

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

January 2005

Program Description

OTI works to link ongoing peace processes, at the local and national level, to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. The four main objectives of the OTI southern Sudan program are to: support the emergence of responsive, effective, and inclusive civil authorities; restore the conditions of peace within and among communities through support of opportunities for peaceful dialogue; assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society; and, increase access to quality, independent information.

OTI's implementing partners are PACT and Educational Development Center (EDC). PACT manages the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative (SSTI), which is a two-year small grants program that focuses on promoting and supporting good governance, local-level peace initiatives, the development of civil society and an informative and balanced media. EDC has established the Sudan Radio Service which is a short-wave radio station that transmits six hours of programming daily on current events, civic education, health and culture in nine languages.

Country Situation

Formal Peace Signing in Kenya – In Nairobi, dozens of heads of states attended the formal signing ceremony of a comprehensive peace agreement between the SPLM and the Sudanese government. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell attended the event and urged both parties to work towards a successful implementation of the agreement. He also warned Sudan that improved U.S. relations depended on a resolution to the crisis in Darfur.

Bashir Visits Southern Garrison Towns – Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir went on a tour of several southern Sudanese towns to celebrate the signing of the comprehensive peace treaty with the SPLM. He traveled to the garrison towns of Juba, Malakal and Torit, where thousands of people flocked to celebrate with him. According to an AP report, Bashir stated, "Our ultimate goal is a united Sudan, which will not be built by war but by peace and development."

SPLM Ratifies Peace Agreement – The SPLM unanimously ratified the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) at a meeting of the National Leadership Council in Rumbek. In addition to reviewing and approving the CPA, the Council is discussing the formation of the government of Southern Sudan. The SPLM has recently announced Rumbek as the provisional capital of southern Sudan. SPLM plans to operate from Rumbek until Khartoum withdraws from the larger southern town of Juba, slated to become the capital of the south for a six-year period of autonomy followed by a referendum on secession. Several UN agencies and international NGOs are already based in Rumbek.

UN Plans to Deploy Peacekeeping Force – The U.N.'s envoy to Sudan, Jan Pronk, has indicated the Security Council will likely adopt a resolution authorizing a large-scale peacekeeping mission in mid-February. The 7,000 - 10,000 troops will be stationed in the eastern city of Kassala. The SPLM has indicated some discomfort with offers from Malaysia and China to contribute to the peace-keeping force. SPLM officials have accused both countries, which have considerable oil interests in Sudan, of being closely aligned to the Khartoum government.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

With the signing of the CPA, the real transition period for southern Sudan began in January. The focus of the southern Sudanese leadership, international organizations and donors has been on ensuring a smooth transition in this critical period. One of the key concerns of many is the danger of a proliferation of local-level conflicts now that the major north/south conflict has ended. The SSTI's January grants focused on consolidated or expanding gains made through grassroots-based peace and reconciliation processes.

A number of grants provided opportunities for cross-line ethnic dialogue in the Transitional Areas and Bahr El Ghazal. These conferences will bring together key tribal/ethnic groups to discuss issues related to IDP returns,

conflict resolution/rule of law and local governance. With the signing of the CPA, the transition areas will be governed in an intricate power-sharing agreement with both northern and southern parties. It is critical that the local communities are informed and begin to develop common priorities.

One of the key challenges in planning for an expected upsurge in IDPs returns to southern Sudan is access to clean, potable water. In January, OTI continued to collaborate with USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) in its efforts to expand and improve water points in the region. Two grants were signed with local organizations in Upper Nile and Bahr El Ghazal to support community water management efforts. Using training materials developed through previous OTI-supported water management projects in other regions, the groups will train local community members in borehole rehabilitation and maintenance. Through OTI assistance, communities have established procedures related to water management. Groups who have been trained have gone on to train additional members of the community and as a result, key messages on water sanitation and management have been disseminated far and wide.

The OTI-supported Sudan Radio Service (SRS) broadcast special programming to cover the signing of the CPA at Nyayo Stadium in Nairobi. Additional programs in a variety of Sudanese languages were produced to outline the details and implications of the CPA. The SRS staff carried out several workshops to introduce the radio to communities in Upper Nile and Bahr El Ghazal. The team held question and answer sessions and distributed publicity materials. In Yei and Rumbek there were much larger marketing campaigns that included sports tournaments, music concerts and cultural dances. In Yei town, several thousand residents gathered at the public square to participate in the events. A local SPLM official, David Lokong'a, praised SRS on its informative broadcasts and urged the expansion of programming in governance and conflict resolution as southern Sudan makes the transition to self-rule.

B. Grants Activity Summary

Program Objectives	Grants for January 2005	Total Dollar for January 2005	Program Total	Total Dollars
Promote emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities.			27	\$1,188,551
Provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities.	4	\$ 28,242	49	\$2,216,587
Promote the emergence of an empowered and an active civil society.	4	\$123,400	48	\$1,400,773
Increase availability of quality, independent information.	1	\$ 38,500	33	\$4,696,334
Total	9	\$190,142	157	\$9,502,245

C. Indicator of Success

In December 2004, OTI issued a grant to the Nuba Information Center for Community Empowerment (NICE) for the production and circulation of a weekly newsletter in the Nuba Mountains. Within weeks, The Blowing Horn newsletter began circulation and was eagerly received by the community. The newsletter covers local stories of interest and cross-line issues such as ethnic relations, IDP movements, and the peace process. The Blowing Horn team has quickly established excellent rapport with civil authorities and NGOs working in the area. As a result, the journalists have been invited to all significant meetings and ceremonies organized by NGOs and CSOs that have had an important impact in the region. With invites from civil authorities from both the GOS and SPLM sides to cover events, it is clear that the newsletter is seen as impartial and independent. The Blowing Horn has so impressed officials from the Joint Military Commission (JMC), a body set up to monitor cease-fire violations on both sides, that the JMC expressed interest in facilitating internet access to the paper. Other organizations such as UNDP have shown interest in supporting the paper through bulk subscriptions and special educational supplements.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- Preparation for OTI's Program Performance review

- TDY of OTI/DC M&E specialist Mary Stewart
- Program strategy session for future OTI programming in southern Sudan

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

February 2005

Program Description

OTI's programming in Sudan works to link ongoing peace processes, at the local and national level, to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. The four main objectives of the OTI southern Sudan program are to: support the emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities; restore the conditions of peace within and among communities through support of opportunities for peaceful dialogue; assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society; and, increase access to quality, independent information.

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Country Situation

SPLM Opens Offices in Khartoum/Juba – The SPLM has formally opened its offices in Sudan's capital city Khartoum. The new offices (housed in the three-story building formerly used by U.S. financial services - Citibank) will be used to organize SPLM as a political party - including recruitment of new members as well as preparations for the arrival of national leaders including John Garang. Additional offices were opened in a Khartoum neighborhood with a large population of southern Sudanese IDPs and in the garrison town of Juba.

Garang and Taha Visit UN Security Council – Sudan's First Vice-President Ali Osman Taha and SPLM Chairman John Garang traveled to New York to argue before the U.N. Security Council for an increase in reconstruction assistance. Mr. Taha called on the international community to lift economic sanctions and forgive all foreign debts. Garang noted the many challenges ahead, including the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees and millions of internally displaced persons to their home areas in the south.

ICRC to Facilitate Detainee Returns – After the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the Sudanese government and SPLM requested the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to facilitate the release and return of detainees. The Sudanese government and the SPLM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in February for the release and transfer of prisoners related to the armed conflict in southern Sudan. Under the MoU, the ICRC would use its planes and other means of transport to bring the prisoners from the south to the north.

Increase in Southern Sudanese Refugees in Kakuma – According to a report from Reuters news agency, lack of food is driving some southern Sudanese to take refuge in Kenya one month after the signing of the final peace agreement. Almost 900 southern Sudanese have arrived at Kakuma refugee camp in the past few weeks.

GOS and SPLM Militia Clash in Akobo – According to the Sudan Radio Service, forces backed by the Government of Sudan (GoS) wrested the Upper Nile town of Akobo out of SPLM hands in mid-February. By the end of the month, SPLM forces claimed to have recaptured the town. The clashes illustrate the fragility of the cease-fire agreement.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

One of the critical tests of the peace agreement's durability will be the success or failure of its implementation in the transition areas of Southern Blue Nile and the Nuba Mountains. As a result of the Naivasha Protocols, both areas will be ruled jointly by the GoS and the SPLM in a complex power-sharing arrangement. Communities that had been previously divided across the north/south line will now live side by side under one state structure.

