



**MONTHLY UPDATE**

April 2006

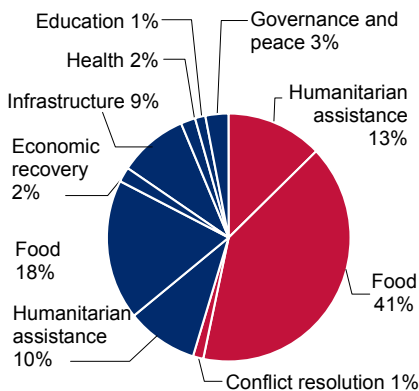


**Fighting Meningitis**

USAID is working with the Ministry of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and nongovernmental organizations to stem the spread of a meningitis outbreak in Greater Bahr al Ghazal region by initiating a rapid response and vaccination containment campaign. In Tonj, Twic, Wau, and Warab counties, 201,000 people were vaccinated and 2,800 doses of treatment distributed by the end of March. Health teams are traveling in affected areas to track the disease’s spread and make sure vaccinations and treatments get to the most vulnerable.

To reduce the mortality rate, USAID responded to a Ministry request for more effective treatment by immediately facilitating the purchase of drugs and supplies on March 31. The distribution of the first shipment was overseen by the Ministry and USAID partner John Snow Institute and sent from Juba to towns reporting meningitis cases. At the end of March, meningitis had infected over 1,000 people and taken nearly 200 lives—a 20 percent mortality rate. Although the number of cases has risen to nearly 4,000 by April 12, due to coordinated efforts, the mortality rate had dropped to less than 11 percent. ♦

**USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2005 ESTIMATED**



**Darfur 55%**

Humanitarian assistance:	\$108.3 million
Food*:	\$347.0 million
Conflict resolution:	\$11.6 million
<b>Darfur Total:</b>	<b>\$466.9 million</b>

**Other Sudan 45%**

Humanitarian assistance:	\$82.2 million
Food*:	\$156.0 million
Economic recovery:	\$16.2 million
Infrastructure:	\$78.7 million
Health:	\$18.0 million
Education:	\$10.2 million
Governance and peace:	\$27.1 million
<b>Other Sudan Total:</b>	<b>\$388.4 million</b>

**Countrywide Total: \$855.3 million**

\*Includes PL 480 Title II and Emerson Trust



Community members participate in a traditional Murle dance in celebration of successful peace meeting in Gurumuk. Photo: PACT

**Integrating the “White Army”**

During Sudan’s North-South civil war, Upper Nile was deeply affected by internal divisions and an overwhelming number of weapons in civilian hands. Youth, who traditionally herd cattle and protect cattle camps, were loosely organized under the leadership of chiefs or cattle camp leaders, effectively creating an irregular civil defense force that came to be known as *Jiec in Boor*—literally, the White Army.



The Lou Nuer ethnic group in particular has been profoundly divided by long-running conflicts with its neighbors—the Gawaar Nuer to the west, the Dinka Duk to the southwest, the Murle to the south, the Anyuak to the southeast, and the Jikany Nuer to the north. The signing of the North-South Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005 brought new opportunities and challenges to Sudan’s ethnic groups. USAID and PACT are engaging them to work toward reconciliation through activities aimed at addressing potential and existing conflict within and between communities.

The first meeting for the divided Lou community took place in Yuai in central Upper Nile state in June 2005 and reinforced the need to integrate the area’s armed groups. A November 2005 meeting in Poktap specifically targeted youth leaders of Lou Gawaar and Duk, and, though heated and fraught by the complex legacy of politicized divisions, nonetheless paved a way for initial community agreements on arms control and negotiated access to seasonal grazing.

But by late January, the situation took a turn for the worse when a disarmament initiative led by the Sudan People’s Liberated Army resulted in a tense standoff between the SPLA troops and armed civilians in the center of Lou Nuer territory. Community peace actors tried to persuade the armed leaders to step back and engage in dialogue, but clashes around Yuai ensued. Observers watched with dismay as the positive work toward stability in central Upper Nile seemed ready to unravel. They feared that old feuds would re-ignite, and weapon supply lines would be re-established.

In February and March, USAID and PACT sponsored initiatives with the Nuer Peace Council that brought

together leaders from the Lou community, politicians, and armed groups. The initiatives culminated in the Yuai peace meeting, where more than 700 participants from the Lou Nuer community gathered, including Government of South Sudan Vice President Riak Machar and Lou leaders from Khartoum, Malakal, Juba, and Bor. The meeting resulted in agreements among Lou leaders on integration, disarmament, and peaceful engagement with their neighbors.

The success of the meeting elicited such strong demand for follow-up that key delegates moved on immediately to Poktap in Duk territory, where Lou migration to Dinka grazing areas had raised tensions and increased community concerns over disarmament. The delegates were able to facilitate agreements with Dinka leaders on steady equitable disarmament and joint security forces at their border.

