

**South Sudan Transition Initiative**  
**OTI Small Grants Program for Southern Sudan**  
*Pact, Inc.*

**Pact/OTI Quarterly Report #3**  
**(January 1-March 31, 2004)**

**Background/Description**

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

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

The Sudan context under which the SSTI program has been implemented during this reporting period may be best described as one of continued high expectations, but mixed with frustration and cynicism. Rumors around the progress of the Naivasha peace talks are rampant and fluctuate wildly between the 'Peace talks are foundering' end of the spectrum to the 'A Peace Agreement is about to be signed tomorrow' end. Nevertheless progress is reportedly being made. From the pragmatic programming perspective, it may be that the longer it takes for an agreement to be signed, the better prepared the South (and the development assistance community) may be. However, it is also apparent that, the Sudanese citizenship are tired of the length of time this process is taking and appear even to be disengaging slightly. There are indications that this has adversely affected the enthusiasm and the motivation with which groups approach the SSTI program.

## Grant Summary

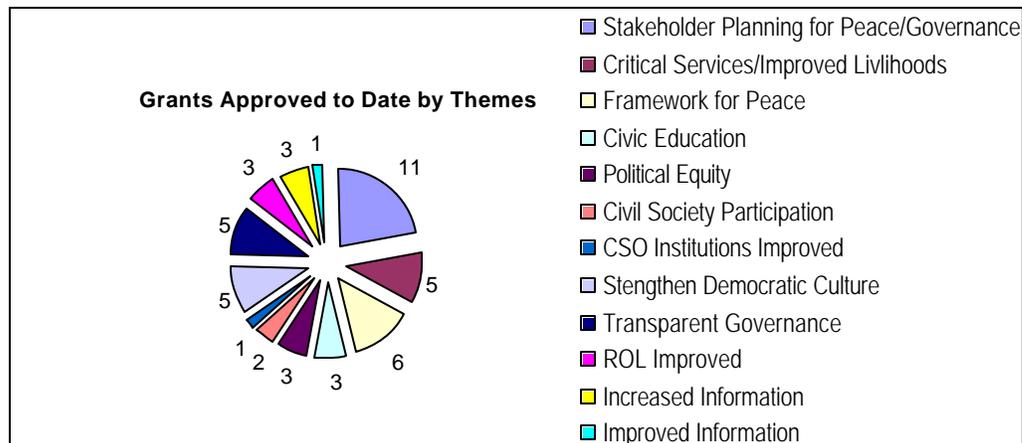
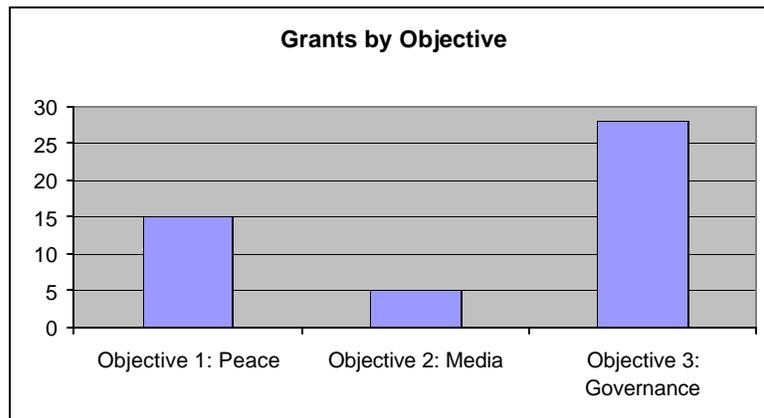
Table 1\*: Proposals to Date

Region	Proposal Information (to date)				Total Obligated	Previous	New
	Total Proposals	Approved	Under Review**	Rejected	Value (USD)	Totals	Aggregate
Bahr el Ghazal	20	11	4	5	\$ 327,773	\$ -	\$ 327,773
Equatoria	34	4	17	13	\$ 117,536	\$ -	\$ 117,536
Upper Nile	22	7	6	9	\$ 195,497	\$ -	\$ 195,497
Transition Zones	26	13	7	6	\$ 485,139	\$ -	\$ 485,139
National	36	13	13	10	\$ 512,545	\$ -	\$ 512,545
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>\$ 1,638,490</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,638,490</b>

\* This table will represent quarterly information in future reports. This information covers the past 12 months of the program.

\*\* Under review means that Pact is currently in discussion with the grantee, USAID, other donors or other organizations about providing support to this activity. Negotiations on some grants are extensive since time frames are difficult (especially during rains) projects are politically sensitive, proposals are poorly organized by NGOs, or USAID needs to be consulted.

## Analysis



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

The most important non-grant activity of this quarter was the signing of the contract amendment which increased the operational costs by \$1,251,743 and the grant pool by \$2,848,257. With this amendment, Pact immediately began contracting additional program staff for enhancing SSTI presence and capacity in south Sudan.

