

# USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

January 2003

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## Program Description

### *Program Goals and Objectives*

OTI's goal in southern Sudan is to strengthen the foundation for peace and development. To support this goal, OTI's objectives are to expand access to balanced, independent information in local languages; increase the number of local and international conflict resolution experts available in vulnerable areas; and strengthen accountable and transparent governance structures.

Each one of the proposed activities for southern Sudan complements those currently underway or planned by the USAID Southern Sudan Mission. While the Mission's activities in the past were focused primarily on the overwhelming humanitarian needs of southern Sudanese, the overall USG strategy is increasingly directed at the key, underlying social, political, and economic problems that constrain long-term stability and growth. OTI's program in southern Sudan will conduct activities in the following areas:

- **Establish Independent Southern Sudan Media:** Widespread access to balanced, independent, local language information may make the most significant near term impact on the lives of southern Sudanese, in part because the lack of human capacity, which is the result of minimal access to education, is a serious hindrance to the successful implementation of many other humanitarian and development programs. Given the high levels of illiteracy, radio is the most effective vehicle for relaying information about the community, education and training, and bringing to people's attention issues related to governance, the role of civil society in building a civic culture, and news about the peace process.
- **Provide Rapid, Flexible Conflict Resolution Mechanism and Tangible Peace Dividends:** Despite the numerous instances of people-to-people peace initiatives, many of them significant, there remain many areas in southern Sudan where local tensions endure and could erupt into violence. While a comprehensive and just peace settlement should remain the ultimate goal for Sudan, support for southern peace processes is crucial to the continued development of southern Sudan. Proposed OTI activities in this area will include timely transport of respected local and international conflict resolution experts to areas vulnerable to conflict, and the provision of tangible peace dividends to bring communities together to secure local level peace agreements.
- **Foster Demand for Good Governance:** Initial OTI efforts to improve governance and strengthen the relationship between leaders and citizens will have two components: supporting the development of the rule of law by increasing the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary; and, increasing public demand for government accountability and transparency through support to local non-governmental organizations and other civil society organizations.

## Country Situation

The civil war in Sudan has lasted at least 19 years, and has caused immense human misery -- the death of two million people, bombing and displacement of as many as four million civilians, and trading in human beings as slaves. The countryside has been devastated and the needs are enormous including infrastructure of all sorts, a job base, continued humanitarian relief until development activities can take hold, and governance and civil society development.

On July 20, 2002, the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) signed the Machakos Protocol agreeing that a military solution is neither viable nor desirable. The framework peace agreement, formulated under the auspices of the regional Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), includes broad agreement that the issues of the right of self-determination for the south, and the relationship between church and state must be resolved. Other issues of concern include sharing of power and wealth, and resolution of concerns in the Nuba Mountains, Abiye, and Southern Blue Nile.

In January 2003, government-backed southern militias conducted an offensive in the Western Upper Nile oilfields of southern Sudan, which demonstrated the fragility of the peace process. On February 4, 2003 in Karen, Kenya a

strengthened cessation of hostilities agreement was signed. The Addendum to the cease-fire agreement specifically called on the Government to halt construction of a contentious oil-area road; and by both sides to pull back forces to the locations they occupied prior to the signing of the original cease-fire. The Civilian Protection Monitoring Mechanism (CPMM) will monitor and verify the cessation of hostilities.

Two days later, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed which codified points of agreement on outstanding issues of power and wealth sharing. These issues are now being debated at Machakos. The February 6, 2003 MOU also stated that complete agreement had been reached on a constitutional review process, the independent and national institutions to be established, and the undertaking of a national referendum before elections in six years' time, and that significant agreement had been reached on the structure of government entities. The next several months will be decisive for the peace process. President Bush is required to report to the U.S. Congress by April 21, 2003 on the state of progress in the IGAD sponsored negotiations.

## Highlights

### A. Narrative Summary

In November 2002, USAID/OTI reported to Congress its proposed program for southern Sudan, which was based on the recommendations of August and September 2002 USAID/OTI assessment trips. It was determined that the improving political landscape occasioned by the Sudan Peace Act and the resultant Machakos protocol agreement signaled an important opportunity to engage OTI transition assistance. Since November OTI has deployed a series of teams to begin implementing the program, working with the USAID REDSO office in Nairobi on the administrative aspects of the program set-up, and participating in the Sudan Integrated Strategic Plan (ISP) process.

### B. Grant Activity

One of OTI's initial activities was a \$102,000 grant to the British NGO Christian Aid to help sponsor the All-Nuba Conference. From December 2 to 5, 2003 some 380 representatives from a broad spectrum of Nuban civil and political society gathered in Kauda, Sudan. Participants came from across Sudan with nearly 40 % coming from areas under the control of the Government of Sudan. Others traveled from Europe and North America to attend and a number of international facilitators, journalists, and observers, including representatives from the Norwegian Foreign Affairs Department, the Carter Center, and the Joint Military Commission (JMC), were present.

The key outcomes of the Conference were:

- Unequivocal commitment of the SPLM/A leadership to the centrality of the Nuba Mountains Region (and South Blue Nile and Abyei) in all on-going peace process negotiations;
- Dissolution of all four Nuba political parties and formation of one new "United Sudan National Party" (USNP), under the Presidency of Bishop Phillip Abbas and the vice-presidencies;
- Endorsement of the IGAD process as the means to negotiate a just and secure peace for the Regions of Nuba Mountains, Southern Blue Nile and Abyei, but only as part of a comprehensive settlement for the whole of Sudan;
- Clear mandate given by the Conference to the SPLM/A to negotiate on behalf of the Nuba people in the IGAD peace process, and for the new USNP to play an active role in all such negotiations;
- Strong recommendation for the unambiguous alignment of the Nuba people with the SPLM/A during the interim period as the only means to create the opportunity for a democratic and unimpeded process of self-determination;
- Strong commitment of all participants to an on-going process of unification among the Nuba people aimed at further developing both their shared vision of a just future and their capability of achieving it.

Additional resolutions were generated that sought to articulate the essential conditions of a just and secure peace settlement for the Nuba people and the guiding principles for the future of a united Nuban society. The Conference illustrated the importance of enabling a broad cross section of Nuba civil society to come together to discuss issues about their future openly and transparently. This experience contributed to the momentum for people-led political processes as a means of promoting change.

A second early activity was an assessment of the media programming options for Southern Sudan, which was conducted by a team from the Educational Development Center Inc (EDC). As a result of the assessment the decision was made to fund a radio service using a USAID/Democracy and Governance Leadership Cooperative Award. The radio-programming component should be in place by April 2003.

## Next Steps/Immediate Priorities

OTI is in the process of selecting an organization to be its implementing partner in Southern Sudan. The organization will administer a small grants program focused on conflict resolution and strengthening governance at all levels. OTI also is in the process of hiring a Country Representative who should be in place by April.

Getting the radio station up and running, including the mechanics of equipment procurement, staffing, and the development of the initial programming, will consume much of OTI's efforts for the next several months. An implementation team from Washington is expected

# USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

February 2003

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## Program Description

Since 1983, an estimated two million Sudanese have died as a result of the protracted conflict, drought and famine. In the past year, however, several positive developments within Sudan have occurred, providing new opportunities to finally resolve Africa's longest war and move the country to a lasting peace. In addition to several successful local level people-to-people peace processes, the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Southern Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) appear on the verge of a peace agreement for which significant high-level U.S. government engagement is credited. OTI plans to link ongoing southern Sudanese peace processes and peace-building efforts to initiatives that promote good governance practices to increase the participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. OTI's program focuses on critical transition issues in Southern Sudan, such as increasing access to balanced information, promoting good governance, providing conflict resolution expertise in areas vulnerable to violence, and supporting people-to-people peace processes.

OTI's program in south Sudan conducts activities in the following areas:

- **Independent Southern Sudan Media:** Given the high levels of illiteracy, radio is the most effective vehicle for relaying information about the community, education and training, and for conveying information related to governance and the peace process. As a result, OTI will help establish media outlets in Southern Sudan.
- **Conflict Resolution Mechanism and Tangible Peace Dividends:** Proposed OTI activities in this area will include timely transport of respected local and international conflict resolution experts to areas vulnerable to conflict, and the provision of tangible peace dividends to bring communities together to secure local level peace agreements.
- **Good Governance:** Initial OTI efforts to improve governance and strengthen the relationship between leaders and citizens will have two components: supporting the development of the rule of law by increasing the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary, and increasing support to local non-governmental organizations.

