

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

January 2004

Program Description

Since 1983, an estimated two million Sudanese have died as a result of protracted conflict, drought, and famine. Recently, however, several positive developments within Sudan have occurred, providing new opportunities to 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:

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. The OTI small grants program administered by the NTO Pact also targets assistance to emerging governance and civil society structures.

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 two-hour Monday-Friday short wave local-language radio service for southern Sudan.

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 Pact to create a small grants mechanism to implement such activities.

Country Situation

January brought less progress than hoped for in the peace negotiations. While the parties have remained at the table since early December, a number of difficult issues have continued to hold off a final comprehensive agreement. However, U.S. support and commitment to the peace process remains strong, with Senator John Danforth, U.S. Special Envoy for Peace in Sudan, taking part in the negotiations in mid-January.

While a final and comprehensive wealth sharing framework was agreed upon by both parties in early January, no other significant progress was made. The new wealth sharing agreement frames the oil and non-oil revenue sharing process for the per-interim and interim periods. The agreement also provides for a monetary system that will allow for Islamic banking in the north and western banking in the south.

Remaining issues are power-sharing and the three transitional zones of Abyei, Nuba Mountains and Southern Blue Nile. After initial refusals to discuss these regions, a preliminary framework on Southern Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains was agreed upon by both parties and might be signed at the next round of meetings.

Meanwhile the situation in Darfur is worsening, with the rising number of IDPs and refugees pouring into Chad. Both the U.S. and the U. N. have sent special envoys to the region this month and have demanded greater access for international humanitarian agencies in the region. The fighting in Darfur poses a serious potential threat to the Sudan peace negotiations and pressure is being put on the Government of Sudan to relax travel restrictions and respect a

cease-fire.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

The Sudan Radio Service, supported through OTI partner Educational Development Center, continues to provide news and information in nine languages to Sudanese in both Sudan and the diaspora. Responses to the service continue to be overwhelmingly positive. EDC has received spontaneous call-ins with news reports from Darfur residents, SPLM soldiers, missionaries and international agencies in the region and other regions as knowledge of and access to the service grows.

January broadcasts included recordings from the field of women singing health messages, HIV awareness messages, cultural programming and civic education programming. Specific programs included:

- Nimule peace conference.
- Zande language listener feedback program.
- Panel discussion on post-conflict role of women in Sudan.
- Health special on sleeping sickness.
- Part one of special on agriculture in Sudan.

January also saw an increase in access to information from the field with two new stringers signing on as SRS journalists and increasing dialogue from the field in the form of emails, phone calls and letters.

In other media work, the small grants program has provided support for a new radio transmitter relay in the Kidepo Valley region. This relay will enable expanded access to information in the Equatoria region of southern Sudan.

The OTI sponsored Sudan Mirror, an English-language newspaper, continues to increase distribution and will expand its audience through support to print in Arabic. As a result, the Mirror will reach Arabic reading populations on topics including awareness campaigns (HIV, mines), news on the peace process, security, self determination, refugees, disarmament, IDPs, and arms.

OTI partner Christian Aid (CA) continues to work with southern Sudanese participants in the construction of a new government and civil society.



Reader of Sudan Mirror newspaper.

B. Grant Activity Summary – USAID/OTI Sudan

OTI PACT Small Grants initiative continues to grow. As of January 31, 25 grants for a total of \$876,050 have been issued. New grants in January include:

- Civil society mapping activities.
- Water management system support for pilot sites.
- Radio relay station for increased access to information in Equatoria.
- Provisions for a law encyclopedia.

Pact field staff were increased during January with a fully staffed camp in Kapoeta and a partially staffed camp in Rumbek. Work in the Upper Nile will be supported through a planned site representation, with recruitment already underway. An OTI orientation/strategic plan review in early March will train new Sudanese staff in grant design and implementation.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- OTI/PACT staff to finalize the recruitment process for the new Sudanese staff in Upper Nile and Bahr El Gazal.
- 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.
- Preparation for OTI PACT review of strategic plan.

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

April 2004

Program Description

Since 1983, an estimated two million Sudanese have died as a result of the protracted conflict, drought, and famine. Recently, 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:

- **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. The OTI small grants program administered by U.S.-based NGO Pact also targets assistance to emerging governance and civil society structures.
- **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, Educational Development Center (EDC) has established a four-hour Monday-Friday short wave local-language radio service for southern Sudan.
- **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. Pact will create a small grants mechanism to implement such activities.

Country Situation

While April has provided us with another month of statements such as "Peace Deal to be signed by Weekend" in early April and "Peace Deal may be signed in a couple of days", at the same time conflict and signs of potential conflict seem to be on the rise. At the end of April, reports from Naivasha continue to insist that the peace deal is imminent.

While a ceasefire was signed in early April between Darfur rebels and the Sudanese government, reports of the ceasefire being broken are frequent and disturbing. It is now thought that there are over one million IDPs in Darfur region alone and hundreds of thousands continue to pour into Chad. Until the end of the month, the Government of Sudan was taking an inordinate amount of time to issue visas to USAID and other humanitarian staff, and now that some visas have been issued, it remains unclear how the government will facilitate travel to Darfur.

In even more disturbing news, the fighting in Darfur seems to have escalated to new heights as Chadian troops have for the first time engaged with Sudanese troops in late April. Reports of this fighting are still coming in.

In other regions, fighting has increased in the Upper Nile region with insecurity causing increased flow of IDPs to Malakal. Reports from this region give numbers ranging from 10,000 to 120,000 IDPs from Shilluk Kingdom seeking refuge in Malakal, which has no facilities to accommodate these numbers. Experts are warning of a pending

humanitarian crisis and church leaders are requesting assistance.

Meanwhile, insecurity has been reported in other southern Sudan regions and has hampered humanitarian and development worker access, although with less consistency and severity.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

Sudan Radio Service, broadcasting since July of 2003, is launching an active marketing campaign. SRS has hired a marketing director and will roll out an intensive marketing plan over the next months. Plans include football tournaments, listening groups and radio giveaways in collaboration with the OTI Pact small grants program. SRS broadcasts, currently at four hours per day, are expected to expand to six hours per day.

April programming included:

- On the scene coverage of the All Nuer Conference
- Current Events Program in Arabic
- Special programs on marriage customs in the Dinka and Shilluk communities
- Two-part series on the importance of education for girls – broadcast in English and Arabic

SRS continues to be sought out for collaboration with other program in Sudan, thereby maximizing the impact of SRS and other donor programs. Currently, SRS implementer Educational Development Center has been working on HIV education programming for the USAID funded CARE consortium program Sudan Basic Education Project.

