

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

2nd Quarter Report
January 1- March 31, 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 second quarter of 2008 include the following:

- With the assistance of USDA/PASA long and short term advisory staff;
 - The SSCCSE trained and recruited approximately 14,000 persons for work on the Sudan Population Census,
 - The SSCCSE Warehouse staff received, packed and re-distributed approximately 122 metric tons of census materials in preparation for the Sudan Population Census,
 - More than 4,500 maps were created for use during the Sudan Population Census.

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 second 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

Recruitment of Census Temporary Field Staff

Recruitment kicked off in earnest in mid-January 2008 with the SSCCSE deploying recruitment delegates to each of the 10 states to assist with census short term staff recruitment. The delegates carried with them the following items: letters of mission, letters to governors, and letters to local leaders from Juba headquarters and Chairman Isaiah, all intended to ensure that census procedures and protocols were fully understood and carried out.

A USDA/PASA long-term advisor was detailed to provide technical assistance to the Director of Recruitment and staff in Juba. This advisor was requested by the Census Director to deploy to Lakes State to assist with recruitment efforts there in February. The advisor worked with the Recruitment team to devise a schedule of recruitment in each state, detailed job descriptions, and transparent recruitment procedures, which resulted in minimal problems or complaints during the process. Additionally, she worked to develop recruitment at the country level by assigning census staff to visit each county.

As the Training of Principal Trainers kicked off in February, the advisor worked with the recruitment team to finalize training venues in several states, and then gave a presentation on Human Resources at the Lakes State Training of Principal Trainers.

The USDA/PASA advisor maintained constant contact with the Human Resources/Recruitment teams in all 10 states throughout the quarter, providing information, liaising with the Juba headquarters staff, and assisting with last minute procedural or technical issues. As the quarter ended in March 2008, the advisor was working with the Recruitment team to identify trainers for Pibor County in Jonglei State. This county had experienced instability and needed extra focus on the part of USDA/PASA technical advisory staff in order to ensure staff was properly recruited, trained and deployed in time for census enumeration.

Quantitative Output: Approximately 14,000 persons recruited.

Training of Census Temporary Field Staff

The census training programs kicked off with the Training of Principal Trainers 17-29 February. The USDA PASA advisor on recruitment supported the SSCCSE Census Training Coordinator and State Statistical Directors throughout training, providing estimated and actual numbers of staff by position and location to be trained. USDA Advisory staff also assisted with the planning and conduct of training and disbursement of training materials to the State and County levels.

State level training of Field Officers and Field Coordinators was held 9-15 March, followed by Supervisor training 19-25 March, then Long Form Enumerator training 30 March to 9 April, and finally Short Form Enumerator training 2-9 April. USDA PASA staff continued support by

addressing obstacles related to training at various levels including the lack of training materials and insufficient staff to be trained.

USDA PASA advisory staff provided direct assistance to the Lakes State Office during the Long Form Questionnaire (LFQ) training, including venue selection and identifying appropriate candidates for training. They also provided direct training assistance with the special training conducted for supplementary Pibor staff.

Quantitative Output: Approximately 14,000 persons trained.

Packing/ Distribution

Efforts continued in January 2008 to find an appropriate storage facility in Juba for packing and distribution efforts. To assist the SSCCSE with the packing and distribution tasks, USAID authorized the USDA PASA to hire two short-term advisors. An Operations Management Specialist and a Logistics Specialist were recruited and began work in February 2008.

A warehouse was secured at Rock City just outside of Juba in early February. Census materials arrived via air shipment at the Juba Airport the first week in February. 44 tons of materials arrived and were transported to the Rock City facility with zero loss of materials. USDA PASA staff, in their advisory capacity, offered technical assistance to increase efficiency and minimize loss during the arrival and shipment period, as well as during the initial period of storage and organization at the warehouse.

Throughout February and March, one or more USDA PASA advisors were on hand at the warehouse to assist the SSCCSE with packing operations and the development of the distribution and retrieval plans. Advisors worked closely with SSCCSE warehouse staff, UNICEF, and UNMIS personnel in ensuring census materials were moved, stored, packed, and prepared for distribution in an orderly and transparent manner. Efficient and effective packing techniques and methods were a special focus, as many warehouse staff did not have prior experience in such a large-scale operation. USDA PASA staff responded to requests for status updates from UNMIS and USAID as appropriate.

