

Governance and Community Stabilization Section (GCSS)

In Action

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INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF GCSS MR. PIERRE EMMANUEL UBALIJORO

GCSS: Welcome to UNAMID, could you briefly tell us about yourself ?

Pierre: My career in international relations and public administration spans over 21 years, including five years of international diplomacy at the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the UN and 17 years with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) at various levels. My initial appointment with DPKO was in 2000 when I served with the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) as a Civil Affairs Officer. I was later promoted to the position of Municipal Administrator of Kacanik Municipality, an area hosting over 50,000 inhabitants. After Kosovo, I served in UNOCI in Cote d'Ivoire as the Deputy Chief of the Disarmament Demobilization Reintegration (DDR) Section. In 2008, I served with MINUSTAH in Haiti, where I initially led the Mission's Parliamentary Support and Liaison Unit and later became Chief of the Civil Affairs Section. In January 2017, I worked briefly with the UN Mission in South Sudan, where I was a Team Leader in the Civil Affairs Section. I can say the highlight of my professional career was when I got the opportunity to perform as alternate representative of the post-genocide Rwandan government delegation,

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- UNAMID Governance and Community Stabilization Section (GCSS)
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which at the time held a non-permanent rotating seat on the UN Security Council from 1994 to 1995. This experience exposed me to international diplomacy at the highest level at a young age; this happened during highly challenging circumstances for my country that had just gone through a devastating war and genocide.

GCSS: What is your vision for UNAMID Civil Affairs Section?

Pierre: My vision for UNAMID Civil Affairs is to assist the local stakeholders to achieve sustainable peace within the limits of our internal resources and UN peacekeeping field expertise. I have started touring the five sectors of Darfur and I have noted that the local stakeholders and community leaders have already instituted some homegrown conflict resolution mechanisms. In coming months, Civil Affairs will need to discuss with leaders on ways and means of rendering these mechanisms more efficient and effective. I was pleased to gather from initial conversations with the local stakeholders that we all share this common objective.

GCSS: Now that you have been in UNAMID for over one month, could you say Darfur in general, and UNAMID and CAS in particular, met your expectations?

Pierre: I am pleased to be in Darfur and I am very optimistic about the future; I am of the view that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. I have noted that most of the local stakeholders and community leaders are genuinely committed to joining efforts with the UN to collectively endeavor towards the achievement of peace, stability and prosperity not only Darfur but the entire country.

GCSS: To expand on the question above, when you arrived at UNAMID, what were your impressions vis-à-vis your expectations (re: Darfur, UNAMID, CAS)?

Pierre: I have interacted with most of my CAS colleagues and I have noted a high level of professionalism and commitment. Ultimately, I know that staff at the field level are the ones who will play a major role in helping me to achieve our CAS mandate.

GCSS: What surprised you most, if anything, when you arrived?

Pierre: I was mostly surprised by how the situation in Darfur has positively evolved over the years. A decade ago, the situation in Darfur was a major highlight in the international media and, as soon as the situation started improving, there has been little or no reporting on the progress that has been achieved in the last 10 years. In this regard, I was pleasantly surprised upon my arrival in Darfur to see that so much headway had been made, even though I realize that a lot remains to be done.

GCSS: Could you tell us about any challenges you may have encountered so far?

Pierre: The main challenge that I have encountered so far is that I arrived in the Mission area at a time when UNAMID is undergoing a reconfiguration process. This is a time when UNHQ in New York requires us to take painful decisions and, most importantly, do more with less. It is challenging, but I think it is an inevitable phase in the life

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Mr. PIERRE EMMANUEL UBALIJORO
Chief GCSS

of any UN peace operation.

GCSS: Have you addressed any of these challenges, if not, how do you propose to resolve them?

Pierre: I have been through mission transitions and reconfigurations in the past, my most recent experience being in Haiti with MINUSTAH Civil Affairs. In Haiti, as we reduced our Mission footprint, characterized by the closure of team sites and sectors, we established mobile teams that would travel periodically to our former areas of operation to monitor the situation and gather information that would feed in into our early warning mechanism.