## COUNTRY SITUATION

Government-backed southern militias conducted an offensive in Upper Nile, capturing the city of Akobo, killing twenty individuals and threatening the on-going peace negotiations between the SPLM and the GOS. In response, a strengthened cessation of hostilities agreement was signed by both parties. The Addendum to the original cease-fire agreement specifically called on the Government to halt construction of a contentious oil-area road, and on both sides to pull back forces to the locations they occupied prior to the signing of the original cease-fire. The Civilian Protection Monitoring Team (CPMT) will monitor and verify the cessation of hostilities.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which codified points of agreement on outstanding issues of power and wealth sharing, was signed on February 6, 2003. The MOU stated that complete agreement had been reached on a constitutional review process, the establishment of independent and national institutions, and the undertaking of a national referendum before elections are held in six years, and that significant agreement had been reached on the structure of government entities. As part of the MOU, both sides to the conflict agreed to report on any changes in troop movement and military positions that took place after October 17, 2002, the date of the cease-fire agreement, and to negotiate based on the positions held at that time.

In Western Darfur, a new rebel group, the Front for the Liberation of Darfur (FLD) attacked government positions and seized control of a provincial capital. Little is known about the group, although its stated goal is to eradicate the injustice and marginalization of Darfur. The effect of the new rebel movement on the on-going peace talks remains unclear, although the Sudanese government disavowed the group, characterizing its members as "not rebels but bandits" in statements to the press.

The next round of talks are scheduled to start again on March 4, with the disputed transitional areas of Abyei, Nuba Mountains, and Southern Blue Nile leading the agenda. While considered part of the geographic north of Sudan, these areas remain marginalized from Khartoum and have identified with the south's struggle. The Government of Sudan has stated on prior occasions that the final status of these transitional areas cannot be addressed in the IGAD peace process. On March 22, the negotiations will shift emphasis to the power and wealth-sharing arrangements of

an agreement. Hopes remain high that a negotiated settlement will be reached by June. Chief mediator Kenyan General Lazaro Sumbeiywo remarked in February that "...peace in the Sudan is within reach."

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **A. Narrative Summary**

During February, OTI remained busy with start-up activities for the Sudan program. A three-person team deployed to Nairobi to initiate activities for the OTI Sudan program. The team worked with the USAID/REDSO Mission in Nairobi to establish offices. Given the current security situation in Sudan, it is not possible for USAID to open offices within south Sudan. As a result, the OTI team will be based in Nairobi with the expectation to travel into Sudan as much as possible. The team also met with other international organizations, potential local partners, donors, and Sudanese stakeholders to discuss opportunities to collaborate on programming.

OTI staff, both in the field and in Washington, also worked on finalizing the procurement of an implementing partner to establish a radio service for south Sudan. The Fall 2002 USAID/OTI assessment team determined that a lack of access to information in southern Sudan, particularly regarding the on-going national peace process, remains a significant problem.

OTI also participated in the USAID Sudan program Integrated Strategic Planning (ISP) process in February. The strategy will emphasize improving governance, providing support to the peaces process, enhancing food security, and expanding access to basic social services in the health and education sectors in Sudan. OTI programming will support and jumpstart some of the activities envisioned under USAID's longer-term strategic objectives.

## **NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES**

OTI continues work on contracting an implementing partner for its small grants program in Southern Sudan. The organization will administer a small grants program focused on conflict resolution and strengthening governance at all levels. OTI is also in the process of hiring a permanent Country Representative who should be in Nairobi by April. OTI's media implementing partner, Educational Development Center, will deploy a team to start the radio service in April 2003.

# USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

March 2003

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## Program Description

Since 1983, an estimated two million Sudanese have died as a result of the protracted conflict, drought and famine. In the past year, however, several positive developments within Sudan have occurred, providing new opportunities to finally resolve Africa's longest war and move the country to a lasting peace. In addition to several successful local level people-to-people peace processes, the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) appear on the verge of a peace agreement for which significant high-level U.S. government engagement is credited. OTI plans to link ongoing southern Sudanese peace processes and peace-building efforts to initiatives that promote good governance practices to increase the participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. OTI's program focuses on critical transition issues in southern Sudan, such as increasing access to balanced information, promoting good governance, providing conflict resolution expertise in areas vulnerable to violence, and supporting people-to-people peace processes.

OTI's program in southern Sudan supports activities in the following focus areas:

- **Independent Southern Sudan Media:** Given the high levels of illiteracy, radio is the most effective vehicle for relaying information about the community, education and training, and for conveying information related to governance and the peace process. As a result, OTI will help establish a local language radio service for southern Sudan.
- **Conflict Resolution Mechanism and Tangible Peace Dividends:** Proposed OTI activities in this area will include timely transport of respected local and international conflict resolution experts to areas vulnerable to conflict, and the provision of tangible peace dividends to bring communities together to secure local level peace agreements.
- **Good Governance:** Initial OTI efforts to improve governance and strengthen the relationship between civil authorities and citizens will have two components: supporting the development of the rule of law by increasing the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary, and increasing support to local non-governmental organizations.

## Country Situation

GOS and the SPLM resumed the peace talks in Kenya on March 4. This phase of discussions focused on the administration of the three transitional areas of the Nuba Mountains, Southern Blue Nile, and Abyei. Traditionally, these areas have been considered part of the north, following the 1956 administrative boundaries and therefore, according to the GOS not eligible for self-determination as other parts of the south. Held outside of the framework of formal IGAD talks, these talks are understood as critical to ultimate success of the peace process. Many analysts consider that a failure to reach an acceptable agreement on the transitional areas for all parties will doom the entire peace process. According to Kenya's special envoy to the talks, General Sumbeiywo, the talks on the transitional areas had achieved "limited success" in this initial round.

In March, Talisman, Canada's largest independent oil company, completed the sale of its share of the Greater Nile Project, which is exploring the oil potential of Western Upper Nile. The company had received significant criticism from human rights groups such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch as profiting from the displacement of local Sudanese by GOS-sponsored militias.

The United Nations received permission from the GOS to begin delivering humanitarian assistance to Southern Blue Nile (SBN) region in eastern Sudan. The area has been not part of the mandate of Operation Lifeline Sudan, so the UN negotiated separate MOUs with both the GOS and the SPLM to grant access for UN agencies to permit the distribution of humanitarian assistance. Food aid was expected to begin immediately, as SBN has long suffered from critical shortages.

After emerging in February, the new rebel movement, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), formerly the Darfur Liberation Front, continued to mount attacks. After losing the town of Gulu to GOS forces in early March, the SLMA claimed to have seized control of Tina, on the Chad border. The SLM/A also issued a political declaration, stating its objective is the creation of a united democratic state, and advocating for the separation of church and state in Sudan's government. Local groups in Darfur issued statements that the Sudanese government was guilty of

human rights violations in the troubled western province. The impact of the new rebel movement on the on-going peace process remains unclear though the SPLM/A did appeal to the government to engage in a dialogue about the rebellion, rather than resorting to continued military engagement.

For most of March, the Civilian Protection and Monitoring Team (CPMT) was unable to conduct investigations. Established as part of the on-going peace negotiations, the CPMT has the responsibility to review instances of alleged violations of the cease-fire, targeted against civilians. From March 7, the Sudanese military intelligence stopped processing notifications, resulting in the CPMT not traveling. The Sudanese military are supposed to ensure security protection for the CPMT, and without processing the notifications, the CPMT cannot be assured of their safety in traveling to reported areas of cease-fire violations. Both the GOS and the SPLM agreed to extend the cease-fire agreement until June 30, 2003.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **A. Narrative Summary**

In March, OTI awarded a cooperative leadership award to Education Development Center for the development of a radio service for southern Sudan. The OTI assessment team determined that a lack of access to information in southern Sudan, particularly regarding the on-going national peace process, is a significant problem. Sudan's great size, with a topography that makes communication and transportation extremely difficult, and largely impossible during the rainy season, and the widespread illiteracy of the generation that has grown up during the war, make radio the first choice for disseminating information. Existing radio broadcasts in regional languages have been limited to broadcasts from the north and sporadic coverage from various international services like the BBC. The scope and duration of these international broadcasts is very limited.

To that end, OTI is funding the development of a radio service for southern Sudan. Radio can be an effective vehicle to address two major concerns: the lack of human capacity and the lack of information about events that affect the everyday lives of the people of southern Sudan. The provision of timely and accurate information can provide motivation for greater civic participation. The radio service will present a diverse mix of timely and relevant programming broadcast in Sudanese languages, (initially Juba-Arabic, Nuer, Dinka and English with the potential to include other major languages of southern Sudan) by Sudanese presenters. The amount of airtime proposes to start at a realistic level of two hours/day within four months and expand to six hours/day.

