

**“Empowering Individuals and Communities for Peaceful  
Co-existence”**

**RECONCILE ANNUAL REPORT 2006.**



**TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

**FOREWORD .....3**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....4**

**I: CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME. ....5**

    SEMINAR ON PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES .....

    CONFLICT RESOLUTION WORKSHOP .....

**II: PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMME.....8**

    1 .FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS IN PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION: .....

    2. ROUND TABLE ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE: .....

    3.SEMINARS ON RECONCILIATION AND RESILIENCE :.....

**IV: ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING..... 166**

**V: ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT..... 177**

**VI: FINANCES. .... 188**

## **FOREWORD**

### ***Empowering Individuals and Communities for Peaceful Co-existence***

The situation in the Southern Sudan almost 2 years after the signing of the peace agreement has been one of hope, high expectation, anticipation, anxiety and frustration. The communities were eager to see the agreement being implemented so that they could experience visible change in their lives through improvement of the infrastructure, provision of basic services, safe return home and building sustainable livelihoods. However, most of them say that they have seen the peace but have not felt it yet.

Looking at other liberation struggles that have ended their wars, it is clear that it has not been easy for the liberators to be transformed into democrats and developers immediately. Governments have been formed and civil structures have been instituted but much more is expected in order for a transition to democratic governance to materialize. Time seems to be moving faster than the development. To achieve democracy requires a public that is well-informed, knows their rights, and can advocate for themselves in a peaceful manner when those rights are jeopardized or threatened. Therefore, RECONCILE sought to continue its engagement of training to promote policy development and multiparty democracy through its democracy and good governance Program.

Only when war memories are healed will Sudanese be able to break out of the cycle of violence is the premise that RECONCILE works from. Reconciliation among communities is still a challenge that needs to be addressed as evident by the ethnic tensions and violence that are still occurring even after the signing of the peace agreement. As such, another focus of RECONCILE in the period being reported was promotion of reconciliation through psychosocial rehabilitation in the communities.

Because the needs are so great and the time is so opportune RECONCILE is thankful that we have been able to grow in terms of our capacity to respond even more effectively to the situation on the ground. We have been able to fill two major staff positions with Sudanese staff and have built a training centre/office complex at what has become our main headquarters in Yei. 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 continue to be thankful for our partners who stand with us as we seek to partner with church and community leaders in transforming Sudan from a land of generational suffering and violence to a land of peaceful co-existence and harmony which the people yearn for and deserve.

Emmanuel LoWilla



*Executive Director*  
**RECONCILE, Yei.**

## *Executive Summary*

As an indigenous Sudanese organization which is close to the people, through our strong connections to church and community leaders, RECONCILE has had its “ears to the ground” throughout 2006. We hear first hand about situations in which people are the most desperate for training in peace-building activities and we have been able to respond to some of those requests. We are delighted to have our main office firmly established in Yei - it has made us even more accessible to the people.

One of the biggest concerns of the people and organizations we interact with is the continual inter-ethnic violence occurring throughout the country. The people say “we have smelled the peace but we haven’t tasted it yet”. RECONCILE works under the premise that only when war memories are healed will Sudanese be able to break out of the cycle of violence. Reconciliation among communities is still a challenge that needs to be addressed as is evidenced by the ethnic tensions and violence that are still occurring even after the signing of the peace agreement. Therefore, a focus of RECONCILE in the period being reported was promotion of reconciliation through psychosocial rehabilitation in the communities. Numerous consultations and meetings with the church and community leadership on reconciliation and trauma healing were carried out. As we have done follow up evaluations we have been very encouraged by the impact our workshops have had on individuals and communities.

Communities have also expressed desire for RECONCILE to provide them with training in awareness of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance. In the workshops which covered these topics RECONCILE facilitated a participatory process of forming resolutions in which participants made concrete plans on how they can work together to build peace and good governance in their communities.

RECONCILE also continued its engagement of training with State parliamentarians to promote policy development and multiparty democracy through the Democracy and Good Governance Program.