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

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

Rumbek Camp - Construction for the camp in Rumbek was completed at the end of March but work still remains to be done to make the camp habitable and provide accommodation of a suitable standard. The camp consists of 4 tukuls, a kitchen, one cement office, a latrine, a shower and a cafeteria. OTI has one program staff person (Nyandeng) and one driver (TBD) on location. The OTI vehicle for this site is on order and should be in the field before the end of May (weather permitting). Other administrative staff are shared OTI and SPF.

Ayod Camp- Pact intends on beginning the construction of a camp in Ayod, Upper Nile. An exploratory visit has been made to the region and the governor has identified land for the Pact camp site. However, due to insecurity in the region, construction has not yet begun. We anticipate that peace will provide the necessary stability and will begin construction immediately thereafter.

#### *Strategy and Systems Work*

One major emphasis during this reporting period has been to start the process of changing the approach of the SSTI. The intention is to present SSTI as a proactive program which can stimulate, catalyze and develop ideas on the ground that are strategic, innovative and with potential for replication rather than just respond to project proposals. This process will be guided by preparation and ongoing synthesis of thematic discussion / position / strategy papers on key themes supported and addressed by the SSTI program. This quarter has seen the production of a number of these initial draft papers on: (a) Customary Law (b) Women (c) Civil Society. In the coming months we expect to hone these further and also work on our thinking around other themes such as our approach to local government and other critical areas.

In conjunction with this proactive programming approach PACT has been working on enhancing the Grant Management side; grant tracking, monitoring systems, information management and data collection systems. This has included developing initial indicators and a more comprehensive strategic framework as well as basic identification of information requirements and methods of collection.

#### *Staffing*

Three new members of staff funded through OTI have also been recruited in this quarter; Simon Richards at the Nairobi level as a Program Advisor, and two Sudanese Program

Officers; Rejoice Kenyi Moga and Deliec Nyandeng. These two women will be based in the field covering Equatoria and Bahr el Ghazal respectively. It is expected that with these quality personnel on the ground to initiate, develop, follow-up and monitor initiatives as well as feedback learning, our programming and presence will improve significantly. The Upper Nile program officer has not yet been identified as qualified candidates are proving very difficult to find. We hope to have a program officer identified within the next quarter.

***Grants activities in this quarter (January to March 2004)***

In this quarter, 20 grants were issued totaling \$759,631 (average of \$37,982). Activities were distributed across the three objectives of the OTI program, as described below.

**1) To strengthen key processes, mechanisms, and institutions for responsible governance and civil society development**

With the unification of the SPLM and the SPLM-United, Upper Nile became, for the first time in many years, united under one political arm. With a grant to the SRRC, Pact helped formalize the process by bringing together the remaining two development branches in southern Sudan (the FRRA and SRRC) into one overarching administrative body. The significance of this unity is expected to have long term positive effects on the political and security stability in the region, as it successfully brought together highly volatile groups to a peaceful unity.

In anticipation of a signed agreement between SPLM and GoS, Pact continues to support the SPLM Office for Political Affairs with resources for preparations of the South Sudan Congress, now more likely being planned for November 2004. Pact continues to provide planning, logistical and administrative support to groups in Nairobi, Rumbek and New Site that are preparing 8 essential SPLM documents in preparations for the establishment of a formal government and political party. In addition, Pact is providing support for hosting the conference of about 4,000 people, in a location just outside Yirol.

Continuing support is being provided to the Judiciary of South Sudan, focusing on a special mobile court that will facilitate senior judges to travel to locations suffering from long term conflict. This project is intended to enhance judicial efficiency in resolving outstanding cases that have contributed to ongoing insecurity and frustrations with the Judiciary. This first grant is focused on establishing the mobile court and carrying out an initial rapid assessment around the Tonj area (Bahr el Ghazal) for engagement

## Case Study: The mobile court

In this quarter, Pact has been increasing its support to the **Judiciary**. The Judiciary's role in governance, Rule of Law activities and consolidating peace, is of course critical. The most recent discussions with SSTI have centered around assisting the Judiciary to address long outstanding conflicts in the Pakam/Jalwau conflict, which because of weak institutional capacity, have not been adequately addressed. This process has started with a joint civil authority/judiciary assessment mission to the area and is intended to be followed by a second phase (where the court will sit) which will be a test case for the Judiciary to demonstrate a credible and professional response and build community confidence in their ability to function. This project is intended to support establishment of good practice and procedures for a rapid response from the judiciary and civil authorities, but also to provide an opportunity for key actors to consider other longer term Rule of law issues such as harmonization of victim compensation and court fines.

