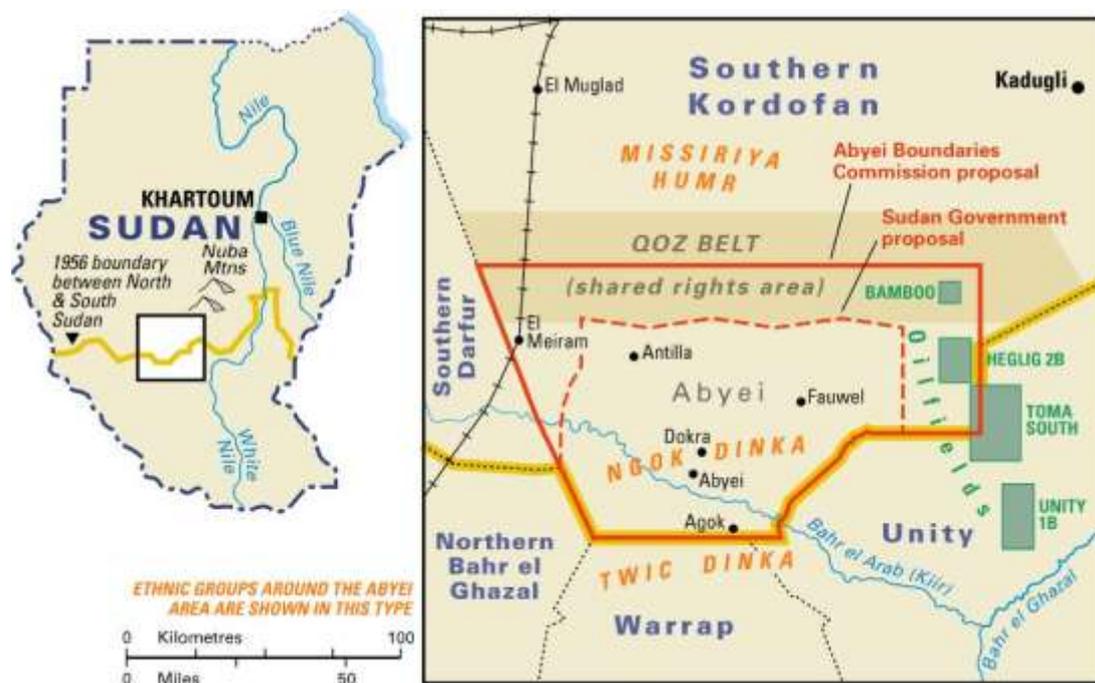


Terms of Reference

For TaiwanICDF Volunteer Deployment with Mercy Corps In South Sudan, Abyei Administration Area

INTRODUCTION

In July 2011, South Sudan earned its independence, becoming the youngest country in the world. However, the area near the border between Sudan and South Sudan remained unsettled. The TaiwanICDF cooperated with Mercy Corps right after the 2011 independence to offer humanitarian aid to displaced people in the Abyei area, a contested territory on the border of South Sudan and Sudan. The project aimed to assist internally displaced people (IDP) to restore horticulture production in the dry season. A total of 357 households benefited from the project.



Abyei area has experienced periodic conflict and population displacement. The latest crisis occurred 21st May, 2011 and saw the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) responding to a Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) attack on their troops by mounting a large-scale assault on the area which resulted in the occupation of Abyei town and the land north of the river Kiir. This led to mass displacement of the population of Abyei town and surrounding areas, spreading into Twic County and Agok in southern Abyei. The number of displaced people has been estimated at 113,000. This startling figure constitutes over 75 % of the Abyei population which was displaced throughout Warrap State, Northern Bahr el Gazal and Wau. Following the May 2011 crisis, Mercy Corps continued to assist the conflict-affected population through various interventions. Mercy Corps remains committed to providing assistance to the vulnerable population in Abyei both north and south of the river Kiir, and to addressing the humanitarian needs of the vulnerable population through both short and long term interventions.

After the 2011 project, the TaiwanICDF is again working with Mercy Corps to implement a multi-pronged approach to meeting the food security needs of IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host communities in the Abyei area. The project will focus on building community capacity to improve and diversify household food production. More specifically, the intervention will

assist the most vulnerable community members with horticultural training, vegetable seeds and tools to enable the community to engage in horticulture production. This approach will improve household food production and food basket and improve nutrition habits among vulnerable families. The project will also provide an alternative source of income to meet community needs for non-food items. Moreover, technical assistance from the TaiwanICDF will focus on building the capacity of the local government, mainly the **Abyei Secretariat for Agriculture, Animal Resources and Fisheries (SAARF)** for better delivery of extension services. It involves training of SAARF staff, the provision of in-kind assistance to the Secretariat to facilitate its operations and a pilot component of micro-grant mechanism to position the SAARF in the driver's seat of public service delivery.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The TaiwanICDF will offer technical assistance to the project by providing **two volunteers with expertise in horticulture**. The TaiwanICDF volunteers will be based in Agok/Abyei Administration Area, working alongside the local government and farmers' groups to deliver targeted activities that will meet the immediate and longer-term agricultural needs of the conflict-affected population in Abyei. The TaiwanICDF volunteers will undertake capacity building of SAARF and Mercy Corps staff members to improve the delivery of extension services. The TaiwanICDF volunteers will assist the program manager in the day-to-day management of the TaiwanICDF-supported activities and ensure the proactive involvement of the SAARF in the program implementation.

KEY ROLES

The TaiwanICDF volunteers will:

- Work alongside the SAARF team for three months to deliver training in **strategic planning, project cycle management, proposal development and report-writing skills**, among others.
- Based on the training provided, assist the SAARF in **identifying priority needs**, and in **developing small-grant proposals** to address such needs.
- Provide **on-the-job training** to SAARF staff and **extend technical support and monitoring** during the implementation of micro-grants.
- TaiwanICDF volunteers and SAARF staff will **conduct regular visits to the group gardens** and **provide technical backstopping to the community** as required.
- Represent the TaiwanICDF and Mercy Corps in the community, and in relations with the SAARF and INGO/UN agencies in the Abyei Administration area; ensure a proactive, partnership-based approach in relationship management.
- Participate in management meetings with Agok/Abyei-based Mercy Corps staff and contribute to team decision-making processes in the Agok/Abyei field office.
- Provide monthly progress reports and regular feedback on the achievement, challenges and lessons learned as part of program implementation.
- Perform any other duties assigned by Mercy Corps Agok/Abyei head of office and Mercy Corps Country office.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO BENEFICIARIES

TaiwanICDF volunteers and Mercy Corps team members are expected to support all efforts towards accountability, specifically to the project beneficiaries and to acceptable standards guiding international relief and development work, while actively engaging beneficiary communities as equal partners in the design, monitoring and evaluation of our field projects.

LIVING /ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

The TaiwanICDF volunteers will be based in the Mercy Corps Agok Compound located in the Abyei Administration Area, a disputed territory between Sudan and South Sudan. Living conditions are basic. Staff sleep in large safari tents in the Agok Compound. The climate is very hot, humid and dusty. Medical facilities are basic, and tropical diseases including malaria are endemic.

Mercy Corps team members, TaiwanICDF volunteers and consultants hired by the organization represent the agency both during and outside of working hours when deployed in a field posting or on a visit/temporary deployment to a field posting. Team members are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and respect local laws, customs and Mercy Corps' policies, procedures, and values at all times and in all in-country venues.