

As South Sudan celebrated its first year of independence in 2012, RECONCILE had a year full of activities in civic education, psychosocial awareness, peer counselor training, reconciliation conferences and meetings, radio programs and many others. Still, ethnic conflict and tensions remain unresolved in many areas. For example, in Jonglei State, David YauYau is active with his rebel militia group fighting the government of South Sudan and causing insecurity, displacement and human suffering in Pibor County and surrounding areas. The reoccurring clashes in Jonglei and throughout the nation continue to witness to the need for more relevant, effective and sustainable peace efforts in South Sudan. RECONCILE has always been committed to work and strengthen these efforts in order to achieve peaceful coexistence within the communities that we serve.

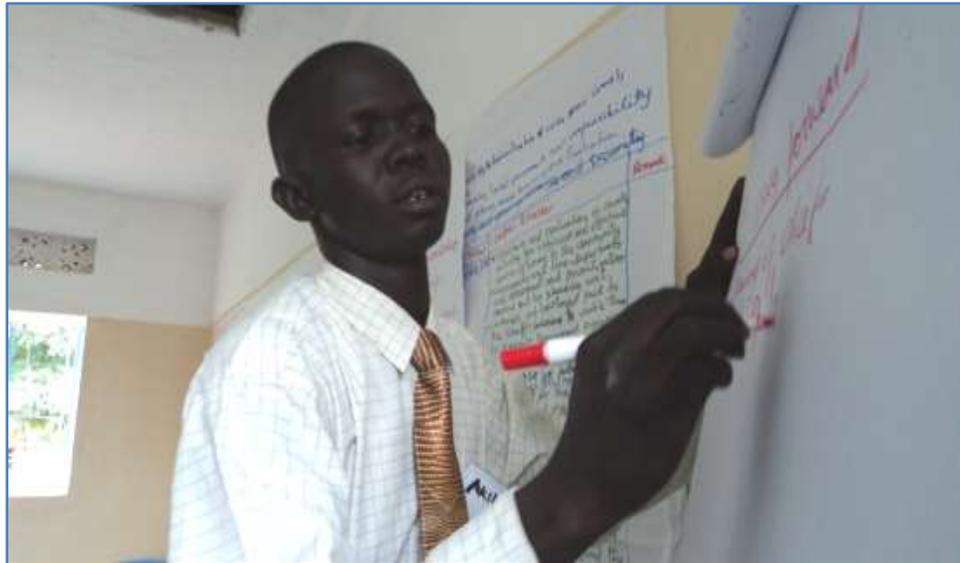
With the support of our partners and through our programs in Psychosocial, Civic Education and Peacebuilding and the Peace Institute, RECONCILE aimed at the following objectives in 2012:

- Strengthening capacities of community leaders at payam and boma levels to increase civic awareness and improve governance at the grassroots level in the post referendum
- Providing skills in transformation of conflicts in peaceful and nonviolent ways
- Assisting leaders of displaced persons to support psychosocial recovery among displaced people especially women and children and other vulnerable groups
- Promoting resilience and building trust among communities
- Increasing the effectiveness of RECONCILE's key mobilizers, church leaders, community workers and leaders in addressing conflict and events in the communities where they serve through attending RPI courses



Also, after several busy months of intensive work, we are happy to report that we completed our Strategic Planning and an Organizational Assessment facilitated by TAABCO and funded by EED. Through participation from staff, stakeholders and the RECONCILE Board of Governors, we successfully drafted a five-year strategic plan. The plan will provide us with direction so that we may continue our work to bring about a peaceful and democratic society in South Sudan and the region.

CIVIC EDUCATION AND PEACE BUILDING



As a result of Strategic Planning, the name of the program “Civic Education and Peace building” changed to “Leadership and Governance” to better reflect the essence of its activities.

