



MONTHLY UPDATE

March 2007

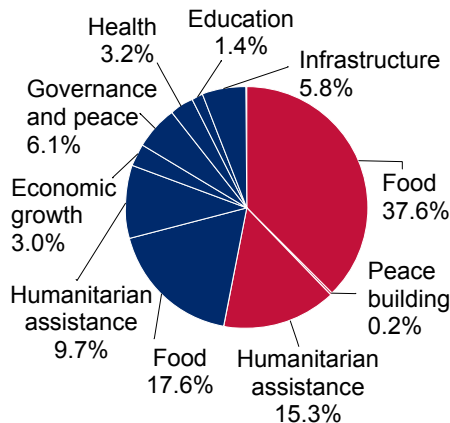
Providing Shelter, Promoting Participation

For the more than two million Darfurians who have been forced to flee their homes, shelter and other supplies are resources that not only save lives, but also restore and protect dignity.

USAID partner CRS has integrated shelter provision with other services to improve their ability to cope with past trauma and prepare to mitigate future risks. In West Darfur, CRS has provided shelter and supplies to more than 2,000 displaced families using an approach that seeks to maximize participation, ownership, and dignity. After a basic training course, beneficiaries decide the type of shelter construction they would like, and participate in setting camp, demarcating land, and constructing the shelter. Beneficiaries are asked to provide roof coverings through locally available materials, while CRS provides other needed construction supplies. More than 65 grassroots community shelter committees have been established and trained by CRS to guide beneficiaries through the process and monitor and evaluate activities.

Flexibility and responsiveness are also key to the success of USAID-supported CRS activities. In January 2007, when violence displaced families from three villages in the Kulbus Corridor, CRS was able to immediately mobilize resources and construct temporary communal shelter units in Ardamata camp to receive the newly displaced. Since then, shelters with a longer life span have been built for individual households.

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN FY2006, ESTIMATED



Darfur 53.2%

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

South, East, and Three Areas 46.8%

Humanitarian assistance:	\$69.02 million
Food:	\$124.87 million
Economic growth:	\$21.37 million
Governance and peace:	\$43.27 million
Health:	\$22.69 million
Education:	\$10.25 million
Infrastructure:	\$40.80 million
South, East, and Three Areas:	\$332.27 million

Countrywide Total: \$708.05 million

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



With support from USAID, CRS works with displaced people in West Darfur to plan and construct shelters. Photo: CRS



A family in Krinding camp helped build a kornok shelter (above), and a family in Kouma camp helped build a goutia shelter (right). Photos: CRS

In July 2006, when attacks by armed militias forced 1,400 families around Abu Suruj from their homes, CRS conducted a rapid assessment and provided more than 1,380 households with kits including blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen equipment, water jugs, water buckets, women's clothing (*toubs*), and sanitary items.♦



Clubs Provide Education and Interaction

As violence in Darfur escalates and spills into Eastern Chad, more Chadians and Sudanese are being driven out of their homes seeking the relative safety of camps in West Darfur. Living in an unfamiliar environment, the refugees and displaced people lack traditional community resources, and the threat of disease spread by poor hygiene practices is increased in the camps' close living space.

With support from USAID, Tearfund is working to reduce these risks by forming community-run clubs and activity centers that promote healthy habits and provide a social support network for people affected by the conflict.

Children's clubs meet twice a week in four locations in West Darfur (Mesteri, Kongo Haraza, Beida, and Ararah). Using songs, games, and drama to teach children how to stay healthy, the clubs address a new health topic chosen each month by the communities.

Initially launched in August 2004, the clubs are now attended by an average of 23,000 children each week.

At the club in Beida, 12-year-old Rehad is one of 398 child encouragers—older children who support and facilitate the younger attendees. She attends Beida's girls' school and was one of the many students who volunteered to help to paint the school's new latrines in bright colors and educate their classmates on keeping them clean. Says Rehad, "I really enjoy the clubs every Saturday and Wednesday and feel I know now many ways to stay healthy."

Rehad's mother Masora is one of 7,410 women who attend weekly USAID-supported women's clubs, which were started in the summer of 2005 in response to demand from local women to have their own meetings. After Rehad became involved in the children's club, she encouraged her mother to start attending the women's club. Masora did, and now attends the clubs because they give her the chance to talk with friends and they help her understand what her children learned in their club that week. In addition, each month, a member of Tearfund's staff



visits Masora’s family to reinforce the lessons learned in the clubs. The family dug its own latrine after the Tearfund staff encouraged them and provided them with a latrine slab and sanitary items.

Many displaced children who arrived too late to register for school have started attending one of Tearfund’s 16 USAID-supported activity centers. Attended by 8,597 children in February, the centers give children a place to sing, play, listen to stories, and learn numbers and letters. Children are also encouraged to draw to help them overcome traumatic experiences, and the warmer weather has inspired the young artists to add snakes and flowers to their usual drawings of people, guns, houses and helicopters. In response to the recent influx of new refugees, two puppets—Nora and Abas—now also “attend” the children’s clubs and activity centers. They, like many of the children, have recently left their home in Chad and are intended to help them cope with their new environment. Facilitators from the communities have joined the more than 1,200 volunteers who run the programs, allowing them to communicate with the children in the local language.

