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VEGA Sudan Agricultural Marketing and Enterprise Development Program

Quarterly Report: July 1 – September 30, 2006

LEADER WITH ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT (LWA)
EEM-A-00-04-00002-00

Associate Cooperative Agreement
623-A-00-05-00314-00

Prepared for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Implementing Organizations:



Report Submitted: November 14, 2006

Summary

The pace of project implementation continued to increase during the reporting period with 27 volunteers fielded during the three-month period. As of the end of the third quarter, a total of 58 volunteers had been deployed during the life of the project.

VEGA completed the reconfiguration of the AMED program with a revised program description to clearly support the revised USAID strategic framework. The USAID program modification was signed in August and the revised agreements between VEGA and partner organizations were completed in September.

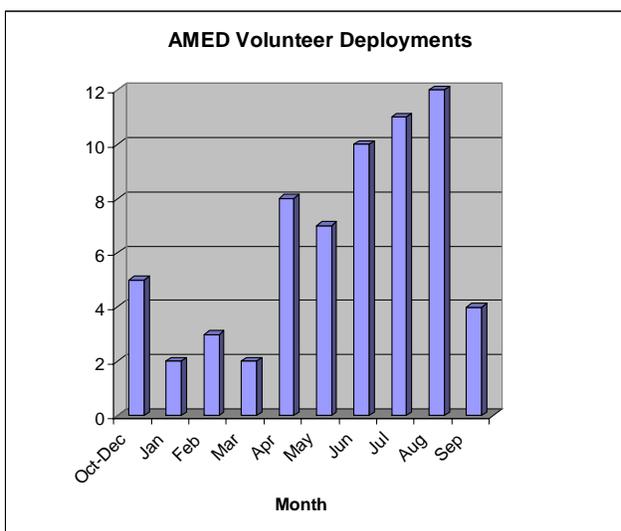
Operations were moved to Juba, with all program staff posted in Southern Sudan by the end of August (minimal support staff remain in Nairobi to provide the program with administrative, financial and logistical support). To deal with the unavailability of reasonably priced housing in Juba, both for volunteers and staff, a building close to the present office compound was rented which will provide housing for more than 6 persons. Renovations have started and will be completed in the next quarter. Office facilities and staff/volunteer housing in Wau were secured by the end of September and will be ready for work and residence in October.

The new VEGA/AMED Senior Technical Advisor, Mohamed Hago was also fielded to Juba during this quarter. Mr. Hago will work with the implementation team to identify assignments and field volunteers.

Activities for the coming quarter will focus upon completing a work plan for FY2007. The work plan will build on the experience acquired during the past year in Southern Sudan in planning volunteer assignments and focus on target assignments in accordance with the revised project description, expansion of the grants program, operational support for three agricultural training centers, and conducting and reporting impact assessments to document the achievement of targets. The VEGA/AMED program will remain flexible to be able to respond to unforeseen developments in continued support of the USAID program in Southern Sudan.

Activities Undertaken During the Quarter

Volunteer technical assistance assignments reach a high during the quarter with 27 volunteers deployed during the three month period, with a summary by type of assignment as listed below. The table to the right shows the number of volunteers by month.



Short-term Volunteers

Building Institutional Capacity of Southern Sudanese Institutions

- ✓ Completed two assignments at the South Sudan Center for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation (SSCCSE), one in personnel management and the other in organizational development.
- ✓ Completed three assignments with local State ministries in Wau, including planning and management for the Ministry of Infrastructure, capacity needs assessment for the Ministry of Finance, and strategic planning for the Ministry of Agriculture. These assignments will be followed up in the coming year.
- ✓ Demonstrated handling and processing of hides, working with Central Equatoria State Ministry of Animal Resources in Juba, to improve skills of staff to better advise livestock dealers.
- ✓ Conducted a training program in accounting for Cueibet Country finance department, near Rumbek.
- ✓ Developed a draft trade legislation at GOSS Ministry of Commerce.
- ✓ Designed a training program for parliamentary committee responsible for review and oversight of commerce issues to acquaint them with Ministry of Commerce structure, trade policies and legislation under development.

