

SSWEN's Civic Education Report



South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network

VOTER/CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECT

1.0. Project Background

South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network (SSWEN) and Humanity United signed a grant agreement in the amount of \$50,000 to support a "*Voter Education/Civic Participation project*" on the 2010 Elections and the 2011 Southern Sudan Referendum. The grant was to support civic and voter education activities. This is a comprehensive report submitted by SSWEN to Humanity United in compliant with the terms and condition of the grant. It gives a picture of elections and Southern Sudan Referendum related activities conducted in the US and Southern Sudan highlights some challenges encountered during the implementation process. The report covers activities implemented in the period 2009 – 2011.

2.0. Project Objective: The main objective of the project was to strengthen the democratic culture and promote acceptance of a shared system of democratic norms and values.

2.1. Specific Objectives:

- Increasing public awareness of key democratic principles: the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic system.
- Deepening and increasing understanding on Basic Human Rights.
- Increasing understanding of the voting system and procedures used in the 2010 election and the 2011 referendum vote.
- Identifying ways to re-patronize Sudanese citizens once stability is achieved

3.0. Output Targets

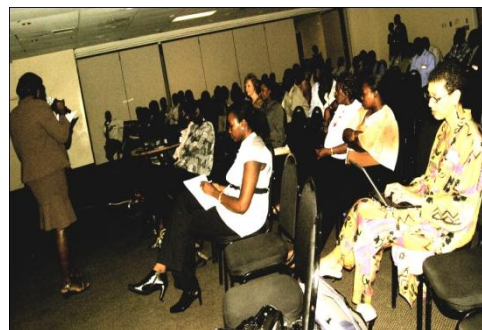
- From August 2009 through December 2011, SSWEN projected to train over 850 community leaders and activists to disseminate election/civic education information, mobilized voters to participate in elections and in the referendum vote, and reduce incidences of violence that might occur at the poll centers/stations.
- To reach at least 250,000 Sudanese and at least 300,000 Southern Sudanese with information on the 2010 elections and the 2011 Southern Sudan referendum respectively through variety of channels, including printed materials, face-to-face activities, e-communication, use of mass media and public events.
- Increase the number of registered women voters to 50% of total registered voters.
- Establish /strengthen relationships with organizations working in diverse ethnic and geographic communities, particularly with regard to election security and civic education.
- Reduce incidences of violence that might occur as a result of the election – respect for election/referendum outcomes and the rule of law.
- Clear the way for peaceful re-patronization of Sudanese, specifically those who were displaced during Sudan civil unrests.

PROGRESS REPORT 2009 -2010

4.0. Activities and Reach

4.1. Workshop for community leaders in Phoenix Arizona:

SSWEN organized a one day leadership training workshop on May 23rd 2009. The workshop brought together more than 100 Sudanese residents of Arizona State. The participants were taken through the history of the freedom struggle in the Sudan from the colonial time to the civil war leading to the signing of the CPA. Issues of electoral history, eligibility and registration and polling procedures were also covered during the training. Generic information on the CPA and the Southern Sudan Referendum process was also shared. Participants were given copies of a simplified voter education guideline/publication prepared by SSWEN. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the organization and the content of the workshop, and recommended that more of such workshops be organized.



In the months of December 2009, SSWEN mounted a two day voter registration drive conducted on the 6th at the Lost Boys Center and on the 7th at the Sudanese American Center of December 2009, jointly with the Sudanese Embassy team who were present in Phoenix Arizona.

4.2. Community Leaders Workshop in Omaha, Nebraska: On July 12th 2009, SSWEN organized voter education workshop for Sudanese Community



leaders in Nebraska. About 70 leaders attended the one day workshop. Participants agreed to volunteer and partner with SSWEN in disseminating civic and voter education messages in both the elections and on the Southern Sudan Referendum process. Participants requested for follow-up workshops to be organized close to the elections and referendum dates.



4.3. Voter Education Workshop in San Diego, CA: On September 19th, SSWEN, in collaboration with Southern Sudan Community Center of San Diego organized a workshop for about 100 Sudanese leaders in San Diego. Participants were taken through the journey to the elections, preparation being made to accommodate the Diaspora voters. The Sudanese Ambassador to the US addressed the participants through teleconference on a number of issues concerning the preparation for the elections.

