



MONTHLY UPDATE

September 2006

Partners Ensure That Aid Continues to Flow into Darfur

Kutum is located about 60 miles (100 km) northwest of El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur. Under normal circumstances, bad roads can cause a car trip between the two cities to stretch to six hours, but for USAID and its partners, driving is no longer an option. The current government offensive, presence of other armed groups and increased banditry targeting humanitarian vehicles has forced organizations like GOAL to rely on helicopters to transport staff and supplies to its health care clinics, which serve approximately 150,000 people.

When GOAL began operating in Kutum in 2003, emergency health structures had been decimated due to neglect and violence. By September 2006, with support from USAID, GOAL had many of the health facilities in Kutum functioning, and staffed with appropriately trained workers. Today GOAL's clinics provide the only health services around Kutum since other organizations have been forced to suspend operations completely due to insecurity. The clinics provide basic treatment services, vaccinations, reproductive health care, growth monitoring, nutrition screening, community health programs, and cholera response. The area is reported to have good nutrition coverage and low crude mortality rates as well.



With USAID support, GOAL's clinics benefit 150,000 people near Kutum, North Darfur. Photo: GOAL

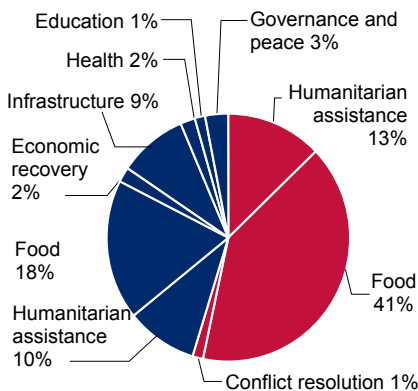
USAID also supports GOAL-run health facilities in Anka, Disa, Abdel Shakour, Furnoung, Fata Borno, Umm Lyon, and Kassab. ♦

Improving Women's Livelihoods

Despite the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement in May 2006, widespread conflict continues to plague Sudan's western states. The violence has displaced more than 2.1 million people, who now struggle to find ways to support their households. This disruption of basic livelihoods has forced many—especially women—into risky activities in an effort to provide for themselves and their families.



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



Organizations discussed alternative income-generation activities at two workshops in Nyala. Photo: USAID

USAID is responding to the situation by helping organizations develop less-risky income-generating activities for Darfur's displaced. With support from USAID, DAI and CHF International hosted two three-day workshops in Nyala, South Darfur, for international and local organizations to discuss new approaches. Fifty staff members from 25 organizations attended each workshop. Topics included market assessments, cost-benefit analyses, proposal writing, and bookkeeping. At the end of each workshop, participants enthusiastically presented proposed business plans for new income-generation activities, including production and sale of vegetables, a poultry and egg enterprise, and making and marketing cheese produced from local milk supplies.

The two workshops not only produced viable business plans, but also empowered organizations to use the methodology in their programming as they aim to improve the livelihoods of Darfurian women. ♦

Communities Drive Civilian Disarmament

While the Comprehensive Peace Agreement laid the groundwork for peace in Sudan, it did not immediately bring calm to all war-torn communities. Interethnic conflict continued to be an all-too-common occurrence in Jonglei State, mostly in the form of cattle raids and largely due to the considerable amount of weaponry in military, militia, and civilian hands.

In January 2006, the Sudan People's Liberation Army initiated a disarmament process in Jonglei and Upper Nile. To complement the process, USAID supported local organizations in a campaign to present the logic behind the disarmament process and potential benefits for communities. The campaign targeted armed youth in particular—a distinct group who might have resisted disarmament—and USAID supported dialogues in Gummurk, Yuai, and Poktap. However, violent clashes between Lou-Nuer armed youth and the SPLA disarmament teams flared in February and March.