B. Grant Activity Summary – USAID/OTI Afghanistan

OTI Pact Southern Sudan Transition Initiatives small grants program has reached a total of \$1,735,435 in expenditures with March grants totaling \$261,606. Small grants were given in each of the three OTI objectives areas including:

1. Governance
 - Water Management Training for Bor County and Upper Nile
 - Twic Mayardit Conference
2. Peace
 - Bor-Mundri Cattle Crisis Conference
 - Abyei Cross-border Dialogue
3. Information
 - Civic Education National Working Group – development of Civic Education Messages

Pact staff have been taking a leading role in the integration of the Sudan field office activities with SPLM leadership coordination and other donor activities.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- EDC will procure a VSAT (*'Very Small Aperture Terminal'*) for consistency in downloading of broadcasting materials
- Prepare for TDY of OTI W staff in May

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

May 2004

Program Description

Since 1983, an estimated two million Sudanese have died as a result of the protracted conflict, drought, and famine. Recently, 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.

Country Situation

In late May, the Sudanese government and the SPLM signed the long awaited peace protocols in the Kenyan city of Naivasha. The breakthrough agreement outlines power-sharing arrangements and management of the disputed areas of Nuba Mountains, Southern Blue Nile and Abyei. At the late-night signing ceremony, both sides pledged to live up to the agreements and work towards building an enduring peace for Sudan.

With the previously-signed accords for revenue-sharing and the establishment of a six-year interim period of autonomy for the south, there is a sense of optimism in the region that the continent's longest running war will come to an end. The two sides will meet again on June 22 to work out a ceasefire and implementation modalities that should culminate in the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement. There has already been a hint of the potential instability to come with the reported attacks by government-supported Sudanese militia on SPLM territories in Akobo and Nimne.

Meanwhile in Darfur, the armed Janjaweid militias continue their attacks on civilians in all three states. Continued clashes between the rebels and government soldiers have also been reported in the region. According to aid workers, access to refugees has improved although there are complaints that the Sudanese government continues to create obstacles including requirements for all aid to be disbursed through local non-governmental organizations. There may be a ray of hope with the May 28 agreement by parties to the conflict on the deployment of African Union (AU) cease-fire monitors in Darfur.

In the Yambio district of southern Sudan, the World Health Organization has reported the death of four people from the Ebola virus but has not issued any travel or trade restrictions. Health authorities have identified fifteen other cases of the hemorrhagic fever in the area and estimate 118 people came into contact with the confirmed cases.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

Staff from the USAID Sudan Mission, OTI and PACT met for half-day session for a presentation on the progress of USAID-funded programs managed by PACT. The purpose of the meeting was to deepen USAID's understanding of the role the PACT program is playing as a critical component in support of the transition process in Sudan. Further discussion centered around developing cohesion between USAID and critical partners when engaging with the SPLM on peace and governance matters.

The Sudan Radio Service (SRS) certainly had a lot of news to report this month. A team of SRS producers were at the Naivasha talks to provide timely coverage of the latest developments in the peace process. An SRS producer traveled to Mundri County to cover a socio-economic conference organized by PACT with assistance from USAID/OTI. The conference combined initiatives to promote peace among communities in conflict and the

formulation of an integrated framework for community recovery and building.

According to feedback by listeners to SRS, there is still a great deal of confusion on the details of the Naivasha Accords. Accordingly, most of the programming for the first half of June will focus on exploring the specifics of the peace agreements. For example, one of the civic education programs, "The Road to Peace," will feature a comprehensive comparison between the 1972 Addis Ababa agreement (which ultimately failed) and the Naivasha Accords.

SRS also closely followed the Ebola outbreak in Yambio and is now airing sixty-second public service announcements in four languages on educating the community about the deadly fever and preventative measures. Officials from the UN were interviewed to brief the community on the spread of the disease.

The Educational Development Center, the agency implementing SRS, will shortly begin a promising partnership with USAID Sudan's Education Program. The four-year \$5,000,000 project will use SRS as a means to broadcast interactive radio instruction for southern Sudan. The distance-learning program plans to cover primary, secondary and adult learning by 2007. This joint effort between OTI and the Sudan Field Office Education department will provide for more sustainability and impact for OTI programs and will be treated as a pilot for more collaboration.

A website for SRS should be online by early June. Visitors to the site will be able to listen to the programs on demand in nine languages.

May programming included:

- On-the-scene coverage of the Naivasha Peace Talks
- Health programs related to the Ebola outbreak in Yambio
- Socio-economic conference in Mundri County

B. Grant Activity Summary – USAID/OTI Afghanistan

OTI PACT Southern Sudan Transition Initiatives small grants program has reached a total of \$2,104,000 in expenditures, with May grants totaling \$465,572. Small grants awarded support:

1. Governance
 - Provision of a senior governance specialist to mirror and advise the SPLM Local Governance Technical Team on the development of local governance laws. The grant also supports tours for the team's members to study local governance initiatives in several east African countries.
 - Capacity-building of civil administrations in the transition areas of Funj and Nuba to ensure transparency and good governance.
 - Support of the Mundri Socio-Economic Conference, which brought together community members to discuss a comprehensive development strategy, including governance, private investment and civil society. This grassroots-led effort will promote dialogue and restore confidence and trust in a traditionally volatile area prone to intra-ethnic conflict.
2. Peace
 - Monitoring and follow up of Bor's IDP cattle camps to support local efforts in mitigating intra-ethnic conflict. Representatives of Bor and Mundri communities formed a joint taskforce to examine the root causes of the conflict and develop mechanisms to prevent further flare-ups.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- Work with EDC on developing an effective outreach plan for SRS aimed at creating awareness of this service in remote areas of Southern Sudan.
- Review Christian Aid proposal on rule of law, peace-building and governance.
- Sudan Field Office mini-retreat.
- Prepare for arrival of new OTI staff.

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

June 2004

Program Description

Since 1983, an estimated two million Sudanese have died as a result of famine and a protracted conflict between the government and the southern-based Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). The country has also regularly been afflicted with inter and intra-ethnic tensions. Recently, 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 May 2004, the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the SPLM signed the Naivasha Protocols for the resolution of conflict in the south and the transition areas. A comprehensive peace agreement outlining ceasefire arrangements and implementing modalities between the GOS and SPLM is expected to be signed this summer. Through a separate funding mechanism, OTI is also providing assistance for the Darfur crisis, including support to collect, share, analyze and disseminate information on human rights abuses.

OTI's programming in southern Sudan works to link ongoing peace processes, at the local and national level, to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. The OTI southern Sudan program has four main objectives: to assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society; to restore peace among communities through support to local dialogues; to support the emergence of an accountable, engaged and transparent civil authority; and to increase access to quality, independent information.

OTI's implementing partners in southern Sudan are PACT and the Education Development Center. **PACT** manages the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative (SSTI), a two-year small grants program promoting good governance, local-level peace initiatives, the development of civil society, and an informative and balanced media. **Education Development Center (EDC)** has established the Sudan Radio Service, a short-wave radio station that transmits six hours of programming daily on current events, civic education, health, and culture.

Country Situation

The crisis in Darfur continued to receive world-wide attention in June with the visits of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Secretary of State Colin Powell and a congressional delegation to the region. Both Annan and Powell pressured the Sudanese government to end attacks by the Janjaweed militias, provide full access for humanitarian aid, and restart political talks with rebel groups in Darfur. Possible sanctions against Sudan were also threatened if there was no progress by Khartoum to reign in the militias. The government of Sudan has thus far pledged to work with the international community in addressing the humanitarian and political crisis in Darfur.

