

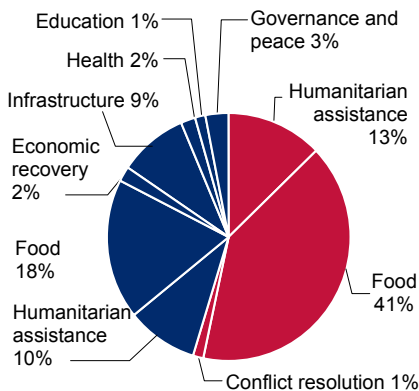


MONTHLY UPDATE

July 2006



USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2005 ESTIMATED



Darfur 55%

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

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
Other Sudan Total:	\$388.4 million
Countrywide Total:	\$855.3 million

*Includes PL 480 Title II and Emerson Trust

A Million Children Vaccinated

On June 16 the Mass Measles Campaign celebrated the vaccination of its one millionth child in Southern Sudan at an event in Bentiu, Unity state. The USAID-supported campaign has improved immunization coverage markedly in Southern Sudan and involves the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. World Health Organization, the Federal Ministry of Health, the Government of Southern Sudan, and dozens of local and international nongovernmental organizations. USAID has been a sponsor of the campaign since 2004, providing more than \$1 million in funding.

The one-millionth child milestone is a significant marker due to the lack of health facilities with vaccine storage capacity and the shortage of skilled health care workers in Southern Sudan. The campaign also had to overcome difficulties reaching underserved, rural populations and managing access to shifting populations as returns continue throughout the South. Despite these obstacles, the Mass Measles Campaign reached children in 13 counties in Western Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Northern Bahr el Ghazal,



The Mass Measles Campaign vaccinates its one-millionth child on June 16 in Bentiu. Photo: USAID

Jonglei, and Lakes states. The June 16 Bentiu event also inaugurated the program’s extension into Unity state, where UNICEF is aiming to immunize 46,500 children against measles by the end of June.

Measles remains one of the principal killers of children in Southern Sudan; less than a fifth of children under 5 years old are immunized against it. The Mass Measles Campaign aims to eventually reach at least 95 percent of children aged six months to 15 years—a total of 4.5 million children throughout the ten states of Southern Sudan.

USAID’s support for the Mass Measles Campaign is part of a larger effort to bolster primary health care in Southern Sudan. USAID has provided more than \$46 million over the past two years to support health facilities, train health care workers, and provide essential drugs and medical supplies. ♦



Relief Items Reach Darfur

On May 5 Sudan's government and the main faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army signed an agreement to bring an end to devastating conflict in Darfur. Other parties have since signed declarations of commitment to the agreement, and these steps toward peace have finally brought some hope to Darfur's people. However, violence and instability persist, and the need for humanitarian assistance is not expected to wane in the near future.

With substantial funding and support from USAID, the United Nations developed a common system of procuring and distributing relief goods throughout Sudan. Duties are divided among the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the organization CARE. Under this system, UNICEF procures items and transports them to the CARE warehouse in El Obeid, Northern Kordofan. UNJLC ensures effective supply chain management, and with assistance from OCHA, coordinates with partners and communities in the field. CARE is responsible for storing the goods and transporting them to distribution sites, as well as monitoring and evaluating the distributions.

This pipeline of emergency relief items is currently reaching 1.68 million people in Darfur. Families receive household items and shelter supplies that help to mitigate the hardships of displacement. Blankets, plastic sheeting and sleeping mats, water containers, clothes, and hygiene products are just some of the basic items that help restore dignity to people facing uncertainty and insecurity. In addition, the system

often provides materials to community projects, including women's centers, child-friendly spaces, and health and maternity clinics.

With support from USAID, CARE also operates a common transport service. In 2005 alone, this service facilitated the free transportation of cargo for 57 organizations and agencies, allowing the humanitarian community working in Darfur to benefit from economies of scale and avoid inflating the local transportation sector. A recent evaluation conducted by OCHA showed that using the combined transportation service provided a cost savings of 40 percent.

