



Resource Centre for Civil Leadership

RECONCILE

Annual Report 2010



## Introduction

2010 was a year in which the Programs experienced great growth in terms of the numbers of activities. It was engaged in as well as the quality and depth of training it offered. In addition to providing much needed training in the area of Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Civic Education, we greatly strengthened our efforts to provide training at a deeper level by development of additional training resources e.g. adoption of the forms for the Gender Based Violence and violence against children reporting formats, and increasing our own personal skills. By the end of the year 2010, we have trained 5209 people who were given the skills on Trauma Healing process, Reconciliation, Counseling, and how to prevent and respond to the Gender Based Violence against women and Children, general knowledge about civic education, the importance of participation in the Referendum process and how to prevent pre and post Referendum violence. The high turn out was due in part to a special campaign on the prevention of electoral and referendum violence, which used community meetings organized and conducted by the key mobilizers in their communities.

## PSYCHOSOCIAL PROGRAM:

During the year 2010 members of the police and military, and Wildlife participated in a trauma healing and Reconciliation workshop in Mambe, and Ibba in Western Equatoria State. Testimonies from the workshop were very positive. “The participants were grateful for the workshop, for it came to them at the right time of need”. Their comments included: “We now know about Trauma healing and reconciliation right from our families to the places of our public services”. “We have learned what is in the Bible and the Local Government Laws about respect for Humanity.... We will try to follow and act on it.” “Trauma healing is like a medicine found for an incurable wound. Now our wounds which were caused by many bad events are being healed. We have got the medicine!”

## **Overall Objective:**

To promote the establishment of a “culture of peace” and enhances trust between and within communities by equipping them with knowledge and skills for healing through training in psychosocial rehabilitation.

## **Outcomes**

1.1.1 Heightened understanding of the concept of trauma and how it affects communities and the ability to identify traumatized people.

1.1.2 Community leaders equipped with skills in psychosocial rehabilitation in order to promote individual and community healing.

1.1.3. Increased knowledge on non-violent approaches to solve issues at the grass roots level.

1.1.4. Increased positive relationships between Sudanese communities

## **Activities.**

1) Carried out 1 Women’s forum in Jonglei State, Pibor County.

2) Trauma Healing Trainings lasting 4-5 days for community leaders, Church leaders, CBOs, and Government local Authorities.

3) Reconciliation and Trauma awareness trainings.

4) Follow-up visits in Western, Central, and Eastern Equatoria, and Jonglei States.

5) Training of 2 Key Actors at the RECONCILE Peace Institute to build capacity for training follow-up at community level

## ***Achievements***

- The relationship of the PCOS Murle and Nuer women as sisters in Christ was strengthened as the women worshipped, prayed and spent time together over four days.

- An opportunity to work toward reconciliation was provided and the women resolved to continue in the spirit of love and unity cultivated during the meeting.
- Finally specific plans for forging peace were made.



*Murle and Nuer women greet each other in Pibor*

- The women from the Murle community to brought gifts to the Nuer women. The necklaces and bracelets given were made of beads of various colors each with its significant meaning among the Murle. The gifts were made by the women of five to seven parishes of East Jonglei presbytery.

- The Nuer women were given multi colored bead work of necklaces and bracelets whose meaning was explained as sign of unity between the Nuer and Murle women.

***The immediate result achieved from Eldoret Church leaders reconciliation meeting***

- Towards the end of the third day the church leaders expressed that they are now in a better position to get engaged in day to day activities of the Church and to help their communities get healed of their emotional traumas, and to resolve minor conflicts that may arise among their people.
- As a result there were testimonies from the participants who had lost spouses, children, relatives, friends and properties.

In Ezo in Western Equatoria State, and Tore Payam in Central Equatoria State, the issue of Trauma and the GBV was seen at the highest peak. The presence of the LRA in these areas left most of the people in the communities with acute stress that causes severe Trauma to the people. The other silent causer of stress in the above two counties is the issue of the domestic and community violence mostly affecting women and children in the two areas. However, the domestic and the community violence is the prime objective that the project addresses. And the training was carried to respond to the issues of Gender Based Violence against women and Children and the Trauma healing in Ezo and Tore respectively.

