



SIU REPORT SERIES

2011

NUCOOP Annual Report 2010

The Norwegian University Cooperation Programme for
Capacity Building in Sudan (NUCOOP)



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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Norwegian institutions of higher education have a long history of successful cooperation with universities in Sudan. After the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Sudan, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) wanted to make use of the knowledge and experiences of Sudanese affairs available in Norwegian institutions in order to support the implementation of the CPA and contribute to poverty reduction. Based on this intention, the Norwegian University Cooperation Programme for Capacity Development in Sudan (NUCOOP) was established in 2007. The programme runs until 2012 and is administered by SIU according to a contract with Norad.

The programme's overall goal is to contribute to the development of sustainable capacity of higher education institutions in Southern Sudan and other marginalized areas and to provide the workforce with adequate qualifications in selected fields of study through multiphase cooperation.

In 2010 NUCOOP supported ten collaborative projects with Sudanese and Norwegian partner institutions. Most of the projects run until 2012. University of Bahr el Ghazal (UBG), University of Juba (UoJ) and Upper Nile University (UNU) are the three main partner institutions in Sudan. The Norwegian main partner institutions are Akershus University College (AUC), Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB), Oslo University College (OUC), the University of Bergen (UiB) and the University of Oslo (UiO).

1.2 The annual reporting 2010

This is the third year of annual reporting in the NUCOOP Programme. The Annual Report for 2010 focuses on the projects' progress in terms of educational achievements, institutional development, scientific achievements and impact for development in line with the contract. The report also comments on the progress and deviations of each project in relation to the planned activities for 2010 as presented in the projects' annual progress reports for 2010.

2 The NUCOOP project portfolio

2.1 Selection of projects

Calls for proposals

In 2007, the first call for proposals to NUCOOP was issued, and six projects were selected for support. One more project was selected for support in 2008 after the second call for proposals. In 2009 a limited call for proposals was issued to institutions already involved in the programme for activities that could support the implementation of the ongoing NUCOOP projects. The NUFU Programme Board decided to support two infrastructure projects and one research training project. The remaining funds from the budget for the NUCOOP Programme 2007-2012 were allocated to the establishment and running of a NUCOOP Office in Juba.

Additional contracts entered in 2010

The following two contracts have been signed in 2010 with reference to §2.2 in the NUFU agreement for funding of projects related to NUCOOP:

The Norwegian Embassy in Khartoum and SIU have entered into a contract on the funding of the construction of a Library and Information Science Training Centre at the University of Juba, as additional funding linked to the NUCOOP Programme. The basis for the contract is an application submitted for funding from the NUCOOP Programme in 2009. The NUFU Programme Board concluded that the application was worthy of support, but in competition with other relevant projects, the application could not be prioritised within the available financial framework. Subsequently, and based on a dialogue between the Norwegian Embassy in Khartoum and SIU, the Embassy decided to support the project, which will be implemented in 2010-2011.

Through an addendum to the contract for NUCOOP, signed by Norad and SIU in May 2010, the cooperation project *NUCOOP-2007/10002 Education and Sustainable Development in a Post-Conflict Southern Sudan* has been granted an additional NOK 1.75 million (plus institutional support) in order to be able to continue their activities until 2012.

Establishment of the NUCOOP coordinating office at the University of Juba

The NUFU Programme Board decided in 2009 that the remaining funds from the budget for the NUCOOP Programme 2007-2012, NOK 1 422 344, was to be allocated to the establishment of a NUCOOP office in Juba. A contract on the establishment and running of the NUCOOP Office was entered between SIU and the University of Juba in January 2010. The office shall serve and support all cooperation projects supported by the NUCOOP Programme in matters regarding logistics, practical arrangements, and safety issues related to project activities. The NUCOOP office was established early 2010.

Table 1 provides an overview of the projects in the NUCOOP portfolio.

Table 1. The NUCOOP project portfolio

Project ID	Title	Institution in Norway	Project type
University of Juba			
NUCOOP-2007/10008	Juba University Library Automation Project	University of Bergen	Network
NUCOOP-2007/10013	Teaching basic sciences in laboratories and by field studies	University of Bergen	Bilateral
NUCOOP-2007/10003	Postwar Livelihood and Environment Studies	Norwegian University of Life Sciences	Bilateral

NUCOOP-2008/10001	Capacity building in Southern Sudan: Educating librarians for the future	University of Bergen	Network
NUCOOPIN-2009/11101	Guest house and teaching facilities at the University of Juba	University of Bergen	Infrastructure
NUCOOPX-2009/10501	Building a Library and Information Science Training Centre in Juba University (funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Khartoum)	University of Bergen	Infrastructure
<i>Upper Nile University</i>			
NUCOOP-2007/10005	Bachelor programmes in Vocational and Technical Teacher Education Southern Sudan - Uganda - Norway	Akershus University College	Network
NUCOOP-2007/10002	Education and Sustainable Development in a Post-Conflict Southern Sudan	Oslo University College	Network
NUCOOPX-2010/10001	Education and Sustainable Development in a Post-Conflict Southern Sudan – Third Cohort	Oslo University College	Network (funding of third student cohort)
<i>University of Bahr el Ghazal</i>			
NUCOOP-2007/10007	Capacity Building in the Field of Mental Health in South Sudan	University of Oslo	Network
NUCOOPRE-2009/11027	Building an advanced research capacity in Northern and Southern Sudanese Universities	University of Oslo	Research
NUCOOPIN-2009/10602	Guest house at the University of Bahr el Ghazal	University of Oslo	Infrastructure
<i>NUCOOP Office</i>			
NUCOOPOFF-2010/10001	NUCOOP Office		

3 Achievements at programme level

3.1 Educational achievements

The table below shows that a total number of eight Bachelor students (25 per cent women), 36 Master's students (36 per cent women) and 8 PhD candidates (50 per cent women) were supported by NUCCOOP in 2010. Six Master's students completed their studies in 2010. Most students are expected to complete in 2011 or 2012, but at least three Bachelor and two PhD students will not finish their studies until 2013.

