



November 2008

United Nations Mission

In SUDAN

Out of
CUBA

Published by UNMIS Public Information Office

DIARY

- **15 October:** The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sudan, Ashraf Qazi, addressed an open forum at the University of Khartoum, highlighting the key achievements of Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) implementation since 2005.
- **18 October:** The Ad hoc Technical Border Committee, the national body mandated to demarcate the 1/1/56 borderline, received a \$600,000 satellite imagery system from UNMIS.
- **20 October:** The Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) received the first part of an Egyptian government donation, consisting of two generators, 50 tents and kitchen equipment, which was expected to cover camp facilities for 3,000 troops.
- **23 October:** UNMIS and Sudan celebrated UN Day, which this year marked the UN's 63rd anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter. Celebrations were held in Khartoum, Kadugli, Ed Damazin, Abyei, Juba, Malakal and Wau.
- **26 October:** The Sudanese government, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society pledged to improve health and education in the country at a one-day Millennium Development Goals forum in Khartoum.
- **29 October:** UNMIS condemned the kidnapping and killing of Chinese oil workers in Sudan. In a statement, the mission called for the immediate and unconditional release of remaining hostages and called for those responsible to be brought to justice.
- **4 November:** A UK-sponsored training course for the newly formed JIU and Joint Police Integrated Unit was concluded in Abyei. The course focused on conflict management skills, including analysis, management, listening and negotiating. The UK also donated 15 radios to enhance JIU communications.
- **5 November:** Addressing the Security Council, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Edmond Mulet said CPA implementation remained a mixed picture of slow but continuing progress, with several outstanding challenges. Mr. Mulet's briefing included IDP returns, the security situation, elections, recovery and development.
- **8 November:** The South-South dialogue between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and southern-based political parties opened in Juba. In his opening speech, SPLM Chairman Salva Kiir said the meeting would focus on the CPA, a common agenda for elections, good governance, peace building, unity, reconciliation and the 2011 referendum.
- **10 November:** Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visited Sudan, where he met with President Omar al-Bashir in Khartoum. He then travelled to Juba to meet with First Vice-President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) Salva Kiir, the GoSS cabinet and other southern political leaders.
- **11 November:** The interim Abyei Area Administration was sworn in, as per the 8 June Abyei Roadmap Agreement. UNMIS congratulated Administration members and reiterated the mission's support for their work.
- **12 November:** Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed President Omar al-Bashir's declaration of an immediate ceasefire between the Government of Sudan and armed movements in Darfur, and the Sudanese government's intention to disarm all militia.



United Nations Mission

In SUDAN

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IN SUDAN is published monthly by the UN Mission in Sudan. Contents do not necessarily reflect the official position of the UN or that of UNMIS. Articles and contents may be freely reproduced.

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Front cover: Dr. Okony Simon, who was sent to Cuba for an education during the north-south civil war, treating patients in Juba Treaching Hospital. UNMIS photos: Tim Mckulka

Back cover: One of IDPs in Unity State who lost their land to floods or oil installations. UNMIS photos: Tim Mckulka

BAN KI-MOON: MORE TRUST NEEDED FOR CPA

A lack of mutual trust between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and National Congress Party (NCP) remains a key challenge to implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), according to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's latest report on Sudan.

"This lack of trust consequently permeates into all major pending benchmarks set under the Agreement," he writes in the report, which was released on 28 October.

He urges the leaders of both the NCP and SPLM to improve their relationship, saying the "onus of improving mutual trust and confidence lies with the leadership of both sides."

Mr. Ban notes that successful implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, which is "critical to peace in the Sudan", would significantly contribute to confidence-building between the parties.

But disarmament and demobilization alone were insufficient for durable peace, he adds, stressing the need to provide ex-combatants with opportunities to successfully reintegrate into society. He urges donors to be generous with their pledges.

Among positive achievements in recent months, Mr. Ban points to the parties' agreement on resolving the Abyei conflict, which led to the successful redeployment of most of their forces out of interim border areas. He also notes that the new Abyei Joint Integrated Unit has assumed control of military positions and that the Joint Integrated Police Unit is policing Abyei town.

The Secretary-General also stresses the importance of the Border Commission's report, stating, "Demarcation of the border is a critical benchmark with implications for almost all other benchmarks under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement."

The report notes that voluntary returns to Abyei have remained "slow but steady". As of 1 October, between 12,000 and 16,000 of the estimated 50,000 people uprooted by fighting that preceded the Abyei agreement had returned to the area.

There had also been positive electoral developments, including completion of census enumeration and passage of the electoral law, Mr. Ban says.

The UN has already received a request

for electoral assistance from the Government of Southern Sudan and a related needs assessment mission will be visiting the country, the report says.

The Secretary-General also notes that the people of Abyei and Southern Sudan would exercise their right of self-determination to vote for continued unity or separation in 2011.

"Whether the verdict is unity or separation, the sides cannot ignore their interdependence and common interest," he says, encouraging the parties to begin discussions on a long-term wealth-sharing agreement beyond 2011 for the sake of peace and the Sudanese people.

Mr. Ban also writes that efforts by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to seek an indictment against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on genocide and war crimes charges could have the potential to "profoundly affect" the UN's work in the country.

The Government of National Unity assured the United Nations that it would continue to cooperate with both UNMIS and the African Union-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)." However, senior Government officials issued public warnings of possible serious

"Whether the verdict is unity or separation, the sides cannot ignore their interdependence and common interest"

consequences for UNMIS if the President is indeed indicted, the report states.