## **NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES**

OTI will deploy a team to Nairobi to continue implementation in April. OTI's media implementing partner, Educational Development Center, deploys a team to Nairobi in April 2003. OTI continues work on contracting an implementing partner for its small grants program in southern Sudan. A contract is anticipated in May. The organization will administer a small grants program focused on conflict resolution and strengthening governance at all levels. OTI is also in the process of hiring a permanent Country Representative who should be in Nairobi by June. OTI is also exploring opportunities to provide support to the possible peace agreement, anticipated in June.

# USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

April 2003

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## Program Description

Since 1983, an estimated two million Sudanese have died as a result of the protracted conflict, drought and famine. In the past year, however, several positive developments within Sudan have occurred, providing new opportunities to finally resolve Africa's longest war and move the country to a lasting peace. In addition to several successful, local-level, people-to-people peace processes, the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) appear on the verge of a peace agreement for which significant, high-level U.S. government engagement is credited. OTI plans to link ongoing southern Sudanese peace processes and peace-building efforts to initiatives that promote good governance practices to increase the participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. OTI's program focuses on critical transition issues in southern Sudan, such as increasing access to balanced information, promoting good governance, providing conflict-resolution expertise in areas vulnerable to violence, and supporting people-to-people peace processes.

OTI's program in southern Sudan supports activities in the following focus areas:

- **Independent Southern Sudan Media:** Given the high levels of illiteracy in southern Sudan, radio is the most effective vehicle for relaying information about the peace process, general news, as well updates on humanitarian and development programming. Educational Development Center (EDC) is working to establish a local-language radio service for southern Sudan.
- **Conflict Resolution Mechanism and Tangible Peace Dividends:** Proposed OTI activities in this area will include timely transport of respected local and international conflict resolution experts to areas vulnerable to conflict, and the provision of tangible peace dividends to bring communities together to secure local-level peace agreements.
- **Good Governance:** Initial OTI efforts to improve governance and strengthen the relationship between civil authorities and citizens will have two components: supporting the development of the rule of law by increasing the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary, and increasing support to local non-governmental organizations.

## Country Situation

On April 2, Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir and SPLM/A leader John Garang met in Nairobi for discussions hosted by Kenyan President Kibaki. Both announced their commitment to the on-going peace negotiations, and predicted that an agreement could be reached as early as June. The Nairobi talks marked only the second time the two leaders have met; the first meeting took place in July 2002. In spite of the high-level meeting, the parties to the peace negotiations did not make significant progress in April. The agenda for this fourth round of talks centered on security issues and ended on April 16 without any agreement between the two sides. Specifically, the GOS and the SPLM disagreed over whether the rebel and government armed forces should be integrated into a new national military. Talks are scheduled to resume on May 7.

Throughout April, the new rebel movement, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), which was formerly known as the Darfur Liberation Front, continued to mount attacks in Darfur. In response, the GOS has stepped up its military presence in Darfur, and according to some reports, has begun attacking local villages in an effort to stamp out the insurgency. Sudan's border area with Chad has been declared a military zone by the GOS following a meeting between Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir and Chadian President Idriss Deby. On April 25, the SLM/A reported that it had seized the airport and Al-Fasher, the capital of Northern Darfur state, and destroyed GOS helicopters and equipment. The GOS refutes this claim, stating that Al-Fashar remains under government control. The authorities in the capital of Southern Darfur, Nyala, imposed a curfew on the city following the clashes in Al-Fashar. The SLM/A has issued statements that it does not seek independence, but demands greater political autonomy and a more equitable share of resources from the central Sudanese authorities. The GOS disputes the SLM/A's claims to be a political organization, labeling the rebels "bandits and armed gangs."

A majority on the U.N. Human Rights Commission voted down a resolution from the EU calling for the extension of the mandate of a special rapporteur on human rights for Sudan. For a decade, Sudan had been categorized as an item 9 country, which necessitates the appointment of a special rapporteur charged with investigating and reporting on the human rights situation in the country. In a March briefing to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, then Special

Rapporteur Gerhart Baum stated that he had seen "no fundamental change" in Sudan's human rights situation since earlier visits. The report also stated that tens of thousands of southern Sudanese were displaced from the oil-rich area of western Upper Nile in 2002. Russia, China and all but one of the African members of the U.N. Human Rights Commission voted to upgrade Sudan's status to an item 19 country, eliminating the requirement for a special rapporteur. Uganda was the lone African country to not vote for the change in status, as it abstained from voting.

The October 2002 Sudan Peace Act requires U.S. President Bush to report to Congress on the GOS. The April 21 report certified that the GOS has been negotiating in good faith with the SPLM and therefore, would escape the imposition of additional sanctions. Sanctions could have included the pursuit of a U.N. Security Council resolution for an arms embargo on the Sudanese government; U.S. efforts to vote against loans, credits and guarantees by international financial institutions to Sudan; as well steps to deny the Sudanese government access to oil revenues to ensure that the funds were not used for military purposes. Moreover, had the report not certified Sudan, the United States would have considered downgrading or even suspending diplomatic relations. In announcing the report, President Bush hailed the on-going peace process for Sudan, but stated, "there is still much work remaining."

## HIGHLIGHTS

### A. Narrative Summary

OTI awarded a cooperative leadership award to Education Development Center (EDC) for the development of a radio service for southern Sudan. The service will broadcast in several local languages, including Dinka, Nuer, Juba-Arabic and English. EDC deployed its expatriate staff to Nairobi in April to begin operations. In Nairobi, EDC found studio space that will require some renovation, which should take about two months to complete. Nonetheless, EDC anticipates being able to develop some programming even before all the changes to the studios are finished. EDC also started identifying Sudanese journalists from a broad ethnic spectrum to ensure balanced reporting in the major local languages of southern Sudan. Projected start date for the broadcast of the radio service is early July.

OTI staff kept busy throughout the month finalizing the establishment of its programming mechanisms. OTI staff returned to the USAID/REDSO Mission in Nairobi to continue office set-up, including hiring local staff and further defining programming with implementing partners. OTI's Senior Media Advisor traveled to Nairobi to work with EDC on the development of the radio service and to outline OTI Sudan's overall media strategy for southern Sudan.



The EDC team and OTI staff visit the new studio space.

## NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

OTI continues work on contracting an implementing partner for its small-grants program in southern Sudan. A contract is anticipated in May. The organization will administer a small-grants program focused on conflict resolution and strengthening governance at all levels. OTI anticipates completing a grant to provide support to the judiciary in southern Sudan. OTI will continue to work closely with EDC to ensure a quick start to broadcasting of the radio service. OTI is in the process of hiring a permanent country representative who should be in place by June. OTI is also exploring opportunities to provide support to the possible peace agreement, anticipated in June.

# USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

May-June 2003

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## Program Description

Since 1983, an estimated two million Sudanese have died as a result of the protracted conflict, drought, and famine. In the past year, however, several positive developments within Sudan have occurred, providing new opportunities to finally resolve Africa's longest war and move the country toward a lasting peace. In addition to several successful local-level, people-to-people peace processes, the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) appear to be on the verge of a peace agreement. High-level U.S. government engagement is credited with playing a significant role in this latter effort.

OTI plans to link ongoing southern Sudanese peace processes and peace-building efforts to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. OTI's program focuses on critical transition issues in southern Sudan, such as increasing access to balanced information, promoting good governance, providing conflict-resolution expertise in areas vulnerable to violence, and supporting people-to-people peace processes.

OTI supports activities in the following areas:

- **Independent Southern Sudan Media:** Given the high levels of illiteracy in southern Sudan, radio is the most effective vehicle for relaying information about the peace process, general news, and updates on humanitarian and development programming. The OTI-funded Educational Development Center (EDC) is working to establish a local-language radio service for southern Sudan.
- **Conflict Resolution Mechanism and Tangible Peace Dividends:** Proposed OTI activities in this area include timely transport of respected local and international conflict resolution experts to vulnerable areas and bringing communities together so they can realize the tangible benefits of local level peace agreements.
- **Good Governance:** Initial OTI efforts to improve governance and strengthen the relationship between civil authorities and citizens will increase the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary and expand support to local non-governmental organizations.

