



MONTHLY UPDATE

January-February 2007

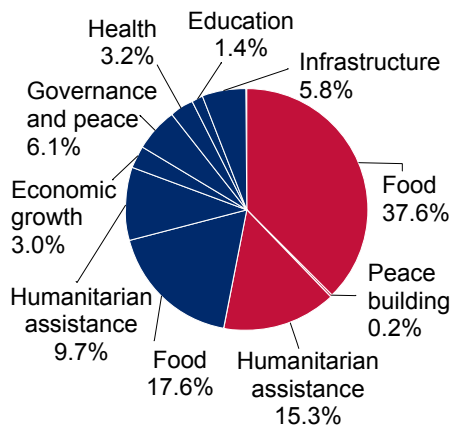
Supporting El Geneina's Recently Displaced

Since early 2007, USAID partners have been working to meet the needs of an influx of newly displaced families who were forced to leave their homes after a recent spate of attacks on their villages, north of El Geneina, West Darfur. "We had to flee because we were beaten," said one new arrival. "We left everything behind, and had to walk for two days to reach here. We hope that here at least we will be safe."

Over the last two months, an estimated 2,500 newly displaced people have arrived in Ardamata camp, and another 1,500 in Durti camp. Having left their homes with few belongings during the peak of the cold season, several spent their nights huddled inside rough shelters made of leaves and grass, without sheets or blankets to protect them from the elements. Some were hurt while fleeing their villages and their injuries had gone untreated. All needed clean water.

Having worked in West Darfur since 2001, and in both Ardamata and Durti since the camps were first established in 2004, Medair was able to respond quickly to make these families more comfortable in their new, unfamiliar camps with support from USAID. Water and sanitation technicians have been working to extend the existing water systems to provide better access to water. To supplement Medair's existing primary health care clinics, a temporary clinic was opened in Ardamata to focus on the specific needs of the newly displaced. Medair is also preparing to assist the local Ministry of Health in providing measles vaccinations, and will construct latrines once a suitable settlement site has been identified for the newcomers.

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.

Displaced youth in Ardamata camp, West Darfur. Photo: USAID





Other USAID partners also responded quickly to help the newly displaced families. Save the Children/US provided food rations and helped repair hand pumps at water points, while Catholic Relief Services provided temporary shelters. Other organizations registered the arrivals, provided them with basic supplies such as water containers and mats, and operated a short-term emergency clinic to care for the many trauma cases seen among the new arrivals.

“It’s encouraging to see the immediate impact of interventions such as these,” said Medair Health Coordinator Rhonda Eikelboom. “With the temporary clinic, these vulnerable new arrivals are able to access healthcare nearby, and are able to bring their children for vaccinations... Meanwhile, the extensions to the water systems have enabled people to collect sufficient clean drinking water near their homes, without having to walk or queue for long periods.” ♦



Youth participate in a peace-building workshop. Photo: USAID

Engaging Youth in Darfur’s Peace Process

The U.S. government worked with the African Union to broker the May 2006 Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) between the Sudanese government and a faction of Darfur’s largest rebel group, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Minni Minawi. One of the DPA’s provisions, the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC), aims to propel the process of reconciliation, and includes a conference that will bring together 1,000 representatives of the Darfurian people to articulate community needs, make future plans, and build support for the DPA.

To help prepare stakeholder groups to participate and advocate effectively at the DDDC conference, USAID

and the U.S. Department of State supported a workshop in South Darfur for 32 youth leaders from nongovernmental organizations, local government, and camps. A key target group in the effort to build support for the DPA, youth will play a crucial role in the DDDC. While some youth seek to effect positive change in their communities, others lead rebel movements and incite disruptions in camps and urban areas. Engaging youth leaders in the peace process and DDDC—and persuading them to organize and articulate their interests and needs in a constructive way—is essential to building community support for a political settlement of the conflict.

The workshop—one of the first of its kind held in Darfur—included sessions on negotiation skills, conflict management, and mediation techniques. It also provided a unique opportunity for youth from urban areas and from camps to interact for the first time and share experiences. On their own initiative, after the workshop was over, the young leaders formed networks to continue the positive momentum, cutting across ethnic, regional, and social lines, based on their common interest in the peace process. ♦

Dialogue Connects Citizens and Government

Before they can become agents for change in their community and their country, citizens must understand political processes and the foundation documents on which they depend. With support from USAID partners Mercy Corps and the National Democratic Institute (NDI), civil society actors throughout Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan) are taking the first steps toward understanding the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and Sudan’s constitutions, and engaging with government officials.

As a result of the success of an August 2006 workshop in Kurmuk, Blue Nile State, Mercy Corps and NDI launched a series of dialogues to bring together civil society organizations and local authorities in each of six strategic regions between November 2006 and February 2007.