In Kenya, the SPLM and Sudanese government returned to the negotiating table to work out cease-fire arrangements and implementing modalities for the recently signed Naivasha Protocols. In the South, SPLM Chairman John Garang toured the region to "sell" the peace agreement and to address concerns of the community on what the future holds. He spoke to large crowds on his vision for "new" Sudan and emphasized the need for transparency and accountability in the government structures that will emerge.

In another public outreach effort by the SPLM, over 350 chiefs and traditional leaders attended a conference on the Naivasha protocols and the future of southern Sudan. In the two-week conference, which took place in the southern Sudanese town of New Site, the chiefs expressed support for the peace protocols and offered recommendations on their future role in local governance and south-south dialogue.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Grant Program Activities

A brief summary of OTI's June programming in each of the four main objectives:

1. *Assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society*

- A PACT/OTI grant facilitated the dissemination of the Naivasha Protocols by local NGOs in the three transition areas of Southern Blue Nile, Abyei and Nuba Mountains. Elders and community and church leaders gathered to be briefed on the agreements and voice their concerns with the SPLM negotiating team present at the meetings.
2. *Restore peace among communities through support for local dialogues*
- The Gajiok-Gaguang Peace Committee, a team consisting of elders, church leaders and intellectuals of Gajiok and Gaguang clans, was awarded a PACT/OTI grant to prepare for an upcoming conference on this long-running intra-Nuer clan conflict. The team will also disseminate the Naivasha Protocols to the community.
 - Through a PACT/OTI grant, a peace delegation was sent to the eastern town of Akobo following a confrontation between Government of Sudan-backed militia and the SPLM last month. The crisis was diffused when the civilian population pressured the militia to withdraw from the town. The Akobo County Commissioner has requested assistance to send a mission of key Akobo elders to the area to enter into dialogue with the militia on the current political climate and the Naivasha Protocols.
 - Tensions among the Luo, Fertit and Dinka communities in Bahr El-Ghazal have long been exacerbated by the larger conflict between the GOS and the SPLM. With the signing of the Naivasha Protocols, there is now an effort by local groups to address the long-standing grievances within the community. A PACT/OTI grant was awarded to a local NGO to organize a peace and recovery conference that seeks a comprehensive resolution to the inter-ethnic conflict and to outline a joint way forward for a sustainable peace.
3. *Support the emergence of an accountable, engaged and transparent civil authority.*
- SPLM representatives discussed the Naivasha Protocols in large town hall meetings in the three transition areas. Representatives responded to queries about the complex power-sharing arrangements spelled out in the agreements. In addition, the SPLM took feedback from the meetings to the final round of negotiations in Kenya.
 - Increase access to quality, independent information
 - In June, the Sudan Radio Service (SRS) unveiled its new website (www.sudanradio.org) that makes available programs on demand in nine languages. Feedback from listeners around the world has been quite positive.
 - In programming related to governance and civil society, the SRS sent reporters to cover OTI/PACT-sponsored town hall meetings in three transition zones. A reporter also accompanied SPLM Chairman John Garang on his tour of southern Sudan to explain the Naivasha Protocols.
 - Other topics covered this month include natural resource and wildlife protection, the perspective of Sudanese women on the peace accords, and challenges facing the elderly in Sudan.

Grant Program Expenditures

OTI PACT Southern Sudan Transition Initiatives small grants program has reached a total of \$2,373,860 in expenditures with seven grants in June grants totaling \$215,150.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- Travel for Deputy Country Representative into Sudan for closing ceremonies of Chief's Conference.
- EDC/OTI trip to Sudan to launch SRS outreach campaign.
- Prepare for TDY of OTI Senior Field Advisor John Rigby for technical assistance to OTI Sudan Program.
- Plan strategy for OTI assistance on dissemination of the Naivasha Protocols throughout southern Sudan.

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

July 2004

Program Description

Since 1983, an estimated two million Sudanese have died as a result of famine and protracted violent conflict between the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the southern-based Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). In addition, the country has long experienced inter and intra-ethnic tensions. Recently, however, several positive developments have provided new opportunities to finally resolve Africa's longest war and move the country toward a lasting peace. In May 2004, the GOS and the SPLM signed the Naivasha Protocols for the resolution of conflict in the south and the transition areas. A comprehensive peace agreement outlining ceasefire arrangements and implementing modalities between the GOS and SPLM is expected to be signed by the end of this summer.

OTI's programming in Sudan aims to link ongoing peace processes, at the local and national level, to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. OTI's southern Sudan program objectives are to:

- Assist the emergence of an empowered and active civil society;
- Restore the conditions of peace within and among communities;
- Promote the emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities;
- Increase access to quality, independent information.

OTI's implementing partners are PACT and Education Development Center (EDC). PACT manages the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative (SSTI) which is a two-year small grants program that focuses on promoting and supporting good governance, local-level peace initiatives, the development of civil society and an informative and balanced media. EDC has established the Sudan Radio Service which is a short-wave radio station that transmits six hours of programming daily on current events, civic education, health, and culture in nine local languages.

Country Situation

The Sudanese government has come under increasing pressure from world leaders and the United Nations to resolve the crisis in Darfur. In July, the German and French Foreign Ministers were among several high-profile visitors to Khartoum to discuss the situation. Also this month, the UN Security Council passed a resolution giving Sudan 30 days to disarm the pro-government Janjaweed militia or face possible international sanctions. Sudanese government officials have criticized the resolution for being one-sided and not allowing for adequate time to deal with the militia. Plans for further talks have been unsuccessful.

Ceasefire talks are continuing between the Sudanese government and the SPLM in Kenya as a part of final negotiations before a comprehensive peace agreement is signed. The top mediator, former Kenyan General Lazaro Sumbeiywo, has indicated both sides have made progress and a final deal is expected by summer's end.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Grant Program Activities

OTI's July programming activities for each of its four objectives include:

1. *Assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society.*
 - A grant to the National Working Group for Civic Education, a collection of 11 southern Sudanese community groups, to disseminate details of the Naivasha Protocols to all regions of the south. The community groups will use radio programs, town hall meetings, posters, taped messages, and other mediums.
2. *Restore the conditions of peace within and among communities.*

