



MONTHLY UPDATE

February 2006

Cleaning Up Juba

Juba, the capital of Southern Sudan, endured two decades of isolation as a government garrison cut it off from surrounding counties. The town suffered greatly from a lack of investment in basic services and infrastructure. The neglect was starkly visible as Juba's profile increased when the late vice president, Dr. John Garang, was buried there in August 2005, and the transition to form the Government of South Sudan started in earnest. Many shops and market areas were burned during riots that followed the death of Dr. Garang, and public sanitation was nearly nonexistent.

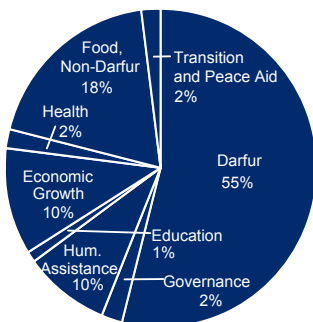
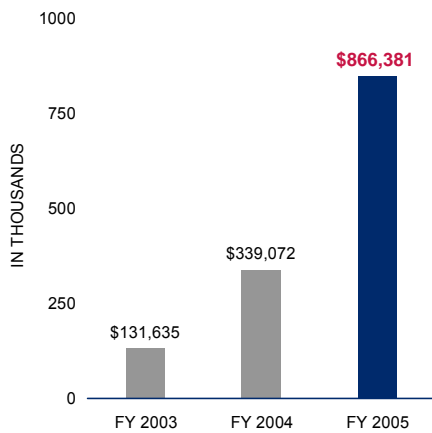
Shortly after the funeral, USAID worked with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to initiate a public campaign to engage local residents to clean up Juba. In November and December 2005, 6,500 families in one section of the city benefited from a food-for-work initiative to clean the street in front of their houses. A cash-for-work component of the program paid 400 people each \$4 a day for 25 days to clean public market areas. USAID and ADRA are also constructing four blocks of latrines in markets near the government ministries and near a school. A similar project is underway in Malakal.

USAID also provided seven new water pumps to Juba's Urban Water Corporation to significantly increase the amount of water available to residents. The additional pumps were instrumental in alleviating a potential crisis in early December 2005 when four of the old pumps broke down, depriving parts of the city of water for two days. In other projects, USAID is providing water leakage detection equipment and purification agents. ♦



Photo: ADRA

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN



Darfur: \$476,768,506 (Food: \$346,450,000)
 Food, Non-Darfur: \$156,010,000
 Humanitarian Assistance: \$88,248,606
 Economic Growth: \$85,496,982
 Health: \$16,592,000
 Education: \$10,111,000
 Governance: \$13,949,000
 Transition and Peace Aid: \$19,205,000

Mitigating Conflict in South Darfur

Few parts of South Darfur have been able to escape the violence and displacement that characterize the conflict in Darfur. But in one region—a triangle including Ed al Fursan, Abu Agura, and Tulus—13 large tribes have lived in relatively peaceful coexistence, with the exception of attacks in November 2004 and December 2005 that were reportedly carried out as retaliation for livestock thefts and deaths.



To diminish tension in the area and reduce the likelihood of future violence based on tribal conflict and the breakdown of customary conflict resolution mechanisms, the local Great Family Organization developed a reconciliation program with support from USAID. Building on the area's history of relatively peaceful coexistence, the program held a cultural exhibition of dancing and singing and brought all the tribal leaders together to draft recommendations.

After a week of small meetings among tribal leaders, the program culminated with a two-day conference and festival in Delieb on January 19 and 20, supported by USAID, the UN World Food Program, UN Joint Logistics Center, ARC, and other international organizations. More than 3,000 people attended the gathering, which UNMIS Civil Affairs called a productive start to the longer process of reconciliation and return.

Great Family Organization continues to conduct meetings between the Makdum of the Fur tribe and the Nazir of the Fallata and Beni Halba tribes in an effort to secure Tiwal from future attacks and encourage the peaceful return of the displaced people to their home villages. ♦

Workshop Confronts Violence Against Women

On December 27 and 28, more than 100 people attended a USAID-supported workshop held at Al Madina Center for Gender and Development in Nyala to discuss the root causes of violence against women in Darfur's culture, customs, and practices.

As part of the program, participants—nearly half of whom were men—discussed papers that examined violence against women in Darfur. One paper revealed that in 2005 more than a quarter of the divorce cases filed in Nyala were a result of domestic violence against wives. Another paper examined the cultural roots of female genital mutilation and how laws, including sharia, address violence against women.

Workshop participants then discussed women's rights from a legal perspective and developed plans for village workshops and activities that would work to change people's understanding, beliefs, and behaviors regarding violence against women and women's rights. ♦

Radios Bring Government to the People

There are few radios throughout rural Southern Sudan—in the markets or in the hands of the people. Consequently, one of the greatest challenges to the new southern government is its lack of capacity to communicate with its people, who live across a vast territory with little or no infrastructure. And the lack of information about the country's nascent peace has fueled doubts among some that it will last.



