



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SUDAN INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES PROJECT (SISP)

GENDER AND VULNERABILITY STUDY



September 2007

This study is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It was prepared for review by USAID by The Louis Berger Group, Inc. under USAID Contract No. 650-I-00-06-00010-10 (Task Order 1). The contents of this study are the sole responsibility of the Louis Berger Group, Inc. and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

USAID SISP Preliminary Gender, Vulnerability and HIV/AIDS Study

Table of Contents September 2007

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	4
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	6
2.1.	<i>Southern Sudan Social and Political Environment</i>	6
2.2.	<i>SISP Project Overview, Requirements and Objectives</i>	8
2.3.	<i>CBC Project Overview</i>	9
3.	STRATEGIC APPROACH TO GENDER, VULNERABILITY, HIV/AIDS.....	10
3.1.	<i>SISP and CBC Program Synergies</i>	10
3.2.	<i>Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building</i>	10
3.3.	<i>Research Design and Methodology</i>	10
4.	GENDER ISSUES.....	11
4.1.	<i>Qualitative Research Findings</i>	11
4.2.	<i>Basic Services and Health</i>	12
4.3.	<i>Employment and Training</i>	13
4.4.	<i>Time Use</i>	14
4.5.	<i>Gender Equity and Household Decision Making</i>	14
5.	VULNERABILITY AND HIV/AIDS.....	15
5.1.	<i>Qualitative Research Findings</i>	15
5.2.	<i>Juba</i>	18
5.3.	<i>Nimule</i>	19
5.4.	<i>Rumbek</i>	20
5.5.	<i>Wau</i>	20
5.6.	<i>Kapoeta</i>	20
6.	GENDER AND VULNERABILITY ISSUES BY SECTOR.....	21
6.1.	<i>Transportation</i>	21
6.2.	<i>Water</i>	22
6.3.	<i>Sanitation</i>	24
6.4.	<i>Energy/Natural Resources</i>	24
7.	DATA COLLECTION, PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORK BUILDING.....	28
7.1.	<i>UNICEF</i>	28
7.2.	<i>Ahfad University</i>	28
7.3.	<i>Juba University</i>	29
7.4.	<i>IOM's Return of Qualified Sudanese (RQS) Program</i>	29
7.5.	<i>Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE)</i>	30
7.6.	<i>Developing Gender/Vulnerability Sensitive Project Indicators</i>	30
8.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	31
8.1.	<i>Conclusions</i>	31
8.2.	<i>Recommendations for Additional Research and Technical Assistance</i>	31
Appendix A:	<i>Bibliography</i>	33
Appendix B:	<i>Document List</i>	35
Appendix C:	<i>Interview List</i>	36
Appendix D:	<i>Focus Group Agenda and Questionnaire</i>	38
Appendix E:	<i>Meeting Minutes</i>	40

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank the following individuals and associations that contributed their experience and knowledge to developing this report, including:

Stella Kenyi, Research Coordinator, LBG
Madame Rebecca Garang de Mabior, Presidential Advisor on Gender and Human Rights
Directors Anastasia Akujo Zacharia, Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs, Juba
Director Natalina Chukudum Pol, Ministry of Gender and Social Affairs, Rumbek
Chairman Deng Dau and staff at the Commission for War Disabled, Widows and Orphans
Antony Murithi, Zamzam Kome and Linda Owino, CBC/MTR
Anna Hadjixiros, UNICEF
Lucie Luguga, UNIFEM
Sanja Djurica, Stephen Ojune and Jackson Inyani, ARC
Rebecca Hoffman, Census Technical Advisor
Kate Jackson, Women for Women International, Rumbek
Muchi Women's Group, Rumbek
Ager Gum Bake Pinyda Women's Group, Malou Barracks, Rumbek
Mariana Biri Filiberto and staff, Women's Development Group, Wau
Louise Sherwood, Les Enfants Du Monde
Jonathan Hunter, ACTED
Faisal Saliah, CARE
Chief Pascuale and Hai Jebel Khay community, Wau
Salvation IDP Camp Women's CBO
Alesio Clement and staff, PACT Kapoeta
ERADA Women's Group, Kapoeta
Sultan and Gumbo community, Rejaf Payam
Louise Skilling and Theresa Angelo, PSI, Juba
Mary Guidice and Lindsay McMahon, IOM
Wani Sulleh, Juba University
Dr. Balghis Badri and staff, Ahfad University

The information, contacts and data included in this report would not have been possible without the collaboration, contributions and support of these stakeholders who contributed to this document. Special thanks is due to Amel Gorani for supporting a gender and vulnerability analysis in the planning stages of the SISP and especially to the people of Southern Sudan who both warmly and openly shared their life stories, hopes and fears with the research team.

List of Acronyms

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ARC	American Refugee Committee
CBO	Community Based Organization
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DOT	Diocese of Torit
FHI	Family Health International
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GOSS	Government of Southern Sudan
GNU	Government of National Unity
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contact
JAM	Joint Assessment Mission
JIU	Joint Integrated Unit
KDI	Kapoeta Development Initiative
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MDTF	Multi-Donor Trust Fund
MGSWRA	Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MTR	Ministry of Transport and Roads
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PAA	Project Affected Area
PAP	Project Affected Person

PACT	Partnership Agencies Collaborated Together
PHC	Primary Health Care Center
PHU	Primary Health Care Unit
PSI	Population Services International
ROADS	Regional Outreach Addressing AIDS through Development Strategies
RWD	Rural Water Department, Wau
SAF	Sudan Armed Forces
SISP	Sudan Infrastructure Services Program
SO	Strategic Objective
SSAC	Southern Sudan AIDS Commission
SSCSE	Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation
SSHS	Sudan Household Health Survey
SPLM/A	Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNMIS	United Nations Mission in Sudan
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
VEGA	Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance
WATSAN	Water and Sanitation
WDG	Women's Development Group
WFP	World Food Programme
WSHG	Women's Self Help Group

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report was prepared in accordance with the Contract Agreement between the Consultant and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Sudan Infrastructure Services Project (SISP). The objective was to conduct a gender and vulnerability analyses of potential project areas in Southern Sudan. This was an initial/preliminary analyses that lays the groundwork for future assessments and establishes networks for collaboration on the local and national level. The LBG gender and vulnerability team spent three weeks in Southern Sudan and traveled to five towns in four Southern Sudanese states – Juba and Nimule (Central Equatoria), Kapoeta (Eastern Equatoria), Wau (Western Bahr El Ghazal) and Rumbek (Lakes). The team spent the fourth week in Khartoum researching partnership and recruitment opportunities with IOM, an SISP partner as well as Sudanese institutions and universities. A gender and vulnerability analysis in the planning stages of SISP has proved to be valuable and additional research and further technical assistance is highly recommended for future follow-on assessments. The report provides a detailed analysis of the research team's findings and provides recommendations for developing gender and vulnerability sensitive project indicators and planned program impacts throughout Southern Sudan. The LBG team is committed to working consistently with local authorities and community leaders to ensure that the most vulnerable persons have access to project benefits and that sensitive issues in communities are appropriately navigated. The report is divided into the following sections:

- ◆ **Strategic Approach to Gender, Vulnerability, and HIV/AIDS:** This section provides an overview of the team's research design and methodology with an emphasis on institutional strengthening and capacity building, two key objectives of the SISP that build on USAID's strategic objectives.
- ◆ **Gender Issues:** This section provides a detailed description of the data collected during focus group and key informant interview discussions. Participants were asked questions on demographics and familial responsibilities; household decision making; access to basic services; health; time use and gender equity related to employment and training.
- ◆ **Vulnerability and HIV/AIDS:** This section addresses causes for vulnerability and lack of resources in Juba, Nimule, Rumbek, Wau, and Kapoeta.
- ◆ **Gender and Vulnerability Issues by Sector:** This section addresses how different stakeholder groups (i.e. men, women, poor, non-poor) experience project impacts and benefits of sector specific projects. The following sectors are discussed: transportation, water, sanitation, and energy/natural resources.
- ◆ **Data Collection, Partnerships and Network Building:** This section provides an overview of the team's collaboration with local and international partners and provides guidance on developing gender and vulnerability sensitive project indicators. Partners included: UNICEF, Ahfad University, Juba University, IOM's Return of Qualified Sudanese (RQS) Program, and the Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE).

Southern Sudan faces enormous challenges in light of its historical underdevelopment, limited resources, patriarchal norms, limited institutional capacity and sheer geography. Nonetheless, the commitment of Southern Sudanese communities, including Diaspora and returning populations, to rebuilding their nation is remarkable. This momentum, however, can rapidly evaporate as high expectations continue unmanaged and peace dividends are slow to appear. Disproportionate project implementation in some regions can also add to the reluctance and resistance of communities to participate in consultations or training opportunities. Based on the five focus groups and community forums that were conducted across Southern Sudan with the assistance of NGOs and local Sudanese authorities, the LBG gender and vulnerability team provides the following key recommendations for future implementation of SISP task orders as they relate to vulnerable groups.

Key Recommendations

- ◆ ***Follow-on assessments are highly recommended for the SISP.*** These assessments should include site visits to at least one town in the remaining six Southern Sudanese states and if possible, to the Three Areas, specifically Abyei, Kadugli and Kurmuk to provide the team with an overview of socio-economic and cultural conditions in these divergent areas. These follow on assessments will expand on the analyses initially conducted and will analyze additional geographic areas served by the program.
- ◆ ***Separate indicators should be developed and are needed to measure project outputs, impacts and sustainability and should measure the following:*** percent increase in women/vulnerable persons' access to transportation (or other services such as water or energy resources), the inclusion of gender sensitization workshops for men and women, the reduction in women's time (i.e. measured in hours per day) spent on reproductive responsibilities (i.e., carrying water), improved access (i.e. measured in distance and time) of women and vulnerable persons to markets or hospitals and an increase in the capacity of CBOs to work independently on such issues at a project's close.
- ◆ ***Preliminary needs assessments of project affected areas (PAAs) and project affected persons (PAPs) are highly recommended and should be incorporated into each SISP project.*** The LBG team recommends that each SISP project initiate a preliminary needs assessment of PAAs and PAPs to better understand men and women's priorities for themselves and their communities and to also establish strong working relationships with local government authorities and with CBOs to ensure buy-in, identify at-risk groups and initiate capacity building as part of the program's strategic objectives that promote stability and recovery in Southern Sudan.
- ◆ ***The LBG team recommends employing strategies and best practices to generate employment opportunities and recruit women and vulnerable persons that may otherwise be excluded.*** LBG partners, such as IOM, can play a strong role in identifying Southern Sudanese returnees qualified for project employment opportunities and to gear a percentage of recruitment efforts specifically to women and vulnerable persons. Employing these strategies and best practices will enhance the design and sustainability of SISP projects and meet the objectives of building capacity while providing employment opportunities and needed infrastructure to Southern Sudan.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. Southern Sudan Social and Political Environment

A country roughly the size of the United States east of the Mississippi River, Sudan encompasses 967,499 sq miles and is the largest country on the African continent. Within it lie deserts, rainforests, mountains, flat savanna and one of the largest and nearly impassable swamps in the world – the Sudd, an adaptation of the Arabic word for “barrier.” Aside from its geographical and climatic diversity, it is home to approximately 35 million people and is rich in cultural and religious diversity with over 600 ethnic groups and hundreds of spoken languages and dialects.

It is also a nation which has suffered an almost constant state of civil war since its independence in 1956. Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005, Southern Sudan has been designated an autonomous region with the opportunity to vote for independence in a 2011 referendum. The 25 states of Sudan are divided between the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) with its ten states, Khartoum and the 12 states controlled by the Government of National Unity (GNU) in Khartoum as well as three contested “transition” areas (Abyei, Southern Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains) whose status is still under debate primarily due to its rich oil resources. Aside from various militias and rebel groups that are active in Darfur, Sudan has three formal military branches – the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF, primarily Northern soldiers), the Sudan Peoples’ Liberation Army (SPLA, Southern soldiers) and the Khartoum-funded Joint Integrated Units (SAF and SPLA soldiers), which are attempting to merge military forces and create national unity. The interim state of large areas of Sudan and the profusion of stakeholders, governmental bodies and international agencies and NGOs add to the complexity of the Southern Sudanese social and political environment.

Under the CPA, the GoSS enacted an interim constitution and created executive, legislative and judicial branches headed by President Salva Kiir Mayardit, Vice President Riek Machar Teny-Dourghon and the Council of Ministers. The government includes 22 ministries, 16 independent commissions and institutions, ten state governors and seven Presidential Advisors. The GoSS budget is partially funded through oil revenue which under the Naivasha Agreement, signed in 2004, stipulates that the GoSS is to receive 50% of total net oil revenues from oil wells in Southern Sudan.

In addition, donors have pledged over \$500 million to the World Bank managed Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) in 2005. As of July 2007, 11 projects have been approved for funding as well as three approved pipeline projects. International agencies, such as the IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR and UNMIS are active throughout the country as are hundreds of NGOs and CBOs. Southern Sudanese civil society, especially in Diaspora communities, is active and organized, despite limited funds and capacity. These stakeholders are often integrally involved in Southern Sudanese politics and advocate for the development of beneficial international policies and developmental assistance.

The inundation of development projects, however, has also led to social changes within societies in Southern Sudan. Southern Sudanese and especially those returning after decades of exile have high expectations and often fail to see the “peace dividends” they have so eagerly expected and to which they feel entitled. More than two years after the enactment of the CPA, unrest and tension continue in areas of Southern Sudan for a variety of economic, political and social reasons. Cattle raiding and a general absence of the rule of law in many areas contributes to communal tensions as do more

complex issues such as the delayed re-deployment of SAF soldiers¹ in oil rich areas. In November 2006, violent outbursts in Malakal, Upper Nile state, led to hundreds of casualties when fighting broke out between SAF and SPLA forces. Weak institutions and a lack of social services and police forces in many areas reinforce self-reliance and distrust of the national government. Small arms are widely available and armed communities are unwilling to part with the weapons they use to protect themselves from cattle raiding or attacks. Such resistance to civilian disarmament cost upwards of 1,600 lives in Jonglei state in 2006.

In this complex setting, the classification of vulnerable persons remains difficult as most citizens qualify as war affected, marginalized or vulnerable to some extent and a fluctuating security situation guarantees a level of vulnerability to most residents. Largely undocumented rates of HIV/AIDS prevalence in many regions of Southern Sudan along with large and sporadic population movements also convolute cross-cutting risk factors and challenge programming prioritization and planning.

Extremely limited capacity and funding also hinder the development of effective GoSS policies on HIV/AIDS and gender. Though strategic plans and draft policies are said to be in development, the enormity of the region, limited institutional capacity and the difficulty and expense of travel limits the national government from securing state buy-in on many issues. However, the GoSS has identified gender-sensitive provisions in the Interim Constitution (Section 20) and is attempting to implement the following “Rights of Women” in Southern Sudan:

- (1) Women shall be accorded full and equal dignity of the person with men.**
- (2) Women shall have the right to equal pay for equal work and other related benefits with men.**
- (3) Women shall have the right to participate equally with men in the public life of Southern Sudan.**
- (4) All levels of government shall:**
 - a. promote women participation in public life and their representation in the legislative and executive organs by at least twenty-five percent as an affirmative action to redress imbalances created by history, customs and traditions;
 - b. enact laws to combat harmful customs and traditions which undermine the dignity and status of women; and
 - c. provide maternity and child care and medical care for pregnant and lactating women.
- (5) Women shall have the right to own property and to share in the estate of their deceased husbands together with any surviving legal heirs of the deceased.**

Such policies are not, unfortunately, tied to funding and statistics for a reliable baseline are unavailable which hinder the ability of the GoSS to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the

¹ Under the CPA, SAF soldiers were required to be re-deployed out of Southern Sudan or into JIUs by July 9, 2007. However, many soldiers remain in Southern Sudan as do Southern Sudanese soldiers who are still on the Northern army’s payroll and are suspected of loyalty to the Khartoum government. See <http://www.unmis.org/English/2007Docs/PIO-UNMISbulletin-aug23.pdf> and <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/MCD055026.htm> for additional information.

25% female quota in government agencies, combat GBV or provide care to pregnant women or nursing mothers.

The wording of such provisions also highlights several clear historical areas of gender inequity in Southern Sudan. In a patriarchal society, women are especially vulnerable to financial hardship following their husband's death and the reference to "harmful customs and traditions" in the Interim Constitution connote issues of polygamy, wife inheritance, forced marriage and domestic violence.

2.2. *SISP Project Overview, Requirements and Objectives*

The Sudan Infrastructure Services Project (SISP) \$700 million IQC includes several infrastructure priorities for Southern Sudan and can potentially develop transportation, water and sanitation and energy/natural resources projects over the course of five to eight years. The absence of reliable transportation and access to basic services may lead to a variety of interventions under the SISP.

Clearly, each SISP project will have different implications for gender and vulnerability issues in Southern Sudan. Though differentiated by technical field and region, each project requires that gender and vulnerability issues are identified and evaluated in the planning process, rather than at the close of projects to ensure the reduction of vulnerability, an increase in gender equity through integration and the establishment of indicators that can monitor the project's impacts. Community engagement and buy-in are critical programming components and are especially beneficial in the long term in that they contribute to sustainable development and directly impact how communities and local institutions maintain and preserve their roads, sanitation facilities or power plants.

Not only is this good practice, but USAID regulations also require that gender and vulnerability issues ladder up to the Strategic Objectives (SO) defined for the region. The USAID Sudan Strategy Statement 2006-8, published in December 2005, outlines the following SOs that must be supported in all projects under this IQC:

- (1) **Strategic Objective 9: Avert and Resolve Conflict**
- (2) **Strategic Objective 10: Promote Stability, Recovery and Democratic Reform**
- (3) **Program Support Objective No. 11**

More specifically, Program Support Objective No. 11 is a broad SO geared towards "cross-cutting activities that contribute to achieving results under the new strategy and enhance management of mission resources, including mechanisms for capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, audits and special studies, logistics, program management, and administrative support."

