



MONTHLY UPDATE

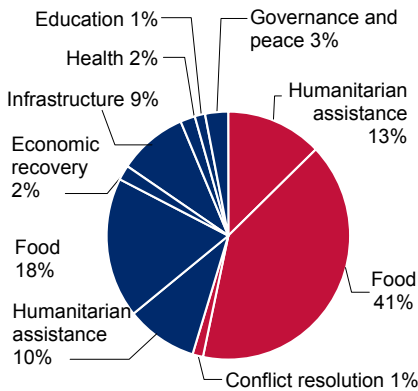
November 2006



Information Improves Maternal Health Among Refugees in Eastern Chad

Displaced women living in the camps of Darfur and Eastern Chad often face serious health problems due to complications during childbirth. Marrying young, many women have their first children during adolescence. Their knowledge of reproductive health is limited, and their bodies, often small and malnourished, are not always ready for motherhood. For the child, the situation can result in developmental disabilities, and for the mother it can lead to debilitating, long-term health problems, such as fistula and incontinence. In some cases complications are made worse because many women are reluctant to seek outside medical assistance, preferring to give birth at home with a traditional birth attendant.

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

The Chadian and Darfuran refugee journalists at the USAID-funded Radio Absoun in Iriba, Chad, which is funded by USAID through Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's Initiative to Combat Violence Against Women,



A journalism trainee for Radio Absoun interviews a Darfuran refugee in Iriba, Eastern Chad. Photo: USAID

recognized the extent of the problem and addressed it in Zaghawa, French, and Arabic on its weekly radio show, "To Your Health." The show, which broadcasts into three refugee camps and surrounding communities, featured an interview with a Chadian doctor on the medical consequences of complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Radio Absoun's newscasts covered the subject as well.

Within a few months, health professionals working with Médecins sans Frontières noted a marked increase in the number of refugee women coming to camp clinics for prenatal counseling and to give birth. They also saw fewer complications—and healthier women and healthier babies in the camps.

USAID's support for this program is part of a larger effort to combat violence against women in Darfur and Eastern Chad. ♦



A Day in the Life: Saving a Mother and Child

Despite the spiraling insecurity and violence that continues in Darfur, USAID partner Save the Children/US provides health services to more than 600,000 internally displaced and conflict-affected people in West Darfur. A day in the life of Save the Children's health workers illustrates the dedication and courage of aid workers throughout the region—and reiterates the vital importance of their work.

On July 20 a Save the Children ambulance carrying two staff members, a pregnant woman named Hanan, and four of Hanan's relatives departed Foro Baranga, West Darfur, for the state capital, Geneina. Hanan was in labor and had started having complications when it became apparent she needed to be treated at the larger hospital in Geneina. "Hanan had been in labor already for more than twelve hours and was in critical condition," said Gadeeda, a midwife who recently received refresher training through a USAID-supported Save the Children program. "The baby was lying transversely in the uterus and had a hand protruding outside the birth canal. It was obvious that if Hanan was not taken to a hospital for [a Caesarean section], both she and her baby would die."

After less than an hour on the road, the ambulance was ambushed by three armed men, who shot out the

Midwife Gadeeda weighs Hanan's new son at a hospital in Geneina, West Darfur. Photo: Save the Children/US



Women in Mornei, West Darfur, attend training that addresses primary health care and midwife issues. Photo: Save the Children/US

vehicle's rear light. The assailants beat the male passengers with sticks and pulled off the women's veils, accusing them of hiding money under their clothes. They also threatened to rape one of the women. All the passengers except for Hanan were ordered to lie on the ground while the assailants looted the vehicle. "Finally one of them said they had planned to kill us all, but since we were with a sick woman they would let us live," said Gadeeda. "We were all quickly pushed into the car, ordered to leave and never to come back. We drove away."