GCSS: Could you compare the UNAMID CAS mandate with your past CAS experiences in other missions?

Pierre: In every mission, the Civil Affairs mandate is different as it has to respond to the prevailing local reality and challenges. For instance, in Kosovo, the main challenge was the rebuilding of public administration from scratch; the UN had to assume the administrative and legislative functions of the state through provision of a transitional administration. In Cote d'Ivoire, the main challenge was the restoration of state authority as the northern part of the country was controlled by a rebel force. In Haiti, our mandate was to support and strengthen self-sustaining state institutions, especially outside the capital, Port-au-Prince, including through the provision of specialized expertise to key ministries and institutions. So there is no one-size-fits-all solution to the problems of any post-conflict situation, a lot of listening needs to be done and areas of cooperation need to be jointly identified with the relevant key stakeholders at the local and community level, with the aim of collectively achieving peace and stability.

GCSS: Any advice on how UNAMID CAS could improve further; any final message?

Pierre: Some of the phases that UNAMID CAS is going through are not new in the UN peacekeeping system, we need to capitalize on best practices during the Mission's reconfiguration as the same issues and problems that arose in other missions will resurface, particularly when the Mission starts to redirect its focus on an exit strategy.

GCSS: With the recent merging of Civil Affairs and Community Stabilization Section, how do you envision

the future of this new structure known as Governance and Community Stabilization?

Pierre: First let me point out that with the recent merger, the leaderships of both former CAS and CSS agreed on a fundamental principle as the basis of the merger, namely, that neither former CAS nor CSS Section would subsume the other. Having worked as a former DDR officer myself with the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), I know that there are fundamental areas of synergy and interdependence between CAS and CSS. Before the formal announcement of this merger, both sections held a joint brainstorming session and established a number of ad hoc working groups tasked to work on the operational modalities of the newly established Governance and Community Stabilization Section. Most noteworthy among these WG's, was the one tasked to harmonize the workplans and RBB objectives of both Sections into a new single work plan reflecting all the priorities of the now dissolved CAS and CSS section. Within the framework of UNSC 2363, our approach through this newly established section, will be focused on promoting stabilization activities and projects aimed at assisting the mission to realize its mandate, including its three priorities, as well as support the two-pronged approach which focuses on peace building in

areas of relative stability and peacekeeping in Jebel Marra and its environs. In this regard, a significant number of projects and activities will soon be funded by GCSS. The projects currently in the pipeline aim to address root causes of conflict, support DDR related activities, strengthen the rule of law, prevent and mitigate intercommunal and intra-communal conflicts, facilitate peaceful coexistence, assist local stakeholders to identify potential areas of returns and make them conducive. These project proposals, are premised on scalability, as we are a peace keeping mission which does not have a development mandate. Therefore, our intention is to pave the way for other government entities, UNCT and other partners to build upon our initial projects to ensure sustainability and lead to increased stabilization.

GCSS: What about the DDR component ?

Pierre: With regard to DDR, we will continue supporting the reinsertion component of DDR, which consists of assistance offered to ex-combatants during demobilization, but prior to the longer-term process of reintegration. Let me highlight that within the context of the DDR programme in Darfur, reinsertion is a form of transitional assistance to help cover the basic needs of ex-combatants and their families. It includes transitional safety net allowances and food for the duration of 3 months. As reintegration is the process by which ex-combatants acquire civilian status and gain sustainable employment and income, we intend to work with the donor community and the national DDR commission to ensure that all demobilized former combatants receive proper reintegration assistance. Let me point out, that reintegration programmes are unlikely to lead to major improvements in social and economic



recovery if they are not backed by secure and planned funding. Funding short falls in these programs create gaps which can

generate disillusionment among ex combatants. Obviously, when former combatants participate in a DDR programme, and are not properly reintegrated, they may resort to unconventional means to sustain their livelihoods, either by engaging into criminal activities or end up being lured back into armed movements, thus rendering self-defeating the fundamental purpose of the DDR exercise .

