



WEEKLY REPORTING

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| Unit | Governance & Rule of Law |
| Project Name | Strengthening Access to Justice and Human Security - Abyei; and Support to the Abyei Civil Administration |
| Project No | 00059806 and 00063382 |
| Location | Abyei |
| Submitted By | Catherine Waliaula - Project Manager |
| Reporting Period | 24 - 28 May 2009 |

1. GENERAL SITUATION

A - Political Situation in Abyei

As the Abyei Area Administration continued to negotiate with the federal government for financial support, the Department of Finance has confirmed it was seeking support from financial institutions. In a meeting with the Department of 27 May 2009, the Secretary informed the Project the AAA had optioned to approach several banks for loans, guaranteed by the federal government, to finance the Administration's running costs and development projects. As such, the AAA had engaged "several banks to obtain credits to the tune of \$147 millions." ("Abyei to implement projects at \$147 million" *Al-Sahafa*, Khartoum 28 May 2009)

B - Security Environment

The security situation within Abyei town remained calm, with no incidents reported. However, fighting was reported in Meiram (approximately 100km South West of Abyei) between the Reizegat and Messeryia tribes. Allegedly, 126 people were killed from both sides, and law enforcement agents. Many others were wounded and treated for different degrees of injury.

Though active fighting had subsided by the end of the week, the area was reportedly tense and deserted following massive population movement.

2. PROGRAMME (ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLANS)

A: Strengthening Access to Justice and Human Security

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

A meeting with members of the Abyei Human Rights Association (AHRA) to finalize plans for implementation of awareness-raising in four villages in Agok did not materialize. Most members could not attend the meeting following heavy rains in Agok - where they are living in IDP camps. The meeting was thus rescheduled to next week.

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

2.1 Establish and support the Justice and Confidence Center (JCC)

Analysis of five applications to a Request for Quotations (RFQ) for the JCC renovation was concluded over the week, following which a report was submitted to the Procurement Unit in Khartoum.

The project now awaits the issuance of an agreement to allow the selected contractor commence works. It is expected that the renovation will be completed in approximately four weeks after the contract is signed.

2.2 Cases handled by the JCC

Two cases reported to the paralegals last week were still on-going - in Abyei (adultery) and Agok (murder). Over the week, the concerned paralegals held meetings with the police, legal administration and traditional court to seek ways of resolving the cases. Negotiations and investigations are on-going respectively and it is expected that resolutions will be agreed upon soon, especially in the Abyei case.

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 for the deployment of JIPU

The Project handed over one photocopier and six emergency solar lanterns to the Joint Integrated Police Unit (JIPU) Deputy Commander (DC) on 27 May 2009. These were part of the items requested by the JIPU in November 2008; and will significantly enhance their functions. While the copier will be used in the Abyei Police Station, the lanterns will be distributed in the six posts, under establishment, outside Abyei town to facilitate regular police functions throughout the day.

Further, the project also presented office furniture to JIPU:

| Item | Quantity |
|---------------------|----------|
| Office Desks | 6 |
| Office Chairs | 6 |
| Steel File Cabinets | 5 |
| Steel Cupboards | 5 |

The items are an initial step in UNDP's support for the establishment of the Agok Police Station (approximately 40km south of Abyei). UNDP completed the construction of a new police station in Agok in April 2009, and will provide furniture and equipment to ensure the facility is efficiently used to enhance access to justice in the area.

4.2 Construction/Rehabilitation Works

JIPU Accommodation: The selected contractor arrived in Abyei at the beginning of the week upon which the Project handed over the site for works commencement. The construction will

provide JIPU with accommodation and dining blocks; and a borehole to serve about 400 officers when completed, in about 12 weeks.

Abyei Police Station Renovation: Works for the second phase were ongoing - the repair of an old building at the station earmarked for a registry department. Completion is expected in two weeks.

Agok Police Station: The project visited Agok over the week to establish requirements for fencing of the station compound. Construction of a new station structure was completed in April 2009. However, the initial plan did not include fencing of the compound. Consequently, the Project's Urban Planner is developing drawings and cost estimates to facilitate procurement of services, expected from next week.

