

Project Report

Support to the Abyei Area Referendum Project

Executing Agency:	United Nations Development Programme
Country:	Sudan
Project:	00075908 Support to the Abyei Area Referendum Project
Project Duration:	1 st July 2010 – 30 th June 2011
Project Budget:	
Reporting Period:	1 st September 2010 – 30 th November 2010
Funds Allocated (US \$):	Total resources required USD 11,054,598 Total available resources: USD7,396,279.54
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I. Executive Summary

Based on a written request to UNDP dated 17 February 2010 to support the referendum process, from the Abyei Area Administration (AAA) a project initiation plan (PIP) was prepared and endorsed by the AAA in early March 2010. A substantive project document “Support to the Abyei Area Referendum Project” is now pending approval by the Referendum Basket Fund Steering Committee.

Key outputs in the project document include the operationalization of the main and subsidiary offices of the Abyei Area Referendum Commission, support to civic and voter education, media and domestic observation and development of an operational plan.

As of 28th November 2010 a total of \$10,896,279.54 from the Governments of Norway, Sweden, Japan, Denmark, Netherlands and United Kingdom through DFID has been committed for the project out of which \$7,396,279.54 has been received.

UNDP continues to contribute to the work of developing operational plans to support the referendum process despite delays in the appointment of the Abyei Area Referendum Commission (AARC); and uncertainties surrounding the holding of the Referendum itself.

The project has also commenced preparatory support to the AARC once established. The procurement of generators, communication equipments including a VSAT, and plans for the rehabilitation of buildings that will serve as an office space for the ARC are at advanced stages in the procurement process. The project also commenced preparatory ground work for civic voter education activities. The focus has been on outreach to women groups, youth and the civil society organizations. Consultative meetings were held with the women groups, the civil society organization and youth to discuss and seek their perceptions on the referendum in Abyei and to explore based on their opinion, what should be the major focus in terms of outreach programme on the referendum.

UNDP has also established the UNDP Support to Referendum Project Management Unit (PMU) headed by a Project Manager and supported by a Referendum Advisor, Civic Education, Finance and Procurement Specialists.

A major challenge has been the delay in the establishment of the Abyei Area Referendum Commission; which has effectively stalled logistical and operational planning with respect to the Commission’s mandate.

In terms of area security, the ongoing discussions with regard to the referendum and eligibility issues have heightened tensions amongst the various communities. There have been regular public demonstrations by both sides on the issue as well as public pronouncements delivered to the international community.

II. Introduction

The **Protocol on the Resolution of the conflict in the Abyei Area** signed by the two parties to the CPA on the 26 May 2004, accorded Abyei a special administrative status. Administered under the Presidency, the residents of Abyei remain citizens of both Western Kordofan in the North and Bahr el Ghazal in the South with representatives in the legislatures of both states. The resolution further provided for the conduct of the Abyei Referendum simultaneously with the referendum for Southern Sudan on self determination in 2011.

As outlined in chapter IV “The Resolution of the Abyei Conflict”: *“Simultaneously with the referendum for southern Sudan, the residents of Abyei will cast a separate ballot. The proposition voted on in the separate ballot will present the residents of Abyei with the following choices, irrespective of the results of the southern referendum:*

- a. *That Abyei retain its special administrative status in the north;*
- b. *That Abyei be part of Bahr el Ghazal.”*

III. Progress Review

EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND INDICATORS including annual targets	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	PLANNED BUDGET (In USD) (funds received plus funds to be transferred to the project)	EXPENDITURES (In USD)	RESULTS OF ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING OUTPUTS
<p>Output 1: Civic and voter education conducted to enable fully informed participation in the referendum process</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> Low levels of awareness among majority of citizen of Abyei on the upcoming referendum (less than 40% on average)</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u> - % of population with clear</p>	<p>Activity Result: Effective civic and voter education campaign implemented aimed at increasing the knowledge of voters about the referendum process and achieving the minimum turn out.</p> <p>Planned Activities Map existing capacities and establish partnerships to support a civic education programme; Provide technical</p>	<p>\$3,218,200</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>The project commenced recruitment of two personnel for civic voter education; however one is yet to receive an entry visa into Sudan.</p> <p>The consultative meeting with Women groups, youth and the Civil society was aimed at laying the ground works for a civic voter education when the issues surrounding the ARC formation have been sorted out.</p> <p>During the meetings communities expressed keen interest in civic and voter education; and confirmed their intent to form networks for this purpose. Concerns were</p>	<p>A consultative meeting was held with the women groups, the civil society organization and the youths on the 11th, 12th and 17th respectively to discuss and seek the community perception on the referendum in Abyei and to explore, based on their opinion, what should be the major focus in terms of outreach programme on the referendum.</p>