- A grant to the New Sudan Council of Churches to facilitate a follow-up meeting of the Pankar Peace Council. The Council is a sub-regional institution that was established in January 2004 as a part of the on-going peace and recovery dialogues in the Lakes and Mvolo regions of southern Sudan. These areas have seen an escalation of conflict among and between Dinka sub-clans that has resulted in major loss of life, displacement of communities, and looting of cattle and property. The meeting's goal is to review progress thus far and plan for a rapid response unit to prevent future outbreaks of violence.
 - In Upper Nile, an ongoing inter-Murle conflict has resulted in the discontinuation of vital humanitarian work. A grant was awarded to a community-based organization to promote peace and reconciliation among the groups and to develop a sustainable recovery plan for the area.
3. *Promote the emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities.*
- For the past decade, internally-displaced Dinka Bor from Upper Nile have been living among Equatorian ethnic groups. There have been constant conflicts between the IDPs and their host communities over cattle and property that have resulted in violence and in-stability. A grant was awarded to Bor-Mundri Communities Joint Team to enhance the community's management of the return of the IDPs. The team will focus on joint coordination among local authorities, conflict management and formation of peace committees
4. *Increase access to quality, independent information.*
- SRS will team up with the National Working Group on Civic Education's project on dis-semination of the Naivasha Protocols throughout southern Sudan. The tentative arrangement is to incorporate education on the protocols into the existing programming and to create new programs that can be put on audio cassettes for distribution in all five SPLM-controlled regions. Facilitators will use these materials as guides for educating people about the six peace protocols signed since July 2002.
 - A grant to the American Refugee Committee to develop a HIV/AIDS awareness campaign targeting southern Sudan. The information will be disseminated through radio programs and a newsletter.
 - In July, the Sudan Radio Service celebrated its one year anniversary. In addition to up-to-the minute news, SRS' programs included original stories on refugee repatriation, HIV/AIDS, Darfur crisis, and hunger in Terekeka. SRS ads are now being played on Ra-dio Uganda.
 - OTI Sudan Deputy Country Representative and SRS' marketing manager traveled in late July to Maridi in Western Equatoria, South Sudan to begin preparations for a marketing campaign for the radio service. A one-day workshop was held with the local community on ways to improve the Sudan Radio Service and on suggestions for publicizing activities in the region. A tentative date for a football tournament to launch the publicity campaign is scheduled for September 24 to September 26, 2004.
 - SRS has begun a trial partnership with the United Nations' Regional Information Net-work (IRIN) to air their Sudan-oriented programming. IRIN has hired a southern Sudanese producer who will make programs and offer them to SRS at no cost. IRIN's first feature, a piece about recent southern Sudanese graduates from a Nairobi University, will air the week of August 13, 2004.

Grant Program Expenditures

The OTI PACT Southern Sudan Transition Initiative small grants program has reached a total of \$2,739,800 in expenditures with 4 grants in July totaling \$299,494.

Indicator of Success

In July, OTI supported the deployment of a rapid response, peace building and reconciliation mission to Akobo, in Eastern Upper Nile. Akobo had been the site of recent aggressions by GOS-supported militias. Based on the agreement signed at the OTI-supported All-Nuer Conference, Akobo traditional elders and chiefs had successfully dampened the aggressions and had requested additional reconciliation assistance. As a result of this assistance the conflict was settled and no violence occurred.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

Immediate priorities for OTI's program in southern Sudan include working with the Africa Educational Trust to develop a SRS listening group project and providing timely support to the National Working Group on Civic Education on the Naivasha Protocols dissemination project.

In early August, the OTI Program Assistant, Kunny Wanyonyi, and the OTI Technical Advisor, Ines Krauth, will travel to southern Sudan to monitor and evaluate several SSTI-funded projects.

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

August 2004

Program Description

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OTI's programming in Sudan works to link ongoing peace processes, at the local and national level, to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. The OTI southern Sudan program has four main objectives:

- To support the emergence of responsive, effective, and inclusive civil authorities;
- To restore the conditions of peace within and among communities through support of opportunities for peaceful dialogue;
- To assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society;
- To increase access to quality, independent information.

OTI's implementing partners are PACT and Educational Development Center (EDC). PACT manages the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative (SSTI) which is a two-year small grants program that focuses on promoting and supporting good governance, local-level peace initiatives, the development of civil society and an informative and balanced media. EDC has established the Sudan Radio Service which is a short-wave radio station that transmits six hours of programming daily on current events, civic education, health and culture in nine languages

Country Situation

NORTH-SOUTH PEACE TALKS – The momentum carrying the peace talks forward after the late May signing of the power-sharing protocols slowed considerably during August. Specifically, negotiations on the final ceasefire and implementing modalities have stalled due to disagreements between the GOS and the SPLM on how the national and southern Sudan armies will be funded. The SPLM has accused the government of Sudan of using the Darfur crisis to divert international attention away from the IGAD-sponsored talks.

RENEWED FIGHTING – In this environment of “no war, no peace”, renewed fighting occurred between the SPLM and a government backed militia on August 15, 2004. The conflict reportedly left 154 people dead in the village of Nimne in the Upper Nile region. According to the *Sudan Mirror*, an additional 550 civilians have been displaced and an SPLM official has requested the Verification Monitoring Team (VMT) to investigate the incident.

SOUTH SUDAN DEFENSE FORCES SUPPORT PEACE – The South Sudan Defense Forces (SSDF), a pro-government militia, has released a statement announcing its full support for the Naivasha peace talks. The SSDF, an estimated 52,000 member army, stated its desire to be a third party in the security and military negotiations between the SPLM and government. Despite demands from several ‘third party’ groups to participate, talks have in the past been limited to the SPLM and the government.

JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES CLEAR LANDMINES – On a positive note, the GOS and SPLM this month carried out several joint exercises with international organizations to clear landmines. This operation is the first of its kind and is expected to take place in government and rebel-controlled areas of southern Sudan.

EBOLA OUTBREAK ENDS – In early August, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced the end of the Ebola outbreak in southern Sudan. A total of 17 cases of the deadly hemorrhagic fever, including seven deaths, were reported in Yambio County. Dr. Abdullah Ahmed, head of WHO's southern Sudan program, commended the rapid containment of the outbreak by the local health authorities and the international community.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

OTI's August programming activities for each of its four objectives include:

