

WIDENING PROSPECTS FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE.

RECONCILE ANNUAL REPORT 2005.



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Widening the Prospects for sustainable Peace


In RECONCILE's endeavour to build peace and sustain hope among the Sudanese communities, the year 2005 has been challenging but exciting year. As we look back we are amazed at what our young organization has been able to accomplish. With God's help and the faithful support of our partners we have seen considerable growth in a number of areas this past year as our programmes are gaining momentum. We have been able to expand into the area of Inter-faith Understanding, which is so vital for the reconciliation process to move forward, and we have broadened our Civic Education Programme to include Parliamentary Orientation.

Our staff, which has expanded by the addition of two programme personnel, continues to be a dedicated group of individuals with specific talents who work together as a coordinated team, creating synergistic effect impacting our programs and objectives. We have been immensely encouraged by the reports we receive as we do follow-ups on the impact of our workshops in which participants share stories of how they have used their skills to help traumatized people and to intervene to stop violence from erupting. Reports like this make us want to extend our reach even further, as we know the training we do has tremendous impact!

As the media continually reports, the people of Sudan are still longing for the full realization of the peace agreement. They report that "we have smelled the peace but we cannot yet taste it".

The report hereinafter will take you through what we managed to accomplish within the year and the costs that were incurred to achieve the results.

We are thankful for our partners who stand with us as we seek to work with church and community leaders to help transform Sudan from the "culture of war" to the "culture of peace" that they so ache for and deserve!



Emmanuel LoWilla Executive
Director RECONCILE
International Yei

RECONCILE ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Executive summary

An important milestone marking the end of over 2 decades of civil war and the start of a new epoch in the Sudanese struggle on the road to peace was reached on 9th January 2005 when the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed. The jubilation and excitement that marked the occasion was very moving as people of all ages sung and wept for joy. A desire expressed by many Sudanese at the occasion was for the agreement to be implemented as soon as all political, social and economic structures are in place so that lasting peace may prevail.

RECONCILE recognized that despite the euphoria of having a signed peace accord, challenges still remain such as demilitarizing the minds, community awareness of what has been signed, national reconciliation, healing trauma caused by the war and re-building destroyed relationships between peoples and faith-communities. As such RECONCILE has been keenly following the process of the implementation and continues to be actively involved in trainings where the CPA is popularized, Community Consultations, Psychosocial Rehabilitation and interfaith awareness dialogue initiatives are carried out.

To further strengthen RECONCILE's capacity to handle the daunting tasks ahead, organisational development was undertaken in two areas: staff development and preparation of the site for constructing the training centre inside Sudan particularly at this period. The linkages with partners and other civil society organisations were developed and strengthened during the period being reported. RECONCILE partnered with as well as received support for the interfaith awareness program from United States Institute for Peace (USIP) and engaged with Sudan Inter-Religious Council-Khartoum on inter-religious understanding. During advocacy trips to Europe and America lobbying and interpretation were undertaken to advocate for continued support of the Sudanese people in consolidating the peace.

RECONCILE is grateful to EED, TEARFUND, ICCO, CAFOD, RCA, DANCHURCHAID, PCUSA and USIP for all the moral and financial support received towards widening of the prospects of human realization and dignity for the Sudanese people. The enhanced understanding of the CPA and its contents, of the principles of participatory governance, participation of people in conflict transformation and peace-building through reconciliation as well as trauma healing for lasting peace in the Sudan was made possible through their continued generous contributions and to them all we express our deepest gratitude. We also extend our warmest appreciation to the various communities and their leaders for their willingness to co-operate, support and interest to take part in the various trainings.

To the dedicated staff that carried out their tasks diligently to make all the programs in 2005 successfully fulfilled- thank you. Above all we thank God for His mercies, protection, help and care through the difficult and trying moments in the aftermath of the tragic death of Dr. John Garang de Mabior, when people engaged in violent clashes and actions against each other. In the upcoming pages we invite you to take a tour through our various undertakings during 2005.

Highlights of the period.

