



SUDAN

The Current Situation

Sudan faces challenges on many fronts: among them are the ongoing crisis in Darfur, a fragile Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the North and South that ended decades of civil war, and significant local violence in the southern and central parts of the country. Heightening the already tense situation is the referendum in southern Sudan scheduled for January 2011 to determine whether southern Sudan will remain part of a united Sudan or secede. Looking ahead to post-CPA Sudan, there will be many questions about the future of northern and southern Sudan, how the central government will interact with periphery regions including Darfur and eastern Sudan, and the threat of renewed civil war.

Decisions made over the next year have the potential to lay the foundation for sustainable peace across the whole of Sudan, or to reignite violence and propel the country, and potentially the region, back to war. The U.S. Institute of Peace is engaging on many key in an effort to help build a more peaceful, stable and secure Sudan.

Going Forward: USIP's Work in Sudan

Since 2005, USIP experts have focused on helping to build peace and stability in Sudan, working through partnerships with the U.S. Department of State, nongovernmental organizations in Sudan, and key stakeholders. USIP's current programs focus on

- supporting efforts to resolve border issues
- engaging the Darfur diaspora
- preventing electoral and referendum violence
- analyzing rule of law and customary justice

Supporting Efforts to Resolve Border Issues

Popular Consultation: USIP is working with state officials, political leaders, and civil society members from the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states to design and conduct Popular Consultation—a CPA-mandated process whereby the two states may seek to renegotiate political, administrative, and constitutional arrangements with the central government. To support the Popular Consultation process, USIP is

- working with political and civil society leaders to define the goals and core principles of Popular Consultation, conduct civic education and public awareness, and plan for the local consultations.
- supporting the Sudan Presidential Assessment and Evaluation Commission (PAEC), a body mandated by the CPA to assess, evaluate, and report on CPA implementation with respect to the treatment of specific issues

including power-sharing, wealth-sharing, religious and cultural discrimination, and land management. The frameworks of analysis developed by the Institute on these issues serve as the reference point for the PAEC's assessment and evaluation, and are also being used by officials in the Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states as they progress through the Popular Consultation process.

Cross-Border Grazing Corridors: One of the perennial epicenters of conflict in Sudan is the grazing corridors in central Sudan that traverse the north-south border. Nomadic communities regularly travel through these areas to graze their livestock, requiring agreements with other communities in the area as to what land they can cross and how they can protect their cattle. The communities in these areas remain heavily armed, and have a history of conflicts over cattle rustling that sparks retaliatory violence that at its worst can leave hundreds dead in a matter of days. This volatile situation is especially precarious as these grazing corridors may soon cross international borders.

Despite annual efforts to prevent grazing corridor conflicts, each year new agreements are forged, and each year there is violence. USIP is working with local partners to help prevent these types of conflicts, focusing on the Western grazing corridor that runs through the Northern Bahr el-Gazal state. The project consists of three main components:

- analyzing the triggers of grazing corridor violence and the relative effectiveness of past agreements.
- engaging local stakeholders through a strategic visioning process for creating sustainable peace agreements in the grazing corridors.
- building the capacity of key decision-makers and stakeholders to implement peace agreements.

Priority Grant Program, North–South Border Initiative: Whether the January 2011 referendum results in unity or secession, there are significant risks of escalating tensions and renewed violence along the north-south border. In either scenario, the way in which social, economic, and security relations across the border are managed at local and national levels could determine whether conflicts resume or peace is maintained. The needs and interests of border communities, as well as those of elites, should be reflected in arrangements made at the border and between the primary political parties. If an agreement is not inclusive and representative of all groups, then sources of instability may outweigh opportunities for peace. Issues with the potential to spark violence include, but aren't limited to, border demarcation; cross-border troop movement, and weapons flows; cross-border oil flows; and water and grazing rights.

Starting in October 2010, the USIP Sudan Priority Grant Competition launched the Sudan North-South Border Initiative. The goals of the initiative are

- to improve policymaking focused on the management of the border in order to improve the likelihood of peaceful outcomes in the border areas; and
- to increase the capacity of Sudanese at both the local and national level to successfully manage the causes and consequences of violence related to the border between north and south.

