehensive peace, it is clear now that some areas, particularly Nuba Mountains and South Blue Nile, will not have the same options for autonomy that they felt that had negotiated with the SPLM.

From the pragmatic programming perspective, the signing of the protocols initiated an immediate shift in programming priorities. While civic education messages were on the agenda programmatically, the signing of the protocols adds renewed pressures to disseminate information quickly. In order to meet the demand of the Sudanese NGOs and people on the ground, Pact has quickly responded to the needs by shifting to a

protocol dissemination strategy through local partners. This activity will help launch an effective civic education network with full force.

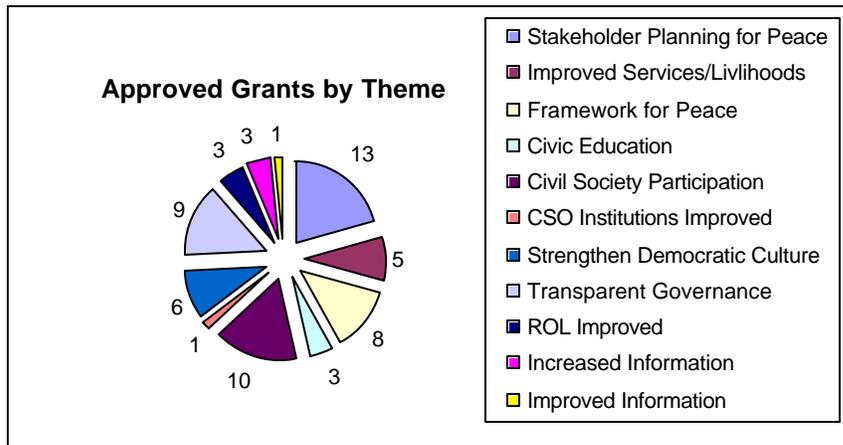
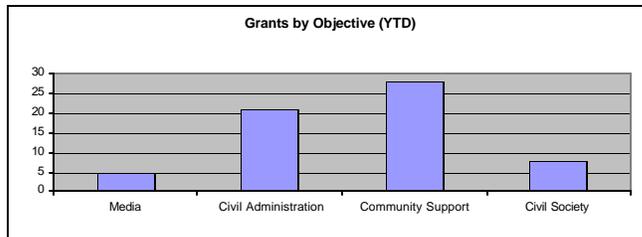
## Grant Summary

**Table 1: Proposals this Quarter**

Region	Proposal Information (this quarter)				Total Obligated This Quarter Value (USD)	Previous Totals	New Aggregate	
	Total Proposals	New	Approved /Closed	Under Review**				Rejected*
Bahr el Ghazal	22		7	3	12	\$238,637	\$ 327,773	\$566,410
Equatoria	7		3	2	5	\$164,568	\$ 117,536	\$282,104
Upper Nile	7		2	1	4	\$39,600	\$ 195,497	\$235,097
Transition Zones	1		0	1	2	\$237,063	\$ 485,139	\$722,202
National	16		4	3	9	\$203,126	\$ 512,545	\$715,671
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$882,994</b>	<b>\$ 1,638,490</b>	<b>\$2,521,484</b>

- \* Note that some of the proposals rejected in this quarter were under review in the last quarter. The total new proposals, therefore, does not necessarily equal the number of approved, reviewed or rejected proposals in any given quarter.
- \*\* Under review means that Pact is currently in discussion with the grantee, USAID, other donors or other organizations about providing support to this activity. Negotiations on some grants are extensive since time frames are difficult (especially during rains) projects are politically sensitive, proposals are poorly organized by NGOs, or USAID needs to be consulted.

## Grant Breakdown (Year to Date)



### **Activities this quarter (non-grant)**

On June 28, 2004 Pact reached the 75% threshold of the current obligation from USAID on the program. Pact put forth a request for additional obligation under the South Sudan Transition Initiative. The requested obligation of \$2,630,830 is still outstanding.

#### *Office and camp fit-out*

Offices and camps in Loki, Kapoeta, and Rumbek are complete and fully operational.

Ayod Camp- Pact has begun construction of the camp after an exploratory visit which helped to identify a location and qualified contractors. Preparations of the camp are now underway.

#### *Strategy and Systems Work*

The major emphasis on systems during this quarter was on the review and revitalization of the grant database. Several updates and formatting changes took place in this quarter to make the database more useful for the needs of USAID and the program. In addition, a serious effort was made on behalf of many parties to input even more comprehensive data on all grants in the database. All efforts will result in a completely revised and updated database within the next quarter.

