



**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Key issues for Round 3 identified.
- Building state capacity and deepening national ownership of the recovery process is a priority for Round 3.
- Selection for coordinator of the Small Grants Mechanism.

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Key Issues Identified for Round 3

The consultant for Round 3, Mr. Stelios Comminos presented the proposed allocations plan for Round 3 of the Sudan Recovery Fund (SRF). A key element of this is a recommendation to speed up support for capacity building and service delivery at the state level. 'It is important that the principles of recovery are kept in mind when moving to implement Round 3', said Mr. Stelios. At a meeting of stakeholders held on 26 March 2009, he stated it is essential that 'donors continue to support the SRF with the necessary funds to enable change be delivered to people on the ground'.

Ms. Lise Grande, the United Nations Deputy Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (UNDRHC), spoke of the need

to ensure that the people of South Sudan see a real difference in their lives as a result of the activities of the SRF. 'The challenge is to ensure that we deliver in the next two years, building on and learning from the work we have done in the first round of the SRF', she said.



The consultant met community leaders from Central and Eastern Equatoria.

The key objectives of Round 3 are to strengthen state level

capacity, create economic opportunities, accelerate the delivery of services, and improve community security.

The consultant visited two states, met with senior government officials and had a series of meetings with donors and NGOs.

'We wanted to meet as many people as possible even though there were time constraints', said Marcello Lado from the SRF. 'We were delighted with the guidance and support from the Ministry of Finance in this whole process', he added.

Speaking to the consultant, the Chairman of Southern Sudan Reconstruction and Development (SSRDF) said 'The SRF must examine ways to put project support structures in place at state level. This is crucial if we are to ensure state capacity building',

Selection of Small Grants Coordinator Underway

Three NGOs submitted proposals for the role of Coordinator of the Small Grants Mechanism. These are Mercy Corps, BRAC and Food for the Hungry International. The proposals are now being reviewed by the Technical Secretariat (TS) and an ad hoc committee involving donors, the

TS and SSRDF. The committee will review the recommendations of the TS which will be submitted for final approval to the Steering Committee in April. The Chairman of SSRDF, Dr. David Mayo reaffirmed his organization's commitment to work with the organization approved by the

Steering Committee. 'A key element of this program is the capacity building support for the national NGOs. We must build their capacity along with the capacity of the State Steering Committees', he said.

Workshop on Round 3



The findings from the Round 3 consultation process were submitted to a workshop on 26 March at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in Juba. This workshop was attended by stakeholders representing government, donors and non government organizations working in South Sudan.

Chaired by the Undersecretary at the Ministry, H.E Mr. Aggrey Tisa Sabuni, the workshop provided participants with an opportunity to review the

proposals and make recommendations on how best to proceed.

The final report, taking on board comments from the workshop will be presented to the Steering Committee in April 2009. Issues raised included the need to detail the proposed implementation arrangements and examine administrative costs in these arrangements. Mr. Richard Taylor from DFID said it is important to have a clear out-

line of implementation arrangements when the proposal is submitted to the Steering Committee in April.

The Undersecretary welcomed the proposals and spoke of the need for an exit strategy in the state recovery programmes. He suggested that the final document should be prepared in such a way so that it can be presented to donors for funding. Funds available at present will not meet the costs envisaged under the proposal.

Risk Analysis is very important when finalizing the proposals for Round 3.

Issues from Round 3 Workshop

The need of doing a risk analysis was stressed at the workshop.

The World Bank Representative, Mr. Lawrence Clark spoke about the need for a risk analysis of the proposed activities at the state level, recognizing that this proposal represent a change in the way the SRF will operate. 'While this is a welcome change with

considerable challenges for the SRF, it is important to be up-front on the risks involved and we must identify mitigation measures', he said.

Other participants spoke about the need for reviewing the work of the SRF in the first two rounds and clearly identifying how the proposals for Round 3 differ from the approach to date.

Ms. Fiona Davis from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning spoke of the need to involve all state structures in determining the priorities for Round 3.

Ms Davis went on to say that UNDP has a support structure at state level and this may be used for project support. The TS undertook to address this in the final report.

Reports from those NGOs involved in Round 1 are due in mid April.



Reports Due For Round 1 Projects

Projects approved under Round 1 amount to some USD21 million implemented by twelve agencies in the ten states of South Sudan. All agencies received their first payments in January and are expected to provide a financial and narrative

report to the Technical Secretariat and the Fund Management Unit at UNDP. A key issue in the reports is ensuring that the financial information is linked to the approved proposals and any deviation is clearly identified.

'It is imperative that the NGOs submit their reports as soon as

possible after the end of March', said Assefaw Tewolde, the Deputy Head of the Fund Management Unit in Juba. This will allow us to immediately process the second payments for the NGOs and ensure there will be no delay in the disbursement of funds', he said. Reports are due by mid April.

