



Minutes of the 19th BSF SC Meeting

Date: 10 March 2009

Venue: Beijing Hotel, 9.30 – 11.30

Membership:

	Member
1	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
2	Local Government Board
3	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
4	Ministry of Health
5	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
6	Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
7	Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs
8	Bank of Southern Sudan

Present:

	Name	Position, Organisation	Contact details
1	Moses Mabior Deu	Chair, MoFEP	
2	Albino Dak Othow	S. Inspector, BoSS	0477 251 022, aothow.boss@yahoo.com
3	Melissa Phillips	NGO Forum Secretariat	jubangoforum@gmail.com
4	Ketil Vaas	MoEST/ UNHCR Advisor	0477 153 409, vaas@unhcr.org , moest.goss@gmail.com
5	Peter Poul Luoy	MWRI, Asst Director	0477 148806, louypeter2004@yahoo.com
6	George Ali Steven	Dep Director, MoEST	georgeali@moest.gov.sd
7	Utem Watbor	MoEST, Director	0917158843, mukungo@yahoo.com
8	Wim Groenendijk	BSF, Policy Development, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	0477255794 Wim.groenendijk@bsf-secretariat-sd.org
9	Gale Emmanuel	NESI, program manager	0477243963, nesinetwork@gmail.com
10	Peter Jalynith Soverio	MWRI, Advisor	0918103249
11	Dr Samson Paul Baba	MoH, DG External Assistance/ Coordination	0477125799, Samson_baba@yahoo.co.uk
12	Kate Louwes	BSF, team leader	klouwes@bsf-secretariat-sd.org
13	Serena Bossi	BSF, Financial Administrator	Serena.bossi@bsf-secretariat-sd.org

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14	Bengt Herring	JDO	
15	Simon Ngida	BSF, Assistant	Simon.ngida@bsf-secretariat-sd.org
16	Geerte van der Meijden	BSF, Monitoring Officer	Geerte.meijden@bsf-secretariat-sd.org
17	Ben French	MoFEP	French.moefp@gmail.com

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Introductions
3. Minutes of the 17th and 18th BSF SC meetings
4. BSF funding update
5. BSF implementation update
6. Any other business
7. Closure

The meeting started at 9:45 am.

Opening by Mr. Moses Mabior Deu

Minutes 17th and 18th BSF Steering Committee

The meeting accepts the minutes of the 17th and 18th BSF Steering Committee.

BSF funding update

Due to logistical constraints neither Rob Ower nor Jo Raisin, could make it to the 19th BSF SC. However, Jo Raisin will visit the BSF secretariat next week and is in contact with the Canadian government regarding their possible contribution to the BSF. The BSF secretariat will inform the BSF SC, as soon as more information becomes available.

No representatives of the other donors were present and therefore no further funding updates were available.

BSF Implementation update *(see also Annex 1, presentation)*

Closing down – Phase I

The BSF secretariat is at the moment busy with the closing down of all BSF Phase I (round 1 and 2) projects. The secretariat is awaiting the external audit reports of the grant recipients, and prepares, in consultation with the grant recipients, an asset inventory and a proposal to DFID on the allocation of these assets. Facilities (health centres, schools, boreholes, etc.) will be, according to GoSS policies, handed over to state and county departments. Other equipment (with a value above 1000 GBP, e.g. computers, cars, etc.) belongs formally to DFID and a proposal needs to be made to DFID on the allocation of these assets. The secretariat will inform the BSF SC on how this is presented to DFID for all grant recipients. The closing down process will probably be completed by the end of April.

- MoH: As the projects are closing down, the MoH really needs to know what the ongoing activities in the field are, in order to avoid overlapping. Therefore, there is a need for a report on the achievements of all the grant recipients. For example: JSI is currently phasing out and in one of the reports of the



implementer it was written that all targets were achieved, however this was not true in the field. We furthermore need information on the quality and quantity of the boreholes. The MoH is not always notified of the plans of the grant recipients to build, and/or close down health facilities. The ministry needs to know where facilities are built and which are going to close down, and therefore all implementers should coordinate with the MoH. Also the asset allocation policy should be made very clear from the beginning.