In this section, we put on the spot some of the activities and partnerships that RECONCILE undertook. We also highlight new developments in the organisation.

I: Civic Education Program.

Popularization of CPA

As civic Education is at the heart of RECONCILE's mandate, to transform the Sudanese society that is coming out of a period of long civil war RECONCILE sought to focus on popularizing the CPA at every opportunity. From the community consultations carried out, it was recognized that the people have an intense desire to know more about the agreement. The opportunities that arose for dissemination of the CPA were:



H.E Mary Biba (Centre) - Yambio County Secretary with a copy of the CPA.. Religious leaders (right) at the interfaith meeting- Yei take notes on the CPA.

a) Community consultations in Yambio, Tombura and Ezo Counties.

During community consultations in the above counties in Western Equatoria, there was an opportunity to speak with numerous community church leaders and groups about the CPA. Copies of the CPA were presented to church leaders Bishop Joseph Ghasi (Catholic Church, Tombura-Yambio Diocese) and Bishop Peter Munde (Episcopal Church of Sudan, Yambio Diocese), and County Commissioners H.E. Mary Biba (Yambio), H.E. Joseph Bakosoro (Tombura) and H.E. Justin Titayo (Ezo) as well as chiefs and sub-chiefs of Yambio county. Also, a presentation on the main points of the CPA was given to the Youth and Women's groups of Mupoi Payam in Yambio County.

b) Interfaith Platform; Yei town.

At the interfaith platform held in Yei between the New Sudan Council of Churches and the New Sudan Islamic Council facilitated by RECONCILE nearly 50 copies of the CPA were distributed to the religious leaders who had gathered, and a summary of the Agreement highlighting the role of religious groups in advocating for its successful implementation was presented.

c) *Human Rights Monitors' Training; Kampala.*

The training of Human Rights Monitors that took place in Kampala in July provided yet another opportunity for dissemination about the CPA to be carried out. The discussion about the CPA also led to further enlightenment about the interim constitution which is derived from it. At the end of the workshop 30 copies were distributed.



Participants discuss the Interim constitution and the CPA in relation to Human Rights.

d) *Civic Education Training; Nimule, Ikotos, Akobo and Juba.*

The training of civil, community and church leaders about governance, democracy and human rights provided an opportunity for dissemination the CPA. The trainings brought together 172 participants and 60 copies of the CPA were distributed; each to a head of community, civil office and church denomination. They were encouraged not to keep its contents to themselves, but to lend them out to the members of their churches, community organizations and other constituencies, so that the wider society will become sensitized.

e) *Other Occasions*

Other occasions that gave RECONCILE staff opportunity to present information on the CPA was when they were working in the field. They made use of such times to present a brief summary about the CPA to various groups. Although it is a short presentation, it is information that most people have not heard. Examples of these kinds of opportunities include the presentations given to the youth and women's groups in Mupoi Payam, Yambio County, to the participants at the Psychosocial Training workshop in Yei, Nimule, Akobo and Juba as well as at the training of Human Rights Monitors in Kampala.

Additionally, the RECONCILE office is always open to people who would like information concerning the CPA. Our staff can help in answering specific questions, and our library contains copies of the CPA for visitors to read through.

RECONCILE organized a two day Strategic Planning and Review Meeting in February where various southern Sudanese civil society organizations were invited among them Federation for Sudanese Civil Society Organisations (FOSCO),

Sudanese Women's Voice For Peace (SWVP) and Justice Africa to strengthen linkages with other civil society organisations working in Southern Sudan as well as develop strategies on the way forward after the signing of the CPA, which provided RECONCILE with another opportunity to popularize the agreement. The meeting was able to identify critical concerns and challenges raised by the CPA that civil society can address through awareness creation and trust- building among the people.



RECONCILE's Strategic Planning and Review Meeting in February.

Community consultations in Yambio, Tombura and Ezo Counties.

