Introduction

Currently funded by the European Union, the JCRP (Joint Conflict Reduction Programme) is a joint initiative of IOM & UNDP implemented since May 2012. JCRP aims to develop the capacity of government and community-led institutions to resolve conflicts at the local level and strengthen community resilience to withstand future conflicts, so as to foster the long-term social cohesion, peace, and pluralism in the regions bordering South Sudan.

The project is currently being implemented in South Kordofan State (SKS), West Kordofan State (WKS), Blue Nile State (BNS), and Abyei Area, in close coordination with local authorities, such as the Reconciliation and Peaceful Coexistence Mechanism (RPCM) in WKS, Social Peacebuilding and Peaceful Coexistence Committee (SPPCC), and the Peace Council (PC) in BNS. Responding to the growing interconnectivity of conflicts in Sudan, JCRP is looking to expand its programmatic area to also include North Kordofan and East Darfur.

JCRP built on the methodology and experience of the Conflict Reduction Programme (CRP), a UNDP programme initially launched in October 2009 aimed at the prevention & resolution of local conflicts in Southern Kordofan State, in partnership with the Reconciliation and Peaceful Coexistence Mechanism (RPCM), a state-level conflict management body.

JCRP – Phase I (2012 – 2013)

In 2012, the project scaled-up its support to conflict resolution initiatives and peace dividend application in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and Abyei, joining hands with IOM to launch Phase I as a joint initiative (JCRP) building on the experience and comparative advantage of both organizations in the area of conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and grant management by contribution from Norway and European Union.

Pastoral migration is a recurrent trigger of communal disputes, often compounded by movements and settlements of people, causing further displacements and tensions. JCRP provides assistance to governments and communities to promote tolerance and re-build trust between members of a community, and between communities and the government, by creating opportunities for dialogue, collaboration and participation, as well as the creation and capacity building of civil society organizations management of communal conflicts.

Through the participatory approach of community outreach, JCRP facilitates community interaction and promotes local ownership. Closer interaction with Civil Society Organizations in promoting community outreach to build resilience among community residents in target areas remains one of the key objectives in the programme.


JCRP was conceived in a post-conflict setting, with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) framing the relationships of relevant partners. In light of the re-emergence of larger-scale conflicts across the region since 2011, key contextual assumptions built into the project design no longer hold. The States of Blue Nile, West and South Kordofan, East Darfur & Abyei Area have become critical not only for the stability of Sudan, but South Sudan too, owing to the lengthy border and inter-dependent livelihoods of communities across the border. Further, local resource-based conflicts are increasingly becoming entangled with larger political and economic disputes involving a great number of stakeholders, both local and external.
JCRP
JOINT CONFLICT REDUCTION PROGRAMME

Highlighted JCRP Key Accomplishments

- Capacities of Government-led Peacebuilding Institutions in BNS, WKS, SKS strengthened with JCRP support to enhance conflict resolution and peace-building efforts at the local and State levels.

- JCRP has been supporting several peace processes and reconciliation agreements through technical support and timely implementation of peace dividends, including a reconciliation agreement between three Misseriy clans in Ed Daein (East Darfur) in March 2013. Ninety four percent of the peace processes supported by JCRP have held for more than one year (two new peace processes initiated in 2014).

- JCRP has assisted the farmers – pastoralist peace process in Blue Nile State through demarcation of cattle corridors and construction of water yards and schools. The number of conflict incidents reported to police has decreased from 400 – 500 incidents per harvest season to less than 30 during the harvest season in 2013 as well as zero homicide incidents compared to the average of 20 – 30 deaths related to pastoralist farmer conflicts reported in previous years.

- JCRP supported 19 innovative peace building projects implemented by local Civil Society Organizations in three states to help communities build resilience to state-wide conflicts and mutual trust for peaceful coexistence.

- Social cohesion at the community level promoted through peace festivals, sports for peace tournaments, and training of community stakeholders on conflict mitigation and Natural Resource Management.

- Capacity building of more than 40 CSOs through training in conflict sensitivity and project management in addition to financial support for implementation of innovative peace building projects.

Therefore, although the basic model of JCRP continues to be strategically relevant in the current conflict context, it is no longer sufficient to meet the demands of conflict reduction and community resilience work in the project areas.

In light of this, and based on the lessons learned, Phase II of JCRP has expanded its scope with a possibility of geographic expansion to East Darfur and North Kordofan.