In July, at the end of an historical meeting of the Lou and Murle tribal groups, and in an effort to prevent further bloodshed, the chiefs of Akobo and local authorities in Jonglei agreed on a system for voluntary disarmament. With technical assistance from the UN Development Program and monitoring by the UN Mission in Sudan, local authorities established three weapon collections sites in Akobo East County. Over the next three weeks, more than 1,200 light weapons and rocket propelled grenades were redeemed. Most members of the Akobo community—especially women, elders, and traders—were extremely pleased

A civilian disarmament campaign in Akobo collected 1,250 weapons in just two weeks. Photo: Educational Development Center





with the disarmament, saying they hope it will usher in a new era of peace and prosperity for the area.

On August 21, the Commissioner of Akobo, local chiefs, and communities hosted a celebration to mark this historic event—a peaceful, community-led, voluntary disarmament—and to demonstrate to other communities that a voluntary process can work. The Murle of Pibor County, home to large reserves of weapons in the hands of young civilians, were next on the United Nations’ disarmament calendar, so USAID helped bring key Murle leaders to the celebration to see Akobo’s success firsthand. Attendees urged them to emulate their Akobo neighbors and peacefully disarm, and speakers appealed to the international and local communities to engage armed youth in meaningful activities that prevent them from returning to destructive ways. ♦

Organizations Collaborate on Common Goals

In early August the town of Kurmuk in Blue Nile State hosted 111 members of civil society organizations in the first of a series of conferences organized and facilitated by USAID partners Mercy Corps and National Democratic Institute (NDI). The event brought together representatives from 36 USAID-supported civil society organizations from all regions of Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan) to celebrate their diversity, goals, and aspirations for change.

“This has been a great week,” said Daniel Maduak Bak of the Malual Community Development Agency. “We have learned so many things about other places and other groups. When I go back and tell the people in my organization and my community about it, they will want to come to the next one.”

Conference participants—which included 30 women—gave presentations about the state of civil society in their home regions and the ongoing projects they are engaged in. Question and answer sessions enabled participants to learn more about the issues and discuss perceptions or stereotypes about the people of Sudan’s various regions. Cultural performances added to the conference’s celebratory atmosphere.

The conference focused on creating understanding of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and providing participants with skills to create change in their communities. Participants identified an attitudinal

change in their perceptions of each other as crucial to transforming antagonism to peaceful coexistence.

During the first activity, participants were divided into six groups and had a 30-minute “date” with each of the six protocols of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Each station discussed ways to increase awareness on some key principles and terminology. At the start of the session, many participants could not name more than one or two protocols; by the end, they were asking questions about how far implementation had progressed on power sharing in their state or whether the oil revenues were being shared equitably.

For the second activity, participants listened to a recording of “Let’s Talk,” a civic education program aired on the USAID-supported Sudan Radio Service. The program addressed some of the social aspects of the transition through the eyes of a hypothetical Sudanese family: old friends returning; communities concerned about their land and businesses; returnees worried about rearing their children in areas where the education system is not yet established.

Following the program, participants were divided into six listening groups, where it became clear that the radio play reflected many realities and provoked keen dialogue on a range of topics. What type of challenges do you face in the social transition in your community? How can you and your organization contribute to these opportunities for peace building?

Participants said they would like to better understand the CPA and become civic educators in their own communities. “If we want peace in our country, we have to build peace in our communities,” said one

A facilitator recorded comments from conference participants for a future edition of “Let’s Talk.” Photo: NDI





participant. "If we want peace in our community, we have to understand the CPA."

"Civil society groups cannot do this alone," said Jeremiah Maguat of Community Adult Literacy in Leer County. "We can transfer this knowledge to the community, but it is they who must realize their future. The community is the real decision maker," he added.

With support from USAID, NDI will provide radios to allow organizations to listen to "Let's Talk" and facilitate listening groups with their target constituencies. NDI will also help organizations increase understanding of the CPA in their communities and work with local government officials to facilitate dialogues between civil society and government so citizens can engage face-to-face on the progress of CPA implementation.