Since the inception of the South Sudan Transition Initiatives small grants program, OTI has carried out 33 of projects in the Transition Areas targeting the regions' complex needs. In response to the necessity to build social cohesion across divided communities, OTI has supported 12 cross-line peace and reconciliation processes. Additional interventions include capacity building grants for local authorities, dissemination of the Naivasha protocols, and technical assistance on critical issues related to constitution development and resource management.

OTI awarded several grants in February to continue valuable cross-line and civil society dialogues in the Transition Areas. In the Nuba Mountains, the Nuba and Baggara peoples will gather to reconcile differences, revive traditional methods of conflict resolution, and cooperate on issues related to engagement with both local and national government. OTI is also supporting the All Nuba conference that is focused on linking civil authorities and civil society on a broad variety of issues related to CPA implementation, the development of a democratic and responsive civil administration, and establishing a joint SPLM/GOS integration strategy and action plan.

Women in southern Sudan continue to rate at the bottom of most human development indices related to health, education and income. OTI awarded eleven grants to Sudanese local NGOs to support women's income-generation and capacity-building activities. The projects included provision of grinding mill equipment and the development of resource centers where women would have access to skills training. Additional grants awarded in February went to provide continued support for the safe passage for Bor Dinka IDPs returning to Upper Nile, to train community members in Aweils East in water management and sanitation, and to provide critically needed education materials in Southern Blue Nile.

A report has been completed on the outcome of dissemination of the six Protocols by the National Working Group on Civic Education (NWGCE) consortium of 21 Sudanese NGOs. The OTI-funded activity involved the translation and dissemination of the six protocols throughout southern Sudan. Overall results show the NWGCE team reached an estimated 85 percent of the counties in southern Sudan as well as in the Transition Areas in just two months.

In addition to the regular variety of civic education, news, health, agriculture and education issues programming, the OTI-funded Sudan Radio Service (SRS) aired a series of public service announcements in February regarding the upcoming polio vaccination campaign across southern Sudan to be carried out by the World Health Organization. The radio pieces are designed to increase awareness and educate listeners about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine.

A Nairobi-based consultancy firm conducted a listener survey for SRS in nine towns across southern Sudan, interviewing over 1,500 respondents. The final report by MINDS research firm was completed and the findings are currently under review by OTI.

OTI has recently awarded a SWIFT contract to Development Associates Inc. (DAI), of Bethesda, Maryland. DAI has extensive experience working with OTI in other country programs and will set up offices in Sudan and Kenya within the coming weeks. OTI Sudan, DAI, and the Sudan Field Office will meet in a strategy session to discuss future programming options in southern Sudan and Darfur.

B. Grants Activity Summary

Program Objectives	Grants for February 2005	Total Dollar for February 2005	Program Total	Total Dollars
Promote emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities.	1	\$ 30,612	28	\$1,219,163
Provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities.	14	\$132,032	63	\$2,348,619
Promote the emergence of an empowered and an active civil society.	1	\$ 29,250	49	\$1,430,023
Increase availability of quality, independent information.			33	\$4,696,334
Total	16	\$191,894	173	\$9,694,139

C. Indicators of Success

As a result of the Naivasha Protocols, the National Congress Party (NCP)¹ and the SPLM will jointly rule the Southern Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains in a complex power-sharing arrangement. The NCP will be allocated 55 percent and the SPLM 45 percent of the states' executive and legislature seats with a rotational governorship between the two parties.

In response to the critical need to support and strengthen the legislative bodies, OTI provided parliamentary training to 100 local officials who will represent citizens in the regional parliaments of Nuba and Southern Blue Nile. The officials were trained in the roles and procedures of the legislature, parliament members, debate sessions, critical parliamentary debate techniques, popular consultation and mobilization. Equipped with key skills and concepts, the officials will ensure informed and participatory decision-making on issues such as CPA implementation and accountability of local governance structures. Below is a snapshot of feedback from a variety of training participants:

"The number of trainees is more than double what we expected. Though this has caused us financial pressure, it is an indication of the enthusiasm of the Funj people to participate in capacity building activities relevant for post peace reconstruction and good governance." **Hastin Yokwe, Director ROOF**

"The training was good; it gave us an idea of what we should be doing as members of parliament. It needs to be continuously conducted in phases for more benefit of the participants regarding their role and the challenges to be faced in the future and how to deal with it." **Zienab Alsanosi, participant**

"The training was useful, and the contents were relevant with good facilitation from the consultant. It gave us the overview of the job description of the parliament especially with in the integrated government." **Omer Hussein Kafi, participant**

¹The National Congress Party is the current party in power in the North.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- TDY of Jerry Jordan to assist in SSTI phase out;
- Rapid deployment of DAI staff to Nairobi;
- Program strategy session for future OTI programming in southern Sudan.

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

March 2005

Program Description

The USAID Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) program in Sudan works to link ongoing peace processes, at the local and national level, to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. The four main objectives of the OTI southern Sudan program are to: support the emergence of responsive, effective, and inclusive civil authorities; restore the conditions of peace within and among communities through support of opportunities for peaceful dialogue; assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society; and, increase access to quality, independent information.

OTI's implementing partners are PACT, Educational Development Center (EDC), and Development Alternatives, Inc (DAI). PACT manages the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative (SSTI), which is a two-year small grants program promoting and supporting good governance, local-level peace initiatives, the development of civil society and an informative and balanced media. EDC has established the Sudan Radio Service, which is a short-wave radio station that transmits six hours of programming daily on current events, civic education, health, and culture in nine languages. DAI is implementing phase II of the small grants program that will focus on critical transition needs in the aftermath of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Government of Sudan (GoS).

Country Situation

SPLM and GoS Contest Oil Rights – The SPLM has decided to rescind all oil exploration rights in territory under its control despite stipulations in the January peace deal that no oil deals reached before the peace agreement would be subject to renegotiation. The SPLM has reassigned seven areas previously allotted to the French oil company Total to a UK firm. Sudanese government officials have vigorously denied the south's right to grant licenses and cautioned against any attempt to undermine its authority.

Sudanese Parties Issue Joint Appeal – In a joint appeal presented in Nairobi, the SPLM and the GoS requested \$2.6 billion from the international community to finance recovery and development programs in the war-torn country. The amount requested from donors is out of a total of \$7.8 billion the two sides calculated would be required to address urgent needs in the north and the south in the next two and a half years. The costs not covered by the joint appeal are expected to be funded from oil revenues.

Study Highlights Extent of Wildlife Poaching – A report compiled by Care for the Wild International, a British-based wildlife charity, has revealed that Sudan's army and proxy militias are slaughtering large numbers of elephants in southern Sudan. A month-long investigation report by Esmond Martin, a respected elephant researcher, revealed a stockpile of thousands of kilos of ivory in the Sudanese capital Khartoum and Omdurman town. The ivory is often destined for Asian markets.

LRA Attack in Sudan Leaves 8 Dead – The Ugandan rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), killed eight civilians and injured scores of others in an attack in southern Sudan. An LRA attack on a USAID-funded teachers training institute in Arapi left one guard dead. The students and teachers escaped unharmed.

South-South Reconciliation Talks to Begin – Representatives from SPLM and southern-based militias met in late March to prepare for a conference on national reconciliation. The meeting brought together representatives from militias aligned with both the SPLM and Khartoum government. The date for the conference has not been set although it has been widely reported that former Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi will convene the gathering.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

OTI Sudan program went through its own "transition" process in March with the phasing out of the SSTI program implemented by PACT and the bringing on board of a new SWIFT contractor, Development Alternatives, Inc (DAI).

The SWIFT mechanism will offer the OTI Sudan program the speed and flexibility to address critical transition needs and provide visible peace dividends to communities throughout southern Sudan. DAI offices were set up in Rumbek and key staff members arrived in Nairobi and are now stationed in southern Sudan. Focus areas in the second phase of OTI programming include community infrastructure, local governance and new media initiatives.

While the SSTI program officially ends in June, the last grants were cleared in March. OTI awarded 34 grants to local Sudanese organizations in support of peace dialogues, civil society development, local governance and media. With the relative stability due to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, OTI programming continues to consolidate gains made through over 85 grants issued to support peaceful dialogue among communities. In eastern Equatoria, an OTI grant issued last year facilitated the reconciliation of the Jie and Mogos communities after frequent outbreaks of conflict of water and cattle. The two communities were brought together once more in March to identify water sites and set up management systems of water catchments points. The joint activity builds stronger bonds between the two groups and ensures consensus on potentially contentious resource issues.

