

**Support to the Government of Southern Sudan
Activities implemented under the USAID-USDA PASA**

3rd Quarter Report
April 1- June 30, 2008

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In collaboration with the University of Missouri, Tuskegee University, and the University of
Maryland Eastern Shore
Washington, D.C.
Nairobi, Kenya
Juba, South Sudan

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 the third quarter of 2008 include the following:

- Successful enumeration of all 10 states in southern Sudan during the Sudan Population Census,
- Retrieval and storage of the majority of census materials following the end of the enumeration period.

Introduction

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. 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.

A) Activities related to Strategic Objective 9 – Avert and Resolve Conflict

Support to the South Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE)

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. This activity meets the goal of Intermediate Result (IR) 9.1: Implementation of Power and Wealth Sharing Protocols Advanced.

Activities that took place during the third quarter of FY2008 continue and contribute toward the SSCCSE becoming a fully functional statistical office in Juba, assist with census preparations, and build the capacity of SSCCSE staff and functional areas for the upcoming population census. The USAID-USDA PASA placed four long-term technical advisors in Sudan to support the SSCCSE staff. Under their guidance, the following activities took place:

Operational/Technical Assistance

Distribution (Second Round)

The second round of distribution sent out materials needed to replace those damaged or destroyed in areas of insecurity, and English language questionnaires to replace Arabic language questionnaires. The distribution lasted until May 4.

As agreed with the CBS, English questionnaires, particularly LFQs needed for Warrap, were sent to Juba in order to remedy part of the language problem. Those were sent out as requested and needed. Small numbers of reserve questionnaires were distributed to the field when enumerators determined that they were needed (due to population shifts, special populations, returnees, and insecurity in Rumbek North County). Supporting evidence in the form of listings and questionnaire usage rates was required for each of these shipments.

The primary issues encountered were communications difficulties with remote areas, inaccessibility due to the rains and roads, and insufficient English questionnaires, particularly LFQs.

The SSCCSE, with the assistance of the USDA PASA staff, re-distributed via Juba approximately 80,000 SFQs (no LFQs) to create tactical reserves, replace those lost in insecurity, and replace Arabic with English (as part of exchange with CBS).

The SSCCSE sent out 36,500 LFQs to Warrap State to fill shortages due to lack of English forms. Finally, they sent out 40 Equipment kits to various areas as needed.

Re-distribution involved small quantities sent to target specific areas that were determined to need them and could document their need as listing was underway. Each State was given roughly 5,000 SFQs to use as a reserve as they could respond to emergencies and changing situations faster than Juba in most cases.

Enumeration

On April 13, the Council of Ministers postponed the April 15th 5th Population and Housing Census in Sudan until April 22. The postponed census date posed some advantages and disadvantages to the SSCCSE. The advantages include more time to get information on distribution of forms and final employee names, more time to distribute additional forms as needed, and increased time for listing. The disadvantages include potential non-participation in enumeration by Southern Sudanese who now see the census as a political tool of the North based on Council of Minister statements, difficulty in disseminating messages throughout the country in a short period of time, and potential loss of field staff which would be difficult to replace in the current time frame.

On April 22, the census enumeration did begin, with overall counting proceeding smoothly. Certain states did have issues of insecurity and conflict, but overall the

issues occurring during census enumeration were handled quickly and efficiently by the SSCSE and its international partners.

Enumeration ended on May 6th with most areas of Southern Sudan having been enumerated. The county coverage reports from 7 May were as follows:

S/No	State	County	Percentages
1-	Central Equatoria	1-Terekeka 2-Juba 3-Lainya 4-Yei 5-Morobo 6-Kajo- Keji	1. 99% 2. 99% 3. 100% 4. 99% 5. 99% 6. 99%
2-	Jonglei	1-Twic East 2-Bor South 3-Duk 4-Wuror 5-Nyirol 6-Pochalla 7-Akobo 8-Pibor 9-Ayod 10-Old fangak 11-Khor fulus 12-Atar	1. 97% 2. 95% 3. 90% 4. 90% 5. 90% 6. 98% 7. 95% 8. 98% 9. 90% 10. 95% 11. 90% 12. 97%
3-	Warrap	1-Twic 2-Gogrial West 3-Gogrial East 4-Tonj East 5-Tonj North 6-Tonj South 7-Abyei	1. 80% 2. 90% 3. 80% 4. 90% 5. 90% 6. 90% 7. 98%
4-	Western Equatoria	1-Ezo 2-Tambura 3-Nigero 4-Namintina 5-Maridi 6-Yambio 7-Ebba 8-Mvolo 9-Mundri East 10-Mundri West 11-Anzara	1. 96% 2. 90% 3. 100% 4. 70% 5. 80% 6. 80% 7. 90% 8. 90% 9. 90% 10. 90% 11. 80%

