

FY07 Annual Report of USAID/USDA PASA Activities

in support of

the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) and the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan)

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Executive Summary

Since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on January 9, 2005, Sudan has made great strides in its transition from a nation at war, to one at peace. As we approach the three year anniversary of the CPA signing, the international community continues to work alongside dedicated Southern Sudanese to deliver the peace dividends promised to the people. The foundations of democracy and good governance continue to be strengthened through the efforts of both the Southern Sudanese, and the international partners engaged in supporting the implementation of the CPA.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), in accordance with the terms of the Participating Agency Service Agreement (PASA) with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has focused on support for the implementation of the CPA as outlined in the USAID Strategic Statement for Sudan (2006-2008). The aim of the activities implemented under the PASA is to mitigate challenges related to the lack of human and infrastructure capacity in the South and the need for consistent monitoring of potential areas of tension.

Major achievements in FY2007 include the following:

- Placement of two long term technical advisors in Sudan for the purposes of providing expertise to the SSCSE in preparation for the upcoming 2008 Sudan Population Census,
- Completion of the 2008 budget for the Southern Sudan Land Commission (SSLC),
- Coordination with USAID partners to sponsor the Consultative Stakeholder's Conference to further the development of a comprehensive land policy and law for the people of southern Sudan.

Background

The overall goal for the USAID Strategic Statement for Sudan (2006-2008) is "Just and lasting peace secured through successful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement". Two strategic objectives (SOs) contribute to this goal: SO 9: Avert and Resolve Conflict and SO 10: Manage Crises, Promote Stability, Recovery and Democratic Reform, with an additional objective, SO 11, for program support. Activities under the PASA support each of these strategic objectives and also complement one another for a multifaceted approach to stabilization. These activities include:

- Support to the South Sudan Center for Census, Statistics and Evaluation,
- Start-up Assistance to the Southern Sudan Land Commission,
- Economic, Food Security and Livelihood Condition Monitoring Related to IDP Returns,
- Support to Development of USAID Programs.

The strong relationships that have been forged with the Sudanese throughout the years, along with the flexibility of the PASA continue to enable it to meet the changing needs of USAID, as it strives to bring tangible dividends to the people of Sudan.

Support to the Three Areas

Technical Assistance to the Three Areas

The PASA has a long history of providing support to the three areas. With the signing of the CPA, the technical assistance given by the PASA supports IR 9.3: Implementation of Three Area (Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile and Abyei) Protocols Advanced. In FY 2007, the Three Areas Technical Advisor completed the following:

- Briefed USAID/USG and advised USAID and its partners on situation in the Three Areas and interventions,
- Collected information on possible support to the State Land Commissions, and
- Gathered information for the Three Areas Handbook
- Provided coordination support to USAID, SPLM and other agencies, including arranging for meetings with USAID and leaders from Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States;
- At USAID's request, provided assistance to ARD in their work on the Customary Land Project; and
- Met with key SPLM partners on a regular basis to improve coordination of USAID projects and stay up-to-date on current implementation of the CPA in all Three Areas.

Through the rest of his contract in 2007, the Three Areas Technical Advisor continued to raise awareness of the implementation of the CPA and the challenges faced in Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile and Abyei to USAID/USG (Khartoum and Juba), including the below issues:

- Popular support in SKS to the SPLM is declining due to the Governor's limited progress in office,
- Increased popular support for the SPLM in former Western Kordofan is likely because the NCP has provided little development assistance after the CPA and their interests (pasture) appear better protected under SPLM,
- SKS has become militarized, especially in former Western Kordofan and the oil fields,

- Perceptions of reduced development assistance in the former SPLM controlled areas of SKS,
- Issues are beginning to arise over job distribution to those who were not present during the conflict, but have higher capacity, vs. those who remained in the area during the war and have the trust and legitimacy of the communities, and
- There is a need for an overall SPLM strategy in both states

The technical advisor attached to this activity is now providing expertise on Abyei to the United Nations. This activity under the PASA ended in the third quarter of 2007.

