Financing Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Conflict and Post Conflict Countries: The Sudan Case

Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda
Norway, September 2007
Presentation Outline

The Sudan Context

Process: Peace Negotiations to Financing Development

Multiple Funding Windows

Analysis of MDTF

Recommendations

Progress for women, progress for all
Context

• One country, multiple realities for women
• 3 fragile peace agreements, continued humanitarian crisis (Darfur)
• Limited space for democratic governance and citizen participation especially for women
• Interim constitutions (national, Southern Sudan and State level) with some commitments to women’s rights
• Country with worst socio economic indicators ie maternal mortality, 90% illiteracy in the south, access to water, infrastructure etc
• Fragmented women’ movement, fragile and with limited capacities and skills for gender advocacy
From Peace Agreements to Financing Recovery and Reconstruction

- Guided by SC Res.1325 and BPFA. Sudan has not ratified CEDAW nor the Africa Protocol on Women’s Rights

- Protracted peace negotiations for north south conflict barely included women as delegates. Culminated in the 9th of January 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement with generic reference to rights commitment a few specifics on gender equality.

- Darfur peace negotiation (Abuja series) included women in 7th round, Darfur Peace Agreement has substantive at least 30 article on women’s empowerment, equality and rights. However the agreement is fragile and talks are resuming.
o Post Conflict Needs Assessment of Sudan (JAM 2003-2005) defined the reconstruction priorities. UNIFEM involved in supporting gender mainstreaming. Gender included in analysis and NOT in costing.

o Oslo Donor’s Conference on Sudan, April 2005 was the space for resource mobilisation and confirmation of Financing Modalities.

o Gender Symposium across political and regional divide enabled Sudanese women to develop their priorities and recommendations for reconstruction and Development for prioritisation in funding.

o Sudanese women and gender expert/advocates were NOT involved in the dialogues and negotiation of the actual financing modalities and financing tools for reconstruction and development.

Progress for Women, progress for all
Equality, Rights and Empowerment

• Protection of women and their rights
• Participation in decision making spaces and defining the reconstruction agenda
• Capacity strengthening for gender advocacy, planning, budgeting, M& E
• Socio and economic empowerment through literacy/skills, income, employment
• Sectoral gender actions for empowerment and rights
Multiple Financing Sources

- National Resources (Budgets, Oil Revenues etc)

- **Multi Donor Trust Funds** – for recovery and reconstruction – WB managed

- Humanitarian Funding: Common Humanitarian Fund and other sources – UN managed/facilitated

- Peace keeping, peace negotiations related funds (UN Mission in Sudan, AU Mission in Sudan, Mediation)

This funding is guided either by the wealth sharing aspects in the peace agreements; the UN or AU Security Council decisions and recommendations, or agreements reached with bilateral and multilateral donors (ie MDTFs)

*Progress for Women, progress for all*
Multi-Donor Trust Funds – WB Managed

MDTFs objective: ensure coordinated, flexible and swift donor responses for financing priorities areas identified in the JAM

Governance structure include steering committee led by government, a secretariat led by World Bank, and Sudan Consortium.

The access process and tools, is complex, government centred and with strict fiduciary rules.

Absence of special facility (window/DOOR) for civil society and especially women’s organisations.

The National Machinery for Gender Equality is not a full and active member of the governance and monitoring structures.

Progress for Women, progress for all
Challenges for GE Financing in MDTFs

- Guiding principles for financing do not include GE and Women Empowerment

- Governance, Management and Monitoring structure does not include accountability to GE nor meaningful participation of women and gender advocates

- Absence of gender targets and performance indicators in monitoring quality implementation

- Access rules and tools are too complicated for nurturing a fragile women’s movement and civil society

- Increasing frustration and disillusionment by women activist and gender advocates on absence of recognition of women’s role in reconstruction and recovery
Recommendations

- Advocacy and technical policy advise on integrating gender equality, rights and empowerment principles, tools and monitoring in MDTF for Sudan (Sudan Consortium meeting, Nov 2007).

- Establish special financing windows for gender equality and women and civil society within the existing MDTFs

- In-depth study to define approaches and methodologies to gender equality and women empowerment financing in fragile states

- Take opportunity of CSW, Peace Building Commission/Fund, Monterrey process and Paris Declaration to deepen investment for gender equality in fragile states from multiple stakeholder perspective

- Strengthen a critical skills base of gender advocates on financing in gender equality, protection and empowerment in fragile and post conflict situations.

*Build on the Norway/ SIDA/UNIFEM Partners in Sudan for evolving global methodologies for financing gender equality in post conflict countries.*
THANK YOU

Progress for women, progress for all