In addition, Pact has made progress in terms of laying out a draft monitoring and evaluation framework for the program. With the assistance of Pact staff and a USAID consultant, the draft M&E plan is currently being evaluated and revised. A final plan will be presented for review within the next quarter. However it has to be said that this aspect still needs more energy in terms of follow-up on the ground.

#### *Staffing*

One new member of staff funded through OTI has been recruited in this quarter; James Both as Program Officer for the Upper Nile region. It is expected that with James on the ground to initiate, develop, follow-up and monitor initiatives as well as feedback learning, our programming and presence will improve in this particularly complex region of South Sudan.

### ***Grants activities in this quarter (April to June 2004)***

In this quarter, 16 grants were issued totaling \$882,994 (average of \$55,187). Activities were distributed across the four objectives of the OTI program and some of these are described below. The increase in staffing has improved the number and quality of proposals coming from the ground rather than simply through the door in Nairobi, particularly in the Equatoria region and while having additional staff does not seem to have necessarily dramatically increased the rate of grant making it has been informally observed that it does appear as though the standard of the proposals and grants has improved. This is a result and reflection of the large amount of staff time that is needed

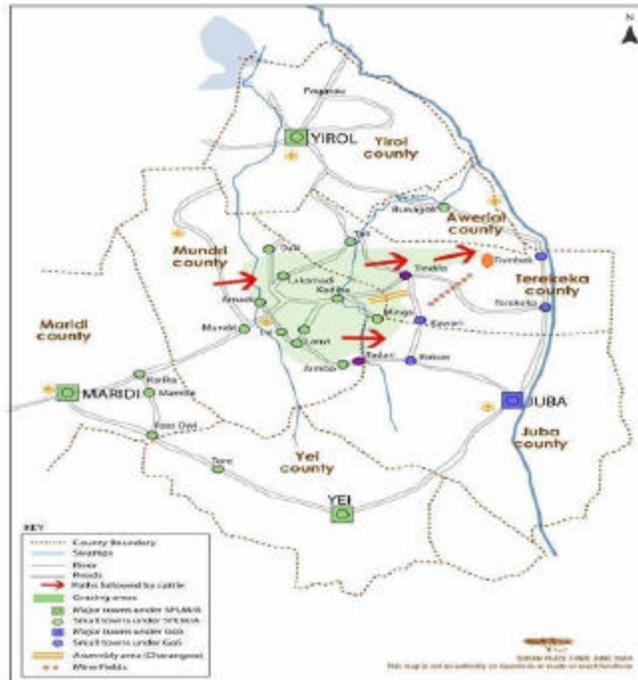
in mentoring and assistance for grantees and partners to think through the ideas that they have and ensure that there is a higher likelihood of success and reaching of objectives.

**1) To restore peace among communities through support to local dialogues**

Within the context of transition, this objective appears to be increasingly important to provide the best possibilities for longer term sustained peace in Sudan under the expected Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). There are mixed trends in conflict emerging at the local level and some feedback that we have received from staff on the ground in Equatoria and Bahr el Ghazal appear to indicate that, as prospects for peace improve, local conflict is increasing in some areas as opportunists try and amass last minute wealth by cattle raiding or attempt to 'pay back' debts of violence in a 'last chance for impunity before peace' mentality.

**JIRRST (Joint Integration Return and Rehabilitation Support Team)**

A number of different activities within a phased approach to a complex strategic intervention addressing the chronic politicized issue of the Dinka Bor IDPs in Mundri have taken place through SSTI support to the JIRRST to address a critical situation in Equatoria. Thousands of Dinka Bor fled there during the 1991 SPLM split and approximately 20,000 of these internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 62 cattle camps remained in Western Equatoria until now. Security has been deteriorating since 1994 due to their presence, exacerbated by the proliferation of small firearms and the presence of illegal armed groups. The cattle have been blamed for annual destruction of the host communities' crops and the conflict has taken on increasingly political and ethnic dimensions over time - and an increasing threat to stability even as South Sudan moves nearer to the Interim Period. Some Equatorians express resentment at their perceived unfair treatment by Dinka Bor with "approval" from very senior officials and commanders within the SPLM leadership (from Bor), and that they are using Mundri as an entry point to occupy the whole region. A number of attempts to resolve the Bor - Mundri conflict have previously failed. The current effort is seen as a final opportunity for the leadership (political and tribal) to redress long standing grievances in Mundri County and to support the peaceful and safe return and reintegration of Bor IDPs and the Bor cattle to Bor County. The Joint Team has already built the trust of many stakeholders and is committed to be on the ground to continue to facilitate positive progress in this critical program. Pact, with OTI support, has supported the transport and communications needs of the JIRRST on the ground, regular dialogues with local community leaders, establishment and training of local peace committees, regular updates to the national and international community, and the logistics support to relocate the most vulnerable IDPs onward towards Bor County, in conjunction with the cattle camps.