The main aim of the community consultations carried out by RECONCILE is to clarify the needs and aspirations of specific communities which have recently emerged from conflict or are dealing with potential conflicts. It is only by taking the time to listen to the people (ears on the ground) that effective ways of improving their situation can be sought. Whenever community consultation was done, care was taken to listen to as many points of view as possible, usually including church leaders, chiefs and traditional leaders, women, youth and local government authorities. Thus community consultations were held in, Yambio, Tombura and Ezo Counties.

The underlying tensions that had nearly resulted in an outbreak of violence, particularly in Yambio and Tombura toward the end of 2004, necessitated that RECONCILE carry out consultation in the counties of Yambio, Tombura and Ezo.

The situation in Yambio, Tombura and Ezo Counties was relatively calm at the time of the consultation in February 2005 and yet the underlying tensions were still evident from the people's expressions.

The delegation consulted with Bishops Joseph Ghasi and Peter Munde, at whose invitation the consultation was done, the County Commissioners in the three counties, elders and traditional chiefs, and in Mupoi Payam and Yambio youth and women's groups were consulted.



RECONCILE's Executive Director Emmanuel LoWilla presents Bishop Ghasi with a copy of the CPA.



The people were particularly concerned about the need to take adequate steps to resettle the returnees coming from both inside and outside Sudan. There is urgent need for the organisations responsible for repatriation and relief to act quickly in order to prevent another serious conflict as returnees and those who remained within the country struggle for limited resources such as water supplies and land. In responding to the people's needs for shelter, clothing, tools and medical facilities the organizations need to be mindful to supply both returnees and those who remained within the country with the same services so as to avert possible future conflict since both groups suffered the effects of war. Christian organizations like CEAS are called upon particularly by the Church leaders to play a vital role in dispensing of such services since up to now other organizations have been slow to respond.

Concerning the returnees who were individuals and had fled during the war, now that peace had been signed were returning home, people felt that they could become a source of conflict if not settled properly. They might wish to settle on their traditional land, only to find it occupied by someone who had remained. Also, it was felt that if NGOs gave assistance only to returnees and neglected those who had remained, jealousy would result. The community impressed upon the delegation their desire for sensitization to be carried out for the returnees and those who remained in Sudan about what to expect from each other. The church leaders and county authorities expressed a desire for civic education and peace-building initiatives, starting with themselves as leaders as an entry point, and welcomed trainings and workshops which would help them to foster respect and understanding between cultures.






Finally, county authorities and church leaders throughout the region raised concerns about the arrival of large numbers of nomadic pastoralists whom they referred to as "Ambororo" who were coming to their land with entire families and tens of thousands of heads of cattle. They had upset the livelihood of the community, since they destroyed beehives, prevented hunting in the forests, exhausted water sources and their animals destroyed crops. They urgently appealed the regional authority to determine their

motives and origins, and to determine whether they had permission to stay so that a way of coexisting peacefully could be found.

Facilitative Elements:

-  The cooperation of the Catholic Dioceses of Tombura-Yambio in providing logistics and coordination was helpful in the achievement of the objectives of the community consultation in the three counties of Western Equatoria.
-  Knowledge of the local language and understanding the culture facilitated understanding of the unsaid issues.

Achievements:

-  The consultation also created awareness in the community about the Peace Protocols. The community had little knowledge about the agreements. As a result of the consultation, people received information about it, and also became motivated to “own” the peace agreement as their own. They pledged to support its implementation.
-  The community consultation in Western Equatoria was able to raise awareness and issues surrounding the reintegration of the returnees into society. The peoples’ concerns regarding lack of services and inter-cultural conflicts were recorded and reports have been sent to the appropriate organizations such as CEAS.
-  Also, the CPA was successfully disseminated to community leaders, and awareness was created among groups such as the chiefs and sub-chiefs of Yambio county, youth and women’s groups in Mupoi Payam.
-  Ways of aiding the community and religious leaders in the process of reconciliation and preparation for the returnees to the community were identified.
-  The underlying causes of conflict between the IDPs and the host Azande communities was assessed and the information was shared with the appropriate organizations and authorities.

