

UNAMID BULLETIN

UNAMID Deputy Chief Launches West Darfur Peace Campaign, Urges Dialogue



On 19 May 2014, UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative Joseph Mutaboba greets women during the inauguration ceremony for a new women's centre in the locality of Masteri, West Darfur. The inauguration event drew several hundred members of the local community, who celebrated the occasion with traditional music, song and dance. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative (DJSR) Joseph Mutaboba, on the second day of his two-day trip to El Geneina, West Darfur, on 19 May inaugurated a women's centre in the locality of Masteri and delivered a speech at the Ministry of Social Affairs to launch the final phase of UNAMID's "We Need Peace Now" campaign, coming just before the formal commencement of Darfur's internal dialogue process, as stipulated in the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD).

During the trip, he visited the locality of Masteri to inaugurate a women's centre, built through funding provided by the Mission's quick-impacts projects programme. The event drew several hundred members of the local community, who celebrated the occasion with traditional music, song and dance. "When we talk about women, we are talking about the whole of society," said the DJSR to those gathered for the inauguration, noting

that the women's centre belongs to the people of Darfur, not to UNAMID. "If we want stability for the future of this country, let us empower women."

At the Ministry of Social Affairs, the DJSR joined West Darfur *Wali* (Governor) Haider Galukoma Ateem and Ms. Suad Salih, the West Darfur Minister of Social Affairs,

Youth and Sports, along with other Ministers, to launch the final phase of the "We Need Peace Now" campaign, a Darfur-wide outreach effort undertaken by UNAMID's Communications and Public Information Section to motivate the young people of Darfur to do everything in their power to bring communities together and embrace peace.

Residents of Masteri, West Darfur, stand in front of a women's centre, built through funding provided by UNAMID's quick-impacts projects programme and officially inaugurated by UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative Joseph Mutaboba on 19 May 2014. The inauguration event drew several hundred members of the local community, who celebrated the occasion with traditional music, song and dance. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.

In a speech at the event, which drew more than 500 women, men and young people from in and around El Geneina, Wali Ateem thanked the DJSR for UNAMID's support and identified the critical need to continue to discuss development in West Darfur. The Wali highlighted the improvement of the area's security situation, likening it to the safety in the years before the decade-long conflict. "The West Darfur security situation, which is the responsibility of all social institutions, is better now than it has been in 10 years," he said. "I call on all combatants to lay down their arms and join the dialogue process."

The DJSR also spoke at the event, and urged the residents of West Darfur to eschew the bitterness caused by the bloodshed of the past and take inspiration instead from the years gone by when Darfur and Darfuris were one, celebrating their many



differences, sharing their music and art and other parts of the rich cultural heritage of this unique region of Africa. "We must look to this time and remind ourselves that if we can set aside the past 10 years of conflict and each of us work toward peace, indeed a bright future awaits this beautiful land," he said. "Let us not forget that you have no other place

to call your own but this land that is in your care."

Mr. Mutaboba said that the final phase of the "We Need Peace Now" campaign marks the beginning of a new campaign, that of the Darfur Internal Dialogue and Consultation process, which is stipulated in the DDPD as an all-inclusive process designed to allow all Darfuris to make their voices heard

on the implementation of the DDPD and the peace process. The DJSR urged everyone in attendance at the event, and especially the young people, to get involved in the process as an opportunity in which healthy discussion will be nourished, and use the process as a rallying point to promote dialogue.

"I know that, one day, hopefully soon, the cities,

towns and villages of this great land of Darfur will be populated by young people whose faces will show joy and not sadness," he said. "One day, hopefully soon, the peace you seek now may even be taken for granted, with the conflict of the past only a painful memory, a reminder of the benefits of solidarity, reconciliation and dialogue."

UNAMID Reaches Out to El Sereif Community



On 20 May 2014, UNAMID hosted an outreach event in the El Sereif locality of North Darfur to promote a culture of peace and support local-level mediation efforts by fostering community reconciliation and solidarity. Thousands of El Sereif residents turned out for the festivities, which included speeches, cultural performances, football matches, volleyball tournaments and horse races. Photo by Albert Gonzalez Farran, UNAMID.

