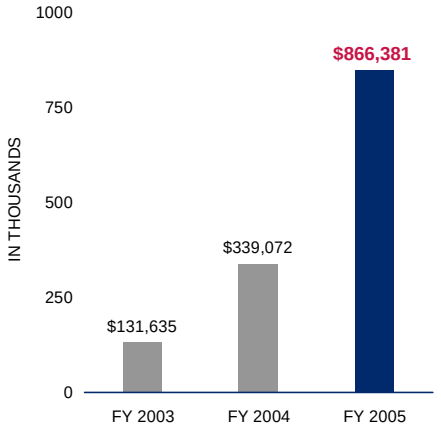
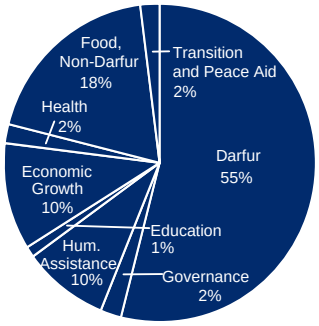
USAID | SUDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN





Darfur: $476,768,506 (Food: $346,450,000)
Food, Non-Darfur: $156,010,000
Humanitarian Assistance: $88,248,606
Economic Growth: $85,496,982
Health: $16,592,000
Education: $10,111,000
Governance: $13,949,000
Transition and Peace Aid: $19,205,000

MONTHLY UPDATE

February 2006

Cleaning Up Juba

Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan, endured two decades of isolation as a government garrison cut it off from surrounding counties. The town suffered greatly from a lack of investment in basic services and infrastructure. The neglect was starkly visible as Juba's profile increased when the late vice president, Dr. John Garang, was buried there in August 2005, and the transition to form the Government of South Sudan started in earnest. Many shops and market areas were burned during riots that followed the death of Dr. Garang, and public sanitation was nearly nonexistent.

Photo: ADRA

Shortly after the funeral, USAID worked with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to initiate a public campaign to engage local residents to clean up Juba. In November and December 2005, 6,500 families in one section of the city benefited from a food-for-work initiative to clean the street in front of their houses. A cash-for-work component of the program paid 400 people each $4 a day for 25 days to clean public market areas. USAID and ADRA are also constructing four blocks of latrines in markets near the government ministries and near a school. A similar project is underway in Malakal.

USAID also provided seven new water pumps to Juba's Urban Water Corporation to significantly increase the amount of water available to residents. The additional pumps were instrumental in alleviating a potential crisis in early December 2005 when four of the old pumps broke down, depriving parts of the city of water for two days. In other projects, USAID is providing water leakage detection equipment and purification agents. ♦

Mitigating Conflict in South Darfur

Few parts of South Darfur have been able to escape the violence and displacement that characterize the conflict in Darfur. But in one region—a triangle including Ed al Fursan, Abu Agura, and Tulus—13 large tribes have lived in relatively peaceful coexistence, with the exception of attacks in November 2004 and December 2005 that were reportedly carried out as retaliation for livestock thefts and deaths.

To diminish tension in the area and reduce the likelihood of future violence based on tribal conflict and the breakdown of customary conflict resolution mechanisms, the local Great Family Organization developed a reconciliation program with support from USAID. Building on the area's history of relatively peaceful coexistence, the program held a cultural exhibition of dancing and singing and brought all the tribal leaders together to draft recommendations.

After a week of small meetings among tribal leaders, the program cumulated with a two-day conference and festival in Delieb on January 19 and 20, supported by USAID, the UN World Food Program, UN Joint Logistics Center, ARC, and other international organizations. More than 3,000 people attended the gathering, which UNMIS Civil Affairs called a productive start to the longer process of reconciliation and return.

Great Family Organization continues to conduct meetings between the Makdum of the Fur tribe and the Nazir of the Fallata and Beni Halba tribes in an effort to secure Tiwal from future attacks and encourage the peaceful return of the displaced people to their home villages. ♦

Workshop Confronts Violence Against Women

On December 27 and 28, more than 100 people attended a USAID-supported workshop held at Al Madina Center for Gender and Development in Nyala to discuss the root causes of violence against women in Darfur's culture, customs, and practices.

As part of the program, participants—nearly half of whom were men—discussed papers that examined violence against women in Darfur. One paper revealed that in 2005 more than a quarter of the divorce cases filed in Nyala were a result of domestic violence against wives. Another paper examined the cultural roots of female genital mutilation and how laws, including sharia, address violence against women.

Workshop participants then discussed women's rights from a legal perspective and developed plans for village workshops and activities that would work to change people's understanding, beliefs, and behaviors regarding violence against women and women's rights. ♦

Radios Bring Government to the People

There are few radios throughout rural Southern Sudan—in the markets or in the hands of the people. Consequently, one of the greatest challenges to the new southern government is its lack of capacity to communicate with its people, who live across a vast territory with little or no infrastructure. And the lack of information about the country's nascent peace has fueled doubts among some that it will last.

Photo: USAID

As part of a campaign to increase awareness of the year-old North-South peace agreement, USAID is distributing radios throughout Southern Sudan that will enable people to listen to broadcasts on the constitution, citizens' rights, government accountability, and political developments. The 50,000 solar- and hand crank-powered radios are being distributed mainly to isolated and war-affected areas, specifically targeting the lower-income and marginalized people within those communities—women, youth, displaced people, and ex-combatants.

To complement the radio programming, USAID is helping to organize listening groups to give citizens the opportunity to discuss civil society issues. Regional resource centers are being set up in six areas—Bahr el Ghazal, Equatoria, Upper Nile, Abyei, Southern Kordofan, and Southern Blue Nile—to host the groups and provide meeting space and resources for civil society organizations. USAID is also developing radio-based educational resources, such as classes and teacher trainings, that the listening groups can access. ♦

Photo: Laura Lartigue, Chemonics

Small Loans Improve Lives

Esther Moriba's story is one of modest success, but in the post-war climate of Southern Sudan, even small steps can improve lives.

"I used to sell vegetables in the market," she says. "I have eight people to feed in my household, and sometimes I would have money for food, sometimes I wouldn't."

Then, in early 2004, Esther became one of the first clients of the Sudan Microfinance Institution (SUMI), a USAID-sponsored organization that provides loans to small businesses. With her first of $100, she went to Koboko, Uganda, to buy smoked fish and diversify her stall. Consecutive loans allowed her to buy a bicycle and send someone to buy fish for her.

SUMI has been an integral part of USAID's effort to provide stability and foster economic recovery in Sudan as its people face the challenge of rebuilding their country after a 22-year civil war. SUMI now has branch locations in Yei, Yambio, Maridi, and Rumbek, and an overall repayment rate of 97.8 percent—an extraordinary accomplishment given the challenging environment.

"I still struggle," says Esther. "But now my children are able to eat three meals a day." ♦

Sudan Microfinance Institution
(as of November 2005)

Loans:	**5,470 worth $1,312,269**
Clients:	**2,723 (842 women, 1,881 men)**
Repayment:	**97.8%**

Lulu Brings Livelihoods

The shea nut tree—known in Arabic as *lulu*—grows in a narrow swath below the Sahara from Senegal to Ethiopia. In Sudan, the tree thrives in Bahr el Ghazal and Equatoria, where it has been used for centuries for oil and for food.

In 2001, the Lulu Livelihoods Program began working to develop the commercial potential of lulu in Southern Sudan, with support from USAID and its partners MEDIC and Norwegian People's Aid. Today, the program supports 36 woman-owned and -operated Lulu Works processing centers that produce shea butter moisturizer and soap for sale—as well as a substantial, sustainable, local source of income for 850 Sudanese women, their families, and their communities.

Although the lulu nut harvest was smaller than normal in Bahr al Ghazal in 2005, revenue from Lulu Works still increased 200 percent that year. In Equatoria, where the 2005 harvest was plentiful, the six processing centers produced 5,530 liters of oil during the last half of 2005. Each of the 100 women involved in Equatoria's production earned an average of $116—a significant sum considering that yearly income in Southern Sudan averages about $90. Another 100 nut collectors, mostly women, each earned about $55 for their work.

Of the 2005 production, Norwegian People's Aid distributed 4,080 liters of the edible lulu oil to displaced people in Kajo Keji camps as part of its food program. In the lucrative Kenyan market, 1,450 liters of cold-pressed lulu body lotion were sold for $26 a liter. Lulu body lotion sales in 2005 in Kenya reached $19,300—a 225 percent increase over sales in 2004—and demand has started to exceed production.

Due to good rains in 2005, the lulu trees are full of nuts across Southern Sudan, and with continued USAID support, the Lulu Livelihoods Program expects a dramatic increase in production in 2006. To capture

The Lulu Livelihoods Program has 36 field facilities in areas where lulu trees thrive. Both collection points and larger processing centers with machines for cracking the hard nuts are located in Yei, Kajo Keji, Mundri East and West, Lopit, Mvolo, Rumbek, Ceubet, Tonj, and Wau.

more of the anticipated abundant harvest, five new nut collection centers are planned that will supply six new processing centers in areas that are rich in lulu trees—and community interest. The expansion will generate income for up to 200 additional nut collectors.

Alongside the increased production, the Lulu Livelihoods Program plans to expand its marketing in East Africa, test a few select international outlets, and begin selling more widely to other markets in Sudan where shea butter is a valued commodity. The program has opened a small store in Wau, where the lulu body butter will be test retailed at $22 a liter. Lulu products will also be sold in Juba town through an urban cooperative sponsored by Norwegian People's Aid. The LLP will also continue to supply relief efforts with up to 10,000 liters of cooking oil and household soap. ♦

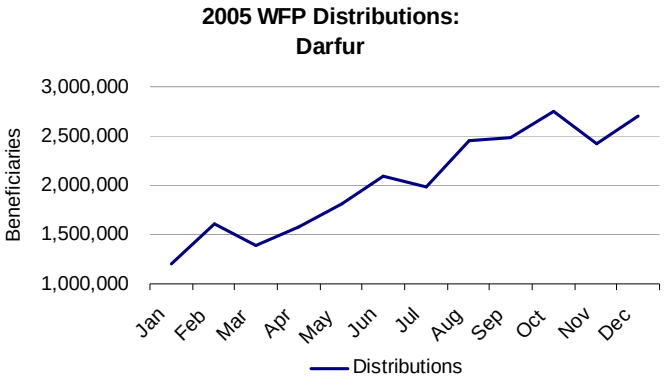
World Food Program Sudan Distributions

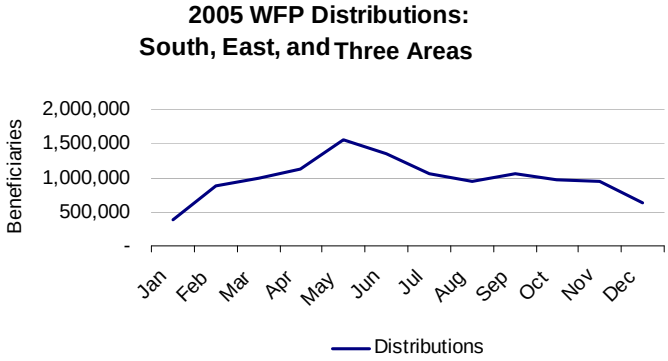
In 2005, USAID was the leading donor of food assistance to Sudan, providing over 80 percent of the commitments to the UN World Food Program (WFP), in addition to supporting ongoing programs with the Red Cross and other nongovernmental organizations. USAID targets food aid commodities to the most vulnerable in Sudan, with particular emphasis on women and children.

WFP Distributions December 2005

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,696,813
South	367,757
East	18,854
Three Areas*	241,233
Central	9,632
Total	3,334,289

* The Three Areas includes Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.





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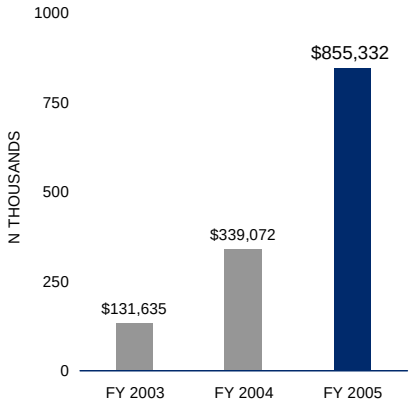
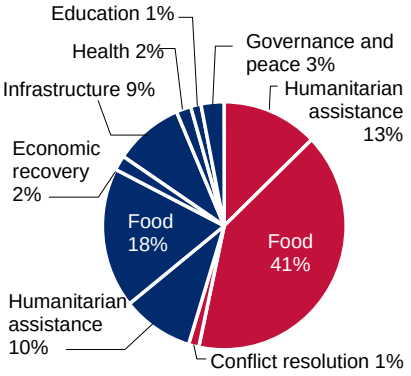
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN





Darfur: 55%
Humanitarian assistance: $108,300
Food: $347,000
Conflict resolution: $11,610

Other Sudan: 45%
Humanitarian assistance: $82,170
Food: $156,000
Economic recovery: $16,200
Infrastructure: $78,675
Health: $18,000
Education: $10,251
Governance and peace: $27,126

MONTHLY UPDATE

March 2006

Bor Dinka Begin the Journey Home

After years of displacement, many southern Sudanese began to return to their homes when the North-South peace agreement was signed in January 2005. Over the past decade, conflicts over cattle and property have resulted in violence and instability between displaced people and their host communities—and are among the main stumbling blocks to returnees' safe passage home.

For over two years, USAID and PACT have worked together to support the Joint Integration Return and Rehabilitation Support Team (JIRRST), a group of civil society leaders and local authorities, to facilitate the return of displaced Bor Dinka from Mundri County to Upper Nile. Amidst increasing violence and cattle looting among the Bor, Moro, and Mundari communities, USAID supported numerous negotiations in Juba in September and October 2005 that involved JIRRST, PACT, southern governors and ministers, and representatives of the Bor, Moro, Mundari, and Bari. Participants agreed that cattle camps would pass through Juba, over the town's bridge, and then onward along the east bank of the Nile back to their homes in Bor County.

Bor Dinka herders and their cattle prepare to cross the Juba bridge on their journey home in January 2006. Photo: PACT

The first, and many subsequent, cattle camps to move into Juba were provided a full police escort that blocked all vehicular traffic and opened the main road to the bridge to the cattle and their keepers. Focusing assistance on vulnerable people, the United Nations, nongovernmental organizations, and the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission constructed a transit camp in Lilogo near Juba to host the pregnant and lactating women, young children, and the elderly and disabled while river transport was arranged to facilitate their direct return to Bor County. This enabled the cattle camps to move more quickly along the east bank and reduced the exposure to risks along the return route, including landmines and attacks from the Lord's Resistance Army or other groups.

Additional efforts have been mobilized to re-integrate the returnees when they reach Bor County, including a number of assessments and planning activities with authorities in Bor. As of mid-March, 30 of 32 cattle camps had crossed the bridge, several cattle camps have safely reached Bor County, and an estimated 3,000 vulnerable returnees are expected to soon begin the barge trip back to their former homes.♦

Mapping Juba

Given the pace of change occurring throughout southern Sudan—especially in the new capital of Juba—municipalities are expected to be significantly reshaped in the coming years. Thus, strategic town planning for Juba and other major cities has become a chief priority for the new southern government.

Juba proper occupies about 29,000 acres and is comprised of three districts: Juba, Kator, and Munuki. Replete with natural resources, the town is considered a crossroads of regional activity due to its location on the Nile and its bridge over the river. The Juba Survey Department estimates current population at 250,000, including displaced people.

Juba Population Trends

1973	**56,737**
1983	**83,787**
1993	**114,980**
2005	**250,000 (includes 87,000 displaced persons)**

Note: Figures were provided to Creative Associates by the Juba Survey Department.

As part of a USAID-funded cooperative agreement to build the capacity of local governments, a team of specialists in urban planning, architecture, land tenure, and public administration conducted a municipal assessment of Juba in September 2005. Implemented by USAID partner Creative Associates International, Inc., in close cooperation with local and national government, the assessment examined planning priorities and options, analyzed current structures and records, and examined the government's capacity to manage land, building, and planning.

The assessment found that while Juba's municipal authorities were understaffed and underequipped, the city has a system in place for planning and management that is evolving from a post-colonial system that did not allow for individual land ownership.

The Government of Southern Sudan has made sustainable town planning for Juba a priority. Photo: Creative Associates

The demand for land in the capital is expected to continue to grow with the anticipated influx of new and returning residents. Connectivity—especially improved roads, bridges, and river transport facilities—is already reshaping regional trade and social networks, but the new residents will require a variety of land resources, social services, and community facilities.

To ensure sustainable, long-term city development, the assessment determined that Juba city planners will require five key tools: comprehensive laws, a framework for town design and development, investment in targeted construction, an implementation plan, and strong administrative capacity.

Creative Associates has also implemented a USAID-funded project to enhance town planning in each of South Sudan's state capitals. The resulting maps are located online: www.southsudanmaps.org.♦

Lulu Literacy Program Empowers Women Entrepreneurs

A USAID program supporting the production of shea nut—*lulu* in Arabic—products has not only helped Southern Sudanese women generate new income, it has also empowered them become more active in their communities.

The Lulu Livelihoods Program reports that women working at in lulu processing centers are becoming recognized and respected leaders in their communities. Many are now asked to help make

To create Lulu Life products, women winnow (left), roast (center), then press (right) shea nuts. Photos: LuluWorks

community decisions and participate in the civil society now developing in the south.

To help the women improve their business skills—and at the request of the women themselves—the program initiated a functional literacy curriculum in 2005. The initial month-long session trained 14 women from processing centers in Mvolo, Wau, Kajo Keji, and Tonj counties, who then returned to their center to set up literacy circles among their women colleagues.

The course showed the women how to use a calculator to figure costs and profits and divide proceeds among the workers, and how to create a map that would help them better understand their community and tap resources. They also learned how a code of conduct could help them resolve issues within their groups. The program may eventually add modules on health, sanitation, and HIV/AIDS awareness to the basic course curriculum.

After the course ended, some of the participants told facilitators that they wanted to make changes to the way their families spend money once they got home. They said they planned to present personal budgets to their husbands and children and talk about how to cut spending and increase income. While still not fully literate, the women are much more literate than before the training—and they now say they have the confidence to approach the literate world with less fear. For many of the women, the workshop provided the critical first step on the path to literacy.

In 2001, the Lulu Livelihoods Program began working to develop the commercial potential of lulu in southern Sudan, with support from USAID and its partners MEDIC and Norwegian People's Aid. Today, the program supports 36 woman-owned and -operated Lulu Works processing centers that produce shea butter moisturizer and soap for sale—as well as a substantial, sustainable, local source of income for 850 Sudanese women, their families, and their communities.♦

Classes Build Vocational Skills In Darfur

On February 14, the first sewing class graduated from a women's skill-building center in Kalma camp, near Nyala in South Darfur. Initially planned for 60 students over three months, the class was expanded to absorb the 85 eager students who showed up on the first day. All 85 graduated, and a fourth month was added to the course to teach the students how to maintain and fix their sewing machines.

Darfur's internally displaced women are especially vulnerable to attacks when they leave their camps to collect firewood or work in the fields. In South Darfur, USAID and DAI are working together to reduce women's exposure to risk by supporting vocational sewing classes that will give women the skills to earn income as seamstresses and allow families to purchase firewood in local markets.

A USAID grant helped Baketa Organization for Women and Children establish the skill-building center in Kalma camp, purchase more than 20 sewing machines, and fund an instructor for the courses. The graduating class continues to work with Baketa to develop small business plans that will put their new skills to use in tailoring, mending, and sewing household items. A second sewing class with 60 more students has already begun.

Sewing courses in Kalma camp show displaced women how to earn income as seamstresses. Photos: USAID

USAID also recently funded a grant for a similar project in Dereig camp for displaced people in South Darfur. The grant will fund a two-month vocational sewing course for 75 women and provide sewing machines, training materials, stipends for the training, and a modest amount to rehabilitate the training center.

Displaced young men also lack opportunities to generate income and provide for their families, placing increased pressure on women and girls to provide by collecting firewood, putting them at risk for attack. One recently funded USAID grant will provide 30 young men in Krinding camp in West Darfur with two months of vocational training that will enable them to produce traditional leather shoes for sale in local markets. The grant will provide trainers' stipends, materials, and enough funds to rehabilitate a training center with local materials.♦

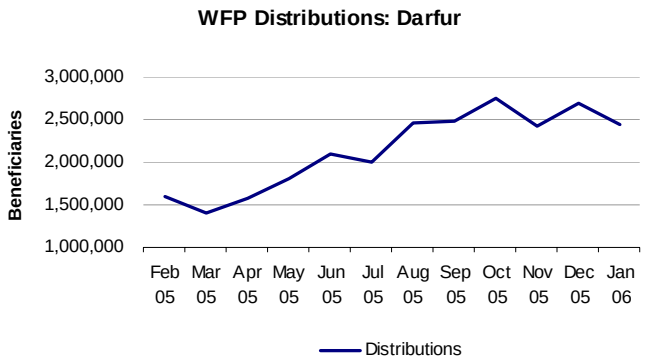
World Food Program Sudan Distributions

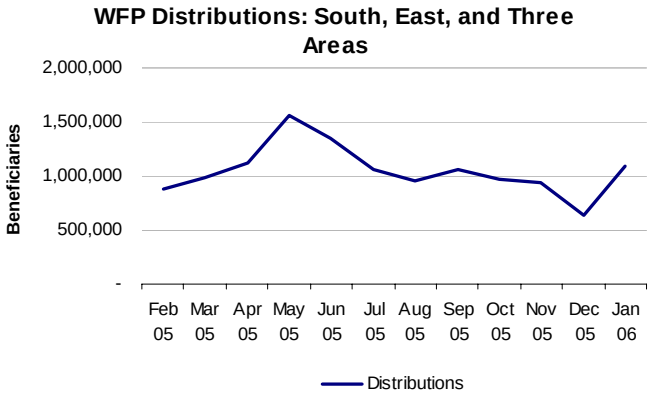
In 2005, USAID was the leading donor of food assistance to Sudan, providing over 80 percent of the commitments to the UN World Food Program (WFP), in addition to supporting ongoing programs with the Red Cross and other nongovernmental organizations. USAID targets food aid commodities to the most vulnerable in Sudan, with particular emphasis on women and children.

WFP Distributions January 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,440,492
South	764,525
East	60,201
Three Areas*	260,476
Central	9,632
Total	3,535,326

* The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.





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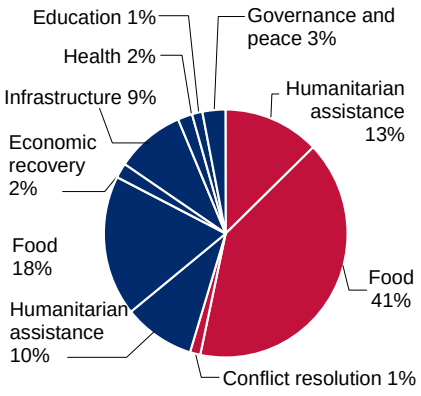
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2005 ESTIMATED



Darfur 55%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$108.3 million
Food*:	$347.0 million
Conflict resolution:	$11.6 million
Darfur Total:	*$466.9 million*

Other Sudan 45%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$82.2 million
Food*:	$156.0 million
Economic recovery:	$16.2 million
Infrastructure:	$78.7 million
Health:	$18.0 million
Education:	$10.2 million
Governance and peace:	$27.1 million
Other Sudan Total:	*$388.4 million*
Countrywide Total:	**$855.3 million**

**Includes PL 480 Title II and Emerson Trust*

MONTHLY UPDATE

April 2006

Fighting Meningitis

USAID is working with the Ministry of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and nongovernmental organizations to stem the spread of a meningitis outbreak in Greater Bahr al Ghazal region by initiating a rapid response and vaccination containment campaign. In Tonj, Twic, Wau, and Warab counties, 201,000 people were vaccinated and 2,800 doses of treatment distributed by the end of March. Health teams are traveling in affected areas to track the disease's spread and make sure vaccinations and treatments get to the most vulnerable.

To reduce the mortality rate, USAID responded to a Ministry request for more effective treatment by immediately facilitating the purchase of drugs and supplies on March 31. The distribution of the first shipment was overseen by the Ministry and USAID partner John Snow Institute and sent from Juba to towns reporting meningitis cases. At the end of March, meningitis had infected over 1,000 people and taken nearly 200 lives—a 20 percent mortality rate. Although the number of cases has risen to nearly 4,000 by April 12, due to coordinated efforts, the mortality rate had dropped to less than 11 percent. ♦

Community members participate in a traditional Murle dance in celebration of successful peace meeting in Gurumuk. Photo: PACT

Integrating the "White Army"

During Sudan's North-South civil war, Upper Nile was deeply affected by internal divisions and an overwhelming number of weapons in civilian hands. Youth, who traditionally herd cattle and protect cattle camps, were loosely organized under the leadership of chiefs or cattle camp leaders, effectively creating an irregular civil defense force that came to be known as *Jiec in Boor*—literally, the White Army.

The Lou Nuer ethnic group in particular has been profoundly divided by long-running conflicts with its neighbors—the Gawaar Nuer to the west, the Dinka Duk to the southwest, the Murle to the south, the Anyuak to the southeast, and the Jikany Nuer to the north. The signing of the North-South Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005 brought new opportunities and challenges to Sudan's ethnic groups. USAID and PACT are engaging them to work toward reconciliation through activities aimed at addressing potential and existing conflict within and between communities.

The first meeting for the divided Lou community took place in Yuai in central Upper Nile state in June 2005 and reinforced the need to integrate the area's armed groups. A November 2005 meeting in Poktap specifically targeted youth leaders of Lou Gawaar and Duk, and, though heated and fraught by the complex legacy of politicized divisions, nonetheless paved a way for initial community agreements on arms control and negotiated access to seasonal grazing.

But by late January, the situation took a turn for the worse when a disarmament initiative led by the Sudan People's Liberated Army resulted in a tense standoff between the SPLA troops and armed civilians in the center of Lou Nuer territory. Community peace actors tried to persuade the armed leaders to step back and engage in dialogue, but clashes around Yuai ensued. Observers watched with dismay as the positive work toward stability in central Upper Nile seemed ready to unravel. They feared that old feuds would re-ignite, and weapon supply lines would be re-established.

In February and March, USAID and PACT sponsored initiatives with the Nuer Peace Council that brought together leaders from the Lou community, politicians, and armed groups. The initiatives culminated in the Yuai peace meeting, where more than 700 participants from the Lou Nuer community gathered, including Government of South Sudan Vice President Riak Machar and Lou leaders from Khartoum, Malakal, Juba, and Bor. The meeting resulted in agreements among Lou leaders on integration, disarmament, and peaceful engagement with their neighbors.

The success of the meeting elicited such strong demand for follow-up that key delegates moved on immediately to Poktap in Duk territory, where Lou migration to Dinka grazing areas had raised tensions and increased community concerns over disarmament. The delegates were able to facilitate agreements with Dinka leaders on steady equitable disarmament and joint security forces at their border.

The Yuai delegates then moved on again, this time to Gumuruk in Pibor County. Their presence brought a broader, regional dimension to a USAID-sponsored meeting there, in which Murle leaders discussed issues with numerous Lou Nuer leaders as well as other neighbors. This meeting has since spawned a plethora of smaller border peace initiatives by local chiefs, authorities, and armed youth.

Despite the fragile environment that persists in the area, participants from all sides of the peace meetings have repeatedly acknowledged that dialogue between communities, and between communities and their leaders, have profoundly influenced the course of events, and in recent months, have averted conflicts that may have resulted in the loss of life and the collapse of delicate new relationships.♦

A Clinic Reopens in Darfur

On March 3, 2006, a health clinic in Deleig, a town located in the Wadi Saleh locality of West Darfur, reopened thanks to USAID assistance. USAID partner International Medical Corps (IMC) rehabilitated the clinic, which now serves about 20,000 people from the Deleig area. At the clinic, IMC conducts nutritional screening and offers the community comprehensive primary health care services, including outpatient consultations, antenatal care, growth monitoring, immunizations, minor wound care, and health education.♦

Photo: USAID

Community members marched, danced, and gave speeches on International Women's Day in Rumbek. Photos: USAID

Celebrating International Women's Day

International Women's Day is an occasion marked around the world by women's groups exercising their solidarity and advocating peace, equity, equality, and human rights. The celebration is also an important opportunity to increase awareness of gender issues facing local communities.

This year on March 8 women in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan) mobilized to celebrate the day with the support of USAID's Localizing Institutional Capacity in Southern Sudan Program, implemented by USAID partners Mercy Corps International and the International Rescue Committee.

In Rumbek, local authorities and local and international organizations united to organize an International Women's Day event in Freedom Square. The celebration started with a parade of women's groups carrying banners with the global International Women's Day theme for 2006—"Women in Decision Making: Meeting Challenges, Creating Changes—as well as the local theme for the day developed through group discussions with the local women—"Women and Men as Partners in Decision Making." Thousands of bystanders watched the singing and dancing performances and listened to speeches made by female leaders, government representatives, and NGO members. The program concluded in the evening with a soccer match organized by the Ministry of Information, Culture, Youth, and Sports.

Similar celebrations occurred at other USAID sites, including Wunrok town in Twic County and Kauda town in Rashad County. In Wunrok town, USAID partners collaborated with Parliamentarian Victoria Adhar Arop to celebrate the day and recognize the achievements of women from Southern Sudan. The celebrations throughout the South and Three Areas helped women recognize their contributions and initiate plans for future advancement.♦

Developing Southern State Constitutions

Developing a constitution is much more than a legal drafting exercise—it is an opportunity for the values, principles, and goals of a country, state, and culture to be discussed, debated, and ultimately translated into the supreme law of the land. On February 10–18, 90 delegates of the constitution drafting committees from 10 Southern states embarked on this process by convening in Rumbek for the USAID-supported Southern Sudan States Constitutional Development Conference.

The conference emerged out of discussions among Southern Minister for Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development Michael Makuei, the Model Constitution Technical Drafting Committee, and the state governors. They agreed to the need to move the interim state constitutions forward as quickly as possible, but recognized that there were few people at the state level who understood the existing framework and who could provide leadership to the drafting process. The conference was therefore convened with two aims: to provide information to participants about the relevant legal framework and general constitutional principles, and to help state teams prepare draft interim state constitutions based on a model developed by a drafting committee.

Members of the model drafting committee, the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development, the Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation formed the team that oversaw the conference organization. With support from USAID, NDI assisted the team in drafting the model constitution, planning and organizing the event, developing a guide on the legal framework, and providing reference materials, international legal expertise, and presentations on the legal and global context and focus group research on constitutional principles.

In the opening session, each of the states introduced itself by saying 'constitution' in the local language, but few participants knew or understood the purpose of a constitution. When copies of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Interim National Constitution, Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan, and Guide to the Legal Framework were distributed, many remarked that this was their first opportunity to see and read the key documents. By the third day, when the participants divided into their state working groups, they had taken significant steps toward understanding and internalizing the documents and presentations, and had developed the necessary tools to discuss and review the model constitution.

The conference brought together an impressive team of experts and officials who linked the state work to the broader Southern Sudan context. They shared perspectives on issues within Southern Sudan talked to participants about constitutional development in South Africa, the European Union, Iraq and Kenya.

After nine days, each of the state committees left with a draft interim constitution and a deeper understanding of the legal framework of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and interim constitutions. Perhaps most important, the committees evolved into a team of constitutional leaders who represent the diversity and unity of Southern Sudan—and who show great potential in turning the constitutional promise, for which many of them have struggled, into reality.♦

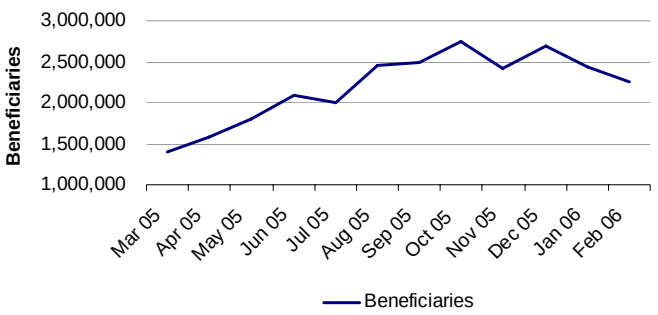
World Food Program Sudan Distributions

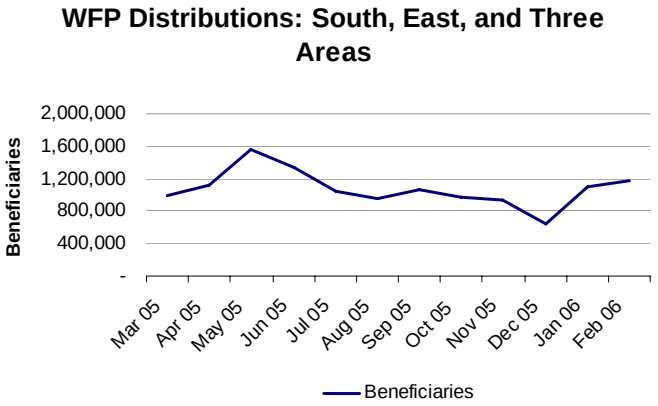
In 2005, USAID was the leading donor of food assistance to Sudan, providing over 80 percent of the commitments to the UN World Food Program (WFP), in addition to supporting ongoing programs with the Red Cross and other nongovernmental organizations. USAID targets food aid commodities to the most vulnerable in Sudan, with particular emphasis on women and children.

WFP Distributions February 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,257,552
South	764,525
East	67,301
Three Areas*	293,951
Central	46,257
Total	3,429,586

* The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

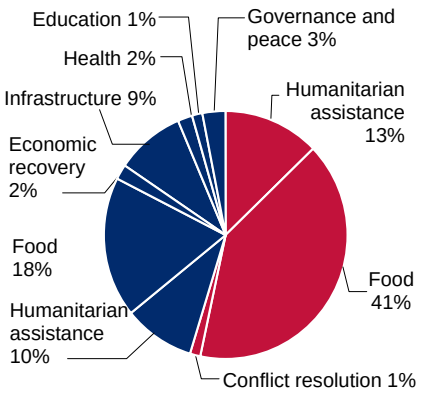




USAID | SUDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2005 ESTIMATED



Darfur 55%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$108.3 million
Food*:	$347.0 million
Conflict resolution:	$11.6 million
Darfur Total:	*$466.9 million*

Other Sudan 45%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$82.2 million
Food*:	$156.0 million
Economic recovery:	$16.2 million
Infrastructure:	$78.7 million
Health:	$18.0 million
Education:	$10.2 million
Governance and peace:	$27.1 million
Other Sudan Total:	*$388.4 million*
Countrywide Total:	**$855.3 million**

**Includes PL 480 Title II and Emerson Trust*

MONTHLY UPDATE

May 2006

Parties Sign Darfur Peace Agreement

On May 5, 2006, the Government of National Unity and the largest faction of the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement signed a historic peace agreement to bring an end to conflict in the Darfur region. The Darfur Peace Agreement addresses the region's long-standing marginalization and charts a path for lasting peace with timelines for disarmament, demobilization, integration, power sharing, and wealth sharing. President Bush praised the agreement, saying, "We're still far away from our ultimate goal, which is the return of millions of displaced people to their homes so they can have a life without fear. But we can now see a way forward." USAID has been a leader in the massive international assistance program to Darfur, providing extensive humanitarian and food aid, working to ensure humanitarian access in unstable areas, and preparing for eventual reconstruction.♦

USAID Responds to Food Ration Cuts

Due to a lack of funding, the UN World Food Program has been forced to cut its rations for Sudan in half beginning this month. Meant to extend existing food stocks through the end of the rainy season in August) and avoid a complete break in the supply, even so, the cuts may still increase malnutrition and reverse humanitarian gains made in the last year.

Women gather at a food distribution center in Mukjar camp, West Darfur. Photo: USAID

To help WFP be able to restore full rations this summer and avoid a humanitarian crisis, President Bush directed USAID to take immediate action, in addition to its already-committed contributions. USAID is now shipping 2,850 metric tons of non-cereal commodities (valued at $5.1 million) from prepositioning facilities in Dubai and Lake Charles, Louisiana, to Sudan; redirecting five ships carrying 4,750 metric tons of non-cereal commodities ($6.7 million) previously en route to Dubai directly to Port Sudan; and undertaking an emergency purchase of 40,000 metric tons ($36.2 million) of cereal commodities from the United States for rapid, direct shipment to Sudan. President Bush has also called on the U.S. Congress to approve $225 million in food aid requested in the supplemental appropriations bill.

For 2006, the WFP issued an appeal for 730,000 metric tons of food ($740 million) to feed up to 6.1 million needy people in Sudan, 2.8 million of whom live in Darfur. By the end of April, WFP had received less than a third of its total appeal for Sudan—85 percent of which came from the United States. USAID has contributed 219,160 metric tons ($215 million) of food to the WFP's Sudan operation in the first half of fiscal year 2006.

The 2 million people displaced by the violence in Darfur have lost their assets and the land where they grew their food. In North Darfur, 83 percent of displaced people had relied on agriculture for food and income before being driven from their homes. Now only 4 percent can earn income from farming, making them dependent on the Sudanese government and the international community for food.

Individuals can donate directly to the World Food Program through its Web site, www.wfp.org. See page 4 for March 2006 food distribution numbers.♦

Building a Unified Education System for the South

While Southern Sudan has never had a comprehensive education system, what structure did exist was decimated by the 22-year civil war with the North. A legacy of inequality and exclusion were deep-rooted drivers of the protracted conflict—and ingrained features of the schools.

Establishing a strong foundation of educational facilities, materials, and staff is key to overcoming these obstacles and ensuring equitable access to quality schooling. Toward this end, USAID is working with CARE to rehabilitate schools, establish non-formal education programs, train teachers, and mobilize communities. USAID is also working to strengthen the capacity of Southern Sudan's Ministry of Education to sustainably develop and manage education programs.

Over the last four years, USAID has worked with several dedicated Sudanese people to achieve a major milestone—the first-ever unified Southern Sudan curriculum. In the past, the South's rudimentary schools had been run by either missionaries or the central government, and education never reached the majority of people. This curriculum enables schools to teach standard themes using standard materials that are equitable and accessible.

To support the curriculum, USAID helped develop 81 manuals, teacher aids, and textbooks for Southern Sudan's educators. In addition, USAID has built or rehabilitated more than 70 primary schools and three secondary schools throughout Southern Sudan's 10 states, as well as Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan. Eighty-five more schools will be completed in the coming months, and more than 50,000 students are already enrolled in USAID-funded primary and secondary schools.

Out-of-school youth and adult learners benefit from non-formal education programs, such as accelerated learning, intensive English instruction, and radio-based courses. More than 15,000 people are enrolled in these programs, including 9,336 in accelerated learning, half of whom are women. USAID also funded the printing of 96,000 textbooks for the accelerated learning program, which condenses eight years of primary school into a four-year curriculum. To get as many children as possible into learning environments

Limbe primary school in Langa County, Central Equatoria, was—like many schools in Southern Sudan—devastated by the civil war. USAID supported its rehabilitation, as well as that of 157 other schools. Photos: USAID

this year, USAID ramped up its radio-based learning program, in which a tutor broadcasts courses from the primary school curriculum.