## COUNTRY SITUATION

In May, an outbreak of yellow fever occurred in the Imatong and Ikotos areas of southern Sudan. Initial reports suggested that the fever was Ebola, sparking fears of a widespread outbreak of the horrific illness. Following tests in South Africa and Kenya, it was determined that the illness was yellow fever, a hemorrhagic fever with symptoms similar to Ebola. UN agencies and international NGOs began working with local health officials to stem the spread of the virus. By month's end, some 80 people had been affected and 30 had died. In other health news, the GOS refused entry to air passengers coming in from countries reporting SARS cases.

During May, U.S. officials expressed approval of recent GOS efforts to cooperate on terrorism issues. Despite considerable improvement since the mid-to-late 1990s, Sudan still remains on the U.S. list of countries that sponsor terrorism. During the month, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell met with his Sudanese counterpart, Mustafa Osman Ismail, to detail what Sudan needs to do to be removed from the list.

The peace process continued in May and June, but progress was limited as the two sides negotiated one of the most contested issues on the agenda, security arrangements. The GOS' peace adviser stated that "very little had been achieved." Despite assurances in April from SPLM leader Garang and Sudanese President Beshir that an agreement would be reached by June, without progress on this key issue such an outcome appears to be out of the question for the time being.

General Lazarus Sumbeiywo, chief negotiator for the regional Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-sponsored peace talks on Sudan, gave an interview in May. He outlined his expectations for the peace process and the remaining obstacles to a durable agreement. The General said an agreement should be completed by mid-August, but "it will remain up to the parties to sign it." Acknowledging the failure of the 1972 Addis Abba agreement, in large part owing to the absence of safeguards to ensure compliance, the General is seeking guarantees from the international community for the provision of monitors and/or peacekeeping forces in conjunction with any future

agreement. During June, the General visited Khartoum and rebel-held areas in Sudan to speak with both sides about the peace agreement. As a result, both sides agreed to renew the cease-fire agreement in the Nuba Mountains for an additional six-month period.

Sudanese opposition leaders met in Cairo in May to reaffirm their unity and show support for the on-going peace process. Dr. John Garang (SPLM), Sadiq al-Mahdi (Umma Party), and Mohammed al-Mirghani (Democratic Unionist Party [DUP]) held a series of meetings to discuss the Machakos talks, which do not include the northern opposition groups such as the Umma and DUP. It was the first time in three years that Garang met with al-Mahdi, following the latter's departure from the National Democratic Alliance (an umbrella organization of virtually all Sudanese opposition groups).

## HIGHLIGHTS

### A. Narrative Summary

In Nairobi, EDC continued its efforts to create a short-wave, local-language radio service for southern Sudan. EDC has worked closely with Kenyan authorities to ensure the appropriate registration and establishment of the station. EDC staff also were busy identifying potential staff, including broadcasters and technicians, and contacting NGOs and Kenyan Universities to find qualified professionals with requisite journalism and language skills. EDC staff also began to develop initial radio programming content and a broadcast schedule. In June, in coordination with the Sudan Development Trust, EDC held a training session for journalists who might work for the radio service. The training took place over eight days, the first five of which focused on a general introduction to journalism and the final three on radio journalism. Twenty-seven Sudanese, many of whom had some prior experience, participated in the training. All the participants expressed satisfaction with the training and several will continue to work with EDC as the radio service develops.

EDC also sent its Radio Programming Advisor to Washington D.C. to begin production on proposed programs. By the end of June, EDC had located several speakers of Sudanese languages, such as Dinka and Nuer, in Washington who can translate and read stories for the radio service. At the same time, work on establishing broadcast facilities in Nairobi continued.

In June, OTI awarded a \$6.9 million contract to Pact, Inc. to implement a small grants program in southern Sudan. The two-year program will emphasize activities that:

- Accelerate the transformation process toward peace by promoting proven dispute resolution institutions and expanding an accommodating environment for reconciliation and accord;
- Strengthen the policy framework and systems of governance necessary for the promotion of constructive rehabilitation, development, and sustainable peace;
- Strengthen judicial systems and women's right to empowerment; and
- Promote a greater demand for and participation in democratic governance, development, and the wider peace process.

While the program will focus on selected areas from among these priorities, it will also be flexible and responsive to the changing dynamics of the country context. If the anticipated peace agreement between the GOS and SPLM is completed in the near future, the OTI-Pact program will provide a flexible mechanism to reinforce the peace and expand opportunities for democratic reform in post-conflict Sudan. Pact immediately set to work establishing an offices and getting staff in place to begin program implementation.

Also in June, OTI awarded a \$543,000 grant to the British NGO, Christian Aid. The main purpose of the grant is to provide support to a series of activities aimed at strengthening indigenous governance capacity, particularly in the judiciary, in southern Sudan. In addition, it will help foster grassroots peace initiatives by working through local civil society organizations. The grant covers specific interventions including the provision of transport/logistical and administrative support to the southern Sudan judiciary, South Sudan Law Society, Nuba government institutions and civil society organizations, and individuals working on the Panakar peace initiative. The grant will also support a civic education network of Sudanese NGOs and provide support for the creation of a development plan for the Southern Blue Nile region.

In June, as part of the same grant Christian Aid worked with women's groups from the Nuba Mountains to develop an All-Nuba women's conference. The aim of the conference was to develop a consensus on peace and development issues in the Nuba Mountains. The conference took place, but failed to achieve all of its intended objectives because Nuban women from Khartoum were barred from participating.

Program implementation during this reporting period continued to be affected by security issues. While OTI staff

were in Nairobi working with implementing partners and the REDSO Mission on Office programming in May, heightened security concerns prevented them from doing so in June.

### **NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES**

- OTI is working to deploy to Nairobi the newly hired Country Representative for the Sudan program.
- In July, OTI and Pact staff will attend joint training sessions on the use of the OTI database to track small grants. .
- OTI will continue close collaboration with EDC to resolve outstanding registration problems with the Government of Kenya and launch radio programming on a short-term basis from Washington D.C.

# USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

July 2003

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## Program Description

Since 1983, an estimated two million Sudanese have died as a result of the protracted conflict, drought, and famine. In the past year, however, several positive developments within Sudan have occurred, providing new opportunities to finally resolve Africa's longest war and move the country toward a lasting peace. In addition to several successful local-level, people-to-people peace processes, the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) appear to be on the verge of a peace agreement. High-level U.S. government engagement is credited with playing a significant role in this latter effort.

OTI plans to link ongoing southern Sudanese peace processes and peace-building efforts to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. OTI's program focuses on critical transition issues in southern Sudan, such as increasing access to balanced information, promoting good governance, providing conflict-resolution expertise in areas vulnerable to violence, and supporting people-to-people peace processes. OTI supports activities in the following areas:

- **Independent Southern Sudan Media:** Given the high levels of illiteracy in southern Sudan, radio is the most effective vehicle for relaying information about the peace process, general news, and updates on humanitarian and development programming. The OTI-funded Educational Development Center (EDC) is working to establish a local-language radio service for southern Sudan.
- **Conflict Resolution Mechanism and Tangible Peace Dividends:** Proposed OTI activities in this area include timely transport of respected local and international conflict resolution experts to vulnerable areas and bringing communities together so they can realize the tangible benefits of local level peace agreements.
- **Good Governance:** Initial OTI efforts to improve governance and strengthen the relationship between civil authorities and citizens will increase the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary and expand support to local non-governmental organizations.

## COUNTRY SITUATION

On July 8, a Sudanese airliner crashed after the pilot reported technical problems just minutes after take-off from Port Sudan in eastern Sudan. One hundred fifteen passengers died in the crash; the sole survivor was a three-year old child. Sudan's Foreign Minister, Osman Ismail, blamed the crash on U.S. sanctions, claiming that they prevent the importation of necessary spare parts for planes. The U.S. State Department refuted this allegation, pointing out that the sanctions include an exemption on spare parts for civilian airliners. By month's end, a team of U.S. investigators, including officials from the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board, had arrived in Sudan to review the circumstances of the crash.

Throughout the month, fighting raged in Darfur in western Sudan, despite efforts to negotiate a cease-fire between the GOS and the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM). There were conflicting reports about the number of SLM and GOS soldiers killed, but reliable sources indicated that casualties were numerous. Efforts to conclude a cease-fire agreement between the rebels and GOS failed and government negotiators were called back to Khartoum.

Human rights violations in GOS-controlled areas raised concerns throughout July. Early in the month, government authorities arrested several key opposition activists, including prominent lawyer Ghazi Suleiman, head of the Sudanese Human Rights Group. Along with several other leading opposition figures, Suleiman was to present the Khartoum Declaration at a press conference on the day of his arrest. The Declaration affirms the on-going peace negotiations between the SPLM and GOS, and calls for the removal of sharia law in Khartoum. Suleiman was released two weeks after his arrest and, while no press conference has taken place to announce it, the Declaration has been circulated publicly.

