



MONTHLY UPDATE

February 2006

Cleaning Up Juba

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

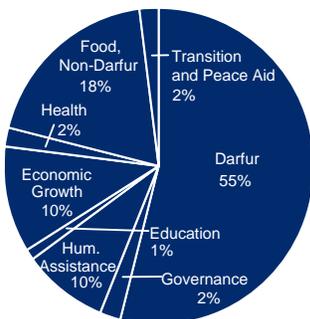
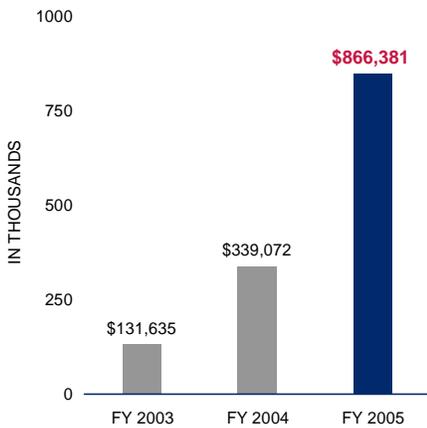


Photo: ADRA

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

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

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN



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

Mitigating Conflict in South Darfur

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



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

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

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

Workshop Confronts Violence Against Women

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

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

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

Radios Bring Government to the People

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



Photo: USAID

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

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



USAID | SUDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Photo: Laura Lartigue, Chemonics

Small Loans Improve Lives

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

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

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

SUMI has been an integral part of USAID’s effort to provide stability and foster economic recovery in

Sudan Microfinance Institution *(as of November 2005)*

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

Sudan as its people face the challenge of rebuilding their country after a 22-year civil war. SUMI now has branch locations in Yei, Yambio, Maridi, and Rumbek, and an overall repayment rate of 97.8 percent—an extraordinary accomplishment given the challenging environment.

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

Lulu Brings Livelihoods

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

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

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

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

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



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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

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

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

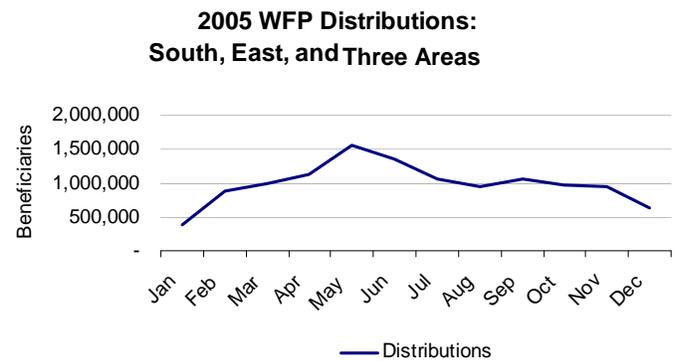
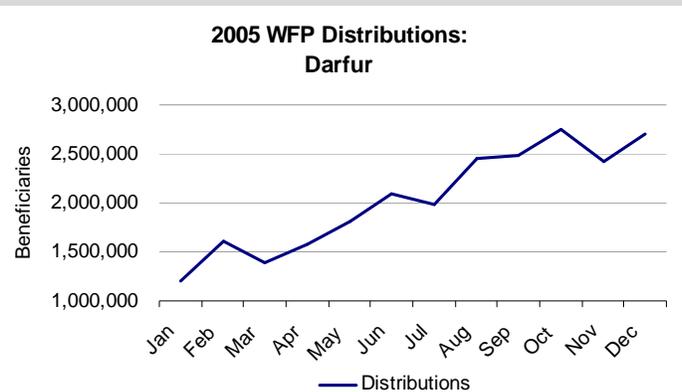
World Food Program Sudan Distributions

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

**WFP Distributions
December 2005**

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

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





MONTHLY UPDATE

March 2006

Bor Dinka Begin the Journey Home

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

For over two years, USAID and PACT have worked together to support the Joint Integration Return and Rehabilitation Support Team (JIRRST), a group of civil society leaders and local authorities, to facilitate the return of

displaced Bor Dinka from Mundri County to Upper Nile. Amidst increasing violence and cattle looting among the Bor, Moro, and Mundari communities, USAID supported numerous negotiations in Juba in