The NUCCOOP Programme aims to achieve gender balance (50 per cent male and 50 per cent female participation) in the recruitment process. While there is unfortunately still an imbalance at Bachelor and Master's level, the fact that 50 per cent of the PhD students are female is very promising.

Table 2. Bachelor, Master's and PhD students, courses and programmes

Bachelor students		Master's students		PhD candidates			
Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Master's course	Master's programme
2	6	13	23	4	4	4	1

As illustrated in the table above, four Master's courses and one Master's programme had been established, all of them within the same project (NUCCOOP-2007/10002).

3.2 Institutional development

Capacity building at the partner institutions in Sudan is a key component in this programme. In 2010 a total number of 46 university staff members received training with support from NUCCOOP; 13 administrative staff members (including only one female), 17 technical staff members (three females), and 16 staff members of other categories (five females). The trained staff included librarians and other library staff, technicians, professors, lecturers, teaching assistants, and people employed in the university administration.

In addition to the training of university staff members, 29 health workers attended a NUCCOOP-funded training programme in mental health in 2010. 45 per cent of the trained health workers were female.

Table 3. Staff training in 2010

Administrative staff		Technical staff		Other staff members		Health workers	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
12	1	14	3	11	5	16	13

3.3 Scientific achievements

Research, including publications and dissemination activities, plays a minor role in the NUCOOP Programme in comparison to institutional development and education. Two scientific articles and one book were published in 2010, and the projects produced seven theses, two reports, nine conference presentations and one policy brief.

Table 5. Publications and dissemination activities in 2010

Article published in scientific journal	2
Book	1
Master thesis	7
Scientific report or working paper	1
Conference/seminar presentation without refereed paper	9
Non-scientific report	1
Policy briefs	1

4 Progress and results at project level

4.1 Postwar Livelihood and Environment Studies (NUCOOP-2007/10003) – University of Juba

Project summary

Postwar livelihood and environment studies is a network cooperation project. The University of Juba (UoJ) and the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) are the main partner institutions. Upper Nile University (UNU) was a network partner until 2010. The project focuses on the development of the agricultural sector, as revival of food production remains a major post-war priority in South Sudan. The project objectives were to carry out joint research on issues that are crucial for post-war revival of the agricultural and livestock sectors and for environmental rehabilitation; and to strengthen the capacities of UoJ and UNU during their re-establishment in the South. The project has been allocated NOK 7 300 000 for the project period.

Expected results 2008 – 2012

This project plans to educate ten Master's and two PhD students.

Two librarians and four technical and administrative staff will receive training. The project plans to equip an animal nutrition laboratory and to train staff in use of the equipment.

Ten scientific publications are planned for, five of them in peer-reviewed journals. 14 scientific reports, five papers or presentations, and five dissemination activities are expected to be produced.

Progress, changes and deviations in 2010

The project is somewhat behind schedule. A major issue for this project has been the suspension of project activities at Upper Nile University since 2009. With approval from SIU, the network collaboration with UNU was terminated in 2010 and the project component was transferred from UNU to the University of Juba. Consequently the main objectives of the project remain the same, with the exception of capacity building at UNU. Despite the problems faced with the loss of a network partner, the project has made considerable progress in terms of education of students and research collaboration.

Educational achievements

The project has enrolled two male PhD students from UoJ. In addition, two Norwegian PhD students (funded by the Norwegian Research Council) doing research in South Sudan are involved in the project. The project experienced recruitment difficulties with regard to enrolment of master's students in 2009. Two students from UNU were not able to start their studies. However, four master's students from UoJ have been recruited and are enrolled at Makerere University in Uganda. The project has achieved gender balance at master level, with two male and two female students.

Institutional development

As a consequence of the termination of project activities at UNU, the project components at this university have been transferred to UoJ. The planned animal nutrition laboratory will be established at the Department of Animal Production and field work studies and survey will be carried out through the UoJ's Centre for Peace and Development Research. Furthermore, the project is now collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Wildlife Conservation on development of policy and practical plans of management of genetic resources. In terms of staff training, the planned training of librarians from UNU was cancelled.

Scientific achievements

Collaboration with the Centre for Peace and Development Research has formally and practically started through research activities and guest-lecturing. Research activities focusing on management of crop genetic resources has been initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture. The project has so far published two scientific publications, and expects to increase publication and dissemination activities by the end of the project period.

Impact for development

The project's focus on agriculture, environmental issues and development are in line with the priorities of the Government of Southern Sudan. Although it is still early to assess the project's impact for

development, the established collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Wildlife Conservation is promising.

The project's use of funds

The termination of collaboration with Upper Nile University imposed a major challenge to the project accounts in 2010. Project funds at Upper Nile University are not accounted for. Currently this remains an unresolved issue. Due to delays and transfer of activities to the University of Juba, the expenditures were lower than budgeted for in 2010. The project has a large budget for 2011.

Annual institutional assessment

UMB and UoJ approved the annual progress report for 2010. Both main partner institutions assessed the progress of the project as satisfactory, despite the situation with UNU.

4.2 Juba University Library Automation Project (NUCOOP-2007/10008) – University of Juba

Project summary

Juba University Library Automation Project is a network cooperation project between the Main Library at University of Juba (UoJ) and the University of Bergen Library. Makerere University Library and East Africa School of Library and Information Science at Makerere University in Uganda are network partners, together with the Faculty of Journalism, Information and Library Sciences at Oslo University College. The project has been allocated NOK 7 627 660 for the five-year period.