In the run-up to the distribution period, USDA PASA advisors coordinated with UNMIS/UNFPA/WFP/UNDSS to develop and update draft distribution plans. As geocode lists became finalized and available from the Mapping Team in Rumbek, Juba advisors and SSCCSE warehouse staff used the completed lists to generate detailed packing lists by State and County for the census materials, including calculation of volume and weight of each county level shipment for UNMIS use.

This process continued throughout March, with the last shipment to Warrap State departing Juba at the end of the reporting period. USDA PASA advisory staff continued to act as a point of coordination between all interested parties in the packing and distribution activity.

USDA PASA advisors will continue to work with SSCCSE staff on retrieval, storage, and processing of census materials to return in the post-census period, in the 3rd quarter, 2008.

Quantitative Output: 122 metric tons of materials received, packed and re-distributed. Shipments sent to 79 counties, one payam and one boma (isolated areas).

Map Production

Mapping efforts began in 2007 and were not fully completed until March of 2008. This was due to several areas of instability, as well as poor road conditions and other issues that caused inaccessibility to key sites. In order to assist the SSCCSE Rumbek office with the mapping and associated operations, USAID approved the hiring of several short term GIS advisors to augment the two long term advisors already providing expertise to the mapping division. The first of those advisors arrived in mid-February, with the rest to follow during this reporting period.

USDA PASA staff provided support to the ongoing SSCCSE and UNFPA mapping activities taking place in Rumbek. Upon arrival, advisory staff worked to strengthen cooperation between the GIS lab and the paper-data capturing team and increase efficiency/outputs of the lab.

Throughout February and March, the USDA PASA advisors, UNFPA mapping advisor, and SSCCSE staff worked to complete the capturing of paper data for all 10 states, as well as finalize the geocode databases for all 10 states and digitize any remaining state mapping information.

As databases were finalized and checked in Rumbek, they were transferred electronically to USDA PASA long-term advisors in Juba, who then checked them again for accuracy and completeness. USDA PASA short-term advisory staff in Rumbek oversaw the transfer of databases between Rumbek and Juba and monitored any changes that resulted from this coordination.

As funding allows, the USDA PASA will continue to provide GIS advisors throughout 2008. Mapping correction efforts post-census will continue into the 3rd quarter, 2008.

Quantitative Output: 10,087 Enumeration Area Codes created, 4,565 maps created and printed.

Finance Management

USDA PASA advisory staff partnered with USAID DG partner Bearing Point to provide the SSCCSE with needed finance management and advisory capabilities. The BP financial advisor arrived in mid-February and began working closely with the SSCCSE Director of Administration and Finance. Immediate work included financial analysis relating to the payment of enumerators and other census staff, funds available to the SSCCSE as a whole, and analysis of the 2008 Census budget.

The BP financial advisor worked closely with the Director of Administration and Finance and the SSCCSE Deputy Chairman to develop a complete census enumeration budget including

standardized pay rates for enumerators and staff, budgets for each state level training, and a plan for disbursement and tracking of census funds to the state level and lower.

The BP financial advisor also gave regular funding summaries to the SSCCSE Chairman and associated staff, as requested and needed. Additionally, the BP advisory represented the overall USDA PASA advisory team in coordinating with USAID, SSCCSE and other partners during the CPA Awareness Week.

Quantitative Output: Final census enumeration budget, standardized pay rates for temporary census staff, and staff payment and tracking plan with tools.

Employee database

Since the SSCCSE hired 14K temporary (contract) staff to conduct the Census, a method was needed to promote transparency and organization during and after the census fieldwork. The potential for hiring people on the basis of extended family commitments or tribalism, or adding “ghost” employees to the roster was great without any tracking system or methodology.

Working with the SSCCSE Director of Administration and Finance, the Bearing Point financial advisor developed a database to integrate the HR functions of recruitment and training with the Finance function of paying the temporary staff and the enumeration function of tracking enumeration forms to specific enumerators.

