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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

Sudan is at an important crossroads that can either lead to steady improvements in the lives of the Sudanese people, or degenerate into more violent conflict and state failure. The United States Government (USG) is focused on supporting a definitive end to conflict, gross human rights abuses, and genocide in Darfur, and peaceful implementation of the north-south Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Particular attention is being directed toward reducing threats to the CPA and the Darfur peace process and creating an environment for continued dialogue between the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) as the end of the CPA interim period approaches.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Peace and Security

A stable and peaceful Sudan is clearly in the strategic interests of the United States. Peace and security are central to USG efforts in Sudan, because political, economic, and social development cannot be sustained without these conditions. In order to foster peace and stability, the USG has continued efforts to develop a professional and citizen-responsive military and police force in southern Sudan.

In order to create institutional capacity to maintain state authority, secure the rule of law, achieve human security, and decrease conflict, the USG has provided financial support to the joint United Nations–African Union peacekeeping Mission in Darfur. The USG recently completed a two-year effort to assist the African Union troop-contributing countries of Rwanda, Ethiopia, Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Tanzania to deploy peacekeepers to Darfur. USG support included providing a wide range of equipment, such as trucks, personnel carriers, and communications equipment, as well as operator training.

The USG continued its support of a comprehensive conventional-weapon destruction program in Sudan. The program fielded humanitarian mine action and explosive ordnance–disposal teams, and conducted hundreds of mine-risk education events throughout Sudan. Further, USG efforts assisted

southern Sudan in building capacity to implement its own demining program. The clearing of unexploded ordnance and destruction of stockpiled weapons has contributed to the opening of key roads that allow internally displaced people to return to their homes, land to be restored for agricultural use, and children to return to school safely.

The USG is working on providing a more secure environment in southern Sudan for citizens by working with both police and the southern Sudanese military to professionalize their ranks. Transitioning a former rebel force to a conventional military body responsible to a civilian government and respectful of human rights is a challenging endeavor. USG efforts have included training, mentoring, and advising both rank and leadership of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. The USG is also providing non-lethal equipment and much-needed infrastructure support. With a focus on police, correctional institutions, and judicial support, law enforcement programming targets the southern Sudan towns of Juba, Bor, Rumbek, and Malakal. Major infrastructure developments are currently underway at the Juba Police Training Academy and at the Rumbek Central Prison. Corrections efforts in FY 2009 included funding a United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime program that enhanced leadership and management capacity, developed information systems, and improved prison conditions and prisoner health. While these efforts have demonstrated results in terms of the number of people trained and the introduction of procedures aimed at responding to citizen and community needs, this type of reform is a long-term objective that will require time and substantial resources to create tangible results on the ground. For this reason, USG efforts are ongoing in FY 2010 and planned for FY 2011. These will be updated as the country context evolves.

Democracy and Governance

USG rule of law efforts were geared toward constitutional development and legislative reform in southern Sudan. The USG supported the drafting of laws and the professionalization of the legal system through training for GOSS officials in the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development. This program helps ensure that the judicial system meets the basic legal needs of communities, and that the formal judicial system can function in tandem with customary legal systems to mediate conflicts and deter crime.

The USG governance program continued to enhance the accountability and transparency of the GOSS by supporting improvements in public executive functions and working with 11 GOSS institutions to develop stronger linkages among policy priorities, legislation, planned budgets, and implementation to help meet citizens' needs. In the wake of a serious fiscal crisis earlier in the year, USG-funded advisors assisted the GOSS to strengthen transparent financial controls, supervise banking, and further develop the legal framework to expand its revenue base and reduce dependence on oil income. In addition, the USG played a key role in bringing donors and development partners together to support the GOSS austerity plan and develop a mutual accountability compact signed in June 2009. At a more local level, the USG enhanced capacity in 45 sub-national governmental entities to improve their performance. In particular, the goal of this decentralization program is to help develop and expand transparent public finance systems, and build planning and service delivery capacities in states and counties along the sensitive north-south border.

Much of FY 2009 was spent building a foundation for credible elections in 2010 and setting the scene for popular consultations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states, as well as the southern Sudan and Abyei referenda in 2011. Assisted by USG-funded advisors, the South Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation completed data processing and tabulation of priority census results, which provided Sudanese leaders and development planners with

comprehensive demographic data for southern Sudan for the first time. By the end of the year, implementation protocols signed between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of International Cooperation were in place to improve election administration, voter education, domestic monitoring, and political party assistance in all of Sudan. Technical assistance was also provided to the National Election Commission (NEC). Long-term observers were deployed throughout Sudan under a USG grant and two pre-election observation reports were issued, based on observation in 21 of 25 states. To address limited experience with elections in Southern Sudan, USG assistance supported the formation of the Southern Sudan Network for Democratic Elections (SuNDE) with branches in all Southern states. SuNDE members conducted voter education activities in 37 southern counties; the combined voter education efforts reached more than 352,000 people. USG assistance also enabled community-based organizations in the Three Areas to organize forums on election-related issues. FM and shortwave radio programming provided improved national news coverage, and the USG-funded “Let’s Talk” civic education program expanded its broadcast reach with the addition of two radio outlets, including the United Nations Miraya FM network. With USG assistance, 13 political parties made considerable progress in preparing for the 2010 elections, and eight parties in six southern states participated in multi-party roundtables with state NEC officials to improve understanding of the electoral law and procedures.

