

*In Brief:*

Round 1 launched with an allocation of nearly USD20 million for activities in all ten states.

Call for Proposal for a Grants Coordinator under Round 2, involving the establishment of a small grants mechanism

Preparations underway for the setting out priorities under Round 3.

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## Sudan Recovery Fund - South Sudan

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# Round One Underway

Launched in August, 2008, the SRF is now well underway with nearly USD20 million allocated to eighteen projects in the ten states of Southern Sudan. Approved at the Steering Committee meeting of November 2008, the projects focus on livelihoods and addressing basic needs. Implemented by twelve NGOs — including two national NGOs — they range from a social protection programme in Unity State implemented by SCF UK for USD 995,000, to supporting market place infrastructure in Eastern Equatoria State, run by Norwegian Church Aid with a budget of USD1.5 million.

Most NGOs, have now received the first tranche of their funds, which will cover planned expenditure for the first quarter. The

NGOs are expected to submit financial reports to the Management Agency in Juba, after which the second tranche will be released.



### Livelihoods security is a focus of Round 1 projects.

Speaking after the launch of Round 1, the Chairman of the SSRDF, Dr. David Mayo said 'this is a good start and I am delighted that we managed to deliver on

the commitments to get resources out to the agencies on the ground'. 'In future rounds, the biggest challenge is to build government institutions to enable them carry out their mandates especially in regard to the delivery of basic services' he continued.

Ms. Lise Grande the UN DRHC said that the successful launch of Round 1 'is testimony of our commitment, as the international community, to ensuring that the SRF has a real impact on the lives of the people of Southern Sudan. We will ensure that the approved projects are implemented expeditiously as we make plans for the next round'.

## National NGOs to Benefit From Round 2

After the launch of Round 1 of the SRF, it was clear that some of the local NGOs did not get the opportunity to qualify in Round 1.

Many national NGOs were unable to meet the proposal criteria largely because they could not

demonstrate the requisite financial management capacity. (The SRF had a floor of USD 500,000 and a ceiling of USD 1.5 million).

The Steering Committee, acting on a recommendation from the Technical Secretariat, decided to allocate USD2.5 million to a small

grants mechanism. 'This will allow smaller NGOs and Community Based Organisations to submit applications for small projects across Southern Sudan', said Marcello Lado, the Deputy Head of the Technical Secretariat. 'We are now seeking a Grants Coordinator to oversee this.

The Small Grants Mechanism is a means to ensure the involvement of national NGOs and other organizations in the recovery process in Southern Sudan.

Capacity Building for national organizations is a key element of the Small Grants Mechanism under Round 2.

Allocations under Round 3 will commence in mid 2009; the allocations plan is now under development. It will be submitted to the SRF Steering Committee for approval at its meeting in April 2009.

## Small Grants Mechanism

Feedback from the first round allocation suggests that many national NGOs were unable to meet the proposal criteria largely because they could not demonstrate the requisite financial management capacity.

The SRF Steering Committee decided to establish a small grants mechanism under Round 2. Under this mechanism it is envisaged that the administrative and operational capacity of na-

tional organisations will be strengthened, so that they are better equipped to secure SRF-SS resources in future rounds and play a more strategic role in the development of Southern Sudan. The establishment of a small grants mechanism is part of a systematic approach to strengthening the capacity of national actors through the SRF-SS.

Complementing the activities of the SRF-SS, the

small grants mechanism will have a lifespan of three years (2009-2011) and be coordinated by the **Grants Coordinator**. A key challenge for the grants coordinator will be to establish an effective capacity building plan for national organisations. This plan will be submitted to the SRF Steering Committee for consideration. See the notice on the Call for Proposals [back page].

### Role of the Grants Coordinator in the Small Grants Mechanism

Under the Small Grants

Mechanism small projects implemented by national organizations will be supported. It is envisaged that the projects will be in the ten states of Southern Sudan. However in the initial period of implementation, four or five states may be chosen for the sake of ease of implementation and to ensure

that the Grants Coordinator does not get over stretched in the first few months of the scheme.

Ideally projects will be implemented at the county level and must be approved by the relevant State Steering Committee. The Grants Coordinator will develop a capacity building plan for participating national organi-

zations.

Support will also be provided to the State Steering Committees. Joint monitoring will take place involving the Grants Coordinator and members of the State Steering Committees, wherever possible. An information session will be held on the mechanism on 9 March at the UNOCHA compound.

## Round 3

A consultant was recruited to assist with developing a 'road map' for the future of the SRF and formulate a three year Allocations Plan with costing options totalling USD 100 million. This will be based on the principles, criteria and operational priorities of the SRF-SS. The

road map will establish priorities over three years with an emphasis on consolidating the gains made to date, especially in regard to strengthening government structures at state level and increasing access to basic services. During his time here, the consultant will

meet with stakeholders from the NGO sector, donors and government. He will visit some of the states and his recommendations will be presented to a workshop towards the end of March before being finalised and submitted to the Steering Committee for approval.

# SRF Technical Secretariat



The Technical Secretariat was established to oversee the management of the Fund. It is staffed by personnel recruited by UNDP and those seconded by the SSRDF.