"I and my Special Representative received similar warnings directly. We have reiterated to the Government that the United Nations will respect the independence of the judicial process and that UNMIS will remain committed to implementing its mandate in support of the peace process in the Sudan," says the Secretary-General.

He urges the Sudanese Government to cooperate with the Court and put in place an effective judicial and political process at the national level. ■



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. UNMIS photo: Tim Mckulka

TALES FROM

With eight wives, 29 children and more than 100 domestic animals, Chief Gumerengamo Piere considered himself blessed in his home village of Bitima, Democratic Republic of Congo.



Chief Gumerengamo Piere in Gangura after LRA attack on Bitima

However, following an attack by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) last month that robbed him of four children and all his property, Chief Piere is now wondering how blessed he really is.

"On 17 September ... the LRA came to our village and attacked the villagers. They looted all of our properties, burned down our houses..... and abducted four of my children," he said.

Upon arriving, the rebels first began hunting down and killing the village chiefs, said Mr. Piere. Luckily, he was away from home during the attack, but two other chiefs were killed.

"The bandits ruthlessly killed my colleagues -- both Chief Wirati Zereme and Chief Miarom Bayote, but fortunately they didn't get me."

Once considered rich by his people, Chief Piere is now living with his wives and 24 remaining children in the Southern Sudanese town of Gangura, Western Equatoria State, surviving on handouts from humanitarian agencies. Along with thousands of fellow Congolese, he arrived there from Bitima after traveling by foot for almost a week.

Clemetina Mingele, 41, who engaged in mixed farming with her family in Bitima, said life was "good" there before she fled to Gangura with her husband and four children. On 17 September, her family lost everything they had, including her oldest son.

A group of "well-armed men" came to her house, tied the family up and looted or burned their property, Clemetina said. "They ... burned ... what they considered valueless and took my older son ... I never seen in my lifetime such kind of barbarism from a fellow human being ..."

Fleeing alleged LRA attacks, more than 5,000 people from northeastern DRC have flooded into Western Equatoria since the end of September, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC).

Initially, they poured into Sakure and Gangura, but others have now scattered to Ukuo and James Diko villages east of Yambio, and Madabe, Nbanga and Gbuo in Iba county.

Some 45 per cent are below 18 years of age, 52 per cent between

18 and 59 and 3 per cent over 60, according to UNHCR figures. Almost 50% of total refugees are women and children.

Eleven-year-old Kabibi Kamidunga from Duru, DRC, was in fourth grade living with her father before the attack on her

village. Tending goats near her house on 18 September, she saw a group of armed men rush up to her house and severely beat her father.

Kabibi ran and hid in the nearby bush, along with some fellow villagers. After passing a night there, she left the area with them to eventually arrive in Southern Sudan.

Luckily, Kabibi found her uncle in Gangura, but still has no information about her father. "I am always thinking about my father..... since the time I arrived here," she said.

Kabaduma Sumbara, a tired-looking man of 65, fled Duru with his wife, son and other refugees. When they were attacked by rebels en route and forced to scatter in different directions, Kabaduma was separated from his wife.

Now, in Gangura with his son, Kabaduma is continually thinking about his missing wife. "She was everything to me..... and really good to everybody else ... I don't know what happened to her," he said.

In Sakure and Gangura, local people, many of whom are Sudanese returnees from the DRC, are hosting the

"They burned what they considered valueless and took my older son. I never seen in my lifetime such kind of barbarism from a fellow human being"



Congolese mothers in Gangura who lost their children to LRA

GANGURA

refugees. But supplies of food and shelter are quickly running out.

Ozana Mburupai, 45, arrived in Gangura from Bayote, DRC, at the beginning of October, with only the clothes on her back. "At this time, I am sleeping under a big tree, which is very difficult ... given the daily rain we have here," she said.

With water also short, UNICEF and the non-governmental organization World Vision International are digging boreholes in the refugee areas. Médecins Sans Frontières is providing medical treatment for malaria and diarrhoea, among other ailments.

While most refugees had previously experienced LRA lootings and abductions, they said the current scale of attacks was totally unprecedented.

"This time, it seems the LRA is coming to cleanse us from our area and using barbaric and ruthless methods They killed more than 100 innocent people in front of their relatives and abducted more than 150 children," Chief Piere said.

One of those abducted, Bakoyogo Maapai, 25, was lying on a bed in Gangura Primary Health Care Center after harsh treatment by the rebels. He said he was taken with eight other young people from Bitima, and forced to carry 100 kilograms of looted rice to the rebel's base.

On the way, Bakoyogo said, the rebels beat those who tired of their task. After five youths collapsed with exhaustion, the rebels killed them and continued on with the remaining three.

Bakoyogo was lucky. After seeing his comrades killed, he managed to struggle on until they reached the rebel's destination, where he was released.

Col. Joseph Ngere, Deputy State Governor and Western Equatoria Minister for Information and Communication, said the state government had allocated land to the refugees 25 miles from the DRC border and sent Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces to ensure the LRA would not attack them again.

"As we are enjoying the dividend of peace, working to implement the CPA and to settle our IDPs and refugees from the north and elsewhere ... it is unfortunate to see the LRA is creating other fresh refugees in the state," he said.

Mr. Ngere added that local people would soon no longer be able to share food with the refugees due to a shortage of resources in the state, and called on humanitarian agencies to assist them.

On 23 October, the World Food Programme (WFP) distributed two-week



Congolese refugees in Gangura

rations to all refugees in Gangura. Michelle Iseminger, WFP head for Southern Sudan, said the agency would assist the refugees until they returned home.

