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Model market opens, road equipment handed to state

In handover ceremonies held on 28 November, the state government of Eastern Equatoria officially opened a newly constructed model market in the capital, Torit, and received machinery for the construction of feeder roads.

Brigadier General Louis Lobong Lojore, Governor of Eastern Equatoria, stated "This model market is the one visible facility that the South Sudan Recovery Fund has given to the people of Eastern Equatoria. The road equipment will help open up feeder roads and we shall all have access to communities in remote areas."

The model market and the road equipment were part of a US\$2.6 million livelihoods project intended to address the lack of market infrastructure, increase crop productivity and facilitate commercial development in Eastern Equatoria. The livelihoods projects, implemented by the Norwegian Church Aid



(L-R) H.E. State Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Josephine Akulang Abalang, H.E. State Governor Brigadier General Louis Lobong Lojore, and UNDP Head of Office George Conway, marked the official handover of a model market and road equipment to the state government in Torit, Eastern Equatoria. © SSRF/Maria Frio

(NCA), through the UN Development Programme (UNDP), were carried out in partnership with the state government and supported by the South Sudan Recovery Fund.

State Minister of Finance, Josephine Akulang Abalang said "I would like to give my deep appreciation to NCA and UNDP for

supporting us. In 2012 and beyond, our partnership in development will grow even stronger. Together, we will make Eastern Equatoria a model state."

The new market serves as a "model" for constructing marketplaces, with set infrastructure standards. The 200m x 100m covered market is equipped with

separate blocks for vegetables, fish and meat, and has accessible storage facilities for surplus goods. Enclosed in concrete perimeter fence, the market has its own elevated 10,000 m³ water tank, a borehole and a pump, as well as separate blocks for wash areas and toilets. Farmers and traders had previously been selling agricultural produce in an uncovered market which exposed fresh commodities to rapid deterioration. Moreover, the uncovered market lacks water or sanitation facilities and has no storage rooms to store surplus goods safely for selling on the next market day.

During the handover ceremonies, SSRF also officially turned over new road equipment to the state government to aid in constructing and rehabilitating feeder roads. These roads will stimulate agricultural growth by generating market access throughout the state. Eastern Equatoria is one of the three "greenbelt states" in South Sudan which

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Norway contributes US\$2.5M to stabilization programmes



SSRF welcomed its newest donor, Norway, making its first contribution to the Fund. With Norway's important support, SSRF extends its capacity to assist the government of South Sudan in its efforts to stabilize peace and security.

SSRF stabilization programmes, in partnership with national and state governments, address some of the major causes of conflict and insecurity in key states namely, Jonglei, Lakes, Eastern Equatoria and Warrap. Norway's US\$2.5 million contribution brings SSRF's total committed funds to US\$114.3 million.

Better infrastructure strengthens law enforcement



(Top) Fronting the new police post is a makeshift hut where disputes had previously been settled. Now, the newly constructed police station (right) features an administration building where authorities can properly provide law enforcement services. © SSRF/Maria Frio.



In Rumbek Central, law enforcement officers can now manage security concerns and provide rule of law services more effectively in a new police post constructed in Malek.

Authorities in Lakes State had initially expressed concerns over the limited presence of government and rule of law institutions in key insecure and remote areas, particularly the absence of infrastructure and properly trained police personnel.

Under the SSRF Lakes State Stabilization Programme in partnership with the state government, authorities and community members identified constructing police posts and

county courts as a priority for establishing peace and security in the state.

The old Rumbek Central Prison, for instance, had deteriorated, allowing detainees to escape. Captain Matcok Machar, chief of police in Malek, said “We used to take prisoners to Rumbek [Central]. Now there is a police post where we can take the persons into custody.”

The newly constructed police station in Malek features an administration building and has been fenced, gated and adjoined with holding cells. A 10,000 liter water tank has been installed, along with a borehole and pump, separate

wash areas, and housing for a generator.

In addition, four similarly designed *payam* police posts are being constructed in Adior (Yirol East county), Amongpiny (Rumbek Central county), Billing (Wulu county) and Yardong (Cueibet county). Two county police stations are being built in Awerial and Rumbek North counties.

