



MONTHLY UPDATE

August 2007

USAID Responds to Flood Emergency

On August 8 and 9, USAID airlifted 1,300 rolls of plastic sheeting to Khartoum to help provide temporary shelter for 78,000 people affected by recent, severe flooding in northern and eastern Sudan.

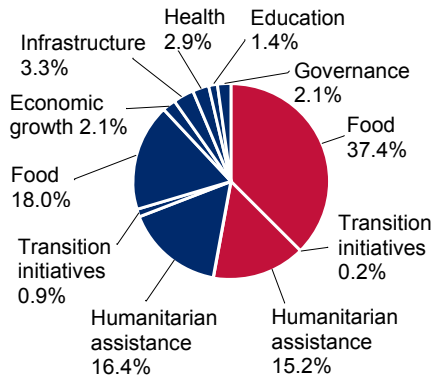
U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Alberto M. Fernandez requested the \$500,000 worth of materials and reiterated the United States’ long-term commitment to Sudanese people in need. “The U.S. Government is pleased to provide additional shelter materials to those who have lost their homes and livelihoods in the recent flooding,” he said. “The U.S. continues to be committed to providing life-saving humanitarian assistance to the people of Sudan.”

The Undersecretary for the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Charles Manyang, accepted the material on behalf of the Government of Sudan, and expressed his gratitude to the United States and its partners.

The plastic sheeting will be distributed via the Common Humanitarian Pipeline, a quick-response distribution network established in 2004 and managed by the U.N. Joint Logistics Center with support from UNICEF and CARE. Largely supported by the U.S. Government, this distribution mechanism can quickly respond to emergency needs throughout Sudan and has played a vital role in ensuring that lifesaving materials, like plastic sheeting, cooking sets, and mosquito nets, arrive rapidly to areas in need. The Common Pipeline has



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.



Kassala residents, displaced by flooding, set up temporary shelters on the side of a road. Photo: USAID



On August 8, workers unloaded plastic sheeting shipped in response to recent, severe flooding. Photo: USAID

already rushed material to nine flood-affected states in northern Sudan, benefiting more than 200,000 people.

Speaking on behalf of the Common Pipeline partners, UNICEF representative Ted Chaiban emphasized the importance of effective collaboration, saying, “In emergencies, it is critical that there is a speedy and appropriate response to meet immediate needs. This is being achieved in Sudan’s flood-affected regions, because the government, the international community, the U.N., and the nongovernmental organizations have worked together. We remain committed to this spirit of partnership, to better serve those affected by this emergency.”

USAID is continuing to monitor the situation and will provide additional assistance as needed. ♦

Conference Boosts Coordination in Urban Development

More than 90 urban planners, development experts, and private stakeholders met in Juba on July 24–26 to discuss how to help the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) manage urgent development projects that support the region’s peaceful transition and encourage the assimilation of returnees and refugees.

Organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing, Lands, and Public Utilities, the Southern Sudan Town Planning Conference was the culmination of a two-year town planning project implemented by USAID partner Creative Associates

International, Inc. For the first time in Southern Sudan, governors, ministers, and senior civil servants were able to gather to reveal and discuss the condition of physical infrastructure in their states. The conference also allowed them to present their vision for development and voice concerns to government officials over the shortcomings of public administration and the legal framework to manage land allocation.

Professor Mark Swilling gave the conference’s first speech, presenting a long-term perspective on managing development. Now at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, Swilling helmed the creation of new training systems for public management during the South African government reform after the fall of apartheid. Since that time, he has helped other African countries benefit from this experience.

Theresa Sivicio Iro, the Government of National Unity Minister for Environment and Physical Development, commended the conference’s effort and offered assistance toward urban development from the national government. Iro was accompanied by experts who presented lessons learned from the development of Khartoum and introduced environmental issues significant to Sudan’s wetlands.

The conference’s smaller breakout sessions focused on ways to help initiate and govern development that involved not only the private sector, but also the communities and the planning and management frameworks. One session explored how best to maintain adequate thresholds of quality in development despite severe resource constraints.



More than 90 people gathered in Juba for the three-day Southern Sudan Town Planning Conference. Photo: Creative Associates



USAID Announces New Mission Director for Sudan

On July 10, USAID Acting Deputy Administrator James Kunder swore in Patrick Fleuret as the new USAID Mission Director for Sudan. Fleuret, until recently, was the Director of the USAID Mission in Nigeria. He succeeds Katherine Almquist, who is now serving as USAID's Assistant Administrator for Africa.

"Patrick has been focused on Africa for over 20 years and is one of our true experts. His taking charge of this challenging mission will benefit both the U.S. effort in Sudan and the people of Sudan," said Kunder at the Washington, DC, ceremonies.

