



**MONTHLY UPDATE**

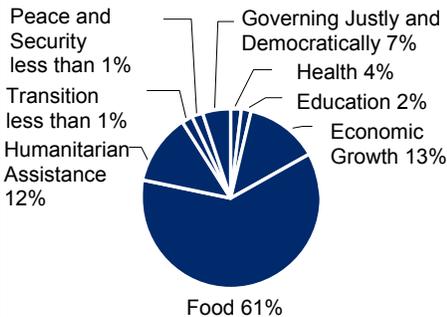
**March 2010**

**New Girls' Secondary School in Blue Nile State Honors Fallen USAID Staff**

USAID on March 8 officially presented to the Blue Nile State Ministry of Education the new Granville-Abbas Girls' Secondary School in Kurmuk. Designed as a model of girls' education for the region, the school was dedicated on International Women's Day to highlight the importance of educating girls.



**USAID Assistance to Sudan  
FY 2009**



Peace and Security	\$6.7
Governing Justly and Democratically	\$72.7
Health	\$47.1
Education	\$25.5
Economic Growth	\$140.8
Food Aid	\$679.7*
Humanitarian Assistance	\$127.6*
Transition	\$4.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,104.4</b>

Note: Amounts in millions

\* Includes eastern Chad



A local music group celebrates at the opening of the Granville-Abbas Girls' Secondary School in Kurmuk, Blue Nile state.

Photo: Rebecca Dobbins/USAID

The school was named in honor of John Granville, an American diplomat who worked for USAID in Sudan, and his Sudanese colleague Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama, who were both assassinated in Khartoum on January 1, 2008. The Granville-Abbas Girls' Secondary School serves as a testimony to their service and commitment to the people of Sudan.

The school, which can accommodate 120 female students, includes three sets of classrooms, a library, theater, cafeteria, dormitories, and teachers' offices. The Health, Education and Reconciliation (HEAR) Program Education Resource Center, a USAID-supported learning center attached to the school, provides students with Internet access and computer training. The school is part of USAID's efforts to increase Sudan's capacity to provide quality primary and secondary



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education, especially for girls, who have lower literacy and lower rates of school attendance than boys.

The Granville-Abbas school is the first girls' secondary school in Blue Nile state, one of Sudan's so-called Three Areas that received special treatment in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended Sudan's long and bloody north-south civil war. Due to their location along the divide between northern and southern Sudan, the Three Areas of Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states and the Abyei area were heavily affected by fighting and displacement during the war. In negotiations over the CPA, citizens of these areas were guaranteed special political processes to determine their future—a process of “popular consultation” for Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan, and for Abyei, a referendum scheduled for January 2011 that will allow citizens to decide whether they will be part of northern or southern Sudan.

Blue Nile state Governor Malik Agar has embraced the partnership with USAID and agreed to provide teacher salaries and other operational costs of the facility. To help start the school's library collection, the U.S. Government has donated a set of “My Arabic Library,” a collection of 80 American classroom titles translated into Arabic.

Governor Agar met John Granville while Granville was residing in Kurmuk and working as a USAID democracy and governance officer. Granville's work included helping to distribute thousands of solar-powered radios in southern Sudan and the Three Areas to inform citizens of their rights and help them prepare for elections, which are scheduled to take place next month. At the school dedication ceremony, Agar said that when a friend asked Granville to explain the five ways of eliminating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals, Granville replied that there was only one answer to that question—educating women.

Ka Vang, who represented the Granville family at the event, said, “I know that today John is looking down on us all and is both honored and humbled that this secondary school for girls has been built in his and A.R.'s [Abdelrahman's] memory.”

Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama was born in Juba, Sudan, and began his USAID career in 2004 as one of the original members of the USAID Disaster



*Students at the new school, with Ka Vang (left), a former colleague of John Granville. Photo courtesy of Laura Kaub*

Assistance Response Team for Darfur, after which he was hired as a chauffeur for the USAID/Sudan mission in Khartoum. His widow, young son, and brother attended the dedication.

Born near Buffalo, New York, Granville had served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Cameroon from 1997 to 1999 and subsequently received a Fulbright fellowship to conduct independent research in Cameroon. He and Rahama were killed in Khartoum on Jan. 1, 2008, by four gunmen who last year were found guilty of the murders by a Sudanese court.

Establishment of a girls' secondary school in Kurmuk addresses a critical gap in Sudan's educational infrastructure. Some Kurmuk residents who fled to Ethiopia during Sudan's civil war were able to receive basic schooling at refugee camps. However, they were often unable to continue their studies after returning home, where the schools were reduced to rubble during the war. The Granville-Abbas Girls' Secondary School now provides the opportunity for more girls to continue their education.♦

**For more information on developments related to the Granville-Abbas Girls' Secondary School, please contact [gschool2010@gmail.com](mailto:gschool2010@gmail.com)**



Part of the improved road in Wau, Western Bahr El Ghazal state.  
Photo: Richard Ruati/Louis Berger Group

## Road Improvement Program Offers New Opportunities for Sudanese Contractors, Entrepreneurs

USAID is utilizing local contractors to repair some of the worst roads in Malakal, the capital of Upper Nile State, and Wau, the capital of Western Bahr El Ghazal state. The initiative is not only improving livelihoods and skills among road workers through a training program, but also giving a boost to entrepreneurs who rely on road traffic.