The first dialogue was among civil society groups, and discussed the CPA in detail and encouraged further exchange on the role of citizens and organizations in CPA implementation. For many, this was the first



opportunity to discover their potential role in the implementation of the CPA.

A second dialogue was held with local authorities to discuss the CPA and to consider the achievements and challenges their communities have so far faced. Many local officials expressed frustration that communication between levels of government was such a challenge, but that the information shared in the dialogues facilitated their work.

The last dialogue brought the participants from the first two sessions together to discuss peace and democracy in Sudan. While frustration about the pace of CPA implementation remains high, participants used the dialogues as an opportunity to talk instead about their priorities and potential contribution to the process. For government officials, it was a chance to share some of their own challenges and achievements and to discuss partnership with civil society. One government official said, “This forum is for sharing ideas so that we can work together as government and citizens for a lasting peace and stability of our country.”

A civil society member echoed this sentiment. “We leave this meeting understanding frustrations and challenges on both sides; we are now ready to move together to continue to work for this Sudan we have in our hopes.” ♦

Peace Week—and Basketball—Bring Together North and South

On January 9, Sudan celebrated the second anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Peace Week events throughout the country included marches, cultural events, and political rallies, but the celebrations, while jubilant, were muted by concern that not enough has been achieved in implementing the accord. Despite the end of Sudan’s long civil war, its people must overcome a legacy of regional, religious, and ethnic differences as they work to consolidate a peaceful and democratic society.

Peace Week gave youth from North and South Sudan the unique opportunity to meet, build bridges, and to learn and talk about the CPA. USAID seized the occasion to renovate the Youth Multiplex in Juba and coordinate a basketball tournament for youth attending Peace Week events.

Basketball has always been very popular in Sudan, and each night the court’s freshly renovated stands were filled with hundreds of Sudanese fans watching teams from different states in Sudan compete against each other. During the tournament, easy-to-read CPA

Celebrating the CPA

With support from USAID, Sudan Radio Service aired a 30-minute program in January celebrating the second anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Broadcast on shortwave radio countrywide in English, Arabic, and eight Southern Sudanese languages, the program aired the views of senior officials and other Southern Sudanese, including Sudanese First Vice President Salva Kiir, Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly members Joy Kwaje and Jimmy Wongo, community leaders Sadiq Mansour and Joseph Abuk, and political scientist John Gai Yoh.

Pagan Amun, Secretary General of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement, acknowledged that while much has been achieved, much more is expected. “On the issue of the high expectations of our people and the impression that the government and SPLM have failed to deliver, I want to say that...the high expectations that people have... are fine. We have formed the Government of Southern Sudan to achieve those goals. There may be delays. There may even be shortcomings... but rest assured that we shall work to implement our programs.” ♦



CPA celebrations in Juba, January 9, 2007. Photo: NDI



summaries were distributed to spectators. The games where Northern and Southern state teams competed against each other were the highlight of the tournament, showcasing contests that would have been unimaginable just two years ago. ♦



Peace Week events in Juba included a basketball tournament. Photo: USAID

Better Animal Care Builds Food Security

Livestock are a vital source of food and income throughout Southern Sudan, but prolonged insecurity, climate extremes, and limited resources have left communities struggling to maintain their flocks and feed their families. At the same time, people displaced by Sudan's long civil war have begun to return home, further taxing resources. USAID is working with Vétérinaires Sans Frontières/Belgium (VSF) to address these challenges and restore food security for more than 1.7 million people, including nearly 500,000 returnees, throughout Southern Sudan. Programs seek to build local response capacity, improve veterinary services, and increase access to livestock and livestock products. They also specifically seek to improve women's skills to increase their involvement in—and share of gains from—animal production.

To build the skills necessary to address livestock issues as they arise, VSF is helping to increase local capacity to respond to emergency animal health needs, manage scarce resources, and monitor disease outbreaks. In 2006, 169 animal health workers and nearly 300 administrators, chiefs, sub-chiefs, cattle camp leaders, cattle owners, and community animal health workers were trained in these issues. During workshops on natural resource use, migration routes, and conflict mitigation, more

than 275 community leaders discussed resource maps for pasture and water, migration routes, the availability of veterinary services along migration routes, and the sharing of dry season grazing wetlands. With support from USAID, VSF is also working with the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries to support county veterinary offices' capacity to handle epidemiological information.

Training and supervision are improving community veterinary services among animal health workers, poultry keepers, shepherds, and goat herders. In 2006, VSF trained 875 community animal health workers in basic services, and nearly 400 women were trained in poultry and small animal care—a particularly valuable service as many returnees traveled with only poultry and small animals and now depend on them for food and income. VSF provided more than 580,000 vaccinations against livestock diseases and treated more than 218,000 animals for major diseases. Training on the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases—anthrax, rabies, avian influenza—has reinforced other activities by increasing awareness on disease transmission and access to effective treatments. These activities created enough local interest to spur VSF to organize more than 100 workshops for vulnerable returnees and residents in 2006.