1. To support the emergence of responsive, effective, and inclusive civil authorities.
 - Community leaders in Kapoeta town have requested assistance to plan for the reconstruction of community buildings, roads and other essential services. OTI awarded a grant to the Losolia Rehabilitation and Development Association (LRDA) to assist town planners to conduct an environmental impact assessment of Kapoeta. LRDA will also work with key stakeholders to form a planning and supervisory committee to ensure activities are in keeping with community needs and priorities
2. To restore the conditions of peace within and among communities through support of opportunities for peaceful dialogue.
 - OTI signed three grants focusing on conflict mitigation and the strengthening of local NGOs in the eastern Equatoria region of southern Sudan. The region is prone to violent conflict between ethnic groups over the use of common resources. The grants were awarded to local community-based organizations working to support peace-building initiatives through dialogue and good governance practices.
3. To assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society.
 - As part of its OTI-funded national protocol dissemination project, the National Working Group on Civic Education (NWG), conducted a training of team leaders from throughout southern Sudan. The participants, numbering over 50, were trained in community mobilization, public speaking, monitoring and evaluation and report-writing. The team leaders will travel to their assigned regions and organize a variety of community events designed to educate the public on the Naivasha protocols.
 - A grant was awarded to a women's group from the Upper Nile region to accompany trauma and psychosocial experts on a week long mission in Equatoria. The Bentiu Women's Association for Relief and Development will have the opportunity to learn first-hand sound trauma assessment techniques and strategies for appropriate assistance from the mission/team. Participants will in turn carry out training and counseling within their own communities.
 - OTI awarded two grants for women's leadership training workshops in the eastern Equatoria and Bahr El Ghazal regions of southern Sudan. The workshops will focus on providing participants with key skills in advocacy, project management and conflict resolution. An increasing number of women's groups are participating in grassroots-based peace dialogues and are enthusiastic about strengthening their capacities in these areas.
4. To increase access to quality, independent information.
 - The Sudan Radio Service has begun running public service announcements, created in conjunction with the Carter Center, on the dangers of guinea worm. Four ads were produced in each of the nine languages broadcast on SRS. The SRS Radio Programming Advisor has been invited to attend the Carter Center's guinea worm program review meeting in Nairobi in October to discuss other areas in which SRS might collaborate with the Carter Center.
 - On August 11, SRS aired the first of six peace protocol summary programs made in collaboration with the New Sudan National Working Group (NWG) on Civic Education. With support from OTI, the NWG is preparing a massive campaign throughout southern Sudan to disseminate information about the peace process. SRS is producing six programs in each of the nine broadcast languages, one program for each of the six peace protocols signed between the Sudan government and the SPLM thus far. Each program is a line-by-line summary of a particular protocol in very plain language. SRS will air the programs, one protocol per week, and also turn them over to NWG for mass copying and distribution on cassette tape. The tapes will then be used by NWG facilitators visiting communities throughout southern Sudan.

- OTI met with Africa Educational Trust (AET) on the development of a listening group project for the Sudan Radio Service. The project's goal will be not only to receive constructive feedback on programming quality and content, but also to reinforce the information that has been disseminated through the radio programs. AET will hold further discussions with EDC and implementers of the short-wave radio service, and a tentative proposal is expected in early September.
- The *Sudan Mirror* received an OTI grant to produce a special English and Arabic edition of its bi-weekly newspaper on the Naivasha protocols to be distributed throughout southern Sudan. The grant is part of a larger initiative to support the dissemination of the landmark agreements that will hopefully bring to an end Africa's longest-running war.
- SRS continues to expand its news coverage abilities and presence in Sudan. SRS has begun working with a new stringer in Rumbek and another in Cairo, Egypt. Rumbek is often thought of as the de facto capital of southern Sudan. Cairo is home to thousands of Sudanese refugees.

B. Grants Activity Summary

| Program Category | Grants for Aug 2004 | Total Dollar for Aug 2004 | Program Total | Total Dollars |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Increase access to quality independent media | 1 | \$72,050 | 6 | \$312,279 |
| Support grassroots-based peace and conflict resolution initiatives. | 3 | \$150,455 | 27 | \$1,058,908 |
| Strengthen civil society and good governance practices | 5 | \$194,371 | 44 | \$1,887,236 |
| Total | 9 | \$416,876 | 77 | \$3,258,423 |

C. Indicator of Success

According to the Managing Producer of Sudan Radio Service, the chief political commissar of Radio Omdurman (Sudan's government radio) indicated that SRS was forcing changes at Radio Omdurman. Stories that the state radio would earlier have ignored or reported in a particular way are now being reported or discussed more openly.

SPLM's Local Governance Technical Team (LGTT) has been tasked to develop a strategic framework for local governance in southern Sudan. Through an OTI grant, the LGTT received technical assistance from a senior governance specialist and participated in study tours in Ethiopia and Uganda to examine local governance models in a federal system. The team members said that through the exposure visits they learned strong local governments are built on intensive civic education, a commitment to transparency, and rule of law.

D. Program Appraisal

OTI/Sudan continues to develop strategies to provide better programming while also providing improved data and reporting. With assistance from former OTI/Croatia staff, OTI/Sudan and PACT have increased the ability of the OTI database to provide timely accurate information for monitoring, evaluation, design, justification, financial oversight and review.

Overall programs in August were reflective of two slowing factors: the rainy season caused some areas to be inaccessible; and increased human resources were needed to work on the peace protocol dissemination project that will be brought into Phase II in September.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- The OTI/Sudan Deputy Country Representative will be traveling to Khartoum on September 4 to consult with UNICEF on their widely successful community radio listening group project.

- The launching of the Sudan Radio Service's marketing campaign is scheduled to begin with a football tournament in the southern Sudanese town of Maridi in late September.

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

October 2004

Program Description

OTI's programming in Sudan works to link ongoing peace processes, at the local and national level, to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. The four main objectives of the OTI southern Sudan program are to: support the emergence of responsive, effective, and inclusive civil authorities; restore the conditions of peace within and among communities through support of opportunities for peaceful dialogue; assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society; and, increase access to quality, independent information.

OTI's implementing partners are PACT and Educational Development Center (EDC). PACT manages the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative (SSTI), which is a two-year small grants program that focuses on promoting and supporting good governance, local-level peace initiatives, the development of civil society and an informative and balanced media. EDC has established the Sudan Radio Service which is a short-wave radio station that transmits six hours of programming daily on current events, civic education, health and culture in nine languages.

Country Situation

Peace Talks Adjourn With Some Success – According to IGAD's chief mediator Lazaro Sumbeiywo, there was considerable narrowing of differences between the Government of Sudan (GoS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in negotiations on a final comprehensive peace agreement. "The two parties recommitted themselves to finalizing and concluding the comprehensive peace agreement in recognition that prompt completion of the peace process is essential for all the people of the Sudan as it will help in resolving all challenges facing the country," said Sumbeiywo.

Both parties agreed that the technical committee on the cease-fire negotiations will continue to discuss and resolve any remaining issues including the funding of the armed forces and timing of incorporating and integrating other armed groups into their respective structures of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and SPLA/M. Talks are expected to resume on December 11.

UN Warns of Pending HIV/AIDS Crisis – The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has warned in a recent report that a large influx of returnees into southern Sudan could lead to further spread of HIV/AIDS. It is estimated that the virus already affects 2.6 percent of the adult population in the region. As a result of years of isolation during the war, rural communities have traditionally retained low infection rates. However, UNICEF's Regional Advisor on HIV/AIDS David Alnwick worries that increased mobility could elevate HIV infection among this group. In addition, there is a general lack of HIV/AIDS awareness among the population and a high HIV prevalence in some garrison towns.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

With increasing optimism that a final comprehensive agreement will be signed by the end of the year, there has been more focus by international NGOs on the challenges of an expected influx of returnees and IDPs into southern Sudan. In October, OTI supported two grants that address the issue of IDP and returnee movements with an emphasis on civil society involvement and peace/reconciliation.

