NGOs AND PEACE BUILDING IN DARFUR: A SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is any non-profit, voluntary citizen's group which is organized on a local, national or international level. Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest, NGOs perform a variety of service and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to Governments, advocate and monitor policies and encourage political participation through provision of information. Some are organized around specific issues, such as human rights, environment or health. They provide analysis and expertise, serve as early warning mechanisms and help monitor and implement international agreements. Their relationship with offices and agencies of the United Nations system differs depending on their goals, their venue and the mandate of a particular institution. This Study has been conducted in West Darfur State in 2014. The objective of the study is to identify the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in peace building from economic and social prospective. We adopted descriptive method, and data were collected by using questionnaire its size 66 individuals. The obtained results showed that NGOs play a significant role in peace building, and exert a lot of efforts in social peace and political stability.

Key Words: *Non-governmental Organization, Peace building, Socio-economic, Analysis, Darfur*

INTRODUCTION

NGOs define as Private sector, voluntary (and usually non-profit and non-sectarian) organization that contributes to, or participates in, cooperation projects, education, training or other humanitarian, progressive, or watchdog activities (www.academia.ed).

It is increasingly recognized that development success depends not only on a vibrant private sector and an efficient public sector but on a vigorous citizen sector as well. Relying on the former sector alone has been compared to trying to sit a two legged stool. Organizations of citizen sector are usually termed nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in the development context but are also referred to as nonprofit, voluntary, independent, civil society, or citizen organizations (Todaro and Smith, 2011).

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offices and agencies of the United Nations system differs depending on their goals, their venue and the mandate of a particular institution (www.ngo.org).

According to UNEP 2009, since the end of the Cold War, two fundamental changes have shaped the way the international community understands peace and security. First, the range of potential actors of conflict has expanded significantly to include a number of non-state entities. Indeed, security is no longer narrowly conceived in terms of military threats from aggressor nations.

The objective of this study is to identify the role of non-governmental organizations in peace building in Darfur from an economic and social view. The rest of his paper falls into four sections, section two reviews some literatures. Section three discusses conflict in Darfur and role of NGOs in peace process while section four analyses data and methodology. Finally the findings, results and conclusion remarks put in section five.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of Schirch (2005) explored that, the terminological challenges in the broad field of peace building, the term that is emerging as the umbrella term for all the other approaches to address conflict, violence and peace. The field of peace building did not originate out of a central place. Rather, the work of peace building took root in different cultures around the world. It is not surprising then, that peace building practitioners have developed different terminology. Some use the term "peace building" to refer to post-conflict work. Others use it as an umbrella term for all work geared toward social change at all levels of society and in all stages of conflict. There is an increasing sense of confusion about the terminology or language in the field of peace building, and these challenges impact coordination efforts.

The term "Peace building" first emerged in 1970s through the work of Johan Galtung who called for the creation of peace building structures to promote sustainable peace by addressing the "root causes" of violent conflict and supporting indigenous capacities for peace management and conflict resolution. Since then, the term Peace building has covered a multidimensional exercise and tasks ranging from the disarming of warring factions to the rebuilding of political, economic, judicial and civil society institutions (www.un.org).

Peinado reported that during the 1990s, the international donor community pledged more than one hundred billion dollars in aid to three dozen countries recovering from violent conflict. From Cambodia to Bosnia, El Salvador to Rwanda, and Tajikistan to Lebanon, multilateral and bilateral donors have supported conflict resolution and peace-building with generous grants, loans and technical assistance. The extent of work and the international community's involvement varies from country to country, but in situations where an armed conflict has come to an end, the rehabilitation and reconstruction activities fall within a larger and more complex peace-building framework. Rehabilitation incorporates all of these processes, approaches,

activities, instruments and resources that are necessary to turn the conflicts and their risks of erupting into violence, into situations of stable, just and lasting peace.

Sustainable Peace building implies a complete re-constitution of the state and the society, which includes socio-economic reforms to overcome the "profound causes" of the war and broad political and institutional reforms meant to democratize the country and establish a new political system and representative governing institutions that are legitimate and effective and capable of channeling the social tensions and allowing for a peaceful resolution, thereby making it possible for a stable and lasting peace. Additionally, there is the challenge of national reconciliation, which seeks to overcome the divisions and the hatreds of the war and create a new climate of confidence and a culture of peace (Sanahuja, 1999). Therefore, the concept of sustainable peace building is not limited to physical infrastructure or the re-launching of the economy, as it addresses national reconciliation and the establishment of a new institutional and political framework to resolve conflicts peacefully and to definitively break the cycle of violence. Sustainable Peace building process should be designed while taking into consideration the links between different types of aid (emergency – post-conflict rehabilitation –development). It is necessary to link together emergency situations with development and both must be linked with post-war rehabilitation. The three dimensions are interrelated (Romera, 2002).