Teachers in the South can now enroll in three institutes rehabilitated by USAID that provide both initial teacher training and professional development throughout their careers. And because parents and community members had never previously been involved in schools, USAID has trained more than 7,700 people to participate in local education administration.♦

Fuel-Efficient Stoves Reduce Risk in Darfur Camps

Nearly 2 million people, driven from their homes by violence, now live in densely populated clusters of camps spread throughout Darfur as they wait for peace to take hold. One of their greatest and most consistent needs is firewood to cook their food, sell for income, treat water for consumption, and heat their homes. But most of Darfur is arid, and the unsustainable harvesting of wood has desolated much of the environment around the camps.

In addition, residents who have to leave the relative safety of the camps to gather wood—often the job of women and girls—must deal with both personal hardship and real risk of violent attack. In North Darfur, CHF International estimates that more than 90 percent of families have at least one female family member who spends at least eight hours a day, five days a week, collecting firewood.

USAID, working with CHF, Relief International, and other organizations, are promoting production and use of fuel-efficient stoves in Darfur's camps to reduce the need for firewood and the risk involved in gathering it.

Compared to traditional stoves, most fuel-efficient stoves are able to cook the same amount of food in half the time, consuming less than half the fuel. Some stove designs require as much as 80 percent less fuel than traditional stoves. Because of this, the stoves also produce significantly less smoke and ash, dramatically reducing health threats to families. And unlike solar stoves, fuel-efficient stoves are not affected by the dust and sandstorms of the Sahara, can withstand the vigorous cooking methods used in the region, and can produce staple foods similar to what families cooked before they were displaced.

Fuel-efficient stoves are manufactured in camps for less than $3 using locally available materials, including clay, sorghum stems, dung, aluminum, and water. With support from USAID, CHF, Relief International, and other local partners train Darfurian women how to build and use fuel-efficient stoves and pass their skills along to other women in the camps.

However, while the stoves do decrease the amount of wood households require, in some cases the amount of time women spend collecting it has not decreased, as some now collect excess wood they can sell for additional income. In response, USAID encourages organized "firewood patrols" that are accompanied by escorts, and is working with the African Union and local communities to further enhance protection.♦

Women make fuel-efficient stoves in Mukjar camp in West Darfur. Photo: USAID

Midwives Improve Health in Darfur

Between January and March 2006, USAID supported the training of nearly 100 midwives in camps between Nyala and Gereida in South Darfur. Communities there have welcomed the initiative, and the program's head midwives are highly respected throughout the region. With this training, the midwives can provide improved pre-natal counseling and health services both in camps for displaced people and in their host communities. In addition, nearly 1,000 other area residents, including 639 women and girls, attended USAID-supported general health education classes that covered a range of topics, including hygiene, safe water and sanitation practices, nutrition, diarrhea, sexual and gender-based violence, and HIV/AIDS.

USAID's midwife training program seeks to ensure that local health workers will continue to serve their

communities over the long term. The midwives receive a year of training during which they learn principles of maternal and child health, including proper nutrition and breastfeeding. They also learn to set up efficient delivery rooms, correctly use midwifery equipment, and recognize and refer rape victims for emergency medical, legal, and psycho-social services. After the program, continued supervisory visits, on-the-job training, and workshops reinforce the training and promote a higher standard of health care.

Sumaia enrolled in the program to earn income to support her family and graduated in 2005.

Girls in El Tomat II camp, South Darfur, attend health classes. Photo: USAID

Now, she can work as a midwife in her own village rather than migrating to a city in search of employment. As a program graduate, Sumaia recognizes the lack of reproductive health services in South Darfur and says she is proud to contribute to improving her community's health.

Since the start of the Darfur conflict in 2003, USAID has been a leader in the massive international assistance program, providing extensive humanitarian and food aid throughout the region. USAID provides assistance to all of the approximately 200 camps in Darfur, which shelter more than 1.8 million people who have been driven from their homes.♦

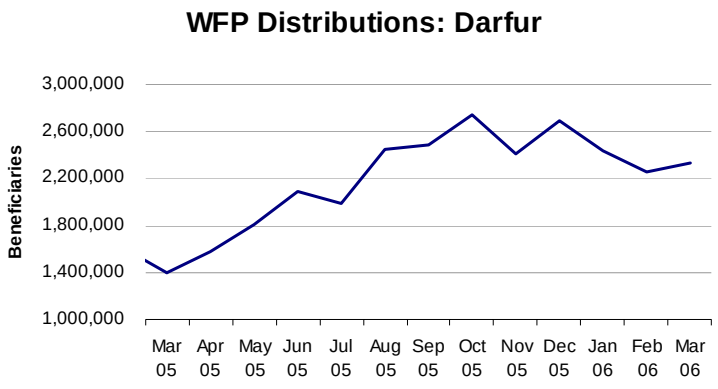
World Food Program Sudan Distributions

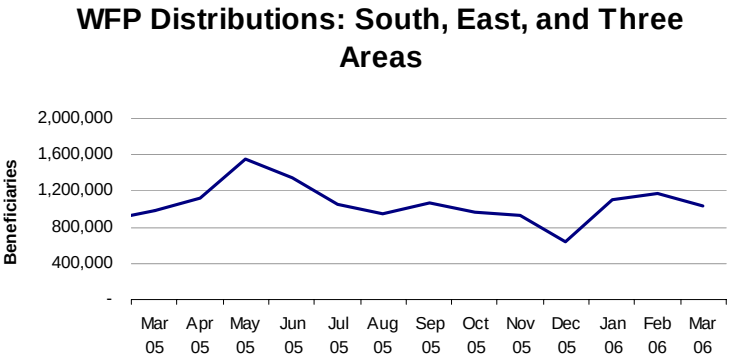
During the first half of fiscal year 2006, USAID contributed 219,160 metric tons of emergency food assistance worth $215 million for Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Chad. During fiscal year 2005, USAID emergency food assistance to Sudan and eastern Chad amounted to 572,450 metric tons worth nearly $502.9 million.

WFP Distributions March 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,329,898
South	709,274
East	49,812
Three Areas*	233,521
Central	37,310
Total	3,359,815

* The Three Areas includes Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.





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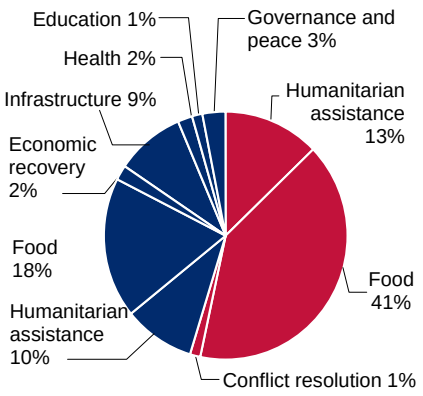
USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2005 ESTIMATED



Darfur 55%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$108.3 million
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Countrywide Total:	**$855.3 million**

**Includes PL 480 Title II and Emerson Trust*

MONTHLY UPDATE

June 2006

Disseminating the CPA

"Everyone should read, understand, and own these protocols."
—Dr. John Garang de Mabior

In the 18 months since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended Sudan's two-decade civil war, few Sudanese had been able to learn about it. Many knew that it had the potential to change their lives significantly, but most were unaware of the details, and they heard conflicting reports about what they would gain, or lose, from its agreements on security, wealth sharing, and power sharing.

Residents of Kapoeta, Eastern Equatoria do a traditional peace dance at a CPA dissemination rally. Photo: PACT

That began to change in April and May 2006, when more than 150,000 people in five Southern Sudanese states were able to directly access information on the agreement. USAID is funding a large initiative to disseminate the document in cooperation with the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), Pact, DAI, and other partner agencies to enable South Sudanese constituencies to participate more fully and effectively in implementing the peace.

The dissemination process was rolled out in Upper Nile, Jonglei, Warub, and Eastern and Central Equatoria. Official CPA documents in Arabic and English were distributed to all government officials in the south, then a GOSS–approved CPA summary was developed and published in English. (An Arabic version of the summary will be published in June.) At the end of March, the GOSS led a CPA orientation workshop in Juba for 300 government officials to help them gain a better understanding of the CPA and to empower them to raise community awareness. To complement the dissemination process, the Sudan Radio Service created audio versions of the summary in seven languages—Moro, Arabic, simple Arabic, Toposa, Shilluk, Dinka, and Nuer—and the *Sudan Mirror* published 22,000 CPA summary supplements to be included in its Easter edition.

The initiative kicked off with public rallies in state capitals; attendance ranged from 100-150 in Juba to 400-500 in Ikotos, Eastern Equatoria. Each of the more than 40 county rallies attracted around 250 people, and smaller gatherings were held at the village level. Thirty-five community gatherings were held around Juba that attracted more than 200 people each. The meetings targeted women, church groups, and community leaders, as well as youth, both inside communities and out in the cattle camps.

Audiences were hungry for information, asking scores of questions: Who will enjoy the wealth from the oil revenues, and are Southerners guaranteed to get their share? Why has it taken so long to get accurate information about the CPA? Who is responsible for tax collection? Who receives the revenue from road licenses? Is the CPA a law like the Constitution? Many also asked whether the death of Dr. John Garang was an accident.

The dissemination effort had many challenges—insecurity, disease outbreaks, rains, high fuel prices—but it was well received in all locations by government and citizens alike. One commissioner noted, "This dissemination effort was the only time in my memory and possibly in the history of Southern Sudan that an agreement was disseminated in a way that ensured the marginalized and neglected were reached in an effort at understanding their individual rights."♦

Local Human Rights Monitors Document Abuses

As a result of Sudan's two-decade civil war, 720,000 displaced Sudanese live in camps and squatter settlements in Khartoum and neighboring Bahari and Omdurman where they fall victim to chronic and systematic human rights violations. Many are forced to relocate, their basic needs are unmet, their births go unregistered, and they are subject to torture and violent interactions with soldiers.

USAID is working to ensure violations are properly documented and reported and to change the culture of impunity surrounding violations of human rights. With support from USAID, the International Rescue Committee and UN Development Program worked with the Khartoum Center for Human Rights and Environmental Development to conduct a two-week training program to train 14 human rights monitors. The workshops focused on the contents of the five international human rights accords to which the Sudanese government is a signatory: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Convention on the Rights of the Child; Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Guiding Principles for IDP Human Rights; and African Charter for People and Human Rights. The 14 workshop participants now monitor and document abuses within seven camps around Khartoum.♦

Gender Education Combats Violence Against Women

Despite recent efforts for peace in Darfur, violence against women remains a disturbing factor of the ongoing struggle. USAID is seeking to change this constant of human rights violations through several activities, including gender education.

With support from USAID, El-Madina Center for Gender and Development and the University of Khartoum recently facilitated training sessions that

Volunteers attend human rights training in Khartoum (left) and gender education workshops in Darfur (right). Photos: USAID

focused on mainstreaming gender into conflict resolution and development activities. Ninety men and women leaders from schools, civic bodies and organizations in South and West Darfur attended the six-day sessions in Nyala, Kas, and Zalingei. The workshops aimed to increase understanding of gender discrimination, inequality, and violence, and raise awareness on ways to integrate gender perspectives into conflict resolution. Participants developed an increased capacity to address violence against women, and they now comprise a network of resources focused on gender, conflict, and development in South and West Darfur.♦

Veterinary Services Improve Lives in North Darfur

Zahra Abdulla and Fatima Ibrahim Maho both take great pride in their donkeys. Like other Zaghawan pastoralists in Garawet Basham—a small mountain village about 20 miles southwest of Zam Zam camp near El Fasher, North Darfur—Zahra and Fatima rely on their pack animals to accomplish the many tasks required to sustain their families in Darfur's harsh environment. And they are just two of the many people in North Darfur who now benefit from a USAID-funded program to protect rural livelihoods and improve access to veterinary care.

Livestock is critical to life in Darfur; in many households, animals are considered their most important asset. Horses and camels are used for transportation, and goats and cows give milk and meat that provide a much-needed source of protein. And the ubiquitous donkey is a veritable pillar of the economy, serving as both a draft animal for agricultural cultivation and a pack animal used to haul firewood, crops, water, and fodder over long distances.

However, given Darfur's semi-arid terrain, searing temperatures, and scarcity of water, the region can be an inhospitable place for pack animals. In addition, since Darfur's conflict escalated in 2003, fighting has blocked traditional migration routes and reduced access to animal care services, hampering agricultural production, livelihoods, and mobility. Few veterinarians and animal health workers will venture into the region's more remote areas.

To address some of these issues, USAID partner CHF International established an animal health care training program in North Darfur in November 2004,

Fatima and Zahra are two residents of Garawet Besham, near Zam Zam camp in North Darfur, who benefited from USAID's program to improve veterinary care. Photo: CHF

and just a month later, opened a veterinary care clinic in Zam Zam. CHF consulted sheikhs and other traditional leaders to ensure that services targeted the most vulnerable households.

After being selected by community leaders, volunteer students attend three ten-day training sessions over six months. The first two sessions introduce the students to essential veterinary skills—disease identification, basic pharmacology, wound treatment, vaccine administration—and the last session reinforces and advances knowledge of animal health care delivery. On completion, the volunteers are certified by the North Darfur State Ministry of Animal Resources certifies the volunteers. Some have been offered employment in veterinary care clinics, while others returned to their home communities to set up independent clinics based on what they learned. Many also volunteer their services by participating in semi-annual animal vaccination campaigns.

Since the program began in 2004, 60 animal health workers have been trained, and workers at the Zam Zam animal clinic have provided wound and disease treatment, de-worming, and livestock pox vaccinations for 6,000 donkeys and 8,000 sheep, goats, and chickens. Building on the success of the veterinary

training program and Zam Zam clinic, CHF has expanded the program to clinics in villages near Kebkabiya and in Abu Shouk and Al Salaam camps near El Fasher. CHF has also rehabilitated the ministry's Animal Resources clinic in El Fasher. In partnership with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the program also now provides drugs, vitamin and mineral salt licks, and other essential tools and equipment needed to sustain these clinics.♦

The First Day of Radio School

On March 6, primary students in Maridi, Western Equatoria, attended their first day of "radio school." Thanks to USAID's South Sudan Interactive Radio Instruction program, implemented by the Education Development Centre, children across Southern Sudan can now attend lessons in English, literacy, and math even where there are no school buildings. The program also helps train teachers, prompting them to ask certain questions or, for instance, call on a girl to answer.

Even in the short time it has been broadcasting, the program has been resoundingly well-received. The Diocese of Rumbek requested that it be expanded to 84 of its schools in Bahr al Ghazal. EDC plans to create 349 radio classrooms in 2006 in Bahr al Ghazal, Southern Blue Nile, Nuba Mountains, Upper Nile, and Western and Central Equatoria (see table).

Since South Sudan currently has no unified school calendar, the primary 1 broadcast schedule began its broadcast cycle over again in May for schools that had just began the school year. The primary 2 series will be broadcast starting June 19. The program is broadcast daily on the Sudan Radio Service from 9:30 am to 10:00 am on 15,535 kHz.♦

Growing a Future in South Sudan

Despite the poor road conditions and insecurity that continue to afflict Southern Sudan, this year USAID expanded its successful seed distribution program into unserved areas of Upper Nile and Jonglei states—two of the most insecure parts of the South where few organizations operate.

In 2006 the program will provide 298 tons of seeds—groundnut, cowpea, sesame, and maize—to 15,900 families throughout these vulnerable areas. Each

Radio Classroom Distribution

Region	Site	Classrooms
Western Equatoria	Maridi	37
	Yambio	10
	Mundri	8
	Mvolo	6
Central Equatoria	Kajo Keji	20
	Juba	16
Bahr al Ghazal	Rumbek	10
	Cuibet	4
	Wau	10
	Aweil	10
Southern Blue Nile	Kurmuk	35
Nuba Mountains	Kauda	30
	Kadugli	10
Upper Nile	Pochalla	60
	Panyagor	60
	Waat	3
	Boma	20
		349

Students in Maridi, Western Equatoria, attend their first day of "radio school." Photo: EDC

A woman tends her field in Eastern Nagurban in the Nuba Mountains. Photo: USAID

household also receives a hoe, *panga* (a long knife), and sickle. USAID partner Norwegian People's Aid has already distributed 140 tons of seeds to 5,000 families in Jonglei's Ayod, Wuror, Nyirol, and Duk counties. Local residents report that the program is the most significant agricultural assistance to reach many locations in decades.

Launched in 1994 in Yirol county of Bahr al Ghazal, the seed distribution program expanded along the west bank of the Nile River south to Kajo Keji on the Uganda border. In 2005, Yirol "graduated" from the program due to improved security, and distribution expanded to Duk County in Upper Nile. Now, as a result of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, many Southern Sudanese are finally beginning to return home after years of displacement. Many of them fled their homes due to violence and lack the resources to re-establish the farms that will help them build food security.

In 2006, USAID asked NPA to expand the program into the underserved parts of Upper Nile and Jonglei, where many returnees are expected. The two states have been sites of tension between the Government of South Sudan's armed forces (the Sudan People's Liberation Army, or SPLA) and a large group of well-armed civilians known as the White Army—so-called because they live with their herds of cattle and rub ashes on their bodies to protect themselves from flies and mosquitoes. In January, clashes between the SPLA and White Army in Wuror County resulted in several hundred combatant deaths, and an April confrontation in Duk County forced thousands of the White Army to flee west. On the way they looted UN and NGO centers, absconding with several hundred tons of food aid household kits. They also caught one truck hired by NPA to deliver seeds in Ayod County, holding it for several days and eventually leaving it with punctured tires. Yet in spite of these difficulties, NPA managed to complete its planned seed and tool distributions to isolated rural communities throughout the area, without loss to looters, ahead of the rains, and in areas that were new to NPA.

NPA distributes seeds bought inside Sudan to the extent possible, relying on a network of extensionists supported by farmer training centers. Of the 140 tons of seeds distributed so far in 2006, 15 tons were purchased in Southern Sudan and 125 tons were purchased in East Africa.♦

Civil Society Organizations Build Bridges

Representatives from civil society organizations in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan) have participated in a series of USAID-supported discussions on ways to work strategically and collaboratively toward the development of Southern Sudan. USAID partners Mercy Corps and IRC facilitate the dialogues, which focus on the role of civil society organizations in post-conflict reconstruction, and which are vital to

Community meetings are helping to strengthen Southern Sudan's civil society. Photo: Mercy Corps

reshaping perceptions and forming a common understanding of roles and responsibilities.

For many of the groups, the meetings marked the first time they had come together as active leaders in their community and bonded over shared ideas and perspectives. One government official from Agok stated, "The New Sudan is like a chair with four legs—the judiciary, the parliament, the army and civil society."

The dialogues also provide a forum for vulnerable groups that are traditionally marginalized to engage in community discussions. A woman from Leer Town said that it was the first time that women had been allowed to engage freely in such a forum; in the past, they could sit and listen to discussions on government and politics, but never engage, offer opinion, or interact freely. For educated returnees who were previously living in Khartoum, the discussions provide an unique opportunity for intellectual stimulation and involvement in current events. Discussions focus on their host community's social concerns—and aim to spark the first steps of integration and community ownership for those returning to Southern Sudan.♦

GOSS Develops Action Plan

Inspired by Liberia's 150-Day Action Plan, USAID is working with the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) to develop a 200-Day Government Action Plan for Southern Sudan in an effort to improve performance, transparency, and accountability. There are, as always, obstacles. Southern Sudan's long-awaited 2006 budget, created to help improve financial management, did not elaborate on policies to reconstruct and develop Southern Sudan. Events, however, have taken a positive turn. Southern Sudan's President Salva Kiir Mayardit began notifying the Council of Ministers on the action plan and requested a timetable for the project. Senior government officials are also planning a workshop to mobilize the Cabinet for this ground-breaking activity. The 200-Day Action Plan will be inaugurated in June.♦

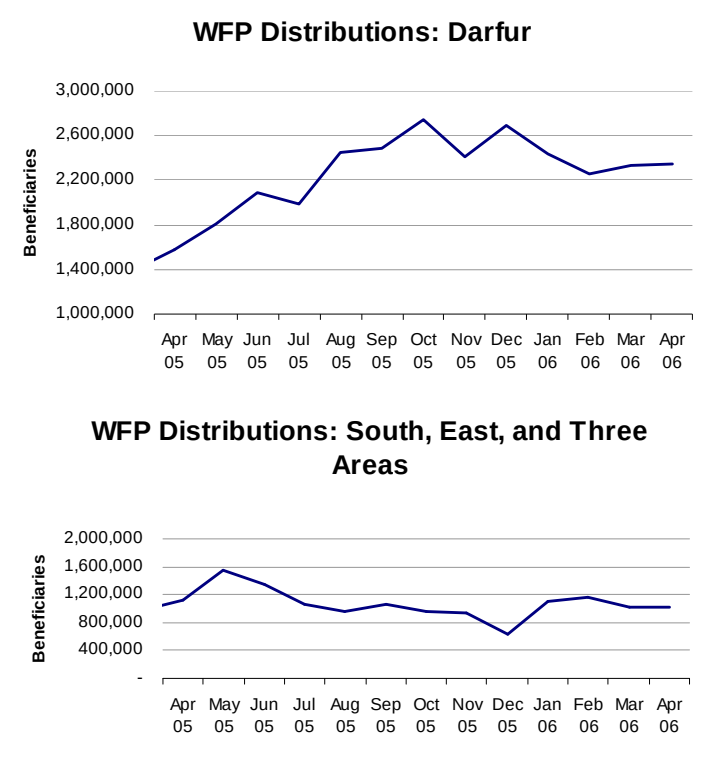
World Food Program Sudan Distributions

Through mid-June 2006, USAID contributed 395,020 metric tons of emergency food assistance worth $382 million for Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Chad. During fiscal year 2005, USAID emergency food assistance to Sudan and eastern Chad amounted to 572,450 metric tons worth nearly $502.9 million.

WFP Distributions April 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,347,654
South	715,277
East	112,695
Three Areas*	145,915
Central	37,065
Total	3,358,606

* The Three Areas includes Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.



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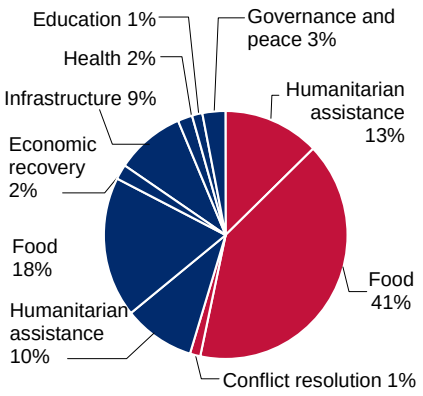
USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2005 ESTIMATED



Darfur 55%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$108.3 million
Food*:	$347.0 million
Conflict resolution:	$11.6 million
Darfur Total:	*$466.9 million*

Other Sudan 45%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$82.2 million
Food*:	$156.0 million
Economic recovery:	$16.2 million
Infrastructure:	$78.7 million
Health:	$18.0 million
Education:	$10.2 million
Governance and peace:	$27.1 million
Other Sudan Total:	*$388.4 million*
Countrywide Total:	**$855.3 million**

**Includes PL 480 Title II and Emerson Trust*

MONTHLY UPDATE

July 2006

A Million Children Vaccinated

On June 16 the Mass Measles Campaign celebrated the vaccination of its one millionth child in Southern Sudan at an event in Bentiu, Unity state. The USAID-supported campaign has improved immunization coverage markedly in Southern Sudan and involves the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. World Health Organization, the Federal Ministry of Health, the Government of Southern Sudan, and dozens of local and international nongovernmental organizations. USAID has been a sponsor of the campaign since 2004, providing more than $1 million in funding.

The Mass Measles Campaign vaccinates its one-millionth child on June 16 in Bentiu. Photo: USAID

The one-millionth child milestone is a significant marker due to the lack of health facilities with vaccine storage capacity and the shortage of skilled health care workers in Southern Sudan. The campaign also had to overcome difficulties reaching underserved, rural populations and managing access to shifting populations as returns continue throughout the South. Despite these obstacles, the Mass Measles Campaign reached children in 13 counties in Western Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Jonglei, and Lakes states. The June 16 Bentiu event also inaugurated the program's extension into Unity state, where UNICEF is aiming to immunize 46,500 children against measles by the end of June.

Measles remains one of the principal killers of children in Southern Sudan; less than a fifth of children under 5 years old are immunized against it. The Mass Measles Campaign aims to eventually reach at least 95 percent of children aged six months to 15 years—a total of 4.5 million children throughout the ten states of Southern Sudan.

USAID's support for the Mass Measles Campaign is part of a larger effort to bolster primary health care in Southern Sudan. USAID has provided more than $46 million over the past two years to support health facilities, train health care workers, and provide essential drugs and medical supplies.♦

Relief Items Reach Darfur

On May 5 Sudan's government and the main faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army signed an agreement to bring an end to devastating conflict in Darfur. Other parties have since signed declarations of commitment to the agreement, and these steps toward peace have finally brought some hope to Darfur's people. However, violence and instability persist, and the need for humanitarian assistance is not expected to wane in the near future.

With substantial funding and support from USAID, the United Nations developed a common system of procuring and distributing relief goods throughout Sudan. Duties are divided among the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the organization CARE. Under this system, UNICEF procures items and transports them to the CARE warehouse in El Obeid, Northern Kordofan. UNJLC ensures effective supply chain management, and with assistance from OCHA, coordinates with partners and communities in the field. CARE is responsible for storing the goods and transporting them to distribution sites, as well as monitoring and evaluating the distributions.

This pipeline of emergency relief items is currently reaching 1.68 million people in Darfur. Families receive household items and shelter supplies that help to mitigate the hardships of displacement. Blankets, plastic sheeting and sleeping mats, water containers, clothes, and hygiene products are just some of the basic items that help restore dignity to people facing uncertainty and insecurity. In addition, the system often provides materials to community projects, including women's centers, child-friendly spaces, and health and maternity clinics.

With support from USAID, CARE also operates a common transport service. In 2005 alone, this service facilitated the free transportation of cargo for 57 organizations and agencies, allowing the humanitarian community working in Darfur to benefit from economies of scale and avoid inflating the local transportation sector. A recent evaluation conducted by OCHA showed that using the combined transportation service provided a cost savings of 40 percent.

USAID has provided more than $785 million in humanitarian assistance to Darfur and eastern Chad since 2005.♦

Emerging Space for Civil Society

In Sudan's post-war era, civil society organizations are working to define its roles and responsibilities. They have the potential to play a key role in supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), but they must also balance collaboration with their former compatriots with the new concept of separation of state and civil society. Peace in Sudan remains fragile, and a strong civil society sector that provides needed services to its constituencies, as well as to marginalized and long-silenced people, is a vital step in the post-war transition.

In June, USAID completed an assessment that evaluated how civil society has manifested itself in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue

USAID and its partners distribute emergency relief supplies to 1.68 million people throughout Darfur. Photos: UNJLC

Nile, and Southern Kordofan) since the signing of CPA in January 2005. The first of its kind and scope, the assessment focused on capacity-building needs identified by local organizations. The findings will help refine USAID's program support to organizational development and technical training, which works through small grants for USAID-supported partners across 17 counties in the South and Three Areas.

One of the key themes that emerged from the process was the lack of resources in communities and the low credibility of civil society organizations. To address these issues, USAID will implement a community-based training project to help organizations improve their skills in project planning and implementation, financial management, and organizational management. It will also provide organizations the opportunity to build credibility within the community.

The assessment also found that while women have started to become involved in civil society leadership, there is yet no guarantee that they have begun to play a widespread, active role. Thus USAID efforts will also strongly encourage women's participation, and seek to provide them with the skills necessary to begin to take more active management and decision-making roles.♦

Young Women Gain New Educational Opportunities

Women's educational opportunities are often among the first resources to disappear when war consumes a region. Sudan was no different. While the South never had never had a comprehensive educational system, what structure did exist was decimated by the two-decade civil war. Girls were traditionally discouraged from attending schools, but even those parents who wanted to educate their daughters were prevented from doing so by the lack of schools.

School matrons provide "comfort kits" to Gbutala's female students. Photo: USAID

The Gbutala Secondary School in Maridi was rehabilitated with support from USAID. Photo: CARE

When USAID established its basic education program in 2004, it included the Gender Equity Support Program (GESP) to specifically target girls and young women at risk of not pursuing an education. The initiative seeks to increase female enrolment in secondary schools, improve retention and completion rates of female students in secondary schools, and increase the number of female students who go on to work in education.

Toward this end, USAID has provided 2,679 scholarships for girls and women in 34 institutions, and the effort has begun to bear fruit. A sampling of participating institutions shows a 14 percent increase in girls' enrolment, a decrease in girls' dropout rate from 11 percent to 4 percent, and increased attendance across the board. USAID has also distributed 3,250 "comfort kits," which include information on HIV/AIDS and feminine hygiene supplies that ensure girls can attend school during menstruation.

The Gbutala Secondary School is one of the institutions supported by USAID. One of the oldest schools in southern Sudan, Gbutala is located in Maridi County in Western Equatoria. It is not all that different from any other Southern Sudanese school—except, perhaps, for the remarkable dedication of its staff. Two decades of war had an enormous impact on the school, but the community and teachers never allowed it to be closed, and it became one of the first schools USAID rehabilitated through its basic education program.

In addition to physical improvements, USAID also worked to raise community awareness of the importance of girls' education. USAID funds are supporting the construction of separate latrines at Gbutala—a sign of this new, heightened community concern for young women's needs. The counsel and support provided by school matrons means girls are less apt to marry early or have unprotected sex. Enrolment has jumped 48 percent over the last two years, and Gbutala's young women are now more likely to finish their education.

Head teacher Simon Ojwe is proud of the progress made in Gbutala. "Were it not for the fees from GESP this could not have happened," he said. As a result of USAID support, "we have been able to recruit a volunteer matron to counsel the girls against early pregnancy, premature marriages, and constantly encourage the girls in their pursuit of education. As a result our drop out rate has fallen from about 20 girls per year to only five to seven.…We were also able to purchase exercise books, sporting equipment and chairs for the students."

Gbutala student Tabitha Achuk of Gbutala said the program "is a godsend for girls in Southern Sudan. Without the fees very few of us would be in school and even if we were in school we would be more absent than present. Today that is not the case.... Because of GESP we are all in schools and alongside the other girls we want to succeed in school, in life to serve our country's rebuilding efforts."♦

The Juba Teaching Hospital is one of the institutions hosting volunteers from USAID's diaspora program. Photo: USAID

Diaspora Members Volunteer to Improve Health and Education

John Zachariah Abdullah left his hometown Juba for London 25 years ago and became a successful microbiologist.

Fred Wani, also from Juba, fled to Zimbabwe, where he trained as an internist.

Elias Nyamlell Wakoson went to the United States, and is a professor of literature and language in Texas.

This summer, all three returned to Sudan as volunteers, and are working to pass on their knowledge to their professional counterparts through the pilot phase of USAID's Diaspora Skills Transfer program.

Implemented by USAID partner AED, the diaspora program enables skilled, educated Sudanese living outside Sudan to return to assist the development of human and institutional capacity in health and education. Volunteers serve for 1 to 12 months in sites throughout Southern Sudan in an effort to build local capacity to sustain long-term reconstruction and service delivery.

Dr. Wani is working at Juba Teaching Hospital and sees an average of 80 patients every morning, most suffering from malaria, typhoid, cirrhosis, and hepatitis. He says that one of his greatest challenges has been overcoming the legacy of war and marginalized that has plagued the South for so long. Much of the hospital staff cannot recognize the symptoms of HIV/AIDS or tropical illnesses, he says, and none of the nurses have higher than a twelfth-grade education. "This place has been isolated from the rest of the world for a long time."

Dr. Abdullah, who is also working at Juba Teaching Hospital, says the facilities are rudimentary. As an example, Dr. Abdullah says that lab workers must count white blood cells visually, rather than using a simple test that's been in use in the rest of the world for over 20 years.

The process has been a learning experience both for him, and for the hospital staff. "Someone with lab skills can help very much here," he said, but "I have to learn from them, then they have to learn from me."

Professor Wakoson is spending his three-month commitment working with the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology on transferring the University of Juba from Khartoum back to its original

home in Southern Sudan. He says the major challenges to the move are the state of the facilities—which have been disused as a school for years—and the lack of teachers.

USAID is working to renovate the university library and one of its large lecture halls by the end of July, but there will still be too few classrooms and dormitories to serve all the students. In addition, much of the staff now working at the university in Khartoum say they will not make the move to Juba. Professor Wakoson says he is working with the Ministry to try to develop incentives to bring back some of the university's former teachers and administrators—many of whom now live in the United States.

Dr. Fred Wani, Professor Elias Nyamlell Wakoson, and Dr. John Zachariah Abdullah are volunteering in Juba through USAID's diaspora program. Photo: USAID

Dr. Abdullah, Dr. Wani, and Professor Wakoson were among the first volunteers posted through the diaspora program, and said that as more volunteers that come, greater and more permanent reforms will take place. "The changes will be there," said Dr. Abdullah, "but it will take a long time."

Although their experience has been challenging, all three said they would return for another volunteer tour if they could. "I think I've changed the lives of a few people in this place," said Dr. Wani. "There is a lot here that can be done."

To learn more about USAID's Diaspora Skills Transfer Program, or to apply as a volunteer, visit http://cit.aed.org/forecast_sudan.htm. ♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

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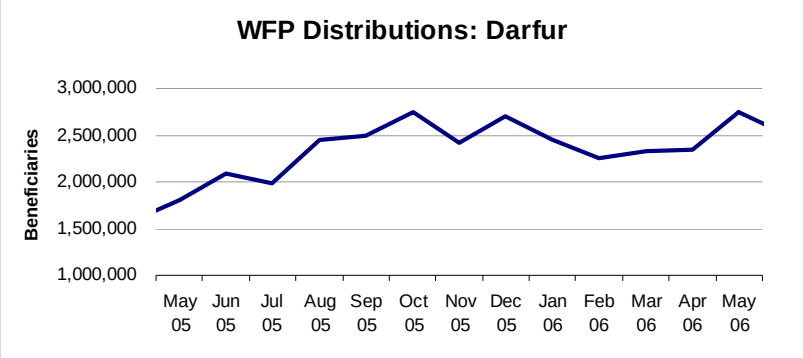
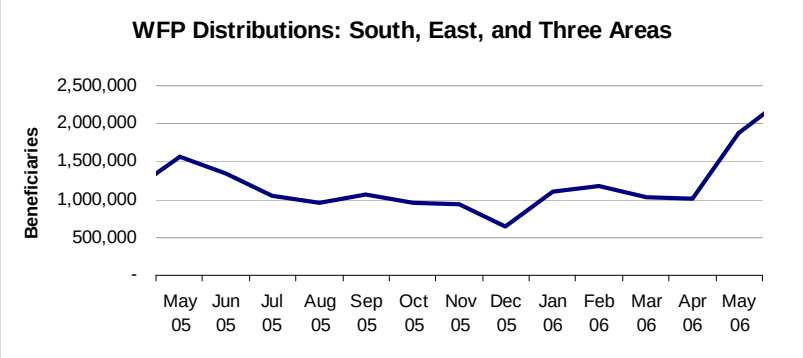
WFP Distributions May 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,748,981
South	1,065,372
East	204,790
Three Areas*	565,627
Central	40,426
Total	4,625,196

* The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.





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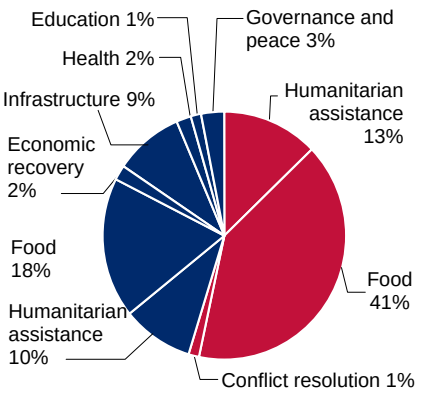

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MONTHLY UPDATE

August 2006

Providing Relief to the Newly Displaced

Despite the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement in May, security in North Darfur significantly deteriorated in July, displacing an additional 20,000–25,000 people, according to USAID estimates. To mitigate the effects of this crisis, USAID and its partners are working to meet the immediate needs of newly displaced people through coordination, creative programming, and well-organized relief supply distribution.

In Al Salaam camp, located on the outskirts of El Fasher, North Darfur, USAID partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) has received and registered 10,000 new internally displaced people, many of whom had fled recent violence around Korma and Kafod. IRC is providing the newly displaced with emergency relief supplies, including soap, water containers, plastic sheeting, clothing, and hygiene supplies. Since many of the new arrivals to Al Salaam also require medical assistance, IRC operates a 24-hour-a-day health clinic, where patients can be screened for malnutrition and receive vaccinations, as well as care for any current conditions.

USAID-supported health clinics managed by Relief International (RI) in North Darfur are also rapidly responding to the increase in the number of newly displaced people. An RI-managed health clinic in Zam Zam camp is being used to screen new arrivals and provide daily health care services to the newly displaced and current residents. RI plans to extend services in Zam Zam camp to accommodate the growing numbers.

New arrivals at Al Salaam camp make temporary shelters out of household goods they were able to carry with them. Photo: USAID

An estimated 20,000–25,000 Darfurians were displaced in July, including these new arrivals to Al Salaam camp. Photos: USAID

According to USAID field officers who visited the new arrival sites, some newly displaced people have been able to bring with them household goods, including livestock—donkeys, sheep, and goats. To protect the livelihoods of those who arrive with animals, USAID partner CHF is immunizing livestock and monitoring animal health through animal husbandry programs in Abu Shouk, Al Salaam, and Zam Zam camps.

In the Nyala area of South Darfur, CHF is also distributing emergency relief supplies, including plastic sheeting, water containers, and sleeping mats, to new arrivals in Dereig, Kalma, and Otash camps. In Otash camp, CHF distributed relief commodities to approximately 1,700 households during the last week of July, and to nearly 800 households in mid-July.♦

Focus Groups Bridge Information Gaps

While government institutions are being established and government officials appointed in Southern Sudan, a gap between ordinary citizens and decision-makers remains. On one hand, decision-makers lack access to citizen viewpoints that they can incorporate into policy making and legislative development. On the other, most citizens lack access to even basic information on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the constitutions, the accomplishments of peace, and other political developments.

During June, USAID partner National Democratic Institute (NDI) completed its fourth round of focus group research to help bridge this information gap. NDI staff and moderators who were trained in the Three Areas, Nairobi, and Juba successfully conducted 40 groups—13 in Abyei, 12 in Blue Nile, and 15 in Southern Kordofan. Given the rainy season and the lack of infrastructure and transportation, this required a significant and sustained effort.

