Sudan – Gash Sustainable Livelihoods Regeneration Project

Project Performance Assessment
Eighty-seventh session of the Evaluation Committee
30 March 2015
Project context

- Spate irrigation: variability and uncertainty -- traditional land allocation mechanism by “lottery”
- The project area dominated by *Hadendowa* with a strong tribal hierarchy and power structure
- Comprehensive Peace Agreement (2005) – more autonomy to the states
Gash spate irrigation scheme: A look from the above
Gash spate irrigation scheme
Off-take structures
Basic project information

- **Project area:** Kassala state: entire command area of GAS and around
- **Target group:** 67,000 poor households
- **Project cost:** US$35.7 million (US$24 mill IFAD, US$11 mill by Govt)
- **Implementation:** 2004 - 2012
- **Lead Project Agency:** Min of Agriculture and Forestry (Federal Govt)
- **Key institutions:** Gash Agricultural Scheme (GAS), Water Users Associations (WUAs), Gash River Training Unit (GRTU), State Min of Agriculture
**Project objectives and components**

**Project Goal**
To generate the **livelihoods** of poor people in and around the Gash delta, compatible with the **efficient and sustainable use** of its land and water resources and based upon a shared vision of development and the stability of the related institutional arrangements.

**Project Purpose**
to ensure **efficient, equitable and sustainable operation** of the Gash Scheme and its integration of the scheme into the local economy.

**Component 1**
Irrigation infrastructure rehabilitation (34% of actual total cost)

**Component 2**
Animal production & rangeland mgmt (5%)

**Component 3**
Community development (16%)

**Component 4**
Financial services & marketing (>1%)

**Component 5: Institutional support**
including:
- Water Users Associations (WUAs)
- Gash Agricultural Scheme (GAS)
- Land tenancy reform (44% of actual total cost)
Evaluation objectives, methodology and process

• Objectives of Project Performance Assessment (PPA):
  - Provide an independent assessment of the overall results
  - Generate recommendations for on-going and future operations supported by IFAD and the Government

• PPA based on:
  - Desk review of project-related and other documents
  - Mission undertaken 24 Nov-5 Dec 2013: field visits and interviews
Main findings: key achievements

• Investment in infrastructure → capturing of floodwaters enhanced
  - better protection of towns from floods
  - reported increase in irrigated area (25%)

• Embarked on an important reform process: land and water governance for more equitable access

• Water Users Associations formation and development (92 first level WUAs with 40,000 registered farmers)

• Access to safe drinking water (over 20,000 households)

• Access to finance by women (over 2,000) and their empowerment
Main findings: Areas of weak performance

- Capacity of key institutions still weak. Also unclear roles and responsibilities (in particular, GAS and WUAs)
- Land tenancy reform for more equity and transparency: real progress not clear, tenants identifications not verified
- Some fundamental issues for enabling framework remained unresolved over years (e.g. GAS status)
- Limited evidence on improved crop productivity
- Weak M&E, lack of data on results and impact
Main conclusions

*Contribution to general development in the area and some important achievements, however:*

- Overall achievements fell short of the set objectives, with challenging environment
- Design underestimated the complexities of social, political and institutional contexts, and the requirements for institutional capacity building
- Opportunities offered by infrastructure works – not sufficiently exploited
- Concern with sustainability
Recommendations

To IFAD

• IFAD to consider engaging in discussion with the Government on key issues for the Gash irrigation scheme

To the Government *(in collaboration with partners)*

• Roles of key institutions (WUAs, GAS, GRTU) to be clarified

• Strengthening of WUAs over a medium-term

• Attention to increasing the returns on irrigated crop production

• Gash river management plan