

increase humanitarian access to war-affected areas and to reinvigorate the peace process. On October 15, 2001, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Ray Brown redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Sudan.

In FY 2002, this renewed USG involvement led to a formal cease-fire agreement for the Nuba Mountains, a framework for the cessation of attacks against civilians, the establishment of periods of tranquility for special humanitarian programs, and an international inquiry on slavery in Sudan.

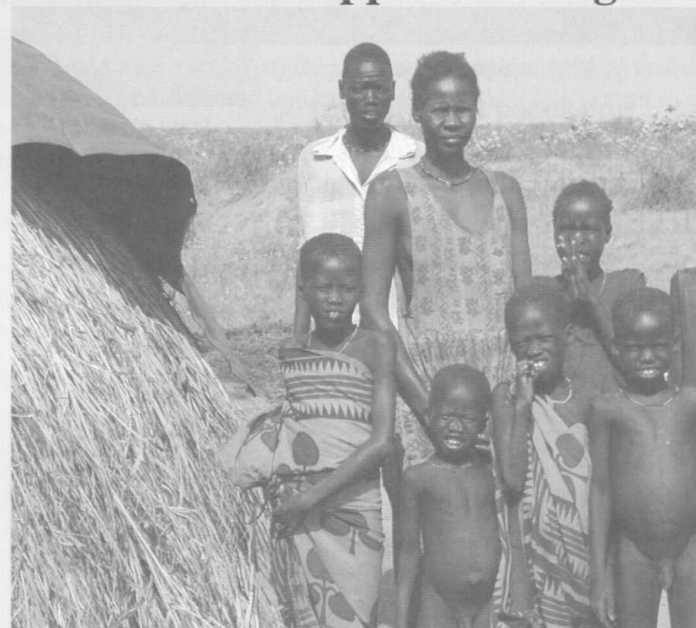
In addition, USG leadership helped to create a favorable environment for peace talks. These talks were connected under the auspices of the regional Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) that led to the Machakos Protocol signed by both the GOS and SPLM/A on July 20, 2002, and to subsequent progress in the peace negotiations. The main constraint to delivering humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese population in FY 2002 was the lack of access to war-affected populations due to conflict and insecurity. The U.N.-led consortium of Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS)

Providing Relief to Displaced Sudanese in Western Upper Nile Region

Over the course of Sudan's 19-year civil war, the months prior to the rainy season have typically been a time of increased military activity along the North-South divide, especially in the oil-rich western Upper Nile Region. WFP's 2002 Annual Needs Assessment (ANA), conducted in October 2001, estimated that more than 150,000 people were in need of humanitarian assistance in western Upper Nile Region. However, by April 2002, military skirmishes between forces of the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Southern People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), the denial of humanitarian access to affected regions by the GOS, and an active aerial bombing campaign by the GOS against civilians in western Upper Nile left more than 300,000 residents isolated and in need of humanitarian assistance.

To address the urgent humanitarian needs in western Upper Nile Region, USAID/OFDA increased its support to NGOs working outside of the Operation Lifeline Sudan consortium.

In late June 2002, after denying the U.N. and NGOs working in the Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) consortium humanitarian access to the region for five months, the GOS approved a five-day UN/OLS operation for emergency assistance to five locations within SPLM/A-held areas of western Upper Nile. This operation quickly delivered 1,500 MT of emergency food commodities and essential non-food items to the population in need, most of which



An IDP family in Leal, western Upper Nile (photo by Ted Maly, USAID/OFDA).

was provided by USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP. However, the limited humanitarian operation was not sufficient to meet the needs of all the affected population. It was clear that more assistance was required.

To address the continued humanitarian needs of western Upper Nile Region, USAID/OFDA increased its support to NGOs working outside of the OLS consortium to provide non-food relief items, such as blankets and plastic sheeting, to the displaced civilians. One non-OLS NGO, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), established an air bridge within southern Sudan, which quickly delivered

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delivered life-saving humanitarian assistance to most war-affected areas. However, large pockets of civilians received no humanitarian assistance due to the GOS' denial of access to areas in southern Sudan. In addition, GOS armed forces attacked relief centers several times, and bombed civilian settlements numerous times.