Employment Skills and Business Advisory Services

- ✓ Provided training in basic computer skills with a focus on applications for business usage to employees at Nile Water Bottling Factory in Rumbek.
- ✓ Analyzed company and activities structure and recommended improvements in structure and products for Abraham Akolino Carpentry, in Juba.
- ✓ Set up a training program in woodworking and workshop skills at vocational center in Akot with focus on training ex combatants and orphans.

Agricultural Producers Groups and Agricultural Marketing

- ✓ Assessed and made recommendations for improvements in business planning for Nile Community Development Organization (NICODO), a dairy association based in Juba.
- ✓ Conducted marketing workshop for ten producer groups and cooperatives in Yei on improvement of agricultural marketing.
- ✓ Conducted study of businesses along Yei - Aruba business corridor for the Crops Training Center in Yei.
- ✓ Completed two assignments in farming as a business for extension agents with the Wulu Country and Rumbek Central Country Agricultural Departments.
- ✓ Designed a training manual in Farming as a Business for use in agricultural training centers, with the GOSS Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Juba.

Long-term Volunteers

The two long-term business advisors (LTBAs) posted at the South Sudan Center for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation (SSCCSE) since January 2006 continued their work at the Center, with the following achievements during the reporting period:

- ✓ Completed budget planning, draft chart of accounts
- ✓ Contributed to President's 200 Day Plan
- ✓ Completed SSCCSE's website design
- ✓ Participated in meetings with KPMG and BearingPoint on financial system
- ✓ Completed organizational structure and job descriptions for existing positions
- ✓ Planned a management and personal development training course held in Nairobi
- ✓ Participated in UNDP-sponsored Master Plan workshop geared towards the long-term strategic planning for the Center.

The second group of four LTBAs arrived in Sudan at the end of July. Activities during the reporting period included:

- ✓ Focus group sessions with local business owners to better understand the environment and gauge the comprehension of basic market principles by the entrepreneur. Done in their first two weeks, these surveys will help in finalizing the design of a business training seminar.
- ✓ The 2 LTBAs who will stay in Juba for the duration of their program began assignments at the GOSS Ministry of Commerce, Directorate of Private Sector Development. Initial work focused on budgeting and organizational development, contributing to the 200 Day Plan and a World Bank proposal.
- ✓ Two volunteers assigned to Wau remained in Juba doing short-term work while office facilities and accommodations were completed in Wau. One assisted the Ministry of Labor affiliated Multi-Disciplinary Training Center (MTC) in Juba with business planning, financial concepts, and Center outfitting. The other individual developed an outline of the business training seminar to be given to local entrepreneurs by the volunteers in the three urban centers of Juba, Wau, and Malakal.

One long-term diaspora volunteer carried out an assignment from early July through late September as an organizational development specialist in building local Population Services International-Sudan staff capacity. Activities included assessment of staff management capacity and on-the-job training for staff.

At the end of the reporting period, a scope of work was finalized for a three-month diaspora volunteer to begin work as an IT specialist with the GOSS Ministry of Environment in Juba in coordination with the USAID STEP project. The assignment was scheduled for early October.

In-House Technical Assistance

- ✓ The program has supported the Women's Self Help Development Organization (WSHDO) in Juba since early 2006 through technical assistance, volunteer assignments and a grant for upgrading facilities and purchasing equipment. In July, WSHDO, through the assistance of VEGA, successfully won the full food and beverage service contract at the United National Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). The cafeteria is popular because of the quality of food, good service, and the staff's attention to hygiene and sanitation measures. The UNMIS cafeteria sales have continued to increase since the new cafeteria opened. See the success story in **Annex 1** for more details.

Other Activities During the Period

- ✓ Program staff held a number of meetings with staff from the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries and the Padok Fisheries Training Center with the goal of reaching an agreement on providing financial support for center operations in accordance with the program modification. The same model will apply to the other two trainings the program will support in the coming year, the Agricultural Technology Training Center and Crops Training Center. At the end of the September, the project was ready to initiate financial support pending approval by USAID, which requested that support be delayed until the training centers had completed close-out with the previous funder, Catholic Relief Services.
- ✓ The program moved the focus of operations to Juba, including posting all program staff in Juba and establishing local banking and travel arrangements to offer support to the program. Nile Commercial Bank was selected as it will enable transfer of funds to all six program locations (project offices in Juba, Wau and Malakal as well as locations for the three agricultural training centers).