The group reached the town of Mornei at around 6:00 pm, but by then Hanan's condition was critical. The doctor determined that she had to continue the rest of the way to Geneina. "We were losing hope for the baby," said Gadeeda. "Sometimes we could hear a faint heartbeat. Sometimes there was none, which meant that the baby was in distress, if it was even alive. At that point in time, Hanan was our main concern since we thought it may have been too late for the baby already. We were all hoping to at least save Hanan's life.

"We reached Geneina hospital at 2:00 am," Gadeeda continued. "Immediately, the doctor on duty ordered Hanan to be prepared for surgery. Finally, at 3:00 am a baby boy was born. To everyone's surprise he was alive. His heartbeat was weak and his hand was completely swollen, but the doctor assured us that he would be fine and attended to him. I was so relieved that after all we'd been through, we were able to save both the lives of the mother and child."

By the next day, Hanan was in strong spirits, saying, "I thank God and Save the Children that I could have my baby alive."♦



Translating the DPA

Though the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) was signed in May 2006, it remains largely inaccessible to most of Darfur's people. It has been officially translated into Arabic and English, and exceeds 100 pages—but most Darfurians speak neither language. They are more culturally tied to local languages, and past experience shows that local groups are more likely to identify with political developments if they are available to them in the vernacular.

USAID responded to this critical gap in the practical implementation of the DPA by producing audio summaries of the agreement in three of Darfur's seven main local languages: Zaghawa, Fur, and Masalit. The five-page summaries and translations, which were independently verified to ensure accuracy and validity, have been aired on state radio in Nyala, South Darfur. USAID also funded the production of 6,000 audio cassettes of the summaries for wide distribution throughout the region. Audio tapes are a highly effective medium in Darfur, and are used frequently by local groups to disseminate messages. USAID worked with a UK media consultancy to produce the written and oral summaries in an effort to increase access to reliable information about the DPA among Darfur's people. ♦

Learning New Approaches to Teaching in the South

Shaban Ladeu has taught at Haddow Primary School in Maridi, Western Equatoria, since 2001. A teacher since 1981, Shaban is a dedicated educator; until the Government of Southern Sudan began paying teachers' salaries this year, Shaban worked without remuneration, only occasionally receiving a small allowance culled from students' tuition fees.

The 80 students in his first grade class range in age from 6 to 12, and most began their formal education only this year. Many have just returned to Maridi with their families, who fled to other parts of the country during Sudan's long civil war. Shaban teaches his classes in Juba Arabic, the only language common among his students, who are from a range of different tribes and linguistic groups.

Unlike many other schools in the area which conduct lessons under a tree, Haddow holds its classes in a school room built in 2003—one of the many recent signs of positive change in Southern Sudan. The



Students at Haddow Primary School in Maridi show the answer to a math question during a radio lesson. Photo: EDC

signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement ended the years of war between the North and South; the establishment of the Southern Sudan Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology is helping build long-term capacity in the educational system; a new primary school curriculum is standardizing what students learn; and the payment of salaries is helping retain experienced teachers and attract new ones. But in his daily work, Shaban says the biggest transformation came through the introduction of USAID's Learning Village.

Part of USAID's effort to improve education in Southern Sudan, Learning Village uses the radio to reach learners, broadcasting daily lessons in local language literacy, English literacy, and mathematics. Shaban participated in USAID's interactive radio instruction training in March, along with 32 other first and second grade teachers from the Maridi area. To date, 542 teachers have been trained throughout Southern Sudan. The training, implemented by USAID partner Educational Development Center (EDC), focuses on how to operate the shortwave radio and deliver the radio lessons in the classroom.

Already knowledgeable in course content, Shaban says that the greatest impact the Learning Village training program had on him was its affect on how he approaches teaching. Shaban's former teaching style consisted of standing in front of the group and talking to them and writing information on the board while the students copied it. He remembers that he used to be stricter and more serious, tending to use traditional discipline in the classroom to achieve control. He also



says his students were disruptive, disorganized, and inattentive.