- Five groups were formed comprising of police group, the Church leaders, the women group, the youth group, and the Chiefs to create good network of communications amongst them to report any community violence that may occur to relevant office to solve such occurrences, and to curb the problems of Trauma and the Gender based violence against women and children in Tore and Ezo.
- The participants will be using the skills and the knowledge they have acquired for longer period to curb any human rights violations in Ezo or Tore, as they will be realising the increase of their knowledge to mitigate the community violence.
- The participants were made able to report any violence that may occur in their communities.

The 70 participants of the two trainings expressed relief from their stress after the training and are ready to take the responsibility of responding to issues in their communities upon their shoulders.

#### ***THE CHALLENGES FACING THE TWO AREAS IN WES.***

- LRA are a threat to both communities of Ezo and Tore.
- The life of the returned abductees in EZO is in jeopardy.
- The continuous killings of innocent persons by the LRAs.
- There is heavy consumption of alcohol which increases the stress that brings in more misunderstanding between husbands and their wives.

## *A touching Story*

The participant standing in the picture narrated that he had a most loved son in the family who was in primary three. Everybody loved him in the school because of brilliancy, activeness and he was hard-working. We the parents invested in him and hoped to take him for a better education but unfortunately it so happened that he died while living with his three sisters. In the



*Mr. Androga narrating the story of his children.*

process, the sisters asked “dad, does it mean our brother will never wake up again?” “Yes” I said, unknowingly. That made my three daughters to die instantly at the same time because of shock. Their burial became so traumatizing and so difficult for us because

other people suggested that all should be buried in one grave but others said they are to be buried differently. Finally, my children have to be buried in a day and left us with greatest grief. From that time we are living in great grief, but this training has helped me.

Mr. Androga said that RECONCILE has done the most important thing we never expected in life. The church teaches about peace and reconciliation all the time and people surely try to imitate a Christian life without the real products. This is the time we called ourselves the pillars of Mambe because of this workshop.

The American Relief Committee (ARC) organized three meetings last year for 36 International and Indigenous Organizations operating in Yei to discuss on the main agenda which was the GBV Standard Operating Procedures for Yei County. The standard Operating Procedures are important documents that help community leaders to report any occurrences of Gender Based Violence in the families.

As the issue of domestic violence against women and against children is discovered during the field assessments done by the Psychosocial Program staff as one of the causes of Trauma in the community, it was necessary for the project staff to participate in the above meeting to get new skills and ideas from other NGO's working with the communities on responding to the GBV and its prevention.

### ***General Impacts in the Communities***

a). One of the Church leaders said that we are now able to accept these losses because we were well equipped to help others with what we have learned in this training.

b). He added that although they have attended some trainings on health issues, but this training is a form of transformation and is an apparent one that has been planned with an aim of bringing healing to the people of Kenya through RECONCILE.

We the women in Tore shall try to work hand in hand with our partners to come to common understanding to stop or reduce the GBV occurrences in our families in Tore Payam.

c). The women in the communities testifies that they are participating in making of decisions at their families and in community forums.

d). There testimonies about peaceful response from the communities in resolving family or domestic violence against Women and Children.

### ***Challenges:***

**Language:** This is a big challenge since the training materials are written in English. When facilitating, it has to be spoken in the local Arabic and sometimes some vocabularies cannot be explained correctly, since Arabic is also foreign language in the South Sudan.

**Attendance:** Few youth attended the trainings in many areas of RECONCILE's interventions, while the major effect of the trauma and the issues of GBV is more on young people than elders according to the local leaders in their respective counties. Meanwhile, unwanted pregnancies are common among the young girls.

**Socio-economic status:** In most States, the Payams or Counties where RECONCILE conducted training, most the areas are small trading centers with few small shops. The economic status of the people is very poor and young people do small trading for survival, and many young boys/girls indulge themselves in prostitution where they become vulnerable to STIs and HIV/AIDS.

**Education:** There is lack of good schools in the Payam H/Quarters where most of the children live. Even if there are new constructed schools, they are located far from the center especially in the Western Equatoria State, and in fear of the LRA nobody can allow their children to travel to those schools, and this increases the level of illiteracy in the Communities.

