

# IIRR Sharing **RELEASE**

## **IIRR Set to Lead Reconstruction Efforts in Post Conflict South Sudan**

*The challenges are great, but the potential is greater. IIRR believes that in partnership with you, we can drive the long term reconstruction and sustainability and restore vibrance to this battered region.*



Over fifty years of war has taken its toll on Southern Sudan - more than two million people have lost their lives and another four million have been displaced. While a Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed between warring parties in 2005, the country still suffers a number of setbacks, including limited or no access to water, severe food insecurity, and the ongoing conflict in Darfur. How can a newly-established government restructure a region suffering from a ravished social fabric and destroyed socioeconomic structure in the aftermath of conflict? With government systems that risk being declared ineffective - and, thus, ignored by the international community - IIRR is using its extensive experience in capacity building to engage in sustainable reconstruction efforts in a region that most needs it: Southern Sudan.

*continued on page 2*

## **IIRR Links Local Philippine Organization to Funding for Clean Water Development**

*The villages involved in this project rose to the occasion by providing additional funding and labor to effectively build and maintain these water systems, benefitting a multitude of men, women and children in the region.*

On most mornings at 6:00 o'clock, children begin congregating at the community's newly-built water pump, swapping stories about the latest happenings from their favorite *telenovela* while lining up their water containers. This is the daily scene at Nena's household, and she savors it with a sense of pride knowing very well this is one of the tangible fruits of her and others' work to infuse positive change in the lives of the people in her community. Nena's *barangay* (village) has the highest population and, unfortunately, also the highest number of malnourished children. The new jetmatic water pump has given them respite. This is just one of the projects of Salud San Diwata, the network of villages in Ticao Island. The project is possible due to a grant from the United Nations Women's Guild of Vienna.

Nena is one of the few resolute Salud members who realized the value of villages coming together and forming a network which drove the development projects



*continued on page 2*

## Building Capacity to Overcome Poverty

*from page 1, IIRR Set to Lead Reconstruction Efforts in Post Conflict South Sudan*

Government and development agencies estimate that over 60 percent of the government labor force of Southern Sudan is uneducated or unskilled. Development agencies working in the region typically concentrate their efforts on relief and are not equipped to switch over to structural development, which is essential for long-term nationbuilding.

IIRR has consistently engaged in capacity building for poverty reduction on an individual and organizational basis and has the tools and experience to succeed. Through intensive training and consulting in South Sudan, IIRR in the process of establishing an office in Juba, Southern Sudan, under the direction of country coordinator Sirak Abebe, an IIRR professional who is described by his peers as self-driven and dedicated to the sustainable reconstruction of the region.

IIRR's intends to provide targeted capacity development services and establish Integrated Action Research and Learning

sites with a focus on food security, community managed disaster risk reduction, and quality basic education whilst integrating concepts of gender mainstreaming, peace and reconciliation, HIV/AIDS and documentation in all the programs. The new office will set up systems for monitoring and evaluation of these projects and requires an aggressive marketing effort that will brand IIRR as the "one stop shop" for capacity building for sustainable development in Southern Sudan.

The high cost of operating in Juba requires a huge injection of capital and, thus, support from a wide donor base. The challenges are great, but the potential is greater. IIRR's support for capacity building in one of the most fragile nations in the world is arguably one of the greatest engagements in the history of IIRR. With your support, we can be a part of history and drive the long term reconstruction and restore vibrance to this battered region. 🍀

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*from page 1 - IIRR Links Local Philippine Organization to Funding for Clean Water*

*Development*

within their community. Facing a nonresponsive government, this network gives voice to the community and develops capabilities to embark on such projects as building water pumps. She is positive their investment in strengthening the network will propel her community further toward sustainable development.

With 70 percent of community households lacking toilets and many villages with no adequate access to potable water, water and sanitation is a major health issue in rural communities. For many communities, it is common for multiple households to share water sources, with long lines of women and children waiting their turn, many having traveled a considerable distance to fetch the water. Salud San Diwata, one of IIRR's partner community based organizations in the Bicol region of the Philippines, identified this community health issue. IIRR linked Salud San Diwata with the United Nations Women's Guild

of Vienna and assisted them in securing a donation which funded the construction of four water systems in villages throughout the Municipality of San Fernando.