"WFP are planning to assist them as long as they are here..... and for now we are providing them with two-weeks of food ration, as it is easy for a single woman to carry," she said.

According to the UNHCR, more than 150,000 people have been driven from their homes in northeastern DRC over the past two months, as the Congolese army fights on two fronts, with dissident Congolese and the LRA.

Over 50,000 people have been forced to flee in the Ituri region due to intense fighting between the Congolese army and LRA, which has caused heavy loss of life since last month.

"The rebels have caused widespread destruction of houses and public buildings," UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond told a news briefing in Geneva on 14 October. "Local authorities in the area say that the bodies of some 100 civilians were reportedly dumped in a river, while 80 children are reported missing. Parents fear their offspring have been forcefully recruited by the LRA."

Deputy State Governor Ngere emphasized that it was time to find a durable solution to the LRA issue, which was destabilizing the entire region, before it was too late. The LRA, he said, was no longer just Uganda's problem, but Sudan's, the DRC's and the Central Africa Republic's -- a regional problem that needed a regional solution. ■



Kabaduma Sumbara was separated from his wife after LRA attack on Duru, DRC.

Story and photos by
Hailemichael Gebrekrstos

OIL REVENUE BOOST FOR EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE



Oil producing areas south of Bentiu

Unity State's 2 per cent claim to oil revenues generated there, as laid down in Sudan's peace accord, has led to dramatic improvements in education and agriculture.

The number of schools in Unity has jumped from nine to 249 since the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The twin towns of Bentiu (the state capital) and Rubkona alone have eight basic schools, two secondary schools and a technical college.

The state had assistance building some of the schools, acknowledged Ministry of Education Director for Administration and Finance Tor Tungwar. "The Japanese have donated a school ... UNICEF continues to renovate and construct schools in the remote areas as well as provide temporary tents."

Outsiders have also assisted with school equipment, he added. The White Nile Petroleum Operating Company, for instance, donated 100 blackboards, 10 wheel chairs for disabled children and 1,000 school bags.

With more schools open, enrolment rose from 128,000 last year to 152,365 in 2008, Mr. Tor said. New students include many adults striving to become *kowar*

(leaders in the local Nuer language). Hopefully, this will put a dent in the state's high 66 per cent illiteracy rate.

Investment in education has paid off. Unity ranks first among Southern Sudan's 10 states and sixth of the entire country's 26 in terms of secondary school examination results. According to Mr. Tor, the high ranking is mainly due to 207 East Africans the government has hired to teach throughout the state.

Meanwhile, the state is upgrading its own teachers, he said. Some 3,176 local men and women teachers are currently undergoing on-the-job training.

Oil money has also helped boost agriculture. In an effort to encourage the mainly cattle-raising Nuer tribe to farm, the state has been giving people seeds and equipment. "The state has purchased 39 tractors, five bulldozers and other agricultural implements to cultivate the land," said Miyom Yak, Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment.

The government has also assisted in developing nine large farms of about 1,000 *fedans* (about an acre) each. Only four survived last year's flooding, but produce from these should add to the state's food



Oil well and pumping station at Al Regad oil field north of Bentiu

reserve and help reduce prices through competition, said Mr. Yak.

In Bentiu and Rubkona, other signs of development include a new tarmac road and bridge as well as free electricity along the main roads and in residential areas. An FM radio station (99) is on the air and an AM on the way, along with a television station.

"I am very optimistic about the ongoing work in setting up the radio stations. Although the staff running the Bentiu FM lacks basic journalistic training, something is happening," said El Raya El Jack Boul of the Information and Communications Ministry. ■

Story by Francis Shuei Diu
Photos by Tim Mckulka

OIL COMPANIES URGED TO DO MORE FOR COMMUNITIES

Participants discussed the effects of oil development on their communities at a conference hosted by the New Sudan Indigenous NGOs Network and Norwegian People's Aid in Bentiu, the capital of Unity State, on 4 and 5 November.

Under the slogan "Oil Industry Contributing towards Peace, Justice and Prosperity in South Sudan", the conference brought together community leaders and representatives of state, regional and national governments. Representatives of oil companies were also invited, but did not attend, organizers said.

Opening the conference, Unity State Governor Brig. Gen. Taban Deng Gai said, "Oil has been the source of conflict in Sudan and this has been a major challenge. However, with proper administration and wealth sharing, I am optimistic that there will be lasting peace in this country."

Producing a huge percentage of Sudan's oil exports, Unity State is divided into three concession blocks -- 5A, 5B and 1. Blocks 5A and 5B are operated by the Petronas-led consortium White Nile Petroleum Operating Company (WNPOC), while Block 1 is operated by the China National Petroleum Company (CNPC)-led consortium Greater Nile Petroleum Operating Company (GNPOC).

According to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), oil-producing

states receive 2 per cent of oil revenues generated from production within the state. However, some community leaders felt that oil companies should provide a more direct benefit in their areas of operation.

"We have been trying in a diplomatic way to encourage the companies to live up to their promise of community development ... after three years it is clear they do not want to do it," said Koch County Executive Director Peter Kuol. "We don't have a hospital, we don't have a clinic," he added.

According to the Wealth Sharing Protocol of the CPA, persons with land rights shall be consulted with respect to oil development, and shall be entitled to compensation with regard to acquisition of land or when their rights are violated by existing oil contracts.