The impact of the conflict in Darfur has been felt in southern Sudan with the movement of Darfurians IDPs escaping the conflict into northern Bahr el Ghazal. In addition, there are reports that tribes allied with the janjaweed have also moved into the region in search of grazing land and water. A grant was awarded to the Aweil Community Welfare Association to convene an emergency meeting between the neighboring communities of the Dinka and Reizegat to develop a coordinated approach to the issue IDP of movement and conflict resolution. In the transitional area of Abyei, it is estimated that over 90% of the indigenous residents are currently IDPs based in the Khartoum area. Through an OTI grant, the Abyei Community Development Committee is organizing traditional leaders and civil authority in preparation of an expected increase in the returnees to Abyei.

The advent of very small aperture terminal (VSAT) technology has provided communities in the developing world with the ability to email, fax, and call from isolated locations. A grant to the Diocese of Torit in eastern Equatoria will assist in the purchase of equipment for establishing seven satellite internet centers in the region. The centers will enable a cross-section of the rural community - from aid workers to farmer - to expand their communication reach far beyond their immediate community.

Additional projects funded in March include institutional capacity-building support to local authorities in the Nuba Mountains, road clearing in Upper Nile, women's income-generation activities, inter-tribe peace conferences and trauma counseling.

Sudan Radio Service Executive Producer Rebecca Okwaci has been invited by SPLM to attend an upcoming donor conference in Oslo, Norway. She will not only be officially representing southern Sudanese women and civil society, but will also represent SRS. Support to the media will undoubtedly be part of the discussions in Oslo. SRS has conducted several publicity workshops in communities in the Upper Nile. The feedback reports received from these campaigns reveals a major need for replication and expansion of these publicity campaign workshops to cover the whole of southern Sudan. The communities believe these workshops will help in accelerating the implementation of peace on southern Sudan.

B. Grants Activity Summary

Program Objectives	Grants Feb. 15-Mar. 15 2005	Grant Funding Feb. 15-Mar. 15 2005	Total Grants Cleared Since June 2003	Total Estimated Budget for Grants Since June 2003
Promote emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities.	7	\$109,504	35	\$1,328,667
Provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities.	25	\$388,770	88	\$2,737,389
Promote the emergence of an empowered and an active civil society.			49	\$1,430,023
Increase availability of quality,				

independent information.	2	\$ 91,600	35	\$4,787,934
Total	34	\$589,874	207	\$10,284,013

C. Indicators of Success

For over a year, OTI has provided support to the Joint Integration Return and Rehabilitation Support Team (JIRRST), a group of civil society leaders and local authorities, to facilitate the return of Bor Dinka IDPs from Mundri County to Upper Nile. In the past decade, there have been constant conflicts between the IDPs and their host communities over cattle and property that has resulted in violence and instability. One of the major stumbling blocks for the safe passage of the IDPs and their cattle camps is the insecurity in the region. With a grant from OTI, the JIRRST convened a three-day conference on the Bor IDPs return that included key figures such as Governor of Bahr el Jebel Major Clement Wani from the Government of Sudan-held areas and SPLM Vice-Chair James Wani Igga. Both leaders publicly pledged to create safe corridors for the IDPs to return to Upper Nile. Governor Clement Wani promised to donate two motorboats and security to facilitate the movement of the IDPs across the Nile River.



Bor Dinka IDPs, traditional cattle herders, face resistance from agrarian local communities.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- TDY of Technology Specialist Dan Henry and Senior Field Advisor Eleanor Bedford
- Work with DAI on formalizing systems and procedures for second phase

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

April 2005

Program Description

The USAID Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) program in Sudan works to link ongoing peace processes, at the local and national level, to initiatives that promote increased participation of southern Sudanese in their governing structures. The four main objectives of the OTI southern Sudan program are to: support the emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities; restore the conditions of peace within and among communities through support of opportunities for peaceful dialogue; assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society; and, increase access to quality, independent information. In Darfur, OTI has provided some limited assistance to activities promoting the protection of civilians caught up in the crisis.

OTI's implementing partners are PACT, Educational Development Center (EDC), and Development Alternatives, Inc (DAI). PACT manages the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative (SSTI), which is a two-year small grants program promoting and supporting good governance, local-level peace initiatives, the development of civil society and an informative and balanced media. EDC has established the Sudan Radio Service, which is a short-wave radio station that transmits six hours of programming daily on current events, civic education, health, and culture in nine languages. DAI is implementing phase II of the small grants program that will focus on critical transition needs in the aftermath of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Government of Sudan (GoS).

Country Situation

State Department Official Travels to Sudan – Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick traveled to Darfur and southern Sudan in early April. Zoellick met SPLM leader John Garang in Rumbek and urged quick movement on implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement with the Sudanese government. Garang appealed for \$30 million in urgent U.S. government assistance for construction of roads, schools, and a communications system. Zoellick also traveled to the troubled Darfur region where he pressed the Sudanese government to bring an end to the conflict.

Southern Sudanese Factions Pledge Support to CPA – Dozens of representatives from various southern Sudanese political factions gathered in Nairobi at a three-day conference on the North-South peace deal. The groups, a majority of which have traditionally been opposed to the SPLM, agreed in principle to support the peace deal and pledged to work towards reconciliation. Additional resolutions passed by the participants include creation of a committee to draft a constitution for the South and support for multiparty democracy. The SPLM accused the Sudanese government of forcing a number of key Khartoum-backed militia leaders to boycott the gathering.

Donor Countries Pledge Over \$4.5 billion to Sudan – At a pledging conference in Norway, representatives from 60 countries pledged over \$4.5 billion to address Sudan's humanitarian and reconstruction needs for the next two years. The United States' delegation, led by Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick, pledged \$853 million for this year with a promise to ask lawmakers for an additional \$900 million in 2006.

Security Issues Continue in Darfur – While the mass violence that has characterized the Darfur conflict over the last couple of years has seemingly subsided, insecurity and sporadic attacks continue. Additionally, displaced communities are repeatedly targeted in and outside camps in the form of harassment, beatings, arrests, rapes and looting of livestock and personal belongings. The international actors in Darfur are still in emergency phase and to date civil society's capacity and political space to operate is quite constricted. That said, some groups are providing some relief and support to the thousands of internally displaced and victims of the conflict and their host communities, both in partnership with the UN and INGOs and independently. As the African Union continues to expand its presence, both by troop number and field locations, the hope is that the security situation will improve.

New Interim Constitution Under Development – On April 30th in Khartoum, the National Commission for the Revision of the Constitution (NCRC) began the process of drafting an Interim constitution. The NCRC has 60 members and 120 alternates. The Commission will move on to Rumbek to continue the process. Once the new constitution is approved by the parliament and SPLM's general assembly, the new government should be formed by July 9th.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

There was an air of optimism in southern Sudan in April due to the successful pledging conference by donors in Norway. Sudanese communities are now more hopeful that with substantive support from the international community, they will begin to see the dividends of peace. The OTI Sudan program has factored in these communities expectations in developing its new strategy as demonstrated by the inception of the DAI small grants program.

In April, 19 grants were cleared that focused on community infrastructure and support to local governance. A majority of the grant locations are in the Transition Areas of Southern Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains, some of the least developed and fragile zones in southern Sudan. Basic social services such as schools and health care are minimal if not none existent. The success of local authorities' ability to address the issues of good governance and provision of services is critical to garnering continued support for the peace agreement. OTI awarded several grants in Nuba to provide transportation support and targeted training for civil administrators. In Southern Blue Nile, OTI is providing gap-filling support to the local authority's plans to rapidly expand the number of English-language schools in the area. Grants were awarded to rehabilitate the Kirmuk Girls School and to provide latrines to eight elementary schools.

OTI awarded a grant to the Maridi Students' Association to renovate a community resource center that will provide a common space for training courses, basic office resources and a platform to promote educational and sports activities for youth. In Tali Post, OTI awarded a grant to the local authorities to drill three boreholes that will decrease the likelihood of conflict by providing more water points and increased access for the community. Tali Post has been heavily hit by a continuous shortage of water due to the constant population growth created by the influx of returnees. Additional grants awarded in April include a community road repair project that will bring together two conflicting groups in Terekeka County and a road safety/human rights promotion training for the citizens of Rumbek.

In Northern Sudan, OTI met with over 20 different Sudanese organizations and academics during the month of April. Focusing initially on the tenuous situation in Darfur, OTI looks to support projects that assist in mitigating the severe effects of abuse and protection violations. After trips to South and North Darfur and extensive discussions with IDPs and local organizations in Kalma IDP camp and Nyala and Zam Zam IDP camps in El Fashir, OTI has identified some potential local partners with which to work.