In Malakal, local engineering company Okuic for Engineering Ltd. won a competitive USAID bid to repair the Dengreshofu-Hai Malakia road, one of the worst roads in town. Okuic won the award after taking part in the Capacity Building Program offered by the USAID-funded Sudan Infrastructure Services Project. The program trains local road maintenance contractors to manage economic revitalization activities identified by the community as a priority. Since the training began, six other participating companies across southern Sudan were awarded USAID contracts averaging in total \$24,000 a month. Okuic employs more than 50 skilled and unskilled laborers—both women and men. The company earned an average of \$8,200 in December and January for its work under the training contract.

The contractors are taught construction work and road maintenance according to Government of Southern Sudan regulations. Engineers and techni-

cians from southern Sudan's 10 State Ministries of Physical Infrastructure are taught to do procurement, create minor works contracts, and supervise projects according to national standards and procedures.

Thirteen more companies are in the second wave of training. At least 2 contractors from each of southern Sudan's 10 states were selected. All had to be registered, have bank accounts, and have some level of previous experience. Most have small equipment such as pickup trucks, cement mixers, and hand tools.

In Wau, the heavily damaged road connecting the town center to the motorway roundabout and neighboring

highways was one of the worst in Western Bahr El Ghazal state. Without proper road maintenance, roads—particularly gravel-surfaced roads—deteriorate very quickly and often do not last past one rainy season.

Teng-Teng Contractors and Transporters Ltd. is one of four locally owned contractors in the Greater Bahr El Ghazal region awarded a USAID labor-based contract for road repair. Re-grading the road is an important first step toward complete rehabilitation as part of the Wau Urban Road Improvement Project, funded by USAID.

David Jerome Udho, director of roads and bridges in Wau, told a visiting USAID official that “the road maintenance program has ushered in hope among the residents of Wau town.” He added, “The people of Wau are very grateful to the American people for maintaining one of the most deplorable roads at the heart of Wau town.”

Improvements to the road near the town center and military barracks have already been completed, benefiting entrepreneurs who depend on the road to attract consumers.

Fatima Genazu sells tea along the road. “Two months ago, the road was rough to use for my increasing customers; however, with the completed maintenance, life is much easier for me, as I get more customers,” she said. Taxi-motorcyclist Peter Mayen Agok added, “Our business has improved tremendously. Before, few people could use the road due to numerous potholes.” ♦



## Famine Early Warning Network Resumes Activities in Northern Sudan

USAID and Sudan's Government of National Unity in February signed a \$950,000 agreement reestablishing in the 15 states of northern Sudan the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), which will provide information to predict and manage threats to food security. The partnership marks the resumption of a program that had been closed in Sudan's northern states since 1992. FEWS NET has also provided food security analysis since the mid-1980s for the 10 states of southern Sudan from Nairobi—until last year, when the program opened an office in Juba.

FEWS NET will benefit the government and people of Sudan by providing accurate and timely information to prevent hunger-related deaths, decrease food insecurity, and strengthen livelihoods. FEWS NET will work with state-level counterparts, particularly the State Ministries of Agriculture and Animal Resources, as well as other ministries and commissions, and will look for opportunities to help build their capacity for monitoring and analyzing natural and manmade factors that affect food security.

FEWS NET's regular reporting will include assessment of hazards, food security conditions, root causes of food insecurity, and changes in people's vulnerability to food insecurity.

FEWS NET's reports can be found at <http://www.fews.net>

## Agriculture Training Boosts Communities' Food Security, Nutrition



Members of the Ayien Amol vegetable producer group in Twic County, Warrap state, at the irrigation canal they dug with tools provided by USAID's BRIDGE program. Photo: Winrock International



U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Robert E. Whitehead shakes hands with Sudan's State Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Abdel Rahim Ali Hamad, at the February 22 signing in Khartoum of the implementation protocol for FEWS NET famine early warning activities in northern Sudan. USAID/Sudan Mission Director Bill Hammink, right, was present at the signing. Photo: Judith Ravin/U.S. Embassy Khartoum

Just months after receiving agriculture training from USAID's Building Responsibility for the Delivery of Government Services (BRIDGE) program, the 16 members of the Ayien Amol vegetable producer group in Twic County, Warrap state, have already seen the fruits of their labor. Their families' diets are healthier, with more diverse food items, their yields are increasing, with the goal of growing a surplus to sell in local markets, and they have collaborated to improve irrigation for their crops.

In September, BRIDGE provided Ayien Amol with its initial vegetable production training, along with micro-grant kits, consisting of seeds and tools. As a result, the members established a community vegetable garden and began to apply what they had learned. They now grow tomatoes, eggplants, onions, and sweet peppers, supplementing their families' traditional diet of sorghum and okra. Inspired by their progress, they set out to find a



solution to one of their key constraints—access to sufficient water for their crops.

