

# LUMINA

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AFRICA TODAY ASSOCIATES, INC.



## SPECIAL FOCUS ON

- *Healthcare in Sudan*
- *Consultations on Darfur*
- *Disability Rights*

## MAJOR PARTNERS

Ford Foundation  
Project Education Sudan  
Strings Restaurant, Denver  
ECDC/African Community Center  
University of Denver  
Jonglei Development Society, Sudan  
Andrew's Bar & Restaurant  
Human Rights Advocacy Center, Denver

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## ATA TO DELIVER MEDICINES TO SUDAN

By Frederick Agyeman-Duah  
Executive Director

In 2006, I had the opportunity to work in Maar and Paliau, two villages in South Sudan. I was conducting a needs assessment for a health-care program that Africa Today Associates (ATA) was thinking of implementing for the two villages. The visit allowed me to experience firsthand that terrible aspect of humanity called war. From children suffering from diarrhea and malnutrition to women dealing with pre- and post-natal issues to men wondering how to feed their families, it was evident that the 21-

year old civil war between the North and the South had devastated the country's socioeconomic infrastructure, especially when it comes to health and education. The ability of the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) to effectively help address these challenges was also affected not only by the lack of resources, but by the lack of trained and qualified personnel in areas such as government, health, and education. I remember reading in one of the newspapers that come out of Juba, the capital of South Sudan, about government advertisements looking for persons to fill government positions. (*Continue on Page 2*)



1. Some young men of Paliau
2. A health unit in Maar with bullet holes from the war
3. Inside the health unit in Maar

## FORD FUNDS DARFUR CONSULTATIONS

The Ford Foundation has approved a \$35,000 grant for Africa Today Associates (ATA) to hold consultations on the current crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan. The approval was related to ATA by Mr. Joseph Gitari, a Program Officer of the Ford Foundation's Nigerian office. The grant will allow ATA to hold consulta-

tions in Kenya and Nigeria as part of our Darfur Consultations Program (DCP). The DCP is intended to enhance participation by Africans and African leaders in the discourse to stop genocide in Darfur, and will bring together academics and advocates to deliberate and prescribe conflict resolution strategies for the Darfur Con-

flict. In addition to the African consultations, ATA will hold similar events in Denver and Washington, D.C. The Denver Consultation is scheduled for Sept. 14, 2007. For more information about this and other ATA programs, please contact us or visit our website: [www.africatodayassociates.org](http://www.africatodayassociates.org)

## Medicines for Sudan



Fishing for food: (Above) A young woman washes clothes in a puddle by the road. A young man (below) catches fish for food from the same puddle.

*'Health is one of the areas where help is urgently needed. The people of Maar and Paliu suffer from a cyclical outbreak of diseases.'*

Case	Name	Age	Sex
1.	Atoch Garang	25	F
2.	Atem D. Akot	35	M
3.	Nyaruon Chagai	6	F
4.	Akon Chagai	3	F
5.	Ayem A. Deng	5	F
6.	Makuei M. Garang	13	M
7.	Aduong Adriek	25	M

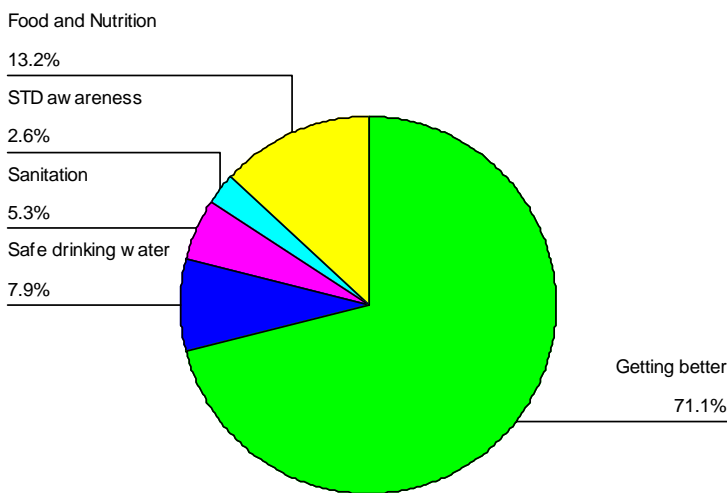
Table 1: Some casualties of the measles outbreak in July 2006, from Maar