OTI is also an integrated member of USAID's DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) for Darfur. In this capacity, OTI encourages coordination among international organizations and donors to protect vulnerable people from violence and abuse. OTI also helps to identify and support local efforts to mitigation conflict.

B. Grants Activity Summary *

Program Objectives	Grants for April 2005	Total Funding	Program Total	Total Dollars
Promote emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities.	7	\$169,200	46	\$1,714,846
Provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities.	1	\$ 31,860	93	\$2,577,436
Promote the emergence of an empowered and an active civil society.	11	\$149,000	43	\$ 940,899
Increase availability of quality, independent information.			46	\$4,242,497
Protect vulnerable populations from abuse.			4	\$1,497,122
TOTAL	19	\$350,060	232	\$10,972,800

*This chart includes small grants issued under OTI's contract with Pact and DAI, as well as other larger program activities such as OTI's cooperative agreement with Education Development Center to implement the Sudan Radio Service.

C. Indicators of Success

Due to its proximity to the border with the North, the Aweils region in northern Bahr El Ghazal has been at the crossroads of conflict and instability for many years. The Aweil Community Welfare Agency (ACWA) has been the key provider of social services in the region and has received support from OTI to carry out peace-building and community infrastructure projects, and a recently held meeting to review its mission and action plan for the next year. Feedback from participants, which included ACWA members, local authorities and the general public, indicated a clear positive impact of the general assembly in the community. A majority of those interviewed by the OTI monitoring and evaluation specialist said the meetings were run democratically and everyone was encouraged to participate. The ACWA members affirmed their mandate to continue working with the community.



Women attending the ACWA meetings.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- Prepare for OTI strategic session with the Sudan Field Office and team-building sessions with implementing partners.
- Ensure continued build-up of DAI team in Nairobi, Khartoum and the field sites across Sudan.

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

May 2005

Program Description

The OTI program aims to foster conditions necessary for the development of a democratic peace in Sudan. The five objectives of the OTI Sudan program are to: support the emergence of responsive, effective, and inclusive civil authorities; restore the conditions of peace within and among communities through support of opportunities for peaceful dialogue; assist in the emergence of an empowered and active civil society; increase access to quality, independent information; and protect vulnerable populations from abuse.

OTI's implementing partners are PACT, Educational Development Center (EDC), and Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI). PACT manages the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative, which is a two-year small-grants program promoting and supporting good governance, local-level peace initiatives, the development of civil society, and an informative and balanced media. EDC has established the Sudan Radio Service, which is a short-wave radio station that transmits six hours of programming daily on current events, civic education, health, and culture in nine languages. DAI is implementing Phase II of the small grants program that will focus on critical transition needs in the aftermath of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Government of Sudan.

Country Situation

U.N. Chief Travels to Sudan – Secretary-General Kofi Annan traveled to Rumbek to meet with SPLM leader John Garang on issues surrounding the implementation of the January peace agreement. Garang informed Annan that more than a quarter of a million refugees have returned to southern Sudan since the signing of the agreement. He warned that the influx of returnees coupled with a poor harvest and the inability of humanitarian agencies to provide adequate food had caused a potential humanitarian disaster.

National Constitution Committee Meets in Rumbek – The National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC), composed of members of the Sudanese government and the SPLM, traveled to Rumbek to bring the constitutional review process to the south. The delegation of 160 NCRC members arrived to a lavish ceremony that included the ritual slaughtering of a bull. From Rumbek, Garang made an appearance on Sudanese television to discuss the deliberations on the constitution and the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The NCRC is scheduled to hold a forum at which the public will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the constitutional review process.

Garang Suspends County Officials Over Ethnic Clashes – SPLM leader John Garang suspended three county officials in Bahr al-Ghazal for allegedly fueling ethnic clashes. In the past month, more than 100 people have been killed as a result of inter-ethnic conflict in the counties of Yirol West, Yirol East and Awerial. The clashes, between the Dinka sub-sections of the Atwot and Aliab, were related most often to cattle-rustling. The suspended officials will be investigated for their role in the conflict.

Northern Media Sector Developments – The National Intelligence and Security Bureau lifted its 2.5 year ban on the daily Arabic language newspaper, *Al Watan*. In May, the government of Sudan banned publication of the English-language daily newspaper, *Khartoum Monitor*, for a day. The stop-press was prompted by a proposed Monitor editorial on the disturbances at the Soba Aradi IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) settlements in Khartoum state. This stop-press was the first government intervention with the *Khartoum Monitor* in 20 months.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

In May, the OTI program focused on revising its strategic approach given the initiation of a new small-grants program under DAI and the continuation of peace-building activities under PACT. Senior field advisor Eleanor Bedford and technology sector specialist Dan Henry provided valuable training sessions for DAI staff in Rumbek on OTI principles in grant development, optimal use of the database, and roles and responsibilities of each position.

A major team-building workshop took place in Nairobi in mid-May that brought together OTI staff from Washington, implementing partners and members of the Sudan Field Office. Participants in the three-day meetings reviewed OTI's evolving mandate given the current political realities in southern Sudan and proposed strategic adjustments to the program. Enhancement of lines of communication and opportunities for collaboration with other USAID programs were also explored.

With an additional \$500,000 in funding secured in May, PACT's small-grants program will continue to operate until the end of this calendar year. Given the increased insecurity and conflict in southern Sudan, much of the focus of the program will be in support of conflict-mitigation processes. DAI's activities will complement the initiatives of PACT by providing follow-up support to peace process' outcomes. Both programs will work in synergy to provide stabilizing influences in this critical transition period.

In May, the new OTI Sudan programming capacity now being established in Khartoum generated the first two of an intended series of initial small grants under the DAI mechanism. The key themes being targeted in these first two grants concern citizen protection. The first OTI small grant issued in Darfur supported a combined union of women's groups in the Otash and Kalma IDP camps in South Darfur, near Nyala. The activity will enable 600 IDP women to engage in grass-mat weaving, with the mats to be sold to humanitarian agencies supporting IDPs in South Darfur. This quick impact income-generating project will enable women to purchase their firewood, reducing their exposure to violence when they go far from the camp to secure firewood in the bush.

OTI also provided a small grant to the Khartoum Center for Human Rights to promote respect for human rights, specifically the right to physical integrity. The center will provide education to the public and human rights practitioners on key issues and will suggest approaches that Sudan might consider to improve protection of civilians.

B. Grants Activity Summary

Objective	May Total No	Total Funding	Program Total No.	Program Total Funding
Promote emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities.			46	\$1,714,846
Provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities.			93	\$2,577,436
Promote the emergence of an empowered and an active civil society.			43	\$ 940,899
Increase availability of quality, independent information.	1		47	\$4,892,497
Protect vulnerable populations from abuse.	2	\$86,480	6	\$1,583,602
TOTAL	3	\$86,480	235	\$11,709,280

C. Indicators of Success

The Sudan Radio Service has been able to successfully position itself as an excellent avenue to reach the southern Sudanese population. Over the past few months, SRS's programming and advertising revenue has increased considerably. At a recent trade and investment fair for southern Sudan, SRS delivered a presentation to several hundred participants on how the short-wave radio station could help businesses advertise their goods and services. According to the SRS marketing team at the trade fair, they received numerous inquiries and expect a substantial increase in the amount of advertising. As the profile of SRS continues to grow, the ability of the station to develop a steady stream of revenue will go a long way to ensuring its sustainability.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- Finalize outcomes of the May Team-Building Session.
- Work with DAI in hiring of new staff and procurement of essential items.
- Assist PACT in developing priority focus areas for new monies.

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

June 2005

Program Description

The overall goal of the USAID/OTI Sudan program is to strengthen Sudanese confidence and capacity to address the causes and consequences of political marginalization, violence and instability. The Office of Transition Initiatives is pursuing this goal within the framework of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The five main objectives of the OTI Sudan program are to: promote the emergence of responsive and effective civil authorities; provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities; promote the emergence of an active civil society; increase availability of quality, independent information; and protect vulnerable populations from grave human rights violations and related abuses.

OTI's implementing partners are PACT, the Educational Development Center, and Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI). PACT manages the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative, which is a two-year small-grants program promoting and supporting good governance, local-level peace initiatives, the development of civil society, and an informative and balanced media. The Education Development Center (EDC) has established the Sudan Radio Service, which is a shortwave radio station that transmits six hours of programming daily on current events, civic education, health, and culture in nine languages. DAI is implementing Phase II of the small-grants program that will focus on critical transition needs in the aftermath of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Government of Sudan.