On 20 May 2014, UNAMID hosted an outreach event in the El Sereif locality of North Darfur to promote a culture of peace and support local-level mediation efforts by fostering community reconciliation and solidarity. Thousands of El Sereif residents, many of whom were displaced from clashes that took place in early 2013 in and around Jebel Amir, turned out for the festivities, which included speeches, cultural performances, football matches, volleyball tournaments and horse races.

The event, put on by UNAMID's Communications and Public Information Section, was

designed to serve as a bridge to foster interaction and prevent tribal division. UNAMID and its partners regularly conduct similar events across Darfur as a way to build a culture of peace and reconciliation.

Mr. Abdusamad Suleiman Marji, Secretary of the locality's Youth, Culture and Sports Ministry, said that such events help drive out sadness and inspire community harmony. "This is an event that has allowed all of us to at least feel happy," said Ms. Thuryia Ismail, a women's group representative living in El Sereif, echoing the sentiments expressed by Mr. Marji.

The highlight of the event

was the football tournament, with eight teams having competed in games leading up to the final matches on 20 May. While one team ultimately won the final game, all the other teams cheered for the victory in a spirit of solidarity. "We are happy to have won the competition, but we won it for each and every citizen of El Sereif," said the winning team's captain, Mr. Abdalla Abdurrahman, who dedicated all the games to peace.

Despite the slow pace of the ongoing reconciliation efforts between the parties involved in the clashes in North Darfur, UNAMID continues to work with community leaders to sup-

port mediation efforts and ensure that the needs of the communities are met. Sports events, such as the one held on 20 May, are designed to support these mediation efforts by forging stronger community ties.

"Sport helps us in spreading messages of peace, driving social change and meeting the Millennium Development Goals," said United Nations Security-General Ban Ki-moon in a message delivered on 6 April 2014, the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. In his message, the Mr. Ban urged everyone around the world to harness the potential of sport to build a better world for all.

UNAMID DJSR Discusses Development with West Darfur Authorities, Community Members



On 18 May 2014, UNAMID Deputy Chief Joseph Mutaboba talks with residents of Ardamata just outside a newly built youth centre, constructed as part of the Mission's ongoing community-based, labour-intensive projects (CLIPs) programme, which is designed to facilitate on-the-job vocational training for Darfur's young people as they work to rebuild their communities. Photo by Kirk L. Kroeker, UNAMID.

On 18 May, UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative (DJSR) Joseph Mutaboba travelled to El Geneina, West Darfur, to meet with Sudanese Government representatives, members of the local community, and UNAMID staff working to implement recovery and development projects in the area.

During his meeting with the West Darfur Deputy Wali (Governor) Abul Gassam Alamin Baraka, the DJSR reiterated UNAMID's interest in supporting, within its limited power, recovery and development in West Darfur. "We will do what we can to help the West Darfur community, working to implement projects within our limited means," the DJSR told the Deputy Wali, noting that development projects cannot take place without a secure and stable environment in which communities can flourish.

"I would like to congratulate you and your Government for having been able to address security issues here and thus contribute to finding lasting peace," the DJSR said. "Without security, there is nothing; with security, you can have dialogue, you can talk about peace, and you can talk about the future."

The Deputy Wali thanked UNAMID for its support, most recently in the form of the development of new airport facilities outside El Geneina and a new access road. "On behalf of West Darfur society, we welcome you here and extend our thanks for this meeting, which we consider crucial for West Darfur's development," he said. "UNAMID has spared no effort in West Darfur, and has provided social assistance, especially to the most vulnerable, which can be considered the best kind of assistance."

The DJSR stressed the need to work together with the West Darfur Government to ensure that UNAMID can contribute effectively to the protection of civilians according to its mandated role, which also involves facilitating humanitarian assistance, working on local-level mediation and supporting the peace process. In this regard, the DJSR requested support from the Deputy Wali for UNAMID to carry out its mandated tasks in the area. "We cannot help you unless you help us help you," he said.