Problems Encountered/Addressed/To be Addressed

Well-being of staff and volunteers, including the issues of health, safety and security, remain paramount in the difficult environment of Southern Sudan. Specific issues are:

- The OLS security consortium reopened the door for membership during the quarter and the project was finalizing arrangements to join at the end of the quarter. This will be especially important for health and security issues outside of Juba.
- Malakal was considered unsafe from early August through the end of September and planned field visits there to review program opportunities and housing were delayed until the next quarter. When the Malakal office is opened, the vehicle now in Rumbek will be transferred there by barge via Juba.
- The two LTBA's in Rumbek will be transferred to Juba around this time as the focus for the center where they are employed is increasingly in Juba, not Rumbek.
- The change in the Sudan visa process for entry into Southern Sudan has dramatically affected the ability to implement the program. The project currently has five LTBA's in Nairobi awaiting visas as well as the COP. There are indications that this situation will be resolved, but currently all avenues are being explored so that expat project staff can

comply with guidance from USAID to travel to Southern Sudan with GOS visas and not SSRRC travel passes which had been the previous protocol.

- Housing in Juba remains an obstacle. The project has rented a residential building across the street from the present office compound. When renovation is completed early in the next quarter, it will accommodate at least six staff/volunteers in a secure and pleasant atmosphere, resulting in long-term savings from tent hotels.

Progress Made Towards Achievement of Program Objectives

The accompanying table summarizes volunteer placements since the beginning of the program and the results obtained from these activities.

VEGA/AMED Program - Inputs and Outputs to date

Inputs	Quantity	Outputs	Quantity
SOWs approved/in recruitment	80	Direct beneficiaries/persons receiving training/TA	980
Volunteers deployed	58	Indirect beneficiaries (estimate)	8000
Vols. assigned/awaiting deployment	5	State budgets prepared	2
Regional volunteers deployed	11	Planning documents prepared for GOSS ministry/agency	6
Diaspora volunteers deployed	7	State officials with upgraded planning, budgeting and finance skills	61
Long-term (LTBAs) volunteers deployed	6	County officials received civil service/budget training	51
Workshops/focus groups facilitated by VEGA staff	5	Chamber of Commerce officials receiving admin training	18
Regional assessments by VEGA staff	4	Chamber of Commerce members receiving org. training	210
Business Focus Groups facilitated by LTBAs	5	GOSS Ministry staff with upgraded admin. skills	50
		Business persons attendance of conference facilitated	10
		Businesses persons participating in focus groups	61

Planned Activities for the Next Quarter

Planned priorities for the October - December 2006:

- Complete work plan for FY2007.
- Initiate grants for three agricultural training centers as well as expanded small grants program leveraging volunteer assignments to maximize results.
- Complete staff/volunteer housing in Juba to decrease reliance on expensive tent camps.
- Operationalize Wau program office and conduct preliminary needs assessment for Malakal.
- Conduct impact assessments of volunteer assignments to date and update monitoring & evaluation data gathering and reporting to meet revised program requirements.

Annex 1. VEGA Volunteers in Action

VEGA Assists the Women Self Help Development Organization



In Juba, Southern Sudan, VEGA/Agricultural Market and Enterprise Development Program (VEGA/AMED) is working with the Women Self Help Development Organization (WSHDO) to provide management training for its staff and to increase employment opportunities for its members. Due to VEGA interventions, WSHDO is now well recognized among

international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and United Nations (UN) agencies in Juba for its ability to identify eligible women for training opportunities and other activities.

In early 2006, VEGA awarded WSHDO a small grant to be used to:

- Refurbish existing office space and purchase needed office supplies and equipment;
- Provide bread and pastry baking training to groups of internally displaced women;
- Upgrade tea shops, kitchens, and cafeterias located on UN compounds.