Country Situation

John Garang briefs Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak – SPLM Leader John Garang stopped in Cairo, while en route to the United States, to brief Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Garang and Mubarak also discussed how to include Cairo-based opposition groups in the agreement. Egypt is the mediator in discussions between the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Sudanese government.

Garang meets with Secretary Condoleezza Rice – John Garang, the SPLM leader, met with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Washington. Garang went to the United States to appeal to the U.S. Government for more economic aid and an increase in humanitarian assistance for the repatriation of the millions of refugees who fled southern Sudan during the nation's long civil war. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack assured Garang that the U.S. Government would urge other donors to follow through on pledges made at the Oslo conference in April.

U.N. chief urges countries to fulfill their pledges – U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has urged countries that pledged troops and funds to help build peace in Sudan to fulfill their pledges. Annan, in his letter to the U.N. Security Council, cited the large shortfall in donor aid contributions pledged in Oslo, and urged the council to pay attention to the countrywide hunger in Sudan, aggravated by the rainy season.

Debate on the constitution begins – Sudanese lawmakers started debating the proposed constitution. They are expected to unanimously adopt it before a Government of National Unity takes office on July 9.

U.N. warns of food shortages – The U.N. is appealing for millions of dollars for food aid for southern Sudanese, who are still fleeing to Kenya and Uganda despite political developments after the January peace agreement. The U.N. World Food Program warns of food shortages in October and is requesting donor countries to provide \$6.7 million in food aid to feed the large numbers of refugees.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

The successful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement rests largely on the smooth transition into power of both the Government of National Unity and the autonomous Government of Southern Sudan on July 9. In

the larger towns throughout the south, there has been an increase in trade and returning populations due to the anticipation of peace and development during this period. The Office of Transition Initiatives program developed 42 grants in June that strengthened the capacity of local authorities, provided targeted resources to enhance women's participation in political life, and promoted collaboration and reconciliation among different ethnic groups.

One of the key features in early plans for the development of the Government of Southern Sudan is the emphasis on devolving more authority to local communities. The emergence of capable and efficient county structures is a challenge, given that, historically, local governance in southern Sudan has been weak, under-resourced, and, in some areas, non-existent. With support from OTI, several county offices in Nuba Mountains and Bahr El Ghazal will be reconstructed and furniture and supplies will be provided. OTI's efforts in the area of local governance are closely coordinated with a consortium of international development organizations and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). At the national level, OTI is providing resources for the construction of the SPLM Public Service and Finance Ministries in Rumbek. The grants complement the USAID Democracy and Governance Program, which provides capacity-building training and technical assistance to SPLM ministries.

In Nuba, the Kauda Teachers' College program has played a key role in bringing together people from diverse ethnic and religious traditions. As the only English-language training program in the region, the college has witnessed a surge in applicants from parts of the Government-of-Sudan-controlled Nuba. With assistance from OTI, the institution will receive audio-visual supplies and basic school dormitory furniture to expand its civic education component and increase the number of students admitted.

One of the areas most devastated by inter-ethnic conflict is Upper Nile, where ethnic groups were divided along Government of Sudan and SPLM lines. An OTI grant to the Presbyterian Church of Sudan will support the gathering of key leaders and intellectuals in the Murle community to focus on reconciliation efforts. The meetings will examine how the community will address common conflict triggers, such as natural resource competition, and facilitate increased civic engagement at the regional and local level.

An innovative business-skills project in southern Sudan has resulted in the emergence of one of the largest women's cooperatives in the region. Lulu Works Ltd. is a micro-enterprise that has helped set up 36 women-owned and operated shea-butter processing centers, with more than 700 members in 11 counties across southern Sudan. The centers produce cooking oil and soap for USAID-funded humanitarian relief operations and lotions for both local and export markets. In order to better inform the women on political developments, OTI has provided support to Lulu Works Ltd. to incorporate a civic-education component into its existing training modules. The cooperative will receive additional resources to expand its current operations and training to enable more women to participate in the business. This grant will enhance the women's ability to engage with civil authorities and improve their level of participation in local decision-making.

The OTI-funded Sudan Radio Service (SRS) successfully conducted a publicity workshop in Kurmuk to introduce the shortwave radio station to community leaders and county authorities. SRS staff made several presentations at the Funj Conference in Kurmuk, which was attended by leaders from across the region, including those from government-controlled areas.

From the Khartoum office, OTI issued 10 grants in June. An OTI grant to DRDA (Diar for Rehabilitation and Development Association) was successfully implemented in the Mandela Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in Khartoum. More than 100 women from the Mandela, Soba Aradi and Mayo IDP camps came together for three days of discussions on the implications of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Before the meeting, women in the camps had little information on the peace process, nor had they ever had the opportunity to publicly discuss the implications of the agreement on their lives. In Juba, OTI supported a conference that brought together 40 local community leaders and key U.N. Peace-Keeping Operations (PKO) and Civil Affairs personnel to discuss the arrival of U.N. troops in the area. The participants reviewed how the U.N. troops would engage with the local community, and identified points of contact for community members to prevent possible conflict.

B. Grants Activity Summary

Objective	June Total No	Total Funding	Program Total No.	Program Total Funding
Promote emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities.	10	\$188,502	57	\$1,987,068
Provide opportunities for peaceful				

dialogue within and among communities.	17	\$160,166	74	\$2,370,515
Promote the emergence of an empowered and an active civil society.	15	\$236,789	94	\$1,511,802
Increase availability of quality, independent information.			47	\$4,299,328
Protect vulnerable populations from abuse.	2	\$ 86,480	6	\$1,583,602
TOTAL	44	\$671,937	278	\$11,752,315

C. Indicators of Success

Since the signing of the peace agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, the bustling town of Yei in southern Sudan has witnessed an exponential growth in population and economic activities. A stroll along the main road reveals a wide array of newly opened shops with goods from Kenya, northern Sudan and Uganda. With increased trade and returnees from throughout the region, there is concern that the spread of infectious diseases could occur. Local authorities and health officials are worried in particular about the HIV/AIDS virus that has severely ravaged Sudan's neighboring countries. With a grant from the OTI, the International Rescue Committee developed a multimedia campaign to educate residents of Yei and surrounding areas on the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and on issues related to reproductive health practices. The project produced radio programs, fliers, a *Straight Talk Sudan* newsletter, and other materials for dissemination. The response from local authorities, religious leaders and community groups was overwhelmingly positive. After a stakeholder workshop organized by the project, the religious groups decided to form the Inter-Church AIDS Awareness Association that now meets once a month to discuss HIV/AIDS issues.



A multimedia campaign informs Yei area residents about health-related issues.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- Work with a local governance consortium to develop standard "local authority in a box" kits that provide such items as desks and chairs to the offices of local officials.
- Prepare for the temporary duty of senior field adviser Eleanor Bedford to work with OTI and Development Alternatives Inc. program staff.
- Continue reviewing opportunities to program activities in the north.

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

July 2005

Program Description

The overall goal of the USAID/OTI Sudan program is to strengthen Sudanese confidence and capacity to address the causes and consequences of political marginalization, violence and instability. The Office of Transition Initiatives is pursuing this goal within the framework of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The five main objectives of the OTI Sudan program are to: promote the emergence of responsive and effective civil authorities; provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities; promote the emergence of an active civil society; increase availability of quality, independent information; and protect vulnerable populations from grave human rights violations and related abuses.

OTI's implementing partners are PACT, the Educational Development Center, and Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI). PACT manages the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative, which is a two-year small-grants program promoting and supporting good governance, local-level peace initiatives, the development of civil society, and an informative and balanced media. The Education Development Center has established the Sudan Radio Service, which is a shortwave radio station that transmits six hours of programming daily on current events, civic education, health and culture in nine languages. DAI is implementing Phase II of the small-grants program that will focus on critical transition needs in the aftermath of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Government of Sudan.

Country Situation

SPLM, southern militias fail to reach deal – John Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), and various Khartoum-backed militias failed to reach a cease-fire agreement before installation of a Government of National Unity in early July. The talks took place in Nairobi under the auspices of the Moi Peace Institute, with the former Kenyan president, Daniel arap Moi, serving as mediator. Participants promised to return to the negotiating table soon, although a date has not yet been set. According to the January Comprehensive Peace Agreement, southern militias are to be absorbed into either the SPLM or the national government army.

Inauguration of the Government of National Unity – July 9 ushered in the installation of a Government of National Unity that is composed of the ruling National Congress Party, the SPLM and various other opposition groups. In the South, the SPLM has been working toward setting up the Government of Southern Sudan that will come into existence once a constitution for the region is finalized.