The first was awarded to the Joint Integration and Rehabilitation Support Team (JIRRST) to continue with phase four of the Bor Mundri IDP and Cattle Camp Return project. In the previous phases, the team worked on resolving conflict between the host Mundri community and the displaced Bor Dinka who fled fighting in the Upper Nile region more than a decade ago. The team also worked with community leaders and international organizations to coordinate the return of vulnerable 1,400 IDPs and their cattle back to Upper Nile. In phase four, the team will carry out community level dialogues between the cattle camps chiefs and various host communities along the route and continue to coordinate with international and national donors for assistance with animal and human health services.

The second grant was awarded to the Maridi Student's Association to carry out participatory research and gather information on returnees arriving in Maridi County in Western Equatoria. The group will work closely with chiefs and local administrators, including the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SRRC), to establish an estimated number of returnees and to examine issues around land use, resource sharing, absorption capacity of local communities and conflict resolution.

Also during October, two grants were awarded to the Pankar Peace Council for continued support to grassroots-based conflict resolution mechanisms. With support from OTI, the Pankar Peace Council has been instrumental in providing rapid response to conflicts over cattle and grazing rights that have arisen among ethnic communities in the Bar El Ghazal region. One output from the numerous community peace dialogues was the recommendation that communication points at four strategic locations be established in order to set up early warning systems. An OTI grant provided technical and organizational training to radio operators responsible for informing communities about potentially volatile situations. An additional grant was awarded the Pankar Peace Council to facilitate a follow-up meeting for chiefs and traditional leaders to develop a framework to address the causes of conflicts identified in previous meetings.

In September, OTI awarded a grant to the South Sudan Law Society (SSLS) for a comprehensive training and assessment of the organization. The findings of the assessment were presented at SSLS General Assembly meeting in October, which determined its future leadership and mission. Key issues discussed included a review of the SSLS constitution, programming activities and financial reports. In addition, SSLS looked to the future and examined whether it should become a bar association or evolve into a human rights organization. OTI's support to SSLS has been critical to the development of a civil society institution contributing to a culture of justice and accountability in southern Sudan. OTI was able to attract co-funding from Britain's Department for International Development (Dfid) and UNDP for this meeting.

In the area of media and access to information, OTI awarded a grant to the African Educational Trust (AET) to establish 45 radio listening groups in southern Sudan. Facilitators will be trained and provided with radios and toolkits to work through activities with participants. The activity was born out of discussions between OTI, Sudan Radio Service (SRS) and AET to identify ways to maximize the impact of SRS' radio programming. This pilot project will not only enhance the learning of participants but also provide valuable feedback to SRS on programming content and quality.

B. Grants Activity Summary

| Program Objectives | Grants for October 2004 | Total Dollar for October 2004 | Program Total | Total Dollars |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Promote emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities | 1 | \$10,850 | 23 | \$1,132,940 |
| Provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities. | 3 | \$71,795 | 34 | \$1,897,606 |
| Promote the emergence of an empowered and an active civil society | 2 | \$40,820 | 25 | \$795,578 |
| Increase availability of quality, independent information | 1 | \$43,704 | 13 | \$4,159,489 |
| Total | 7 | \$167,168 | 95 | \$7,985,613 |

C. Indicator of Success

In July 2004, renewed conflict between militias allied with the GoS and the SPLM had a devastating impact on the communities living in the town of Pibor in Eastern Equatoria. The conflict drove out all humanitarian organizations (including MEDIC and COOPI) and severely limited the ability of community members to access basic services (health, education, food, etc.). OTI supported the return of the two key religious leaders who were successful in mitigating conflict during the occupation by GoS forces and were able to convince all troops to withdraw from Pibor, thus opening up the town to humanitarian support. Not only did the activity prevent what was sure to be a violent conflict likely to displace 20,000-40,000 people, but it also restored community peace and international NGO confidence to return to the area to provide basic services.

A new sense of peace and security is emerging between the Buya and Toposa ethnic groups in Eastern Equatoria thanks to a recent series of tribal meetings supported by OTI. Plagued by a lack of security due to cattle raiding and violent disputes over natural



resources, Budi (Buya) and Kapoeta (Toposa) counties have seen the

Members from the SPLM and OTI welcomed the walkers to Riwoto with a feast and celebration.

withdrawal of support from numerous aid agencies in recent years. OTI issued a grant to a Sudanese NGO, Galcholo, to hold a series of peace and reconciliation meetings between the Buya and Toposa ethnic groups in mid-October. Drawing more than 1,300 participants over a three-day period, the meetings involved representatives from the SPLM, county authorities, community-based organizations, religious groups, and international NGOs. In addition, elders and villagers from Kapoeta town, Machi, Paringa, Riwoto and Kimotong participated in the discussions. The surge of support for these meetings sparked a spontaneous follow-up peace dialogue in Kimotong just days later that drew 3,000 participants, including 800 women.

As a symbol of reconciliation, 21 representatives from both communities, including warriors, elders and Galcholo staff, walked the entire 42 km route at the close of the meetings. Members from the SPLM and OTI welcomed the walkers to Riwoto with a feast and celebration.

D. Program Appraisal

OTI Sudan's program faced some challenges in implementing the national dissemination of the Naivaisha Protocols. The final authorization expected from the SPLM officials took two months to materialize causing major delays in the project. It is hoped approval will be received in early November paving the way for a coalition of Sudanese NGOs to disseminate the Protocols throughout southern Sudan.

The OTI Sudan program is continuing to examine methods of improving collaboration and communication with the various programs of the Sudan Field Office (SFO). In November, OTI will begin to send out copies of grants for comments/concurrence from SFO colleagues. Because of the need for OTI programming to be fast and flexible, feedback must be received within 48 hours.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- Implement internal SFO concurrence system for OTI grants.
- OTI team to attend SFO retreat in Addis Ababa.
- Conduct monitoring and evaluation of completed OTI projects in southern Sudan.
- Prepare for internal Mid-Term Program Review.

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

November 2004

Program Description

OTI's programming in Sudan works to link ongoing peace processes, at the local and national level, to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. The four main objectives of the OTI southern Sudan program are to: support the emergence of responsive, effective, and inclusive civil authorities; restore the conditions of peace within and among communities through support of opportunities for peaceful dialogue; assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society; and, increase access to quality, independent information.

OTI's implementing partners are PACT and Educational Development Center (EDC). PACT manages the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative (SSTI), which is a two-year small grants program that focuses on promoting and supporting good governance, local-level peace initiatives, the development of civil society and an informative and balanced media. EDC has established the Sudan Radio Service which is a short-wave radio station that transmits six hours of programming daily on current events, civic education, health and culture in nine languages.

Country Situation

U.S. Renews Sanctions Against Sudan – This month President Bush extended sanctions against Sudan for one year. The White House issued a statement that said in part, "Sudan's actions and policies continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States."

Security Council Pressures Parties to End Sudan Wars – The UN held a rare session of the Security Council in Nairobi to bring world attention to the on-going crises in Sudan. The council passed a unanimous resolution offering support to peace processes in the country aimed at ending both the North/South civil war and the Darfur crisis. Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha and SPLM/A leader John Garang signed a memorandum of understanding pledging to sign a final comprehensive agreement by the end of the year.