*Map showing movement of cattle camps back from Mundri towards Bor.*



*Photo - In the Bor Dinka Cattle Camps*

## **UNPDF- Rapid response in Akobo in Eastern Upper Nile**

*See box for further details.*

SSTI supported UNPDF to respond to a crisis involving serious, politicized conflict between the GoS supported militia group called the South Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM), the SPLM, and the 'White Army'. The Naivasha peace talks, of course, were underway at this time and a ceasefire supposedly in place. The team successfully negotiated outcomes that far exceeded expectations in terms of providing the best opportunities for a longer term peace to be brought to this troubled area

### **Key Partnership**

#### **The Upper Nile Peace and Development Foundation (UNPDF)**

Upper Nile is the region suffering from the greatest degree of instability in South Sudan owing to both North-South conflict and accompanying chronic ongoing militia fighting as well as inter-factional south-south fighting. Poor infrastructure, lack of access to vulnerable areas – the rains for 6 months of year can prevent planes, the only way in, from landing - and a very high percentage of the population living as IDPs or refugees outside of their homes have exacerbated the vulnerability of the people living here. In some areas fighting around the oilfields has displaced families more than 14 times with accompanying loss of cattle, homes and belongings. Fewer International Humanitarian Agencies, compared to other regions, operate there due to the insecurity and difficult operating environment.

The Upper Nile Peace and Development Foundation is one of few capable indigenous NGOs operating in the Upper Nile Region. UNPDF has a very strong membership, including key politicians and other stakeholders currently living in the Diaspora in Nairobi. The agency is key in assisting international and donor organizations in providing services to many Upper Nile communities. Their role includes not only communicating with communities and civil administration on the ground, but they are also well placed to mitigate many of the conflicts that are still ongoing in the region.

An example of this was clearly seen in June when an invading force from the GoS supported South Sudan Liberation Movement (SSLM) entered Akobo Town in Eastern Upper Nile to overtake the SPLM administration and take over the seat of authority. The SPLM/A made a rapid decision to withdraw from the town in order to avoid engaging in active warfare in the middle of the peace talks. While the invasion was relatively quiet (only minor cases of looting were reported), an opposing force of SPLA and the so called '*white army*' quickly organized themselves just north of town in preparation for a counter-attack aimed at dislodging the SSLM from the town. Community leaders and tribal elders were able to mitigate tensions sufficiently to open the door wide enough to solicit help from outside agencies. A formal request from the community was put forth to the Upper Nile Peace and Development Foundation (UNPDF) to intervene in the case and identify a peaceful way forward.

In response to this request, the SSTI supported the UNPDF to send out a thirteen member Crisis Rapid Response Team to Akobo town on June 18, 2004. The team was able to peacefully bring together community elders, chiefs, SSLM and SPLM/A representatives, members of the '*white army*', key stakeholders and church leaders to discuss the situation surrounding Akobo Town. At this intervention, the key militant groups in the region; the SPLA, SSLM and '*white army*', were able to unanimously agree that they will join together under one umbrella, the SPLA, and work together to defend and protect Akobo Town. In addition, the team successfully negotiated the signature of the *Akobo Peace Declaration* on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June (the complete Declaration is printed in the SSTI supported South Sudan Post—July edition) in which all sides unanimously agreed to no longer accept arms from northern sources hoping to create division in the south, to unite under the common flag of the SPLM and to collaborate in the future to protect the town of Akobo jointly.

### **HARD- Mapel rapid response**

A Cross line Peace, Reconciliation and Recovery Conference for the Sudanic – Luo communities in Western Bahr el Ghazal had been proposed by an appointed Organizing Committee and preparations were ongoing since March 2004. The potential complications related to the cross line aspects, including security concerns, precluded further planning without confirmation on the ground of a full understanding and commitment from key stakeholders, including with SPLM and GoS officials. Therefore, SSTI agreed to support a survey team comprised of five members of the Organizing

Committee to ensure these issues were fully addressed before finalization of the conference plans. Four members were mobilized to southern Sudan, two to Mapel and two to Mabia in Tumburo. One member (committee chairperson) went to Khartoum, all in early July.