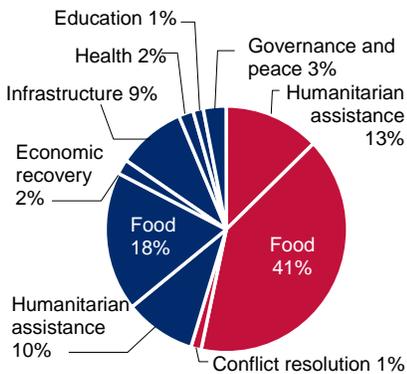
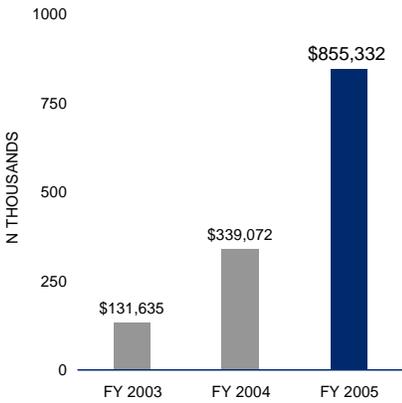


Bor Dinka herders and their cattle prepare to cross the Juba bridge on their journey home in January 2006. Photo: PACT

September and October 2005 that involved JIRRST, PACT, southern governors and ministers, and representatives of the Bor, Moro, Mundari, and Bari. Participants agreed that cattle camps would pass through Juba, over the town's bridge, and then onward along the east bank of the Nile back to their homes in Bor County.

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

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN



Darfur: 55%

Humanitarian assistance: \$108,300
Food: \$347,000
Conflict resolution: \$11,610

Other Sudan: 45%

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



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

Mapping Juba

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

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

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

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

As part of a USAID-funded cooperative agreement to build the capacity of local governments, a team of specialists in urban planning, architecture, land tenure, and public administration conducted a municipal assessment of Juba in September 2005.

Implemented by USAID partner Creative Associates

International, Inc., in close cooperation with local and national government, the assessment examined planning priorities and options, analyzed current structures and records, and examined the government’s capacity to manage land, building, and planning.

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



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

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

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

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

Lulu Literacy Program Empowers Women Entrepreneurs

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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Classes Build Vocational Skills In Darfur

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

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



USAID | SUDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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



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



sewing course for 75 women and provide sewing machines, training materials, stipends for the training, and a modest amount to rehabilitate the training center.

Displaced young men also lack opportunities to generate income and provide for their families, placing increased pressure on women and

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

USAID also recently funded a grant for a similar project in Dereig camp for displaced people in South Darfur. The grant will fund a two-month vocational

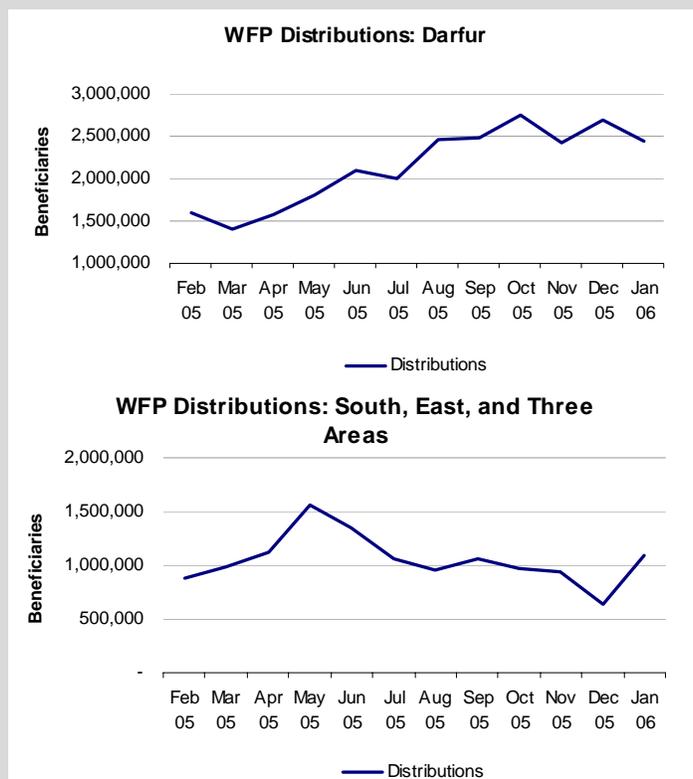
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WFP Distributions January 2006

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

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





MONTHLY UPDATE

April 2006

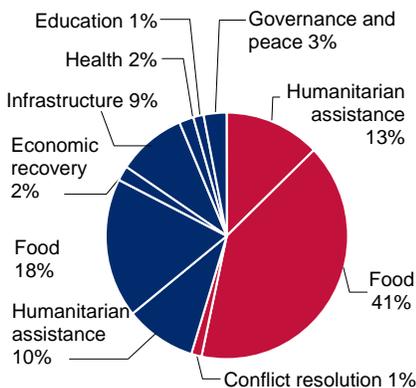


Fighting Meningitis

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

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

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2005 ESTIMATED



Darfur 55%

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

Other Sudan 45%

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

Countrywide Total: \$855.3 million

*Includes PL 480 Title II and Emerson Trust



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

Integrating the “White Army”