"We have to shift our attitudes and response to conflict," said Simon, who represented a civil society organization at the conference. "Where before we were preparing to fight, now we must assume our role and actively address the issues at the local level." ♦

Preparing for the Census

As stipulated by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Sudan will conduct its first ever population census in 2007. A census is the largest statistical operation that a country can conduct, requiring tremendous human, logistical, and communication resources. In Sudan, the size of the task is even greater, as census-takers will have to work to overcome the challenges presented by shifting populations, minimal infrastructure, and lack of staff experience in processing and tabulating data.

The Southern Sudan Center for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation (SSCCSE) is the newly formed organization responsible for conducting the census in Southern Sudan, in coordination with the Central Bureau of Statistics, which will conduct the census in the North. With support from USAID, the U.S. Census Bureau is assisting the SSCCSE in building the capacity needed to accomplish this significant undertaking.

With USAID's support, SSCCSE has begun expanding operations and developing into a more formal organization with a broader, more holistic responsibility to provide statistics on Southern Sudan. In November 2006, the SSCCSE will conduct a pilot census in selected areas of all 10 Southern states to test tools and procedures—and to discover as many potential problems as possible so it can make any necessary modifications before the official census begins.

To assist the SSCCSE in assessing and refining its management strategy, the U.S. Census Bureau hosted a retreat for ten of the SSCCSE's management staff in August 2006. At the retreat, participants examined the strengths and weaknesses of the recent Sudan Household Health Survey and applied the lessons to the management plan for the pilot census. [The Sudan Household Health Survey was the first survey conducted by the SSCCSE from beginning to end, and the first national survey conducted in conjunction with the Central Bureau of Statistics.] Retreat participants were able to establish effective communication methods, discuss how to improve knowledge-sharing with advisors, and create a management toolkit to guide the entire organization. ♦



Rehabilitating Torit Teaching Hospital

A recent USAID grant to the Ministry of Health in Eastern Equatoria is providing essential furnishings to the only major health care facility in the region, which has been historically poor and underserved. Under the grant, valued at \$82,920, three wards of Torit Teaching Hospital were supplied with 100 inpatient beds with bedside tables, 20 orthopedic beds with bedside tables, 10 pediatric beds, and 130 patient screens. These new resources will allow the hospital's 48 medical staff to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of health care in Eastern Equatoria and improve the local government's ability to provide basic services to its citizens. ♦

Photo: DAI



USAID | SUDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID Awards Infrastructure Contract

On August 23, USAID awarded the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) a three-year, \$31.85-million grant to improve infrastructure in Southern Sudan. The program represents a unique partnership for the Government of Southern Sudan, the U.S. Government, and UNOPS, which will work together with state ministries to identify and address critical structural needs in historically underserved or conflict-affected areas. Activities will focus primarily on building primary health care centers, all-weather interstate gravel roads, bridges, major drainage structures, and other public works. The program will also provide employment opportunities for displaced, returning, and other disadvantaged people and facilitate the return and reintegration of people affected by the country's two-decade civil war.

A launch ceremony, attended by representatives from the Government of Southern Sudan, the U.S. Consulate General, and USAID was held on September 13 in Juba. Minister of Transportation and Roads Rebecca Garang said she "applaud[ed] the

program's efforts to provide services and build capacity at the state level."

USAID/Sudan Deputy Mission Director Allan Reed emphasized the U.S. Government's commitment to development in Southern Sudan, saying, "I want to underscore USAID's support for building infrastructure and capacity that will consolidate peace and provide a safe and enabling environment for the citizens of Southern Sudan.... I want to assure the people of Sudan that USAID stands with you in your post-war recovery to a new Sudan."

The Accelerated Infrastructure Program is the first phase of USAID's broader, long-term effort to construct and rehabilitate infrastructure in Southern Sudan. At the end of September, USAID expects to award another, larger-scale contract designed to support further expansion of transportation, social, and economic infrastructure in Southern Sudan. Previously, USAID has supported work on emergency infrastructure, such as building roads, clearing landmines, and planning, mapping, and electrifying towns. USAID also supported the establishment of the Southern Ministry of Transportation and Roads. ♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

Through mid-August 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 July 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,848,175
South	1,268,301
East	285,702
Three Areas*	577,776
Central	27,701
Total	5,007,655

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