**DMR HCOC: Dinka, Misiriya, Rezeigat (DMR) High Conference Organizing Committee meeting – Nairobi April 12 – 17.**

The Nairobi meeting brought together four senior Dinka (2), Misiriya (1) and Rezeigat (1) leaders, 4 civil society representatives (2 from the GoS, and 2 from SPLM areas) and 2 representatives each from GoS and the SPLM to advance the process of community reconciliation between these major ethnic groups which was seen to offer significant influence on the future success of the SPLM – GoS Peace process. The meeting achieved a number of its key objectives, and was noteworthy for the excellent cooperation and effort contributed from all the committee members. The ToRs for the HCOC were agreed, as were a number of key issues related to the planning for an anticipated DMR Grass Roots conference. These included objectives and expected outputs, participation, ownership, facilitation plan (partially outlined), dates and agenda, conference management, information management and resource mobilization. However, the selection and agreement of a venue for the proposed Grass Roots Conference was unable to be reached, as it was agreed by the Tribal Delegations that this required agreement at the political level. A small group of HCOC members were authorized to remain following the conclusion of the HCOC meeting, to follow up with the GoS and SPLM, and to complete the proposal and resource mobilization plans but only once a venue was agreed. It was expected that a decision would be forthcoming from Naivasha in a matter of 2 or 3 days following the conclusion of the HCOC Meeting, but this was not achieved. The HCOC prepared a contingency plan so that the spirit and urgency of cross border dialogue continues until such times as a peace meeting is convened.

The Tribal groups proposed that they would immediately plan and implement cross border exchange visits and meetings, as well as completing previously agreed awareness raising and dissemination of information concerning the DMR Dialogue to the grass roots, and other stakeholders. It was agreed that SPF, OTI, UNDP and other donors would be approached immediately for financial support for these low profile and discreet activities.

**ACAD- DMR Peace Conference Follow – Up and Preparatory Meetings** – On going dialogue and negotiations between the High Conference Organizing Committee members, representing the GoS and SPLM concerns, the Dinka on both sides of the political divide, and the Rezeigat and Misiriya were facilitated by SSTI to continue to advance planning and ensure commitment to the grass roots conference agreed at the HCOC meeting in Nairobi in April 2004. This included a visit to Rumbek to brief senior SPLM members on the progress to date, regular engagement with the leaders in Naivasha to highlight expectations of a site selection for the grass roots conference, and the facilitation of preparation of two research documents to support the reconciliation process. A third component under this grant – a cross border meeting of chiefs representing Misiriya and Dinka Ngok – was unable to be fully organized prior to the rains and remains to be completed.

**BYDA – DMR Peace and Reconciliation Dialogue – Follow up and Preparatory Meetings:** 25 senior Rezeigat leaders, representing their Darfur and Khartoum constituencies, were mobilized to meet with 15 Dinka Mulaul chiefs at the border area between South Darfur and northern Bahr el Ghazal. The meeting was constrained by rains and serious difficulties of both parties to reach the agreed locations on the agreed timeframe, but this was overcome by tenacious commitment to this historic opportunity for the chiefs to meet. The previous cross line meeting had been last held in 1984. The meeting was observed by enthusiastic citizens, who were clearly encouraged by the demonstration of commitment to community reconciliation, and endorsement of the process by the SPLM and the GoS. Agreement was made on a number of issues, including the commitment to holding a comprehensive grass roots conference, common customary laws and access to justice, including possibility of a joint native court, and protection and sharing of natural resources for joint benefit and peaceful co-existence.

## **2) To support the emergence of an accountable and transparent civil authority**

In this quarter, Pact increased support to SPLM Civil Administration through four grants focusing on strengthening local governance. Support to:

### **The British Council - Developing a Local Governance Framework**

Good local governance is of course critical for the future of South Sudan and, within the context of historical underdevelopment and civil war over the past 20 years, establishing the basis of local government that will fulfill the aspirations of the people in terms of accountability, transparency and participation from such a low baseline (no framework currently exists) is very difficult. Comprehension of the principles and opportunities involved in a 'modern' model of local government is also low, simply because they are not within the experience of anybody! In January 2004, the SPLM established a Local Governance Technical Team to develop such a framework. This team of ten has been supported by UNDP and Pact/SSTI. The SSTI grant to the British Council has provided experienced technical assistance focusing on close accompaniment and mentoring in developing this critical framework. The working relationships with the team developed by the consultants involved has been excellent and allowed rapid development in terms of learning and an opening up to new ideas and concepts to occur. The skills of these experienced facilitators (Mr Paul Lundberg and Mr Rob Mellors) have been fundamental in its success so far. Sensitivities around external support, advice and its form have often marred the effectiveness of such initiatives as the SPLM journey from being a guerilla military liberation movement to a functioning civil government, within the necessity of a mind-bogglingly short period of time.

