

# SUDIA and TI shortening the road to reintegration

**Khartoum, August 16th - 2011:**

SUDIA and the Dutch consultancy firm Transition International (TI) have finally concluded the mapping of socio-economic opportunities for ex-combatants in Darfur. The partners conducted in-depth qualitative and quantitative research; the ultimate goal being to point people in the right direction in order to regain normalcy in a post-war situation. Most people in Darfur live in a state of fear and mistrust with high poverty levels, trauma (depression) and a serious lack of access to basic services. Thus social acceptance of ex-combatants is a vital necessity. The opportunity-mapping is a way of easing this difficult process by making essential information about potential vocational training courses, university education and lucrative sectors for employment and self-employment accessible and available.

Without investments boosting local economies sustainable reintegration will be difficult to obtain. The good news is that enormous opportunities do exist, but investments beyond a “DDR individual package” are necessary. This project is therefore an important step towards successful recreation of peaceful coexistence. Education is also crucial to achieve this goal; creating new as well as identifying existing livelihood opportunities is fundamental when embarking upon the long road towards peace and stability. A booklet with an overview of all courses, prices, required qualifications and types of degrees, is currently being printed in great quantity and placed in strategic locations throughout the three states.

The study by TI and SUDIA also involves an assessment of CSOs working in the area and lists of ongoing microfinance schemes for the local population to take part in. Such mapping is relevant to future planning and development as well as service provision in different fields of society. “The analysis by TI and SUDIA is sure to make the outcome of our work much better” said the head of the DDR Programme at the UNDP, Srinivas Kumar Venkumahanthi. “There are many challenges on the ground and it can be very difficult reaching out to the communities but I think SUDIA and Transition International did a wonderful job”, he continued. The UNDP will now be referring to material by TI and SUDIA when advising ex-combatants about education, employment and visions for the future.

The Sudanese Development Initiative (SUDIA), headquartered in Khartoum, is a non-governmental apolitical non-profit organization committed to playing an active and lead role in advancing peace, development and social justice for the people of Sudan.

SUDIA

Amna Bagadi, Communications Officer

House No.39, Block 9, Street 7 (Kuwait Street), Amarat, P.O.B 6658, Khartoum, Sudan

Tel. +249 155774880, Fax. +249-183-497356

Email: [contact@sudia.org](mailto:contact@sudia.org)

Website: <http://www.sudia.org>