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

The Project was still awaiting the return of the Chief Administrator and other relevant government officials from Khartoum before agreeing on a meeting date.

B: Support to the Abyei Civil Administration.

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

Works for the construction of offices for the Abyei Area Administration (AAA), following the expulsion of PADCO which was partnering with UNDP, stalled in March 2009. Despite PADCO's assurance that works would resume soon, a visit to the site this week revealed the contrary. The Project thus, still awaits accurate feedback from PADCO on when they are expected back to resume works.

Meanwhile, the project was still working on the development a comprehensive list of furniture and equipment for the five AAA departments. These will be used in the new buildings, completion of which is envisaged by end of July 2009. It is expected that the exercise will be concluded next week, and a final list forwarded to the Procurement Unit for action.

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

2.1 Provide technical support for demarcation of public and private land, through survey and mapping

The Project met with the Secretary, and Director General of the Public Utilities and Infrastructure Department to discuss future working arrangements and modalities. The Secretary confirmed his office would provide space to accommodate UNDP's Urban Planner as part of a co-location arrangement towards AAA's capacity building. Moreover, as initial steps to facilitate the urban planning for AAA, the Project:

- Prepared plot & road network plans for two blocks of Abyei Jung Yum area (Old Abyei area) as samples for discussion with the Public Utility & Infrastructure Department in a meeting scheduled for next week.

- Prepared a draft on “Abyei Township Development Strategy (ATDS) and way forward from the perspective of UNDP’s support to AAA for building a peaceful, vibrant and beautiful town of Abyei”.
- Visited Agok, as mentioned above, to take measurements of the police station compound; and prepared drawings and BOQ for the proposed fencing and gate.
- Prepared a layout sketch for foundation trenches of dormitory and dining blocks to be constructed on the JIPU accommodation site.

UNDP’s Urban Planner will move into the AAA Public Utilities office next week, and conduct consultations with Department staff in an effort to develop a work plan and capacity building.

Output 3: Technical Capacity of the Civil Administration Strengthened.

Following the arrival of UNDP’s Public Expenditure Management Specialist (PEMS) over the week, introductory meetings were held with the Head of Department - Finance and Economic Planning (DOFEP); Head of Department, and Director General for the Department of Public Utilities and Infrastructure; and Head of Department - Local Government and Human Resource Development.

The Head of DOFEP welcomed UNDP’s support and agreed to provide office space to host the PEMS so that engagement can begin without delay.

As an initial step in identifying needs, and initiating effective interaction with the different AAA departments in the next two weeks, the project plans to:

- Assess the stage of budget preparation and execution at DOFEP;
- Assess whether all departments have prepared annual fiscal plans irrespective of the quality;
- Assess the capacity of existing DOFEP staff with regard to budget preparation and management, control and reporting aspects of Public Financial Management;
- Assess whether Budget Classification System, and associated Chart of Accounts, is in place (adopted from Federal Government?);
- Review the resource envelope that will be allocated to Public Bodies (Departments) and identify resources that can be obtained with certainty from their respective sources (Block grants from GONU/GOSS, share of oil revenue, own revenue from taxes and other sources, Direct Budget Support from Donors etc.);
- Obtain the organizational structure for each Department to establish/improve budget structure that will be mapped from the organizational structure;
- Enquire as to whether there are any Laws/Acts, regulations, directives that define the powers and duties of DOFEP and other Departments (or Laws adopted from GONU/GOSS)
- Assess the control aspects of Public Financial Management and identify the procedures in place; and
- Based on the information gathered, agree with the Head of DOFEP and the Project Manager on activities that should be prioritized and prepare a plan of action accordingly.

Output 4: Project Coordination and Planning Support Provided

The Project was still awaiting the return of the Chief Administrator and other relevant government officials from Khartoum before agreeing on a date for the inaugural Project Board meeting.

Project field presence improved over the week with the arrival of the Public Expenditure Management Specialist as the recruitment of project staff continued. So far, the Urban Planning and Public Expenditure Management Specialists are in post; and the recruitment of other project staff was at an advanced stage.

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...)

- The Project's new Public Expenditure Management Specialist arrived in Abyei on 26 May 2009.