



## MONTHLY UPDATE

March 2006

### Bor Dinka Begin the Journey Home

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

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

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

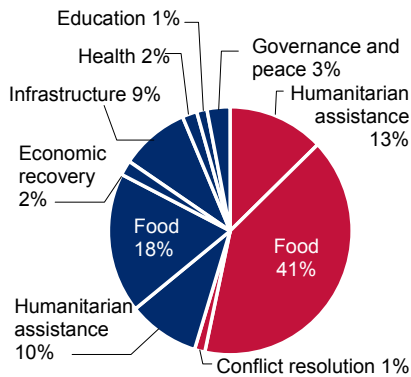
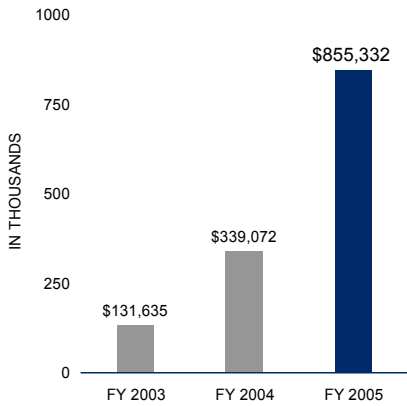


*Bor Dinka herders and their cattle prepare to cross the Juba bridge on their journey home in January 2006. Photo: PACT*

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

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

#### USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN



#### Darfur: 55%

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

#### Other Sudan: 45%

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



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

## Mapping Juba

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

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

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

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

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

Implemented by USAID partner Creative Associates

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

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



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

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

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

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

## Lulu Literacy Program Empowers Women Entrepreneurs

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

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





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

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

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

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

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

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

## Classes Build Vocational Skills In Darfur

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

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



# USAID | SUDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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



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



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

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

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

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

## World Food Program Sudan Distributions

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

**WFP Distributions  
January 2006**

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

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