Following the meeting with the Deputy Wali, the DJSR spoke to the local media and

briefly highlighted the work of UNAMID in West Darfur. Since 2013, UNAMID has sponsored 29 quick-impact projects (QIPs) designed to help rebuild West Darfur's infrastructure. Also in 2013, UNAMID implemented in West Darfur seven community-based, labour-intensive projects (CLIPs), each designed to facilitate on-the-job vocational training for Darfur's young people as they work to rebuild their communities.

Since 2008, the DJSR noted, UNAMID has implemented 152 QIPs in West Darfur alone, and is implementing

12 new QIPs projects this year. UNAMID implemented one of CLIPs projects in the Ardamata camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), located on the outskirts of El Geneina, where the Mission has worked with implementing partner Islamic Relief Agency to build a new youth centre.

"Working with the local communities, especially through quick-impact projects, UNAMID is doing what it can to facilitate lasting peace and stability, hopefully leaving a positive footprint here that will have a long-term impact," the DJSR said, also noting that the UN is facing a financial shortfall. "Within the limitations we have, we will continue our work. UNAMID is here to help. We are your organization."

While visiting the Ardamata project, the DJSR said the QIPs and CLIPs programmes, which are designed to benefit communities at the grassroots level by creating jobs and rebuilding damaged infrastructure, are helping to contribute to a more stable environment and foster local ownership that he said he hopes will lead to stability as Darfur enters the dialogue phase of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD). ■

On 18 May 2014, UNAMID Deputy Joint Special Representative Joseph Mutaboba lays a brick to show support for residents of Ardamata, who have recently built a youth centre as part of the Mission's ongoing community-based, labour-intensive projects (CLIPs) programme, and are now working to construct a wall around the facility. Photo by Hamid Abdulsalam, UNAMID.



Young Volunteers Help Rebuild Darfur's Economy



On 2 July 2013, at the Centre for Peace Studies at Nyala University, South Darfur, young Darfuris attend training as part of a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project called Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur. The UNDP project is designed to boost economic recovery in Darfur through relying on the energy and enthusiasm of Darfur's young people. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

While there are some two million people living in Darfur's camps for displaced people and many villages still suffer from the results of armed clashes, the Government of Sudan, UNAMID, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations have been implementing projects to help rebuild Darfur's economy in the interest of creating a stabilising environment for peace.

Many local communities have taken the lead on these development projects, and have become the main agents of change. The people of Darfur are moving, step by step, to rebuild Darfur's infrastructure, economy and social bonds. Although most Darfuris consider a cessation of the conflict the main priority, the people of Darfur say that economic development, where it is happening, is contributing to peace.

"Before any economic development, we need to focus only on the peace process; this is crucial," says Ms. Najwa Adam, a young graduate from Katila, South Darfur. How-

ever, she also says development projects designed for a sustainable future are critical. With Darfur's conflict largely confined to specific geographic areas of Darfur, many of the communities now in desperate need of development assistance are well positioned to take advantage of some of the recovery programmes that UNAMID and its partners are working to implement.

One such project, undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is specifically designed to boost economic recovery in Darfur through relying on the energy and enthusiasm of Darfur's young people. The programme, called Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur, involves training young people—mostly in their twenties and thirties—who later serve as teachers themselves, providing training to people in their communities. The young men and women participating in this programme are beneficiaries themselves while also serving as agents of change for Darfur's economic recovery.

In addition to provid-

ing training, the programme equips these young graduates with laptops and Internet connections so they can work effectively in their home communities. Essentially, they become the links between UNDP development experts and the local community. Prior to serving as partners to engage local communities, the young people receive training in a broad variety of business-related topics so they can play an active role in linking suppliers, purchasers and wholesalers into local, national and international markets.

The Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur programme started in early 2012, when UNDP, with the support of the Government of Sudan and local nongovernmental organizations, selected 205 university graduates to receive the intensive training at the University of Nyala on subjects such as community mobilization, resource management, green business opportunities, microfinance, entrepreneurship, climate change adaptation and reforestation. "We learned how to solve problems and how to apply this knowledge to our

communities," says Mr. Aljeeb Abdulgabi, a programme participant originally from Dreege, South Darfur.