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



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

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

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

In February and March, USAID and PACT sponsored initiatives with the Nuer Peace Council that brought

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

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

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

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

A Clinic Reopens in Darfur

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

Photo: USAID





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

Celebrating International Women's Day

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

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

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

Similar celebrations occurred at other USAID sites, including Wunrok town in Twic County and Kauda town in Rashad County. In Wunrok town, USAID

partners collaborated with Parliamentarian Victoria Adhar Arop to celebrate the day and recognize the achievements of women from Southern Sudan. The celebrations throughout the South and Three Areas helped women recognize their contributions and initiate plans for future advancement.♦

Developing Southern State Constitutions

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

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



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

In the opening session, each of the states introduced itself by saying 'constitution' in the local language, but few participants knew or understood the purpose of a constitution. When copies of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Interim National Constitution, Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan, and Guide to the Legal Framework were distributed, many remarked that this was their first opportunity to see and read the key documents. By the third day, when the participants divided into their state working

groups, they had taken significant steps toward understanding and internalizing the documents and presentations, and had developed the necessary tools to discuss and review the model constitution.

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

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

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

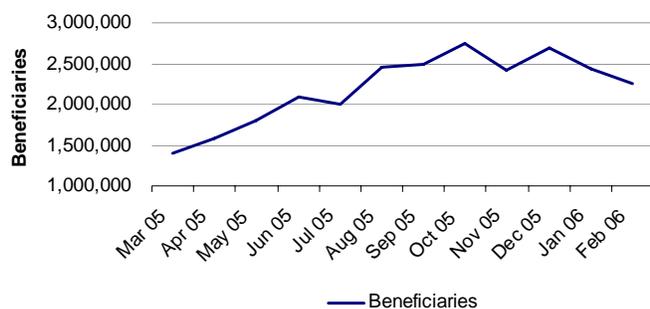
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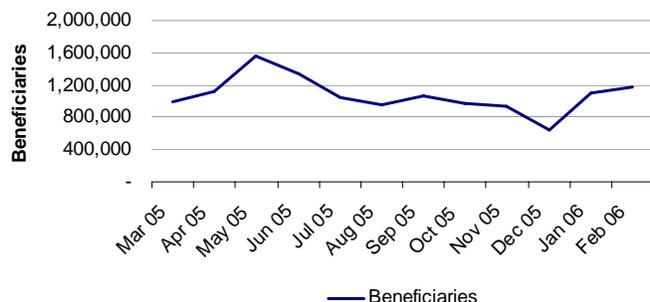
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Three Areas*	293,951
Central	46,257
Total	3,429,586

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

WFP Distributions: Darfur



WFP Distributions: South, East, and Three Areas





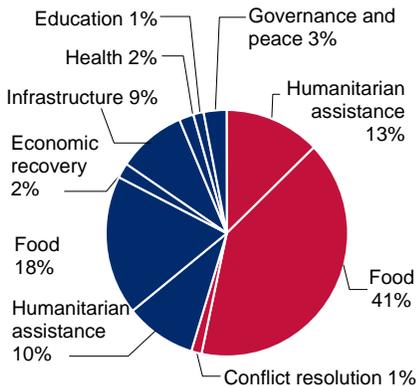
MONTHLY UPDATE

May 2006

Parties Sign Darfur Peace Agreement

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

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2005 ESTIMATED



Darfur 55%

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

Other Sudan 45%

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

*Includes PL 480 Title II and Emerson Trust

USAID Responds to Food Ration Cuts

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

To help WFP be able to restore full rations this summer and avoid a humanitarian crisis, President Bush directed USAID to take immediate action, in addition to its already-committed contributions. USAID is now

shipping 2,850 metric tons of non-cereal commodities (valued at \$5.1 million) from prepositioning facilities in Dubai and Lake Charles, Louisiana, to Sudan; redirecting five ships carrying 4,750 metric tons of non-cereal commodities (\$6.7 million) previously en route to Dubai directly to Port Sudan; and undertaking an emergency purchase of 40,000 metric tons (\$36.2 million) of cereal commodities from the United States for rapid, direct shipment to Sudan. President Bush has also called on the U.S. Congress to approve \$225 million in food aid requested in the supplemental appropriations bill.