The research sought to better understand the views of citizens in the Three Areas. While they had been included in the previous research conducted across the south, an in-depth look at this region allowed NDI to probe certain issues specific to the Areas, such as

Abyei residents participate in a focus group. Photo: NDI

land ownership, popular consultation, expectations for the referendum, and attitudes toward the new Government of National Unity and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

The results of the research, now being compiled, will provide a snapshot of the views of men, women, chiefs, and youth in the Three Areas—essential information as the 2009 elections draw closer and the SPLM begins to develop strategies to mobilize its supporters. The results will also provide insight for USAID, its partners, and their programs: Where are the sources of potential conflict? What are citizens'

priorities? What do citizens understand from their leaders? What do citizens expect from government?

NDI recently released the results from its third round of focus group research. Conducted in December 2005, the survey gauged public reaction to the death of John Garang and the progress of the CPA.♦

Teachers in Demand

John Aguek faces an enormous challenge. As the director of teacher training for Southern Sudan, he is tasked with managing the recruitment and training of teachers for one of the poorest, most under-educated regions in the world.

Two decades of civil war took their toll on Sudan's education system and the schooling of children. Today, a mere one in six Southern Sudanese can read. Primary school is attended by only 22 percent of school-aged children. In 2004, only 2.3 percent of students completed primary school.

The statistics are even worse among females. Only 11 percent of girls have access to primary school and just 1 percent of girls complete primary school.

The Southern Sudanese Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology now faces the challenge of developing strategies that combat these remarkably low literacy and primary school completion rates. The Ministry has set a goal of increasing primary school enrollment to 52 percent by 2011, which translates to 1.5 million Southern Sudanese learners attending school.

John Aguek is the director of teacher training for Southern Sudan. Photo: USAID

Equipped with meager resources yet tireless commitment, John Aguek has set out to improve the current teaching force and enlist new teachers to meet the growing need. His challenge is threefold: address the teacher shortage (with only 8,000 teachers currently in the teaching force, 7,000 new teachers must be recruited each year for the next five years); train the teachers (currently only one in five have received training); and increase the number of qualified female teachers (only 6 percent of qualified teachers are women).

"We had an education system that lacked innovation, quality, and relevance for the people of Southern Sudan," Aguek said. "We need good teachers, but first we have to recruit them, and that's a big challenge."

Over the next five years, 35,000 new teachers are expected join the teaching force. Many of these new professionals will receive pre-service training at three existing USAID-supported teacher training institutes in Southern Sudan. Two additional institutes will open in 2007, and five more are being planned.

USAID and its partners Academy for Educational

Workers unload office supplies for a legal aid center in Dilling, Southern Kordofan. Photo: USAID

Strengthening the Rule of Law

After 22 years of civil war and military rule, many Sudanese communities have been forced to accept the might of weapons over the rights of the people. A legitimate rule of law struggles to exist, and Sudan still lacks an organized and accessible judiciary system.

To promote the practical implementation of the rights enshrined by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, USAID is providing in-kind grants to local organizations to provide furniture and office supplies to legal aid centers in three cities in Kassala and Southern Kordofan—Kassala, Dilling, and Lagawa. The materials will enhance access to fair judicial support by offering three primary services: basic human rights training, legal and paralegal aid to vulnerable populations, and legal information and resources. Along with this streamlined material support, the centers will provide space for mediation and peaceful resolution of disputes.♦

Children learn to read at Rejaf Primary School in Juba, Southern Sudan. Photo: AED

Development (AED) and CARE have played a critical role in the development of Southern Sudan's teacher education institutions. Since 2002, USAID has rehabilitated, constructed, and expanded teacher education institutions in Maridi, Aramweer, Arapi, and Panyagor, and developed a unified curriculum for pre- and in-service teacher education.

Southern Sudanese retuning to their homeland represent the largest and most promising bloc of new teachers. The Ministry is meeting its demand for teachers by encouraging the return of internally displaced teachers, and recruiting from the worldwide Southern Sudanese diaspora. "Many Sudanese have applied to be teachers," said Aguek. "We are processing the applications now. People are ready to come back." Aguek is also looking to neighboring countries to fill the need. He has recently returned from Kenya and Uganda, where the governments have pledged to encourage their surplus teachers to work in Southern Sudan.

"We are expanding our teacher education through fast-track pre-service and periodic in-service training programs," said Aguek. Eight thousand in-service teachers will be trained at USAID-supported county education centers, which serve as local training hubs. "At present, seven centers are operative and we are planning 40 more. In the following five years we shall have completed 80 county education centers." The Fast-Track Teacher Training Program—a 90-day training course for professionals—will also take place in 20 centers this year.

Since females make up two-thirds of the population of South Sudan, encouraging female learners and teachers to join the education system is crucial. By the end of 2007, the Ministry seeks to recruit 1,200 women to join the teaching force. During 2005–06, USAID awarded 2,600 female scholarships to secondary school girls to encourage them to stay in school, and the Ministry will award scholarships to females to encourage them to become teachers. A teachers' code of conduct is being developed to provide gender-sensitive guidelines to create a safe environment for female instructors.

USAID has also appointed two long-term advisors and short-term consultants to the Ministry to support education planning and management. One consultant is working directly with Aguek to formulate a teacher education strategy for practical, effective, and rapid implementation, including intensive English courses, remote teaching through radio, and teacher refresher courses.

John Aguek has taken on a gargantuan task in recruiting and training the teaching force for Southern Sudan—a task undertaken with intense commitment and hard work on the part of Aguek, and with help from USAID advisors. "Before I received assistance from the technical advisors, I thought my task was too large to manage. Now we are all working cooperatively towards the same goal," Aguek said. "We still have hindrances such as the lack of teacher guides, and the lack of teacher accommodation, especially in rural areas, but these things take time, and with help, we can meet our challenge."♦

Educators attend training in Southern Sudan. Photo: USAID

Improving Access to Water Reduces Conflict

Throughout Southern Sudan, boreholes—small, drilled wells—are the primary source of water. They are scarce, however, available water pumps are in use nearly 24 hours a day, and people wait in long lines for their turn. Limited access to water resources has also created tensions and led to conflict in Upper Nile and other areas of the south. To respond to these difficulties, USAID has funded a variety of water initiatives designed to reduce the competition over water and increase access to nearby waterpoints.

USAID partner Pact has increased water availability for an estimated 720,000 people, including more than 144,000 returnees, in the southern states of Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warab, Lakes, Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile, and in the Three Areas of Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan. Between April and June, Pact drilled 132 new boreholes and rehabilitated 87 previously non-functioning hand pumps with USAID support. Additionally, Pact is implementing several USAID-funded rainwater harvesting projects, including dam construction in at least six locations. To ensure that water initiatives have the greatest impact, Pact works with rival ethnic groups, local authorities, and local organizations to select sites that facilitate peaceful coexistence among communities.

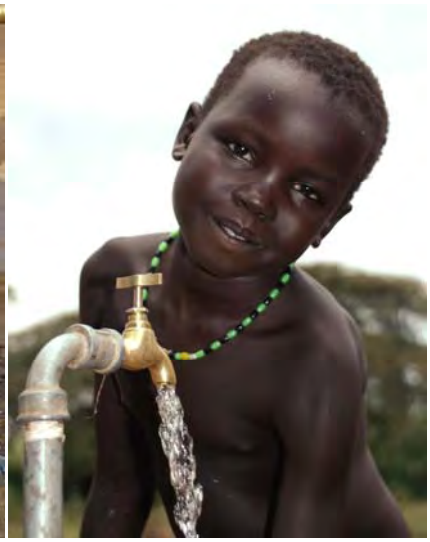
In communities participating in the USAID program, the average amount of water used per household has increased from 140 liters a week to 461 liters. Additionally, Pact staff in Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile report that communities—particularily women—have reported a reduction in household workloads associated with the collection of water. The closer proximity of water resources has enabled families to invest more time in food security and livelihoods—and allowed them more time to focus on the work of resettling and reintegrating in their home communities.♦

Generating Income and Basic Services in Malakal

Sudan's civil war created social disorder and damaged local economies. A year and a half after the signing of the peace agreement, basic needs are still often unmet and many returnees remain unemployed. In turn, scarce resources often result in conflict and instability.

Malakal is one of many urban centers in Southern Sudan suffering from a lack of capacity. A government garrison town and site of active militia during the civil war, Malakal and its surroundings became home to thousands of displaced villagers. Access for humanitarian agencies was severely restricted due to landmines that ringed the town. Since the war ended, access has opened up, but sanitation is poor, clean water remains a luxury, and the threat of another cholera outbreak, like one that occurred this spring, is

Residents of Kimatong, Eastern Equatoria, collect water from a range of sources. Photos: PACT



high. Community members are beginning to lose faith in local government's ability to provide basic services.

To avert the risks triggered by this situation, USAID and partner Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), are working with the Malakal government to improve the city's sanitation systems. USAID and the Ministry of Environment and Sanitation are employing 1,000 day laborers to rehabilitate drainage ditches, culverts, and foot bridges in Malakal—which not only improves sanitation services but also provides income for local workers. In addition, USAID is building pit latrines for 175 internally displaced and returnee families. Aside from developing basic infrastructure, these activities also seek to inform the community of public health risks linked to poor sanitation and demonstrate the ability of the local government to deliver basic needs to the community.

USAID support to local authorities is essential to building stability in the region, as Malakal is a major crossroads of commerce and interaction between the North and the South, and numerous returnees have recently arrived in the city.♦

Local laborers improve basic services in Malakal, Upper Nile. Photo: USAID

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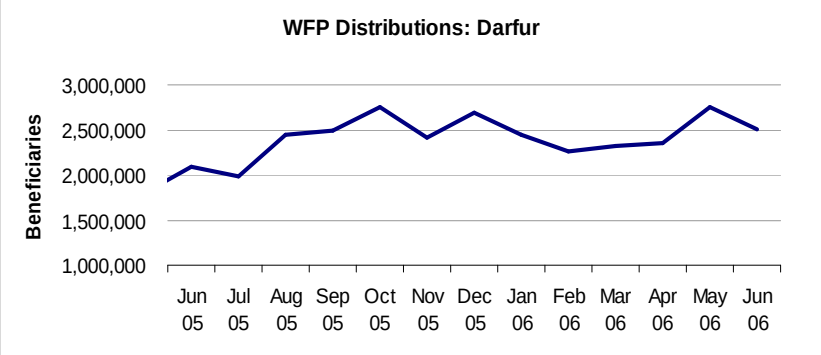

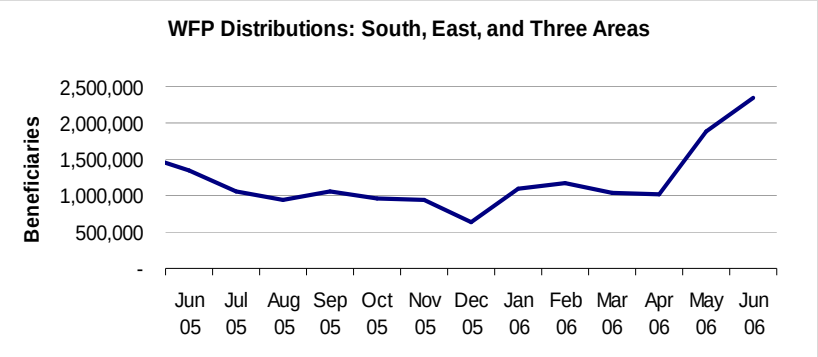

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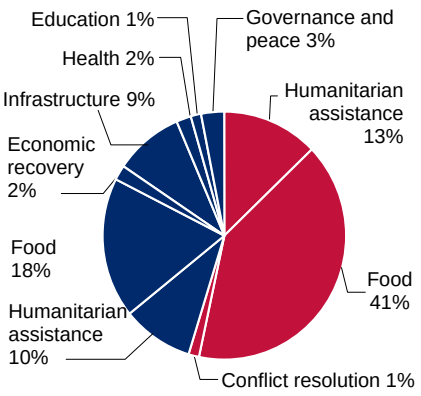

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MONTHLY UPDATE

September 2006

Partners Ensure That Aid Continues to Flow into Darfur

Kutum is located about 60 miles (100 km) northwest of El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur. Under normal circumstances, bad roads can cause a car trip between the two cities to stretch to six hours, but for USAID and its partners, driving is no longer an option. The current government offensive, presence of other armed groups and increased banditry targeting humanitarian vehicles has forced organizations like GOAL to rely on helicopters to transport staff and supplies to its health care clinics, which serve approximately 150,000 people.

When GOAL began operating in Kutum in 2003, emergency health structures had been decimated due to neglect and violence. By September 2006, with support from USAID, GOAL had many of the health facilities in Kutum functioning, and staffed with appropriately trained workers. Today GOAL's clinics provide the only health services around Kutum since other organizations have been forced to suspend operations completely due to insecurity. The clinics provide basic treatment services, vaccinations, reproductive health care, growth monitoring, nutrition screening, community health programs, and cholera response. The area is reported to have good nutrition coverage and low crude mortality rates as well.

With USAID support, GOAL's clinics benefit 150,000 people near Kutum, North Darfur. Photo: GOAL

USAID also supports GOAL-run health facilities in Anka, Disa, Abdel Shakour, Furnoung, Fata Borno, Umm Lyon, and Kassab.♦

Improving Women's Livelihoods

Despite the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement in May 2006, widespread conflict continues to plague Sudan's western states. The violence has displaced more than 2.1 million people, who now struggle to find ways to support their households. This disruption of basic livelihoods has forced many—especially women—into risky activities in an effort to provide for themselves and their families.

Organizations discussed alternative income-generation activities at two workshops in Nyala. Photo: USAID

USAID is responding to the situation by helping organizations develop less-risky income-generating activities for Darfur's displaced. With support from USAID, DAI and CHF International hosted two three-day workshops in Nyala, South Darfur, for international and local organizations to discuss new approaches. Fifty staff members from 25 organizations attended each workshop. Topics included market assessments, cost-benefit analyses, proposal writing, and bookkeeping. At the end of each workshop, participants enthusiastically presented proposed business plans for new income-generation activities, including production and sale of vegetables, a poultry and egg enterprise, and making and marketing cheese produced from local milk supplies.

The two workshops not only produced viable business plans, but also empowered organizations to use the methodology in their programming as they aim to improve the livelihoods of Darfurian women.♦

Communities Drive Civilian Disarmament

While the Comprehensive Peace Agreement laid the groundwork for peace in Sudan, it did not immediately bring calm to all war-torn communities. Interethnic conflict continued to be an all-too-common occurrence in Jonglei State, mostly in the form of cattle raids and largely due to the considerable amount of weaponry in military, militia, and civilian hands.

In January 2006, the Sudan People's Liberation Army initiated a disarmament process in Jonglei and Upper Nile. To complement the process, USAID supported local organizations in a campaign to present the logic behind the disarmament process and potential benefits for communities. The campaign targeted armed youth in particular—a distinct group who might have resisted disarmament— and USAID supported dialogues in Gummurk, Yuai, and Poktap. However, violent clashes between Lou-Nuer armed youth and the SPLA disarmament teams flared in February and March.

In July, at the end of an historical meeting of the Lou and Murle tribal groups, and in an effort to prevent further bloodshed, the chiefs of Akobo and local authorities in Jonglei agreed on a system for voluntary disarmament. With technical assistance from the UN Development Program and monitoring by the UN Mission in Sudan, local authorities established three weapon collections sites in Akobo East County. Over the next three weeks, more than 1,200 light weapons and rocket propelled grenades were redeemed. Most members of the Akobo community—especially women, elders, and traders—were extremely pleased

A civilian disarmament campaign in Akobo collected 1,250 weapons in just two weeks. Photo: Educational Development Center

with the disarmament, saying they hope it will usher in a new era of peace and prosperity for the area.

On August 21, the Commissioner of Akobo, local chiefs, and communities hosted a celebration to mark this historic event—a peaceful, community-led, voluntary disarmament—and to demonstrate to other communities that a voluntary process can work. The Murle of Pibor County, home to large reserves of weapons in the hands of young civilians, were next on the United Nations' disarmament calendar, so USAID helped bring key Murle leaders to the celebration to see Akobo's success firsthand. Attendees urged them to emulate their Akobo neighbors and peacefully disarm, and speakers appealed to the international and local communities to engage armed youth in meaningful activities that prevent them from returning to destructive ways.♦

Organizations Collaborate on Common Goals

In early August the town of Kurmuk in Blue Nile State hosted 111 members of civil society organizations in the first of a series of conferences organized and facilitated by USAID partners Mercy Corps and National Democratic Institute (NDI). The event brought together representatives from 36 USAID-supported civil society organizations from all regions of Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan) to celebrate their diversity, goals, and aspirations for change.

"This has been a great week," said Daniel Maduak Bak of the Malual Community Development Agency. "We have learned so many things about other places and other groups. When I go back and tell the people in my organization and my community about it, they will want to come to the next one."

Conference participants—which included 30 women—gave presentations about the state of civil society in their home regions and the ongoing projects they are engaged in. Question and answer sessions enabled participants to learn more about the issues and discuss perceptions or stereotypes about the people of Sudan's various regions. Cultural performances added to the conference's celebratory atmosphere.

The conference focused on creating understanding of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and providing participants with skills to create change in their communities. Participants identified an attitudinal change in their perceptions of each other as crucial to transforming antagonism to peaceful coexistence.

During the first activity, participants were divided into six groups and had a 30-minute "date" with each of the six protocols of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Each station discussed ways to increase awareness on some key principles and terminology. At the start of the session, many participants could not name more than one or two protocols; by the end, they were asking questions about how far implementation had progressed on power sharing in their state or whether the oil revenues were being shared equitably.

For the second activity, participants listened to a recording of "Let's Talk," a civic education program aired on the USAID-supported Sudan Radio Service. The program addressed some of the social aspects of the transition through the eyes of a hypothetical Sudanese family: old friends returning; communities concerned about their land and businesses; returnees worried about rearing their children in areas where the education system is not yet established.

Following the program, participants were divided into six listening groups, where it became clear that the radio play reflected many realities and provoked keen dialogue on a range of topics. What type of challenges do you face in the social transition in your community? How can you and your organization contribute to these opportunities for peace building?

Participants said they would like to better understand the CPA and become civic educators in their own communities. "If we want peace in our country, we have to build peace in our communities," said one

A facilitator recorded comments from conference participants for a future edition of "Let's Talk." Photo: NDI

participant. “If we want peace in our community, we have to understand the CPA.”

“Civil society groups cannot do this alone,” said Jeremiah Maguat of Community Adult Literacy in Leer County. “We can transfer this knowledge to the community, but it is they who must realize their future. The community is the real decision maker,” he added.

With support from USAID, NDI will provide radios to allow organizations to listen to “Let’s Talk” and facilitate listening groups with their target constituencies. NDI will also help organizations increase understanding of the CPA in their communities and work with local government officials to facilitate dialogues between civil society and government so citizens can engage face-to-face on the progress of CPA implementation.

“We have to shift our attitudes and response to conflict,” said Simon, who represented a civil society organization at the conference. “Where before we were preparing to fight, now we must assume our role and actively address the issues at the local level.”♦

Preparing for the Census

As stipulated by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Sudan will conduct its first ever population census in 2007. A census is the largest statistical operation that a country can conduct, requiring tremendous human, logistical, and communication resources. In Sudan, the size of the task is even greater, as census-takers will have to work to overcome the challenges presented by shifting populations, minimal infrastructure, and lack of staff experience in processing and tabulating data.

The Southern Sudan Center for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation (SSCCSE) is the newly formed organization responsible for conducting the census in Southern Sudan, in coordination with the Central Bureau of Statistics, which will conduct the census in the North. With support from USAID, the U.S. Census Bureau is assisting the SSCCSE in building the capacity needed to accomplish this significant undertaking.

With USAID’s support, SSCCSE has begun expanding operations and developing into a more formal organization with a broader, more holistic responsibility to provide statistics on Southern Sudan. In November 2006, the SSCCSE will conduct a pilot census in selected areas of all 10 Southern states to test tools and procedures—and to discover as many potential problems as possible so it can make any necessary modifications before the official census begins.

To assist the SSCCSE in assessing and refining its management strategy, the U.S. Census Bureau hosted a retreat for ten of the SSCCSE’s management staff in August 2006. At the retreat, participants examined the strengths and weaknesses of the recent Sudan Household Health Survey and applied the lessons to the management plan for the pilot census. [The Sudan Household Health Survey was the first survey conducted by the SSCCSE from beginning to end, and the first national survey conducted in conjunction with the Central Bureau of Statistics.] Retreat participants were able to establish effective communication methods, discuss how to improve knowledge-sharing with advisors, and create a management toolkit to guide the entire organization.♦

Rehabilitating Torit Teaching Hospital

A recent USAID grant to the Ministry of Health in Eastern Equatoria is providing essential furnishings to the only major health care facility in the region, which has been historically poor and underserved. Under the grant, valued at $82,920, three wards of Torit Teaching Hospital were supplied with 100 inpatient beds with bedside tables, 20 orthopedic beds with bedside tables, 10 pediatric beds, and 130 patient screens. These new resources will allow the hospital’s 48 medical staff to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of health care in Eastern Equatoria and improve the local government’s ability to provide basic services to its citizens.♦

Photo: DAI

USAID Awards Infrastructure Contract

On August 23, USAID awarded the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) a three-year, $31.85-million grant to improve infrastructure in Southern Sudan. The program represents a unique partnership for the Government of Southern Sudan, the U.S. Government, and UNOPS, which will work together with state ministries to identify and address critical structural needs in historically underserved or conflict-affected areas. Activities will focus primarily on building primary health care centers, all-weather interstate gravel roads, bridges, major drainage structures, and other public works. The program will also provide employment opportunities for displaced, returning, and other disadvantaged people and facilitate the return and reintegration of people affected by the country's two-decade civil war.

A launch ceremony, attended by representatives from the Government of Southern Sudan, the U.S. Consulate General, and USAID was held on September 13 in Juba. Minister of Transportation and Roads Rebecca Garang said she "applaud[ed] the program's efforts to provide services and build capacity at the state level."

USAID/Sudan Deputy Mission Director Allan Reed emphasized the U.S. Government's commitment to development in Southern Sudan, saying, "I want to underscore USAID's support for building infrastructure and capacity that will consolidate peace and provide a safe and enabling environment for the citizens of Southern Sudan…. I want to assure the people of Sudan that USAID stands with you in your post-war recovery to a new Sudan."

The Accelerated Infrastructure Program is the first phase of USAID's broader, long-term effort to construct and rehabilitate infrastructure in Southern Sudan. At the end of September, USAID expects to award another, larger-scale contract designed to support further expansion of transportation, social, and economic infrastructure in Southern Sudan. Previously, USAID has supported work on emergency infrastructure, such as building roads, clearing landmines, and planning, mapping, and electrifying towns. USAID also supported the establishment of the Southern Ministry of Transportation and Roads.♦

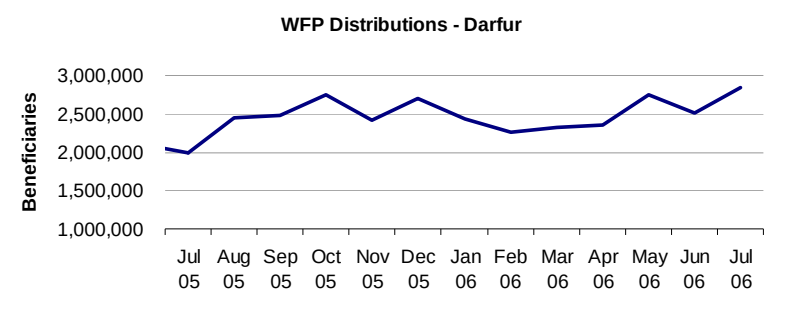
World Food Program Sudan Distributions

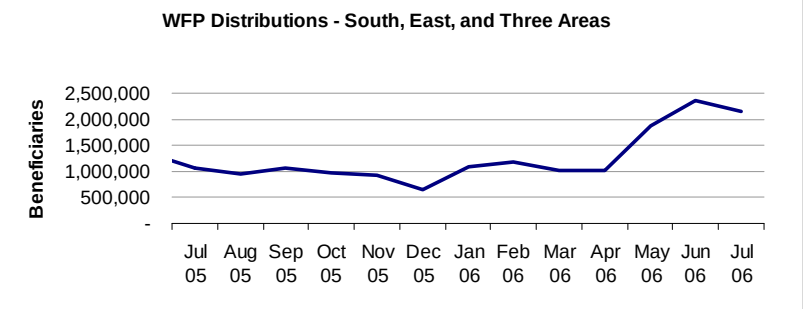
Through mid-August 2006, USAID contributed 464,330 metric tons of emergency food assistance worth $445.9 million for Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Chad. During fiscal year 2005, USAID emergency food assistance to Sudan and eastern Chad amounted to 572,450 metric tons worth nearly $502.9 million.

WFP Distributions July 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,848,175
South	1,268,301
East	285,702
Three Areas*	577,776
Central	27,701
Total	5,007,655

* The Three Areas includes Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

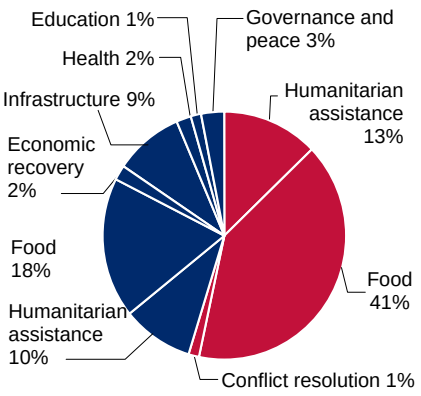




USAID | SUDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2005 ESTIMATED



Darfur 55%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$108.3 million
Food*:	$347.0 million
Conflict resolution:	$11.6 million
Darfur Total:	*$466.9 million*

Other Sudan 45%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$82.2 million
Food*:	$156.0 million
Economic recovery:	$16.2 million
Infrastructure:	$78.7 million
Health:	$18.0 million
Education:	$10.2 million
Governance and peace:	$27.1 million
Other Sudan Total:	*$388.4 million*
Countrywide Total:	**$855.3 million**

**Includes PL 480 Title II and Emerson Trust*

MONTHLY UPDATE

October 2006

Emergency Medical Assistance Reaches the Newly Displaced

Following a spate of militia attacks on at least a dozen villages in Buram, South Darfur, during August and September, an estimated 2,500–3,400 displaced people arrived in the town of Seisabana the week of September 10. The new arrivals were reported to be in dire need of food, water, and health care, and the region has no resident governmental or nongovernmental health organizations that could offer assistance.

On September 17, USAID partner American Refugee Committee (ARC) traveled with United Nations staff to Seisabana to assess the needs of the newly displaced, who had sought shelter in a school compound. The new arrivals appeared to have fled so quickly that they were unable to carry food stocks with them and therefore were eating only what they could forage or what was donated by the people of Seisabana. ARC also reported that sanitation problems brought on by the extremely crowded living conditions had created serious health issues for those who were displaced—exacerbating the already poor health status of some community members.

With support from USAID, ARC acted immediately to respond to the urgent needs of the new arrivals, providing a local medical assistant—the only health provider in the area—with primary health care kits that included drugs and IV fluid to treat dehydration. ARC returned with the United Nations and other nongovernmental organizations on

Darfurians displaced by recent violence gathered in Seisabana. Photo: ARC

September 27 to conduct a one-day health intervention that would provide additional services to people in need. During this visit, ARC and the Spanish Red Cross conducted 125 clinical consultations, distributed 110 clean delivery kits to pregnant women, distributed 600 bars of soap to mothers and children, provided high-energy rations to 70 severely malnourished children, and conducted health education sessions. In addition, the teams left a Spanish Red Cross medical assistant 1,530 mosquito nets and four UNICEF medicine kits. ARC has been a USAID partner in Darfur working in the water and sanitation and health sectors since the early stages of the response in 2004.♦

Responding to Avian Influenza

As the threat of avian influenza (AI) continues to reach across continents and oceans, USAID is working with several partners in Sudan to track the disease's path and mitigate its effects.

In April 2006, following the confirmation of AI cases in chickens on corporate farms in Northern Sudan, USAID established an AI task force with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Government of National Unity Ministries of Health and Animal Resources and Fisheries. In addition, USAID supported the Government of Southern Sudan in drafting an AI preparedness and response plan and other AI communications materials, and in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USAID provided AI training to ministry staff in Uganda, and Kenya.

On September 3, AI was identified in chickens in Southern Sudan's capital city of Juba, where chickens are generally kept by individual families. CDC, working with USAID and other U.S. Government agencies led the response team, collecting samples from the birds and sending to laboratories in Khartoum, Nairobi, and the United Kingdom for analysis. A survey team also visited 1,500 households to identify additional potential cases. [One potential human case was identified in Juba, but tested negative.] USAID has donated 500 sets of personal protective equipment to FAO in Southern Sudan.

Though the response to date has helped quickly identify cases and raised the awareness of Juba residents on AI, the Government of Southern Sudan continues to face a significant challenge in preventing its spread, including the difficulties of culling chickens from households and providing appropriate compensation for their losses. Response teams are conducting follow-up surveillance in Juba at sites of poultry outbreaks to screen for possible human cases of AI, but no surveillance is being conducted in Southern Sudan outside of the capital. Human surveillance has been initiated in Kakuma, Kenya, near the Kenya-Sudan border, due to concerns about the cross-border spread of AI resulting from refugee movements.♦

USAID provided personal protective equipment and conducted household surveys in response to an outbreak of avian influenza. Photos: U.S. Government

USAID provided equipment to increase access to water around Wau. Photo: USAID

Collaboration Improves Access to Water

The constant influx of returnees to Wau—the capital of Western Bahr el Ghazal State, a former garrison town, and an important urban center in Southern Sudan—has increased the potential for conflict in the area, as a growing population competes for access to scarce water resources. Many returnees arrive in Wau during the dry season because travel is easier than during the rainy season, but the combination of more residents with less water intensifies the pressure on resources—and on civil authorities to provide clean drinking water to the people.

USAID partner Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI) recently collaborated with civil authorities in Wau to provide access to clean water for three quarters of the population, including displaced people, returnees, and settled community members. Through an in-kind grant, DAI was able to fill a critical gap in the state ministry's water, environment, and sanitation program by supplying submersible pumps, generators, water tanks, and water pipes. This equipment will assist civil authorities in Wau and surrounding areas to drill hand pump boreholes and dig 11 deep wells.

In addition to improving local health conditions, USAID's collaboration with local authorities will also help lessen tensions over water resources, which threaten the successful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The effort will also increase public confidence in the ability of local civil authorities to meet basic needs during Sudan's transition to peace.♦

Resource Centers Empower Civil Society

An active and informed civil society is crucial to securing peace in Southern Sudan and ensuring that the benefits of peace reach all citizens. A strong civil society can also more effectively partner with the community and local government in promoting development and peace-building.

To support these goals, USAID partner Mercy Corps has established four civil society resource centers in Southern Sudan that offer communities permanent structures where they can hold meetings, conduct trainings, and foster organizational networking and interaction. Located in Malual Kon, Kurmuk, Kauda, and Leer, the centers were officially opened last month and support 24 organizations in five counties. Four more centers will be opened by the end of 2006.

At the opening of the center in Kurmuk, Paul Malual, chairman of the Unity Church Organization, stated, "The resource center is the CPA in action!" In addition to strengthening the network of civil society organizations, the centers also provide access to source material on peace in Sudan, including copies of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Arabic and English, the Interim Constitution for Southern Sudan, and the Interim Constitution for the Government of National Unity. The centers also offer information on key topics related to Sudan's development, such as community mobilization, civic education, gender awareness, human rights, HIV/AIDS awareness, health, and hygiene. USAID has provided the centers with radios, which

USAID has opened four civil society resource centers in Sudan. Photo: Mercy Corps

New Government Facilities Inaugurated

On October 10, USAID and the Government of Southern Sudan celebrated the official inauguration and handover of new office buildings for the Ministry of Transport and Roads. Located in Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan, the facilities were constructed by USAID partner The Louis Berger Group and constitute the first permanent ministerial offices established since the formation of the Government of Southern Sudan. The new space—which includes four office blocks and two training units—will provide current ministry staff with working space and will later become home to the proposed South Sudan Road Agency.

The celebration was attended by President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir, Minister of Roads and Transport Rebecca Garang, U.S. Consul General Makila James, and several other U.S. and Sudanese officials. Both Kiir and Garang emphasized the importance of the offices, saying they were an indication of U.S.-Sudanese cooperation and a real peace dividend for the Sudanese people. Kiir also heralded U.S. Government support of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and called on the United States and the Government of Southern Sudan to continue to support efforts to secure the peace, especially through infrastructure development.♦

Sudanese Vice President Salva Kiir and Minister of Roads and Transport Rebecca Garang helped inaugurate new government

community groups can use to listen to the news, and computers, which community members who have passed a basic computer course can use to read additional news sources.

"We have been putting more effort on food aid and less on mental food," said a government official at the opening of the Malual Kon center. "The civil society program has great potential to contribute to the strengthening of the civic sector, community development and sustainability of peace in southern Sudan."

Civil society resource centers are one tool being used to promote civil society in Southern Sudan, and they are complemented by quarterly dialogue meetings and organizational capacity support provided by Mercy Corps with support from USAID.♦

USAID Awards Major Infrastructure Contract

USAID has awarded The Louis Berger Group a five-year contract to improve infrastructure in Southern Sudan. The contract for the Infrastructure Services Project has a $700-million ceiling and will support the expansion of transportation, social, and economic infrastructure in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan).

Two decades of civil war devastated Southern Sudan's infrastructure and crippled the local economy. The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 ended the war, but the lack of infrastructure and the physical isolation of Southern Sudanese communities have complicated post-war recovery

efforts. The Infrastructure Services Project seeks to build and rehabilitate structures that will restore basic services, build markets, and strengthen Sudan's ability to reconstruct their nation.

Under this contract, The Louis Berger Group will focus on transportation, urban development, water, sanitation, public buildings like schools and clinics, energy, and natural resources. The project has three components: construction and repair services to raise structures and establish physical systems and facilities; equipment and commodities to support operations; and technical assistance to help build capacity in the Government of Southern Sudan to operate and maintain the new structures and services.

"With this program, we have the ability to lay the groundwork for real, long-lasting improvements in education, health, and economic growth in Southern Sudan, which in turn will help families to return home and recover from the war," said USAID/Sudan Mission Director Katherine Almquist. "We welcome the opportunity to continue working closely with the Government of Southern Sudan in making changes that improve the lives of Sudanese people and help secure the peace."

In August, USAID awarded the United Nations Office for Project Services a three-year, $31.85-million grant to improve infrastructure in Southern Sudan. The grant is intended to support the building of roads, bridges, health facilities, and other vital structures to support economic growth and recovery in Southern Sudan.

In addition to these two awards, USAID has spent $84.2 million since fiscal year 2004 on improving infrastructure in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas. Work has included building roads, clearing landmines, and planning, mapping, and electrifying towns. USAID also supported the establishment of the Southern Ministry of Transportation and Roads.

Sudan is USAID's largest program in Sub-Saharan Africa, totaling $855 million in fiscal year 2005. The complex program provides extensive humanitarian and food aid to vulnerable people in Southern and Eastern Sudan and Darfur, as well as extensive reconstruction assistance in the South, Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.♦

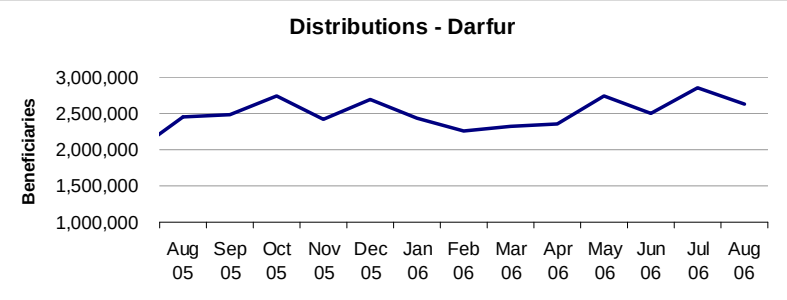
World Food Program Sudan Distributions

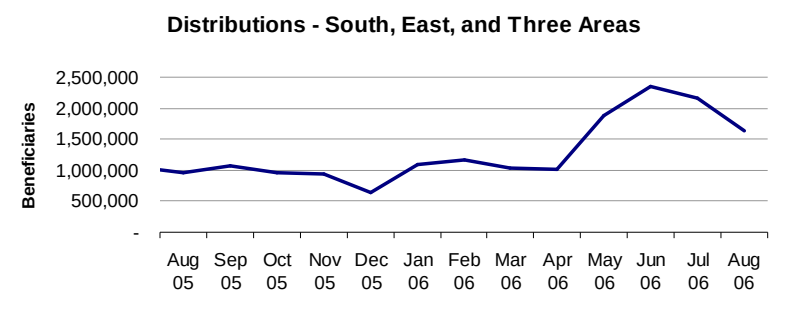
In the first four weeks of fiscal year 2007, USAID provided 102,740 metric tons of emergency food aid worth $95 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. During fiscal year 2006, USAID emergency food assistance to Sudan and eastern Chad amounted to 475,910 metric tons worth nearly $457.8 million.

WFP Distributions August 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,636,443
South	1,017,193
East	252,894
Three Areas*	337,031
Central	19,269
Total	4,262,830

* The Three Areas includes Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.





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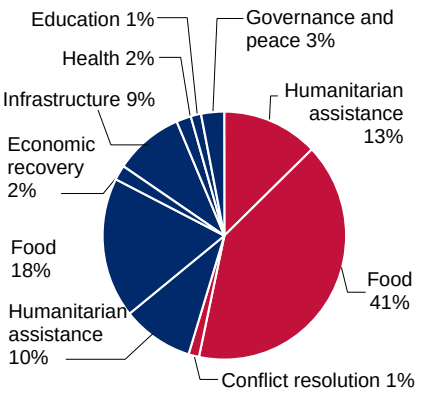
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2005 ESTIMATED



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**Includes PL 480 Title II and Emerson Trust*

MONTHLY UPDATE

November 2006

Information Improves Maternal Health Among Refugees in Eastern Chad

Displaced women living in the camps of Darfur and Eastern Chad often face serious health problems due to complications during childbirth. Marrying young, many women have their first children during adolescence. Their knowledge of reproductive health is limited, and their bodies, often small and malnourished, are not always ready for motherhood. For the child, the situation can result in developmental disabilities, and for the mother it can lead to debilitating, long-term health problems, such as fistula and incontinence. In some cases complications are made worse because many women are reluctant to seek outside medical assistance, preferring to give birth at home with a traditional birth attendant.

A journalism trainee for Radio Absoun interviews a Darfurian refugee in Iriba, Eastern Chad. Photo: USAID

The Chadian and Darfurian refugee journalists at the USAID-funded Radio Absoun in Iriba, Chad, which is funded by USAID through Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's Initiative to Combat Violence Against Women, recognized the extent of the problem and addressed it in Zaghawa, French, and Arabic on its weekly radio show, "To Your Health." The show, which broadcasts into three refugee camps and surrounding communities, featured an interview with a Chadian doctor on the medical consequences of complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Radio Absoun's newscasts covered the subject as well.