Government authorities also cracked down on independent media, ordering the close of the Khartoum newspaper, Monitor and suspending an edition of the independent newspaper, Al-Sahafa. In addition, riot police stormed the University of Juba's Khartoum campus to break up a demonstration for student union elections. On July 16, Amnesty International issued a report, Sudan: Empty Promises? Human Rights Violations in Government-controlled Areas, which criticizes the GOS and its security forces for their failure to respect international human rights standards. The report also asserts that questions of justice and human rights are not being adequately addressed in the current

peace talks.

Special Envoy for Sudan, Senator John Danforth, visited the region in July as part of the U.S. effort to bolster the peace process. Senator Danforth met with Sudanese President Al-Bashir, SPLM leader John Garang, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Government of Kenya officials, and the Foreign Minister of Egypt. In each of these meetings, Senator Danforth reiterated the U.S. commitment to the negotiations and the need to secure a comprehensive settlement to the long-running civil war.

The GOS-SPLM negotiations in the IGAD-led peace process experienced setbacks during July. The sixth round of talks ended abruptly on July 12, when the GOS rejected draft proposals for a final political agreement. The status of sharia law in Khartoum and whether the SPLA will be integrated into the GOS armed forces to create a single national military continue as key unresolved issues. The parties are scheduled to resume the talks on August 10.

Despite these setbacks, the GOS and SPLM did work together constructively in July. With facilitation from the U.S. government, representatives of the GOS and SPLM met at the World Bank in Washington. At this meeting the two sides assessed needs, developed priorities, and drew up action plans for the pre-interim period following a peace agreement. The parties established a Joint Planning Mechanism secretariat, which will become operational in August in Nairobi and be facilitated by the UN. A priority focus for the joint secretariat will be to develop plans to deal with the large number of internally displaced persons in Sudan.

Humanitarian relief NGOs reported continuing problems for southern Sudanese with access to food and healthcare. World Vision International (WVI) described a deterioration in the food security situation in Bahr El-Ghazal, which required the establishment of two emergency supplementary feeding clinics. A survey performed by the Irish NGO, Goal, in the rebel-controlled Abyei County found that no health services were available for some 32,000 people, forcing those in need to walk for two or three days to reach a healthcare facility.

In late July, flooding in Kassala state in northeastern Sudan destroyed homes, displaced thousands, and killed four people. Heavy rains caused the Gash River to flood its banks, knocking out electricity and water systems, submerging buildings, and forcing the evacuation of tens of thousands of people. GOS media reported that the flooding was the worst experienced in the Kassala in more than 70 years. The area hardest hit was Kassala city, with about 65% of its 502,000 inhabitants (including some 300,000 internally displaced persons) affected by the disaster. The GOS has dispatched planeloads of food and goods to the affected areas, while international donors, including the U.S., have mobilized resources to provide humanitarian relief to flood victims.

## **PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Narrative Summary**

In June, EDC temporarily moved its shortwave radio service production to its Washington D.C. office because of continuing difficulties with establishing operations in Nairobi. The Radio Programming Coordinator spent July finishing the outfitting of studio space in Washington. EDC also identified and recruited D.C.-based Sudanese interpreters and journalists to read news reports and develop radio content. Those recruited included speakers of nine languages spoken in Sudan, such as Dinka, Nuer, Moro, Bari, Zande, English, Juba-Arabic, and Arabic. EDC intends to hire full-time Sudanese staff once the service is located fully in Nairobi.

On July 30, EDC began transmission of the shortwave radio service, limiting the content to Sudanese music for the initial broadcasts as it identified its audience and refined the production schedule. The service can be heard throughout Sudan, Monday through Friday, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. (old Sudan time, GMT +2) on 17,630 khz (shortwave) and then again from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on 17,660 khz . News and information programming in the languages mentioned above will be added in early August. Additional broadcast hours will be added in October 2003 and EDC hopes to be up to six hours of programming per day by January 2004. Reports about the reception indicate that the service has been heard as far south as Madagascar.

In Nairobi, EDC staff worked on finding studio space and engaged with government officials on securing the appropriate registrations needed for the radio service to become fully operational in Kenya. EDC added a new Washington-based Program Director to the project, to ensure effective communication and coordination between the D.C. and field operations.

With OTI funding, Christian Aid (CA) continued its work with the judicial sector in southern Sudan. CA has procured spare tires and parts, motorbikes, and fuel to assist judges in moving about the vast areas of southern Sudan to hear and resolve disputes. During July, SPLM Chairman John Garang signed into effect 26 new laws for southern Sudan. The new laws cover a range of subjects including financial institutions, insurance, the judiciary, immigration, policing, wildlife conservation, and NGOs. OTI allocated funds out of the CA grant to enable the SPLM Secretary of Legal

Affairs (SOLA) to help cover the cost of finalizing the new laws.

Having finalized its new contract with OTI for the issuance of small grants, Pact began ramping up its operations for the Sudan program. Pact staff attended training sessions at OTI/Washington on establishing a database to track the small grants. Additional training of Kenya-based staff will take place in August. Pact's Grants Manager for the OTI program was deployed to Nairobi in July and quickly set to work identifying initial activities for small grant funding. Pact is also working on establishing field offices in Sudan, with possible sites to be located in Kapoeta and Rumbek.

OTI's Country Representative departed for Nairobi in July, establishing the Office's first permanent presence for Sudan at the USAID/REDSO Mission. She began hiring staff and engaging with OTI's implementing partners.

## **NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES**

- In August, EDC will begin transmission of more news and information on the radio service. OTI is also working closely with EDC and USAID/REDSO to clear bureaucratic obstacles to full operation of the radio service in Nairobi.
- OTI will continue to work closely with Pact to identify critical initial opportunities for grant funding. OTI's Country Representative will complete office set-up at USAID/REDSO and hire necessary staff.
- Along with implementing partners, EDC, Pact, and Christian Aid, OTI is developing a four-day strategic planning session to be held in Nairobi in September. The retreat will further refine OTI's Sudan program goal and objectives for its first year of activities and create programmatic links between the various implementing partners.

# USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

September 2003

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## Program Description

Since 1983, an estimated two million Sudanese have died as a result of the protracted conflict, drought, and famine. In the past year, however, several positive developments within Sudan have occurred, providing new opportunities to finally resolve Africa's longest war and move the country toward a lasting peace. In addition to several successful local-level, people-to-people peace processes, the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) appear to be on the verge of a peace agreement.

OTI's work links ongoing peace processes to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. The OTI southern Sudan program has three main objectives:

- the strengthening of key processes, mechanisms, and institutions for responsible governance and civil society development;
- the increase in access to quality, independent information;
- and the promotion of processes, mechanisms, and institutions that promote peace and stability.

OTI's program in southern Sudan supports activities in the following focus areas:

- **Independent Southern Sudan Media:** Given the high levels of illiteracy in southern Sudan, radio is the most effective vehicle for relaying information about the peace process, general news, and updates on humanitarian and development programming. With funding from OTI, Educational Development Center (EDC) has established a two-hour, Monday-Friday short wave local-language radio service for southern Sudan.
- **Foster Demand for Good Governance:** OTI's efforts focus on strengthening the rule of law by increasing the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary and developing governance entities in southern Sudan. OTI has issued a grant to the British NGO Christian Aid to provide targeted assistance to the judiciary and critical civil society actors working to promote good governance.
- **Provide Rapid Targeted Support to Governance and Peace-building Efforts:** Proposed OTI interventions in this area include the provision of technical assistance/capacity building to civil society groups and key sector governance bodies, and the implementation of community-identified priority projects to secure local peace agreements among citizens. OTI has contracted with the US-based NGO Pact, Inc. to create a small grants mechanism to implement such activities.

## COUNTRY SITUATION

During September, the ongoing peace process between the GOS and SPLM achieved a critical breakthrough. After months of stalled progress and attendant concern in the international community that the momentum for a peace settlement was being lost, SPLM Chairman John Garang met with Sudan's Vice-President Ali Osman Taha in Kenya to reinvigorate the talks. After a marathon, three-week negotiating session, the two sides signed a document on September 25 that outlined the post-peace agreement security arrangements - the issue that had been the main obstacle to progress in the talks.