- Criteria were developed for each position to be recruited and tests were developed for senior positions.
- Recruiting teams visited each of the 10 states, conducted interviews and tested people. For Senior positions, interviews were conducted by panels to ensure transparency of the process.
- Lists of qualified people for training were developed.
- These lists were “locked” into the database as received.
- During training, daily training rosters were prepared and forwarded. (These could be checked against the database to ensure that only people who had been through the rigors of the recruitment process were included in the training sessions.) There could be exceptions but it was made clear to trainers that there was a database for checking. (This was intended to reduce the temptation to “help out the family, tribe, village, etc.”)
- Uniquely numbered Staff IDs were ordered through the UN and the intention was that they would be issued to staff upon the successful completion of their training. This would provide assurance that only those recruited and trained by SSCCSE would obtain IDs, and would then be able to participate in the enumeration and receive payment. In addition, the enumerators were instructed to insert their ID numbers on the forms that they process. This enabled “tracking” of the source of questionable data.

- This was to be an important control to preclude the addition of “ghost” employees. Unfortunately, the IDs were procured through the UN system and did not arrive in time to distribute them upon the completion of each training session.
- The Staff IDs arrived just prior to the enumeration and were distributed to the states, in boxes with sub-packages for each county. The IDs were issued prior to the start of the enumeration and each ID issued was to be recorded against specific staff lists derived from the Contract staff database. The ID numbers were to be recorded against each staff member’s name and the lists were to be returned to HQ along with any unused or spoiled IDs. There should be a 100% accounting for all IDs.
- The SSCCSE and USDA PASA advisors are awaiting the return of the lists. But instructions have gone out to the field that only people on the Contract Staff Database and with IDs will be paid.

The overall success of this program will be reported on in the upcoming quarter’s report.

Quantitative Output: Employee database developed for transparency, tracking and financial management.

Institutional Capacity Building

- Assisted SSCCSE staff to review issues in preparation for the Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings.
- Assisted in drafting of memos on technical topics used as inputs for discussions on points such as: training schedules and methods, procurement of reserve questionnaires, justification of packing procedures, etc.

Collaboration

USDA PASA advisory staff worked in close consultation with USAID DG partners Bearing Point on the financial portion of the Census preparation. In addition, other DG partners IRI and NDI donated staff time to various census operations, including provision of assistance in EA code entry.

The United Nations provided extensive support to the SSCCSE during the arrival, movement, unpacking, repacking and distribution of the census materials. UN Staff worked closely with the SSCCSE and USDA PASA advisors in ensuring materials were moved, packed and repacked, and distributed 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 during the enumeration period and 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

Natural Resource Management Group

The NRMG has had one General Assembly meeting at which it was decided that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will serve as the Chair for the first year. The Under-secretary of Forestry is the Chair for the NRMG. The Director General for Planning from the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries was elected Chair of the Technical Committee. Several Technical Committee meetings (February 13th, February 28th, and March 26th) have been held, chaired by the Director General for Planning from the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries. At these meetings, the draft Year 1 Strategic Plan and Work-plan was developed. USDA/PASA has begun to collect resources from each of the eight strategic members of the NRMG to support the policy harmonization process.

Plans to hold a Strategic Planning meeting in March with the GOSS line-Ministries to present the Year 1 Strategic Plan and develop political support for the Management Group were placed on hold until USAID approves the USDA/PASA realignment. The NRMG Strategic Planning is tentatively scheduled for late April. Similarly, coordination with the Wildlife Conservation Society to undertake the first activity of spatial mapping has similarly been put on hold until the approval of the program realignment.

USAID/EGAT Land Tenure Program Assessment February 2007

Dr. Myers provided technical assistance to USAID/Sudan to assess the mission's two land programs: (1) the USDA PASA (Participating Agency Service Agreement) in Southern Sudan to provide technical assistance to the development of a Southern Sudan Land Commission; and (2) *the Customary land Tenure Program (CLTP), implemented under contract by ARD in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states of Sudan*. The purpose of this assessment was to determine program performance and results achieved, and based upon these achievements, recommend follow-on programmatic priorities for addressing land tenure and property rights issues in Sudan. The assessment team was tasked to advise the mission if current investments in land tenure and property rights programs in Sudan are the most effective and strategic use of limited resources.