IIRR's principle of counterparting holds that the community in which development occurs must participate in and sustain the projects IIRR engages in. The villages involved in this project rose to the occasion by providing additional funding and labor to effectively build and maintain these water systems, benefiting a multitude of men, women and children in the region.

*Nena Rivera is one of the pioneering member of Salud San Diwata. A barangay health worker, she has been active in various IIRR health-related activities. She is currently the treasurer of the organization.* 🍀

## Bringing Participatory Approaches to Development in Vietnam

2009 is an exciting time for the Regional Center for Asia (RCA) and Vietnam. In recent years, the Vietnamese government has emphasized the value of using a multi-stakeholder participatory approach to effectively work on rural development. By midyear, RCA will embark on a partnership with Oxfam Quebec in order to develop a Collaborative Learning Program. This program will bring together communities alongside their government in an action learning approach to address issues in sustainable natural resource management, livelihood adoption and innovation, and participatory policy processes. This pilot project is seen as a ground-breaking initiative for Vietnam and RCA and furthers IIRR's mission to advance the use of participatory approaches to rural development.




RCA's senior natural resource management program specialist makes a special trip to Tra Vinh Province, Vietnam to review project processes with government officials.

## Kolo Brings in the Birr

*Through IIRR's project, Gender in Leadership and Decision Making, Entenesh G/Mariam has learned practical life skills that have allowed her to build her own small business in Addis Ababa.*

Ten years ago, IIRR partnered with the Royal Netherlands Embassy and launched Gender in Leadership and Decision Making (GLDM), a forward-thinking project geared towards promoting equality and empowerment for Ethiopian women. In collaboration with ministries, schools, NGOs, and media institutions, IIRR conducted trainings focused on transformational leadership and practical life skills. Participants address gender concerns in the context of improving quality of life for themselves and their families.

Hundreds of men and women have been trained through GLDM, and it has also inspired Federal and Regional governments to integrate gender concerns in their policies and practice. IIRR has worked with schools to integrate gender equality into the curriculum and media partners have also dedicated themselves to gender issues. As a result, IIRR has emerged as a leader in promoting gender equality in Ethiopia. 

"I could hardly make ends meet. My pay was low, and the demands on it far exceeded my ability to manage. I was discouraged and had poor self esteem. My future as a single mother of two children was bleak," says Entenesh G/Mariam. She continues, "I was very fortunate to be included in the IIRR transformational leadership training. As we went through the training, I began to see possibilities of business that I could get into. More importantly, I began to believe in myself, that I had it in me to become a better person. **After the training, I was determined to do things differently. Despair turned to hope as I reaped the benefits of selling kolo (roasted barley) to my colleagues.** Setup capital for this business was minimal, and I could prepare the grains in the evenings. The profits from selling *kolo* inspired me to engage in a more profitable business. I had more confidence that I could do better. I was able to borrow money with which I started selling clothes, cosmetics, and other goods. I was certainly looking better and our life as a family had improved. I went back to school to take my final high school exams since I had dropped out because of several constraints. **Today, I am confident that my children and I can live better lives and the best part of it is that I know how I can make it happen.**"



## Underneath Lies a River

*Simon L. Pareyio and Joyce Wambui*


Murtot Village lies at the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro. On the Tanzanian side, a lush forest cover marks the Southwest boundary. The Kenyan side is bare and dusty and the ring around the sun indicates we are in the midst of a severe drought. We reach the water point to find women and girls washing clothes while others load water onto their donkeys. The village elder, Ole Shoke, appears. Having roamed the hills for months with his family and livestock in search of water, he understands the rarity of the water flowing here. The boys splashing water about scatter into the nearby bushes, fearing Ole Shoke will punish them for wasting this God-given commodity.

Ole Shoke vividly remembers the day that a young man from the Catholic Diocese of Ngong (CDON) organized a meeting with the villagers to discuss ways to reduce the effect of the prolonged drought on the community. It was the same day that he watched his emaciated cow die from lack of water.

The community determined that borehole drilling was the best option to solve the crisis. The community provided the land, manual labor and an old water tank that had been abandoned after a previously failed water project. CDON, via CORDAID support, was charged with surveying, drilling and providing equipment to create the borehole.

Drilling commenced in 2007 and water was struck at a depth of 200 meters and the borehole was fully cased for structural and sanitary integrity. The well was tested and the CDON staff embarked on training the project committee on its maintenance and management to ensure sustainability of the project.

