



Sudan Recovery Fund – Southern Sudan (SRF-SS)

Technical Secretariat, UN OCHA Compound, Juba



SRF aims to accelerate recovery in Southern Sudan through high-impact, quickly disbursed projects

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SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY GRANTS

In 2009, the Steering Committee of the Sudan Recovery Fund Southern Sudan endorsed a Small Grants Program (SGP) to provide funding to national non-governmental and community-based organizations (NGOs and CBOs) in the second phase of the Fund. The Small Grants Program aimed to increase the capacity of national NGOs and CBOs to enable them to participate fully in the development and reconstruction of Southern Sudan.

Invitations for grants application were sent out in September 2009. Over six hundred NGOs/CBOs from all ten states submitted proposals. Following a rigorous screening process, fifty-seven proposals were selected initially. The Inter-Ministerial Appraisal Committee (IMAC) of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) endorsed these selections in March 2010. Screening criteria included the completeness and quality of proposals, legal registration of applying organizations, their experience and capacity; and the alignment of proposals with SRF-SS guidelines and targeted priority groups. Small Grants were awarded for agriculture, education, health and water and sanitation projects.

One grant recipient, Ayang-Baar Cooperative Society (ABSC) in Upper Nile State, designed a project to improve the livelihoods of three hundred (300) farmers, most of whom are women, through the use of agricultural technologies best suited for semi-arid landscapes. Farmers are learning techniques such as water harvesting and agricultural extension services.

Another grant recipient, Atemoc for Trading and Investment, is implementing an ox plough farming project in Lakes State. This organization aims to increase the acreage farmers can cultivate and to provide them with tools, seeds and training.

To provide management for the Small Grants Program, the international NGO, BRAC Southern Sudan, was selected to serve as Grants Coordinator in August 2009. To date, BRAC has signed agreements and disbursed funds to fifty-five NGOs in a first disbursement, and a further twenty-four in a second disbursement. Throughout the duration of the Program, BRAC will also conduct training for NGOs/CBOs in financial management and monitoring and evaluation.

In collaboration with the GoSS Commission, the Southern Sudan Reconstruction and Development Fund (SSRDF), BRAC is currently reviewing additional proposals with the aim of funding seventy NGOs in total, representing seven organizations per state. Speaking on Radio Miraya in May 2010, the Acting Chair of SSRDF, Honorable Majur Mayor Machar,



Honourable Majur Mayor Machar, Acting Chair of SSRDF, speaking about the Small Grants Program on Radio Miraya in May 2010. Photo: Iduol Beny, SRF-SS Technical Secretariat

said “our role as SSRDF is to ensure equitable distribution of resources and regional balance through the Small Grants Program.”

SOUTHERN SUDAN RECONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMISSION (SSRDF)

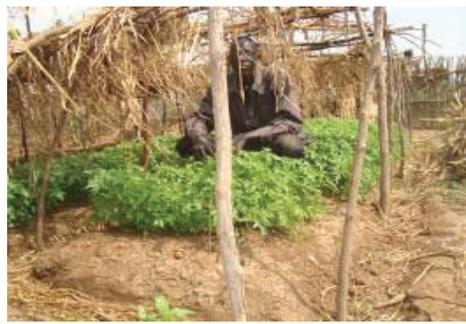
Also under Round II, SRF-SS financing was committed to help build the institutional capacity of SSRDF. This GoSS Commission has the mandate to “raise and collect funds from domestic and international donors and disburse such funds for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the infrastructure of Southern Sudan, the resettlement and reintegration of internal and externally displaced persons, and to address any imbalances in regional development and infrastructure.”

SRF-SS supported an inception phase of funding during 2009 in which office materials and equipment were procured, field monitoring missions and study tours were made, and future training opportunities for staff were identified.

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ROUND I PROJECTS - FIRST YEAR SUCCESSES



Irrigation system in place. Seed bed with plants ready for transplanting. Crops ready for harvesting. Location: Nassir County, Upper Nile State. Photos : IRD

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The SRF Strategic Framework and the Aid Strategy of the Government of Southern Sudan, both identify rural livelihoods and income generation as urgent recovery priorities for the country.

By January 2010, many Round I projects financed through SRF-SS had been active for a full year with noteworthy achievements.

Across nine states, thousands of people received training to improve livelihoods, including training in agricultural practices that helped increase crop productivity. Farmers learned how to use ox ploughs to increase the acreage of land cultivated. They developed irrigation systems so that crops could survive even in the absence of sufficient rainfall, and were taught how to space seeds neatly in rows to ease weeding and increase chances of crop survival. Farmers were also taught how to store seeds properly for future planting seasons.