### **Transition Areas (Nuba Mountains, Abyei and the Funj) support to the Civil Administration**

Within the context of the particular difficulties that the transition areas were experiencing in their negotiations with the protocols it was felt to be important by USAID to provide a clear indication of support to the civil authorities. Therefore discussions were held with the civil authorities in each region along with their major NGO partners ROOF, ACAD,

NRRDO and the relevant Policy Advisory Committees (PACs) to see what the most immediate practical needs were in each area despite lack of clarity on final structures, and forms of local government. These initiatives and needs were clearly reflective of the different unique contexts in each of the three areas. Thus an emphasis in Nuba on construction of offices was apparent while in South Blue Nile (Funj) and Abyei the emphasis was more towards training of administrators. The advent of the rainy season and access to Nuba and SBN has complicated and hampered the implementation of these projects that are conceived within the light of being *initial* activities in a developing longer term framework.

### **ACAD-Abyei Development Roadmap planning**

Through a number of actors; Community Development Committee (CDC), the Civil Administration, the intellectual and academics) increasing pressure was being presented to Pact SSTI to support a planning process to guide the recovery and development needs of Abyei. The other two contested areas (Nuba Mountains and Funj) were seen to be well advanced in this process, with ongoing support from USAID consultants to their PACs compared to Abyei. However, Pact had continued to advise that the best use of time and resources would be to plan a two phased approach which would be based on a political reality (the protocols) rather than a more theoretical approach. When the Protocol on Abyei was signed, immediate actions by Pact / SSTI were taken to move the process forward, commencing with finalization of plans for a non resident Abyei Development Road Map workshop. Resource persons were commissioned to prepare guiding documents under ten main themes, including education, agriculture, relations with neighbors, economic activities, etc, in preparation for the actual workshop in July - Plans were also advanced to take the output of the nonresident workshop to Abyei County, to fully engage with the grassroots and local authorities.

### **MRDA- Mundri Socio Economic Development Workshop**

Emerging from recent increased tension between the Mundri host community and the IDP cattle owners from Bor, Upper Nile region, the Mundri community was eager to begin planning for long term development in light of decreasing tension, now that the cattle have begun a return process to Bor County. The community leaders and chiefs put together a comprehensive proposal for multi-sector planning that included a meeting of the intellectuals with community leaders in Mundri. The conference successfully discussed topics such as micro-enterprise development, improvement of basic services (such as health and education), and improved/increased agricultural practices. The conference participants were also able to begin to consider issues of reconciliation with the IDPs from Bor, despite recurrent conflicts between the two communities. Together, the tribal elders and community intellectuals were able to develop a comprehensive planning matrix which identified roles and responsibilities and set development priorities for the county.

### **ROOF, ACAD, NRRDO- Dissemination of the protocols in the Transition Areas**

*See below case study for details.* These groups supported the SPLM Regional Secretaries and their negotiation teams to return to their regions in order to explain and discuss the peace protocols before returning to negotiate the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in

Naivasha. In each area, the Chairman and Commander in Chief of the SPLM/A and other senior leaders joined the Regional Secretaries in presenting the Protocols, to crowds of thousands of local residents. In each of the three areas, the program plan included participation of area residents from the GoS controlled areas. These aspects were severely challenged and restricted by the GoS, in spite of initial agreements at the highest level to facilitate movements of key actors in GoS areas to participate in the dissemination meetings. UNDP and the Norwegian MFA also provided additional financial support through Pact towards the implementation of this project, and relied on SSTI for organizational, logistics, administration management.