S/No	State	County	Percentages
5-	Lakes	1-Awarial 2-Yirol East 3-Yirol West 4-Rumbek East 5-Rumbek Centre 6-Rumbek North 7-Cuei –bet 8-Wulu	1. 90% 2. 92% 3. 96% 4. 95% 5. 90% 6. 80% 7. 94% 8. 90%
6-	Eastern Equatoria	1-kapoeta East 2-Kapoeta North 3-Torit 4-Ikotos 5-Magwi 6-Lopa/Lafon 7-Budi 8-Kapoeta South	1. 100% 2. 100% 3. 90% 4. 100% 5. 90% 6. 100% 7. 98% 8. 100%
7-	Western Bahr el Ghazal	1-Wau 2-Jur River 3-Raja	1. 100% 2. 98% 3. 99%
8-	Upper Nile	1-Renk 2-Manyo 3-Malut 4-Maban 5-Fashoda 6-Baliet 7-Malakal 8-Ulang 9- Pinyikango 10-Nasir 11-Longchok 12-Maiwut	1. 90% 2. 96% 3. 90% 4. 96% 5. 96% 6. 97% 7. 98% 8. 80% 9. 100% 10. 95% 11. 96% 12. 92%
9-	Unity	1-Pariang 2-Mayom 3-Abiemnom 4-Rubkona 5-Guit 6-Koch 7-Mayendit 8-Leer 9-Panyijar 10-Bentiu Town	1. 80% 2. 80% 3. Not yet report 4. 90% 5. 100% 6. 50% 7. 90% 8. 90% 9. 80% 10. 100%
10-	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	1-Aweil North 2-Aweil Centre 3-Aweil East 4-Aweil South 5-Aweil West	1. 98% 2. 100% 3. 95% 4. 100% 5. 99%

Census Material Retrieval

The retrieval of census materials from the field after enumeration is the last of the large-scale logistical operations of the Census. Retrieval procedures for enumerators and other field staff were laid out in the manuals used during training. The primary goal of these procedures is to insure the accuracy and safe-keeping of the questionnaires prior to and during the actual transportation phases.

Retrieval begins when Supervisors recover questionnaires, listing books, unused forms maps and ID cards from Enumerators during the period immediately after enumeration (starting 7 May). The Supervisor performs a thorough check of each questionnaire received and confirms that they have been filled out completely. The Supervisor then turns his/her materials in to the Field Officer following the established protocols. The Field Officer returns all materials from his/her Supervisors into the Field Coordinator at the County level. Each step involves additional confirmation of the number and accuracy of the questionnaires and other materials.

Once a County has collected all of the materials from the Enumerators and has resolved any issues that have come up, they alert the State office and the Juba HQ as to their 100% completion status. The State and County officials coordinate to move the materials to the safe storage area in the State HQ. The State SSCCSE offices will retrieve materials from 63 of the 79 counties. UNMIS has offered to assist with retrieval from 16 of the counties that cannot be reached by road due to the rains and inaccessibility.

The State offices will perform an additional check for safety and accuracy, and then alert Juba HQ that they have 100% of their State materials. When this has been confirmed, UNMIS will assist in transporting the large shipments to the Rumbek Data Processing Center.

Data Processing

Data Processing begins when materials are shipped from each individual State to the Rumbek HQ. Much of this process will be completed in upcoming quarters, but is included here to give a full picture.

