



**Reference:-Brief updates from AVP South Sudan to the delegates of AVP
Kakamega-Kenya 26thJan-2ndFeb 2014.**

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in Sudan was introduced by Miriam Kraemer in 2005 in Khartoum (Northern Sudan) and was funded by the Civil Peace Service of the German Development Service (Ded) and implemented by the Sudanese Organization for Nonviolence and Development (**SONAD**) since 2011 known as “ONAD”.

In 2006, SONAD extended its work to the South of the Country and implemented the AVP program in South of Sudan by training 31 AVP facilitators (17 in 2008 and 14 in 2010), all funded by the Civil Peace Service of the German Development Service. These facilitators are from the various states of South Sudan and some are from Sudan especially Darfur. Workshops have mainly been organized in Central and Eastern Equatoria so far, but AVP is growing and spreading to more states in South Sudan

The workshops involve the mature youths, elders, and women from different organizations, ethnicity, religions, educational and cultural backgrounds.

What AVP South Sudan has done since its onset?

- Since 2008, AVP South Sudan has reached more than 1000 people through community supported outreaches, experiential program helping people to change their lives.
- The 31 trained facilitators formed a forum ‘Alternatives to Violence Project Facilitators’ Forum South Sudan” the Forum meets monthly to plan for AVP activities, share experiences and follow up initiatives of the communities.
- During the 2010 Sudan General Election, AVP South Sudan massively carried out a campaign of “No to Violence and Yes to Peaceful Election, this happened during the Civic and voter Education processes.
- During the 2011 South Sudan Referendum, AVP South Sudan similarly carried out a massive Civic Education with the Slogan “Yes to a Peaceful Referendum, No to Violence” we were non partisan and hence educated people to vote wisely and whatever the results of the Referendum, people should remain peaceful.
- The facilitators of AVP in South Sudan established a very good network with other institutions, such as Peace Bridge Association, AVP Sudan, Girifna and Quakers Service German, AVP Regional Network like AVP Caravan on facebook and AVP international through AVP SS Facilitators’ Desk for networking headed by Mr. Moses Monday John, one of the leading AVP facilitators in Sudan and South Sudan.
- AVP Sudan and South Sudan managed to produce a documentary film about their past experiences. The documentary is so inspiring.

Challenges facing the AVP Forum in South Sudan:

- All most all the activities of the Alternatives to Violence Project in South Sudan are funded by one donor, and that is the Quaker Service German.
- No part time or full time AVP focal persons in ONAD as all members are volunteers. This delays decision making on follow up of issues and coordination.
- Most AVPers in South Sudan are either students or employed staff with the Government or Non Governmental Organizations, this hinders their participation in AVP activities because they are either busy or are based outside Juba.
- AVP South Sudan lacks resources for constant follow up of the initiatives of AVP beneficiaries. This is further made difficult by the inaccessibility of some areas in South Sudan, Insecurity among others.

Following the political disagreement within the South Sudan's ruling party, the SPLA, which has led to five hundred fifty thousand being displaced and more than five thousand others being killed mainly children and women , quotes the sudan tribune. According to the SPLA this was a failed coup attempt however the former vice president it was a disagreement among the presidential guards.

Whatever it was, it is very clear that the SPLA as party has had leadership problem and corruption. This can be evidenced when the whole cabinet was reshuffled and further when some key members of the party abstained themselves from attending the SPLA conference on the 14th and 15th of December 2013.

- AVP South Sudan under the umbrella of ONAD carried out visits to the hospital internally displaced camps; UNMISS Camps among other places to find out the magnitude of the effects on those affected.
- Along this line, the Avpers and the Civil Society Alliance in South Sudan participated in a massive procession to the National Legislative Assembly asking the conflicting leaders to commit to the talks and ceasefire.
- AVPers in South Sudan volunteered with the crisis Management Committee formed by the president to distribute relief to those affected in terms of food, medical, housing, counseling and needs assessment.

ONAD and AVPers are working with other CSOs in South Sudan, Kenya and Uganda to produce a context analysis and road map for sustainable peace and reforms in South Sudan. As citizens, we are already victims of the ongoing conflict and as it use to happen in many Conflict resolutions, only the parties in the conflict negotiate and the peace agreement endorses their ambitions mostly power not necessarily the deep rooted causes of conflict. We want the ongoing peace negotiations to result in to a comprehensive solutions not just power sharing, that's why we are committed to developing the road map for peace as civil society. The initiative will send CSO groups at the sidelines of the peace talks in Addis Ababa to influence the peace making process.

Pictorial:



Above: A group photo of AVP delegates



Above from: L-R, Namibia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Liberia and South Africa among others during their AVP Country Reports



Above: The front view of the conference Hall