II: Training Programme.

1 .Psychosocial Rehabilitation:

The aims of the psychosocial trainings carried out by RECONCILE were:

- To help to create an environment where people can work through the traumas they have suffered during decades of war, and begin the processes of reconciliation and healing which are necessary to create a culture of peaceful coexistence in Sudan.
- To examine the root causes of trauma and its effects on individuals and through exercises such as role-plays and drama, individuals are helped to deal with their traumas so that they can recover from their situation and be uplifted.

Ultimately this should help the participants rediscover themselves, be able to release their potential, and contribute effectively to the rebuilding of their communities and Sudan at large. There were five psychosocial workshops held in the period being reported namely: Equatoria Youth Regional Psychosocial workshop- Yei, Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Civic Education workshop-Nimule, community, civil and religious leaders' psychosocial rehabilitation workshops- Ikotos, Akobo and Juba.



Participants in group discussion at Akobo (left), Women sing about their pain/traumas during the war. (right)



Drama for Healing-Participants acting out new ways of living after trauma.

a) Equatorial Youth Regional Psychosocial Workshop, Yei.

The Regional Youth workshop on psychosocial rehabilitation on request of the regional authorities in Equatoria Region brought together 40 youths from ten locations in Eastern, Central and Western Equatoria. A variety of topics were designed to increase the participants' awareness of the traumas which they had suffered because of the effects of war, and to find constructive ways of dealing with traumas so that peace can be constructed and sustained in their communities.

The workshop achieved the following:

- ✚ The 40 youth were equipped with strategies and knowledge of dealing with trauma and promoting psychosocial rehabilitation.
- ✚ The youth expressed a need for similar workshops at the all levels of the county.

- ✚ The youth recognized their ability to be influencers, and to act as a bridge between young and old. They promised to go back to their communities and share what they had learned with youths and the community at large.
- ✚ One youth, who as planning to commit suicide on leaving the workshop shared his problem, the suicide note that he had written was destroyed and he made a faith commitment.



Youth participating in drama during workshops on Psychosocial Rehabilitation.

b) Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Civic Education Workshop, Nimule.

The psychosocial rehabilitation and civic education workshop was held from 10th-13th June in Magwi County in Nimule one of the unique counties of Southern Sudan because it has more than one tribe within its borders, namely: the Acholi, the Madi and the Lulubo. Being also the host of a great number of displaced people from Bor County, Juba County and Torit County there are resentments among the communities, tribe vs. tribe, and injustices in the places of work related to tribalism, which need to be dealt with. Additionally, the situation in Magwi County is made more insecure by the presence of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) who cause a lot of havoc to the community. This also hinders development and freedom of movement, hence, making the situation of Magwi County fragile and affecting the psychological state of the communities. Thus the workshop, which drew 27 participants from a cross-section of all the communities of the county, provided a safe space for them to relive their frustrations, stress and traumas.

Everyone agreed that all in the community had undergone trauma as a result of the war, and that the whole society was in need of healing. In addition to letting go of feelings of guilt and bitterness, possible solutions discussed involved seeking redress for wrongs a person has suffered in a peaceful and legal way by using the courts and the legal system.

Facilitative Elements:

- ✚ At the youth workshop, the clarity of the presentations and their relevance to the situation encouraged the youth to participate effectively and throughout the five days.
- ✚ The SPLM Regional Secretariat for Political Affairs Peace and Reconciliation desk acknowledged the importance of the role of the youth in reconstruction and therefore encouraged RECONCILE to organize and facilitate this workshop.
- ✚ In Nimule, an organizing committee was set up in order to handle logistics by Izale Benjamin, our local facilitator who had earlier attended the psychosocial youth workshop; this led to efficiency and an increased contribution of the local community to the workshop.