The key compromise achieved allows both sides to maintain their respective armies in the north and south, with Joint/Integrated Units (JIU) made up of troops from both armies to be placed in key areas of the country. Previously, the GOS had demanded a single integrated army of the two former combatant forces, while the SPLM argued for the maintenance of two separate armies in the north and the south. The JIU forces will be present throughout southern Sudan, with concentrations in the Nuba Mountains, Southern Blue Nile, and Khartoum. A Joint Defense Board will be created under the authority of the Presidency to coordinate the separate armies and oversee the JIU forces.

With this issue now resolved, the negotiating parties can address the remaining issues of power and wealth-sharing when the talks resume in mid-October. Among the first agenda items for the two sides will be the status of the three transitional areas, the Southern Blue Nile, Nuba Mountains, and Abyei. Many international observers are optimistic that a final peace agreement between the GOS and SPLM can be completed in the next two months.

In contrast to the progress in the SPLM-GOS talks, parts of Sudan continued to experience strife and instability. Most notably, conflict and displacement continued in the western provinces of Darfur, where the Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM) has been fighting GOS forces in an effort to gain greater autonomy. The two sides did sign a cease-fire agreement in early September, but sporadic fighting continued throughout the month. In September, UNHCR reported that some 65,000 Sudanese refugees from the Darfur region in neighboring Chad were in need of food and shelter assistance. Efforts by the international community to assist the displaced have been initiated, but there is little optimism that the refugees will be able to return to their homes in Darfur in the near future.

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Narrative Summary**

During September the OTI/Sudan team participated in a series of conferences and workshops. Early in the month, OTI staff, along with the USAID Sudan Program team, met for three days to discuss the future direction of the Agency's efforts in Sudan, particularly in light of the increased prospect of a GOS-SPLM peace agreement. The meeting helped clarify the various USAID bureaus and offices' roles and expectations and provided an opportunity for sharing on past and current program highlights.

The OTI team then traveled to Rumbek in southern Sudan to participate in a five-day meeting on Rule of Law (ROL) programming. The meeting gathered stakeholders together in one place to discuss the building of ROL and judicial systems in southern Sudan. OTI team members looked on the conference as an opportunity to listen to Sudanese defining their needs, network with other donors/stakeholders, and identify additional entry points for OTI work.

Following the Rumbek meeting, the OTI team returned to Nairobi, where it joined with OTI/Washington staff in a four-day meeting on developing a strategic plan for southern Sudan. OTI's implementing partners - EDC, Pact, and Christian Aid - USAID/REDSO staff, and the U.S. Embassy Sudan Watcher also participated in the meeting. Over the course of the week, the discussion focused on four questions: where are we going (goal/vision); what are we trying to achieve (objectives); how will we achieve our objectives (activities); and, how will we know if we have reached our objectives (monitoring and evaluation)?

Using the original OTI country assessment as a starting point, the group discussed the type of role OTI should play in Sudan's transition from a culture of war to one of peace and good governance. The group defined three main objectives for the program:

- strengthen key processes, mechanisms, and institutions for responsible governance and civil society development;
- bolster emerging processes, mechanisms, and institutions that promote peace and stability; and
- increase access to quality, independent information.

Activities to accomplish these objectives include, but are not limited to:

- establishing a short wave radio service;
- providing technical and material assistance to civil society organizations and governing entities at all levels within southern Sudan;
- facilitating meetings and conferences to debate policy and support the creation of governance frameworks; and,
- promoting civic education activities, information campaigns to bolster local and national peace processes, and dispute resolution training.

This strategy revision will be finalized in coming weeks, after being vetted and reviewed, and will then serve as the basis for OTI's program for the next year. While the revision was based on the expectation that a comprehensive GOS-SPLM peace agreement will be reached shortly, OTI's objectives will be applicable in other scenarios as well. Moreover, the revision will allow for other specific activities, as critical windows of opportunity and access to new areas arise.

It is also important to note that OTI/Sudan's program has been designed and is being implemented in conjunction with USAID's Interim Strategic Plan (ISP) for Sudan, which was approved in June 2003. OTI programming will support the overall ISP goal of establishing a foundation, with the broad participation of the Sudanese people, for a just and durable peace. OTI programming will contribute to two of the ISP's five objectives; specifically, expanded support to the peace process and more responsive and participatory governance.

### **B. Program Activities**

During September, CA continued its efforts to improve the judiciary and promote good governance. CA delivered 12 motorbikes and 10 Codan radios to the southern Sudanese Judiciary Management Committee (JMC), headquartered in Rumbek. The radios and motorbikes are intended to help judges overcome travel and communication difficulties that limit their ability to resolve cases and dispense justice in a timely fashion. These items are being distributed to County Judges throughout southern Sudan, including ones in Rumbek, Tonj/Gogrial counties, Twic and Abyei counties, Yei and Wau counties, Southern Blue Nile, and the Nuba Mountains. County Judges from these areas received training on the equipment in Rumbek. To ensure proper use and maintenance of the equipment, the JMC and CA drew up a set of guidelines that each recipient judge must sign and adhere to. The equipment will test the judges' capacity to manage resources provided by the donor community, and hopefully engender a commitment by the southern Sudanese judiciary to create better internal management systems.

CA also completed work on a development plan for Southern Blue Nile, one of the areas in southern Sudan most cut off from international assistance because of conflict there. The draft plan, which details the region's needs and resources, has been reviewed in a series of stakeholder meetings and local authorities, NGOs, community leaders, and the public have all had the opportunity to comment on it. Next steps include devising a timeframe for implementation of the plan's recommendations and holding meetings with organizations interested in working in Southern Blue Nile to see how the plan might inform their programming for the region.

EDC continued to expand its radio programming in September. Since the August launch of news broadcasts in nine languages, EDC has been developing other program content, including profiles of local and international organizations working in southern Sudan. It also started developing cultural programs for the radio service, beginning with a series exploring the unique traditions of the Nuba Mountains. With its formal registration in Kenya completed, plans have been finalized to begin moving programming from Washington D.C. back to Nairobi. EDC's buildings in Nairobi are being refurbished and it is anticipated that all radio content will be produced there or in southern Sudan by mid-October.

In September, Pact staff traveled to southern Sudan to work with local partners on identifying potential grants. Currently there are 15 grants in the pipeline. Pact staff also began planning for the All-Southern Conference to be held later this year. At the same time, work on Pact's Kapoeta field office was nearing completion and land was leased outside of Rumbek for a field office there.

## **NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES**

- OTI staff will work to finalize the strategic plan for southern Sudan;
- EDC and OTI will continue working to move the Sudan Radio Service to Nairobi from Washington D.C.;
- Pact will continue work on establishing field offices in Kapoeta and Rumbek; and,
- The OTI/Sudan Country Representative will visit OTI/Angola to review its program implementation strategies.

# USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

October 2003

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## Program Description

Since 1983, an estimated two million Sudanese have died as a result of the protracted conflict, drought, and famine. In the past year, however, several positive developments within Sudan have occurred, providing new opportunities to finally resolve Africa's longest war and move the country toward a lasting peace. In addition to several successful local-level, people-to-people peace processes, the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) appear to be on the verge of a peace agreement.

OTI's work links ongoing peace processes to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. The OTI southern Sudan program has three main objectives:

- the strengthening of key processes, mechanisms, and institutions for responsible governance and civil society development;
- the increase in access to quality, independent information;
- and the promotion of processes, mechanisms, and institutions that promote peace and stability.

OTI's program in southern Sudan supports activities in the following focus areas:

- **Independent Southern Sudan Media:** Given the high levels of illiteracy in southern Sudan, radio is the most effective vehicle for relaying information about the peace process, general news, and updates on humanitarian and development programming. With funding from OTI, Educational Development Center (EDC) has established a two-hour, Monday-Friday short wave local-language radio service for southern Sudan.
- **Foster Demand for Good Governance:** OTI's efforts focus on strengthening the rule of law by increasing the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary and developing governance entities in southern Sudan. OTI has issued a grant to the British NGO Christian Aid to provide targeted assistance to the judiciary and critical civil society actors working to promote good governance.
- **Provide Rapid Targeted Support to Governance and Peace-building Efforts:** Proposed OTI interventions in this area include the provision of technical assistance/capacity building to civil society groups and key sector governance bodies, and the implementation of community-identified priority projects to secure local peace agreements among citizens. OTI has contracted with the US-based NGO Pact, Inc. to create a small grants mechanism to implement such activities.

## COUNTRY SITUATION

With the momentum of the signing of the September security agreement between the GOS and SPLM, peace talks have rounded a new corner. GOS and SPLM representatives and leaders have three areas for which they need to come to an agreement before the final peace can be signed and the agreed interim period can begin. These areas are power-sharing, wealth-sharing and the disposition of the transitional areas.

