



Resource Centre for Civil Leadership RECONCILE



Annual Report 2011

This past year marked an important milestone. RECONCILE opened early for the year to help facilitate and monitor voting stations as an overwhelming majority voted for secession from the north in the January referendum. Prompting widespread celebrations in Juba and around the country, South Sudan became the world's newest nation, officially celebrating its independence on 9 July.



Goran Tomasevic/Reuters



flickr, babasteve

However happily the year began for South Sudan, it ended disastrously as conflict in Jonglei caused widespread displacement and destruction. The cancelled peace meeting to be facilitated in December by the Sudan Council of Churches was followed instead by thousands of armed Lou Nuer men conducting revenge attacks on the Murle, continuing an ongoing cycle of violence in the new country's largest, but most underdeveloped state.

PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

In 2011, the focus of RECONCILE programs were:

- strengthening capacities of community leaders at Payam and Boma levels to increase civic awareness and improving governance at the grass root level in the post referendum,
- Providing skills in transformation of conflicts in a peaceful and non violent ways
- Assisting leaders of displaced persons to support psychosocial recovery among displaced people especially women and children and other vulnerable groups
- Promoting resilience and build trust among communities for peaceful co-existence.
- Increasing the effectiveness of RECONCILE's key mobilizers and church leaders, community workers and leaders in addressing conflict and distressing events in the communities where they serve through attending RPI courses.
- Participate in national and international forums and meetings addressing post conflict recovery issues.
- Capacity development of staff in program development, financial management and monitoring and evaluation.

CIVIC EDUCATION AND PEACEBUILDING

Civic Education and Peace building planned to achieve four projects in 2011.

- 1.Civic Education and Community Mobilisation for Peace- EED funded
- 2.Equipping Sudanese Communities for Peaceful Co-existence in Eastern Equatoria State –Beyond the Referendum.FCA funded
3. Empowering key mobilizers and leaders to promote peaceful co-existence in South Sudan. DCA-funded
4. Promoting community leaders peace and Reconciliation conferences in areas of conflict in South Sudan. CAFOD- funded

- **Special project Related to Key Mobilizers**

The Eleven key mobilizers from Upper Nile state were blessed to receive their goats after a two- year wait in late August and early September 2011. Each received nine goats which will give them economic self-sustenance as they go about in their peace building activities.



Civic Education and Community Mobilization for Peace Project

Under this project both psychosocial rehabilitation and civic education and peace building activities were supported.

- The objectives of responding to the need for civic and referendum awareness, trauma awareness and recovery were met to a large extent. To a small extent it was not sufficient because not all target areas were reached due transport challenges and insecurity.
- One hundred and thirty four community and church leaders, women and youth leaders and local government administrators were given training in conflict transformation, trauma awareness and recovery and peace building. Forty eight state legislators of Warrap were also given orientation.
- The unexpected result from one of the conflict transformation trainings was that the county commissioners of Tambura and Nagero requested RECONCILE to facilitate a reconciliation process to resolve the long standing border dispute between the two counties. Plans are underway to fulfil this request. Two consultative meetings have been held so far.

- Three radio spots have been recorded and are being played on radio Easter in Yei on land issues, rule of law and rights of a citizen. Three radio talks' shows have also been held on the same subjects.
- This project also supported travel by staff to attend various meetings with other organisations. Notably the first South Sudan civil society dialogue in July 2011 where South Sudan Civil Society Alliance was formed, the annual Sudan Conference in Germany and the launch of the Central Equatoria Conflict Stabilisation plan.
- The purpose of the Rwanda exchange visit was to offer a learning experience to RECONCILE and see if these approaches may be incorporated into future psychosocial programs. The exchange visit was very successful because it has happened as planned, and we learnt that through the sociotherapy program, safety, trust, care, respect, new rules and healing of memories takes place. From the visit in two Projects visited MOUCECORE and BIYUMBA SOCIOTERAPHY groups, economic development and resource mobilisation were key components of the program which helps be to become transformed holistically.

