

DCPSF Newsletter



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DCPSF Current Activities

At the conclusion of a successful Call for Proposals process, we are pleased to announce that approx. USD 5 million worth of new projects have been selected for funding.

The DCPSF has been working to engage more national partners, and we were encouraged by the response received from national organisations during this most recent Call. Half of the applications submitted were from national organisations, and two out of five new DCPSF partners will be national organisations.

Over the coming weeks, the allocations process will be completed and the new project partners can begin operations. Our new partners will be undertaking a range of activities including capacity building and support to community and traditional leadership, strengthening the



role of women and youth in conflict resolution, and the meaningful provision of inputs towards increasing peace and stability.

Please see our website for more information on new and current projects, and we look forward to keeping you up to date on the progress of our new partners.

The DCPSF Technical Secretariat

The Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF) is a pooled funding mechanism focused on peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The DCPSF seeks to promote community level reconciliation through the restoration of trust and confidence; accomplished through processes of dialogue and consultation and the meaningful delivery of services and inputs.

Call for Proposals

The next formal call for proposals will be in 2010; however the DCPSF is prepared to receive and review proposals submitted on an ad hoc basis.

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

Monitoring & Evaluation: In the Field

In August, members of the Technical Secretariat (TS) made two field visits to project partners. A key component of the monitoring and evaluation strategy of the DCPSF, field visits provide the TS with the opportunity to deepen relationships with partners and gain a better understanding of the contexts in which the

projects are carried out. While on a monitoring visit, the TS works with partners to ensure that project activities continue to align with project objectives, and looks to ensure that a conflict sensitive approach is being utilised. The TS is looking to see that communities are being

engaged through processes of dialogue and consultation.

Below are two articles from TS visits to project partners in South and West Darfur. In the coming Quarter, the TS is planning additional monitoring visits to partners.

Visit to ZOA Refugee Care – South Darfur

ZOA became a DCPSF partner in 2008, with projects in Ed Dein and in the vicinity of Nyala in South Darfur. In August a member of the Technical Secretariat (TS) went on a one day field visit with ZOA to Dreeb Alrih area – a string of villages about 25kms south-east of Nyala. ZOA is working in what it calls “returnee villages” – areas where people fled during the conflict, but who began to return to the area soon after and have been continuing to return over the years. In Dreeb Alrih, there are over ten different tribes living in the area.

The project relies on peace dividends; the injection of certain early recovery activities such as water pumps, vocational training, infrastructure improvements, income generating activities for women and so on - that provide a certain level of stability for the community and on which they can build better relationships, and it is hoped, lasting peace. Productive relationships are fostered through well-functioning “service committees”, into which community members - with the assistance of ZOA - have arranged themselves. Among many, there are committees for livestock & agriculture, water & sanitation, parent teacher associations, and youth and women’s groups.

That the area of Dreeb Alrih was calm soon following the conflict led to people return, however community members recognise that it has been the support to livelihoods that has allowed the area to remain stable and to



ZOA tree nursery, South Darfur

provide space for dialogue and a return to peaceful relationships. Community members were willing to work together to rebuild damaged relationships and at the same time as move quickly towards development. As mentioned above, ZOA began to work with the communities by providing vital inputs to this process. *Continued on page 3.*

“Peace means stability – being able to stay and grow and develop.”

- Member of the NRM Committee
ZOA project

Update on the Small Grants Scheme

The DCPSF Small Grants Programme was developed in order to facilitate access to the Fund for national organisations, as well as to enhance the management capacity and operating capability of community-based organisations to deliver meaningful support and services to their communities thereby leading to greater peace and stability. Through new and existing networks the Small Grants Programme will also work to deepen common understandings

of peacebuilding and conflict resolution across Darfur.

As programme manager, the first task that Justice Africa is undertaking is to identify suitable Community Service Organisations (CSOs)/Community Based Organisations (CBOs) across Darfur who would most benefit from the programme. After holding a call for applications, Justice Africa received applications from interested organisations across Darfur, and through an evaluation process will select approx. 15 organisations from each of the Darfur states.

At the close of their application process, Justice Africa had received applications from over 80 organisations. Training with the successful CSOs/CBOs will begin in the coming month.

As Justice Africa engages more closely with these organisations, we will report in more detail on specific activities that are being undertaken, and will look to highlight profiles of national organisations and the work that they do in their communities.

Visit to ZOA, continued

“We began meeting in Bilel market, and would talk about why we no longer lived next to each other. Now we live together again but it is important to keep talking and meeting.”

- Youth participant in ZOA vocational training and youth-oriented activities.

One of ZOA’s commendable achievements has been the development of “Natural Resource Management Platforms” or NRM platforms – through which the focus of ZOA’s peacebuilding programming is carried out. NRM platforms are umbrella groups comprising representatives from the service committees, and were modeled on the leadership structures that existed prior to the conflict but which crumbled as a result of it. Communities split along tribal lines during the conflict and there was no productive contact between them. As opposed to returning to the old system, the communities seem to have widely embraced the NRM platforms as the new vehicle for conflict mediation and development management. The inclusion of women and youth in the platforms is a change from the previous incarnation, and has ensured their more equitable representation.

Members of the NRM platforms are offered training by ZOA in conflict mediation skills and peacebuilding techniques, which the NRM platforms use to their benefit – and whose members will then impart these skills to their own committees. In Dreeb Alrih the platforms are well-functioning, and appear to have been widely accepted by the communities as suitable mediating and management bodies.

During the field visit, the Technical Secretariat met with NRM platforms members, and learned about the types of issues that are tabled before them. Disputes in the area are unsurprisingly related to land, and the social relationships linked to this issue. The standard practice by most platforms is to mediate dialogues between the concerned parties until a settlement is reached or a decision taken by the platform (to which the parties agree to abide by). The TS was informed that decisions taken by the NRM platforms are respected.