The department planned for four projects for 2012:

1. Civic Education and Community Mobilization for Peace– EED Funded
2. Equipping Sudanese Communities for Peaceful Coexistence in Eastern Equatoria State- FCA Funded
3. Community Stabilization and Peace through Capacity Building in Jonglei State, South Sudan -Agriteam Funded
4. Empowering Communities for Peaceful Coexistence in Twic East, Duk, and Pibor- DCA Funded

RECONCILE also carried out an unplanned activity funded by PCUSA that came out as an urgent need in order to defuse tension between the two communities of Murle and Anyuak in Jonglei State. The objective of this meeting, which took place in Juba from 3-4 February, was to be a quick response to avoid further escalation of the conflict, which would not only affect those communities in Pibor and Pochalla Counties, but also spread to other communities in Jonglei state. After two days of deliberation, assessing the current context, and exploring ways to contribute toward a sustainable peace between Anyuak and Murle the participants issued proposals to have a community dialogue in Pochalla County and to implement other recommendations in order to terminate the cycle of conflict.

Civic Education and Community Mobilization for Peace



A woman representative discusses the border issue in Nagero and Tombura

In the final year of this three-year EED project, RECONCILE's Civic Education and Peacebuilding department implemented many activities. They include a Peace and Reconciliation conference and follow up in Nagero and Tombura, conflict transformation and follow up in Mvolo, Conflict Assessment in Eastern Equatoria, and other activities in Yei and Lakes State.

Staff organized a Peace and Reconciliation Conference in order to resolve a political and administrative border dispute between Nagero and Tombura counties in Western Equatoria State. The two parties were in dispute over border demarcation for quite a long time, and as a result, the commissioners of the two counties wrote a joint letter requesting RECONCILE to mediate a solution to the conflict. RECONCILE conducted meetings and finally a dialogue conference from 18th -20th January, with attendance of over 150 people, including Right Honorable James Wani Igga, Speaker of the

National Legislative Assembly of the Republic of South Sudan. After a lengthy deliberation by both sides on the border issue, the recommendations and resolutions were unanimously adopted by representatives and violence was denounced. They agreed to observe a historical peaceful co-existence between the counties with the arrival of the National Committee for Border Demarcation and Subsequent Implementation of the Local Government Act. The follow-up to this activity showed that the conference had succeeded in mobilizing the community to resolve their issues and live in peace since residents of the counties reported that the relationship between the two counties had improved and there is now more free movement of people and goods in the area.

Close to Nagero and Tombura in Western Equatoria, RECONCILE has also been active in resolving conflicts in Mvolo, by carrying out trainings on conflict transformation. A follow up meeting to the conflict transformation workshop held in early in the year showed that there were many positive developments as a result of RECONCILE's peace work. There is now essentially a cessation of violent conflict. This means that there is less fear and more freedom of movement between the two communities of Jur Chol and Dinka Atuat. This means they are able to share a major health facility and even resume classes in the three different local primary schools, which were previously closed due to the violence. Also, many displaced people from the payams of Kokori, Bahr el Grindi and Lessi have returned to their homes.



Guest of Honor, Right Honorable James Wani Igga addresses the conference

RECONCILE also carried out several trainings in Lakes State, including a conflict transformation training in Yirol West and a training of Parliamentarians. Both aimed at increasing the capacity of community and government leaders to better manage conflict and understand their roles. The parliamentarians were trained in Rumbek to understand his/her powers and mandates and the qualities of a good politician and leader. More technical topics were also covered, such as: the conduct of business regulations, the committee system in the state legislature, oversight functions of the assembly committee, the role of various party whips and the assembly calendar, among others.

Equipping Sudanese Communities for Peaceful Coexistence in Eastern Equatoria State

This project was focused on training leaders in Ikwotos, a county in Eastern Equatoria State, which has been experiencing conflict due to border disputes, cattle rustling and even child abductions. This project aimed at improving the capacity of county legislative councils, administrators, women and youth associations to practice accountable governance and meet the needs of the community equitably. The activities also aimed to enable these key groups to collaborate together in order to address the critical issues of resource utilization/sharing and border demarcation all in order to reduce the number of conflicts in the area.

With the assistance of FCA, we were able to train thirty-nine local government administrators and executive councilors in Ikwotos County, Eastern Equatoria State in participatory governance, planning and budgeting. The follow-up meeting in December further trained and tackled the remaining gaps of the administrators and councilors. The important topics covered included: participatory governance and the system of the local government and local government councils, functional laws in South Sudan and the drafting and procedures of undertaking local government laws.

