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Final Report ***Disaster Response Initiative in East Sudan***

October 1st, 2005 – December 31st, 2006

Agreement Number – DFD-G-00-05-00236-00

Presented to: OFDA/USAID

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

IRC has completed its OFDA-funded project *Disaster Response Initiative in East Sudan*, DFD-G-00-05-00236-00. This project was implemented in Kassala State and Red Sea State in the Government of Sudan (GoS) controlled areas, and additional locations in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) areas during the period of October 1, 2005 – December 31, 2006, including an approved 3-month no-cost extension. Project activities were largely successful, with the exception of those planned for Hamesh Koreb town, as governmental authorities did not approve IRC's entry permit. As noted in IRC's revised modification request of October 11, 2006, IRC had reduced some of its original project targets due to the unanticipated suspension of IRC programs in the NDA area (although some activities did continue by IRC's local partner, BRO); delays in access to certain project sites in Tokar and Kassala; and US dollar depreciation. Below please find a GoS area beneficiary table and summary of IRC's major achievements through the project, by objective:

Obj #1 • Capacity Building: Community Development Committees (CDCs)/*legnas*¹ successfully facilitate better basic services and household-level economic stability in 37 communities.

In the GoS areas, 22 CDCs were formed and trained in leadership, project management and planning. In the NDA areas 18 *legnas* were trained. 50 Community Animators (CATs) were also trained in the GoS areas, and collectively carried out 31,473 home visits, 286 group discussions, and 193 public cleaning campaigns benefiting 169,328 individuals.

Obj #2 • Health: Improve access to and utilization of curative and preventive primary health care services in 37 communities.

In Kassala and Red Sea state, 14 health facilities were constructed/rehabilitated, staffed, equipped and handed over to the State Ministry of Health (SMoH), and 16 health committees were trained. Additionally, the project supported EPI in target areas, trained 9 midwives, and distributed 3,900 mosquito nets to vulnerable persons. In the NDA areas, 18 health facilities were supported and supplied with the essential drugs, a hospital was rehabilitated, 30 Community Health Workers were trained and working, and 112 TBAs were trained and working.

Obj #3 • Water & Sanitation: Improve access to safe water/sanitation services and increase knowledge about hygiene practices in 37 communities.

In the GoS areas, four water networks were constructed, 11 boreholes drilled and installed with hand pumps, 18 defective hand pumps rehabilitated and 370 household latrines constructed. One earth dam and one water embankment were built. In the NDA areas, 12 wells and 55 community VIP latrines were constructed.

Obj #4 • Income Generation (Financial Services): Pilot income generating opportunities are available for 555 individuals, (510 women, 500 IDPs).

In Kassala, ACORD formed and trained eight Rotating Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCA) women groups enabling 350 women to access loans; distributed sheep to 310 households; assisted 1,191 farmers to improve land cultivation through inputs; trained more than 2,500 farmers; and equipped 11 animal health workers, now active in their communities. 250 IDP female-headed households were provided with goats, and 16 paravets were trained. In Red Sea, three fishing groups were formed, equipped with necessary fishing tools and are currently working; 82 women were trained in food processing skills; and 310 farmers were trained.

Obj #5 • Income Generation (Community Rehabilitation): Increase household-level economic resilience for individuals in 42 target communities in GoS areas of Red Sea State (Tokar locality), Kassala State (Kassala and Hamesh Koreb localities) and NDA areas through assets restoration and expansion activities.

In Kassala, 115 families received shelter materials and constructed semi-permanent shelters. 120 households were provided with sheep and 14 farmers groups were formed, provided with inputs, and trained. 12 animal health workers were trained and working. In Red Sea, 50 families received shelter materials and improved their shelters; 8 farmers groups were formed and received inputs; 300 goats distributed to 100 families; and 9 extension staff received training. In the NDA areas, 15 paravets were trained and provided with essential drugs.

¹ Name for village committee in NDA areas

II. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS BY SECTOR

Obj #1 • Capacity Building: Community Development Committees (CDCs/*legnas*²) successfully facilitate better basic services and household-level economic stability in 37 communities.

Kassala State:

In Kassala, IRC mobilized nine communities out of the ten targeted, as the 10th, Timkrif, has been a no-go area throughout the project period. Thus, nine CDCs were formed or re-formed in Sinkatkinab, Tahjer, Haladait, Odi, Amara, Toshotyai, Fedayeeb, Humadab South and Eid Musa. Each committee was comprised of six members, in addition to three sub-committees in health, water and sanitation and livelihoods. An additional five CDCs were formed in the areas where the IRC sub-grantee ACORD has been working (Gulsa, Awawdat, Wad Sharefai, Khalout and Ellafa). The 14 CDCs received three-day training on leadership, community participation, organization management, revolving fund management, and saving and credit management, in addition to the sector technical training conducted for each sub-committee member.

To reinforce the role of the CDCs in community awareness-raising sessions, IRC, in collaboration with the CDCs, selected 25 Community Animators (CATs). The CATs (20 females and five males), were trained for one week in primary health care (PHC), community mobilization, human rights and protection. Their role is to contribute to better basic services and household-level economic stability, through information dissemination and awareness-raising through group discussions, community gatherings (video shows and open-day sessions), home visits and cleaning campaigns. During the project period, the CATs conducted 20,393 home visits, 218 group discussion sessions and 161 public cleaning campaigns. Upon compiling the CATs' data, the total beneficiaries were calculated to be 132,056 persons, of whom 98,311 (74.4%) were home visit beneficiaries, 14,540 (11%) were group discussion beneficiaries and 19,205 (14.5%) were public cleaning campaigns beneficiaries.