2006 has been a busy but rewarding year for RECONCILE and we are grateful to our partners; EED, CAFOD, RCA, DCA, PCUSA, USIP, IJR, MCC and many others who have contributed in different ways through their faithful prayers, guidance, support and generous funding. We also extend our warmest appreciation to the church, community and their leaders for their co-operation, support, willingness and interest to take part in the various activities. Last but not least is our appreciation to the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) for creating the necessary conditions that have enabled our work to continue and be fulfilled.

Thanks to the dedicated staff at RECONCILE with different skills, life experiences and visions who have been united in their commitment to work diligently for sustainable peace and co-existence of Sudanese Communities.

## **I: Civic Education Programme.**

RECONCILE sought to empower local community and church leaders and members by involving them in planning for the trainings as a means of creating an awareness and knowledge that leads to active ownership of the tools for peace building and social transformation; Conscientization on issues of democratization; governance and human rights; monitoring of human rights and implementation of the CPA. To this end the following activities were carried out:

### **1. Labone Civic Education and Trauma Healing Workshop.**



In February 2006, RECONCILE carried out a workshop on Civic Education and Trauma Healing among the internally displaced communities in Labone, Eastern Equatoria State. Thousands of Internally Displaced People from various ethnic groups including Dinka Bor, Acholi, and Pari peoples have settled in Labone, Eastern Equatoria causing serious inter-ethnic tensions. The workshop facilitators were encouraged by the community's desire to put the hostilities behind them and join hands in reconciliation. Daniel, a participant representing the Episcopal Church of Sudan, who was shot, speared, hit by sticks and left twice to die, was greatly helped to deal with his trauma as he was able to spend significant one on one time with RECONCILE staff.

### **2. Seminar on Parliamentary Procedures-Uruguay State.**

The seminar was carried out in March 2006. The members of parliament who are well placed, knowledgeable, and dedicated to the course of their people have not been in active parliamentary politics for a very long time during the war. Understanding the procedure which guide lobbying, policy development, standing orders, motions, bills-public and private, operations of committees and even questions in the assembly have been a challenge for these parliamentarians.

In light of this fact, RECONCILE carried out a seminar which consisted of sharing ideas and experiences through presentation of papers, looking at the current parliamentary procedures of the National Assembly in Khartoum and also discussing procedures from

other Parliaments such as Uganda and South Africa. The seminar was composed of lectures, sharing and group work. There was a session on the roles, rights, and obligations of members of parliament and another on the experience-sharing, particularly regarding the unwritten laws of engagement in Parliament. Recommendations from this seminar were submitted to the Speaker and the Governor of Unity State who both attended the closing session. It was intended that these recommendations be used to improve future trainings and engagements with parliamentarians, particularly those in the other states. Out of the 48 members of the State parliament 43 of them attended the seminar in Bentiu, the capital of the Unity State.

***Members of Parliament of Unity State Legislative assembly pose for a group photo after the seminar.***



*(Front row from left to right has the Speaker, Governor, Deputy Governor, Deputy Speaker, Chief Facilitator and a guest)*

### **3. Parliamentary Procedures- Central Equatoria State-Juba.**

RECONCIEL engaged with Central Equatoria State members of parliament to identify their needs in terms of capacity. Training was conducted for the parliamentarians sponsored by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Southern Sudan. After the training RECONCILE engaged with the specialized committee and ministry in regards to future trainings which were identified.

### **4. Workshop in Conflict Resolution, democracy and human rights-Abwong Upper Nile State.**

In September 2006 RECONCILE, in partnership with Magang Grass roots Peace Initiative, carried out a workshop in Abwong-Upper Nile. This is an area abandoned by civilians for a time during the 21 years of civil war due to constant attacks from the government forces and militias. As the peace talks were taking place in Machakos, Kenya relative security prevailed in the area and some of the former residents returned but by 2002 inter-ethnic fighting between the Dinka, Nuer and Shilluk forced them to flee once again. Then in mid-2004 the religious leaders, together with some community members, formed a grassroots peace initiative to work with the conflicting ethnic groups

for peaceful resolution to the fighting. This was the start of Magang Grassroots Peace Initiative (MGPI).