Also on July 9, SPLM leader John Garang was inaugurated in the capital of Khartoum as Sudan's first vice-president, bringing into government the long-time southern rebel leader. Before the inauguration, President Omar Hassan Ahmed el-Bashir signed an interim constitution that included complex power-sharing arrangements and ended the state of emergency in effect since a 1989 coup. The festivities were witnessed by numerous dignitaries, including U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, and several regional heads of state, including the presidents of Kenya, Uganda and South Africa. Garang's trip to Khartoum, his first in over 20 years, was welcomed by hundreds of thousands of southern Sudanese residents who attended his outdoor speech near the airport.

Rice supports peace processes in Sudan trip – U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice traveled to Sudan to urge increased efforts in resolving the crisis in Darfur in the western part of the country. In meetings with President el-Bashir and new Vice-President John Garang, Rice reiterated the U.S. position that genocide has occurred and expressed concern at the humanitarian situation in Darfur. Rice also called on the African Union and other members of the United Nations Security Council to step up diplomatic efforts to bring an end to the violence there.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

With the inauguration of SPLM leader John Garang as Sudan's first vice-president, the mood throughout southern

Sudan and within the internally displaced persons communities in the North was one of jubilation. The Office of Transition Initiatives continued in July to re-evaluate programming options in light of the evolving "one country, two systems" structure of Sudan between the North and the South. Because the Transition Areas of Abyei, Southern Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains are now increasingly integrated with the North, there are discussions about increasing both procurement and programming ties between OTI's northern and southern programs.

The increasing integration of northern and southern programs was supported by the North Sudan program's first trip to the South Kordofan-Nuba Mountain region in July. OTI's field adviser, Oren Murphy, traveled to Kadugli to develop programming opportunities to support the country's Comprehensive Peace Agreement. OTI's senior field adviser, Eleanor Bedford, and Victor Tanner, a consultant for implementing partner DAI, traveled to Rumbek in the South to work closely with the OTI staff in improving grant programming and creating synergy between OTI partners. Given the fluid political situation, the team also examined how to strategically factor local political dynamics into grant development.

The numerous milestones achieved have brought both kudos and extra responsibilities to the SPLM. Communities throughout the South expect to see visible dividends of peace as the former rebel movement becomes part of the national and state power structure. One of the most important opportunities for the SPLM to interface with the population is through the local authority offices. In some locations, the county size makes it difficult for civil servants to provide services to remote villages. Thus far, OTI has provided motorcycles to a half-dozen county authorities in southern Sudan, including a July grant to Agok County in Abyei.

A key concern of many in southern Sudan is the proliferation of weapons and the resulting lack of security. One of the consequences of Rumbek County's rapid population growth has been an increase in criminal activity. Community members and the local authorities have teamed up in an innovative project to create several neighborhood-watch posts in locations deemed chronically insecure. OTI signed a grant with the Rumbek Civil Authority to provide handheld radios and construction materials for three watch posts. The community agreed to provide labor and volunteers to man the posts.

OTI's grant to the Abyei Youth Association also builds on a community initiative, this one begun by the youth group to provide peace and civic education through theater. The youth association brought together members of an acting troupe, and the community donated 80,000 bricks to construct a public theater. OTI provided the remaining materials necessary for construction, while the youth group will organize labor. One of the first plays will focus on explaining the relevant details of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to the Abyei community.

OTI also continued to expand its Darfur-related programming. Several grants were signed to assist legal-aid efforts in the region, facilitate pastoralist-farmer dialogue, and train Sudanese human-rights monitors for Darfur.

B. Grants Activity Summary

Objective	July Grants	July Total Funding	Program Total No. Grants	Program Total Funding
Promote emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities.	3	\$68,666	60	\$2,357,367
Provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities.	9	\$138,467	83	\$2,545,679
Promote the emergence of an empowered and an active civil society.	1	\$2,500	95	\$1,517,797
Increase availability of quality, independent information.			47	\$4,299,328
Protect vulnerable populations from abuse.			4	\$1,497,122
TOTAL	13	\$209,633	289	\$12,217,293

C. Indicators of Success

The bustling town of Rumbek in the South has grown significantly since the signing of the January peace deal between the Government of Sudan and the SPLM. Many international aid agencies have set up their regional offices and operations centers in the largest town of Bahr el Ghazal. In addition, many international businesses have opened offices in the town to engage in a variety of commercial activities. As a result, Rumbek roads are often congested with trucks and jeeps. The dangerous mix of increased road traffic and a population not used to urban-like settings became clear in April when a truck hired by the World Food Program's road project killed a local Sudan People's Liberation Army soldier in an accident. As a result, the family of the dead man broke into the prison housing the Ugandan truck driver and shot him to death.



Youth Development Association members model T-shirts from road-safety workshops.

To counter these kinds of problems, OTI is currently supporting a series of road and safety workshops in Rumbek, organized by the Bahr el Youth Development Association. The campaign includes the distribution of more than 500 T-shirts and 250 caps, dissemination of safety messages by public-address system throughout town, and training-of-trainers workshops to create a core group of road-safety educators. The reception from community leaders and local authorities has been extremely positive.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

OTI/Sudan will work out general guidelines for North/South collaboration in the transition areas and garrison towns.

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

August 2005

Program Description

The overall goal of the USAID/OTI Sudan program is to strengthen Sudanese confidence and capacity to address the causes and consequences of political marginalization, violence and instability. The Office of Transition Initiatives is pursuing this goal within the framework of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The five main objectives of the OTI Sudan program are to: promote the emergence of responsive and effective civil authorities; provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities; promote the emergence of an active civil society; increase the availability of quality, independent information; and protect vulnerable populations from grave human rights violations and related abuses.

OTI's implementing partners are PACT, the Educational Development Center, Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI), and Internews Network. PACT manages the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative, which is a small-grants program promoting and supporting good governance, local-level peace initiatives, the development of civil society, and an informative and balanced media. The Education Development Center has established the Sudan Radio Service, which is a shortwave radio station that transmits six hours of programming daily on current events, civic education, health, and culture in nine local Sudanese languages. DAI is implementing a small-grants program that will focus on critical transition needs in the aftermath of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Government of Sudan. OTI funds Internews Network to develop media programming targeted at displaced Darfuris.

Country Situation

Crash takes life of longtime southern Sudan leader - Tragically, on July 30, only three weeks after he was inaugurated as Sudan's first vice president, John Garang, longtime SPLM leader, died in a helicopter crash near Sudan's border with Uganda. The helicopter crashed in a mountainous region of southern Sudan while on route from Uganda, following an abortive landing attempt in bad weather. World leaders, including Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki, joined dignitaries from around the world and thousands of Sudanese at Garang's Aug. 6 funeral in Juba. Thousands more had the opportunity to pay their respects as the vice president's body was transported to the towns of Kurmuk, Rumbek, Yei and Bor, before being taken to Juba for burial.

Salva Kiir sworn in as Sudan's first vice president - The military commander of the SPLM, Salva Kiir Mayardit, was sworn in as Sudan's first vice president on Aug. 11 in the capital of Khartoum. Kiir was selected to head the SPLM in the aftermath of John Garang's death. The new Sudanese vice president pledged his commitment to the implementation of the January peace accords and his desire to work toward peace throughout Sudan. Kiir's immediate tasks include the selection of SPLM representatives in the Government of National Unity and the formation of a new Government of Southern Sudan.

Inter-communal riots rock Khartoum - More than 100 people were killed in riots that broke out in the cities of Khartoum and Juba after John Garang's death became known. The unrest began when rumors suggesting that the government had a role in Garang's death circulated throughout Khartoum's southern Sudanese neighborhoods. In the southern garrison town of Juba, southerners looted and set afire businesses owned by northern traders. Several thousand Arab residents of Juba fled to Khartoum for safety. The rioting died down after heavily armed police and soldiers began patrolling both cities and imposed curfews.

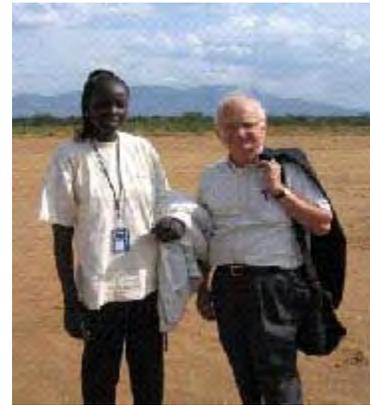
USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

With the death of John Garang, southern Sudan went through one of its most difficult transitions in years. A charismatic leader and a towering figure in Sudanese politics for over two decades, Garang had been one of the driving forces behind the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in January 2005. There were serious concerns that the loss of Garang would lead to increased instability that could derail the peace process. The rapid selection of

Salva Kiir to replace him was critical to assuring the southern Sudanese population that the SPLM was united and still very much in charge. With the exception of Juba and Khartoum, much of the rest of the country remained calm.