Uganda Attacks LRA's Positions in Sudan – According to newspaper reports, the Ugandan army claims to have killed ten fighters of Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels have chasing the group into southern Sudan. Earlier reports indicate LRA leader Joseph Kony issued a directive to his fighters in northern Uganda to return to bases in southern Sudan.

Massive UN Peacekeeping Deployment Expected After Signing – UN special envoy Jan Pronk announced plans to deploy up to 7,000 peacekeeping troops into southern Sudan upon signing of a final agreement between the Sudanese government and SPLM. Pronk said after signing the accord, the UN would move many of its specialized agencies from Nairobi to Rumbek.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

In total, over 30 community-based organizations have received capacity building training through the SSTI program. The impact of the trainings is becoming evident as more local NGOs begin to organize and network around peace-building, rule of law and good governance initiatives in southern Sudan. In November, thirteen Sudanese organizations received OTI grants to promote civic education training, peace dialogues and conflict analysis.

The Pankar region of Bahr El Ghazal witnessed an increase in instability and violent conflict in early 2004. Through the OTI-supported Pankar Rapid Response project, a series of community peace meetings were convened where critical resolutions, recommendations and plans for resolving conflict were developed. As a result, the region is experiencing a period of relative calm and stability. In order to consolidate the gains made through the project, OTI awarded a grant to the Pankar Peace council to organize a series of meetings to review progress on the implementation early warning systems and the agreements reached between various sub-clans.

One of the fastest growing towns in southern Sudan is Rumbek, which is slated to be the interim capitol of the south upon the signing of a final peace deal. With a grant from OTI, a local organization is planning a key stakeholder's conference in Rumbek to address issues of access to land, rule of law, and the reintegration of refugees and internally displaced. The conference will also examine the lessons learned from the Pankar Rapid Response project to develop conflict mitigation tools in Rumbek County. These activities ensure community members take ownership of their town's development plan.

The border area near Uganda in the southeast of Equatoria remains one of the last zones of instability in southern Sudan despite the recent integration of former GoS-supported militia of the Equatorian Defense Force into the SPLA. Frequent attacks on civilian targets by the Lord's Resistance Army have compounded the suffering of communities living in this region. Four community groups based in eastern Equatoria received a grant from OTI to jointly implement a conflict impact assessment in the troubled area. The groups will provide a detailed analysis on the causes of conflict, examine the status of the EDF/SPLA integration and determine appropriate methods of alleviating the impact of this complex emergency on the population. The findings will be disseminated widely to key stakeholders including international NGOs and the SPLM.

After receiving the full backing of the SPLM for the dissemination of the Naivasha Protocols throughout southern Sudan, OTI issued seven grants to Sudanese NGOs in November to begin coordinating the logistics for this massive undertaking. The groups are under the umbrella organization of the National Working Group on Civic Education (NWGCE) whose members have already received training in dissemination methodologies and project monitoring/evaluating. Radio programs, town hall meetings, posters and taped messages are just a handful of mediums to be utilized in the information campaign. Residents in the transitional zone of the Nuba Mountains will now have a local newspaper thanks to an OTI grant issued to the Koinonia Community group. The Nuba Information Center for Community Empowerment (NICE) weekly newsletter will provide information on local, regional and international news as well as an opinion section to debate matters of public interest.

In November, the Sudan Radio Service began airing a ten week drama series promoting HIV/AIDS awareness in southern Sudan in collaboration with Tearfund, an international organization working the health sector. SRS has also worked with CARE and ARC on education and health related soap/dramas to be aired in the coming weeks. A Sudanese writer completed a 12-part comedy series in Arabic called "Comedia Jedidah" that is set in the north and is currently airing once a week.

SRS has contracted a Kenyan consulting firm to carry out a radio survey in southern Sudan. The survey results will yield valuable information on radio listening habits, opinions on SRS programming and accessibility, times people listen and what languages are most popular. Survey results are expected by the end of January 2005.

B. Grants Activity Summary

| Program Objectives | Grants for November 2004 | Total Dollar for November 2004 | Program Total | Total Dollars |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Promote emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities | 1 | \$ 15,818 | 24 | \$1,148,758 |
| Provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities. | 3 | \$ 91,050 | 37 | \$1,988,656 |
| Promote the emergence of an empowered and an active civil society | 8 | \$140,217 | 33 | \$ 935,795 |
| Increase availability of quality, independent information | 1 | \$ 22,770 | 14 | \$4,182,259 |
| Total | 13 | \$269,855 | 108 | \$8,255,468 |

C. Indicator of Success

As a result of cross-line meetings between the Bor and Murle communities supported by OTI over the past six months, the two communities are openly discussing the sharing of grazing lands during the dry season. In addition, the two communities agreed to identify a peace monitor for the region to ensure that sustainable peace is

maintained. For the first time in nearly a decade, trade between the two communities has opened up and the threat of physical violence has diminished. The communities are engaging in discussions on how to incorporate new IDPs into the region.

OTI's support to four mobile courts in Bahr El Ghazal has been crucial to the significant reduction of tension and violence in the area. With judges and investigators on the ground, communities are opting to wait for the mobile court to adjudicate rather than resort to violence. Over 1,500 looted cattle have been recovered and handed over to owners and there is increased freedom of movement allowing better access to markets, grazing lands and health centers.

D. Program Appraisal

With the dry season approaching, OTI Sudan will continue to increase the number of grants issued as larger parts of the region become accessible. The growing maturity and capacity of Sudanese community-based organizations is becoming evident in the variety and types of initiatives being developed by these groups. In the final evaluations, many groups attribute their strengthened capacity to the support from OTI.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- Coordinate massive protocol dissemination project.
- OTI M&E consultant comes on board.
- Work on annual reporting requirements

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

December 2004

Program Description

The goal of OTI's programming in Sudan is to link ongoing peace processes, at the local and national level, to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. The four main objectives are to: support the emergence of responsive, effective, and inclusive civil authorities; restore the conditions of peace within and among communities through support of opportunities for peaceful dialogue; assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society; and, increase access to quality, independent information.

OTI's implementing partners are PACT and Educational Development Center (EDC). PACT manages the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative (SSTI), which is a two-year small grants program that focuses on promoting and supporting good governance, local-level peace initiatives, the development of civil society and an informative and balanced media. EDC has established the Sudan Radio Service which is a short-wave radio station that transmits six hours of programming daily on current events, civic education, health and culture in nine languages.

Country Situation

Sudan/SPLM Sign Final Peace Agreement – The Sudanese government and the southern rebel movement signed a permanent cease-fire agreement and two annexes that outline implementing modalities for the peace plan. The final agreement, signed at a ceremony in Naivasha, brings an end to 21 years of conflict in Africa's largest country. On January 9 a larger and more formal ceremony is expected to take place in Nairobi, after which the six-month pre-interim period officially begins. In this period, both parties are required to draw up a constitution for the government of national unity. The SPLM will prepare to move its offices into Juba, the new capital for the government of southern Sudan. The pre-interim period will be followed by a six-year interim period, after which the southern Sudanese will be able to vote in a referendum on whether to secede from the North. In this period, the power and wealth-sharing protocols will be implemented, allowing the south to tap into 49% of oil revenue and to retain 28% of the national parliament and cabinet positions. Under the security protocols, the Sudanese army must withdraw its forces from the south within 30 months. In addition, the SPLA is required to pull its forces from the north within eight months.