WSHDO started in 1975 in Western Equatoria with the assistance of GTZ, the German aid agency. GTZ continued its support to WSHDO until 1996. In 1997 the Area Rehabilitation Scheme followed by the German Leprosy Relief Association took over funding until November 2003. The Juba WSHDO has been operating independently since December 2003.

WSHDO in Juba currently manages three cafeterias that serve local Sudanese meals along with traditional tea, coffee, and cold drinks. The cafeteria located at the WSHDO compound caters to local workers including state government staff. The other two cafeterias are located at the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) headquarters compound and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) compound. The VEGA grant has transformed two of the three cafeterias into profitable enterprises.

In late July 2006, WSHDO, with VEGA assistance, successfully won the full food and beverage service contract at UNMIS. Although the cafeteria is designed to provide meals for the local Sudanese staff working for the UN, approximately 60-65% of the customers are UN international staff. In addition to ongoing training by VEGA senior staff, in June 2006 VEGA Volunteer Connie Freiermuth provided training to staff of all three cafeterias on hygiene and sanitation guidelines. The cafeteria is popular because of the quality of food, service, and the staff's attention to hygiene and sanitation measures. The UNMIS cafeteria sales have continued to increase since the new cafeteria opened.

Annex 2. AMED Volunteer Report

Volunteer	Travel Dates	Assignment Code, Title, Field Track	Recruiter
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AMED (Agricultural Market and Enterprise Development)

Status: Filled

Sudan

Weiss, Nora		SUD075: Gender Assessment; VEGA AMED (Agricultural Market and Enterprise Development)	Winrock
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Filled: 1

Status: In-Country

Sudan

Shockley, Evan	Jul 23, 06 - Nov 30, 07	SUD068: MBAEC Volunteer for Small Business Development; VEGA AMED (Agricultural Market and Enterprise Development)	CDC
Manyok, Mabior	Oct 9, 06 - Dec 22, 06	SUD076: Information Technology Support to the Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Environment, Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism	Winrock
Daniels, Safiya	Jul 23, 06 - Nov 30, 07	SUD068: MBAEC Volunteer for Small Business Development; VEGA AMED (Agricultural Market and Enterprise Development)	CDC
Adams, Christopher	Jul 23, 06 - Nov 30, 07	SUD068: MBAEC Volunteer for Small Business Development; VEGA AMED (Agricultural Market and Enterprise Development)	CDC
Manhin, Kirk	Jan 28, 06 - Apr 28, 07	SUD012: Administration and Management of Socio-economic Research Information Centers (Long-term Volunteers); South Sudan Center for Census, Statistics & Evaluation	CDC
Lepionka, Alexandra	Jan 28, 06 - Apr 28, 07	SUD012: Administration and Management of Socio-economic Research Information Centers (Long-term Volunteers); South Sudan Center for Census, Statistics & Evaluation	CDC
Pratt, Susan	Jul 23, 06 - Nov 30, 07	SUD068: MBAEC Volunteer for Small Business Development; VEGA AMED (Agricultural Market and Enterprise Development)	CDC