While the one-month programme focused on training, the students described the experience as much more than that. Sharing accommodations provided by the Government, traveling together in UNAMID buses to the University each day, having meals together, socializing, and, of course, attending classes together and participating in lively discussions were all part of the daily experiences of these young students. The programme was an opportunity not only to learn new skills, but also to interact with other people, all from different backgrounds but facing similar challenges. "I really enjoyed all that time," says Mr. Mohamed Abdul Al Jabbar, a programme participant who came from El Daein to attend the sessions in Nyala.

The programme's facilitators were Sudanese professors sponsored by the Centres for Peace Studies from



On 4 January 2014, Mr. Mohamed Hassan Hamid and Mr. Abdala Ahmed Mohamed, members of the Voluntary Network for Rural Helping and Development in Dar Al Salam, North Darfur, stand in the storage warehouse of the Hibiscus Development Project, funded by UNDP and El Fasher University as part of the Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur project. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

the Universities of El Fasher, Zalingei and Nyala. Ms. Nagla Mohamed Bashir, a professor at Nyala University, says the programme serves as a conflict-prevention mechanism because it teaches social skills useful for resolving disputes. "Young generations want to contribute," says Ms. Bashir. "But they need to learn how to do so."

In the end, the students participating in the programme came away with information that they were then able to apply in their home communities. Such information included how to work with microcredit transactions and how to manage natural resources effectively.

Out of these 205 young people who received the Youth Volunteers training, UNDP selected 139 to continue the programme as active contributors not only in their home communities but also in other parts of Darfur. Individuals in this group were deployed to 47 remote villages in North, West and South Darfur to work with the communities there and share their newly gained expertise. UNDP calculates that,

since the programme commenced, those 139 volunteers have interacted with more than 6,000 community members, and have trained them on entrepreneurship and natural resource management.

The training-of-trainers process ultimately has an exponentially large upside. Just as the young volunteers were encouraged to share their knowledge, these 6,000 community members are passing on what they learn from the programme participants to their relatives, friends and colleagues. "I am sure we'll bring change to our communities after all," says Ms. Neimat Abduljabar Abdala, from Kabum, South Darfur. "This new information is already building peace and development in my community."

While Darfuris have a reputation for relying on time-tested tradition, communities are embracing and adapting to the new ideas with enthusiasm. Mr. Bashir Alduma Ibrahim, a farmer from Dar Al Salam, North Darfur, attended several workshops conducted in his village by the Youth Volun-

teers graduates. While he has relied on traditional farming methods in the past, he says he is developing new skills based on this new training but is struggling with the business aspect of his work. Dealing with credit requests to financial institutions is a daunting prospect for those not well versed in the practice. "It's out of my capacity," Mr. Ibrahim admits. Some of the training received by the young volunteers was designed to help farmers like

Mr. Ibrahim specifically deal with such issues.

Now that the programme is well into its second year, its impact is evident not only in the knowledge-passing work the young volunteers are still undertaking in their communities, but also in the many agricultural and business projects that have emerged in line with concepts taught in the month-long, intensive-training programme. These projects include new ways to manage food grown on farms and new microfinance services. UNDP indicates that these new initiatives alone have created some 2,500 new jobs, many of which are staffed by women.

Some of the Youth Volunteers graduates likely will continue their work in private organizations or local administration, says UNDP Project Officer Narve Rotwitt. It is the expectation of UNDP officers, and all those supporting similar development projects across Darfur, that young Darfuris will continue to put their hope for peace into action, taking ownership of Darfur's economic recovery and development and leading the troubled region of Sudan into a brighter future. ■

On 14 January 2014, in Dar Al Salam, North Darfur, local farmer, Mr. Bashir Alduma Ibrahim, shows hibiscus flowers stored in a warehouse of the Hibiscus Development Project, funded by UNDP and El Fasher University as part of the Youth Volunteers Rebuilding Darfur project. Hibiscus is popular in Darfur for making tea. Photo by Albert González Farran, UNAMID.