Achievements:

- ✚ The participants were equipped with strategies and knowledge to help them deal with trauma and to promote psychosocial rehabilitation using drama.
- ✚ Two youth who were highly traumatized came forward to receive private help and one even destroyed a suicide note he had written.
- ✚ The youth greatly appreciated the workshop and were moved to express a need for similar workshops at the level of the counties to reach more people.
- ✚ Several individuals testified that they had been suffering through severe trauma for a long time which was affecting them psychologically, but said that they had been able to regain a positive outlook after attending the workshop.
- ✚ Community and religious leaders were equipped with knowledge and skills which would help them to rehabilitate individuals and their communities.
- ✚ Many individual participants professed that the workshop had a profound impact on their lives, and many were able to regain a positive outlook and let go of past bitterness. One of the women representatives from the Acholi community attending the workshop gave her own testimony that she attended the first Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on psychosocial rehabilitation organized and facilitated by RECONCILE in July 2004 at Entebbe. She said that she had a broken relationship with her co-wife. But after attending the Entebbe workshop, she came back home and reconciled with her co-wife and today they live a happy life together and the family is at peace. She says as a result of peace in their family she has gained weight and is in better health today. It was a powerful testimony, since there had been a clear difference in her attitude and life.

Thus, the workshop created a model of diversity where psychosocial relief was enabled in the lives of their community leaders and representatives of the following groups: army, women, youth, civil administration, churches, indigenous NGOs, chiefs and IDPs which

in turn will lead to development in their communities and increased opportunities for their people.

27 Civil, Religious, Women and community leaders in Nimule trained in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Civic Education.



c) Psychosocial Rehabilitation workshop, Ikotos.

Ikotos County lies east of the River Nile, South East of Torit town. The people of Ikotos include more than 5 ethnic groups with various cultural and traditional practices trying to overrun each other in order to possess their animals and property. This has contributed to a culture of regarding possessions more than human life and violence. It was in light of this situation that a workshop was held from 10th – 14th November 2005 at the invitation of the Inter-Church Committee (ICC) to create awareness about traumatic effects from war and violence and how to heal wounds resulting from trauma. The workshop brought together 40 religious, civil, women and community leaders.

Participants with their certificates



Burning the memories that have caused them trauma symbolizing releasing the burden.

Prayers for forgiveness blessings, peace restoration repentance, and protection were made in a mood of repentance and forgiveness a sign of brokenness as others were broken in their hearts and wept. The old walls would be broken down and new walls be built up. It was concluded for change to take place it has to start with individuals.

Achievements:

- The participants were able to release all bitterness through story telling; sharing stories of traumatic events and all the other bitter traumatic events which might be hidden in hearts as secrets were released out, written on papers, put into a box and later burnt.
- Experiences such as that of a participant from the Dinka ethnic group who would not lead the revenge team after his brother was killed but he opted for the right way: the judicial way to have the offenders prosecuted. This avoided a lot of revenge that would have come up if he had followed what was expected by some of his friends and relatives. As such the participants resolved to strengthen their commitment to heal their traumas by not participating in revenge.

d) Psychosocial Rehabilitation Training, Akobo.



Mama Mary Nyayul shares her experience of trauma. Participants during group work.

The psychosocial rehabilitation training in Akobo held from 25th-29th October 2005 which 57 chiefs, soldiers, women, youth, religious and civil leaders attended was the beginning of dealing with wounds of war hidden in the heart. Reverend Botho who welcomed the participants noted that the signing of peace agreement was a positive step but peace could not be secured unless the wounds of the heart are dealt with. The visible wounds were not as dangerous because they can be seen and treated accordingly but the ones of the heart involve emotions that hurt more, causing a person to be very unwell without showing physical signs.

Achievements:

- ❖ 25 books on trauma healing were distributed to chiefs, women leaders and the 7 religious denominations representatives.
- ❖ The participants shared the losses experienced due to trauma and those who had not completed the process were encouraged to do so as to start on the journey to healing.

- ❖ Individuals expressed the change they were already experiencing from the training because in their own words “we feel we are starting to be normal again, I feel alive”.

e) Training in Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Juba.