Beginning in July 2002, the GOS increased the number of locations to which it had denied OLS access. However, the GOS continued to deny humanitarian access to the entire western Upper Nile

area in July 2002. Access to relief centers in the Equatoria Region was interrupted by fighting during September. For many war-affected communities in Sudan, the GOS' denial of access remains a long-term problem.

In FY 2002, USAID/OFDA's humanitarian assistance to Sudan totaled nearly \$38.4 million. USAID/OFDA programs targeted children, war- and drought-affected, IDPs, and other vulnerable groups. USAID/OFDA assistance was implemented through 43 grants to 27 different NGOs or IOs, including

"Displaced Sudanese," continued

relief items to the affected region. This strategy of using different mechanisms to deliver assistance to a war zone – the UN/OLS system as the main mechanism, complemented by a small and flexible mechanism outside of OLS – proved its value again in late September 2002, when the GOS denied all humanitarian flights over southern Sudan. The non-OLS flights to western Upper Nile, such as USAID/OFDA's partnership with NPA, were the only flights within the region delivering humanitarian assistance during this two-week period.

Until peace is achieved, USAID/OFDA's assistance to non-OLS organizations, such as NPA, will remain an important part of the overall humanitarian assistance program in Sudan.

Through its USAID/OFDA grant, NPA began distributing basic non-food commodities to a displaced community in Leal in western Upper Nile, providing the only humanitarian relief assistance to more than 20,000 displaced persons in the area. The arrival of basic relief items allowed the displaced populace of Leal to establish temporary homes while they waited for a resolution to the war.

In October 2002, the GOS and SPLM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), for a cessation of hostilities throughout Sudan as part of a broader peace process. This MOU included a provision for unimpeded humanitarian access that has allowed the UN/OLS to resume assistance



USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP relief commodities arrive in Leal, western Upper Nile (photo by Ted Maly, USAID/OFDA).

to western Upper Nile Region. With prospects for peace in Sudan better now than at any time in the past two decades, the parties – chiefly the GOS – will hopefully no longer use the denial of humanitarian access as a weapon of war. Until peace is achieved, USAID/OFDA's assistance to non-OLS organizations, such as NPA, will remain an important component of the overall humanitarian assistance program in Sudan. ♦

—By Jeff Ladenson

ACF/F. ACROSS, ADRA, ARC, CARE, the Carter Center, Christian Aid, Christian Mission Aid, CONCERN, CRS, FAO, GOAL, IRC, International Aid Sweden/MEDIC, MEDAIR, NPA, Samaritan's Purse, SCF/UK, SCF/US, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Habitat, UN OCHA, Veterinarios sans Frontieres (VSF)/Belgium, VSF/Germany, WFP, and WVI.

In FY 2002, USAID/FFP provided 69,460 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food commodities, valued at more than \$59.7 million. USAID/FFP food commodities were provided through WFP, ADRA, CARE, CRS, and NPA to war- and drought-affected populations, including IDPs, in both government- and opposition-held areas. USDA provided 43,000 MT of Section 416(b) surplus food, valued at more than \$38.9 million to WFP.

Humanitarian relief to Sudanese refugees living in neighboring countries comprised another important component in the delivery of USG humanitarian assistance to Sudan in FY 2002. State/PRM provided extensive funding for humanitarian assistance to Sudanese refugees living in Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and other countries.* (*To avoid double counting, State/PRM contributions are credited to those countries. See "Ethiopia - Complex Emergency/Drought," "Uganda - Complex Emergency," and "Kenya - Drought" case reports.*) In addition, State/PRM provided nearly \$1.5 million to UNHCR, the IFRC, and WFP to support programs assisting refugees from other countries who live in Sudan.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$38,384,393
Other USG Assistance.....\$101,284,378
Total USG Assistance\$139,668,771