Support to Key GOSS Institutions

Transitional Support to Ministry Start-Up

PASA assistance to GOSS ministries, in support of IR 10.1: Core Institutional Structures for an Effective, Transparent and Accountable GOSS Developed, is near completion. The remaining support being provided under IR 10.1 includes the following:

- Finalization of the handover of the former NRTC/SACB Office in Yei to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). A request to handover assets has been made to USAID and upon approval; the assets in the Yei Office will be officially transferred to MAF. Currently, a computer necessary for the handover was returned to the USDA Juba office. This will enable USDA staff to finalize the transfer before the end of 2007.
- Provision of a Procurement Advisor to assist the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (MARF) in drafting plans for MDTF funds. The Procurement Advisor continued work on the proposal for MDTF funds as well as setting up a procurement department for MARF. Upon completion of his assignment, he provided a report with the following details:
 - Comprehensive report on the establishment of procurement systems following the guidelines of the central procurement unit and recommendations on improvement, and
 - Summary report on training needs for MARF on procurement systems.

Support to the Aerial Wildlife Survey in Conjunction with the Human Footprint Project

As an extension of the PASA's previous support in the wildlife sector, a grant was provided to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to undertake aerial surveys to determine the impact of the war on Sudan's wildlife. This survey provided coverage of all major wildlife habitats in Southern Sudan and contributed to the goal of WCS's Human Footprint Project to trace the levels of human influence over Africa's key eco-regions and helped informed long-term conservation strategies. Involvement in the survey linked Southern Sudan into a regional and

Africa-wide project, which has received widespread coverage in the media. In addition, the survey provided baseline information with which the relevant ministries can plan and manage natural resources. Effective management of resources is crucial for stability so that citizens of the South can be confident that they will benefit from their wealth of natural resources for generations to come and therefore invest in lasting peace in the present ensuring that IR 9.2: South/South Tension Reduced is reached

The aerial survey took place during the second quarter, from January to March 2007 and covered more than 58,000 square miles (150,000 square km) throughout Southern Sudan and included 150 hours of survey time. The main objectives for this activity were to:

- Conduct aerial sample counts of human activity, livestock and large mammals over 80,000 km² of Southern Sudan, replicating previous aerial surveys that have been conducted from between 15 and 25 years ago in each location in order to indicate change over time;
- Train Sudanese counterparts in aerial survey techniques and associated data processing involved in the analytical process of planning a national protected area system;
- Evaluate the current state of existing and proposed protected areas in Southern Sudan with conclusions that will lead to a strategy on the development of a protected area network.
- No data had been collected from the region since before the escalation of the war in 1983 and animal numbers were expected to be greatly diminished due to both the conflict and poaching in the area. However, the survey results, compiled during the third quarter, revealed substantially higher numbers of certain animal species had survived than previously thought, including:
 - Between 800,000 and 1.2 million white-eared kob, a type of antelope. These numbers rival that of the wildebeest migration in the Serengeti
 - 8,000 elephants, with more than 5,800 found in the Sudd
 - 250,000 Mongalla gazelles
 - 160,000 tiangs
 - 2,800 ostriches

Completion of the Aerial Survey contributes to IR 9.1, by recording human settlements, providing a better sense of the population of Southern Sudan for the upcoming population census that will be conducted by the SSCCSE with the assistance of the USAID-USDA PASA.

The USDA Juba Office provided logistical support to the aerial surveys, including facilitating the movement of WCS staff in Southern Sudan as well as assisting in arrangements for a much publicized signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding between WCS and the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Conservation and Tourism and between WCS and the GOSS.

Support to GOSS Commissions

Southern Sudan Center for Statistics and Evaluation

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) calls for the implementation of the census in Southern Sudan by the SSCCSE.