Local chiefs and elders have long been vocal in their demands for increased dialogue between the companies and communities in which they operate.

"Mining of oil has benefited the whole of Sudan. But we as a community who live where the oil is located are under threat from pollution. There is no equal employment...even manual labour is



Governor Brig. Gen. Taban Deng Gai (second from left) opening oil development conference in Bentiu

brought in from outside the community," said Chief Konyach of the indigenous Nuer tribe.

Unity State has one of the most developed road networks in Southern Sudan, as oil companies have built roads throughout their concession areas. This has brought some direct benefit to local communities in accessing markets, but roads have been built without proper drainage, which has led to increased flooding and displacement.

Rebecca Nyankuma lives in a displaced person's camp opposite the Governor's office in Bentiu. She fled with her family to Khartoum in 2002 to escape the war and returned in June 2008 to find her village flooded and uninhabitable.

"We are collecting firewood to survive and waiting for the government to allocate land. We came home and found the oil companies had built on our land," said Rebecca.

Less than two kilometres from the Thar Jath oil facility operated by WNPOC, a fishing camp sits at the side of the access road. Fish are hung to dry and sold to passing truck drivers and the local community.

There are health concerns about the safety of the fish, as the area is an active site of oil development. Waste water from previous drilling operations sits in unguarded open pits and regularly floods into the surrounding farm land and river system. ■



Aerial view of GNPOC-operated Unity Oil Field

Story and photo by
Tim McKulka

OUT OF CUBA

Sitting in a pediatric examining room in Juba Teaching Hospital, Dr. Okony Simon said he was happy to be back with his people, after spending almost two decades in Cuba.

"We as citizens of this country have a mission to help our people ...with the training and knowledge we acquired abroad," the young doctor said.

Dr. Simon went to Cuba at the age of 13, one of 600 children the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) sent there to be educated during the country's civil war. Some 15 of them recently returned to Southern Sudan as doctors.

"One of the aims of sending us to Cuba was to educate us ... and one day come back after the war, because we can say that there are two faces to war, the war of the Kalashnikov and the war of reconstruction," Dr. Simon said.

As part of a group called the "Lost Boys", the doctors crossed the Southern Sudanese border as children into Ethiopia. They were then transported half a world away to a school amid the green strangeness of Cuba's Isla de la Juventud (Youth Island).

The children were sent in two groups -- the first by sea aboard a Soviet cruise ship in 1985, and the second by air the following year from Ethiopia. For most, the 24-day voyage was the first time they had seen the sea.

"It was a new..... and first experience in life for all of us to travel by sea for such a long time," Dr. Simon recalled.

The children joined thousands of students from various nations living on Cuba's Island of Youth during the Cold War. "We were sent there ... to study ... and to acquire different knowledge that could help in rebuilding our nation," said Dr. Simon.



Dr. Okony Simon treating patient in Juba Teaching Hospital

When the doctors finished medical school 10 years later, Cuba had lost its support from the former Soviet Union and had no jobs for them. In 1995, the United Nations came to the rescue, giving the graduates refugee status. Some went to Europe and others journeyed to the United States or Canada.

Canada offered more opportunity than Cuba, but not in the doctors' chosen field, said returnee Dr. Martha Martin, also working at Juba Teaching Hospital. "While in Canada, I was working in a bank, because our Cuban degrees did not meet Canadian medical requirements."

Dr. Martin called on other Sudanese expatriates to follow their footsteps and come back home. "When you see a fellow citizen come to you sick and help him/her to recover, it is ... good ... I think we are doing well."

Many colleagues, she said, who had

studied medicine, engineering, economics and other fields in Cuba had remained outside Sudan for their families, wanting their children to receive a better education in the west.

Officials estimate that Southern Sudan's health care system reaches only 25 percent of the population. Although Juba Teaching Hospital had recently improved, it still suffered shortages of medical professionals and materials, said Dr. Simon.

"In 2006, there were only six doctors and there was a lack of everything, but currently there are about 16 doctors and 12 consultants," he said.

The Sudanese doctors from Cuba speak Spanish, listen to Latin music and dance salsa. Most evenings, they meet at a place in the centre of Juba called "De Havana Restaurant and Night Club" to reminisce about their Cuban days.

"People call us 'Cubanos' -- Cubans -- we are not Cubans, we are Sudanese, but our mentality and the culture we have is Cuban. So we have something unique," Dr. Simon said.

Drawing attention to the words of the late Dr. John Garang urging people to make Southern Sudan a better place, Dr. Simon said that having a good life in the west was nice, but it was sweeter to work with one's own people.

"Home is.....home," said the young doctor with a smile. ■

Story by Hailemichael Gebrekrstos
Photos by Tim Mckulka



Dr. Okony Simon in paediatric ward of Juba Teaching Hospital.

BACK IN ABYEI



Destruction left behind by fighting in Abyei town. UNMIS photo: Tim Mckulka

When she returned to Abyei, Akwot Chol left her eight children behind in Agok internally displaced persons camp (IDP), where food was being distributed and they could attend school.

Food was scarce in Abyei and the town's secondary school had been destroyed during the fighting, along with the area's six primary schools, said 55-year-old Akwot, who returned four months ago.

Before the conflict, life was cheap and there was enough food, water and medical care, but now water sources were destroyed, gardens burned to ashes and houses either looted or burnt, she said.

Conflict erupted in Abyei last May between the Sudan Armed Forces and Sudan People's Liberation Army, leaving scores of people dead, destroying the town and driving about 50,000 people from their homes.