The aim is to improve the university library at the University of Juba and to establish a library service for research and education with relevant scholarly literature in the form of relevant books, journals and reference works, both printed and electronic. The infrastructure which has to be put in place are computers etc. for staff and for patrons; software for cataloguing, circulation, presenting and repository. In order to make the project locally sustainable the project aims to train librarians and other personnel for running the library.

Expected results 2008 – 2012

The project aims to educate four students at Bachelor's level.

The planned training of the personnel at the Main Library at UoJ includes short courses and staff attachment for senior staff. Altogether three librarians and seven technical and/or administrative staff will be trained in relevant skills. One staff member will also be given training in leadership and management skills.

The project also plans to provide computers for the library staff and patrons, and a computer teaching room as part of the project.

Five scientific articles are expected to be produced, two of them in peer-reviewed journals. One book, one scientific report, five papers/presentations and three lectures/public presentations are also planned for.

Progress, changes and deviations in 2010

The project has had a fairly good progress in 2010. Most of the planned activities for 2010 were successfully carried out. However, some activities, including the instalment of equipment, were delayed.

Educational achievements

The project has recruited a total of five students, all of which are being trained at the East African School of Library and Information Science (EASLIS) at Makerere University in Uganda. The enrolment of students deviates slightly from the original plan. After the intake of two male Bachelor students in 2008, no further students were enrolled at Bachelor level because of admittance problems. However, one male student was admitted at diploma level and two female students were enrolled as Master's students. In sum, the total number of enrolled students in this project exceeds the planned number of students. The gender balance is however not as planned: 60 per cent of the students are men whereas only 40 per cent are women. The students' progress is good and all students are expected to complete their degrees by the end of the project period. One of the bachelor students in the project attended a workshop at Oslo University College in 2010.

Institutional development

An increasing amount of books have been purchased and delivered to the library. 956 titles have been catalogued in the library system (KOHA) and 420 titles have been registered using normal cataloguing.

The lack of ample space in the library is stated as one of the major constraints to the progress of project activities. The project's plans to expand the computer laboratory to make more space available were postponed to 2011. Consequently the purchase of more computers was postponed as well. The establishment of the printer unit is still far behind schedule. The library got full internet connection in 2009, and the bandwidth was substantially increased in 2010 to improve accessibility. Concern has however been expressed for the high prescription fees.

Two members of the research team left the project in 2010, but this had only minor implications for the project implementation. Staff training has been minimal in 2010, mainly because most of the staff has received training in the previous years. A follow-up course was conducted in Juba for staff members that previously had completed a course at the Makerere University Library. There is an apparent need for more on-the-job training to improve staff capacity at the University of Juba.

Several institutional visits took place in 2010. The project coordinator from University of Bergen visited the University of Juba to follow up the establishment of the printer and photocopy station as well as other project activities. The project coordinator from the University of Juba visited Bergen the following month for consultative meetings. A visit to network partner Makerere University in Uganda was also conducted.

Scientific achievements

Three dissemination activities were conducted in 2010. The expected number of dissemination activities in the project period has been reached by conducting a total of eight presentations at conferences. The project has not yet reported any scientific publications.

Impact for development

The investments in the library infrastructure and the training of human capacity at the University of Juba library have helped improving the capacity and standard of the university library and the competence of the library staff. This type of institutional and human capacity building has the potential to improve the conditions for education and teaching at the university in the long run.

The project's use of funds

Only 30 % of the budget available at UoJ was spent in 2010. This was due to the delays in several project activities. The main deviations were the postponement of acquisition of new books and printer equipment. As a consequence the project has a very high budget for 2011.

Annual institutional assessment

UiB and the UoJ approved the annual progress report for 2010. Both institutions assessed the progress of the project as satisfactory.

4.3 Teaching basic sciences in laboratories and by field studies (NUCOOP-2007/10013) – University of Juba

Project summary

Teaching basic sciences in laboratories and by field studies is a bilateral cooperation project between the University of Juba (UoJ) and the University of Bergen (UiB). The project has been allocated NOK 7 568 000 for the five-year period.

The project focuses on the establishment of basic teaching laboratories at UoJ. The specific objectives of this project are (i) to equip three teaching laboratories for teaching; (ii) to equip a repair and maintenance shop with basic instruments and other equipments; (iii) to develop good teaching programmes for the laboratories; and (iv) to train teachers and technicians from Sudan in Bergen to allow good maintenance of the instruments and equipments and to use these efficiently as teaching tools.

Expected results 2008 – 2012

This project focuses on improving the quality and level of teaching basic sciences and it expects to develop five Bachelor courses and five Master's courses. Scholarships for education of students at Bachelor, Master, and PhD level are not part of this project.

Five technical and administrative staff will be trained in Bergen to get proper experience with organising and running laboratory courses. The project plans to strengthen the physical infrastructure at UoJ by equipping three laboratories and a repair and maintenance shop.

No publication and dissemination activities are planned as part of this project.

Progress, changes and deviations in 2010

The project had good progress in 2010, after experiencing a relative slow start in its first two project years. Equipping teaching laboratories in chemistry, physics, geology, biochemistry and biology was conducted as planned in 2010. Training of staff was successfully completed in Juba and at the University of Bergen. The rapid growth of students taking laboratory courses at the University of Juba does however remain a challenge for the project.

Educational achievements

The project contributes to the improvement of teaching in basic science through the development of teaching laboratories. A total of 2293 students were trained in basic science in 2010, which is approximately half of the total number of students at the University of Juba. Of these, more than five hundred students are currently taking laboratory courses. The colleges benefitting from the training in basic science are College of industrial and applied sciences, College of medicine, College of engineering, College of natural resources and environmental studies, College of computer science and information technology and College of education.

Institutional development

Administrative staff has been trained in computer skills by personnel at University of Juba, and in accounting by personnel from University of Bergen. In 2010 a total of eight staff members and teaching assistants from University of Juba were trained in chemistry at the University of Bergen.