Empowering Communities for Peaceful Coexistence in Twic East, Duk, and Pibor

This project aimed to equip grassroots leaders with skills in bringing sustainable peace to the counties of Twic East, Duk and Pibor in Jonglei State. The activities included training Key Mobilizers and a conflict transformation training workshop in Pibor.

The training conducted in December, at the RECONCILE Training Centre, lasted for two weeks for ten newly recruited Key Mobilizers from the targeted payams. Key Mobilizers are RECONCILE volunteers who are committed to promoting civic education and trauma healing in their communities. The training enabled them to better understand conflict management and how to help victims of trauma in their communities. These newly trained Key Mobilizers will work hand in hand with RECONCILE staff to monitor progress on activities, to document changes in the communities, to assist with organizing forums with youth, women and other leaders, and to serve overall as resource on the ground to help RECONCILE work with the communities.

The Conflict Transformation workshop conducted in Pibor for chiefs, administrators, women, youth and church leaders ran for three days and aimed at empowering the targeted groups to respond properly to conflict and to enter into more meaningful relationships among themselves. The aim was also to bring a change in the way of life and negative social structures in order to make the society more peaceful.

Community Stabilization and Peace through Capacity Building in Jonglei State, South Sudan

RECONCILE began this project with Agriteam at the end of the year, starting with an inception workshop in Pibor. The inception workshop is essential to ensure that community leaders' and other stakeholders' views are considered and addressed and that the leaders in the area support the content and trauma healing processes that will be introduced.

The planned activities for the first quarter of 2013 include: another inception workshop in Uror and conflict transformation workshops in Uror and Pibor on community stabilization and the Local Government Bill. The workshops will be conducted for male and female boma and payam administrators, police, chiefs, headmen/women participants. We also plan on conducting a cultural exchange visit between leaders from both of the counties in order to start to build linkages that will reduce the likelihood of inter-ethnic violence.



Participants engaging in the inception workshop in Pibor



PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION



Psychosocial planned for five projects for 2012:

1. Promotion of Psychosocial Recovery and Community Reconciliation in Ibba- MM funded
2. Promotion of Community Reconciliations, Healing & Conflict Resolution Processes in Yei County – ICCO funded
3. Civic Education and Mobilization for Peace- EED funded
4. Building and Sustaining Peace Constituencies in Jonglei State, South Sudan- NCA funded
5. Jonglei Children’s Trauma Recovery and Rehabilitation Project- PCUSA

Promotion of Psychosocial Recovery and Community Reconciliation in Ibba- MM funded

This project focused on the activities of setting up peer counseling and peer educator systems in Ibba County and was carried out in phases with the trainees completing nine phases in this reporting period.

Peer Counseling systems are important to provide support to the communities to foster healing and peace building through psychosocial recovery and RECONCILE sought to especially ensure that the church and community leaders were empowered to support the peer counselors and use them as a tool to transform conflicts in various locations.

The nine phases of training covered a wide range of topics, which provided counseling knowledge and skills in becoming dynamic peer counselors. The peer counselors were first encouraged to be self-aware and taught the importance of adhering to a code of conduct. The training prepared the peer counselors to be able to address conflict in a non-violent manner, to understand the effects of violence on health, performance in school, marriage, the work place and development. It also covered ways of assisting HIV/AIDS victims and specific counseling techniques.

Along with the trainings, a mentoring visit was also conducted in Ibba County from 27th to 30th June in order to assess the knowledge gained, fill in gaps in the counseling process and to monitor the work of the peer

counselors and peer educators. It was found that they had already started the process of implementing counseling activities in order to prevent violence and start the process of healing in the community.



Sister Mercy Benson Trains Peer Counselors at RECONCILE Training Centre



Those trained through RECONCILE show off their certificates at the commissioning of the Peer Counselors in November

Promotion of Community Reconciliations, Healing & Conflict resolution Processes in Yei County

The activities under this project included the establishment of peer counseling centers, conducting exchange visits, the formation of three peace committees and sponsoring football and volleyball leagues. All of these activities were pursuing the overall objective of developing the capacity of CBOs and communities with the skills and knowledge to develop and establish their own peer counseling and conflict transformation initiatives in Mugwo, Tore and Lasu Payams by the year 2013.

