

Draft minutes of the Special Session of BSF's 21st Steering Committee on Wednesday the 26th of August 2009, held at Beijing Hotel in Juba, Southern Sudan.

Membership of the BSF Steering Committee (refer to attached list)

Persons present:

The persons present are listed in the attached membership list, except for the 3 special guests of BSF's Annual Review:

| <u>name</u> | <u>position</u> | <u>Email address</u> |
|--------------|---------------------------|--|
| James MORTON | Economist and Team Leader | james@jfmorton.co.uk mail@jfmorton.co.uk |
| Rob DENNY | NGO management | rob.denny@telefonica.net recdenny@yahoo.com |
| Rose LISOK | Gender analysis | lisok@hotmail.com |

Agenda

1. Opening and introductions
2. Presentation of Annual Review mission
3. Discussion
4. Any other business

Attachments:

Members and observers and persons present for 21st SC
Presentation Annual Review

The meeting started at 10.15 a.m.

1. Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened by the chairman; Mr Moses Mabior Deu. In his opening remarks the chairman welcomed those present, in particular the members of BSF's Annual Review mission. The meeting was especially called for the benefit of this mission's debriefing. The chair emphasized the importance of Basic Services in the context of the delivery of peace dividends to Southern Sudanese, and support to the CPA process. He regretted the absence of the Ministry of Education (MoH joined the meeting shortly after his opening).

The annual review mission arrived in Southern Sudan on Sunday 16th August and stayed until the afternoon of August 26th. During these 10 days, the mission made two field trips; one group went to Upper Nile and one to Eastern Equatoria and Juba town. Both groups met with BSF Grant recipients, State and County authorities and beneficiaries.

2. Presentation Annual review and
3. Discussion

The team leader of BSF's annual review took the floor to introduce the team, and started the presentation (attached to these minutes) as follows:

- parts 1 to 3 (Introduction, Primary Education and Water & Sanitation) by James MORTON (team leader),
- part 4 (Primary Health) by Rob DENNY part 5 (Gender) by Mrs Rose Lisok,
- part 6 (M&E and Lessons Learnt) by Mr James MORTON,
- part 7 (BSF Mechanism) by Mr Rob DENNY and
- part 8 (Strategic Questions and Conclusions) by Mr James MORTON.

After the mission members had made their presentations, the chairman invited the floor for questions and discussions:

The DFID representative pointed out that BSF's current phase 2 will end on 31st August 2010, and discussions between GoSS, donors and in particular the Joint Donor Team, are ongoing about the funding of Basic Services after that date. The annual review is in the first place focusing on the ongoing phase 2.

DFID requested clarification of the mission's estimate that BSF's financed boreholes had an average cost of 26 GBP per capita. It was suggested that this is much above other costs in the region, e.g. an estimated 3 USD per capita in Ethiopia. However, it was also noted that it is difficult to compare costs between different countries and that a compare of the costs within Southern Sudan with other programmes, e.g. with UNICEF, may be more relevant.

The question was raised "what is affordable?", about the missions' estimated cost of GBP 80,000 to GBP 187,000 for one 8 class room primary school. It was advised to further analyse the unit costs, with support by MoEST.

The chairman urged ministries to be consistent in the BSF Steering Committee attendance and to instruct their staff to brief each other. This serves efficiency and effectiveness; this in a reaction on concerns (by MoH and Dutch embassy) about ministerial involvement. All ministries should try to be consistent in their participation and improve intra-ministerial coordination in order to increase responsibility in being effective as Grant overseers.

The representative from the JDO announced a meeting of the Strategic Management Board in Ottawa at the end of September 2009. All pooled funding mechanisms in South Sudan will end during, or just before, 2011. The SMB will advise on the best way forward.

The meeting discussed the various forms of community participation in the implementation of BSF financed projects with an introduction by the NGO Health Coordinator. This participation takes on many different forms. It can be by volunteering for works (in kind), but also in cost sharing (cash), committee work in Village Health Committees, Parent Teacher Associations and Water Point Committees etc. Capacity building of GoSS decentralized structures (county and state) was also discussed. Ongoing efforts by BSF include training, coaching (on-the-job training), management support and budget support. This aspect is very important because of the key role that the County Health Departments have for the sustainability of interventions.

The meeting agreed with the NESI and the Indigenous NGO Forum representatives on the Steering Committee, that the access of Sudanese NGOs to all pooled funding mechanism should be maximized. The track record of capacity building (the amount of training, coaching etc.) invested in supporting these local NGOs should be better recorded and reported.

4. Any other business
None

5. Closure