In-Country: 7

Status: Returned

Sudan

Sparacino, JoAnn	Aug 21, 06 - Sep 18, 06	SUD070: (Regional) Capacity Building - Ministry of Commerce and Trade: Draft Trade Act; Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Supply	Winrock
Ladu, Godfrey	Jul 1, 06 - Sep 19, 06	SUD026: Management Support for PSI Field Operations; Population Services International-Sudan	Winrock
Olewe, Donald	Jul 31, 06 - Aug 19, 06	SUD039: (Regional) Rumbek Community Computer Training; Nile Water Bottling Factory	ACDI/VOCA
Sabuni, Patrick	Sep 11, 06 - Sep 30, 06	SUD019: Capacity Building - Parliamentary Commission on Commerce and Trade; Parliamentary Commission on Commerce and Trade	Winrock
Hughes, Jay	Aug 12, 06 - Sep 3, 06	SUD052: Strategic Planning for the State Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Agriculture, Western Bahr El Ghazal State	ACDI/VOCA
Amodeo, Valerie	Aug 1, 06 - Aug 14, 06	SUD064: Management & Personal Development Training Volunteer for SSCCSE; South Sudan Center for Census, Statistics & Evaluation	CDC
Allen, Cameron "Kent"	Aug 5, 06 - Aug 21, 06	SUD054: Helping Juba Carpentry to Position itself in the Growing Local Market; Abraham Akolino	ACDI/VOCA
Keter, Kipsang	Sep 25, 06 - Oct 7, 06	SUD072: (Regional) Training on Handling and Processing of Hides and Skins; Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Fisheries	CNFA
LePage, James	Aug 12, 06 - Aug 25, 06	SUD046: Cuibet County Accountants Training - Lakes; Cueibet County Administration	Winrock
Glover, Malcolm	May 30, 06 - Jul 17, 06	SUD051: Outreach for Involving Diaspora in Rebuilding South Sudan; Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA/AMED)	Winrock
Ike, Roberto	Aug 12, 06 - Aug 25, 06	SUD046: Cuibet County Accountants Training - Lakes; Cueibet County Administration	Winrock
Deng, Marol	May 11, 06 - Aug 31, 06	SUD060: Business Directory of South Sudan; Bread of Life Africa	Winrock