The strategy statement also prioritizes cross-cutting social issues such as gender, HIV/AIDS and vulnerability, particularly that of female headed households (FHH) which are proliferate in Southern Sudan due to displacement, desertion, disability and death.

USAID does not have a stand-alone gender policy and instead incorporates mandatory program components through its Automated Directive System (ADS) which includes policies on *Reflecting Gender Considerations in Performance Indicators* (203.3.4.3) and *Gender Analysis* (ADS 201.3.8.4). Additional

guidance on gender integration² or mainstreaming into project work plans and design is available through sources such as the World Bank's Gender and Transport Resource Guide, the CIDA Policy on Gender Equality and the Millennium Challenge Corporation Gender Policy³ and are intended to be used as complementary resources that highlight best practices in gender and vulnerability analysis in infrastructure projects.

Therefore, an appropriate assessment of the specific gender and vulnerability issues (including HIV/AIDS) in project affected areas (PAAs) and of project affected persons (PAPs) identifies problem areas, communal conflicts and specific cultural norms that may inadvertently affect project success and the equal transference of benefits to both men and women.

A thorough assessment allows projects to be designed or modified to address such imbalances through the engagement of men and community leaders to ensure that women and vulnerable persons have the right access to employment or training resources, concurrently promoting confliction resolution, recovery and stability. These measures, within each infrastructure project, are programmatic pieces that help build communal support and buy-in, improve social conditions and demonstrate tangible peace dividends rather than increase vulnerability or introduce risks within communities.

Gathering basic sex-disaggregated social data at the household level⁴ is critical and allows for the establishment of indicators that can be monitored over time to gauge the project impacts on women and vulnerable groups and also identify key successes. **Section 7.4 Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE)** will discuss on-going efforts to gather such data. Additionally, this report also discusses other upcoming surveys, such as the UNICEF youth survey, that can also provide critical data, *for the first time in Southern Sudan*, on a variety of social indicators.

2.3. CBC Project Overview

The Capacity Building Component, launched in 2005 and scheduled to end in December 2007, was the first LBG/USAID project in Southern Sudan. The central task of the CBC is to develop the Ministry of Transport's (MTR) capacity to plan evaluate, manage and maintain a network of roads, bridges and related investments aimed at addressing the isolation and prohibitive transport costs that now characterize the region.⁵

LBG provides technical assistance and training to the MTR, until recently under the leadership of Madame Rebecca Garang de Mabior, to establish an operational Southern regional roads network. The development of processes and procedures for administrative; financial and technical operations, a procurement system; logistical and technical support for the Southern regional and local Road Councils and the establishment of efficient functional relationships between the organizations and departments are a few areas in which LBG provides support.

² Gender Integration, rather than Gender Mainstreaming, is the new terminology chosen for both for its perceived clarity and de-politicized terminology.

³ In addition to the CIDA Policy on Gender Equality (developed in 1998) which is referenced in the USAID Gender Guide, WB and MCC resources provide more recent publication). The MCC, another US government development agency, also uses World Bank Operational Policies and guidelines for any environmental or social aspects in their projects.

⁴ Sex-disaggregated data is a critical as it addresses a fundamental issue of "invisibility" for women that exists in countries that have limited social data. By disaggregating the data by sex, it identifies any disparities between men and women in terms of health, life expectancy, income, etc. It can also help to identify whether occupational segregation is an issue and if men and women are equally represented in a variety of livelihoods.

⁵ LBG SOE Database.

An LBG social specialist undertook a three week mission to Juba in April 2007 to meet with CBC and MTR employees, Ministry officials and draft an HIV/AIDS and Gender Strategic Plan. This plan will be submitted to USAID for review and will be integrated into future SISP work, as appropriate.

3. STRATEGIC APPROACH TO GENDER, VULNERABILITY, HIV/AIDS

3.1. SISP and CBC Program Synergies

Aligned objectives and strategies in the SISP and CBC programs are critical to meeting USAID SOs. The LBG SISP research team is currently reviewing the CBC draft HIV/AIDS and Gender Strategic Plan and will avoid duplicative efforts, encourage the sharing of information and lessons learned between the teams and build on the strong and established relationships the CBC team has created with GoSS institutions and representatives.

3.2. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building are key objectives of the SISP and build on the strategic objectives of USAID. Weak capacity and serious funding limitations require that the LBG team identify all possible opportunities to engage local institutions and communities in project planning, design and implementation. The project team, while focused on capacity building, will also benefit from the first hand knowledge of cultural norms and sensitivities, communal needs and gender roles that local institutions and leaders can provide.

Each project, in the planning phase, will seek to create training and/or employment opportunities for Southern Sudanese and incorporate measures to identify and prioritize economically vulnerable persons, such as female headed households, widows and vulnerable boys to whom these opportunities can be extended.

3.3. Research Design and Methodology

Research design included several qualitative research methods including focus groups and community forums, participant observation, a needs assessment, key informant interviews and stakeholder consultations.

The LBG gender and vulnerability team spent three weeks in Southern Sudan and traveled to five towns in four Southern Sudanese states – Juba and Nimule (Central Equatoria), Kapoeta (Eastern Equatoria), Wau (Western Bahr El Ghazal) and Rumbek (Lakes). The team spent the fourth week in Khartoum researching partnership and recruitment opportunities with IOM, an SISP partner, as well as Sudanese institutions and universities.

The following five focus groups and community forums were conducted across Southern Sudan with the assistance of NGOs and local Sudanese authorities noted below:

- **Juba, Women's Self Help Group**
 - 1 Female Focus Group, WSHG Skills Training Participants
- **Gumbo Boma, Rejaf Payam Administration**
 - 1 Male/Female Community Forum with Local Sultan and Gumbo Residents
- **Rumbek, Women for Women International**
 - 1 Male/Female Focus Group, WWI Employees

- **Wau, CARE North Sudan**
 - 1 Female Focus Group, Salvation IDP Camp Residents
- **Wau, Women's Development Group**
 - 1 Male Focus Group, Local Chief and Hai Jebel Quay Residents
 - 1 Female Focus Group, Hai Jebel Quay Residents and WDG Members

Key informant interviews were held with women in Kapoeta, Rumbek and Nimule. In Juba, Nimule and Rumbek, the team held stakeholder consultations with GoSS representatives including Madame Rebecca Garang de Mabior, Presidential Advisor on Gender and Human Rights; representatives from the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs, payam administrators, the Commission for War Disabled, Widows and Orphans; and over 15 NGOs.

Quantitative methods, including surveys, may be developed for future projects and will incorporate local researchers and supervisors to ensure linguistic and cultural sensitivities are in line with the project locations and regions. During the mission, the LBG gender and vulnerability team collected various data and cultivated a network of partners that will enable rapid and culturally appropriate recruitment for quantitative research. In Khartoum, the team met with representatives from Ahfad University and Juba University to discuss recruiting opportunities for students and alumni and also met with UNICEF representatives and discussed recruitment strategies for the upcoming youth survey headed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and financed by UNICEF.

4. GENDER ISSUES

4.1. Qualitative Research Findings

Focus group guidelines included questions on demographics and familial responsibilities; household decision making; access to basic services; health; time use and gender equity questions related to employment and training. The team avoided direct lines of questions related to ethnicity and religion and instead relied upon an indirect line of questioning related to first language use and region of origin to determine ethnic representation.

The team optimally tried to engage 8-12 persons per focus group and separate them by sex, however, this proved impractical at times. Demographics varied greatly with each focus group reflecting diverse communities, ethnicities, marital status, age and economic status. Female participants included many widows and marital status was at times difficult to determine due to participants' reluctance to answer questions (specifically in Rumbek) and the identification of women as widows though they were currently "married" or inherited by their deceased husband's brother (to prevent the loss of the paid dowry) and therefore still members of their husband's family. Questions related to number of children were also sensitive as cultural norms often restrict mothers from providing accurate information on the number of live children in their household.

In Rumbek, military wives were often separated from their husbands due to distance and the seemingly higher rate of polygamy has effectively created many FHHs with married women responsible for all household decisions and finances. Abandonment and alcoholism have also increased the number of FHHs and Rumbek has very few active NGOs or CBOs that can provide support. Only three women's CBOs are in existence and rumors of corruption and inactivity plague each of them.

The team also met with women from the Salvation IDP camp who were primarily displaced from local communities during the war and fled to Wau town from outlying areas. For this group of women, the majority of whom were married, security concerns were still high and they indicated they would only be willing to return home after a period of several years when they felt confident that the CPA would hold following upcoming elections and the 2011 referendum.

In southern towns, such as Kajo Keji, IDPs are unwilling to travel because of the threat of repeated sexual assault. Many GBV survivors currently live in these areas and the poor quality of roads requires them to cross the Ugandan border to access passable roads and IOM way stations heading north. Because of incidences of rape by the LRA or other perpetrators, they refuse to leave their current location and return home out of the fear of repeated assaults.

HIV/AIDS was not discussed in focus groups and key informant interviews due to stigmatization issues and the limited time allocated for each group and interview. The team recommends that separate focus groups, similar to those held by the CBC project, be organized for this highly sensitive, yet critical topic. However, the team did discuss health issues in the context of water and sanitation needs and was able to gather information about cholera, malaria and acute diarrhea outbreaks in communities and information on their access to health care.

4.2. Basic Infrastructure, Services and Health

Each focus group consistently made remarks on the dearth of basic services within their communities and in general, equally prioritized the need for water facilities and roads. Participants almost unanimously viewed energy resources, specifically electricity, as unimportant to them and, in some cases, with negative consequences (i.e., children watching television instead of studying) or as an added expense that was more or less unnecessary and/or unbeneficial to them. Remarkably, only one focus group held outside Juba in Gumbo, Rejaf Payam stressed their desire for access to electricity, notably because power lines crossed directly over their community and residents felt they deserved access to this, should they be able to afford a connection.

Social infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals, were also important to participants. Primary schools are operating in most areas, however, they are overcrowded and the capacity of teachers is low. There are few secondary schools, particularly in Rumbek and Kapoeta. In Kapoeta, some families send their children to boarding schools in Lokichoggio, Kenya due to the poor quality of educational facilities in the area.

Each community indicated that they had been experiencing outbreaks of cholera, malaria and acute diarrhea which they attributed to dirty water or unknown causes. Outbreaks typically were the worst in the rainy season and the all communities visited had limited access to hospitals due to either distance or cost. PHCs or PHUs provide basic health care for communities, with the exception of Nimule and Kapoeta which have new hospitals.

Population movements, increasing numbers of returnees and the limited number of trained physicians and nurses continue to strain existing resources. Respondents in Juba specifically noted that the poor quality of existing roads completely restricted transportation in particular neighborhoods, making access to health care facilities almost impossible for critically ill persons. The situation is perhaps most dire in Rumbek where two hospitals are operating (CCM and Maltesa) without doctors. Health care workers are instead being recruited from local communities for medical skills training and emergency surgeries (such as Caesarean sections) can only take place in Juba (350

km), Wau (240 km) or Khartoum (900 km), requiring a drive of several days on extremely poor roads which are at times impassable in the rainy season.

4.3. Employment and Training

The majority of female participants indicated that they would be amenable to infrastructure employment and training opportunities but reiterated their inability to travel long distances or work during particular hours due to child care responsibilities. Some women in Hai Jebel Khay, Wau baked bread or sold firewood and many of them who earn money from handicrafts or selling food or firewood participate in *sendouke*, an informal savings plan for which they each contribute money and take turns receiving a lump sum, based on their turn or an urgent need.

In the Salvation IDP Camp in Wau, several married women had participated in hired cultivation work during the rainy season and in *bahr shur* work during the dry season involving debilitating, physical work such as carrying construction materials and heavy loads for long distances which typically paid 3-5 pounds per day with weekly payments. Two women had worked on road construction for local Sudanese firms but they felt that it was physically too demanding, especially for pregnant women and mothers and the time spent away from home made this type of work unappealing. In Rumbek, women tended to generate an income through making and selling beer or cutting and selling firewood or grass to construct the roofs of *tukuls* (traditional round or square houses made of mud or bricks).

In Juba, some women support their families by baking bread, selling beer or doing household chores, such as carrying water. Some women produce construction materials, such as cinder blocks or gravel. To acquire their rock supply, they collectively pay for the transportation of large boulders from the local quarry which they then crush by hand. One woman at the WSHG focus group noted that she makes cinder blocks only during the dry season from 9 am – 3 pm in a field near her house. She produces and dries them there and is able to make up to 50 blocks per day which she sells to various construction workers building residences in the area.

Women did find the possibility of performance based maintenance work on infrastructure projects appealing in that it would allow them to work at their own pace and at times (primarily in the evening or midday after children had left for school) around which they could schedule other household responsibilities. They also overwhelmingly indicated that they believed their husbands would agree with them participating in employment or training opportunities as long as their husbands “are eating” and their children are not neglected.

Lastly, women emphasized their desire for consistent work throughout the year that was not seasonally dependent and indicated they preferred jobs that could provide them with three to five hours of work, three days a week for a maximum of 15 hours.

Male participants also agreed with their wives’ participation in such activities through some were hesitant about their wives working in offices or in jobs that might make them “too proud.” The only type of labor that they believed was “for men only” was that which involved physical strength such as digging wells or latrines or tasks that may require superior physical, rather than mental, capacity. The only exception to this was one young man who adamantly said that he would not allow his wife to work. This same respondent currently has a “wife” (for whom he has not paid the dowry) that he forced to leave school to go to his grandmother’s home and farm. With the exception of this respondent, all men generally found it acceptable for their wives to benefit from employment or

training opportunities related to infrastructure. Men in the Wau focus group, many of whom were older, also felt it was acceptable for male employees to have a female supervisor, as long as she was qualified.⁶

4.4. Time Use

As expected, women's days are full of reproductive activities⁷ and on occasion, literacy classes or skills training. The allocation of time for activities, particularly water collection, varied greatly and was highly dependent on location. Access and distance to boreholes, number of household members, the ability to buy water from horse carts or tankers, the proximity to rivers and the time of year (when water run off is more available) all affect the amount of time required to collect and carry adequate water supplies.

The time required for gathering fuel also differed based on one's ability to purchase firewood, kerosene or charcoal. While virtually all women in Wau used charcoal, at a cost of 25 pounds per bag. Women in outlying areas, such as the Rumbek Malou Barracks, collected firewood at no cost, increasing the amount of time spent on reproductive activities.

In more rural areas, some women also cultivate small plots on the side to supplement their family's food supply or for re-sale.

Women that are able to participate in skills training or literacy classes typically meet at midday while their children are at school and the morning's chores are complete. A typical day for most women begins at 5 a.m. when they clean the house and dishes, make tea, fetch water and get their children ready for school. Children typically leave the house for school at 7 a.m. and some women then attend their training courses from 9-1 p.m., Monday through Friday.

4.5. Gender Equity and Household Decision Making

Respondents generally agreed that men make household and financial decisions with women responsible for household purchases and spending on food and other necessary items.

Survival in Wau

An elderly woman in Wau who lives with her husband and orphaned grandchildren described her work day beginning at 2 a.m. when she begins making bread to sell and tea for her family. By 8 a.m. she leaves for the market to sell her bread and after selling it, she buys the day's food supply and leaves for home to prepare a meal for her family. Only some of her grandchildren, who are school-aged, attend classes as the costs are too high to allow each child to attend. Her husband contributes to the family's needs by brining her firewood for her baking and cooking and makes one trip per week outside of town to collect firewood. The surrounding area was deforested due to people's reluctance to travel outside town for firewood during the war therefore he must walk 15-20 miles each way to collect enough firewood for their household use and for sale. The remaining wood is sold for between 5-12 pounds, depending on the amount, and provides them with a maximum income of under \$6 a week.

Social norms for the sexes vary substantially within Southern Sudan, making generalizations and assumptions on male and female attitudes and behavior often inaccurate. A strong example of this is perceived acceptability of women participating in "male" activities or dressing in ways that are

⁶ Though this set of participants indicated they felt women could be in positions of authority over men, in actuality this can present serious problems that should not be underestimated. In Warap state, a female census supervisor was physically assaulted by her male colleagues who resented her seniority.

⁷ Reproductive activities are generally unpaid, domestic responsibilities while productive activities are classified as paid labor, typically outside the home.

deemed inappropriate. Recent events in Rumbek caused a local leader to temporarily enact a “law” banning women from riding bicycles and wearing pants founded on the inaccurate notion that women were becoming sexually excited by riding bicycles and therefore neglecting their husbands. Women caught wearing pants were at times even publicly stripped and flogged for this infraction. Taboos related to what pieces of meat women are allowed to eat also exist and often inform cultural norms that are not readily observant to researchers. Such practices underscore the variation in gender equity, relations and roles throughout the country.

5. VULNERABILITY AND HIV/AIDS

5.1. Qualitative Research Findings

In general, policy planners and project implementers face conflicting priorities within a highly vulnerable populace that includes high numbers of IDPs, returnees, FHHs, vulnerable youth, demobilized child soldiers, the disabled, widows and orphans. Virtually all Southern Sudanese are “war-affected” and historical underdevelopment by the Northern government has generated significant economic and social vulnerability leading to an increase in susceptibility to HIV infection and the participation in commercial sex work. Specific vulnerability and HIV/AIDS issues by town are herein discussed in the following sub-sections and are based on the qualitative research findings.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has, to date, left Southern Sudan largely unaffected. Compared to nations, such as Botswana and South Africa, prevalence is low. Nonetheless, risk factors related to poverty and heavy population movements predict a rapid and widespread increase in HIV infection, greatly constraining the ability of the GoSS to respond to this social and public health issue.