USAID has provided more than \$785 million in humanitarian assistance to Darfur and eastern Chad since 2005. ♦

Emerging Space for Civil Society

In Sudan's post-war era, civil society organizations are working to define its roles and responsibilities. They have the potential to play a key role in supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), but they must also balance collaboration with their former compatriots with the new concept of separation of state and civil society. Peace in Sudan remains fragile, and a strong civil society sector that provides needed services to its constituencies, as well as to marginalized and long-silenced people, is a vital step in the post-war transition.

In June, USAID completed an assessment that evaluated how civil society has manifested itself in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue

USAID and its partners distribute emergency relief supplies to 1.68 million people throughout Darfur. Photos: UNJLC





Nile, and Southern Kordofan) since the signing of CPA in January 2005. The first of its kind and scope, the assessment focused on capacity-building needs identified by local organizations. The findings will help refine USAID’s program support to organizational development and technical training, which works through small grants for USAID-supported partners across 17 counties in the South and Three Areas.

One of the key themes that emerged from the process was the lack of resources in communities and the low credibility of civil society organizations. To address these issues, USAID will implement a community-based training project to help organizations improve their skills in project planning and implementation, financial management, and organizational management. It will also provide organizations the opportunity to build credibility within the community.

The assessment also found that while women have started to become involved in civil society leadership, there is yet no guarantee that they have begun to play a widespread, active role. Thus USAID efforts will also strongly encourage women’s participation, and seek to provide them with the skills necessary to begin to take more active management and decision-making roles. ♦

Young Women Gain New Educational Opportunities

Women’s educational opportunities are often among the first resources to disappear when war consumes a region. Sudan was no different. While the South never had never had a comprehensive educational system, what structure did exist was decimated by the two-decade civil war. Girls were traditionally discouraged from attending schools, but even those parents who wanted to educate their daughters were prevented from doing so by the lack of schools.



School matrons provide “comfort kits” to Gbutala’s female students. Photo: USAID



The Gbutala Secondary School in Maridi was rehabilitated with support from USAID. Photo: CARE

When USAID established its basic education program in 2004, it included the Gender Equity Support Program (GESP) to specifically target girls and young women at risk of not pursuing an education. The initiative seeks to increase female enrolment in secondary schools, improve retention and completion rates of female students in secondary schools, and increase the number of female students who go on to work in education.

Toward this end, USAID has provided 2,679 scholarships for girls and women in 34 institutions, and the effort has begun to bear fruit. A sampling of participating institutions shows a 14 percent increase in girls’ enrolment, a decrease in girls’ dropout rate from 11 percent to 4 percent, and increased attendance across the board. USAID has also distributed 3,250 “comfort kits,” which include information on HIV/AIDS and feminine hygiene supplies that ensure girls can attend school during menstruation.

The Gbutala Secondary School is one of the institutions supported by USAID. One of the oldest schools in southern Sudan, Gbutala is located in Maridi County in Western Equatoria. It is not all that different from any other Southern Sudanese school—except, perhaps, for the remarkable dedication of its staff. Two decades of war had an enormous impact on the school, but the community and teachers never allowed it to be closed, and it became one of the first schools USAID rehabilitated through its basic education program.



In addition to physical improvements, USAID also worked to raise community awareness of the importance of girls' education. USAID funds are supporting the construction of separate latrines at Gbutala—a sign of this new, heightened community concern for young women's needs. The counsel and support provided by school matrons means girls are less apt to marry early or have unprotected sex. Enrolment has jumped 48 percent over the last two years, and Gbutala's young women are now more likely to finish their education.

Head teacher Simon Ojwe is proud of the progress made in Gbutala. "Were it not for the fees from GESP this could not have happened," he said. As a result of USAID support, "we have been able to recruit a volunteer matron to counsel the girls against early pregnancy, premature marriages, and constantly encourage the girls in their pursuit of education. As a result our drop out rate has fallen from about 20 girls per year to only five to seven... We were also able to purchase exercise books, sporting equipment and chairs for the students."

Gbutala student Tabitha Achuk of Gbutala said the program "is a godsend for girls in Southern Sudan. Without the fees very few of us would be in school and even if we were in school we would be more absent than present. Today that is not the case.... Because of GESP we are all in schools and alongside the other girls we want to succeed in school, in life to serve our country's rebuilding efforts." ♦

*The Juba Teaching Hospital is one of the institutions hosting volunteers from USAID's diaspora program.
Photo: USAID*



Diaspora Members Volunteer to Improve Health and Education

John Zachariah Abdullah left his hometown Juba for London 25 years ago and became a successful microbiologist.