In this regard, GCSS will continue to maintain a community based approach, by supporting targeted community projects which aim at supporting the smooth reintegration of former combatants into their former communities or new host communities.

GCSS: What is the most challenging aspect of the new merger?

Pierre: Obviously a major challenge will be our ability to forge a new identity under the new Governance and Community Stabilization mantle; while adhering at the same time to the new stabilization vision of the section. Do note that Staff from former CAS and CSS will retain their former functional titles for human resources purposes, but at the field level we will be operating a single mission component. As this merger is a first in DPKO, I think we will be able to chart a new course in peacebuilding, particularly with the combined positive energy and dedication of former CAS and CSS staff. In this regard, it is my sincere hope that this merger will generate new thinking, impulse and dynamism in our overall mission peacebuilding strategy in Darfur, and most importantly assist the mission to achieve wider impact at the community level.

GCSS supports demobilization of 729 ex-combatants in Zalingei, Central Darfur



From 17 April-1 May 2019, the Governance and Community Stabilization Section (GCSS) in collaboration with Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (SDDRC), supported a demobilization exercise for 729 ex-combatants from former armed movements belonging to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) (2011) and residual caseload of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) (2006) in Central Darfur.

Among the demobilized, 123 were female and 606 male combatants from Justice and Equality Movement/Peace Wing (JEM/PW), Sudan Liberation Army/Free Will (SLA/FW), Sudan Liberation Army/ Mustafa Terab (SLA/MT), Justice and Equality Movement/Dabajo (JEM/D) and Popular Forces for Democratic Rights (PFDR).

The Mission's resources and logistics support included the provision of cash for the payment of transitional safety net allowance (3,000 Sudanese pounds per ex-combatant), camp construction, tents, transportation, electricity, water and security. The UNDP would facilitate assistance after the demobilization exercise, including support through income-generation projects.

In his remarks, The Acting Wali (Governor) of Central Darfur, Maj. Gen. Nagmeldin Karar, commended UNAMID's support to the DDR implementation and pledged the government's continued commitment to the implementation of DDR and civilian arms collection in Sudan.

Chief of GCSS, Mr. Pierre Ubalijoro, highlighted the

positive collaboration between UNAMID and SDDRC in the implementation of the Final Security Arrangements (FSA) provisions of the DDPD. However, he stated that the end of the demobilization activities in Central Darfur marks the end of UNAMID's support to demobilization of ex-combatants in Darfur save a new agreement is reached before the mission ends in June 2020.

Islika Borbor Sisay, UNAMID DDR officer, noted that the DDR process will create stable environment for other developments and recovery activities to take place. "It is important for DDR in every country that witness war to set the ground where other recovery activities can take place through sensitizing the ex-combatants on the importance of peace and to change their minds to be civilians to resolve their differences by dialogue and peaceful means," noted Mr. Islika. Capt. Abubaker Hassan Abdullah, Commander of the demobilization camp, praised UNAMID for supporting the process and stressed the willingness of the ex-combatants to go through the exercise in order to participate in achieving peace, development and stability in Darfur.

Some of the ex-combatants interviewed during the session emphasized the importance of peace and urged non-signatory movements to put down their arms and join the peace process.

The Mission has so far supported the demobilization of over 10,000 former combatants of movement forces across Darfur under the DDPD.

GCSS Trains 50 Women in Food Processing in North Darfur



On 25 July 2018, Governance and Community Stabilization Section (GCSS), in partnership with the Network for Women's Development, concluded a one-month training programme on food processing for 50 women in El Fasher, North Darfur.

The training programme, organized as part of the Community Stabilization Project (CSPs), is aimed at providing economic empowerment for rural women, to increase their income and raise their standard of living through widening prospects of their employment opportunities in food processing. It also provided the trainees with a wide range of scientific and technical skills in food processing, including the production of different types of dry vegetables, making of fruit juice, jam, biscuits and pasta. Additionally, the women were trained on the production of hand crafts.

The Chairperson of the Network for Women's Development, Ms. Fawzia Abass, informed the gathering that the training is in line with the current situation in Darfur where "women play a vital role in facilitating voluntary return of Internally displaced persons from their Camps to their chosen place of return."