An increase in prevalence is expected due to underreporting and the lack of testing as well heavy population movements both within Sudan and from outside the country. IRIN reports that prevalence is believed to be around 3.1 percent - higher than the average of 2.6 percent in Sudan as a whole, however much confusion exists concerning actual figures. Data from small-scale surveys, antenatal clinics and new VCT centers across Southern Sudan vary greatly. Areas near the Ugandan border indicate an infection level as high as ten percent based on statistics from antenatal clinics and the more central areas of Southern Sudan have infection rates of less than one percent of pregnant women. Urban areas such as Juba and Wau appear to be high-risk hotspots based on data from VCT centers in both towns which indicated an HIV prevalence of more than 20 percent – a dramatic revelation which surprised officials who previously believed Southern Sudan to be a homogeneous low-prevalence area. General awareness of HIV/AIDS is also very low with only, only 3.28 percent of women between the ages of 15 and 24 having a "comprehensive" knowledge of HIV, meaning that they are able to identify at least two ways of avoiding HIV infection and reject three common misconceptions about transmission of the disease.⁸

To combat the lack of health statistics, the Sudan Household Health Survey (SHHS), funded by USAID and six other donors, was conducted in 2006. This survey, developed prior to the launch of a national census in 2008, is one of the first attempts at compiling data on child mortality, nutrition,

⁸ SOUTHERN SUDAN: *Insufficient Data Hinders HIV Programming*
<http://www.plusnews.org/InDepthMain.aspx?InDepthId=62&ReportId=73888&Country=Yes>

child health, water and sanitation, reproductive health, education, child protection, HIV/AIDS and orphaned children and include 60 indicators across these sectors.

These indicators were specifically chosen based on the pressing need to monitor the country's progress towards meeting Millennium Development Goals and other national and international agreements. Provided that Southern Sudan lacks reliable and comprehensive data on all sectors, this survey is the first of many which will begin to illuminate an accurate picture of the quality of life in Southern Sudan and the level of vulnerability that exists. It is also the first nationally representative survey in two decades that covers these critical social development indicators.⁹ 850 surveyors, 110 team leaders and supervisors and 40 national supervisors and leaders participated in the data collection from over 24,000 households.¹⁰

Several different questionnaires were distributed throughout the 25 states of Sudan:

- **The Household Questionnaire** was inclusive of questions related to household composition, education, water and sanitation, income and resources and some health related questions.
- **The Women's Questionnaire** was provided to all women ages 15-49 in each household and inclusive of questions about child mortality, birth history, vaccinations, marriage, contraception, FGM (excluding Southern Sudan states) and HIV awareness.
- **Under 5 Questionnaire** was administered to mothers or primary care givers of children under five years of age and inclusive of questions related to birth registration, health, immunizations.
- **Community Food Security Questionnaire** incorporated questions related to household circumstances, livelihoods, belongings, expenditures, food consumption and sources, food aid and coping mechanisms.

The level of responses to these questionnaires, as found in the table on the following page, is indicative of the continuing disparity and general distrust that exists in much of Southern Sudan. Women's response rates in Southern states are comparatively much lower than Northern states - at times almost half that of the majority of Northern States as evident in Western Bahr El Ghazal, Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Lakes and Jonglei states which in some areas, have large Dinka populations.

"Survey fatigue" has also unfortunately begun to take root in parts of Southern Sudan and was palpable in Rumbek, Lakes state where focus group participants were reluctant to answer basic questions regarding their marital status and where the use of any Arabic dialect is objectionable (including Juba Arabic which is widely spoken), perhaps limiting non-Dinka speaking researchers from adequately engaging participants.

⁹ Draft Sudan Household Health Survey, April 2007, p 16.

¹⁰ Draft Sudan Household Health Survey, April 2007, p. 23-24.

State	Household, women's and under-five's response rates			Women's and under-five's overall response rates	
	Household	Women	Under-five children	Women	Under-five children
	%	%	%	%	%
Northern	99.7	93.7	96.5	93.2	96.2
River Nile	99.1	95.7	97.3	94.8	96.5
Red Sea	99.3	96.9	98.6	96.3	97.9
Kassala	99.4	96.7	99.3	96.1	98.7
Gadarif	99.1	93.6	96.2	92.7	95.3
Khartoum	96.7	85.1	96.0	82.3	92.8
Gezira	99.7	98.6	99.6	98.3	99.3
Sinnar	99.5	97.2	98.9	96.7	98.4
Blue Nile	99.4	91.2	95.3	90.7	94.8
White Nile	99.8	97.8	99.7	97.6	99.5
N. Kordofan	99.3	94.0	97.8	93.4	97.1
S. Kordofan	97.5	85.4	94.1	83.2	91.7
North Darfur	98.4	88.1	97.0	86.7	95.4
West Darfur	99.3	85.7	97.2	85.1	96.5
South Darfur	99.7	94.7	97.9	94.5	97.6
Jonglei	96.3	60.9	70.6	58.7	68.0
Upper Nile	94.3	64.2	85.6	60.5	80.7
Unity	96.2	69.0	65.1	66.4	62.6
Warab	95.7	77.1	86.4	76.2	85.4
NBG	98.2	55.9	60.0	53.5	57.4
WBG	98.0	55.4	63.8	54.4	62.6
Lakes	90.0	60.5	76.3	59.3	74.8
W. Equatoria	98.9	69.0	85.7	62.1	77.1
C. Equatoria	99.8	75.4	86.9	74.5	85.9
E. Equatoria	98.1	83.8	91.6	83.6	91.4
SUDAN	98.1	82.6	88.3	81.0	86.6

5.2. Juba

Heavy population movements continue to strain resources in the capital city and a lack of sanitation services, combined with heavy water run-off in the rainy season continue to make residents highly vulnerable to illnesses such as malaria, cholera and acute diarrhea. Lack of employment and the number of FHHs also contribute to instability and poor living conditions.

Qualitative research suggests that young boys are highly vulnerable in Juba and parental death, family separation and displacement are not the causes. Sharply dissimilar to other societies is the value placed on young women in Southern Sudan. Though not equitably treated, girls have perceived value through their contribution to household reproductive work and through their ability to bring a substantial dowry (on average, 120 cows) to their family thus increasing their wealth and status. Young boys, however, who are not responsible or “clever” enough to be sent to cattle camps to protect the family’s wealth are often forced to leave the home as they are seen as a drain on resources. Their lack of contribution to household chores combined with their eventual need for a dowry makes these young men dispensable.

Street boys who are abandoned by their families often resort to begging for food and sleeping in empty market stalls. They are highly susceptible to sexual/physical abuse and crime and they have very limited resources and no social services or protection by the state. Living Waters Children’s Home, a donor-funded CBO headed by Christopher Suru, is the only haven in Juba where boys and young men are provided with food, shelter and education and encouraged to eventually reunite with their families.

Young girls do live on the streets of Juba but very little research is available on this population. No facilities or programs exist to assist them and the assumption is that they rapidly become absorbed into the growing commercial sex work sub-culture.

Areas such as Konyo Konyo and Customs markets are notorious for the preponderance of commercial sex work. In light of recent sexual abuse allegations reported by the *Daily Telegraph* in January 2007 and in keeping with the UN’s zero tolerance policy on sexual abuse and exploitation, UNMIS staff are prohibited from visiting these areas after 8 p.m. Children and youth in Juba are at a high risk of involvement in commercial sex work aggravated by poverty and the sudden infusion of cash that is available from ex-pats and well-paid government officials.

Population Services International (PSI) has conducted nine focus groups throughout Juba with at risk groups which included truckers (primarily Northerners), tea sellers and bar workers. PSI found that in addition to local sex workers, many Ugandan and Kenyan women are also migrating to the area for this reason and are possibly bringing HIV with them.

As previously mentioned, HIV/AIDS infection prevalence in Southern Sudan is undetermined and the GoSS has been slow to address the issue due to limited funding and institutional capacity. A VCT center, one of six in the entire region, is in operation at Juba hospital and statistics may be available from this location. The Southern Sudan AIDS Commission (SSAC) held a conference in July in Rumbek to discuss the national strategic framework and policy for HIV/AIDS in Southern Sudan, however, these measures are very preliminary.

5.3. Nimule

Vulnerability issues are perhaps even more apparent in Nimule than in other areas of Southern Sudan. Nimule, located on the Sudan-Ugandan border, has historically been confronted with crisis. For years, many IDPs have fled to the outskirts of Nimule to escape insecurity and violence from LRA activities. Though the CPA was signed over two years ago and an estimated 5,000 SPLA soldiers are stationed in the vicinity, the security situation only began to dramatically improve in June 2007. The LRA has periodically attacked outlying communities, instigating the complete evacuation of IDP camps, such as Mogali, which flooded Nimule center with approximately 19,000 people in December 2005.

Though many persons in Nimule town could be classified as highly vulnerable, donors have been reticent to fund significant and long-term development projects in the area due to high security risks which monopolize budgets. ARC, NPA, CRS and Merlin are the only international NGOs operating in the area though some CBOs, such as the DOT, run health clinics.

Limited health care facilities actually exist in light of the rapid population increase. ARC operated a total of 11 PHCs and PHUs in 2005 but currently runs only five PHUs, one PHC and operates a new home based care program that employs 20 volunteers that visit patients at home who are unable, for various reasons, to leave for medical care.

Due to its proximity to Uganda, Nimule is also suspected of having much higher HIV/AIDS prevalence than other areas, however, its location also presents the opportunity for those infected with HIV to receive much higher levels of treatment and hope for a longer life.

Merlin operates the new VCT center at the hospital, which opened in 2005, however, its capacity is limited. However, the VCT center does provide some sensitization outreach and has experienced a good response with approximately 200 visitors on average per month. Of these patients, between five to twelve (2-6%) test positive, a vastly different picture than that provided by other sources. Initially, more men than women visited the center, likely because of the high number of SPLA soldiers in the area, however, more women and youth between the ages of 15-17 are now requesting testing and NGOs believe this correlates to improved awareness. Pre or post natal testing is not routine and is only done for sickly children who are suspected of being HIV positive.

An HIV support group meets every Friday and currently has six attendees. HIV/AIDS cases are referred to Gulu, Uganda, a distance of 100 km, or as far as Kampala for CD4 count and ARV treatment as none are available within Southern Sudan. Transport is sometimes provided for those unable to finance their travel.

There have been some HIV/AIDS awareness activities in the area, predominantly under the stewardship of UNDP and ARC. In 2006, HIV/AIDS programming began in Kajo Keji (with minimal activity in Nimule) and some activities were geared towards workers repairing and demining the Juba-Nimule road. The HIV/AIDS roads program involved communities along the road and the workers camp in Nimule and consisted of two behavioral change/communication officers who traveled along the road, to communities, schools and workers camps with explanatory videos on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. The majority of awareness activities have since ceased due to lack of funding and security requirements that have drained programming budgets for this area.

5.4. Rumbek

Rumbek presents a unique situation within Southern Sudan and had a heavy NGO presence when it was predicted to be the new capitol of Southern Sudan. With a predominantly Dinka population and significant SPLA presence, vulnerability issues seem to more heavily center around war widows. The Malou Barracks, located approximately 20 km outside of Rumbek, is home to many “military” women and war widows who have fought in the war as unregistered soldiers or have informally attached themselves to the barracks and are employed and sporadically paid as cooks. Without anywhere else to go, these women are highly vulnerable and some are “inherited” wives with little family support.

Literacy is extremely low in this area and most women indicated that they had limited schooling which was interrupted because of the war. Rumbek, a garrison town, was captured by the SPLA in 1997 and has historically been isolated since that time. Populations are gradually returning to the area following the signing of the CPA, however, the sudden exodus of most NGOs, UN agencies and GoSS officials and offices has left Rumbek in an abandoned state. A lack of trust and survey fatigue plague the primarily pastoralist communities and research in the area requires special sensitivity.

HIV/AIDS was not identified as a key issue for Rumbek and the surrounding area, however, future population movements may suggest otherwise.

5.5. Wau

Wau, a highly diverse town located at the crossroads of Northern and Southern Sudan, is also home to six IDP camps that lie on the outskirts of town and across the Jur River and are home to locally displaced Balanda speaking persons as well as many Dinka, Jur and Felata communities. Wau experiences similar vulnerability issues found in Juba and other areas, however it has one of the strongest CBO networks that the team identified. This local network, with the strong support of NGOs, includes several women’s organizations with good capacity levels and strong community ties.

Some HIV/AIDS awareness activities are generated through women’s CBOs. HIV/AIDS remains an uncertain threat and only limited awareness efforts are in place despite its role as part of the transport corridor to Khartoum.

5.6. Kapoeta

As in Juba, Kapoeta is experiencing problems centered around vulnerable boys in the community. As a rather new and pressing issue, such vulnerability is a concern in an area with very high levels of small arms and a strong reluctance to voluntarily disarm. Communal conflict and tensions over land and cattle are common and youth are especially vulnerable to participation in the resumption of violent activities out of hopelessness, desperation and a desire to gain value and acceptance from their families and communities.

Though a new hospital is opening in Kapoeta, there is no active VCT center and the region’s proximity to Kenya, which has much higher HIV prevalence, could potentially impact the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the region.

Only a limited amount of NGOs and international agencies are active in the area and include PACT, AR Japan, GTZ, WFP, UNHCR, Land o’ Lakes and SNV. A handful of CBOs are active and include the Diocese of Torit (DOT), Kapoeta Development Initiative (KDI) and ERADA Women’s

Group. Many female community leaders have left the area for government positions and Kapoeta, much like Rumbek, is experiencing a void in leadership and diminished institutional capacity.

6. GENDER AND VULNERABILITY ISSUES BY SECTOR

6.1. Transportation

Planning in infrastructure projects can at times inadvertently be “gender blind,” meaning that the projects are deemed to be “gender neutral” or to have no differential impacts or effects on men and women. However, in actuality, the case is often the opposite and women and men experience different benefits or impacts. Factors that affect this can include differences in time use and daily routines with women often being “time poor” as they often assume the majority, if not all, of reproductive work in addition to any productive activities they might be engaged in.¹¹ Transport, water and energy projects all have the ability to directly impact and meet women’s needs by understanding and addressing time use and the reproductive and productive roles of men and women.

As part of the needs assessment, the LBG team asked participants about their views on community needs and priorities. Two-thirds (9 of 12) of women in Juba identified roads as the most important issue in Juba over water and electricity. However, ensuing conversations implied that both roads and water are critical based on health care needs. Roads in Juba are important because many neighborhoods are inaccessible by car – people who are sick cannot be transported to the hospital and rain destroys most of the existing roads. Other roads, such as the Juba-Nimule road, are perceived as very positive signs of development and would simplify travel to and from Uganda.

The LBG team held a similar community forum in Gumbo, a boma across the river from Juba. The community had the exact opposite reaction when queried and felt that the Juba-Nimule road would not change anything for them. When probed, the team learned that GoSS officials informed the community that a Chinese company was rehabilitating the road and “over 40” NGOs (including ACCORD, GTX, ICF and others) have visited the community to discuss the road and other projects and they felt “cheated” because they have seen no results or activity on the projects they discussed. In order to continue the dialogue, the team explained the need for community consultation to ensure that their concerns are heard, appropriate employment and training opportunities are developed and that seasonal constraints be accounted for (such as the inability to bring in large equipment or continue de-mining efforts during the rainy season).

Interestingly, the only group of people that cited roads and transport as a top priority were people from the Juba area. The team attributes this to a variety of influences including their access to information about roads, the extremely bad quality of roads in Southern Sudan’s capitol, their knowledge of planned projects and/or promises of improved transportation and infrastructure by the GoSS which has yet to materialize.

¹¹ Reproductive work can include and is not limited to, unpaid childbearing and rearing responsibilities and domestic housework. Productive work is generally understood as paid, formal labor with a value attached to it. See Caroline O. Moser’s *Gender Planning and Development: Theory, Practice and Training*, p. 29-34 for definitions and an overview.

6.2. Water

Water resources are critical to every area visited. The capitol city of Juba is experiencing serious water resource issues as the city rapidly continues to grow. Focus group participants vociferously complained about the very limited access to boreholes in the city which causes many to resort to using river water or heavily polluted water run off during the rainy season. One female participant noted that she would need to leave her house at 5 a.m. to return by 9 a.m. with only 2 jerry cans of water for her and her three children based on the distance between her residence and the closest borehole and her ability to carry only a limited amount of water.¹² Families that can afford to buy water must resort to paying for water from a tanker at a cost of 5-9 pounds.¹³

In Gumbo, Rejaf payam, just across the river, there are no boreholes and river water is brought in by tanker once a day. People in the community buy 2 jerry cans at a cost between 1-5 pounds per barrel. Though tanker water is supposedly treated, chlorine is sometimes added at home to then purify it. Those who cannot afford to purchase water fill jerry cans from a local stream that is very dirty and that forum participants claimed could not “be trusted.” Those who collect water from this stream make up to 5 trips per day with one jerry can at a time as the stream is only a 15 minute walk from most residences and people are able to fill the cans on an as-needed basis which limits the time spent on this activity.

In Juba, female respondents said that they add chlorine to the water and then boil it to ensure its safety. The water in Juba that is drawn from both the river and boreholes is unanimously perceived as highly polluted. Particular neighborhoods, such as Sika Maridi (Road to Maridi) have no boreholes and only tankers supply the Gudele neighborhood with barrels of water at a cost of 5 pounds.

These responses indicate a clear disparity between the communities interviewed and qualitative research indicated that the Juba residents appeared to be better off financially as they were able to afford chlorine to treat their water, had time to participate in five day a week, seven month tailoring training program at the Women’s Self Help Group (WSHG) and one-quarter of them also attended adult education classes at cost. A larger sample would be necessary to definitively determine the actual economic standing of these different communities but initial research indicates that communities outside the city center tended to be more isolated and marginalized than those dwelling in Juba. This does not, however, minimize the serious lack of basic services within Juba.

In Nimule, the influx of IDPs from outlying areas due to insecurity has increased the population dramatically. In May 2007, 34,598 people resided in Nimule town center of which more than half were categorized as IDPs and the rest as returnees.¹⁴ 54 boreholes are currently in operation in the payam, with one borehole for every 640 residents. In the Abilla community of Nimule, ad hoc regulations are in place and allow families to fill only 2 jerry cans (20 litres per can) at a time. The water from this borehole is all-purpose and is used for washing, cooking, cleaning, drinking and

¹² The amount of water used by families was typically given by jerry can which holds approximately 20 litres. However, people who purchased water from tankers or donkey carts usually paid by the barrel which could hold up to 12 jerry cans or 240 litres.