4.4 Southern Sudan Referendum - Phoenix, Arizona: SSWEN, in collaboration with Sudanese Advocacy Networks -a network of organizations and individuals that advocate for peace, justice, human rights and socio-economic development in the Sudan organized a conference between June 26 through 27, 2010 bringing together a diverse group of individuals and civil society organizations to deliberate on political situation facing ahead of the 2011 referendum for Abyei and Southern Sudan. More than 200 Sudanese from Sudan, Canada and the US attended the meeting. SSWEN sponsored discussion on the preparation and the implications of the two referenda on June 27th 2010.



During the meeting, participants were given copies of the Referendum Law in both English and Arabic, and other handouts such as referendum information toolkit. It was agreed that participants would use the knowledge acquired to mobilize other Sudanese in their states with a view to ensuring informed and effective participation in the referendum process. Based on the participant's feedback, the meeting emerged to be one of the most important workshops to be organized by Sudanese women in the United States of America. They consider the event to be historical based on the issues discussed at the conference.



4.4. Referendum Workshop in Washington, DC: SSWEN in collaboration with Southern Sudan Community Association in the Metropolitan organized a referendum event in Washington DC on July 17th 2010. The event brought together about 150 people, including representative from the U.S Department of State; SPLM DC Chapter and GOSS mission to UN and DC. Participants were taken through the Southern Sudan Referendum Law, political events in the Sudan and discussion on the post referendum scenarios. Participants underscored the need to remain focused

and stick to referendum time line as provided for in the CPA and urged the International Community to put pressure on the two parties to the CPA for the timely delivery of the referendum.

COMPELETE REPORT 2010 T0 2011

6.0 Referendum Civic Education in Southern Sudan

The project main goal of the project is to empower the Southern Sudanese women with information and skills for informed and effective participation in the Southern Sudan Referendum process.



6.1 Specific Objectives:

- To deepened citizens' understanding on the concepts, democratic principles and values, civic rights and responsibilities
- To form a network of women CBOs (Women's Alliance for a Peaceful Referendum) consisting of 26 women's organizations.
- To enhanced knowledge and skills of women on the conflict resolution
- To increasing understanding of women on the referendum voting system and procedures.

6.2 Activities Conducted

1. **TOT trainings: in Lakes, Unity, Western Bhar El Ghazal, Northern Bhar El Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria States.** A total of 64 participants in each workshop (this is consisted of selected Payam Supervisors and County Coordinators) were trained and deployed to conduct face to face voter education activities on the referendum process.



2. Deployment of Volunteers: The trained volunteers were given voter education promotion materials including, flip charts, T-shirts, Kangas, posters, shopping bags for dissemination to the communities. SSWEN provided the volunteers with rented motor-vehicles and mega-phones in each targeted State to aid them in their face to face voter education campaigns. In addition, SSWEN provided the volunteers with a lump sum stipend (allowance) for their upkeep to cover the period from registration to polling. A total of 65 forums/public events, each bringing together about 1000 participants were organized in all the targeted States. In addition, the

volunteers organised face-to-face activities in each Boma between November 2010 and January 2011.

3. Radio programs: To reach out to a wider audience, we carried out voter education campaign through radio talk shows in local dialects. The talk shows were conducted from November 26th through January 7th. In addition, the groups produced drama messages that were also aired on radio programs, and at the same time the drama groups made performances from village to village.



6.3 Beneficiaries (women and men)

Through workshops, SSWEN targeted and trained 139 women who served as community based Volunteers/ Payan Supervisors and County Coordinators. The Volunteer implemented the project activities through a cascade process reaching all villages in the selected counties. As indicated above, SSWEN, through its networks in the mentioned States reached about 65,000 people through public events. Even through the primary target of SSWEN activities were women and persons with disabilities, a sizeable number of men and the youth benefitted from the messages disseminated through SSWEN network in the two states. A large number of people were again reached either through a multiplier effect of the activities implemented by the Volunteers, or through radio programs and printed materials.