During a pre-planning meeting for the workshop held with the leaders in the area in May 2006, a number of troubling signs indicated that significant conflict and animosity remained among the peoples of this area. It was clear that there were many deeply-rooted causes for conflict, as well as potential conflicts that needed to be addressed at the grass roots level with full community participation.

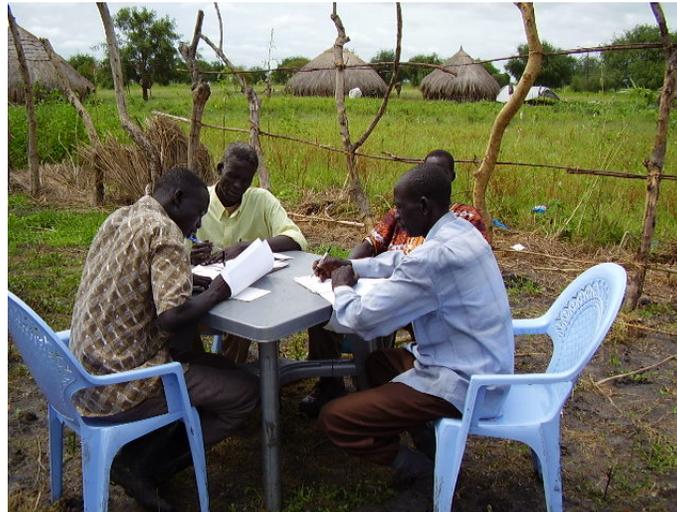
The community was seeking more training in conflict resolution to deal with the following conflicts: day to day conflicts due to petty misunderstandings and lack of communication in the absence of law and order and good governance and availability of small arms in the communities.

Thus RECONCILE responded by carrying out the above training which brought together 45 community leaders including: elders, executive chiefs, pastors, evangelists, catechists, teachers, payam administrators, women leaders, deacons, soldiers and other government officials. 17 came from a distance of 12 hours by boat and 2-3 days walk, 4 from a distance of 6 hours walk, 5 from a distance of 3 hours walk and 11 from Abwong town (who had to cross the swamp for total of 1 hour each way to come to Geldhiak where the workshop was held) and 9 from within the immediate area. The fact that many of the participants went through such difficulties to attend the workshop serves to illustrate how motivated they were to attend and how “thirsty” they were for the information.



*The Executive Director RCONCILE crosses the swamps of Sobat River from Abwong East to Geldhiak for the Workshop.*

***Participants involved in group work during the workshop-Abwong Sobat County-  
Upper Nile State.***



As the workshop came to close, the participants expressed the following concerns about the post-peace period and suggested strategies to counter them:

<b>Concerns</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
Development and re-building programs not visible in the area i.e. schools, hospitals, markets etc	Form committees and raise the issue with our representatives i.e. members of legislative assemblies in Juba and Malakal.
Militias still operating.	Raise the issue to the county commissioners so that they can approach SPLA and UNIMS.
No employment opportunities available.	Raise the issue with our representatives i.e. members of legislative assemblies in Juba and Malakal.
Teachers and nurses have not been paid yet.	Raise the issue with the county commissioners.
Wealth sharing-oil of the southern Sudan yet Northern Sudan getting more of the revenues.	We will choose wisely when the time for Referendum election comes.
Southern Kordofan and Southern Blue Nile not given right to self-determination.	Ask SPLM to negotiate with Nuba and Angasana at the end of the popular consultation.

**5. Meeting with Lou Nuer Chiefs.**

In November 2006 under the RECONCILE Conflict Resolution programme, a meeting and discussion was conducted with Lou Nuer Chiefs. The meeting was a follow-up process to the training done by RECONCILE in October 2005 in Akobo where the community leaders had resolved to help the government in peaceful

disarmament. The disarmament happened in April 2006. The chiefs raised the issues and concerns regarding the disarmament which had left them vulnerable because neighboring ethnic groups who raided them for cattle were not disarmed.

They encouraged RECONCILE to continue doing the good job and requested for more enlightenment and creation of jobs for the youth. “Our land spoiled. We have children who have nothing to do at the moment” says Chief James Gatkuoth Lul. They were in Juba to meet with the Government of Southern Sudan about some of these issues and to encourage government to be closer to the people and not be disconnected.