Immediately following Garang's death, the Office of Transition Initiatives' Sudan program moved quickly to provide the support necessary to ensure a stable transition. OTI sent critically needed supplies, such as generator fuel and water, to New Site, where the SPLM leadership held emergency meetings to select Garang's successor. Additional provisions were sent to Juba, where, with thousands of mourners expected at the funeral, shortages of food and water could have potentially led to unrest.



Roger Winter, special representative of the deputy secretary of state for Sudan, with Rebecca Ockwaci, executive producer of the OTI-funded Sudan Radio Service.

The tragedy of Rwanda illustrates how, in the aftermath of the sudden death of a leader, rumors can contribute to wide-scale death and destruction. While nothing on the scale of the atrocities carried out in Rwanda was expected, there was nevertheless considerable anxiety in southern Sudan and a lack of information throughout the region. Within days of Garang's death, OTI developed a multi-media campaign to inform communities of the events in New Site, to convey statements by the SPLM leadership, and to send messages from the international community signaling continued support for southern Sudan. OTI contracted with a video journalist to travel with Sudan Radio Service reporters to New Site and other locations to document the funeral procession and interview key SPLM figures. The result was a powerful 15-minute video and Sudan Radio Service-produced audio tapes that delivered clear messages of peace and continuity alongside appeals for calm. The video was shown in a mobile cinema that traveled to Rumbek, Aweil town and Kauda. In Aweil town, members of the city's Arab community were invited to the showing.

Despite a disruption in flight schedules and stricter security measures imposed after Garang's death, OTI's implementing partners, Development Alternatives Inc. and PACT, were able to develop 28 grants in August in the areas of information dissemination, local-level peace dialogues, local governance infrastructure support, and civic education. In Rumbek, for example, a grant to the county authorities will allow for the construction of 15 two-sided community notice boards throughout the town to provide citizens with the latest information.

The imminent arrival of U.N. peacekeeping troops in the south has generated concerns about the mission's mandate and the troops' relationship with local communities. An OTI grant will facilitate a workshop to open dialogue between the advanced peacekeeping mission and residents of Maridi. Similar meetings have proven successful in Juba and Malakal.

In coordination with the SPLM's Local Governance Secretariat, OTI plans to rehabilitate the Tonj County office block and provide the authorities with radio communications equipment, as part of a pilot project to assess the costs of putting together a "local county office in a box" kit. To address the causes of conflict in Darfur, OTI funded a Darfurian nongovernmental organization to facilitate a dialogue between nomads and sedentary farming communities, and a joint monitoring mechanism for herd migration, in areas near Nyala in South Darfur. An OTI grant is also providing psycho-social support and awareness for women in internally displaced persons' camps in Draig and Otash, both through workshops on displaced-persons' human rights, and HIV/AIDS, and through psycho-social counseling to women struggling to overcome the traumatic effects of sexual violence.

B. Grants Activity Summary

Objective	August Totals		Program Totals	
	Number of Grants	Total Funding	Number of Grants	Total Funding
Promote emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities.	2	\$66,007	33	\$1,187,941
Provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities.	17	\$244,575	66	\$1,265,037
Promote the emergence of an				

empowered and an active civil society.	5	\$38,903	70	\$1,070,539
Increase availability of quality, independent information.	4	27,460	12	\$2,963,720
Protect vulnerable populations from abuse.			2	\$614,000
TOTAL	28	\$376,945	183	\$7,101,237

C. Indicators of Success

At an August reception, the OTI-supported Sudan Radio Service (SRS) celebrated two years of providing critical information to audiences in southern Sudan and beyond. The SRS programming and staff have increased both quantitatively and qualitatively in the last two years. With support from USAID's education program, SRS has expanded its evening broadcast with a new daily program called "The Way Forward," focused on issues and events coming in the wake of John Garang's death. This expanded programming will run from Aug. 9 through Sept. 9.

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

In September, OTI/Sudan will:

- Prepare for an October team-building session.
- Set up clear grant implementation plans with the coming of the dry season.
- Explore areas of collaboration between OTI North and South programs, given the country's changing political dynamics.

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

September 2005

Program Description

The overall goal of the USAID/OTI Sudan program is to strengthen Sudanese confidence and capacity to address the causes and consequences of political marginalization, violence and instability. The Office of Transition Initiatives is pursuing this goal within the framework of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The five main objectives of the OTI Sudan program are to: promote the emergence of responsive and effective civil authorities; provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities; promote the emergence of an active civil society; increase availability of reliable, independent information; and protect vulnerable populations from grave human rights violations and related abuses.

OTI's implementing partners are PACT, the Educational Development Center, Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI), and Internews Network. PACT manages the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative, a small-grants program focused on mitigating conflict at the local level. The Education Development Center has established the Sudan Radio Service, a short-wave radio station transmitting six hours of programming daily on current events, civic education, health and culture in 10 local Sudanese languages. DAI is implementing a small-grants program that focuses on meeting critical transition needs in response to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Government of Sudan. OTI funds Internews Network to develop media programming targeted at refugees from Darfur who have fled to eastern Chad.

Country Situation

Sudan's unity government sworn in - Sudan's president, Omar Hassan Ahmed el-Bashir, announced a new power-sharing cabinet on Sept. 21, as called for in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. There were tense negotiations in the weeks leading up to the formation of the Government of National Unity, as the northern National Congress Party (NCP) and the southern Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) wrangled over appointments to key ministries. Of the more important ministries, including defense, energy and mining, interior and justice, most went to the NCP; only the Ministry of Foreign Affairs went to a southerner, Lam Akol. A total of 16 ministerial portfolios were allocated to the NCP and nine to the SPLM.

Southern Sudan parliament inaugurated in Juba - Southern Sudan's new legislature was sworn in at Juba. The multi-party legislature is composed of 170 members, 127 from the SPLM and the rest from the NCP and southern opposition groups. The first order of business for the parliament was to review and ratify a post-war constitution.

Halting progress toward peace in Darfur - As preparations were being made for the Sept. 15 resumption of talks between the Sudanese government and rebel groups in Darfur, in the western part of the country, increasing lawlessness, including armed attacks on relief convoys, put humanitarian aid workers at grave risk. Shortly after the sixth round of negotiations resumed in Abuja, Nigeria, sporadic violence in Darfur and a rift between factions in the Sudanese Liberation Movement, one of the two main rebel groups in Darfur, threatened the outcome. At the end of the month, Sudanese Vice President Salva Kiir announced that the SPLM would send representatives to join the Sudanese government delegation in the talks.

Ugandan rebels step up attacks in southern Sudan - Ugandan rebels from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) raided several villages and ambushed a school bus in southern Sudan, killing 14 people, mostly women and children. The attacks, which took place in an area between Juba and Yei, marked the first time the LRA has crossed west of the White Nile. Vice-President Salva Kiir had demanded several weeks before that LRA forces quit southern Sudan.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

In the month after the unforeseen death of Vice President John Garang, the SPLM accelerated its move to Juba. For many within the former southern rebel movement, the burial of their leader in Juba made it necessary for the SPLM

to set up a government there. The former garrison town has seen an increase in both population and the number of international organizations with headquarters there.

The Office of Transition Initiatives took part in USAID assessments in Juba, which highlighted several areas requiring immediate attention, including water, health, electricity and sanitation. Given a possible doubling of the population over the next year, support to the nascent authorities can go a long way toward sustaining confidence in the peace process. OTI's implementing partner DAI took steps to open an office in the town, and in late September, OTI staff traveled there to meet with local authorities and identify initial program activities.

There are lingering tensions in Juba following the riots that targeted northern merchants and left dozens of people dead in the wake of Garang's death. An OTI grant through implementing-partner PACT will facilitate a conference bringing together representatives of the merchants and Christian and Muslim religious leaders to discuss issues feeding mistrust and fear.

The devastating impact of Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army attacks is evident not only in loss of life but also in the disruption to trade and movement along the main southern supply corridor to Juba. An OTI grant to the Diocese of Torit will bring together religious and civil society leaders from areas along both sides of the border between Sudan and Uganda to strengthen social and economic ties. The group will also develop action plans for tracing abducted children and monitoring human-rights abuses. Another peace-related grant was awarded to an eastern Equatorial community organization to send a rapid-response team to restore peace and stability in Hiyala Payam after an outbreak of inter-clan conflict.