Speaking on behalf of training participants, Ms. Haneena Saad Allah, commented on the valuable benefits accrued from the training on food

processing. She indicated that the knowledge acquired will improve their standard of living through income derived from these projects. "We sincerely appreciate this gesture from UNAMID, which has now transformed us to businesswomen," Ms. Hannena stated.

The closing ceremony was witnessed by over 300 community members and attended by the Chief GCSS Mr. Pierre Ubalijoro and the HoO Sector North, Ms. Sunaina Lowe.

The project was part of GCSS efforts to empower women and provide them with necessary skills to engage in livelihood activities. ●

"We sincerely appreciate this gesture from UNAMID, which has now transformed us to businesswomen,"
Ms. Hannena Saad.

Conducting dialogue forums to mitigate intercommunal tensions during the harvest season in Saraf Umra, North Darfur



In most areas across Darfur, tensions between farming and pastoral communities usually increase during the farming and harvest seasons from May-December. The increased tensions are mainly due to early grazing of livestock in unharvested farms by nomads. The resulting farm/crop destructions, hamper livelihoods and food security and deepen divisions between the two communities. To support mitigation of these intercommunal tensions and help secure the harvest season, GCSS conducted a series of activities and interventions in several hotspot areas across the region in November and December 2019.

In Saraf Umra, North Darfur, these tensions peak during the farming and migration seasons primarily due to the large presence of mostly Northern Rezeigat nomads and Fur farmers. The recent political crisis in the country has further exacerbated the inter-communal dynamics in the area with the Northern Rezeigat alleging that the mostly Fur farming communities were emboldened by the changing political climate.

The rising tensions had the potential to disrupt the farming season which is an important period for the region. To ease the tensions, GCSS proactively embarked on extensive consultations with all the major stakeholders which created an opportunity for GCSS in collaboration with the native administration and local authorities to conduct dialogue forums in May and June, easing tensions and enabling the farming communities to cultivate their farms without major incidents or disruptions. The improved security situation which followed the arms collection exercise conducted by GoS, enabled GCSS to visit most communities and nomadic

settlements including those in isolated areas and return villages to ensure all communities were engaged.

These efforts notwithstanding, tensions between both groups again renewed as the harvest season approached due to the forced grazing of livestock by nomads on harvested farms in defiance of established grazing laws which prohibits open grazing of livestock in farming areas until end of February to give farmers sufficient time to harvest their crops by end of January.

Incidents and physical confrontations between farmers attempting to protect their crops and mostly armed nomads increased with farmers bearing the brunt. Consultations

were once again held with stakeholders in the locality and it was agreed that GCSS should conduct more forums based on the positive feedback and impact of the previous forums.

Thus, in November and December, GCSS in collaboration with the native administrations (NA), locality authorities, agricultural protection committee (APC), peaceful coexistence committee (PCC), representatives of farmers and nomadic groups, community-based organizations and CSOs conducted fourteen (14) dialogue forums which were attended by over one thousand seven hundred and fifty-two (1752) people from both communities.

About half of the participants were women which indicates their increasing awareness and participation in local mediation and conflict resolution efforts. During consultations leading to the forums, GCSS advocated for the inclusion of women in the dialogue forums and other peace initiatives in the communities. After the forums the community leaders from both groups established committees to implement the recommendations and action points from the forums in collaboration with GCSS and the local authorities.

The community leaders also committed to peaceful resolution of disputes through established peace mechanisms. During follow-up meetings, leaders of farming communities reported that farm destruction incidents have decreased compared to previous years which they partly attributed to the positive impact of the dialogue forums. They called on GCSS to conduct more forums to enhance the culture of peace in the area. ●

South Darfur

Building physical infrastructure to encourage voluntary returns in South Darfur



Construction of Health Clinic (two rooms, one hall and one latrine)

Following the outbreak of conflict in Darfur in 2003, inhabitants of Lawiya village (65 km west of Nyala town in El Salam locality) in South Darfur and surrounding areas fled and settled in IDP camps in Nyala and other areas of Darfur. Over the years since then, a lull in conflict between Government forces and the armed movements saw the gradual return of some of the displaced persons to their places of origin. In 2012 and 2014, the former Civil Affairs Section (CAS), in consultation with native leaders, organized and facilitated a confidence- and peace-building conference in Lawiya, bringing together participants from village and surrounding areas, including native administration leaders, local and state authorities, women's and youth group representatives.

