



MONTHLY UPDATE

October 2006

Emergency Medical Assistance Reaches the Newly Displaced

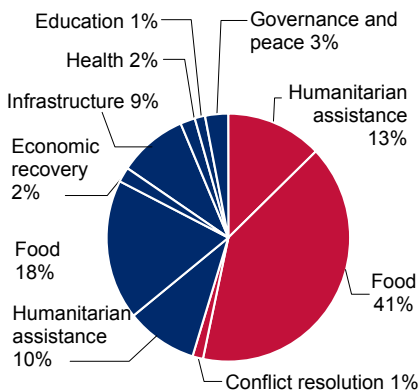
Following a spate of militia attacks on at least a dozen villages in Buram, South Darfur, during August and September, an estimated 2,500–3,400 displaced people arrived in the town of Seisabana the week of September 10. The new arrivals were reported to be in dire need of food, water, and health care, and the region has no resident governmental or nongovernmental health organizations that could offer assistance.

On September 17, USAID partner American Refugee Committee (ARC) traveled with United Nations staff to Seisabana to assess the needs of the newly displaced, who had sought shelter in a school compound. The new arrivals appeared to have fled so quickly that they were unable to carry food stocks with them and therefore were eating only what they could forage or what was donated by the people of Seisabana. ARC also reported that sanitation problems brought on by the extremely crowded living conditions had created serious health issues for those who were displaced—exacerbating the already poor health status of some community members.

With support from USAID, ARC acted immediately to respond to the urgent needs of the new arrivals, providing a local medical assistant—the only health provider in the area—with primary health care kits that included drugs and IV fluid to treat dehydration. ARC returned with the United Nations and other nongovernmental organizations on



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



Darfurians displaced by recent violence gathered in Seisabana. Photo: ARC



September 27 to conduct a one-day health intervention that would provide additional services to people in need. During this visit, ARC and the Spanish Red Cross conducted 125 clinical consultations, distributed 110 clean delivery kits to pregnant women, distributed 600 bars of soap to mothers and children, provided high-energy rations to 70 severely malnourished children, and conducted health education sessions. In addition, the teams left a Spanish Red Cross medical assistant 1,530 mosquito nets and four UNICEF medicine kits. ARC has been a USAID partner in Darfur working in the water and sanitation and health sectors since the early stages of the response in 2004.♦

Responding to Avian Influenza

As the threat of avian influenza (AI) continues to reach across continents and oceans, USAID is working with several partners in Sudan to track the disease's path and mitigate its effects.

In April 2006, following the confirmation of AI cases in chickens on corporate farms in Northern Sudan, USAID established an AI task force with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Government of National Unity Ministries of Health and Animal Resources and Fisheries. In addition, USAID supported the Government of Southern Sudan in drafting an AI preparedness and response plan and

other AI communications materials, and in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USAID provided AI training to ministry staff in Uganda, and Kenya.

On September 3, AI was identified in chickens in Southern Sudan's capital city of Juba, where chickens are generally kept by individual families. CDC, working with USAID and other U.S. Government agencies led the response team, collecting samples from the birds and sending to laboratories in Khartoum, Nairobi, and the United Kingdom for analysis. A survey team also visited 1,500 households to identify additional potential cases. [One potential human case was identified in Juba, but tested negative.] USAID has donated 500 sets of personal protective equipment to FAO in Southern Sudan.

Though the response to date has helped quickly identify cases and raised the awareness of Juba residents on AI, the Government of Southern Sudan continues to face a significant challenge in preventing its spread, including the difficulties of culling chickens from households and providing appropriate compensation for their losses. Response teams are conducting follow-up surveillance in Juba at sites of poultry outbreaks to screen for possible human cases of AI, but no surveillance is being conducted in Southern Sudan outside of the capital. Human surveillance has been initiated in Kakuma, Kenya, near the Kenya-Sudan border, due to concerns about the cross-border spread of AI resulting from refugee movements.♦

USAID provided personal protective equipment and conducted household surveys in response to an outbreak of avian influenza. Photos: U.S. Government





USAID provided equipment to increase access to water around Wau. Photo: USAID

Collaboration Improves Access to Water

The constant influx of returnees to Wau—the capital of Western Bahr el Ghazal State, a former garrison town, and an important urban center in Southern Sudan—has increased the potential for conflict in the area, as a growing population competes for access to scarce water resources. Many returnees arrive in Wau during the dry season because travel is easier than during the rainy season, but the combination of more residents with less water intensifies the pressure on resources—and on civil authorities to provide clean drinking water to the people.

USAID partner Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI) recently collaborated with civil authorities in Wau to provide access to clean water for three quarters of the population, including displaced people, returnees, and settled community members. Through an in-kind grant, DAI was able to fill a critical gap in the state ministry's water, environment, and sanitation program by supplying submersible pumps, generators, water tanks, and water pipes. This equipment will assist civil authorities in Wau and surrounding areas to drill hand pump boreholes and dig 11 deep wells.

In addition to improving local health conditions, USAID's collaboration with local authorities will also help lessen tensions over water resources, which threaten the successful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The effort will also increase public confidence in the ability of local civil authorities to meet basic needs during Sudan's transition to peace. ♦

Resource Centers Empower Civil Society

An active and informed civil society is crucial to securing peace in Southern Sudan and ensuring that the benefits of peace reach all citizens. A strong civil society can also more effectively partner with the community and local government in promoting development and peace-building.

To support these goals, USAID partner Mercy Corps has established four civil society resource centers in Southern Sudan that offer communities permanent structures where they can hold meetings, conduct trainings, and foster organizational networking and interaction. Located in Malual Kon, Kurmuk, Kauda, and Leer, the centers were officially opened last month and support 24 organizations in five counties. Four more centers will be opened by the end of 2006.

At the opening of the center in Kurmuk, Paul Malual, chairman of the Unity Church Organization, stated, "The resource center is the CPA in action!" In addition to strengthening the network of civil society organizations, the centers also provide access to source material on peace in Sudan, including copies of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Arabic and English, the Interim Constitution for Southern Sudan, and the Interim Constitution for the Government of National Unity. The centers also offer information on key topics related to Sudan's development, such as community mobilization, civic education, gender awareness, human rights, HIV/AIDS awareness, health, and hygiene. USAID has provided the centers with radios, which

USAID has opened four civil society resource centers in Sudan. Photo: Mercy Corps



