

# DCPSF Newsletter



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## DCPSF in Year Two

Welcome to the DCPSF Newsletter. Through this bi-monthly initiative, the Technical Secretariat (TS) will offer updates on the activities of the DCPSF and its partners, as well as share stories from projects in the field. We will also convey the progress DCPSF supported programmes are making towards achieving the objectives set out in the 2009 workplan. It promises to be an interesting year for all of us.

There are a few substantial changes coming up for the DCPSF this year. For starters, in order to better engage with partners and communities, the TS is relocating to Darfur and will operate out of UNDP offices in Nyala and El Fasher. The Steering Committee has approved the demanding workplan



Women participants in Interosos project

that we set out for 2009 which includes an important new initiative – the Small Grants Scheme. We are also implementing a Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy, a new Communications Strategy, and commissioning research that will inform the work of the DCPSF as part of our Evidence and

Capacity Mapping phase. There will be two calls for proposals this year; one which is currently ongoing and a second to be held at the end of the third quarter.

There is more information on these initiatives in the following pages and we invite you to have a read.

*The DCPSF Technical Secretariat*

Applications for the Call for Proposals can be found at:

<http://www.sd.undp.org/DCPSF.htm>

## Call for Proposals 2009

The first call for proposals in 2009 was announced on June 1<sup>st</sup>. In this round, up to USD 5 million will be granted to successful submissions. To assess proposals, the TS will

convene Appraisal Committees drawn from members of civil society, UN agencies, INGOs and other partners. These Committees will use their technical expertise to review proposals and

ensure compliance with the criteria set out in the DCPSF. If you are interested and available to participate in the Appraisal Committees, please contact the TS.

## The Current Humanitarian Environment and the DCPSF

From the outset, there was no doubt that introducing the DCPSF, a unique initiative in the midst of a primarily humanitarian operating environment, was going to be a challenge. The conviction that underpinned the creation of the fund however is stronger than ever – that for communities in Darfur who live in areas of relative stability, it is vitally important to support new and ongoing peacebuilding initiatives to ensure that transitions from conflict are successful and lasting.

The ability of the DCPSF to operate depends on security and access to partners and beneficiaries – both of which are fluid and fragile in Darfur. The March 4<sup>th</sup> announcement by the ICC indicting President Bashir resulted in the expulsion and dissolution of 16 NGOs and created a serious gap in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Setting of Intersos project – Habila district, hosting both nomads and farmers

The remaining agencies and NGOs are attempting to fill the gap – and though the humanitarian needs remain great, the situation for communities and partner projects that fall under DCPSF's unique mandate remains the same. There is no less need for projects that aim to foster harmony and peace across communities – and the role of national organizations will be more important than ever in the coming year.



“The expulsion of the 13 NGOs has meant that the attention of humanitarian agencies and the government has shifted...Despite this shift, beneficiaries have still been requesting programs of the kind WCC is offering. WCC has been overwhelmed by community demand for its Youth to Youth projects, youth centers, and recreation projects...”

**War Child Canada Report**

## Small Grants Scheme

The expulsion of international and national partners underscores the importance of strengthening the capacity of national organizations. In 2009 the DCPSF is launching a Small Grants Scheme, which aims to facilitate access to funding through small grants for a select number of national organizations based in Darfur. There is USD 500,000 available in the Scheme, which will be allotted into grants of between USD 5,000 and 50,000.

The purpose of the Small Grants is threefold; to enhance the operational capability of national organizations, to help build their capacity to deliver programming, and to work together to develop a common understanding of peacebuilding. In order to facilitate the programme, a Small Grants Manager has been identified through a competitive evaluation process, and Justice Africa has been awarded the position.

As programme Manager, Justice Africa will identify up to 15 capable and representative national organizations in each of the three Darfur states in which to invest the Small Grants resources. The programme Manager will operate out of Nyala, and should have a presence on the ground in the coming month.

*We will continue to report on this interesting new initiative in future editions of this newsletter.*

## Current Projects and Partners

DCPSF funded projects are underway in all three states of Darfur. Despite the unpredictable and challenging work environment, our partners are adapting and carrying out relevant peacebuilding work.

### **Projects and Partners:**

Youth as Leaders for Peace and Development, West Darfur - **War Child Canada**

Conflict Mitigation and Prevention through increased dialogue between communities of south Western Darfur, and improved availability of resources - **Intersos**

Harmony and Cohesion in South Darfur Areas - **ZOA**

Integration and synergy of sectoral programmes in North Darfur with emphasis on using basic services as a means to foster peace among communities where inter tribal relationships are currently fractured or stressed - **UNICEF**

Promoting Peace and Human Rights in all three states of Darfur - **UNDP**

Decreasing Conflict Among Communities in the Northern Area of South Darfur State - **World Vision**

Peacebuilding between Agriculturalists and Nomads in Arara and Kongo-Haraza villages, West Darfur - **FAR**

Community Based Peace Initiative Programme in South Darfur - **CARE Intl\***

Livelihood, community services and peacebuilding in Wadi Salih, West Darfur - **SUDO\***

\*Discussions are ongoing regarding the continued implementation of these projects



An example of “buffer area” farming from the Intersos project. Areas of mixed farming – where both nomads and farmers participate, aims to increase dialogue between different groups and deter crop destruction.