During the three-day conference, participants discussed peace and security issues in the area. They proposed several measures to resolve these issues for the attention of the state and locality authorities as well as native administrative leaders. The proposed measures

included the enforcement of rule of the law to control criminal activities in the area. To foster inter-communal reconciliation, based on the needs expressed by returnees and the host community, CAS sponsored the construction of a Government of Sudan (GoS) police station and a health clinic with through the Mission's Quick Impact Projects. Police personnel deployed to the station are now actively involved in fighting crime in the village and its environs providing reassurance to the communities. The presence of law enforcement personnel in Lawiya has become a pull factor for displaced persons to return to the area. So far, more than 600 displaced persons have reportedly returned to Lawiya village since the police station was built.

In May 2017, community leaders from Lawiya and surrounding villages visited UNAMID in Sector South to express appreciation for the support which, according to them, had led to improved security and enhanced freedom of movement to conduct livelihood activities. ●

Civil Affairs supports resolution of land disputes in Otash return village, South Darfur



QIPs-funded construction of Lawiya GoS Police Station (2 offices, latrines, 2 detention cells and provision of furniture)

Civil Affairs (CAS) conducted a peacebuilding workshop in (date and month) 2016 for IDPs in Otash IDP camp and nomads from Otash village in Nyala town to advocate for peaceful co-existence between the IDPs, who are mainly farmers, and the nomads. A local conflict resolution committee was also formed during the workshop.

Following the workshop and regular visits to Otash IDP camp, IDP leaders informed CAS about a request by some IDPs to return to Otash village their place of origin. CAS was also informed that local community leaders of IDPs who had voluntarily returned and the nomads had formed a joint committee in Otash return village in Bilail locality. Most of the nomads had been occupying lands belonging to the IDPs.

The committee, comprising 26 members (13 from each side), was established in March 2017. It was tasked with facilitating peaceful transfer of occupied lands to IDP returnees and helping to resolve land disputes in cases where individual nomads are not willing to vacate the lands they are occupying. So far, the committee continues to help prevent conflict between farmers and nomadic herders triggered by crop destruction incidents. The committee has managed to negotiate the release of over 245 farmlands to the original owners.

The success of the mechanism prompted the locality authorities to establish a land dispute management committee of 23 members at the locality level on 16 May 2017. The locality-level committee's overarching goal is to intervene in situations where the local committee is unable to persuade land occupiers from vacating occupied lands and act to prevent conflict between the returnees and nomads due to disputes over land. The locality committee comprises native leaders of both IDPs and nomads, NISS, locality authorities and the Sudanese Police Force. The Sultan of Dajo community, Mr. Kamal Abdulrahman Abbo, was appointed the chief mediator.

CAS was invited to attend a meeting of the locality committee to provide technical advice and to advocate peaceful coexistence. During the meeting, five cases of refusal to vacate land in Otash were discussed. The locality authorities, the Sultan of Dajo and CAS advised the local leaders to work together, particularly the nomadic leaders, to persuade the individuals to comply with the decision of the local committee and contribute to social cohesion in the area. CAS' presence at the meeting was highly appreciated by both the locality authorities and the local people. According to many of them, CAS' presence may have contributed to preventing confrontation during the discussions. ●

West Darfur

Civil Affairs Section working with UNDP support peaceful co-existence conference in West Darfur



JSR Kingsley Mamabolo addressing the peaceful co-existence conference at El Geneina University

Armed militias attacked the Massalit-dominated village of Mouli (15 km south of El Geneina) in January 2016, reportedly looting property, physically assaulting the villagers and burning homes, consequently displacing the local population. The attack occurred after the body of an Arab herder was found in the Wadi Rati area (3 km east of Mouli village). The Arabs accused the Massalit of complicity in the herder's death although it was not proven. Subsequently, several attacks were allegedly carried out by the Arabs against non-Arab communities, disrupting social cohesion in the state and resulting in further civilian displacement. Within a few weeks, the cordial inter-communal relations that existed and relative stability in most parts of West Darfur were severely disrupted.