¹³ Many focus group participants and informants quoted divergent costs for water, school fees, cooking fuel and other household necessities due to the recent (January 2007) introduction of new Sudanese pound (2 pounds to 1 USD) which replaced the dinar and the old Sudanese pound. Prices are often quoted in dinars or old Sudanese pounds, 1,000 of which equal 1 new Sudanese pound. Given that the Sudanese dinar was still in circulation until June 2007, the team often needed to probe participants extensively to establish more realistic and accurate costs however significant variance still persists in actual and quoted costs between region and towns.

¹⁴ Population figures and borehole data provided from the Nimule Payam administrator’s office.

bathing. No regular fees are charged and the community contributes to maintenance costs as needed. The local government is not involved in maintenance and ARC is responsible for training the pump mechanics that report any damage to ARC and request equipment for repairs.

Collecting Water in Nimule

Grace makes up to ten trips per day to collect water from the borehole in Abilla, Nimule and fills only two jerry cans per trip. She has 12 people in her household which requires upwards of 20 jerry cans or 400 litres per day to meet the bathing, drinking, cooking and washing needs of her family. Though under five minutes are needed to fill one jerry can, Grace spends much of her time simply waiting in line at the borehole and holding her place. Each trip can take up to 2 hours therefore the work must be delegated to several household members with various children or women assigned to pumping, waiting in line or carrying the water home. Significant time is spent in completing this basic yet critical household chore.

In Rumbek, the situation differs significantly. In town, most communities use boreholes and contribute 5 pounds per month for maintenance and use. However, due to the major influx of returnees and IDPS, many people must wait between 1-2 hours in line for their turn to pump water. Each person may fill as many jerry cans as they can carry and informants indicated that there is often tension in these lines while people jockey for position. Those who are unable to carry water due to illness or age can pay others to carry water for them at a cost of 1 pound per jerry can – a fee that is unaffordable for many. Most people make three trips per day and run off water is often used for washing clothes and utensils, leading to illness in communities.

Horse drawn carts provide water for several communities in Wau that have had non-functioning boreholes for years. With a population of

approximately 200,000, the Rural Water Department (RWD), part of the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure, is responsible for drilling new boreholes and rehabilitating existing ones. NGOs, such as UNICEF, currently support the RWD, which faces significant problems in the management of Wau water resources due to corruption and poor delegation of duties. UNICEF provides extensive resources but does not enforce accountability with the local government.

Women in the Wau neighborhood of Hai Jebel Khay indicated that the local hand pump in their community was broken and they were forced to pay for water everyday that was brought in by horse drawn carts at a cost of 3 pounds per barrel (240 litres) with large families needing up to 2 barrels per day. The water, which is drawn from the river, is very dirty and is believed to cause diarrhea and vomiting. UNICEF, which was active throughout the war and previously responsible for water resources in Wau, has since turned over this responsibility to the local government and the hand pump, which has been broken for years, has yet to be repaired rendering the community borehole inaccessible. During the LBG team's visit, there were rumors of cholera outbreak in the adjoining neighborhood of Hai Kosti which uses the same water as Hai Jebel Khay, a source of great concern.

Vulnerable groups, such as IDP communities in the Salvation encampment in Wau must get their water from other areas if they have no water in their borehole or buy it from a cart if they can afford the 2.5 pounds for a jerry can.

Kapoeta, in Eastern Equatoria, has a much smaller population than Wau and has a borehole in town. Those in outlying areas much walk approximately 2 km to the nearest water source. Though water resources are an issue, communities appear to be faced with more pressing security and educational issues and key informants did not identify water resources as a top priority.

6.3. Sanitation

The lack of sanitation services poses serious public health ramifications in Southern Sudan. Population increases in towns like Juba, the complete lack of regulation and services for trash disposal and the conspicuous absence of public latrines or pits for human waste disposal continues to contribute to water borne illnesses, particularly during the rainy season when polluted run off water is used by families to bathe, wash cooking utensils and clothes and cook. Limited open spaces in towns require residents to resort to using any open area, such as cemeteries, as public toilets and large piles of trash and litter are found everywhere. Of the five towns the team visited, Kapoeta was the only town in which several public latrines were located.

Juba and Rumbek have experienced cholera and meningitis outbreaks and Wau suffered a cholera outbreak in July with several deaths reported. ACTED is currently involved in hygiene education and the rehabilitation and construction of latrines in Wau and provides some water point assistance in this town of 200,000. ACTED plans to expand their work to all schools in the area by May 2008 (25 primary schools and 5 or 6 secondary schools).

In conjunction with sanitation improvements, a task force is in place in Wau to identify vulnerable water sources and test them and Oxfam is providing assistance. The RWD, which is supported heavily by NGOs, heads the task force that includes representatives from UNICEF, the Danish Red Cross, RCO for UNDP and Islamic Relief. However, due to the lack of coordination with the GoSS local health department and limited institutional capacity, the task force has been unable to halt outbreaks effectively and quickly.

6.4. Energy/Natural Resources

During interviews and focus groups, electricity and energy resources were consistently rated as the least important basic service for participants and their families. However, it was only in the Gumbo that residents complained vociferously about their lack of access to electricity, though power lines run directly over the community. The high cost of 800 pound to connect one household and install a meter were unaffordable to all residents, however, they believed that they would prioritize having access to electricity should the costs be reduced. The community presently uses firewood and sells the remnants they have collected at a cost of five pounds per large bundle, rather than purchase a large bag of charcoal for 60 pounds. Women typically walk two to three miles each way for firewood and the LBG team saw many women crossing the bridge into Rejaf payam carrying very large loads of firewood into Juba, presumably for re-sale. Respondents in Juba all claimed to use charcoal to cook implying a level of economic stability and purchase large bags for between 45-70 pounds, once every 3-6 weeks, depending on the need (some bake bread or have larger families which consume more charcoal).

In Wau, respondents noted that electricity is not a priority because of the added expense and the concern over children watching TV and not prioritizing school work, etc. Most respondents did not use kerosene but rather purchased firewood for between five to twelve pounds or a large bag of charcoal for 25 pounds.

In Rumbek, cooking fuel can be costly and ranges from 30 pounds for a large bag of charcoal, to 12 pounds for five litres of kerosene to two pounds for a small bundle of firewood (about 6 pieces). Most people use firewood, which is the least expensive but is the most difficult to gather as areas around town are deforested, requiring people to walk longer distances.

There was very little awareness of any electricity projects with the exception of Nimule, where a hydro-electric plant at Fula Falls is under study.

SHHS data indicates that approximately three quarters of all households in Sudan use solid fuels for cooking and the ten states with the highest levels of solid fuel use (more than 95%) are in Darfur, the Three Areas and Southern Sudan.¹⁵ The tables on the following pages demonstrate both the limited availability of electricity or gas within Sudan as well as the connection between household wealth and type of cooking fuel used.

¹⁵ Draft Sudan Household Health Survey, April 2007, p. 67.

Table CH.8: Solid fuel use						
Percent distribution of households according to type of cooking fuel, and percentage of households using solid fuels for cooking, Sudan, 2006						
	Number of households	Percentage of households using:				
		Electricity	Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG)	Natural Gas	Biogas	Kerosene
	%	%	%	%	%	%
State						
Northern	112,522	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.1
River Nile	168,535	0.1	11.7	0.0	0.0	0.7
Red Sea	141,271	0.0	12.9	0.6	0.4	0.1
Kassala	316,757	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.1
Gadarif	270,533	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Khartoum	860,348	0.0	26.2	0.2	0.0	1.9
Gezira	625,927	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sinnar	222,509	0.2	0.2	15.7	0.0	0.2
Blue Nile	254,814	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
White Nile	114,704	0.1	0.1	8.4	0.0	0.5
N. Kordofan	273,088	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.1
S. Kordofan	215,781	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
North Darfur	284,110	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.0	0.0
West Darfur	367,028	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
South Darfur	547,828	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
Jonglei	216,875	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.1	0.0
Upper Nile	188,215	0.0	0.1	1.2	1.7	2.1
Unity	89,366	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.7	0.1
Warab	241,439	0.0	0.0	9.1	7.6	0.1
NBG	211,241	0.0	0.1	3.6	0.3	0.0
WBG	64,565	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.2
Lakes	131,682	0.0	0.1	2.7	0.1	0.1
W. Equatoria	110,127	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
C. Equatoria	161,701	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1
E. Equatoria	173,175	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
SUDAN	6,364,139	0.1	4.3	1.7	0.4	0.4
Education of household head						
None	1,735,033	0.1	2.6	1.9	0.6	0.1
Primary	1,091,982	0.1	2.9	2.0	0.4	0.3
Secondary +	549,310	0.1	4.5	2.1	0.5	0.1
Wealth index quintile						
Poorest	1,357,442	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.0
Second	1,344,579	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.8	0.1
Middle	1,283,063	0.0	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.4
Fourth	1,227,241	0.1	4.3	1.8	0.0	1.0
Richest	1,151,814	0.3	18.3	3.6	0.1	0.7

	Percentage of households using:							Percentage of households using solid fuels for cooking*
	Coal/lignite	Charcoal	Wood	Straw/shrubs/grass	Animal dung	Agricultural crop residue	Other	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
State								
Northern	6.4	0.0	44.7	2.1	0.0	0.0	43.1	53.2
River Nile	3.0	0.0	17.6	0.5	0.1	0.0	66.1	21.1
Red Sea	33.0	0.0	27.0	5.5	0.1	0.0	19.3	65.6
Kassala	19.5	0.0	57.5	1.6	0.3	0.0	17.9	78.9
Gadarif	37.2	0.0	45.1	2.4	0.2	0.8	13.2	85.8
Khartoum	17.5	0.2	3.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	49.0	21.8
Gezira	18.4	0.0	8.1	1.1	1.8	0.0	70.1	29.4
Sinnar	37.5	0.0	27.9	3.8	2.1	0.0	12.1	71.3
Blue Nile	31.3	0.0	65.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	3.1	96.7
White Nile	21.4	0.0	31.2	2.7	5.5	0.0	29.6	60.8
N. Kordofan	21.4	0.0	66.7	0.6	0.0	0.0	7.4	88.7
S. Kordofan	19.4	0.0	78.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.8	98.1
N. Darfur	11.6	0.0	85.4	0.8	0.2	0.0	0.6	98.1
W. Darfur	5.6	0.0	85.9	5.4	0.0	0.0	1.7	97.0
S. Darfur	13.9	0.1	84.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.7	98.7
Jonglei	0.9	3.7	68.4	19.0	0.4	4.1	0.7	96.5
Upper Nile	0.5	13.0	73.2	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.0	88.2
Unity	0.1	4.6	80.9	1.7	1.0	5.6	0.2	93.8
Warab	0.0	1.1	77.2	0.5	0.0	1.6	0.3	80.5
NBG	0.9	6.7	75.9	3.6	0.7	4.5	0.1	92.3
WBG	0.1	6.1	89.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	96.0
Lakes	0.2	1.6	91.7	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	94.8
W. Equatoria	0.0	0.8	98.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.4
C. Equatoria	0.1	8.2	88.9	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	97.6
E. Equatoria	0.3	5.2	91.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	97.2
SUDAN	14.3	1.3	53.9	2.0	0.5	0.5	19.6	72.5
Education of household head								
None	13.6	1.3	57.6	2.2	0.4	0.7	17.9	75.7
Primary	13.5	1.5	55.7	2.4	0.6	0.8	19.0	74.4
Secondary +	16.1	1.2	53.6	2.1	0.5	0.7	17.2	74.2
Wealth index quintile								
Poorest	0.4	1.2	90.7	3.6	0.1	1.2	0.1	97.2
Second	4.5	2.4	83.4	3.2	0.9	0.7	1.1	95.0
Middle	20.2	2.2	62.9	2.0	1.1	0.4	7.4	88.8
Fourth	34.4	0.6	20.4	0.5	0.1	0.0	36.2	56.1
Richest	14.2	0.1	2.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	59.9	16.7

* SHHS indicator 26: Use of solid fuels for cooking; MDG indicator 29

7. DATA COLLECTION, PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORK BUILDING

7.1. UNICEF

UNICEF representatives informed the LBG team that they are launching a youth survey in the fall of 2007, funded by UNICEF and in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in an effort to produce reliable statistics for Southern Sudan regarding HIV/AIDS, early marriage, time use, schooling levels and other relevant issues. The GoSS spearheaded the recruitment effort, issuing advertisements with local government offices and identifying a candidate pool from which a UNICEF consultant made the final selection. The survey sample of 4,000 youth will cover approximately 400 persons from the ten states in Southern Sudan. Teams comprised of four local researchers (two male/two female) and one supervisor (male or female) received five days of training in August 2007 and will conduct these surveys in their home states. For future projects, the LBG team will use the data gathered to establish a baseline and track appropriate indicators related to time use, HIV/AIDS and other gender related issues that may be relevant to SISP projects.

7.2. Ahfad University

The LBG team traveled to Khartoum and met with representatives from Ahfad and Juba University to discuss opportunities for students as researchers on future infrastructure projects.

Ahfad University is the only women's university on the African continent and the several thousand students that graduate each year present a viable partnership opportunity for the SISP project in the areas of gender and vulnerability research.

Each student is required to undertake training on gender research and analysis, however, the majority of students are primarily Northern though some are IDPs from Southern Sudan who have resided in Khartoum for many years, at IDP camps such as Mayo. Ahfad University does operate with a quota system and students from the South and other marginalized areas such as Abyei, Southern Blue Nile and the Red Sea have a larger acceptance quota at the university. Students from certain regions in Sudan also receive tuition waivers in order to attend the University and the Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies graduates over 1,000 students a year. However, Southern students comprise only 10-30% of all students and the intake of Southern students in 2007 was approximately 100 students with only three Southern students in the Institute of Women, Gender, and Development Studies Master's program.

The University does not classify their students by ethnicity but by region, however the Ahfad University Southern Women's Association (AWUSA) is an active group on campus and may be able to provide assistance with the recruitment of Southern students for research opportunities under the SISP. Though the majority (95%) of graduates find employment in Khartoum, some graduates do return to their home areas and the school is tracking alumni and can provide contacts in Blue Nile state, Nuba Mountains and Upper Nile. Abyei, however, continues to be a challenging location due to insecurity and the absence of adequate educational facilities. Dr. Badri, Director of the Institute, advised the team to consider recruiting unemployed recent graduates and alumni that currently reside in Khartoum as well as graduate or undergraduate students who could potentially participate in research in November or during their May-June break, dependent on project needs.

7.3. Juba University

Juba University, which relocated to Khartoum during the war, is in the process of re-establishing its Juba campus. The university has a total of 16 colleges and centers including a College of Applied Sciences, Engineering, Social Sciences, Community Studies/Rural Development and Natural Resources and Management Sciences. Since its move to Khartoum during the war, the university has more than tripled and currently has an enrollment of 18,000 students and employs over 500 staff.

To date, only three colleges have relocated back to Juba (Colleges of Community Studies/Rural Development, Education and Music and Drama) and currently have first year students enrolled. Classes on the Juba campus are taught in English and university plans to relocate all colleges by 2010-2011. Students typically have a long break during mid-December and March and could potentially participate in project research during this timeframe. Students in honors courses are trained in research methods and are required to spend three to four months in the field, during which time they undertake research projects. Research projects typically begin in August and run through December after students complete all their exams and finish their programs. Students typically undertake projects on sanitation, community-based projects and, at times, focus on gender issues in particular research projects which could be complimentary with SISP project objectives.

Juba University, a Southern institution, is however, jointly managed by the GNU and GoSS. A special intake process exists for Southern Sudanese students to encourage a 50/50 ratio of Northern-Southern students, however the current student and staff composition is 80/20 Northern/Southern. Few Southern students enrolled in Khartoum during the war and those that did are predominantly from Central Equatoria with only a few students from Eastern and Western Equatoria or other Southern states.

The information gathered from two leading institutions in Sudan further indicates the extremely low levels of higher education in the Three Areas and marginalized Southern states such as Western and Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Jonglei and Lakes.

7.4. IOM's Return of Qualified Sudanese (RQS) Program

As part of the SISP objectives, the team is seeking to create employment opportunities for local Sudanese while concurrently building institutional capacity.

IOM, an LBG partner, recently implemented the RQS program in January 2006. This program presents a tangible opportunity for the SISP and IOM to collaborate and ensure local Sudanese employees are hired for infrastructure projects both in entry level and senior positions to the extent possible.

The RQS program targets and tracks skilled IDPs, regional refugees in Kenya, Egypt, and Uganda and the Diaspora in target communities in the Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States and Canada. IOM staff collect details on the skills needed as well as the job vacancies that public and private sector employers in Sudan need to fill. IOM then matches prospective candidates' qualifications with potential employers' requirements. Once candidates receive and have accepted a job offer, IOM facilitates the candidates' return to their place of origin or employment in Sudan, and supports each returnee's reintegration through the provision of a customized reintegration package and support services.

IOM's focus in the RQS programs is to facilitate the long-term return of IDPs, refugees and members of the Diaspora. For those who cannot currently commit to a permanent return, IOM offers transitional strategies such as short-term consultancies or volunteer positions that pay small stipends.

To date, recruitment has primarily centered on teachers, health workers, vocational workers such as carpenters and mechanics, and highly qualified professionals such as engineers and professors. The majority of RQS placements have been in the health sector and 30-40% are women. IOM has employed a vocational training school in Khartoum to certify the skills of potential recruits that are interested in the RQS program and is working to diversify the skill sets of the 724 candidates that are currently registered in the RQS database.

Based on the TORs of SISP projects, LBG will work closely with IOM to identify strong candidates for skilled and entry level positions in all technical areas.

7.5. Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE)

As previously discussed, reliable statistics are not available for Southern Sudan. The SSCCSE, a nascent Sudanese institution, is currently receiving technical assistance from a variety of donors, including UNFPA, UNICEF, WB and the US Census Bureau and is partnering with the National Census Commission in Khartoum to hold the upcoming national census.