U.S. Congress Passes Sanctions/Aid for Sudan – The U.S. Congress approved \$300 million to help victims of violence and support peace talks in Sudan. The bill authorizes \$200 million in aid for refugees and the deployment of additional African Union peacekeepers in the region and sets aside another \$100 million for peace dividends in the event that a final comprehensive peace agreement is reached between the Sudanese government and southern rebels. The legislation also sanctions the government of Sudan for its continued failure to intervene to stop the atrocities in Darfur, imposes an asset freeze on senior Sudanese officials and calls upon the President Bush to impose a travel ban on senior Sudanese officials.

SPLM Conference Seeks Unity – Following a conference that brought together over 200 senior military and political leaders, the SPLM asserted that the organization is more united than ever. The conference discussed changes necessary to transform the rebel group into the future governing body for the south. In another development related to the Rumbek meetings, a SPLM spokesman denied rumors that Commander Salva Kiir, the movement's number two in command, is planning to split from the organization.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

In December, there was a general sense of optimism due to the anticipated signing of the final comprehensive agreement between the SPLM and the Sudanese government. The SSTI program issued 40 grants worth an estimated \$1 million – by far the busiest month since the program's inception. The increased activity in the small grants program is due to a convergence of various factors including positive momentum of previous initiatives, the relative stabilization of increasing parts of south Sudan and the launching of the extensive Naivasha protocol dissemination project.

OTI has thus far funded 29 local-level peace processes in all regions of southern Sudan and in the transition areas of Abyei, Southern Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains. The peace processes included local-level dialogues, conflict impact assessments and rapid response initiatives. Direct training of community members in conflict resolution skills has provided for a core group of men and women capable of working within their own communities to resolve conflicts as they arise. As a result, OTI's interventions have promoted a constituency and a demand for grassroots peace building.

In December, grants were awarded to assist Sudanese NGOs in monitoring peace gains, convening inter-ethnic dialogues and the construction of peace/cultural centers. In most cases, the projects' activities are directly related to outcomes of previous initiatives. For example, last year OTI funded a rapid response mission to Upper Nile to address an outbreak of violence between the Bor Dinka and Murle peoples. In response to requests from both sides of the conflict, OTI is supporting a peace monitoring team to ensure the safe movement of Murle traveling to Bor lands to access water.

There were a number of grants in December that consolidated and expanded grassroots peace achievements. In both the Equatoria and Nuba mountains, OTI supported the building of peace and cultural centers designed to strengthen ties between diverse communities and serve as a focal point of peace-building efforts. In Upper Nile and eastern Equatoria, local NGOs were supported in small-scale infrastructure improvements to roads that provide critical access for traders and international NGOs. In coordination with OFDA's efforts to improve southern Sudanese access to clean water, OTI is supporting the rehabilitation and maintenance of boreholes in Upper Nile and Bahr el Ghazal. Improved access to roads and clean water are critical post-conflict interventions that underpin peace and reduce conflict at the grassroots level.

With hopes for an end to years of conflict and instability, Sudanese women are mobilizing to play a greater role in political and social life. OTI awarded five grants to local women's organizations to support a regional conference, human rights training and various income-generating activities. The micro enterprise initiatives include the provision of equipment and training for the use of grinding mills and brick-making machines in Equatoria and Bahr el Ghazal.

OTI awarded several grants in December designed to improve the rule of law sector in southern Sudan. In Upper Nile, 60 paralegals will be trained and six legal aid centers established. The centers will provide legal assistance and arbitration services to the community. In the absence of genuine rule of law institutions in southern Sudan, customary law has played a vital role in conflict management and resolution and there is some debate on how to incorporate traditional law into a formal legal system. In Equatoria, OTI awarded a grant to the Toposa Development Association to bring together local government officials and civil society to identify appropriate customary laws and examine the role of chiefs in the legal system.

The OTI-funded Sudan Radio Service (SRS) is increasingly becoming the go-to source for international media interested in timely news on southern Sudan. SRS stories are regularly cited in the BBC's monitoring reports and have been picked up by the Associated Press. Media in the Arab world, such as the widely read Asharq Al Awsat newspaper, have also sourced SRS reports. Khartoum-based Blue Nile TV, Sudan's first private television station, interviewed SRS staff for a profile on the radio service. In preparation for the anticipated signing of the peace agreement, SRS's programming in the last week of December focused on the political and social impact of the agreement in southern Sudan. On the day of the signing, SRS reporters were on the scene in Naivasha to bring detailed coverage and interviews with key personalities. Because most of the BBC's news coverage that day focused on the aftermath of the tsunami disaster in Asia, many Sudanese relied on SRS to get the latest updates from Naivasha.

The long-awaited MOU between USAID/REDSO and the Kenyan government was signed in early December. The agreement will allow USAID implementing partners based in Kenya, yet programming in neighboring countries, to receive tax/duty-free status and staff work visas. Both of OTI's implementing partners, PACT and EDC, will benefit greatly from the MOU.

B. Grants Activity Summary

| Program Objectives | Grants for December 2004 | Total Dollar for December 2004 | Program Total | Total Dollars |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Promote emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities. | 3 | \$ 39,793 | 27 | \$1,188,551 |
| Provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among | 8 | \$ 199,689 | 45 | \$2,188,345 |

| | | | | |
|--|-----------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| communities. | | | | |
| Promote the emergence of an empowered and an active civil society. | 11 | \$341,578 | 44 | \$1,277,373 |
| Increase availability of quality, independent information. | 18 | \$ 475,575 | 32 | \$4,657,834 |
| Total | 40 | \$1,056,635 | 148 | \$9,312,103 |

C. Indicator of Success

Issues of land allocation, infrastructure development and provision of basic services are now being examined and discussed by local authorities and civic leaders in various communities throughout the south. OTI provided technical assistance to the Department of Housing, Survey and Town Planning for mapping and surveying of Kapoeta town in eastern Equatoria. The town was chosen because of the sustained population growth it has achieved due to its relative peace and stability. The result is that local officials are now responsibly and effectively planning for the construction of community buildings, roads and other essential services.

D. Program Appraisal

With the signing of the final peace agreement between the SPLM and the Sudanese government, the OTI program is reviewing programming options to be responsive to immediate transition needs in the pre-interim period. A local consultant who was recently hired to help strengthen the program's monitoring and evaluation system, is being assisted by OTI/Sri Lanka's monitoring and evaluation specialist.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- Country representative to visit Khartoum and meet with State and USAID officials.
- OTI staff will accompany team from Regional Inspector's office into southern Sudan.