To de-escalate the communal tensions, the Sultan of Dar Massalit, Mr. Assad Abdelrahman, who is also head of the West Darfur Native Administration (NA), met with CASTo discuss ways of restoring peaceful co-existence in the area. Among several peace initiatives discussed, including

increased consultation forums for nomads and farmers to encourage dialogue and peaceful resolution of disputes, the Sultan suggested the convening of a conference for community leaders of all tribes in West Darfur State to discuss the conflict dynamics in the state and propose durable and sustainable ways of promoting peaceful co-existence. The conference was initially scheduled for mid-2016 but was postponed indefinitely for administrative reasons.

In line with its strategic priority to support local mediation of communal conflicts including addressing its root causes in conjunction with UNCT, UNAMID CAS and UNDP, in coordination with the Sultan of Dar Massalit and the Wali of West Darfur, organized a peaceful co-existence conference at El Geneina University on 15 May 2017 for over 700 participants from West, Central and North Darfur, Khartoum and Chad. Participants included prominent NA and tribal leaders, scholars and historians, youth and women leaders as well as State government civilian and uniformed officials led by the Wali.

The main objective of the conference was to provide a



platform for stakeholders in West Darfur to identify and discuss the root causes of inter-tribal tensions/conflicts in the state and to recommend appropriate preventive measures and ways of promoting and sustaining peaceful co-existence. The conference was also aimed at enhancing the roles of NA and community leaders, strengthening their efforts in supporting reconciliation and curbing inter/intra tribal conflicts. NA leaders from neighboring states and Chad were invited to the conference to contribute to the discussions through sharing their experiences.

In his opening remarks, the Wali of West Darfur urged the tribal leaders to put their differences aside and work together for a better future for West Darfur. The Wali assured them of his government's commitment to maintain peace and stability, noting the important steps already taken to improve the security situation. The Wali announced his intention to restructure the NA system and expressed his commitment to strengthen the judiciary and enhance the rule of law. He advised the people of West Darfur not to take the law into their hands but to channel their grievances and complaints through established justice mechanisms.

In his remarks, the UNAMID JSR noted that West Darfur

was previously perceived to be relatively calm compared to other states but that the 2016 incidents in Mouli, Umtajock and Azerni had changed the perception. The JSR called on participants to identify key drivers of inter-communal conflicts in West Darfur, including its root causes, and to recommend sustainable ways of bridging the current inter-tribal divisions and way of promoting peaceful coexistence in the state. He informed the conference that UNAMID was implementing a water project in Umtajock to address the acute water shortage and to mitigate conflict by promoting peaceful co-existence in the area. He assured them that UNAMID would collaborate with the people to implement the conference's recommendations. The JSR encouraged the state government to continue its efforts of stabilizing the security situation to create a conducive environment for sustainable voluntary returns. He thanked UNDP for jointly sponsoring the conference with UNAMID.

The Sultan of Dar Massalit, in his remarks, focused on the efforts of the NA to build and promote peace, security and stability in West Darfur, in coordination with the government of West Darfur, to encourage voluntary return



of IDPs and refugees to their villages of origin. He urged all stakeholders to support the effective implementation of the conference outcomes.

The UNDP Regional coordinator commended the efforts of the Sultan, government officials, UNAMID and all stakeholders for organizing the conference and reiterated UNDP's commitment, in collaboration with UNAMID CAS, to continue contributing to efforts aimed at resolving conflicts through peaceful mechanisms of reconciliation and mediation in Darfur.