Red Sea State:

At the beginning of the project, eight communities of South Tokar (Agig, Marafit, Aandal, Durhaib, Adobana, Agaitai, Aiterba and Garora) were mobilized and informed of the project goals, objectives and key interventions. Stakeholder analysis was also carried out to determine capacities and resources versus expected role in the project based on priorities identified.

To successfully play their role in facilitating the project services, the existing 8 CDCs were reviewed and re-organized to include health, water & sanitation and livelihoods sub-committees. Three representatives from each CDC totaling 24 persons were trained in leadership, project implementation and management. In collaboration with CDCs and upon introducing their expected role, 25 CATs (2-4 CATs per community) were also selected. Given the similarity of planned trainings for both CDC sub-committees and CATs, 113 persons (including 57 females), chosen from both the CDC Health and Water & Sanitation Technical sub-committees and CATs, were trained in gender and human rights core principles. Moreover, the same group also benefited from the technical training in public and environmental health related issues (e.g. PHC, MCH, and hygiene promotion).

In addition to community mobilization, the CATs, in close coordination with CDCs, undertook and facilitated various outreach activities (11,080 home visits, 68 focus group discussions and 32 public cleaning campaigns) that encouraged behavioral change in key health and hygiene related issues. Upon compiling CAT records, the total beneficiaries were 37,272 persons, of whom 33,995 (91%) were home visit beneficiaries, 2,308 (6%) were group discussion beneficiaries and 969 (3%) were public cleaning campaign beneficiaries.

² Name for village committee in NDA areas

NDA Areas:

In carrying out this objective, IRC worked with local civil administrations in 19 target villages, discussing the project goals, objectives and what activities were envisaged to address the pressing needs of the communities. Thus, 18 *legnas* with sub-committees were formed and trained in different program sectors to build their capacity and advocate for providing basic services in the following areas:

- Adult education;
- Animal health services; and
- Primary health care; and
- Water and Sanitation.

Further activities with *legnas* were not possible due to the suspension of IRC programs in the area.

Obj #2 • Health: Improve access to and utilization of curative and preventive primary health care services in 37 communities.

Kassala State:

At the beginning of the project, a series of coordination meetings were held with the SMOH to discuss project coordination and the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), taking into account project targets and government plans for the region. As a result, eight health facilities were selected and rehabilitated through the construction of additional rooms and/or the fixing permanent verandahs. The rehabilitated sites are located at Sinkatkinab, Tahjer, Haladait, Toshotyai, Humadab South, Tagoug, Aderkiya, and Baryai.

The eight health facilities were furnished and equipped according to the SMOH's specifications, and provided with medicine and consumables operating on a revolving drug fund system, supported by the CDC health sub-committees. To ensure the facilities provide high-quality and sustainable health services, the eight health facilities were handed over to the SMOH. IRC also supplied the rehabilitated facilities with various health education materials, particularly posters to facilitate dissemination of health education messages and the major treatment protocols of the main communicable diseases.

In coordination with the SMOH, IRC organized a six-day training workshop for the 16 health facility cadres. The cadres received training in case management, essential drug listing, treatment protocols, health information system (HIS), and the other components of the primary health care package. The SMOH provided the facilities with all the necessary stationery needed for the HIS such as registration books, referral system records, and forms for notification of infectious disease, in addition to the monthly reporting format which the facility must submit to the SMOH.

In terms of preventative health services, IRC supported the EPI departments with fuel and other logistical assistance and contributed in the total coverage of the routine vaccination. See the tables below for resulting EPI coverage in the target areas:

EPI Coverage from January - December 2006

Locality	OPV			DPT			Hep(B)			BCG	Measles
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3		
Kassala	98.21%	93.43%	91.84%	98.21%	93.43%	91.84%	96.63%	99.13%	93.20%	77.72%	76.93%
ElGash	120.94%	107.14%	103.72%	120.94%	107.14%	103.72%	113.88%	102.06%	94.88%	89.19%	74.62%
Hamesh Koreb	46.95%	42.05%	39.55%	46.95%	42.05%	39.55%	31.26%	28.34%	24.99%	42.10%	23.14%

In coordination with Kassala Midwifery Training School, IRC arranged with community leaders to select six women to enroll in the school. The training was extended to 18 months, and the women are still enrolled. Through the current program funded by USAID/OFDA, IRC will continue the follow-up training and monitoring of the services provided by the women upon becoming certified community trained midwives.

Additionally, IRC identified three vulnerable groups: pregnant, lactating mothers, and children under five, for the distribution of impregnated mosquito nets. The table below shows the distribution per site:

Location	# Of M. nets	Vulnerable group		
		P	L	CH
1- Humadab South	100	12	60	28
2- Toshotyai	100	15	66	19
3- Amara	100	33	50	17
4- Eid Musa	100	37	57	6
5- Fedayeeb	100	6	70	24
6-Sinkatkinab	120	19	77	24
7- Tahjer	119	27	69	23
8- Odi	100	38	56	6
9- Haladait	61	24	29	8
Total	900	211	534	155

Red Sea State:

IRC rehabilitated four health facilities through the project, in Marafit, Aandal, Agaitai and Garora and constructed two in Durhaib and Adobana. Sites were selected in coordination with the concerned stakeholders, targeting areas of high returnee populations and taking into account distance to functioning health facilities. The total population served was calculated at 37,500 returnees.