The 45 participants who included religious leaders- Muslims and Christians, civil, women and youth leaders expressed their hopes for the workshop as follows:

- Change of attitudes from destructive ones to good ones.
- To learn and give the spirit of peace and togetherness.
- To come together for reconciliation and forgiveness.
- To become closer and united in order to change their ways of life.
- Learn to be self-reliant, trust more in God and come to be full with His Word.



A drama skit by participants demonstrating how to help others start the trauma healing journey.

Participants reflected on the past from a point of strength by identifying the things that made them feel safe before the war, or when growing up. This helped them to restore their self-esteem and promote the transformation of trauma.

35 books of trauma healing were distributed.



2. Conflict Resolution Workshops:

In partnership with the United States Institute for Peace (USIP), RECONCILE facilitated a three day training held from 30th March-1st April 2005 in Entebbe and in Malakal held

from 5th-7th December 2005 on Conflict Resolution aimed at providing participants with knowledge and skills to resolve conflicts peacefully, facilitate dialogue and negotiate complex issues. The 1st workshop brought together 27 participants and the 2nd brought 60 participants representing religious groups, civil society organizations, SPLM/A and NCP. The focus of the training was ways of Conflict Resolution through Communication, Problem Solving, Negotiation and Mediation skills. Participants had the opportunity to practice some of the skills through exercises, role plays and group work.



Participants and Trainers pose for a group photo (left) Group Discussions provided opportunity to exercise Skills acquired (right).

Achievements:

- ✚ Through an initial interaction exercise and confidence among the various representatives was created. There has been suspicion among the various groups about what the other does. But being together and working in groups enabled them to see the advantage of collaboration and cooperation.
- ✚ Participants said through their evaluation that they gained skills in negotiation, problem solving and good communication skills for non-violent resolution of conflict within and among communities and pledged to go and use them for the benefit of their constituencies.
- ✚ Building of trust among the participants and the fostering of necessary relationships resulted as participants expressed the changes they felt had been experienced after the three days.
- ✚ A proper learning environment where participants could spend time together dealing with problems that they had identified was created.
- ✚ The participants learnt how to use the creative art of drama to help formulate resolutions to some of the problems they have identified in the communities.

3. Seminar on Parliamentary Procedures:

RECONCILE in partnership with SPLM, carried out a seminar entitled “An orientation on Parliamentary Procedures- the Sudanese Experience” for their members of Parliament in the National Assembly and Council of States from 16th-18th September 2005 in Khartoum. The aim of the seminar was to provide a forum for exchange and dialogue to create basic understanding of parliamentary procedures and the roles, rights and obligations of parliamentarians. This was part of RECONCILE good governance and participatory democracy training programme. By the end of the three days the members

had enhanced their capacities in understanding these roles, rights and obligations. They were also able to gain practical ideas about the procedures of parliament that during the long time of war they had not practiced. 110 parliamentarians participated in the seminar.



SPLM leadership with some members of Parliament.

Achievements:

- As a result of the seminar, the SPLM members of parliament have reported marked improvement in their ability to raise motions and challenge policies that are not beneficial to the Southern Sudanese.
- The chairman of the SPLM parliamentary caucus acknowledged the positive change in the quality of debates presented by the members who attended the seminar when RECONCILE had a opportunity to meet him 3 months later.
- The news of this seminar had led to more invitation from other state assemblies in Southern Sudan for similar orientations.

III: Interfaith Awareness Programme.

In the past, religion has been used by the North as a justification for the war, and they have used Islamist rhetoric to mobilize Northerners against the SPLM/A. However, in the South and other liberated areas such as the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile, (as well as in many other parts of the Sudan) there has been a long history of tolerance and mutual respect between Muslims and Christians. At the present, many people of both faiths in the former SPLM/A areas realize the potential threat of outsiders using fundamentalist ideas to divide them against themselves, and they recognize the need for unity and dialogue among leaders of the two faiths. To this end, RECONCILE facilitated dialogue and cooperation on issues of mutual concern between the New Sudan Islamic Council (NSIC) and the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC) in Yei from 25th-28th April 2005.