JCRP Key Principles

Reflective learning and capacity development
Do No Harm
Process Accompaniment
Horizontal and Vertical linkages
Gender Mainstreaming
Youth Participation
Innovation

Therefore, although the basic model of JCRP continues to be strategically relevant in the current conflict context, it is no longer sufficient to meet the demands of conflict reduction and community resilience work in the project areas.

In light of this, and based on the lessons learned, Phase II of JCRP has expanded its scope with a possibility of geographic expansion to East Darfur and North Kordofan.
In line with the Theory of Change, in Phase II the project is working on the following components:

- Scale up geographically and vertically by establishing peace building bodies similar to SPPCC, also in West and North Kordofan, and in East Darfur.

- Continue to support state-level institutions and inclusive peace processes.

- Engage national-level actors and connect local stakeholders to relevant high-level peace processes through dialogue and dissemination of information, acting as a bridge for communities to contribute towards high-level peace processes.

- Provide technical support to state and local actors in carrying out rigorous evidence-base and multi-stakeholder conflict analysis.

- Continue to offer a quick and flexible response mechanism to peace building and conflict resolution initiatives by delivering targeted peace dividends hardware interventions to local communities in support of local peace process.

- Strengthen Civil Society Organizations capacity building component to address community resilience to violent conflicts through grant provision in creative peace building initiatives.

**Strategically,** Phase II is structured around a five-pronged Theory of Change which incorporates the complexity of working on local disputes while a state-wide conflict is ongoing, by linking up peace building work at the community level with the State and Federal levels.

**Building peace between the Saror – Haiban and Mataneen tribes of West Kordofan**

Following an escalation in violent conflict between the Awlad Haiban and Saror/Mataneen tribes in what was then South Kordofan (now West Kordofan), JCRP, in partnership with the Reconciliation and Peaceful Coexistence Mechanism (RPCM) facilitated a series of preparatory workshops leading to a Reconciliation Conference conducted in Ad Dein in March 2013. This resulted in the signing of a peace agreement between the three tribes and the cessation of conflict. A follow up evaluation workshop was conducted in March 2014 to assess the implementation of the peace agreement and to identify and address outstanding issues. This led to a commitment of the tribes to speed up the diyya (compensation) payments and the re-activation of a follow-up mechanism to ensure the peace agreement continued to stay on track and to a Government commitment to provide additional water services. A follow up workshop to identify and prioritize peace dividends with members of the native administration, women and youth was conducted in September 2014. The selected peace dividends will be delivered in early 2015.
Conflict reduced in Blue Nile State as livestock migration corridors are demarcated & affected farmers compensated

Addressing conflict between farmers and pastoralists was one of the main objectives of the Bau Conference held in 2010 and the Damazine Conference in 2012. One of the key agreements reached at these conferences was that traditional corridors should be clearly demarcated, with affected farmers duly compensated. With JCRP’s support and based on the agreements reached, 109 kms of migration corridors have now been demarcated, with affected farmers compensated. Mr Ibrahim Shaga, a farmer and father living in Agadi West, BNS, readily gave up a portion of his land in favour of the migration corridor, commenting that “We are very happy about this work because it means the animals will no longer enter our land and we can grow crops safely without fear of damage by animals.” The Blue Nile Peace Council reported that, as a result of the corridor demarcation and compensation process, the number of disputes between farmers and pastoralists reported to police has plummeted. They advised that in the previous harvest seasons, around 400-500 reports on average were made to police each season. As of November 2013, less than 30 reports had been made to the police last season. Dr. Adam Abaker Ismail, General Secretary of the Peace Council and former Minister for Agriculture commented that “if left unchecked this situation could have ended up like the conflict in Darfur”. He added that during his time as Minister for Agriculture “between July 2012 and July 2013, there were around 20-30 deaths related to farmer-pastoralist conflict and that since the demarcation started this autumn, there have been no reports of deaths”.

Mr. Abdulrahman Hassan, Head of the Pastoralists Union added that since the demarcation “No farmer can come and say someone has destroyed their crop. The pastoralists now have enough land without going on to farming land”. Assured by the improving relationships between his people and other tribes, Mr. El-Fath El-Mak, the Advisor to the Governor for the Native Administration Affairs added “JCRP provided positive mechanisms that pulled people out of a state of frustration...and we, as native authorities, are absolutely satisfied as these projects have helped us a lot in our work.”