In close coordination with Red Sea State SMoH, the rehabilitated/constructed facilities were adequately equipped and finished. The new facilities were constructed close to existing water sources, and new water sources were verified to be located relatively close to the rehabilitated facilities. All facilities except Aandal were supplied with one-room institutional latrines. By the end of the program and in reference to the IRC/SMoH signed Technical Agreement, the six facilities were handed over to SMoH to ensure quality and sustainability. According to assessments made by the joint IRC/SMoH monitoring team, all six project-supported facilities are considered capable of offering basic primary health care services, including treatment of common diseases, control of diarrheal diseases, EPI, and growth monitoring.

In addition to continuous cooperation with the SMoH, the Agig locality Medical Director and Dispensaries Inspector also regularly visited all facilities, providing essential medicines and medical consumables. Despite the health facilities' understaffing, which was reported to SMoH, the Medical Director during his regular visits also monitored existing staff performance through the Quality of Care (QoC) system and coordinated with IRC for all recommended trainings. Medical & Health Assistant staff at all facilities attended refresher trainings organized by the state MoH in Tokar and Port Sudan, including the following subjects: the new Malaria protocol, child integrated treatment, rational drug use, case management, standardized case definitions and health information systems. To improve reporting quality, the Agig Medical Director organized and conducted Health Information System (HIS) management training from September 2-4, 2006 for 8 health workers (one per each facility except 2 each from Durhaib and Marafit).

Due to project delays in Tokar and budgetary constraints, as well as unfavorable community attitudes, only three women (out of six targeted) were selected and attended full basic MoH Trained Village Midwife training

at the Red Sea Midwifery Training School. Just prior to their graduation in October 2006, the three women effectively managed 10 successful births and received delivery kits.

The project also promoted awareness of HIV/AIDS, especially among health facility staff, CDC sub-committees, CATs and other key actors in beneficiary communities. IRC, in collaboration with SNAP (Sudan National AIDS Program), conducted HIV/AIDS awareness raising sessions in all 8 project targeted locations in Red Sea through diversified tools and methodologies include TV, video, flipchart, posters and lectures. The sessions focused on awareness, transmission and prevention. This training complemented and reinforced CATs and other community focal points' knowledge to provide better general health education sessions that focused on HIV/AIDS, mother & childcare, EPI, ORS, hygiene and sanitation.

Additionally, the EPI departments at Tokar and Agig localities were adequately supported through the provision of fuel and other logistical assistance that contributed to the routine vaccination rates, especially during the period March – August 2006 as shown by EPI coverage statistics below:

Locality	March 2006	April 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	August 2006
Tokar	92.4 %	93.2 %	98.8 %	99.0 %	99.9 %	100.0 %
Agig	86.8 %	89.5 %	90.7 %	92.1 %	105.2 %	108.0 %

Moreover, IRC also supported tetanus toxoid campaign at Tokar & Agig localities during the period 23 – 25 July 2006. The table below shows the targeted versus actually vaccinated women:

Location	# Targeted Women	# Vaccinated	Percentage
Tokar locality	13,965	13,536	96.9 %
Agig locality	10,634	8,600	80.0 %

Furthermore, IRC distributed 3,000 treated mosquito nets prioritizing lactating mothers, pregnant women, children under five, disabled and elderly community members.

The pre-project KAP survey was conducted during the period 23 February – 2 March 2006 while the post-project survey was conducted during the period 23 - 28 December 2006. Related results may be found in the indicator table beginning on page 11 of this report, as well as in the Water & Sanitation section on page 7.

NDA Areas:

The project has effectively contributed to the improvement of access and utilization of curative and preventive primary health care services in the NDA areas, in cooperation with IRC's local partner the Beja Relief Organization (BRO). This was achieved through by supporting 18 health facilities with supplies and a regular mobile outreach service. The mobile service included antenatal check-ups and the immunization of children under five and pregnant women. Target populations in Fagada, Balastaf, and Rebsim also benefited from two newly constructed units and the renovation of one existing PHCU (Primary Health Care Units), which were equipped with necessary medical equipment and supplies.

IRC, while present in the NDA areas, maintained a monthly supply of essential drugs, medical items and capacity building support to the health cadres in all 18 health facilities. Additionally, 30 of the 33 trained Community Health Workers (CHWs) in the target areas were monitored once a month and given on the job training on the most prevalent diseases, their case definitions and management as need arose.

Also, 112 trained Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) conducted regular monthly follow-ups, during which time they received training on performing antenatal check-ups; reporting activities in a pictographic format; and disseminating key health messages to their communities on hygiene promotion activities. Additionally, the TBAs were supplied with clean delivery kits. The mobile health team provided mobile health outreach services in preventive, promotive and curative healthcare. In addition, they provided further services in the health center, including:

- Distribution of and training on the use of insecticide treated bed nets
- Introduction of innovative new antenatal care programs

IRC also renovated Telkook hospital and transferred all drugs stock from Khor Milih to the hospital.

IRC's local partner, BRO, was instrumental in helping the project to continue a degree of essential health services after IRC's withdrawal from the area. IRC staff seconded to BRO, which enabled core health and water & sanitation activities to be completed, and also provided the IRC access to verbal and written monthly reports from the clinics and TBAs. This allowed IRC to monitor health conditions and needs of the OFDA supported communities during that period.

Obj #3 • Water & Sanitation: Improve access to safe water/sanitation services and increase knowledge about hygiene practices in 37 communities.