RECONCILE trained Peer Counselors in payams in Yei River County alongside those trained in Ibba. The activities of training peer counselors in Yei River County and conducting mentoring visits also further seeks to strengthen the relations between refugees/returnees/IDPs and host communities by increasing contact, supporting dialogue and reconciliation initiatives between different communities/groups.

The setting up of the peer counseling systems started to show positive change in the communities at an early stage. We conducted the first mentoring visit to Pokula Boma in April and it was found that participants had already started carrying out family visits, awareness forums on conflict mitigation to church leaders and conducted meetings on the dangers of violence and importance of reconciliation to women's groups.

Along with many community members receiving the benefits of their services, those in the refugee camp in Lasu Payam benefitted. Over fifty women and girls who had been victims of sexual/gender based violence had received psychosocial support through peer counseling services.

Civic Education and Mobilization for Peace

In the final year of this three-year EED project, Psychosocial continued to implement planned activities, including a Morobo Reconciliation Forum, trauma healing radio programs in Torit, Maridi and Nimule, and a Monitoring and Evaluation visit in Lopa and Lokiliri all in an effort to continue to equip communities with knowledge and skills for peace building and community healing.

We carried out monitoring and evaluation visits from 12th to 15th June in Lopa and Lokiliri Payams in order to evaluate the impact of the previous trainings on reconciliation conducted in 2011 and whether or not it has brought positive change in the communities that were previously locked in a cycle of violence. Interviews revealed that there is a new understanding of reconciliation and what it means to forgive. In Lokiliri, there is now an increased level of trust among communities in the different bomas and they feel free to move and visit relatives in other areas. An SPLA commander in the area testified that, since the reconciliation took place, he has seen a restructuring of the leadership in the community and there is a new direction for peaceful co-existence. This commander also said that he no longer lives in hiding; previously he was afraid the people would revenge against him for the wrong he had committed, but now he can move freely among the people he now leads. Some reported that there has been an influx of urban-rural migration where many return to their traditional homes from Juba due to the newfound stability.

In Lopa Payam, the results of the monitoring and evaluation visit revealed that the previous training carried out on recognizing trauma and how it affects the communities has had a positive effect among the people. Some of those in the community not directly involved in the training said that they noticed that the community of Lopa has been helping the disabled, sick, widows and those whose cattle are raided. And after the training took place it has increased the support and help that the community is giving to those who are traumatized. Suicide due to the influence of alcohol among the young people has also reduced. Several traditional marriages have also occurred between previously conflicting communities, a sign of easing tensions and newfound trust. Some communities are also now better able to share natural resources, where they were previously fighting frequently over water sources, schools, hospitals and other limited and poor services in the area. Cattle raiding was also common but has now improved even though some cases are still reported to the local chief.

Building and Sustaining Peace Constituencies in Jonglei State

The activities under this project included carrying out trainings for church leaders and inter-church committees in trauma counseling and management, one training in early warning signs and conflict prevention and follow ups for these trainings. The overall goal of this project is to expand peace building processes, psychosocial support and establishment of peace systems and infrastructures throughout Jonglei State.

The Akobo Trauma Counseling and management training was carried out from 16th to 21st November as part of an intervention process organized to address issues that had been affecting the local community. Akobo is one of the counties affected by floods and lack of development including lack of roads, communication or phone networks, drug shortages in the only hospital in the area. All of this is compounded by the cycles of inter-ethnic conflict occurring between the Murle and Lou Nuer. Most of the Lou Nuer respondents met during the baseline assessment in Akobo County maintain vivid and fresh memories of cattle raiding and child abduction between Lou Nuer and Murle. Many remembered specific details including the dates, months and years, what happened between and among the Lou Nuer. They remember “who killed my loved one” held these memories in place so that they could revenge. According to one of the community members, Akobo is like a “house of trauma” because almost everyone in Akobo is suffering from its effects.