### **NSSC and the Chief's Meeting at Makuac**

Civil authorities and traditional leaders have all recognized that the Lakes region of Bahr el Ghazal has been suffering from a crisis of law and order in which increasing escalations of violence have emerged in the form of inter and intra-ethnic conflict resulting from the consistent breakdown of social rule combined with weak governance structures in the region. This particular conflict has resulted in the death of more than three hundred people (estimates provided by the community and Regional Authorities). In 2000, the regional authorities constituted a 'special court' in order to respond to this long-standing conflict by sending a judge directly into the communities. However the trial was not completed due to a variety of reasons involving confusion and mismanagement by the different actors including the military. Lack of justice and non-resolution of the cases exacerbated the situation creating further havoc and loss of life. More recent attempts to stabilize the region include many peace and recovery dialogues including one between the Judiciary and Civil Society in April 2003. Throughout, stakeholders have identified the weakness of the judiciary and the lack of response by Regional Authorities as a cause of conflict in the sub-region. SSTI became involved in order to support and strengthen the legitimacy of local governance and rule of law institutions so that peace may have increased chances to prevail. In late April, SSTI supported the Judiciary and Regional authorities to conduct a rapid assessment and engage the communities in discussions on next steps. The constant lament heard on the ground was captured by Elder Ayol Kombai who said: "The time has come for the government to intervene, why did you neglect us for so long?" The conclusion was that a conference be convened where the chiefs would sign a truce, overseen by the Regional Authorities and the Judiciary. The significance of this intervention as a platform for action by the Regional Authorities



**Chiefs from the Rek Jalwau tribe arriving for the meeting watched by potential future leaders!**

and the Judiciary in this troubled area cannot be underestimated. The objectives of preventing further escalation and the fuelling of conflict; allowing free movement of civilians between adjoining counties; ensuring a credible and professional response from the Regional Authorities and Judiciary; ensuring community support for future judicial processes strengthening rule of law and establishing a pilot conflict early warning system were very successfully met. In fact there was a small cattle-raiding incident at a border point during the peace meeting and a side discussion took place immediately on how all the parties would respond. Following its conclusion a team including the county commissioners and the chiefs immediately went together to address the problem and ensured the return of the cattle and brought the youth on board with the newly agreed commitment to peace and non violent resolution of conflict.

With such an enormous geographic spread and immense needs in South Sudan, the SSTI program has been concentrating on identifying opportunities like the one above for supporting initiatives that can have significant impact in demonstrating change to the status quo within the transition context. It is thus expected that these interventions will provide hope, models for replication and importantly catalytic characteristics in building momentum for positive change.



**The senior chiefs from the tribes of Agar Pakam, Rek Jalwau and the Ngok raising hands with NSCC facilitator Awut Deng publicly pledging commitment to making peace between them .**



**Women dancing, in celebration after the peace truce is signed.**

## **Case Study: Dissemination of Peace Protocols in the Transition Areas**

In contrast to the broader dissemination program being planned through civil society, this intervention was specifically aimed at supporting the civil authorities and SPLM Regional Secretaries to go back to their respective peoples and explain what had been happening at the Naivasha. The three areas have unique situations within the peace negotiations given their geographic locations, political status and the reality that in the event of a signed comprehensive peace agreement, they will be directly under the jurisdiction of the Unity Government of Sudan in the north rather than the Government of South Sudan as they had wished.

In this context it was particularly important for the leaders to have the opportunity to face the people and discuss the meaning and issues arising from the discussions before returning to negotiate the final Comprehensive Peace Agreement on behalf of their people.

One of the interesting aspects in the Nuba Mountains, in particular, is the situation whereby the leaders do not move forward without a mandate from the people. There are democratic mechanisms that exist (such as the Leadership council, Regional Congress) and significantly are working compared to other regions in the south where there may be little or no reference to the people in terms of discussion, participation and accountability.

The difficulties in realizing this program were:

- To balance realistic coverage and opportunity for each of the Regional Secretaries to meet with as many people from as many localities in their regions as possible in a very short period of time and allow maximum involvement and participation (maximum of 3 weeks before the reconvening of the Naivasha talks). At the same time to be mindful of the cost involved in achieving this end given that flying (chartering) in the Nuba is the only way to get about.
- To respond to possible challenges from other SPLM leaders in the South to be supported in similar exercises that would not have resulted in the same degree of participation of the people or reflect the accountability of the leadership.
- The tensions involved in supporting the NGOs rather than the SPLM themselves to ensure the success of the program. This mechanism is a two-edged sword. On the one hand SSSI is working with 'known quantities' and tried relationships that understand how we work. This enables the program to go ahead as smoothly as is possible in the South Sudan context as the NGOs are practiced in program implementation. On the other hand the perception that Pact/SSSI has a bias against the SPLM and authorities and does not trust them by apparently 'only' working with civil society groups exacerbates these misperceptions and ironically, given that the program is directly supporting their objectives, continues to cast doubt on the strength of the relationship.
- The enormous challenges of simply organizing the logistics of support in these cases in such a short period of time – a matter of days rather than weeks puts immense strain on Pact systems as well as partners abilities!