More equipment was installed at all laboratories at University of Juba to support teaching activities. In addition, equipment for the planned work shop was purchased and will be installed in 2011.

In 2010 the institutional cooperation with Makerere University in Uganda was improved. A visit to Makerere University was conducted by the project coordinator and five other coordinators from basic science departments at University of Juba. The visit contributed to the formalisation of collaborative activities and laid the foundation for signing an MOU between the two universities. Furthermore, several visits were held at Makerere to discuss collaboration between University of Makerere, University of Juba and University of Bergen in research and basic science teaching.

Scientific achievements

Research is not part of the project activities, but the development of research labs does enable improved research capacity and quality at the university.

Impact for development

The project has shown a potential to improve the institutional capacity and competence of University of Juba in the area of basic sciences. The efforts made to strengthen the equipment for laboratories have improved the teaching facilities and hence the quality of teaching basic sciences for students at University of Juba.

The project's use of funds

The budget for 2010 was relatively high due to the delays in activities in the first two years of the project. In total the project spent less than budgeted for in 2010. There was however overspending of the UiB account and under-spending at UoJ. The expenses were high at UiB due to unexpected extra costs of travel tickets and partially due to the fact that laboratory equipment had to be paid from the UiB account. Some of the equipment orders were placed in countries that have financial restrictions against Sudan. Budgets for the next two project years have been adjusted. There is a slight change of weight on the different budget items, from development of courses to infrastructure and institutional development.

Annual institutional assessment

UiB and UoJ approved the annual progress report for 2010. Both institutions assessed the progress of the project as satisfactory.

4.4 Capacity building in southern Sudan: Educating librarians for the future (NUCOOP-2008/10001) – University of Juba

Project summary

Capacity building in Southern Sudan: Educating librarians for the future is a network cooperation project with the Main Library at the University of Juba (UoJ) and the University Library at the University of Bergen (UiB) as main partners. The project includes several of the NUCOOP partner institutions as network partners: Oslo University College, the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, the University of Bahr el Ghazal, University of Oslo, Upper Nile University and Makerere University. The project is closely connected to the *Juba University Library Automation Project* (NUCOOP-2007/10008). The project has been allocated NOK 7 322 000 and started its activities in 2009.

The project aims to develop library science training for people working in libraries in South Sudan. The specific objectives are (i) to map the reasons why people (especially women) working in the libraries in these Sudanese Universities are not librarians; (ii) to develop a distance learning program that will cater to their need for more training and education; (iii) to distribute grants for this program, as well as for ordinary Bachelor and Master studies in Library and Information Science for people (especially women) being recruited to work in Southern Sudanese Universities; and (iv) to revitalise the Library studies at Juba University.

Expected results 2008 – 2012

The project aims to educate four Bachelor students and two Master's students.

The project plans to train ten librarians and ten technical and administrative staff. Five staff members will also be given leadership and management training. Some technical and scientific equipment will also be provided, including computers with web-cams and speakers, internet access etc. A distance learning program will be developed. Some funds will be used for physical infrastructure, although the Juba University Library Automation Project is heavier on infrastructural investments, whereas the priority in this project lies in training of human resources.

Some changes in the objective of the project were made in 2009: The provision of diploma in Library and Information Science on a distance education basis was introduced and the course delivery will be administered by the University of Juba's Centre for Distance Learning. The curriculum and the course material for the distance learning programme will be developed jointly by East African School of Library and Information Science at Makerere University and the Department for Library and Information Science at University of Juba. New researchers from the aforementioned department and centre at UoJ were added to the project.

Five scientific articles, three books, four scientific reports, three presentations and five dissemination activities are expected outcomes of this project.

Progress, changes and deviations in 2010

The project experienced some initial challenges in the beginning of the project period, but had good progress in 2010, especially in terms of training of staff. The development of the Diploma courses in Library and Information Science has however been delayed as the curriculum has not been finalised.

Educational achievements

Four bachelor students were recruited in 2010. They are expected to graduate in 2013. In addition, one master student was admitted in 2010. All five students are enrolled at East African School of Library and Information Science (EASLIS) at Makerere University. The project has had difficulties in recruiting female students, and only one female applied and was admitted in the bachelor programme. To decrease barriers for women and improve gender balance in the programme, the diploma course will provide courses through distance education. This will enable women who are not able to leave their home place to attend university. The project has reached its recruitment goal at bachelor level, but plans to recruit another five students when the diploma programme has been established.

Institutional development

Performance improvement training was held for 13 staff members at Makerere University in 2010. The training involved a four week theory course followed by four weeks of hands-on training. Prior to the course at Makerere University, a three week introductory course in ICT was held at the trainees' home universities.

In October 2010 a workshop in pedagogy was held at Makerere University for academics and librarians who are teaching library and information science. The objective of the workshop was to equip participants with necessary skills and competence to adopt various teaching and learning methodologies.

Furthermore, a four day workshop was held in Juba by University of Juba and Makerere University. During the workshop the curricula and development of courses at diploma and bachelor level were reviewed. This is part of the preparation for the planned Diploma course in Library and Information Science.

Scientific achievements

Two articles on gender issues were presented for publication in 2010. In addition, a total of eight dissemination activities were held. The project has already conducted a higher number of dissemination activities than originally planned.

Impact for development

So far the project has contributed to increased capacity among library staff through training and courses in library science. The project also aims to improve women's access to education in the field of library science in Southern Sudan through distance education of a diploma course in Library and Information Science. Due to the delay in the development of the diploma programme it is still early to assess the impact for development from this part of the project.

The project's use of funds

There are some deviations in relation to expenditures and budget for the project in 2010. Due to the delay in development of the diploma programme, funds for scientific equipment to be used for implementation of the distance learning programme remained unspent. The project was active in terms of training of staff in 2010 and the spent more funds than budgeted for this purpose.