Abiol Mijok, 55, said returning to Abyei meant having to transport food from Agok (40 kilometres to the south) over unsafe roads. "Carrying food items from Agok to Abyei is very risky. There are thieves and raiders along the route."

Commenting on the town's medical services, Abyei Hospital Medical Director Dr. Dut Bioth said the facility was lacking in supplies due to looting after the conflict. "All health facilities were destroyed and bandages, stretchers, medicines and what have you were looted."

Dr. Bioth said he was seeing cases of malaria, respiratory track infection and malnutrition. "Most children brought to the hospital here are malnourished and have stunted growth. People have given up crop production as a result of the conflict."

The hospital was referring all cases to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), which

had some services like bottle feeding for children under five, said Dr. Bioth. Also, the Irish non-governmental organization GOAL had mobile clinics in Abyei and was providing medicine to the hospital through its sub-office in Agok.

Much was needed to rebuild the area in terms of water, health and sanitation, said UNMIS Recovery, Return and Reintegration Officer Meredoc McMinn. "There is a need for better access to water in Abyei area, especially rural-village areas."

To ease the water problem, his section had organized transportation of two 10,000 litre water containers to Abyei hospital. The two containers were among four donated by Islamic Relief and transported by Zambian troops working for UNMIS Abyei.

He said an estimated 6,000 people were living in the town, compared to 30,000 before the conflict. Another 8,000 were residing in surrounding villages north of the river Kiiir (or Bahr el Arab), of which up to 5,000 were returnees and more than 3,000 had remained during the conflict.

Conditions in surrounding areas were complicated by competition for water between passing nomads and village residents, the returnee Ngok Dinka, said UNMIS Returns Officer Cecilia Biong.

"From October to May every year, the nomad Misseriya migrate with their cattle from Southern Kordofan southwards with thousands of their animals and pass by Today and Noong

(villages), where there is some hope to get water."

To assist the returnees, UNICEF had helped repair a water yard and mini water yard in Abyei, ensuring clean water supplies for some 8,000 people, according to Edward Carwardine, UNICEF Chief of Media and External Relations.

The agency had also prepared six primary health care kits (containing essential drugs and medicines) and four midwifery kits, which would be sent to Abyei from Kadugli, Mr. Carwardine said. It was also supporting an ongoing immunization effort in Abyei, focusing on diphtheria, polio and tetanus.

In addition, UNICEF had provided the town with emergency education supplies, including classroom materials, recreational items, chalk boards, plastic sheeting and text books to benefit around 5,000 children, said Mr. Carwardine. "We are also working with the State Ministry of Education to look at rehabilitating six primary schools in the Abyei area."

For new returnees, the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission has set up a multi-tent reception site on the outskirts of Abyei town, which UNMIS helped organize. MSF built pit latrines for the site and was providing medical checks as well as a water-bladder (filled by UNMIS). ■

James Sokiri



Aerial view of Abyei town after the fighting. UNMIS photo: Tim Mckulka



Residents of Abyei enjoying new water source. UNMIS photo: Johann Hattingh

FROM A RICH MAN'S TABLE

Scavenging for food in a Juba garbage dump along with some chickens, adults and other children, 12-year-old Josephine Poni said her life depended on how much the rich threw away.

"Life is not easy here. We are selling firewood to buy food, but sometimes the firewood is not bought. I learned that there is food in the garbage, so I decided to come here," she said.

Josephine's family was displaced in 2002 by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) from Lobonok *payam* (township), Central Equatoria State. They first settled in the Nyokuron area of Juba, but part of it was later demolished and the family moved to the outskirts of town.

Josephine is one of many children who scavenge in Juba's refuse heaps searching for food. Some come from families displaced by the LRA or the recently ended civil war, while others are orphans, having lost their parents to illness or conflict.

Eight-year-old James Tombe arrived in Juba with his family last year, after spending several years in a Ugandan refugee camp. When they finished the food relief agencies had given them, he decided to forgo school and search the dump for more.

"Even if I go to school, when I come home I stay hungry. I decided to come to the dump so that I can find some food for myself and my family," said James.

The children continue searching throughout the day amid the dump's foul odours, acrid smoke and flies, switching from one heap to another as trucks deliver more refuse to the site.

"We pick what is not completely rotten, like bones and fat thrown out by the butchery, bread, biscuits, uncooked food, and take it home," said 10-year-old



Children scavenge food and clothing from Juba Municipal Garbage Dump

Christine Sunday.

Some days the children find only rotten or inedible food and leave the dump at sunset empty-handed.

Ochaka Gasim, who delivers garbage to the site twice a day, said something must be done to help the children, noting that their numbers were increasing. "I feel

and buildings in Juba's Malakia area for a children's drop-in centre, she said, which the Millennium Construction Company was helping to expand and renovate.

UNICEF was sponsoring programmes at the centre on children's justice, and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency on means of livelihood. RA International was providing food and Africa Expedition (Afex) training children and mothers, she said.

"We have mobilized over 100 children, out of whom 20 are attending training in various fields ... mechanics, catering and hotel management ... while others have already gotten jobs," Ms. Groenendijk said. Once the drop-in centre was completed, they would train many others, including those without schooling.

Ms. Groenendijk said the number of street children in Juba had increased mainly due to the inability of parents or caretakers to provide them with basic needs like food. "Our training is not limited to street children only. We feel by training the mothers, we will empower them and they will be able to provide basic needs for their children."