Fleuret will manage the largest USAID program in Sub-Saharan Africa totaling over \$700 million in fiscal year 2006. The complex program provides extensive humanitarian and food aid to vulnerable people in southern and eastern Sudan and Darfur, as well as extensive reconstruction assistance in the war-affected south and the Three Areas of Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.



James Kunder (right) swore in Patrick Fleuret as mission director for Sudan on July 10. Photo: USAID

Prior to this assignment, Fleuret was the Director of the Office of Southern Africa Affairs at USAID headquarters in Washington, DC, Deputy Mission Director for the USAID Mission in Uganda, a Project Development Supervisor in Tanzania and a Behavioral Science Officer in Kenya. He has both a Bachelor's degree and a PhD from the University of California, Santa Barbara. ♦

The conference also enabled international donors, including the World Bank and European Union, to become more familiar with Southern Sudan's needs.

"It is often said that Southern Sudan does not have competent specialists," said USAID's Boutros Magaya. "This conference proves it is not true—there are very competent and experienced people on each level of administration. The problem is rather that there is not enough of them in this very demanding time of transition."

Most participants emphasized the need to have access to reliable planning information, to ensure transparent budgeting, and to increase the involvement of women. In addition, each state's representative emphasized the need to build local capacity to manage physical development. The Ministry of Housing, Labor, and Public Works announced that coordination meetings between the states and GOSS will become routine events, beginning with the minister and senior staff embarking on a mission to visit all 10 Southern states.

Creative Associates' Hans-Christian Vejby said he was impressed with the enthusiasm and realism which

characterized the conference. "There is a long way forward, and international support is necessary, but this conference has shown that the leadership can take the management into their own hands," he said. ♦

Sanitation Workshop Aims to Improve Public Health

On June 13-14, USAID supported a two-day workshop in Juba to improve urban environmental health in Southern Sudan. The goal of the event was to explore practical options for improving sanitation and solid waste disposal in Juba, based on current knowledge and practice in similar African urban areas. With these building blocks, attendees sought solutions that simultaneously addressed public health concerns, targeted the needs of low-income communities, worked within the available human and financial resources, and mobilized community and household resources for on-site sanitation.

Organized by USAID partner DAI, the event was co-hosted by the Central Equatoria State Ministry of



Physical Infrastructure and the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) Ministries of Health, Housing, and Lands and Public Utilities. Government officials, donors, nongovernmental organizations, and private sector partners from multiple sectors attended.

Speakers made presentations on a range of different aspects of sanitation, stimulating far-reaching discussions that were used during breakout sessions to generate recommendations for next steps.

The meeting produced a list of ideas to guide the work of the Juba Sanitation Task Force, a group of state and local officials formed to voice local concerns to the GOSS. The group strongly recommended that the task force formalize its operation and membership, and develop a comprehensive strategy that addresses city-wide concerns while focusing on the needs of vulnerable households. They further said that public health education and public health officers should emphasize rapid results when conducting demonstration projects and encouraging improved sanitation practices. The group also encouraged the task force to implement projects through local initiatives, with local partners. ♦

Southern Sudan AIDS Commission Office Opens

On August 3, the Government of Southern Sudan officially opened the new office of the Southern Sudan HIV/AIDS Commission in Juba, which was built with support from USAID. The new office compound, which includes prefabricated buildings provided by USAID and permanent structures built by the Government of Southern Sudan, will give the AIDS Commission the work and meeting space essential for coordinating the response to HIV/AIDS in Southern Sudan.

Sub-Saharan Africa has been hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, with over half of the world's HIV-infected people. In Southern Sudan, infection rates vary in towns and counties; some areas show up to 12 percent of pregnant women have HIV.

The Southern Sudan AIDS Commission, established in 2006 under the office of the President of the Government of Southern Sudan seeks to reduce the harm to Sudanese communities that HIV/AIDS can cause. The AIDS Commission works closely with several partners, including the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), implemented in Sudan by USAID and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). ♦

Southern Communities Come Together to Build Peace

In July, USAID supported nearly 20 local consensus-building events in Southern Sudan and the Three Areas as an important first step in its people-to-people peace-building program. More than 750 people, including local officials, legislators, youth, returnees, and women, attended the programs in Abyei-Agok, Kadugli, Kauda, Malakal, Juba, and Aweil.

Forum attendance ranged from 10 to 100, at times targeting specific groups, such as the Upper Nile and Southern Kordofan Legislative Assembly, and at others attempting to reach a large, diverse audience of youth groups, traditional leaders, women, or political parties. While most forums lasted 3–4 hours, some turned into all-day events that finished late at night. The events in Malakal, Aweil, and Juba were co-hosted by the Southern Sudan Peace Commission (SSPC), whose senior members, including Chairman James Kok Rua, were actively involved.