## **II: Psychosocial Rehabilitation Programme.**

Having carried out trainings in trauma awareness and counseling for more than 500 people over the last 2 and half years, RECONCILE felt that it would like to pause for a moment to get feedback from some of those who had attended the workshops during that period. Furthermore, RECONCILE wanted to provide additional skills and information as well as obtain feedback to help improve its trainings in future. As such the staff went to five different locations where workshops had been held.

In an attempt to heal the wounds that had resulted from the war, RECONCILE facilitated a round table that was hosted by Southern Sudan Peace Commission where by the Sudanese partners shared their expectations, concerns and issues of conflict and need for justice and reconciliation. They also interacted with South African partners from the Institute of Justice and Reconciliation, in Cape Town, who shared their experiences as they went through their transition to democracy including the challenges and dilemmas that were involved. It was noted that although the situations are not the same and the context and background might be different, the common thing is the “*hurt*” - the wounds of war. The pain is the same!

### **1. Psychosocial Rehabilitation Follow-up Meetings in Yei, Juba, Nimule, Ikotos and Akobo.**

In April, 2006 an evaluation of the October 2005 Akobo Psycho-social Rehabilitation and Civic Education Training workshop, was held at the Presbyterian church of Akobo. The meeting was well attended by 47 of those who participated in the initial workshop. Since this is a largely oral culture, a series of 6 questions were posed to the group by facilitators. The questions sought to assess how helpful the knowledge the participants obtained from the workshop had been put to use and what signs of change could be reported. Participants were asked what they had learned from the workshop and how it had affected life in Akobo. Some of their responses were:

- “We learned how to support our leaders.”
- “When you came there was no market. Now you can see people selling things very freely, it’s more peaceful.”
- “The workshop changed many things in this community. Last time all roads to Akobo were closed. No one could visit other communities. Now all the roads are opened.”

When asked if they had had opportunities to help others their response was follows:

- “[Because of] the help we received from the workshop, here in Akobo town we don’t have any problem. We ‘carry it’ [to others] and people have heard the message. The problem is that the youth still carry guns ‘on the outside’. What we say they don’t listen to, because they carry guns. The GOSS has the capacity to disarm and it will be very very important. The militias on the government side are not now there. But the problem is the clans [fighting against each other] in the countryside. We want GOSS to disarm them. When the guns are taken away from these youth then these youth [in Akobo] can go and assist them.”
- “There is a man with me together, that man is a young man in the Nuer tradition..... He went to Gambella to talk with his uncle to assist him with money to complete the marriage [the bride price]. He came back and said, ‘the man wouldn’t assist me – so I will take the woman...’ I said, ‘forget your idea...if you take this idea you will create a lot of the problems’. He went to the place and he got very drunk and said he would kill someone. However, I refused to fight him. He wanted to burn my house but my relatives assisted and the house wasn’t burned. So I talked to him - I convinced him. He said he was sorry to the uncle.”  
*After this testimonial the group applauded.*
- “Someone stole some cattle that belonged to someone. The owner of the cattle found his cattle were completely stolen – he went in the direction to check it out. He went to his family and organized them to attack those who took his cattle. I went to him quietly and I told him, “Please don’t do that. You don’t have a case with that guy - better for you to be quiet. Don’t go and attack people because of that reason’. [At this person’s advice] the guy went to the government and the government got the cattle.” *Again the group applauded as many lives had been saved.*
- “There is a neighbor to me that I had a good relationship with. He provides milk to my child. But one day he told my wife, ‘why do you carry this gourd [which is big in size] - bring a small container. If you carry a gourd I won’t give your child milk any more’. By then my wife stopped [collecting milk] around December. [Later] the cow that produced milk stopped to produce, but the guy remained. I have a small fishing net and I caught more fish. I thought of refusing my fish to the man who refused milk to my child but I decided to share [my fish with him].”  
*Again, there was applause.*

As a result of the workshop the residents reported that the current situation regarding human rights in Akobo has improved. There following are some of their testimonies

- “Some years back you could not stay here one hour without hearing gun shots. After that workshop it is very quiet – no killing.”
- “Compensation for those who were killed is going on.”  
“My sister has a daughter and son. When the son of my sister refused a man to be given a cow [and there was no violence].