Two papers were presented at the conference, the first was on promoting peaceful coexistence in West Darfur and the second one delved into the history of the Massalit Sultanate, providing a historical background of the native administration system in West Darfur and the way elders in the past maintained peaceful coexistence.

The conference ended with the following recommendations for effective dispute resolution and restoration of confidence in the traditional mechanisms.

- Disseminate the DDPD as a model for an integrated solution to the Darfur issue;

- Empower the Native Administration through new laws giving them more authority in order to enhance their role in the community. Avail support to the El Fatori Peace Center at El Geneina University to build the capacity of the native administration;

- Organize similar conferences on peaceful coexistence in other localities and grassroots communities;

- Promote state institutions to effectively communicate messages of social cohesion and peace;

- Support educational institutions and build capacity of their personnel;

- Urge the state government to follow up on the implementation of development projects funded by the federal government and various organizations;

- Mobilize federal, regional and local efforts to meet the requirements of voluntary returnees to their areas of origin; and,

- Urge the state government to implement development activities in all localities and rural areas.

A total of 43 native administration and community leaders in West Darfur signed a peaceful co-existence document pledging to promote the rule of law, stability and security in coordination with relevant government authorities. The leaders emphasized that criminal acts would not be attributed to entire communities. They assured that they would disseminate the outcomes of the conference and safeguard the state, its resources, people and land. The signed document was then handed over to the Wali of West Darfur.

Following the conference, CAS has continued to collaborate with the UNAMID Communication and Public Information Section, UNDP and NA leadership to disseminate the outcomes and recommendations of the conference and follow-up on their implementation. On 19 June 2017 in Masteri, Beida locality, CAS and CPIS started an outreach campaign campaign, with a seminar attended by about 200 representatives from NA, herders and farmers and local authorities. The conference provided a platform for participants who did not attend the conference to address issues that create tension between communities in Masteri, and offer recommendations on possible ways of promoting peaceful co-existence in the locality.

On 8 July, a second outreach campaign was conducted in Umsebeke village, El Geneina locality, which was attended by over 150 people from the area. Other outreach campaigns are planned to disseminate the conference recommendations to all communities in the state. The recommendations from the conference will also be discussed at dialogue forums between farmers and nomads and at capacity-building seminars and meetings with NA leaders and members of local peace mechanisms, including peaceful co-existence committees and crop protection committees to enhance their capacity to resolve disputes in the communities, which was a key recommendation of the conference.

North Darfur

Peace Conference to improve relations between the Beni Hussein and the Northern Rezeigat in El Serief Locality, North Darfur



Beni Hussein and Northern Rezeigat leaders sign the conference's recommendations in El Serief

To bolster inter-communal relations between the Beni Hussein, the Northern Rezeigat and other communities in El Serief locality in North Darfur, Civil Affairs Section (CAS), UNDP, Oxfam America, local authorities and the native administration in El Sereif organized a two-day peace conference on 13-14 March 2017. More than 1,000 participants, including community leaders, women's and youth groups from El Sereif, Al Waha, Saraf Omra, Kabkabiya, Karnoi and El Fasher localities, West and South Darfur as well as Khartoum, attended the conference. The Deputy Wali of North Darfur, UNAMID Head of Office for Sector North, Officer-in-Charge of CAS and representatives of UNDP and Oxfam America, were in attendance.

Participants discussed of mitigating conflict and encouraging peaceful co-existence among all groups. They emphasized the use of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms to resolve disputes, pledged to reject all forms of violence and made commitments to use dialogue and collaborate with each other to rebuild the social fabric. The conference also addressed issues such as access to and use of water resources at Abo-Gidad and Kino water reservoirs; and disputes between the Beni Hussein and the Northern Rezeigat at Tega and Sabarna villages; tensions over the destruction of farms; and, criminality. A joint committee established to implement the conference's recommendations, with support from local and state authorities, have disseminated the recommendations



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in nine villages and to communities around Kino and Abo-Gidad water reservoirs.

An immediate outcome of the conference was the return of more than 900 households, displaced during the 2013 conflict between the Beni Hussein and Northern Rezeigat, to their homes of origin.

