

**REPORT OF PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION AND CIVIC
EDUCATION WORKSHOP.**



**KOTOBI-MUNDRI EAST AND WEST COUNTIES, WESTERN EQUATORIA
STATE SOUTHERN SUDAN.**



Participants pose for group photo (left), Mundri West County commissioner receives Trauma Healing book from RECONCILE staff.(right)

12th February-17th February 2007.

Facilitated by RESOURCE CENTRE FOR CIVIL LEADERSHIP- (RECONCILE)

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Background of Mundri West and East Counties.

The area now made of Mundri West and East Counties was formerly one county Mundri. It is one of the most affected areas with ethnic conflicts. Mundri was one of the locations of major battle during the war being one of the main towns in the route to Juba. The peoples experienced a lot of destruction of both lives and infrastructure. Following the signing of the CPA it experienced further, turbulence when fighting erupted again between migrating nomadic pastoralists of Baggara Arab origin called locally- the Ambororo and the Moru community. The main reason for the conflict was the grazing of Ambororo animals in the crop fields of the Moru community. It led to loss of many lives though it ended within a short period.

It was not long after this conflict ended that the second and the worst post- peace agreement conflict occurred in October 2005 between the Dinka Bor who were IDPs and the Moru host community. Among the reasons given for the conflict was grazing of Dinka cattle in the crop fields of the Moru community.

The conflict then spread to other parts of Western Equatoria State- Yambio, Nzara Maridi, Tombura and Ezo leading to the loss of more lives, destruction of property and livelihood. It was in the wake of the violence in April 2006 that the New Sudan Council of Churches organized a conflict resolution peace conference held in Yambio to address the issue of conflict between the Zande, Moru & Dinka. The conference played a vital role of laying the basis for post-conflict understanding and discussions but this workshop of psychosocial rehabilitation brings in the mechanism of conflict transformation through trauma healing and awareness.

The workshop held in Kotobi from 14th-17th February 2007 brought people from Mundri East and Mundri West Counties to be trained in order to be potential resource persons that can be used to resolve conflicts that may arise within their communities. But due to lack of effective communication few people turned up from Mundri East and the majority are from Mundri West. The workshop helped the participants to realize that if traumatic events that happen are not transformed for positive living, the negative emotions will always be transferred to others. The mechanism of putting off evil by evil multiplies evil. The inner being of person is always affected more than the outer being because the inner being determines the responses of outer being.

Workshop Report:

The targeted number of the participants for both Mundri East and West was 50 people, however due to a meningitis outbreak and fears of reprisal attacks from Dinka herders who had returned to the vicinity of Mundri 2 days before the workshop date, only 25 were able to attend. This number comprised of Executive Directors, Payam Administrators, Boma Administrators, Church leaders, Women, and Youth leaders. The venue of the workshop was at Kotobi which was centrally located of all the other payams, and because it has a good training facility at Sudan Evangelical Mission Compound. The main aim of the workshop was to impart knowledge and skills to these

community leaders to be able to handle cases that may arise and cause ethnic conflicts within the communities.

The workshop was officially opened by the commissioner of Mundri West on 14th February 2007. In his opening speech he appreciated the efforts RECONCILE is making on the follow up of what had been agreed during the conflict resolution peace conference in April 2006. He noted that the participants for the training only came from the greater Mundri, but none came from Mvolo County. He said the people in greater Mundri are living in great fear that may be another ethnic conflict may erupt since the Dinka Bor were still present in Bangolo Payam.

He urged the participants to put into practice the knowledge they have acquired. And he thanked RECONCILE for conducting the workshop on Psychosocial rehabilitation and Civic Education for the people to know how to build peace among their communities.

IMMEDIATE IMPACT OF THE TRAINING

Since the 25 participants came from different places, they came with one idea that they need an immediate conference which according to them is to be a lasting Peace between the Dinka and the Moru communities on Reconciliation. Their plea was for a neutral body other than the government and conflicting parties to conduct it. Such a meeting must be for the two ethnic groups only. This shows willingness that the participants are ready to reconcile with the communities that had conflict with them before. They wrote their pains on papers, placed them in a box which were then burnt as a symbol of reaching life by destroying their hindrances to new living.

At the end, they wrote a resolution (attached as Appendix 1) requesting for an in-depth reconciliation process which they are yearning for. In their resolution they quoted what late Dr. John Garang said that” if Peace is signed, people should forgive each other, love each other, and forget the past”.

CLOSING REMARKS

The workshop was officially been closed by the Payam administrator of Kotobi Payam. He thanked RECONCILE to have facilitated such kind of workshop at a time that the community leaders need to be able and made aware how to work effectively in their areas of work. And recommended RECONCILE for the good work they are doing.

CONSTRAINTS

The workshop was planned to have taken place in November 2006, but due to heavy rains and bad roads it was re-scheduled to February 2007.

- The insecurity which started two days before the workshop at Bangolo made some participants not to turn up for the training.
- Difficulty to send the invitation so that it could reach the participants due to poor means of communication- the only way is by word of mouth
- The transportation of participants from the various localities was difficult due to impassable roads and a broken bridge especially for participants from Mundri East.

WHAT THE PARTICIPANTS SAY ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS.

They have the Right to set rules to govern their communities.
They have the Right to Religion.
They have Right to vote and not to vote.
They have the Right for protection.
In case of conflict they have right to report to their leaders.
Their children have the right to life.
They have the right for fair trial.

NGOs THAT CAN HELP IN TIME OF FORMING DEMOCRACY GOVERNMENT.

USA government.
UN security counsel.
Human Rights Organization.
Government of South Sudan (Goss).
IGAD.
Civil Society Organizations.
Religious Organization.
Public Rallies.
Through Trainings.
Use of Media, news papers, FM Radios, etc.
Good government policies on Democracy.
Introduction of Party Systems.

SUGGESTIONS ABOUT CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Forgive the wrongdoer.
Forget the tribal conflicts.
Try to unite and begin to live in peace again.
Always accept to come together for conflict resolution.
Planning together to settle your differences.
Use the Law enforcement if reconciliation fails.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN SOMEONE IS MOURNING?

The community has to contribute in cash or in kind to help the people in funeral.
Help to burry the dead body.
Pray for the bereaved families.
Comfort and try to encourage the mourners in the word of God

WHAT BAD THINGS PEOPLE DO TO MOURNERS?

They fight in funeral places.
Drunkard ness.
Performance of traditional rituals.
Insults.
Cursing, and destroying of properties.

ANNEX 1

WORKSHOP RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

We, the community and church leaders participating in the democracy, good governance, reconciliation and trauma healing workshop held from 14th to 17th February 2007 in Kotobi-Mundri West County, hereby agree to:

1. Be part of the reconciliation and peace process to forgive ourselves and love each other as children of one nation-Southern Sudan for the development of our country.
2. We request the setting up of an initiative by RECONCILE for addressing the problem between the Mundri and Bor Communities to heal the wounds of the unintended conflict that took place.
3. We as Southern Sudanese feel sad to have hurt and killed ourselves as such we need to reconcile, forgive and love one another and proposed the following action:
 - a) There should be a neutral body involved to reconcile the two communities through the facilitation of RECONCILE.
 - b) The process should start with conducting two separate meetings for each side before the face to face meeting of the 2 communities to begin the reconciliation process.
 - c) We as the Mundri community are ready to reconcile with the Bor community but we are not able to make the approach by ourselves as such we call for the coordination and mediation between ourselves by a neutral body.
 - d) We request, RECONCILE to highlight this concern to the government of Southern Sudan to give a helpful hand.