



2008 Annual Report

FAR in 2008

Just as peace is not simply the absence of war, life is not simply the absence of death. Life includes dignity and freedom, such as the dignity that comes from being able to provide for one's family, or the freedom to access and pursue opportunities. Whether it is through providing seeds, or emergency relief, or clean water, or small grants, or training, or health services for people and their animals, this is at the heart of what motivates FAR's work in Sudan.

And because of our commitment to a sustainable and peaceful future for Sudan, we seek not only to meet immediate needs but also to work alongside local communities to do all that we can to promote a holistic view of life. This requires healthy relationships and properly managed resources as well as skills and livelihoods and the opportunity to develop them.

I remain very grateful to all our beneficiaries, staff, donors and hosts for their support to this process.



Mark Simmons
Country Director



2008 in Brief

In 2008 FAR's work reached 351,674 beneficiaries in six sectors:

1. Food Security & Livelihood
2. Water & Sanitation
3. Community Empowerment & Development
4. Education & Culture
5. Health & Nutrition
6. Non-Food Items & Emergency Shelter



FAR worked in five states; Khartoum State, White Nile, Upper Nile, South Kordofan, and West Darfur.

About FAR

The causes of poverty and marginalization are complex but in large part they are rooted in broken relationships. FAR believes in the value of community and has a special concern for the poor and powerless. FAR is motivated by a desire to reconcile people with each other and their environment, and a responsibility, rooted in Christian tradition, to improve the spiritual, physical, and economic well-being of the marginalized.

Mission

To facilitate the holistic transformation of vulnerable communities in Sudan and to enable them to address and overcome the root causes of poverty.

Vision

To empower marginalized people to take responsibility for and build the capacity of their own communities in a sustainable way that leads to reconciliation.

History

FAR has been actively assisting the people of Sudan since 1985. As one of the longest-serving international NGOs working in Sudan, FAR has a strong reputation for quality community development. FAR began as a joint programme between two Canadian-based agencies, Emmanuel Relief and Rehabilitation International and World Relief and was affiliated to SIM Canada before becoming independent in 2007. In the 1980s FAR was predominately focused on emergency famine relief, with extensive programs in Blue Nile and the internally displaced people camps surrounding Khartoum.

In the 1990s FAR began the transition from emergency relief to community development. At that time FAR developed key

FAR Values

- **empowerment** of individuals and communities to promote dignity, self-reliance, and social transformation;
- **relationships** with and within FAR and local communities, across political, religious, and ethnic divides;
- **compassion** for all of God's creation, leading to cultural sensitivity, humble leadership and a desire to see social justice and responsibility;
- **diversity** of perspective, background, and experience;
- **integration** in programming to ensure needs are addressed in a holistic, effective, and efficient way and to build effective participatory partnerships with local communities and community-based organizations;
- **accountability** horizontally and vertically, within FAR, between FAR and its partners and beneficiaries, and within wider society.

partnerships with the Sudanese government and members of the international community. FAR began to expand its development programmes in the late 1990s and 2000s, reaching out to new geographic areas including the conflict and post-conflict areas of the Nuba Mountains, Upper Nile, and Darfur. FAR began to be known as an organization that worked in areas where others did not, and sought long-term development as well as temporary relief.

Today FAR continues to be a grassroots organizations and partners extensively with community-based organizations. The FAR staff team is over 95% Sudanese. FAR's supporters include the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Canadian International Development Agency, the European Commission, ECHO, ICCO, Common Humanitarian Fund, Royal Netherlands Embassy, and Tearfund UK.

The Context

Sudan's opportunity – and its challenge – lies in the richness of its cultural, religious and ethnic diversity. The potential benefit of this opportunity – and the depth of the challenge – has been significantly increased in recent years both by the discovery of oil and by environmental factors such as desertification and low rainfall. Despite solid attempts at political solutions such as the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005, Sudan remains at war with itself as it struggles to transform the challenges into opportunities through improved access to revenue, services, and power. While the official figures of economic growth and GNP per capita seem encouraging, they conceal widespread inequality and the daily struggle to survive which is a reality for so many.

This daily struggle is exacerbated by Sudan's harsh environment, which fuels competition for resources and threatens the survival

and mutual compatibility of traditional lifestyles, and by violent conflict, which undermines the structures of an already fragile state and feeds a war economy in which criminality and banditry thrive.