** These contributions are in addition to State/PRM's unearmarked contribution to UNHCR for Africa, totaling \$31.4 million in FY 2002. State/PRM also contributed \$42.4 million to ICRC for its Africa programs, a portion of which is used to support ICRC programs in Sudan.*

Tanzania

Accident

On June 24, 2002, a Tanzania Railways Corporation passenger train, carrying approximately 1,600 passengers, collided with a freight train between Morogoro and Dodoma in central Tanzania. The collision killed more than 200 passengers and injured hundreds. The Government of Tanzania's Prime Minister declared two days of national mourning, ordered doctors from public hospitals in the capital, Dar es Salaam, to travel to Dodoma to assist the accident victims, and requested international emergency assistance.

On June 25, U.S. Ambassador Robert V. Royall declared a disaster in response to the needs of the train victims. USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam to the Government of Tanzania to assist with the transportation of victims to hospitals and to provide medical supplies, including masks, stretchers, intravenous drips, mattresses, bed sheets, blankets, and potable water.

USAID/OFDA Assistance\$50,000

Uganda

Complex Emergency

The Government of Uganda (GOU) anticipated the return from southern Sudan of approximately 3,000 - 4,000 former Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) abductees during March 2002. The GOU requested USG humanitarian assistance to deal with the expected influx. However, LRA abductees did not return in the numbers initially expected. Although U.S. Ambassador Martin G. Brennan declared a disaster on March 19, 2002 to assist the potential LRA returnees' repatriation, the U.S. Embassy in Kampala decided not to request assistance from USAID/OFDA until circumstances changed to warrant the emergency assistance.

Beginning in early June, 2002, approximately 2,000 LRA soldiers entered northern Uganda from southern Sudan. LRA forces continued to

systematically attack GOU military detachments, IDP settlements, and refugee camps in Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts. On August 5, the LRA overran the Acholi Pii refugee camp in Pader District, displacing more than 24,000 refugees and destroying 250 MT of WFP emergency food commodities. In addition to more than 440,000 people situated in IDP camps at the end of May, the renewed conflict in August displaced between 50,000 - 200,000 additional Ugandans.

In early August 2002, the GOU declared a humanitarian emergency in northern Uganda and issued an international appeal requesting donor assistance to respond to conflict-related destruction of property, widespread population displacements, and deteriorating health conditions. Malnutrition, malaria, respiratory infections, pneumonia, intestinal worms, and diarrhea were common among the IDPs. Inadequate sanitation and water supplies as well as long distances to health centers exacerbated the situation.

On August 9, 2002, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Donald Teitelbaum declared a disaster due to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in northern Uganda. USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Kampala to support the distribution of non-food commodities, including blankets, water containers, kitchen sets, and tarpaulins for temporary shelter, by the Ugandan Red Cross Society (URCS).

USAID/OFDA assessment teams traveled to the Gulu District in northern Uganda on August 7 and September 30 to evaluate the humanitarian situation in the affected areas. In response to the crisis, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.5 million to support programs in health, water and sanitation, and response coordination, and supplied emergency medical kits, through UN OCHA, CARE, IRC, URCS, AAH/USA, and the Associazione Volontaria per il Servizio Internazionale.

USAID/FFP provided 28,600 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to WFP, valued at more than \$15.3 million. USDA provided 1,489 MT of Section 416(b) surplus food commodities to Uganda

to assist in emergency food needs. The surplus food commodities were valued at more than \$1 million. State/PRM contributed more than \$6.2 million to assist refugees residing in host communities within Uganda.*

USAID/OFDA Assistance	\$1,558,882
Other USG Assistance.....	\$22,559,571
Total USG Assistance	\$24,118,453

** These contributions are in addition to State/PRM's unearmarked contribution to UNHCR for Africa, totaling \$31.4 million in FY 2002. State/PRM also contributed \$42.4 million to the ICRC for its Africa programs, a portion of which was used to support ICRC's programs in Uganda.*