Engaging the Darfur Diaspora

Little progress has been made to bring the crisis in Darfur to a peaceful conclusion. Past failures in negotiations are often attributed to a narrow focus on engaging the Government of Sudan and rebel movements. There is now a widespread recognition that any meaningful effort to resolve the crisis must also involve civil society and the diaspora. USIP works with the Darfur diaspora in North America to help them come together to discuss how they can contribute to a sustainable, peaceful settlement.

- In February 2008 USIP convened a group of North American Darfur diaspora to discuss specific long-term challenges to peace in Darfur and provide input to the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC).
- In January and March 2010 USIP reconvened these participants for a consultation on the role of civil society in the peace process, the role of external actors (including the United States and the diaspora) in the peace process, and the way forward.
- Representatives from the 2010 conferences attended civil society dialogues in Doha at the invitation of the United Nations/African Union mediator as representatives of the North American Darfur diaspora.

The Institute has also supported research on the role civil society, including diaspora, can play in bringing peace to Darfur. The research culminated in a Special Report, “Civil Society in Darfur: The Missing Peace,” released in September 2010.

Preventing Electoral and Referendum Violence

Electoral and Referenda Violence Prevention Program: The nationwide elections in April 2010 were a key milestone in CPA implementation. The next major CPA requirement is the upcoming referenda, which will likely increase the potential for violence. Given the heightened tensions that occur as a result of the elections and referendum processes, efforts to build awareness of electoral violence triggers and prevention mechanisms, and to promote citizenship skills, are critical to ensure that electoral or referendum competition does not turn violent.

- In collaboration with local partners, USIP organized a series of 10 workshops throughout Sudan to address strategies for preventing electoral violence, including a “training of trainers” series as the final stage of the project that prepared participants to continue to give similar trainings on their own (so far they have conducted an additional 20 workshops).
- Participants, from Sudan’s north and south, constitute the core of a nationwide network of facilitators, mediators, and community peacebuilders.
- Building on this model, USIP is currently implementing a series of Referendum Violence Prevention workshops throughout the country that include post-referendum follow-up programs on preventing violence.

Analyzing Rule of Law and Customary Justice

Customary Law and Criminal Justice in South Sudan: Since the signing of the CPA, the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) has struggled to create a justice system that reflects the values of and requirements for justice among the people of southern Sudan. For both political and practical reasons, chiefs’ courts and customary law are central to this endeavour. A key question facing the GoSS is how to define the relationship between chiefs’ courts (and the ideas about law that they embody) and the courts of southern Sudan’s judiciary, while ensuring equal access to justice and protection of human rights. To help address this challenge, USIP is

- supporting Traditional Leaders Councils and their communities to ascertain their own customary and community laws.
- published the Peaceworks “Local Justice in Southern Sudan,” based on extensive field research in three locations.
- facilitating discussions among policymakers in Juba and at the community level on how to improve access to justice and relations between chiefs’ and statutory courts.

Other Initiatives

Civil Society–Security Services Dialogues

Serious gaps remain in the concepts of public security and the role of law enforcement, security and military officials in southern Sudan. To address this issue, USIP will be working with southern Sudan security and police officials and civil society representatives to foster an understanding of how a positive relationship between them can yield significant gains for society. In 2010 USIP organized workshops in Khartoum to help civil society, particularly youth, engage with members of the security services in a neutral environment to encourage better communication and understanding among parties who often meet in tense circumstances, and to strengthen conflict resolution practices in the local communities. The workshops pinpointed key issues including correcting stereotypes and misperceptions, improving communication, and building trust as areas where civil society and security forces could improve their relationship.

Building on the success of these workshops, the project in the south will use facilitated dialogue sessions and regular follow-up meetings to work on relationship- and trust-building between civil society and the security forces and the management of tension during times of particular social stress.

Higher Education and Peacebuilding

Higher education in southern Sudan suffers from a lack of resources, capacity, and support. USIP is working with local partners to introduce educators in Sudan to peacebuilding concepts and help them develop a sense of the relevance of these concepts in their teaching. As a part of this ongoing work, USIP is organizing regional conferences and activities with university programs in Sudan, Kenya, and Uganda to promote academic linkages, exchanges, and sharing of curricula on peace and conflict studies.

Public Events

The Institute is committed to providing a venue for public education and debate on the most pressing issues in international conflict today. The Sudan team regularly organizes public events focused on key issues in Sudan, including the elections, referenda, and the peace process in Darfur.

For more information about events at USIP visit <http://www.usip.org/newsletter-signup> to sign-up to receive USIP's Events Weekly email.



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