Providing services and meeting needs in this context is an ongoing challenge, but there is hope in Sudan's social capital, in the people who actively want to break the cycle of conflict and inequality and bring about positive changes in attitudes and behaviour. These are the people and communities with whom FAR, through the independent and neutral provision of essential needs, has been working in 2008. We look forward to seeing Sudan move closer towards sustainable peace in 2009.

“to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations”

~Isaiah 61: 3-4



Strategic Developments

Five-Year Strategic Direction (2007-2012)

FAR will continue to implement programmes in Sudan to support the most vulnerable and to build the capacity of individuals and communities to address the root causes of poverty. FAR will specifically target returnees and stable but marginalized rural communities, and will focus geographically on disaster-prone, semi-arid, and transitional areas.

FAR will facilitate the transformation of local communities by developing strategic partnerships with local community-based organizations, churches and other international non-governmental organizations which offer mutual learning and accountability.

FAR will create an organizational culture of continuous learning through strong internal communication, good leadership and management skills, increased provision for internal and external training and international exchange, and a robust staff development policy.

FAR will promote international and local good practice, observing where appropriate the Sudanese government's guidelines for return and integration and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Code of Conduct. FAR will endeavour to gain membership of the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership.

FAR will improve its marketing and outreach, both to share good practice and to consolidate its core funding base.

FAR will strengthen its central support functions through improved logistical and human resource support and a new department for assessment, monitoring and evaluation (including internal audit).

FAR will develop its sectoral capacity both to assist field offices and to support further expansion, focusing on its core competencies: food security; agriculture; animal health; health and nutrition; and water and sanitation.

FAR will mainstream cross-cutting themes across its core sectors including: income-generation; vocational training and capacity building; environmental protection; peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity; human rights (including those of children and the disabled); gender; HIV/AIDS; and disaster preparedness.

FAR will promote, and advocate for, integrated strategies for disaster response, relief, development, and peace-building.



A carpentry instructor demonstrates proper measuring techniques to FAR vocational training students in Khartoum State

Strategic Progress in 2008

2008 saw concrete action towards realizing FAR's strategic goals, including two new projects in support of FAR's focus on transitional areas and returnees. The first, funded by ECHO, supports returnees in Khartoum State and White Nile.

Internally displaced people (IDPs) en route to the south, often travel by barges leaving from the way-station in Kosti. In partnership with another NGO, FAR works at the way-station providing latrines, showers and soap for those awaiting a place on a barge. FAR also offers health support and education, including HIV/AIDS testing and information. FAR's medical team accompanies IDPs on the three-week journey south, offering health care in very difficult conditions.

The second new project is in South Kordofan, the politically-charged transitional area between northern and southern Sudan. FAR's broad programming focuses on recovery and development in one of the most affected areas of the north-south conflict. With upcoming elections in February 2010 and a referendum scheduled for 2011, ongoing intervention in these communities is imperative for sustained peace.

FAR offers peace dividends and alternatives to violence through community driven initiatives, which lead to community services and job opportunities for local populations. Water and sanitation projects increase water supply and health in the area and empower schools and clinics to serve local populations. Income-generating projects such as poultry units, vegetable groups, cheese-making, and bee-keeping improve nutrition and strengthen market linkages. For example, there is a history of tension between agriculturally-based and nomadic communities; FAR's cheese-making project links farmers, who FAR trained to make cheese, with nomads who have excess



A displaced southern Sudanese woman waits at the FAR supported way station in Kosti

milk. In becoming business partners, the farmers and the nomads are mutually profiting—making a return to conflict unattractive.

In order to improve internal communications, marketing and outreach, FAR created and staffed a Communications Officer position in 2008 and launched a new website: www.farsudan.org. A staff newsletter was initiated to share best practices and success stories among staff. Outreach to local media led to several positive stories about FAR's work in local newspapers, which increases community understanding of FAR's work in particular and humanitarian work in general.

FAR also developed and recruited for the position of Monitoring & Evaluating Manager, which has strengthened central support functions and will increase transparency and quality of reporting. Hired in the last quarter of 2008, the Monitoring & Evaluating manager completed a high quality internal evaluation and has continued to improve FAR's reporting systems.