The Land Tenure Program Assessment was conducted in southern Sudan in Juba and Rumbek from February 11th to the 22nd. The Assessment included numerous meetings with government officials, traditional authorities, NGO partners, and direct stakeholders to provide horizontal and vertical cross sections of the issues related to land tenure. The Assessment required extensive planning and support.

Institutional Capacity Building

Challenges in Institutional Capacity Building

The SSLC has continued to encounter challenges in building its institutional capacity due to the challenges of hiring program staff, both reflecting the challenges encountered by the strict requirements with the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Public Service hiring regulations and political leadership issues facing the SSLC.

Given this, one individual has been hired as the Coordination Director, based on the organizational chart, job description, and advertisement developed by the USDA Technical Advisor in September 2007. The remaining four Director positions will be re-advertised in April, by the prompting of the USDA Technical Advisor. The Coordination Director performs representational and program responsibilities and is not sufficiently supported or empowered. A recent internal SSLC meeting was convened in which the SSLC staff expressed their frustrations regarding the poor leadership, lack of delegation/empowerment, and lack of progress in addressing the land-related issues of southern Sudan. It is unclear how the SSLC leadership intends to respond to or address these concerns.

The USDA operational support to the SSLC terminated on August 31st, 2007. It was the initial agreement that the USDA would provide operational support through the provision of rental payments, VSAT payments, office supply and computers. Beginning September 1st, 2007, USDA funding shifted to supporting program activities exclusively once the physical infrastructure was established. The SSLC has expressed their frustration regarding this transition, stating that they do not have funds and cannot access their budget from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED). The SSLC has seconded a Finance Inspector from the MoFED who has provided guidance as how to access the SSLC funds from the MoFED, as suggested by the USDA Technical Advisor. However, the SSLC continues to have difficulty accessing these funds. While the SSLC has three vehicles allocated as personal vehicles to the three Political Representatives on the SSLC, no vehicles are available to support the SSLC activities, further hindering the implementation of activities.

Without effective SSLC leadership, the SSLC cannot fulfill their constitutional mandate. Subsequently, program related activities for the SSLC, including the programs which the USDA had committed itself to supporting, have not occurred to date. However, it appears that the mounting political pressure from other GOSS institutions and senior leadership for the SSLC to be productive has induced the SSLC to begin developing a Land Policy beginning in late May.

Consultative Process/Coordination

Future USAID Support to Land Policy and Natural Resources

Land Policy – Coordination with USG, USAID and GOSS

In the meeting on February 22nd, Dr. Myers debriefed the US Counsel General and senior USAID leadership about the results of the USAID/EGAT Land Program Assessment. During this meeting, it was agreed that the lack of land tenure is a threat to the CPA and should be a priority for the USG to emphasize in their discussions with the GOSS. As such, Land Tenure will be one of the top issues that the USG will discuss with senior GOSS representatives. The desired output of the discussion will include the political support and establishment of a Land Policy Forum hosted at the level of the Office of the President. The USDA Technical Advisor drafted talking points and invitations for the US Counselor General and USAID representatives to meet with the GOSS to discuss land tenure challenges in southern Sudan. Several follow-up meetings were held to follow up on this initiative.

Output: Invitation, USAID/USG Taking Points, Meeting Notes

Future Activities

Immediate USDA/PASA Support

The USAID Assessment Team has since submitted the final report of their assessment to USAID with recommendations for future program support beginning in September 2008 as well as interim support through September 2008 with existing USDA PASA funds.

While the USDA Technical Advisor has not reviewed the report, based on discussions with the Assessment Team, the USDA Technical Advisor prepared a budget realignment and program modification. At the current rate of program activities, it is unlikely that the SSLC could spend out the remaining funds allocated to supporting it and with the limited capacity; the SSLC could not accomplish the activities designated in the original workplan. Subsequently, the proposed program modification included a bifurcated focus: Land Policy and Natural Resource Management. This would help ensure that the funds are spent out in time and support a USDA supported initiative through the SSLC, the Natural Resources Management Group.