The PASA has provided substantial support to the South Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE) in preparation for the April 2008 population census; as such, the PASA played a critical role in facilitating the involvement of the United States Census Bureau (USCB) in this process. The USCB was removed from census programming in late 2007 and the PASA assumed some of their responsibilities, at the request of USAID. This activity meets the goal of Intermediate Result (IR) 9.1: Implementation of Power and Wealth Sharing Protocols Advanced.

Activities which took place during 2007 including the PASA continuing to assist the SSCCSE become operational in Juba, as well as to help prepare and build capacity of SSCCSE for the upcoming population census. The USAID-USDA PASA placed two long term technical advisors in Sudan to provide expertise to the SSCCSE staff. Under their guidance, the following activities took place;

Operational Assistance

- Gathered existing data from various SSCCSE staff for preparation of draft operational plan outline, including identification of areas that need further information or follow-up.
- Assisted in preparation of assignment instructions and forms to be used by SSCCSE staff during state verification visits to gather information for operational planning.
- Updated English versions of the following manuals based on inputs from Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) and SSCSE staff:
 - Short Form Questionnaire (SFQ) Enumerator's Manual
 - Long Form Questionnaire (LFQ) Enumerator's Manual
 - Supervisor's Manual
 - Training Manual
 - Coordinator/Field Officer's Manual

Institutional Capacity Building

- Assisted SSCCSE staff to review issues in preparation for the Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings throughout the year.

Consultative Process

- Attended TWG meetings and participated in the special group meeting afterwards to finalize questionnaires and manuals
- Participated in discussion and investigation of budgetary impacts of changing from area sampling to systematic sampling for the LFQ.

As PASA advisors did not arrive on the ground until August of 2007, please refer to the FY 08 Quarter 1 report for an up to date report on the Census activities.

Southern Sudan Land Commission

Under the CPA's wealth sharing protocol, the GOSS was tasked with the establishment of a Land Commission.

The Southern Sudan Land Commission (SSLC) serves the role of addressing land issues that may potentially lead to conflict and undermine the peace agreement. Key responsibilities of the SSLC include the following:

- Advising appropriate levels of government on issues related to land tenure, usage and ownership,
- Arbitrating land disputes, at the invitation of the parties involved,
- Assisting in drafting land legislation in collaboration with relevant government institutions and other relevant stakeholders,
- Enforcing law applicable to the locality where the land is situated or such other law as the parties to the arbitration agree, including principles of equity,
- Assessing appropriate compensation for land including but not limited to monetary compensation, for applicants in the course of arbitration or in the course of reference from a court, and
- Studying and record land use practices in areas where natural resource exploitation occurs.

Support through the PASA is directed at assisting the land commission to set up and become operational, in order to address land concerns and alleviate conflict, supporting IR 9.1: Implementation of Power and Wealth Sharing Protocols Advanced.

In this fiscal year, the Southern Sudan Land Commission (SSLC) received assistance and training in areas including; budgeting, program development, staff recruitment, procurement, and computer training. In addition, the PASA staff coordinated with USAID partner organizations to host the Consultative Stakeholder's Conference, where Sudanese and international participants discussed issues surrounding the Land Act and draft Land Law. PASA staff worked with USAID partners to ensure that community groups, as well as women and the legislative assembly, were actively included and consulted to help inform the process of developing the Land Law and Policy. PASA staff participated in the Land Law Drafting Committee through provision of technical support to the EU Technical Advisor Legal Council.

In the first quarter of FY07, the Southern Sudan Program Manager held a discussion with the SSLC to identify the Commission's immediate needs, which included technical assistance to formulate a legal framework, strategic plan and policies; access to communication; office equipment and furnishings; workshops to engage stakeholders; as well as national and regional study tours to coordinate with counterparts and gain exposure to the experiences of countries in the region.

Based on the above needs, the following was accomplished in the first quarter through PASA support:

- A trip to Khartoum in November 2006 to liaise with northern counterparts, and
- A workshop in Juba in December 2006 to meet the local community and begin a discourse on land.