Within a few months, health professionals working with Médecins sans Frontières noted a marked increase in the number of refugee women coming to camp clinics for prenatal counseling and to give birth. They also saw fewer complications—and healthier women and healthier babies in the camps.

USAID's support for this program is part of a larger effort to combat violence against women in Darfur and Eastern Chad.♦

A Day in the Life: Saving a Mother and Child

Despite the spiraling insecurity and violence that continues in Darfur, USAID partner Save the Children/US provides health services to more than 600,000 internally displaced and conflict-affected people in West Darfur. A day in the life of Save the Children's health workers illustrates the dedication and courage of aid workers throughout the region—and reiterates the vital importance of their work.

On July 20 a Save the Children ambulance carrying two staff members, a pregnant woman named Hanan, and four of Hanan's relatives departed Foro Baranga, West Darfur, for the state capital, Geneina. Hanan was in labor and had started having complications when it became apparent she needed to be treated at the larger hospital in Geneina. "Hanan had been in labor already for more than twelve hours and was in critical condition," said Gadeeda, a midwife who recently received refresher training through a USAID-supported Save the Children program. "The baby was lying transversely in the uterus and had a hand protruding outside the birth canal. It was obvious that if Hanan was not taken to a hospital for [a Caesarean section], both she and her baby would die."

After less than an hour on the road, the ambulance was ambushed by three armed men, who shot out the vehicle's rear light. The assailants beat the male passengers with sticks and pulled off the women's veils, accusing them of hiding money under their clothes. They also threatened to rape one of the women. All the passengers except for Hanan were ordered to lie on the ground while the assailants looted the vehicle. "Finally one of them said they had planned to kill us all, but since we were with a sick woman they would let us live," said Gadeeda. "We were all quickly pushed into the car, ordered to leave and never to come back. We drove away."

Midwife Gadeeda weighs Hanan's new son at a hospital in Geneina, West Darfur. Photo: Save the Children/US

Women in Mornei, West Darfur, attend training that addresses primary health care and midwife issues. Photo: Save the Children/US

The group reached the town of Mornei at around 6:00 pm, but by then Hanan's condition was critical. The doctor determined that she had to continue the rest of the way to Geneina. "We were losing hope for the baby," said Gadeeda. "Sometimes we could hear a faint heartbeat. Sometimes there was none, which meant that the baby was in distress, if it was even alive. At that point in time, Hanan was our main concern since we thought it may have been too late for the baby already. We were all hoping to at least save Hanan's life.

"We reached Geneina hospital at 2:00 am," Gadeeda continued. "Immediately, the doctor on duty ordered Hanan to be prepared for surgery. Finally, at 3:00 am a baby boy was born. To everyone's surprise he was alive. His heartbeat was weak and his hand was completely swollen, but the doctor assured us that he would be fine and attended to him. I was so relieved that after all we'd been through, we were able to save both the lives of the mother and child."

By the next day, Hanan was in strong sprits, saying, "I thank God and Save the Children that I could have my baby alive."♦

Translating the DPA

Though the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) was signed in May 2006, it remains largely inaccessible to most of Darfur's people. It has been officially translated into Arabic and English, and exceeds 100 pages—but most Darfurians speak neither language. They are more culturally tied to local languages, and past experience shows that local groups are more likely to identify with political developments if they are available to them in the vernacular.

USAID responded to this critical gap in the practical implementation of the DPA by producing audio summaries of the agreement in three of Darfur's seven main local languages: Zaghawa, Fur, and Masalit. The five-page summaries and translations, which were independently verified to ensure accuracy and validity, have been aired on state radio in Nyala, South Darfur. USAID also funded the production of 6,000 audio cassettes of the summaries for wide distribution throughout the region. Audio tapes are a highly effective medium in Darfur, and are used frequently by local groups to disseminate messages. USAID worked with a UK media consultancy to produce the written and oral summaries in an effort to increase access to reliable information about the DPA among Darfur's people.♦

Learning New Approaches to Teaching in the South

Shaban Ladeu has taught at Haddow Primary School in Maridi, Western Equatoria, since 2001. A teacher since 1981, Shaban is a dedicated educator; until the Government of Southern Sudan began paying teachers' salaries this year, Shaban worked without remuneration, only occasionally receiving a small allowance culled from students' tuition fees.

The 80 students in his first grade class range in age from 6 to 12, and most began their formal education only this year. Many have just returned to Maridi with their families, who fled to other parts of the country during Sudan's long civil war. Shaban teaches his classes in Juba Arabic, the only language common among his students, who are from a range of different tribes and linguistic groups.

Unlike many other schools in the area which conduct lessons under a tree, Haddow holds its classes in a school room built in 2003—one of the many recent signs of positive change in Southern Sudan. The

Students at Haddow Primary School in Maridi show the answer to a math question during a radio lesson. Photo: EDC

signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement ended the years of war between the North and South; the establishment of the Southern Sudan Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology is helping build long-term capacity in the educational system; a new primary school curriculum is standardizing what students learn; and the payment of salaries is helping retain experienced teachers and attract new ones. But in his daily work, Shaban says the biggest transformation came through the introduction of USAID's Learning Village.

Part of USAID's effort to improve education in Southern Sudan, Learning Village uses the radio to reach learners, broadcasting daily lessons in local language literacy, English literacy, and mathematics. Shaban participated in USAID's interactive radio instruction training in March, along with 32 other first and second grade teachers from the Maridi area. To date, 542 teachers have been trained throughout Southern Sudan. The training, implemented by USAID partner Educational Development Center (EDC), focuses on how to operate the shortwave radio and deliver the radio lessons in the classroom.

Already knowledgeable in course content, Shaban says that the greatest impact the Learning Village training program had on him was its affect on how he approaches teaching. Shaban's former teaching style consisted of standing in front of the group and talking to them and writing information on the board while the students copied it. He remembers that he used to be stricter and more serious, tending to use traditional discipline in the classroom to achieve control. He also

says his students were disruptive, disorganized, and inattentive.

But with USAID's tools and training, Shaban says he has learned to be a better teacher. He prepares more effectively for each lesson, presenting lessons more systematically and creatively and soliciting the class's active participation. His students work in pairs and small groups, and they participate in discussions and competitions that Shaban develops to encourage them to demonstrate what they are learning. As a result, he says, "My pupils are eager to attend, pay close attention to me and the radio teacher, and best of all, they do much better in their school work."

For example, Shaban had never taught his students songs before, but he has found that singing helps the children to remember their lessons and have fun learning. He says that his students can read better than ever before—they can identify letters and read words in the local language, and have increased their English vocabulary and comprehension better and faster than any other group of students he has taught.

Enjoying lessons is a totally new concept for Shaban. "I used to think that school should be a place for discipline and obedience. Now I understand that children should have fun learning."

Teachers in other grades have started to copy Shaban's approach, and not only do they like the new methods, but their students also enjoy learning and parents have become enthusiastic fans as well. News of USAID program has spread throughout the area and parents have started to transfer their children into Haddow so that they too can benefit from this new approach toward teaching and learning.♦

Upper Nile: Rehabilitating the University

Sudan's two-decade civil war prevented Upper Nile University in Malakal from receiving enough funds to maintain its existing infrastructure, much less acquire new equipment and technical resources. Many key faculties, including medical and nursing staff, were relocated to Khartoum, where facilities were more suitable—but which also deprived the people of Upper Nile State of qualified health workers and other specialists.

Malakal is one of many urban centers in Southern Sudan suffering from a lack of capacity. A government garrison town and site of active militia during the civil war, Malakal and its surroundings became home to thousands of displaced villagers. Access for humanitarian agencies was severely restricted due to landmines. Since the war ended, access has opened up, but sanitation is poor and clean water remains a luxury. In Malakal, peace is still fragile.

The renovated student center at the University of Upper Nile now hosts lively debates on current events. Photo: USAID

USAID recently administered four grants through its partner Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI) to help Upper Nile University begin to reestablish its fundamental services. Work included rehabilitating and expanding the university medical clinic and student center; providing eight blocks of toilets; and supplying a water pump and water purification equipment. With these new resources, the medical clinic will not only meet the local population's basic health needs, but will also train a new generation of doctors and nurses for the future. The student center is now being used as a space for seminars, political rallies, and exhibitions; according to the Secretary General of the University Student Union, the student center has already served as a venue for lively debates on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the conflict in Darfur. And the water and sanitation improvements ensure a healthy environment conducive to higher learning.

Two thousand university students and faculty members will benefit directly from the rehabilitation work, while improved higher educational facilities will benefit the community as a whole. Improvements to the university also foster hope for sustained peace, as the institute serves as a symbol of stability for the local community.♦

Upper Nile: Reconstructing Local Government

Since the formation of the Government of Southern Sudan in 2005, Southern Sudanese have faced the considerable challenge of building an entire government from the ground up. During Sudan's two-decade civil war, the few local government office buildings that existed were neglected and fell into disrepair. By the time the war ended, most were unusable, making it difficult to begin reestablishing local governance systems. Throughout Southern Sudan, USAID is supporting local officials through a program that hires returnees and local residents to construct new facilities and repair existing office buildings. The newly renovated office buildings are meant to be a sign of the positive changes resulting from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement—improving local government capacity while supporting jobs for vulnerable people.

USAID worked with the Nasir county commissioner and other officials to improve local government buildings. Photo: USAID

In Greater Upper Nile, USAID partner Norwegian People's Aid is working with several local organizations to make small, quick-impact improvements to the offices of local authorities in Nasir, Ulang, Akobo, Waat, and Duk counties.

The Nasir county offices were the first completed through the program, under the leadership of the Nasir Community Development Association (NCDA). The organization repaired an office building constructed during the British colonial period and built two new rooms. NCDA procured materials in Kosti, White Nile State, arranged road transport, and hired a skilled construction supervisor. The efforts capitalized on and benefited from the construction skills of returnees, who had spent decades working in the construction business while displaced in Khartoum.

The Akobo County Commissioner's office is also slated to be finished in the coming months. In Duk, Ulang, and Waat counties, where no office facilities exist, plans call for the construction of two-room buildings once the dry season begins in January.♦

Reforming Company and Investment Law

A commercial legal framework is crucial to the development of a vibrant private sector. In Southern Sudan, this framework is currently governed by the Companies Act 2003 and the Investment Act 2004, both of which were enacted by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement before the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the establishment of the Government of Southern Sudan in 2005.

In view of the urgent need to revise these acts, USAID partner Bearing Point assisted the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development in hosting a three-day workshop in late September to discuss reforms. The workshop, which was opened by Minister of Legal Affairs Michael Makuei, was attended by 55 people, including representatives from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, the Ministry of Commerce, the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, legal experts from each of the ten Southern states, and representatives of the private sector.

Over the course of the workshop, participants familiarized themselves with the provisions of the existing acts, as well as international best practices and reforms undertaken in other countries. Group discussions were varied, covering such topics as the need to encourage economic development through

Government and private sector officials attended a workshop on reforming Southern Sudan's commercial legal framework. Photo: BearingPoint

the creation of a friendly business environment, the security concerns of Southern Sudan, the role of the Government of Southern Sudan and state governments in business regulations, and obstacles to implementation. Participants also identified legislative gaps and overlaps that must be addressed in order to establish a comprehensive commercial legal framework in Southern Sudan.

Participants enthusiastically presented their views on the need for reform, and they unanimously agreed that while the Southern Sudanese legal tradition should be respected and preserved, international best practices should be reflected in new laws. The participants approved three resolutions charging the Ministry of Legal Affairs with the responsibility for further review of Southern Sudan's company and investment laws, business licensing procedures, and visa and work permit requirements, which will be presented at the next national assembly session. The participants also recommended that additional workshops be held to facilitate consensus-building by stakeholders.♦

Training Civilian Leaders

As a result of Sudan's long civil war, leadership became largely associated with military practices and behaviors. Recognizing the need to change this culture to be more oriented toward public service, the Ministry of Labor, Public Service, and Human Resource Development is working with USAID partner Bearing Point to organize "Leadership for Senior Public Managers" seminars for officials in the Government of Southern Sudan.

The federal- and state-level events aim to support the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) in its transition from a military movement to a responsive and transparent government. An 'action-learning' approach was used at the most recent training for senior state officials that focused on the recently prepared GOSS 200 Day Action Plan. The state planners and managers applied their learning by developing a Vision and Action Plan for their respective states, focusing on state-level development needs and service-oriented objectives.♦

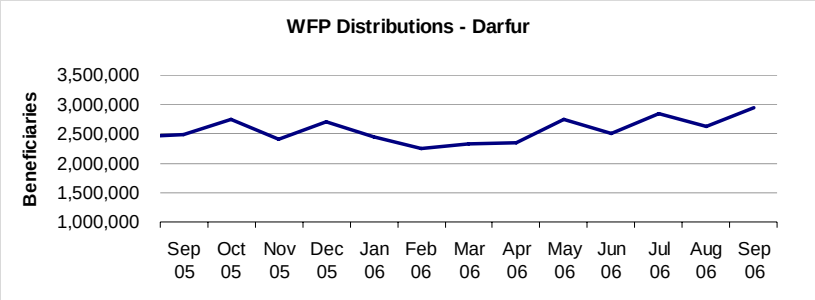
World Food Program Sudan Distributions

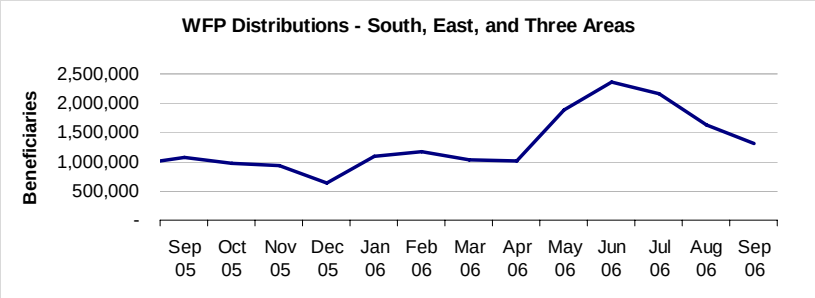
Since the start of fiscal year 2007, USAID has provided 201,830 metric tons of emergency food aid worth $190.5 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. During fiscal year 2006, USAID emergency food assistance to Sudan and eastern Chad amounted to 475,910 metric tons worth nearly $457.8 million.

WFP Distributions September 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,636,443
South	1,017,193
East	252,894
Three Areas*	337,031
Central	19,269
Total	4,262,830

* The Three Areas includes Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

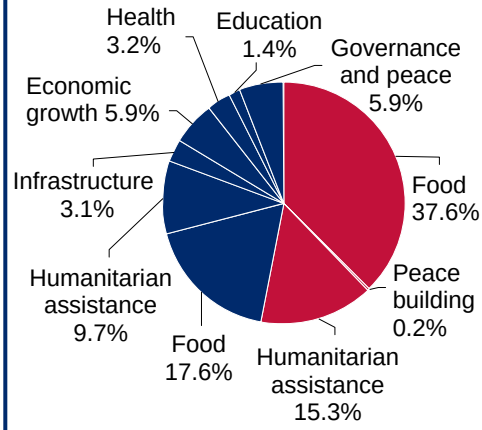




USAID | SUDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2006 ESTIMATED



Darfur 53.1%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$108.27 million
Food:	$266.11 million
Peace building:	$1.40 million
Darfur:	*$375.78 million*

South, East, and Three Areas 46.9%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$69.02 million
Food:	$124.87 million
Infrastructure:	$21.87 million
Economic growth:	$41.50 million
Health:	$22.69 million
Education:	$10.25 million
Governance and peace:	$42.07 million
South, East, and Three Areas:	*$332.27 million*
Countrywide Total:	**$708.05 million**

The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

MONTHLY UPDATE

December 2006

Agricultural Training Supports Southern Families

Due to insecurity, unpredictable weather extremes, a high number of returnees, and limited resources, food production is an acute challenge for many families in Upper Nile State, Southern Sudan. To assist these communities in reviving their agricultural livelihoods, USAID partner Food for the Hungry International (FHI) is working to restore food security for more than 10,000 families—approximately 80,000 people—in Upper Nile.

Under the USAID-funded program, FHI works in coordination with three Sudanese nongovernmental organizations to establish demonstration farms and conduct extension training to increase communities' agricultural knowledge. In addition, the program provides fishing equipment, seeds, and irrigation equipment to vulnerable families.

From July to September 2006, FHI conducted three seed fairs that provided seeds to 934 families and conducted seven agricultural training sessions for agricultural extension workers. These workers have already trained 170 farmers to strengthen the agricultural capacities of residents and help reestablish agricultural activities for returnees. FHI also built four new demonstration farms in 2006 to raise the level of agricultural expertise in farming communities. FHI has trained 80 farmers in vegetable cultivation on these demonstration farms.

Farmers grow eggplant and other vegetables at a USAID-supported demonstration farm in Nasir, Upper Nile. Photo: FHI

While these initiatives work to improve food production and food security, FHI also provides its three local partners with the tools that will allow them to initiate and implement their own relief and development programs. FHI has provided its local partners with a team office, as well as training, mentoring, and material assistance to improve their outreach and communications, including boats, satellite phones, radios, and motorbikes.

Although recent insecurity forced FHI to evacuate staff from Malakal and Mandeng, work continues. As the dry season begins in Southern Sudan, FHI will conduct additional extension training focusing on agricultural preparation for the dry season and continue distributing agricultural equipment, vegetable seeds, and irrigation equipment to conflict-affected families throughout Upper Nile.♦

Fisherman in Mandeng, Upper Nile, weave nets with twine distributed by USAID partner FHI. Photo: FHI

Equipping Census Offices Improves Efficiency

The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement stipulates that Sudan carry out a national population census in 2007. The success of the census will be critical to preparations for national and local elections, which are to be held no later than the summer of 2009.

A census is the largest statistical operation that a country can conduct, and the challenges of planning for a census in a country the size of Sudan are staggering—especially considering the lack of infrastructure and human and financial resources. In Southern Sudan, the responsibility for organizing the census lay with the South Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation (SSCCSE), which will work in coordination with the Central Bureau of Statistics in the North. With support from USAID, the U.S. Census Bureau is providing technical assistance and training to the SSCCSE.

USAID equipped 10 state statistics offices in Southern Sudan to support the upcoming census. Photo: USAID

In each of the ten states in the South, the SSCCSE is establishing an office to collect, compile, analyze, publish, and disseminate statistical information. The offices, however, were ill-equipped and staff complained that it was difficult to carry out their work.

To address the obvious resource gap affecting the SSCCSE, USAID provided basic furniture, equipment, stationeries and motorbikes to offices in seven states—Upper Nile, Jonglei, Warub, Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Western Bahr al Ghazal, and Northern Bahr al Ghazal. The critical provisions sent to the offices proved to be timely, as the SSCCSE is preparing for a pilot census to take place in early 2007. According to Western Bahr El Ghazal State statistics officer Stephen Andrea, his office had been unable to carry out this task until USAID provided motorbikes that allowed his staff to move throughout the state to collect preliminary data.♦

Responding to Illiteracy

Soaring illiteracy rates afflict most post-conflict settings—particularly Southern Sudan, where an entire generation of citizens has missed out on the opportunity to access education due to the country's prolonged civil war. The problem is especially acute in Leer County, Unity State, which was one of the critical battle fronts during the war. Increased access to education will help ensure that community members can contribute to the development of their families and communities—a vital step in Sudan's journey toward consolidating peace.

In response to this challenge, USAID is currently supporting 18 civil society organizations throughout Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan), which are focusing on increasing access to basic education in Sudan for adults, particularly women. On October 27, two Leer County organizations supported by USAID jointly conducted a campaign to raise awareness on the importance of education and mobilize the community to encourage their participation in educational activities. The event was attended by more than 500 people including the county commissioner, the area commander, town chiefs, civic groups, and representatives of international organizations. A group of women performed for the participants, singing a Nuer song about the importance of women's education. "If you educate a woman, then you have empowered the nation," said one attendee.

Inspired by the success of this event, a local town chief observed, "What is happening nowadays in Leer, I have never seen it before… I wish this development could be extended to other places like Koch and Mayendit."

In his speech, the Leer County commissioner called the campaign "a historic event which is significant for Leer County and the whole of South Sudan." He also called on the community—especially adults—to seize the opportunities to educate themselves. "Education has no age."♦

Mobile Drama Brings Peace Messages to Border States

Despite the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005, ethnic tensions continue to foster volatility in states along Sudan's North-South border. Strained relations among displaced people, returnees, and community residents, as well as among various ethnic groups, threaten the fragile peace. Many residents in these areas feel they have been left out of the peace and do not believe the CPA meets their needs. Few have read the agreement or understand its provisions.

Dramatic performances along Sudan's North-South border disseminate messages of peace. Photo: USAID

USAID is funding 27 dramatic performances to deliver messages of peace to six states along the North-South border that rarely have access to independent information. USAID partner Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI) conducted the activity in two phases through a grant to a local organization and in collaboration with community youth associations. The first phase staged 15 shows in four states—Khartoum, Northern Kordofan, Southern Kordofan, and Unity. The second phase, which included 12 shows in two states—White Nile and Upper Nile—integrated recommendations from a focus group of beneficiaries who had taken part in the first phase.

Displaced people, returnees, and residents in these communities enjoyed the drama, puppetry, and musical performances, all of which carried a theme of peace and stability. Community leaders also attended the shows in each of the towns, which not only encouraged other community members to attend, but will also foster the continued dissemination of peace messages throughout the community and at the grassroots level in the future.

USAID's support for disseminating messages of peace to troubled regions of Sudan aims to increase tolerance and to promote peaceful conflict resolution.♦

Trainings Cultivate Youth Livelihood Options

Darfur's displaced youth are a particularly neglected segment of the population. After more than two years of living in camps, young people have begun to grow dissatisfied with their limited employment options and the continuous insecurity in the region that prevents them from venturing elsewhere.

In Kalma camp, South Darfur, home to 90,000 displaced people, USAID partner CHF International has responded to this situation by introducing the concept of community ownership and responsibility to youth. With support from the CHF International, 200 eager and enthusiastic youth constructed the Kalma camp youth center. Directly managed by 16 youth leaders, the center has provided training in adult literacy, English, health, hygiene, carpentry, sewing, and metal working to more than 2,000 young people. The trainings aim to improve livelihood skills and prepare displaced youth to engage in small business endeavors. Based on the success of the pilot project in Kalma, CHF International worked with youth to replicate the model and built another youth center in Otash camp, located near Nyala, South Darfur.

As a testament to the centers' impact and importance, Sudan's Government of National Unity officially registered the Nyala and Kalma youth centers as Sudanese community-based organizations. Local youth have demonstrated a high level of self-sufficiency and commitment to their centers, independently acquiring more than $10,000 in in-kind contributions to support further training programs and awareness-raising drama activities.

Since CHF International began working in Darfur in 2004, the organization has constructed 14 community centers in rural villages and camps for internally displaced persons, with help from USAID. CHF International continues to support these centers, which provide educational services, cash-for-work and income-generating activities, and vocational training opportunities to more than 15,000 women and youth affected by the Darfur conflict.♦

A young man in Otash camp in South Darfur is training in carpentry. Photo: CHF International

Camp residents say they are grateful for the resources and services that USAID-supported youth centers are providing.

"Before the management and business trainings started, I had forgotten what it is like not to be a beggar."
—A youth in Otash

"In the past I helped my parents with their farm…I miss it very much, but then I think about what I am doing now and I am very proud of it…And I am looking forward to the future."
—A Kalma management committee member

"We want to grow stronger and learn how to manage better…We hope to establish a representative office in Khartoum and become CHF's implementing partner one day and maybe even work in another country."
—An Otash management committee member

Theater Groups Raise Awareness in Darfur

The almost total absence of both independent media outlets and social space in Darfur's camps has hindered residents' ability to discuss violence against

women or raise awareness of the issue. In response to this need, USAID built on its pre-existing support for the Kalma youth center to fund the creation of youth theater groups that can educate their communities about the needs of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

A USAID grant to a local theater group funded two kinds of training: a professional theater troupe first taught youth how to disseminate messages through drama, then professional paralegals showed them how to prepare human rights messages. Over a three-month period, the troupe will perform 12 plays and puppet shows addressing violence against women and survivors' needs. They will also address the traumatic effects of violence on youth and other members of the community.

Not only do these activities help give idle youth positive and productive pursuits, they may also dissuade them from participating in other activities that would create further insecurity in the camps and could jeopardize the provision of humanitarian assistance.♦

USAID works with youth in Darfur's camps to promote peace and raise awareness of issues like violence against women. Photo: USAID

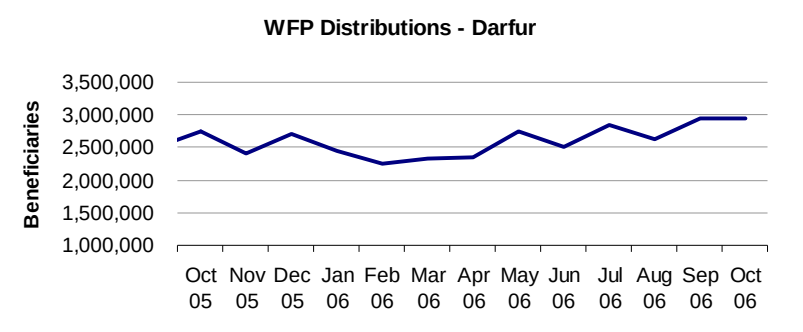
World Food Program Sudan Distributions

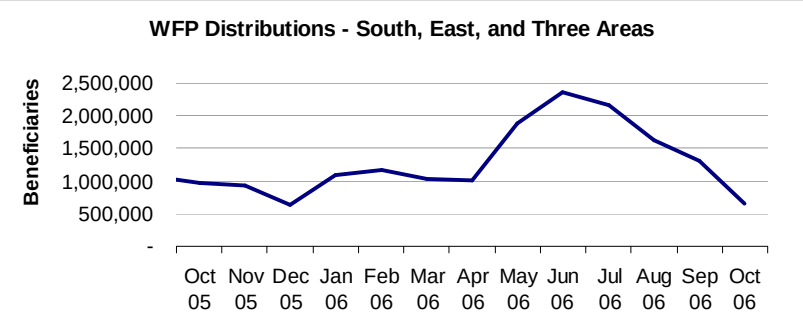
Since October 1, 2006, USAID has provided 201,830 metric tons of emergency food aid worth $199.9 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. During fiscal year 2006, USAID emergency food assistance to Sudan and Eastern Chad amounted to 475,910 metric tons worth nearly $457.8 million.

WFP Distributions October 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,939,070
South	472,988
East	113,451
Three Areas*	58,048
Central	580
Total	3,582,137

* The Three Areas includes Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.





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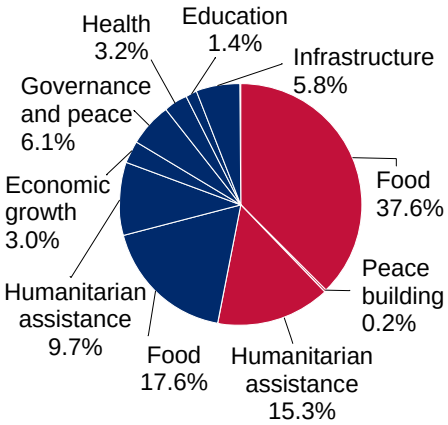
USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN FY2006, ESTIMATED



Darfur 53.2%	
Food:	$266.11 million
Peace building:	$1.40 million
Humanitarian assistance:	$108.27 million
Darfur:	*$375.78 million*

South, East, and Three Areas 46.8%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$69.02 million
Food:	$124.87 million
Economic growth:	$21.37 million
Governance and peace:	$43.27 million
Health:	$22.69 million
Education:	$10.25 million
Infrastructure:	$40.80 million
South, East, and Three Areas:	*$332.27 million*
Countrywide Total:	**$708.05 million**

The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

MONTHLY UPDATE

January-February 2007

Supporting El Geneina's Recently Displaced

Since early 2007, USAID partners have been working to meet the needs of an influx of newly displaced families who were forced to leave their homes after a recent spate of attacks on their villages, north of El Geneina, West Darfur. "We had to flee because we were beaten," said one new arrival. "We left everything behind, and had to walk for two days to reach here. We hope that here at least we will be safe."

Over the last two months, an estimated 2,500 newly displaced people have arrived in Ardamata camp, and another 1,500 in Durti camp. Having left their homes with few belongings during the peak of the cold season, several spent their nights huddled inside rough shelters made of leaves and grass, without sheets or blankets to protect them from the elements. Some were hurt while fleeing their villages and their injuries had gone untreated. All needed clean water.

Having worked in West Darfur since 2001, and in both Ardamata and Durti since the camps were first established in 2004, Medair was able to respond quickly to make these families more comfortable in their new, unfamiliar camps with support from USAID. Water and sanitation technicians have been working to extend the existing water systems to provide better access to water. To supplement Medair's existing primary health care clinics, a temporary clinic was opened in Ardamata to focus on the specific needs of the newly displaced. Medair is also preparing to assist the local Ministry of Health in providing measles vaccinations, and will construct latrines once a suitable settlement site has been identified for the newcomers.

Displaced youth in Ardamata camp, West Darfur. Photo: USAID

Other USAID partners also responded quickly to help the newly displaced families. Save the Children/US provided food rations and helped repair hand pumps at water points, while Catholic Relief Services provided temporary shelters. Other organizations registered the arrivals, provided them with basic supplies such as water containers and mats, and operated a short-term emergency clinic to care for the many trauma cases seen among the new arrivals.

"It's encouraging to see the immediate impact of interventions such as these," said Medair Health Coordinator Rhonda Eikelboom. "With the temporary clinic, these vulnerable new arrivals are able to access healthcare nearby, and are able to bring their children for vaccinations... Meanwhile, the extensions to the water systems have enabled people to collect sufficient clean drinking water near their homes, without having to walk or queue for long periods."♦

Youth participate in a peace-building workshop. Photo: USAID

Engaging Youth in Darfur's Peace Process

The U.S. government worked with the African Union to broker the May 2006 Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) between the Sudanese government and a faction of Darfur's largest rebel group, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Minni Minawi. One of the DPA's provisions, the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC), aims to propel the process of reconciliation, and includes a conference that will bring together 1,000 representatives of the Darfurian people to articulate community needs, make future plans, and build support for the DPA.

To help prepare stakeholder groups to participate and advocate effectively at the DDDC conference, USAID and the U.S. Department of State supported a workshop in South Darfur for 32 youth leaders from nongovernmental organizations, local government, and camps. A key target group in the effort to build support for the DPA, youth will play a crucial role in the DDDC. While some youth seek to effect positive change in their communities, others lead rebel movements and incite disruptions in camps and urban areas. Engaging youth leaders in the peace process and DDDC—and persuading them to organize and articulate their interests and needs in a constructive way—is essential to building community support for a political settlement of the conflict.

The workshop—one of the first of its kind held in Darfur—included sessions on negotiation skills, conflict management, and mediation techniques. It also provided a unique opportunity for youth from urban areas and from camps to interact for the first time and share experiences. On their own initiative, after the workshop was over, the young leaders formed networks to continue the positive momentum, cutting across ethnic, regional, and social lines, based on their common interest in the peace process.♦

Dialogue Connects Citizens and Government

Before they can become agents for change in their community and their country, citizens must understand political processes and the foundation documents on which they depend. With support from USAID partners Mercy Corps and the National Democratic Institute (NDI), civil society actors throughout Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan) are taking the first steps toward understanding the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and Sudan's constitutions, and engaging with government officials.

As a result of the success of an August 2006 workshop in Kurmuk, Blue Nile State, Mercy Corps and NDI launched a series of dialogues to bring together civil society organizations and local authorities in each of six strategic regions between November 2006 and February 2007.

The first dialogue was among civil society groups, and discussed the CPA in detail and encouraged further exchange on the role of citizens and organizations in CPA implementation. For many, this was the first

opportunity to discover their potential role in the implementation of the CPA.

A second dialogue was held with local authorities to discuss the CPA and to consider the achievements and challenges their communities have so far faced. Many local officials expressed frustration that communication between levels of government was such a challenge, but that the information shared in the dialogues facilitated their work.

The last dialogue brought the participants from the first two sessions together to discuss peace and democracy in Sudan. While frustration about the pace of CPA implementation remains high, participants used the dialogues as an opportunity to talk instead about their priorities and potential contribution to the process. For government officials, it was a chance to share some of their own challenges and achievements and to discuss partnership with civil society. One government official said, "This forum is for sharing ideas so that we can work together as government and citizens for a lasting peace and stability of our country."

A civil society member echoed this sentiment. "We leave this meeting understanding frustrations and challenges on both sides; we are now ready to move together to continue to work for this Sudan we have in our hopes."♦

Peace Week—and Basketball—Bring Together North and South

On January 9, Sudan celebrated the second anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Peace Week events throughout the country included marches, cultural events, and political rallies, but the celebrations, while jubilant, were muted by concern that not enough has been achieved in implementing the accord. Despite the end of Sudan's long civil war, its people must overcome a legacy of regional, religious, and ethnic differences as they work to consolidate a peaceful and democratic society.

Peace Week gave youth from North and South Sudan the unique opportunity to meet, build bridges, and to learn and talk about the CPA. USAID seized the occasion to renovate the Youth Multiplex in Juba and coordinate a basketball tournament for youth attending Peace Week events.

Basketball has always been very popular in Sudan, and each night the court's freshly renovated stands were filled with hundreds of Sudanese fans watching teams from different states in Sudan compete against each other. During the tournament, easy-to-read CPA

Celebrating the CPA

With support from USAID, Sudan Radio Service aired a 30-minute program in January celebrating the second anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Broadcast on shortwave radio countrywide in English, Arabic, and eight Southern Sudanese languages, the program aired the views of senior officials and other Southern Sudanese, including Sudanese First Vice President Salva Kiir, Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly members Joy Kwaje and Jimmy Wongo, community leaders Sadiq Mansour and Joseph Abuk, and political scientist John Gai Yoh.

CPA celebrations in Juba, January 9, 2007. Photo: NDI

Pagan Amun, Secretary General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, acknowledged that while much has been achieved, much more is expected. "On the issue of the high expectations of our people and the impression that the government and SPLM have failed to deliver, I want to say that…the high expectations that people have… are fine. We have formed the Government of Southern Sudan to achieve those goals. There may be delays. There may even be shortcomings… but rest assured that we shall work to implement our programs."♦

summaries were distributed to spectators. The games where Northern and Southern state teams competed against each other were the highlight of the tournament, showcasing contests that would have been unimaginable just two years ago.♦

Peace Week events in Juba included a basketball tournament. Photo: USAID

Better Animal Care Builds Food Security

Livestock are a vital source of food and income throughout Southern Sudan, but prolonged insecurity, climate extremes, and limited resources have left communities struggling to maintain their flocks and feed their families. At the same time, people displaced by Sudan's long civil war have begun to return home, further taxing resources. USAID is working with Vétérinaires Sans Frontières/Belgium (VSF) to address these challenges and restore food security for more than 1.7 million people, including nearly 500,000 returnees, throughout Southern Sudan. Programs seek to build local response capacity, improve veterinary services, and increase access to livestock and livestock products. They also specifically seek to improve women's skills to increase their involvement in—and share of gains from—animal production.

To build the skills necessary to address livestock issues as they arise, VSF is helping to increase local capacity to respond to emergency animal health needs, manage scarce resources, and monitor disease outbreaks. In 2006, 169 animal health workers and nearly 300 administrators, chiefs, sub-chiefs, cattle camp leaders, cattle owners, and community animal health workers were trained in these issues. During workshops on natural resource use, migration routes, and conflict mitigation, more than 275 community leaders discussed resource maps for pasture and water, migration routes, the availability of veterinary services along migration routes, and the sharing of dry season grazing wetlands. With support from USAID, VSF is also working with the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries to support county veterinary offices' capacity to handle epidemiological information.

Training and supervision are improving community veterinary services among animal health workers, poultry keepers, shepherds, and goat herders. In 2006, VSF trained 875 community animal health workers in basic services, and nearly 400 women were trained in poultry and small animal care—a particularly valuable service as many returnees traveled with only poultry and small animals and now depend on them for food and income. VSF provided more than 580,000 vaccinations against livestock diseases and treated more than 218,000 animals for major diseases. Training on the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases—anthrax, rabies, avian influenza—has reinforced other activities by increasing awareness on disease transmission and access to effective treatments. These activities created enough local interest to spur VSF to organize more than 100 workshops for vulnerable returnees and residents in 2006.

USAID's support to VSF also aims to improve access to livestock and livestock products, particularly for female-headed households of returnees and resident communities who have lost their livestock. VSF has provided more than 130 vulnerable households five goats each, and trainings and restocking activities have successfully expanded local capacity to control

Community health workers prepare to treat a sick animal in Southern Sudan. Photo: VSF

From left, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly James Wani Igga, and Minister of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan Dr. Theophilus Ochang. Photo: USAID

Carter Visits Sudan

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn visited Khartoum and Juba February 9-10 to discuss progress in eradicating two of Sudan's most debilitating diseases—Guinea worm and trachoma. The visit to Juba, Carter's first since 1995, included meetings with President of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit, Government of Southern Sudan Minister of Health Dr. Theophilus Ochang Lotti, and Speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly James Wani Igga. Carter and his wife also accompanied Rebecca Garang to lay a wreath at the memorial of Dr. John Garang.

According to the Carter Center, 81 percent of the world's remaining cases of Guinea worm disease occur in Southern Sudan, as a result of the lack of access to safe water and health services. Trachoma, the world's leading cause of preventable blindness, is also prevalent in the South, especially among women and children, for the same reasons.

Carter praised the Ministry of Health's Guinea worm eradication and trachoma control programs, saying, "The dedication and cooperation of government and program officials to greatly reduce incidences of these two ancient afflictions in communities show renewed hope for prosperity and peace in Sudan. The great challenge remains for us to continue efforts to ease unnecessary suffering caused by trachoma, and eradicate Guinea worm disease by 2009. The role of water sector partners is especially important in the fight against these two diseases, both of which reflect inadequate water supply."♦

the spread of animal diseases, reducing the vulnerability of pastoralist communities throughout Southern Sudan.♦

Radio Instruction Spreads Throughout the South

Sudan's civil war left the South's educational system lacking both human and structural resources. Radio-based education requires fewer resources and can reach a broader group than traditional bricks-and-mortar schooling—especially in rural areas short on qualified teachers. Radio instruction can also reach more learners faster than other face-to-face methods currently being used.

Indeed, radio-based instruction has shown such promise that, at a planning conference in Rumbek January 31–February 3, the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology endorsed USAID's interactive radio

The education planning conference included participants from all levels of government and the international community. Photo: USAID

instruction program and committed to encouraging its use for primary school and English language instruction. During the conference, all of USAID's instructional radio programs were fully integrated into the ministry's annual plans for the Department of Alternative Education Systems.

After demonstrating how interactive radio instruction works, USAID partner Education Development Center announced the launch and expansion of its new program—Teaching English through Radio Based Instruction for All—which began in mid-February. The program uses civic education lessons to teach English to build, simultaneously, literacy and knowledge of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, government structures, conflict mitigation strategies, and other information that has been broadcast by the USAID-supported Sudan Radio Service.

