



MONTHLY UPDATE

September 2007

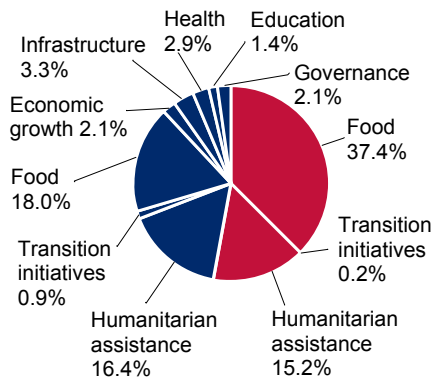


Flood Response Continues

In Upper Nile, Jonglei, and Unity states, more than 87,000 people have been affected by this summer's devastating floods. More than 4,400 families were displaced in Maiwut, Maban, and Longechuk counties in eastern Upper Nile State alone, and some counties have lost as much as 90 percent of their crops. In small communities such as Pagak along the Sudan-Ethiopia border, where women walk for up to six hours to access markets in Ethiopia, many people have been cut off from their lifeline of goods and supplies. People who have recently returned to the area after years in Ethiopian refugee camps are especially hard hit, having few local resources to draw upon.

Through partners such as Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), USAID is working to provide life-saving assistance to these areas and other remote corners of Sudan. With USAID support, NPA is conducting targeted airlifts to help flood-affected communities survive until the roads are passable and goods can again flow into the area. NPA's deliveries of USAID-funded food commodities and supplies—such as blankets, plastic sheeting, mosquito nets, and fishing kits—are expected to play an important role in mitigating the effects of future rains and helping these communities recover. Fishing kits, for example, are given to families that have lost their crops, as fish can provide an important replacement source of protein.

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN FY2006, ESTIMATED



Darfur 52.8%

Humanitarian assistance:	\$108.270 million
Transition initiatives:	\$1.400 million
Food:	\$266.110 million
Darfur:	\$375.780 million

South, East, and Three Areas 47.2%

Humanitarian assistance:	\$116.520 million
Transition initiatives:	\$6.660 million
Food:	\$127.807 million
Economic growth:	\$15.120 million
Governance:	\$14.850 million
Health:	\$22.692 million
Education:	\$10.250 million
Infrastructure:	\$23.350 million
South, East, and Three Areas:	\$335.249 million
Countrywide Total:	\$711.029 million

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



An NPA plane takes off from Pagak to deliver food and supplies to flood-affected communities. Photo: USAID



Khartoum Flood Relief

Home to 15,000 displaced people, Mayo Farms is the camp most hard-hit by the rains in Khartoum state. Since July, USAID partners SUDO and the U.N. Joint Logistics Center distributed supplies—blankets, water containers, and plastic sheeting—to help households cope with the inundation. To prevent the accumulation of standing water, which can threaten structures and public health, the Sudanese Government has initiated efforts to dig drainage canals, and USAID partner CARE has organized food-for-work trench digging projects. Because of these activities, conditions in the camp have greatly improved.

Left: USAID partners distribute relief items at Mayo Farms on September 6. Photo: USAID

The rains have not only closed the roads, but also rendered many dirt airstrips unlandable, challenging relief organizations to develop flexible approaches to providing assistance. On August 16, NPA loaded food onto a plane at its base in Pagak, intended for Longechuk county. The plane tried unsuccessfully to land in five locations that day, but had to turn back after finding them all too inundated to touch down. The next day, NPA set off again and finally found a landable airstrip in Udier *payam*, where it delivered more than 4 metric tons of food to hungry residents. ♦

2,000 pregnant women die for every 100,000 live births.

To battle these disheartening statistics, USAID has been working with the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Health since 2005 to strengthen health systems and manage the workforce. One of the initiatives being supported is a novel program to repatriate, train, and deploy qualified medical doctors from the diaspora.

When 600 children between 9 and 12 years old fled Southern Sudan in 1986, they found themselves in

Reversing Brain Drain: Diaspora Doctors Return

One of the largest obstacles to improving health in Africa is the difficulty in finding skilled people to staff clinics and hospitals. The continent suffers from an acute shortage and inequitable distribution of qualified health workers. In Southern Sudan, the situation is dire. There are less than 200 doctors for the 10 million people living there, and a daunting epidemiological profile characterized by high or rising rates of malaria, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, and a host of neglected tropical diseases including river blindness, guinea worm, sleeping sickness, and kala-azar.