Animal health workers received best practise training in animal husbandry. Livestock such as poultry and goats were distributed to vulnerable families. Slaughter houses and centres for animal healthcare were built; and market stalls were constructed so that farmers and small traders could properly display and store their products.

WATER PROVISION AND CHILD PROTECTION

Round I projects aimed to improve the living conditions of children, particularly those in vulnerable communities.

Child learning centres and playgrounds were built or rehabilitated, helping to reintegrate war-affected children back into society.

Functional and clean water sources were provided to help reduce the distances women and children must walk in search of water.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING, MICRO-FINANCING

Organizations helped improve livelihood prospects by teaching marketable skills in vocational training programs.

Young people were trained in carpentry, masonry, hair-dressing, welding, mechanics and plumbing.

Training was also conducted in the development of small business and enterprises, giving trainees the opportunity to acquire new skills and increase their chances of employment.

Vocational training has helped foster understanding and cooperation among youth of different communities, as students from diverse ethnic groups have interacted and lived with each other during training.

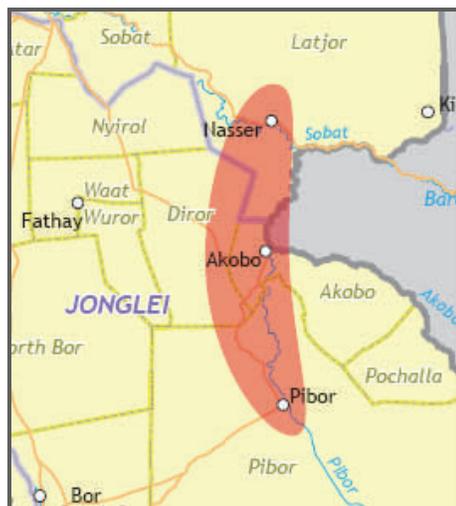
To finance small businesses and other economic activities, communities benefitted from micro-loans through the formation of revolving funds and voluntary savings and loan groups. Recipients of micro-loans established small businesses and increased their income.



Hairdressing class- Pamot Education Centre. Mechanical Department -Yei Vocational Training Centre, Carpentry Department—Yei Vocational Training Centre in Central Equatoria. Photos: Wakweya Tamiru—SRF-SS Technical Secretariat

USAID’S CONFLICT REDUCTION INITIATIVE: THE AKOBO MODEL

The Sudan Recovery Fund Southern Sudan collaborates with other actors implementing similar programmes in Southern Sudan. The article below highlights USAID’s conflict reduction initiative in Akobo.



In response to escalating conflict in Jonglei State, USAID launched a conflict reduction initiative in October 2009 aimed at building the capacity of key change agents to be effective peace actors. Situated at the fulcrum of a remote and volatile conflict

corridor that spans Upper Nile and northern Jonglei States and spills into neighboring Ethiopia, Akobo County has been the focal point of efforts to bolster community security. Within eight months, USAID and its implementing partner AECOM have completed or are in the process of administering 17 small grants worth approximately USD1.5 million within Akobo County.

This surge of support has coincided with a decrease in violence throughout Akobo. Despite conditions conducive to continued conflict, Akobo County Commissioner Goi Jooyul Yol noted the initial signs of success during a visit by USAID and the United Nations to Akobo in May. “Last year there were over 900 deaths in Akobo County due to ethnic violence, and so far this year there have been 10 deaths,” Commissioner Goi stated. “The security situation has vastly improved, and USAID’s work with youth, traditional authorities, local NGOs, and local government has been a major factor in creating a more stable environment.”

USAID’s strategy in Akobo has been to develop an array of interlinked, rapid response conflict mitigation activities that are tailored to local conflict dynamics as follows:

Enhancing the capacity and reach of local government and traditional authorities:

To nurture the development of a visible and effective local administration, USAID has provided transportation, communication, and operational support to the Akobo County Commissioner’s office. Using youth labor, USAID supported the rehabilitation of Akobo’s county headquarters and is now supporting the

construction of a center for traditional authorities. To extend the ability of local authorities to monitor and deter emerging conflict, USAID provided equipment to four early warning security posts strategically located along the borders of the Lou, Jikany, and Murle communities.