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



USAID | SUDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

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

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

Building a Unified Education System for the South

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

Establishing a strong foundation of educational facilities, materials, and staff is key to overcoming these obstacles and ensuring equitable access to quality schooling. Toward this end, USAID is working

with CARE to rehabilitate schools, establish non-formal education programs, train teachers, and mobilize communities. USAID is also working to strengthen the capacity of Southern Sudan's Ministry of Education to sustainably develop and manage education programs.

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

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

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



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



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

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

Fuel-Efficient Stoves Reduce Risk in Darfur Camps

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

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

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

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

Fuel-efficient stoves are manufactured in camps for less than \$3 using locally available materials,

[U.S. Agency for International Development
www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)

including clay, sorghum stems, dung, aluminum, and water. With support from USAID, CHF, Relief International, and other local partners train Darfurian women how to build and use fuel-efficient stoves and pass their skills along to other women in the camps.

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



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

Midwives Improve Health in Darfur

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

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



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

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



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

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

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

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

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

WFP Distributions March 2006

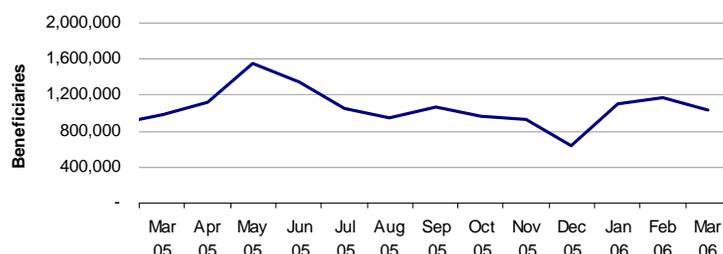
Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,329,898
South	709,274
East	49,812
Three Areas*	233,521
Central	37,310
Total	3,359,815

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

WFP Distributions: Darfur



WFP Distributions: South, East, and Three Areas





MONTHLY UPDATE

June 2006

Disseminating the CPA

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

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

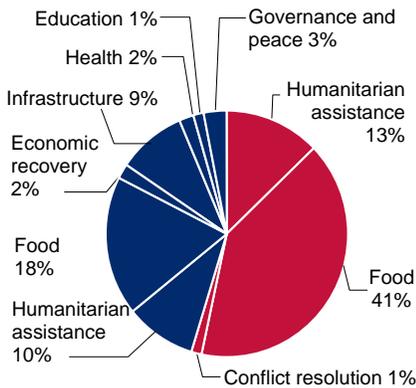
That began to change in April and May 2006, when more than 150,000 people in five Southern Sudanese states were able to directly access information on the agreement. USAID is funding a large initiative to disseminate the document in cooperation with the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), Pact, DAI,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



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

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

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

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

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

Local Human Rights Monitors Document Abuses

As a result of Sudan’s two-decade civil war, 720,000 displaced Sudanese live in camps and squatter settlements in Khartoum and neighboring Bahari and



Omdurman where they fall victim to chronic and systematic human rights violations. Many are forced to relocate, their basic needs are unmet, their births go unregistered, and they are subject to torture and violent interactions with soldiers.

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

Gender Education Combats Violence Against Women

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

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



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



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

Veterinary Services Improve Lives in North Darfur

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

The First Day of Radio School

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

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

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

Growing a Future in South Sudan

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

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

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



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



USAID | SUDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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

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

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

In 2006, USAID asked NPA to expand the program into the underserved parts of Upper Nile and Jonglei, where many returnees are expected. The two states have been sites of tension between the Government of South Sudan's armed forces (the Sudan People's Liberation Army, or SPLA) and a large group of well-armed civilians known as the White Army—so-called because they live with their herds of cattle and rub ashes on their bodies to protect themselves from flies and mosquitoes. In January, clashes between the SPLA and White Army in Wuror County resulted in several hundred combatant deaths, and an April confrontation in Duk County forced thousands of the White Army to flee west. On the way they looted UN

and NGO centers, absconding with several hundred tons of food aid household kits. They also caught one truck hired by NPA to deliver seeds in Ayod County, holding it for several days and eventually leaving it with punctured tires. Yet in spite of these difficulties, NPA managed to complete its planned seed and tool distributions to isolated rural communities throughout the area, without loss to looters, ahead of the rains, and in areas that were new to NPA.