Moreover, building county courts are envisioned to extend the capacity of state authorities in providing rule of law services to its constituents. In Rumbek Central, construction of a county court has substantially been completed. Built within the fenced compound

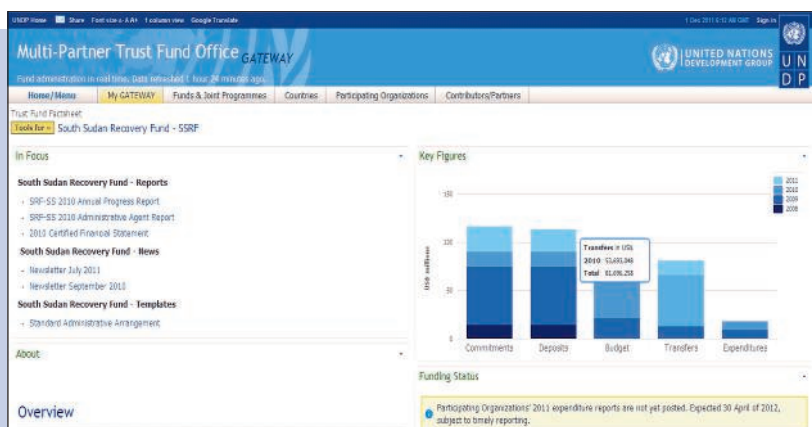
is an administration building with a magistrate’s court, two adjoining offices and three holding cells to separate youth, women and men. Water facilities are also in place, including a 10,000 liter water tank, a borehole and pump, and toilet blocks. A generator house was also constructed.

Five other courts are being built in different counties namely, Rumbek North, Rumbek East, Yirol East, Awerial, Wulu and Cueibet.

The police posts and county courts are constructed through a US\$17.5 million SSRF joint programme with the UN Office for Operation Services and the UN Development Programme.

Have you been to the GATEWAY?

Find out more about how Multi-Donor Trust Funds and SSRF support South Sudan’s transition from recovery to development. The Gateway is an online repository of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office where you can learn about SSRF’s overview, assistance strategy, governance structure, and real-time information on funding status, analysis of delivery, and more. See the SSRF on the MDTF Gateway at <http://mdtf.undp.org>.



Road construction commences in Lakes

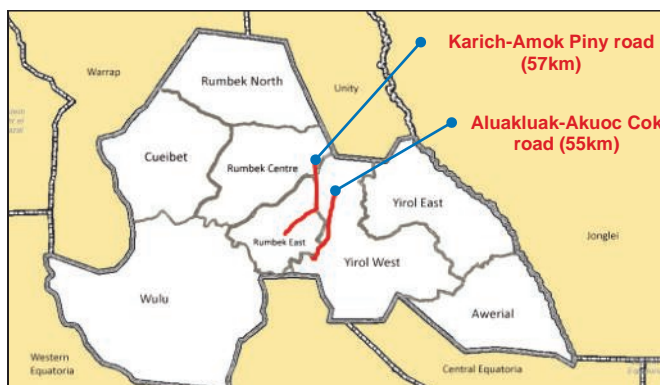
Two new roads which recently commenced construction in Rumbek East county are seen to provide law enforcers access to better respond to conflict. These roads are also envisaged to facilitate better delivery of basic services and connect farmers to markets. The roads, stretching a total of 114 km, will connect the villages of Karich with Amok Piny and Aluakluak with Akuoc Cok (see map).

“We are proud to be starting the construction of this road, which will connect food producers to markets and will connect isolated communities,” stated Chol Tong Mayay, Governor of Lakes State, during the inauguration in October. “It is the beginning of development in our newly independent country; it is the beginning of service delivery. After having fought for so many years it is like a dream coming true.”

Poor road infrastructure in Lakes State has hampered the ability of authorities to reach isolated and vulnerable communities, particularly during times of crisis. The lack of serviceable security access roads prevents authorities to respond timely to these conflicts. Insecurity is primarily caused by cattle rustling and disputes over



H.E. Chol Tong Mayay (right) Governor of Lakes State, inspects the Karich-Amok Piny road as construction commenced in October. © WFP/Lydia Stone



water. Under SSRF's US\$17.5 million Lakes State Stabilization Programme, the state government and communities had identified the construction and rehabilitation of security access roads as one of the priority areas to address insecurity in Lakes

State. The two roads being constructed are key locations to address insecurity, particularly on disputes over grazing lands.

Moreover, the lack of adequate and serviceable roads has hindered market opportunities and access to

“It is the beginning of development in our newly independent country. It is the beginning of service delivery. After having fought for so many years, it is like a dream coming true.”
H.E. Governor
Chol Tong Mayay

basic services. The two roads, being built in partnership with the World Food Programme and the UN Development Programme, will also serve as feeder roads that will connect farmers to markets, enhancing food security within the state.

