

PROJECT DETAILS

Country(ies):	Sudan
Duration:	Jan 2007 – Dec 2009
Budget:	CAD \$ 3,070,000
Funder:	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Partner(s):	Sudan National Assembly (SNA), Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA)
Status:	Completed

The goal of the project was to contribute to the promotion of a stable, peaceful and pluralistic political system within an open, more democratic and decentralized Sudan. Ultimately, it was hoped that the impact of the project would be such that there would be improved capacity of the two federal and regional legislative bodies in contributing to democratic development and consolidation of the peace process in Sudan.

About the Parliamentary Centre

The Parliamentary Centre is a Canadian not-for-profit, non-partisan organization that supports parliaments around the world. Our assessment, strategic planning and training programs, combined with research products and networking channels, help legislatures measure their performance, build capacity, tackle key issues and promote mutual learning.

In short - we help legislatures better serve their people.

About the Project

In 2005, at the invitation of the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and with the support of CIDA, the Parliamentary Centre undertook an assessment on the role of legislatures in building peace in Sudan. Extensive consultations were made with both the National Assembly in Khartoum and with the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly in Juba, as well as with many civil society organizations. The result was the project *Peacebuilding and Strengthening Parliamentary Institutions in Sudan*.

Specific objectives included:

- Improved legislation originated, amended and passed in both the SNA and the SSLA through support to committees;
- Improved services to the SNA and the SSLA by the Secretariats; and
- Improved policy formulation, implementation and decision-making ensuring gender equality within both legislatures.

Accomplishments

The project in Sudan was instrumental in building bridges within and between the two legislatures. Several successful inter-parliamentary initiatives were implemented where parliamentarians from both the Sudan National Assembly (SNA) and the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) came together not only to discuss but also to take important steps in addressing contentious issues. The highlight of these initiatives was undoubtedly a 3-day workshop on the impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Sudanese economy, attended by the SNA, SSLA, the Ministries of Finance, Energy and Mining, Agriculture, the Central Bank of Sudan, Bank of Southern Sudan and the North and South Chambers of Commerce.

Some other key accomplishments of the project include:

- The successful creation of a platform for MPs from different political parties to sit together and dialogue through induction trainings and other systematic multi-party and gender-balanced activities;
- Improved capacity and understanding of target committee members in policy development;
- Increased access to quality and relevant information resources and policy research services and expanded legislative outreach;
- Improved institutional capacity of Secretariats to manage, administer and support the work of MPs and improved policies and management infrastructures.

Testimonials

Our partners valued the project very much and requested a continuation. Within a highly polarized political environment such as that of the Sudan and considering the generally high level of mistrust towards Western nations, the project's achievements in the country were commendable.

Here follow some quotes made by the evaluator during the project's mid-term valuation:

“The project is showing positive trends that should trump its deficiencies. According to conventional wisdom, 5 years is a minimum time for institutional strengthening; present moment is mid-point in a 5-year cycle. The current PM has succeeded in gaining trust and increasing activity delivery. At this stage it has acquired an advantage, with relationships and trust developed”.

“...activity delivery rates have increased significantly since late 2007, and the present study confirmed that host institutions respected PC, and are very satisfied with the project at the present time. The current project manager has addressed risks in the sense of improving activity delivery. He addressed the problems of conducting activities with patience and flexibility. Some unplanned activities were executed ad hoc as windows of opportunity because they met a need in the host institution. Flexibility and quick responsiveness are considered to be useful tactics when working in failed and failing states.”