Kassala State:

At the beginning of the project, IRC held a series of coordination meetings with the Drinking Water Corporation (DWC), Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES), NGOs working in the area, and the Community Development Committees (CDCs) in order to consider all relevant actors' concurrent plans and the activities to be implemented under the framework of this project, and to coordinate accordingly.

This coordination resulted in the signing of the DWC/IRC/Netherlands Red Cross MoU, under which the Eid Musa water supply net-work was jointly constructed, to which the project contributed by constructing the 675 meter pipeline and constructed 3 public tap stands of 6 taps each. Also, in Toshotyai, IRC extended the water network through construction of a 750 meter pipeline and one public tap stand with eight taps. In Sinkatkinab, IRC rehabilitated the water supply system through overhauling of the pump motor, increasing the water supply to meet the requirement of 9,000 persons of at least 15 l/d (135,000 liters per day). Additionally, IRC successfully drilled two boreholes and installed hand pumps in Humadab South and rehabilitated seven hand pumps in Amara.

The project also constructed 250 household latrines (of 6-7m depth pits and local materials built super structure) in Kassala and Hamesh Koreb localities serving 1,500 vulnerable persons. IRC provided construction materials to do casting of the slabs, and conducted trainings to community volunteers. Latrine pit digging and superstructure construction was done by community members, under IRC supervision.

Locality	Camp	No of latrines	No of beneficiaries	Deepened and Covered with Slab	Superstructure
Kassala	Eid Musa	41	246	41	41
	Fedayeeb	20	120	20	20
	Toshotyai	30	180	30	30
	Amara	50	300	50	50
	Sinkatkinab	15	90	15	15
	Humadab south	55	330	55	55
Hamesh Koreb	Tahger	22	132	22	22
	Haladait	17	102	17	17
Total		250	1500	250	250

Red Sea State:

The following table shows the project's achievements in increasing water and sanitation access in Red Sea State and beneficiaries per target location:

	Community Location	Hand Pump Repair		Hand Pump Construction		Dug-Well Repair		Network Construction				HH Latrine Construction		Actual Beneficiary Individuals
		P	A	P	A	P	A	P	A	L	WPs	P	A	
01	Agig	--	--	--	--			1	1	600	2	--	--	762
02	Durhaib	3	3	3	3			--	--	--	--	40	57	4,538
03	Marafit	--	--	--	--			--	--	--	--	--	--	--
04	Andal	--	--	1	1			--	--	--	--	--	--	1,213
05	Adobana	3	4	2	2	2	2	--	--	--	--	15	20	4,727
06	Agaitai	1	1	2	2			1	1	264	4	15	15	6,114
07	Aiterba	1	1	1	1			--	--	--	--	--	--	2,019
08	Garora	2	2	--	--			--	--	--	--	30	30	2,412
Total		10	11	9	9	2	2	2	2	864	6	100	122	21,785
Percentage (%)			110%		100%		100%		100				122%	

P: Planned A: Actual HH: Household L: Length extended (m), pipeline WPs: # of Water Points.

An earth dam and water embankment was also constructed through the project. The two contributed to:

- more effective use of surface water, and,
- provision of a source for animal watering.
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During the implementation of household latrine construction additional 22 families dug their pits and contributed with local materials to build the superstructure, so IRC supplied them with slabs to cover the pit. Additionally, CATs were responsible for promotion of sanitation and hygiene awareness within the project. The initial training for the 25 CATs included key public and environmental health issues that enabled the CATs to undertake awareness raising and information gathering for 37,272 persons through home visits, focus group discussions and public campaigns. Additionally, community members (representing CDC water sanitation sub-committees) were trained on hand pump operation and maintenance (O&M) in December 2006, and equipped with standard and special HP tool kits.

The pre- and post-project Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) surveys demonstrated a positive change in safe water access and hygiene practice as a result of project activities. The water consumption rate was maintained, and there was an increase in the percentage of beneficiaries collecting water from a safe source. There was a decrease in the percentage of the people who collect water from an unsafe source by 47% in Red Sea State and 35.9% in Kassala. Additional results are summarized in the table below.

SN	Indicative behavior (selected personal & household hygiene parameters from the KAP survey)	Rating (%) by Survey	
		Pre-project	Post-project
01	Families storing water in clean and well-protected containers	64.6 %	73.5 %
02	Families cleaning compound on daily basis	70.3 %	74.1 %
03	Families cleaning their water containers daily	41.5 %	63.0 %
04	Families cleaning their children on daily basis	43.0 %	64.7 %
05	Families burn and bury household waste	23.1 %	69.1 %

NDA Areas:

IRC constructed 12 wells, and met Sphere standards regarding the minimum amounts of water available to these communities. IRC trained the sub-*legnas* in better water practices and constructed 55 community ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines.

IRC also carried out a survey on communities' hygiene and sanitation practices. The recommendations of this survey were used in forming the IRC's strategy of hygiene behavior change.

IRC organized a PHAST (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) training program for its entire staff as well as other partner NGOs in both Eritrea and Eastern Sudan. The training was attended by 43 participants representing seven NGOs and facilitated by the Ministry of Health Sanitation Officer.

Obj #4 • Income Generation/Financial Services: Pilot income generating opportunities are available for 555 individuals.

Kassala State:

Through the project, IRC's partner ACORD formulated and supported the development of eight women's Rotating, Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCAs), which facilitated empowerment and income generation activities for women living in IDP camps. After conducting a field survey to assess community needs, priorities, and gaps, eight women fund groups were selected. Each group comprised of 25 women, and were formed in the target areas of Fedayeeb, Galsa, and Wad Sharefai and Awadat IDP camps. Subsequently, five women's training centers were constructed to provide a suitable environment and training place to help women exchange their ideas and experiences.