Food Security & Livelihoods

Much of Sudan's population relies on subsistence farming for their livelihoods. In 2008 FAR worked with local farmers to improve agricultural and animal husbandry practices in White Nile, Upper Nile, South Kordofan, and West Darfur.

Agriculture

In addition to distributing seed and tools to vulnerable households, FAR trains farmers in best practices and new techniques through workshops and demonstration farms. Encouraging new crop varieties, particularly introducing vegetables, has not only improved nutrition in many areas but also provides income for families who produce excess crops which can be sold in local markets.

Sudan's dry climate means that a lack of water is often a challenge to abundant harvests. FAR works with communities to set up sustainable water sources for farmers and trains people in efficient irrigation and erosion prevention.

A Snapshot in Numbers

Total Beneficiaries: 241,804

Total Funding: \$525,872

- 15,096 farming tools distributed;
- 29,146 donkeys dewormed;
- 2,348 donkey and ox ploughs distributed to farmers;
- 141 donkeys and oxen distributed;
- 2,015 goats distributed;
- 29,914 shade and fruit trees distributed.



Cows drink at a FAR-supported watering point in South Kordofan

Animal Health

Livestock is central to income-generation for many families in Sudan, which makes animals the most important possession for many households. FAR supports good animal husbandry by training and equipping Community Animal Health Workers and Paravets in rural communities, which would otherwise not have access to vital vaccines and treatments for livestock.

New Initiatives: Cheese-Making

In 2008 FAR launched a cheese-making project in South Kordofan. Nomads in the area, whose livestock produce excess milk, were linked with agricultural communities which FAR has trained in cheese-making techniques and practices. This important market linkage is a positive step towards peace as well as an important source of revenue.

Traditionally there has been tension between nomadic and settled communities; in becoming business partners, however, farmers and nomads work together for their livelihoods and are less likely to return to violence.

Women's Groups

One of FAR's greatest successes in 2008 are the women's groups that came together to produce vegetable gardens and tend poultry units. In addition to improving the nutrition of their families and communities, and making money for household expenses, many women noted a strong sense of community solidarity emerging from working together.



Nuur stands in front of a poultry unit in Korech, South Kordofan

Nuur, a tall student from class five, hopes one day to be part of the Korech Women's Association. She is particularly interested in the poultry unit.

Since her mother joined the flourishing group Nuur and her family have been eating eggs regularly, a remarkable change since traditionally women and children in the area did not eat eggs—let alone sell them!

FAR is currently building a rooftop rainwater catchment system for the new school in Korech. Nuur's dream is to become a teacher in the new school.

One woman in the Nuba Mountains said that being part of the group “gave a sense of strength to the community, knowing that we could help community members in need”.



Women tend one of FAR's tree nurseries in West Darfur



Women construct fuel-efficient stoves at a FAR workshop in West Darfur

Environment

Desertification is a growing concern in much of Sudan. Darfur is particularly vulnerable to the expansion of the Sahara desert due to climate change and deforestation. FAR runs two large tree nurseries in West Darfur and one in South Kordofan, which grow fruit and shade tree seedlings for distribution.

FAR also trains women in constructing and using fuel efficient stoves. These stoves mean that less wood is required for cooking, which is good for the environment and for local women and children, who would otherwise have to walk long distances to collect firewood in insecure areas.

Water & Sanitation

Lack of adequate water and poor sanitation is a cause for concern in much of Sudan. FAR works with communities in South Kordofan, White Nile, and Khartoum State to improve access to water and encourage good sanitation practices.

Latrines

In 2008 FAR worked with communities to build household and institutional latrines in three states. In order to encourage community ownership, FAR provided latrine slabs and material for superstructures and households were responsible for construction and digging the latrine pits. This partnership empowers communities by building practical skills that will improve communities in the future.

Seven institutional latrines were constructed in public locations to encourage good sanitation practices.

Sanitation Education

Education campaigns are integral to FAR's water & sanitation programme. In 2008 FAR used drama and health clubs to promote good sanitation practices in schools and community groups.

Water

The struggle for water continued in 2008. Sudan's arid climate and scarcity of permanent water courses means that many people are without enough clean water to drink, or adequate water for washing, cooking, livestock, or agriculture. In 2008 FAR partnered with communities in finding sustainable and environmentally-sound water sources.