The last census, which took place over twenty years ago, provides no relevant data for current application in Southern Sudan and is not inclusive of all areas. The fifth census, scheduled to take place in early 2008 will provide significant data for donors, NGOs and importantly, the GoSS. In the interim, the Sudan Household Health Survey (SHHS) provides the only reliable and most comprehensive data on specific social indicators relevant to the SISP.

7.6. Developing Gender/Vulnerability Sensitive Project Indicators

The development of gender and vulnerability sensitive project indicators and planned program impacts must be determined at project initiation and adapted specifically to regional issues which may differ throughout Southern Sudan. Guidance from the World Bank prioritizes the following key gender issues that should be addressed by a responsive Monitoring and Evaluation system:¹⁶

- Transport constraints on women's economic and domestic roles
- Identification of women's and men's latent (unsatisfied) transport needs
- Women's involvement in project design and implementation
- If projects address women's travel and transport needs
- Positive and negative impacts of projects on women
- Cost-effectiveness of transport versus no-transport (providing water closer to the village, providing more grinding mills, etc.) interventions in improving women's welfare
- Cultural issues addressing women's transport needs and how they can be addressed

¹⁶ See Maramba, Petronella and Bamberger, Michael, *A Gender Responsive Monitoring and Evaluation System for Rural Travel and Transport Programs in Africa: A Handbook for Planners, Managers and Evaluators*, April 2001, p. 30.

Water and sanitation and energy projects can modify such guidelines to also ensure that M/E systems are capable of adequately establishing a baseline and similar indicators for both gender issues and specific vulnerability issues in the project location.

These guidelines also recommend that project planning and resource allocation implement indicators such as the use of sex-disaggregated data in project planning to differentiate men and women's roles, women's and women's groups involvement in data collection, assessment of economic and cultural issues affecting women's access to transport and identified services, project staff skilled in gender integration and analysis, female staff to facilitate women's participation in projects.

The LBG gender and vulnerability team has begun to address these indicators in the first SISP mission by identifying future partnerships and recruitment opportunities for students, women and women's groups in the areas of data collection and project participation. Additionally, this report provides an initial baseline assessment of economic and cultural issues in five cities in Southern Sudan.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1. Conclusions

Southern Sudan faces enormous challenges in light of its historical underdevelopment, limited resources, patriarchal norms, limited institutional capacity and sheer geography.

Nonetheless, the commitment of Southern Sudanese communities, including Diaspora and returning populations, to rebuilding their nation is remarkable. This momentum, however, can rapidly evaporate as high expectations continue unmanaged and peace dividends are slow to appear. Disproportionate project implementation in some regions can also add to the reluctance and resistance of communities to participate in consultations or training opportunities.

The LBG team will work consistently with local authorities and community leaders to ensure that the most vulnerable persons have access to project benefits and that sensitive issues in communities are appropriately navigated.

8.2. Recommendations for Additional Research and Technical Assistance

Follow-on assessments are highly recommended for the SISP. This assessment should include site visits to at least one town in the remaining six Southern Sudanese states and if possible, to the Three Areas, specifically Abyei, Kadugli and Kurmuk to provide the team with an overview of socio-economic and cultural conditions in these divergent areas.

As the SISP program launches specific projects, best practices identified by the World Bank¹⁷ suggest that indicators measure the impact of project resources on the achievement of project objectives which could include participatory consultation with communities on project planning, communities' involvement in construction and female labor procurement requirements.

¹⁷ See Maramba, Petronella and Bamberger, Michael, *A Gender Responsive Monitoring and Evaluation System for Rural Travel and Transport Programs in Africa: A Handbook for Planners, Managers and Evaluators*, April 2001, p. 31-32.

Separate indicators are needed to measure project outputs, impacts and sustainability and should measure the increase in women/vulnerable persons' access to transportation (or other services such as water or energy resources), the inclusion of gender sensitization workshops for men and women, the reduction in women's time spent on reproductive responsibilities (i.e., carrying water), improved access of women and vulnerable persons to markets or hospitals and the capacity of CBOs to work independently on such issues at a project's close.

The LBG team recommends that each SISP project initiate a preliminary needs assessment of PAAs and PAPs to better understand men and women's priorities for themselves and their communities and to also establish strong working relationships with local government authorities and with CBOs to ensure buy-in, identify at-risk groups and initiate capacity building as part of the program's strategic objectives that promote stability and recovery in Southern Sudan. In more isolated areas, trust must be established between those implementing infrastructure projects and the PAAs. Engaging reluctant or skeptical communities will be a challenge in many areas and the involvement of gender/vulnerability and community development specialists, as early as possible, that can work with CBOs and local government will be critical to long term project success and sustainability.

Particular projects may require additional resources and quantitative research including attitudinal, travel pattern, socio-economic and/or willingness to pay and capacity to pay surveys. In this case, LBG recommends that the team work closely with local ministries and Sudanese institutions, such as Ahfad and Juba University, to head the recruitment process in an effort to build institutional capacity and ownership and to ensure that culturally and linguistically appropriate researchers are hired.

Finally, LBG partners, such as IOM, can play a strong role in identifying Southern Sudanese returnees qualified for project employment opportunities and to gear a percentage of recruitment efforts specifically to women and vulnerable persons. Employing these strategies and best practices will enhance the design and sustainability of SISP projects and meet the objectives of building capacity while providing employment opportunities and need infrastructure to Southern Sudan.

Appendix A: Bibliography

- Badri, Amna E. and Sadig, Intisar I. Abdel, *Sudan Between Peace and War: Internally Displaced Women in Khartoum and South and West Kordofan*, African Women for Peace Series, UNIFEM, 1998.
- Elfadil, Wafaa, *Sudan Gender Profile*, March 2004.
- Fitzgerald, Mary Anne, *Throwing the Stick Forward: The Impact of War on Southern Sudanese Women*, African Women for Peace Series, UNIFEM, 2002.
- From the Ground Up: Education and Livelihoods in Southern Sudan*, Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, January 2007.
- Gender Assessment Sudan ISP: 2004-2005*, March 2003.
- Gender and Transport Resource Guide*, World Bank. Modules available online at <http://www4.worldbank.org/afr/ssatp/Resources/HTML/Gender-RG/index.html>
- Gender Responsive Social Analysis: A Guidance Note. Incorporating Social Dimensions into Bank-Supported Projects*, Social Development Department, The World Bank, June 2005.
- Itto, A and Joseph, T. *Baseline Study on the Status of Women in the New Sudan: Report for Mundri and Yei Counties, Western Equatoria, Southern Sudan*, June 2004.
- Koopman, Jeanne et al. *West Africa Water Initiative (WAWI) Lessons from Gender Mainstreaming in Water and Sanitation Activities: Ghana, Mali and Niger*, Prepared for USAID by DevTech Systems, Inc. March 2006.
- Maramba, Petronella and Bamberger, Michael, *A Gender Responsive Monitoring and Evaluation System for Rural Travel and Transport Programs in Africa: A Handbook for Planners, Managers and Evaluators*, The World Bank, April 2001.
- March, Candida, Smyth, Ines and Mukhopadhyay, Maitrayee, *A Guide to Gender-Analysis Frameworks*, Oxfam, 1999.
- Masika, Rachel and Sally Baden, *Infrastructure and Poverty: Gender Analysis*, Prepared for the Gender Equality Unit, Swedish International Development Unit, June 1997.
- Moser, Caroline O. N., *Gender Planning and Development: Theory, Practice and Training*, Routledge, 1993.
- Riverson et al. *An Overview of Women's Transport Issues in Developing Countries. The Challenges in Addressing Gender Dimensions of Transport in Developing Countries: Lessons from the World Bank's Projects*. November 21, 2005, The World Bank Group.
- Roberts, Peter and Kunieda, Mika. *Including Gender in the World Bank Transport Strategy*, August 2006, 1st International African Conference on Gender, Transport and Development.

Social Analysis in Transport Projects: Guidelines for Incorporating Social Dimensions into Bank Supported Projects, Social Development Department, The World Bank, May 2006.

Spiegel, Paul B. et al, *Prevalence of HIV Infection in Conflict-Affected and Displaced People in Seven sub-Saharan African Countries: a Systematic Review*, The Lancet, Vol. 369, June 30, 2007.

Strategic Initiative for Women and Girls in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) Annual Report, 2005-2006.

USAID/Sudan 2006-08 Strategy Statement, December 2005.

USAID Gender Guide (Draft), October 13, 2006.

Ward, Jeanne, *Because Now Men Are Really Sitting On Our Heads and Pressing Us Down....Report of a Preliminary Assessment of Gender-based Violence in Rumbek, Aweils (East and West) and Rashad County, Nuba Mountains*, Funded and Prepared for USAID, March 2005.

Appendix B: Document List

Document	Author	Issue Date	Received	Point of Contact
CBC HIV/AIDS and Gender Strategic Plan (Draft)	Judy Benjamin	TBD	√	Judy Benjamin
South Sudan Household Health Survey	Ministry of Health/UNICEF	August 2007	√	Rebecca Hoffman
Gender Justice Issues in GoSS Policies	Peter Sokule	February 2007	No	Lucie Luguga
Gender Analysis of the Interim Constitution of S. Sudan	Agnes Nyoka	February 2007	√	Lucie Luguga
Gender and Human Rights in the Context of the CPA	Joy Kwaje Eluzai	February 2007	√	Lucie Luguga
Gender Considerations in the Sudan VEGA/AMED Program: Assessment and Recommendations	Charity Kabutha, Catherine Rodgers, Nora Weiss	February 2007	√	Demetria Arvanitis
A baseline survey on GBV related attitudes, awareness and response in Yei, Lainya, Morobo and Kajo Keji Counties	Kalyango Ronald, ARC	July 2007	√	Sanja Djurica

Appendix C: Interview List

Contact	Title	Organization	Location	Date
Sanja Djurica	Sr. Program Coordinator	American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Juba	July 13, 2007
Zamzam Kome	M/E Specialist	Capacity Building Component, Ministry of Transport	Juba	July 13, 2007
Linda Owino	Program Officer	Capacity Building Component, Ministry of Transport	Juba	July 13, 2007
Mary Guidice	Head of Office	International Office of Migration (IOM)	Juba	July 14, 2007
Silvia Pasti	Chief of Child Protection	UNICEF	Juba	July 14, 2007
	N/A	Key Informant, Woman crushing rock in Juba	Juba	July 14, 2007
Mama Lucy	Director	Women's Self Help Group (WSHG)	Juba	July 14, 2007
Stephen Ojune	Health Manager	American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Nimule	July 17, 2007
Simon Rukwaru	Health Promotion Officer	Merlin, VCT Center	Nimule	July 18, 2007
Caesarina Keji	Deputy Administrator	Nimule Payam Office, Eastern Equatoria	Nimule	July 18, 2007
Grace Kariwana	N/A	Key Informant, Abilla Community	Nimule	July 18, 2007
Antony Murithi	Policy Advisor	Capacity Building Component, Ministry of Transport	Juba	July 21, 2007
Lucie Luguga	Program Manager	UNIFEM	Juba	July 21, 2007
Joseph Machok	Chairman	Rehabilitation Program for Disabled Persons (RPDP)	Juba	July 21, 2007
Rebecca Hoffman	Technical Advisor	USDA	Rumbek	July 23, 2007
Kate Jackson	Program Coordinator	Women for Women International	Rumbek	July 23, 2007
Rebecca Yar Kuc	Shareholder, Manager	Kony-rot	Rumbek	July 24, 2007
Rebecca Athieng Riak	N/A	Key Informant, Muchi Group, DRDA	Rumbek	July 24, 2007
Sharti Yabu Marko	N/A	Key Informant, Muchi Group, DRDA	Rumbek	July 24, 2007
Anyang Maguen Hoklei	N/A	Key Informant, Ager Gum Bake Pinyda Group, Mallou Barracks	Rumbek	July 24, 2007
Rebecca Dut	N/A	Key Informant, Ager Gum Bake Pinyda Group, Mallou Barracks	Rumbek	July 24, 2007
Natalina Chukudum Pol	Director of Gender and Social Affairs	Government of Southern Sudan, Ministry of Social Affairs, Lakes State	Rumbek	July 25, 2007
Louis Sherwood	Head of Support for Local Initiatives	Children of the World/Enfants du Monde	Wau	July 26, 2007
Mariana Biri Filberto	Director	Women's Development Group (WDG)	Wau	July 26, 2007
Ameena Tabu	Food Protection Officer	World Food Programme	Wau	July 26, 2007
Jonathan Hunter	WATSAN Program Manager	ACTED	Wau	July 26, 2007
Faisal Saliah	Assistant Project Manager	CARE	Wau	July 27, 2007
Rebecca Garang de Mabior	Presidential Advisor on Gender and Human Rights	Government of Southern Sudan, Juba	Juba	July 28, 2007
Deng Dau	Chairman	Southern Sudan Commission on War Disabled,	Juba	July 31, 2007

Anastasia Akujo Zacharia	Director	Widows and Orphans Government of Southern Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs	Juba	July 31, 2007
Anna Hadjixiros	Program Officer	UNICEF	Juba	August 1, 2007
Christopher Suru	Managing Director	Living Water Children's Home for Boys	Juba	August 1, 2007
Alesio Clement	Managing Director	PACT	Kapoeta	August 2, 2007
Edith Rex	N/A	Key Informant, ERADA Women's Group	Kapoeta	August 2, 2007
Regina Fulgensu	N/A	Key Informant, ERADA Women's Group	Kapoeta	August 2, 2007
Louise Skilling, Theresa Angelo	PSI	Program Officers	Juba	August 3, 2007
Wani Sulleh	President	Juba University	Juba	August 6, 2007
Amel Gorani	Former Gender Advisor at USAID/SISP	Independent Consultant	Khartoum	August 7, 2007
Dr. Balghis Badri	IWGDS Director	Ahfad University	Khartoum	August 8, 2007
Lindsay McMahon	Return and Reintegration of Qualified Sudanese (RQS) Coordinator	International Office on Migration (IOM)	Khartoum	August 8, 2007

Appendix D: Focus Group Agenda and Questionnaire

Focus Group Agenda and Guidelines

Each focus group will begin with a warm up/introductory session. Facilitators will lead and share personal information as appropriate (age, nationality, familial status). Participants will be provided with food and drinks. Focus groups will preferably be held in a non-governmental facility within the community. Focus Groups will be held in English with translation into Juba Arabic and responses provided in participant's language of choice (Juba Arabic or English). Additional translation assistance for Dinka native speakers may be required in Rumbek and Wau and will be recruited as necessary.

The following questions are provided as a guide.

Demographics and Outlook

Where are you from (relative to ethnic group identification)?

What is your age?

Are you married? At what age did you marry?

How many children do you have?

Do they go to school?

Did you go to school? Up to which level?

What is your biggest concern for your family in your daily life (i.e. probe for safety, nutrition, shelter, health, etc.)?

Access to Basic Services

How do you get your water for bathing, cooking and drinking?

Who carries the water?

A variety of future projects may take place including transportation, water and sanitation, energy/electricity projects. Please rate them in the order of highest importance.

How often do you and family members get sick? What time of year do you get sick?*

How far is the closest hospital to you? How far is the closest health clinic?

How far is the closest primary school to you? Is there a secondary school in the area?

Time Use

How much water do you bring per day and how long does this take?

Who is responsible for child/elder care?

In your daily routine, which type of chore takes up the most time – gathering fuel to cook, traveling on foot/vehicle, transporting water?

If you had access to electricity, how would your daily routine change (i.e. probe for what activities they would add – further education, sew, etc.)? Do you think you would manage to do more or less work?

Do you spend more or less time in the rainy season on certain household activities? Or is your work load the same throughout the year?

Gender Equity Questions Related to Employment/Training

How do you feel about your wife working outside the home and earning an income?

OR

How do you think your husband would feel if you were offered training or income earning opportunities outside the home?

Who makes the majority of decisions in the home?

Does the decision maker consult the other spouse? If so, on which types of issues?

Do both spouses work outside the home?

Who makes financial decisions in the family (re: food purchases, health care, children's education)?

Are there any types of jobs that you think are for men only or that you would not like your wife to participate in?

* Questions related to health are geared towards identifying regular outbreaks of water-borne diseases in these communities. Care will be taken, however, in asking personal health questions due to the stigma attached to illness, particularly HIV/AIDS.

Appendix E: Meeting Minutes

Meeting with Zamzam Kome, Performance and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist Louis Berger Capacity Building Component (CBC) July 13, 2007

Meeting Attendants: Zamzam Kome, Linda Owino, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

Capacity Building Component HIV/AIDS and Gender Assessment

Zamzam Kome provided an update to the Louis Berger SISP gender and vulnerability assessment team on the HIV/AIDS and gender assessment conducted by Dr. Judy Benjamin under LBG's Capacity Building Component (CBC).

In April 2007, Dr. Benjamin carried out focus groups with Ministry of Transportation Staff while developing a draft strategic HIV/AIDS framework for the CBC. This plan will be modified to reflect the goals of the Government of Southern Sudan's (GoSS) new National HIV/AIDS Strategic framework and gender policy that are currently in development and which should be instituted in September 2007. As part of this effort, GoSS representatives and other key stakeholders had been attending an HIV/AIDS conference in Rumbek the week of July 9th.

Zamzam Kome agreed to provide Dr. Benjamin's focus group report and M/E indicators established for the CBC project to the SISP gender and vulnerability assessment team. The M/E indicators were developed by Joy Larson of USAID and refined, with the assistance of a consultant from Citizens International, to allow for sex disaggregation.

Follow On Activities

Linda Owino agreed to forward the SISP team a list of NGOs in Juba to facilitate the scheduling of meetings and focus groups and prioritize the contact list.