As a result, Southern Sudan has some of the worst health indicators in the world. One out of four children dies before turning five years old, and more than



Sudanese doctors who had been living in Canada arrived in Juba in October 2006. Photo: USAID



Cuba, where 15 went on to complete medical training before being granted asylum in Canada. However, none were licensed to practice medicine there and many supported themselves by working as taxi drivers or gardeners. In early 2006, USAID partner Samaritan's Purse identified this group of doctors and arranged for them to be repatriated to Sudan after undergoing an intensive clinical internship in Kenya.

In October 2006, the doctors arrived in Juba to an enthusiastic welcome that included a private meeting with Salva Kiir, the president of the Government of Southern Sudan. For many of the group, coming home for the first time in 20 years proved an emotional experience that began to fulfill their wish to use their skills to help rebuild their war-ravaged country. "We are back to complete the mission our hero, [the] late Dr. John Garang, sent us for," said Dr. Daniel Madit.

They spent three weeks in Juba reconnecting with family and country, then flew to Kenya to begin their

year-long training program, which was designed with the Kenyan Medical Board to effectively address both theoretical and practical knowledge gaps. The program was tailored specifically to this group because of the many unique challenges they faced: they had not practiced medicine for many years, their medical education had been conducted in Spanish, and many still suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

But they are determined to complete the training this year and return to make a difference in the lives of their people. "Although there are many challenges, our objective is to help our people," said Dr. Thon Duop, who is concentrating on assisting Sudanese children.

"I want to help them have the childhood that I did not experience. I want to watch them grow up healthy—to care for their medical needs and to care for their mothers' and fathers' medical needs. That will make me happy."♦

Saving a Mother and Her Newborn

Khadija, 22, and her husband live in Mornei camp in West Darfur. Like all Darfuri women, when she became pregnant with her first child last year, Khadija planned to deliver the baby at home with traditional birthing assistants. However, during labor she started to experience severe pain and heavy bleeding. Her husband was very worried and brought her to the camp clinic, run by USAID partner Save the Children. When the clinic's obstetrics team assessed her condition, they found that she had a *placenta previa*—a condition in which the placenta obstructs the birth canal. The only way to save the lives of both Khadija and her baby would be an emergency caesarean section at the regional hospital—a four-hour drive away along rough dirt roads rife with bandits.

While the ambulance was readied, the clinic laboratories tested family members' blood to find a match for Khadija. Then the ambulance took Khadija, her husband, and the relative with a matching blood type to the regional hospital. There, several hours later, Khadija gave birth to a healthy boy by caesarian section, and had a successful blood transfusion. "During the transfer to the hospital, I was very frightened because there are very dangerous bandits on that road," she said. "But now I am thankful for the ambulance service, because it saved my life."

The obstetrics team talked to Khadija about family planning, and she has opted to use birth control for a few years. "I was in so much pain during delivery that I am using family planning for now. Maybe I'll be ready for a second child in three years' time."

Save the Children has established 21 primary health care clinics in West Darfur, serving the health needs of more than 230,000 children and their families. All of the clinics contain a reproductive health unit, and there are four basic emergency obstetric care units and five laboratories. So far, Save the Children has handed over the management of 11 clinics to the West Darfur State Ministry of Health.♦





Teacher Training Program Thrives in Raga

Raga is a remote town in Western Bahr el Ghazal, 210 miles northwest of Wau—a two-day trip over very bad roads.

In May and June, Raga was one of 20 sites chosen to base for USAID's Fast-Track Teacher Training Program. Spearheaded by the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, the Fast-Track Program was designed to train the thousands of new teachers needed to meet sharply increasing demand for primary education throughout Southern Sudan. USAID partner Academy for Educational Development (AED) implemented the first cycle of the program, which trained 1,228 new teachers—about 120 in each southern state.

Raga turned out to be both typical and extraordinary in its implementation of the Fast-Track Program. Like each of the 19 other centers, Raga successfully trained 60 new teachers over a five-week course. However, unlike many other centers, Raga had excellent female representation among its pupils—half of the 60 trainees, were women. In addition, 30 more women who could not be officially admitted were allowed to participate informally. The women trained in Raga were also better educated than the trainees at other center; in Raga, more than 80 percent of the women had completed secondary school.