Susan Jogo Hope, a mother of three, was optimistic she could care for her children after attending a CCC-organized training course in catering and hotel management at Afex. "With only three weeks training, I am assured of employment by the hotel. I see a bright future for my life and my children as well, although I didn't go to school." ■

Story by Emmanuel Kenyi
Photos by Tim Mckulka

"Even if I go to school, when I come home I stay hungry. I decided to come to the dump so that I can find some food for myself and my family"

very sorry for these children. I tried to stop them ... but there was no way that I could."

Increasing numbers of street children scrounging for food in Juba has attracted the attention of the Government of Southern Sudan, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community based organizations and the business community.

Catherine Groenendijk, Programme Director of the NGO Confident Children out of Conflict, said her agency and others were carrying out a programme to mobilize and rehabilitate the children.

The Central Equatoria State Ministry of Social Welfare had allocated land



INCREASED EFFORTS NEEDED FOR MDGS

Resounding harmoniously in Khartoum's Friendship Hall, the voices of al-Ahfad Children's Choral delivered a clear message in their lyrics -- we are Sudan's hope for the future.

"Our country, we are the generation of tomorrow and on us you will depend. So give us the right education .. free and a right for all ...," they sang.

The children were performing for 60 delegates of the Sudanese government, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and civil society at a UN Day seminar on Sudan and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Opening the event, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Ameerah Haq noted an improvement in education, especially in primary school attendance rates, but added that "much work is still ahead of us".

She pointed out that the national average for primary school attendance had increased to 53.7 per cent in 2006, but that large disparities existed between

states.

UNICEF Deputy Representative Lyabode Olusanmi said a major concern was the large number of children dropping out of school. According to Sudan's most current study, the 2006 Sudan Household Health Survey (SHHS), more than 90 per cent finished fifth grade, but only 19 per cent completed primary school.

Delegates also focused on health, especially the continuing prevalence of maternal and child mortality. Minister of International Cooperation Dr. Tigani Salih Fedail observed that "maternal mortality in Southern Sudan is among the highest in the world," with about 1,107 deaths for every 100,000 live births.

"Women are dying in the process of giving birth to the next generation," Ms. Olusanmi commented. The goal of reducing maternal mortality by three quarters for 2015 seemed almost impossible to attain, she added.



Participants at Millennium Development Goals seminar, Friendship Hall, Khartoum

MDG targets

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) laid down by the international community at the 2000 Millennium Summit set the following targets for 2015:

- reduction by half of the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day and suffering from hunger;
- universal primary education;
- elimination of gender disparity in education;
- reduction of under-five child mortality by two thirds;
- reduction of maternal mortality by three quarters;
- halting and reversal of the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
- environmental sustainability, including halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation;
- global partnerships for development, including the development of a non-discriminatory trading and financial system.

To support these aims, an additional \$16 billion was pledged by donor nations at the High-level UN MDG event on 25 September in New York. Out of the \$16 billion, they pledged \$1.6 billion to improve food security, more than \$4.5 billion for education and \$3 billion to combat malaria.



State Minister of Ministry of International Co-operation Elias Nyamlell Wakoson (left) and UNICEF Deputy Representative Lyabode Olusanmi at MDG seminar

Increased efforts were also needed to combat child mortality, participants stressed. Every eleventh child died before the age of five (11.2 per cent) and one in three children (32.5 per cent) suffered from malnutrition.

Regarding the spread of HIV, delegates noted that only 4 per cent of Sudanese knew the three ways of preventing transmission (condom use, abstinence and a faithful partner). According to World Health Organization/UNAIDS modelling, prevalence in the adult population was 2.6 per cent for all of Sudan.

As for malaria, delegates said the number of malaria deaths had dropped by more than half since 2005 due to free hospital care, treated mosquito nets and insecticide projects in 11 northern states. But tackling the disease was vital, as an estimated 80 per cent of the Sudanese population was still at risk from the disease.

Ms. Haq also observed that reducing poverty by 2015 was an ambitious goal to reach. "Now looking at some of the things that have happened ... increasing food prices, what's happening in world economy ... these set the goals back. But I think investment in health and education will pay off."

Concluding the seminar, participants recommended that further analysis, research and investment in human resources and technical capacities were needed to enhance current initiatives to reach MDG targets. "Facing the challenges will require the combined efforts of all," said Minister Fedail. ■

Photos by Johann Hattingh

FISHING CO-OP STYLE INCREASES NET TAKE

Leaning against the wall of his thriving grocery in Juba, Joseph Alexander said he began his working life as a fisherman, struggling to support his family at the height of Sudan's civil war.

Born in 1969 in Madebe payam (township), Western Equatoria State, Joseph moved to Juba after his mother died of an illness in 1984. There, he lived with his fisherman father, catching up on his interrupted schooling by day and learning to cast a net at night.

Those days changed dramatically when his father was accused of being a spy and shot in 1992. At the age of 23, Joseph was left to support his four younger siblings and three other relatives.

"When my father died, I was the oldest child left in the family ... I started using his fishing equipment to help the family members survive ... getting food was very difficult at that time," he recalled.

Rather than work alone, Joseph joined some fishermen who were sharing boats to increase their profits. As a group, the men also felt they might avoid being drafted into the army – the fate of many idle, young men at the time.

"Most of our colleagues joined the military ... life was not easy at that time ... but we decided to come together in a group so that we survived," said fellow fisherman Thomas Ladu.

Not only did fishing feed Joseph's family, but he was able to pay a small dowry and get married some months later. By the time the country's peace agreement was signed in 2005, he had saved enough to open a small grocery in the middle of

town.