Annual institutional assessment

UiB and UoJ approved the annual progress report for 2010. Both institutions assessed the progress of the project as satisfactory.

4.5 Guest house and teaching facilities at the University of Juba (NUCOOPIN-2009/11101) – University of Juba

Project summary

Guest house and teaching facilities at the University of Juba (NUCOOPIN-2009/11101) is an infrastructure project between the University of Juba (UoJ) and the University of Bergen (UiB). The purpose of the project is to build a guest house for visiting staff at UoJ; to build a new teaching laboratory for basic sciences and to renovate existing teaching laboratories. The laboratories will be

used by the Faculty of Science to teach Geology and Molecular Biology. Regarding the guest house, it will be used by all visiting staff and researchers who have study/work to do in Juba, including staff from the partner institutions in the NUCOOP Programme and from international institutions. The project has been allocated NOK 3 696 858 for a two-year period. The project activities started in 2010.

Expected results 2010 – 2011

The project aims at:

- Building a guesthouse for visiting staff.
- Building a teaching laboratory for basic science.
- Renovate the existing teaching laboratories.

The project plans to complete the building and renovation activities by the end of 2011.

Progress, changes and deviations in 2010

Contractors have been selected and the construction of the guesthouse and teaching laboratory has almost been completed.

The project's use of funds

The project experienced some problems with payment to the contractors due to late transfer of funds in 2010. To avoid compromising the construction process and completion of the buildings, the University of Bergen allowed a third transfer of funds to the University of Juba which had implications for the 2010 accounts. The expenditure for 2010 is however well within budget lines at both UoJ and UiB.

Annual institutional assessment

UiB and UoJ approved the annual progress report for 2010. Both institutions assessed the progress of the project as satisfactory.

4.6 Building a Library and Information Science Training Centre in Juba University (NUCOOPX-2009/10501) – University of Juba

Project summary

The infrastructure project, *Building a Library and Information Science Training Centre in Juba University* (NUCOOPX-2009/10501) is funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Khartoum. It is a project between the University of Juba (UoJ) and the University of Bergen (UiB). The project's objective is to secure infrastructure required for quality teaching, library training programmes and capacity building. The project has been allocated NOK 2 570 000.

Expected results 2010 – 2011

The project aims at finalising plans and drawings for the Library and Information Science Training Centre in 2010, and complete construction by the end of 2011.

Progress, changes and deviations in 2010

The project is somewhat behind schedule due to delays in reception of funds and readjustment of the original project plan. The foundation stone for the centre was laid by the Consul General at the Royal Norwegian Consulate in Juba in March 2010. However, the construction site has been moved since. The project team met for a kick-off meeting in Juba in September 2010. Plans and drawings were reviewed and developed. Signing of the contract with the construction company was however postponed due to a longer vacation at the University of Juba followed by the referendum in January 2011.

The project's use of funds

The 2010 budget was very low (approximately 16 % of the total project allocation) as the first project year consisted of finalising plans and drawings. Expenses for construction, equipment and furniture will be covered by the 2011 budget. Nevertheless, less than 50 % of the budget was spent in 2010 due to the delays mentioned above.

Annual institutional assessment

UiB and UoJ approved the annual progress report for 2010. Both institutions assessed the progress of the project as satisfactory.

4.7 Education and Sustainable Development in a Post-Conflict Southern Sudan (NUCOOP-2007/10002 and NUCOOPX-2010/10001) – Upper Nile University

Project summary

Education and Sustainable Development in a Post-Conflict Southern Sudan is a network cooperation project between Upper Nile University (UNU) and Oslo University College (OUC). The Sudanese network partners are Ahfad University for Women (AUW) and the University of Juba (UoJ). NOK 6 939 900 has been allocated to this project. In 2010 the partners were allocated an additional NOK 1 756 007 to educate a third student cohort in the Master's programme in 2011-2012. The additional support is organised through a separate project (NUCOOPX-2010/10001).

The objective of the project is to contribute to capacity building in the field of education, and the establishment and running of a Master's Programme in International Education and Development is the key component of this project. The programme activities include training and research activities. A joint comparative study of educational policy development and implementation with a focus on culture, gender, and educational discourses in post-conflict Sudan will be conducted.

Expected results 2008 – 2012

Twelve Master's students and two PhD students will be recruited and trained in the main project. The project plans to develop four Master's courses, one Master's programme, four PhD courses, and one PhD programme.

Three technical and administrative staff will receive training in ICT skills. Five staff members will also receive courses in leadership and management skills. Twenty staff members will be trained in other skills. Regarding support to physical infrastructure, computers, printers and copy machines will be purchased and corresponding installation support and training will be given.

The project plans to produce 15 scientific articles, ten of which is planned to be published in peer reviewed journals. Three scientific books, 25 papers/presentations, eight lectures and one 'other scientific result (sound material, software and data program etc.)' are planned for.

The expected results of the additional project for the third student cohort are not included here.

Progress, changes and deviations in 2010

The project's objectives were not changed in 2010. However, there have been challenges in the coordination of the project, mainly due to the security situation in Malakal.

Educational achievements

The project had good progress in 2010, particularly in the area of education. The education of Master's students is however a bit delayed. The teaching in the Master's programme is conducted in Juba due to the security situation in Malakal. A total of 24 Master's students have been recruited in two student cohorts funded by the project. Three students graduated in 2010 (and one or two in early 2011), while three students discontinued their studies. The second cohort of students worked on their theses. In comparison to the expected result, the project has passed its own goal as far as the number of Master's students is concerned. The students in the third student cohort (NUCOOPX-2010/10001) will be recruited in 2011.

The curriculum of the Master's programme is continuously being revised in cooperation between Norwegian and Sudanese staff. In 2010 a stable Sudanese academic staff has been identified. However there are still significant challenges to the future sustainability of the Master's programme.

The PhD students (two funded by NUCOOP and one funded by the Quota scheme) finished their fieldwork during autumn 2010. They have also completed compulsory and elected courses.