Equipping Sudanese Communities for Peaceful Co-existence in Eastern Equatoria State –Beyond the Referendum Project

This project received approval for funding in mid-September and field surveys were carried out in Magwi and Ikwoto counties at the end of September and beginning of October to determine the community knowledge gaps and points for improvement that would guide future projects. The surveys revealed that:

1. The capacity of civil society and community based organizations is still very low and their contribution is following their leaders is almost none. This is because in some of the areas the presence of strong civil society organization in non existence.
2. About 80% of the respondents are not aware of their role in monitoring their leaders to enhance good governance practice in their areas. Even the leaders are not aware of their role in promoting good governance as confirm in the word of the Deputy Executive Director that **“Mob killing has reduced the incidences of poisoning in Acholi Communities”**. This shows that the leaders also support the process as opposed to respect of rule of law.
3. The level of participation of CBOs/CSOs in limited in planning and monitoring the performance of county administrators in low. Even about 70% of the respondents do not know how county budgets are made and used. In 2009, some CBOs were involved in coordination meetings but not planning during the regime of the former commissioner but these days is not happening and people don't question, said cosmas.
4. Respondents signified that **fear for their safety and lack of capacity to protest** is two of the obstacles that curtail their ability to fight poor governance.

5. **Lack of respect for rule of law** as youth take the law into their hands. This was evident when a young man was murdered (in a mob killing) in Isoke Boma by his fellow area residents for attempting to kill his brother and the Chief.

- In response to the identified needs the peace and civic education department conducted a three day's skill training for Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and women on how they can organize community debates and dialogues with the local county administrators in Magwi and Ikotos respectively. The forty four participants gain knowledge and skills of facilitating community debates on governance and peaceful co-existence. An interesting impact on the trainees was the types of the governance and its elements which before the training they thought only applied to the government. However, they realized that during the training they do not have qualities of good governance at the family level and workplace which made some trainees feel guilty for their biasness towards government and organizations. Another sharing was how to build peace and the importance of transparency at family and community and how it leads to development in the community.

At time of preparing this report, the community based organisations in Ikwoto with the assistance of RPI graduate Mario had organised two community dialogues this month. We are yet to receive the report of the outcome. To a large extent this project has been achieved, only monitoring and evaluation remains to be carried out.

Empowering key mobilizers and leaders to promote peaceful co-existence in South Sudan Project

The activities for this project included a radio program, training to strengthen the role of ten key mobilizers to support community institutions in conflict transformation and practice of civic rights and support to the key mobilizers to hold community meetings.

To a large extent the project has been carried out. The key mobilizers have been trained and have held three community meetings in Bor, Panyagor and outlying areas on peaceful co-existence. The radio programs have been developed and recorded on peaceful living and conflict transformation in Dinka, Nuer, Murle and Anyiak languages. From mid-October 2011, it has received airplay on Bakitah radio and Jonglei FM Radio stations.

The Key Mobilizers and RECONCILIE Field Officer conducted community meetings took place in the following places: kongor payam headquarter, Dukchut Boma, Panyagor town, Kiir Akuc, Kiir Boma, Anyidi payam, Pan-apet and Mayuen Bom. It was attended by 380 people in which females are 155 and 225 are male of the following categories; Chief, elders, women, youth, Sub-chiefs Pastors, lee reader, Evangelists, head chief, farmers, clerk, and Administrators. The community meetings were very much appreciated by the participants in Bor and Twic East counties, and this could be seen in a letter

written by the payam administrator of Kongor to RECONCILE, requesting the organization to continue doing these kinds of follow up in order to cover a wider population in the county. The last activity- a monitoring visit will be carried out in the first week of December to end the project.

Promoting community leaders peace and Reconciliation conferences in areas of conflict in South Sudan Project

Following the implementation of the Wonduruba community peace and reconciliation conference in May 2011, several of the points of agreement in the peace charter were implemented such as reformation of the administrative structure of Wonduruba Payam where Payam Director and Coordinator were appointed. The police station was opened and police forces to keep law and order were stationed in Wonduruba payam. Calm, security, peace were restored in the Payam where there is free movement and association, full swing of trade operations and restores relationships of the community. However, due to the renewed differences in from the end of August 2011, the business people could not move because they were being tortured on the blocked road between the Lainya county and Wonduruba Payam. Most of the shops are closed, restaurants are all closed. The spirit of the people is very low, as witnessed during the monitoring visit in which over 24 people met on the 13th and on 19th-20th September. They were mainly Executive Chiefs, church leaders, Payam Coordinator, Payam Acting Director and businessmen. Strategies suggested by the participants to restore lasting peace that will bring mutual co-existence to peace of Wonduruba and Lainya.

