



MONTHLY UPDATE

December 2006



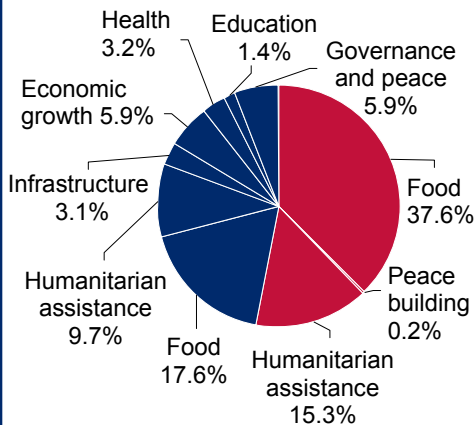
Agricultural Training Supports Southern Families

Due to insecurity, unpredictable weather extremes, a high number of returnees, and limited resources, food production is an acute challenge for many families in Upper Nile State, Southern Sudan. To assist these communities in reviving their agricultural livelihoods, USAID partner Food for the Hungry International (FHI) is working to restore food security for more than 10,000 families—approximately 80,000 people—in Upper Nile.

Under the USAID-funded program, FHI works in coordination with three Sudanese nongovernmental organizations to establish demonstration farms and conduct extension training to increase communities' agricultural knowledge. In addition, the program provides fishing equipment, seeds, and irrigation equipment to vulnerable families.

From July to September 2006, FHI conducted three seed fairs that provided seeds to 934 families and conducted seven agricultural training sessions for agricultural extension workers. These workers have already trained 170 farmers to strengthen the agricultural capacities of residents and help reestablish agricultural activities for returnees. FHI also built four new demonstration farms in 2006 to raise the level of agricultural expertise in farming communities. FHI has trained 80 farmers in vegetable cultivation on these demonstration farms.

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, FY2006 ESTIMATED



Darfur 53.1%

Humanitarian assistance:	\$108.27 million
Food:	\$266.11 million
Peace building:	\$1.40 million
Darfur:	\$375.78 million

South, East, and Three Areas 46.9%

Humanitarian assistance:	\$69.02 million
Food:	\$124.87 million
Infrastructure:	\$21.87 million
Economic growth:	\$41.50 million
Health:	\$22.69 million
Education:	\$10.25 million
Governance and peace:	\$42.07 million
South, East, and Three Areas:	\$332.27 million
Countrywide Total:	\$708.05 million

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

Farmers grow eggplant and other vegetables at a USAID-supported demonstration farm in Nasir, Upper Nile. Photo: FHI





While these initiatives work to improve food production and food security, FHI also provides its three local partners with the tools that will allow them to initiate and implement their own relief and development programs. FHI has provided its local partners with a team office, as well as training, mentoring, and material assistance to improve their outreach and communications, including boats, satellite phones, radios, and motorbikes.

Although recent insecurity forced FHI to evacuate staff from Malakal and Mandeng, work continues. As the dry season begins in Southern Sudan, FHI will conduct additional extension training focusing on agricultural preparation for the dry season and continue distributing agricultural equipment, vegetable seeds, and irrigation equipment to conflict-affected families throughout Upper Nile. ♦



Fisherman in Mandeng, Upper Nile, weave nets with twine distributed by USAID partner FHI. Photo: FHI

Equipping Census Offices Improves Efficiency

The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement stipulates that Sudan carry out a national population census in 2007. The success of the census will be critical to preparations for national and local elections, which are to be held no later than the summer of 2009.

A census is the largest statistical operation that a country can conduct, and the challenges of planning



USAID equipped 10 state statistics offices in Southern Sudan to support the upcoming census. Photo: USAID

for a census in a country the size of Sudan are staggering—especially considering the lack of infrastructure and human and financial resources. In Southern Sudan, the responsibility for organizing the census lay with the South Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation (SSCCSE), which will work in coordination with the Central Bureau of Statistics in the North. With support from USAID, the U.S. Census Bureau is providing technical assistance and training to the SSCCSE.