This sort of activity in Sudan is always fraught with 'rocks under the water' that can easily unravel the process. The credibility of the courts is at stake, given their recent history in this conflict, and therefore issues such as:

- The impartiality of judiciary personnel undertaking the trial is critical and those chosen need to be acceptable to both the community and the authorities.
- The authorities involved need too to be seen not to be allied to any of the protagonists or ethnic groups.
- Ensuring that any political implications involving actors such as the military are noted and side processes are undertaken by other players to minimize the likelihood that they will not derail or undermine the court or its decisions.
- That there are complementary community-processes alongside any trials that ensure court decisions are acceptable and adhered to.
- That there are parallel community-processes alongside that aim to resolve the underlying conflicts that have resulted in the cases and support reconciliation between the groups and a process of peace consolidation.
- That the process resides within a broader framework that considers issues such as the weakness of the other RoL institutions to carry out their roles (e.g. the prisons and police).

These issues are alongside the practical everyday reality of South Sudan: the lack of human resources, the continuing enormous 'pull' of other processes and activities that draw the few capable people away, the logistical difficulties of even the simplest transport and communication, the enormous lack of resources available to any of those involved in trying to address these issues, and so on.

It is not surprising that these sorts of activities require enormous energy and commitment from all participants and sometimes up to 10 meetings to clarify a single grant activity!

*\*Each quarter Pact will identify one 'case study' which will look at some of the concerns ~~that~~ ~~surrounding~~ the tackling of a particular ~~activity~~ issue.*

Pact continues to support local governance and community interaction as it pertains to improving development planning and efficient governance procedures. To this end, Pact issued three additional grants this quarter. In Bor County, Pact supported the meeting of three commissioners, NGOs, SRRC, CANS, tribal leaders and community members to discuss issues relating to governance and development. The meeting resolved priority concerns in the region and began to establish a pathway forward for peaceful development in the area. Similarly, Pact support NRRDO in Nuba to develop a similar development strategy plan. In Old Fangak, Pact laid the foundation for the All Nuer Conference by supporting the preparation activities on the ground for the conference.

*(Note: Each quarter Pact will identify one key partnership to highlight their work with SSTI.)*

The gender focus of Pact's program is multi-faceted. Within the improved governance objective, Pact's strategy revolves around the development and strengthening of women political leaders. One practical step has been to support NDA to send a representative to the United Nations Conference in New York, focusing on strengthening and networking women political leaders around the globe. Pact is now developing a replication strategy for similar training in Nairobi/Sudan.

Pact is working with Rural Focus on the development of community water management training curriculum

which is currently being piloted in several key communities throughout southern Sudan. In addition to the development and carrying out of a training of trainers course, Pact is supporting ACAD to implement the training at the community level and Rural Focus is carrying out monitoring and evaluation responsibilities. This type of training will continue in Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile and Southern Blue Nile in future quarters.

In order to support the strengthening of civil society organizations Pact issued two grants in this quarter. The first was to SUVAD who is working in cooperation with WORD and RDF to establish a comprehensive database of NGOs in the south and laying the foundation for regional NGO networks that will eventually, it is hoped, fold into a national movement. On a more national / regional level, Pact supported NESI to attend an all-African NGO training session carried out by AED in Uganda. This training will help strengthen the umbrella network and the training will be offered within the network to all members.

### **Key Partnership**

In the past quarter, Pact (in collaboration with Christian Aid) began to increase support to the **Civic Education National Working Group**. The CENWG is a membership organization of 11 SNGOs who are currently supporting civic education and/or curriculum development in southern Sudan. This membership organization has been established to lead the way in curriculum development in the south, working with its membership to ensure that timely, effective and relative messages are developed and disseminated around peace education, citizen participation and good governance practice.

Pact is supporting the CENWG through many complimentary activities, in addition to providing resources through a small, in-kind grant. Pact staff participates regularly in CENWG weekly staff meetings, provides assistance to evaluate and interview potential consultants, provides documentation to establish a legal working framework, and provides other information via contacts, technical assistance, or logistical support as appropriate. As a result of this intensive support, the CENWG has been able to establish an executive board, hire 3 staff members and contract curriculum experts and organizational development specialists within two weeks of start up.

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

Continuing with previous activities to increase access to independent information, Pact has provided two additional grants in this quarter to the *Sudan Mirror* in an attempt to improve the quality of reporting that is being produced. The first grant consisted of the production of civic education messages Sudan Development Trust, while the second grant consisted of training to 12 staff reporters and an additional 12 journalists from within the Sudanese community.

In addition, Pact has teamed up with Radio Management Services, based in Uganda, to support a short wave radio station focused on providing information in local languages to the people of the Kidepo Valley in East Equatoria. The station will work in cooperation with SRS and AU-IBAR to provide news and agricultural education programs in local languages.