- Those inciting violence to be taken to the court of Law immediately
- There is need for dialogue (face to face) discussion with those who did not attend the peace and reconciliation conference
- Deployment of security to the border to consolidate peace.
- Disarmament in the areas of Logwrele, Mankaro and Moje
- Peace committee of Wonduruba Payam should be harmonized with committee in Juba

PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION

Psychosocial Rehabilitation planned for four projects.

1. Promotion of National Reconciliation and Healing Processes- ICCO funded

2. Preventing & responding to community violence beyond Referendum- MM funded
3. Civic Education and Community Mobilisation for Peace-EED funded
4. Increasing access to psychosocial services in communities- Yet to be funded proposal sent to PDA

Promotion of National Reconciliation and Healing Processes Project

This project has just been funded and the contract signed on 1st November 2011 to run till 31st December 2013. It will address community reconciliation and healing, conflict transformation process and psychosocial recovery with returnees, internally displaced persons, refugees and host communities in Yei River County.



Role play about trauma recovery

Preventing & responding to community violence beyond Referendum Project

Two counties- Nzara and Nagero were the focus of this project because the impact of the atrocities of the Lord's Resistance Army had not been addressed since the attacks began. Two assessments were carried out to find out what situations exist in the community

that requires healing and what can be done to prevent communal violence and conflict in Nagero and Nzara. It was discovered that the following issues need to be addressed- domestic violence, trauma caused by Lord Resistance Army as a result of abduction, rape, killings, poverty, drug abuse, adultery, inadequate services and facilities in that order.

In response to the above assessments, two forums on community trauma recovery and healing were carried out in Nzara and Nagero and following the two trauma recovery, community resilience and prevention of violence forums in which for 69 community leaders (32 women, 37 men) for five days each at Nzara and Nagero from 9th to 20th May 2011 much relief was brought to individuals and their communities. This was also shared in the follow-up meetings.

The Community and church leaders in Nzara and Nagero have been better to deal with trauma and violence against women and children by resolving trauma among the people by bringing the traumatized into a forum where they are counseled using their knowledge and skills acquired in the training.

The specific opportunities where these trained persons were of help to others is during community meetings, Church meetings, and in their own capacity by organizing special forums to bring the traumatized for special meeting organized to help those in need of help.

Youth who had been involved in drug abuse of opium were reformed and had begun to cultivate a portion of land given by the commissioner. They had also formed a sports league and were playing games every alternate evening. This was through the support given to them by the trainees of the Nzara training who counseled them and gave them reason for hope and encouragement to do productive work.

Three Key Actors were able to attend the capacity building training at RECONCILE Peace Institute (RPI) in May 2011. One woman- a youth leader and two men- a teacher and a youth leader attended. After their training, they assisted returning abducted children to understand their emotional states and how to cope with nightmares. Eight boys were counseled. They sought the advice of community elders on dispute resolving and compensation of victims by offenders which led to a decrease in crime from over ten incidents a week to three.

During the follow-up meetings in Nzara in May 2011, the trainees reported that apart from the LRA atrocities, [which seem not to be heard currently of as it was before], there are a lot of violence still within and surrounding area of Nzara county. All this happen within the family between co-wives, among family members and families against other families. This can result into open conflict where people could quarrel using abusive and threatening words and these often were ended in serious fighting.

Bad Culture Practices Discouraged.

Two school girls were forced by their father that they should leave schooling and marry. Their father became angry because the two girls were found misbehaving with other boys

in the village. This was where the option of forced marriage came in. So John Jacob one of the caregivers saw this as forced marriage and he immediately intervened by going to the father and begins giving him guidance not to force his girls to marry very early. Instead they should be given punishment and final warning. He accepted the advice and now those girls have resumed their studies as before.