**Cultural barriers:** The beliefs of people of Southern Sudan are deeply rooted in their cultures and norms which make it very difficult for them to make positive changes. According to gender based roles, the women are not free to participate in decision making both at home and official gathering creating a bit gap between men and the women which makes women to become more vulnerable to human rights violations.

**The time-factor.** The time set for the interventions is throughout the seasons of the year, which the training was interrupted e.g. when it happened during cultivation periods. And sometime during rainy seasons other roads become impassable

## CIVIC EDUCATION and PEACE BUILDING PROGRAM

Since the beginning of the year in January 2010 up to December 2010, the Department of Peace building and Civic Education managed to carry out several activities for the year.

Voter Education workshop in Yei organized jointly with the Episcopal Church of the Sudan Diocese of Yei, Capacity Building forum for civil society organizations and local authorities in Torit town, assessment mission to Duk and Twic East Counties with the aim of knowing the area, and also to find out what other NGOs are there and what activities are they doing and how RECONCILE can partner with them. Two follow up forums of community level forums conducted in 2009 was done in Panyagor TWIC East County. Pageri Capacity Building training for civil society organizations and local authorities was conducted in Pageri Payam, Magwi County from 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010. Rumbek capacity building forum and Malakal Referendum workshop was also done.

Two capacity building workshops were conducted in Uror and Yei referendum violent prevention and conflict management workshop was also done. Referendum training was done in Yirol West County Lakes State and second capacity building workshop conducted in Panyagor Twic East County. Project Monitoring was done in Panyagor Twic East County, Jonglei State as well as Puppetry Shows on referendum awareness. In addition to that, a total of 22 communities meetings were held in 4 counties, Two in Eastern Equatoria State and another two in Western Equatoria State Sponsored by FCA and EED respectively.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2010, RECONCILE flew in the puppetry group from Juba to Panyagor in Twic East County Jonglei State. The team of 5, which included 2 females, were joined by the other 2 from the ground hired to assist them in translating the messages into the local language, so that it is understood by the community.



*This puppetry performance in Panyagor appealed to the youth and informed people about the importance of the referendum.*

The puppetry events on prevention of referendum violence and peaceful participation kicked off on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2010 in the church ground immediately after the Sunday services and over 200 people attended.

Special effort was made to make the puppetry performance participatory and more appealing to the youth since they are sometimes seen by the community as trouble makers which in most cases resulted to violence clashes that may lead to death of innocent lives. Sometimes the politicians use them for political violence to serve their own interest rather than the interest of the people who they are supposed to serve.

The objectives behind the puppetry performances are to let the people know what the referendum all about, why it is important to register for the referendum exercise and who is eligible to register. Why should the people of Southern Sudan exercise their right for self-determination and why is the referendum important at this particular moment for the people of Southern Sudan?

The outcomes attained through these activities included the increased percentage of church, traditional, community and civil leaders and local authorities as some testified that use of non-

violent will increase processes in preventing and responding to violent incidences compared to recycled revenge and physical confrontation which does not give room for accommodation, compromise and cooperation. Most of the targeted groups were aware that the word “freedom” involves their responsibilities and accountabilities if they are realize peaceful co-existence.

The civic education program carried out one monitoring visit in Twic East county Jongeli state. The County Commissioner Mr. Dau, expressed his happiness once again for RECONCILE’s continuous presence on the ground and the work it has done particularly, during the last elections in April 2010. The voters education workshops carried out by RECONCILE in Twic East County helped us to have a good turn up of the electorate and at the same time had a successful elections, and that was he wrote to RECONCILE a letter and appreciation letter urging them to continue educate our people.

#### **Challenges:**

- Given the heavy rains of this year, roads were not accessible. This made it difficult to mobilize participants in time, which led to waste of some days. Secondly, no travel of commercial vehicles leading to food shortages in the market for example we have to close the workshop at 4:00pm for participants to go to the market to find dinner
- Absence of RECONCILE key mobilizer in Twic East county particularly made it difficult for us to identify the participants who were there during the workshop and delayed the organization of the whole process.
- Unreliable network (not covering whole Twic East County), together with us not having a Sudani phone made it difficult for our communication, especially with the participants from the other Payams.
- Language barrier made communication uneasy.