Other priorities under the stabilization programme that will address causes of insecurity include construction of *haffirs* (water catchment for cattle use) and boreholes, as well as construction of police posts and county courts.

Collectively, the infrastructure improvements will contribute to stabilizing peace and security.

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the government is developing as the country's food basket, by boosting its commercial agricultural production. Currently, South Sudan is dependent on basic commodity imports from neighboring countries.

Also through the livelihoods projects, 10 women's groups were mobilized from four counties, namely, Torit, Lopa/Lafon, Budi and

Magwi. These women's groups were composed of a total of 400 women farmers who received training on seed bed preparation, seedling production and nursery management. To provide hands-on training to these farmers, a total of 10 demonstration plots for vegetable cultivation were established in separate locations across the four selected counties. To

ensure crop yield is sustained during the dry season, six water pumps were installed in these counties.

George Conway, UNDP Head of Office, said “Today, I am proud to be part of this partnership that will strengthen local trade and commerce, enhance the market infrastructure and build the capacity of small producers and traders, with a par-

ticular focus on women.”

Further, food storage facilities were built to ensure surplus goods are safely kept for selling on the next market day. Six storage facilities, approximately 9m x 18m were constructed in Magwi, Lafon and Budi counties. Management and upkeep of these facilities were turned over to the women's groups.

Supporting South Sudan's service delivery

SSRF stabilization programmes have been backing South Sudan's efforts toward consolidating peace and security, particularly in key areas by addressing some of the primary causes of conflict.

Specifically, SSRF infrastructure projects contribute to the President's 100 Day Plan of delivering basic services to the people. The 100 Day Plan is the government's roadmap for providing basic services in health, education, infrastructure, rule of law and transparency and accountability, 100 days after the new South Sudanese cabinet was formed in August.

To support infrastructure development, SSRF is working in Jonglei State where conflict-affected areas remain inaccessible due to poor road conditions. Key areas remain isolated due to large distances between remote counties, swampy terrain and limited to no road infrastructure.

Through partners, the UN Office for Operation



A new police post, supported by UNDP, was recently inaugurated in Eastern Equatoria, among the 50 police posts being built in various states, under the President's 100 Day Plan of service delivery. © UNDP/Marguerite Novak

Services and the UN Development Programme, a 170km road to connect Akobo to Pochalla county is being constructed. Currently, there are no other raised roads leading east to Pibor, Pochalla, Akobo and Boma counties while only one raised road exists from the capital Bor to 75 miles north to Panyagor.

Further, most inter- and intra-state roads are

inaccessible during the rainy season. Connecting Akobo to Pochalla county through a security access road will help authorities to travel to areas to diffuse and prevent further conflict. Clashes are primarily caused by cattle raiding between tribes and fights over scarce resources such as water.

In addition, the Akobo-Pochalla road is being con-

structed through an integrated mechanized and labor-based approach, providing employment to local laborers especially to the youth, ex-combatants and women – communities most vulnerable to and affected by conflict.

Apart from Jonglei, SSRF also constructs security access roads in Lakes that will allow a more rapid response to conflict from law enforcers. Connecting the villages of Karich with Amok Piny and Aluakluak with Akuoc Cok counties, the roads will also serve as a feeder road that will connect farmers to markets (see story on page 3).

SSRF also contributes to the government's efforts toward delivering rule of law services by building seven police posts in Lakes State at the *payam* and county levels (see related story on page 2). These constitute the 50 police posts being constructed through other UN programmes, targeted under the 100 Day Plan.

Water: closer to home

Mary Arop, a 35-year old mother of five, no longer has to walk three kilometers from her home to collect water daily. Through SSRF, 16 new boreholes and water pumps are being constructed in four counties in Lakes State, along with four *haffirs* or huge water catchments for cattle.

In Abririu, Cueibet county, women can now collect water from a pump built within a few meters from their homes. These water sources also serve other tribes migrating from neighboring *payams* due to flooding and a high incidence of malaria.

Construction of boreholes and *haffirs* in Lakes are being carried out through a joint programme with UNOPS and UNDP.



Mary Arop (extreme right) with children from the community collecting water in Abririu, Lakes. © SSRF/Maria Frio



South Sudan Recovery Fund (SSRF) is a UN pooled fund administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. SSRF, established in July 2008, aims to facilitate the transition from humanitarian to recovery assistance in South Sudan. With contributions from the Governments of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Norway, the total committed amount to the Fund is US\$114.3 million. SSRF focuses on projects that demonstrate peace dividends, encourage participation and empowerment of communities affected by conflict and poverty, and address stabilization in areas affected by insecurity.

