

In the Name of Allah the most gracious, the Most Merciful

Republic of Sudan

MINISTRY OF WELFARE & SOCIAL SECURITY

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Upper Nile - Malakal

Final Report and Recommendations

Tuesday

19 October 2010

Introduction:

In the context of the plan of the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security of moving towards South, the first annual meeting for the social development council was held in 2010 at the Upper Nile State – Malakal. 21 ministers of Social Affairs in States participated. The meeting was held at the South of Sudan Hotel, with 90% attendance.

- Mr. Adil Awad the state minister addressed the opening session. He confirmed on the importance of holding the council at this important period in Sudan history referring to the referendum.
- The Gender advisor in the Goss also gave a speech at the meeting. He appointed to the challenges facing the social welfare work such as, small budget, communications problems, coordination and organizational problems. He added that, enough time for organizing conferences should be given.
- The minister of social welfare at the Upper Nile state talked about the problems that facing the social welfare in the state such as, homelessness, orphans, federal support.
- The minister of the Federal ministry of labor talked about the importance of the South States of benefiting from the open chances available regardless of the referendum's result, as well as the need for abroad vision for whole Sudan not just the South. He added that we must focus on micro- finance as a tool of facing poverty.
- The vise governor of the Upper Nile State apologized on behave of the governor and he assured on the importance of joint mechanisms for implementing the meeting's recommendations.

- The minister of the ministry of welfare and social security, H.E Mrs. Amira Al-Fadil ended the session where she expressed her pleasure of holding the meeting at Malakal the metropolis of the Upper Nile State. She thanked all colleagues in Goss and Mr. Slva Keer and his deputy Mr. Riack Mshar and Mr. Governor of the State and the minister of Gender, of hosting the meeting. Also she showed her appreciation to all participants in the meeting.
- She mentioned that the ministry and other states ministry are in need of modernizing the entire policies of the social work and implementing the follow up in the states. She said that the meeting in Malakal is an advantage especially at the time of referendum hoping for the unity of Sudan. She appointed to the accompanying programme which includes, Health Insurance Programme, pension and Zakat in respects to the Upper Nile citizen's interest.

Second Session:

1/ Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed (the head of poverty's project centre) at the federal ministry presented a paper of (Micro-finance as a mean of combating poverty).

The aim of the paper is to allow visions and opinion of the ministers in dealing with poverty with concentration on micro-finance as a tool of facing poverty. To be noted that the success of micro-finance will not be completed without the success of the small enterprises (supply and demand sides).

The main and core issue is to form a strategy to reduce poverty considering micro-finance in addition to information and strategies for developing rural and urban area, as well as the role of private sector,

the mechanisms of monitoring and evaluation on both levels, the federal level and the state level.

2/ Mrs. Mawahib Mohammed Ahmed (the head of general department of women and family) in the ministry presented the National program of developing rural women. The project aims as following:

- To build the capacity of the rural productive women and improving the economic and social conditions so this can lead to a comprehensive sustainable rural development.
- The contribution of rural women in the attainment of comprehensive development.
- To include rural women in the production circle.
- To increase and develop rural women capacities.
- To reduce poverty and to increase the income of the rural families.
- To revive the rural area and encouraging the return immigration.
- To contribution in increasing the National Income.

3/ The Zakat Chamber representative said that the Zakat contributed by the following:

1. Clothes for the fasteners.
2. 10,000 school bags (clothes + books).The Zakat also:
3. 4,000 families were insured.
4. 10,000 poor families were insured.
5. The purchase of (50) solar cell for mosques with no electricity in addition to special package for the Upper Nile including (300 toop + children clothes + women/men clothes + productive family projects + 10 gas ovens + heaters + meat minces). Also farmers in

the North Upper Nile were subsidized. The coming step is to include the micro-finance system through the agricultural bank.

6. The readiness for training and school seating.

4/ Mr. Kamal Ali Madanie the general manager of the National pensions fund said that, Sudan has realized a huge development in social protection system through a project that approved by the council of the ministers 2002. The first implementation stage 2004, where the whole income was subjected to deduction for the purposes of the pension. He added that the pensions of the old pensioners increased since 2003 up to 2007.

- The South pension file is greatly activated after a visit by the vice president of the south accompanied by H.E Mrs. Amira Alfadil. They agreed on accelerating the payment of the contributions and the commitment of the national government's payback by a date before 30/12/2005, the GOSS payback shall follow after that date.
- A visit to H.E the minister of labour & public service in Goss. It was agreed on the following:
 - Provide institutional aid and support to the Goss to establish pensions system.
 - Cadres training.
 - A group of 22 experts already working on pension's settlement in the South and looking forward for paying the contributions.
 - The social security funds are already existed in the South since 1997.