In Yei, RECONCILE staff had a one day meeting with 15 youth who had been inspired to start a group for trauma awareness, healing and reconciliation after attending the

trauma awareness workshop held by RECONCILE in March 2006. The youth named their group; New Life ministry for Reconciliation and currently have renamed it SORRY-Sudan Organization for Restoring Relationships among Youth, they are intending to register as a community based organization. The meeting took place in July 2006.

The RECONCILE team visited Liberty FM, AAH-I and ACROSS interviewed the persons who had worked with the youth group. They learnt that the youth had also shared information about the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA), good governance and human rights as well. At Liberty FM, the team learned that the youth had been given a 30 minute slot under the health program and the program is liked by the listeners who have asked for them to make it a regular feature.

RECONCILE was encouraged by their innovativeness and desire to be useful in awareness creation. It will offer this group more in-depth training in trauma and counseling for them to continue in the trauma awareness campaigns as well as skills in writing scripts for radio dramas.



*RECONCILE staff with the youth in Yei.*

In Juba, the staff met with 3 chiefs of the high council of chiefs representing 3 states and 15 religious leaders who had participated in the psychosocial rehabilitation workshop held in November 2005. They reported that there was marked improvement in their relationships between the different ethnic and religious groups living in Juba. There was more room for dialogue, that was absent before the workshop. What still remains is that there is suspicion between the Muslims and the other political leaders. They are seen as reporters to the government in the North. However, the relationship between Muslims who were previously in the SPLA controlled areas is much better.

Due to unforeseen last-minute changes in travel plans, participants in Nimule had to come on short notice, but 10 participants were able to gather, representing key people from the local administration, army, women's groups and youth groups. The meeting took place on August 2006. The participants in Nimule felt that the training on trauma healing and civic education was very helpful, and had proved very useful to them. A woman participant reported how the information she got from the notes on trauma healing had helped her assist her young daughter who was raped by a relative and also helped her to overcome feelings of revenge and bitterness against the individual.

Furthermore, the participants were given additional supplementary materials on trauma healing. According to the survey and the dialogue, participants remembered the content on trauma healing particularly well, saying that it had helped them deal with war wounds, both in their own life and in the lives of others.

In Ikotos, the participants filled out an evaluation survey form, which was designed by RECONCILE to examine the effect of the workshop which took place in November 2005. The survey asked about positive effects of the workshop on both individuals and the community, and ways that the delivery of trainings could be improved to maximize their effectiveness. Mary Johnson, chair lady of the County Women's Association, spoke passionately of the need for help in getting the message to the people in the surrounding towns and villages. She specifically asked for more training materials and manuals, which would help them sensitize their people in their local languages. This is the challenge of reaching more people.

## **2. The Round Table on Transitional Justice and Reconciliation.**

The Roundtable held in Juba, Southern Sudan in December 2006 was opened and closed by His Excellency, James Kok Ruea. Mr. Kok considered the impact of the devastating war realizing that the atrocities could not be forgotten, but perhaps they can be forgiven. During these discussions he hoped that we would consider how to make this forgiveness possible, so that we can rebuild and move into a peaceful future. It brought together 15 participants.

A key note address was given by Dr. Charles Villa-Vicencio Executive director of the Institute of Justice and Reconciliation on the process of political reconciliation within South Africa, the need for economic justice, and the reasons for the purpose and design of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Process. He indicated that each country must design a transitional process that meets the core needs of their own context in terms of nation building, justice, truth telling and economic issues. Through these discussions key themes were identified and summarized into an outline which was supported by all present as representing the core areas of the Roundtable's discussion.

Some of the issues of concern were:

- Need for truth telling and self disclosure, to rebuild trust, facilitate reengagement between people, and deal with the great hurt
  - Concern that the Southern Sudanese government is still young
  - Concern that this may be a Pandora's Box which will be difficult to contain once people start talking
  - Concern that it is not the right time
  - Concern that the referendum is 5 years away.
- Some perceive CPA as having given amnesty for war related crimes – but others indicate there is now a need to prosecute against peace time crimes e.g the Malakal incident in December 2006.
  - Family members and people need to know what happened
  - The Peace Commission is engaging other armed groups to develop inclusivity into the process.