- MWRI: The grant recipients/ implementers should also be monitored and advised on water quality as, at the moment, there is no control on water quality and there has been no submission of water analysis reports to the ministry. It should also be made very clear to the grant recipients to whom to hand over the water facilities, and who is responsible. Another issue is the availability of spare parts and the training of pump mechanics. Awareness raising and hygiene education are also very important and should always be part of all water programmes. A good number of pit latrines have been installed, however, in some areas there have been some problems (e.g. NBG, UN).
- MWRI further needs to receive the borehole completion reports, with GPS readings. The format is available and we ask the implementers to submit the completed reports.
- MoEST: It is very important that the line ministries are involved from the beginning. In order to plan, the state education departments need to know what is coming (also regarding to asset management). Therefore MoEST presented the need strongly to be involved in the third phase from the beginning, especially also during the start of implementation.
- Chair: The BSF projects need to be appraised by the IMAC. The BSF secretariat should inform the MoFEP when they are ready to submit the projects for review by the IMAC and the MoFEP will then plan for a review meeting, possibly in the second week of April.
- NGO forum: The NGO forum was pleased to hear about the concern for projects quality and sustainability by all partners. As we move forward, it will become critical to have more information about quality. The budget sector reports that contain all project data of all the projects, by sectors, might also give an idea on who does what and where. However, the NGOs really need to know on how to monitor. The NGO forum therefore emphasized the importance of the adaption of a legal framework, in the form of a NGO Bill. Up till now, there is no legal NGO act, and therefore no legal mechanism, which monitors and corrects the implementation (qualitatively and quantitatively) of projects by NGO. Furthermore, the ministries could play an important role by giving advice on which contractors to use, disseminating lists of reputable contractors.
- Chair: The Ministry of Finance will come up with a financial management system. This will help in terms of M&E at County level for all the projects and projects funded by BSF's partners and donors. Around May 2009., before a new budget sector working group cycle, this new financial management system should be in place. The Ministry of Planning will very soon also start with monitoring. As a result, the quality of monitoring of the projects should improve.
- BoSS: What does the Steering Committee do with grant recipients that did not reach their targets?
 - Answer BSF: Amounts not spend on targets will be subtracted from their budget and reallocated.

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MoH: Non of the listed NGOs in the 3rd Round are registered with the government of Southern Sudan. The MoH needs to know their locations, target areas, budgets etc. The MoH actively discourages projects that take less than 2 years to ensure a minimum standard of sustainability.

NGO forum: NGOs are only allowed to receive funds when they are registered with the SSRSC. Some NGOs are also registered with the Ministry of Legal Affairs, but this is not mandatory. Some NGOs also enter into MoUs with the respective line-ministries involved.

Chair: The NGO Forum could make everything more clear about the registration requirements of all NGOs. MoH: NGOs, registered in Khartoum, need to be registered in Southern Sudan as well. The MoH needs to know how much goes to hiring HR within the budget. Sometimes, 50-60 % of budgets has gone to hiring expatriate staff, while most of the budgets should be spend on the implementation of the project.

Expenditures – Phase I (see also slide XX of Annex 1)

The expenditures during Phase I (round 1 and 2) were a little bit thin on capacity building. This is, however, because construction is always more expensive. Capacity building got a lot of attention in these Phases, however this is not clear from the pie-charts as given in the presentation. It will become more clear when looking at the targets and achievements tables of Phase I.

Health extensions – Phase I

Eight (8) grant recipients of Phase I received contracts to keep established health facilities open.

Targets and achievements – Phase I (see tables with notes on slide XX – XX of Annex 1)

Drinking Water Lessons Learned – Phase I

On the 12th of February, there was a Drinking Water Lessons Learnt Debriefing Meeting, with all grant recipients with a water component. The final report and the presentation and minutes of the debriefing meeting are available on <http://www.bsf-south-sudan.org/content/evaluations-and-lessons-learned>. Some lessons learnt point to the following ways forward:

- BSF to get in contact with the DRWS to get a clear picture on the availability of standard contracts, requirements and guidelines and provide the information on availability of these documents to the partners.
- BSF to make it clear to the grant recipients where and how to submit the borehole completion reports to the WES database. Grant recipients will also need to submit a copy of all the submitted reports to the BSF secretariat, to assure that all reports are submitted. Templates of WES database data format will be distributed.

Exit Strategy – Phase I

For a good exit strategy, the line ministries should be involved. The chairman also made the remark that, especially for the IMAC appraisal, the exit strategy has to be very clear and should be part of all project summaries. Ben French proposed to set up a technical working group with all ministries on how to develop an exit strategy for the BSF projects.

Any Other Business

BSF SC meeting schedule

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Hard copies of the BSF SC meeting schedules were available. Please, find this meeting schedule attached (Annex 2) to these minutes. The next meeting will be on the 20th of June.

Closure

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11:30 a.m. and thanked all for their constructive contributions.