To build the women's capacity, a series of training workshops were conducted. The first of these was on organizational management and leadership, which were attended by 11 males and 28 females, selected from the above-mentioned areas. The second training achievement was the conducting of seven training workshops for the women on savings and credit management, which were conducted in seven target areas. These were aimed at teaching them how to build rotating funds based on collection of regular savings and to set loan policies and procedures. The third segment consisted of three training workshops on business management, which were attended by 25 women. The main focus of these trainings was on starting a small business, marketing its product, small business profit and loss accounts, and finally bookkeeping.

ROSCA's system was mainly based on collection of weekly small savings, topped up by seed capital, which was divided into small loans of US\$45 and \$70, distributed as first and second loans, respectively. After a period of 10 months using the rotating system, the women must refund their loan to the association. So far eight women ROSCAs are now functioning and about 350 women have received loans; of these, three have completed their first round and are now started the second one.

The ROSCAs system is also used as a method for information dissemination amongst the women, in order to increase community awareness on various issues, such as peace building, combating harmful traditional practices (FGM), HIV/AIDS, mother and child nutrition, gender equality, and women's rights.

The project also supported the capacity building of local farmers. Eight small farmers groups were selected and supported in the rain-fed and flooded area of Khalout scheme, through the provision of organizational training in the areas of Toshotyai, Amara, Khalout, El Laffa, Fedayeeb, Wad Sharefai, and Amara. Additionally, 1,191 farmers were provided with agricultural inputs; about 1,595 faddans were prepared for seasonal cultivation; 4,544 kg of improved early mature sorghum seed were distributed to 1,272 farmers; and 56 kg of watermelon seeds were distributed for farmers in the flooded areas.

To improve agricultural production, many training sessions were conducted, attended by 2,564 farmers. The main focus of the trainings was on increasing productivity, protection against common diseases, selection of

good quality seeds, how to preserve seeds for the next season, development of traditional seed banks, and improving marketing skills. Finally, two training workshops were conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture extension services department, which targeted 60 small farmers. These workshops were aimed at increasing production and productivity in the dry affected areas by introducing appropriate agricultural technology.

To assist in the regeneration of traditional pastoral mechanisms, restocking projects were established for those living in the IDP camps of El Laffa, Fedayeeb, Toshotyai, Awadat and Wad Sharefai, with the purpose of encouraging pastoral livelihood resilience and recovery. 250 female headed of households were provided with 336 goats that were distributed on in kind and cash recovery rotating systems. Also, 60 households (HHs) were provided with 60 female sheep purchased from the repayments that were refunded by beneficiaries. During the project, and after reproduction, the number of 'new generation' sheep was estimated at 233.

To improve animal health care, two training courses were conducted in collaboration with the veterinary department, attended by 16 paravets selected from the same communities that were restocked. The training was designed to address the issues around increasing access to care and medicine in rural remote areas, and to develop reporting & monitoring and early warning systems for animal epidemic diseases. 11 paravets received refresher training courses (two courses) to update their information. They were provided with equipment, tools and a rotating 'in kind' fund for drugs and vaccines to ease access, support and availability of animal health care. The paravets were also provided with a training manual to maximize their output.

Red Sea State:

Fishery Support: The project first worked in collaboration with the CDCs of the three coastal villages of Agig, Adobana and Agaitai to determine the criteria for selecting the members of three fisheries groups to be formed through the project. The criteria included: (i) interested individuals with primary fishing skills; (ii) individuals with potential to promote and convey learning to other group members; and (iii) prioritization of poor individuals who lack income sources and supporting those with extended and female-weighted families.

Once the members of all three fishery groups were selected, a team of experts was contracted to assess the capacity of the members. As a result, 5 members from each group attended a 3-day training session in August 2006, covering the topics of safe boat driving, outboard engine maintenance, gel net assembling, net braiding & maintenance, icing, and fish preservation. The three groups were also supplied with 3 cool boxes (16 ice bar size each) and one bigger cool box (21 ice bar size) located at Agig for fish collection. These groups work close to, and report to Agig to avoid security problems.

The project solicited input from the beneficiary communities and the SMOH Department of Marine and Fisheries to determine the most appropriate type of major fishing inputs to be provided to the groups through the project. Boats and accessories (e.g. nets and hooks) were determined to be of priority, and specifications for these items were identified. Accordingly, three wooden locally-made boats and essential fishing inputs were purchased and delivered to the sites.

In order to address women's income generation needs in the area, the project trained 82 women in food processing. Three location clusters for the training were identified in cooperation with the CDCs and beneficiaries, in order to address the difficulties of women's movement given the distant locations. A one-day training was conducted at each cluster, focused primarily on increasing the utilization of local food resources through necessary processing.

Additionally, extension and training services in agriculture and animal health were provided to 310 beneficiaries in the targeted areas through the project.

Obj #5 • Income Generation (Community Rehabilitation): Increase household-level economic resilience for individuals in 42 target communities in GoS areas of Red Sea State (Tokar locality), Kassala State (Kassala and Hamesh Koreb localities) and NDA areas through asset restoration and expansion activities

Kassala State:

In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), ACORD and IRC selected and formed seven farming groups in the target areas of Fedayeeb, Eid Musa, Toshotyai, Amara, Humadab, Shalalob and Tahjer.