Conference participants were very enthusiastic about the radio programs and said they would request that nongovernmental organizations working in their states integrate interactive radio instruction in their education activities. The Minister of Education closed the conference by declaring he would advocate for a Literacy Council under the President's Office to spark broader support for literacy, which is critical to development in Southern Sudan.♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

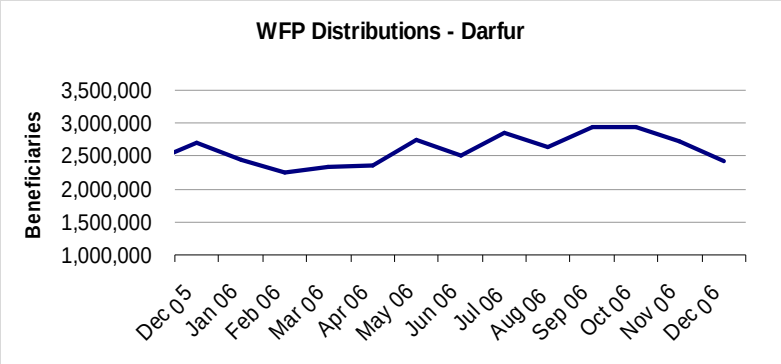
Otash camp, South Darfur. Photo: USAID

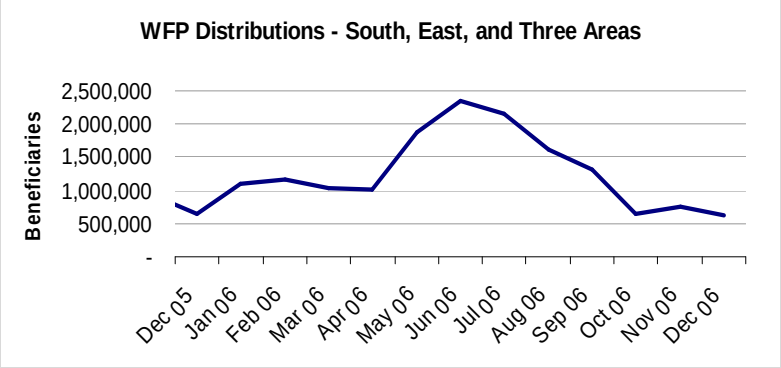
USAID is the leading donor of food assistance to Sudan. Since October 1, 2006, USAID has provided 295,600 metric tons of emergency food aid worth more than $301 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. During fiscal year 2006, USAID emergency food assistance to Sudan and Eastern Chad amounted to 475,910 metric tons worth nearly $457.8 million, and accounted for two-thirds of all contributions received for WFP Sudan operations.

WFP Distributions December 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,424,553
South	445,551
East	122,135
Three Areas*	47,279
Central	19,715
Total	3,059,233

* The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.





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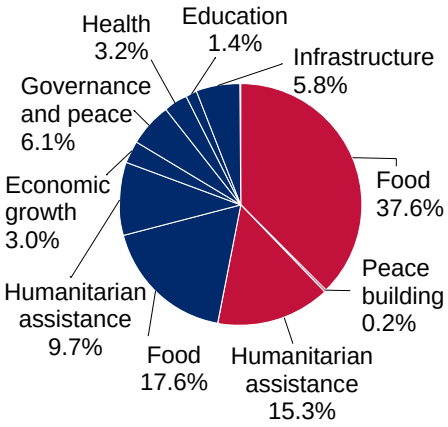

Darfur 53.2%	
Food:	$266.11 million
Peace building:	$1.40 million
Humanitarian assistance:	$108.27 million
Darfur:	*$375.78 million*

South, East, and Three Areas 46.8%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$69.02 million
Food:	$124.87 million
Economic growth:	$21.37 million
Governance and peace:	$43.27 million
Health:	$22.69 million
Education:	$10.25 million
Infrastructure:	$40.80 million
South, East, and Three Areas:	*$332.27 million*
Countrywide Total:	**$708.05 million**

The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

MONTHLY UPDATE

March 2007

Providing Shelter, Promoting Participation

For the more than two million Darfurians who have been forced to flee their homes, shelter and other supplies are resources that not only save lives, but also restore and protect dignity.

USAID partner CRS has integrated shelter provision with other services to improve their ability to cope with past trauma and prepare to mitigate future risks. In West Darfur, CRS has provided shelter and supplies to more than 2,000 displaced families using an approach that seeks to maximize participation, ownership, and dignity. After a basic training course, beneficiaries decide the type of shelter construction they would like, and participate in setting camp, demarcating land, and constructing the shelter. Beneficiaries are asked to provide roof coverings through locally available materials, while CRS provides other needed construction supplies. More than 65 grassroots community shelter committees have been established and trained by CRS to guide beneficiaries through the process and monitor and evaluate activities.

Flexibility and responsiveness are also key to the success of USAID-supported CRS activities. In January 2007, when violence displaced families from three villages in the Kulbus Corridor, CRS was able to immediately mobilize resources and construct temporary communal shelter units in Ardamata camp to receive the newly displaced. Since then, shelters with a longer life span have been built for individual households.

With support from USAID, CRS works with displaced people in West Darfur to plan and construct shelters. Photo: CRS

A family in Krinding camp helped build a kornok shelter (above), and a family in Kouma camp helped build a goutia shelter (right). Photos: CRS

In July 2006, when attacks by armed militias forced 1,400 families around Abu Suruj from their homes, CRS conducted a rapid assessment and provided more than 1,380 households with kits including blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen equipment, water jugs, water buckets, women's clothing (*toubs*), and sanitary items.♦

Clubs Provide Education and Interaction

As violence in Darfur escalates and spills into Eastern Chad, more Chadians and Sudanese are being driven out of their homes seeking the relative safety of camps in West Darfur. Living in an unfamiliar environment, the refugees and displaced people lack traditional community resources, and the threat of disease spread by poor hygiene practices is increased in the camps' close living space.

With support from USAID, Tearfund is working to reduce these risks by forming community-run clubs and activity centers that promote healthy habits and provide a social support network for people affected by the conflict.

Children's clubs meet twice a week in four locations in West Darfur (Mesteri, Kongo Haraza, Beida, and Ararah). Using songs, games, and drama to teach children how to stay healthy, the clubs address a new health topic chosen each month by the communities. Initially launched in August 2004, the clubs are now attended by an average of 23,000 children each week.

At the club in Beida, 12-year-old Rehad is one of 398 child encouragers—older children who support and facilitate the younger attendees. She attends Beida's girls' school and was one of the many students who volunteered to help to paint the school's new latrines in bright colors and educate their classmates on keeping them clean. Says Rehad, "I really enjoy the clubs every Saturday and Wednesday and feel I know now many ways to stay healthy."

Rehad's mother Masora is one of 7,410 women who attend weekly USAID-supported women's clubs, which were started in the summer of 2005 in response to demand from local women to have their own meetings. After Rehad became involved in the children's club, she encouraged her mother to start attending the women's club. Masora did, and now attends the clubs because they give her the chance to talk with friends and they help her understand what her children learned in their club that week. In addition, each month, a member of Tearfund's staff

visits Masora's family to reinforce the lessons learned in the clubs. The family dug its own latrine after the Tearfund staff encouraged them and provided them with a latrine slab and sanitary items.

Many displaced children who arrived too late to register for school have started attending one of Tearfund's 16 USAID-supported activity centers. Attended by 8,597 children in February, the centers give children a place to sing, play, listen to stories, and learn numbers and letters. Children are also encouraged to draw to help them overcome traumatic experiences, and the warmer weather has inspired the young artists to add snakes and flowers to their usual drawings of people, guns, houses and helicopters. In response to the recent influx of new refugees, two puppets—Nora and Abas—now also "attend" the children's clubs and activity centers. They, like many of the children, have recently left their home in Chad and are intended to help them cope with their new environment. Facilitators from the communities have joined the more than 1,200 volunteers who run the programs, allowing them to communicate with the children in the local language.

Unfortunately, violence continues to challenge assistance efforts. The Tearfund activity center on the outskirts of Arara was forced to close in February after that section of the town was attacked and most residents were forced to move. One of the facilitators of this center says he is now helping out at a new center and that many of his children had joined him there. "It's good to still to be able to come and help at an activity center each day," he said. "I hope I can go back to my own one soon."♦

Tomi Clinic: First Steps Toward Recovery

Southern Kordofan state was one of the areas hit hardest by Sudan's 21-year civil war. Large numbers of people were displaced, some to temporary camps around Dilling and Kadugli, and others to cities as far away as Khartoum. The conflict decimated nearly all infrastructure outside of the larger cities, and the people who remained behind often took refuge in the surrounding foothills known as the Nuba Mountains. For the few organizations providing assistance in the area, access was difficult until a ceasefire was signed in 2003.

The village of Tomi is a microcosm of Southern Kordofan's experience. Located North of Abu Gebeha in eastern Southern Kordofan, Tomi was devastated by the conflict. Nearly half of its population fled the region to seek refuge, and what little infrastructure that had once existed was either destroyed or greatly eroded. Social services were nonexistent. By the time USAID partner Save the Children/USA (SC/USA) began working in Tomi after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in 2005, residents commonly suffered from bouts of acute respiratory infection, malaria, diarrhea, and conjunctivitis worm. With continued peace, more and more people displaced by the war have begun to return home. While the increasing population has stretched the community's already limited resources, it has also provided stability and hope for Tomi's people to contribute to the recovery of their village.

Today, Tomi residents work with SC/USA to construct

Residents of Tomi helped build a new health clinic, and people from across the area attended its opening. Photo: SC/US

household pit latrines, raise awareness among newcomers on the dangers of landmines, and conduct other interventions to improve health.

In February 2007, Tomi opened a new health clinic with support from USAID and SC/USA. The community, which was very excited to have a new clinic, was integrally involved in the construction, providing more than 40 percent of the inputs in the form of sand, gravel, fired bricks, and unskilled labor. In its enthusiasm, the community was actually able to produce an unprecedented surplus of bricks that allowed a wall to be constructed around the clinic—a significant improvement to the standard approved design.

Nearly all members of the Tomi community, and the surrounding villages of Mansour and Al Mogalam, attended the inauguration of the clinic. Spirits were high, as the people were thankful not only for a new, functioning clinic, but also for the ownership they had cultivated with their commitment.

SC/USA and USAID continue to support Tomi with trainings on managing childhood illnesses and health surveillance and reporting. Once just barely surviving, Tomi has taken its first steps towards recovery.♦

"Let's Talk"

Dr. John Garang believed that all Sudanese should read, understand, and own the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) because public support for the peace deal that ended Sudan's 21-year civil war is crucial to its implementation and to securing a just and lasting peace in Sudan.

But understanding the CPA is not as easy as it might seem. Like any legal document, it is written in complex language that is difficult for the average person to understand. In addition, the majority of Southern Sudanese citizens are illiterate, making even simplified written summaries of little use.

Knowing that radio programming would be key to sharing information, USAID began funding the Sudan Radio Service (SRS) in 2003. With assistance from USAID partner Educational Development Center (EDC), SRS has been broadcasting shortwave news and informational programming countrywide in English, Arabic, and several Southern Sudanese languages. Recently, another USAID partner, the National Democratic Institute (NDI)—which has delivered civic education messages all over the world

Actors from "Let's Talk" record a program. Photo: SRS

in small group settings—teamed up with SRS to produce "Let's Talk," a half-hour weekly radio program designed to educate listeners about the CPA through dramatic, straight-talk, and discussion segments.

The drama takes place in a fictional Southern Sudanese town called Al Jedidah, and focuses on some of its inhabitants. County Commissioner Taban, his wife Salamah, and their children and friends learn from and educate each other about the CPA as it affects their daily lives. A straight-talk segment follows that delivers concrete facts in a simplified form related to the events of the drama. The program closes with a discussion segment, which features views from Sudanese men and women on the topics featured in the program.

A listener in Abyei said that "Let's Talk" is an entertaining way to present complex information. "That Taban," he said, "is a very funny guy."

"Let's Talk" debuted on January 15. It airs daily on SRS shortwave frequencies and can also be heard on the SRS Web site, www.sudanradio.org.♦

Fast-Tracking Teachers

Parents in Southern Sudan are sending their children to school in record numbers as a result of the peace and security brought by the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Increased enrolment has in turn increased demand for new teachers—approximately 5,000 will need to be added each year for the next five years to keep up. Drastic measures are required to meet this target and ensure that Southern Sudan's new students have access to the best possible learning environments.

State-level tutors prepare to train new teachers. Photo: AED

Southern Sudan currently has three functioning teacher training institutes, but their output falls far short of the demand. The Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology has developed several strategies to address the gap, including the Fast-Track Teacher Education and Training Program, which is supported by UNICEF and by USAID through its partners Academy for Educational Development and Educational Development Center. In January-April 2007, the first cycle of the Fast-Track Program will prepare 1,000–1,200 new teachers to begin teaching soon after the school year starts in April.

In the first phase of the program, Ministry specialists prepared a group of 30 "trainers of trainers"—three from each of the 10 Southern states—at the Southern Sudan teacher training institute at Maridi, Western Equatoria. In the second phase, the trainers and Ministry specialists prepared 120 state-level tutors (12 from each Southern state). Although the phases were short—only nine days each—they produced a core group of 150 trainers and tutors throughout Southern Sudan who are prepared to train new teachers through the third phase—the six-week Fast-Track Program, scheduled for March and April.

The pilot Fast-Track cycle will take place in two counties of each Southern state and train 1,200 people in the initial knowledge, skills, and confidence needed by young teachers. The content of the program is guided by a syllabus and training manual prepared by the Ministry with USAID and UNICEF. All new teachers will receive a USAID-funded radio and instructions on radio education for primary grades 1-3.

Described as a "gateway to the teaching profession," the Fast-Track Program will not fully certify its participants, but it will enter them in the new in-service teacher professional development program, where they can earn certification within four years.♦

SSLA Women's League Molds Strategic Plan

Twenty-two female members of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) attended a three-day seminar in Nairobi February 3-6 to finalize the SSLA Women's League Strategic Plan. Coordinated by USAID partner International Republican Institute (IRI), the seminar was a follow-up to a September 2006 training, which developed a draft strategic plan for the Women's League, a group of female lawmakers similar to the U.S. Congressional Women's Caucus.

The seminar commenced with an overview of the key principles in developing a strategic plan and the pitfalls to avoid. The participants were then divided into three groups, each of which was given a section of the plan to review. The session was extremely useful as parliamentarians made several constructive amendments to the draft, which are now being incorporated into the plan.

On the second day, Patrick Gichohi, deputy clerk of Kenya's National Assembly, advised the participants on the principles of bill drafting, which included a step by step analysis of a bill that had been passed in Kenya's parliament. Then they were again broken into three groups and asked to develop bills addressing one of three topics—small businesses in Juba, violence against women, and Juba's street children.

The seminar then turned to constituency relations. A presentation by Beth Mugo, a member of Kenya's Parliament and Assistant Minister for Education, addressed outreach techniques and the link between constituency relations and elections. She also discussed the difference in responsibilities between opposition parliamentarians and cabinet members, which led to discussion about collective responsibility.

Members of the SSLA Women's League attended a seminar in Nairobi to finalize their strategic plan. Photo: IRI

On the third day, IRI gave a presentation on communications and participants were asked to develop a message for mock political parties. The seminar also included a presentation on the development and achievements of the Kenya Women's Parliamentary Association to expose the Sudanese Women's League to the range of activities they may want to initiate. The session also looked at how the association raises funds for its activities and concluded with a tour of Kenya's National Assembly.

Evaluations of the seminar were overwhelmingly positive. One participant said, "This was a fantastic seminar and many of the topics covered have given me great insight and knowledge to perform my job as an MP better." Participants also said they found the training materials very useful, and were particularly pleased with the tour of the Kenyan National Assembly. The location of the seminar—Nairobi—was also appreciated, as one participant noted, because it made it easier to concentrate on the training away from the pressures of work in Juba. The session on constituency outreach received the most positive feedback, with one participant saying it focused on information "you can't get in books."

All of the participants said they would pass the information they had learned on to their colleagues, and several planned to organize meetings with their staff to pass on their knowledge.♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

Oil distribution in Kass, South Darfur. Photo: USAID

USAID is the leading donor of food assistance to Sudan. Since October 1, 2006, USAID has provided 377,700 metric tons of emergency food aid worth more than $380 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. During fiscal year 2006, USAID emergency food assistance to Sudan and Eastern Chad amounted to 475,910 metric tons worth nearly $457.8 million, and accounted for two-thirds of all donor contributions to WFP's Sudan operations.

WFP Distributions January 2007

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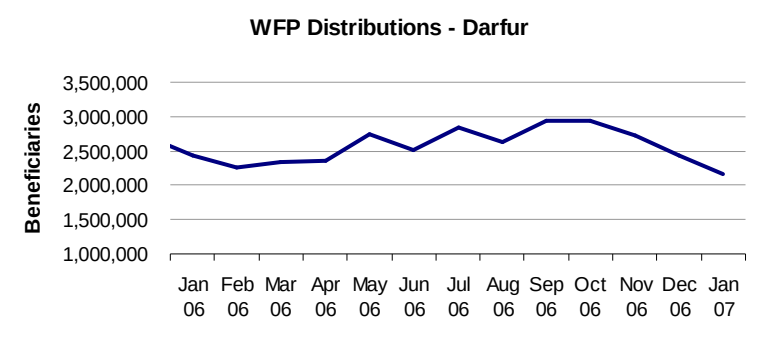
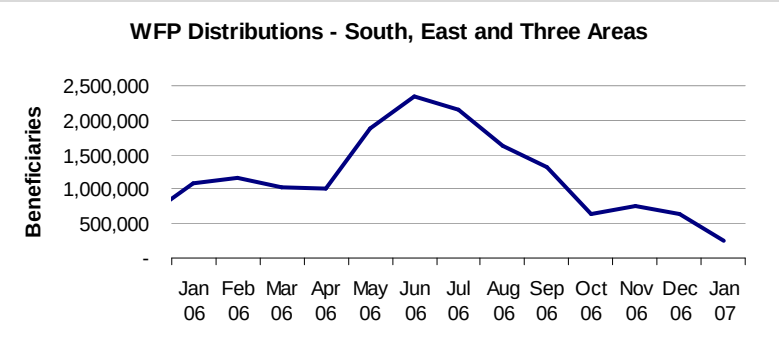
Darfur	2,153,479
South	68,978
East	118,620
Three Areas*	48,389
Central	19,343
Total	2,408,629

* The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.





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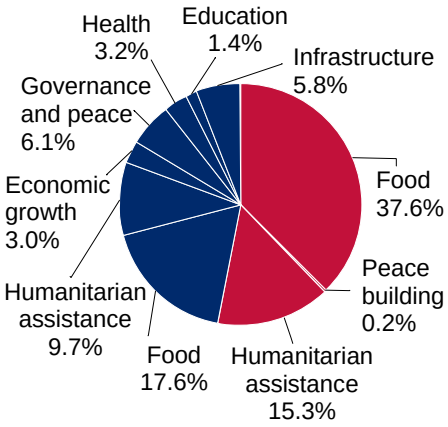

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Darfur:	*$375.78 million*

South, East, and Three Areas 46.8%	
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Governance and peace:	$43.27 million
Health:	$22.69 million
Education:	$10.25 million
Infrastructure:	$40.80 million
South, East, and Three Areas:	*$332.27 million*
Countrywide Total:	**$708.05 million**

The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

MONTHLY UPDATE

April 2007

Celebrating International Women's Day

On March 8, USAID-supported organizations marked International Women's Day with a range of events and celebrations across Sudan. From El Fasher to Yei, the Sudanese people honored women's achievements and rededicated themselves to working toward women's full participation in society.

The U.S. Government has made a long-term commitment to help women worldwide find their voices, achieve their potential, and share in the benefits as well as the duties of development. "We are resolved to remove the barriers to political, economic, and social empowerment so that women everywhere may freely chart their own way," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has stated.

Keeping the resolve expressed by Secretary Rice is a priority for USAID. Transformational development is not possible without the full and equal participation of women, and Sudan cannot reach its full potential unless women have equal rights and opportunities. USAID's support for democracy, education, health, and economic growth improves the status of women and enhances their opportunities.

Darfur

With support from USAID, the UN Development Program (UNDP) marked International Women's Day in North Darfur by conducting a

In El Fasher, Kenin men dance and women make music at an International Women's Day celebration. Photo: UNDP

series of activities March 6-9 that promoted the message, “Together We Can Stop Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Against Women.”

In Kutum locality—where women walk 2-3 hours every day to collect water—UNDP coordinated with CARE, the UN Joint Logistics Center, and the UN Mission in Sudan-Human Rights to distribute plastic containers that will allow women to carry more water and make the trip less frequently. A total of 2,300 jerry cans were distributed to women from 870 households from Damrat Sheik Abdalbagy, and from 259 households from Boirsaid.

In Abu Shouk camp in El Fasher, UNDP supported a soccer match between displaced youth and international aid workers to raise awareness of sexual and gender-based violence. Both teams wore T-shirts bearing the message, “Stop Violence Against Women” in English and Arabic. [The Darfuri youth defeated the aid workers, 1-0.]

In the final celebratory event in El Fasher, UNDP collaborated with local USAID grantee Um Jumma Women’s Charitable Society to host a music and dance cultural festival. The day-long event spotlighted the traditional Hakamat women singers and poets, who wrote new songs of peace and women’s empowerment to perform at the festival. Dance troupes—including Arabs, Bergo, Dinariah, Dinka, Fallata, Fur, Hausa, Kenin, Masalit, Tama, and Zaghawa—entertained the governor (*wali*), the British ambassadors to the United Nations and to Sudan, and more than 400 community members.

USAID also supports efforts to improve the status of women across Darfur year-round with its Violence Against Women Initiative. The $15-million dollar program was launched at the Secretary of State’s request in response to the ongoing, widespread violence against women and girls in Darfur. Work aims to improve physical safety of vulnerable people, provide immediate services to victims, and address the root causes of violence. USAID primarily implements these activities through small grants that support community organizations, and through mainstreamed, standalone activities that are part of larger humanitarian assistance programs.

Southern Sudan

Residents of Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan, launched International Women’s Day with a parade through the city streets. When the parade arrived at Juba Stadium, hundreds of people observed and participated in a day of music, dancing, and speeches. Many participants wore T-shirts that said, simply, “25%”—a message advocating for government offices to strive to reach the Comprehensive Peace Agreement-stipulated quota for women’s representation.

In Leer, Unity State, three USAID partners led the day’s festivities, which provided examples of how their

International Women’s Day in Juba started with a parade through the streets, then music, dancing, and speeches at Juba Stadium. Photos: USAID

Members of Mothers' Action Assist Widows sing at a celebration of International Women's Day in Yei. Photo: Mercy Corps

work empowers women, whether through an adult learning program or computer literacy courses.

"We invite the community to support and encourage the women and girls to get more preparation in capacity building, especially education," said guest of honor Sister Andriana Tovar from Comboni Catholic Church. "We are aware that the Government of Southern Sudan has given 25 percent [of] seat[s] to women in parliaments, and we know that in parliament many of the issues that affect a country are discussed and decisions are taken. So, how can women be involved in decision making in Southern Sudan if they are not prepared?

"By sending women and girls to school they become more prepared and aware of who they are and how they can contribute more actively in the community by getting involved in peace building, human rights, gender equality, and development in general. This is a day for women to be aware of their self worth, their dignity and appreciate themselves for who they are—as people gifted and ready to contribute to the development of the nation."

In Yei, Western Equatoria, Mothers' Action Assist Widows (MAAW) ended the festivities with a song celebrating women around the world. "Let us join hands together to promote end of violence against women and girls. Let us empower women in Yei, in Sudan, and the world. Widows and widowers are coming—let us smile a bit. MAAW has come to enjoy the international Women Day."♦

Healing Darfur's Injured Women

An obstetric fistula is a debilitating injury caused by complications during childbirth. During prolonged obstructed labor, a hole may develop between a woman's birth canal and one or more of her internal organs. This condition causes permanent incontinence, and sufferers are often ostracized by their families and communities because of the accompanying foul smell. According to the Fistula Foundation, surgery can repair obstetric fistula 93 percent of the time, and it now has been virtually eliminated in developed countries. However, it is still prevalent in much of the developing world. At least 2 million women currently live with fistula, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, and 50,000-100,000 more women are affected annually. In Sudan alone, there are 5,000 new cases each year, more than 60 percent of which are from West, North, and South Darfur.

In August 2006, with support from USAID, Save the Children opened the New Hope unit, a fistula ward at the regional hospital in Geneina, West Darfur. Previously, women with fistula were admitted to a general gynecological ward, where they were still stigmatized by their problem, and the few who were able to have corrective surgery had to do so at a distant hospital most easily reached by plane. Now, a specialist works in the New Hope unit to treat fistula on a consistent basis. Only women suffering from fistula are admitted to the ward, where they feel more comfortable to be with other women who share the same problem.

Miriam is just one woman who has benefited from the New Hope Unit. The 50-year-old has lived in Ardamata camp in West Darfur since her village was attacked by armed militia. She has borne three children—the first died at birth and the second, a boy, is now 26 years old. Miriam labored for three days before giving birth to her third child, a boy named Osman who is now 24 years old. She developed a fistula as a result of the prolonged labor, which made her unable to hold her urine and caused a permanent, unpleasant odor.

Because of the odor, Miriam was ostracized by her community. Her husband took all their belongings, abandoned her, and married another woman. She was not welcome at traditional public events such as weddings or community celebrations, and if she attended, she was obligated to keep her distance from the group. Despite the shock and depression caused

by her situation, she tried to actively look after her two sons, begging in the market for food, though she was too poor to send them to school.

Recently, Osman brought Miriam to Ardamata's USAID-supported primary health care clinic. She was immediately diagnosed as having a vesicovaginal fistula and referred to the New Hope unit for evaluation and treatment. Osman was devastated to learn that his mother's condition had been caused by his birth, but his grief turned to hope when they learned that her fistula could be surgically repaired.

Two weeks following her admission to the New Hope unit, Miriam underwent corrective surgery, which ended her 24 years of suffering. That day, she says, was the happiest day of her life.♦

Radio Programs Address Violence Against Women

The unimaginable unfolds as a matter of daily life for displaced women in Eastern Chad. Many of these women are survivors of sexual and other violence perpetrated in Darfur or Eastern Chad, and frequently, the initial grief turns into shame and aggression as some families imprison these women, literally tying them up in their refugee camp tents.

To raise awareness and promote healing among these women and their communities, USAID partner Internews Network produces the radio show, "She Speaks, She Listens." Broadcast daily on FM radio to refugee camps throughout Eastern Chad, the program raises awareness of issues critical for women. A recent 20-minute program used interviews with camp residents, psychologists, and other experts to explore options available to people dealing with grief and trauma. Since the show aired, camp workers report dramatic increases in the number of women choosing to seek services, engage with others, and even begin to heal from the traumas they have suffered.

In Eastern Chad, an Internews journalist conducts an interview. Photo: USAID

Internews employs Chadian women journalists, which enables "She Speaks, She Listens" to discuss sensitive topics, including female genital cutting, child marriage, and domestic violence. Internews also addresses these themes in radio dramas it produces and broadcasts in association with a local theater troupe.

"She Speaks, She Listens" is part of Internews' Humanitarian Information Service, which reaches out to Sudanese refugees and the local population in Eastern Chad. This and other programming, made possible with support from USAID, the U.S. State Department, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, now reaches more than half of the refugee camps in Eastern Chad.♦

Sitting Down to the Same Water Table

Ed Daein, South Darfur, has historically been populated by Arab tribes, the majority of whom are nomadic, and non-Arab tribes, the majority of whom are settled. Each of these groups lays claim to the same rights over the land and its resources—most notably, water. As a devastating result, the destruction of water access points has become the weapon of choice in this ongoing struggle for natural resources, and, consequently, one of the main causes of exodus from rural areas.

In this context, with the support of USAID, Solidarités has intervened for the past year to secure rural access to water in an effort to improve health and foster reconciliation.

The initiative, which rebuilt water access points that had either fallen into disrepair or were purposefully destroyed, followed an innovative system that separated water intended for human use from water intended for animal use. Previously, humans and animals shared the same drinking troughs—a practice that significantly increased the chances of disease transmission from animal to human. The absence of

People and animals shared the same water sources in Ed Daien (left) before improvements gave them separate access points and added faucets and drains (right). Photos: Solidarités

drainage systems also increased the chances of water stagnating around access points, attracting malaria-bearing mosquitoes and other insects. The improved access points eliminate standing water, and the problems associated with it.

To further local reconciliation, Solidarités rehabilitated water points that were situated in both the Arabs' and the non-Arabs' zones of influence.

In Jawazat, 3,200 people have benefited from a complete overhaul of the water yard. More than half are nomads who travel up to 25 kilometers, round-trip, in one day to reach the water point. Humans draw their water from a platform with a ramp outfitted with faucets and a system that effectively drains used water. The numerous animal herds—camels, cows, sheep—now drink from a water point independent of the human system.

In El Minger, the 2,500 residents benefited from the complete overhaul of their water yard with the help of USAID and Solidarités. A generator that powers the submersible pump was repaired, which now allows each of two 11,000-gallon water tanks to be filled in three hours. Following the same principle as with Jawazat, El Minger's water point for human consumption was separated from the animal water point. Moreover, a hygiene committee composed of both men and women was created to ensure that the benefits of the new system are continually promoted and the facilities upgraded.

Both projects mobilized their communities to an unexpected degree. At Jawazat and El Minger, numerous volunteers at both sites spontaneously participated in the construction work, as well as in sessions organized to promote health and hygiene.♦

Building Awareness of Land Rights in the East

Over the last five years, conflict has intensified between Eastern Sudan's agro-pastoral communities and foreign investors over the confiscation of land and water for commercial agriculture. Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the recently signed Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA) stress the need for the peaceful resolution of conflicts related to the allocation of scarce resources such as land, oil, and water. However, most of the inhabitants of Eastern Sudan are unaware of the rights afforded them by the CPA and ESPA. Furthermore, members of these communities often lack the conflict management skills that would help them resolve land disputes peacefully.

To address these potential drivers of conflict, USAID partnered with a Sudanese civil society organization to organize a five-day workshop and training program focused on the peace agreement and land conflict resolution skills. Initially, it was difficult to reach the remote communities, but by the second day of the

A USAID workshop builds awareness of land rights. Photo: USAID

workshop, word had spread that, for the first time, an organization was reaching out to pastoralists to address issues important to them. Consequently, the workshop attracted 70 attendees rather than the 50 expected, including representatives from one very conservative nomadic tribe. This marked the first time that members of this tribe had ever attended a workshop with the other tribes in the region.

Before the workshop, only 15 percent of the participants had been exposed to the CPA or ESPA. By the end of the training, all of the participants said that they understood their rights and could protect themselves against violations of these rights. The participants also requested that the workshop be given in rural areas around Kassala so more communities could be mobilized to advocate for better laws on the use of Sudan's resources.♦

Partners in Radio Education

If you are in Southern Sudan and have a shortwave radio, you can tap into a real education resource that targets primary students, as well as their teachers and parents. USAID's Southern Sudan Interactive Radio Instruction program strengthens education access and quality through the daily Learning Village program in literacy, English, and mathematics for grades 1-3; instruction in English and civics for youth and adults; and professional studies programs, geared to strengthen teacher education.

But while shortwave broadcast capability allows people in Abyei, Blue Nile, Southern Kordofan, and Southern Sudan to listen to the programs on a regular basis, the quality and stability of a shortwave frequency does not compare with the clarity of a FM signal. In areas such as Juba, reception was spotty and experienced significant interference.

"We realized that we could lose some of our audience if the reception was poor, and because the Learning Village programs in particular are tied to the national curriculum, we needed to make sure they could be available at the right times for school audiences," says Tom Tilson, of USAID partner Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC).

At the same time, Miraya Radio, an FM station operated by the UN Mission in Sudan with support

Let's Beat Malaria

The Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Health launched the Let's Beat Malaria Initiative on February 23 at the Munuki Antenatal Care Center in Central Equatoria. USAID is supporting the initiative, which works to raise public awareness on how to prevent and control malaria—one of the most pervasive public health threats in Southern Sudan.

The initiative will focus on distributing long-lasting insecticide-treated bednets, especially to younger children and women during pregnancy; promoting rapid diagnosis and prompt treatment using more effective combination therapies; and conducting intermittent preventive therapy for women during pregnancy. If effective, the initiative will reduce malaria-related deaths by half over the next five years.

The launch included a march from Juba University to Munuki, entertainment by the Central Equatoria Women's Union, a performance by the Southern Sudan TV Group, and speeches from the Government of Southern Sudan and USAID. The day concluded with a bednet distribution for all women at Manuki.♦

The launch of the Let's Beat Malaria Initiative included dramatic performances on the danger of malaria during pregnancy. Photo: USAID

from the Swiss Hirondelle Foundation, was seeking programming to supplement its news and information broadcasts. Broadcasting since June 2006, Miraya's mandate includes providing information on topics such as the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, women's issues, health, and education.

Miraya and EDC teamed up to complement each other's initiatives, with EDC supplying the programming and Miraya supplying the frequency.

"EDC provides quality content that is interesting to us," said Leon Willems, who heads Miraya. "We're very excited about the educational dramas, they are a welcome addition and add variety to our programming schedule. Education is extremely important for Southern Sudan."

Radio Miraya has been so well received that it has begun adding FM repeater stations, and aims to comprehensively cover all Southern Sudan's major population centers by the end of 2007.

Children in Maridi learn numbers through daily radio programs. Photo: EDC

"There is a mutual interest for us to partner with EDC," said Willems. "And as soon as the media market opens up more, we will be able to reach all of Southern Sudan."♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

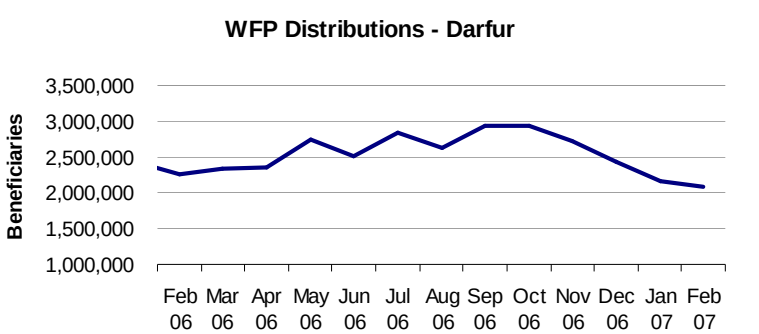
Offloading wheat at Port Sudan. Photo: USAID

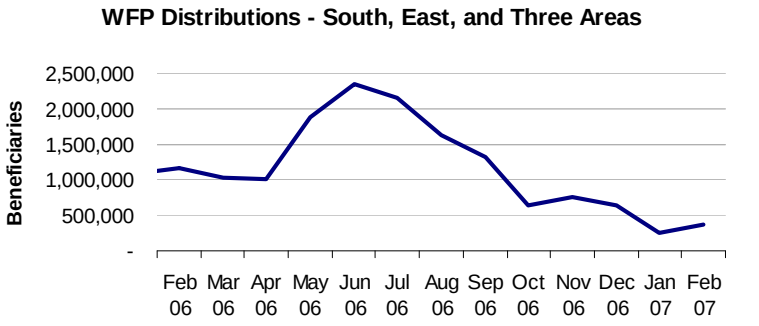
USAID is the leading donor of food assistance to Sudan. Since October 1, 2006, USAID has provided 377,700 metric tons of emergency food aid worth more than $380 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. During fiscal year 2006, USAID emergency food assistance to Sudan and Eastern Chad amounted to 475,910 metric tons worth nearly $457.8 million, and accounted for two-thirds of all donor contributions to WFP's Sudan operations.

WFP Distributions February 2007

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,085,830
South	101,265
East	92,251
Three Areas*	151,022
Central	21,526
Total	2,451,894

* The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.





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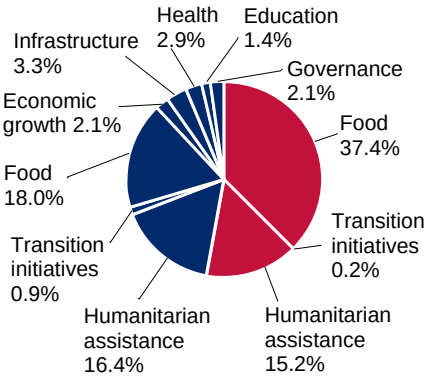
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN FY2006, ESTIMATED



Darfur 52.8%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$108.270 million
Transition initiatives:	$1.400 million
Food:	$266.110 million
Darfur:	*$375.780 million*

South, East, and Three Areas 47.2%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$116.520 million
Transition initiatives:	$6.660 million
Food:	$127.807 million
Economic growth:	$15.120 million
Governance:	$14.850 million
Health:	$22.692 million
Education:	$10.250 million
Infrastructure:	$23.350 million
South, East, and Three Areas:	*$335.249 million*
Countrywide Total:	**$711.029 million**

The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

MONTHLY UPDATE

May 2007

Building Food Security in Vulnerable Communities

The end of Sudan's two-decade civil war and the advent of a protracted conflict in Darfur has resulted in huge population shifts countrywide. Many long-displaced Southerners have begun to return to their homes, while violence has uprooted over 2 million Darfuris. These massive human movements strain resources and often result in food insecurity for returnees, displaced people, and host communities alike.

Southern Sudan

Over the next two years, as many as 50,000 people are expected to return to Lainya County, Central Equatoria. Building food security and livelihoods will be vital to improving the standard of living for the returnees, as well as the 200,000 current residents.

USAID partner Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) is implementing a program to do just that, using an integrated approach that aims to build a sustainable future for returnees and other vulnerable residents. To increase agricultural productivity while reducing dependence on relief, NPA supplements its distribution of food, seeds, and tools with extension training. Food security and agriculture training workshops are held at the Kenyi Farmer Training Center, one of 22 centers NPA has established in Southern Sudan since 1998.

Residents of Lainya County collect seeds and tools that will help increase agricultural yields. Photo: NPA

A nursery in Otash camp provides fruit tree seedlings for rural communities. Photo: USAID

Each of the centers has played an important role in the transfer of agricultural technology to rural areas and serve as demonstration plots for improved practices. Administration of 13 of the centers has been handed over to their local county agriculture departments, reflecting the areas that have attained a reasonable level of food security. However, because of the large number of returnees expected from camps in Uganda and Central Equatoria, USAID plans to continue to support the Kenyi center.

This year, the Kenyi center has already distributed seeds and tools to 1,204 returnee households in Lainya. These inputs will enable each household to increase its area of cultivation by up to 1.5 acres. Also, as a result of NPA's capacity-building efforts, the Lainya County Agriculture Department has supported the formation of six farmer groups with a total of 88 members.

Since it was formed in 1998, the Kenyi center has trained 1365 farmers, including 375 women. The training enabled these farmers to significantly increase their maize and sorghum yields and has resulted in a considerable decrease in dependence on relief food in the county.