Immediate Steps - Support for the SSLC

Support for the SSLC would be consolidated into supporting one activity: the development of a Land Policy. This would be accomplished in partnership with Bearing Point, which supports the MoLACD, who would provide technical support to the process through short term legal experts. A consultation process and a large conference to present the draft framework are included in the modification. However, since the program modification has not been approved as of the end of this reporting period and support to pursue the development of the Land Policy from USAID has not been provided, progress moving forward to develop the land policy has been slow.

Immediate Steps - Support for the Natural Resources Management Group

Support for the Natural Resources Management Group would include Strategic Planning and Policy Harmonization. The purpose of this is to 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. There are five strategic tools to support the process of policy analysis and harmonization:

- Conduct Spatial Analysis on the status and distribution of natural resources (to be done jointly with WCS). WCS has conducted similar analyses in other African countries and is currently planning on conducting this activity to a limited geographic area within Sudan. WCS has offered to support a southern Sudan wide spatial analysis with limited support from USDA for the technical consultant.
- Study promising practices of integrated natural resource management (customary practices, good governance, participatory resource use, public-private partnerships). This could be lead by the short term program support specialist and utilizing the technical expertise of the customary practices and extractive industry consultants. It is anticipate that consultation at the State and community level will be part of this activity.
- Conduct an analysis of existing policies and conduct policy gap analysis.
- Coordinate and utilize USDA's Food Security and Poverty Analytical Management Group especially the poverty mapping.
- 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 Jonegeli.

The final stage would be to make recommendations, working towards an Integrated Natural Resource Management & Investment Strategy, resulting in policy briefs and recommendations to the GOSS and each ministry. One large conference with State representatives will be held to share the recommendations of the Policy Analysis/Harmonization. Ideally, the consultant who facilitated the Policy Gap Analysis would similarly lead this concluding activity. The Strategic Planning Meeting is to take place in the next reporting period.

Outputs: Realigned Budget, Program Modification Narrative, Land Policy Strategy, SOWs for TA, NRMG Strategic Planning Agenda

Land Act and Policy Development

The SSLC has been waiting since October 2007 to hear an update from the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development (MoLACD) regarding the status of the proposed Land Act. The Chairperson has the understanding that the proposed Land Act will be passed by a Presidential Decree, putting it into immediate effect. Conversely, in a meeting with the Minister of the MoLACD, the USDA Technical Advisor was informed that the MoLACD believes that the proposed Land Act is inappropriate in that the Land Policy should be developed and approved first, the Establishment Act needs to be separate from and precede the Land Act, and the Land Act is lacking in certain areas and needs to be revised. Upon inquiry, the Minister of the MoLACD had signed the letter on behalf of the MoLACD in January informing the SSLC of this position, but apparently, the MoLACD had not delivered it yet. The USDA Technical Advisor has suggested that the SSLC meet with the MoLACD to discuss the status of the proposed Land Act. A revised letter has since been drafted suggesting that the SSLC focus on developing the Land Policy and withdrawing the proposed Land Act to be revised reflecting the approved Land Policy.

As per the Land Policy Strategy, developed by the USDA Technical Advisor with the SSLC and MoLACD, there is a need for several different technical expertise – lead drafter, customary law, conflict mitigation, and land tenure. The European Commission has drafted and advertised for a Technical Advisor to participate in the Land Policy development process. This was to be done in coordination with Technical Advisors provided for by USAID and BP. However, due to the delay in the process of approval, the synchronizing the technical support for the Land Policy will be a challenge.

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has recently conducted field assessments consulting with the communities about the land-related issues in order to develop a proposal for future funding in support of the development of land tenure.

Output: Coordination with the MoLACD, Bearing Point, USAID, USDA, USAID/EGAD, European Commission and FAO.