## Inside Look – Intersos Project in West Darfur

Intersos’ project in West Darfur combines reconciliation expertise with technical outputs to make an effective contribution to peacebuilding across communities.

To carry out its projects, Intersos has established *Reconciliation Teams* – composed of national experts who use their experience to support community peacebuilding initiatives. These teams work closely with *Reconciliation Committees* – which are formalized bodies of previously informal structures.

The Committees generally represent a cluster of villages that work across communities on issues such as fostering inter-group relationships,

reducing crop destruction, and general conflict resolution.

The groups are traditionally composed of trusted and respected members of the Arab and African community called Agawids. After the conflict, Agawids were formalized into the Reconciliation Committees – which are now operating to varying degrees of success. In the first quarter of 2009, Intersos surveyed the perceptions and functions of the Committees to determine how best to support them and (re)build capacity.

*Continued on next page.*

## Intersos Project in West Darfur

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### Conflict Sensitive Water Intervention

In the area of Dulmonyia, access to water is a major concern. As part of its work, the area Reconciliation Committee hosted a meeting with representatives from a range of groups including Fur, Dajo, Masaalit, Gimil, Tamer and Mararit. At the moment the communities are only able to access water via shallow wells two Wadis, which they must share with animals.

It is a sensitive issue with mixed messages depending on who is providing the information. The Reconciliation Committee reports a good relationship with border security and an “alliance” among the 22 villages in the area. Intersos has learned however, that African women were not voicing their concerns in front of the committee.



Reconciliation Committee in Habila district

As part of its conflict sensitive approach, Intersos conducts confidential focus group discussions with community members to draw out information that people may not be comfortable discussing in official forums.

Through discussions with African women in Dulmonyia and Abada Nagga (one of the 22 villages) it emerged that although women generally felt safe collecting water, they often had to wait for the cattle to finish drinking before filling their cans.

They also mentioned high levels of crop destruction caused by nomads in transit. The women chose not to bring up these matters before the Committee in order to “keep the security” of the area good.

In its assessment of Dulmonyia, Intersos looked at both the physical water situation and the area’s conflict sensitivity to determine whether a well would mitigate (or aggravate) any ongoing conflicts.

Based on their findings, it was determined that the area would benefit from a DCPSF funded project intervention. Intersos has an established practice of using only traditional well water points. Wells, unlike hand pumps, are multi-user water points where it is difficult for one user to monopolize the source. People can fetch water simultaneously, decreasing the possibility of ‘power struggles’ over control of the resource.

In Dulmonyia, two sites for well construction were selected because the water needs in the area are vast, and one well could aggravate water sharing problems. Given the number of tribes interacting in the area, and the issues of crop destruction raised by the women, strategically placed wells are imperative to the peacebuilding process.

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Children in Dulmonyia who will benefit from increased access to, and better management of, the water resources.

“It is important to note that as with all of INTERSOS’ interventions, the local communities played an integral part in the planning process of the DCPSF project. All of the assessment forms developed for the DCPSF activities involved a significant community input component...”

### Intersos Report

## Intersos Project in West Darfur

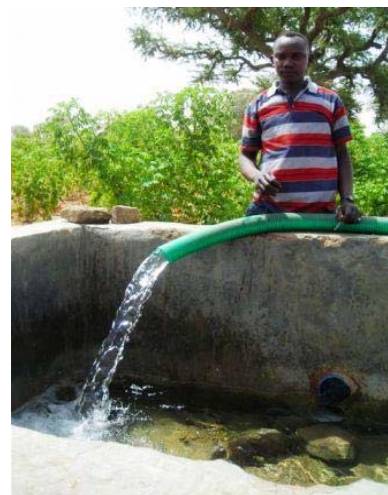
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The proposed sites will be discussed with the communities (openly as well as confidentially) and with the Reconciliation Committees to ensure endorsement prior to construction.

Working with the Reconciliation Committees, the Intersos teams will establish terms of use for the water points, create schedules for the various groups for when they can access the water, and work with local authorities to ensure that the path to water is safely accessible. The Reconciliation Teams will continue to ensure that women are systematically engaged in focus group discussions to better understand underlying issues that do not surface during higher level discussions.

The most significant work still lies ahead. In Dulmonyia the vital task of ensuring the safety of women and reducing crop destruction will only begin to unfold once the wells are constructed.

The team is confident that by utilizing a conflict sensitive approach, empowering traditional leadership mechanisms, and improving women's perceptions of security and public representation - their water interventions and subsequent reconciliation work will be successful.



A water site managed by Intersos

### The DCPSF Technical Secretariat

The TS was established to provide appropriate and timely advice, assistance and support to the DCPSF Steering Committee which guides the Fund on matters of policy, prioritization and allocation of funds.

The TS will be relocating to Darfur in June - the Head of the TS, Mr. Simon Little will be based in El Fasher along with a newly recruited staff member in the position of Peacebuilding Specialist. Mr. Kwinten Joniaux - Proposals and Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, will be based in Nyala and joined by another new staff member – Ms. Lisa Carl, Field Communications and Reporting Officer. The TS will maintain a representational presence in Khartoum. We would like to warmly thank Ms. Nevins Saeed, who is moving on from the TS, for her contribution to the DCPSF over the past year.

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