RECONCILE Peace Institute (RPI)

The institute was able to get twenty scholarships funded, four partial scholarships for four trainees of a psychosocial project to receive training in two modules and one individual was sponsored by his organisation to attend one module. Scholarships were funded by the following organizations:

- EED,
- Bread for the World,
- Mennonite Central Committee,
- Reformed Church in America,
- Presbyterian Church USA: Individual donation to scholarship,
- Mensen met een Missie: four partial scholarships
- United Methodist Committee on Relief: one single module sponsorship.

The trainees represented a wide spectrum of people of South Sudan's five out of the ten states, including one from South Kordofan and one from South Darfur. Recruitment though was affected by the preparations for referendum registration. This is another area which needs improvement because we are only able for the last three sessions to recruit English speaking individuals and yet those with Arabic language who are qualified are left out. There is also the challenge of getting the right people because recruitment is done only through an application form whereas some of the forms are filled in by others and the people who come for the training may have a low- level than the form indicated which affects the quality of the trainees enrolled.

Out of the twenty graduates- two graduated with distinctions, eleven with merit, six with credit and one with a pass certificate.

Two of the funders are multi- year projects which will end one in 2012 and another in 2013. One funder was a new funding source for this year only. There is need to get more of the multi-year funders as this will give sufficient time for identification of new trainees and following up on graduates in their communities. In addition to the funding sources, a clear picture of the actual cost of running the institute is yet to be obtained and the amounts for scholarships needs to be reviewed as the institute has run three sessions it will help in coming up with a reasonable cost for paying students.

The institute was able to bring in instructors from Uganda, Kenya, USA, South Africa, Rwanda and South Sudan as has been the practice. However this poses challenges of increasing the cost of the training and at times the students have challenges understanding the accent of the English language. Furthermore, this year Mindolo was unable to send a staff member to teach as they had internal challenges with staff of the peace program leaving and change of leadership at the centre. There is need to review the MOU between the two organisations for an improved working relationship and mutual benefit to both as the environment has changed since the first MOU was drawn.

There was also minimal involvement of the program staff in the teaching yet they are meant to be the bulk of the instructors. This has contributed to continued reliance on external facilitators which is very costly and does not allow us to maximise the costs to include more students.

Another challenge facing the institute is the fact that there is desire for the courses to run throughout the year but the actual cost to run the course has never been established so it is difficult to get self-paying students at the other times if the year when scholarships are still being sought. The result is we continue to run only every three months of the year and under-utilising the facilities linked to RPI such as the library.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

For 2011, we had a budget of USD 1,319,334 approved by the board, out of which we had support for US 800,873.15. This was equivalent to 61.84% with a balance of USD 14,965.40 from Fin Church Aid which is yet to be transferred. Much of the funding for the year was a continuation from 2010.

The expenditure for Civic Education was 45.26%, for Psychosocial was 44.82% and for the Peace Institute was 43.23% against the budgeted amounts.

For the training centre, none of the activities were done since, with the economic crunch, few partners if any are willing to provide support for the said activities.

Staffing:

At the end of the year, RECONCILE also welcomed two jointly appointed PCUSA/RCA mission co-workers, Rev. Shelvis and Rev. Nancy Smith-Mather. Shelvis will serve as the new RPI Principal in 2012 and Nancy will work as a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. We also welcomed Jillian Foerster, a BVS volunteer through the Church of the Brethren. Jillian will work as an Administrative Associate.

Capacity Building:

In May, three of the staff, Raphael Sabun, Rev. John Khamis, and Lillian Matingi attended a financial management training facilitated by MANGO in Kampala for 5 days. The staff were taken through the importance of financial management and how they can incorporate the training to suit the organizations. This training was funded by ICCO and EED.

ICCO has done four capacity building for different staff in Monitoring and Evaluation, Impact reporting and Finance.

We installed the new accounting package, Sage Pastel, in September, although it will be used effectively in 2012.

Challenges:

Despite having funds for activities, salaries for staff and administration amounts still remain a challenge for RECONCILE, with partners limiting their amounts to cover administrative costs and salaries. To minimize this, we will have to include most of our expenses in the activities. We appreciate EED, who have continuously supported us with 50% of the salaries.