Unfortunately, violence continues to challenge assistance efforts. The Tearfund activity center on the outskirts of Arara was forced to close in February after that section of the town was attacked and most residents were forced to move. One of the facilitators of this center says he is now helping out at a new center and that many of his children had joined him there. “It’s good to still to be able to come and help at an activity center each day,” he said. “I hope I can go back to my own one soon.”♦

Tomi Clinic: First Steps Toward Recovery

Southern Kordofan state was one of the areas hit hardest by Sudan’s 21-year civil war. Large numbers of people were displaced, some to temporary camps around Dilling and Kadugli, and others to cities as far away as Khartoum. The conflict decimated nearly all infrastructure outside of the larger cities, and the people who remained behind often took refuge in the surrounding foothills known as the Nuba Mountains. For the few organizations providing assistance in the area, access was difficult until a ceasefire was signed in 2003.

The village of Tomi is a microcosm of Southern Kordofan’s experience. Located North of Abu Gebeha in eastern Southern Kordofan, Tomi was devastated by the conflict. Nearly half of its population fled the region to seek refuge, and what little infrastructure that had once existed was either destroyed or greatly eroded. Social services were nonexistent. By the time USAID partner Save the Children/USA (SC/USA) began working in Tomi after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in 2005, residents commonly suffered from bouts of acute respiratory infection, malaria, diarrhea, and conjunctivitis worm. With continued peace, more and more people displaced by the war have begun to return home. While the increasing population has stretched the community’s already limited resources, it has also provided stability and hope for Tomi’s people to contribute to the recovery of their village.

Today, Tomi residents work with SC/USA to construct



Residents of Tomi helped build a new health clinic, and people from across the area attended its opening. Photo: SC/US



household pit latrines, raise awareness among newcomers on the dangers of landmines, and conduct other interventions to improve health.

In February 2007, Tomi opened a new health clinic with support from USAID and SC/USA. The community, which was very excited to have a new clinic, was integrally involved in the construction, providing more than 40 percent of the inputs in the form of sand, gravel, fired bricks, and unskilled labor. In its enthusiasm, the community was actually able to produce an unprecedented surplus of bricks that allowed a wall to be constructed around the clinic—a significant improvement to the standard approved design.

Nearly all members of the Tomi community, and the surrounding villages of Mansour and Al Mogalam, attended the inauguration of the clinic. Spirits were high, as the people were thankful not only for a new, functioning clinic, but also for the ownership they had cultivated with their commitment.

SC/USA and USAID continue to support Tomi with trainings on managing childhood illnesses and health surveillance and reporting. Once just barely surviving, Tomi has taken its first steps towards recovery. ♦

“Let’s Talk”

Dr. John Garang believed that all Sudanese should read, understand, and own the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) because public support for the peace deal that ended Sudan’s 21-year civil war is crucial to its implementation and to securing a just and lasting peace in Sudan.

But understanding the CPA is not as easy as it might seem. Like any legal document, it is written in complex language that is difficult for the average person to understand. In addition, the majority of Southern Sudanese citizens are illiterate, making even simplified written summaries of little use.

Knowing that radio programming would be key to sharing information, USAID began funding the Sudan Radio Service (SRS) in 2003. With assistance from USAID partner Educational Development Center (EDC), SRS has been broadcasting shortwave news and informational programming countrywide in English, Arabic, and several Southern Sudanese languages. Recently, another USAID partner, the National Democratic Institute (NDI)—which has delivered civic education messages all over the world



Actors from “Let’s Talk” record a program. Photo: SRS

in small group settings—teamed up with SRS to produce “Let’s Talk,” a half-hour weekly radio program designed to educate listeners about the CPA through dramatic, straight-talk, and discussion segments.

The drama takes place in a fictional Southern Sudanese town called Al Jedidah, and focuses on some of its inhabitants. County Commissioner Taban, his wife Salamah, and their children and friends learn from and educate each other about the CPA as it affects their daily lives. A straight-talk segment follows that delivers concrete facts in a simplified form related to the events of the drama. The program closes with a discussion segment, which features views from Sudanese men and women on the topics featured in the program.

A listener in Abyei said that “Let’s Talk” is an entertaining way to present complex information. “That Taban,” he said, “is a very funny guy.”

“Let’s Talk” debuted on January 15. It airs daily on SRS shortwave frequencies and can also be heard on the SRS Web site, www.sudanradio.org. ♦

Fast-Tracking Teachers

Parents in Southern Sudan are sending their children to school in record numbers as a result of the peace and security brought by the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Increased enrolment has in turn increased demand for new teachers—approximately 5,000 will need to be added each year for the next five years to keep up. Drastic measures are required to meet this target and ensure that Southern Sudan’s new students have access to the best possible learning environments.



