



## WEEKLY REPORTING

Unit	Governance & Rule of Law
Project Name	Strengthening Access to Justice and Human Security; and Support to the Abyei Civil Administration
Project No	00059806 and 00063382
Location	Abyei
Submitted By	Catherine Waliaula - Project Manager
Reporting Period	1 - 5 March 2009

### 1. GENERAL SITUATION

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#### A - Political Situation in Abyei

The International Criminal Court's (ICC) announcement on the indictment of President Omar El Bashir was made on 4 March 2009. However, unlike many other places, Abyei remained peaceful with no political or security incidents.

The local Administration continued to function normally, though a number of international NGOs working in the area were expelled by the federal government. The Chief Administrator has met with these agencies to facilitate safety and security for their staff and property.

#### B - Security Environment

The security situation in Abyei remained calm, despite the ICC announcement on 4 March 2009.

### 2. PROGRAMME (ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLANS)

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#### **A: Strengthening Access to Justice and Human Security**

Output 1: People's awareness of their rights is enhanced

##### 1.1 Meeting with UNMIS Human Rights

In an effort to re-establish the Abyei Human Rights Association (AHRA), the project held a meeting with UNMIS Human Rights on 3 March 2009. The meeting discussed the need to intensify contact with the few AHRA members living in the Agok IDP Camp, and locate former officials. To this end, a visit to Agok was scheduled for next week.

The need to re-establish the AHRA arises from the fact that the project has received many requests to investigate and monitor human rights violations in the area following the May 2008 violence. Several cases have also been reported in the IDP camp in Agok and the neighbouring villages.

Before the May 2008 crisis, the AHRA was actively involved in human rights awareness-raising, monitoring and legal aid services. With its re-establishment, the Association will once again benefit community members through these and other services geared towards confidence-building in the IDP return process.

#### **Output 2: People have access to an operational legal aid system**

See AHRA details above

#### **Output 3: Capacity of rural courts and traditional leaders to provide justice is enhanced**

No activities conducted this week.

#### **Output 4: Training capacity of law enforcement institutions is enhanced**

##### **4.1. Support to establishment of the JIPU**

On 4 March the project held a meeting with the Joint Integrated Police Unit (JIPU) Officer-in-Charge to discuss progress in the training and deployment of JIPU officers. Also attended by the UNPOL Sector Commander and Training Co-ordinator, the meeting discussed UNDP's support to the JIPU, and the planned deployment outside Abyei. The meeting deliberated on the following:

- With regard to construction, UNDP informed the meeting that an engineer from a sister project in Khartoum would be on mission to Abyei in the next few weeks for assessment and finalization of plans and bills of quantity to enable commencement of works. These included development of construction plans for the Abyei Police headquarters, one police station in Diffra (north of Abyei), and four police posts outside Abyei. The engineer would also facilitate the commissioning of works for the JIPU temporary accommodation<sup>1</sup>, as well final evaluation of the almost complete Agok Police Station.
- JIPU leadership would contact the Abyei Administration for the formal acquisition of land for the above constructions. A copy of the formal document would be shared with UNDP and UNPOL.
- UNDP was in the process of procuring furniture for the new Agok Police Station, whose completion was expected by mid April 2009. After the meeting, the project also provided three water bottles for water dispensers (also provided by UNDP in November 2008).
- An assortment of medical items requested by JIPU in November 2008 had been procured by UNDP. The shipment was expected in Abyei any time the following week after which it would be handed over to JIPU, through the UN Police.
- Construction of temporary structures (*tukuls*) for the deployment of JIPU in six posts was on-going. UNMIS was responsible for the activity and completion was expected by end of March 2009. That would be followed by the deployment of officers to these areas. UNDP provided basic office and kitchen items towards the deployment, and will construct

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<sup>1</sup> Civil works plans for JIPU temporary accommodation have already been developed in consultation with UNPOL in Khartoum and works are expected to commence by March 2009.

permanent structures for these posts, hopefully starting end of March 2009. UNDP was also in the process of procuring communication equipment (mobile phones and thurayas) to expedite the deployment.

- Renovation of the Abyei Police Station (offices and holding cells) would resume the following week. Works had stalled due to lack of adequate material in December 2008. UNDP provided requisite material, and UNMIS and JIPU were organizing for labour to complete the job after the materials' supply.

#### **4.2 Construction of the Agok Police Station**

Works were on-going and completion was expected by mid April 2009.

#### **Output 5: Community policing structures have been established and are operational**

No activities conducted this week.

#### **Output 6: Local ownership and support to rule of law activities is enhanced and sustained**

No activities conducted this week

### ***B: Support to the Abyei Civil Administration.***

#### **Output 1: Support to the Construction of Civil Administration Offices Provided**

On 5 March 2009, the project held a meeting with PADCO (a partner) to discuss progress in civil works of the Abyei Civil Administration offices. According to prior agreements, PADCO will implement the construction of offices and accommodation for the Civil Administration after which UNDP will erect a fence around the compound; provide water, electricity and furniture. Works had already begun and completion was expected by mid April 2009.

The project also held a meeting with the Abyei Administration for Public Utilities, and his Director-General to confer on the on-going civil works and UNDP's role, on 6 March 2009. The meeting was followed by a visit to the construction site. The Secretary expressed concern over the size of the houses, saying they were too small to accommodate a family. He affirmed having discussed the same with PADCO before commencement of works. However, it was mutually agreed that a change of plan would cause unnecessary delays given that the rains were expected anytime from May, and works should carry on.

A follow up meeting was scheduled for next week to deliberate a way forward after PADCO's license was cancelled by the federal government following the ICC announcement of 3 March 2009.

Meanwhile the project will initiate the procurement of office furniture and equipment starting next week, after receiving a request on the same forwarded by AA to Khartoum early this year.

#### **Output 2: Support to the Development of a Legal/Regulatory and Policy Framework for Governance Provided**

No activities conducted this week.

#### **Output 3: Technical Capacity of the Civil Administration Strengthened.**

No activities conducted this week.

**Output 4: Project Coordination and Planning Support Provided**

- The recruitment of project staff was on-going, and greater field staff presence was expected as from April 2009.
- Recruitment of three technical advisors was also on-going, and at an advanced stage.
- The project continued to facilitate coordination and planning support to the Abyei Civil Administration and agencies working in the area

**Output 5: Support to the Establishment of the Joint Integrated Police Unit Provided**

See Output 4 in the Access to Justice Project above

**3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES (STAFFING, LOGISTICS, FINANCE, ADMIN, ETC...)**

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- An assortment of medical items for the JIPU was dispatched from Khartoum during the week and was expected in Abyei latest end of next week.