Taking advantage of the tools provided in their micro-grant kits, members began to dig a canal from a nearby swamp. As a result, irrigation water now flows from the 900-meter canal to the community garden. Group members are now able to water their crops even during the dry season when the rains cease and the wells are dry.

The BRIDGE program is working with 12 other producer groups in Twic County and 65 groups across southern Sudan's states of Warrap, Unity, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal. Through these efforts, hundreds of farmers and their families are more food secure, improving their diets, increasing production and yields, and working together on projects that benefit the entire community. ♦

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## State Education Ministry Staff Spread Skills by Mentoring Colleagues

After the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was achieved in 2005, members of the Sudanese diaspora began to return to Sudan with a wealth of new skills to help rebuild their country. The Diaspora Technical Assistants are part of USAID's Technical Advisors Project (TAP), which supports skills advancement in southern Sudan's 10 state Ministries of Education, in policy and system development, planning, budgeting, and program implementation. Sharing skills with colleagues, a practice called "Teach On," has become not only a goal for 18 senior members of the State Ministry of Education staff in Upper Nile state, but a way to measure success.

The assistants recently ran a series of one-on-one trainings in computer basics for colleagues who had rarely or never before used a computer. Rebecca Odhok Akok, Deputy Director for Early Childhood Development, said she learned a lot from the computer skills course. "For the first time in my life I can use a computer," she said. "I am able to turn it on and off, use the keyboard, type and save my file in the documents folder. This will help me produce my work plan, write letters and draft invitations."

TAP places a state advisor in each of the 10 southern Sudan state ministries, who coordinate with the Government of Southern Sudan's Ministry



*The director of examinations for the State Ministry of Education in Upper Nile state, Ernest Ajak (right), passes knowledge to his deputy, Okac Jam Ajing, on how to utilize computer software for examination data. Photo: Academy for Educational Development*

of Education, Science, and Technology. Members of the ministry, who have been trained, nominate colleagues they believe will benefit from the computer skills course.

Following training, program instructors visit each of the participants to observe how they are applying and sharing their newfound skills.

"I want to share my skills with my colleagues," Akok said. "The more I teach, the more I learn." ♦

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## Election Materials Arrive for Historic April Elections

Sudan's national elections in April are a key benchmark of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

USAID is providing robust holistic support to Sudan's electoral process, which includes technical assistance for election administration, promoting and enabling civic participation, and conducting international observation.

USAID's election administration assistance includes support to the National Election Commission (NEC), the Southern Sudan Election High Committee, and State Election High Committees, and covers all phases of the electoral process, including voter and candidate registration, ballot design, voter



education, polling, results tabulation, and dispute resolution. This assistance includes technical assistance, capacity building, logistics, equipment and supplies, and provision of electoral commodities, such as those pictured below.



*These polling kits, funded by USAID and photographed in a Khartoum warehouse, include materials essential for polling locations—pens, paper, a flashlight, ballot box seals, and indelible ink. Photo: Sara Taylor/USAID*

USAID recognizes that extensive public outreach will be required to increase citizen awareness and understanding of elections, and to promote broad-based participation. USAID’s civic participation assistance includes civic and voter education, political party capacity building, media assistance, and domestic observation support.

The international observation component of USAID’s assistance encompasses all phases of the electoral process, from the formation of the NEC through resolution of electoral disputes and including observation of all aspects of the electoral environment, such as the role of media; election-related violence; freedoms of movement and assembly during the electoral process; participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups; and the impact of security or insecurity on the electoral process. ♦

## Household Sanitation Project Reduces Health Threats Caused by Poor Hygiene

Following decades of civil war, water and sanitation infrastructure is extremely limited throughout southern Sudan. Only 7 percent of southern Sudanese have access to sanitation facilities.

Lack of clean water and sanitation, coupled with poor hygiene practices, threaten the lives of southern Sudanese, especially young children. According to the 2006 Sudan Household Health Survey, 135 of every 1,000 children born alive died before the age of five; 48 percent of these deaths result from gastroenteric diseases that are associated with unsafe water supply, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene practices.

Federa Ramondo, a 27-year-old mother of three, is one of the beneficiaries of a USAID-funded household latrine project designed to improve the sanitation and health conditions of lower-income neighborhoods in Juba, the regional capital of southern Sudan.

Conducted in coordination with the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Health, the project provides concrete slabs to households willing to dig a hole and construct a shelter for their private latrine. The aim is to reduce the incidence of disease caused by contaminated water sources and unsanitary conditions.

Ramondo says the areas surrounding her home are now clean and incidences of hygiene-related illnesses have been significantly reduced. Fifteen people share the new pit latrine—Ramondo’s family, which includes her children, husband, and father-in-law, and others who live within a fenced compound.

It is anticipated that 3,000 people will benefit from the household latrine program, which is part of USAID’s Sudan Infrastructure Services Project. ♦



*Federa Ramondo of Juba, southern Sudan, with one of her three children. Her family has benefited from a USAID-funded household latrine project. Photo: Kola Fakorede/Louis Berger Group*