

# Community security and stabilization



**40** years of conflict in the past six decades have left South Sudan with very little infrastructure and a people deprived of education and livelihood opportunities for many years. The Government was unable to deliver services or security to most of the population, many of whom live in rural areas. As a result, many of these areas remain isolated, insecure and poor. The Government has also had little experience of reaching out to and responding to the needs of its people.

The present peace in South Sudan is a fragile one. Many regions continue to suffer violence and conflict due to a range of issues including armed militias, the presence of the Lord's Resistance Army in some areas, and major clashes which occur over cattle raiding. A woman in Lakes State faced with ongoing LRA activities commented in late 2009 that "we want the Government in our lives."

The price of ongoing insecurity is high. Local communities are further deprived of access to education and income-earning opportunities; poverty remains entrenched and development is limited.

Consolidating peace in South Sudan will require multi-faceted efforts from the level of national government down to the village. Key to this is extending State authority through the promotion of rule of law, providing basic services, livelihoods, and supporting the recovery of institutions and infrastructure. This will lay the foundations for inclusive economic growth and good governance.

## Community Security and Arms Control

UNDP supported the Southern Sudan Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control and the Southern Sudan Ministry of Peace and CPA Implementation in carrying out extensive community consultations in the 37 counties of Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes and Upper Nile States. Many people said this was the first time the government had reached out to them to find out about local issues.

As a result of these consultations, a series of local projects are underway, for example providing boats for county governments and police to reach areas cut off by water, constructing boreholes for water and setting up police

posts in rural areas. These community-driven initiatives will help to reduce the vulnerability of local populations to insecurity at the same time as fostering more responsive governance. There is recognition that the presence of State authority is crucial for stability.

UNDP will continue to support the government to enhance community security, and as communities feel safer the issue of small arms proliferation will be addressed. In the meantime, the Southern Sudan Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control is already working with the Regional Centre for Small Arms Control (RECSA), based in Nairobi, as well as other partners, to develop policy in this area.

## Sudan Recovery Fund

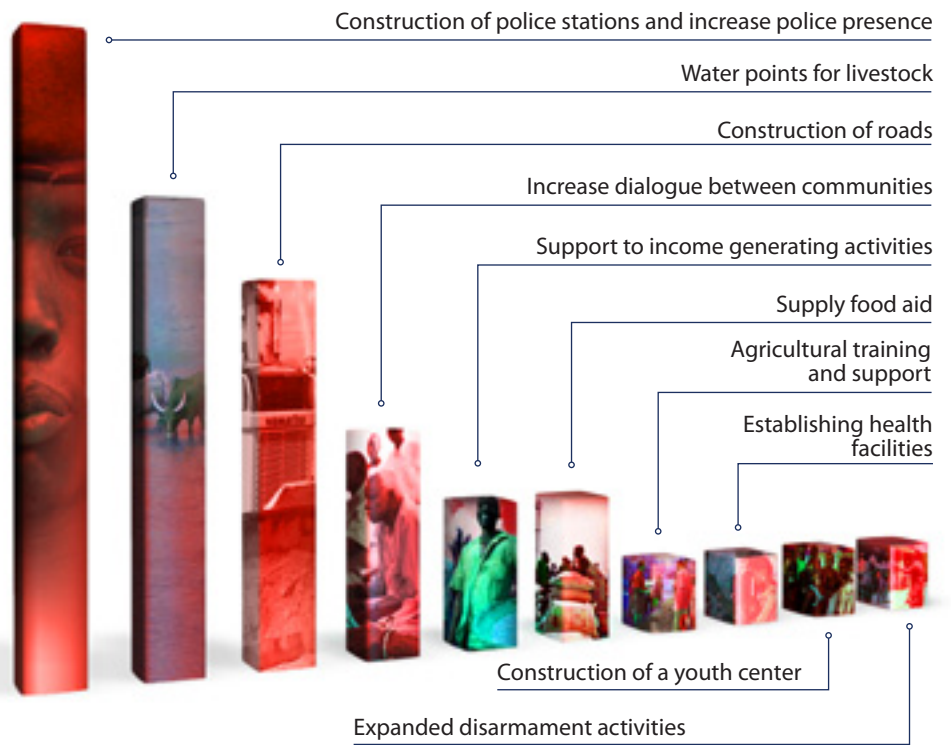
The Sudan Recovery Fund, administered by UNDP since 2008, has begun a new round of funding – Round 3 - focusing on state stabilization. It aims to improve security at the regional, state and community level, and to scale up the delivery of basic services. The Fund bridges the 'recovery gap' between humanitarian assistance and longer term development aid. 

➔ It does this through large scale interventions which provide links between communities and government.

These larger projects help to 'join up' some of the smaller community schemes being implemented as a result of the county consultations – providing a framework to support improvements in community security and strengthen the ability of local government to deliver services.

The long-term objective of this round of funding is to build the capacity of the Government to lead planning and implementation of recovery programmes and therefore to reinforce the social contract between the Government and its people.

### Lakes State: community security priorities identified through county consultations



**KEY INITIATIVES**

- ➔ Construction of vital roads connecting remote communities and providing access for policing
- ➔ Construction of facilities including police posts in conflict-prone areas, police stations in regional centres, county headquarters and judicial courts
- ➔ Building of water reservoirs for cattle to ease resource-based conflict
- ➔ Assisting state government to build radio stations, providing information to rural communities



Women from Fashoda County at a community consultation in Upper Nile State



Lakes State community leaders and elders



A boy minding cattle, Unity State © Marcin Scuder / UNDP



Construction of a large water reservoir in Eastern Equatoria State, funded by the SRF