Zamzam suggested the SISP gender and vulnerability assessment team meet with the following individuals:

- (1) Ms. Mary Kiden, Minister of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs or Director Anastasia Akujo, Director, Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs (dependent on availability)
- (2) Madame Rebecca Garang de Mabior, Presidential Advisor on Gender and Human Rights
- (3) Mrs. Awut Deng, Labor, Public Service & Human Resource Development and Former Presidential Advisor on Gender and Human Rights
- (4) Mama Lucy, Director, Women's Self Help Group located in Juba Reha on the GLRA compound. The CBC team has worked with Mama Lucy and suggested that she can assist in recruitment of individuals for the focus groups.
- (5) Lucy Luguga, UNIFEM

The CBC team suggested that most meetings can easily be organized by making unscheduled visits to the contacts' offices with the exception of Madame Garang and Ms. Kiden, with whom appointments are critical.

**Meeting with Sanja Djurica, Senior Program Coordinator
American Relief Committee (ARC)
July 13, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Sanja Djurica, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

Sanja Djurica is the ARC's Senior Program Coordinator and main contact for ARC's gender activities. Her duties include coordinating all ARC's multi-sector projects and ensuring that projects fulfill ARC's overall strategic objectives.

Background on American Relief Committee (ARC) in Sudan

ARC began Sudan relief operations in 1994 and operations were managed from the ARC/Kampala office until recently. ARC's Southern Sudan office is now based in Juba with Equatoria field offices in Yei County, Kajo Keji County, Magwi County (Nimule), and the town of Malakal in Upper Nile state. ARC has previously worked in Rumbek and may possibly open an office in Wau, in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP).

ARC generally operates multi-sector and integrated programs in the areas of health, gender based violence, water, sanitation, micro-enterprise development and training and outreach to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnee communities.

Nimule

Nimule, located Magwi county, is a town that has been severely affected by the North-South civil war and more recently by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and rampant militia activity in the area. ARC is only one of 5-6 international organizations operating in Nimule; Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) are two NGOs that have a major presence in the town. There is no UN presence in Nimule because of ongoing insecurity.

IDPs and Returnees

Nimule is a haven for long-term IDP communities that are unwilling or unable to return home as well as some recently returned Sudanese refugees who had been living in camps in Uganda and other areas. The first group of long-term IDPs comes primarily from Bor.

The relative stability in Southern Sudan over the past two years has allowed refugees to return through Nimule and a small number of returnees have settled in larger IDP settlements in an effort to gain access to relief assistance and minimize the risk of LRA activities.

HIV/AIDS and GBV Interventions

Over the past two years, Nimule and the entire Magwi County have experienced increases in cross-border trade and population movement, most notably in Kaya where reported HIV/AIDS infection rates have dramatically increased. No major HIV testing campaign or activities have been conducted in the area, however, ARC is running an HIV/AIDS awareness program and is currently operating a voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) center.

In Yei, ARC has partnered with ACROSS to develop radio shows in order raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and is publishing a magazine on HIV/AIDS issues that is geared towards the youth. Widows, Orphans and People Living with HIV/AIDS (WOPHA), a local CBO, has created a Friendship Club for HIV positive people and is working to move people to Uganda for access to

anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs). WOPHA has built a safe space day center in Yei which provides psychosocial counseling (group and individual), outreach and cooperative micro-enterprise opportunities (brick-making, knitting and sewing) for many women, some of whom are widows and GBV survivors. Additionally, ARC is also sponsoring ten girl soccer teams and provided the players with HIV/AIDS and VCT training. The girl teams have proven to be very successful with the whole community coming out to support their games.

ARC also provides home based care teams in Yei which often identify severe GBV cases that go unreported. ARC is actively working to form GBV community protection teams and record confidential case files. Rape, wife inheritance, sexual violence en route to and in schools (teacher and student perpetrators) are prevalent issues that ARC is working with communities to address. The town of Yei has developed a strong GBV working group, chaired by ARC but organized and run by a local CBO, the South Sudan Law Society (SSLS) in an effort to build local capacity and sustainability after ARC projects are complete. The working group includes local police units and various NGOs, including UNIFEM, CIVPOL and NPA who meet weekly in an effort to develop a referral system for GBV survivors. Basic training on medical assistance and rape kits are being provided by ARC and the United Nations Civilian Police (CIVPOL) are keeping case files on GBV crimes. NPA is also planning to provide a paralegal service to reduce the current legal impunity that currently exists in the area.

A GBV assessment was done in March and ARC will provide LBG with the final report.

Follow-On Activities

ARC will assist LBG's gender and vulnerability assessment team by providing logistical support and lodging for LBG staff at the ARC compound in Nimule.

ARC also provided Tara Lacey, the ARC Regional Micro-Enterprise Development (MED), as a contact for additional information on ARC's micro-enterprise activities that support local cooperatives through training, credit, savings and loans.

**Meeting with Mary Guidice, Head of Office
International Organization of Migration
July 14, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Mary Guidice, Andy Bailey, Erin Williams, and Stella Kenyi

Overview

Andy Bailey, SISP IQC Manager, arranged a meeting with Mary Guidice, Head of Office, International Organization of Migration (IOM) to introduce the Louis Berger Group (LBG) team and discuss the Sudan Infrastructure Services Program (SISP). IOM is an LBG partner in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded SISP indefinite quantity contract (IQC).

IOM, an inter-governmental organization, works to ensure the orderly management of migration and provides humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

IOM's Southern Sudan office provides support to returnees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) through a variety of activities such as transportation assistance, tracking and monitoring, construction and management of way-stations, information campaigns, etc. To address immediate humanitarian needs, IOM is implementing early reintegration projects in areas heavily impacted by returns, including water projects and the rehabilitation of health and school facilities.

IOM has a major presence in Malakal, Wau, Bentiu, Malakon, and Warap. Additionally, it will possibly surge program activities in Malakal and is developing water projects in Northern Bahr El Ghazal. IOM presently operates fifteen water projects funded by several bilateral and multilateral donors including ECHO and USAID and an assessment is in progress for fifteen water points.

Due to its lengthy presence in Sudan, IOM has cultivated strong working relationships and access to government officials and ministries. IOM and Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SRRC) are currently in the process of developing Joint Information Centers (JICs) in 4 states as the primary mechanisms to share information on returnees and IDPs. The JICs are expected to be fully operational by September 2007. Because the GoSS currently allocates approximately 47% of its budget to the military, its ability to aggressively undertake large social development efforts and to meet the needs of returnees and IDPs is limited.

IDPS and Returnees

IOM has tracked and monitored over 60,000 returnees and has provided transportation assistance to several thousand over the past six months. Although monitoring and tracking systems for IDPs and returnees are in place, instances of spontaneous returns and IDP movement have become more significant. Community survey assessments in Aweil may soon become available and additional data on the returnees and IDPs will be obtained when the census is conducted (expected in November 2007).

Major repatriation of IDPs and returnees has been temporarily halted until the rainy season is over and will likely re-start in September 2007. In addition, the Yei-Maridi road, which may be used for return efforts, is very degraded and UNOPS may be in the process of rebuilding. The World Bank is planning to rehabilitate the Kaya-Yei-Juba road. Many returnees are also expected to go to Bor,

where UNHCR and UNICEF are active, after the rainy season which makes Jonglei state mostly inaccessible. Water resources will continue to be a source of conflict in Jonglei as only Bor town has access to water points.

Gender Issues and Vulnerable Groups

IOM has cross-cutting program activities that incorporate gender and vulnerability issues. In Kajo Keji, female IDPs have refused to return home until better roads are opened as they fear crossing into Uganda because of the threat of repeated rape and sexual assault.

Unaccompanied elders, which make up 13-18% of those receiving IOM assistance are regarded as the most vulnerable and marginalized. The elderly are considered a high risk group because they often lack an extended family or a network to fall back on and cannot afford to pay younger people to help them build shelters, carry water or fuel or perform other household duties. Furthermore, returnee program activities often do not target the elderly and most become invisible in their communities and are not revered or respected, as is commonly assumed. IOM is developing a proposal centered on training of trainers (ToT) programs for the elderly to develop roles for them within their communities as peace builders as younger generations have no practical knowledge of a peaceful Sudan. In addition, IOM hopes to also train them in basic public health and hygiene matters which they can recommend and implement within communities.

Return and Reintegration of Qualified Sudanese (RQS)

In an attempt to contribute to immediate relief assistance as well as the long-term development, IOM is addressing some of the critical gaps in the country's human resources needs through the return and reintegration of skilled, qualified and highly qualified Sudanese among the IDP, refugee, and Diaspora populations. The Return and Reintegration of Qualified Sudanese (RQS) program targets Sudanese with training and experience in the fields of education, health, infrastructure, and agriculture, whom seeking to return to Southern Sudan.

**Meeting with Silvia Pasti, UNICEF Chief Child Protection Coordinator
July 14, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Silvia Pasti, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi met with Silvia Pasti, UNICEF's Chief Child Protection Officer, to discuss UNICEF's activities and how the organization is reaching vulnerable children and youth in Southern Sudan. Ms. Pasti, who arrived in Juba two months prior, currently manages the UNICEF child protection officers who are implementing the field projects.

Since September 2005, UNICEF has operated in the 10 states of Southern Sudan including Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) areas and the former government of Sudan (GoS) controlled garrison towns. UNICEF has essentially had a two pronged approach to its program in Sudan. It is attempting to increase coverage of basic social services while simultaneously building institutional capacity and policy frameworks with the new GoSS. UNICEF programs continue to also promote the survival, protection and well-being of children in conflict- and disaster-affected areas and are highly involved in water and sanitation programs.

Child Soldiers and Vulnerable Youth

At the behest of the Government of South Sudan, UNICEF is providing vocational training and livelihood programs to some child soldiers that are undergoing the Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration (DDR) process. UNICEF began the program in 2005 with 1,000 children targeted.

The majority of children in the DDR process are boys but there is an unknown level of female child soldiers in the SPLA. Most of these children are now approximately 13-14 and have never been to school and have instead lived in a military setting their entire lives. As official Sudanese law recognizes the age of 14 as the minimum for employment, demobilized child soldiers are viewed as adults within their communities and are expected to provide for themselves and take on adult roles and responsibilities. Livelihood opportunities, following the DDR process, are therefore key to preventing criminal behavior or a return to military life.

Over 1,000 children have undergone the DDR process and are registered in the DDR commission's computerized database with an additional 800 remaining registered with the SPLA. Protocols and a tracking system have been developed to monitor reintegrated children but it is unreliable due to the spontaneous movement of people.

The issue of street children and unaccompanied minors is also significant. Ms. Pasti offered to put the LBG team in touch with a local child protection officer who could provide more information on Living Water Children's Centre, a home for vulnerable boys, in Juba.

**Meeting with Mama Lucy, Program Director, Women's Self Help Group,
July 16, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Mama Lucy, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

The LBG team held a brief introductory meeting with Mama Lucy, Director of the Women's Self Help Group (WSHG) in Juba, who was recovering from illness.

WSHG was created during the North-South civil war to provide vocational training and capacity building opportunities for women. Mama Lucy has been the Program Director until now, but will soon assume an advisory role as the organization transitions to new leadership.

The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is currently sponsoring a food processing training workshop for the Women's Self Help Group on Friday July 20, 2006 with all group members in attendance. Mama Lucy invited the Louis Berger SISP Gender and Vulnerable Groups Assessment team to attend the workshop and to then discuss the facilitation of focus groups with WSHG participants and within the Juba community.

**Meeting with Stephen Ojune, Health Service Manager,
American Refugee Committee (ARC)
July 17, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Stephen Ojune, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

Location: ARC Office, Nimule

Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi were briefed on ARC activities by Stephen Ojune at their office in Nimule, Southern Sudan. Mr. Ojune manages ARC's health programs in Malakal, Kajo Keji, Yei and Nimule and has been with ARC since 2002 and previously worked with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Sudan since 1995. ARC's programs are focused on the following health sectors: primary health care, HIV/AIDS, Gender Based Violence (GBV), home based care, and reproductive health. In Malakal, it offers reproductive health services only but has extensive programming in Yei, which began its HIV/AIDS programming in 2002 and expanded this to Rumbek. Water and sanitation projects are also active in Yei, Kajo Keji and Nimule.

ARC's Presence in Nimule

ARC established its Nimule program office in 2000 in order to provide basic services to a population of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) that had moved into the area. The programs are primarily centered on health, water and sanitation. In the past, the programs were concentrated in Nimule town center, as well as Pageri, Mogali, and Magwi payams. However, due to persistent insecurity in Magwi payam from LRA and militia attacks, a large number of IDPs relocated to Nimule's town center for safety. As a result, Nimule is facing a severe service burden, especially in the areas of primary health care, water and sanitation.

Health Care Services

Nimule is located in the cholera and meningitis belt that extends from Ethiopia to West Africa. The town and surrounding areas face yearly incidences of cholera, meningitis and acute diarrhea with heavy outbreaks in the spring of 2007. Approximately 19,000 IDPs fled their camp in Mogali, 11 km outside Nimule, to the town center in December 2005 with additional populations continuing to arrive in Nimule, increasing the demand for health care and other basic services. Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin) operates the only hospital in Nimule and the Diocese of Torit (DOT) runs a smaller hospital supported by the Catholic Church, though most people prefer the free hospital run by Merlin.

As of 2005, ARC had 11 health facilities in operation but currently operates only six facilities - five Primary Healthcare Units (PHU) that provide outpatient services and one Primary Healthcare Center (PHC) which offers inpatient services as security services have drained the budget. In addition, ARC has 20 volunteer home based care workers who provide help to those unable to reach health facilities. ARC runs the PHC and two PHUs in the payams outside Nimule. The PHC provides patients with curative, promotional, and preventative medical care as well as laboratory services. The PHC is manned by a registered medical assistant and can admit patients. The PHUs are manned by community health care workers, who refer patients to PHC or the hospital.

HIV/AIDS

Merlin operates the only voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) center in Nimule which opened in 2005. Patients diagnosed with HIV are referred to hospitals in Arua or Koboko, Uganda for anti-

retroviral (ARV) drugs. In 2006, ARC conducted an HIV/AIDS sensitization and awareness program for World Food Programme (WFP) teams rehabilitating the Yei-Nimule road; however, the program has recently ended due to lack of funding. The program utilized Family Health International's (FHI) behavioral change and communication materials as well as ARC's Straight Talk magazine, which targets the youth, in the construction camps and surrounding communities. Two behavioral change communication officers traveled with videos and other outreach materials to the WFP work camps and local communities near the camps to generate awareness of HIV/AIDS to at risk populations.

Internally Displaced Persons

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have almost entirely relocated to Nimule. Most local IDPs are from Bamure, Mangalatorre, and Kerwa, although the majority of the IDPs originate from Bor and Northern Bahr El Ghazal. Additionally, cross border migration and sporadic influxes of returnees have increased the population in Nimule. Constant displacement and return have created tension within the community as squatters (many of whom are IDPs) have taken over abandoned homes and businesses. Rightful owners are now returning and property rights are becoming a more significant issue.

Three camps were established for the IDP and returnees with basic services provides such as PHUs, mosquito nets, and water points. ARC estimates that approximately 37,000 returnees and IDPs are living in and around Nimule.

Water and Sanitation

Due to the dramatic increase in population, Nimule is in dire need of clean water and proper sanitation systems. Water systems are recommended for areas with over 20,000 people and with Nimule's population almost doubling, there are serious water and sanitation needs. In close coordination with each community's sanitation committee, ARC'S Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) team provides access to boreholes that provide safe water, tools to dig pit latrines and awareness workshops to introduce basic hygiene issues.

**Meeting with Simon Rukwaro, Medical Emergency Relief International (MERLIN),
Voluntary Counseling and Testing Center Manager
July 18, 2007**

Attendees: Stephen Ojune, ARC, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi, LBG and Simon Rukwaro and Deborah, MERLIN

Location: Nimule Hospital, VCT Center

Stephen Ojune from the American Refugee Committee (ARC), and Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi visited the Nimule hospital operated by Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin) to ascertain the type of health and VCT services the hospital provides.

Nimule Hospital

Merlin operates a 170 bed hospital in Nimule, the only free hospital in the corridor which serves a daily average of 180-250 patients. The Nimule hospital also receives referral cases from other neighboring payams and counties and patients also come from Uganda for free medication. The hospital has a fully functional laboratory, operating room and a voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) Center. After a short briefing with Deborah, the hospital matron, the group met with Stephen Rukwaro, the Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) center manager.

Merlin's VCT

Merlin opened the only VCT in Nimule in 2005. The VCT tests for HIV and tuberculosis, which often is an opportunistic infection and indicative of HIV. The VCT serves, on average, 200 patients a month of whom approximately 5-12 test positive. HIV positive patients are referred to Arua or Gulu in Uganda for CD4+ counts and anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs. Initially, more male patients visited the VCT center (attributed to the high SPLA troop presence in the area) but more recently, female visitors have increased substantially. In addition to counseling and testing, the VCT also run awareness and sensitization campaigns in local schools which have resulted in an increase of 15-17 year old visitors. A support group with six attendees meets every Friday. Little testing is done on pregnant women or children, and only those children suspected of being infected (repeated illness and visits to the hospital) are tested.

Follow On

Simon Rukwaro will provide the LBG's gender and vulnerability assessment team with sex disaggregated data from VCT information accumulated since its opening.

**Meeting with Keaji Cezarena, Nimule Payam, Deputy Administrator
Nimule Payam
July 18, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Keaji Cezarena, Stephen Ojune, Jackson Inyani, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

The LBG gender and vulnerability assessment team were accompanied by Stephen Ojune and Jackson Inyani from the ARC to meet Keaji Cezarena, the Deputy Administrator for Nimule Payam.

Statistics

The group received the following statistics from the Payam Office:

As of May 2007, Nimule town center's estimated total population is 34,598 with approximately 7,402 local residents, 11,744 returnees and 13,412 IDPs. Nimule payam has an average of 6 people per household.

The majority of the IDPs are Dinka (Upper Nile, Bor, and Torit); however, local IDPs from Magwi county (Acholis and Lotukos) also reside in Nimule.

Follow on Activities

The Deputy Administrator suggested that LBG gender and vulnerability assessment team meet with the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SRRC) office in Juba for new population data.