In each of the ten states in the South, the SSCCSE is establishing an office to collect, compile, analyze, publish, and disseminate statistical information. The offices, however, were ill-equipped and staff complained that it was difficult to carry out their work.

To address the obvious resource gap affecting the SSCCSE, USAID provided basic furniture, equipment, stationeries and motorbikes to offices in seven states—Upper Nile, Jonglei, Warub, Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Western Bahr al Ghazal, and Northern Bahr al Ghazal. The critical provisions sent to the offices proved to be timely, as the SSCCSE is preparing for a pilot census to take place in early 2007. According to Western Bahr El Ghazal State statistics officer Stephen Andrea, his office had been unable to carry out this task until USAID provided motorbikes that allowed his staff to move throughout the state to collect preliminary data. ♦



Responding to Illiteracy

Soaring illiteracy rates afflict most post-conflict settings—particularly Southern Sudan, where an entire generation of citizens has missed out on the opportunity to access education due to the country’s prolonged civil war. The problem is especially acute in Leer County, Unity State, which was one of the critical battle fronts during the war. Increased access to education will help ensure that community members can contribute to the development of their families and communities—a vital step in Sudan’s journey toward consolidating peace.

In response to this challenge, USAID is currently supporting 18 civil society organizations throughout Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan), which are focusing on increasing access to basic education in Sudan for adults, particularly women. On October 27, two Leer County organizations supported by USAID jointly conducted a campaign to raise awareness on the importance of education and mobilize the community to encourage their participation in educational activities. The event was attended by more than 500 people including the county commissioner, the area commander, town chiefs, civic groups, and representatives of international organizations. A group of women performed for the participants, singing a Nuer song about the importance of women’s education. “If you educate a woman, then you have empowered the nation,” said one attendee.

Inspired by the success of this event, a local town chief observed, “What is happening nowadays in Leer, I have never seen it before... I wish this development could be extended to other places like Koch and Mayendit.”

In his speech, the Leer County commissioner called the campaign “a historic event which is significant for Leer County and the whole of South Sudan.” He also called on the community—especially adults—to seize the opportunities to educate themselves. “Education has no age.”◆

Mobile Drama Brings Peace Messages to Border States

Despite the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005, ethnic tensions continue to foster volatility in states along Sudan’s North-South border. Strained relations among



Dramatic performances along Sudan’s North-South border disseminate messages of peace. Photo: USAID

displaced people, returnees, and community residents, as well as among various ethnic groups, threaten the fragile peace. Many residents in these areas feel they have been left out of the peace and do not believe the CPA meets their needs. Few have read the agreement or understand its provisions.

USAID is funding 27 dramatic performances to deliver messages of peace to six states along the North-South border that rarely have access to independent information. USAID partner Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI) conducted the activity in two phases through a grant to a local organization and in collaboration with community youth associations. The first phase staged 15 shows in four states—Khartoum, Northern Kordofan, Southern Kordofan, and Unity. The second phase, which included 12 shows in two states—White Nile and Upper Nile—integrated recommendations from a focus group of beneficiaries who had taken part in the first phase.

Displaced people, returnees, and residents in these communities enjoyed the drama, puppetry, and musical performances, all of which carried a theme of peace and stability. Community leaders also attended the shows in each of the towns, which not only encouraged other community members to attend, but will also foster the continued dissemination of peace messages throughout the community and at the grassroots level in the future.

USAID’s support for disseminating messages of peace to troubled regions of Sudan aims to increase tolerance and to promote peaceful conflict resolution.◆



Trainings Cultivate Youth Livelihood Options

Darfur's displaced youth are a particularly neglected segment of the population. After more than two years of living in camps, young people have begun to grow dissatisfied with their limited employment options and the continuous insecurity in the region that prevents them from venturing elsewhere.

