



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	8 - 14 March 2009

1. GENERAL SITUATION

A - Political Situation in Abyei

No major developments were noted over the week.

B - Security Environment

The security situation in Abyei remained calm, with no incidents reported.

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 scheduled meeting with the Abyei Human Rights Society did not take place due to lack of transportation for members coming to Abyei from Agok (approximately 40 km south of Abyei).

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

The project held a meeting with the Head of Legal Administration and the Paramount Chief, on 10 March 2009, to discuss the mandate of the traditional court. This had been necessitated by the protracted detention of women, sentenced by the court, for failure of paying court fees. UNMIS Human Rights had noted a number of cases in both Abyei and Agok where women convicted of adultery were detained for months for inability to pay fines. Similar cases of protracted detention had been reported about minors.

The Paramount Chief committed to share the formal legislation/document outlining the jurisdiction of the court for further discussion, to avoid wrongful and inconsistent judgments.

The Legal Administration will work closely with traditional court to streamline its operations and provide capacity building.

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

See meeting with Paramount Chief above

Output 4: Training capacity of law enforcement institutions is enhanced

4.1. Support to establishment of the JIPU

The project presented an assortment of medical items to JIPU on 11 March 2009. This followed a request forwarded by JIPU in November 2008. The items will be shipped to Abyei in different consignments by road and air. The first consignment arrived in Abyei last week and was presented by the Governance and Rule of Law Head of Unit, who was on mission in Abyei at the time.

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

The project held several meetings with the Civil Administration to discuss UNDP's support to the various departments and the Legislative Council. The meetings were also attended by the Governance and Rule of Law Head of Unit who was visiting Abyei at the time.

See attachment for details.

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...)

- A partial consignment of medical items for the JIPU from Khartoum was received during the week and presented to JIPU.