In the second, third and last quarters of 2007, the following activities took place, and outputs were produced;

Institutional Capacity Building

Budget Development

2007 Budget

- Calculated the monthly totals from January through August 2007 of expenditures for the SSLC based on 2007 Budget lines.
- Projected the anticipated costs for the remainder of the year.
- Calculated the total of amount of funds per chapters remaining.
- Provided recommendations how to spend the remaining funds.

Output: 2007 Budget to Actuals and Pipeline Projections

2008 Budget

- Identified key program activities for the SSLC.
- Developed the 2008 Budget for the SSLC.

- Developed the 2008 Budget for the USDA.

Output: 2008 Budget for SSLC

Natural Resource Budget Sector Working Group

- Supported the process of developing the budget and program description for the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Conservation, and Tourism.
- Supported the process of developing the budget and program description for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
- Compiled the Natural Resources Sector Budget and Program Description.
- Supported the Natural Resources Sector to present their plans to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

Output: 2008 Natural Resources Budget and Program Description

Organizational Structure

Key Functions

- Identified key responsibilities for the SSLC and drafted the function descriptions.

Organizational Chart

- Developed the SSLC organizational and resource allocation chart.
- Developed Job Descriptions for SSLC positions
- Advertised with the Juba Post for the positions.
- Supported the recruitment process based on merit to ensure the recruitment of the best candidates.
- Liaised with the Ministry of Public Services to ensure compliance with the government salary scale and hiring procedures.
- *Output: SSLC Organization Chart, Resource Chart, Job Descriptions*

Asset Management

- Supported the process of procuring equipment for the Commission.
- Created an Asset Management system, including an Asset Registry and Checkout System.

Capacity Building

- Facilitated the provision of computer training to key SSLC staff members.

Consultative Process

Government Consultation

The Consultative Stakeholders' Conference, August 1st – 3rd, 2007, was a major event in the process of developing a comprehensive land policy and law for the people of southern Sudan. Over sixty participants discussed the proposal Land Act and key land issues, providing concrete recommendations to the Commission which were subsequently integrated into the draft Land Law. Participants included representatives State Ministries of Infrastructure, State Ministries of Agriculture, Government of Southern Sudan Ministries, and civil society from all parts of Sudan.

The consultant coordinated with USAID-funded partners, incorporating their participation and support of the conference.

- The Sudan Radio Service (SRS) covered the entire conference to provide SRS with materials for their special land program as well as the “Let’s Talk Now” program.
- PACT to lead the discussion related to land and returnee issues.
- Bearing Point participated in key discussions.

The topic which dominated the discussion was the question of who the land belongs to and who is responsible for administering the land. The resounding response was that the land belongs to the people and that customary law should be the guiding principles. In the Greater Equatoria and GOSS Focus Groups, the answer differed slightly, with a greater emphasis on the government structures. Second to land ownership, the pressing need to resolve land disputes was emphasized – with both urbanization and returnee resettlement dynamics as leading sources of tension. The issue of women and ownership was discussed, although a consensus was not reached.

Output: Stakeholders' Consultative Workshop on Land Law and Land Policy for Southern Sudan - 'Towards a Comprehensive Land Policy for Southern Sudan: Designing the Roadmap' Final report.

Community Consultation

The consultant coordinated with USAID partners National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Mercy Corps-LINCS to design and implement a community consultative process. Coordinated with both NDI and MC staff during the time of implementation and ensured that the results of the community consultation were shared with the Commission, the Women's Stakeholder Conference, and the Legislative Assembly Land Policy Conference to help inform the process of developing the Land Law and Policy.

Output: Community Consultation Report, written by NDI

Women's Consultation

Coordinated with USAID partners IRI and MC-LINCS to ensure that land issues related to women were included in discussions during the Women's Conference. Ensured that the Commission Chairperson actively participated in the conference. Conference is planned for the first week of October 2007.