The USG supported civic participation through strengthening the organizational capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs), providing increased access to – and availability of – public information through independent media outlets and radio campaigns; and conducting intensive civic education programs to promote vibrant discourse and build consensus on the implementation of the CPA and the governance reforms called for in that agreement. USAID strengthened the institutional capacity of 95 CSOs, 44 led by women, to work across ethnic, social, and regional divisions to address the issues of women and other marginalized groups and therefore build consensus and shared identity toward a peaceful Sudan.

With respect to access and support for independent media, the United States continued to fund shortwave radio services that reach Sudanese in nine languages. Broadcast hours across Sudan now reach 94 percent of the land mass with a listenership estimated at 1,100,000. Shortwave radio programming production staff doubled in Khartoum, Wau, Malakal, Damazin, and Juba, which allows for increased coverage. A total of 1,184 news items were produced, with 1,805 programs broadcast relaying 2,839 civic and voter education messages. In addition, 115 journalists were trained on how to develop relevant, objective, and transparent stories.

Health

In health, the USG focused on improving service delivery and health systems to support the GOSS’s health policy. Major highlights included: reaching over 444,000 individuals with abstinence/be faithful messages; over 463,000 individuals were reached with other HIV/AIDS prevention interventions including messages on correct and consistent condom use; 39,617 were provided HIV counseling and testing, of whom 61 percent were female due to the focus on preventing mother to child transmission; 1.6 million doses of anti-malarial drugs were supplied; 41,000 children received vitamin A supplements; nearly 356,000 citizens gained access to potable water; and, three million children received polio vaccinations as a result of combined USG, GOSS, and other development partner efforts.

Highlights of achievements in health system strengthening included: establishment of a national network of people living with HIV/AIDS; supporting government policy development for protocols on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, immunization, nutrition, family planning, and behavior

change communication; and building the capacity of governments and communities to undertake health activities directly. USAID also financed health worker training for 2,137 people in all fields, and helped to develop Ministry of Health databases and integrated disease surveillance procedures.

Education

The USG is partnering with GOSS counterparts to improve educational outcomes and contribute to long-term transformational development in a country where completion rates for primary education are estimated to be less than 20 percent. Since the signing of the CPA, primary school enrollment continued to increase to 44 percent in southern Sudan in 2009, when 1.3 million learners attended primary school. U.S. foreign assistance has played a key role in this increase, improving access to education this year alone for 10 percent of these learners and significantly reducing the gender gap. USAID technical assistance provided support to the Ministry of Education by integrating technical advisors and assistants at the central ministerial level and into all ten southern Sudan state education ministries. Doing so built capacity in policy development, planning and budgeting, administrative systems, financial management, personnel management, monitoring and evaluation, and program implementation.

USAID has also developed and implemented three radio-based education programs: one for primary education in English, math, and life skills for grades one to four; a second for English language instruction for out-of-school youth and adults at the beginner and advanced English levels (used by 359,591 people); and a third, professional distance-learning course for teachers to improve their instruction methodology.

The USG recognizes the tremendous developmental impacts of educating girls, particularly in southern Sudan, where the status of women remains low. USAID has worked at the central, state, and county levels to affect systemic changes leading to more equitable gender-based policies and practices in education. In collaboration with ministry personnel, school leaders, and community members, USAID awarded 3,033 secondary school and 167 Teacher Training Institute scholarships (2,679 female; 521 male), with accompanying comfort kits for female recipients to enable them to attend school throughout the year. USAID also awarded grants to 59 learning institutions for school improvements and provided gender advisors who deliver leadership training and technical assistance in schools.

Economic Growth

In economic growth, the USG maintained ongoing programs to improve future economic opportunities for Sudanese citizens, particularly in large-scale infrastructure development. The 192-kilometer rehabilitation of the Juba-Nimule Road greatly improved southern Sudan's primary trade corridor, reducing travel times on the road from over six hours to three and a half hours. USAID also repaired several roads in Western Equatoria state, which increased access to markets for previously isolated communities. Training programs improved the competitiveness of 12 Sudanese construction firms (three owned and managed by women) and increased the capacity of government officials to better manage infrastructure projects.

This year also marked a major new shift for USAID's Economic Growth Program. Five new programs were launched during the fiscal year, all of which have already begun to generate impressive results. These programs, including food security, microfinance, land policy, environment, and a crosscutting program to strengthen local government capacity to improve productivity and workforce development, have started to build an enabling environment for agriculture in southern Sudan, improving private sector competitiveness, increasing economic

opportunities, and enhancing management of biodiversity. Examples of progress achieved through these programs include: passage of a comprehensive land act; 482 Sudanese were trained on improved land administration management; two million hectares of land in the Boma-Jonglei national park were placed under improved environmental management; 1,635 individuals (33 percent women) were trained in techniques to increase agricultural productivity; and 165 producer groups, of which 50 were woman-led, were supported to engage in value-added agricultural activities.