<p>understanding of the referendum process - % of population reached during polling <u>Targets:</u> - at least 60% of the population understand what they are voting for prior to polling - at least 60% of the population reached during polling</p>	<p>support to the AARC for developing a public outreach strategy and support its implementation; Facilitate the design, production and distribution of civic and voter education materials; Support CSOs and the media committee and AARC to conduct civic and voter education programmes; Support CSOs to conduct face-to-face voter education campaigns; Support voter education via advertising, and electronic and print media; Organize public information forums for targeting specially conflict mitigation activities;</p>			<p>expressed about the possibility of conflict and there were calls for urgent peace building outreach activities to manage the tensions already evident in the area.</p>	
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<p>Output 2: Media support and monitoring programme for Abyei developed and implemented</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> - High level of inflammatory language and unbalanced reporting on the referendum process - No independent media monitoring programme in place</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u> - % of reports on referendum related processes providing a balanced and objective analysis of the referendum - No of media monitoring reports submitted to the AARC</p> <p><u>Targets:</u></p>	<p>Activity Result: Improved quality and coverage of reporting and media monitoring reports covering the referendum process in Abyei</p> <p><u>Planned Actions:</u> - Provide training to media personnel on referendum specific reporting skills; -Develop and implement an independent media-monitoring program providing independent analysis of broadcast, print, and televised coverage of the referendum; -Support submission of regular media monitoring reports to AARC and other stakeholders; -Support the establishment of regional media</p>	<p>\$935,000.00</p>	<p>-</p>		
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<p>- At least 50% of reports on referendum related processes with balanced and objective analysis of the referendum</p> <p>- At least 2 media monitoring reports submitted to the AARC on a weekly basis</p>	<p>center;</p>				
<p>Output 3: Credible domestic observation of referendum process in Abyei ensured based on a statistically sound sample base <u>Baseline:</u> n/a</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u> - Number of CSOs trained and accredited for domestic observation</p> <p><u>Targets:</u> - At least one CSO</p>	<p>Activity Result: Domestic observation structures established and their capacities enhanced</p> <p><u>Planned Actions:</u> Provide training of domestic observation groups in key skills for effective domestic observation</p> <p>Provide technical advisory, financial and material support to network/group/CSOs /NGOs to monitor and observe the</p>	<p>\$1,003,000</p>	<p>-</p>		

network trained and accredited for domestic observation	<p>referendum process</p> <p>Support the AARC to coordinate, prepare accreditation materials and manage the accreditation of both domestic and international observers</p> <p>Liaise and coordinate activities of international observation groups</p> <p>Advocate for 30 % women participation in domestic observation as mandatory requirement;</p>				
<p>Output 4:</p> <p>Capacities of Abyei Referendum Commission strengthened to organize, conduct and supervise the Abyei Referendum</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u></p>	<p>Activity Result:</p> <p>Referendum Commission able to operate and conduct the Abyei Referendum</p> <p><u>Planned Actions:</u></p> <p>Support the AARC to develop and implement a joint operational plan,</p>	<p>\$2,965,000.00</p>	<p>\$31,655.50</p>	<p>The project has commenced procurement process of items for the ARC office.</p> <p>A Referendum Adviser has been recruited and is on board. She was deployed in the field as at the 26th November 2010.</p> <p>In support to the establishment of offices for the ARC, the project</p>	<p>A meeting was held on the 31st October 2010 at the UNIRED office in Khartoum. At the meeting it was agreed that UNDP, IFES and UNMIS will work on plans for the use of the Veterinary office as ARC office. Under the basket fund UNDP will provide the following :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generators (2) 2. VSAT 3. Electricals for perimeters 4. Gravel for leveling