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

Civil Society Organizations Build Bridges

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



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



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

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

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

spark the first steps of integration and community ownership for those returning to Southern Sudan. ♦

GOSS Develops Action Plan

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

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

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

**WFP Distributions
April 2006**

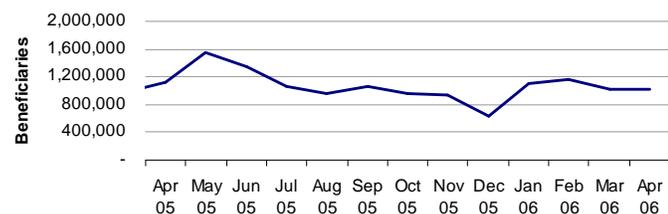
Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,347,654
South	715,277
East	112,695
Three Areas*	145,915
Central	37,065
Total	3,358,606

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

WFP Distributions: Darfur



WFP Distributions: South, East, and Three Areas





MONTHLY UPDATE

July 2006

A Million Children Vaccinated

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



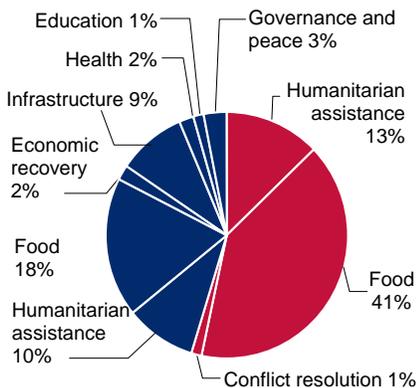
The Mass Measles Campaign vaccinates its one-millionth child on June 16 in Bentiu. Photo: USAID

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

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

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

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Relief Items Reach Darfur

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

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

This pipeline of emergency relief items is currently reaching 1.68 million people in Darfur. Families receive household items and shelter supplies that help to mitigate the hardships of displacement. Blankets, plastic sheeting and sleeping mats, water containers, clothes, and hygiene products are just some of the basic items that help restore dignity to people facing uncertainty and insecurity. In addition, the system

often provides materials to community projects, including women's centers, child-friendly spaces, and health and maternity clinics.

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

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

Emerging Space for Civil Society

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

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

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





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

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

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

Young Women Gain New Educational Opportunities

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



School matrons provide “comfort kits” to Gbutala’s female students. Photo: USAID



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



Diaspora Members Volunteer to Improve Health and Education

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

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

WFP Distributions May 2006

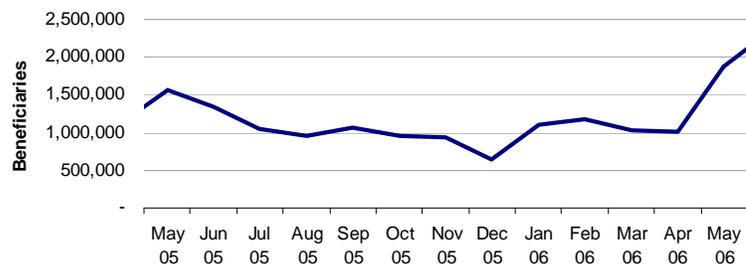
Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,748,981
South	1,065,372
East	204,790
Three Areas*	565,627
Central	40,426
Total	4,625,196

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

WFP Distributions: Darfur



WFP Distributions: South, East, and Three Areas





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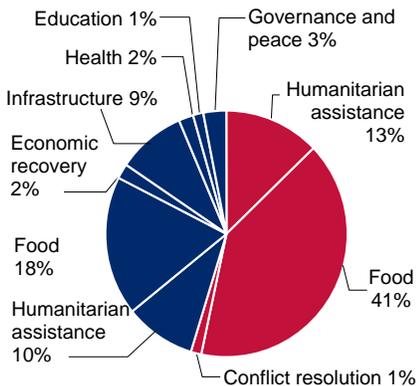
Providing Relief to the Newly Displaced

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

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

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

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2005 ESTIMATED



Darfur 55%

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

Other Sudan 45%

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

*Includes PL 480 Title II and Emerson Trust



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



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

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

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

Focus Groups Bridge Information Gaps

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

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

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



Abyei residents participate in a focus group. Photo: NDI

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

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



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

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

Teachers in Demand

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

USAID and its partners Academy for Educational



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

Strengthening the Rule of Law

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Educators attend training in Southern Sudan. Photo: USAID





Improving Access to Water Reduces Conflict

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

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

In communities participating in the USAID program, the average amount of water used per household has

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

Generating Income and Basic Services in Malakal

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

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

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





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

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

USAID support to local authorities is essential to building stability in the region, as Malakal is a major crossroads of commerce and interaction between the