How do the trainers account for this? According to Solomon Manyang, the Fast-Track mobile team supervisor in Raga, there are two main factors that



*Sixty new teachers were trained in Raga's five-week course.
Photo: USAID*

account for the Raga success. First, many families stayed in Raga during Sudan's civil war, and unlike much of the south, education continued to be available throughout the conflict, resulting in a greater proportion of schooled candidates. In addition, Manyang reports, officials at the County Education Department actively encourage women and girls to attend and complete both primary and secondary school. The department also strongly promoted the Fast-Track Program specifically to women.

The state Ministry of Education says it is very pleased with Raga's success in recruiting women and has vowed to duplicate the approach to the program elsewhere in the state.♦

Unity State: Building Coalitions

While the peace brought about by the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) has been felt by most residents of Southern Sudan and the Three Areas, most still know little about the actual agreement or its contents. With the national elections approaching in 2009 and the referendum on unity in 2011, the CPA is a vital document that citizens will need to learn about and understand in order to make informed choices.

To help spread the word, five grassroots community groups in Leer County, Unity State, have formed a coalition that is disseminating the CPA and updating communities on the progress it is making. Formed with the support of USAID and its partners Mercy Corps and International Rescue Committee, the Leer Civic Education Forum is holding public meetings with community groups and conducting CPA dialogue sessions to raise awareness of current issues and encourage the emergence of a vibrant civil society. The sessions are conducted with assistance from USAID partners the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Internews community radio stations and target women and vulnerable groups.

"When we combine our thoughts and energy, we can be effective in our response to issues affecting our community and South Sudan," said Leer Forum member Jeremiah Gatnor.

The coalition in Leer—along with similar groups that coalesced in Aweil East, Aweil North, and Mayom—developed out of a USAID-sponsored training on coalition building held in Malual Kon in April. The four



The chairwoman of the Leer Forum speaks to members of the coalition. Photo: Mercy Corps

coalitions now advocate for issues ranging from girls education to land distribution for returnees.

A local county official in Aweil East said the coalitions provide an important foundation that local communities could sustain. “The government can stand together with Mercy Corps and IRC partners to ensure that this coalition should be a sustainable relationship,” he said. “Even if USAID stops funding, the government needs to stand with the coalition because it is easy to address community issues through coalitions.”

The county official’s view not only is a positive sign for the future of active grassroots advocacy, but also for the potential that citizens’ voices will be heard. Other ongoing civic engagement initiatives supported by USAID address Southern Sudan’s draft land law, disseminate information on the upcoming census, and provide information on state constitutions.♦

Land Law Dialogues Embrace Community Voices

As Sudan emerges from war and begins to develop institutions and legal frameworks, its citizens have a unique opportunity to participate in the establishment of their democracy. And their engagement is particularly important on issues that have the potential to create conflict—and few are more central than land.

Land is a both precious resource and a potential flashpoint in Sudan. In many communities, disputes are common over ownership and use of land for living, farming, and grazing. The 2005 Comprehensive

Peace Agreement created the Southern Sudan Land Commission (SSLC) to arbitrate disputes and recommend revisions to existing legislation so that the law is brought into line with customary practice as well as international norms.

With this in mind, four USAID partners—the National Democratic Institute (NDI), Mercy Corps, the International Rescue Committee, and Pact—worked with the SSLC to hold dialogues on land issues throughout Southern Sudan and ensure that the voices of communities were heard and considered in the land law drafting process.

Twenty USAID-sponsored dialogues took place over three weeks in August, bringing together more than 400 participants from civil society, local government, traditional authorities, and key stakeholders such as women, youth, and people displaced by the war. The dialogues aimed to increase understanding of the land law drafting process and provide a forum for communities to discuss land issues, while allowing the SSLC to get a snapshot of how citizens feel about land issues that would inform its decisions.

The first part of the dialogue taught participants about the land law’s context, from the land provisions included in the CPA to the role of the SSLC, and provided a wealth of information about customary law and traditional practices. The second part of the dialogue posed a series of questions to elicit citizen views and recurring concerns, including the women’s inheritance rights and the sharing of pasture and water resources.