<p>- Referendum Commission not established</p> <p>- Voter eligibility criteria undefined</p> <p>- Referendum procedures and regulations undefined</p> <p><u>Indicators/Targets</u></p> <p>∴</p> <p>- Referendum Commission established and functional</p> <p>- Joint budget and operational plan developed</p> <p>- Voter eligibility criteria and referendum procedures defined</p>	<p>communication plan, procedures, training materials and other instruments required for the referendum;</p> <p>Support the establishment of offices of Referendum Commission at HQ and at sub county levels;</p> <p>. Support the equipment of the Commission offices, including furniture and ICT systems;</p> <p>Provide training and on the job mentoring to AARC staff to organize, conduct and supervise the Abyei Referendum according to internationally acceptable standards;</p> <p>Provide support to the AARC in the development, transportation and</p>			<p>commenced the procurement of two generators, a VSAT and plans for the rehabilitation of the veterinary building in Abyei to serve as office space for the ARC once established.</p>	<p>5. Rehabilitation of vet building</p>
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	distribution of referendum related materials (information, registration and polling material);				
<p>Output 5: Capacities of relevant other stakeholders strengthened to support the fair and transparent conduct of the Abyei Referendum</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> - Very few police and judicial personnel trained for the elections - Few women and youth engaged in key aspect of the referendum process: voter registration/polling, domestic observation, media training,</p>	<p>Activity Result 1: Police and judicial officers trained to ensure effective oversight and implementation of the referendum process</p> <p><u>Planned Actions:</u> . Train security forces responsible for referendum security, including Southern Sudan Police Service (SSPS) and the Formed Police Unit; Train judges and legal councils (lawyers, prosecutors) engaged in the objection and appeals processes of the referendum;</p> <p>Activity Result 2: Capacities of women and youth</p>	\$480,000.00			

<p>judicial training; <u>Indicators:</u> - Number of police and judicial officers trained for referendum oversight; - Number of referendum training workshops organized for women and the youth in Abyei; - Number of female participants in key aspects of the referendum process, disaggregated by: voter registration and polling, judicial training, media monitoring; - Number of documentation produced on women's participation in</p>	<p>organizations strengthened to participate in various aspects of the referendum process <u>Planned Actions:</u> Gather, analyze data and document women participation in key aspects of the referendum process through production of a Women Participation Statistics handbook; Organize and conduct workshops, conferences and meetings to sensitize leaders from women, youth organizations on various aspects of the referendum process;</p>				
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<p>key aspects of the referendum process; <u>Targets:</u> - At least 500 police officer and 10 judicial officers trained in referendum oversight (registration, polling and counting); - At least two conferences for women and youth organized in Abyei on their role and participation in the referendum process; - At least 20% women participating in key aspects of the referendum process; - One handbook produced on statistics of women</p>					
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participation in key aspects of the referendum process;					
<p>Output 6: Project Management Unit established and project management and oversight ensured</p> <p><u>Indicators/Targets</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Management Unit established and staff recruited - Regular progress and financial reports submitted - Basket Fund efficiently administered and managed according to UNDP financial rules and regulations - Administrative and project management 	<p>Staff Costs</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation</p> <p>Operational Costs</p>	\$2,453,398	5,828	<p>UNDP has developed a project document – Support to the Abyei Area Referendum Project.</p> <p>A project management unit has been established with six staff members recruited.</p>	<p>UNDP has recruited six of the core staff for the Abyei Referendum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abyei Referendum Project Manager 2. A Referendum Adviser 3. A Finance Specialist. 4. Procurement Specialist 5. Legal Adviser 6. Civil Voter education

functions to referendum assistance efficiently and effectively managed					
Total		\$11,054,398	\$37,483.50		

IV. Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Delays in the establishment of the Abyei Area Referendum Commission continue to raise tensions amongst the community. UNIREC continues to monitor the political situation and will review the project position in light of future developments.

VI. Financial Summary

COMMITMENTS		ALLOCATIONS		EXPENDITURES		BALANCE	
Donor	\$ (Millions)	Donor	\$ (Millions)	Donor	\$ (Millions)	Donor	\$ (Millions)
Netherlands	7.0	Netherlands	3.5	Netherlands	0.011	Netherlands	3.49
Norway	0.1	Norway	0.1	Norway	0.006	Norway	0.09
Sweden	0.7	Sweden	0.7	Sweden	-	Sweden	0.7
Japan	0.8	Japan	0.8	Japan	-	Japan	0.8
DFID	1.6	DFID	1.6	DFID	0.020	DFID	1.55
Denmark	0.6	Denmark	0.6	Denmark	-	Denmark	0.6
TOTAL	10.8	TOTAL	7.3	TOTAL	0.037	TOTAL	7.23