The Interim Head of the Secretariat

is Mr. Joe Feeney and the Deputy is Mr. Marcello Lado who is seconded from the SSRDF.

Ms Sarah Marlyn is the Social Affairs Specialist. Mr Ollie Benham has been working in the TS for the past year and in February left to take up another assignment. He worked on developing the proposals for Round 1 and — with the then Head of the TS, Mr Simon Little and the Deputy Head — steered the approval process through the Steering Committee.

A new team for the Technical Se-

cretariat will be arriving in Juba at the end of March. This includes the new Head, Mr. Paul Koulen and Mr. Challa Getechew Kumsa, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. A Planning Officer is now being recruited to replace Mr. Benham. At the Steering Committee meeting in January, the members commended Ollie for his excellent work on the SRF and wished him the very best in his future career. Overall responsibility for leading the Technical Secretariat rests with Ms. Lise Grande, UN DRHC.

State Steering Committees have a crucial role to play in the recovery process and must be involved in all stages of the project cycle.

## State Steering Committees Have Key Role, says Dr David Mayo

‘A Sustainable approach to recovery interventions is key and the active involvement of the State Steering Committees is crucial to achieve this’, said Dr. David Mayo, Chairman of the SSRDF. Addressing the Technical Secretariat, Dr Mayo stressed the importance of the State Steering Committees overseeing the activities of the NGOs involved in recovery activities in

Southern Sudan. ‘While we recognize that some of these Committees at the state level are weak and need strengthening, it is imperative that the NGOs report on their activities to them’, he said. Dr. Mayo explained that the SSRDF has plans, with support from UNDP, to assist with the development of the State Steering Committees. ‘If NGOs bypass these important

structures, the capacity building component will not be effective’, he said. The State Steering Committees are responsible for monitoring the implementation of NGO activities.

NGOs implementing projects under Round 1 should meet with Steering Committees and ensure they are actively involved in the monitoring activities.

## SRF in Brief

The SRF Southern Sudan was established to bridge the perceived gap between the humanitarian and development activities taking place in the south since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement [CPA].

Since 2005, humanitarian support has continued to constitute the bulk of international assistance

delivered to Southern Sudan. More recently, this trend has been complemented by the introduction of longer-term developmental support primarily channelled through the World Bank-administered Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF). The Government of Southern Sudan and donor community acknowledged a gap in medium-term recovery assistance. They therefore

agreed to establish the Sudan Recovery Fund for Southern Sudan (SRF-SS), as a new funding mechanism and joint partnership of the Government of Southern Sudan, the UN, and donors. The SRF-SS aims to facilitate a transition from humanitarian to recovery through wide ranging support that offers quick recovery impacts and demonstrates peace dividends.



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Photos from UNDP web site and by Tim MC Culka of UNMIS.

This newsletter is for information purposes and does not represent the views of the UN, the donors or the Government of Southern Sudan unless otherwise stated.

[www.sd.undp.org/srf-ss.htm](http://www.sd.undp.org/srf-ss.htm)

## Call for Proposals

This is a call for proposals for an International NGO to act as a Grants Coordinator to administer a small grants mechanism. This mechanism aims at strengthening the administrative and operational capacity of national organizations. The role of the **Grants Coordinator** is to administer a small grants mechanism, which will involve the development of a capacity building plan for national organisations in Southern Sudan and administer a small grant scheme for these organisations.

For more information go to the following website:

<http://www.sd.undp.org/SRF-SS.htm>.

## Why Recovery?

“Conflict transformation is key to the establishment of a safe and secure enabling environment – the foundation for recovery, sustainable development, poverty reduction and the implementation of the CPA” says Jo Raisin from DFID. “Sudan’s interlocking conflicts derive (in part) from and contribute to an environment where conflict management mechanisms are weak, proliferation of arms is high and where individuals and communities suffer ongoing insecurity and lack of access to justice. If southern Sudan is to break free from poverty, it is critical that conflict issues are addressed, rule of law is established, and security and access to justice is achieved,” she continued.

Writing in a paper on the transition, from humanitarian interventions to recovery, she states “The transition

from emergency relief to recovery and development is underpinned by two essential strands”.

**“First, the transfer of accountability, capacity and responsibility** from the international community under humanitarian action to Government. Recovery work needs to factor in Government ownership efforts and management in a phased way and complement the on going efforts towards creating a decentralised system of government.”.

**“Second, from unpredictable and non guaranteed fund transfers** to predictable multi-year on-budget support.. In achieving these objectives it is essential to put in place a strategy to strengthen government capacity through activities to

support the local government capacity to deliver”

Ms Raisin stressed that “recovery needs to be **aligned behind one strategic plan** that sets out the priorities, funding, delivery, time-frame and exit strategy - clearly phasing in recovery support into longer-term development”.

“While it is recognised that non-state delivery is probably necessary in the interim period, it ultimately detracts from national state building capacity in the longer run, if there is no clear exit strategy or transition to Government ownership. Any strategy will therefore need to outline the mechanisms and time-frame and means by which state capacity is enhanced”. she continued.