Meeting with Lucie Luguga, UNIFEM, Southern Sudan July 21, 2007

Meeting Attendants: Lucie Luguga, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

UNIFEM, the United Nations women's development fund, has the mandate to address the following issues throughout Sudan: gender justice, women and girls' access to basic services and women's rights and representation.

Women presently constitute 65% of the population in South Sudan. To its credit, the GoSS has instituted a quota in its constitution requiring 25% of government positions be filled by women. UNIFEM is thus providing support at national, state and grassroots (boma and payam) levels to increase the capacity of women and promote sensitization on women's rights.

In February 2007, UNIFEM conducted a national workshop on gender justice. The major issues that topped the agenda were: access to basic services, gender based violence, political involvement and the upcoming elections in 2008 -2009 and education. UNIFEM will be conducting a workshop in Yei to discuss women's involvement in the next election and the census. This workshop will focus on the following and may eventually be rolled out in the 10 states but not at the national level:

- Specific cultural prohibitions such as counting children which can create problems in the census data gathered and information on maternal mortality. Many payams have never even been counted in any census and the need for accurate census data will be stressed in these workshops.
- Elections and how women can participate and run for office and plan for growth in their political life.
- Access to justice systems which are currently based on customary law. There are currently 100 legal counsels appointed by Southern Sudan but women have little representation.
- Gender based violence, women's rights under the constitution, UN resolutions and the issue of HIV/AIDS.

UNIFEM Recommendations

The UNIFEM representative recommended that the LBG gender and vulnerability assessment team take the following issues into consideration during the assessment:

- The concept of women's empowerment is new in Sudan.
- Gender sensitization programs should not break cultural norms but rather ensure new activities and programs are acceptable within communities by ensuring male engagement.
- Training could be linked to female education and the prevention of early marriage, a topic on which there is little available information. UNIFEM has begun to discuss this with local police at the boma level.

Follow on Activities

Ms. Luguga identified the following grass roots organizations working outside of Juba - the Duk Women's Center for Development and the Hapanari Women's Welfare Association which are planning a workshop with Pact support. UNIFEM as well as multiple organizations in Sudan are waiting data from the census which is to be conducted in November 2007.

**Meeting with Natalina Chukudum Pol, Director
Government of South Sudan, Lakes State Ministry of Gender and Social Affairs
July 25, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Natalina Chukudum Pol, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

Location: Lakes State Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare, Rumbek

Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi held a briefing meeting with Director Chukudum at the Lakes Ministry of Gender and Social Affairs office in Rumbek, Sudan.

Gender Directorate Activities

The Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare coordinates the program activities for the 8 counties in the Lakes State and employs eight social workers. Program activities are targeted towards widows, blind and deaf, and street children. UNICEF and Save the Children Fund (SCF): Sweden /United Kingdom provided training for these social workers.

Presently, the social workers are conducting assessments in the eight counties. Mrs. Chukudum will conduct analysis of the data and submit a comprehensive report to the GoSS Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare in Rumbek. In addition, the Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare also chairs a monthly gender working group meeting with several international organizations and local institutions. Members of the working group include UNMIS, UNICEF, SCF, ARC, WFP, Maltesar, Women for Women International, and representatives from the police, prisons, judiciary and youth association. In addition to gender issues, the group addresses crosscutting issues including IDPs and HIV/AIDS. The Ministry is also mobilizing women in each county to develop a women's group. A conference will be held in each of the eight counties and a chairperson elected. The conference will begin in late September or early October 2007. In the long term, the ministry would like to develop community-based centers in each county but currently lacks the funds to do so.

The Diaspora community has helped to fund the Bahr El Ghazal Women's Development Center with support from Christian Aid for salaries and credit for income generating activities including tukuls for rent, however these activities have ceased. The sustainability of the NGO funded CBOs, such as Panda Hotel and Kony-rot, is on the decline due to lack of steady funding.

With the increasing amount of street children and vulnerable youth in Lakes state, the Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare is lobbying NGOs to develop a vocational training center. The closest vocational training center is currently located in Western Equatoria and is virtually inaccessible for residents of Lakes state.

Follow On Activities

Director Chukudum will provide a copy of her assessment of the eight counties when complete and provided the team with her contact information.

**Meeting with Aameena Tabu, Food Protection Officer
World Food Programme
July 26, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Aameena Tabu and Stella Kenyi

Location: World Food Programme, Wau, Sudan

The World Food Programme (WFP) aims to save lives, improve and sustain the nutritional status of vulnerable populations and promote peace. The two core elements of the Sudan program are school feeding and food-for-work. Additionally, WFP is undertaking three different special operations: emergency road repairs, mine clearance and humanitarian air services.

Transport

WFP has prioritized the Raja-Wau road as it provides access for food-aid delivery to Western Kordofan and Darfur. The road has been made impassible due to the destruction of two key bridges at Sopa and Kuru. Raja is currently only accessible by motorbike.

IDPs

In the past two years, the number of IDPs around Wau has reduced from 72,000 in 2005 to approximately 22,000 today. Most IDPs camps are deserted with many IDPs opting to return home.

Food Sources

WFP Wau is amassing food provisions for the planned movement of several thousand IDPs from Khartoum to Wau en route to Tonj, Thiet and Marial Lou in Warap state. WFP plans to provide food assistance to these returnees now and when then they begin relocating in the dry season.

Women's Groups in Wau

Several women's groups are presently operating in Wau including WATAP, Women's Development Group, Sawa Sawa, and Binte el Belde.

**Meeting with Louise Sherwood
Head of Support for Local Initiatives, Children of the World
July 26, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Louise Sherwood, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

The LBG team held an introductory meeting with Louise Sherwood to discuss ongoing gender and vulnerability initiatives in Wau.

Children of the World

Louise Sherwood, currently the Head of Support for Local Initiatives, was previously based in Khartoum where she worked for SIHA (Strategic Initiative for Women and Girls in the Horn of Africa), an advocacy group for women's rights in the Horn of Africa and Sudan. A key contact for SIHA is Hala Alkarib, the director of SIHA and based in Khartoum.

Ms. Sherwood previously researched and wrote articles on women's rights for the *Juba Post* on street girls and domestic laborers but limitations on photography prevented the articles from being published in UK magazines. Her other work has included research and work with street children in Khartoum. Though relatively low prevalence rates exist in Khartoum, very limited HIV/AIDS efforts and awareness campaigns (including the halt of a condom campaign), the denial of the need for behavior change due to unrecognized risky activities including pre-marital sex, adultery and limited condom availability will likely contribute to a future increase in infection rates.

Gender and Vulnerability Issues and Projects in Wau

Children of the World is primarily working in Wau with street boys is active in Wau, Khartoum and Darfur. The Wau office has 20 employees and three programs in Wau. Other vulnerable populations such as co-mingled IDP and returnee settlements exist on the outskirts of Wau and NGOs such as Oxfam and ACTED are actively working on water and sanitation projects. ACTED is also rebuilding the road between Raja and Wau. CARE, however, is the only agency in Wau working on gender issues with Oxfam and Children of the World involved, to an extent, on rural livelihood initiatives for women for which the Ministry of Agriculture has donated land. WATAP, a CBO, provides programmatic support through an adult literacy and child care component of the project. CARE is doing some income generation projects for women in six IDP camps but is also heavily involved in advocacy work, training on lobbying and workshops and working with the women's legislative assembly. Though a significant number of women are in the legislative assembly (close to the 25% quota), social barriers and limitations prevent them from actively supporting local women.

**Meeting with Mariana Biri Filberto, Director,
Women's Development Group, Wau, Sudan
July 26, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Mariana Biri Filberto, John Anikpara and Erin Williams

Erin Williams met with Ms. Mariana Biri Filberto, Director of the Women's Development Group (WDG) of Wau and Mr. John Anikpara, Assistant Manager for Food Security, to discuss gender and vulnerability issues in Wau and WDG activities in the community and arrange focus groups.

The Women's Development Group

WDG is one of several active women's organizations in Wau and currently offers training in handicraft income generation for local women as well as awareness programs on HIV/AIDS and women and children's rights. Handicrafts, such as baskets, knitted and beaded placemats produced by local women, are presented in exhibitions for sale. In the community, many women are involved in agricultural and pastoral activities such as cultivating maize, beans, groundnuts and sweet potatoes and also raising goats and other animals. WDG offer micro-credit to women in the community to also assist them with income generation.

Communities in Wau are confronted with a variety of issues, including limited water resources from dried up wells and broken hand pumps, causing people to resort to drinking any water they can find, especially during the dry season. Wau is currently experiencing its first major outbreak of cholera, with several reported deaths.

Ms. Filberto and Mr. Anikpara agreed to assist the LBG team to recruit male and female focus group participants from Hai Jebel Khay in Wau, a community in which WDG is active, and to also provide translation assistance.

**Meeting with Jonathan Hunter, WATSAN Program Manager
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Wau, Sudan
July 26, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Jonathan Hunter, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

The LBG team met with Jonathan Hunter, WATSAN Program Manager, ACTED, to discuss water and sanitation activities in Wau.

ACTED Activities and WATSAN Program

Mr. Hunter, WATSAN Program Manager in Wau, provided the LBG team with an overview of program activities. ACTED is currently involved in hygiene education and rehabilitation and construction of latrines in the area as well as some water point assistance in Wau, which has a population of approximately 200,000.

ACTED plans to expand their work to all schools in the area by May and will include 25 primary schools and 5 or 6 secondary schools.

ACTED works with the Rural Water Department (RWD), which is responsible for new boreholes and the rehabilitation of existing boreholes. NGOs provided financial assistance to this government institution, which is headed by Marcello, the Director. UNICEF currently supports the RWD which falls under the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure.

Mr. Hunter confirmed the cholera outbreak in Wau and noted that there is a task force now in place to identify vulnerable water sources and test them. Oxfam is providing assistance with testing. RWD, though heavily supported by NGOs, heads this task force. Other task force members include UNICEF, the Danish Red Cross, RCO for UNDP and Islamic Relief. However, there is no coordination with the GoSS local health department. This lack of streamlined coordination and limited institutional capacity makes effective and timely interventions challenging.

Key problem areas in the management of Wau water resources include issues related to corruption and the proper delegation of duties. UNICEF provides extensive resources but does not enforce accountability with the local government - because of questionable cost estimates and management, ACTED chose to pursue a contract with JP Drilling, a private contractor located in Rumbek, rather than the RWD, to drill boreholes in Wau. JP Drilling provided reliable services and uses local employees to build capacity.

**Meeting with Faisal Saliah, Assistant Project Manager
CARE International
July 27, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Faisal Saliah, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

Location: CARE Office, Wau, Sudan

Background

CARE North Sudan is implementing Phase II of the Women's Rights and Empowerment program in Wau, Sudan with the objective of strengthening civil society in Wau. The main groups targeted are IDPs, returnees, and women's CBOs. The program includes the following components:

1. Community development in the six IDP/returnee camps of Mariel Bai, Mariel Agis, Barial, Pageri Jedit, Salvation and Eastern Bank through the establishment of a women's CBO in each camp with approximately 50-60 female members
2. Human rights, peace building, and conflict resolution training for camp residents and the possible extension of this for male and five female sultans.
3. Handicraft training and livelihood activities for these women
4. Micro-credit for women's income generation projects.

In addition, CARE provides financial support for five women's CBOs in Wau - WATAP, WDG, Labina, Banda, and Binte el Belde which submit proposals for CARE funding. Each CBO focuses on different issues and all the groups were involved in Phases I and II of the Women's Rights and Empowerment project. WATAP is the most well established group and receives funding for paralegal assistance to GBV survivors and Labina is focused on girls' education and the elimination of harmful traditional practices. Banda works on human and women's rights.

CARE promotes the strengthening of civil society in Wau through a 26 member NGO network that includes some political parties. This network, which monitors the implementation of the CPA and women role in it, is registered with the Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare with its own constitution and bank account and it holds weekly meetings at WATAP and reports to CARE on a monthly basis. CARE provides the network with outside consultation on lobbying activities but encourages local ownership of the process.

Advocacy is another key area in which CARE works and lobbies the Government of Sudan on GBV and HIV/AIDS issues and for its endorsement of international agreements, such as CEDAW and the implementation of national agreements such as the 25% female quota as required under the CPA.

CARE North Sudan in the process of transitioning its Wau operations to CARE South Sudan. CARE North Sudan has been operating in Wau since 1998 and its strength is in relief and humanitarian work rather than development projects. To ensure the sustainability of the current program, CARE North Sudan plans to link the 5 CBOs and the 6 IDP camps activities, for which they can provide support.

Follow-on Activities

CARE North Sudan agreed to escort the LBG team on a visit to either Pageri Jedit or Salvation camp and assist the team with recruitment for focus groups.

**Meeting with Deng Dau, Chairman
Southern Sudan Commission on War Disabled, Widows and Orphans
July 31, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Deng Dau, Chairman, Sophia Pal, Commissioner, Madame Njok, Commissioner, Tito Panaba and Abbas, Deputy Chairman, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

Deng Dau is the acting Chairman of the Southern Sudan Commission on War Disabled, Widows and Orphans and met with the LBG gender and vulnerability team to discuss the Commission's activities.

Southern Sudan Commission on War Disabled, Widows and Orphans

Chairman Deng introduced some of his staff and provided background information on the structure and function of the commission, which the GoSS funds to address the needs of the war disabled, widows and orphans - a large portion of the Southern Sudanese population.

Chairman Deng noted that the CBC initially provided support in assisting with policy development office set up. However, the commission continues to need support in empowerment activities and capacity building, skills training for female headed households (FHH) and other civil society activities with access to employment a key objective for this constituency, especially widows who are very isolated and marginalized in Southern Sudan. Areas of concern also include physical rehabilitation, the social re-integration of returnees and DDR soldiers and economic empowerment.

The Commission agreed that the classification of qualifying vulnerable persons is very difficult and limited resources require exposure to donors for additional funding. The Commission's team has visited 8 of 10 states to date but and the difficulty and expense of transportation is a key challenge to the effectiveness of the Commission. The sporadic and constant population movements increase the difficulty of tracking qualifying individuals and vulnerable youth. The Commission is relying on the SSCSE for assistance in tracking vulnerable persons through the upcoming census and the SSRC is responsible for tracking returnees. The Commission has identified several other partners including the Presbyterian Evangelical Church Orphanage in Yei, headed by Elias Taban. The Commission hopes to engage another focal point in Jonglei and open a school. WODRANS is another active partner organization with a large compound in Kapoeta (new site) and in Jonglei where they work on capacity building. This organization, which was active throughout the war in SPLA controlled areas, have a school and income generation activities at Kapoeta (new site) and the contact there is Alier Majak.

The Commission currently has 37 staff members in Juba and 20 at the state level, with 2 in each state for a total of 57. Where there is no active presence, the Commission works through the local government to reach these populations.

Outside of these populations' immediate physical and financial needs, the Commission tries to address psychosocial issues, however, there is only one counselor on staff and more training is needed.

The LBG team advised the Commission on its research in Malou Barracks, Rumbek with women (many of whom are war widows) in the military who often unofficially joined or attached themselves to military regiments or barracks for security and/or income. The Commission agreed that their assistance, in both combat and support services (cooking), has gone relatively unrecognized and the

implementation of pensions for war widows is a difficult one because of the many unregistered soldiers who perished in the war and inheritance issues that will arise. In Rumbek, the GoSS has provided land which is being allocated to war widows for homes and businesses and this is also underway in Jonglei. In Wau, the Commission is also lobbying the local government for the same assistance.

**Meeting with Director Anastasia Akujo Zacharia
Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs
July 31, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Director Akujo, Erin Williams, and Stella Kenyi

The LBG team held an introductory meeting with Director Akujo to discuss the SISP and the organization and objectives of the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs.

Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs

Director Akujo informed the team that she met with Dr. Judy Benjamin on the CBC project several months previously and inquired about the strategic plan she was working on. She also informed the LBG team that the Gender Policy the Ministry is developing may not be released in the near future due to lack of funding and resources to share the policy with the states and coordinate their input. As this policy will later lead to legislation, the Ministry believes it is key to vet the draft policy through the states. Director Akujo had planned to present the draft policy in Rumbek in August but currently has no funds with which to travel.

The current budget for the Ministry is set at \$4M and the Director consistently reiterated that funding is a real challenge. She did not indicate the level of staff support the Ministry has but emphasized that they expect to hire more staff later once the offices are complete. The Ministry also does not have Internet access and is temporarily using pre-fabricated offices to house their small staff.

Director Akujo noted that the Presidential Advisor on Gender and Human Rights and the Ministry work closely together and that the Presidential Advisor is present at all Ministry activities, such as workshops on cultivation, which was recently held in Juba. Of the Ministry's objectives, the economic empowerment of women seemed to be a key priority.

The Ministry is currently undertaking an assessment of women in key positions in both the public and private sectors to establish a baseline for Southern Sudan on women's participation. Director Akujo does not anticipate publishing a report within the next year as the research could take up to a year to complete due to limited funds. The Ministry is also investigating opportunities to provide microfinance to women and Director Akujo is preparing a proposal for grants to fund this after recently participating in a one month tour of East and Southern Africa to solicit funding for projects at the Ministry.

The LBG team requested copies of the papers written by Ministry staff which were presented at the UNIFEM workshop on GoSS policies and the Interim Constitution but was unable to secure them.

**Meeting with Anna Hadjixiros
Child Protection Officer, UNICEF, Juba
August 1, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Anna Hadjixiros, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

The LBG team met with Anna Hadjixiros to discuss vulnerability issues related to children and youth in Juba.

UNICEF Protection Activities

UNICEF is involved in protection activities related to demobilizing child soldiers as well as other child related issues. Ms. Hadjixiros confirmed the challenges related to determining vulnerability issues and priorities, namely the lack of reliable and comprehensive statistics. UNICEF currently plans to undertake a youth survey across Sudan to assist the Government of Southern Sudan, UN and other agencies in program planning. Training for researchers and supervisors will begin the week of August 6th for five days.