North and the South, and numerous returnees have recently arrived in the city. ♦



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

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

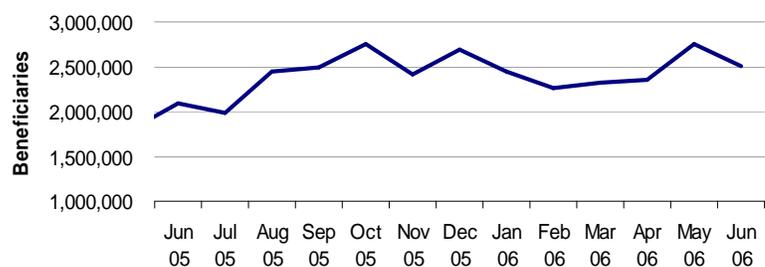
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WFP Distributions June 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,505,911
South	1,372,056
East	295,790
Three Areas*	623,216
Central	62,461
Total	4,859,434

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

WFP Distributions: Darfur



WFP Distributions: South, East, and Three Areas





MONTHLY UPDATE

September 2006

Partners Ensure That Aid Continues to Flow into Darfur

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

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



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

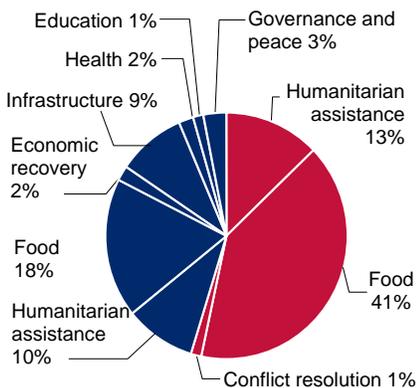
USAID also supports GOAL-run health facilities in Anka, Disa, Abdel Shakour, Furnoung, Fata Borno, Umm Lyon, and Kassab. ♦

Improving Women's Livelihoods

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



USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2005 ESTIMATED



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*Includes PL 480 Title II and Emerson Trust



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

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

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

Communities Drive Civilian Disarmament

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

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

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

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





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

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

Organizations Collaborate on Common Goals

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

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

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

The conference focused on creating understanding of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and providing participants with skills to create change in their communities. Participants identified an attitudinal

change in their perceptions of each other as crucial to transforming antagonism to peaceful coexistence.

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

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

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

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

A facilitator recorded comments from conference participants for a future edition of “Let’s Talk.” Photo: NDI





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

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

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

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

Preparing for the Census

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

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

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

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



Rehabilitating Torit Teaching Hospital

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

Photo: DAI



USAID Awards Infrastructure Contract

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

A launch ceremony, attended by representatives from the Government of Southern Sudan, the U.S. Consulate General, and USAID was held on September 13 in Juba. Minister of Transportation and Roads Rebecca Garang said she "applaud[ed] the

program's efforts to provide services and build capacity at the state level."

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

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

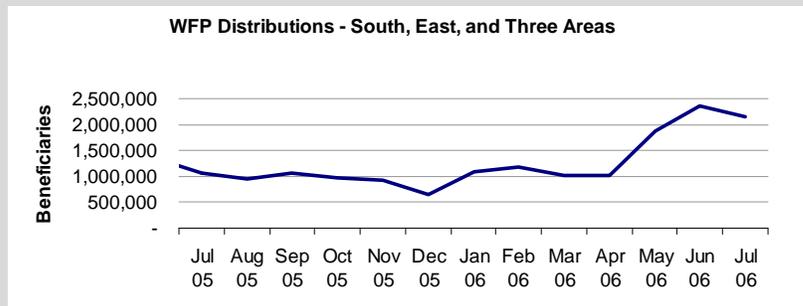
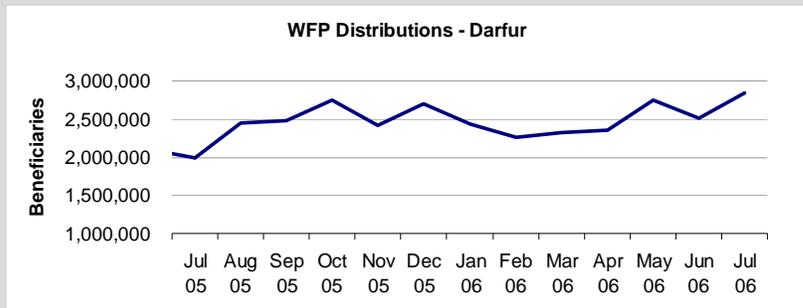
World Food Program Sudan Distributions

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

WFP Distributions July 2006

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

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





MONTHLY UPDATE

October 2006

Emergency Medical Assistance Reaches the Newly Displaced

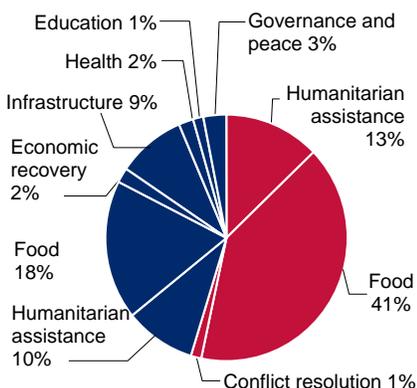
Following a spate of militia attacks on at least a dozen villages in Buram, South Darfur, during August and September, an estimated 2,500–3,400 displaced people arrived in the town of Seisabana the week of September 10. The new arrivals were reported to be in dire need of food, water, and health care,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