In today's world, state failure and civil war in developing countries represent some of the greatest risks to global peace. War-torn countries have become havens and recruiting grounds for international terrorist networks, organized crime, and drug traffickers, and tens of millions of refugees have spilled across borders, creating new tensions in host communities. Instability has also rippled outward as a consequence of cross-border incursions by rebel groups, causing disruptions in trade, tourism and international investment. Second, the potential causes of insecurity have also increased and diversified considerably. While political and military issues remain critical, conceptions of conflict and security have broadened: economic and social threats including poverty, infectious diseases and environmental degradation are now also seen as significant contributing factors. This new understanding of the contemporary challenges to peace is now being reflected in high-level policy debates and statements (www.eoearth.org). Human Security Center in its report 2005 mentioned that, wars leave societies destroyed and post-conflict recovery requires a lot of financial resources. Currently, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, nearly 60 countries are in conflict or have recently come out of conflict; for the most part, these countries are the poorest on the planet.

CONFLICT IN DARFUR AND PEACE PROCESS

Darfur is the western region of Sudan. Darfur is not a country in itself. The region was home to about 6 million people and is about the size of France. Darfur is home to racially mixed tribes of settled peasants, who identify as African, and nomadic herders, who identify as Arab. The majority of people in both groups are Muslim. The situation is very complicated but it can be
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summarized in brief, that government neglect has left the people throughout Sudan poor and voiceless (Darfur- Australia Network).

In early 2003, after several years of simmering violence, rebel groups in Darfur launched a full-scale rebellion against Sudanese government targets. Two groups emerged. The Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) enjoyed early successes, capturing Elfasher airport, but then nearly succumbed to Khartoum's brutal counter- offensive. It was further weakened by internal tension between its two leaders, Abdel-Wahid Mohammed Nur (a Fur) and Minni Arku Minawi (a Zaghawa). The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) was more developed politically than the SLA but less significant military. The JEM's narrow Zaghawa Kobe echnic base further undermined it, as did the Islamist past of many of its leaders, particularly the chairman. Only one faction of the divided SLA (SLA Minni) signed the Darfur Peace Agreement in Abuja, Nigeria in May 2006. In 12 months since, SLA- Minni has all but withered, while the non-signatory groups, especially the groups of 19, beat back a Sudanese army offensive under the banner of a new, united group, the National Redemption Front. The rebel's new- found unity was undermined by a lack of political cooperation, however, and collective military resilience was not enough to keep them together. By late 2006, the non- signatory rebels had splintered into a variety of groups. Any political solution in Darfur will first require that the rebels unite, and this is increasingly difficult with the rapid proliferation of groups. The international community has been so far unwilling to invest the time and effort to support a unification effort, which will be by definition a long- term endeavor. Without the unity, there will be no sustainable peace in Darfur (Tanner and Tubiana, 2007).

In 2011, the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) was finalized at the All Darfur Stakeholders Conference in May 2011, in Doha, Qatar. On 14 July, the Government of Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement signed a protocol agreement committing them to the Document, which is now the framework for the comprehensive peace process in Darfur. The DDPD is the culmination of two and half years of negotiations, dialogue and consultations with the major parties to the Darfur conflict, all relevant stakeholders and international partners. The African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) lent technical expertise to the process and continues to support the dissemination of the Document as well as to urge non-signatory movements to sign up to the DDPD. The DDPD addresses the root causes of the conflict and its consequences, including Power Sharing, Wealth Sharing, Human Rights, Justice and Reconciliation, Compensation and Return, and Internal Dialogue among others. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon welcomed the Doha Peace Document adopted by Darfur stakeholders as the basis to end the conflict in western Sudan. The framework is also supported by the African Union and Arab League. UNAMID chairs the Cease Fire Commission, called for by the DDPD, and participates in the Implementation Follow-up Commission. Also in accordance with the DDPD, the Government of Sudan appointed a Darfur Regional Authority and a Darfuri as Second Vice President of the Republic of Sudan (www.unmission.org).

