



Sudan – Gash Sustainable Livelihoods Regeneration Project

Project Performance Assessment

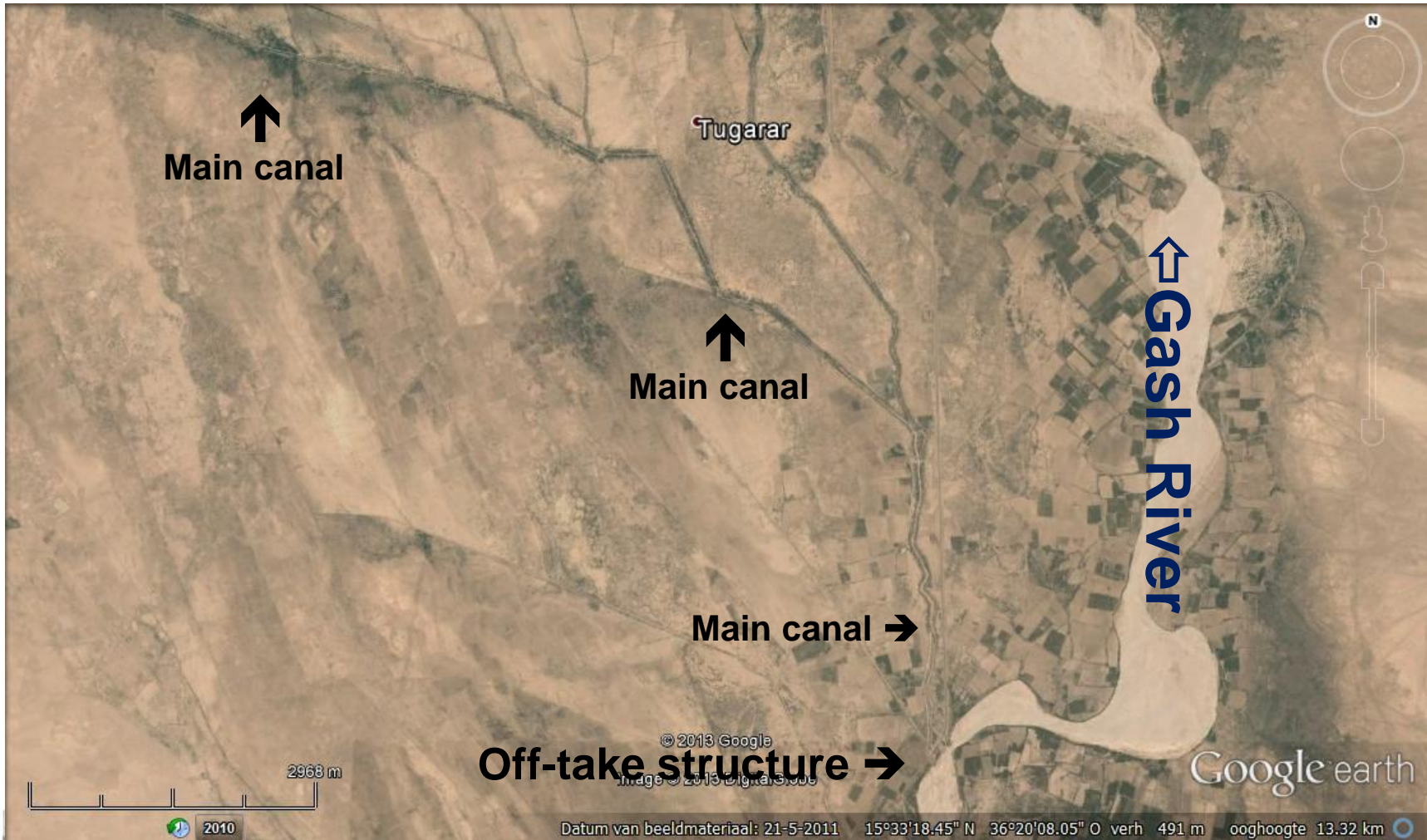
Eighty-seventh session of the Evaluation Committee

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
- Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (2006) – improved security

Gash spate irrigation scheme: A look from the above

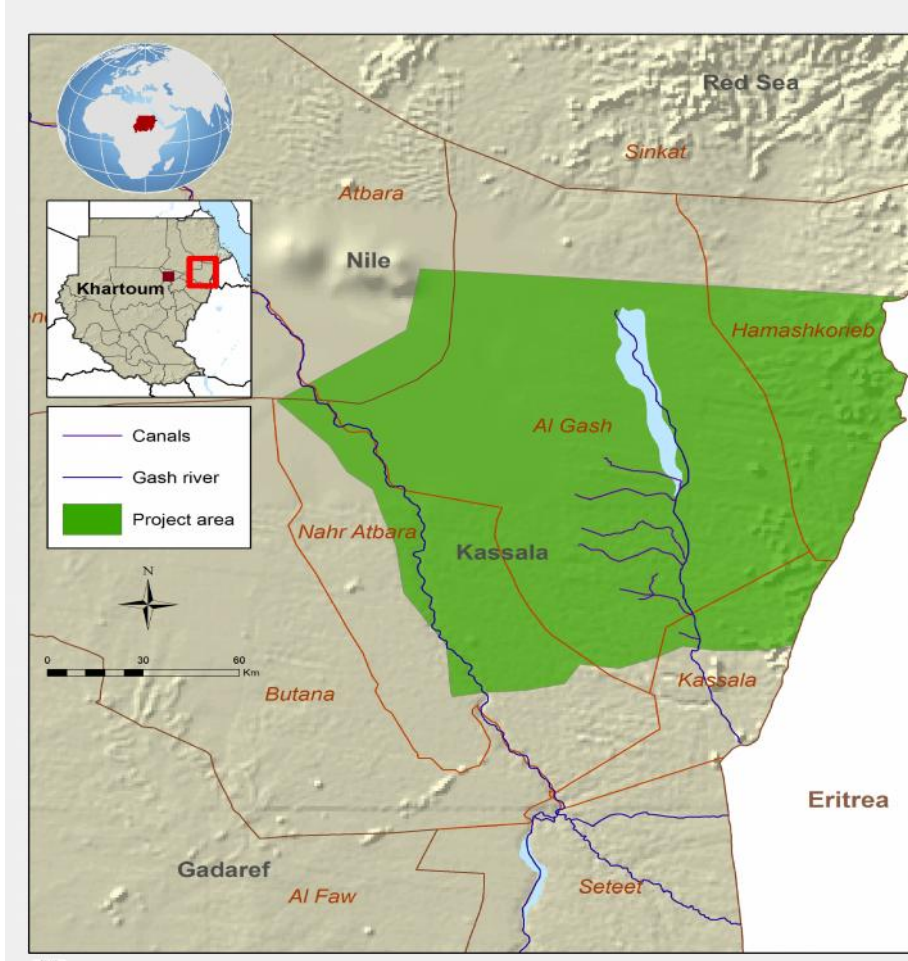


Gash spate irrigation scheme

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 mgt
(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