

## ***Promoting Strategic Coordination and Leadership***

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Currently the Government of Sudan is engaged on the international, regional, and local fronts to reconstruct infrastructure, promote human rights, increase local participation, and encourage a lasting transition to peace in the South and other affected areas.

### **International**

On the international front, the Government of Sudan (GOS) has signed a joint appeal with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) to the Global Fund. The appeal seeks assistance for combating HIV/AIDS in the entire country and anticipates that refugees coming from neighboring countries with high levels of HIV/AIDS incidents will cause an influx of the disease after a comprehensive peace agreement is signed.

In October 2003 the US-based Center for Strategic International Studies hosted a joint meeting between the GOS and SPLM/A in Washington, D.C. to assess the health needs of Sudan. The Federal Ministry of Health provided the meeting with data on the availability of health facilities throughout the country and the number of doctors, nurses, and health workers. Based on this data and the conditions in the country today, the Ministry specified the immediate needs that should be met when peace is realized.

### **Regional**

On a regional level, the GOS has sought assistance from the Arab League for the reconstruction of the South; Arab countries have pledged US\$500 million for this purpose. In addition to this contribution, individual Arab states, like Syria, Egypt, and Kuwait, have started sending delegations and pledged to help with education and health initiatives. Egypt has already decided to open a branch of Alexandria University in Juba, the major city in Southern Sudan. Furthermore Syria has offered over seventy-five scholarships to

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the Southern Sudanese in Syrian universities.

**Local**

Locally the GOS has established the National Fund for Reconstruction of the South, headed by the action-oriented Dr. Al Amin Dafaallah. The impressive plan set forth by the fund concentrates on the development of civil societies. It includes detailed initiatives for strengthening religious freedoms and tolerance, while developing an extensive training program in human rights, peace culture, and democracy. Finally the plan includes a revised educational curriculum that promotes the principles of mutual respect between people who belong to different religious, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds and emphatically stresses the importance of education among women.