Applying Principles of the Social and Solidarity Economy for Reconstruction in Darfur

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Outline

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Map of Africa & Darfur

Map showing the region of Darfur with the text:
- Population 9 Million
- Size: France
Land Conflict, Management and Ownership

- The Darfuri people and land
- The Hakura land management system
- Settled sedentary Africans and Arabised migratory ‘nomadic’ herders and banditry life style
- Historical land conflict resolution
- Involvement of government
- Environmental degradation, scarce resources and drought
- Repatriation and occupation of villages
- United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and responsibility to protect
Background to the Crises and Genocide in Darfur

- South West Sudan
- Main tribes: Fur, Masselit and Zagawa
- Sultanate of Darfur - British colonialism and incorporation into Sudan 1917
- Marginalisation and neglect
- Islamism and Arabism ideologies
- Nomadic tribes land ambitions and Janjaweed
- Start of resistance - Sudan Liberation Movement 2013
- Brutal killings, ethnic cleansing and genocide
- JEM Movement
- Declaration of Genocide by US Secretary of State 2004
Overseas Development Aid

• International NGOs facing harassment and expulsions
• UN Agencies, USAID and EU
• Qatar and UAE
• UNAMID facilities earmarked for health and education, but taken over by Janjaweed
• Focus on emergency food assistance, health and nutrition support, protection, relief commodities, water, sanitation and hygiene
• International aid inefficient due to land grabs and inability of IDPs to return
• Limited participation by locals in reconstruction
Social and Solidarity Economy in Reconstruction

Some examples:

- Spain: Mondragon
- Israel: kibbutz movement
- Philippines: disaster response: Buklod Tao; National Network of Informal Workers: PATAMBA
- Syria (northeast - Kurdish area): Rojava. Most recent and extensive example of SSE - a whole society built around these principles
  - gender equality
  - diversification and socially-owned means of production
  - ecological considerations

Under threat and requires international solidarity
WAREFUR International Organisation
Warefur International Organisation (WIO)

- Founded in 2015, initially to share information
- Registered in France in 2017 - chapters in different countries
- Purpose:
  - pursue justice
  - enable Darfuris to take the destiny of their region into their own hands
  - promote a secure and equitable society, based on equality of opportunities and outcomes
  - build a society based on social and solidarity economy principles
- Short term activities: assistance, e.g. to cover medical expenses
WAREFUR INTORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Core Group
- Strategy
- Construction
- Security
- Finance
- Coordination
- Foreign Affairs

Food Security,
- Water,
- Agriculture,
- Herding

Infrastructure

Economic Development

Education

Health

Women’s Affairs
Sustainable finance

- Build on and strengthen some of the traditional Darfuri practices that have elements of SSE: Jené, Towsé and Sandooq
- Initially funding from foreign aid and remittances; explore funding carbon credits by planting trees - also necessary to restore destroyed environment
- Currency and taxation depend on the outcome of the political developments in Sudan and the extent to which Darfur will have some form of autonomy
- Economic and finance committee:
  - offer financial and business advice to those intending to start or expand businesses,
  - assist with feasibility studies and business plans
  - building implementation capacity and mentoring entrepreneurs.
Implementation of SSE in Darfur

Micro-level

- Villages and their equivalence in urban areas strategic entry points for, and play a central role in the implementation
- Focus attention on the most marginalised areas initially
- Conduct participatory deliberations, in collaboration with respected institutions such as the village Sheikh (village leader) to set priorities
- Encourage collective decision-making, including women, youth
- Encourage everyone to join committees established to implement priorities

Meso- and macro-level

- Build federated structure to meso- and macro-levels with representatives and similar principles as those from micro-level.
Challenges of implementing SSE in Darfur

- Security situation
- Land and other property right issues
- Motivating highly traumatised population
- Raising expectations that may not be fulfilled because of security situation
- Reaching the most vulnerable people in the remotest areas cost-effectively
- Disunity among various groups in Darfur
- Lack of solidarity and initial funding to start the process, which should become self-sustaining
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