5/ The deputy manager of the Bank of Savings gave a presentation on:

- Micro-finance as a mean of combating poverty.
- Micro-finance activates the small-scale industries.
- The finance available from one Bank is 650 million.
- There must be a mechanism for M.F.
- The role of women is significant in M.F.

6/ The general manager of the social insurance fund highlighted the problems of insolvency of some corporations. He recommended that Goss shall help in the payback.

7/ The general manager of the health insurance fund said that the system of the fund is a part of the social security systems and it is an effective mechanism for combating poverty.

8/ the major general Abd Alhay Mahjoob the manager of the National Authority of Prosthetics appointed to that the National Authority is in the lead on Arabic and African level technically. He also appointed to the benefit from Diploma Studies.

9/ Ms. Sara Alega (secretary general of Sudanese Women general Union) addressed the meeting, she called for an implementation of mechanisms for micro-finance schemes, besides, the importance of coordination and communications among ministries and unions, on the other hand, she spoke about the women products marketing and warranties.

10/ During the convene of the meeting an accompanied programme was conducted which included a symposium under the title "symposium of Fatima & Rebecca" which executed by the women center for human rights, some children clothes and health insurance cards were distributed. A visit was paid to both health and social insurance premises at the hosting state. A number of handi-capped wheel chairs were delivered as well as equipments, financial donation granted by chamber of zakat.

The most important remarks of the states ministers:

1. Success of micro-financing at the states particularly in women sector.
2. The states expertise in the field of poverty combating especially the agricultural schemes.
3. The information of poverty indicators which issued by central statistics bureau.
4. The importance of the national health insurance card.
5. Establishment of executive administrations for the health insurance at each state.
6. The importance of communications between north and south to support the social peace.
7. The importance of coordination between zakat chamber and ministries of social affairs at the states.
8. The importance of federal support for the states ministers in all aspects.
9. praising of Khartoum state expertise and utilizing the presented models in the field of micro-financing, homelessness and begging.
10. Supporting the women managements and implementing the scheme of rural women development.
11. The small-scale projects and the micro-finance are the suitable for women .
12. The pay-back rate is high which reflects on the family life's good (models).
13. Focusing on women development scheme and circulating among all states together with the national & international partners.

After a long discussions in the field of fighting poverty the meeting came-out with the following:

The Recommendations:

In the field of institutional frame-work, policies:

1. Formulating national strategy for micro-finance.
2. Establishing of social development institutions at the states.
3. Utilizing the remarkable models of states, circulating, and documentation especially Khartoum state expertise on tackling the negative phenomenon and poverty combating.
4. Coordination opportunities and funding available at bank between social security units.
5. Utilizing opportunities and available funding at the bank (savings & social development bank) in the field of micro- finance.
6. Commitment of the states to pay their contributions to the health insurance to keep the development of health insurance function at states.

In the field of women:

7. Participation of states in implementing the national policy of women empowerment.
8. Forming of women credit societies to facilitate the process of micro-finance.
9. To praise the role of women in paying-back process for the micro-finance projects.
10. Circulating the project of up-grading rural women among the states.

In the field of poverty reduction:

11. Establishing coordinative mechanisms for poverty exerted efforts at the states.
12. Assessment of micro-finance expertise at the states.

In the field of capacity-building & social rehabilitation:

- 13.The importance of training and capacity-building in the field of micro-finance.
- 14.Rehabilitating of all society levels particularly women and youth at the states focusing on rural area.

In the field of disabled & special needs:

- 15.Coordination with the National Authority for prosthetics for training cadres at the states, utilizing the ultimate opportunity to study high diploma in prosthetics.
- 16.Paying high attention on homeless children, rehabilitating and incorporate them into the society as well as elderly's welfare.

In the field of information, studies, researches and media:

- 17.The importance of communications and information linkage between centre and the states.
- 18.Taking in consideration studies and social researches related to social issues.
- 19.Taking in consideration the community awareness and media.

Concluding the meeting Ms. Barcilia addressed the session on behalf of southern government indicating the importance of development as a means for communications, respecting the national constitution, the legal framework for states constitutions, utilizing the state of Khartoum experience as a source of information & training.

On the other hand, H.E. Amira El-Fadil hailed warmly all the attendants and thanked them for their attendance, besides, she welcomed the invitation for hosting the coming meeting at West Equatorial State. She pledged to implement all recommendations issued at the meeting.