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

Part of the Food Security Analytical Agenda is being implemented by USDA and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). IFPRI is providing core technical staff to work with Sudanese nationals on the development of a model to undertake scenario analyses related to investments in agriculture and poverty reduction. The Southern Sudan sub model will be overseen by Technical Advisor Dr. Cesar Guvele, who will also coordinate field work in Southern Sudan. Other key Sudanese professionals (in Khartoum and Juba) and the Diaspora have been identified to participate in this activity. A full time resident coordinator has been identified and will be based in Khartoum. She will start early 2008.

With the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, the need to initiate development programs and policies that can improve people's livelihoods in the country became paramount. Among the key development challenges facing the country are achieving food security and poverty reduction at the national and regional levels. Yet accomplishing these goals will require appropriate policies and programs to be designed and implemented at all levels, which have to be guided by medium to long term strategies and supported by adequate investments. Furthermore, the capacity of institutions and individuals remains a major challenge for achieving these development goals (IFPRI, 2007).

Development and implementation of a sound strategy also require a partnership-based approach involving the governments at different levels, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private-sector partners working with groups of farmers organized into associations. Therefore, it is critical to understand how these different stakeholders interact and how they can reach consensus, so development strategies are shared and owned broadly (IFPRI, 2007). Hence, IFPRI's project on "Assessing Growth and Poverty Reduction Options: The Role of Agriculture in Sudan", aims to:

- Provide knowledge and analytical support in the formulation and implementation of agricultural and rural development strategies that will take into consideration macroeconomic and nonagricultural (economy-wide) linkages, various political economy and agro-ecological challenges; and
- Initiate work to strengthen capacity of key set of institutions and individuals for undertaking information gathering, processing, and analysis for facilitating better strategy development and implementation.

The immediate role of the USDA PASA in this activity was to provide background information to IFPRI. This included reading materials and verbal briefings. Both organizations agreed on a statement of work, which among others, included:

- Participation of information stocktaking of the project and focus on (a) information/data needed for developing a social accounting matrix (SAM) for Sudan, which includes information/data on trade and factor flows between Southern Sudan and rest of Sudan and trade flows between Sudan and its neighborhood countries; (b) current agricultural situation and agricultural potential at sub-national level and taking into account agro-ecological conditions; (c) infrastructure including roads and irrigation system; and (d) any agricultural sector plans and investment targets; and
- Relevant literature review with emphasis on information in Southern Sudan.

North-South Workshop

Last quarter, technical teams for Northern Sudan and Southern Sudan were established, the grant agreement with IFPRI was finalized and background reports and analyses were provided to IFPRI by USDA. Plans were also made to convene the first joint North-South workshop with IFPRI in Khartoum in January 08.

The January workshop was delayed due to the killing of USAID staff in Khartoum. IFPRI management said that they would not let their staff to travel to Sudan till the report on the investigation of the deaths was completed. Subsequently, it was decided to hold the workshop in Addis Ababa at the ILRI/IFPRI workshop in Feb 2008.

The Addis Ababa workshop included 7 participants from Northern Sudan, 5 from Southern Sudan and 3 from IFPRI. Papers were presented on the following topics by participants at the workshop:

- 1) Challenges to Food Security and Agriculture in Southern Sudan
- 2) Challenges to Food Security and Agriculture in Northern Sudan.

- 3) CGE modeling for policy Analysis in Sudan
- 4) A spatial Multi-market model for Southern Sudan
- 5) CGE modeling experience from Sudan: data sources, gaps, problems (2 papers one by a Lecturer from the University of Juba and the other from a Phd Sudanese student at the University of Giessen, Germany)
- 6) Data needs and plans to move forward in both Northern and Southern Sudan.