Nevertheless opportunities were identified that could overcome the concerns as follows:

- The government is off the ground in less than two years
  - ✓ It has set up functioning commissions
  - ✓ This is the first time the South has its own constitution and flag
  - ✓ The capital has been established
- Willingness for people to dialogue – there is a quest for trust.
- There is a window of 5 years until the Referendum – we must give ourselves a chance.
- Amazing work and engagement of the community is already happening.
- The support of the International and African community to walk with us on this path.

### **3. Seminar on reconciliation, re-integration and resilience- Renk County.**

RECONCILE was invited by the Peace and Justice office of the Diocese of Renk Episcopal Church of Sudan to carry out a seminar on reconciliation and re-integration to take place in November 2006 in Bentiu. It had to be re-scheduled to December 5<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Renk because of insecurity in the Bentiu area. Nevertheless, it was well attended by 75 persons, among them chiefs, community and religious leaders from the Christian and Muslim communities.



**Women Participate in a group discussion on equal rights for men and women during workshop, in Renk Upper Nile State.**

The Greater Upper Nile Region Ecumenical Committee for Justice and Peace was provided with a platform to report on their assessment visits on reconciliation and peace. People were asked what their role is as Muslims and Christians to bring peace in our community in Upper Nile among the various groups including Nuer, Jieng (Dinka), Shilluk, Anyuak, Maban and Murle.

They responded as follows:

- To maintain our Sudanese identity whether we are Muslims or Christians where we relate together in a spirit of nationalism, not tribalism.
- To mobilize our communities to protect the land more than ever before.
- To encourage mutual respect for faith based groups through conducting of workshops among Muslims and Christians in peace building and sustainable development.

The participants concluded the seminar by resolving to support the local government authorities in their endeavour for peace by:

- Encouraging inter-ethnic and cultural activities that can bring harmony and learn from each other in a positive manner which transforms the culture.
- Encouraging of inter-tribal marriages.
- Encouraging Christians and Muslims to work together in social affairs and developmental activities in their areas.
- Supporting sustainable peace through development in all parts of Southern Sudan.
- Supporting democratic systems that respect the rules of law of the country.

#### **4. Seminar on reconciliation, re-integration and resilience - Yei River County.**

A workshop with 42 Chiefs, boma and payam administrators from Yei and the surrounding areas was held in Yei at the RECONCILE training centre from 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November, 2006. It enlightened the leaders on the provisions within the peace agreement for reconciliation. The workshop also focused on strengthening the skills of civil leadership, functions of local government and the role of traditional leaders in re-integration.



*One of the chiefs leads the others during workshop in a learning game/exercise-Yei.*

## *5. Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Trauma Awareness Workshops In Western Equatoria State- Southern Sudan.*

In the wake of the ethnic clashes that had occurred in Western Equatoria State in October-November 2005, the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC) in conjunction with Western Equatoria State held a peace conference in April 2006 as a first step to get the conflicting parties to stop the aggression against each other. Following the peace conference, RECONCILE was requested to carry out follow-up workshops on trauma awareness and healing. These workshops were funded by United States Institute for Peace. They were held for Yambio and Nzara, Ibba and Maridi counties from 29<sup>th</sup> August -1<sup>st</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> September 2006 respectively.

The first workshop conducted in Yambio for both Yambio and Nzara counties brought together 45 participants. The training targeted county, payam and boma administrators, chiefs, headmen/women, community elders, church and youth leaders. The workshop was carried out for four days to impart knowledge and skills to handle issues that result from trauma due to various events, particularly the recent ethnic violence that had affected the communities of Zande and Dinka. The trained leaders will be resource persons in their communities and offices.

The second workshop was conducted in Maridi for Maridi and Ibba counties where 52 people attended the training. More than half of the participants in Maridi workshop were women. According to the steering committee they intentionally invited more women because in their communities the immediate persons affected by conflicts are women and children. In their view, women are able to manage conflicts in a more peaceful manner. Therefore, it is important for women to be trained to acquire skills that will influence peaceful co-existence among the IDPs and the indigenous communities.