## RECONCILE Peace Institute (RPI)

The RECONCILE Peace Institute (RPI) commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and ended on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2010 with the graduation of the successful students. RPI enrolled thirty four (34) students from eighteen ethnic groups in Sudan and one was of German origin: a self-sponsored student. Ten of the students were female. Although, it is our policy for half of the selected applicants to be female, 13 applied but three did not have the minimal education requirement of the completion of secondary school certificate and English language and these women had to be sent back home. In 2010, RPI received funding for 26 scholarships, three more scholarships compared to 2009. The following organizations have most graciously provided the 26 scholarships for our participants (two scholarship funded 4 day scholars):

- FinnChurchAid – 4
- Mennonite Central Committee – 5
- Lutheran World Federation – 5
- Reformed Church World Service – 3
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – 2
- Reformed Church in America – 2
- Presbyterian Church USA-3
- Presbyterian Women-2

The following denominations/organizations sponsored instructors to come and teach:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Mennonite Central Committee
- Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation (partial)
- Reformed Church in America

Some of the students who enrolled and graduated had the following experiences:

**Penina** from Lainya County a trained police officer resident in Yei currently serves with immigration department. When she applied for RPI she was head of gender desk at the Yei

Police station and involved in issues of child abuse, domestic violence and handling victims of sexual and gender-based violence. She wanted to increase her knowledge and skills for conflict transformation. She believes that due to the war, “Our minds and hearts were filled with all thoughts of war as people of Sudan have been in war for over 20 years.” She wrote in her



*2010 RPI Graduates with RECONCILE Staff members*

application, “The peace of our nation lies in a healthy people and the war has made our minds sick, so I need skills to bring healing for our traumas and make us well again for my society to be transformed.” After her graduation she has been able to counsel women and mothers

with young children arrested due to immigration charges so that they are released and their issues addressed without further delay.

**Ernest** from Malakal, Upper Nile State serves as the chairman of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Malakal. Ernest applied to RPI because he needed knowledge to support his community work. He wanted to learn how reconciliation can be achieved in his community, which has been ravaged on three occasions in close proximity by inter-ethnic violence. He also wanted to learn how to initiate advocacy, mediation, peace training and education in his work. Since his return to Malakal, Ernest reports that he had organized general Christian pre-election prayers which involved all Christians of others denomination in Malakal town and was successfully attended by an estimated hundreds of people. He also organized a workshop on Stigma shame denied discrimination intermediation

on HIV/AIDS, in collaboration by Sudan Ecumenical network theological agency, a one day Peace building and reconciliation workshop which was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup>- 06 -2010. The workshop targeted the youth leaders, women and community leaders as well the churches and Post election trauma healing workshop particularly to the youth, man, women in Malakal town.

RPI graduates **Wilson** and **Mahmoud** in Maridi County were actively involved in the pre-referendum community meetings which gave civic awareness to over two hundred individuals. Their efforts were rewarded with a high turn up during the recently concluded referendum. Even in one payam in Maridi, which LRA attacked on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2010, all the registered voters despite being displaced from home all voted except the three who had been either abducted or killed. Pastor William in Panyikwara, Magwi and Key Mobilizer Florence in Pageri, Magwi County were able to reach over 1,500 people through the community meetings on prevention of referendum violence. This year, they called us after the referendum to express the communities' appreciation for training them and using them to pass referendum messages. They said this was especially needed, since they did not receive such knowledge and awareness from anyone else. Even the local authorities were so grateful. They pray for blessings on our staff, donors and all who support RECONCILE's work. So yes, the institute is having the needed outreach among communities.

The call for enrollment in RPI 2011 went out in September 2010. We received 52 applicants. We had only 20 scholarships secured and therefore could only take less than half the applicants.

**Challenges:** The logistics of getting RPI off of the ground had been quite difficult as it was to start immediately after the Christmas break.

The tracking of individual expenses per student was difficult and made reporting on the expenditure delay reports to donors.

Having no full time faculty for RPI has made improving the suggestions of the facilitators/ instructors on the curriculum difficult and has not been effected to date.