The training therefore aimed at equipping the community and church leaders with skills and knowledge on trauma counseling and stress management in order to help those seriously affected by the conflict, so that the community could take steps toward ending the destruction and build something desired. RECONCILE will continue to build on this very important project in 2013.

RECONCILE PEACE INSTITUTE (RPI)

The following are the 10 most significant accomplishments for RPI in 2012:

1. RECONCILE Peace Institute (RPI): Approximately 23 community and religious leaders from five different States in South Sudan (including participants from the Netherlands and Sudan) graduated from RPI on 6 August 2012. The event was attended by the local chief and bishop, covered by three media houses, and highlighted by a rousing speech from the region's newly installed Commissioner of Yei County, Honorable Juma David Augustine. The graduates represent over a dozen ethnic groups/tribes, ages, genders, and life experiences.

Scholarships were funded by the following organizations:

- EED
- Mennonite Central Committee
- Church of the Brethren
- Finn Church Aid
- Presbyterian Church USA
- Presbyterian Women
- Reformed Church of America



RPI Student Dawa Emelia presents on what she has learned about creating an action plan to resolve conflict in her community

2. RPI Evaluation: A team of six consultants led by Dr. Mulanda Jimmy Juma and coordinated by Rev. Nancy Smith-Mather was commissioned by RECONCILE International to conduct an evaluation and review of the program. The aim was to improve the effectiveness, relevance and sustainability of RPI, thus increasing the contribution to peace building in South Sudan and the region. Over 130 individuals were involved in the process through interviews, document review, focus group discussions, questionnaires, field visits, and participant observation. The participants included RECONCILE founding members, Board members, RPI participants, alumni, instructors, staff, partners, government and religious officials as well as other key stakeholders. The evaluation offers vital insight from all community levels on ways to develop and expand the RECONCILE Peace Institute in a healthy and sustainable manner.

3. RPI Strategic Plan: RPI completed a Five-Year Strategic Plan to guide its vision for increased impact and sustainability for the coming years after months of deliberation, reflection, analysis, planning, and prayers!

4. Launch of RPI Alumni Network: As outlined in the 5 Year Strategic Plan, RPI is diligently working to develop a systematic approach to following up and benefiting from the work of alumni. Accordingly, RPI is working to establish an Alumni Support Network which will provide RPI Graduates with a forum to remain updated on the work of RECONCILE and to share their own work. As a result of the geographical distance between some alumni, different

chapters or clusters will be formed in different states during the next five years. The chapters or clusters will encourage members to collaborate and utilize their expertise for the benefit of other alumni and RPI.

5. Participant Contributions: For the first time, RPI participants contributed to their financial sponsorship by working within the compound each week for their three months course of study.

6. Course Prices Lowered: RPI reduced the cost of single modules from more than \$500 to \$355. This reduction came from careful analysis of previous spending and current funds allocation. The effort was carried out to make courses more affordable and to increase the possibility of more self-paying students.

7. Support Base Widened: In an effort to broaden awareness of RECONCILE in PCUSA and RCA congregations and raise support, Shelvis and Nancy developed an e-newsletter which offers stories and images of their work with RECONCILE International to approximately 1,000 recipients in the US and Eastern Africa. Shelvis & Nancy are diligently working to establish and solidify a strong support base from supporting US congregations and schools to increase annual RPI scholarships. In the last few months, they have also written articles about RECONCILE's work in the widely circulated *PCUSA Mission Yearbook*, been featured in the *Mission Crossroads Magazine*, and cultivated new partnerships and funding sources within the highest concentration of Presbyterian congregations in America (Presbytery of Greater Atlanta).

8. Developed a Recruiting Campaign for RPI 2013 applicants from local and regional religious leaders. The campaign has also engaged local and regional Church Based Organizations, Faith Based Organizations, Non Governmental Organizations, and like-minded organizations. In addition, a short RPI Promotional video was developed to assist with marketing.

9. Implemented Volleyball Teambuilding Event: RPI instituted its *1st Annual Student vs Staff Volley Ball Game!* The popular event led staff and students to connect in exciting new ways!