Institutional development

The institutional development at Upper Nile University suffered because of the unrest in Malakal in 2009 and the subsequent moving of the Master's programme to Juba. Four academic staff members (two from UNU and two from UoJ) were trained at Oslo University College in 2010 with support from NUCOOPX-2010/10001. They are scheduled to teach in the Master's programme in 2011 in an effort to make the programme sustainable.

Scientific achievements

A history book on South Sudan was published in 2010, with the Norwegian project coordinator as first author. No other publications (except Master's theses) have been reported.

Impact for development

By the level of project activities it is evident that the Master's students are in progress, and the education of these students represents a valuable contribution to the rebuilding of the country in terms of human capacity.

The project's use of funds

The project spent all the funds that had been budgeted for in 2010.

Annual institutional assessment

UNU has not submitted an annual institutional report for 2010. OUC approved the annual progress report and assessed the progress of the project to be satisfactory.

4.8 Bachelor Programmes in Vocational and Technical Teacher Education Southern Sudan-Uganda-Norway (NUCOOP-2007/10005) – Upper Nile University

Project summary

Upper Nile University (UNU) and Akershus University College (AUC) are the main partner institutions in the network cooperation project *Bachelor programmes in vocational and technical teacher education Southern Sudan-Uganda-Norway*. Kyambogo University (KU) in Uganda is the network partner. NOK 7 430 000 has been allocated to this project.

The project's overall goal is to establish an appropriate and sustainable university programme in technical and vocational teacher education at UNU in South Sudan. First, the project aims to educate professionals in technical and vocational education to accommodate the demand in South Sudan for teachers, managers, leaders, curriculum developers, capability building extension workers within the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector. Second, it aims to develop the body of knowledge regarding needs, resources, culture and traditions for skills development in South Sudan. Third, it aims to ensure sustainability of the vocational capacity building programme.

Expected results 2008 – 2012

The project expects to provide education at Bachelor's level for 240 students. Furthermore, the project aims to develop and teach four bachelor courses and three bachelor programmes.

By and large faculty staff members at the Upper Nile University will be trained in "Vocational Pedagogy". Two librarians and six technical and administrative staff will be trained. Six staff members will also receive training in leadership and management skills, and 20 others will be given relevant training.

Investments will be made in physical infrastructure like study rooms, and necessary equipment like labs in accordance with identified needs. Curricula for UNU programmes, including teaching methods, is expected to be developed.

Three peer-reviewed scientific articles are expected to be produced together with seven scientific reports, seven papers/presentations and seven lectures to disseminate results and experiences from the project.

Progress, changes and deviations in 2010

The project was stopped for a long period in 2010 due to severe delays in project implementation and problems in project implementation. In June 2010 SIU and Norad asked the two main partner institutions to develop a joint document addressing the following issues:

- Solutions to the main challenges in project implementation
- A revised milestone plan focusing on issues related to the start-up of the bachelor programme
- A revised budget
- A statement of the future handling of financial issues

The documentation from the project partners and the revised plans for the project were approved by SIU and Norad in December 2010, and the project was restarted in late 2010.

Educational achievements

The bachelor programme in technical and vocational education which planned for start up in October 2009 at UNU was delayed until 2011 due to difficulties in agreeing on a curriculum that could be approved by the necessary bodies in Sudan. The Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology in the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) made a decision in 2010 in favour of a new curriculum to be implemented from 2011, and the project planned to start the teaching in February/March 2011 in Malakal.

Institutional development

One female lecturer from UNU received training in 2010. A lecture room, a PC room and an apartment was rehabilitated in Malakal, to be used by the project.

Scientific achievements

No research was conducted with funding from the project in 2010.

Impact for development

The core activities in this project have not started yet so it is impossible to assess the project's impact for development.

The project's use of funds

Only NOK 296 552 were spent in 2010. All the funds were spent at AUC.

Annual institutional assessment

UNU has not submitted an annual institutional report for 2010. AUC approved the annual progress report and assessed the progress of the project to be fair.

4.9 Capacity building in the field of mental health in South Sudan (NUCOOP-2007/10007) – University of Bahr el Ghazal

Project summary

Capacity building in the field of mental health in South Sudan is a network cooperation project. The main partner institutions are the University of Bahr el Ghazal (UBG) and the University of Oslo (UiO). Network partners are Ahfad University for Women (AUW), Sudan, SINTEF Health Research, Norway and University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. The project has been allocated NOK 5 700 000 for the five-year period.

The project's overall aim is to develop research, teaching and clinical competence in the field of mental health at UBG. The specific objectives are (i) to support competence building in the field of mental health through the provision of training opportunities for university faculty members, planners and clinicians in community health, equity in health, community mental health and health psychology; (ii) to develop an international cooperation network between Sudan, Norway and South Africa to facilitate the implementation of capacity building activities and projects in the field of mental health; and (iii) to conduct a Mental Health research project in South Sudan in order to generate knowledge about the prevalence and course of mental health problems, as well as about poverty and displacement due to war as determinants for mental health problems.

Expected results 2008 – 2012

The project aims to recruit and educate one student at Bachelor level, seven Master's students and one PhD student. It is expected that five Bachelor courses, one Bachelor programme, three MA courses, and one PhD programme will be developed in this project. A revision of the curriculum and an update of the courses in mental health are also planned.

Two librarians and three technical and administrative staff will be trained. In addition, three staff members will receive training in leadership and management skills, and two staff members will also be given other types of relevant training.

Smaller infrastructural facilities such as computers, scanners, copy machines and audiovisual facilities will be purchased.

Seven scientific publications, hereof five peer-reviewed publications, three scientific reports, five papers/presentation and five public dissemination activities are expected outcomes of the project.