But with USAID’s tools and training, Shaban says he has learned to be a better teacher. He prepares more effectively for each lesson, presenting lessons more systematically and creatively and soliciting the class’s active participation. His students work in pairs and small groups, and they participate in discussions and competitions that Shaban develops to encourage them to demonstrate what they are learning. As a result, he says, “My pupils are eager to attend, pay close attention to me and the radio teacher, and best of all, they do much better in their school work.”

For example, Shaban had never taught his students songs before, but he has found that singing helps the children to remember their lessons and have fun learning. He says that his students can read better than ever before—they can identify letters and read words in the local language, and have increased their English vocabulary and comprehension better and faster than any other group of students he has taught.

Enjoying lessons is a totally new concept for Shaban. “I used to think that school should be a place for discipline and obedience. Now I understand that children should have fun learning.”

Teachers in other grades have started to copy Shaban’s approach, and not only do they like the new methods, but their students also enjoy learning and parents have become enthusiastic fans as well. News of USAID program has spread throughout the area and parents have started to transfer their children into Haddow so that they too can benefit from this new approach toward teaching and learning. ♦

Upper Nile: Rehabilitating the University

Sudan’s two-decade civil war prevented Upper Nile University in Malakal from receiving enough funds to maintain its existing infrastructure, much less acquire new equipment and technical resources. Many key faculties, including medical and nursing staff, were relocated to Khartoum, where facilities were more suitable—but which also deprived the people of Upper Nile State of qualified health workers and other specialists.

Malakal is one of many urban centers in Southern Sudan suffering from a lack of capacity. A government garrison town and site of active militia during the civil



The renovated student center at the University of Upper Nile now hosts lively debates on current events. Photo: USAID

war, Malakal and its surroundings became home to thousands of displaced villagers. Access for humanitarian agencies was severely restricted due to landmines. Since the war ended, access has opened up, but sanitation is poor and clean water remains a luxury. In Malakal, peace is still fragile.

USAID recently administered four grants through its partner Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI) to help Upper Nile University begin to reestablish its fundamental services. Work included rehabilitating and expanding the university medical clinic and student center; providing eight blocks of toilets; and supplying a water pump and water purification equipment. With these new resources, the medical clinic will not only meet the local population’s basic health needs, but will also train a new generation of doctors and nurses for the future. The student center is now being used as a space for seminars, political rallies, and exhibitions; according to the Secretary General of the University Student Union, the student center has already served as a venue for lively debates on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the conflict in Darfur. And the water and sanitation improvements ensure a healthy environment conducive to higher learning.

Two thousand university students and faculty members will benefit directly from the rehabilitation work, while improved higher educational facilities will benefit the community as a whole. Improvements to the university also foster hope for sustained peace, as the institute serves as a symbol of stability for the local community. ♦



Upper Nile: Reconstructing Local Government

Since the formation of the Government of Southern Sudan in 2005, Southern Sudanese have faced the considerable challenge of building an entire government from the ground up. During Sudan’s two-decade civil war, the few local government office buildings that existed were neglected and fell into disrepair. By the time the war ended, most were unusable, making it difficult to begin reestablishing local governance systems. Throughout Southern Sudan, USAID is supporting local officials through a program that hires returnees and local residents to construct new facilities and repair existing office buildings. The newly renovated office buildings are meant to be a sign of the positive changes resulting from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement—improving local government capacity while supporting jobs for vulnerable people.



USAID worked with the Nasir county commissioner and other officials to improve local government buildings. Photo: USAID

In Greater Upper Nile, USAID partner Norwegian People’s Aid is working with several local organizations to make small, quick-impact improvements to the offices of local authorities in Nasir, Ulang, Akobo, Waat, and Duk counties.