The survey sample is 4,000 children and youth from the ages of 12-25. 400 respondents in the 10 states will be recruited. The study is funded by UNICEF and the Ministry of Youth and Sports is the coordinator responsible for conducting the survey and recruiting enumerators. A team of five people are assigned to each state and include 4 researchers (2 male, 2 female) and 1 supervisor (male or female). The teams will spend approximately two months in the field collecting data. The Ministry posted advertisements recruiting researchers and supervisors in each of the ten states to ensure ethnic and linguistic diversity and representation and identified candidates. A UNICEF consultant made the final candidate selection.

The survey will ask questions related to HIV/AIDS awareness, early marriage, time use and schooling levels. Ms. Hadjixiros agreed to share the questionnaire with the LBG team as guidance for future survey development. UNICEF also conducted a baseline survey of child protection issues in general. A draft is available and UNICEF may make a final version available to the LBG team at a later date.

**Meeting with Christopher Suru Emmanuel Yanga
Managing Director, Living Water Children's Home, Juba
August 1, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Jessica and Ingrid (UNICEF), Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

UNICEF Child Protection Officers and the LBG team met with Christopher Suru, of the Living Water Children's Home to discuss his organization's activities and youth and vulnerability issues in Juba.

Living Water Children's Home

Mr. Suru runs a children's home for vulnerable boys in Juba. The home currently houses 40 boys between the ages of 8-21, most of whom are between the ages of 14-16. The boys living at the home come from all over Juba and were previously living in Konyo Konya market or in the neighborhoods of Malakia or Talatha where they would beg for scrap food in the market. For the most part, these boys have been driven out of their families' homes and with the exception of only two boys, staff members have been able to identify the boys' local relatives in Juba and register the children at the home. The goal of the home is to eventually reunite the children with their families, many of whom have relinquished responsibility of them because of financial problems or other family issues and 34 of the children at the home are currently planning to reunite with their families.

Living Water Children's Home offers educational opportunities for the children at CMS and Juba Christian Center primary school as well as at a local public school. Tearfund provided the initial start up financial support which allowed the home to open five years prior and Dorcas (Holland) will provide funding through 2007 and its future is unclear as no immediate funding has become available. There are very few resources for vulnerable youth in Juba and Mr. Suru noted that there are currently no resources in Juba for street girls. Plans for this were discussed with the government but no funding is available.

**Meeting with Alesio Clement, Program Manager
PACT Sudan, Kapoeta
August 2, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Alesio Clement, Davis Wafula (KDI), Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi
Location: PACT Sudan Office, Kapoeta, Sudan

PACT Activities

PACT's overall strategic focus in Sudan is to support the implementation of the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Towards this end, the program has identified the following objectives: the restoration of community stability and security; the strengthening of a responsive civil administration; support to an empowered and active civil society and; assisting sustainable community based recovery.

PACT Sudan has been actively involved in Kapoeta since November 2002 and, prior to the signing of the CPA in 2005, focused its efforts on conflict mapping and analysis, water resource issues and ethnic and political conflict to promote dialogue between communities in and around Kapoeta.

After the CPA was signed, PACT Sudan began targeting women and young people by providing constructive solutions to unemployment and conflict. PACT's efforts include supporting local governments, strengthening civil society, and providing access to basic services in and around Kapoeta.

As a border town, Kapoeta faces cross border issues such as cattle raiding and small arms proliferation. In an attempt to diffuse tensions and provide access to a conflict early warning system, PACT Sudan is supporting road projects and distributing radios.

Kapoeta's History

Kapoeta town developed primarily by porters (shallim) and servants who were left behind by the British during the colonial period. It was historically been a garrison town which the local ethnic group, the Toposa, viewed as enemy territory. During the North-South civil war, the town was lost and re-captured several times by both sides, causing the local population to empty out and primarily FHH and different ethnic groups to return. The overthrow of the Mengistu government in Ethiopia caused a flood of returnees to the area and further pressured land resources and availability. The SPLA permanently seized the town in 2002, however Kapoeta still faces major land tenure issues and its citizens lack access to basic services. Land can only be leased at a rental cost of up to 150 pounds which is extremely expensive for most residents.

Presently, Kapoeta has one PHU managed by DOT and a 200 bed hospital run by Caritas with an emergency/surgery center but no VCT center. Cyclical cholera outbreaks have occurred in Kapoeta and the town has very limited education facilities (1 secondary and a few primary schools) and most Toposa and Didinga women send their children to boarding schools in Narush.

Roads and Transportation Program

In Eastern Equatoria, PACT Sudan has been engaged in road repair and maintenance, and the development of feeder roads in several payams. Initially PACT utilized local labor for road maintenance (performance based work) by engaging the village chiefs to recruit laborers. Laborers received food payments via the WFP's food for work program, however PACT later shifted from in

kind payments of food to a cash based work program in order to attract younger people. This shift has resulted in a more diverse working group. Before beginning road work, PACT consults with each boma chief and agrees on the distance and financial terms for the cash for work program, which was used to repair the Kapoeta-Torit road. PACT Sudan noted that special mobile camps for workers are needed sometimes because of the distance between some villages (i.e., Kimatong and Camp 15 area which has stretches of up to 45 km between villages). In particular, the PACT team noted that the Pageri-Torit road is in critical need of rehabilitation.

With increased food security, WFP is not currently as focused on road repair and rehabilitation in the area and PACT has been less involved in this type of work.

Small Arms and Disarmament

Small arms proliferation has been a historic issue for Kapoeta and Eastern Equatoria and it remains a priority issue for PACT where conflict resolution and disarmament is emphasized. Given recent events in Bor, where forced disarmament of 6,000 weapons led to an outbreak of fighting that cost 1,600 lives, PACT Sudan is cautiously attempting to create a dialogue between militias groups and local government/SPLA.

IOs, NGOs and Women's Groups in Kapoeta

SNV, Land o' Lakes, WFP, GTZ and the Carter Center are the primary international organizations operating in Kapoeta. Additionally, several CBOs and PACT partners such as KDI, ERADA are active, however, many women's CBO and community leaders have left for government and Parliamentary positions. Many CBOs have lost their leadership and, subsequently, much of their institutional capacity. ERADA (meaning "willingness" or "self-reliance" in Arabic) is one the only women's CBOs that is active in the area and is running an abandoned children's orphanage and developing income generating activities for the women in the group. The GoSS is also planning to enact a vocational education program and a building has been built for this purpose, however classes have yet to begin.

Vulnerability in Kapoeta

The issue of vulnerability for young boys is especially relevant in Kapoeta. PACT conducted a survey several years prior on the household status within Toposa families. The majority of households ranked their family members as follows:

- Man
- Cows
- Wife
- Girls
- Boys

Boys are typically viewed as useful to the family in cattle camps and those deemed less intelligent or dull are seen as a drain on family resources. Boys aged 8-14 are the most vulnerable and it is at this age when many families expel them from the home and they are forced to live on their own. Anna Hadjixiros of UNICEF, previously visited the area to investigate this issue for the upcoming survey and the issue of street children (boys) is a growing concern in the area.

Follow-on Activities

The PACT team agreed to accompany the LBG team on a visit to the ERADA women's group.

**Meeting with Theresa Angelo and Louise Skilling
Population Services International, Juba
August 3, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Theresa Angelo, Louise Skilling, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

The LBG team met with PSI to discuss their involvement in the Regional Outreach Addressing AIDS through Development Strategies (ROADS) project.

Population Services International Activities

PSI is a subcontractor to Family Health International (FHI) on the USAID funded ROADS project. The project has been active since the end of 2006 and is working on building the capacity and awareness of communities that come into contact with truck drivers in transportation corridors. The ROADS project covers the Juba-Mundri-Tambura road and PSI has community facilitators and area officers to support the work. They also support CBOs and train peer educators.

The PSI team reinforced the existence of very low levels of HIV/AIDS awareness in Southern Sudan and noted the difficulties in discussing condom use. Other challenges to the success of HIV/AIDS programming include the lack of reliable and available transportation to reach dispersed communities which also impedes adequate monitoring in the field. The problem of commercial sex work is also an increasing issue as many workers are moving into Juba from Uganda as well as the DRC and Kenya due to the influx of NGOs and government offices and employees since the establishment of Juba as capitol of Southern Sudan. Customs market and Konyo Konya market (which is off limits after hours to UN employees) are renowned areas for commercial sex work and evening food sellers are at potentially at risk as they may, on occasion, participate in such activities to supplement their regular work.

PSI noted that the SafeTStop program is not active in Juba, though available information suggested otherwise. PSI currently has 12 poster designs on HIV/AIDS available in English and has conducted nine focus groups in Juba with Northern drivers and at risk groups (tea sellers, bar workers) throughout the town. Indicative of the immense linguistic diversity in Sudan, PSI indicated that Northern Sudanese truck drivers requested that posters be translated from English into Arabic for better awareness and access to information.

Follow on Activities

PSI agreed to share the focus group report and may conduct additional focus groups in the area.

**Meeting with Wani Sulleh
Principal, Juba University,
Khartoum
August 7, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Wani Sulleh, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

The LBG team held an introductory meeting with Principal Wani Sulleh to discuss the status of Juba University's relocation back to Juba and the possibility of recruitment of students for future survey work.

Juba University

Mr. Sulleh is the principal of Juba University and reports to the Chancellor and Dean of the University. The university has a total of 16 colleges and centers including a College of Applied Sciences, Engineering, Social Sciences, Community Studies/Rural Development, Natural Resources and Management Sciences, among others. Juba University moved to Khartoum during the war and at the time had only 5 colleges, the school has tripled since then with a total of 18,000 students and over 500 staff members. There is a strong desire to relocate but this is highly dependent on funding.

Three colleges have since relocated back to Juba – Colleges of Community Studies/Rural Development, Education and Music and Drama which all have first year students and classes are taught in English in Juba (both in English and Arabic at the Khartoum campus). The plan for the university is to relocate all colleges by 2010-11 with the medical and engineering colleges to soon offer classes for first year students. A new campus was being built in Rejaf Payam but this was destroyed during the war. In the long term, Mr. Sulleh indicated that the university would like relocate to a new campus but current efforts are concentrated on the rehabilitation of existing buildings and construction of new buildings in Juba proper.

There is currently a semi-semester system in place at JU and the academic year ends in December, however inconsistent schedules have been a problem because of opening/closing of school during the war and the fluctuation in the long break that is annually scheduled between mid-December-March.

The school is a government institution and under the CPA, Juba University falls under the GoNU and the GoSS. A special intake process exists for Southern Sudanese students to encourage a 50/50 ratio of Northern-Southern students, however the current student/staff composition is 80/20 Northern/Southern. Few Southern students enrolled at JU in Khartoum during the war unless they had previously moved to Khartoum. The current Southern student population is predominantly Central Equatorian with only a few students from East and West Equatoria or other states.

Some of the JU centers offer diplomas and certificates and classes have graduated from the Juba campus for the past 2-3 years. Post-graduate employment, however, continues to be a challenge and there are students who find themselves unemployed after graduation though many are currently working with UN agencies and NGOs. Approximately 3,000 students are in the diploma program in Juba with about 800 graduating per year from 3 year diploma programs.

Honors classes take 4-5 years and each student is trained in research methods and is required to spend 3-4 months in the field during which time they undertake research projects. Research projects

typically begin in August and run through December after students complete all their exams and finish their programs. Areas of research include sanitation, community-based projects, community leaderships, etc. and there is, at times, a focus on gender issues in particular research projects.

Follow on Activities

Mr. Sulleh, who formerly served as the Dean of the College of Community Studies/Rural Development suggested that the team contact Deputy Principal Onesmo and the current Dean of the College of Community Studies/Rural Development, Thomas Lako for further information and research recruitment opportunities at the Juba campus.

**Meeting with Lindsay McMahon, Program Coordinator
International Organization of Migration,
Khartoum
August 8, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Lindsay McMahon, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

Location: International Organization of Migration, Khartoum

Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi held an informational and introductory meeting with Lindsay McMahon at the International Organization of Migration (IOM) Office in Khartoum, Sudan. Mrs. McMahon is the Program Coordinator for IOM Return and Reintegration of Qualified Sudanese (RQS) Program.

Return and Reintegration of Qualified Sudanese (RQS) Program

Ms. McMahon noted that the reintegration of so many Sudanese returning to devastated areas in Southern Sudan poses great challenges and the inadequacy of basic social services to meet the needs of the population has raised concerns for the well-being of residents and the growing number of those returning.

The civil war's devastation of the South left few schools, health clinics or water and sanitation facilities intact and few residents with the knowledge and experience to construct, operate or maintain such facilities. Trained and experienced civil servants, teachers, health workers, agricultural workers, vocational and skilled labor are all in short supply.

IOM's RQS program, which began in January 2007, is assisting with the relocation of qualified persons to meet the need for a skilled work force, increase capacity and meet the growing demands for technical expertise in Southern Sudan. Thus far the RQS has three target groups: (1) skilled internally displaced persons (IDPs); (2) regional refugees in Kenya, Egypt, and Uganda; and (3) Diaspora communities in the Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States and Canada.

RQS collects information on the needed skill sets and job vacancies within the public and private sectors. RQS then matches prospective candidates' qualifications (technical/educational background, years of experience, diplomas/training, language skills) with potential employers' requirements. Once candidates receive and have accepted a job offer, IOM facilitates the candidates' return to their place of origin or employment in Sudan and supports each returnee's reintegration through the provision of a customized reintegration package and support services.

Ms. McMahon noted that IOM is aware that long-term (1 year or more) returns may not be a viable option for many Southern Sudanese and in light of this, has devised some strategies to assist the transition for people interested in returning. People who have not yet made the decision to permanently return are recruited to undertake short-term consultancies or volunteer positions for which they often receive small stipends based on the local wage scale. Others are recruited for professional development in the public sector, especially at state or county level, and the local private sectors or are encouraged to set up practices in which they can be self-employed, such as lawyers or doctors. Though lower wages would appear to discourage those from the Diaspora, Ms. McMahon noted that high interest exists and the IOM generally objects to inflated pay scales for returnees as this would likely discourage long term residency and promote cyclical "brain drain."

Recruitment for the RQS programs has to date been mainly focused on teachers, health workers, vocational workers (such as carpenters and mechanics) and highly qualified professionals such as engineers who can undertake technical work or lecture at Juba University. IOM's major RQS placements have been in the health and education sectors and 30-40% of these returnees are women. Those individuals who are without diplomas but have substantial experience will first undergo a substantial interview to see if the candidate has the theoretical background needed. If so, the Ministry of Labor in Khartoum (this process is still under development) will test candidates and rank them for employment. Those with an infrastructure background will most likely be placed with jobs in the private sector.

The first Diaspora returnees are scheduled to arrive in Juba in mid-August 2007 and additional returns are expected in October after the close of the rainy season. To date, a total of 724 candidates have been registered in the RQS database and IOM has categorized the candidates based on their education, skill, and region of origin and language skills.

Follow on Activities

IOM is willing to share recruitment lists with LBG upon receipt of project TORs. IOM also indicated that they will likely have a significant number of community development specialists for LBG positions on roads projects and can provide LBG with candidates in the Nimule area.

**Meeting with Dr. Balghis Badri,
Director for the Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDS)
Ahfad University, Khartoum
August 8, 2007**

Meeting Attendants: Dr. Balghis Badri, Erin Williams and Stella Kenyi

Location: Ahfad University, Khartoum, Sudan

Ahfad University is a historic women's university with several thousand students. Gender analysis and research are mandatory components of curriculum and Ahfad University offers bachelors, masters, as well as doctoral programs. The university teaches classes in English but Arabic is predominantly used. Ahfad University students are trained in research methods and conduct field research as part of their degree requirements.

Students are primarily Northern though some are IDPs from Southern Sudan who have resided in Khartoum for many years, some at IDP camps such as Mayo. Ahfad University has a quota system and students from the South and other marginalized areas such as Abyei, Southern Blue Nile, and the Red Sea have a larger quota for acceptance into the university. Students from certain regions in Sudan also receive tuition waivers in order to attend the University. The Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies graduates over 1,000 students a year and only 100-300 Southern students with the Southern student intake in 2007 at over 100 students. There are currently three Southern students in the Institute of Women, Gender, and Development Studies Master's program.

Ahfad University has no hostels on campus therefore most students live around campus in hostels, or in Hai Yusef or Hai Mayo, neighborhoods that are some distance from the school. Some states offer housing for students from their region but the majority of students have difficulty finding housing as Ahfad University does not have any dormitories.

The University does not classify their students by ethnicity but by region, however the Ahfad University Southern Women's Association (AWUSA) is an active group on campus and Viviana, the new AWUSA president, can provide information for recruitment of Southern students for research opportunities.

95% of graduates find employment in Khartoum and only some graduates return to their home areas. Dr. Badri writes local ministries to assist students from marginalized areas in finding employment. Currently, only two graduates are working in Blue Nile state and a few have returned to the Nuba Mountains and Upper Nile. Abyei continues to be a challenging location because of insecurity and no students have returned and no scholarships exist for students from this region.

Student Research and Employment Opportunities

Dr. Badri suggested three categories of students that could be involved in potential research in Southern Sudan:

Recently graduated students and former students that currently residing in Khartoum and looking for jobs.

Current masters or undergraduate students. Students often conduct research trips in November and these students could potentially collaborate with LBG.

Current students who are willing to spend their May-June break conducting research in the South to earn a small income.

Dr. Badri advised that most students conducting research in the South would need appropriate lodging and meal allowances.

Ahfad Funding and Partners

Dr. Lee G. Burdinel and his wife Edith, residents of Virginia, are Ahfad supporters and have been actively engaged with the University since 1982 when Mr. Burdinel taught at Ahfad. The Burdinels helped to create the Sudanese American Foundation for Education and this foundation has provided book and other supplies for the university.

The university has also obtained funding since 1994 from the UNFPA. From 2001-2004, UNFPA provided scholarships for undergraduates and Dutch Christian NGO has also provided some scholarships for students from disadvantaged areas, providing 20 places for Southern Students studying sustainable development.

Follow on Activities

Ahfad University is developing a contact list of former graduates by state. Dr. Badri will provide the LBG team with this list and help to facilitate any recruitment efforts as needed.