In order to improve sustainable local services for these groups, the MoA trained 12 local agriculture extension agents, selected from the above seven communities in coordination with the CDCs. Training covered the principles of agricultural extension, methods and means of agricultural extension, production of horticultural and agronomical crops, land preparation and irrigation systems, crop protection, and report writing. The agricultural extension agents continue to provide all necessary agricultural information and inputs to the communities whenever needed.

Twelve Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) from ACORD's target areas were trained in a workshop facilitated by the MoA and the Animal Wealth Administration (AWA), a department in the MoA. Participants came from the Eid Musa, Fedayeeb, Tahjer, Gulsa, Amara, Toshotyai, and Humadab camps. The training provided information on necessary community animal health services. CAHWs continued to disseminate information to their communities on animal health in all the target communities in Kassala.

In addition, 120 households were provided with two female sheep - Tahjer (20), Humadab south (20), Eid Musa (20), Amara (20), Shalalob (20), and Sinkatkinab (20). The CDCs in these communities provided an additional eighteen second line beneficiaries with two sheep each from the repayments they collected from the first line beneficiaries.

Finally, IRC provided 115 families with semi-permanent shelter materials, who then constructed their own huts in Fedayeeb, Toshotyai, Amara, Sinkatkinab, Humadab South, Katakowa, and Haladait. Beneficiaries were selected in cooperation with the CDCs, according to selection criteria defined by the community. According to the criteria, preference was given to newly displaced families without shelter, families with old or deteriorated shelters, large families, female-headed households, and families with children under five.

Red Sea State:

In this region, eight farmers' groups were formed with membership ranging from between 10 to 14 farmers. 11.12 MT Sorghum, 9 MT Millet and 0.152 MT of assorted vegetable seeds totaling 20.272 MTs were distributed to the eight farming groups.

Also, working directly with the CDCs and in coordination with the state MOA, nine community Agricultural Extension Agents were selected and trained between July 29th - August 31st, 2006. The training covered the definition of agricultural extension, the role of community (local) extension workers, land preparation, mesquite clearance, seed banks, and crop production assessment.

Moreover, IRC formed 10 community-restocking groups at all locations and supplied one male improved-breed goat per group. Through the groups, 100 vulnerable families (10 families per group) were supported by supplying three (3) female local breed goats each (total 300 heads). As the supported communities' paravets had received basic training sponsored by Oxfam GB, one 3-day refresher training, attended by 9 paravets, was provided by IRC in September. The Animal health department of Tokar locality is regularly undertaking follow-up visits and providing on-going training.

Finally, IRC provided 50 families (335 individuals) with roof materials, windows and doors to improve their shelters. In supporting the shelters, priority was given to the most vulnerable families such as female headed-households, elderly, disabled, and families with numerous children, and female groups.

NDA Areas:

Following the delays in recruitment due to challenges associated with identifying suitably qualified Beja staff, IRC commenced the adult literacy-training program in January 2006. The program successfully identified adult literacy tools developed within Sudan for specific use with pastoralist communities. The adult literacy trainer established three women’s groups in Hashanets, Shagaloba, and Kurbaweb. However, activity targets were not achieved due to suspension of programs.

IRC recruited a Sudanese veterinarian in early November 2005, and the following activities were successfully completed within the animal health program:

- Refresher training provided to 15 paravets.
- Drugs distributed on a cost recovery basis to existing paravets.
- Trypsomiasis vaccination carried out through the NDA areas.
- New Paravets identified, new training plan scheduled for mid January.

III INDICATORS AND PERFORMANCE BASELINE DATA

Objective One Capacity Building: <i>Community Development Committees (CDCs)/ legnas successfully facilitate better basic services and household-level economic stability in 37 communities</i>	
Indicators: Result 1.1	Performance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 CDCs (GoS areas) and 19 legnas (NDA areas) trained • Each CDC’s health, water/sanitation and livelihoods sub-committees trained • 80% CDCs score 80%+ on pre-defined quality criteria for organizational level, decision-making, gender equity, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 CDCs (GoS areas) were re-formed and trained. 18 legnas (NDA areas) were targeted and trained • In Tokar eight health and water & sanitation committees have been trained. In Kassala eight health committees have been trained. • The trained CDCs in Kassala and Tokar scored 60% on pre-defined quality criteria.
Indicators: Result 1.2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 80% of 18 GoS area target communities have active CATs by month 4 • 80% CATs effectively conduct community mobilization & awareness raising by month 4 & to project end 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% of the 17 GOS areas have active CATs • 85% of the CATs are performing their jobs in the target areas
Objective Two Health: <i>Improve access to and utilization of curative and preventive primary health care services in 37 communities</i>	
Indicators: Result 2.1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of the 15 target GoS area health facilities meet MoH equipment standards and specifications by end project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of the target Kassala area health facilities meets MoH equipment standards and specification. In Tokar 83% of the target facilities were constructed/rehabilitated according to the specification