At the start of each forum, USAID partner Pact talked about the local threats to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that they had identified during months of research conducted throughout Southern Sudan. In each presentation, Pact concentrated on conflict threats directly relevant to the local audience. The root cause of each threat was highlighted to prompt further discussion on how to avert triggers of conflict through inclusive local peace-building processes. At some of the events, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) presented findings of USAID-funded focus group research conducted in the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern



Consensus-building events in the Three Areas gathered a range of diverse participants. Photo: Pact



Kordofan), spotlighting the views of local residents on the CPA and its implementation.

Following the formal presentations, the floor was opened for participants to discuss issues, share views, and build consensus around how to move forward. Many participants commented that these events, for the first time, allowed them to gather and engage in meaningful discussions with people of other ethnic, socio-economic, and political backgrounds.

Said one attendee, “Most of these issues are usually discussed in closed secret forums among ethnic groups, which results in sort of conspiracies against other communities.”

Said another, “Everyone seems to be aware of these threats and in agreement with these, but unwilling to talk about it in public... Thank you!”

Overall, there was great demand for additional events, work-groups, and peace-building workshops, and Pact has engaged in follow-up meetings with smaller groups wishing to further define how to address specific threats. At one meeting, Abyei peace committee members decided to initiate specific events to unite traditional authorities of the nine Dinka sections. In Kadugli, youth groups expressed strong interest in actively advocating with political parties for the smooth and speedy implementation of the CPA protocol for Southern Kordofan; as a result, the acting governor suggested forming a state mechanism for resolving differences on the implementation of the CPA. In Malakal, participants decided to hold several community forums with special sessions on youth, women, and returnees.♦

Forums Resolve Conflict in Khartoum Camps

Around Khartoum, camps for displaced people offer few services and limited employment opportunities, fueling anger among their ethnically and religiously diverse residents. The violence that periodically erupts as a result is evidence of the need to strengthen communities’ negotiation and peace-building skills.

In four camps and their surrounding areas, USAID recently collaborated with a Sudanese organization to train key community members on ways to diffuse tension and spread messages of peace. Following a workshop on how to engage their communities in constructive dialogue, participants organized 15 public forums, which brought together more than 500



A workshop held at a Khartoum-area camp addressed negotiations and peace building. Photo: USAID

community members, including women, youth, religious leaders, and teachers. The forums served as a vehicle for structuring dialogue and building trust among diverse communities, and were characterized by frank discussions. Ongoing conflicts were analyzed, prioritized, and then linked to the wider peace process.

Several initiatives emerged as a result. Wad Albashir and Jebel Aulia camps formed committees to resolve conflicts. In Wad Albashir, a longstanding dispute between a group of citizens and the water pump management committee was resolved by a facilitated discussion that dissipated mistrust and clarified how water fees are spent.♦

“Rocket” Stove Reduces Firewood Use in Darfur

With the Darfur conflict extending into its fourth year, more than two million displaced people continue to live in crowded camps, surrounded by increasingly deforested lands. Around Al Salaam camp in North Darfur, firewood needed for cooking has become so scarce that women often have to walk three hours to find it, and many have resorted to digging roots from the ground. Venturing from the relative safety of the camp increases a woman’s chance of harassment and abuse, yet those who decide not to leave the confines of the camps have little choice but to spend a portion of their family’s income or food rations on firewood at the local markets.

USAID recently supported the introduction of fuel-efficient stoves to every household in Al Salaam. The



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“rocket” stove, designed by the International Lifeline Fund, has an insulated combustion chamber built from lightweight bricks made out of a mixture of clay and other organic materials, like rice, nutshells, and donkey dung. The rocket stove costs just \$3 to make and can reduce firewood consumption by up to 75 percent. In collaboration with a Sudanese organization, USAID supported the training of 5,600 women in stove construction and proper use. Once the women returned home with the stoves, changes in household firewood needs are monitored. Although women continue to collect firewood to sell, demand is expected to decrease.

In light of the widespread shortage of firewood, organizations from other areas of North and West Darfur have requested assistance in utilizing the rocket stove, and USAID is assisting them in adopting the technology. ♦



Women in Al Salaam walk home from a training with their “rocket” stoves. Photo: USAID

World Food Program Sudan Distributions



Sorghum 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 June 2007

Region	Beneficiaries
Darfur	2,583,464
South	588,750
East	153,852
Three Areas*	218,775
Central	15,332
Total	3,560,173

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

WFP Target vs. Actual Food Aid Distributions - Darfur