Legislative Assembly Consultation

Coordinated with IRI to ensure that the agenda of the conference addressed the critical topics related to land issues during the Legislative Assembly Conference. Ensured that the Commission Chairperson actively participated in the conference. Conference is planned for the second week of October 2007.

Policy Development and Training

Land Law and Policy Development

- Participated on the Land Law Drafting Committee, providing technical support to the content of the law and drafting support to the EU Technical Advisor Legal Council – editing and spell check.
- Liaised with Bearing Point Technical Advisor to the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development regarding the passage of the Land Law.
- Bearing Point provided advice to have the Chairman of the Commission present draft to the Council of Ministers.

Output: Draft Land Law

Integrated Natural Resource Management and Investment

- Consultant met with team to plan and prepare for the South Africa trip, brainstorming and conceptualizing the content of the trip and the follow-on steps.
- Presented the Integrated Natural Resource Management and Investment Strategy (INRMIS) to the Ministers and Undersecretaries of the Ministries of Environment, Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Follow on steps were decided at the meetings for INRMIS.

Land Commissions of Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan

The establishment of the Southern Sudan Land Commission (SSLC) and the land commissions in Southern Kordofan State (SKSLC) and Blue Nile State (BNSLC) as stipulated in the CPA (Wealth Sharing Protocol and Protocol for the Resolution of Conflict in Southern Kordofan (Nuba Mountains) and Blue Nile States, respectively) will serve the role of addressing land

issues that may potentially lead to conflict and undermine the peace agreement. Key responsibilities of these Land Commissions include the following:

- Advising appropriate levels of government on issues related to land tenure, usage and ownership,
- Arbitrating land disputes, at the invitation of the parties involved,
- Assisting in drafting land legislation in collaboration with relevant government institutions and other relevant stakeholders,
- Enforcing law applicable to the locality where the land is situated or such other law as the parties to the arbitration agree, including principles of equity,
- Assessing appropriate compensation for land including but not limited to monetary compensation, for applicants in the course of arbitration or in the course of reference from a court, and
- Studying and record land use practices in areas where natural resource exploitation occurs.

The Program Representative traveled to Khartoum as well as SKS and BNS in the second quarter to begin discussions with relevant individuals on land issues and USDA assistance to the land commissions in these areas. In both SKS and BNS, state land commissions have not been set up nor are they close to being formed. Currently, law review is ongoing in both states, 40 model draft laws were shared with the States from Khartoum. In Blue Nile, those pertaining to land are being reviewed with support from ARD's Customary Land Tenure Program CLTP.

PASA support for this activity has ceased and the focus of the PASA technical expertise has been shifted to the Southern Sudan Land Commission.

Support through the PASA is directed at assisting the land commissions set up and become operational, in order to address land concerns and alleviate conflict, supporting IR 9.1: Implementation of Power and Wealth Sharing Protocols Advanced and IR 9.3: Implementation of Three Area (Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile and Abyei) Protocols Advanced.

Development of Mapping Capacity for GOSS

The development of mapping capacity for the Government of Southern Sudan also supports IR 10.4: Persons Affected by the Conflict Reintegrated in the "South". Since 2003, the USAID-USDA PASA has supported a Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Mapping Activity that was established to meet the needs of the SPLM's Natural Resources Technical Committee (NRTC) and the PASA's Strategic Analysis and Capacity Building Working Groups. As the NRTC and SACB Working Groups are no longer in existence and funds are limited for this activity, the PASA is working with the GOSS on transferring this activity to assist the GOSS in the development of Southern Sudan.

During 2007, a stakeholders' workshop was held to discuss the transfer of the RS and GIS Mapping Activity, which focused on identifying the appropriate institution to host the RS and GIS activity as well as discussed the roles and responsibilities of such a unit.