Progress, changes and deviations in 2010

There have been no changes in the overall objectives of the project, and the project continued to have good progress in terms of education of students and training of staff in 2010. The research activities have started.

Educational achievements

The project has exceeded its recruitment goal at PhD level with one male and three female PhD students enrolled. The PhD student recruited in 2009 is expected to complete by the end of the project period in 2012, but the three PhD students enrolled in 2010 will continue into 2013. The project has not met its recruitment goal at master level, but two of the four master's students in the project have now completed and continued at PhD level. One bachelor student has been recruited as planned. The students follow educational programmes already developed in Sudan.

Institutional development

The project has a high level of training activity. Technical and administrative staff at University of Bahl el Ghazal receives training in management and leadership. In-service training courses for health workers were continued in 2010. Furthermore, ICT training of faculty staff was started in 2010 and will continue in 2011.

Scientific achievements

After a delayed start, the research activities have started and the first data collection was completed in 2010. The project plans to publish and disseminate research findings later in the project period, after data collection and analysis has been done. So far a brochure in mental health has been published and distributed in all the states of greater Bahr el Ghazal.

Impact for development

The extensive training of local health workers and UBG staff in mental health issues contributes to the development of the country by providing training to the workforce within an important field. The project's capacity building contributes to the strengthening of competence in the field of mental health in South Sudan.

The project's use of funds

Expenditures in 2010 were lower than budgeted for. The project spent less on scholarships and fellowships in 2010, but an increased amount of project funds were spent on research, field work activities and scientific equipment.

Annual institutional assessment

UiO and UBG approved the annual progress report for 2010. Both institutions assessed the progress of the project as satisfactory.

4.10 Building an advanced research capacity in Northern and Southern Sudanese universities (NUCOOPRE-2009/11027) – University of Bahr el Ghazal

Project summary

Building an advanced research capacity in Northern and Southern Sudanese Universities (NUCOOPRE-2009/11027) is a research training project between University of Bahr el Ghazal (UBG) and University of Oslo (UiO), with Ahfad University for Women (AUW) as network partner. The project plans to organise two research training seminars in Sudan with one year apart, with supervision of the students' research projects between the seminars. The goal is to provide training in research skills in the field of mental health research in both the north and south of Sudan, mainly to PhD students from the following universities: UBG, AUW, University of Khartoum, University of Gezira and University of Juba. The project has been allocated NOK 500 000.

Expected results 2010 - 2011

The project will increase research capacity at University of Bahr el Ghazal and improve collaboration between the partner universities. The first research seminar will be organised in 2010, and a second one in 2011. Follow-up and supervision of students will be conducted in 2011, between the two seminars.

Progress, changes and deviations in 2010

The first research seminar was conducted successfully in December 2010. The seminar had 18 PhD and master's students participating from University of Bahr el Ghazal, Afhad University for Women, University of Khartoum, University of Juba and University of Oslo.

The project's use of funds

There are no major deviations in regard to budget and expenditures in 2010.

Annual institutional assessment

UiO and UBG approved the annual progress report for 2010. Both institutions assessed the progress of the project as satisfactory.

4.11 Guest house at the University of Bahr el Ghazal (NUCOOPIN-2009/10602) – University of Bahr el Ghazal

Project summary

Guest house at the University of Bahr el Ghazal (NUCOOPIN-2009/10602) is an infrastructure project between the University of Bahr el Ghazal (UBG) and the University of Oslo (UiO). The purpose of the project is to establish a guest house in Wau in order to accommodate visitors to the university and teachers and staff at UBG who are in the process of repatriation to South Sudan. The house will be located on the university campus. The project has been allocated a total of NOK 1 386 322 NOK.

Expected results 2010 - 2011

The guest house is expected to be completed within 2011.

Progress, changes and deviations in 2010

The construction and furnishing of the guesthouse was started in 2010, and completed in early 2011.

The project's use of funds

The construction of the guesthouse was completed within budget.

Annual institutional assessment

UiO and UBG approved the annual progress report for 2010. Both institutions assessed the progress of the project as satisfactory.

4.12 The NUCOOP Office

A contract was entered between SIU and University of Juba in January 2010 on the establishing and running of the NUCOOP Office 2010-2012. The office shall serve and support all cooperation projects supported by the NUCOOP Programme at University of Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile University and University of Juba in matters regarding logistics, practical arrangements, and safety issues related to project activities. The office shall not be responsible for the implementation or coordination of NUCOOP-funded cooperation projects.

Tasks for the NUCOOP Office in Juba include:

- Assisting projects with logistics, including but not limited to travel arrangements including accommodation, purchases, customs, permits, and transport within Juba
- Assisting projects and involved institutions in setting up meetings with governmental offices and other relevant offices in Juba (and other cities if relevant)
- Hosting meetings/making available facilities for meetings between project partners and projects
- Building and maintaining a close relationship and cooperation with the Norwegian General Consulate (GK) in Juba and forwarding all relevant information from the GK to project coordinators
- Giving advice regarding safety of project participants during travel and stay in Sudan
- Establishing a system of registration of project participants' travels in Sudan, and at all times be updated on project participants' travel schedules etc.
- Developing a plan for how the NUCOOP Office shall act in case of emergency
- Assist project participants as far as possible in cases of emergency

A NUCOOP Office coordinator, Mr Ruba Candiga Amena, was appointed by University of Juba in 2010. The office has been established in temporary office facilities since early 2010, while the new NUCOOP Office building was constructed, mostly with funds covered by the allocation to the NUCOOP Office. University of Juba has also contributed to the construction of the office building by providing infrastructure such as water, electricity and a septic tank. The building was completed and inaugurated in March 2011.

An Advisory Committee for the NUCOOP Office was established in 2010. The members consisted of two NUCOOP project coordinators from Sudan, two project coordinators from Norway, and representatives from SIU and the University of Juba. In the first meeting of Advisory Committee held in March 2010, the committee suggested concrete activities to be carried out by the office. A number of these activities were implemented in 2010. The NUCOOP Office issued three newsletters in 2010.