Data Processing Timeline

- Beginning of June:
 - Generator installed
 - Shelving installed
 - Staff hired
 - Building refurbishment completed
 - Computers and furniture installed
- Forms start arriving end of May with last forms expected in August
- Manual verification begins mid-June
- Scanning starts when there are enough forms ready to scan without stopping due to lack of forms

- Key corrections completed early September
- Edits and tabulations completed end of September

Boxes Received from States:

- County level verification of completeness
- Transmittal to State HQ
- Transmittal from State HQ to Rumbek

Box contents:

- Each carton contains about 18 plastic EA envelopes
- Each EA envelope contains the following:
 - *Completed questionnaires*
 - *Blank/damaged questionnaires*
 - *Listing Book(s), EA map, enumerator ID card*
- Boxes checked against waybills and placed in shipping containers for protection
- Expecting a total of 11,000 EA envelopes

Logging into tracking system and storage:

- Porters carry boxes from containers to Storage Building
- Check-in Clerks remove envelopes
- Apply barcode sticker to envelope
- Scan barcode sticker into tracking system
- Enter geographic identification into tracking system for that barcode/envelope
- Mark envelope as checked into system with permanent marker
- Shelving clerks place checked envelopes on labeled shelves in permanent storage

Comparison to Master EA List

- When data for a geographic area is entered into the system comparison is made against the EA Master List from mapping
- Ensures forms are received from all areas
- Rectify any wrong geographic codes from confusion in the fields
- Potential identification of areas not enumerated

Manual Verification

- Purpose: improve scanning capture
- Manual verification clerks check the following:
 - Geographic information of envelope, listing book and questionnaires compared to code list and each other
 - Bubbles are filled correctly for person line number and age
 - Comparison of completed questionnaires with listing book
- Scan barcodes of completed questionnaires by envelope into tracking system using handheld scanner

Scanning

- Each envelope of completed questionnaires is scanned
- Any questionable Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) fields are sent for key correction
- Image of questionnaires captured
- Information exported to data files

Data Processing Tracking System

- Each envelope is scanned upon entry/exit from storage and entry/exit from each process.
- The tracking system gives real-time reporting on:
 - Number of envelopes in system by EA code
 - Number of questionnaires per envelope by serial number
 - Number of envelopes that have completed each process
 - Location of each envelope at any point in time
 - Time to complete each process by envelope

Short Form Questionnaire Editing

- When data is exported from scanning (Long and Short form first 10 questions), editing programs are run on the data
- Correct questionnaire structural problems
 - *Identify questionnaires with insufficient information to constitute a household*
 - *Identify questionnaires missing a head of household*
- Correct inconsistencies between person record data
 - *Relationships and age that does not make sense*
 - *Duration of residence greater than age for a person*
 - *Invalid codes for place questions (state/county)*

Short Form Questionnaire Tabulations

- Once editing is complete on a batch of data, tabulations are run and checked for any anomalies
- These anomalies are used to correct the editing programs
- The raw and edited data sets are kept so that edits can be changed at any time and to ensure that the edits are not changing the original data
- When all data has been edited and tabulations are finalized – the data will be merged with the CBS to form one national data set

Industry and Occupation Coding

- After the SFQ data is finalized, work will begin on the LFQ data.
- Images of the Industry and Occupation write in responses will be displayed on a computer
- Coders will assign the proper two-digit code from the international coding lists for industry and occupation
- These codes will be inserted into the LFQ data file
- This is Key From Image (KFI) coding

LFQ Editing and Tabulations

- Similar to SFQ edits and tabulations but much more complex given the amount of data and the opportunity for inconsistencies (italicized variables indicate those found on the SFQ):
 - *Name*
 - *Relationship*
 - *Sex*
 - *Age*
 - *Nationality*
 - *Regional group*
 - *Region of Origin*
 - *Place of birth*
 - *Usual residence*
 - *Duration of residence*
 - Previous residence
 - Orphanhood
 - Disability
 - Education
 - Economic information
 - Marital status
 - Fertility information
 - Housing characteristics
 - Livelihood
 - Agricultural activity
 - Mortality information

LFQ Analysis

- There are many different social and economic aspects to analyze in the LFQ data
- Census data should be combined with all other available data and in-depth analysis conducted regarding:
 - Health
 - Economics
 - Education
 - Migration

Data Processing Staffing

- 20 porters
- 12 storage clerks and 2 supervisors
- 60 Manual verification clerks and 16 supervisors
- 14 scanner operators and 2 supervisors
- 24 key correction clerks and 2 supervisors
- 15 Industry & Occupation coders and 3 supervisors
- 6 programmers
- 6 cleaners, 2 drivers, and 2 generator assistants

GIS

GIS staff worked in close consultation with SSCCSE partners in both Rumbek and Juba during the run up to the enumeration date. Working with both the HQ and other staff preparing for deployment to the field, USDA GIS advisors continued to prepare maps and digital data, as well as to liaise with the Data Processing staff to ensure proper preparation for census material returns.