A Snapshot in Numbers

Total Beneficiaries: 25,252

Total Funding: \$311,632

- **365 household latrines** constructed;
- **7 block-latrines** constructed for schools;
- **9 rainwater rooftop catchment systems** constructed;
- **14 shallow wells** dug;
- **17,098 people** learned about good hygiene practices;
- **48 kilometres** of terracing were collected.



A mother and child collect water in South Kordofan



Rainwater Rooftop Catchments, Nuba Mountains

Each year an average of 600cm of rain falls in the Nuba Mountains, but quickly runs off the jebels and fields into the wadis and down towards the Nile. Soon after the rains stop, the fields and riverbeds are dry again and the water table begins to drop. Within three or four months, hand-dug wells dry up and villagers must walk several kilometres for water or pay a boy to bring water on a donkey cart.

Boreholes and shallow wells are primary water sources for villagers but are often contaminated, especially when there is so little fresh surface water.

In 2006 FAR began researching and developing rooftop catchment systems. Water catchments work simply: steel gutters are installed on buildings roofed with zinc sheets. The gutters trap rainwater and direct it through filters into ferrous cement tanks that are thoroughly cleaned at the end of every dry season. Tank sizes take into account rooftop area, average rainfall, and the volume of water needed during the year.

These are the largest ferrous cement tanks to be constructed to date, but thanks to a new design developed and tested by FAR, construction has been straightforward. Partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency made the construction of nine systems possible in 2008.

Community contributions of time and labour ensure a sense of ownership over water resources. In many areas FAR provides half of the required materials, while the community is responsible for providing the other half.

South Kordofan, located in the transitional area between the northern desert and southern swamp is dry for much of the year. FAR works with communities to dig boreholes and hand dug wells, which serve as watering points for communities.



A FAR-trained mason constructs a cement tank for a rooftop water catchment in South Kordofan

Community Empowerment & Development

All of FAR's projects aim to empower communities to work towards their own development. Vocational training and micro-credit programming equips motivated groups and individuals with the skills to make lasting change in Sudan.



A FAR vocational training student practices his electrical engineering skills

A Snapshot in Numbers

Total Beneficiaries: 9,637

Total Funding: \$522,993

- **103 Young People** graduated from Vocational Training courses;
- **49 Community-Based Organizations** were trained, supported, and implementing projects;
- **311 new and successful businesses** were started;
- **350 people** opened bank accounts at the Saving & Social Development Bank;
- **637 people** attended Micro-credit courses.

Vocational Training

Displacement has disrupted education for many people in Sudan leaving them with few employment opportunities. In 2008, FAR assisted hundreds of people access skills-based education that would result in employment. By linking students to reputable training centers and employment placements in Khartoum, many young people learned and were able to practice income-generating skills such as welding, carpentry, tourism, cooking, hairstyling, aesthetics, and electricity.

After graduation, many of these students were able to provide for their families and offer quality services to their communities.

Micro-Credit Loans

In opening successful small businesses many households in the internally-displaced person camps around Khartoum have changed dramatically. Generating income is a constant struggle for people who have been displaced. In 2008, FAR's micro-credit programme opened the door for many groups and individuals to learn how to successfully start a small business. Working through local banks, eligible candidates were assisted in setting up bank accounts and financing. Basic accounting and business principles were taught at training workshops for people seeking loans.

Students who had graduated from vocational training courses were encouraged to turn their new skills into small businesses. Many successful businesses were opened including vegetable stands, ice shops, flour mills, cafes, mechanical shops, and transportation services.

The loans provided much needed start-up capital to cover set up costs. Participants were encouraged to set aside a small amount of money each day for repayment, which almost all did successfully.

Community-Based Organizations

FAR works closely with many community-based organizations throughout Sudan and is committed to building the capacity of local, grassroots organizations. In 2008, FAR trained many community-based organizations in project cycle management, from problem analysis and proposal writing to monitoring and evaluating projects.



Students celebrate on their graduation from FAR's Post-Conflict Community Transformation course

Education & Culture

FAR's Education & Culture programming was focused in Darfur and White Nile in 2008.