Training, according to the advertisement, would be provided. At this point, it became increasingly clear that the people of Maar and Paliu, like most people in South Sudan, needed assistance if they are to be able to rebuild their lives after the war. Health is one of the areas where help is urgently needed especially since the communities of Maar and Paliu suffer from a cyclical outbreak of cholera, measles, tuberculosis, typhoid fever, meningitis, acute watery

diarrhea, among other diseases, every year and often with deadly consequences. For example, in July of 2006, the outbreak of measles claimed 13 lives in a two week period in the village of Maar alone. What is more, there were only 200 doses of measles vaccination for people in Maar and Paliu, a combined population of over 30,000. Upon my return to the United States, I met with ATA's Board of Directors and presented the findings of my studies; the Su-

dan Health Project (SHP), a five-phased project, was adopted. Our long-term goal is to enhance the delivery of basic healthcare in Maar and Paliu by improving and constructing health facilities, and to increase the training capacity of community healthcare workers in order to reduce the spread and persistence of communicable diseases. Our short-term strategy is focused on containment. Our goal is to continue to provide intervention measures to mini-

Fig. 1: Health needs of people in Maar & Paliu



Source: Africa Today Associates, Inc.

mize casualties in the event of an outbreak. This strategy begins with the delivery of critically needed drugs and other medical supplies. From speaking with local citizens and community healthcare workers, it was evident that the ability to get better after getting sick is one of the most important health needs in Maar and Paliu. However, while the provision of effective

drugs will greatly help to reduce the persistence of diseases, it will not be enough if the behavioral patterns of local citizens are not addressed. Thus, as part of our short-term goals, we have designed a personal hygiene and sanitation program that will be implemented and monitored among the general population of Maar and Paliu, and in collaboration with Project Education

Sudan (PES), for children in area schools. The challenges faced by people in Maar and Paliu are many and we believe that the solutions begin with a desire to help. That is why we are confident that with the help of our wonderful volunteers and your financial support, we will deliver our first set of drugs in December 2007. ■

## Board Member Spotlight: Peter Van Arsdale

Peter Van Arsdale, Ph.D., is Senior Lecturer at the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver. In this role, he also has served as faculty advisor to the Center On Rights Development (CORD), a graduate student organization which sponsors a wide range of human rights activities, and recently has been appointed director of the department's new Certificate Program in Humanitarian Assis-

tance. Trained as an applied cultural and medical anthropologist, with a sub-specialty in refugee studies, Van Arsdale has conducted fieldwork in a number of locations, including Indonesia, Bosnia, Sudan, and El Salvador, and has just helped initiate a program in East Timor with Nobel Peace Laureate José Ramos-Horta. He is a member of two national human rights committees and (among a number of publications) the author

of *Forced to Flee: Human Rights and Human Wrongs in Refugee Homelands* (Lexington Books, 2006). One chapter in this publication deals with the crisis in Darfur. He is co-founder of The Denver Hospice and the Rocky Mountain Survivors Center, the latter organization assisting refugee victims of war trauma and torture. He is advisor to the Perdiz Canyon (New Mexico) archaeological and environmental preservation project. ■



Prof. Peter Van Arsdale

## Breaking the Impasse over Peace in Darfur (An Excerpt)

By George W. Shepherd  
President, ATA

*In this article, written before the UN's recent decision to send troops to the Darfur region of Professor Shepherd explore some of the challenges to peace in Darfur. You may read Professor Shepherd's full article at our website.*

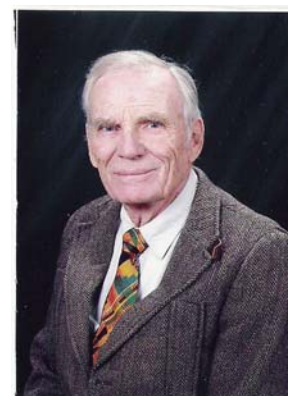
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"The outside world has a responsibility to help Africans and Arabs to end the killing fields in Darfur. The international obli-

gations assumed by the world powers is authorized not only by the Genocide Pact of 1946 but the more recent "Responsibility to Protect lives of peoples," stated in the International Convention on Intervention and State Security of Dec 2001. International law makes it very clear that States have an obligation to save lives and institute peace keeping. Obviously the old nation state system makes this very difficult, even under the UN collective security provisions. Underlying

[the continued fighting in Darfur] is the spreading conflict between Arabs and Africans in Africa ... Insurgent factions are seeking to extend the conflict of Arabs and Africans into the wider Maghreb. A UN blue helmet force could be placed along the Chad-Sudan border as suggested by the International Crisis group, if Chad accepts it, without the agreement of the Sudan... This should be the objective of the US since a military intrusion is simply unfeasible." ■

*"The outside world has a responsibility to help Africans and Arabs to end the killing fields in Darfur."*