	and equipment of the MOH.
Indicators: Result 2.2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of the 19 target NDA area health facilities meet IRC operational and service delivery standards by end project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 94.7% of the 19 target NDA area health facilities (18) meet IRC operational and service delivery standards.
Indicators: Result 2.3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the % of patients with malaria, ARI or diarrhea that receive treatment standardized treatment guidelines at 34 targeted health facilities 80% of 15 IRC-assisted health facilities in GoS areas adhere to standardized (WHO-MOH) essential drug lists by the end of the project At least five out of six midwife trainees in GoS areas are in good standing (according to MoH) in MOH certification process at project end (course will finish after project completion) 100 existing TBAs (100% women, 35% IDPs) and 50 new TBAs (100% women, 35% IDPs) in NDA areas trained and equipped 90% of qualified health workers trained in specific topics (e.g. Standard Treatment Guidelines, STI treatment, Universal Precautions, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase of 20% was obtained from the health data analysis of patients who received treatment 93% of the 14 IRC assisted health facilities in Kassala and Tokar adhere to standardized (WHO-MOH) essential drug lists Three women were trained as midwives in Tokar. Six women were selected as midwives in Kassala and the training is ongoing. 112 TBAs were trained and equipped with delivery kits. 59% of the qualified health workers were trained
Indicators: Result 2.4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remote communities in NDA areas receive mobile health services Increase in the % of pregnant women that receive at least three prenatal care visits Increase in the % of children aged 0-12 months whose births were attended by skilled health personnel Increase in the % of all births in GoS areas with obstetric complications that are treated in EmOC facilities Increase in the % of children <5 years in GoS areas sleeping under mosquito nets Increase in the % of children aged 12-23 months in GoS areas who are fully vaccinated against the five vaccine-preventable diseases before their 1st birthday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only two mobile health service team teams were able to operate for a short while before the suspension in March 2006. In the baseline survey 24.9%% of the women attended three antenatal visits while the post-project KAP shows 27% In the baseline survey 36.2%% of the children aged 0 – 12 months were delivered by trained birth attendants while the post-project KAP shows 45.9% All the health workers and midwives were trained to provide EmOC services 35% increase in the number of children aged 0-5 years who sleep under an insecticide-treated bed net In the baseline survey 70.5% of children under 23 months are fully vaccinated while the end of project survey shows 84.2 %

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the % of children aged 12-23 months in GoS areas who received a measles vaccine • Increase in the % of children aged 12-23 months in NDA areas who received a measles vaccine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the baseline survey 70.5% of children under 23 months are fully vaccinated while the end of project survey shows 84.2% • Information not available due to suspension.
Indicators: Result 2.5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the % of infants aged 0-6 months who were exclusively breastfed • Increase in the % of mothers who prepare and administer ORS correctly to their children during diarrhea episodes by project end • Increase in % of children aged 0-5 years who sleep under an insecticide-treated bed net • Increase in % of GoS area mothers that wash their hands before preparing meals • Increase in % of GoS area target population that wash their hands after using latrines • Increase in % of GoS area target population that know 3+ measure for preventing HIV/AIDS transmission increases by 20% by project end 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the baseline survey 83.6% of the children were exclusively breastfed while the end of project shows 92.9 % • The end of project survey shows an increase of 24.2% against a base 46.3% of the mothers know how to prepare ORS. • 35% increase in the number of children aged 0-5 years who sleep under an insecticide-treated bed net • In the baseline survey 99.6% of the mothers wash their hands before preparing the meals. In the final survey it remained the same 99.6% • In the baseline survey 50.9% of the respondents wash their hands after using latrines. Whilst in the final survey it was 54.8% • In the baseline survey only 15.7% of the respondent knew how to prevent themselves from HIV/AIDS. Whilst in the final survey it was 66.8%
Indicators: Result 2.6	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of health facilities using a standard health information system • % of health facilities submitting timely monthly reports • 100% monthly reports include proportional morbidity data and, where accurate denominator applies, monthly incidence rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of the health facilities are using standard health information system and submitting regular reports to the SMOH including all the necessary information on morbidity data, disease incidence and patterns.
Objective Three Water and Sanitation:	
<i>Improve access to safe water/sanitation services and increase knowledge about hygiene practice in 3communities</i>	
Indicators: Result 3.1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional CATs in GoS areas effectively deliver domestic, personal and environmental hygiene awareness and promotion information in target communities by month 4. • CHWs in 19 NDA target workers effectively deliver domestic, personal and environmental hygiene awareness and promotion information by the end of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 CATs were working effectively in all the target GoS areas (Red Sea and Kassala) in disseminating hygiene promotion messages to the target communities • 30 CHWs were trained to deliver domestic, personal and environmental hygiene awareness and promotion information during the last quarter.

<p>the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of CATS in GoS areas that remain in place through the end of the program • Trained wat/san committees are equipped and functional in target communities by the time the physical installation of water/sanitation facilities begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the 50 CATs carried out their work properly throughout the project. • In Kassala two water and sanitation committees have been trained in addition to the existing 5 and in Tokar eight water and sanitation committees have been trained mainly on system (HP) Operation & Maintenance.
<p>Indicators: Result 3.2</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # Water sources constructed or rehabilitated. • % of target population that has access to at least 15 liters water/person/day increases by 20% by project end • Amount of time that target population spends collecting water decreases by 20% • # of latrines constructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two water systems were constructed / rehabilitated in Kassala. 9 hand pumps newly constructed in Tokar against 2 in Kassala. One earth dam and one water embankments were constructed in Tokar. In the NDA areas 12 well were constructed in three target communities. • 55% of the target population has access to 15 L/P/D • 55% of the target population spends less than 10 minutes in water collection. • Total 427 HH latrines were constructed in Kassala (250), Tokar (122) and NDA area (55).
<p>Indicators: Result 3.3</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of people in GoS areas who report increased hand-washing behavior on at least 2 key occasions (in accordance with project's hygiene promotion training) increases by 20% by project end • % of people in GoS areas who report increased latrine usage in accordance with project's hygiene promotion training increases by 20% by project end • % increase in number of people in GoS areas who store water in accordance with project's hygiene promotion training • Comprehensive KAP survey conducted in NDA areas to obtain clear data about hygiene behavior and appropriate, responsive training programs developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of people in GoS areas who report increased hand-washing behavior on at least 2 key occasions increased by 19.4% by project end, from 35.4% to 54.8% • % of people in GoS areas who report increased latrine usage in accordance with project's hygiene promotion training increased by 2% by project end, from 37.8% to 39.8% • 5.4% increase in number of people in GoS areas who store water in accordance with project's hygiene promotion training, from 73.2% to 78.6% • Comprehensive KAP survey was conducted
<p>Objective Four Income Generation (Financial Services) <i>Pilot income generating opportunities are available for 555 individuals.</i></p>	
<p>Indicators: Result 4.1</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of women's ROSCA Executive Committees elected, trained and supported by seed capital by the end of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 62% of the ROSCAs have been selected and trained