Joint Donor Office



The Joint Donor Office was established in 2006 by four donor countries, the Netherlands, Norway,

Sweden and the United Kingdom, later to be joined by Denmark and Canada. The staff of the Joint Donor Office represent all six countries. 'The mission of the Joint Donor Team is to promote peace, poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Southern Sudan' says Michael Elmquist, Head of the Office. 'Southern Sudan has a real opportunity to build a cohesive state', he continued. Mr. Elmquist went on to say that 'building an effective government will stimulate economic growth,

improve service delivery, and make conflict less likely'.

'The Joint Donor Office was established to coordinate and strengthen the development efforts in southern Sudan as we endeavour to ensure greater levels of aid effectiveness', said Mr. Elmquist. 'We pursue policies consistent with the CPA, so that people see that peace can make a real difference to their lives', he said.

The Kinshasa Statement is about 'aid effectiveness in situation of fragility and conflict', says Lise Grande, UNDRHC.

The Kinshasa Statement

The Kinshasa Statement grew from efforts to ensure more effective development cooperation in the environment of fragility and conflict in DRC, says Lise Grande the DRHC in Juba. Ms Grande was posted in DRC prior to coming to Juba. The statement was developed by government, the UN and major donors on 2 July 2008. 'It recognized the importance of govern-

ment leadership in setting priorities and policy direction. These are important first steps in ensuring national ownership', says Ms. Grande. 'Our work in South Sudan has much to learn from the experience of the international community in trying to address the issue of state building in a fragile environment such as the DRC', continued Ms.

Grande. The Kinshasa Statement identified the fundamental importance of peace building and state building in post conflict situations. The statement recognizes that state building is about strengthening the three branches of government and civil society. 'Rapid and flexible delivery of aid is a key challenge; mechanisms for aid delivery should not undermine, but strengthen government structures' says Ms Grande.

Technical Secretariat

As reported in the first newsletter the Technical Secretariat has appointed the new Head, Mr. Paul Koulen who will be arriving in April. Mr. Joe Feeney the interim Head of the Secretariat is leaving on 31 March to take up a new position as Head of the UNDP office in Juba. 'I enjoyed my stay, brief and all as it was', he said. 'The new team will be in place in the first

week of April, and already the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist has arrived. He will develop an M/E framework and report on progress in future newsletters', said Mr. Feeney. The M/E Specialist Mr. Challa Getachew has been working with World Vision in DRC. Prior to that he was based in Pakistan, India and

his native Ethiopia. He is based at the Technical Secretariat at the UNOCHA Compound. He will be particularly interested in visiting the projects approved under Round 1 and is available to provide advice on M/E issues.



Delivering services on the ground is crucial for the success of the SRF.



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DAC Principles on Fragile States

The DAC Principles on fragile states were established in 2007 and emphasize the need to:

- Take the context as the starting point for any intervention;
- Ensure all activities do no harm;
- Focus on state-building as the central objective;
- Recognize the links between, political, security and development objectives;
- Promote non discrimination as a basis for inclusive and stable societies;
- Align with local priorities in different ways in different contexts;
- Agree on practical co-ordination mechanisms between international actors;
- Act fast...but stay engaged long enough to give success a chance;
- Avoid pockets of exclusion, creating what is sometimes known as aid orphans.

Do No Harm

Experience shows that even when a project is effective in achieving its intended outputs, it interacts with the conflict situation and at times can reinforce divisions in the community – doing more harm than good to the community.

There are a number of ways in which project interventions can play a positive or negative role in the context of conflict or post conflict situations. The distributional effect is particularly relevant in the context of recovery. That is an effect related to how limited resources are allocated in a community.

Project inputs can interact with a context either through reinforcing connectors (i.e. factors that bring people together) or affecting intergroup relationships through reinforcing dividers (factors that divide people). When recovery interventions are targeted towards a certain group others can feel excluded fuelling competition. When

agencies label people according to their needs (for understandable reasons mainly because of limited resources), they can reinforce sub-group identities and accentuate sub-group differences. Conflict sensitive programming is critical in such context.

Conflict sensitive programming can best be defined as:



Recovery projects can contribute to community conflict if not planned carefully in post conflict environments.

“the ability of your organization to: “understand the context in which [it] operates; understand the interaction between [its] Intervention and the context; and act upon the understanding of this interaction, in order to avoid negative impacts and maximize positive impacts.

Conflict sensitive programming is especially critical in the context of South Sudan with its experiences of communal conflict, often resulting from competition for limited resources. Intervention decisions based on community consultation can help avoid a potential backlash from groups that feel left behind in the recovery process.

Consultation and effective communication with the community and clan leaders regarding investment decisions in the recovery process can help to reverse potential negative impact.

Challa Getachew, M/E Specialist, SRF, Technical Secretariat