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

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



USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2005 ESTIMATED



Darfur 55%

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

Other Sudan 45%

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

*Includes PL 480 Title II and Emerson Trust



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



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

Responding to Avian Influenza

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

In April 2006, following the confirmation of AI cases in chickens on corporate farms in Northern Sudan, USAID established an AI task force with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Government of National Unity Ministries of Health and Animal Resources and Fisheries. In addition, USAID supported the Government of Southern Sudan in drafting an AI preparedness and response plan and

other AI communications materials, and in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USAID provided AI training to ministry staff in Uganda, and Kenya.

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

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

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





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

Collaboration Improves Access to Water

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

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

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

Resource Centers Empower Civil Society

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

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

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

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





New Government Facilities Inaugurated

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

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



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

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

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

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

USAID Awards Major Infrastructure Contract

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

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



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

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

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

that improve the lives of Sudanese people and help secure the peace."

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

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

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

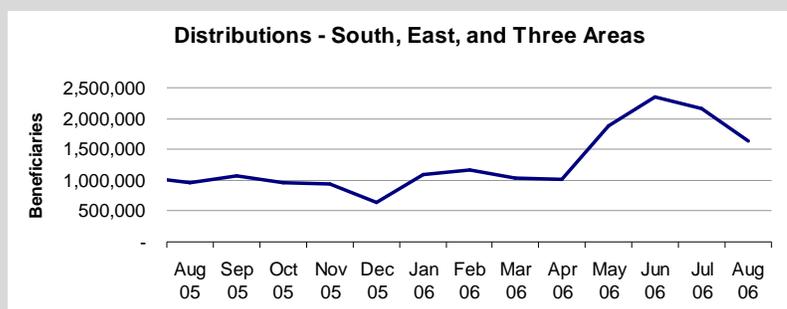
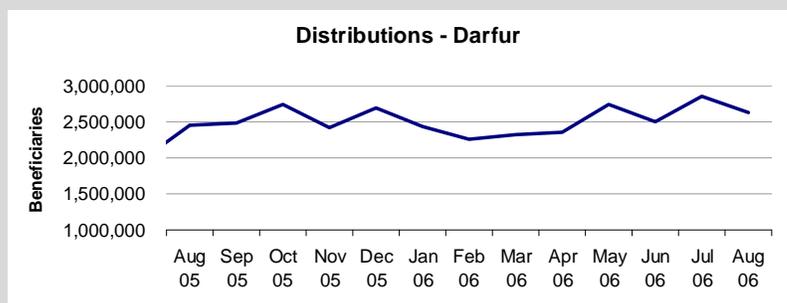
World Food Program Sudan Distributions

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

WFP Distributions August 2006

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

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





MONTHLY UPDATE

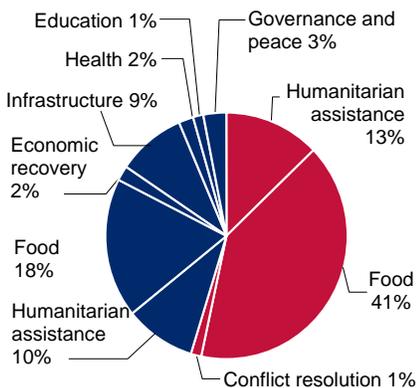
November 2006



Information Improves Maternal Health Among Refugees in Eastern Chad

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

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2005 ESTIMATED



Darfur 55%

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Darfur Total:	\$466.9 million

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*Includes PL 480 Title II and Emerson Trust

The Chadian and Darfuran refugee journalists at the USAID-funded Radio Absoun in Iriba, Chad, which is funded by USAID through Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's Initiative to Combat Violence Against Women,



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

recognized the extent of the problem and addressed it in Zaghawa, French, and Arabic on its weekly radio show, "To Your Health." The show, which broadcasts into three refugee camps and surrounding communities, featured an interview with a Chadian doctor on the medical consequences of complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Radio Absoun's newscasts covered the subject as well.

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

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



A Day in the Life: Saving a Mother and Child

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

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

After less than an hour on the road, the ambulance was ambushed by three armed men, who shot out the

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



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

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

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

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

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



Translating the DPA

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

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

Learning New Approaches to Teaching in the South

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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says his students were disruptive, disorganized, and inattentive.