Internally-Displaced People

As a hub for families returning to the southern Sudan, the way-station at Kosti was a natural choice of venue for educational training sessions. Returnees often have to wait for several weeks for a spot on a barge leaving Kosti, providing an opportunity to learn about peace, human rights, gender, and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

A Snapshot in Numbers

Total Beneficiaries: 35,239

Total Funding: \$75, 641

- **1,507 people** trained as members of peace and conflict resolution committees;
- **507 teachers** attended peace training;
- **1,461 children** participated in human rights sessions;
- **5,757 people** attended training in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement;
- **4,046 people** participated in gender awareness sessions.

FAR's ongoing commitment to build the capacity of the displaced populations in Sudan is evident in the work at the Kosti wharf, where internally displaced people who are on their journey home find shelter, healthcare, sanitation services, and educational and cultural support.

Nomadic Education and Peace-Building

FAR received an initial grant from the Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund to start education and peace-building work in West Darfur in 2009.



Students at a FAR project management workshop in Upper Nile

Cross-Cutting Themes

Capacity-Building

Building local skills is at the heart of all of FAR's projects, which focus on community involvement and ownership. FAR actively trains members of community-based organizations and incorporates local materials and labour whenever possible.

Environment

Climate change is an ever-present reality in the dry northern Sudanese landscape; the expansion of the Sahara desert is making natural resources even scarcer. FAR incorporates good stewardship into all projects, with a special focus on reforestation.

Gender

Healthy societies require respect and admiration between men and women. FAR's programmes are designed to foster mutual respect and to include women and men in decision-making processes.

HIV/AIDS

In addition to HIV/AIDS education campaigns and voluntary testing in Kosti, FAR raises awareness about HIV/AIDS in each project locale.



Women dance at a FAR community-building event in White Nile

Health & Nutrition

In 2008 FAR's health & nutrition programmes were based in White Nile and South Kordofan.

Healthcare and Health Education

White Nile—In 2008 FAR's medical team, based in Kosti, not only treated patients awaiting their journey south, but also travelled onboard the barges to treat patients en route, providing medical care throughout the journey in adverse conditions. Overcrowding and non-existent water and sanitation facilities challenge the health of passengers. FAR hopes to address these issues in 2009.

HIV/AIDS is a growing concern in Sudan. Testing, counselling, and education were available at the way-station in Kosti. Training on how to prevent diseases such as diarrhea and malaria was also well attended and received.

South Kordofan—In 2008 FAR built four new health clinics in the Nuba Mountains, these clinics serve both host and returnee populations by providing healthcare and health education.

Transportation is a challenge for many health practitioners in South Kordofan, FAR provided seven bicycles to help facilitate healthcare in the region.

School Feeding Programmes

Poor nutrition makes studying very difficult for many children in the Nuba Mountains. FAR improved school attendance as well as nutrition for many school children in South Kordofan by providing a midday meal.

A Snapshot in Numbers

Total Beneficiaries: 19,819

Total Funding: \$130,234

- **15,558 community members** received healthcare;
- **4 clinics** were constructed or rehabilitated;
- **8 diagnostic laboratories** established in health clinics;
- **7 bicycles** given for mobile healthcare;
- **2,500 students** took part in school feeding programmes at 10 schools.



Voluntary HIV/AIDS testing at the Kosti wharf in White Nile

Non-Food Items & Emergency Shelter

FAR's work with non-food items & emergency shelter was focused in the camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Khartoum state and at the Kosti Wharf in White Nile.

Distributions

FAR distributes soap, mosquito nets, and blankets to households awaiting their journeys south at the way-station in Kosti. Families often arrive at the wharf with few resources after purchasing barge tickets and paying for transportation to the port. Both waiting close to and traveling on the Nile

river makes passengers vulnerable to mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria. FAR provides mosquito nets at the wharf, which help to protect the most vulnerable members of households from illness. FAR also provides soap and laundry detergent.

FAR supports IDPs in Khartoum state by providing tarpaulins for shelter construction.

Disaster Risk Reduction

In 2008 FAR ran a successful Disaster Risk Reduction education campaign, which trained community members and leaders on how to prepare for and prevent disasters. Each workshop concluded with community members writing and implementing disaster risk reduction plans.



A woman carries tarpaulins in a Khartoum State IDP camp

Financial Report

2008 Budget: \$4,246,947

FAR is grateful for the generous support of its donors. FAR is committed to good stewardship of the funds it receives on behalf of the Sudanese people, employing principles of

transparency and accountability at all levels of management and ensuring excellent value for money. FAR's partnership with Emmanuel International and SIM Canada means that most headquarter costs are covered in Canada and that 99.5% of money received in Sudan in 2008 stayed in Sudan.