While the pace of progress has been somewhat slower in October, this can be attributed to the general exhaustion of the parties, the particularly difficult issues which the parties are attempting to tackle, and external factors such as the start of the Muslim Holy month of Ramadan.

Peace talks resumed on October 6 and then broke for Ramadan on October 26. While the parties did not manage to negotiate a signable agreement on any of the remaining three issues, talks are still considered to be moving ahead and progressing at a reasonable pace. The talks will resume November 30.

The United States is continuing to support the process and in early October a US security team was sent to assist in the negotiations. The October 22 visit of United States Secretary Colin Powell reinforced US support for the Sudan Peace process. GOS Vice-President Ali Osman Taha and SPLM leader Dr. John Garang both agreed to push for a settlement on all matters before the year's end.

The GOS has taken visible steps to bolster the peace process. GOS officials ratified a mine ban treaty in October, bringing them into line with the southern rebel SPLM group which signed a similar treaty in 2001. The Khartoum Monitor, an English language newspaper that was shut down by government officials in July, has been re-opened. In an even more significant move, the GOS released opposition leader Hassan Turabi on October 13 following two years of house arrest. These actions show promise for continued dialogue and participation of the GOS in the peace process.

Despite the progress in the talks between the SPLM and the GOS, instability continued to reign in parts of Sudan. Most notably, conflict and displacement continued in the western provinces of Darfur. The rebel movement, the Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM), has been fighting GOS forces in an effort to gain greater autonomy for Darfur. The two sides had signed a cease-fire agreement in early September, but sporadic fighting continued throughout the month. The conflict has continued in October, including reports of attacks with casualties ranging from dozens to over 100. Statistics for the numbers of displaced persons have continued to rise, with the current estimates at nearly one half million people. The international community has initiated assistance efforts for displaced persons, yet there is little optimism that the refugees will be able to return to their homes in Darfur in the near future.

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Narrative Summary**

October was marked by the launch of several new initiatives by the OTI Sudan Program, including new radio programs, in-depth Rule of Law discussions and increased small grant provisions. The OTI Sudan strategic plan has been completed and is being reviewed by Washington and stakeholders in the field. A final plan is expected to be distributed to all relevant parties in mid-November. OTI is preparing to hire a local PSC to complement its current staffing. This position will cover all three focus areas, with special emphasis on media. The OTI program assistant will be making her first trip to the field and will begin to contact prospective grantees to assist in coverage for the small grants initiative.

The Sudan Mirror, the first national newspaper aiming to develop a culture of peace and justice in war-torn Sudan, was launched in October. 30,000 copies of the bi-monthly English-language newspaper were printed in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, and distributed by NGOs in Sudan or sold in shops and refugee camps in Kenya, Uganda and England, primarily for diaspora. The second issue released in October featured an article on US Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit and his support for the peace negotiations. The Sudan Mirror provides news, entertainment, advertisement and social awareness messages from Sudanese journalists and development and relief agencies working in Sudan. The first two issues included articles on HIV, land mines, and eradicating Guinea Worm.

The Sudan Radio Service has continued to provide increased access to information to the Sudanese people in 9 languages. In addition to the regular programming of news and music, SRS has begun to add special interest stories and programming directly related to the peace process. October highlights of this programming:

- Round table discussion on Security Arrangement agreement signed between SPLM and Government of Sudan.
- Interview with USAID Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, Roger Winter.
- Cultural/Historical programs on Nuba Mountains and Funj Kingdom.
- Interviews with Sudanese musicians.
- Coverage of press conference with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

SRS will expand programming to include a wider variety of broadcasts, including Sudanese musicians with songs on themes of education, health and IDP issues.

In anticipation of the peace agreement, OTI partner Christian Aid (CA) continued to push forward with work on the creation of development plans for marginalized regions. CA sponsored four meetings with marginalized Southern Blue Nile stakeholders to discuss coordination of activities towards a development plan. A working group was set up to monitor and coordinate activities. CA has participated in the creation of a civic education strategy and the formation of an umbrella group to coordinate civic education activities, with OTI funds provided through CA and PACT.

### **Grant Program Activities**

PACT issued four small grants in October, with \$124,000 in funding supporting activities ranging from newspaper

publications to the creation of a civic education umbrella structure. Grants were provided for media groups, local council associations and civil society umbrella organizations.

PACT continued to assist civic authorities charged with organizing the All-South Conference scheduled to take place in early 2004. To increase the effectiveness of the steering committee, communication equipment was provided for the organizing committee leader and discussions were held on technical assistance. The conference is intended to provide a wide audience with the opportunity to participate in the peace process, ratify legal code, and create a civil authority structure as a foundation for the southerners to build up a government.

October trips to southern Sudan by OTI and PACT staff coincided with numerous groups applying for small grants. The trips also allowed staff to see the current situation on the ground and the needs of local citizens. The PACT base camp in Kapoeta is nearing completion and work has begun on the base camp in Rumbek. Because both PACT and USAID/OTI headquarters are off shore in Nairobi, these camps will allow PACT and OTI staff to better engage with communities in the field.

## **NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES**

- OTI staff will recruit an additional PSC (local hire) to facilitate improved OTI coverage of the various programs, especially media.
- EDC and OTI will continue working to finalize agreements with Government of Kenya that will facilitate work permits and tax free status for the radio station and its expatriate employees.
- PACT will continue to complete field camps, staff field camps and spend significant amounts of time in the field building relationships with local communities.

# USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

November 2003

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## Program Description

Since 1983, an estimated two million Sudanese have died as a result of the protracted conflict, drought, and famine. In the past year, however, several positive developments within Sudan have occurred, providing new opportunities to finally resolve Africa's longest war and move the country toward a lasting peace. In addition to several successful local-level, people-to-people peace processes, the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) appear to be on the verge of a peace agreement.

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- **Rapid Targeted Support for Governance and Peace-building Efforts:** Proposed OTI interventions in this area include providing technical assistance and capacity building to civil society groups and key sector governance bodies, and implementing community-identified priority projects that secure local peace agreements among citizens. OTI has contracted with the US-based NGO Pact to create a small grants mechanism to implement this program.

## COUNTRY SITUATION

Peace talks have rounded a new corner, gaining momentum with the signing of the September security agreement between the GOS and SPLM. GOS and SPLM representatives and leaders have three areas for which they need to come to an agreement before the final peace can be signed and the agreed interim period can begin. These areas are power-sharing, wealth-sharing and the disposition of the transitional areas.

Peace talks remained in recess during much of November and the Muslim Holy month of Ramadan. Informal discussions with the negotiating parties, stakeholders and international advisors continued and progress is expected again soon after resumption of peace talks. While participants are skeptical that an agreement could be signed as soon as the target deadline of December 31, there is widespread optimism that progress in the talks will bring about an agreement early in 2004.

Sudanese rebel leader John Garang met with both Colin Powell and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan during November and has briefed both on the progress made so far in the talks. The UN and the US have re-stated their support for the peace process and speedy resolution.

In clear steps of reconciliation, the Sudan Vice-President Taha has signed a peace accord with a northern opposition leader while also inviting the southern Sudanese rebel leaders to come to Khartoum for discussion. The US continues to play a pivotal role in the process and is working with both sides to get a final agreement signed.

While all sides continue to work towards peace, instability reigns in the Darfur regions as experts warn of a pending severe humanitarian crisis in the area. Save the Children has stated that malnutrition rates in Darfur were reported to be "alarming high" with global acute malnutrition rates reaching 25 percent in some areas that remain inaccessible to aid workers. Further displacement or any outbreak of disease could seriously worsen an already a drastic situation.

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Narrative Summary**

OTI programs continue to move forward in all three OTI Sudan Strategic Objective areas. The position of OTI Sudan Deputy Country Director has been advertised and candidates will be interviewed and a final decision is expected to be made by the end of 2003.

The OTI Sudan Program Assistant, Kunny Wanyonyi, made her first trip to the field in November and spent time with implementing partner PACT in their new camp location in Kapoeta, Sudan. Kunny returned to Nairobi with new program ideas that are being considered by PACT staff both in Nairobi and in the field.

In late October/early November, USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios traveled to various parts of Sudan and also to Nairobi, Kenya. Natsios plays a dual role in the Sudan peace process as he is also the US. Special Humanitarian Envoy to Sudan. Traveling with him were Assistant Administrator for the Office of Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, Roger Winter and Sudan Task Force member Brian D'Silva.