Returned: 12

Sudan

Oliver, Beth	Apr 18, 06 - May 9, 06	SUD040: Basic Business Plan in Agriculture; Akot County Agricultural Department	ACDI/VOCA
Njuguna, Lucy	Mar 6, 06 - May 11, 06	SUD021: (Regional) Agriculture as a Business; Ministry of Agriculture GOSS	ACDI/VOCA
Yashkov, Vladislav	Jan 30, 06 - Feb 04, 06	SUD013: Civil Service Training - Lakes State Governor's Office	Winrock
Rice, William	Jun 11, 06 - Jun 30, 06	SUD001: Hospitality Management and Credit Mobilization Assistance ; Women's Empowerment	Winrock
Adongrech, Christo	Jun 11, 06 - Jun 30, 06	SUD001: Hospitality Management and Credit Mobilization Assistance ; Women's Empowerment	Winrock
Kieti Makila, John	Feb 22, 06 - Mar 28, 06	SUD023: (Regional) Business Directory of South Sudan; Bread of Life Africa	Winrock
Bartel, Joseph	Feb 5, 06 - Feb 27, 06	SUD017: Institutional Development Plan; Southern Sudan Forestry Training Center	Winrock
Bankston, Julian	Oct 28, 05 - Nov 14, 05	SUD002: Forestry Training Center Strategic Plan; Southern Sudan Forestry Training Center	Winrock
Emery, Nathan	Nov 5, 05 - Dec 1, 05	SUD003: Assessment of Honey Production and Other Revenue Generation; Agricultural Market and	Winrock
Falco, Tish	Nov 27, 05 - Dec 10, 05	SUD004: Capacity Building - Ministry of Commerce and Trade; Ministry of Commerce, Trade and	Winrock
Edwards, Richard	Apr 11, 06 - May 3, 06	SUD009: Crops Training Center Basic Business Plan Training; Crop Training Centre (CTC) / CRS	Winrock
Renquist, Donald	Apr 12, 06 - May 3, 06	SUD010: Human Resource Development Plan for CTC; Crop Training Centre (CTC) / CRS SSARP	Winrock
Harbour, Ron	Feb 18, 06 - Mar 16, 06	SUD015: Civil Service Training - Cueibet County Administration; Cueibet County Administration	Winrock
Barden, Kenneth	Apr 1, 06 - Apr 18, 06	SUD018: Implementation Plan - Ministry of Commerce and Supply; Ministry of Commerce, Trade	Winrock
Grover, John	Mar 19, 06 - Apr 10, 06	SUD020: Fisheries Development; Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries	Winrock
Fromm, Linell	Apr 30, 06 - May 30, 06	SUD024: Leadership Training for Bahrel Ghazel Youth Development Agency; Bahr el Ghazel Youth	Winrock
Kau, Abram	Jul 3, 06 - Jul 18, 06	SUD033: (Regional) Basic Business Training; Rumbek Mayor (Mayor of Rumbek)	Winrock
Mufandaedza, Oneas	May 16, 06 - May 30, 06	SUD036: Basic Agriculture Skills Training; African Christian Mission International	Winrock
Gorsevski, Virginia	Apr 23, 06 - May 6, 06	SUD043: Geospatial Analysis; Creative Associates International	Winrock
Whiting, Fred	Mar 31, 06 - Apr 22, 06	SUD027: Capacity Building for the South Sudan Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture	IESC
Muiruri, Peter	Dec 12, 05 - Dec 15, 05	SUD022: Chamber of Commerce Workshop; National Chamber of Commerce, Industry and	IESC
Rao, Laban	Dec 12, 05 - Dec 15, 05	SUD022: Chamber of Commerce Workshop; National Chamber of Commerce, Industry and	IESC
Mwasi, Amos	Jun 3, 06 - Jun 14, 06	SUD050: (Regional) Training NICODO on Processing, Storage and Marketing of Milk; Nile	CNFA
Stewart, Jonathan	May 21, 06 - Jul 2, 06	SUD034: Public Media Training - Rumbek; Ministry of Information, Culture, Youth and Sports	Winrock
Glover, Malcolm	May 31, 06 - Jul 16, 06	SUD051: Outreach for Involving Diaspora in Rebuilding South Sudan; Volunteers for Economic	Winrock
Grieco, Mark	Jul 16, 06 - Aug 4, 06	SUD038: Carpentry and Masonry Training for Vocational Training Center- Akot; Save the Children -	Winrock
Cosgrove, Leslie	Jun 4, 06 - Jun 23, 06	SUD035: Peace Building and Conflict Management Training for Youth in Lakes State; Ministry of	Winrock
Doshi, Ritesh	Jul 4, 06 - Jul 22, 06	SUD041: CRS - Traders Profiling; Crop Training Centre (CTC) / CRS SSARP	Winrock
O'Sullivan, John	Jul 4, 06 - Jul 22, 06	SUD041: CRS - Traders Profiling; Crop Training Centre (CTC) / CRS SSARP	Winrock
Kenyi, Lado	May 22, 06 - Jul 5, 06	SUD049: IT/Communication Assessment of Southern Sudan; Agricultural Market and Enterprise	IESC
McNeilly, Henry	Jun 11, 06 - Jul 1, 06	SUD007: Development of a Management Information System; Sudan Microfinance Institution	Winrock
Elsbree, Andrew	Apr 22, 06 - May 13, 06	SUD028: Capacity Building - Women Self Help Development Organization, Juba; Women Self Help	IESC
Sadhwani, Ashok	Jun 25, 06 - Jul 9, 06	SUD044: Customs Department Human Resource Development Training; Customs Department	Winrock
Quarterman, Corine	May 31, 06 - Jun 25, 06	SUD032: Organizational Management - Bahr el Ghazal Women Development Centre; Bahr el	IESC
O'Sullivan, Rita	Jul 4, 06 - Jul 22, 06	SUD041: CRS - Traders Profiling; Crop Training Centre (CTC) / CRS SSARP	Winrock
Wright, Rahamatu	Apr 11, 06 - May 2, 06	SUD005: Shea Products; Women's Empowerment Center - Yei	Winrock
Elsbree, Carole	Apr 22, 06 - May 13, 06	SUD016: Tailoring and Basic Sewing - Women Self Help Organization; Women Self Help	IESC
Gwishiri, Velma	Jun 11, 06 - Jul 1, 06	SUD008: Finance and Accounting Support; Sudan Microfinance Institution (SUMI)	Winrock
Lubanga, Fanuel	Jun 19, 06 - Jun 30, 06	SUD053: (Regional) Capacity Building for COSHPAO; Community Self Help Poverty Alleviation	CNFA
Klein, Leonard	Apr 21, 06 - May 16, 06	SUD042: BizAIDS Assessment of Southern Sudan; Agricultural Market and Enterprise Development	IESC

Completed: 40

Grand Total (all status): 60