FAR's detailed financial information for 2008 is available upon request at finance@farsudan.org.

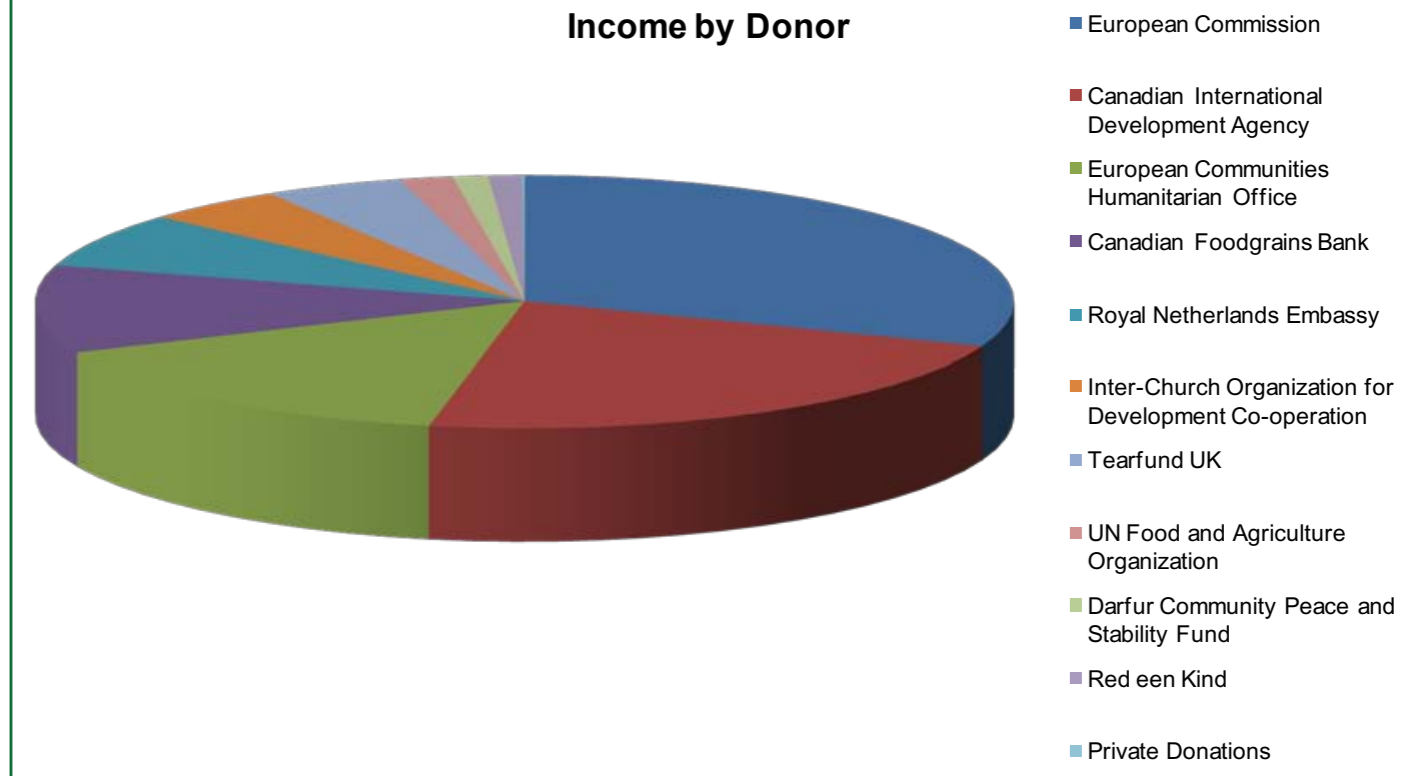
A Snapshot in Numbers

Total Beneficiaries: 19,923

Total Funding: \$36,638

- **14,390 items** were given out, including plastic sheets, blankets, soap, mosquito nets, and tarps;
- **53 members of government** were trained in the importance of Disaster Risk Reduction;
- **2,402 community members** attended training in Disaster Risk Reduction;
- **78 people** took training of trainer courses.