During enumeration and in the post-enumeration period, USDA GIS advisors worked with the SSCCSE staff to alleviate any confusion over what were rumored to be “unmapped areas” in Southern Sudan. Additionally, they traveled to numerous points in Lakes State to take GPS readings of areas thought to not have been counted during the enumeration. In the Rumbek HQ GIS lab, staff worked to back up all GIS data, to ensure its security.

In consultation with the UNFPA, USDA GIS advisors developed a document titled, “*Proposed Strategy for a Permanent Geospatial Unit within the SSCCSE*”. This document evaluates the possibility of establishing a permanent Geospatial Unit within the SSCCSE offices. The establishment of a Geospatial Technical Committee (GTC) in Juba has been suggested as a way to further move this concept forward.

Finance Management

In coordination with a Bearing Point financial advisor, the USDA PASA staff provided financial oversight and management assistance to the SSCCSE in the current reporting period. The

financial advisor oversaw the creation of a contract staff database, to track the hiring and payment of all short term staff for the census activity. In total, the financial advisor, working with SSCCSE staff, added 13,785 names to the contract staff database. Many of these staff were then sourced from the database and hired for other census activities, such as data processing in the post-enumeration period.

The financial advisor also spearheaded procurement of IDs for census staff. The creation of IDs was an important step in the census planning, as proper identification of staff was needed to ensure transparency and efficiency in the census activity. During the current reporting period, the financial advisor worked with UNFPA to outline a distribution plan for the census staff IDs.

The Bearing Point financial advisor worked closely with SSCCSE staff to draft the post-enumeration budget for the SSCCSE offices. This budget will cover all activities in the post-enumeration period, including data retrieval, data processing, GIS, and advocacy.

Recruitment of Staff

The USDA PASA advisory staff dealt with a wealth of recruitment and staff challenges during the current reporting period. Staff worked with the SSCCSE to ensure proper recruitment procedures and training for all census enumeration staff. After the announcement of the census postponement, many staffing issues arose in the states due to insecurity. USDA PASA staff worked with the SSCCSE to allay staff fears regarding payment and whether the census would actually take place. They also worked with the SSCCSE HR department to draft a radio message assuring staff in the states of the new census dates.

USDA PASA staff worked closely with the SSCCSE HR department to ensure that all SSCCSE senior staff in the 10 states followed proper procedures in finalizing recruitment of field staff. This included obtaining/confirming final recruitment results from all states and ensuring that contracts and ID cards were received and signed by all recruited staff.

Looking forward, USDA PASA staff continues to work with the SSCCSE to develop recruitment plans for the post-enumeration activities, especially at the Rumbek HQ center. Data processing and GIS are both areas in which additional staff will be required in the post-enumeration period.

Collaboration

USDA PASA advisory staff worked in close consultation with USAID DG partners Bearing Point on the financial portion of the Census preparation.

The United Nations provided extensive support to the SSCCSE during the arrival, movement, unpacking, repacking, distribution and retrieval of the census materials. UN Staff worked closely with the SSCCSE and USDA PASA advisors in ensuring materials were moved, packed and repacked, distributed and retrieved in a manner that ensured transparency of the process and integrity of the materials.

Future Activities

USDA PASA advisory staff will continue to support the SSCCSE in the post-census period. Upcoming reports will reflect updated information on the above listed activities, as well as activities related to the collection and input of census data collected during enumeration. USDA PASA staff will remain responsive to the needs of both USAID and the SSCCSE as they provide expert technical assistance before, during and after the Sudan Population Census.