OXFAM America (2008) overviewed the crisis in Darfur as follows: In early 2003, two rebel groups- the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)- both from Sudan's western region of Darfur, launched major offensives on government bases there. The rebels claimed that Darfur had suffered decades of political marginalization and economic neglect from the Sudanese government in Khartoum. Government forces responded and the fighting escalated. Arab militia, commonly known as Janjaweed and widely believed to be supported by the government, attacked villages, forcing inhabitants from their homes- particularly in those villages and among ethnic groups thought to be sympathetic to the rebels. Now, those rebel groups have splintered into numerous factions and the situation is growing increasingly complex. Again the estimates of the total number of people killed vary widely. The Government of Sudan pegs the figure at 10,000, while many activists say the true amount is up to 400,000. Most reports say around 200,000. Violence is one cause of death. Many people have also died from illness and malnutrition- particularly early in the crisis. Since then, the enormous humanitarian response has stabilized conditions in the camps, but renewed insecurity is threatening this progress, and the large-scale displacement of people across Darfur is continuing.

Sudan's economy has been affected by falling oil revenues, resulting in rising inflation and the devaluation of the currency. In the Darfur region, as well as in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile States, Government restrictions on humanitarian access, combined with continued insecurity, hamper UNHCR's activities. In Darfur in particular, delays in the issuance of travel permits for staff negatively affect the implementation of UNHCR's programme. The security situation in Darfur has also further deteriorated with ongoing and renewed inter-tribal hostilities. Some 300,000 people were newly displaced in the first six months of 2013. In the east, trafficking and abduction of asylum-seekers and refugees, as well as the continuous arrival of unaccompanied children, remain major protection concerns, although significant progress in combatting this phenomenon has been achieved in 2013. Between 300,000 and 350,000 South Sudanese live in Sudan and are at risk of statelessness. The "Four Freedoms" agreement signed between Sudan and South Sudan in September 2012, which allows citizens of both States to enjoy freedom of residence, movement, economic activity and property ownership, has yet to be fully implemented. Sudan has a longstanding tradition of hospitality towards refugees. The Government has made available land for some 90,000 refugees who live in camps. Moreover, the authorities are committed to finding durable solutions to the plight of refugees, an example of which is a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in March 2013 by UNHCR and the authorities for the hand-over of the infrastructure and facilities of the three Suki camps after their closure (www.unhcr.org).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study adopted descriptive research design. Thus the researcher collected data from West Darfur state using a questionnaire from a sample size of 66 individuals.

FINDINGS AND RESULTS

Table 1: NGOs and Peace building in West Darfur

Question Phrase	Strongly Agree%	Agree %	Neutral %	Disagree %	Strongly Disagree %
The role of NGOS in peace building is adequate	30.0	56.6	-	10.0	3.4
Lectures, workshops and seminars have significant impact in peace coexisting in West Darfur	37.7	51.3	2.7	4.9	3.4
NGOs contribution on income generation activity in Darfur is good	56.0	16.2	-	13.0	14.8
NGOs participate in political stability and social peace	40.0	30.0	0.05	10.0	15.0
Native administration plays significant role in peace process in West Darfur	53.7	23.3	3.0	13.0	7.0
There is lack and gaps for peace culture in West Darfur	60.0	20.0	-	12.0	8.0
The government role and NGOs efforts need coordination	35.5	44.5	4.0	9.0	7.0

Table 1 illustrates the respondents responses using percentages based on a five point likert scale. From the table we obtain the following findings and results:

1. The role of NGOs in peace building is inadequate. This can be seen from high percentage of those who strongly agreed and who agreed (30% and 56%) respectively.
2. The training provided by NGOs impacted positively on raising awareness for West Darfur citizen.
3. There are some income generation activities (IGA) provided by NGOs in West Darfur State. This is very clear from the percentages (56%) who strongly agreed that the NGOs contributed in generating income for individuals and institutes in W. Darfur. Again NGOs had significant role in political stability and social peace (see 40% and 30% who strongly agreed and agreed.
4. There is great role play by native administration (traditional leaders) in peace process. As well as its role in enhance peace culture among communities.
5. NGOs did many things and exerted efforts in peace building, but all these efforts need to coordinate with role which should be played by government.

CONCLUSION

According to results and findings, the researcher concludes that non-governmental organizations play a significant role in peace building in Darfur. The researcher also observes that these organizations contribute in the development process by building schools, hospitals and youth centers.

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