In Kalma camp, South Darfur, home to 90,000 displaced people, USAID partner CHF International has responded to this situation by introducing the concept of community ownership and responsibility to youth. With support from the CHF International, 200 eager and enthusiastic youth constructed the Kalma camp youth center. Directly managed by 16 youth leaders, the center has provided training in adult literacy, English, health, hygiene, carpentry, sewing, and metal working to more than 2,000 young people. The trainings aim to improve livelihood skills and prepare displaced youth to engage in small business endeavors. Based on the success of the pilot project in Kalma, CHF International worked with youth to replicate the model and built another youth center in Otash camp, located near Nyala, South Darfur.

As a testament to the centers' impact and importance, Sudan's Government of National Unity officially registered the Nyala and Kalma youth centers as Sudanese community-based organizations. Local youth have demonstrated a high level of self-sufficiency and commitment to their centers, independently acquiring more than \$10,000 in in-kind contributions to support further training programs and awareness-raising drama activities.

Since CHF International began working in Darfur in 2004, the organization has constructed 14 community centers in rural villages and camps for internally displaced persons, with help from USAID. CHF International continues to support these centers, which provide educational services, cash-for-work and income-generating activities, and vocational training opportunities to more than 15,000 women and youth affected by the Darfur conflict. ♦

Theater Groups Raise Awareness in Darfur

The almost total absence of both independent media outlets and social space in Darfur's camps has hindered residents' ability to discuss violence against

A young man in Otash camp in South Darfur is training in carpentry. Photo: CHF International



Camp residents say they are grateful for the resources and services that USAID-supported youth centers are providing.

"Before the management and business trainings started, I had forgotten what it is like not to be a beggar."

—A youth in Otash

"In the past I helped my parents with their farm...I miss it very much, but then I think about what I am doing now and I am very proud of it...And I am looking forward to the future."

—A Kalma management committee member

"We want to grow stronger and learn how to manage better...We hope to establish a representative office in Khartoum and become CHF's implementing partner one day and maybe even work in another country."

—An Otash management committee member



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women or raise awareness of the issue. In response to this need, USAID built on its pre-existing support for the Kalma youth center to fund the creation of youth theater groups that can educate their communities about the needs of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

A USAID grant to a local theater group funded two kinds of training: a professional theater troupe first taught youth how to disseminate messages through drama, then professional paralegals showed them how to prepare human rights messages. Over a three-month period, the troupe will perform 12 plays and puppet shows addressing violence against women and survivors' needs. They will also address the traumatic effects of violence on youth and other members of the community.

Not only do these activities help give idle youth positive and productive pursuits, they may also dissuade them from participating in other activities that would create further insecurity in the camps and could jeopardize the provision of humanitarian assistance. ♦



USAID works with youth in Darfur's camps to promote peace and raise awareness of issues like violence against women. Photo: USAID

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

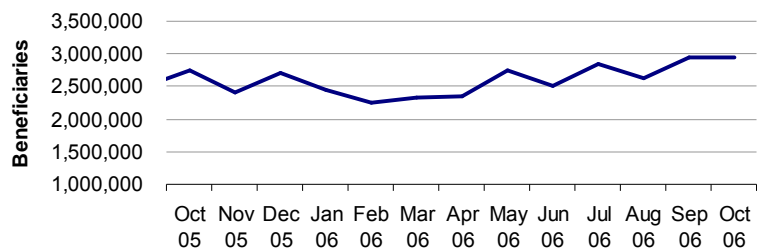
Since October 1, 2006, USAID has provided 201,830 metric tons of emergency food aid worth \$199.9 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. During fiscal year 2006, USAID emergency food assistance to Sudan and Eastern Chad amounted to 475,910 metric tons worth nearly \$457.8 million.

WFP Distributions October 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,939,070
South	472,988
East	113,451
Three Areas*	58,048
Central	580
Total	3,582,137

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

WFP Distributions - Darfur



WFP Distributions - South, East, and Three Areas