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

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

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

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

Upper Nile: Rehabilitating the University

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

Malakal is one of many urban centers in Southern Sudan suffering from a lack of capacity. A government garrison town and site of active militia during the civil



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

war, Malakal and its surroundings became home to thousands of displaced villagers. Access for humanitarian agencies was severely restricted due to landmines. Since the war ended, access has opened up, but sanitation is poor and clean water remains a luxury. In Malakal, peace is still fragile.

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

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



Upper Nile: Reconstructing Local Government

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



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

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

The Nasir county offices were the first completed through the

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

The Akobo County Commissioner’s office is also slated to be finished in the coming months. In Duk,

Ulang, and Waat counties, where no office facilities exist, plans call for the construction of two-room buildings once the dry season begins in January. ♦

Reforming Company and Investment Law

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

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

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

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





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

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

Training Civilian Leaders

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

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

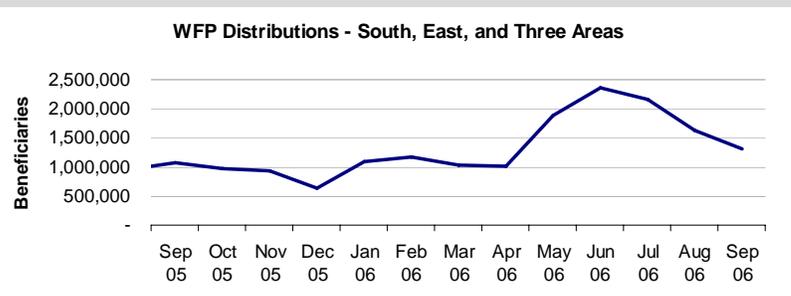
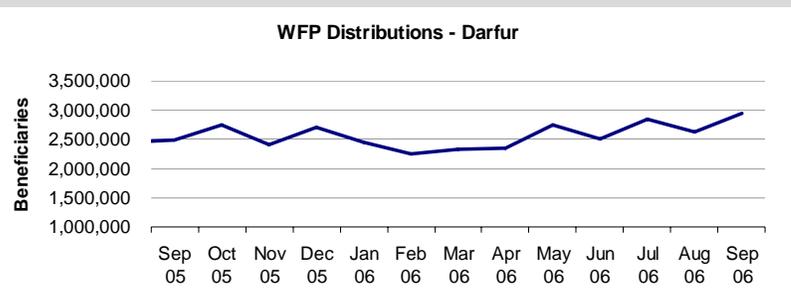
World Food Program Sudan Distributions

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

WFP Distributions September 2006

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

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





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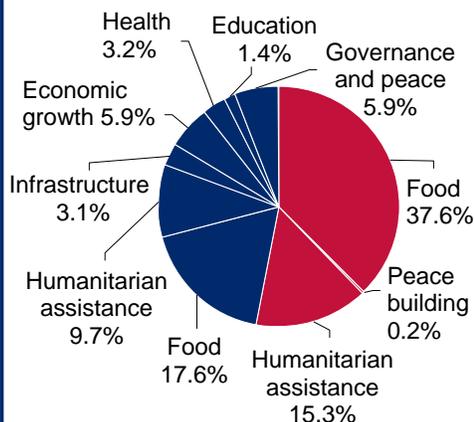
Agricultural Training Supports Southern Families

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

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

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

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2006 ESTIMATED



Darfur 53.1%

Humanitarian assistance:	\$108.27 million
Food:	\$266.11 million
Peace building:	\$1.40 million
Darfur:	\$375.78 million

South, East, and Three Areas 46.9%

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

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

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





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

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



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

Equipping Census Offices Improves Efficiency

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

A census is the largest statistical operation that a country can conduct, and the challenges of planning



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

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

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

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



Responding to Illiteracy

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

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

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

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

Mobile Drama Brings Peace Messages to Border States

Despite the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005, ethnic tensions continue to foster volatility in states along Sudan’s North-South border. Strained relations among



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

displaced people, returnees, and community residents, as well as among various ethnic groups, threaten the fragile peace. Many residents in these areas feel they have been left out of the peace and do not believe the CPA meets their needs. Few have read the agreement or understand its provisions.

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

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

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



Trainings Cultivate Youth Livelihood Options

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

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

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

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

Theater Groups Raise Awareness in Darfur

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

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



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

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

—A youth in Otash

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

—A Kalma management committee member

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

—An Otash management committee member



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

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

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



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

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

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

WFP Distributions October 2006

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

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

WFP Distributions - Darfur



WFP Distributions - South, East, and Three Areas

