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| **Sudan Council of Churches** |
| Peace from the Roots |
| An approach to reduce violence and strengthen peace and stability in Jonglei State and other conflict-affected states in South Sudan |
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| **Sudan Council of Churches** |
| **2012 - 2013** |

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| The Sudan Council of Churches will seek to deepen peace and reconciliation among communities while helping to pave the way for longer term stability and development for the people of Jonglei State. With a spiralling and protracted conflict in the state, the Governments of South Sudan and of the State have sought the support of the Sudan Council of Churches, under the leadership of His Grace Archbishop Daniel Deng Bol, to lead mediation efforts. |

**PRE-AMBLE**

With a spiralling and protracted conflict in Jonglei State, the Government of South Sudan and of the State have continue to work to bring peace and stability to the conflict-affected communities and have sought the support of the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), under the leadership of His Grace Archbishop Daniel Deng Bol, to lead mediation efforts. The Council will seek to deepen peace and reconciliation among communities while helping to pave the way for longer term stability and development for the people of Jonglei State. This process would feed into and be fed into by a high-level Government process on Jonglei State looking at governance, security and broader development issues.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Long-standing traditional conflict in Jonglei State was, over decades, overtaken by and inter-twined with a civil war that introduced decades of intense small arms-fuelled violence. Casualties and fatalities, displacement and loss of property, deeply entrenched enmities and trauma – all served to undermine a newly established peace agreement between the Government of Sudan and the SPLA/M. Stability is further weakened by the presence of militia groups, political fault-lines, pressure on resources and pervasive, deep-rooted poverty. Now, beyond the separation of Sudan into two states, the newly formed Republic of South Sudan faces considerable challenges to build its government at all levels, deliver services to its people, reduce endemic violence and steer the world’s newest nation towards a more stable and prosperous future. Jonglei State has seen some of the most protracted violence over recent years, with an escalation in conflict resulting in several thousand killed in inter- and intra-communal violence, hundreds of children orphaned and abducted, over 50,000 displaced in the last year alone and property damaged or stolen.

**APPROACH**

Recent violence resulting in killings, widespread destruction and looting in Pibor County, after an attack by Lou youth, and the ongoing retaliation by the Murle into Akobo, Nyirol and Wuror Counties has led to a strong security response from the Government, as well as a call for a comprehensive peace process looking at political, social and economic dynamics. While it is imperative for the Government to lead on the political process, communities have called for a continuation of SCC engagement and mediation.

The churches have spearheaded a number of significant grassroots peace initiatives, including the People to People Peace Process culminating in Wunlit in 1999, which generated a strong and lasting impetus for healing and a way forward for communities in conflict. These were hailed by many as the best chance for peace and have now come sharply into focus again. Neither peaceful nor forced disarmament, nor inter-communal dialogue sponsored by the Government have stemmed the violence, while considerable investment in Jonglei State has not been sufficiently widespread to prevent many feeling marginalised by their Government. SCC will seek to promote reconciliation between communities and to pave the way to longer term peace and stability through its standing reputation, the person of its respected chair, and its ability to draw on numerous other key personalities and its broad network to lead numerous actors to provide outreach to youth and disaffected populations.

**STRATEGY**

Rebuilding confidence and facilitating agreements between the communities through mediation will serve to reduce immediate violence. Mobilisers, monitors and key local representatives from among churches, community-based organisations and youth leaders will work to form strong grass-roots networks within and between the various communities in Jonglei State. SCC will further ensure a presence on the ground, supporting and equipping the network to be effective, while providing and identifying crucial entry points, jointly with the Government of Jonglei State, to wider humanitarian and development actors, both national and international. Equally important will be the link between the SCC-led process and the higher political process for a stronger impact on the situation.

The network will:

* In the event of incidents threatening peace **provide objective information and early warning** from the ground in the form of reports to neighbouring communities, SCC, Government and UNMISS for preventative action as well as **act to counter false information or incorrect rumours** among and between communities;
* **Identify and mobilise** communities, leaders, youth and other actors to support peaceful initiatives, engage in SCC mediation efforts and seek to build better relationships with neighbouring communities;
* **Identify entry points** with communities to strengthen peace and promote longer-term stability and development and provide these to SCC, Government and in collaboration with international partners and donors critical entry points are identified for (a) delivering quick impact projects/peace dividends with special focus on cattle camp youth and (b) reducing violence and addressing long-term root causes of conflicts;
* **Inform communities** on the process and outcome of dialogues, trainings and other initiatives undertaken by SCC and other actors to build peace;
* **Provide transformative training** **as well as peace education** for community members, leaders and other key local actors to build a constructive, peaceful engagement and a philosophy of peaceful coexistence
* **Act to objectively investigate and report** on incidents that undermine peace and stability and provide any significant information to SCC, Government and UNMISS