Professor George W. Shepherd

## ATA Partners with IHRAC for Disability Rights

April 14, 2007

Denver, CO—Africa Today Associates has agreed to partner with the International Human Rights Advocacy Center (IHRAC), an advocacy organization based in Denver, to help address issues and challenges faced by disabled persons in Kenya. The decision was made

during ATA's annual board meeting. IHRAC is currently working with nongovernmental organizations in Kenya to establish a legal aid clinic that will provide services such as legal representation to persons with disabilities in Kenya. Because the IHRAC project integrates legal education with advocacy,

the partnership will allow ATA to further pursue our mission of linking advocates and academics through research. The decision will formalize the relationship that already existed between Africa Today Associates and the International Human Rights Advocacy Center. ■

## AFRICA TODAY ASSOCIATES, INC.

University of Denver—GSIS  
2201 So. Gaylord Street  
Denver, Colorado 80208

Ph: 1.303.871.4444  
info@africatodayassociates.org  
www.africatodayassociates.org

Contact us to learn  
more about our pro-  
grams and events

### 2007/2008 UPCOMING EVENTS

July 27: One Hour for Africa  
Aug. 25: A Night at Andrew's  
Sept. 14: Consultation on Darfur, Denver  
Sept. 21: Benefit Concert, Mercury Cafe  
Oct. 12: Walk for Sudan—with PES  
Oct. 18: Consultation on Darfur, Nairobi, Kenya  
Nov. 3: Dinner at Strings Restaurant, Denver  
Nov. 20: Consultation on Darfur, Abuja, Nigeria  
Dec. 1: Delivery of Medical Supplies to Sudan  
Jan. 12: Update on Sudan Trip  
Feb. 11: Consultation on Darfur, Washington, D.C.

## ABOUT US

Africa Today Associates, Inc. (ATA) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization created in 1967 to publish the journal *Africa Today*. The journal was launched by Professor George Shepherd, the first Director of the American Committee on Africa (ACOA), in 1954, to educate the public on Africa's struggle against colonialism. When ACOA could no longer publish the journal, ATA was formed (then moved publication of the journal the University of Denver's (DU) Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS). Since 2000, the journal has been owned and published by University of Indiana Press.

ATA, headquartered in Denver, Colorado, USA, continues its educational purpose by maintaining the fundamental philosophy of *Africa Today* through activities that connect academics and activists by working with non-governmental organizations on projects that address the social, political, and economic needs of the people of Africa.

### GET INVOLVED!! There are many ways to get involved with ATA

1. **Volunteer:** As a non-profit organization, volunteers are critical to our ability to succeed. Our volunteers are students, professionals, and community members with diverse backgrounds. Our volunteers benefit from ATA in the areas of Development (fundraising), Management, Public Speaking, Grant Making, and Marketing among others.
2. **Donate:** Your financial support allow us to successfully pursue our mission and now it is easier to donate to ATA. You may visit our website ([www.africatodayassociates.org](http://www.africatodayassociates.org)) to donate using paypal, or you may send a check payable to **Africa Today Associates, Inc.** To find out more about getting involved, please email us at [info@africatodayassociates.org](mailto:info@africatodayassociates.org)

## Why I Volunteer with ATA...

By Anna Smith

My interest in the continent of Africa and its people started quite some time ago when I met different people from Africa, here in Denver. In 2005 I decided to take a different course with my life when I determined it was important to me to volunteer abroad. I began to think about where I wanted to go and after researching my options, I picked Ghana, where I spent three very challenging and eye-opening months. When I came back to Denver, I did not want to lose the sense of Africa. I started by attending "DU's African Extravaganza" event in February (I am an alumni of DU, B.A. 2002) and put my name on various mailing/sign-up lists. Before I knew it, I was hearing about events sponsored by

Africa Today Associates, and my interest piqued. I had not been aware that an organization such as ATA existed and was surprised and excited to see what they were all about. I soon attended two of ATA's events on the DU campus and found them both intellectually stimulating. Both events were beneficial to me — since I still feel like there is so much more to learn about African politics, social situations and the reasons behind the current status of things. I felt that these events not only helped me, but I saw the bigger picture of how many others could benefit from symposiums and informative discussions such as these.

After a discussion on the recent elections in Nigeria, Frederick (the Director of ATA) made an

announcement that ATA is always looking for volunteers and individuals to step forward and help make a difference, in big and small ways. His comments stayed in my mind and a few days later I contacted him to see about volunteer opportunities. Now, I would say I am a member of the ATA team, and proud of it. Although I am new to the organization, it is highly evident that the work they are doing is noble and springs from genuine interest and compassion for others. The other volunteers are driven and passionate people with a heart for others. I feel like I fit in and enjoy contributing to the greater good while also keeping me connected to the African continent while I'm thousands of miles away in Denver, Colorado.



*Ms. Anna Smith is a marketing assistant for MoneyGram. Like all our volunteers she brings a wealth of knowledge that allow ATA to pursue our objectives.*