USAID's support to VSF also aims to improve access to livestock and livestock products, particularly for female-headed households of returnees and resident communities who have lost their livestock. VSF has provided more than 130 vulnerable households five goats each, and trainings and restocking activities have successfully expanded local capacity to control

Community health workers prepare to treat a sick animal in Southern Sudan. Photo: VSF





From left, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly James Wani Igga, and Minister of Health of the Government of Southern Sudan Dr. Theophilus Ochang. Photo: USAID

Carter Visits Sudan

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn visited Khartoum and Juba February 9-10 to discuss progress in eradicating two of Sudan's most debilitating diseases—Guinea worm and trachoma. The visit to Juba, Carter's first since 1995, included meetings with President of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit, Government of Southern Sudan Minister of Health Dr. Theophilus Ochang Lotti, and Speaker of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly James Wani Igga. Carter and his wife also accompanied Rebecca Garang to lay a wreath at the memorial of Dr. John Garang.

According to the Carter Center, 81 percent of the world's remaining cases of Guinea worm disease occur in Southern Sudan, as a result of the lack of access to safe water and health services. Trachoma, the world's leading cause of preventable blindness, is also prevalent in the South, especially among women and children, for the same reasons.

Carter praised the Ministry of Health's Guinea worm eradication and trachoma control programs, saying, "The dedication and cooperation of government and program officials to greatly reduce incidences of these two ancient afflictions in communities show renewed hope for prosperity and peace in Sudan. The great challenge remains for us to continue efforts to ease unnecessary suffering caused by trachoma, and eradicate Guinea worm disease by 2009. The role of water sector partners is especially important in the fight against these two diseases, both of which reflect inadequate water supply." ♦

the spread of animal diseases, reducing the vulnerability of pastoralist communities throughout Southern Sudan. ♦

Radio Instruction Spreads Throughout the South

Sudan's civil war left the South's educational system lacking both human and structural resources. Radio-based education requires fewer resources and can reach a broader group than traditional bricks-and-mortar schooling—especially in rural areas short on qualified teachers. Radio instruction can also reach more learners faster than other face-to-face methods currently being used.

Indeed, radio-based instruction has shown such promise that, at a planning conference in Rumbek January 31–February 3, the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology endorsed USAID's interactive radio



The education planning conference included participants from all levels of government and the international community. Photo: USAID



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

instruction program and committed to encouraging its use for primary school and English language instruction. During the conference, all of USAID's instructional radio programs were fully integrated into the ministry's annual plans for the Department of Alternative Education Systems.

After demonstrating how interactive radio instruction works, USAID partner Education Development Center announced the launch and expansion of its new program—Teaching English through Radio Based Instruction for All—which began in mid-February. The program uses civic education lessons to teach English to build, simultaneously, literacy and knowledge of the

Comprehensive Peace Agreement, government structures, conflict mitigation strategies, and other information that has been broadcast by the USAID-supported Sudan Radio Service.

Conference participants were very enthusiastic about the radio programs and said they would request that nongovernmental organizations working in their states integrate interactive radio instruction in their education activities. The Minister of Education closed the conference by declaring he would advocate for a Literacy Council under the President's Office to spark broader support for literacy, which is critical to development in Southern Sudan. ♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions



Otash camp, South Darfur. Photo: USAID

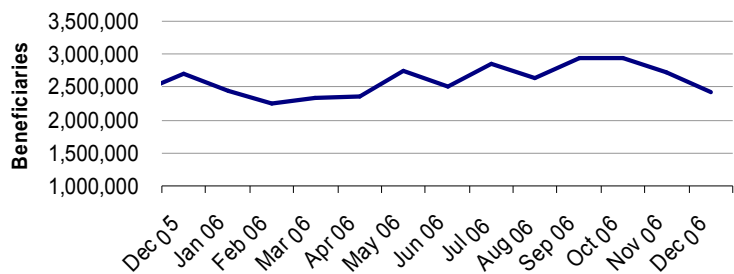
USAID is the leading donor of food assistance to Sudan. Since October 1, 2006, USAID has provided 295,600 metric tons of emergency food aid worth more than \$301 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. During fiscal year 2006, USAID emergency food assistance to Sudan and Eastern Chad amounted to 475,910 metric tons worth nearly \$457.8 million, and accounted for two-thirds of all contributions received for WFP Sudan operations.

WFP Distributions December 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,424,553
South	445,551
East	122,135
Three Areas*	47,279
Central	19,715
Total	3,059,233

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

WFP Distributions - Darfur



WFP Distributions - South, East, and Three Areas