### **3) To assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society**

#### **GRDF supported by World Vision - Gogrial Conference**

The Gogrial Counties Conference brought together more than 300 people for five days from May 12 – 19 at Ayuung, also known as Malual Angui Bot, the capital of Gogrial Payam to discuss the Sudan peace process, grassroots reconciliation and conflict prevention, good governance and the rule of law. Stakeholders from many different groups attended the conference from throughout Gogrial West and Gogrial East Counties including local community members, chiefs, spearmasters, youth, women, internally displaced persons, county leadership, as well as diaspora representatives. The purpose of the Gogrial conference was to provide an opportunity to review, reflect and plan for peace building, civic awareness through civic education, good governance and the rule of law in the Gogrial Counties. It also provided a forum to collectively deliberate on mechanisms for addressing weak governance institutions and the resolution of local conflicts, clearing the way for plans to improve good governance practices through

proper training to the concerned sectors of the society. The conference was plagued by the usual difficulties in conducting such events including; debates over the legitimacy of the partner organization, disputes over assets (Pact is considering writing a paper entitled 'The role of plastic chairs in conflict and governance in South Sudan'!), authorities debating over their roles and so on. Despite a bumpy start, it was a very positive opportunity for dialogue and discussion among stakeholders, especially inasmuch as it allowed all to engage very openly with county leadership challenging them on their role and performance. Its potential success will in the end depend on the ability of those mandated to implement the resolutions derived in the conference plenary and this too will depend on the ability of SSTI to support these follow-up activities.



**Gogrial Conference delegates**

### **Twic Mayardit Peace and Reconciliation Conference – Conference Organizing Committee:**

SSTI supported f the Twic Mayardit Peace and development Conference which was held between 13<sup>th</sup> –19<sup>th</sup> May 2004 at Turalei, Twic County of Bahr El Ghazal Region. The SPLM/A Deputy Chairman and Chief of General staff **Cdr. Salva Kiir Mayardit** officially opened the conference which was attended by most Twic Mayardit dignitaries sons, some whom traveled from North Sudan (Khartoum), Yei, Rumbek and from the Twic County six Payams (Akoc, Pannyok, Wunrok, Turalei, Aweng and Ajak Kuac), and other delegates from the Diaspora (Nairobi, Uganda, London and USA). Delegates from London and USA covered expenses of their own travel to Nairobi and back. Special efforts were exerted by SSTI and Pact to facilitate approvals for overland travel of Twic IDPs from Khartoum to Turalei, which was assisted by the progress in the DMR dialogue process.

The overall objective of the Twic Mayardit conference was to create a gathering of communities to promote sustainable peaceful coexistence and development amongst the Twic communities and between them and their neighbors. The decision to organize the conference was made by a call from the grass root for a need to address Governance, Administration and development planning in the county, unity and relations amongst the Twic community and between them and the neighboring communities. The conflicts of

SPLA factions, Arab Misiriya raiding, grazing and Abindau Peace market issues were the concern for communities' peaceful coexistence.

The Twic Mayardit Peace and Development conference was eagerly being awaited by the community, hence the registration of the official delegates was 444 instead of the 250 originally planned for, and with local participation, the average daily attendance exceeded 800, due to high interest in this long awaited event. Although the number over exceeded the actual proposed number, the local authority and community managed to absorb the extra delegates with the assistance of TMCOC management. Resolutions concerning the way forward on a number of key issues emerged from heated and concerted debate and dialogue.

**Community Based Water Management Training – PARAD and AMA:** Two national NGOs based in Upper Nile were supported for training and equipping of Trainers to facilitate empowerment and training of communities to be more self-reliant related to local water supply. Following the training provided through Pact and Rural Focus, the national NGOs were able to mobilize community committees to contribute to construction of water resources (bricks, sand, and water), clearing roads for access, and establishing and training water management committees. These committees were exposed to hygiene and health awareness issues related to potable water, and passed on knowledge to communities. A substantial output was a locally appropriate manual on water management, operation and maintenance, which will be widely circulated and used in future Pact and other NGO water programs. The perspectives and experience of national NGO partners of SSTI are also channeled through Pact's involvement in the Working Group on Water for south Sudan, to advice and enhance the SPLM policy environment around water issues.