State-level tutors prepare to train new teachers. Photo: AED

Southern Sudan currently has three functioning teacher training institutes, but their output falls far short of the demand. The Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology has developed several strategies to address the gap, including the Fast-Track Teacher Education and Training Program, which is supported by UNICEF and by USAID through its partners Academy for Educational Development and Educational Development Center. In January-April 2007, the first cycle of the Fast-Track Program will prepare 1,000–1,200 new teachers to begin teaching soon after the school year starts in April.

In the first phase of the program, Ministry specialists prepared a group of 30 “trainers of trainers”—three from each of the 10 Southern states—at the Southern Sudan teacher training institute at Maridi, Western Equatoria. In the second phase, the trainers and Ministry specialists prepared 120 state-level tutors (12 from each Southern state). Although the phases were short—only nine days each—they produced a core group of 150 trainers and tutors throughout Southern Sudan who are prepared to train new teachers through the third phase—the six-week Fast-Track Program, scheduled for March and April.

The pilot Fast-Track cycle will take place in two counties of each Southern state and train 1,200 people in the initial knowledge, skills, and confidence needed by young teachers. The content of the program is guided by a syllabus and training manual prepared by the Ministry with USAID and UNICEF. All new teachers will receive a USAID-funded radio and instructions on radio education for primary grades 1-3.

Described as a “gateway to the teaching profession,” the Fast-Track Program will not fully certify its participants, but it will enter them in the new in-service teacher professional development program, where they can earn certification within four years. ♦

SSLA Women’s League Molds Strategic Plan

Twenty-two female members of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) attended a three-day seminar in Nairobi February 3-6 to finalize the SSLA Women’s League Strategic Plan. Coordinated by USAID partner International Republican Institute (IRI), the seminar was a follow-up to a September 2006 training, which developed a draft strategic plan for the Women’s League, a group of female lawmakers similar to the U.S. Congressional Women’s Caucus.

The seminar commenced with an overview of the key principles in developing a strategic plan and the pitfalls to avoid. The participants were then divided into three groups, each of which was given a section of the plan to review. The session was extremely useful as parliamentarians made several constructive amendments to the draft, which are now being incorporated into the plan.

On the second day, Patrick Gichohi, deputy clerk of Kenya’s National Assembly, advised the participants on the principles of bill drafting, which included a step by step analysis of a bill that had been passed in Kenya’s parliament. Then they were again broken into three groups and asked to develop bills addressing one of three topics—small businesses in Juba, violence against women, and Juba’s street children.

The seminar then turned to constituency relations. A presentation by Beth Mugo, a member of Kenya’s Parliament and Assistant Minister for Education, addressed outreach techniques and the link between constituency relations and elections. She also discussed the difference in responsibilities between opposition parliamentarians and cabinet members, which led to discussion about collective responsibility.



Members of the SSLA Women’s League attended a seminar in Nairobi to finalize their strategic plan. Photo: IRI



On the third day, IRI gave a presentation on communications and participants were asked to develop a message for mock political parties. The seminar also included a presentation on the development and achievements of the Kenya Women's Parliamentary Association to expose the Sudanese Women's League to the range of activities they may want to initiate. The session also looked at how the association raises funds for its activities and concluded with a tour of Kenya's National Assembly.

Evaluations of the seminar were overwhelmingly positive. One participant said, "This was a fantastic seminar and many of the topics covered have given me great insight and knowledge to perform my job as

an MP better." Participants also said they found the training materials very useful, and were particularly pleased with the tour of the Kenyan National Assembly. The location of the seminar—Nairobi—was also appreciated, as one participant noted, because it made it easier to concentrate on the training away from the pressures of work in Juba. The session on constituency outreach received the most positive feedback, with one participant saying it focused on information "you can't get in books."

All of the participants said they would pass the information they had learned on to their colleagues, and several planned to organize meetings with their staff to pass on their knowledge. ♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions



Oil distribution in Kass, South Darfur.
Photo: USAID

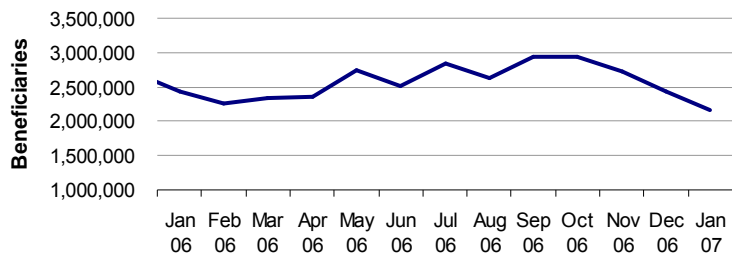
USAID is the leading donor of food assistance to Sudan. Since October 1, 2006, USAID has provided 377,700 metric tons of emergency food aid worth more than \$380 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. During fiscal year 2006, USAID emergency food assistance to Sudan and Eastern Chad amounted to 475,910 metric tons worth nearly \$457.8 million, and accounted for two-thirds of all donor contributions to WFP's Sudan operations.

WFP Distributions January 2007

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,153,479
South	68,978
East	118,620
Three Areas*	48,389
Central	19,343
Total	2,408,629

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

WFP Distributions - Darfur



WFP Distributions - South, East and Three Areas