Assistance to the Southern Sudan Land Commission (SSLC)

Operational/Technical Assistance

During this quarter there was a transition in technical support to the SSLC and the land policy development process. Peter Bauman replaced Salamah Magnusom as the TA who is coordinating the land policy development process. Diress Mengistu also came on board as a TA and David Deng was hired on a short term basis as a policy analyst. In addition, the European Commission is sponsoring Oumar Sylla as a TA for the land policy development process and BearingPoint is supporting a senior land tenure expert who is scheduled to begin working with the team beginning in August. These individuals make up the core Technical Advisory Team (TAT) responsible for managing the process and developing the Land Policy / Law.

Institutional Capacity Building

Peter Bauman, USDA's TA, worked closely with the SSLC to help the staff report on their expenditure thus far in 2008 and formulate the SSLC's budget for the remainder of 2008 through 2011. This was part of an inter-governmental process titled the Budget Sector Working Group. Peter also helped the SSLC to work with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the proposed budget was done properly. Peter is also working with the SSLC to hire staff and complete the construction of an office so that the TAs and new staff have proper working facilities. In addition, the TAT advised the Chairman of the SSLC, Robert Ladu, on several matters related to land. This consultation included speech and letter writing, presentations, and advising governmental and non-governmental actors on land related topics including IDPs and Returnees, oil companies looking for land, etc. No direct or indirect expenditures have been made to the SSLC in this quarter.

Challenges in Institutional Capacity Building

The SSLC continues to encounter challenges in building its institutional capacity due to the challenges of hiring program staff and the lack of technical capacity, leadership, and will of the Chairman and the other permanent members (political appointees). In addition, the current focus of the TAT is developing the land policy, not institutional capacity building. It is advised that in

the future a TA be hired for the sole purpose of institutional capacity building with the first priority being hiring staff and training those staff.

Consultative Process/Coordination

Land Act and Policy Development

At the beginning of this quarter it was confirmed that the previously submitted land act would not be passed by the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development (MoLACD) and that the correct procedure was the development of a land policy for Southern Sudan. Then the land act will developed be based on this policy. Therefore the TAT has been working with the SSLC to initiate a Land Policy Development Process. To achieve this, supported by the TAT, the SSLC sponsored several formal and informal meetings with various stakeholders to determine an effective progression and the necessary actors to be involved in the process. This culminated in a formal meeting on July 12, 2008, which was chaired by the Chairman of the SSLC, Robert Ladu and moderated by Brian D'Silva of USDA/USAID. At this meeting H.E. Dr. Anne Itto, Presidential Advisor on Agriculture and Food Security, senior representatives from thirteen GOSS Ministries / Commissions and representatives of USAID, USDA, the European Commission, National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Bearing Point (BP) convened to discuss the creation of the land policy Steering Committee (SC). The members TAT took this opportunity to present a brief overview of what has already been done in regard to land policy development in Southern Sudan and to present some of the major topics extrapolated from this work. In addition, the TAT presented a draft structure for the land policy SC and a draft outline for the land policy development process. The following bullet points highlight the major outcomes of the meeting:¹

- H.E. Dr. Anne Itto agreed to be the land policy SC's liaison to the President's office and by unanimous decision H.E. Robert Ladu Lwoki, Chairman of the GOSS Land Commission, was elected to be the Chairman of the EC.
- The Undersecretary of each of these 13 ministries will appoint her/himself or select a senior representative of his/her respective ministry with specific technical knowledge and competence to form the land policy SC. Once the SC has been formed the members will determine the Executive Committee (EC) and other sub-committees related to his/her ministry and individual knowledge / expertise.
- All participants agreed that land was a major issue in Southern Sudan and the lack of a comprehensive land policy / law was contributing to conflict and hindering productive development and investment.
- All participants agreed that a lot of work has already been done in terms of field consultations, workshops, etc. Therefore, the TAT should first review all previous consultations and literature to form a preliminary land policy framework. Once the draft is complete it should be presented to the SC. Then, once refined the framework should be

¹ See Annex I for the minutes of this meeting

presented at a Roundtable meeting that will include representatives of GOSS as well and national and international non-governmental stakeholders.