At the time of the visit there were two specific negotiations taking place – the location of a new market, and the location of rest areas for the

animals of nomadic groups that are passing through the area. It was clear from the way in which the NRM platform members referred to their work that they were conscious of the delicate environment in which these issues are mediated, and that maintaining peaceful relations within the communities was their priority. In addition to dealing with certain cases that come before them, the platforms monitor and mediate ongoing activity such as the return of more groups from different tribes to the area, and the security of corridors for movement (not only of animals, but also of people to markets, etc.) as groups return.

The contribution of the DCPSF project to building trust and confidence in these communities is reflected in the accomplishments of the well-functioning NRM platforms. ZOA provides support and ongoing training to the platforms, and has developed their capacity to manage conflicts and guide the development of their communities.

There are of course challenges that lay ahead – as more groups return to the area; issues may have to be mediated across more diverse groups and not primarily within tribes of the same group, which is the case for some of the NRM platforms at the moment. The platforms will have to ensure that they remain representative of the communities. From listening to the views of community members, it is obvious they are acutely aware of how the progress they have made in terms of securing livelihoods has resulted in the level of peace they are experiencing, and all expressed intent to continue to support the processes of dialogue and mediation that has brought them so far.

- Lisa Carl, DCPSF Field Communications and Reporting Officer

“We will transfer the message of peace. Peace will spread.”

- Youth participant, ZOA



Meeting with community members in Dreeb Alrih, ZOA project, South Darfur

Visit to Intersos Project in West Darfur

The DCPSF strives to maintain close relationships with our partners, and in this newsletter we are highlighting two field visits taken by members of the Technical Secretariat (TS).

In August, two members of the TS travelled to West Darfur to spend a few days with Intersos in Garsila. Below is a report of their visit.

Moving towards conflict prevention

Intersos continues to work with farming and pastoral communities to engage the two in dialogue over conflicts that arise over shared resources such as water wells, and over the migratory routes of nomadic communities. The TS visited at a time when Intersos was facilitating a workshop between the Sheikhs of both African and Arab tribes in an attempt to map out the local migratory routes in the Deliej area in Garsila. The workshop was also meant to help the leaders strategize over potential preventative measures to such conflicts, as opposed to dealing with conflict when it arises – especially as the migratory routes are known to be an ongoing cause of conflict. Intersos hopes to use this mapping exercise as well as information drawn from follow-up meetings with these leaders, as the basis for a subsequent project that will work with both communities to further mitigate this type of conflict.

As a suitable illustration of the topic at hand, during the drive to Deliej the TS witnessed the remarkable sight of a herd migration of no less than 200 camels, herds of sheep and cows.

Over the course of the three-day visit, the TS had the opportunity to observe a variety of meetings held by Intersos. In addition to their work with the Reconciliation Committees (highlighted in Issue 1 of this newsletter), Intersos also consults separately with the various groups. The TS was present at a time when incidents of crop destruction had occurred the night previously, and Intersos met with both the nomadic community and the farmers in the buffer zones to talk about the issue. It was obvious that the interaction that the sustained interaction by Intersos with the conflicting parties is welcomed by them, and Intersos has recently agreed to support the reconciliation committees by funding the

construction of rakubas (traditional meeting structures) which was seen as positive contribution by the committees as a way to facilitate their meetings and thereby create further opportunities for dialogue.

Although it appears as a relatively simple contribution of materials, the groups see it as a vital step in bringing them together and thus leading to a positive impact on the communities.

The role of women

As a cross-cutting issue that we ask DCPSF project partners to address – it was interesting to observe the role of women in the meetings. Intersos has made several attempts to encourage women to become active participants in the conflict resolution process. Through women’s committees they have been introduced to conflict resolution skills, however when consulted on what need the women’s committees could best attend to their response was that they would like to have literacy and baking classes.

During a meeting with the farming community, women raised their voices about the destruction of their farms, and Intersos informed the TS that this was progress made. At a meeting with the nomad community a more typical response was received from the women – whereby they did not speak out but when asked agreed with what the men had said.

This was a clear indication that the women still do not have a felt need to address conflict directly, but rather leave conflict resolution to the men.

Thoughts and recommendations

The Reconciliation Committees are clearly a positive addition to the communities where they are functioning well. As highlighted in Issue 1, Intersos has worked to strengthen the capacity of a number of committees, and the sustained engagement of the organisation is bringing welcome results.

Continued on next page.



“We are here to solve this together, tell us what has happened.”

-Member of a Reconciliation Meeting after reported crop destruction the night before

Intersos Project in West Darfur, continued

To eventually move to a situation where there greater stability however, Reconciliation Committees need to be more forward thinking. Intersos is guiding the Committees in the right direction by encouraging them to decide on preventative measures and eventually take steps to prevent conflict from occurring.

A key area that requires further attention by leaders is the issue of young boys (aged 7-10 generally) to tend herds during migrations, and because of their age are more likely to let herds roam off to farms while they play, or felling fruit trees to feed their animals. Future programming needs to focus closely on this age group for both environmental conservation and peace building initiatives. Other possibilities to consider towards mitigating conflict include fencing off the farms to avoid animal destruction, as well as having watch guards to protect the farms during land preparation and harvesting.

- *With notes from Anne Nyambura, DCPSF Peacebuilding Specialist*



Dreeb Alrih area in South Darfur, a construction site of one of the ZOA projects.

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this newsletter please
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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 has relocated to Darfur with offices in Nyala and El Fasher and will maintain a representational presence in Khartoum. The TS is comprised of the following staff members:

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