Sudan Radio Service's senior producers attended a roundtable discussion, the third, on media in southern Sudan, which was held in Rumbek under the auspices of Norwegian People's Aid. Laws regulating media and policy were discussed; recommendations developed will be submitted to the Government of Southern Sudan.

As part of its efforts to afford greater protection to Sudan's vulnerable citizens, particularly amid the continuing violence in the Darfur region, OTI underwrote the costs of a three-day conference for human-rights lawyers from across the region, hosted by the Legal Aid Foundation of Geneina. The conference was a first step in building a network of lawyers in the region dedicated to seeking redress in the Sudanese courts for human-rights violations.

Another grant to the Bakheta Charitable Organization for Women's Development and Child Care will cover the costs of computer-skills training for 15 young people whose schooling was disrupted after they were forced to flee their homes, and will provide courses in sewing and handicrafts for 60 women now widowed, all of them residing in the Kalma camp on the outskirts of Nyala in South Darfur.

B. Grants Activity Summary

Objective	September Totals		Program Totals	
	Number of Grants	Total Funding	Number of Grants	Total Funding
Promote emergence of responsive, effective and inclusive civil authorities.	1	\$10,045	61	\$2,453,330
Provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities.	4	\$70,280	105	\$2,885,639
Promote the emergence of an empowered and an active civil society.	2	\$16,450	96	\$1,525,740
Increase availability of quality, independent information.	1	\$24,580	53	\$4,435,308
Protect vulnerable populations from abuse.	0	0	4	\$1,497,122
TOTAL	8	\$121,355	319	\$12,797,139

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- Putting into operation the new implementation plan.
- Travel of the OTI staff to Washington, D.C., for an annual retreat.

USAID/OTI Sudan Field Report

October 2005

Program Description

The overall goal of the USAID/OTI Sudan program is to strengthen Sudanese confidence and capacity to address the causes and consequences of political marginalization, violence and instability. The Office of Transition Initiatives is pursuing this goal within the framework of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The five main objectives of the OTI Sudan program are to: promote the emergence of responsive and effective civil authorities; provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities; promote the emergence of an active civil society; increase availability of reliable, independent information; and protect vulnerable populations from grave human rights violations and related abuses.

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Country Situation

Uganda Allowed to Pursue LRA into Sudan - Through a recent agreement reached with the Sudanese government, Ugandan troops have been given permission to pursue members of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) throughout southern Sudan. The Ugandan military can now track the LRA up to 100 miles into Sudanese territory so long as movements are coordinated with the Sudanese government. Senior military figures from the Ugandan government, the former SPLA and the Sudanese army met in Juba to formulate a joint strategy to defeat the LRA.

Southern Sudan Declares Autonomous Government - In accordance with the January peace deal, the authorities in southern Sudan have formed an autonomous government. First Vice President Salva Kiir, who also serves as president of South Sudan, appointed the new cabinet. The regional government, composed of 20 ministries and seven advisors, includes members of the National Congress Party and various southern-based opposition groups.

Senior U.S. Officials Pressure Sudanese Parties on CPA Implementation - Several senior US government officials traveled to Sudan to urge continued progress on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Darfur peace process. In separate trips, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Jendayi E. Frazer and State Department Special Envoy for Sudan, Roger Winter traveled to southern Sudan, Khartoum and Darfur to meet with government officials and rebel leaders. The visits were part of continuing efforts by the U.S. government to bring stability to Sudan.

Increased Violence in Darfur - There was a marked escalation in violence across Sudan's Darfur region in October, just as negotiations between Sudan's government and the rebels resumed, albeit two weeks behind schedule. The talks ended on 20 October without any progress, owing to a split in the ranks of the Sudan Liberation Movement, one of the two rebel groups.

Increasingly, African Union troops became the targets of attack. Between 8 and 11 October, five Nigerian soldiers and two civilian drivers lost their lives in South Darfur, the first AU fatalities. Blame was put on the Sudan Liberation Movement. Travel outside Geneina in West Darfur became nearly impossible, and humanitarian programs serving 1.1 million IDPs were immobilized. Later in the month, IDPs took 34 relief workers hostage in the Kalma camp on the outskirts of Nyala in South Darfur following the arrest of a popular tribal sheikh. The last hostages were released two days later. By the end of October, only essential UN personnel remained in Geneina, and humanitarian services beyond the town limits could be delivered only by helicopter.

USAID/OTI Highlights

A. Narrative Summary

In early October, the OTI program held the OTI/Sudan Strategic Planning and Operations Retreat in Mombasa, Kenya. OTI and implementing partner staff from Washington D.C., Khartoum, Rumbek, Nairobi and Darfur gathered to review progress and strengthen strategic communications, systems and procedures. In keeping with OTI's mandate to be flexible and responsive to changing environments, the group examined the applicability of the previous strategic plan in light of the new political landscape in Sudan. Several key outcomes of the session include a new geographic focus on selected urban areas and former garrison towns given the expected influx of returnees and IDPs. In addition, OTI's implementing partners developed mechanisms to ensure synergy and collaboration.

As the seat of the new Government of South Sudan, Juba is fast becoming a magnet for businesses, international organizations and IDPs/returnees. The absorptive capacity of the town is sorely being tested as existing water and sanitation systems are stretched to the limit and near complete breakdown. OTI identified the need for several quick interventions in the areas of health and water. Grants were made to municipal authorities for the provision of water leakage detection equipment, booster pumps and the rehabilitation of elevated water reservoir tanks.

In collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), OTI will underwrite the costs of expanding a wing of the Juba Teaching Hospital; the hospital is already severely over-crowded and the ICRC expects an increase in the number of patients as Juba continues to grow.

As stability returns to parts of Upper Nile, there are opportunities to move beyond quick impact projects. With support from OTI, the business community in Leer will receive technical assistance to strengthen and expand the local chamber of commerce. A second grant will fund a study to identify opportunities for increased trade and development near the Sudan-Ethiopian border. As a result of the 1999 Dinka-Nuer Wunlit Peace Agreement, the Wunlit Peace Council was created to monitor and consolidate the peace. The council received OTI support to complete its offices in Panyinjar, Western Upper Nile, which will serve as a community center.

In northern Sudan, OTI approved a grant to encourage discussion of the relationship between religion and the state, as set out in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. A series of 10 seminars will bring together some 300 Muslim and Christian religious leaders, women and junior government officials in several locations in Khartoum State for this purpose.

A second grant was designated for a legal aid training program for 10 lawyers and 10 paralegals in Port Sudan. As part of this project, legal aid will go to citizens in 18 court cases, including Darfurians accused of membership in armed opposition groups, who face the death penalty if convicted. Others to be assisted include women who had paid for licenses to engage in commercial activities and then had them abruptly revoked without reimbursement.

In Darfur, a skills training program for displaced women in the Kalma camp on the outskirts of Nyala began. The program includes courses in sewing, by hand and machine, computer skills and English, and participants are provided transport between the camp and town. In response to the high demand for such training programs, OTI has agreed to procure additional sewing machines and build a women's center in the IDP camp.

B. Grants Activity Summary

In order to support efforts aimed at ensuring peaceful elections, LTI developed the Seed of Peace program to engage youth in the electoral process. Program volunteers reached approximately 55,000 young people, providing them with accurate information about the election law and procedures.

In collaboration with YES implementing partners and community members offering participatory feedback, LTI issued 45 Community Impact grants in YES communities to enhance the reintegration and YES learning processes. One of LTI's core activities links grants to YES communities that agreed to work together to prioritize their development needs. YES grants in October continued to support small-scale community infrastructure construction such as multi-purpose halls, wells with hand pumps, and training in animal husbandry and poultry production, a reflection of the critical need for livelihoods.

Objective	October Totals		Program Totals	
	Number of Grants	Total Funding	Number of Grants	Total Funding
Promote emergence of responsive,				

effective and inclusive civil authorities.	4	\$328,900	68	\$2,881,918
Provide opportunities for peaceful dialogue within and among communities.	14	\$294,975	123	\$1,318,122
Promote the emergence of an empowered and an active civil society.	3	\$58,048	109	\$1,634,321
Increase availability of quality, independent information.	3	\$45,763	60	\$4,572,808
Protect vulnerable populations from abuse.	0	0	4	\$1,497,122
TOTAL	24	\$727,686	364	\$13,904,291

NEXT STEPS/IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

- Implement new operational strategy
- Orientation of new DAI chief of party
- Develop USAID Sudan operational strategy