Initially, the fishermen had only 10 boats, but over time other members joined and they gradually increased their fleet. Now, the group has 40 fishermen sharing 20 boats, making an average of 50 SDG each per day.

"At least we have money for our families, although we also spend some purchasing fishing nets and hooks, and for the maintenance of our boats, which seems to be expensive these days," said Thomas.

Previously, having a damaged net repaired cost 18 SDG in labour, but now the rate has gone up to 25 SDG. And the cost of a locally made boat has doubled from 400 to 800 SDG over the past few years.

Luckily for the fishermen, scarcity of local supplies and the need to import from Uganda more than 90 per cent of fish consumed in Juba have pushed up the price to about 10 SDG per kilogram.

In an effort to boost local fishing, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been training people like Joseph and



his fellow fishermen along the Nile in boat building and net-making as well as providing them with materials.

So far this year, the agency has trained 282 fishermen and provided 5,729 hooks,

10 boats, 16,384 fishing lines and eight rolls of plastic sheeting, according to FAO Fisheries Officer William Adolfo, "Many of the trained people get money through fishing for buying cattle, medicine and food, while others build their own boats."

The fishermen in Joseph's group have yet to benefit from FAO training, but have requested its help to improve their fishing methods. The group is also looking to increase its income by saving to buy some motor boats, which would be larger than wooden ones and travel longer distances. ■



Joseph Alexander (front) and Thomas Ladu on Nile, Juba

Story by Ojja Bosco
Photos by Tim Mckulka

THE BIGGEST BATH IN KHARTOUM

One of the more startling rooms in Omdurman's Khalifa House Museum is the bathroom, with its enormous, walk-in bathtub the size of a galley kitchen.

Servants once laboriously carried water to the bath from an outside boiler. The elaborate system also boasted a tank fed by an aqueduct, which supplied water to the boiler.

The historic two-storey building – now a favoured nesting spot for sparrows and pigeons – was completed by religious/military leader Khalifa Abdullah al-Taaisha in 1891. Converted into a museum in 1928, it hosts a vast collection of artifacts covering almost the entire Mahdi rule.

The Khalifa succeeded Muhammad Ahmad, better known as “the Mahdi”, a religious leader who declared that he would establish justice and rid the world of evil. Supported by followers known as “Mahdists”, he led a revolt against Anglo-Egyptian forces ruling Sudan in 1881, capturing Khartoum four years later.

The battle of Khartoum gave the Sudanese complete control of the province and also killed British General Gordon, colonel of the Anglo-Egyptian army and governor-general of all Sudan. The tomb of the Mahdi, who died the same year, stands in a silver-domed mosque next to the museum.

Following the Mahdi's rule, the Khalifa waged never-ending wars against the Nilotes, and also pitted himself against British-ruled Egypt. In 1896, the British and Egyptian governments sent a joint military expedition against him, led by General Horatio Herbert Kitchener. The Anglo-Egyptian forces defeated the Khalifa two years later at the Battle of Omdurman, signaling an end to the Mahdist movement.

The Mahdi's tomb and mosque were destroyed by Kitchener in 1898, but later his son had them rebuilt. The mosque's original crescent toppled during the attack, but was secured and later put on display in one of the museum's courtyards on top of a mock cupola.

Artifacts displayed in the red-clay brick rooms of the museum include typical clothes worn by the rebels as well as some brass coins produced hundreds of years ago in Egypt. The main building also hosts a small device for making bullets as well as a huge communal wooden bowl the soldiers ate from.

There is a room full of Gordon memorabilia, including letters he sent to his sisters. The museum also displays pictures and news clippings of early Khartoum as well as the first automobile used in the Sudan.



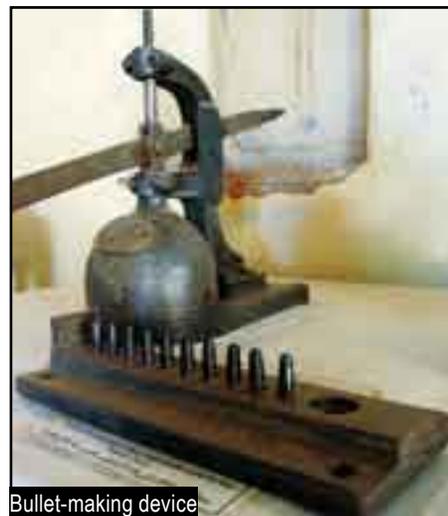
Khalifa Mahdi



Walk-in bathtub



Communal eating bowl



Bullet-making device



Traditional clothes worn by rebels

The original building was later expanded and re-used by the British District Commissioner from 1899 to 1921.

Photos by Johann Hattingh

NEWS BRIEFS

Qazi addresses University of Khartoum forum



Progress towards full re-deployment, establishing governmental institutions and implementing census enumeration had been three major accomplishments of the sustained ceasefire to date, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Sudan, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, said at the University of Khartoum on 15 October.

Mr. Qazi was highlighting the main achievements of Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) implementation since 2005 in his address to an open forum on the peace process in Sudan. The event was organized by the Peace Research Institute of the University.

The Special Representative also reiterated UNMIS's readiness to assist the parties to the CPA in implementing upcoming benchmarks such as elections, border demarcation and the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration process.

Afterwards, some 80 participants from academic, civil society, political and media organizations engaged in extended discussion with Mr. Qazi on issues relating to the CPA and the UN's role in Sudan. These included the UNMIS mandate, the relationship with UNAMID, the UN position on the International Criminal Court, and democratic transformation of the country.