## **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

The year began with promise and on a good note, with the board and partners meeting taking place in mid February, where we had some partners pledging up to USD 1,153,000

EED funded RECONCILE over a period of 3 years (2010-2012).

We had a budget of USD 1,106,128.01 out of which we had support for USD837, 290 this will be detailed in the Audit report for 2010

### **Staffing**

Del and Debbie Braaksma left the organization, since they were recalled back home. Sarafino Modesto, the Field Coordinator for Eastern Equatoria, was appointed the Assistant Bishop for AIC church for Eastern Bank and therefore could not continue with his services with RECONCILE. We have been able to recruit three staff: an assistant finance officer and two project officers for both Civic and Psychosocial departments.

### **Capacity Building**

In February we had a consultant come in to review RECONCILE systems. Out of it we had an overhaul with our documentation and also we had to come up with different manuals for Finance department and also for Procurement. The Personnel Manual was also revised. Out of the consultant's recommendation we were advised to get a different package for our organization since we had outgrown Quickbooks. As at the end of last year this had not been done but we are looking forward to have it done in April.2011. We are grateful for EED for funding this process.

EED and other partners also facilitated a two week workshop in Participatory Integrated Community Development.

### **Challenges**

Despite having funds for activities, salaries for staff and administration amounts still remain a challenge for RECONCILE, with Partners limiting their amounts that are allowed to cover administrative costs and salaries. To minimize this, we will have to include most of our expenses in the activities.

## BASE CAMP/LOGISTICS

This department is entrusted mainly with functions concerning Base management and Logistical duties, thus, the year starting Jan to Dec 2010 the base was involved in a number of activities classified below.

### Constructions:

- Construction work in creation of a wider space in the Accounting office is completed.
- Addition of the chicken house to accommodate 200 birds almost to be completed.

### Accommodation:

Facilities available at the base are as below;

Three self-contained rooms

Twelve non self contained rooms

Two workshop halls

We were able to generate some income locally from accommodation and hall hire using our facilities from the following activities.

- RPI
- ACROSS workshop
- ALARM workshop
- FAO workshop
- EED training workshop
- Other guests

### Farming:

We were able to harvest some vegetable from the garden this year which were sold and monies remitted to accounts office.

Poultry:

The second face of the poultry did not kick off due to unknown circumstances, but still we are committed to kick off next year.

Goat Project:

This again had turned out to be a set-back, as goats were not distributed where overdue and has resulted in a misunderstanding with our Field Coordinator in Western Equatoria and one key mobilizer.

(Key Mobilizer local Goats Distribution):

- One Key Mobilizer in Western Equatoria still waits to receive his local goats.
- Goats for Key Mobilizes in the Greater Upper Nile were not bought as planned as the team that went to Malakal was not able to carry out the activity due to their other schedules.

Thus, since the base manager was on relief from the institutional Development roles, the office of the Executive Director may find a way forward in resolving this issue in western Equatoria and Greater upper Nile.

Vehicles:

In 2006, RECONCILE started operating with two recondition vehicles bought from Uganda, and later got another recondition vehicle from EU project, which had phased out. We now have five vehicles, out of which three are grounded, leaving us with two Toyota Land Cruisers. Below, we have the following vehicles and their conditions.

<u>Vehicle</u>	<u>Registration No</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Condition</u>
Toyota (Prado)	CE 881A	PDA	Off road
Toyota Land cruiser	CE 882A	EED	Running
Toyota (Double Carbine)	CE 883A	PDA	Off road

Toyota (Double carbine)	CE 884A	EU	Off road
Toyota land cruiser	CE 289A	EED	Running
Motor cycle		MCC	Off road

***Challenges:***

There are a number of challenges we encounter in the base.

- Lack of enough office space as the number of staffs increased this year and possibly next year we may not have an office space for the coming RPI Principle.
- Lack of a big dining hall in the base
- Lack of vehicles as we are left with only two vehicles which may hinder our operation next year. (2011-2012).
- Use of vehicles without charging mileage is costing us a lot in repairs and running cost due to uncoordinated trips.
- Lack of transparence towards income generated locally at the base to enable the base plan.
- Overlapping or interference with logistical duties.
- Violation of control systems especially in purchase where logistics sometimes is not involved.
- Complicated stores control system.