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> month 3 # of women that receive micro-loans # training periods improving managerial and technical skills completed by the end of the project % increase in household income among ROSCA members increases by 20% by project end 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 350 of the target women receive a micro-loan seven training workshops were conducted during the period of the project An increase of 20% in household income among ROSCA members was obtained according to the assessment conducted by ACORD
Indicators: Result 4.2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 of the 3 fishing groups are efficiently working and using the project-donated inputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three fishing groups were selected supported with necessary fishing inputs and are currently working.
Indicators: Result 4.3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65% of women successfully complete food processing training program and effectively working in food production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the project life time 82 (55%) women were trained in food processing in Tokar
Objective Five Income Generation (Community Rehabilitation):	
<i>Increase household-level economic resilience for individuals in 42 target communities in GoS areas of Red Sea State (Tokar locality), Kassala State (Kassala and Hamesh Koreb localities) and NDA areas through assets restoration and expansion activities</i>	
Indicators: Result 5.1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % families living in completed semi-permanent shelters built as a result of project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 165 families currently have sheltered accommodation.
Indicators: Result 5.2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of women who successfully complete course of women who fail to successfully complete course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to be tracked (relates to NDA area)
Indicators: Result 5.3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of groups formed and organized to facilitate agricultural service delivery by the end of month 3 # of individuals trained as Agricultural Extension Agents per MOA standards % of small farmers in rain-fed and flooded areas provided with resources for household food production by the end of month 9 of village-based seed banks established by the end of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 191% of the initial number of target groups were formed (15 in Kassala and eight in Tokar) 12 Agricultural Extension Agents were trained 100% of targeted farmers were provided with agricultural inputs for household food production Seed banks not established, due to the delays in access and corresponding seasonal variance with the harvest
Indicators: Result 5.4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of households receive livestock Of communities receive male improved-breed goat to increase/improve production of existing herds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 530 households in Kassala and Tokar received livestock In Tokar all 8 communities received improved-breed goats
Indicators: Result 5.5	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock vaccinated bi-annually and receive curative care as needed New paravets trained by end of month 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Tokar supported by OXFAM GB Given the length of the basic course, only 9

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of paravets and vaccinators receive monthly supplies and materials to carry out their work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paravets in Tokar received refresher training and 16 in Kassala • 100% of the paravets and vaccinators receive regular supplies and material from the MoA to carry out their work
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IV CONSTRAINTS & LESSONS LEARNED

General:

- During the project implementation period, the Dollar exchange rate against the local currency dropped dramatically, forcing a decrease in implemented activities from what had been planned.

Kassala:

- The security situation frequently restricted and delayed field trips.
- The relatively long dry spell reduced the growth of sorghum. This year some of cultivated areas produced only sorghum cane for animal fodder, but not human consumption. Additionally, the price of sorghum had decreased from 5500 to 3500 SD, resulting in a reduction of small farmers' profits.
- The price of animals, especially sheep and goats, had increased as a result of high demand due to a drought and interventions by number of development agencies.
- Conflict of interests in development and formation of community structures created by political influence and poor representation of women in local committees.
- IRC plans to implement activities in Hamesh Koreb were not achieved due to inaccessibility to the area from Kassala. The State Humanitarian Aid Commission refused to issue a travel permit to IRC to enter Hamesh Koreb and implement the planned activities.

Red Sea:

- Access denial: IRC was unable to access Tokar for three months at the beginning of the project, which delayed implementation of all activities in this area.
- Travel permit procedures: these progressed during the last period of the project. This was time consuming and frequently interrupted field visits.
- Flooding of Tokar Delta: this project area could only be accessed by the longest route for a period of time, meaning the nearest location in Tokar took 3-4 hours to reach, rather than the usual 1 hour.
- Lack of certain skills among beneficiary communities: some skills (e.g. building and small scale construction) were completely absent among many communities, which resulted in extreme delay of performing the construction/rehabilitation of facilities. IRC has begun focusing on community capacity building as a way of sustainability.

NDA areas:

IRC was unable to complete activities in the NDA areas due to the restrictions placed on IRC Eritrea in accessing the NDA areas from that country during the project period, along with the final closure of the IRC office in Eritrea in November/December 2006. IRC has yet been unable to access these areas from Sudan.

V. CONCLUSION

This project has resulted in increased community leadership capacity to facilitate service provision in a participatory manner; increased access to health and water & sanitation services; improved hygiene behavior; and increased income generation opportunities for IDP and returnee beneficiaries in the target areas of Kassala state, Red Sea state (Tokar), and the NDA areas of Sudan. Despite the numerous constraints facing the implementation of the project, IRC successfully implemented the majority of proposed activities, although the inaccessibility to Hamesh Koreb town, as well as delayed access to other project areas and dollar depreciation inhibited the completion of some activities.