**Component 1: Establishment and support of a peace building network in Jonglei State**

Approaches:

* Identification of network members
* Training of clergy, youth and CBO staff as mediators and facilitators in conflict transformation, negotiations, building leadership and facilitation
* Providing direct mediation/facilitation between/within churches, CBOs, youth groups
* Establishing permanent presence of church clergy at village and cattle camp throughout the year
* Regular liaison between SCC senior and parish clergy, CBO and youth leaders to ensure clear communication on events, initiatives and opportunities with regular, comprehensive reporting
* Provide logistical support to the network including:
* Regular stipends to members of the network
* Communication means including satellite phones/credit (in areas without phone networks) and/or regular phones/credit (in areas with network) – ensuring a full and shared list of network members and their contacts
* Transport means including motorcycles and/or bicycles/spares and/or fuel
* Strengthening SCC capacity to undertake programme/financial management as well as support to project implementation and coordination of the international community

Partners/ Target groups:

* Youth leaders/cattle camp leaders/age set members
* Clergy
* CBO members
* Influential persons (private sector, elders, women)
* SCC

Expected results:

1. A network for peace is established in Jonglei State
2. More effective grassroots communication and real time information with centralized analysis
3. Strengthened capacity for facilitation, negotiation and transformative training at grassroots levels
4. Internal and external threats and conflicts reduced through more direct intervention at grassroots levels
5. Established dialogue with key parties to the conflicts is ensured in the mid-term
6. Feedback from Juba and Bor and other parts of the State and vice-versa on overall process is provided to communities and key parties to the conflicts
7. SCC’s capacity to manage programmes/finances and project implementation/monitoring is enhanced

**Component 2: Build confidence between youth, communities in general, the churches, community-based organisations and the Government at various levels**

Approaches:

* Provision of peace education, trainings, communication (combating hate speech) and mediation workshops to identified youth from cattle camps and White Army representatives at Reconcile Yei or any other agreed location, as well as other training platforms
* Exposure visits to Kuron Peace Village (Eastern Equatoria) and Karamoja and Turkana pastoralist projects
* Mobilisation campaigns in cattle camps (music, video, theatre, traditional events)
* Develop further situation analyses for other Jonglei communities
* Identify entry points with communities to strengthen peace and promote longer-term stability and development and provide these to SCC, Government and in collaboration with international partners and donors critical entry points are identified for (a) delivering quick impact projects/peace dividends with special focus on cattle camp youth and (b) reducing violence and addressing long-term root causes of conflicts;
* Draw on engagement with the network to develop intra- and inter-group dialogues and an All-Jonglei Conference

Partners/ Target Groups:

* Youth leaders/cattle camp leaders/age set members
* Clergy
* CBO members
* Influential persons (private sector, elders, women)
* Kuron Peace Village
* Reconcile Yei

Expected results:

1. Youth develop a common platform of understanding for peace
2. Youth and communities in general develop a culture of peace
3. Conceptualisation of ‘peace village’ project for Jonglei State
4. Stronger will for peace and reconciliation among communities and their youth
5. Entry points for conflict prevention, resolution and quick-impact project implementation
6. Situational analyses available for all Jonglei communities
7. Intra- and inter-community dialogues and an All Jonglei conference held

**REPLICATION TO OTHER STATES AND SUSTAINABILITY**

The immediate priority for the SCC mediation initiative will be Jonglei state. However the model described above can also equally be applied to other conflict-affected states in South Sudan. The SCC mediation team will therefore seek to replicate this process in other states in South Sudan as time and resources permit.

A major focus of this strategy is the development of SCC capacity. As the initiative unfolds, so will SCC’s capacity to manage the process independently of external assistance. Financial support will, however, continue to be required through the project cycle. To date this initiative has been funded by a range of NGOs and international donors including UNMISS and DFID. Going forward the sources of funding will be broadened in order to ensure continuity and sustainability throughout the project period.

**GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH SUDAN**

Incl. President, key ministers, South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission among others

**Council of States & MPs**

Keep them informed,

receiving their support, and also encouraging them to develop strong legislation and maintain links to their communities

**SCC**

**UNMISS, UN AND INGOS**

Protection, Humanitarian, Recovery, Development, Planned Activities and Actual Activities

COMMUNITIES

**GOVERNMENT OF JONGLEI STATE**

Incl. Governor, State Peace Committee, State Peace Commission, other Committees, County Commissioners

Planned Activities and Actual Activities