Members of NSCC and NSIC at Interfaith Dialogue – Yei.



Achievements:

- Relationships between leaders of the NSCC and the NSIC were strengthened, and ideas for future cooperation were discussed.
- The leaders affirmed their commitment to working together to build a united, peaceful Sudan free of religious discrimination. Specific aspects were discussed where religious institutions have a role to play in the present period, and around which they can cooperate.
- The formation of the South Sudan Islamic Council was completed. An Executive Committee was elected, and the delegates had the opportunity to discuss in depth their positions on a number of issues, and to prepare statements and recommendations.

IV: Advocacy and Networking.

This consists of exchanging information and ideas with partners, governments, UN bodies and civil society organizations for the purpose of promoting the views and positions of churches and other religious groups on the situation in the Sudan. RECONCILE aims to build rapport and bear influence with international agencies, church-based advocacy groups and lobby groups on issues of peace.

Objectives:

- ✚ To advocate for a just peace for Sudan.
- ✚ To know which organizations are doing what, in order to avoid duplication.

✚ To learn proper strategies and exchange ideas of advocacy for peace in Sudan.

a) *Annual Sudan Conference, Hermmansburg, Germany*

RECONCILE's Executive Director, Emmanuel LoWilla, along with Dr. Haruun Ruun, Executive Secretary of the NSCC, participated in the annual conference on Sudan in Hermmansburg, Germany, in April. At the conference, the various interests in post-conflict Sudan were discussed, and RECONCILE and NSCC were able to raise several important concerns, such as the increased role of China in Sudan, the issue of oil, and challenges for the ecumenical community.

b) *Meetings with Dutch Government*

Also in April, Mr. LoWilla and Dr. Haruun met with the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs in the Dutch Parliament, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dutch Government. Both were thanked for their support of the peace process in Sudan, and they were urged to continue their support for its implementation, and to support both the new government as well as civil society. Thanks were given for their generous pledges at the Donor's Conference which had just concluded in Oslo. Concerning the South-South dialogue, they were encouraged to support it, and it could be done by the Moi Foundation. Finally, they were urged to support the efforts of the African Union in Darfur, so that more observers can be sent there with a stronger mandate, to put an end to the conflict.

c) *Meetings with Paxchristi and ICCO*

These meetings with partners took place in April also, and focused on issues surrounding the consolidation of the peace, as well as small arms and oil. Many thanks were expressed for the generous support given to both NSCC and RECONCILE by these two partners.

Achievements:

✚ Greater understanding of the work of RECONCILE and NSCC.

Facilitative Elements:

✚ Willingness of the partners to fund the trips and make the appointments.

V: Organizational Development.

As part of the 2005 strategic plan, plans for the development of a training and listening centre where the traumatized could come for counseling and where training programs could be done, instead of hiring a hall was undertaken. The centre will also serve as a model for agriculture and animal husbandry from where the community can learn ways of sustainability, with an emphasis on focusing upon re-integration.

Activity:

The drawing of plans of how the site would be developed was under taken in January 2005. In June, the site of the centre was fenced to demarcate what belonged to

RECONCILE and to halt encroachment by squatters. A bore hole was dug in the plot for provision of water and bricks were made in November 2005.



The land in Yei before it was cleared. RECONCILE board member Bishop Hillary (centre) with Günter of EED (third right) visit the cleared and fenced site.

Future Developments:

Plans are being made to start construction work in January 2006. Other partners have pledged support through provision of work camps for the second phase of the construction work mid 2006.

NEW STAFF



Rev. Debbie and Del Braaksma joined our staff in September 2005. Del is serving as Rehabilitation and Reintegration Coordinator and Debbie as Programmes Manager. The Braaksmas are jointly appointed mission workers of the Reformed Church in America (RCA) and the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA). They have 11 years of experience in church and community development work in Kenya. Debbie is the former supervisor of RCA mission programmes in Africa and Del worked in private industry and with Heifer Project International. They both hold master's degrees from the University of Edinburgh in international development- oriented studies.

VI: FINANCES.