Expanding employment and training opportunities for at-risk youth: Youth are often the core conflict catalysts in Akobo. To help engage youth and build relationships between communities in conflict, USAID brought Jikany and Lou Nuer youth to Akobo in January to receive training in compressed soil block making. The participants were then employed to construct the county headquarters with blocks made during the training, and will form the nucleus of two for-profit business associations in Akobo and Nasir. The initiative has provided at-risk youth with incentives, tools and training to pursue a locally sustainable economic activity.

Promoting active civic engagement in support of conflict reduction: USAID responded swiftly to a planned disarmament campaign by providing logistical, transportation, and communication support to promote a peaceful collection of weapons. With USAID support, civilian disarmament teams shuttled between cattle camps and Akobo to persuade civilians to voluntarily submit their weapons before the military intervened with more coercive approaches. By assisting local leaders who were committed to a peaceful disarmament but lacked the capacity to build buy-in from communities, the initiative collected weapons and served as a pilot program for future civilian disarmament exercises.



Boats destined for Akobo and Nasir to enhance community security Photo: USAID

A RESILIENT WOMAN HEADED HOUSEHOLD

The organization, **International Relief and Development (IRD)**, is a 2009 recipient of SRF funding for activities in Upper Nile State. The organization is working in partnership with two national organizations – **State Women’s Association** and **Kuach Area Youth Group**, ensuring participation of women and youth groups in agricultural and income-generating projects. One component of IRD’s work is to promote small business development so that vulnerable people may become self-sufficient.



Training in food processing in Mabaan County, Upper Nile State.
Photo: IRD

Ms. Gath Kor is a beneficiary of this project. As the head of her household she is responsible for nine family members who live with her including her two children.

Returning to Sudan from Uganda a year ago, Ms. Kor resettled her family in Ulang County of Upper Nile State. Without a source of income, she lacked the ability to provide adequate food and healthcare for her dependents. Six months ago things changed for Ms. Kor when IRD advanced her the equivalent of USD200 to start a small business in her community.

With the loan, she rented a space for 100 Sudanese Pounds (USD37) and opened a tea room selling tea and sometimes coffee to thirsty neighbours. This earned her about 1,800 Sudanese Pounds (USD667) per month. Yet, even this was insufficient to save money for a house and expand her business.

Therefore in April 2010, she approached **IRD** for a second

loan of 800 Sudanese Pounds (USD296) to help her expand her business. Adding a small restaurant to the tea room, the resilient mother of two began to earn enough to feed not only her own children but her extended family as well.

Appreciating the financial support and business management training she received from IRD as a returnee, Ms. Kor says “the loans enabled me to open a tearoom and to further expand my business and support my family.” In addition, Ms. Kor is now able to pay for health care for her large family. According to her, “my children and relatives are now able to have three meals a day and my household is food secure. I can hope for a better life for myself and my children.”

For projects in Upper Nile State, IRD received USD1.4 million from SRF-SS in 2009. **IRD** has been active in Southern Sudan since 2005, assisting returning populations and existing communities in relief and resettlement.

SECRETARIAT NEWS

Appointments

Ms. Iduol Beny (Sudan) joined the Technical Secretariat in February 2010 and is serving as Deputy Head of Office on secondment from the Southern Sudan Reconstruction and Development Fund (SSRDF). Previously, Ms. Beny worked as a Consultant to the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) where she developed design and management guidelines for the construction of community-based primary schools throughout the South. Ms. Beny is a graduate of the School of Architecture at Cornell University in the United States and has significant experience living and working in diverse environments.

Mr. Abraham Walyejjemu (Denmark) joined the Technical Secretariat as a Finance Specialist in May 2010. Previously, Mr. Walyejjemu worked with the UNDP Connectivity and Support Unit (CSU) in Copenhagen, Denmark — a division of the UNDP Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST) based in New York. He was involved with the financial management of bandwidth cost recovery for over 72 UNDP country offices including Juba. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Law, and a Master’s Degree in Applied Economics and Finance from the Copenhagen Business School. He is fluent in Danish, English and Luganda and has a functional command of French.

Departures

Mr. Marcello Lado Jada (Sudan) the Deputy Head of Technical Secretariat left in April 2010 to assume a senior position in SSRDF.

Mr. Eric Hubbard (USA) Planning and Programme Development Officer completed his short-term assignment at the end of March 2010.

Quarterly MDTF Newsletter

Information on the first quarter newsletter (January-March 2010) can be found on the MDTF New York website at <http://mdtf.undp.org/> The newsletter provides periodic information on the Multi-Donor Trust Funds (MDTFs) and Joint Programmes.

Further information about SRF-SS can be found at <http://mdtf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SRF00>

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