#### **4) To increase access to quality, independent information**

In this quarter, the ongoing activity with the **Sudan Development Trust** consisting of the 3 month training of 25 media professionals was completed with 22 members "graduating" with a certificate from the African Council for Community Education (ACCE). The ACCE training was very well coordinated and organized and Pact is in further discussions with the organization to determine whether additional trainings can be carried out.

In addition, the **Sudan Development Trust** expanded their activities in media. Exploratory meetings with Pax Christi have led to the possibility of SDT taking over a short-wave radio operating in Yei. These conversations will continue through the next quarter.

Pact also increased collaboration this quarter on a number of fronts with OTI supported Sudan Radio Service (SRS) Pact and SRS are working very closely on the dissemination of the Peace Protocols. Within the South Sudan context of high illiteracy rates, oral methodologies for communicating messages and information are critical. Dissemination strategies will include written materials, discussion groups and radio programs designed

to catalyze conversation. Pact is also working with SRS to design a media monitoring and evaluation framework for media activities in the south to assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society.

*Grant activities anticipated for the following quarter (see attachment A - weekly tracking chart)*

**Peace:**

- New approaches being developed in Equatoria regarding the use of ‘mini-conferences’ rather than larger scale ones to broaden community participation and consensus on local conflict analysis.

**Civic Education:**

- A major and ground-breaking program disseminating the Peace Protocols by civil society groups under the umbrella of the National Working Group for Civic Education. This will be key in assisting the defining of space for civil society to operate as well as the understanding of roles between government and civil society.

**Rule of Law**

- It is hoped that initial grants with the South Sudan Law Society will be built upon to consider how we can develop a positive and more comprehensive, strategic approach to supporting their crucial work as a critical civil society organization.
- Follow-up to the Makuac chiefs’ meeting with support to the Regional Authorities and the Judiciary (the special courts).

**Governance support:**

- Development of a pilot land-use project - Kapoeta Consultative Town Planning.
- Continued support to the British Council program described above.
- A pilot opportunity for modeling Natural Resource Management at the community level to broader conflict and governance issues.

**IDP Support:**

- Continued support to the highly political, complex and crucial Bor Dinka IDP return program.

**Gender:**

- Support to the League of Women’s Leaders, developing opportunities and space for women to discuss the peace protocols, be exposed to how women developed their role in government and society in other regional countries.
- Leadership training for Women in Equatoria – looking at how to improve women’s participation and potential for change in gender roles at the grass-roots level.

**Media:**

- Pact is continuing to support the Sudan Mirror to serve as the only southern Sudan focused print media with such an expansive outreach. Additional training and support services are anticipated in the upcoming timeframe.
- Use of media in developing HIV/AIDS messages with ARC
- Continued discussions with AET on how to develop appropriate models of listening groups, radio distributions in the South Sudan.

***Nairobi Staff Travel this quarter (April-June 2004)***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dates of Travel</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Luca Venza	May 18-28	Mundri	Mundri Socio Economic Conference and Bor-Mundri Joint Task Force evaluation visit
Simon Richards	May 24-28	Makuac	Chiefs Conference
Paul Murphy	May 24-28	Makuac	Chiefs Conference
Marv Koop	May 8-21	Rumbek, nBeG, Turalei	IDP returnees, Twic Conference, Monitoring Water Activities

***Projected travel for Nairobi staff in coming quarter (July-September 2004)***

Travel prospects are always a mix between responding to issues that need addressing urgently in the field to unblock obstacles, resolve political problems, or encourage particularly important initiatives and ensuring sensible geographical coverage and understanding of the issues on the ground. Therefore it is expected that the travel in the next quarter outlined below will be of this latter – more routine type. ‘Emergency Travel’ cannot be projected but will of course be reported in the next quarter.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Bill Polidoro	September 20-25	Kapoeta, Kimatong, Riwoto, Narus	Monitor grants, discuss proposals, support program staff
Ines Krauth	July	Bahr El Ghazal, Rumbek, Cuie bet	Monitor grants, discuss proposals, support program staff
Simon Richards	September 20-25	Kapoeta, Kimatong, Riwoto, Narus	Monitor grants, discuss proposals, support program staff
Fred LeGregam	September 1-10	Various (BeG and UN)	Monitor water activities in BeG and Upper Nile

**Problems requiring addressing**

On June 28, 2004 Pact reached the 75% threshold of the current obligation from USAID on the program. Pact put forth a request for additional obligation under the South Sudan Transition Initiative. The request for an additional obligation of 2,630,830 has not yet received a response.