The RS/GIS (Mapping) Transfer and Establishment Stakeholders' Workshop

The RS/GIS (Mapping) activities have been established and operated from Nairobi since 2003. It was first established as part of the Natural Resource Technical Committee (NRTC) till 2004 and later through USDA/USAID-ICRAF/WFP cooperation. Since that time, the program has gathered and generated a large amount of RS/GIS related data and/or information, some of which has been used extensively by different reconstruction activities in Southern Sudan. However, one of the biggest challenges was that the stakeholders could not coordinate activities directly because of the great distances between them. Therefore, the workshop was organized to provide an opportunity to discuss and recommend "where" and "how" to establish an RS and GIS unit in Juba in order to effectively deliver geospatial services to support planning and decision making processes, as well as to build the much needed capacity of southern Sudanese professionals in geo-information technology.

The key findings of the workshop included:

- The GIS/RS unit should be established at the SSCCSE headquarters in Juba,
- Further consultation should be carried out as to the mandate, scope of operations and organizational structure of the unit, and
- Capacity building and funding will continue to act as major constraints upon the transfer.

Monitoring of Economic/Social Trends and Impacts

Economic, Food Security and Livelihood Condition Monitoring Related to IDP Returns

The economy of southern Sudan remains weak and therefore, the influx of returnees could stress the delicate food security and livelihood situation. Increased data on these critical areas is imperative for ensuring an appropriate response from the GoSS and the international community. Furthermore, providing options for returnees to engage in livelihood activities will help mitigate the pressure of their reliance on scarce resources.

In the first quarter of FY 07 the PASA continued to support three food security and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)/returnees monitors to assess the humanitarian situation on the ground. The three monitors, based in Malakal, Upper Nile; Aweil, Northern Bahr El Ghazel and Juba, Bahr el Jebel (the locations were selected as they are areas expected to have high rates of IDP returns, or areas through which routes of return will transect), liaise with the USAID humanitarian and food security advisors on findings from their regional surveillance. However as of the second quarter of FY07, USAID made the decision to only continue support to two

monitors (Aweil, Northern Bahr El Ghazel and Juba, Bahr el Jebel). Instability in Upper Nile was the main factor in discontinuing support for the third monitor.

This activity as well as those below supports IR 10.4: Persons Affected by the Conflict Reintegrated in the “South”.

Upper Nile

During the first quarter, the Upper Nile (UN) Monitor was engaged in a series of assessments:

- A food security and IDP assessment in Bentiu, where NPA is conducting food distribution in western Bentiu, which has been devastated by drought and flood. In addition to the food distributions, the monitor learned that many people displaced from fighting in 2004 are beginning to return to Bentiu as a result of the CPA and will require immediate assistance.
- In eastern Upper Nile, the UN Monitor discovered that due to late rains, the crop yield was very poor. Heavy rains that came later in the year have destroyed crops and affected livestock, as it reduced the amount of pastures available for grazing. Aside from the drought and flood challenges in Upper Nile, heavy fighting, which broke out at the end of November in Malakal town between the SPLA and SAF militias also thwarted aid efforts, thereby setting back NGO operations.

Bahr el Ghazal and Bahr el Jebel

During FY 07, both the Bahr el Ghazal (BEG) and Bahr el Jebel (BEJ) monitors were engaged in numerous assessments, meetings and conferences with UN agencies and NGOs to better grasp the situation on the ground and in areas in which the displaced have returned. The information gathered from these assessments continues to provide USAID with accurate data for planning purposes.

Some of the assessments with UN agencies and NGOs, the Bahr el Ghazal (BEG) monitor was involved in include:

- In October 2006, the monitor participated in an FAO/WFP Crops and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM), which took place in the states of Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap and Lakes. A briefing was given in Juba to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and WFP on October 20th.
- Following the above assessment, the BEG monitor together with FAO, FEWSNet and SC/UK/FEG were invited to take part in the WFP Annual Needs and Livelihoods Assessment (ANLA) data analysis meeting held in Rumbek from October 30 to November 5, 2006. The purpose of this meeting was to thoroughly review the data

collected by the field teams and advise WFP and its donors on the way forward in addressing potential food aid needs, particularly with the return of IDPs, refugees and vulnerable residents' communities.