Output: Reports available from Brian D'Silva

Conclusions from the Addis workshop were the following:

- 1) USAID/USDA would provide a coordination and facilitation role.
- 2) It was recognized and agreed right from the beginning of this workshop that IFPRI's role in the workshop would be to:
 - 1) Present a theoretical framework of the Computable General Equilibrium and the Multi-market models;
 - 2) Show some evidence of how the results of the empirical model were used in those countries to help policy formulations.
- 3) The Sudanese would:
 - 1) Present their experience with application of the CGE and multi-market models in Sudan;
 - 2) Identify and prioritize the key policy issues to be analyzed;
 - 3) Identify Sudanese institutions that would lead the analyses;
 - 4) Identify Sudanese staff to do the analyses;
 - 5) Identify necessary materials;
 - Identify training needs;
 - 1) Provide budgetary estimates to implement the activity;
 - 2) Recommend a platform to, as soon as possible, introduce the activity to the most relevant policy body (committee, commission, cluster), in order to involve all such government organs at the beginning of the activity to generate interest, support, and necessary policy inputs; and

- 3) Recommend, when deemed necessary, a seminar/workshop to report on progress and solicit feedback from the relevant policy organs of government.

The following resolutions were taken:

- 1) Professor Hamid Fakki would lead the analysis at the Center for Economic Research and Policy Analysis;
- 2) Two Sudanese teams (North and South) were formed to:
 - 1) Identify and prioritize the key policy issues to be analyzed;
 - 2) Identify Sudanese staff to do the analyses;
 - 3) Identify necessary materials;
 - 4) Identify training needs;
 - 5) Provide budgetary estimates to implement the activity; and
 - 6) Recommend a platform to, as soon as possible, introduce the activity to the most relevant policy body (committee, commission, cluster), in order to involve all such government organs at the beginning of the activity to generate interest, support, and necessary policy inputs.
- 3) The teams should meet in the second week of April in Khartoum to report their resolutions.
- 4) The stocktaking of data to build the SAM and to construct the multi-market model should start now.
- 5) **Capacity Building:** It was recognized that the research capacity needs (human and institutional) of the country should be assessed immediately, especially in Southern Sudan where war destroyed/displaced/incapacitated what nascent capacity existed.

The team from the South was led by Dr. Cesar Guvele and Prof Hamid Faki led the team from the North. IFPRI was led by Dr. Xianshen and Brian Dsilva represented USAID/Sudan.

After the workshop the teams returned to their locations and focused on collection of data and refining the data needs for the modeling exercise. This was followed by a workshop in Juba at the end of March with representatives from both teams and ICARDA (who are funding a complementary activity on poverty mapping).

Individuals participating in the Juba workshop were Prof Hamid Faki and Dr. Ibrahim Dukheiri from the North; participants from ICARDA; individuals from the GOSS included

During this period, USDA technical advisor also met with USAID/East Africa and USAID/Uganda on the cross-border trade and transport analysis which would be undertaken between Kenya, Uganda and Southern Sudan. This work would be led by consultant, Prof. Chris Ackello-Ogutu of the University of Nairobi.

Also Dsilva traveled to South Africa to arrange for a training workshop for Sudanese researchers which will be held in July and organized by the University of Pretoria.

Food Monitors Activity

The two USDA PASA Field Monitors continued their normal activities from January to March, attending meetings and traveling to field locations in and around their two bases of operations, Juba and Aweil. This is in line with their main purpose of monitoring USAID humanitarian and food security programs with a special emphasis on families displaced during the war who are now returning to their home areas. Both Tong Deng (Aweil) and Florence Nighty (Juba) send reports of meetings and of field trips to USAID/Sudan. Meetings included regular weekly coordination on returnees as well as special meetings, such as security incidents. Florence focuses on meetings outside of Juba, in Eastern and Central Equatoria States, because USAID has its Southern Sudan office in Juba.

NGO programs that were monitored during the quarter include:

- from Aweil: Mercy Corps (OFDA), Concern (OFDA), Tear Fund (OFDA), World Vision (FFP) and WFP (FFP).
- from Juba: CRS (OFDA and FFP - Juba County, Magwi County).

The new development is that Florence Nighty submitted her resignation in March. Florence has been appointed by GOSS President Salva Kiir to be the Minister of Health for Eastern Equatoria State. USDA, through the University of Missouri Assistance Program, is recruiting Florence's replacement.

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 second quarter of FY07, the PASA Scope of Work was modified to reflect the 2006-2008 USAID Strategic Statement for Sudan and the three strategic objectives outlined in the new strategy to work towards achieving the goal of “Just and lasting peace secured through successful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement”.

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