10. Library Expansion: Shelvis and Rev. Tibi secured approximately 1,500 additional textbooks to be delivered to the RECONCILE Library at the beginning of 2013. This shipment will more than **DOUBLE** the number of books in the Library and advance RECONCILE's Library Collection to one of the top of its kind in the area. These additions will also advance RECONCILE one step closer to becoming a premiere research center in the region.



Principal Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather with graduating students

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

We are grateful to the following partners who have supported us in 2012 and look forward to working together in 2013:

- Evangelischers 'Entwicklungsdienst'(EED)
- Dan Church Aid (DCA)
- FinChurchAid (FCA)
- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- Presbyterian Church of America (PCUSA)
- Reformed Church of America (RCA)
- ICCO
- CAFOD
- Church of the Brethren
- Presbyterian Women
- Agriteam Canada
- Mens met Missie (MM)

General report on finances for the year:

In 2012, the approved budget was US\$ 1,453,906.00 out of this we accomplished an equivalent of US\$ 1,001,782.19. In Finance, we started using our new accounting package software called Sage Pastel. The first year has been a learning one, and we are trying to master the package. Some of the proposals that had been submitted were not funded or the amounts were reduced. Some of the projects that were granted in 2012 are for two years ending 2013. These are projects that were funded by ICCO, MM and Agriteam Canada, who is a new partner. The EED Project ended last year but was extended to June 2013 as a no-cost extension.

Staffing

At the beginning of the year, RECONCILE welcomed a new staff member, Lucy Awate, to be our Psychosocial Counselor. However, Lucy is not new to the RECONCILE family, since she is an alumni of RPI. She even assisted in facilitating a module for this year's Peace Institute. We are very happy to have her now as a part our staff in the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Department.



Capacity Building

RECONCILE was happy to see a program staff member go for further training at Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Zambia. Othow Okoti, Field Coordinator for Jonglei State, received his diploma in Peace Building and Conflict Transformation and his knowledge will be an asset to us and our beneficiaries.

DCA sponsored two staff, Training Centre and Logistics Manager, Emmanuel Dele Seme, and Administrative Assistant, Abugo Cosmas, to attend a Procurement Training in Panyagor. This training will help RECONCILE logistically and administratively to carry out our work, since procuring items for work is often logistically

difficult from South Sudan. Executive Director, Rev. Peter Tibi, and Finance and Administration Coordinator, Ms. Lillian Matingi, also attended a five-day meeting on organizational assessment and organizational development and a partner's platform organized by DCA. Another one of RECONCILE's committed partners, FCA, organized a training in Project Monitoring and Evaluation in Mundri, which was attended by Peacebuilding Program Officer, Peter Bakata and Administrative Assistant, Zakaria Amule.

BASE CAMP/LOGISTICS

As a result of Strategic Planning, the name of "Base" for the RECONCILE compound and offices was changed to "Training Centre" to better reflect the purpose of our activities for the physical space where we have our offices and carry out our activities. The Training Centre is entrusted mainly with functions such as management and logistical duties. The year starting Jan to Dec 2012, the Training Centre was involved in a number of activities classified below:



Pineapple suckers in the garden

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 activities such as the RECONCILE Peace Institute, Key Mobilizer trainings, other trainings and outside guests who were eager to stay at the Training Centre

Farming:

We were able to harvest some vegetables from the garden this year and planted new crops. However the harvest of groundnuts and beans was poor because of the early ending of the rainy season. However,

the harvest of sweet potatoes was very good.

In June, we also planted about five hundred pineapple suckers and they are doing very well so far.

Vehicles:

We were able to purchase a vehicle, Toyota Noah, for administration for running errands in the town, bank runs and also transporting participants locally. This has been a great help to us and also is a better use of resources, since this van uses much less gas than our Land Cruisers and is able to make the short trips within the area.

Challenges:

We are still faced by challenges such as a lack of enough office space, the lack of a dining hall on the Training Centre and a lack of vehicles; we are left with only two Land Cruisers, which may hinder our operation next year and beyond.