The community formulated bylaws to govern operations of the borehole and developed a payment system divided fairly among the households and individuals in the community. The borehole management committee that oversees project activities manages the revenue generated. The cost of repairs and fuel are covered by this revenue.

The borehole serves approximately 3,000 people and 5,000 livestock. Ole Shoke marveled at the life-changing effects the borehole has had on the community calling it a "miracle." The long distances the people had to travel to fetch water are in the past. Children can now go to school, women can work to generate income, and with healthy, well-watered livestock, the men can engage in livestock trade within the region. Furthermore, the conflicts generated over water in the region have ceased. Fellow villager Noonkuta commented that for most of his life, he had carried twenty litres of water on his back three times a week and the borehole has changed his life. The water is clean enough for cooking, washing and no longer causes stomach problems, which the village consistently experienced when they fetched dirty water from Tanzania. The changes are life altering and lasting. 


# Capacity Development through Participatory Action Learning on Community-managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) in Indonesia: Drawing Lessons from the Field

As IIRR nears the final months of the CMDRR project in Nias, Northern Sumatra, two important learning activities, a final evaluation and a writeshop, will be conducted in February and March in order to draw lessons from the experience to be shared internationally.

In March 2005, just in the wake of the devastating 2004 Asian tsunami, Nias suffered an 8.6 magnitude earthquake with a death toll of at least 1,000 people on Nias Island alone. As a response to the community's need to be able to mitigate the risks following such a disaster, IIRR, in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), began a technical accompaniment on CMDRR with Caritas Keuskupan Sibolga (CKS) in July 2007. This capacity building project aims to develop the capability of the CKS project team in designing and managing their CMDRR pilot project in select villages in Nias, North Sumatra. The accompaniment employs IIRR's participatory learning action approach that allows the participants to undergo training in order to understand basic concepts and processes. Participants are then able to apply the acquired knowledge and skills and reflect on them by drawing lessons from their experience and identifying suggestions to further improve CMDRR methods and tools.

evaluation plan, the team will return again in March to conduct the evaluation and observe the writeshop process. The evaluation will focus on two key areas: 1. The relevance of CMDRR as an approach to disaster risk reduction, and 2. the effectiveness of IIRR's training-action-reflection methodology for transferring knowledge and skills.

The writeshop, a concluding activity of the technical accompaniment, is designed by IIRR to document and draw lessons from the experience of Caritas Sibolga in piloting the CMDRR project. At the end of the writeshop, it is envisioned that a resource book that can be shared with organizations, governments, donor agencies, DRR networks and communities interested or involved in applying CMDRR in their development work can be produced. The publication would describe the technical accompaniment process and feature the case studies of the three select partner communities of CKS in Gunungsitoli and Amadraya in Nias. It would also highlight the case stories of the project team lessons learned in implementing the project and testimonies from the communities identifying significant changes after project involvement. In February, IIRR conducts a pre-writeshop to facilitate the identified authors to write their initial drafts. During the writeshop in March, these drafts will be presented, critiqued and finalized through the assistance of an IIRR writeshop team. This will then be produced by Caritas Sibolga and shared internationally.

IIRR contributes to development through the learning it derives from its field experience. It continues its mission to develop and field test sustainable and participatory systems and methods that would facilitate poverty alleviation, health and livelihood promotion, disaster risk reduction, and climate change mitigation. 



Taking advantage of the opportunity for a collaborative learning process, the final evaluation will be conducted in cooperation with a team of five graduate students from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), an IIRR learning partner since 2003. The team, based in New York, gathered preliminary data during a field visit in January 2009. After designing the

For the third consecutive year, IIRR has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of charities, for demonstrating efficiency and sound fiscal management.



IIRR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-governmental global development organization. Our Regional Center for Asia is in the Philippines, and the Africa Regional Center is in Nairobi, Kenya. The headquarters is also in the Philippines, with a small liaison office in the United States that operates out of New York. Contributions are tax deductible for US taxpayers to the full extent allowed by law and may be sent to: IIRR-US Office, 40 Exchange Place, Suite 1111, New York, NY 10005. IIRR's annual report is available upon request. Contact us at [us.office@iirr.org](mailto:us.office@iirr.org) or +1-212-880-9147.