

On the issue of humanitarian assistance, CARE Canada noted a change in its response from development to that of humanitarian assistance given the deterioration of the situation in Sudan and consequent new priorities.

Humanitarian assistance comprises the bulk of CIDA's activities in Sudan, especially food assistance and responses to emergency appeals. This year, CIDA has provided \$3.3 million in humanitarian assistance for Sudan through the OLS. In certain instances, Canada has been the earliest and largest funders of emergency response units, allowing such units to begin operations. The level of emergency funding and food aid in any year is determined by need and guarantees of delivery.

Regarding development support, CIDA stopped its bilateral development activities in Sudan in light of its human rights record. Instead, development support is carried out through CIDA's regional program for the Horn of Africa, the program support unit, and contracts for monitoring activities. In addition, CIDA's Partnership Program with NGOs and the private sector is set up to be responsive to proposals submitted by partners; however, it currently does not support any private projects in Sudan.

Otherwise, CIDA has been more generally supportive of the settlement negotiation process. CIDA has issued \$2.5 million to support IGAD (\$1.5 million of which targets capacity-building studies of regional projects and \$35,000 supports IGAD's conflict resolution unit and shuttle diplomacy efforts.) Another \$4.8 million from CIDA is managed by Oxfam-Quebec to strengthen the capacity of civil society groups in the Horn of Africa, including Sudan (although this has not yet been implemented with 2 proposals for Sudan currently under assessment). CIDA has also provided \$2.5 million to the Conflict Resolution Fund of the OAU. In addition, \$250,000 from the Canada Fund provides funding to local groups in Sudan to facilitate self-sufficiency at the local level, with a notional distribution of \$100,000 to southern Sudan and \$150,000 to northern Sudan. Funding from the Peacebuilding Fund has been provided to Project Ploughshares which focuses on the region rather than on Sudan in particular.

In general, continuation of the conflict has taken a high toll on donor resources; at the same time, the roundtable participants recognised that aid is not a solution to the conflict which is essentially a political problem. Likewise, there is not much scope for development assistance as such programs are not likely to be sustainable under current unstable circumstances.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Canada's involvement in Sudan has thus far taken place primarily in multilateral settings; while this should not be abandoned, there is scope for greater independent action and initiative on the part of Canada within these multilateral frameworks as well as bilaterally. Many of the recommendations fall under the label of "constructive engagement," i.e. engaging the Sudanese government and the rebel factions, which the participants of the roundtable were eagerly promoting. Most importantly, the roundtable participants felt that the IGAD process should not be abandoned but instead should have its expected potential restored. Finally, the next 24 months will be a crucial period for determining long-term effects of peace efforts, given that Sudan's oil revenues will become tangible at the end of this time period.