- All participants agreed that it was vital to involve national and international non-governmental actors including religious leaders, traditional leaders, women, youth, NGOs, CBOs, etc. in the process.
- All participants agreed that after the first roundtable meeting the draft land policy framework should be presented to the people of Southern Sudan for feedback via field consultations.

Future Activities

- Convene the SC to review & revise the structure / function of the SC; discuss the proposed land policy development process; and elect the EC and develop other sub-committees based on the structure / function of the SC.
- Convene national and international non-governmental stakeholders to present the SC, the proposed land policy development process, and to discuss their potential contribution to and participation in the process.
- Draft the land policy framework (based on previous consultations) highlighting the major topics to be included in the land policy.
- Present the draft land policy framework to the SC.
- Prepare for the Land Policy Roundtable to introduce the SC to a larger forum; present the land policy framework and discuss major topics; launch field consultations; launch the media campaign; and discuss interim processes for prioritizing/resolving land disputes while the policy is being developed.
- Prepare for State Level Consultations to present the draft Land Policy Framework to a variety of stakeholders and get feedback.

Assistance to the Natural Resource Management Group (NRMG)

Operational/Technical Assistance

During this quarter there was a transition in technical support to the NRMG. Peter Bauman replaced Salamah Magnusom as the program coordinator and two additional TAs are scheduled to begin in August. These include Mylinda Justin, a Sudanese national, who recently completed her MS in Natural Resource Management in the UK. Mylinda will take on the role of NRMG program coordinator. Maria Carbo Penche will be on a short contract with USDA as a TA for GIS Spatial Mapping. There is a possibility that one additional TA with experience and knowledge in extractive industries and investment will come on board to work with both the NRMG and the TAT for the Land Policy Development Process.

From April 30 to May 1st the NRMG participated in a Strategic Planning Workshop. Dr. Alfred Sebit Lokuji facilitated the workshop and guest speakers included H.E. Dr. Anne Itto, Presidential Advisor on Agriculture and Food Security and Dr. Paul Elkin of the Wildlife Conservation Society. Due to time constraints the participants were unable to develop a complete Strategic Plan with a defined roles, responsibilities, and specific activities with a timeframe. However and perhaps more importantly, the participants were able to discuss and build consensus around the vision, function and objectives of the NRMG. In addition, the members agreed on the need to formalize the NRMG as a GOSS institution and H.E. Dr. Anne Itto is in the process of advocating for the NRMG to be connected to the Ministry for Cabinet Affairs. The NRMG is still waiting for a response in regard to its formalization within GOSS. After this workshop there was a transition in technical support to the NRMG with Peter Bauman replacing Salamah Magnusom. Since this time the NRMG Executive Committee (EC) and Technical Committee (TC) have met several times in June and July. At these meetings the following topics were discussed:

- The Scope of Work (SOW) for the NRMG technical advisor
- The SOW for the NRMG program coordinator
- Designing an operational work plan
- Assigning and confirming the permanent members of the TC

Future Activities

- Planning retreat in Nimule, Southern Sudan in September to design the program for the next three months of activities and develop a plan for the transition after USDA funding ends and the new institutional support begins.
- Develop policy data base and evaluate where current and proposed policies and law contravene each other and have gaps, as well as integrate pan-African best practices in natural resource management.
- Conduct a pilot study in a few selected regions in regions where the competing interests are contentious. It is anticipated that the greater Upper Nile region would

- provide some important pilot studies, including Boma, the Sudd, and other resource-rich regions in Joneglei.
- Draft recommendations, working towards an Integrated Natural Resource Management & Investment Strategy, resulting in policy briefs and recommendations to the GOSS and each ministry.
 - Convene a large conference with State representatives will be held to share the recommendations of the Policy Analysis/Harmonization.