In addition, women's leaders from El Serief signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kabkabiya Charitable Association and World Food Programme (WFP) on a "Food for Work Project" to support vulnerable groups, especially widows and orphans. The most significant outcome of the conference was the improved relationship between the Beni Hussein and Northern Rezeigat in the Jebel Amir area, where the two communities clashed in 2013

1 El Serief, 14 March 2017. Deputy Wali and Leaders of Beni Hussein and Northern Rezeigat taking an oath to abide by the conference recommendations

2 CAS staff member Ibrahim Abdallah Khater with local children during a field mission in Al Jeher Village (20km west of El Serief) to defuse tension between farmers and herders

over control of gold mines in the area. The clashes had resulted in the displacement of approximately 100,000 civilians.

Central Darfur

Youth Center constructed in Hassahisa IDP camp in Central Darfur



Photos of the newly-constructed QIPs funded Hassahisa IDP Camp Youth Center

Hassahisa IDP camp, established in December 2003, is the largest camp in Zalingei locality and is situated west of Zalingei town in Central Darfur. With an estimated population of 45,784, the camp is divided into 10 sectors administered by 128 sheikhs. The youth group in the camp was established in 2003.

The youth group's activities were affected by the lack of a conducive place to conduct meetings and social gatherings. They had to share space with other groups at the women's and sheikhs' centers, which affected the scheduling of their activities.

To assist the youth, Civil Affairs proposed the construction of a youth center in Hassahisa IDP camp, to be funded through the UNAMID Quick Impact Projects

(QIPs). Since the centre was constructed, it has greatly minimized the youth's constraints. A youth leader in the camp described the centre as very useful as it was being used for various activities including knowledge-sharing and exchange of ideas, meetings to address concerns of the youth, income-generating training activities and for peaceful co-existence committee meetings to promote a culture of peace. The youth also use the centre to hold celebrations and festivals. Moreover, the centre provides a conducive space for students studying for their exams. The center is managed by the youth who are keen to expand its scope of activities based on their needs. The project has contributed to strengthening youth cooperation with the Mission.

Rehabilitation of Wells in Guldo, Central Darfur



Many communities across Darfur lack access to potable water supply and other basic social services. These are exacerbated by inter-communal tensions and clashes between Government forces and anti-government forces in areas such as Jebel Marra. Guldo village, located in the heart of Jebel Marra, 65 km northeast of Nertiti Team Site, has inadequate infrastructure and lacks basic social services to cater for the needs of the population of approximately 37,000. Potable water is scarce despite adequate water resources in the area. This has affected the health and wellbeing of the population. To make matters worse, the three water wells available in the area are not functional.

In effort to alleviate the lack of water, Civil Affairs Section engaged community members and solicited their support in the rehabilitation of the three water wells, with funding from UNAMID's Quick Impact Projects (QIPs). The community members had identified the rehabilitation of the water wells as a priority.

During the consultations, the head of IDP sheikhs indicated that children were the most affected by the lack of potable water, with a child dying every month from water-borne diseases. A women's activist of the local Humanitarian Assistance Committee stated that women

were also severely affected by the lack of access to clean water. Women and girls are traditionally responsible for collecting water and usually travel long distances to collect water from Wadis (seasonal rivers). This activity prevents women from finding time for economically productive activities, with girls missing school, in addition to being exposed to sexual assault and exploitation.


The rehabilitation of the three wells in Guldo has provided improved access to clean and potable water and boosted vegetable farming as an income generating activity, which is key to poverty alleviation and sustainable food security for the people of Guldo.


During the handover ceremony of the rehabilitated wells, the Omda of Guldo, Mr. Salah Salih, expressed gratitude to UNAMID noting that the "community now enjoys adequate supply of clean water, which is a far cry from the dark and dirty water from the Wadis they used to drink and use for other household activities".


The women's activist added that the wells had contributed to protecting women and girls from sexual harassment. She added: "I think my daughter now has more free time to be in school and the rehabilitation of our old water wells will enable our daughters and sons to go to school".




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