Due to the referendum and the independence of the Republic of the South Sudan, this slowed the implementation of some activities, especially those for EED.

BASE CAMP/LOGISTICS REPORT



RECONCILE Staff accommodation

BASE

January 2011 came with a lot of challenges in relationship to the Base Management. This was mainly in the day to day business partly due to changes in administration of RECONCILE. The base is entrusted mainly with functions such as Base management and Logistical duties. The year starting Jan to Dec 2011 the base was involved in a number of activists classified below.

ACTIVITIES:

Accommodation:

We continued to accommodate guests in our facilities and were able to generate some income locally from accommodation and hall hire using our facilities from the following activities.

- Reconcile Peace Institute
- Key mobilizes training on PICD
- Other guests

Farming:

We were able to harvest some vegetables from the garden this year and planted the second crop (maize and bean) which we expect to harvest in Nov and mid Dec.



Kennedy working in the farm

Goat Project:

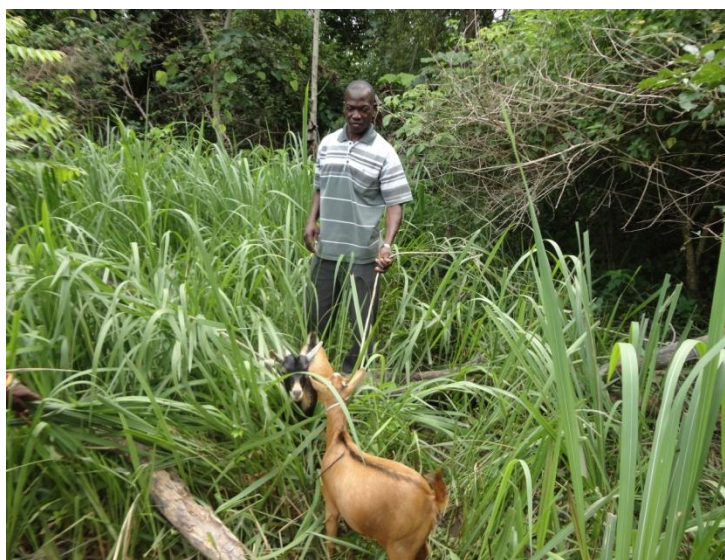
All Key mobilizers in western Equatoria received their goats and monitoring was also conducted to see the progress of the key mobilizers in improving their livelihood in the same. We were also able to distribute goats for the key mobilizers in Malakal and Meluth. Monitoring will be conducted in the second week of January 2012.

We hope to reach with the distribution in Jongolei state in the third and forty week of January.

Key Mobilizers local Goats Distribution:



(Rev. Peter) Key Mobilize in Malakal & his children received their goats



A Key Mobilizer in Ibba, Western Equatoria State has successfully increased his stock from 5 to 20 goats

Logistics:

Between January and September we were able to facilitate the travels of our staff, RPI participants, key mobilizers and board members by road and air as follows:

- Road transport RECONCILE vehicles.

- WFP flights.
- Commercial flights

Vehicles:

We have the following vehicle and motor cycles at present.

Vehicle	Registration No	Donor	Condition
Toyota Land cruiser	CE 882A	EED	Running
Toyota land cruiser	CE 289A	EED	Running
Motor cycle	Numberless	EED	Brand
New			
Toyota (Double carbine)	CE 884A	EU	Off road
Motor cycle	CE 0778M	MCC	Off road
Motor cycle	CE0779 M	MCC	Off road

Two of our old vehicle CE 881 A and CE 883 A were sold off through the work of a committee of three staff members with the approval from the Executive Director, we plan to get some quotations from Juba and Kampala for a replacement vehicle for the day to day running of office work within Yei, while the two Toyota Land Cruiser for field trips only.

Challenges:

We are still faced by the below listed challenges as mention in the Base report for 2010.

- Lack of enough office space as the number of staffs increased this year and possibly next year we may not have an office space for the coming RPI Principle.
- Lack of a big dining hall in the base
- Lack of vehicles as we are left with only two vehicles which may hinder our operation next year. (2012- 2013) and beyond.