JiUs receive Egyptian donation



Two Egyptian military aircraft landed in Kadugli on 20 October with a donation of two generators, 50 tents and kitchen equipment for the Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) from the Egyptian Government.

JIU Deputy Commander Maj. Gen. Abdel Maged Abdullah received the donation on behalf of the JIUs and warmly thanked Egypt for the support.

Representing UNMIS, Force Commander Maj. Gen. Paban Thapa expressed his gratitude to the Egyptian Government, adding that "this gesture will improve the JIU operational capacities in conducting their tasks related to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement".

Four more aircraft are expected to arrive from Cairo in coming weeks with four generators, 40 tons of tents and 16 tons of kitchen equipment.

The donation will be distributed throughout Sudan and is expected to cover camp facilities for a total of 3,000 JIU troops.

Swedish deminers deploy to Abyei

The Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA) sent a four-person Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team to conduct a series of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) spot tasks in Abyei on 20 October.

The team, sent at the request of the UN Mine Action Office in Sudan (UNMAO), will remain in the area until the end of 2008, in support of humanitarian activities for the return and reintegration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) affected by recent fighting.

The Swedish EOD team will start by clearing UXOs that have been reported at the UNICEF and UNDP compounds. They will also work in various non-governmental organization and government compounds, as well as Abyei's secondary schools and Return, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration centres for IDPs.

CJMC holds peace workshop for SPLA

In a continuing effort to transform the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) into a peacetime military force, the Ceasefire Joint Military Committee (CJMC) held a workshop on the country's peace accord at SPLA Headquarters in Juba from 6 to 9 October.

The workshop, attended by 75 SPLA soldiers, emphasized implementation of Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) security arrangements, including full cessation of hostilities and resolution of conflicts through dialogue. It also focused on remaining CPA challenges, including north-south border demarcation and the continued existence of other armed groups.

The workshop recommended SPLA adherence to human rights and the need to rehabilitate, reintegrate and employ ex-combatants. It further suggested using severe punishment to deter illegal possession of arms by unauthorized personnel, stressing the need for awareness campaigns on the pros and cons of weapons.

The workshop was facilitated by representatives of the CJMC, SPLA General Headquarters, UNMIS and the Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission.

NEWS BRIEFS

Border Committee gets satellite imagery



Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ashraf Qazi handed over a satellite imagery system to the Ad hoc Technical Border Committee in Khartoum on 18 October, a \$600,000 value donation from UNMIS.

The Committee will use the imagery system to produce the base map for delineation of the 1/1/56 borderline. The map will be part of the final report to be submitted to the Presidency.

Border Committee Chairman Prof. Abdallah El Sadig Ali acknowledged the UN's important role in support of its work. Delivery of the satellite imagery system was an historic landmark in the story of the UN in Sudan, he said. The Border Committee would stick to its timetable and submit its final report on schedule, he added.

The Ad hoc Technical Border Committee, comprised of 18 members from both parties to the CPA, was established in November 2005 by the Presidency and is mandated to demarcate the 1/1/56 borderline. Once the Presidency endorses the report, the Committee must proceed with demarcation on the ground.

Pakistanis hold medical camp in Gindi

The UNMIS Pakistani contingent recently held a free medical camp in Gindi village near Kurmuk, Blue Nile State, which has been suffering from a food shortage since flooding washed away its crops.

The camp, which was equipped with three outpatient departments and a laboratory, treated 538 patients, including 132 men, 171 women and 235 children. All patients were given medicine free of cost.

Some 48 children between one and six years of age died in Gindi in August and September due to malnutrition, diarrhoea and malaria, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The village is currently inaccessible by land and must be approached by air. The Pakistani Contingent, UNICEF and UNHCR joined together in reaching the area using a special flight.

Maternal care workshop held in Rumbek

Addressing the high rate of maternal mortality in Southern Sudan, a training course on Obstetric Emergency Neonatal Care was held for 80 health care providers in Rumbek from 28 August to 7 October.

The session, organized by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Health, focused on three methods of reproductive care documentation that were new to Southern Sudan.

The first, called Mother and Child Plan, uses detailed records to document reproductive health, beginning with the mother's first visit to a clinic. The second, Mother and Child Case Book, emphasizes child delivery records. The final method, the Impact Series, is a set of three reference books for all reproductive health-related cases. Health professionals attending the course received copies for their own use as well as others for their clinics.

Speaking during the session, UNFPA official Dr. Dragudi Buwa noted that numerous Sudanese women received antenatal care, but failed to deliver in health facilities or sought professional services too late.

According to the UNFPA, 2,054 women out of 100,000 die while giving birth in Southern Sudan, while only 10 per cent of women have access to skilled care during delivery.

Southern Sudan holds first referendum forum



The first ever public forum on the 2011 referendum – on whether Southern Sudan should secede or continue its unity with the north -- was held at the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly in Juba on 27 October.

Organized by the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) Ministry of Presidential Affairs, the high-profile event was attended by representatives of GoSS and the Government of National Unity, the UN, southern political parties, and civil society.

In his opening remarks, President of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir called the forum a "historic step" in preparing for the referendum. "It (the referendum) is what other generations have talked about, some of whom are no longer with us now," he said.

The President added, however, that the road to referendum would be "bumpy and thorny", urging all Southern Sudanese to unite and rally behind it.

Topics covered in the debate included international experience with referendums, challenges and opportunities, conducting the referendum and post-referendum challenges.