- The BEG Monitor also joined a team comprised of the Northern Bahr el Ghazal State government officials and various UN agencies to assess the situation of the newly displaced people from Merem north of Aweil East County due to fighting between the former SSDF militia with Pro-SAF.

In Bahr el Jebel (BEJ), the monitor participated in numerous activities, such as:

- The Annual Needs and Livelihoods Assessment (ANLA) with WFP in West Mundri, Mvolo and East Mundri Counties,
- The Return and Re-integration Working Group (RRWG) meetings,
- Meetings with ACF and ADRA staff on situation update related to activities undertaken,
- Field monitoring visits to NPA's field sites in Kajo-keji, Morobo, Mvolo, Yei and Lainya Counties, and
- Meetings with the authorities to discuss the general situations in Kajo-keji, Morobo, Mvolo, Yei and Lainya Counties.

In the last part of FY 07, massive flooding affected food security, especially in the Northern Bahr El Ghazal sector. Crops, livestock and homes were destroyed, leaving thousands of residents displaced and without the means to feed themselves. Monitors engaged regularly with the UN agencies and NGOs in the area to assess damage and assistance needed by the residents. The follow items were identified as points of concern directly affecting food security;

- Road closures due to flooding
- Dike and drainage system improvements
- Sanitation- unclean water and poor latrine system
- Lack of dry/available firewood for cooking

In a survey carried out by USDA staff and the Under Secretary for the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation and Engineer, Tako Wesley, the following was proposed;

- Improvement to the Rice Scheme Dike and its extension to the east up to the left bank of River Kuom,
- Extension of the above dike to southwest (upstream of River Kuom), along its left-bank; till its high bank is reached (toward War-Agany, Majok-Rok, Mona, Nyaleeth, Rup- Anguoth and Rup-Tiit),

- Establishment of town drainage through roadsides, trenches and culverts. This requires that the State Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and the Town Council finalize alignment of the roads, including proper setting out of the newly allotted residential plots. This would help evacuate rainwater falling on the town; in addition to runoff, the flow (*Aluel*) that originates from rain falling on the southwest uplands,
- Flood control system in the area must be by zoning. Provision for grazing corridors

(cattle migratory paths must be allowed for, through bermed sections of the dikes; in addition to provision of gates to supply water to the uplands when needed); separation of irrigable farmlands (*Aweil* rice scheme), from *Toich* and settlements.

Support Critical Physical Infrastructure

Critical infrastructure is essential to ensure that areas long devastated by conflict can support livelihood activities, returnees and the markets expected to burgeon with new investments in development. The GOSS has identified the construction of roads as an urgent need for supporting development, and inhabitants of the Jonglei Area have long appealed for the rehabilitation of existing dykes to manage their land, ensure it is productive for farming and other livelihood activities, and assure that the region is made hospitable for returns, development and management of natural resources. The international community invested US\$100 million into the UN World Food Program's (WFP's) roads and dykes project; US\$76 million of this contribution came from USAID. Recognizing this critical activity, the PASA provided three engineers to WFP as vital technical assets for the implementation and management of the road and dyke activities. This activity is in line with IR 10.4: Persons Affected by the Conflict Reintegrated in the "South".

In the second and third quarters, the engineer supplied by the PASA continued to provide critical input to the roads project and play a fundamental role in the project's implementation and success. The engineer's contract ended in the third quarter. The engineer is now employed directly with WFP.

Conclusion

The flexibility of the PASA allows for ongoing modifications to PASA activities to meet the changing needs of USAID/Sudan and assist with development efforts in Sudan. In the second quarter of FY07, the PASA Scope of Work was modified to reflect the 2006-2008 USAID Strategic Statement for Sudan and the three strategic objectives outlined in the new strategy to work towards achieving the goal of "Just and lasting peace secured through successful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement".

Through its activities, the PASA continues to implement USAID programming in Sudan in a broad array of areas in order to provide the best possible support for peace.