The Nasir county offices were the first completed through the

program, under the leadership of the Nasir Community Development Association (NCDA). The organization repaired an office building constructed during the British colonial period and built two new rooms. NCDA procured materials in Kosti, White Nile State, arranged road transport, and hired a skilled construction supervisor. The efforts capitalized on and benefited from the construction skills of returnees, who had spent decades working in the construction business while displaced in Khartoum.

The Akobo County Commissioner’s office is also slated to be finished in the coming months. In Duk,

Ulang, and Waat counties, where no office facilities exist, plans call for the construction of two-room buildings once the dry season begins in January. ♦

Reforming Company and Investment Law

A commercial legal framework is crucial to the development of a vibrant private sector. In Southern Sudan, this framework is currently governed by the Companies Act 2003 and the Investment Act 2004, both of which were enacted by the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement before the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the establishment of the Government of Southern Sudan in 2005.

In view of the urgent need to revise these acts, USAID partner Bearing Point assisted the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development in hosting a three-day workshop in late September to discuss reforms. The workshop, which was opened by Minister of Legal Affairs Michael Makuei, was attended by 55 people, including representatives from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, the Ministry of Commerce, the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, legal experts from each of the ten Southern states, and representatives of the private sector.

Over the course of the workshop, participants familiarized themselves with the provisions of the existing acts, as well as international best practices and reforms undertaken in other countries. Group discussions were varied, covering such topics as the need to encourage economic development through

Government and private sector officials attended a workshop on reforming Southern Sudan’s commercial legal framework. Photo: BearingPoint





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the creation of a friendly business environment, the security concerns of Southern Sudan, the role of the Government of Southern Sudan and state governments in business regulations, and obstacles to implementation. Participants also identified legislative gaps and overlaps that must be addressed in order to establish a comprehensive commercial legal framework in Southern Sudan.

Participants enthusiastically presented their views on the need for reform, and they unanimously agreed that while the Southern Sudanese legal tradition should be respected and preserved, international best practices should be reflected in new laws. The participants approved three resolutions charging the Ministry of Legal Affairs with the responsibility for further review of Southern Sudan's company and investment laws, business licensing procedures, and visa and work permit requirements, which will be presented at the next national assembly session. The participants also recommended that additional workshops be held to facilitate consensus-building by stakeholders. ♦

Training Civilian Leaders

As a result of Sudan's long civil war, leadership became largely associated with military practices and behaviors. Recognizing the need to change this culture to be more oriented toward public service, the Ministry of Labor, Public Service, and Human Resource Development is working with USAID partner Bearing Point to organize "Leadership for Senior Public Managers" seminars for officials in the Government of Southern Sudan.

The federal- and state-level events aim to support the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) in its transition from a military movement to a responsive and transparent government. An 'action-learning' approach was used at the most recent training for senior state officials that focused on the recently prepared GOSS 200 Day Action Plan. The state planners and managers applied their learning by developing a Vision and Action Plan for their respective states, focusing on state-level development needs and service-oriented objectives. ♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions

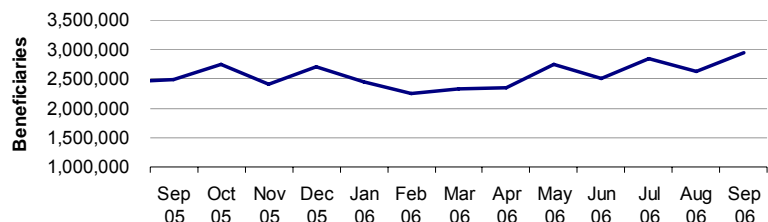
Since the start of fiscal year 2007, USAID has provided 201,830 metric tons of emergency food aid worth \$190.5 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. During fiscal year 2006, USAID emergency food assistance to Sudan and eastern Chad amounted to 475,910 metric tons worth nearly \$457.8 million.

WFP Distributions September 2006

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,636,443
South	1,017,193
East	252,894
Three Areas*	337,031
Central	19,269
Total	4,262,830

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

WFP Distributions - Darfur



WFP Distributions - South, East, and Three Areas