## **3) To bolster emerging processes, mechanisms, and institutions that promote peace and stability**

Following up on initial dialogue meetings held in the past quarter, this quarter brought about the first cross-border dialogue where representatives from SPLM and GoS met with elders from the Missiryia, Dinka and Rezigat communities to discuss a way forward towards peace in areas surrounding Abyei, Kordofan, and Aweil. This meeting identified the High Commission Organizing Committee as a fully representative body to carry peace conference preparations forward. A follow up meeting was scheduled for April 2004. Under a separate grant, Pact supported delegates from this conference and from Nuba and Southern Blue Nile to attend peace negotiations in Naivasha in order to provide necessary support to the SPLM delegates. The delegates provided critical inputs to the SPLM that fed into negotiations around the transitional zones.

Also in Bahr el Ghazal, Pact is supporting the Cuiebet Peace Conference aimed at strengthening support from the youth of the communities north of Rumbek to the February 2003 Peace Conference. Implementation of the 2003 Conference has proven difficult as numerous pastoralist youth who were unable to attend the Conference have been acting as peace spoilers to the Conference declarations. This youth conference will focus on getting by-in from relevant stakeholders and will help strengthen the peace implementation process.

Finally, in Mabior town (just northwest of Malual Kon) in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Pact is supporting Tearfund in the implementation of an improved agriculture and basic health education program. While the activity falls outside the key guiding criteria for the majority of activities that Pact supports, Tearfund is focusing heavily on the issue of returnees and reintegration in the community, which is key to the peaceful reintegration of one of the areas with the highest level of anticipated returnees. Healthy transition of these communities to peaceful reintegration is absolutely key to successful governance and economic sustainability within the region, especially given Abyei's special

considerations under the emerging peace deal and therefore it will be very interesting to follow the success of this activity in this area.

***Grant activities anticipated for the following quarter (see attachment D—weekly tracking chart)***

**Judiciary-Mobile Courts:** It is expected that the assessment trip of the Judiciary and Regional Authorities in Bahr el Ghazal to Pakam will be followed up by a proposal from them to assist in facilitation of a ‘mobile court’ to address the outstanding cases that are fuelling inter-ethnic conflict.

**South Sudan Law Society:** It is hoped that initial grants with the SSLS will be built upon to consider how we can develop a positive and more comprehensive, strategic approach to supporting their crucial work as a critical civil society organization.

**Governance support-construction:** Following a peace agreement, the three transition areas (The Funj, Nuba and Abyei) will be unique in national character. The GoS and SPLM are expected to have to integrate at all levels. The SPLM Civil Administration is not prepared for a sound integration and has little current capacity for governance at State and local levels. Assistance related to the strategic plans for the three areas, the civil administration requires functioning offices as a starting point around which to learn lessons, develop strategy and build capacity. These lessons will contribute to more sound governance and planning in the future, and increase capacity for good governance in a complex and challenging political environment.

**Gender:** In this quarter, Pact began to develop its gender strategy for southern Sudan, addressing both the political and civil society components. A draft strategy is under development, and has increased Pact awareness that the degree of handholding required to fully engage in this issue is beyond Pact’s current capacity. Ways to increase human resources to support this effort, particularly on the political level, are needed. In the meantime, Pact will continue to support grass-roots efforts through community projects and women’s leadership training through NSCC.

**Media:** Discussions have been underway between Pact, USAID and EDC about ways to increase listenership of the short-wave radio in Sudan. What has been decided is that listening groups should be established in areas of large populations or where Pact can easily monitor the change in listenership over time. Informally, Maridi and Kapoeta have been selected as place to start. Again, Pact is finding that it lacks the human resources to invest in establishing listening groups and following up activities of this nature. A strategy will be developed in this quarter to move this agenda forward.

**HIV/AIDS:** No strategy has been developed to date.

***Travel this quarter (January-March 2004)***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dates of Travel</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Simon Richards	February 9-14	Nuba Mountains	Discuss with NRRDO and various groups (e.g. Local Government, Women, Youth etc) re developments in the area.
Luca Venza	February 9-14	Nuba Mountains	Attend the UNDP organized Radio meeting.
Luca Venza	March 22-26	Yei	Discuss with Cdr. JJ a proposal from the CANS of Yei. Visit proposing agencies

***Projected travel in coming quarter (April-June 2004)***

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Simon Richards	April 20-23 May 11-15	Rumbek	Follow-up on the mobile courts initiative
Simon Richards	June 11-18	Equatoria	Follow-up grassroots initiatives and work with Rejoice to encourage and support her understanding of SSTI and how our objectives are unfolding within this region.
Luca Venza	May 31-June 4	Bahr el Ghazal	Follow-up grassroots initiatives and work with Nyandeng to encourage and support her understanding of SSTI and how our objectives are unfolding within this region.

**Problems requiring addressing**

Aside from the usual spate of logistical, political, weather related issues that are constantly present in South Sudan – Nothing new this quarter!