



Darfur Digest No. 5

A collection of news and stories from the Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund (DCPSF).

- **In this issue:**
 - In Kutum, North Darfur: A Cross Tribal Peacebuilding Forum
 - In Al Radom, South Darfur: A peace days photo essay

Cross-tribal peace-building forum hosted in Kutum Town



Kutum, North Darfur: Last month, people came together from rural areas surrounding Kutum to discuss conflict resolution, natural resource management, community organization and networking for peace.

The cross-tribal peace-building forum was hosted by DCPSF partners WHH and Al-Rayan for Social Development. Eight CBRMs from the surrounding communities attended. Several senior officials joined community members, including the Kutum Commissioner, representatives for the Al Waha and El Fasher commissioners. Particularly notable was the diversity of communities in attendance: nomads (including nazir, omda, and Sheikhs), women unions, and youth unions were all present and involved in the discussion.

Conflict in Darfur has limited rural communities' access to legal institutions and justice. However, with the security situation improving, and with government efforts to establish security and services in more rural areas, there is an opportunity to support both the rural communities and government efforts. Building these linkages was one of the key aims of the workshop, attended by Native Administration, the State HAC coordinator, the Head of the North Darfur Peace Council, and others.

At the grassroots level, WHH and Al Rayan are aiming to ensure that the community based reconciliation mechanisms (CBRMs) and the rural communities they serve have full knowledge and access to

government services and legal institutions, and are better connected. To that end, they support the training and skill building of CBRM members as well as efforts to make CBRMs themselves more diverse.

Zahra Adam Ibrahim Mubarak, from Neina village, also made the journey to Kutum to attend the workshop. A mother of four, a volunteer teacher for the basic school, she is a farmer as well. While she has long been active in Neina village community, the project afforded her the opportunity to build her skills and participate more deeply in solving community issues.

Through the project, Zahara was trained in peace-building, conflict resolution and became part of the local CBRM. As a member of the CBRM she helps resolve disputes between farmers and pastoralists. She also helps raise group awareness of women's needs in the community including fighting early marriage, FGM, and ensuring girls have access to school.

At the conference, Zahara and the other participants discussed the importance of basic services like health and education as a prerequisite to peace. They welcomed the peace-building interventions thus far -including training and capacity support of CBRMs - and hoped these would be able to expand to other communities in the future. They also built personal connections and linkages with other CBRM members from across the region, strengthening the rural network of peace-building.



1 - Ms. Zahara Adam, member of CBRM from Neina village.

Photo essay: Peace days in Wad Hajjam, Al Radom Locality



At the end of last year, photographer Sari Omer accompanied DCSPF technical secretariat M&E officer Abdallah Ibrahim to visit our partner's projects in South Darfur and East Darfur. One of the projects visited was Darfur Peace Initiative's (DPI's) project in Al Radoom, East Darfur. These photos show a peace event near Wad Hajjam village that took place in late November.



2 - Nomad's tents near to the event.

At the event, a one local leader noted how important the project was and how it has bring peaceful co-existence among different tribes and the 7 villages that are linked by the project.



3 - The audience at the event.

The head of the Wad Hajjam CBRM spoke. He praised DCPSF partner DPI for their work promoting interaction between communities through events like this one, as well as through livelihoods support. He invited DCPSF, DPI to come back to the village in one year, and see how the people are working hand-in-hand to ensure these gains are not lost.



4 - Another leader mentioned that for almost 9 years of conflicts nomads and farmers have never met at the same tent to make positive, forward looking plans.

For 9 years, he went on, when ever they meet, they meet for solving problems in a negative manner. This event was the first time together to look forward.



5 - Young men embrace at the event.

The head of youths in Wad Hajjam gave a speech, welcoming the football teams from Umkherein and Girba who had arrived to compete. He said Wad Hajjam youth felt proud to host them. He also spoke about the youth center the project is supporting there, emphasizing it will be open to all, regardless of tribe or ethnicity.



6 - The Umkherein football team joined the peace day event.



7 - The Girba Football team competed against the Umkherein team, bringing together young men from different communities, some for the first time.



8 - Nomadic youth and men.



9 - The sun setting near Wad Hajjam.

The leader of the CBRM noted that, this last year saw one of the greatest cultivation seasons. This was due, he suggested, to the better cooperation and planning between farmers and pastoralists to prevent problems before they started.

He said that today, people were able to see each-other "in a peaceful eye after 10 years of seeing each other with an angry look (the seven villages)."

He called the project "a miracle of peace brought by God".