One of the immediate impacts of the workshops was that the representatives from various groups of the communities of Yambio & Nzara acknowledged reception of this workshop as “medicine” first to themselves because many of their pains were healed. Secondly, they committed themselves to share what had benefited their personal well-being with others. They were influenced to take risks to go “the way of healing”.

During the training in Maridi a female participant testified about her intentions to kill her husband because he was unable to care for the family when they lost all of their properties. She attempted to kill her husband and find another one. She took a panga and cut her husband's head in an attempt to kill him. But her husband survived with the wounds and they were living separately up to the time she came for the workshop. Near the closure of the workshop she went and reconciled with her husband and together they came and presented themselves to the participants to prove that they are healed through the psycho-social rehabilitation training and the trauma healing process. Both the woman and her husband admitted that they had forgiven each other and are now willing to live together peacefully.

*Group photo of Maridi-Ibba workshop (Left) Participants during group discussion (Right) Yambio -Nzara workshop*



### **III: Advocacy and Networking.**

Advocacy and networking 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.

#### **Director Attends Civil Society Conference**

Director Emmanuel LoWilla represented RECONCILE at the African-Danish Civil Society Conference held in May in Copenhagen, Denmark. He was able to bring his expertise and experience into discussions on good governance particularly in the area of seeking African solutions to problems such as the formation of democratically elected, stable governments. He argues that Africa has the potential if there is political will to be more democratic and well governed.



*LoWilla (2<sup>nd</sup> left) with AU Chair Alfa Konare (center)*

### *Braaksmas Visit Partners in United States, July-September 2006.*

The Sudanese Presbyterian Fellowship in Portland Maine was among 39 churches and 7 partner organizations which the Braaksmas visited from July-Sept as they interpreted RECONCILE's work and the need for advocacy on Sudan. The members of the Sudanese Diaspora were very excited to hear of RECONCILE's work in peace-building.

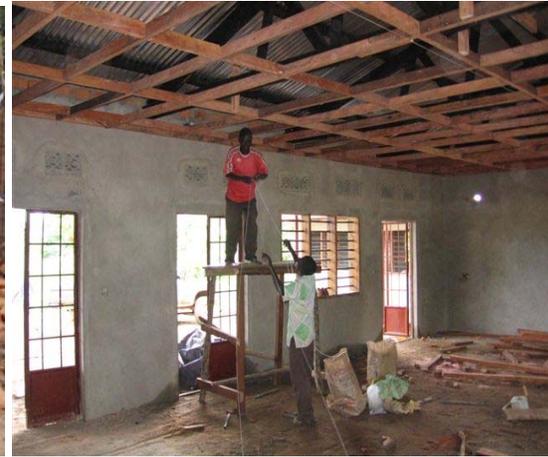


The following were among the organizations visited- United States Institute for Peace (USIP), Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), National Endowment for Democracy, Washington Office on Africa, United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church, Church World Service where they gave deeper insights on the situation on the ground in Southern Sudan and shared with them much from RECONCILE strategic plan and the direction in the upcoming years. They also spoke in 18 Reformed Churches/functions and 19 Presbyterian Churches/functions.

In answer to the question “what can we do to help” they shared the needs for continuing advocacy with the US government particularly in the area of CPA implementation and support for free and fair elections so that people of Southern Sudan are guaranteed the right of self-determination provided for in the peace agreement.

### **IV: Organizational Development.**

The plans for the development of RECONCILE training centre where the traumatized could come for counseling and where training programs could be done, materialised when construction began in February 2006. Among the facilities completed by August 2006 are a training hall and office building, a shower and toilet building (with running water) and fencing around compound. This is now the main office of RECONCILE with a small liaison office being maintained in Kampala. The first training carried out on the new premises was in November. It was for 42 local chiefs and headmen/women from Yei County and the surrounding payams. Topics covered were reconciliation, civic leadership, good governance and their role as leaders in the new era of the CPA, as local leaders are struggling to deal with repatriation of Internally Displaced Persons and returnees into the local area.



*Foundation - Office Building (Left) Preparing for Ceiling of Training Hall (Right)*



*Completed Training Hall (Left) and Office (Right)*