Fred Wani, also from Juba, fled to Zimbabwe, where he trained as an internist.

Elias Nyamllel Wakoson went to the United States, and is a professor of literature and language in Texas.

This summer, all three returned to Sudan as volunteers, and are working to pass on their knowledge to their professional counterparts through the pilot phase of USAID's Diaspora Skills Transfer program.

Implemented by USAID partner AED, the diaspora program enables skilled, educated Sudanese living outside Sudan to return to assist the development of human and institutional capacity in health and education. Volunteers serve for 1 to 12 months in sites throughout Southern Sudan in an effort to build local capacity to sustain long-term reconstruction and service delivery.

Dr. Wani is working at Juba Teaching Hospital and sees an average of 80 patients every morning, most suffering from malaria, typhoid, cirrhosis, and hepatitis. He says that one of his greatest challenges has been overcoming the legacy of war and marginalized that has plagued the South for so long. Much of the hospital staff cannot recognize the symptoms of HIV/AIDS or tropical illnesses, he says, and none of the nurses have higher than a twelfth-grade education. "This place has been isolated from the rest of the world for a long time."

Dr. Abdullah, who is also working at Juba Teaching Hospital, says the facilities are rudimentary. As an example, Dr. Abdullah says that lab workers must count white blood cells visually, rather than using a simple test that's been in use in the rest of the world for over 20 years.

The process has been a learning experience both for him, and for the hospital staff. "Someone with lab skills can help very much here," he said, but "I have to learn from them, then they have to learn from me."

Professor Wakoson is spending his three-month commitment working with the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology on transferring the University of Juba from Khartoum back to its original



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

home in Southern Sudan. He says the major challenges to the move are the state of the facilities—which have been disused as a school for years—and the lack of teachers.

USAID is working to renovate the university library and one of its large lecture halls by the end of July, but there will still be too few classrooms and dormitories to serve all the students. In addition, much of the staff now working at the university in Khartoum say they will not make the move to Juba. Professor Wakoson says he is working with the Ministry to try to develop incentives to bring back some of the university's former teachers and administrators—many of whom now live in the United States.



Dr. Fred Wani, Professor Elias Nyamlell Wakoson, and Dr. John Zachariah Abdullah are volunteering in Juba through USAID's diaspora program. Photo: USAID

Dr. Abdullah, Dr. Wani, and Professor Wakoson were among the first volunteers posted through the diaspora program, and said that as more volunteers that come, greater and more permanent reforms will take place. "The changes will be there," said Dr. Abdullah, "but it will take a long time."

Although their experience has been challenging, all three said they would return for another volunteer tour if they could. "I think I've changed the lives of a few people in this place," said Dr. Wani. "There is a lot here that can be done."

To learn more about USAID's Diaspora Skills Transfer Program, or to apply as a volunteer, visit http://cit.aed.org/forecast_sudan.htm ♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

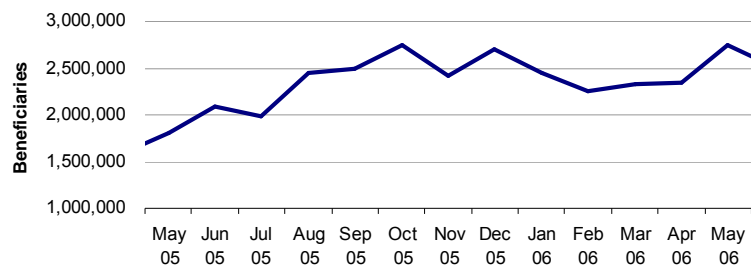
Through mid-July 2006, USAID contributed 464,330 metric tons of emergency food assistance worth \$445.9 million for Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Chad. During fiscal year 2005, USAID emergency food assistance to Sudan and eastern Chad amounted to 572,450 metric tons worth nearly \$502.9 million.

WFP Distributions May 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,748,981
South	1,065,372
East	204,790
Three Areas*	565,627
Central	40,426
Total	4,625,196

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

WFP Distributions: Darfur



WFP Distributions: South, East, and Three Areas