Several NUCOOP projects benefited from the services of the NUCOOP Office in 2010, particularly in the planning of travels and meetings. Other projects had little contact with the office coordinator. Communication between the office coordinator and project coordinators was not optimal in 2010 and should be improved in 2011.

4.13 Challenges and risk factors

The NUCOOP-supported projects operate in a difficult post-war recovery environment in South Sudan that affected the implementation of the project activities also in 2010. Most projects have progressed well in 2010, but several projects are delayed partly due to different contextual challenges. Consequently some projects were not able to spend as much money as expected in 2010. The remaining funds are expected to be spent in 2011 and 2012 for most or all of the projects.

The security situation in the region represented a risk factor to the projects' implementation also in 2010. The volatile security situation in Malakal, where armed combat and looting occurred in 2009, had a negative effect on the three NUCOOP-supported projects with activities at Upper Nile University. Many project activities in Malakal had to be suspended, postponed or relocated. Local capacity building in human resources as well as institutional development at UNU has suffered because of the volatile security situation. The security situation in the rest of Southern Sudan has been relatively calm throughout 2010 and the projects located in Wau and Juba were not subject to any direct security threats. However, parts of the University of Juba campus are not considered to be safe.

The uncertain political future in Southern Sudan has also been experienced as a potential risk factor to institutional development and project implementation.

Many projects have struggled with customs and transport when trying to purchase computers, laboratory equipment or books to their projects. Transfer of funds to Sudan was also complicated due to international sanctions. These circumstances caused delays in the projects' capacity building also in 2010. Construction costs are high in South Sudan, which poses a problem to the infrastructure projects. Top-up funding may be needed for several of these projects.

The weak institutional setting in which the projects operate also poses a challenge to the implementation of several projects in the NUCOOP Programme. The projects at Upper Nile University have experienced cooperation problems with the new leadership at UNU that was appointed in 2009. Moreover, several project coordinators at Upper Nile University and the University of Juba have left the universities for positions at other institutions of higher education in Sudan. This has impeded the coordination of several projects in 2010.

Another aspect of the weak institutional setting that the NUCOOP-supported projects operate in is the overall lack of governmental funding to the cooperation partners in the region, such as poor infrastructure, including poor working and study facilities on campuses, and lack of qualified academic and administrative staff resources to support the project activities. Challenges in moving qualified university staff from Khartoum to South Sudan, as well as brain drain and migration of the scarce competent human resource to other government institutions for better salaries and working environment, is experienced as a problem by the South Sudanese partner institutions. At the same time the partner institutions struggle to accommodate larger student cohorts than before. Some of the specific challenges faced by the projects are a high turnover of team members, including coordinators, and problems with recruitment of students and staff for their training and education programmes. This situation also required a higher level of coordination and follow-up than expected by the project coordinators.

In sum, the projects operate in a very complex post-war setting, where security and political risk factors as well as institutional risk factors contributed to many challenges also in 2010.

5 Activities at programme level in 2010

5.1 Institutional visit to Sudan, March 2010

The main purpose of SIU's institutional visit to Sudan in 2010 was to attend a celebrating event of the long history of cooperation between Sudan and Norway. The event was held in Juba and organised by the University of Juba in cooperation with the Norwegian Consulate General and SIU. The celebration focused on the collaboration within projects of the NUCOOP Programme. Students and representatives from several universities in Sudan attended the event, as well as representatives from the Consulate General, SIU, the NUFU Programme Board and Norwegian partner institutions. In addition to the celebration, SIU's visit to Sudan included the first meeting of the Advisory Committee for the NUCOOP Office as well as meetings with the leadership of the University of Juba, the Norwegian Consulate General and the Joint Donor Team in Juba.

5.2 Annual consultative meeting, September 2010

The annual consultative meeting about the NUCOOP Programme was held on 15 September 2010 with representatives from Norad and SIU. SIU presented the most important issues from the Annual Report as well as programme accounts for 2010. A review of the NUCOOP Programme was planned for in 2010,

and a timetable and division of labour for the review were agreed upon. SIU presented a report from SIU's visit to Juba in March 2010 and informed about the status of the establishment of the NUCOOP Office. Furthermore, SIU informed about the contract entered with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Khartoum for the funding of the Library and Information Science Training Centre at the University of Juba as well as the extension of the project *Education and Sustainable Development in a Post-Conflict Southern Sudan*.

5.3 Project coordinators' meeting, October 2010

On the 21 of October 2010, SIU organised a meeting at Oslo University College for the Norwegian project coordinators in the NUCOOP Programme. A representative from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed about the latest political developments and the security situation in Sudan. Subsequently, each project coordinator presented a brief status report about his/her project. Finally, SIU informed about the purpose and organisation of the NUCOOP Office recently established at the University of Juba.

5.4 Mid-term review of NUCOOP

The contract between Norad and SIU regarding NUCOOP states in §6 that "NUCOOP shall be reviewed at least one time during the programme period". A first invitation to tender bids was issued in February 2010, but no bids were received by the deadline 15 March 2010. A new invitation to tender bids, with revised Terms of Reference for the review, was issued with deadline 22 October 2010. SIU received two tender bids within the deadline, and Scanteam was granted the review assignment. The review team consisted of team leader Karstein Haarberg, Scanteam, and team member Abdel-Rhaman Yahia El-Mahdi, Khartoum.

The main purpose of the review is to make an assessment of the NUCOOP Programme. The assessment should focus on the implementation of NUCOOP-supported projects, including organisation and management. In particular, it should analyse to what extent the projects are 'on track', how the achievements have been so far and which needs there are for possible adjustments. In addition, the review should assess the relevance of the activities being undertaken. The deadline for submitting the review report was 1 April 2011.