Future USAID Support to Land Policy and Natural Resources

With the PASA arrangement ending in a few months it is very important that the transition is managed prudently. Both initiatives (the Land Policy Development Process and the formalization of the NRMG) are at critical junctures. If this transition in both the funding mechanism and the technical support are not managed properly considerable harm could be done to both processes and institutions, which would set back the current progress and momentum. GOSS is already growing weary of the constant staff turnover and transitions in international assistance. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that some of the current TAs remain on board for at least a few months to ensure a smooth hand-over to the new institutions that will be supporting the SSLC and the NRMG. In addition, nearly all of the current energy of the TAs is focused on developing the land policy and facilitating the NRMG's formation and activities. The SSLC is still struggling to be a functional institution at even the most basic levels. The SSLC has been mandated to be responsible for developing the land policy / law and will be held responsible for dissemination, etc. Without the institutional capacity it will not be able to do this without substantial external support. This will ultimately hurt the credibility and effectiveness of the land policy / law. Therefore, it is highly recommended that one TA with a strong background in institutional capacity building be hired for the sole purpose of supporting the development of the SSLC. If the right person was hired for this position and was able to dedicate 100% of his/her time to institutional capacity building then the SSLC could become a functioning institutional that was capable of fulfilling its mandate. Without this TA, the SSLC is unlikely to be able to fulfill its mandate.

B) Activities Related to Strategic Objective 10 - Promote Stability, Recovery and Democratic Reform

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

Food Security Analytical Agenda

Food Monitors Activity

From April 1, 2008, John Marks began working under a new scope of work that puts him 50% funded by OFDA and 50% by USAID/Sudan. For OFDA, he is a Program Advisor; for USAID/Sudan, he is Senior Policy Advisor.

Significant tasks undertaken for USAID/Sudan by Mr. Marks during the quarter include:

- Advice on structuring FY08 funding for a new generation of programs with clustered, integrated activities in a reduced geographic area;
- Participation in planning the new FY08 Annual Program Statement solicitation;
- Discussions with the Gates Foundation and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore about Gates Foundation interest in a possible program in Sudan to help small farmers find markets for their crops that would complement USAID programs;

For both OFDA and USAID/Sudan:

- One-week FACT training in Virginia the week of April 21;
- One-week visit to USAID/Washington in April, around the FACT training;
- Working with the Mission infrastructure team, OFDA, OTI and FFP to plan new USAID activities in the Three Conflict Areas of Sudan - Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile;
- Travel in Sudan from May 15 to June 6 to meet with USAID and partners in Khartoum and Juba and to monitor OFDA programs in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrab states including a visit to southern Abyei Area to see the humanitarian response to the displacement of 50,000 civilians following the Abyei crisis that started May 14; also included 3 days with the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan, Mr. Williamson, as a humanitarian expert at the U.S.-Sudan bilateral talks;
- Participation in the USAID/Sudan portfolio review in Kenya from June 8-14;
- Regular communications with Sudanese colleagues in civil society and working for GOSS on developments in Sudan.

The Food Monitor assigned to the project reported the following activities in this reporting period:

- Attended weekly coordination meetings among government, international and local agencies on subjects of returnees, food security, health, water and nutrition.
- Ongoing exercise: Messiriya-Arab and Dinka-Malual grassroot peace initiative in which the author is member in the Dinak – Messiriya peace committee. This Committee was

purpose by Heigleg meeting to normalize relations and restoring harmony between these two border communities that have been in conflict for much of the past two decades.

- Ongoing: Meeting with government officials, NGOs and UN agencies to keep abreast of humanitarian developments in Greater Bahr el Ghazal;
- May 6-7, food security assessment and report in highland areas of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State.
- May 15 – 18, met the Dinka and Messiriya’s Joint Steering Committee (JSC), PADCO Sudan and USAID representatives in Khartoum, these meetings discussed and briefed the committee on the future USAID assistance to both communities.
- Accompanied a USAID/OFDA/FFP team travelling to Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrab States and Abyei Area. In this field trip, many meetings were held with local authorities, NGOs partners, UN agencies and Abyei’s IDPs in Aweil East and Agok. Humanitarian needs were thoroughly discussed with all the stakeholders, May 19 – 26.
- May 28 – 30 met facilitate the USAID/OFDA meeting with Government of Southern Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Juba.

C) Activities Related to Strategic Objective 11 – Program Support

Support to Development of USAID Programs

The PASA provides on-going assistance, including specialized and short-term technical assistance to the Senior Policy Advisor and Senior Humanitarian Assistance Advisor in their efforts to support the CPA and the work of USAID/Sudan. Part of this work included the design of a Food Security Analytical Agenda for Sudan to be implemented in FY 2008.

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 third 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.