The Yuai delegates then moved on again, this time to Gumuruk in Pibor County. Their presence brought a broader, regional dimension to a USAID-sponsored meeting there, in which Murle leaders discussed issues with numerous Lou Nuer leaders as well as other neighbors. This meeting has since spawned a plethora of smaller border peace initiatives by local chiefs, authorities, and armed youth.

Despite the fragile environment that persists in the area, participants from all sides of the peace meetings have repeatedly acknowledged that dialogue between communities, and between communities and their leaders, have profoundly influenced the course of events, and in recent months, have averted conflicts that may have resulted in the loss of life and the collapse of delicate new relationships.♦

## A Clinic Reopens in Darfur

On March 3, 2006, a health clinic in Deleig, a town located in the Wadi Saleh locality of West Darfur, reopened thanks to USAID assistance. USAID partner International Medical Corps (IMC) rehabilitated the clinic, which now serves about 20,000 people from the Deleig area. At the clinic, IMC conducts nutritional screening and offers the community comprehensive primary health care services, including outpatient consultations, antenatal care, growth monitoring, immunizations, minor wound care, and health education.♦

Photo: USAID





Community members marched, danced, and gave speeches on International Women's Day in Rumbek. Photos: USAID

## Celebrating International Women's Day

International Women's Day is an occasion marked around the world by women's groups exercising their solidarity and advocating peace, equity, equality, and human rights. The celebration is also an important opportunity to increase awareness of gender issues facing local communities.

This year on March 8 women in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan) mobilized to celebrate the day with the support of USAID's Localizing Institutional Capacity in Southern Sudan Program, implemented by USAID partners Mercy Corps International and the International Rescue Committee.

In Rumbek, local authorities and local and international organizations united to organize an International Women's Day event in Freedom Square. The celebration started with a parade of women's groups carrying banners with the global International Women's Day theme for 2006—"Women in Decision Making: Meeting Challenges, Creating Changes"—as well as the local theme for the day developed through group discussions with the local women—"Women and Men as Partners in Decision Making." Thousands of bystanders watched the singing and dancing performances and listened to speeches made by female leaders, government representatives, and NGO members. The program concluded in the evening with a soccer match organized by the Ministry of Information, Culture, Youth, and Sports.

Similar celebrations occurred at other USAID sites, including Wunrok town in Twic County and Kauda town in Rashad County. In Wunrok town, USAID

partners collaborated with Parliamentarian Victoria Adhar Arop to celebrate the day and recognize the achievements of women from Southern Sudan. The celebrations throughout the South and Three Areas helped women recognize their contributions and initiate plans for future advancement.♦

## Developing Southern State Constitutions

Developing a constitution is much more than a legal drafting exercise—it is an opportunity for the values, principles, and goals of a country, state, and culture to be discussed, debated, and ultimately translated into the supreme law of the land. On February 10–18, 90 delegates of the constitution drafting committees from 10 Southern states embarked on this process by convening in Rumbek for the USAID-supported Southern Sudan States Constitutional Development Conference.

The conference emerged out of discussions among Southern Minister for Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development Michael Makuei, the Model Constitution Technical Drafting Committee, and the state governors. They agreed to the need to move the interim state constitutions forward as quickly as possible, but recognized that there were few people at the state level who understood the existing framework and who could provide leadership to the drafting process. The conference was therefore convened with two aims: to provide information to participants about the relevant legal framework and general constitutional principles, and to help state teams prepare draft interim state constitutions based on a model developed by a drafting committee.



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Members of the model drafting committee, the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development, the Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation formed the team that oversaw the conference organization. With support from USAID, NDI assisted the team in drafting the model constitution, planning and organizing the event, developing a guide on the legal framework, and providing reference materials, international legal expertise, and presentations on the legal and global context and focus group research on constitutional principles.

In the opening session, each of the states introduced itself by saying 'constitution' in the local language, but few participants knew or understood the purpose of a constitution. When copies of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Interim National Constitution, Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan, and Guide to the Legal Framework were distributed, many remarked that this was their first opportunity to see and read the key documents. By the third day, when the participants divided into their state working

groups, they had taken significant steps toward understanding and internalizing the documents and presentations, and had developed the necessary tools to discuss and review the model constitution.

The conference brought together an impressive team of experts and officials who linked the state work to the broader Southern Sudan context. They shared perspectives on issues within Southern Sudan talked to participants about constitutional development in South Africa, the European Union, Iraq and Kenya.

After nine days, each of the state committees left with a draft interim constitution and a deeper understanding of the legal framework of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and interim constitutions. Perhaps most important, the committees evolved into a team of constitutional leaders who represent the diversity and unity of Southern Sudan—and who show great potential in turning the constitutional promise, for which many of them have struggled, into reality.♦

## 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 February 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,257,552
South	764,525
East	67,301
Three Areas*	293,951
Central	46,257
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,429,586</b>

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