OTI-supported media initiatives, including the Sudan Mirror and the Sudan Radio Service, gave full and complete coverage to the October/November Natsios visit. The OTI Sudan Country Representative participated in the field visit, both in Sudan and in Nairobi and OTI programs were commended during discussions.

Sudan Radio Service has also continued program new and informative information broadcasts for southern Sudan. November broadcasts included interviews with Sudanese diaspora, programs highlighting Sudanese musicians and discussions with Sudanese peace activists and religious/political leaders.

SRS has also finalized the preparations for a three-week producer/journalist training program that will commence December 2 and include classroom and practical training. Renovations of the Sudan Radio Service office and studio continue and should be completed by early December.

### **Grant Program Activities**

The OTI/PACT small grants program continues to expand, issuing grants at twice the rate of the previous month. By the end of November, the South Sudan Transition Initiatives small grant program had signed ten grants for a total of \$323,828. Grants covering the full range of OTI-Sudan objective sectors have been issued to various groups, including local council associations, media groups, and civil society umbrella organizations. Grant recipients in November included:

- Funj Youth Regional Conference
- Bahr el Ghazal Regional Women's Conference
- Civil Society sector Analysis and Mapping (Western Equatoria)

PACT continues to work with the SPLM leadership on assistance with organizing the All-South Conference which should take place early in 2004. A small grant of \$35,000 to the steering committee allowed for the beginning of preparations for what will be the largest conference ever held in the south. PACT has participated in steering committee meetings and will provide guidance where necessary in logistics and conference planning. The conference is intended to provide a wide audience with the opportunity to participate in the peace process, the ratification of the legal code, and the creation of a civil authority structure as a foundation for the southerners to build up a government.

OTI/Washington, in consultation with PACT, has decided to request a modification to the original PACT agreement that will allow PACT to recruit more staff for both their Nairobi and their field offices. This has become necessary to alleviate the burden of travel and logistics.

## **NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES**

- OTI staff will finalize the recruitment process for the new PSC local hire to work as the OTI/Sudan Deputy Country Representative.
- EDC and OTI will continue working to finalize agreements with Government of Kenya that will facilitate work permits and tax free status to the radio station and its expatriate employees.

# USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

December 2003

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## Program Description

Since 1983, an estimated two million Sudanese have died as a result of the protracted conflict, drought, and famine. In the past year, however, several positive developments within Sudan have occurred, providing new opportunities to finally resolve Africa's longest war and move the country toward a lasting peace. In addition to several successful local-level, people-to-people peace processes, the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) appear to be on the verge of a peace agreement.

OTI's work links ongoing peace processes to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. The OTI southern Sudan program has three main objectives: strengthening of key processes, mechanisms, and institutions for responsible governance and civil society development; increasing access to quality, independent information; and promoting processes, mechanisms, and institutions that foster peace and stability.

OTI's program in southern Sudan supports activities in the following areas:

**Independent Southern Sudan Media:** Given the high levels of illiteracy in southern Sudan, radio is the most effective vehicle for relaying information about the peace process, general news, as well updates on humanitarian and development programming. With funding from OTI, the Educational Development Center (EDC) has established a short wave local-language radio service for southern Sudan that airs for two hours Monday-Friday.

**Foster Demand for Good Governance:** OTI's efforts focus on strengthening the rule of law by increasing the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary and developing governance entities in southern Sudan. OTI has issued a grant to the British NGO Christian Aid to provide targeted assistance to the judiciary and critical civil society actors working to promote good governance.

**Provide Rapid Targeted Support to Governance and Peace-building Efforts:** Proposed OTI interventions in this area include the provision of technical assistance/capacity building to civil society groups and key sector governance bodies, and the implementation of community-identified priority projects to secure local peace agreements among citizens. OTI has contracted with the US-based NGO Pact, Inc. to create a small grants mechanism to implement such activities.

## Country Situation

December has seen much activity in the Sudan peace process and there is every reason to be hopeful that this will continue. Progress has been made not only in North-South peace talks, but also in discussions and agreements with other opposition leaders. While these and other actions are positive signs that the parties are serious about signing a comprehensive peace agreement, there have also been some setbacks, notably in the Darfur region. Specifics include:

### December 5

- A delegation from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) met with members of the Government of Sudan in Khartoum, the first visit of SPLA members to Khartoum in 20 years. The delegation was greeted by thousands at the airport and their historic visit was praised by Sudanese in general and Sudanese peace supporters alike.
- The GOS signs an historic agreement with the National Democratic Alliance, the main opposition group, in Jeddah Saudi Arabia. The agreement supports the current peace process and calls for a new democratic Sudan.

### December 7

- Peace talks resume in Kenya between rebel leader John Garang and Sudanese Vice-President Ali Osman

Taha. Discussions focus on wealth sharing.

#### **December 8**

- President Bush invites Sudanese rebel leader John Garang and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to Washington D.C. to sign the expected peace agreement.

#### **December 10**

- Chad President Idriss Daby visits Khartoum to discuss the worsening situation in Darfur, where estimates of dead and displaced range from the hundreds of thousands to 1 million.

#### **December 18**

- The European Union announces plans to formalize ties with Sudan as soon as the peace treaty is signed.

#### **December 20**

- An agreement was reached on oil sharing, with a 50-50 division between North and South. Comprehensive wealth sharing agreement expected soon.

#### **December 29**

- Sudan, Ethiopia, and Yemen form Anti-terror Axis and agree to fight terrorism in all its forms in their respective countries

### **USAID/OTI Highlights**

#### **A. Narrative Summary**

The Sudan Radio Service (SRS), implemented by OTI partner Educational Development Center, continued to provide news and information in nine languages to Sudanese in Sudan and the diaspora. Responses continue to be overwhelmingly positive, including an evaluation by the Sudanese Embassy in Nairobi calling the SRS “balanced and fair.” A Sudanese listener calls the SRS the “voice of the marginalized peoples and cultures of Sudan.”

On December 30, despite continued regulatory difficulties in Kenya, EDC began broadcasting four hours a day (up from two), including a new two-hour spot in the mornings. This increased time has coincided with new programming, including a civic education program entitled “The Road to Peace” and a new HIV series in the Dinka language called “The Rolling Fire.”

Also in December OTI, PACT, and EDC staff made a joint trip to Malual Kon in southern Sudan’s Bahr El Ghazal region where EDC staff recorded women singing songs with health and nutrition messages. The women were participants in the Tearfund Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding Center and composed songs based on nutrition and health classes taught as part of its program. The first broadcast of songs was on SRS in December and more will be broadcast in coming months.

In other media work, OTI provided grant money for the Sudan Mirror to print supplements on peace and civil society. These supplements, to be added over the next three months, will highlight peace-related activities and focus specifically on security, self determination, refugees, disarmament, IDP’s, and arms.

The OTI/Sudan office in Nairobi has identified possible candidates for the position of program manager. Because of holiday schedules interviewing was delayed and the position is expected to be filled by early January. The new Sudan Field Office is completing its move from REDSO and will be housed in its own office space by early January.

#### **B. Grant Activity Summary – USAID/OTI Afghanistan**

At year’s end, the OTI/PACT South Sudan Transition Initiatives program had given 17 grants totaling over \$535,000. Grants in December continued to support a variety of activities within the OTI strategic objective framework.

## Grant Highlights:

- Funj women's regional conference
- Messiriya, Reseigat, and Dinka peace dialogues
- Law reporting project
- Publication of peace and civil society supplements

PACT continued to work with the SPLM leadership on organizing the All-South Conference, which should take place early in 2004. A small grant for \$35,000 to the steering committee supported initial preparations for what will be the largest conference ever held in the South. PACT has participated in steering committee meetings and will provide guidance where necessary in conference logistics and planning. The conference is intended to provide a wide and diverse audience with an opportunity to participate in the peace process, ratify a legal code, and create a civil authority structure as a foundation on which southerners can build their government.

OTI/Washington continues to work on a PACT contract modification that will allow for staffing increases. While the modification has not been completed, PACT remains ready to staff up both its headquarters in Nairobi and its field offices in Sudan. The PACT Kapoeta field office/camp is now complete and building of the field office/camp in Rumbek is underway. Both offices/camps are partially staffed and ready to be fully staffed as soon as authorization is given.

## **NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES**

- OTI staff to finalize the recruitment process for the new OTI/Sudan program manager.
- EDC and OTI will continue working to finalize agreements with the Government of Kenya that will facilitate work permits and tax free status to the radio station and its expatriate employees.