Income by Donor



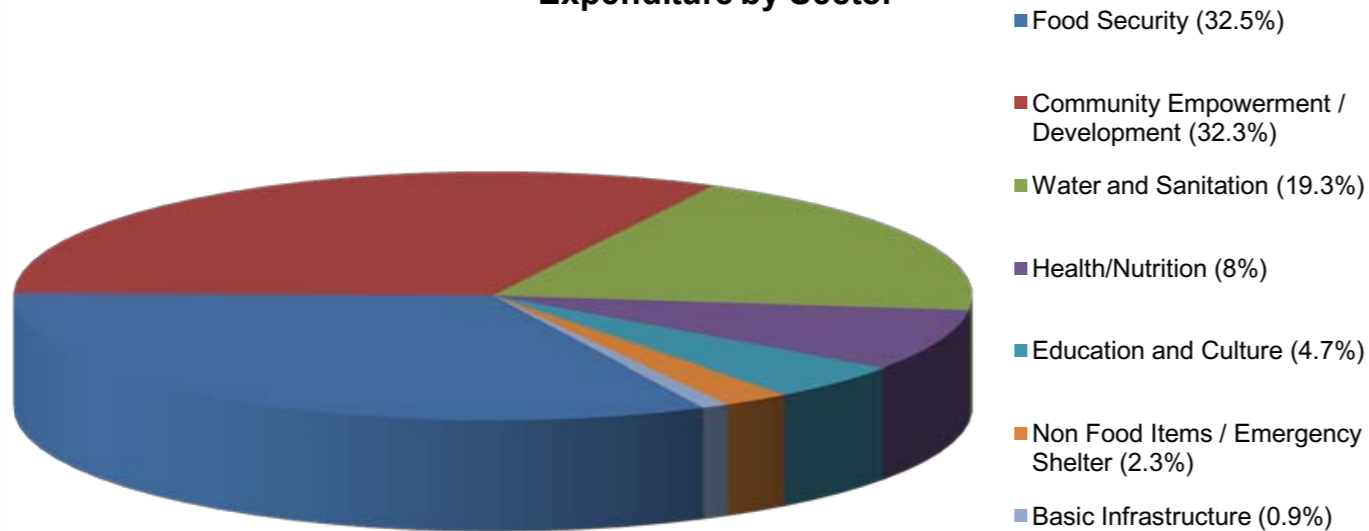
Fundraising

After being incorporated and receiving charitable status in 2007, FAR is able to accept donations and issue tax receipts directly. Donations can be made online through the FAR website www.farsudan.org or through Canada Helps at www.canadahelps.org.

Donations are split between the Emergency Response Fund and the Capacity Development Fund, unless otherwise designated.

Funds are used to address critical needs in Sudan, particularly those which arise suddenly because of conflict or natural disaster.

Expenditure by Sector



FAR into the Future

Darfur Community Peace and Stability Fund

In late 2008 FAR secured funding for a peace-building project in West Darfur. The project, which begins in 2009, creates linkages between nomadic and agricultural communities along Sudan's westernmost border with Chad where conflict and environmental stresses have left communities vulnerable.

The project includes opening community spaces that will function as schools, community centres, and demonstration farms, where diverse cultural groups can come together. In mutually profiting from programming, our hope is that understanding and dialogue will be fostered and peace will ensue.

Southern Sudan

FAR currently has one project based in southern Sudan in the northern part of Upper Nile. To address the great needs in the area FAR is planning to expand programming in Upper Nile in 2009.

Many people in the Melut region rely on subsistence farming for their livelihood and do not have access to adequate water and sanitation services. Open field defecation is still widely practiced and communities are without health clinics.

Geography further isolates the area which has poor transportation connections and roads that are impassable during the rainy season. FAR is planning a multi-sectoral intervention that will take advantage of river access.



Returnees on board an overcrowded barge traveling south on the Nile

The River Nile, which was a trade route for millennia before the war, connects Sudan from south to north. Many communities along the Nile are underserved as a result of poor infrastructure and do not have access to basic services such as healthcare or education.

As displaced people relocate to their homes along the river, services are further stretched. Moreover, residents lack traditional life and livelihood skills.

In 2009 FAR hopes to open a mobile health clinic and training center that will travel along the river and provide services and education to vulnerable communities.



FAR Sudan

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