Darfur

In an effort to improve food security and livelihoods in Darfur, USAID partner CHF International is operating veterinary clinics and tree nurseries in Al Salaam camp in North Darfur, and in Otash camp, Kalma camp, and rural areas of South Darfur.

Animals like donkeys, mules, camels, goats, and horses are crucial to many families' livelihoods as they transport water and are used for small-scale economic activities. CHF International's veterinary clinics—staffed by students from the local university—provide vaccinations and treatment for common animal diseases. Every week, 1,300 animals are treated at each of the clinics in Al Salaam, Otash, and Kalma camps.

In Kalma and Otash camps, CHF International also collaborates with the Ministry of Agriculture to operate nurseries, which grow lemon, guava, and papaya trees for reforestation. The staff trains displaced people to cultivate the trees and then distributes them to surrounding rural communities—approximately 3,500 seedlings in the last year.♦

Returning Home: Lakes State

After spending the last 20 years in Khartoum because of civil war, Georgie Thuc is returning to his village of Abrio in Southern Sudan. He says he will live with family members until he is able to build his own shelter, and will farm on communal land. There are a school and a clinic in Abrio, as well as an inadequate water supply.

Twenty-five years ago, Abrahim Mabor was 15 when he fled violence in his village, Aluakluak. When he arrived in Khartoum he worked as a laborer, but when he returns to his village, he plans to farm, and he hopes to get married. While there is a clinic in a neighboring village, there is also a shortage of water in the area.

Georgie and Abrahim were two of 99 returnees who arrived in Wau on April 30 on a bus ride from Khartoum organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In Wau, the group joined 52

In Rumbek, 151 returnees from Khartoum and Ethiopia collected UN assistance packages before traveling onward to their home villages. Photo: USAID

refugees who had flown in from Gambela, Ethiopia, and the 151 rode on to Rumbek. Before traveling onward to their places of origin, the returnees received an assistance package from a group of international agencies, including food rations from the UN World Food Program, seeds and tools from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and relief commodities from the UN Children's Fund.

So far in 2007, IOM plans to assist the return has assisted 26,000 people, and expects to reach 83,000 by the end of the year. In Lakes State, IOM has returned 514 people in 2007, and 151 are currently in transit. Rains are expected to slow the organized returns program during June-November.

To support the communities that are receiving returning displaced people and refugees, USAID is working at key points of return to support programs in livelihood development, food security, agriculture, education, health, nutrition, and water. The initiatives aim to prepare these areas for an influx of new residents by improving facilities, building human and institutional capacity, and increasing access to services.

According to IOM, 450,000 displaced people have registered in Khartoum to participate in the organized returns program, implemented jointly by the United Nations, Government of South Sudan, and Government of National Unity.♦

Civil Society Organizations Build Coalitions

Representatives from 61 grassroots civil society organizations gathered in Malual Kon, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, last month for one of the largest civil society conferences ever held in Southern Sudan. The event, which ran from March 30 to April 4 was organized by USAID partners Mercy Corps and International Rescue Committee (IRC), and was the third in a series of six civil society exchanges.

Building Coalitions through Civil Society Partnerships was the theme of the conference, which brought together more than 150 participants, including civil society actors and experts in education, HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, water and sanitation, vocational training, and peace building. The conference aimed to help civil society organizations understand how, by forming coalitions, they can increase their impact and improve their ability to advocate for the rights of marginalized groups.

Mercy Corps and IRC launched the event with training sessions that introduced participants to the concept of coalitions and strategies to initiate regional or sectoral coalitions. USAID partner the National Democratic Institute (NDI) then facilitated a dialogue on the role of coalitions in political processes, and participants talked about structures of government, explored decision-making processes, and considered political processes, such as elections, where coalitions might emerge. Participants stepped into the shoes of politicians and applied practical negotiation skills during a simulation of two minority-supported parties approaching elections. While civil society coalitions play a different function than political party coalitions, participants saw that many of the same strengths, challenges, and strategies apply.

NDI also facilitated a series of dialogues on the six protocols of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Anthony Thon Bol, from Mijuan Hope Aide Association appreciated the training both as a citizen and as a civic actor. “I really value the CPA training because peace needs to start from within all of us,” he said. “We must understand peace individually first and then we can bring it to the whole society.”

Participants from the Three Areas—Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan—discussed the CPA long after the session had ended to voice their concerns.

Civil society members also heard presentations on a range of subjects from foreign experts and

representatives from the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) Peace Commission, the HIV/AIDS Commission, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology. During the dialogue that followed, government representatives and civil society members explored the ways in which they might collaborate to address the challenges faced in each sector.

“The presentations helped me understand how my organization fits into the government’s strategy,” said a representative from Leer Hygiene Promotion. “In the area of hygiene, the government must be responsible for building primary health care units, but civil society can support them by digging pit latrines and through community sensitization.”

Each group also made a brief presentation on their organizations, the impact they have made in their communities, and the government’s progress in that sector. Presentations were lively as some groups shared the plays and songs that are part of their outreach campaigns.

The conference welcomed 25 of USAID’s new civil society partner organizations, which participated in a workshop about the progress of the projects that have been running since May 2006. “The new partners have great ideas but they are not totally sure how to go about implementing them,” said Jeremiah Gatnor, who has attended each of the three civil society exchange conferences. “It’s a great chance for them to learn from our experiences, and it’s fantastic to see that we are growing and starting to reach every corner of Southern Sudan.”

With each event, the voice of civil society grows stronger—women’s voices in particular. The Malual Kon conference was attended by 41 percent more women than the previous conference in Yei, and they spoke passionately and openly about the issues affecting them.

“Because women have not had the same opportunities for education as men, they have often felt disadvantaged,” said a representative from Ajak-Kuac Women’s Association. “But through the civil society strengthening training, they are developing the skills and the confidence to speak out about women’s issues.”

The conference brought many new experiences for participants and organizers alike. For some, it was their first time on an airplane. For others, it was their first visit to a new climate. All participants, however, were exposed to traditional music and cultural dances unlike their own, as the event closed on a celebratory note with performances from each of the regions represented.

While the performances highlighted the many cultural traditions that exist in Sudan, participation in the civil society exchange reinforced a unified commitment to serve all constituencies and uphold the common objective of strengthening democracy for lasting peace.

“People died so that we could have this opportunity to sit and discuss,” noted Dr. Rondyang James, a representative of the Southern Sudan HIV/AIDS Commission.

Organizations from Southern Sudan and the Three Areas gathered for a conference in Malual Kon. Photos: IRC and Mercy Corps

"There have been conferences organized by government in the past, but civil society actors were not included for the most part. The USAID-sponsored civil society exchanges are the first of their kind."♦

Providing Health Care to Isolated Areas

Southern Kordofan was the frontline of Sudan's 20-year civil war, resulting in massive displacement and devastating destruction. Residents of Kumo, an enclave of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, were particularly isolated, and the community was cut off from most assistance. In 2001, Save the Children began providing health care in Kumo, and with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, more humanitarian organizations have been able to collaborate with local government to provide basic services statewide.

Today, with support from USAID, Save the Children is assisting in the transition to peace through a comprehensive health program that manages four primary health care centers and 23 primary health care clinics throughout the former rebel enclave. Each health center typically receives 3,000 patients every month while each clinic receives 200-500 patients monthly. Health services are free of charge and have expanded from basic health care to growth monitoring, HIV/AIDS counseling, obstetric care, neonatal care, health education, immunizations, malaria control, and laboratory services.

Umjima Ibrahim is one resident who felt Kumo's devastation firsthand. "I lost six children in a span of ten years," she said. "Two were twins who succumbed to diarrhea, and the others died of respiratory infections. If these health facilities had been here at that time, then maybe I would have a grown-up son today to marry and give me a daughter."

Ujmima Ibrahim and her child (right) visit the Kumo community health clinic. Photo: Save the Children

But Umjima says that she, her infant child, and her community have all benefited from Save the Children's clinic. "We used to fear the onset of long rains because it would mean the loss of many family members due to malaria and pneumonia," she said. "This is no longer the case because now we can easily access medication and care from your health facilities."

Save the Children is the largest provider of health care in Southern Kordofan, managing 81 facilities that serve the health needs of more than 350,000 people.♦

Getting a Handle on Health

Currently, the Government of Southern Sudan and the humanitarian community lack the ability to capture the wide range of human conditions or development investments in Southern Sudan. But the need to understand these issues is urgent.

USAID's Picture of Health Project provides support to the Ministry of Health and the Southern Sudan Commission of Census, Statistics, and Evaluation to help build the capacity to capture and visually represent current conditions. Recently, the project trained four government officials, including Director of Social and Demographic Statistics Eliaba Damundu, in global information system (GIS) software and remote sensed data.

"It's not about just learning how to use GIS or to have the skills to make maps," said Damundu. "They are simply tools. But they can be powerful tools. It can help us to use information for decisions at all levels of government. In our communities that have spent the last 20 years fighting a civil war, visual communications are much more effective than reports, charts, or databases. Maps can be an important tool to promote good planning and to help us measure change in the future."

Since this training, the officials have begun to analyse recently acquired information on health and basic services and assessing the impact of USAID-supported health services in Southern Sudan. Their findings will allow both the government and USAID to

plan a transition knowing potential costs and benefits of changes to health services.

"Now we have the tools that can help us get a handle on what is going on," said Damundu. "Being able to effectively convey what is going and how things are changing is critical for the government, the communities as well as to ensure we get effective support from our partners in the donor and humanitarian community."♦

"One Day I Will Be a Lawyer"

Kiden Agnes Kenyi, 18, lives in Kajo Keji, a town of 100,000 people located in Southern Sudan, near the Ugandan border. "I went to live in Moyo, Uganda, when I was very young because of the civil war in my country," she says. "I don't remember much of those times except that my grandmother Priscilla took good care of my mother and I."

Although her father abandoned her family at an early age and her mother suffers from mental illness, Agnes was committed to stay in school and one day become a lawyer. Her grandmother cultivated her ambitions. "My grandmother worked hard to ensure that my school fees were paid, and when she could not afford them she asked friends and relatives for help."

In 2002 Agnes, her mother, and grandmother made the journey back to Sudan. "My grandmother was

Agnes (center) attended school in Kajo Keji with a USAID-funded scholarship. Photo: CARE International

from the village of Wudu in South Sudan and she desperately wanted to return to her country of origin after living for so many years in Uganda," explains Agnes. But Kajo Keji, unlike many towns in Southern Sudan, has several schools, so Priscilla decided it would be a good place for her granddaughter to settle and continue her studies.

When Priscilla passed away in 2005, Agnes was suddenly left on her own, having to raise school fees, find accommodation, and provide for her and her mother's daily needs.

USAID's girls' scholarship program, implemented by partner CARE International, targets young women like Agnes, with the goal of keeping Southern Sudan's girls in school. In Kajo Keji, the program granted scholarships to 518 young women, including Agnes,

Minister Lotti cuts the ribbon at the new NMCP office. Photo: USAID

Malaria Office Opens

On April 25, Dr. Theophilus Ochang Lotti, Government of Southern Sudan Minister of Health, officially opened the new Juba office of the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP), which coordinates activities government and donor efforts to control malaria in Southern Sudan. The new building, which was constructed and furnished with support from USAID, finally gives the NMCP the work and conference space it needs to function effectively.

Malaria is a grave risk to young children and pregnant women in Southern Sudan and is one of the Ministry of Health's highest priorities. USAID is supporting its efforts on several fronts, including distributing 60,000 long-lasting, insecticide-treated bednets to pregnant women and children, and providing malaria prophylaxes to 12,388 women. USAID will support a Ministry initiative to reduce malaria mortalities by half within five years through the combined program of bednets, early diagnosis, and prompt treatment employing a new treatment regimen, artemisinin-combination therapy.♦

which cover part of the school tuition but require a matching contribution from parents or the community.

In 2006 the security situation in Kajo Keji abruptly deteriorated due to rebel incursions from the Lord's Resistance Army. This escalation of violence disrupted the program and scholarships were not disbursed that year. [The scholarship program has since been restarted.] "When I learned that the program had closed down last year, it was very difficult for me." Agnes said the program "is my only hope of making it through school and becoming a lawyer. It is my wish to help other children and young people whose rights are neglected or abused."

But Agnes had become the best student in her class, and her performance roused additional support from the Kajo Keji secondary school, the school matron, and the pastor, allowing her to continue her schooling even while her scholarship was disrupted. Today Agnes is the school's Head Girl, a role that makes her responsible for guiding and overseeing her peers.

"This is a testament to the fact that she is highly responsible, dependable and quite an exceptional young woman," says Grace Legge, CARE International's gender adviser. "The challenge is that many young people are in situations similar to Agnes. Not only are they in need of assistance to access quality education but they may be discriminated against as orphans and vulnerable children. If it were not for kind hearted people in her community, Agnes would have fallen through the cracks. We need to account for such extreme situations as well."♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

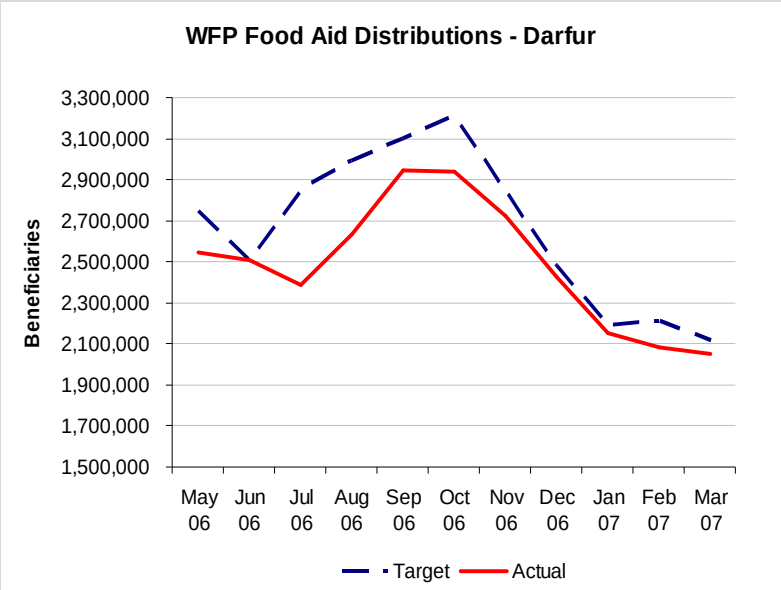
Packaging lentils in Darfur. Photo: USAID

USAID is the world's leading donor of food assistance to Sudan. Since October 1, 2006, USAID has provided 383,700 metric tons of emergency food aid worth more than $381 million to Sudan and Eastern Chad. Approximately 75 percent of this total goes toward feeding displaced people and refugees in Darfur and Eastern Chad, where conflict continues to disrupt food security. The remaining 25 percent is allocated to people in Southern Sudan, Eastern Sudan, Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan, where food aid continues to play a vital role in supporting returnees to Southern Sudan and helping communities recover from two decades of civil conflict.

WFP Distributions March 2007

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,028,650
South	204,697
East	121,819
Three Areas*	87,362
Central	4,366
Total	2,446,594

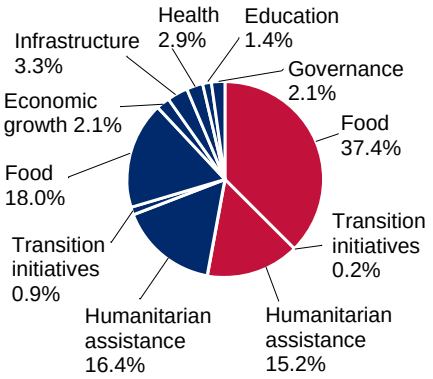
* The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.



USAID | SUDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN FY2006, ESTIMATED



Darfur 52.8%	
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Food:	$266.110 million
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South, East, and Three Areas 47.2%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$116.520 million
Transition initiatives:	$6.660 million
Food:	$127.807 million
Economic growth:	$15.120 million
Governance:	$14.850 million
Health:	$22.692 million
Education:	$10.250 million
Infrastructure:	$23.350 million
South, East, and Three Areas:	*$335.249 million*
Countrywide Total:	**$711.029 million**

The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

MONTHLY UPDATE

June 2007

Seed Fairs Provide Sustainable Assistance

Despite providing food aid to half the population of Darfur and distributing free hand tools and grain, legume, and vegetable seeds to vulnerable people, relief agencies have as yet been unable to sustainably combat food insecurity in the region. The massive human displacements that have taken place throughout the region have disrupted traditional market networks and livelihoods. At the same time, the conflict has forced Darfuris to practice unsustainable farming methods, lowering the quantity and quality of farmer-produced seeds. The number of established and reputable seed traders has fallen as well, and the seed and tool distributions conducted by relief agencies are not a viable long-term answer.

Through its work in Sudan and other countries throughout Africa, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has developed an innovative response to these issues—a seed fair and voucher program. Farmers are provided with vouchers, which they use at a local fair to purchase seeds from invited vendors at fair-market prices. Unlike distributions, farmers are able to compare the product and choose their own seeds, which are locally sourced. When effective, seed fairs can enhance crop production, increase food security, and decrease dependency on food aid. They also help raise awareness of seed sources and varieties, stimulate markets, and reestablish traditional commerce patterns.

Small farmers display locally grown seeds at a fair in Safia village in South Darfur. Photo: Amadou Gaye

Truckloads of local seeds arrive for the fair in Dibbis, South Darfur. Photo: Robert Lankenau

With support from USAID and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Research Corporation in Nyala, Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), American Refugee Committee (ARC), and World Vision conducted seven seed fairs in Nyala, Kass, and Ed al Fursan in South Darfur during the May-to-June planting season. Farm households were assessed initially to determine seed budget based on their household size, the farm size they currently cultivate, the amount of seed required to plant that area, and the price of seeds in the local market. Based on the assessments, 1,986 households—most of them headed by women—each received vouchers worth $26.50–$30.00 (SD5,300–SD6,000) to purchase local varieties of a range of crops, including millet, groundnut, sorghum, cow pea, okra, maize, sesame, hibiscus, radish, chickpea, watermelon, and bambara bean.

Data gathered at the seed fairs shows that the initiative has already made significant inroads toward improving markets and livelihoods for thousands of farm and agro-pastoralist households in the poorest, most remote areas of South Darfur. Of the 264 vendors from 15 villages participating at the seven fairs, 143 were women, and payment of the vouchers they received injected more than $78,500 (SD15,700,000) into local economies. Rigorous quality controls conducted at all the fairs ensured seed quality, and there have so far been no incidences of germination failures.

Mohamed Issa Mohamed, a vendor from Ed Al Fursan earned more than SD500,000 through the fairs. “Part of my sales income will be re-invested in grain trade, a part in stores improvement, a part in purchasing vegetable seeds and pesticides, and a part will go to support the schooling of two orphans in my care, as well as the education of my three younger sisters at university in Nyala and Khartoum,” he said.

Critical Nutrition Program: Mornei, West Darfur

Mornei camp, located southeast of El Geneina in West Darfur, is home to 73,000 internally displaced people, who struggle with the same food insecurity issues that exist throughout Darfur.

USAID partner Concern provides critical nutrition programs in the camp to combat the problem. Concern employs 300 community volunteers to survey the camp’s population for malnutrition. An outpatient therapeutic program refers patients with medical complications to the nearby clinic for treatment, while others are directed to the supplementary feeding center. From then on, patients come to the center twice a week for a distribution including oil, sugar, and corn-soya blend. The center treats an average of 250 malnourished children a month.♦

A woman prepares a meal in Mornei camp. Photo: USAID

During the cultivation season, staff from CHF, ARC, and World Vision will monitor seed usage, crop establishment, and performance, noting harvested crops and total production. The findings will not only help hone planning for future seed fairs and build local capacity, but will also help monitor food security in target areas. With good rainfall, minimal insect infestation, and no violent attacks on farmers or their crops, these new resources will help many of South Darfur's farmers to achieve substantial food security by the end of the season.♦

Darfur Festival Brings Groups Together

Historically, equestrian festivals in Darfur have allowed communities to compete in friendly races, socialize, and discuss difficult issues in a neutral setting. By all accounts the last of these was held in 1971, but on March 29–31, USAID revived the event by sponsoring an equestrian festival in Ad Daein, South Darfur.

Complementing the main event of horse racing, the Equestrian Festival featured nationally known singers, academics, poets, and comedians, all of whom showcased the benefits of unity, cultural diversity, and peace. Attendees said the event reminded them of a time when conflict was less pervasive and regional centers like Ad Daein, hundreds of miles from Khartoum, had a more prominent role in people's lives. According to one observer, the event "shocked people out of conflict mode."

The winner of the South Darfur Equestrian Festival celebrates. Photo: USAID

One group of nomads attending the event was overheard asking themselves, "What have we been fighting for?"

The festival's organizers noted that in contrast to recent public debates in which extreme political ideologies were front and center, this event brought to the fore a new vision of cooperation. Young leaders who "did not have blood on their hands" were given a chance to lead this event and remind Ad Daein that the benefits of a peaceful land far outweigh any gains of conflict.♦

Improved Water Access Promotes Peace

For decades, the competition over water has been a source of tension between nomads and farmers in the Nuba Mountains and Abyei regions of Southern Kordofan state. Because the nomad population is largely Arab and most of the farmers are indigenous Nuba, many people consider the clashes to be ethnically based. However, the conflicts that arise over water points and water access are due to a sense of ownership of land and stiff competition for scare resources, rather than to ethnic differences. To safeguard their resources, permanently settled communities are often unwilling to allow nomads the seasonal access to land and water their way of life requires.

In El Samasim, a village 30 kilometers outside of Dilling, the situation is even more complex as the land is so dry that boreholes often cannot even provide sufficient water for the resident population. Women in El Samasim often have to walk two hours to find a source of clean water. Adding to the significant strain of water scarcity, El Samasim lies on a traditional migratory route of nomadic communities. When nomads pass through the area, they use the already scarce resources to drink and to water their animals.

As a result, the resident population and nomads have clashed on numerous occasions for decades. In recent months, several lives have been lost. While attempts have been made to address the growing tension in and around El Samasim, thus far none have been successful or lasting.

To promote peace between these communities, USAID partner Save the Children is constructing a *hafir*, or reservoir, to serve the area. The *hafir* was designed to hold 25,000 cubic meters of water and is

Fadul and Halima, residents of El Samasim, stand at the construction site of the hafir, which will reduce the time it takes for Halima to fetch water from four hours to about four minutes. Photo: Save the Children

engineered to maximize the collection of rain water. The slope of the land allows for water from the nearby seasonal river to drain into the basin, from which water is pumped through a natural filtration system to be purified. The water then passes into holding tanks, where gravity feeds the water through a faucet, and with the turn of a handle, residents have ample, year-round access to potable water. A separate area contains a holding tank for unfiltered water suitable for animals. Here, water can be retrieved through the traditional rope and bucket system to fill troughs for livestock. In a coming phase of the project, a pipeline will be built to a second faucet system to increase the access points for potable water.

The *hafir* was designed to be large enough to provide water not only for the community of El Samasim and the nomad populations that migrate through, but also for people displaced by the war that have begun returning to the area since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005. The community of El Samasim will form committees to monitor, regulate, and maintain the *hafir* for both the settled and nomadic people.

The completion of the *hafir*—the first of its design to be built in Southern Kordofan—will significantly decrease water scarcity issues in and around El Samasim, and may thereby mitigate one of the primary causes of conflict in this area.♦

Rebuilding the University of Juba

Founded in 1975 after Sudan's first civil war ended, the University of Juba was the first university to be established in Southern Sudan. The school eventually became a powerful symbol of Sudanese unity and integration, bringing in students from every region of the country. However, due to the deteriorating security situation in the south, the university was relocated to Khartoum in 1989. The citizens of Juba resisted the move then and have been adamantly calling for its return since the signing of the 2005 peace agreement.

Unfortunately, years of neglect and war had left university facilities in a dilapidated state, unsuitable for students. The Government of Southern Sudan Minister of Education asked USAID to help with urgent renovations so that a new class of first-year students could be accommodated for the spring semester of 2007. In cooperation with the Ministry, USAID renovated the university's main auditorium and library, both of which had become largely unusable during the war, but which were vital to the school's operation.

With these core facilities functional, the university was able to restart undergraduate courses this spring. In early April, 600 first-year students transferred from Khartoum to join 200 students already studying in Juba—the first step in the eagerly awaited return of the university to its original home. Another 1,000 students will transfer from Khartoum in 2008.

A professor teaches in Juba University's rehabilitated lecture hall. Photo: USAID

A woman reads in Juba University's rehabilitated library. Photo: USAID

The reopening of the Juba campus is a key symbolic step in the development of Southern Sudan and the transition from war to peace. The University of Juba continues to maintain its tradition of accepting students from all parts of Sudan, and the university administration is working with the student union to ease the concerns that new Northern students may be harassed. In one initiative, the university organized bus excursions in and around the city to allow Northern students to meet Southerners and foster social interaction across ethnic and regional lines.♦

Journalists Promote Press Freedom

Sudan's track record for press freedom is poor. It ranked 139th out of 168 countries on Reporters Without Borders' 2006 Worldwide Press Freedom Index, and the independent monitor Freedom House rates its media as "not free" due to legal restrictions, economic pressures, and political influences.

Like most Sudanese press, journalists working for USAID partner Sudan Radio Service (SRS) risk harassment and arbitrary arrest. On March 24, SRS Khartoum bureau producer Nichola Mandil was arrested, detained, beaten, and interrogated for five days. After pressure from SRS and other Sudanese media outlets, Mandil was released, but his telephone and recording equipment have yet to be recovered.

Despite these challenges, USAID and SRS continue to work with Sudan's burgeoning independent press movement to push for increased media freedom, particularly in Southern Sudan. SRS is a member of the Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS), a group that is collaborating with the Government of Southern Sudan on several draft laws, including an independent broadcasting bill and a right to information bill. Recently, AMDISS drafted a code of ethics for Sudanese print journalists and is working on a similar code for broadcast journalists.

On May 3, SRS joined the Union of Journalists of Southern Sudan in Juba to celebrate World Press Freedom Day. The previous day, SRS led a training on international standards in press freedom for 40 journalists, and organized a march to publicly demand press freedom. Led by a police marching band, 60 people marched through the streets of Juba. SRS broadcast extensive coverage of the event, as well as analyses of the state of press freedom in Sudan.♦

Training Builds Public Information Skills

To complement USAID's efforts at increasing both access to and supply of independent public information in Southern Sudan, USAID partner Bearing Point facilitated a communications workshop this April in Juba. Participants from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting learned how to effectively communicate messages to journalists and other members of the public, as well as strategies for responding to questions from reporters.

Alex Petia Stephen, a ministry staff member, said he gained a new understanding of the role the ministry plays in helping people engage with their government. As part of the Information Directorate, Alex had been working under an archaic system of state-controlled media and one-way communication espoused in the past by the Sudanese government. Bearing Point's training sought to build the ministry's ability to foster transparency in government programs and policies, and to use modern methods of delivering government messages to citizens.

"This workshop was great at introducing the concepts of public information," said Stephen Zakaria, a Deputy Director from the Information Directorate. "This is a big change for us, a change at our Ministry where we need to start learning the ABCs of public information. This will help us understand our role in government—our role to provide services to society."

"The most important thing I learned was how we can use techniques like 'bridging' and 'spinning' to go from a journalist's question directly to the answer we need

to communicate to the public," said Alex. "This will help us get precise information about the government out to the people."

The workshop is also helping to change the culture of work at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Scopas Kenyi, another Deputy Director at the Directorate of Information, is developing a new approach to his job. "A public information officer needs to know what the public needs," he said. "Our government wants to serve the public, and the public information officer can be the carrier of information from the people to the government so that our government can improve services."♦

Ministry officials participate in a workshop on public information techniques. Photo: Bearing Point

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

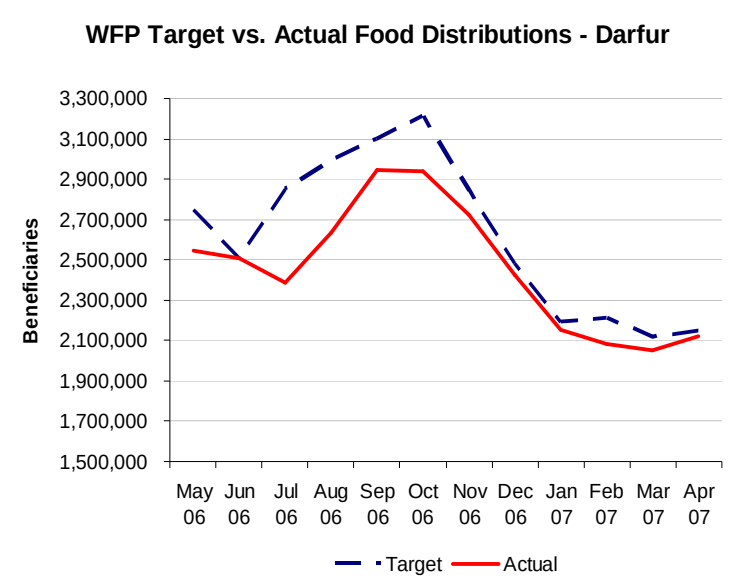
Sorghum distribution, Kalma camp. Photo: USAID

USAID is the world's leading donor of food assistance to Sudan. Since October 1, 2006, USAID has provided 388,020 metric tons of emergency food aid worth more than $389 million to Sudan and Eastern Chad. Approximately 75 percent of this total goes toward feeding displaced people and refugees in Darfur and Eastern Chad, where conflict continues to disrupt food security. The remaining 25 percent is allocated to people in Southern Sudan, Eastern Sudan, Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan, where food aid continues to play a vital role in supporting returnees to Southern Sudan and helping communities recover from two decades of civil conflict.

WFP Distributions April 2007

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,123,189
South	327,027
East	35,052
Three Areas*	146,848
Central	18,332
Total	2,650,448

* The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.



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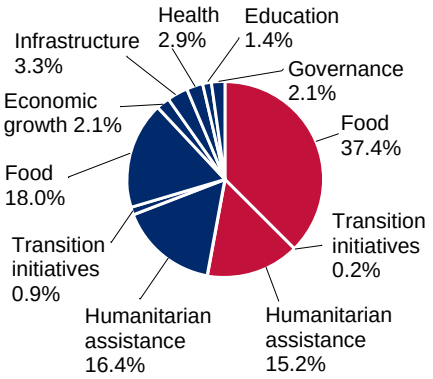

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MONTHLY UPDATE

July 2007

Returnees Board Barges Home

"I have been waiting this day for 16 years," said 60-year-old Mayen Marial Deng, as she boarded a barge with her two children in Kosti. "My family and I will soon be back home. This is an old dream that finally comes true."

On June 20, Mayen's family started its three-week journey down the Nile to Jonglei and Lakes states with 451 other people, who were finally able to return home years after being displaced by Sudan's civil war. With support from USAID, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is collaborating with the Government of National Unity, the Government of Southern Sudan, and UN partners to undertake the first barge operation ever organized to return displaced people from Northern to Southern Sudan. Passengers on the two barges will receive two hot meals a day during the journey, provided by USAID partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), and on arrival, each family will receive a three-month food ration from USAID partner the UN World Food program.

By the end of August, IOM is expected to complete six barge rotations between Kosti and key towns along the Nile in Southern Sudan. Since February, IOM and its partners have helped more than 42,000 displaced people return to their homes in Southern Sudan, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan. USAID is providing $3.5 million to support IOM's return and reintegration program.♦

Southern Sudanese board barges at Kosti that will take them to Jonglei and Lakes states. Photo: Husham Ahmed

Operating Around Darfur's Obstacles

USAID partner GOAL has been working in Kutum, North Darfur, since February 2004, and now operates eight health facilities that serve 150,000 people. While the lack of access and general security concerns that afflict all of Darfur have challenged GOAL's ability to maintain its health services, the organization has been actively pursuing different methods of reaching the people who most need their assistance.

Community Participation

As part of USAID's efforts to improve maternal and child health, GOAL provides clean delivery kits to pregnant women in their third trimester. These simple kits—which include plastic sheeting, a clean razor blade for the umbilical cord, and plastic gloves—can have a particularly large impact in an environment where most women give birth at home.

Earlier this year, supply problems created a shortage in available kits. But rather than have expectant mothers do without, GOAL mobilized the communities to make them. More than 300 women at the women's center in Kassab Camp were able to put together almost 1,000 kits in just one week. This initiative not only helped GOAL overcome a gap in supply, but it also got local women involved in, and informed about, improving health in their communities.

Innovative Programming

Because of the increased threat of carjackings and other attacks, GOAL could no longer feasibly continue to operate weekly mobile clinics in the rural areas of Abdul Shakour and El Dor. However, the need for services remained. Members of GOAL's staff discussed the problem with residents of the areas, who identified community members who could be trained to provide basic health services. Those identified then came to Kutum, where they received intensive training in management of issues such as the treatment of diarrheal diseases and malaria. They also were trained in outbreak awareness, which resulted in the reporting of a suspected case of meningitis shortly thereafter.

Children participate in a health education exercise in Kutum. Photo: GOAL

The basic health units run by the community workers have been operating successfully for several months, and are resupplied by GOAL on a monthly basis. Refresher trainings and discussion are conducted periodically when the staff visit Kutum. As access continues to be a problem throughout most of Darfur, GOAL is now examining whether this approach can be used to provide health services to other communities in need.♦

Rebuilding Southern Sudan

Sudan's long civil war not only decimated Southern Sudan's infrastructure, it also wiped out livelihoods, job opportunities, and skills. Developing Southern infrastructure is vital to improving access and facilitating economic growth in Southern Sudan, and in rural communities, it will be just as important for local staff to learn professional skills that will serve them beyond the duration of the project.

Creating Jobs. Since December 2006, USAID's partner the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has initiated 14 labor-intensive community infrastructure projects in five Southern state capitals—Bor, Juba, Kwajok, Malakal, and Wau—to help generate income among vulnerable groups while improving the urban and rural infrastructure. To date, the projects have generated 47,000 days of labor in initiatives such as collecting garbage, cleaning drainage ditches, improving roads, constructing pit latrines, and producing crushed stone aggregate.

UNOPS has deployed both Sudanese and foreign engineers to plan projects in collaboration with the state Ministries of Physical Infrastructure, and in some places Town Councils. Once the projects are completed, ownership of the tools and materials transfers to the state authorities; in some places the

Town Council now has the capacity to sustain the project (like garbage collection in Bor) and is doing so without assistance from USAID or UNOPS.

In Malakal, where annual rains restrict movement and present health risks, local authorities identified drainage as a top priority. Over three months, nearly 300 local workers spent more than 17,000 labor days cleaning 30 kilometers of drainage canals. As a result, this is the first year in some time that Malakal has not suffered from rainy season floods.

In Wau, it was the lack of latrines that most threatened public health. A nongovernmental organization initiated construction on this project more than four years ago, but abandoned the project for lack of funds. The state Ministry of Physical Infrastructure requested that UNOPS complete the much-needed facilities and have committed to maintain and keep up the latrines after they are completed. This project is expected to generate 580 days of labor for local workers.

Cultivating Skills. In Western Equatoria, UNOPS is undertaking the construction and rehabilitation of the Yambio to Tambura road. As part of the project, a laboratory in Yambio that will provide engineers data on the quality of soils and materials will employ trained Sudanese staff to ensure a level of sustainability and local expertise after the road is built.

After collecting soil samples from the construction sites, the three men and three women on the lab team conduct a preliminary weight and density test,

Lab workers in Yambio test soil from the Yambio-Tambura road works. Photo: UNOPS

followed by a series of water tests to determine the optimum water content of the soil. This information is crucial to the building process, as it determines the exact material requirements for the design and construction of a durable road. The lab team will play an important role in the constant testing of materials as the road work continues, and will verify the quality of the construction once the work is completed.

The lab team sees this as an opportunity to become a part of the broader development of Southern Sudan once this project is finished. Simon Misa, a 24-year-old lab assistant from Yambio, says that once UNOPS and other agencies have left Sudan other road and construction projects will need skilled local technicians to continue in their stead. “We are the ones who have

Community infrastructure projects in Southern Sudan include cleaning drainage ditches in Malakal and constructing public latrines in Wau. Photos: UNOPS

to take over the road when the construction is done, and now we are gaining the practical knowledge to train others in Yambio," he said. "We are learning that the work we do is ours."♦

Office Resources Empower Local Government

The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 ushered in a new era for Southern Sudan, but large parts of the population remain skeptical that the agreement will be implemented and peace will be secured in the long term. Conscious that the extreme centralization of government led to marginalization and war in the past, the Government of Southern Sudan has worked toward a more diffuse form of government that will allow greater public participation in political affairs.

As a result, Southern Sudan's 10 states were divided into more than 70 counties. However, more than two decades of civil war left many of the counties in ruins—and lacking in the resources that would allow them to assume a stronger administrative role in the government. Until recently, the Commissioner of Tonj East County in Warab State could be found conducting government affairs under a large mango tree. Exposure to the elements often disrupted work and made normal business conduct, including adequate record-keeping, unthinkable.

Seeing how the lack of space, furniture, and supplies hindered counties' ability to function effectively, USAID has provided 22 counties—including Tonj East—with "government-in-a-box" kits, 16 of which included prefabricated buildings. Furnished with tables and chairs, filing cabinets, bookshelves, and basic office supplies, approximately 180 government officials now have practical workspaces that allow them to conduct business more efficiently and build local institutional memory. And as the counties' capacity to serve their constituencies increase, so too will the public's confidence in the peace process.♦

Tonj East is one of 22 counties that received government-in-a-box kits to improve local capacity. Photo: USAID

Women's League Looks to Future

Constituted in September 2005, the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) is a transitional assembly with 170 members. Only 33 of the legislators are women, despite a constitutional provision that requires a minimum of 25 percent of seats be held by women. To help translate this constitutional provision into practice, and to strengthen the voices of women throughout Southern Sudan, women members of the SSLA came together to organize the Women's League. In February they met in Nairobi to develop a strategic plan, which resolved to strengthen the SSLA's female constituency and enhance equal participation.

On June 21-23, USAID sponsored a conference in Juba for the Women's League to raise awareness of gender equity and strengthen the gender dialogue between civil society and government. The setting provided not only a valuable opportunity for the parliamentarians to receive training, but it also allowed them to discuss the Women's League's next steps.

Identifying barriers to equal opportunity and treatment was a key element of the seminar, as were discussions on how gender-friendly legislation can remove those barriers. Political, economic, and cultural factors have long prevented Sudanese women from enjoying equal opportunity and to actively participating in decision making. Progress on women's rights and representation in Sudan, as in other countries, must focus on changing structures, increasing skills, and empowering women at the local, regional and national levels, as well as raising awareness in the community at large. This will require that civil society leaders and women parliamentarians engage in a dialogue to reinforce progress, eliminate gaps, and determine a way forward.

