



Cross-Border Relations Beyond the Referendum Challenges and Opportunities

State Workshop Report, Kadugli, Southern Kordofan, Sudan, 25-27 July 2010

Building Consensus in Southern Kordofan State

The Kadugli workshop brought together traditional authorities, administrators, and representatives of civil society including leaders of women and youth associations, religious leaders, representatives of the farmers' union, and chairman of the trade and livelihood union from Al Leeri administrative unit, Kadugli, Abu Gebeiha, Rashad and Talodi localities. Please delete Bilinja, Mek.

Project Aims:

- ◇ Build trust and understanding between border communities within and across border states;
- ◇ Develop consensus on principles for how the border should be managed peacefully;
- ◇ Develop proposals for development initiatives to support peaceful coexistence at the border;
- ◇ Introduce principles and proposals to relevant national and local peace processes, such as negotiations on post-2011 arrangements, and to inform donor policy to reflect local needs.

Visions and Aspirations

Participants expressed their aspirations for the North-South borderlands in the post-referendum period: 1) Clarity and acceptance of the 1/1/1956 border demarcation decision; 2) Strong social relationships across the North-South border in the case of unity or secession; 3) A demilitarised environment in which armies are not present in populated places and disarmament of authorised and unauthorised weapons has taken place; 4) A culture of peace to replace a culture of war; 5) A depoliticised Native Administration; 6) Regulatory structures facilitating freedom of movement and goods across the border; 7) Availability of services to border populations.

Opportunities and Challenges

Challenges included: 1) lack of clarity over border demarcation; 2) Politicised governance structures, particularly the Native Administration; 3) Lack of skills and corruption in government; 4) Arms proliferation; and culture of war; 5) The referendum which is increasing tensions, fears, mistrust and hardening divides; 6) Managing migration routes; 7) Expectations around the popular consultation; 8) Double taxation and confused tax systems.

Opportunities included: 1) Mutually beneficial trade and economic relationships; 2) unused farming land; 3) transport infrastructure construction; 4) Historical social relations; 5) Provision of water points; 6) Cross-border dialogues and exchanges; 7) Provision of agricultural inputs.

Scenarios and Expectations

The majority of participants expressed support for a unified Sudan but stressed that cooperation should continue in either scenario. In general, participants saw a unity outcome to be associated with increased cooperation, trade, and social relations; whilst secession, would herald chaos and warfare. They stressed that projects promoting mutual coexistence will be important, particularly in the case of secession.

Principles and Proposals

Participants agreed a number of recommendations, relevant in either referendum scenario, for governance of the North-South border and development in border regions. Their conclusions are summarised overleaf and detailed in the full event report.

CROSS-BORDER RELATIONS PROJECT

Concordis International is working in Sudan in partnership with the Centre for Peace and Development Studies (CPDS) of the University of Juba to facilitate a research-based dialogue project aiming to inform local and national peace and development processes, supporting cooperative, secure and economically viable relations across Sudan's North-South border beyond 2011.

APPROXIMATE TIME FRAME:

December 2009-February 2010

Initial engagements in border states and development of methodology

March-August 2010

State workshops in Unity, Upper Nile, Abyei, Southern Kordofan, White Nile, and Blue Nile.

September-October 2010

Regional workshops bringing together communities from both sides of the border.

July-November 2010

Policy briefings and national level conferences.

General Recommendations of Principles and Proposals to Inform Policy Making on Cross-Border Relations, Border Governance, and Post-2011 Arrangements for Sudan, as agreed by participants:

The following recommendations will support development and peaceful coexistence along the border between Northern and Southern Sudan. They will be beneficial in both referendum scenarios, i.e. whether Sudan remains united or if the south opts for secession.

Security

- ◇ The Khartoum Government, GOSS and relevant State governments and Commissioners should sign an agreement guaranteeing that Nomads migrating into the South before the referendum be protected when the referendum takes place and afterwards.
- ◇ Traditional authorities should resist politicisation and refrain from arming and mobilising their tribes to fight along party lines to support political agendas.
- ◇ Political and military forces must stop arming the civilian population, which continues to take place in violation of the CPA.
- ◇ The police force should maintain law and order in the border areas and protect the security and the rights of the local populations. Currently there is virtually no public security provision of this kind and so people are able to act outside of the law with impunity.
- ◇ Jointly administered police checkpoints at the borders between different localities should be established. Transport infrastructure should be developed to facilitate the police's access to remote areas.
- ◇ Armed forces should be withdrawn from municipal centres such as schools, which should not be militarised and are needed for civilian purposes. Armed forces should refrain from roaming around civilian areas or impeding the movement of civilian populations, for example from accessing their farmlands.
- ◇ Farmers, nomads and militia must be disarmed and weapons should be removed from cross-border areas. The DDR programme needs to be reactivated
- ◇ International observers will be required to oversee security arrangements both before and after the referendum takes place.
- ◇ Land mine awareness programmes for communities should be intensified as should land mine clearance programmes, especially in the border areas where migrating populations pass through.
- ◇ Traditional authorities should be empowered to manage disputes in cooperation with the police force.

Justice

- ◇ Joint tribal courts should be established to manage social disputes and they should involve the traditional

leadership of all the tribes along the border.

- ◇ Traditional leaders require resources and training to execute this role effectively. It should be done according to rules and principles based on popular consensus.
- ◇ Communities should jointly draft the rules of these popular courts and engage the political parties and government authorities in the process.

Movement, Citizenship and Rights

- ◇ A law should be enshrined to establish freedom of movement across the border for all tribes, in security, without the need to carry arms for personal protection.
- ◇ Freedom of religion and respect and rights for the diversity of faiths, ethnicities, genders and cultures should be protected by law.
- ◇ A popular committee should be established to manage movement across the borders.

Trade and Economy

- ◇ Common markets should be established for both sides of the border which involve all the relevant tribes.
- ◇ Such markets could particularly facilitate trade in Gum Arabic and animals as well as other commodities.
- ◇ Taxes on cross-border trade and movement of goods across the border and between SPLM and NCP controlled areas should be removed. Currently taxes are collected at checkpoints without clear rules for the population. Consistent principles should govern taxation and double taxation should not occur.

Infrastructure

- ◇ Primary schools and secondary schools are needed—some should be coeducational and some should be exclusively for boys or for girls. There is a need for mobile schools for nomads that move with them on their migrations, with courses provided at appropriate times in the seasons as agreed with the nomadic communities. Technical training centres should be estab-

General Recommendations Continued

-lished to assist communities in the development of their livelihoods.

Health centres and veterinary services are required all across the border areas

Mobile health and veterinary services should be established which can move with nomads.

Water dams and irrigation systems need to be developed to provide greater access to water.

Roads are necessary to connect remote areas along and across the border for social, economic and security reasons.

Social exchanges including sports activities and clubs and for youth and women should be established bringing together communities from both sides of the border to promote understanding and social relations. Women's centres should be established to mobilise them on issues of common concern such as public health.

Some agricultural sectors should be mechanised to increase local productivity.

Plans for infrastructural development should be made by government in conjunction with local populations and traditional authorities, and services should be provided to the populations on a fair and equal basis.



Participants and facilitators

A full report with further details on the participants' recommendations is now available from the Concordis website.