While participants expressed apprehension about the potential for land conflict and fear about the lack of



In Rumbek, women sing during a community dialogue on land laws. Photo: NDI



information on the new law, they also said they were relieved to be involved in the process and appreciated the SSLC's efforts to ensure participation. In Rumbek, some participants said they had never before been involved in a law-making process, and that this remarkable opportunity was a dividend of the CPA. Women attending the meeting sang, "We will ask our leaders that there is no need to shed blood for the land any more; violence is not good; Let's negotiate for the land if we need it."

More detailed participant responses were compiled into a written report and presented to the SSLC in early September, and NDI will compile an audio report based on comments and questions recorded during the dialogues.

In the coming months, USAID's partners will continue their work with the SSLC to follow the land law process and ensure that participants are informed about the results. Then, once the land law is adopted, NDI, working with USAID partner Sudan Radio Service, will broadcast a special episode of the "Let's Talk" radio program, to inform citizens of the details of the law and its implications for citizens. ♦

Do You Know Your Government?

What do the members of a state assembly do? Which government agency is in charge of city trash collection? How does the government oversee companies who want to exploit natural resources? "Know Your Government," a new radio program funded by USAID, aims to answer these questions and more for Sudanese citizens.

Starting August 30, the program has been airing weekly in both English and simple Arabic on Sudan Radio Service, an independent broadcaster funded by USAID. The first "Know Your Government" program featured an interview with the Government of Southern Sudan's Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Samson Kwaje. His ministry is in charge of state radio and television stations, as well as setting media policy, and as government spokesperson, Kwaje represents the public face of the government. During the program, Kwaje explained the function and organization of his ministry, and described how it has fared in reaching its goals this year. He also talked about the proposed Freedom of Information bill set to be presented for debate in the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly, and how



*A journalist from the Sudan Radio Service interviews Salva Kiir, the president of the Government of Southern Sudan.
Photo: SRS*

Sudanese citizens can access public information from other government entities.

Each "Know Your Government" program will follow a similar format, focusing on one government office. An official will explain what his or her agency does, how it is organized, whether or not it has met its annual goals, how the agency relates to other government offices, and how citizens can obtain more information. Upcoming programs include interviews with the Minister of Energy and Mining, the speaker of a state assembly, and a city councilperson.

By providing the public with information about how the government works, USAID hopes to promote an informed and active citizenry that can interact more easily with their representatives. In addition, while many government officials are wary of the media and uncomfortable with sharing information, "Know Your Government" will provide them the opportunity to gain experience interacting with the media in a non-threatening environment. Breaking the habit of secrecy is another vital part creating a transparent and accountable government. ♦

Partners Finalize Census Manuals

After the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics, and Evaluation (SSCCSE) was established as the autonomous statistical bureau of the Government of Southern Sudan. With support



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from USAID, the commission collects and analyzes data for surveys and censuses, and today, its findings are the basis the GOSS uses to allocate political representation, plan policy, and develop programs.

The Census Technical Working Group, an assembly of local and international parties involved in Sudan's upcoming census, held its last meeting in Rumbek July 25-28. Immediately following the meeting, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a USAID partner, went to work with the northern Central Bureau of Statistics, the SCCSE, and UN Population Fund to finalize the

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manuals that will be used by the census workers.

Working group comments were incorporated into four key handbooks: Short Form Questionnaire Enumerator's Manual, Long Form Questionnaire Enumerator's Manual, Supervisor's Manual, and Training Manual. On completion, English and Arabic versions of the manuals went to print on August 31, to ensure that they would be available for the first round of training for census workers, which begins November 25. The national census enumeration is now scheduled for February 2-16, 2008. ♦

World Food Program Sudan Distributions



Food distribution in Kalma camp, South Darfur. Photo: USAID

USAID is the leading donor of food assistance to Sudan. Since October 1, 2006, USAID has provided 391,900 metric tons of emergency food aid worth more than \$393 million to Sudan and Sudanese refugees in Eastern Chad. Approximately 75 percent of this total goes toward feeding displaced people and refugees in Darfur and Eastern Chad, where conflict continues to disrupt food security. The remaining 25 percent is allocated to people in Southern Sudan, Eastern Sudan, Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan, where food aid continues to play a vital role in supporting returnees to Southern Sudan and helping communities recover from two decades of civil conflict.

WFP Distributions July 2007	
Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	3,111,362
South	607,876
East	85,826
Three Areas*	159,876
Central	39,631
Total	4,004,571

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