As a result of the conference, the Women's League reiterated its dedication to women's empowerment and showed its eagerness to acquire new skills to assist them in their efforts to better lobby for women's human rights in Southern Sudan.♦

Preparing for New Currency

Before the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, a range of currencies were used as legal tender throughout Southern Sudan, including Ugandan shillings, Kenyan shillings, Ethiopian birr, and U.S. dollars, as well as the pre-1992 Sudanese pound. The drafters of the CPA saw this fragmentation as a symbol of divisions in Sudan and included a provision in the CPA's wealth-sharing provision that established a unified currency for a unified nation. Converting from the old Sudanese dinar to the new Sudanese pound is an important benchmark in the CPA's implementation—and presents a significant logistical challenge.

The new pound became legal tender in January, and the dinar will lose its value on September 30. To help the public learn about the new currency and the conversion process, several USAID partners—Sudan Radio Service (SRS), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), Bearing Point, Mercy Corps, and the International Rescue Committee (IRC)—have been working together to implement a civic education campaign through "Let's Talk," a popular radio program, and through radio listening groups.

SRS, NDI, and Bearing Point, conducted interviews with officials at the Bank of Southern Sudan and citizens from various states to form the foundation of the script for the "Let's Talk" episode. In the resulting broadcast, the characters Salamah and her daughter Sunday visit the market to buy flour and sugar, but they encounter resistance from the traders when she tries to use the new pound. Salamah showed the traders that they can verify the authenticity of the new pounds by looking for the bird on the back of a note when it is held under the light. Salamah and Sunday also try to convince the traders that prices will not increase, and that one pound is equal to 100 dinars.

The Sudanese new pound was introduced in January. Photo: NDI

The second segment of the show features comments on the conversion recorded during the citizen interviews. Voices of Sudanese people express pride in a new national currency that has the potential to unite the country, though some express concern about rising prices and confusion about the process. The program ends with an educational segment that explains the rationale for the currency conversion, tells how to obtain and identify the new bills, and again explains the value of the new currency.

First aired on March 26, the program has been rebroadcast several times in both English and simple Arabic by SRS, and in Dinka by a USAID-supported community radio station in Aweil East county. The Bank of Southern Sudan has also used a recorded version of the episode in its own outreach efforts.

To complement the radio broadcast, NDI has convened listening groups throughout Southern Sudan, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan, that bring citizens together to discuss the issues. The groups often target specific stakeholders in organizations supported by Mercy Corps and IRC, such as traders belonging to the Market Council in Malualkon. The listening groups and the radio broadcasts will continue through July 31, and news programs broadcast on SRS will incorporate answers to questions raised during the listening groups and provide more up-to-date information.♦

Monitoring Avian Influenza

Since the current wave of the H5N1 virus—or avian influenza (AI)—broke out in Hong Kong in February 2005, the disease has spread to more than 50 other countries, and resulted in 172 human deaths. Sudan officially confirmed its first cases of AI in April 2006 in large poultry farms in Khartoum, and in August 2006 in one backyard shelter in Juba. More than 1.5 million chickens were culled as a result, but no human cases in Sudan have yet been detected.

The cases in Juba prompted the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) to establish the AI Task Force, with support from USAID. Co-chaired by Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, the Task Force was charged with developing a preparedness and response plan and ensuring effective coordination of AI activities. It has formed three subcommittees—

Students participate in radio lessons at Matangai Primary School in Rumbek. Photo: USAID

Radio School: Matangai

At Matangai Primary School in Rumbek County, Southern Sudan, students attend classes under trees, using logs as desks, studying a blackboard leaned against a tree, and listening to their lessons on the radio. Matangai is just one of the schools across Southern Sudan reached by USAID's interactive radio instruction program, which offers educational resources for students who would have otherwise had none. Based on the unified curriculum for Southern Sudan that was developed with support from USAID, the courses teach numeracy and literacy in English and local languages.

Matangai is a relatively large school with 700 students and 12 teaching staff who have received three days of training on teaching with the radio lessons. Teacher training instructions are embedded in each lesson, encouraging, for instance, teachers to call female students, who are often overlooked in regular classes. The lessons are also student-focused and participatory—an approach quite different from the traditional style of Sudanese schools. To date, primary schools using the USAID radio instruction program have enrolled 17,265 students, 38 percent of whom are female, and trained 583 teachers, 12 of whom are female.♦

human health, animal health, and communication—to ensure rapid and effective prevention and control measures, particularly in high-risk areas.

In May, USAID supported a workshop in Rumbek to educate community mobilizers drawn from all the 10 Southern States on basic facts of AI and the essential principles of communication and social mobilization. Twenty-three people attended the workshop, which included presentations, discussions, case studies, and role-playing exercises to facilitate training. At the end of the workshop, the participants drafted an AI social mobilization and communication workplan for each state tailored to address specific regional needs. The plans include activities that advocate on the public health importance of AI and solicit resources that will allow them to raise awareness on AI prevention and control. Over the next three months, USAID will collaborate with other members of the Task Force to support the implementation of the work plans produced at the meeting.

Since the initial occurrence of AI was reported in Sudan, USAID has been working with the GOSS on several fronts to mitigate the virus's effects. In addition to the support provided on the development of the preparedness and response plan, USAID has donated to the GOSS 1,600 sets of personal protective equipment and 1,000 decontamination kits, and trained more than 40 staff members of Juba Teaching Hospital on AI prevention and treatment.♦

Teachers Join the Fast Track

In June, the pilot cycle of USAID's Fast Track Teacher Education and Training Program ended after successfully training 1,300 new teachers at 21 sites in Southern Sudan and Abyei. Many of the closing ceremonies held at the centers were attended by state governors, county commissioners, and state education ministers.

Launched in November 2006 and implemented by USAID partner Academy for Educational Development (AED), the Fast Track program has supported the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology in developing and

Fast Track teachers in Juba celebrate their graduation. Photo: AED

implementing a strategy to meet the demand for the thousands of new primary teachers that will be needed over the next few years. With support from USAID, the ministry is also working closely with state education ministries to build capacity in logistics and administration, financial management, and training that emphasizes active and student-centered learning.

During Fast Track's initial phase, AED and UNICEF worked together to implement a "training-of-trainers," which created a pool of 150 teacher educators, who then went on to train teachers in the states. One key to the success of the program was the training of a mobile team of supervisors who monitored and supported the state-level training. Made up of 18 experienced educators who recently returned to Southern Sudan from Kenya's Kakuma Refugee Camp, the team proved invaluable in building capacity and supporting the states' ability to implement a complex program. USAID's primary school and English language interactive radio programs were integrated into the training programs where possible, and in the future USAID may distribute radios and teacher guides to every teacher completing the Fast Track training.

Most of the training sites saw a low level of participation from women, except Raga in Western Bahr el Ghazal, which had 50 percent female participants, and Juba in Central Equatoria, which had 37 percent female participants. To encourage more women to enter the teaching profession, the ministry may consider a separate Fast Track cycle designated only for women.♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

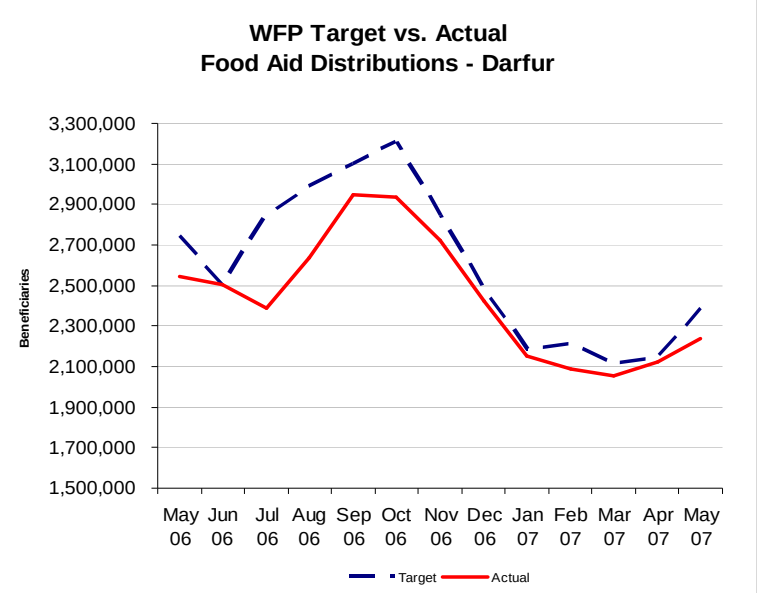
Food distribution, Kalma camp. Photo: USAID

USAID is the world's leading donor of food assistance to Sudan. Since October 1, 2006, USAID has provided 388,020 metric tons of emergency food aid worth more than $389 million to Sudan and Eastern Chad. Approximately 75 percent of this total goes toward feeding displaced people and refugees in Darfur and Eastern Chad, where conflict continues to disrupt food security. The remaining 25 percent is allocated to people in Southern Sudan, Eastern Sudan, Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan, where food aid continues to play a vital role in supporting returnees to Southern Sudan and helping communities recover from two decades of civil conflict.

WFP Distributions May 2007

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,236,499
South	600,036
East	168,611
Three Areas*	188,007
Central	16,300
Total	3,209,453

* The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.



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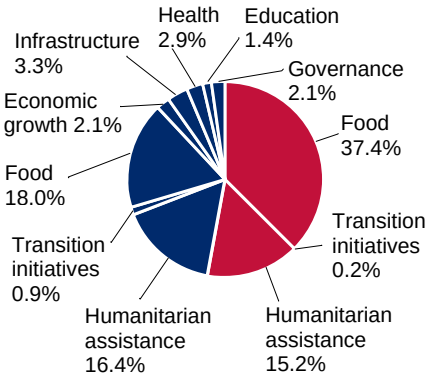
USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN FY2006, ESTIMATED



Darfur 52.8%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$108.270 million
Transition initiatives:	$1.400 million
Food:	$266.110 million
Darfur:	*$375.780 million*

South, East, and Three Areas 47.2%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$116.520 million
Transition initiatives:	$6.660 million
Food:	$127.807 million
Economic growth:	$15.120 million
Governance:	$14.850 million
Health:	$22.692 million
Education:	$10.250 million
Infrastructure:	$23.350 million
South, East, and Three Areas:	*$335.249 million*
Countrywide Total:	**$711.029 million**

The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

MONTHLY UPDATE

August 2007

USAID Responds to Flood Emergency

On August 8 and 9, USAID airlifted 1,300 rolls of plastic sheeting to Khartoum to help provide temporary shelter for 78,000 people affected by recent, severe flooding in northern and eastern Sudan.

U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Alberto M. Fernandez requested the $500,000 worth of materials and reiterated the United States' long-term commitment to Sudanese people in need. "The U.S. Government is pleased to provide additional shelter materials to those who have lost their homes and livelihoods in the recent flooding," he said. "The U.S. continues to be committed to providing life-saving humanitarian assistance to the people of Sudan."

The Undersecretary for the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Charles Manyang, accepted the material on behalf of the Government of Sudan, and expressed his gratitude to the United States and its partners.

The plastic sheeting will be distributed via the Common Humanitarian Pipeline, a quick-response distribution network established in 2004 and managed by the U.N. Joint Logistics Center with support from UNICEF and CARE. Largely supported by the U.S. Government, this distribution mechanism can quickly respond to emergency needs throughout Sudan and has played a vital role in ensuring that lifesaving materials, like plastic sheeting, cooking sets, and mosquito nets, arrive rapidly to areas in need. The Common Pipeline has

Kassala residents, displaced by flooding, set up temporary shelters on the side of a road. Photo: USAID

On August 8, workers unloaded plastic sheeting shipped in response to recent, severe flooding. Photo: USAID

already rushed material to nine flood-affected states in northern Sudan, benefiting more than 200,000 people.

Speaking on behalf of the Common Pipeline partners, UNICEF representative Ted Chaiban emphasized the importance of effective collaboration, saying, “In emergencies, it is critical that there is a speedy and appropriate response to meet immediate needs. This is being achieved in Sudan's flood-affected regions, because the government, the international community, the U.N., and the nongovernmental organizations have worked together. We remain committed to this spirit of partnership, to better serve those affected by this emergency.”

USAID is continuing to monitor the situation and will provide additional assistance as needed.♦

Conference Boosts Coordination in Urban Development

More than 90 urban planners, development experts, and private stakeholders met in Juba on July 24–26 to discuss how to help the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) manage urgent development projects that support the region’s peaceful transition and encourage the assimilation of returnees and refugees.

Organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing, Lands, and Public Utilities, the Southern Sudan Town Planning Conference was the culmination of a two-year town planning project implemented by USAID partner Creative Associates International, Inc. For the first time in Southern Sudan, governors, ministers, and senior civil servants were able to gather to reveal and discuss the condition of physical infrastructure in their states. The conference also allowed them to present their vision for development and voice concerns to government officials over the shortcomings of public administration and the legal framework to manage land allocation.

Professor Mark Swilling gave the conference’s first speech, presenting a long-term perspective on managing development. Now at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, Swilling helmed the creation of new training systems for public management during the South African government reform after the fall of apartheid. Since that time, he has helped other African countries benefit from this experience.

Theresa Sivicio Iro, the Government of National Unity Minister for Environment and Physical Development, commended the conference’s effort and offered assistance toward urban development from the national government. Iro was accompanied by experts who presented lessons learned from the development of Khartoum and introduced environmental issues significant to Sudan’s wetlands.

The conference’s smaller breakout sessions focused on ways to help initiate and govern development that involved not only the private sector, but also the communities and the planning and management frameworks. One session explored how best to maintain adequate thresholds of quality in development despite severe resource constraints.

More than 90 people gathered in Juba for the three-day Southern Sudan Town Planning Conference. Photo: Creative Associates

USAID Announces New Mission Director for Sudan

On July 10, USAID Acting Deputy Administrator James Kunder swore in Patrick Fleuret as the new USAID Mission Director for Sudan. Fleuret, until recently, was the Director of the USAID Mission in Nigeria. He succeeds Katherine Almquist, who is now serving as USAID's Assistant Administrator for Africa.

"Patrick has been focused on Africa for over 20 years and is one of our true experts. His taking charge of this challenging mission will benefit both the U.S. effort in Sudan and the people of Sudan," said Kunder at the Washington, DC, ceremonies.

Fleuret will manage the largest USAID program in Sub-Saharan Africa totaling over $700 million in fiscal year 2006. The complex program provides extensive humanitarian and food aid to vulnerable people in southern and eastern Sudan and Darfur, as well as extensive reconstruction assistance in the war-affected south and the Three Areas of Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

James Kunder (right) swore in Patrick Fleuret as mission director for Sudan on July 10. Photo: USAID

Prior to this assignment, Fleuret was the Director of the Office of Southern Africa Affairs at USAID headquarters in Washington, DC, Deputy Mission Director for the USAID Mission in Uganda, a Project Development Supervisor in Tanzania and a Behavioral Science Officer in Kenya. He has both a Bachelor's degree and a PhD from the University of California, Santa Barbara.♦

The conference also enabled international donors, including the World Bank and European Union, to become more familiar with Southern Sudan's needs.

"It is often said that Southern Sudan does not have competent specialists," said USAID's Boutros Magaya. "This conference proves it is not true—there are very competent and experienced people on each level of administration. The problem is rather that there is not enough of them in this very demanding time of transition."

Most participants emphasized the need to have access to reliable planning information, to ensure transparent budgeting, and to increase the involvement of women. In addition, each state's representative emphasized the need to build local capacity to manage physical development. The Ministry of Housing, Labor, and Public Works announced that coordination meetings between the states and GOSS will become routine events, beginning with the minister and senior staff embarking on a mission to visit all 10 Southern states.

Creative Associates' Hans-Christian Vejby said he was impressed with the enthusiasm and realism which characterized the conference. "There is a long way forward, and international support is necessary, but this conference has shown that the leadership can take the management into their own hands," he said.♦

Sanitation Workshop Aims to Improve Public Health

On June 13-14, USAID supported a two-day workshop in Juba to improve urban environmental health in Southern Sudan. The goal of the event was to explore practical options for improving sanitation and solid waste disposal in Juba, based on current knowledge and practice in similar African urban areas. With these building blocks, attendees sought solutions that simultaneously addressed public health concerns, targeted the needs of low-income communities, worked within the available human and financial resources, and mobilized community and household resources for on-site sanitation.

Organized by USAID partner DAI, the event was co-hosted by the Central Equatoria State Ministry of

Physical Infrastructure and the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) Ministries of Health, Housing, and Lands and Public Utilities. Government officials, donors, nongovernmental organizations, and private sector partners from multiple sectors attended.

Speakers made presentations on a range of different aspects of sanitation, stimulating far-reaching discussions that were used during breakout sessions to generate recommendations for next steps.

The meeting produced a list of ideas to guide the work of the Juba Sanitation Task Force, a group of state and local officials formed to voice local concerns to the GOSS. The group strongly recommended that the task force formalize its operation and membership, and develop a comprehensive strategy that addresses city-wide concerns while focusing on the needs of vulnerable households. They further said that public health education and public health officers should emphasize rapid results when conducting demonstration projects and encouraging improved sanitation practices. The group also encouraged the task force to implement projects through local initiatives, with local partners.♦

Southern Sudan AIDS Commission Office Opens

On August 3, the Government of Southern Sudan officially opened the new office of the Southern Sudan HIV/AIDS Commission in Juba, which was built with support from USAID. The new office compound, which includes prefabricated buildings provided by USAID and permanent structures built by the Government of Southern Sudan, will give the AIDS Commission the work and meeting space essential for coordinating the response to HIV/AIDS in Southern Sudan.

Sub-Saharan Africa has been hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, with over half of the world's HIV-infected people. In Southern Sudan, infection rates vary in towns and counties; some areas show up to 12 percent of pregnant women have HIV.

The Southern Sudan AIDS Commission, established in 2006 under the office of the President of the Government of Southern Sudan seeks to reduce the harm to Sudanese communities that HIV/AIDS can cause. The AIDS Commission works closely with several partners, including the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), implemented in Sudan by USAID and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).♦

Southern Communities Come Together to Build Peace

In July, USAID supported nearly 20 local consensus-building events in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas as an important first step in its people-to-people peace-building program. More than 750 people, including local officials, legislators, youth, returnees, and women, attended the programs in Abyei-Agok, Kadugli, Kauda, Malakal, Juba, and Aweil.

Forum attendance ranged from 10 to 100, at times targeting specific groups, such as the Upper Nile and Southern Kordofan Legislative Assembly, and at others attempting to reach a large, diverse audience of youth groups, traditional leaders, women, or political parties. While most forums lasted 3–4 hours, some turned into all-day events that finished late at night. The events in Malakal, Aweil, and Juba were co-hosted by the Southern Sudan Peace Commission (SSPC), whose senior members, including Chairman James Kok Rua, were actively involved.

At the start of each forum, USAID partner Pact talked about the local threats to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that they had identified during months of research conducted throughout Southern Sudan. In each presentation, Pact concentrated on conflict threats directly relevant to the local audience. The root cause of each threat was highlighted to prompt further discussion on how to avert triggers of conflict through inclusive local peace-building processes. At some of the events, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) presented findings of USAID-funded focus group research conducted in the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern

Consensus-building events in the Three Areas gathered a range of diverse participants. Photo: Pact

Kordofan), spotlighting the views of local residents on the CPA and its implementation.

Following the formal presentations, the floor was opened for participants to discuss issues, share views, and build consensus around how to move forward. Many participants commented that these events, for the first time, allowed them to gather and engage in meaningful discussions with people of other ethnic, socio-economic, and political backgrounds.

Said one attendee, "Most of these issues are usually discussed in closed secret forums among ethnic groups, which results in sort of conspiracies against other communities."

Said another, "Everyone seems to be aware of these threats and in agreement with these, but unwilling to talk about it in public… Thank you!"

Overall, there was great demand for additional events, work-groups, and peace-building workshops, and Pact has engaged in follow-up meetings with smaller groups wishing to further define how to address specific threats. At one meeting, Abyei peace committee members decided to initiate specific events to unite traditional authorities of the nine Dinka sections. In Kadugli, youth groups expressed strong interest in actively advocating with political parties for the smooth and speedy implementation of the CPA protocol for Southern Kordofan; as a result, the acting governor suggested forming a state mechanism for resolving differences on the implementation of the CPA. In Malakal, participants decided to hold several community forums with special sessions on youth, women, and returnees.♦

Forums Resolve Conflict in Khartoum Camps

Around Khartoum, camps for displaced people offer few services and limited employment opportunities, fueling anger among their ethnically and religiously diverse residents. The violence that periodically erupts as a result is evidence of the need to strengthen communities' negotiation and peace-building skills.

In four camps and their surrounding areas, USAID recently collaborated with a Sudanese organization to train key community members on ways to diffuse tension and spread messages of peace. Following a workshop on how to engage their communities in constructive dialogue, participants organized 15 public forums, which brought together more than 500

A workshop held at a Khartoum-area camp addressed negotiations and peace building. Photo: USAID

community members, including women, youth, religious leaders, and teachers. The forums served as a vehicle for structuring dialogue and building trust among diverse communities, and were characterized by frank discussions. Ongoing conflicts were analyzed, prioritized, and then linked to the wider peace process.

Several initiatives emerged as a result. Wad Albashir and Jebel Aulia camps formed committees to resolve conflicts. In Wad Albashir, a longstanding dispute between a group of citizens and the water pump management committee was resolved by a facilitated discussion that dissipated mistrust and clarified how water fees are spent.♦

"Rocket" Stove Reduces Firewood Use in Darfur

With the Darfur conflict extending into its fourth year, more than two million displaced people continue to live in crowded camps, surrounded by increasingly deforested lands. Around Al Salaam camp in North Darfur, firewood needed for cooking has become so scarce that women often have to walk three hours to find it, and many have resorted to digging roots from the ground. Venturing from the relative safety of the camp increases a woman's chance of harassment and abuse, yet those who decide not to leave the confines of the camps have little choice but to spend a portion of their family's income or food rations on firewood at the local markets.

USAID recently supported the introduction of fuel-efficient stoves to every household in Al Salaam. The

"rocket" stove, designed by the International Lifeline Fund, has an insulated combustion chamber built from lightweight bricks made out of a mixture of clay and other organic materials, like rice, nutshells, and donkey dung. The rocket stove costs just $3 to make and can reduce firewood consumption by up to 75 percent. In collaboration with a Sudanese organization, USAID supported the training of 5,600 women in stove construction and proper use. Once the women returned home with the stoves, changes in household firewood needs are monitored. Although women continue to collect firewood to sell, demand is expected to decrease.

In light of the widespread shortage of firewood, organizations from other areas of North and West Darfur have requested assistance in utilizing the rocket stove, and USAID is assisting them is adopting the technology.♦

Women in Al Salaam walk home from a training with their "rocket" stoves. Photo: USAID

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

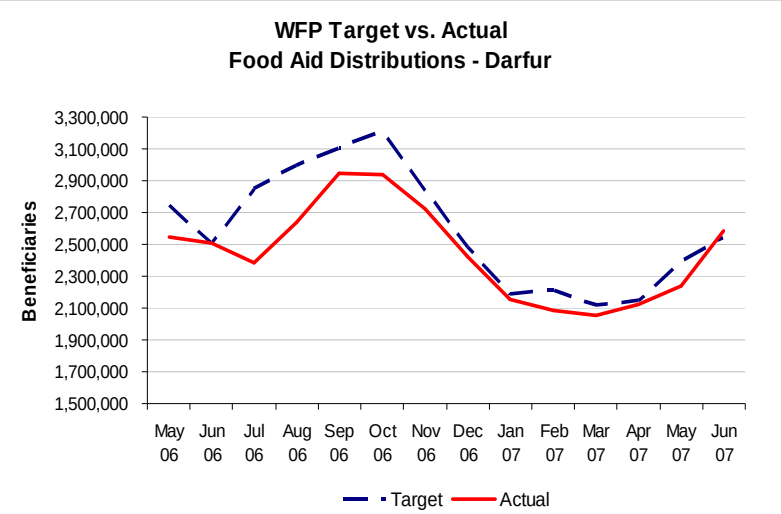
Sorghum distribution in Kalma camp, South Darfur. Photo: USAID

USAID is the leading donor of food assistance to Sudan. Since October 1, 2006, USAID has provided 391,900 metric tons of emergency food aid worth more than $393 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. Approximately 75 percent of this total goes toward feeding displaced people and refugees in Darfur and Eastern Chad, where conflict continues to disrupt food security. The remaining 25 percent is allocated to people in Southern Sudan, Eastern Sudan, Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan, where food aid continues to play a vital role in supporting returnees to Southern Sudan and helping communities recover from two decades of civil conflict.

WFP Distributions June 2007

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,583,464
South	588,750
East	153,852
Three Areas*	218,775
Central	15,332
Total	3,560,173

* The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.



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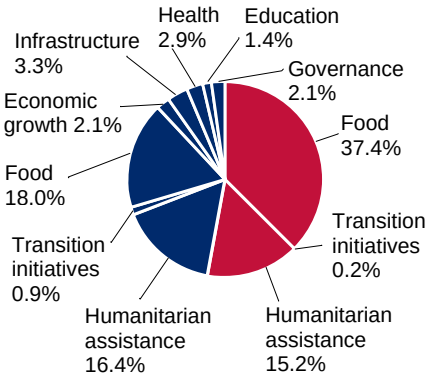
USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN FY2006, ESTIMATED



Darfur 52.8%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$108.270 million
Transition initiatives:	$1.400 million
Food:	$266.110 million
Darfur:	*$375.780 million*

South, East, and Three Areas 47.2%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$116.520 million
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Food:	$127.807 million
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Infrastructure:	$23.350 million
South, East, and Three Areas:	*$335.249 million*
Countrywide Total:	**$711.029 million**

The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

MONTHLY UPDATE

September 2007

Flood Response Continues

In Upper Nile, Jonglei, and Unity states, more than 87,000 people have been affected by this summer's devastating floods. More than 4,400 families were displaced in Maiwut, Maban, and Longechuk counties in eastern Upper Nile State alone, and some counties have lost as much as 90 percent of their crops. In small communities such as Pagak along the Sudan-Ethiopia border, where women walk for up to six hours to access markets in Ethiopia, many people have been cut off from their lifeline of goods and supplies. People who have recently returned to the area after years in Ethiopian refugee camps are especially hard hit, having few local resources to draw upon.

Through partners such as Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), USAID is working to provide life-saving assistance to these areas and other remote corners of Sudan. With USAID support, NPA is conducting targeted airlifts to help flood-affected communities survive until the roads are passable and goods can again flow into the area. NPA's deliveries of USAID-funded food commodities and supplies—such as blankets, plastic sheeting, mosquito nets, and fishing kits—are expected to play an important role in mitigating the effects of future rains and helping these communities recover. Fishing kits, for example, are given to families that have lost their crops, as fish can provide an important replacement source of protein.

An NPA plane takes off from Pagak to deliver food and supplies to flood-affected communities. Photo: USAID

Khartoum Flood Relief

Home to 15,000 displaced people, Mayo Farms is the camp most hard-hit by the rains in Khartoum state. Since July, USAID partners SUDO and the U.N. Joint Logistics Center distributed supplies—blankets, water containers, and plastic sheeting—to help households cope with the inundation. To prevent the accumulation of standing water, which can threaten structures and public health, the Sudanese Government has initiated efforts to dig drainage canals, and USAID partner CARE has organized food-for-work trench digging projects. Because of these activities, conditions in the camp have greatly improved.

Left: USAID partners distribute relief items at Mayo Farms on September 6. Photo: USAID

The rains have not only closed the roads, but also rendered many dirt airstrips unlandable, challenging relief organizations to develop flexible approaches to providing assistance. On August 16, NPA loaded food onto a plane at its base in Pagak, intended for Longechuk county. The plane tried unsuccessfully to land in five locations that day, but had to turn back after finding them all too inundated to touch down. The next day, NPA set off again and finally found a landable airstrip in Udier *payam*, where it delivered more than 4 metric tons of food to hungry residents.♦

Reversing Brain Drain: Diaspora Doctors Return

One of the largest obstacles to improving health in Africa is the difficulty in finding skilled people to staff clinics and hospitals. The continent suffers from an acute shortage and inequitable distribution of qualified health workers. In Southern Sudan, the situation is dire. There are less than 200 doctors for the 10 million people living there, and a daunting epidemiological profile characterized by high or rising rates of malaria, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, and a host of neglected tropical diseases including river blindness, guinea worm, sleeping sickness, and kala-azar.

As a result, Southern Sudan has some of the worst health indicators in the world. One out of four children dies before turning five years old, and more than 2,000 pregnant women die for every 100,000 live births.

To battle these disheartening statistics, USAID has been working with the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Health since 2005 to strengthen health systems and manage the workforce. One of the initiatives being supported is a novel program to repatriate, train, and deploy qualified medical doctors from the diaspora.

When 600 children between 9 and 12 years old fled Southern Sudan in 1986, they found themselves in

Sudanese doctors who had been living in Canada arrived in Juba in October 2006. Photo: USAID

Cuba, where 15 went on to complete medical training before being granted asylum in Canada. However, none were licensed to practice medicine there and many supported themselves by working as taxi drivers or gardeners. In early 2006, USAID partner Samaritan's Purse identified this group of doctors and arranged for them to be repatriated to Sudan after undergoing an intensive clinical internship in Kenya.

In October 2006, the doctors arrived in Juba to an enthusiastic welcome that included a private meeting with Salva Kiir, the president of the Government of Southern Sudan. For many of the group, coming home for the first time in 20 years proved an emotional experience that began to fulfill their wish to use their skills to help rebuild their war-ravaged country. "We are back to complete the mission our hero, [the] late Dr. John Garang, sent us for," said Dr. Daniel Madit.

They spent three weeks in Juba reconnecting with family and country, then flew to Kenya to begin their year-long training program, which was designed with the Kenyan Medical Board to effectively address both theoretical and practical knowledge gaps. The program was tailored specifically to this group because of the many unique challenges they faced: they had not practiced medicine for many years, their medical education had been conducted in Spanish, and many still suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

But they are determined to complete the training this year and return to make a difference in the lives of their people. "Although there are many challenges, our objective is to help our people," said Dr. Thon Duop, who is concentrating on assisting Sudanese children.

"I want to help them have the childhood that I did not experience. I want to watch them grow up healthy—to care for their medical needs and to care for their mothers' and fathers' medical needs. That will make me happy."♦

Saving a Mother and Her Newborn

Khadija, 22, and her husband live in Mornei camp in West Darfur. Like all Darfuri women, when she became pregnant with her first child last year, Khadija planned to deliver the baby at home with traditional birthing assistants. However, during labor she started to experience severe pain and heavy bleeding. Her husband was very worried and brought her to the camp clinic, run by USAID partner Save the Children. When the clinic's obstetrics team assessed her condition, they found that she had a *placenta previa*—a condition in which the placenta obstructs the birth canal. The only way to save the lives of both Khadija and her baby would be an emergency caesarean section at the regional hospital—a four-hour drive away along rough dirt roads rife with bandits.

While the ambulance was readied, the clinic laboratories tested family members' blood to find a match for Khadija. Then the ambulance took Khadija, her husband, and the relative with a matching blood type to the regional hospital. There, several hours later, Khadija gave birth to a healthy boy by caesarian section, and had a successful blood transfusion. "During the transfer to the hospital, I was very frightened because there are very dangerous bandits on that road," she said. "But now I am thankful for the ambulance service, because it saved my life."

The obstetrics team talked to Khadija about family planning, and she has opted to use birth control for a few years. "I was in so much pain during delivery that I am using family planning for now. Maybe I'll be ready for a second child in three years' time."

Save the Children has established 21 primary health care clinics in West Darfur, serving the health needs of more than 230,000 children and their families. All of the clinics contain a reproductive health unit, and there are four basic emergency obstetric care units and five laboratories. So far, Save the Children has handed over the management of 11 clinics to the West Darfur State Ministry of Health.♦

Teacher Training Program Thrives in Raga

Raga is a remote town in Western Bahr el Ghazal, 210 miles northwest of Wau—a two-day trip over very bad roads.

In May and June, Raga was one of 20 sites chosen to base for USAID's Fast-Track Teacher Training Program. Spearheaded by the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, the Fast-Track Program was designed to train the thousands of new teachers needed to meet sharply increasing demand for primary education throughout Southern Sudan. USAID partner Academy for Educational Development (AED) implemented the first cycle of the program, which trained 1,228 new teachers—about 120 in each southern state.

Raga turned out to be both typical and extraordinary in its implementation of the Fast-Track Program. Like each of the 19 other centers, Raga successfully trained 60 new teachers over a five-week course. However, unlike many other centers, Raga had excellent female representation among its pupils—half of the 60 trainees, were women. In addition, 30 more women who could not be officially admitted were allowed to participate informally. The women trained in Raga were also better educated than the trainees at other center; in Raga, more than 80 percent of the women had completed secondary school.

How do the trainers account for this? According to Solomon Manyang, the Fast-Track mobile team supervisor in Raga, there are two main factors that account for the Raga success. First, many families stayed in Raga during Sudan's civil war, and unlike much of the south, education continued to be available throughout the conflict, resulting in a greater proportion of schooled candidates. In addition, Manyang reports, officials at the County Education Department actively encourage women and girls to attend and complete both primary and secondary school. The department also strongly promoted the Fast-Track Program specifically to women.

Sixty new teachers were trained in Raga's five-week course. Photo: USAID

The state Ministry of Education says it is very pleased with Raga's success in recruiting women and has vowed to duplicate the approach to the program elsewhere in the state.♦

Unity State: Building Coalitions

While the peace brought about by the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) has been felt by most residents of Southern Sudan and the Three Areas, most still know little about the actual agreement or its contents. With the national elections approaching in 2009 and the referendum on unity in 2011, the CPA is a vital document that citizens will need to learn about and understand in order to make informed choices.

To help spread the word, five grassroots community groups in Leer County, Unity State, have formed a coalition that is disseminating the CPA and updating communities on the progress it is making. Formed with the support of USAID and its partners Mercy Corps and International Rescue Committee, the Leer Civic Education Forum is holding public meetings with community groups and conducting CPA dialogue sessions to raise awareness of current issues and encourage the emergence of a vibrant civil society. The sessions are conducted with assistance from USAID partners the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Internews community radio stations and target women and vulnerable groups.

"When we combine our thoughts and energy, we can be effective in our response to issues affecting our community and South Sudan," said Leer Forum member Jeremiah Gatnor.

The coalition in Leer—along with similar groups that coalesced in Aweil East, Aweil North, and Mayom—developed out of a USAID-sponsored training on coalition building held in Malual Kon in April. The four

The chairwoman of the Leer Forum speaks to members of the coalition. Photo: Mercy Corps

coalitions now advocate for issues ranging from girls education to land distribution for returnees.

A local county official in Aweil East said the coalitions provide an important foundation that local communities could sustain. “The government can stand together with Mercy Corps and IRC partners to ensure that this coalition should be a sustainable relationship,” he said. “Even if USAID stops funding, the government needs to stand with the coalition because it is easy to address community issues through coalitions.”

The county official’s view not only is a positive sign for the future of active grassroots advocacy, but also for the potential that citizens’ voices will be heard. Other ongoing civic engagement initiatives supported by USAID address Southern Sudan’s draft land law, disseminate information on the upcoming census, and provide information on state constitutions.♦

Land Law Dialogues Embrace Community Voices

As Sudan emerges from war and begins to develop institutions and legal frameworks, its citizens have a unique opportunity to participate in the establishment of their democracy. And their engagement is particularly important on issues that have the potential to create conflict—and few are more central than land.

Land is a both precious resource and a potential flashpoint in Sudan. In many communities, disputes are common over ownership and use of land for living, farming, and grazing. The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement created the Southern Sudan Land Commission (SSLC) to arbitrate disputes and recommend revisions to existing legislation so that the law is brought into line with customary practice as well as international norms.

With this in mind, four USAID partners—the National Democratic Institute (NDI), Mercy Corps, the International Rescue Committee, and Pact—worked with the SSLC to hold dialogues on land issues throughout Southern Sudan and ensure that the voices of communities were heard and considered in the land law drafting process.

Twenty USAID-sponsored dialogues took place over three weeks in August, bringing together more than 400 participants from civil society, local government, traditional authorities, and key stakeholders such as women, youth, and people displaced by the war. The dialogues aimed to increase understanding of the land law drafting process and provide a forum for communities to discuss land issues, while allowing the SSLC to get a snapshot of how citizens feel about land issues that would inform its decisions.

The first part of the dialogue taught participants about the land law’s context, from the land provisions included in the CPA to the role of the SSLC, and provided a wealth of information about customary law and traditional practices. The second part of the dialogue posed a series of questions to elicit citizen views and recurring concerns, including the women’s inheritance rights and the sharing of pasture and water resources.

While participants expressed apprehension about the potential for land conflict and fear about the lack of

In Rumbek, women sing during a community dialogue on land laws. Photo: NDI

information on the new law, they also said they were relieved to be involved in the process and appreciated the SSLC's efforts to ensure participation. In Rumbek, some participants said they had never before been involved in a law-making process, and that this remarkable opportunity was a dividend of the CPA. Women attending the meeting sang, "We will ask our leaders that there is no need to shed blood for the land any more; violence is not good; Let's negotiate for the land if we need it."

More detailed participant responses were compiled into a written report and presented to the SSLC in early September, and NDI will compile an audio report based on comments and questions recorded during the dialogues.

In the coming months, USAID's partners will continue their work with the SSLC to follow the land law process and ensure that participants are informed about the results. Then, once the land law is adopted, NDI, working with USAID partner Sudan Radio Service, will broadcast a special episode of the "Let's Talk" radio program, to inform citizens of the details of the law and its implications for citizens.♦

Do You Know Your Government?

What do the members of a state assembly do? Which government agency is in charge of city trash collection? How does the government oversee companies who want to exploit natural resources? "Know Your Government," a new radio program funded by USAID, aims to answer these questions and more for Sudanese citizens.

Starting August 30, the program has been airing weekly in both English and simple Arabic on Sudan Radio Service, an independent broadcaster funded by USAID. The first "Know Your Government" program featured an interview with the Government of Southern Sudan's Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Samson Kwaje. His ministry is in charge of state radio and television stations, as well as setting media policy, and as government spokesperson, Kwaje represents the public face of the government. During the program, Kwaje explained the function and organization of his ministry, and described how it has fared in reaching its goals this year. He also talked about the proposed Freedom of Information bill set to be presented for debate in the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, and how

A journalist from the Sudan Radio Service interviews Salva Kiir, the president of the Government of Southern Sudan. Photo: SRS

Sudanese citizens can access public information from other government entities.

Each "Know Your Government" program will follow a similar format, focusing on one government office. An official will explain what his or her agency does, how it is organized, whether or not it has met its annual goals, how the agency relates to other government offices, and how citizens can obtain more information. Upcoming programs include interviews with the Minister of Energy and Mining, the speaker of a state assembly, and a city councilperson.