Photo: USAID

As part of a campaign to increase awareness of the year-old North-South peace agreement, USAID is distributing radios throughout Southern Sudan that will enable people to listen to broadcasts on the constitution, citizens' rights, government accountability, and political developments. The 50,000 solar- and hand crank-powered radios are being distributed mainly to isolated and war-affected areas, specifically targeting the lower-income and marginalized people within those communities—women, youth, displaced people, and ex-combatants.

To complement the radio programming, USAID is helping to organize listening groups to give citizens the opportunity to discuss civil society issues. Regional resource centers are being set up in six areas—Bahr el Ghazal, Equatoria, Upper Nile, Abyei, Southern Kordofan, and Southern Blue Nile—to host the groups and provide meeting space and resources for civil society organizations. USAID is also developing radio-based educational resources, such as classes and teacher trainings, that the listening groups can access. ♦



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Photo: Laura Lartigue, Chemonics

Small Loans Improve Lives

Esther Moriba’s story is one of modest success, but in the post-war climate of Southern Sudan, even small steps can improve lives.

“I used to sell vegetables in the market,” she says. “I have eight people to feed in my household, and sometimes I would have money for food, sometimes I wouldn’t.”

Then, in early 2004, Esther became one of the first clients of the Sudan Microfinance Institution (SUMI), a USAID-sponsored organization that provides loans to small businesses. With her first of \$100, she went to Koboko, Uganda, to buy smoked fish and diversify her stall. Consecutive loans allowed her to buy a bicycle and send someone to buy fish for her.

SUMI has been an integral part of USAID’s effort to provide stability and foster economic recovery in

Sudan Microfinance Institution *(as of November 2005)*

Loans:	5,470 worth \$1,312,269
Clients:	2,723 (842 women, 1,881 men)
Repayment:	97.8%

Sudan as its people face the challenge of rebuilding their country after a 22-year civil war. SUMI now has branch locations in Yei, Yambio, Maridi, and Rumbek, and an overall repayment rate of 97.8 percent—an extraordinary accomplishment given the challenging environment.

“I still struggle,” says Esther. “But now my children are able to eat three meals a day.” ♦

Lulu Brings Livelihoods

The shea nut tree—known in Arabic as *lulu*—grows in a narrow swath below the Sahara from Senegal to Ethiopia. In Sudan, the tree thrives in Bahr el Ghazal and Equatoria, where it has been used for centuries for oil and for food.

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.

Although the lulu nut harvest was smaller than normal in Bahr al Ghazal in 2005, revenue from Lulu Works still increased 200 percent that year. In Equatoria, where the 2005 harvest was plentiful, the six processing centers produced 5,530 liters of oil during the last half of 2005. Each of the 100 women involved in Equatoria’s production earned an average of \$116—a significant sum considering that yearly income in Southern Sudan averages about \$90. Another 100 nut collectors, mostly women, each earned about \$55 for their work.

Of the 2005 production, Norwegian People’s Aid distributed 4,080 liters of the edible lulu oil to displaced people in Kajo Keji camps as part of its food program. In the lucrative Kenyan market, 1,450 liters of cold-pressed lulu body lotion were sold for \$26 a liter. Lulu body lotion sales in 2005 in Kenya reached \$19,300—a 225 percent increase over sales in 2004—and demand has started to exceed production.

Due to good rains in 2005, the lulu trees are full of nuts across Southern Sudan, and with continued USAID support, the Lulu Livelihoods Program expects a dramatic increase in production in 2006. To capture



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The Lulu Livelihoods Program has 36 field facilities in areas where lulu trees thrive. Both collection points and larger processing centers with machines for cracking the hard nuts are located in Yei, Kajo Keji, Mundri East and West, Lopit, Mvolo, Rumbek, Ceubet, Tonj, and Wau.

more of the anticipated abundant harvest, five new nut collection centers are planned that will supply six new processing centers in areas that are rich in lulu trees—and community interest. The expansion will generate income for up to 200 additional nut collectors.

Alongside the increased production, the Lulu Livelihoods Program plans to expand its marketing in East Africa, test a few select international outlets, and begin selling more widely to other markets in Sudan where shea butter is a valued commodity. The program has opened a small store in Wau, where the lulu body butter will be test retailed at \$22 a liter. Lulu products will also be sold in Juba town through an urban cooperative sponsored by Norwegian People's Aid. The LLP will also continue to supply relief efforts with up to 10,000 liters of cooking oil and household soap. ♦

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 December 2005	
Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,696,813
South	367,757
East	18,854
Three Areas*	241,233
Central	9,632
Total	3,334,289

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