By providing the public with information about how the government works, USAID hopes to promote an informed and active citizenry that can interact more easily with their representatives. In addition, while many government officials are wary of the media and uncomfortable with sharing information, "Know Your Government" will provide them the opportunity to gain experience interacting with the media in a non-threatening environment. Breaking the habit of secrecy is another vital part creating a transparent and accountable government.♦

Partners Finalize Census Manuals

After the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation (SSCCSE) was established as the autonomous statistical bureau of the Government of Southern Sudan. With support

from USAID, the commission collects and analyzes data for surveys and censuses, and today, its findings are the basis the GOSS uses to allocate political representation, plan policy, and develop programs.

The Census Technical Working Group, an assembly of local and international parties involved in Sudan's upcoming census, held its last meeting in Rumbek July 25-28. Immediately following the meeting, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a USAID partner, went to work with the northern Central Bureau of Statistics, the SSCCSE, and UN Population Fund to finalize the manuals that will be used by the census workers.

تعداد السكان والمساكن الخامس

5th SUDAN POPULATION & HOUSING CENSUS

كن مستعداً وعد نفسك

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

Working group comments were incorporated into four key handbooks: Short Form Questionnaire Enumerator's Manual, Long Form Questionnaire Enumerator's Manual, Supervisor's Manual, and Training Manual. On completion, English and Arabic versions of the manuals went to print on August 31, to ensure that they would be available for the first round of training for census workers, which begins November 25. The national census enumeration is now scheduled for February 2-16, 2008.♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

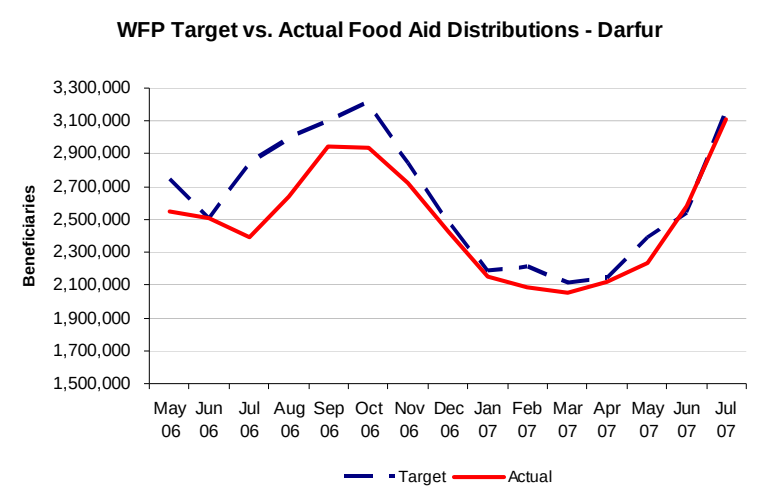
Food distribution in Kalma camp, South Darfur. Photo: USAID

USAID is the leading donor of food assistance to Sudan. Since October 1, 2006, USAID has provided 391,900 metric tons of emergency food aid worth more than $393 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. Approximately 75 percent of this total goes toward feeding displaced people and refugees in Darfur and Eastern Chad, where conflict continues to disrupt food security. The remaining 25 percent is allocated to people in Southern Sudan, Eastern Sudan, Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan, where food aid continues to play a vital role in supporting returnees to Southern Sudan and helping communities recover from two decades of civil conflict.

WFP Distributions July 2007

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	3,111,362
South	607,876
East	85,826
Three Areas*	159,876
Central	39,631
Total	4,004,571

* The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.



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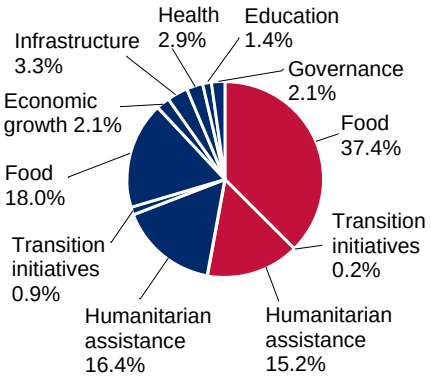
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN FY2006, ESTIMATED



Darfur 52.8%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$108.270 million
Transition initiatives:	$1.400 million
Food:	$266.110 million
Darfur:	*$375.780 million*

South, East, and Three Areas 47.2%	
Humanitarian assistance:	$116.520 million
Transition initiatives:	$6.660 million
Food:	$127.807 million
Economic growth:	$15.120 million
Governance:	$14.850 million
Health:	$22.692 million
Education:	$10.250 million
Infrastructure:	$23.350 million
South, East, and Three Areas:	*$335.249 million*
Countrywide Total:	**$711.029 million**

The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

MONTHLY UPDATE

October 2007

Bringing Health Care to Aweil East County

In Aweil East County, in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state, the chairman of the Bakau Village Health Committee, his deputy, and a community health worker sit under a large tree, remembering what their community was like before a primary health care unit was built in the area.

"Before, we didn't know how to write or how to run a [clinic]," said the chairman, "but [Tearfund] made a construction, you give us medicines and we move forward…. Before we were in a bad condition; we are better now than in the past."

In Bakau, members of the community are now able to get prescribed drugs from health professionals, rather than buying medicines from market traders. They have also begun encouraging family members to receive proper treatment by taking them to a health unit when they are sick.

With support from USAID, Tearfund has been establishing and running clinics in Aweil East since 2005. Tearfund has also undertaken initiatives to empower local Village Health Committees and equip them and state Ministry of Health officials with the tools needed to manage the facilities. These new skills will allow the local authorities to eventually assume the long-term supervision and operation of the facility.

When asked about the future of the clinic and his community, the Bakau committee chairman said he hoped that within five years,

Pregnant and lactating women line up to be immunized at the new primary health care unit in Aweil East County. Photo: Tearfund

Community members receive prescription medication at the dispensary next to the new primary health care unit. Photo: Tearfund

community health would be improved and the diseases that currently plague them would be eliminated. He also hopes that his area would one day have a primary health care center, with an inpatient unit for admissions. He is determined to build on Bakau's progress.

"It is not like when we sat idle," he says. "Now we have knowledge we will not sleep like before, we will sit together as a committee and talk to the community….

"We can contribute bricks and resources to keep the [clinic] going…and for other things like drug supply, we will ask for help. But for other things, we can do them; we learned this from the empowerment training."♦

Breastfeeding Improves Child Nutrition in Darfur

In parts of Darfur, 23.3 percent of children are malnourished—well above the emergency threshold of 15 percent. Early and sustained breastfeeding is an important step toward improving the long-term nutritional status of children and their mothers. Newborns who breastfeed within hours of birth benefit from the first of their mothers' milk—colostrum—which contains a high amount of protein and passes along a mother's antibodies to her child. For mothers, early breastfeeding improves their production of milk and reduces their risk of infections and post-partum hemorrhaging. For infants, feeding exclusively from the breast for the first six months optimizes their growth and development by providing complete nutrition and decreasing the risk of infection from contaminated water and food.

Since 2006, USAID partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has been implementing a unique health and nutrition program in West Darfur that targets pregnant and lactating mothers and infants under six months old. While other programs focus on emergency nutrition for malnourished children aged 6 months to five years old, the USAID-funded CRS program is the only one that aims to improve maternal and child health by promoting early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding for six months.

CRS trains traditional birth attendants and Ministry of Health officials on improving infant feeding practices and supporting pregnant women. CRS has also partnered with birth attendants to establish Mother-To-

New and expectant mothers learn about breastfeeding and are tested for malnutrition in Kulbus, West Darfur. Photos: CRS

Nafiza's Story

Nafiza, 28, is a traditional birth attendant living with her husband and four children in Zam Zam camp in North Darfur. Her youth and her literacy spurred community leaders to select her to participate in a reproductive health training program run by USAID partner Relief International.

The training has helped Nafiza strengthen her skills and those of other birth attendants. Expectant mothers now specifically request Nafiza to provide care during deliveries, as well as care after delivery. She also shares information with the community at large about maternal health issues and how women can overcome health risks.

Nafiza says that her training is helping change her community's attitudes about pregnancy and childbirth, and is cultivating more positive, healthy behavior. She dreams of becoming a certified midwife, and hopes one day to be able to afford the $300 annual cost of the three-year program.♦

Mother support groups, where pregnant women and new mothers can discuss and learn about breastfeeding and other infant feeding practices.

In addition to breastfeeding promotion, CRS identifies mothers with well-nourished children to share their successful feeding practices with mothers of malnourished children, which encourages the use of local foods and solutions to improve child welfare.

These efforts have reached more than 4,000 displaced and resident mothers in the northern corridor of West Darfur—more than twice the original target set by CRS. Follow-up monitoring shows that 89 percent of mothers participating in the program initiated breastfeeding within one hour of giving birth, and 86 percent exclusively breastfed their newborns for six months. These numbers are especially impressive in a region where mothers traditionally introduce complementary foods after two or three months.♦

USAID Hands Over Health Facilities in Rumbek

USAID partner John Snow International Research and Training Institute (JSI) has worked in Southern Sudan since 2004 to re-establish health services and build the capacity of health institutions in the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) and in states and counties. To ensure that the government had the resources necessary to attract qualified staff and conduct day-to-day business, USAID committed to build office and housing facilities for the GOSS Ministry of Health in what was in 2004 the first capital of Southern Sudan—Rumbek, in Lakes State.

These facilities, consisting of eight administrative buildings and four staff houses, were nearly complete in 2005 when the sudden, tragic death of Dr. John Garang resulted in the shift of the southern capital to Juba. Since the Ministry of Health facilities were already so far along, JSI, USAID, and the GOSS agreed that the project be completed and used to house the Lakes State Ministry of Health.

On September 20, USAID Director for Southern Sudan Allan Reed officially handed over the facilities to Lakes State Acting Governor Awan Andrew Gaul Raik. The new facilities now house the Lakes State Ministry of Health, as well as a number of other newly established state ministries, and effectively decentralized governance and health services in one of Southern Sudan's key states. As these ministries become staffed and operational, health and education services will be more efficiently managed and able to reach residents and returnees in vital outlying areas.♦

GOSS Minister of Health Joseph Monytuiel Wiejang speaks at the handover ceremony on September 20. Photo: USAID

Twenty-three health professionals attended a disease surveillance and response training in Yambio. Photo: USAID

Disease Surveillance Training Launched

In July 2006, the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Health took an important step in establishing an integrated disease surveillance and response system that would meet the needs of a region moving from civil war to peace and the millions of displaced people returning home. During those first meetings of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Working Group, government officials and nongovernmental partners agreed to adopt the World Health Organization's disease surveillance and response guidelines as the most workable solution for Southern Sudan's needs.

With support from USAID, a consultant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention developed a one-year action plan, recommending state- and county-level training on disease surveillance and response. The inaugural training was held in Yambio on July 18-21, 2007, and brought together 23 lab technicians, nurses, and other health workers from five counties around the city.

By the end of the training, the participants were expected to understand the concepts of integrated disease surveillance and response, have created an action plan for their locality, know how to collect disease surveillance data and conduct routine analysis, and be able to respond to an outbreak. Feedback from the participants provided some important lessons learned that will be applied to future trainings. Noting the success of this initial training, the Ministry of Health and its partners are moving forward with plans to provide this course across Southern Sudan.♦

Radio Boosts English Skills in Southern Schools

When the Government of Southern Sudan declared English its official language, schools across the south also had to shift their medium of instruction from Arabic to English. While the change was welcome, it was difficult.

Ben and Charles are experienced educators with a foundation in English, but like many teachers and students, they struggled to adjust. So to improve their English skills, they and other educators at the Juba Day Secondary School have started to tune in to the USAID-funded radio program TERBIA—Teaching English through Radio Instruction for All.

Run by USAID partner Educational Development Center, TERBIA's advanced programs are designed to teach English to people with some proficiency in the language, focusing on improving their speaking and comprehension skills. The program incorporates issues around the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to improve public awareness of civic rights and responsibilities.

Ben and Charles now not only use TERBIA to improve their own English skills, but they also have their students listen to the broadcasts to build on what they learn in class. Students are also tuning in to TERBIA on their own. The Girl Child Education Movement (GEM), a student club at the Juba Day Secondary

Students at Juba Day Secondary School prepare the radio to listen to a TERBIA course. Photo: EDC

Students at Juba Day Secondary School study along with a TERBIA lesson on the radio. Photo: EDC

School, has transformed the school's media center into a "TERBIA Center," where students gather voluntarily to listen to programs. More than 30 students now regularly sacrifice their morning recess to listen.

Ben says he uses the program because "it teaches listening and speaking skills at the same time." The practice students get listening to the radio lessons gives them more confidence and makes them more comfortable participating in class, says Ben. The students who listen to TERBIA are more active in class discussions than those that don't, he says.

Jane Suku, chairperson of the GEM club, says she hasn't missed a single TERBIA lesson because she wants to keep up on her civic education. "It improves my skills as a debater and gives me more information on how to argue out my viewpoint during our school debates."

Another student, George Yuggu, says, "We need more of these programs to improve our English, but political education issues make the lessons even more attractive."

Launched in 2004, TERBIA is broadcast throughout Southern Sudan and the Three Areas of Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan. It and USAID's other interactive radio instruction programs are incorporated into the department of alternative learning systems in the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology. ♦

Promoting Gender Equity in Education

In Southern Sudan, currently less than one in 10 girls complete their primary education, and as few as one percent of them attend the less than 100 secondary schools that serve the millions of people that live there. In addition, the number of qualified female educators is very low.

To combat these statistics, USAID, in cooperation with the Government of South Sudan, has launched a five-year, $6.5-million Gender Equity through Education program in Southern Sudan. The program, implemented by USAID partner Winrock International, will promote gender equity in secondary schools and teacher training institutes throughout Southern Sudan and the Three Areas of Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

The program will encourage 6,800 girls and women to complete secondary school and become teachers. Scholarships will cover school fees and supplies and help reduce financial barriers to secondary education. School improvements will help eliminate social barriers to education, including, for example, the provision of separate bathrooms for girls and boys. Incentives for women to enter the teaching profession include gender-sensitive teaching aids, English language improvement courses, and scholarships to cover training fees and supplies. Cultural barriers will be addressed through community advocacy campaigns and greater government involvement in gender-sensitive programming.

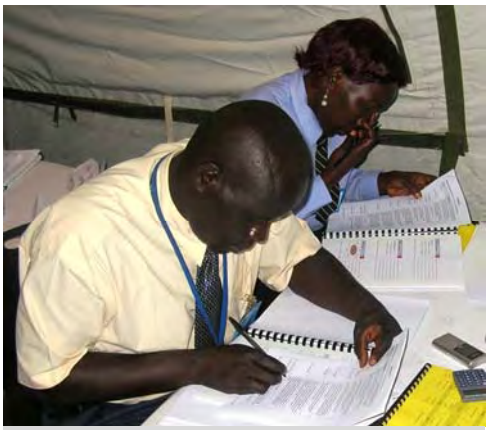
To promote sustainability, Winrock will pilot a mother-daughter micro-credit initiative to enable communities to eventually take over the scholarship allocation. Winrock will also conduct an ongoing study to measure the impact of USAID's education efforts in Southern Sudan from 2003 to 2012.♦

BOSS Training Is Well Received

"This seminar was excellent. It provided us with the knowledge we need to properly supervise the conventional banks operating in Sudan. We hope

there will be many more seminars in the future." That's how Tong Akech Deng, an assistant director general for the Bank of Southern Sudan (BOSS), described an intensive four-day course on bank supervision.

Since the fall of 2006, USAID has been working with the staff at the BOSS to improve their understanding of conventional banking and help them develop the tools necessary to oversee and regulate Southern Sudan's banking system. In July, USAID partner BearingPoint taught the first course of a seven-course core curriculum, Bank Supervision Seminar I. The seminar was intended to introduce new terms and concepts about bank supervision, including bank balance sheets, the supervisory process, a risk rating system, and the Basel Committee's 25 Core Principles for Effective Banking Supervision.



Ibrahim Mustafa Ibrahim and Arkanjelo Chol attended the bank training. Photo: BearingPoint

Future courses will focus on a variety of other issues and concerns relevant to the southern bankers, including accounting, asset and liability management, and foreign exchange.♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

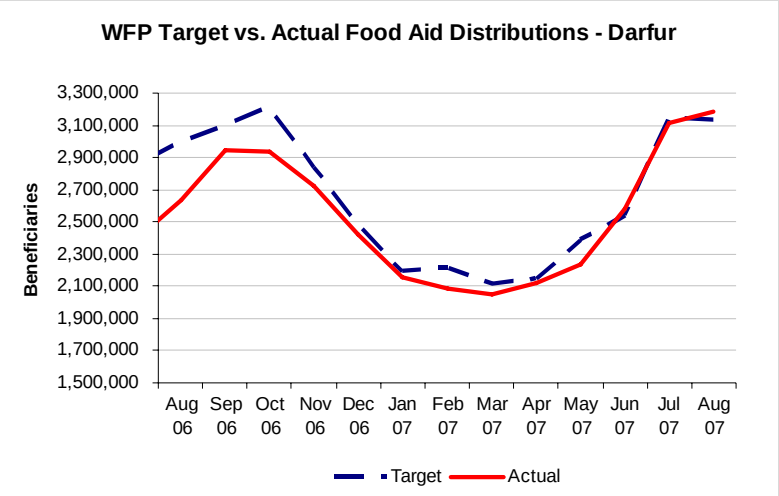
Food distribution in Darfur. Photo: USAID

USAID is the leading donor of food assistance to Sudan. In fiscal year 2007, USAID provided 391,900 metric tons of emergency food aid worth more than $393.9 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. Approximately 75 percent of this total goes toward feeding displaced people and refugees in Darfur and Eastern Chad, where conflict continues to disrupt food security. The remaining 25 percent is allocated to people in Southern Sudan, Eastern Sudan, Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan, where food aid continues to play a vital role in supporting returnees to Southern Sudan and helping communities recover from two decades of civil conflict.

WFP Distributions August 2007

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	3,062,568
South	771,321
East	140,669
Three Areas*	99,575
Central	29,525
Total	4,103,658

* The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.



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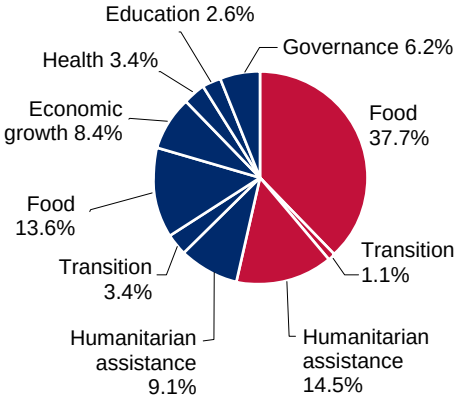
USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN FY2007, ESTIMATED



Darfur 53.3%	
Food:	$261.65 million
Humanitarian assistance:	$101.00 million
Transition:	$7.54 million
Darfur:	*$370.19 million*

South, East, and Three Areas 46.7%	
Food:	$94.48 million
Humanitarian assistance:	$63.00 million
Transition:	$23.84 million
Economic growth:	$58.25 million
Health:	$23.79 million
Education:	$17.75 million
Governance:	$43.13 million
South, East, and Three Areas:	*$324.24 million*
Countrywide Total:	**$694.43 million**

The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

MONTHLY UPDATE

November 2007

Southern Sudan's Women Leaders Find Common Ground

With the three major milestones of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement fast approaching—the 2008 census, the 2009 elections, and the 2011 referendum—Southern Sudan's leaders are accelerating efforts to boost popular participation in political life. Since the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan stipulates that a quarter of all positions in government be reserved for women, supporting female leaders is a top priority.

On October 3-6, USAID sponsored a conference called "Strengthening Women's Participation and Leadership in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas," which gave 70 rural female leaders the chance to come to Juba to plan a way forward with members of the Government of Southern Sudan. The conference, said Betty Ogwaro, "is not about discussing the issues of women; we have been discussing the issues of women for many years. Today is about moving forward and strengthening women."

The conference was intended to help participants take first steps toward effective advocacy on women's participation, particularly by strengthening what until now has been a virtually non-existent network among female leaders, and by creating new channels of communication between these leaders and their communities. The conference focused on what participants identified as the key

After the conference, Monday Charity, left, and Charity Opani returned to Yei and began to engage local officials in ways to support women's rights locally. Photo: Mercy Corps

challenges to women's participation in public decision-making, including the low level of education, poor access to health services, lack of information, and restrictive cultural practices. Debate moved beyond simply analyzing the problems and focused on the potential for collective action. During group discussions, participants established steps forward to encourage women's participation, and created channels of communication to increase awareness in their communities.

"Women need to wake up and take at the forefront of the development of this country, because this country belongs to women," said Commissioner of the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission Simon Kun.

Despite the interim constitution's gender quota, few Southern Sudanese—even some of those attending the conference—are aware of it. Mary Nyamum, a member of a grassroots organization in Blue Nile state exclaimed, "I did not know women could hold such big positions, stand in front of men, and discuss government issues! I am very surprised!"

Rebecca Garang de Mabior, Presidential Advisor on Gender and Human Rights, reminded participants that even though women's rights are enshrined in the constitution, they must still claim them. "We should not allow ourselves be confined to the 25 percent, but also participate in the other 75 percent if we work and extend our network and talk about what we discussed here."

All the conference sessions identified two overarching needs: strengthening women's literacy and overcoming cultural barriers. Around 95 percent of Southern Sudanese women are illiterate, partly because of the war, but also because of societal attitudes that discourage women's education. "During our struggle, we were fighting along with men, and I cannot stand that we should remain and follow the old laws that gave women very little chance for participation in public affairs," said a representative from the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development, Mary Ajith.

Feedback from participants in this respect was enthusiastic. "This conference has made me aware of the existence of other civil society groups," said Elizabeth Nyalada, the project manager of Leer Hygiene Promotion. The Women's Forum of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly indicated it wants to sustain the links forged at the conference by participating in events organized by USAID and regularly exchanging information.

Participants have been swift in acting on the conclusions of the conference. Inspired and informed, female leaders returned to their counties with renewed commitment and strategies to support women's rights in their communities. Two weeks after the conference, Charity Opani was back in Yei, meeting with her organization, Mothers and Widows Association, to share her experience and the conclusions of the conference. She then prepared a workshop to bring together civil society organizations, local government officials, and community leaders to define the plan of action for collaboration between government and local organizations. "Before the conference we did not know people in the high offices, but now we know we can approach them," she explained. About 50 people participated this workshop, and Opani hopes they will

During the conference, participant discussed challenges faced by women specifically in their region. Photos: Mercy Corps

also assist in spreading the message to the community.

Just a few kilometers away, in Lainya, women who attended the conference are steering the creation of a coalition to advocate for land rights. In Agok, Dot Baai Women's Association shared the conclusions of the conference with 45 women, and is now preparing a similar meeting with government representatives.

The conference in Juba built on the continuing, long-term efforts of USAID's partners the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute, Mercy Corps, and International Rescue Committee to support civil society organizations across Southern Sudan, Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.♦

Radio Program Combats Forced Marriage

"I had to obey the orders of my uncle who was providing for us. My uncle said that the man was one of us and I was to marry him. He used to tell me that I had no reason to refuse this marriage, and that it would happen whether I accepted it or not."

These are the words of Halima, 26, a refugee woman from Gaga, a Darfuri refugee camp east of Abéché, Chad, spoken during an episode of "She Speaks, She Listens," aired on Internews radio. Forced to marry and live with a man she had never met, Halima's experience is similar to that of thousands of refugee women in eastern Chad who never have the chance to contemplate entering a consensual marriage—or to leave their marriage if they are treated in an abusive manner.

An Internews reporter talks to a resident of Gaga refugee camp in eastern Chad. Photo: USAID

Through this episode of "She Speaks, She Listens," Houda Malloum and Halima Nassir, two of Internews' female reporters, broke the silence surrounding forced marriage and exposed the plight of women in eastern Chad, refugee and Chadian alike.

"She Speaks, She Listens" uses daring features like Halima's interview to help improve the lives of women in the region. On air since 2005, "She Speaks, She Listens" is breaking new ground in eastern Chad by regularly addressing on air sensitive topics related to violence against women. The weekly feature, funded by USAID, aims to give a voice to women, stimulate community dialogue, and eventually affect positive behavior change toward women.

"She Speaks, She Listens" is aired on three radio stations, which cover an area that includes the majority of refugee camps in eastern Chad. The stations are all part of the Internews Humanitarian Information Service, a project designed to provide critical news and information to refugees from Darfur and funded jointly by USAID, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.♦

Manual Provides Approaches for Generating Income in Darfur

Widespread human displacement caused by the devastating conflict in Darfur has disrupted traditional livelihoods and forced families to search for alternative sources of income. Often, displaced women resort to the collection and sale of firewood—an activity that requires them to leave the relative safety of their camps and increases the risk of exposure to rape and other forms of violence. Many popular alternatives to income generation, such as pasta-making, have provided social benefits but have not generated profit.

In 2006, USAID launched an initiative to provide organizations working in Darfur with the tools to train Darfuris how to generate income safely and beneficially. In collaboration with CHF International, USAID developed a methodology for income-generating activities that specifically addresses the context in Darfur and documented it in a training manual published in August. The manual introduces

Women in Kass camp in South Darfur make cheese for sale to local restaurants and merchants. Photo: USAID

basic business skills, including market and cost-benefit analyses, marketing techniques, bookkeeping, and market niche assessments. The initiative funded a training of trainers, who then shared the methodology with people displaced by the conflict during a series of workshops, which has in turn resulted in a number of promising pilot projects.

In one instance, an initial market survey in Kass, South Darfur, revealed a strong demand for cheese, which is generally purchased in Khartoum and transported on insecure roads, creating frequent shortages. Based on this survey, a local organization in Kass provided displaced women with basic business skills, then taught them how to make cheese. By the end of the three-month course, the women were able to sell a high-quality product and obtain a steady flow of income. Today, 17 women gather daily to make approximately 40 pounds of cheese, which they sell to restaurants and merchants. One mother uses the extra income to pay for her children's school fees, while another purchases meat to enhance her family's diet. Several of the women also now buy firewood at the market instead of venturing outside the camp to collect it.

The USAID-funded income-generation manual for Darfur is available to the public online at *http://igamanual.dai.com*.♦

Integrating Displaced Girls into Formal Schools

Karima came to Mornei camp in West Darfur with her family in early 2004 when she was 13 years old. There was no school in her home village, and she had not had any opportunity to receive an education.

After she and her family got to Mornei, Karima enrolled in a basic knowledge class offered by Save the Children-U.S. in a USAID-funded Women's Center. USAID has been supporting Save the Children's Women Protection and Support Network in Darfur since September 2004, with the aim to improve their physical, mental, and social well being. At the core of the project are 19 Women's Centers in eight camps in West Darfur, where women and girls can go to develop skills, build knowledge, and get emotional support to address stress and trauma.

For the last three years, Karima has spent two hours a day, five days a week, studying under the supervision of three teachers, who instruct her in mathematics, Koranic studies, and Arabic. For Karima and 23 other girls from Mornei camp, the classes at the Women's Center have enabled them to enhance their livelihood skills and build basic literacy and numeracy.

Karima is now 16 years old, and with the education she received at the Women's Center, she has been able to successfully integrate into the formal schooling system and is now enrolled in the school next to the center in Mornei.

Alongside her formal schooling, Karima continues to attend literacy classes at the Women's Center, as well as handicraft courses to enhance her livelihood skills. Women who graduate from handicraft activities such as tailoring or baking are often referred on to other Save the Children-run projects, which aim to generate income for families at the camp.

Karima works on her literacy at the Women's Center in Mornei. Photo: Save the Children

Nima's Story

Nima fled Abata village for the safety of Hamediya Camp near Zalingei, West Darfur, over three years ago. Her husband had just been killed and fearing for her safety, she fled with a group of others for the 40-kilometer journey. She was able to take with her only the clothes on her back.

"When we arrived, we had nothing," said Nima. "We were given soap and floor-mats, which was all we had to sleep on. At the start of the rainy season, we received plastic sheets," which help reinforce mud and grass shelters from Darfur's harsh rain and sandstorms. "Then we were given kitchen sets containing things like cups, spoons, plates, and a kettle."

USAID has also provided Nima and other Hamediya residents with blankets, jerry-cans to collect and store clean water, and a plastic tub for laundry. Nima feels that soap is the most crucial thing she has received, appreciating the importance of proper hygiene to fight off diseases such as diarrhea, which can be especially threatening to children.

As Nima tells her story, her 9-month-old daughter plays quietly beside her. Safa was born in a mud-brick hut in the camp—now home to 41,000 displaced people—and reminds her mother that, despite the many challenges she has faced, things have improved for her in the time since she arrived. Nima now has a job with USAID partner Mercy Corps working at a preschool, teaching the young children traditional songs, games, and lessons. Her work provides her new opportunities to learn and help her community, and provides her with much-needed income. And little Safa reminds her that wonderful things can happen even during the most difficult times.♦

The Women's Centers also offer emotional support groups for women and girls coping with trauma and workshops and trainings on gender-based violence, women's rights, reproductive health, nutrition, sanitation, and hygiene.

"There are so many benefits for women and girls," says Karima. But for her the biggest benefit has been re-integrating in school. "Without the literacy classes, I never would have been able to go to school. I want to complete my education and then become a mathematics teacher in the Women's Center because this is where I started learning."♦

Vitamin A Supplements Distributed in Abyei Schools

Chol stepped up to the desk, unsure of what was going to happen next. "Don't worry. It doesn't taste bad," said Elrasheed Abdalla. "Just open your mouth and stick out your tongue." The girl did as she was told, and Dr. Abdalla squeezed onto her tongue a drop of vitamin A—a life-saving nutritional supplement that the girl would have otherwise not received.

With a giggle, Chol told the girl in line behind her, "That was easy. Don't worry, it is OK."

Chol is one of 1,550 children who have recently received vitamin A supplements at eight schools in Abyei through the USAID-funded Health, Education, and Reconciliation (HEAR) project. Prior to dissemination days, staff informed community members about the upcoming distribution, and invited them to bring their children to the schools—whether they were students or not—to receive their supplements. HEAR staff also provided health education information to students, teachers, and parents that focused on what vitamin A is, why people need it, and how to protect children and mothers from vitamin A deficiency.

A child receives a vitamin A supplement. Photo: EDC

Many of the mothers present during the vitamin A activities said they would be happy to discuss the information they learned at the session with their neighbors. In fact, some were so enthusiastic that they went home and returned to the school with other children and even neighbors.

The World Health Organization has donated all of the doses of vitamin A so far, and USAID hopes to receive additional donations so that it can distribute supplements at schools in Kauda and Kurmuk. In addition to vitamin A distribution, HEAR focuses on improving the teachers' classroom skills and increasing their knowledge about topics including malaria prevention, sanitation, hygiene, and nutrition. HEAR is also conducting deworming activities, distributing bednets, and training health workers.♦

New School Boosts Number of Trained Midwives

Maternal mortality rates in Sudan are among the highest in the world. On average, 590 women die per 100,000 live births, and the rate is even higher in rural areas, where 94 percent of all births take place in the home. In Southern Kordofan, less than half of all births are attended by a trained health professional.

With support from USAID, Save the Children-U.S. built the Abu Gebeiha Midwifery School in Southern Kordofan in an effort to offer better health services to pregnant women and new mothers—and to begin to reverse these rates. The school was inaugurated on September 4 by the State Minister of Health, the Director General for Health, and other local leaders. Since Save the Children had started training midwives even before the school's inauguration, the event also celebrated the graduation of 30 new midwives.

In her inauguration speech, school principal Zahra Ahmed Gaber stressed the importance of training midwives in rural areas. "They provide great support to society. Without the help of midwives, mothers have a difficult time delivering their babies and there is a risk of death for both mother and baby."

Since 2002, USAID has supported the training of 50 new midwives and provided refresher courses to 80 midwives already operating in Southern Kordofan. These midwives are now practicing in the communities surrounding Abu Gebeiha and able to assist home deliveries. The State Ministry of Health plans to train up to 200 midwives a year in Dilling, Kadugli, and Abu Gebeiha, with a goal of providing a trained midwife for each of the 600 villages in the three localities. Up to 100 a year will study at the Abu Gebeiha school.

USAID has been supporting Save the Children's work in Southern Kordofan since 1994. Save the Children has long been the largest healthcare provider in Southern Kordofan, supporting 85 health care facilities—including three new units inaugurated in September—which serve the health needs of over 350,000 people.♦

A Group Farm Helps a Community Rebuild

Khor Baraka in North Tokar, Red Sea State, is a long stretch of lowland that defines the tip of the Tokar Delta. It has high agricultural potential, but an invasive species of mesquite tree has left the population reliant on charcoal production and labor-intensive agriculture. Then in July, a group of 14 villages stretching over 70 kilometers was devastated by floods from Eritrea, the intensity and timing of which were unprecedented. Nearly 3,000 households—or about 15,000 people—were affected as the floodwaters flowed at dangerous levels for two months. Seven people lost their lives, farmlands and livestock were swept away, wells were submerged, the main bridge was cut off, and houses and household assets were destroyed.

Khojali Danwer is one of the six villages in Khor Baraka targeted for assistance due to the severity of the damage. The community lost a significant amount of livestock, every water point was damaged, and the

A Beja woman clears mesquite in North Tokar, Red Sea. Photo: Oxfam

school and clinic were destroyed. USAID supported Oxfam in helping the most severely affected households by providing cash in exchange for community-chosen development projects, including group farm development, road rehabilitation, revival of charcoal production, and dike rehabilitation to protect from future floods.

Hashim Jaffer, the chairman of Khojali Danwer village, said that his community held discussions with Oxfam and considered its options carefully before choosing to develop a group farm. He said that earlier cash transfer work helped the villagers to open access tracks to the cultivation areas and that they now want to make use of the flood waters to grow tomatoes, peas, watermelon, and cucumber.

“The timing is just right for growing vegetables,” said Hashim. “We have opened up about 2.5 feddans [2.6 acres]. We water the farm using hand-dug wells since the Khor is well saturated with water. We have almost finished the first round of fencing. We have also put most of the area under vegetable crops with the support of Oxfam and [local organization] Omhail.”

One community member added, “We started with our own few tools and limited seeds to show Oxfam that we are very keen to move on…. We also plan to invest part of the first cash payment in adding more seeds and enforcement of the fencing to protect the vegetables”.

“The women have had a good role in this activity as they help in weeding and watering the vegetables alongside their husbands,” said one woman.

“We have a very strong group work now in place,” said Hashim. “In the future, we intend to work increasingly with others and continue to focus on developing our group farms for local consumption needs and later sell extra production for increased income. Thanks to the continued support from Oxfam and USAID, we should be in a strong position to do this."♦

Library Collections Expand Horizons

Although the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) laid the foundation for democratic transformation in Sudan, many Sudanese are disillusioned by the country’s political history, while others—particularly young people—have known nothing beyond the current regime’s narrow ideology.

More than 1,000 new books and journals on peace building, human rights, and civic education have been provided to Khartoum’s libraries. Photo: USAID

Educational institutions have suffered as well, with syllabi censored to limit students’ exposure to texts on democratic systems and theories.

To enhance open access to resources on peace building, human rights, and civic education, USAID recently funded the expansion of library collections housed in two of Khartoum’s cultural centers. Collectively, more than 1,000 books, journals, and magazines in both Arabic and English were purchased, together with audio-visual materials. The centers are visited by 800-1,200 people a month, most of whom are young students in Khartoum’s universities and colleges. As a result of the new collections, students, researchers, and professors from various disciplines, ethnic backgrounds, and political affiliations have begun to access the new resources and discuss issues affecting the future of Sudan.

USAID supported a series of public events to promote the new resources and strengthen the centers as platforms for public dialogue. Large audiences gathered for book club meetings, lectures, public forums, and film screenings. Students, journalists, civil society activists, and staff from nongovernmental organizations, U.N. agencies, and embassies joined together to listen to well-known writers and politicians discuss peace and conflict in Sudan and the future of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. One presentation in Khartoum led by Abel Alier, a former Vice President of Sudan, on “Too Many Agreements Dishonored,” drew more than 300 people, including many Southern Sudanese.♦

Preparing the South for Conventional Banking

Conventional banking—charging interest on loans and paying interest on deposits—is a new concept in Southern Sudan. Prior to the 2005 signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), Islamic banking was practiced countrywide and was the only option available. With the CPA in place, the Southern Sudanese are now working to build a conventional system that will meet the needs of borrowers and the economy.

In 2007, USAID partner Bearing Point began working with senior management and staff of the Bank of Southern Sudan to strengthen their understanding of the foundation needed for a conventional banking system. Bearing Point conducted weekly seminars with senior bank management on monetary principles to lay a foundation for an executive workshop held October 17-19 in Nairobi. Led by Dr. Warren Coats, a renowned monetary economist and former senior official with the International Monetary Fund, the workshop focused both on understanding theory and practice and on many important and sensitive issues facing the bank.

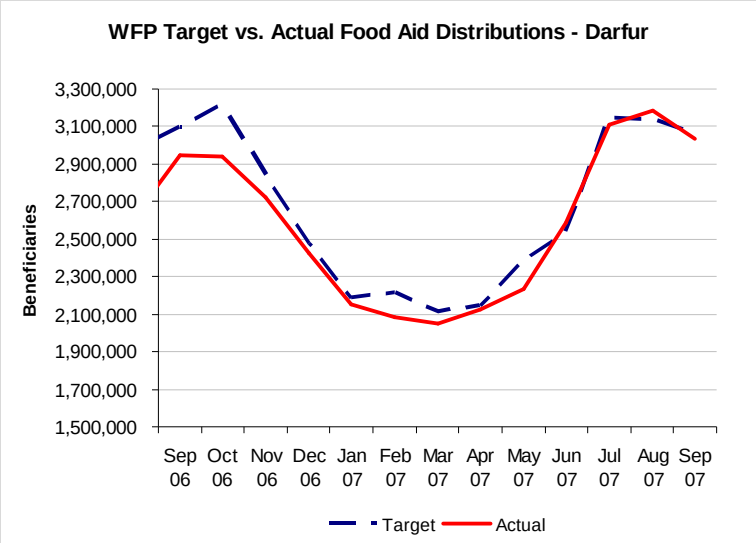
The workshop proved to be a great success and much appreciated by the participants, who said the program was extremely instructive and exceeded their expectations. “This is precisely, 100 percent, what we wanted, which we need to help to prepare us to implement monetary policy in Southern Sudan,” said Kornelio Koriam, Assistant Governor of the Bank of Southern Sudan. “I personally am grateful for this, and we would very much like to have follow-up sessions.”♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

Bagging wheat for distribution in Darfur. Photo: USAID

USAID is the leading donor of food assistance to Sudan. In fiscal year 2007, USAID provided 391,900 metric tons of emergency food aid worth more than $393.9 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. Approximately 75 percent of this total goes toward feeding displaced people and refugees in Darfur and Eastern Chad, where conflict continues to disrupt food security. The remaining 25 percent is allocated to people in Southern Sudan, Eastern Sudan, Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan, where food aid continues to play a vital role in supporting returnees to Southern Sudan and helping communities recover from two decades of civil conflict.

WFP Distributions September 2007

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	3,062,568
South	771,321
East	140,669
Three Areas*	99,575
Central	29,525
Total	4,103,658

* The Three Areas are Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.