



April 2009

United Nations Mission

# In SUDAN

Emmanuel Jal

*Forgiving sets you*  
**FREE**

Published by UNMIS Public Information Office

# DIARY

- **18 March:** International Women's Day (normally celebrated on 8 March) was celebrated in a delayed ceremony in Wau. Addressing the event, Governor of Western Bahr el Ghazal State Gen. Mark Nyipouch Ubong urged men and women to work together for sustainable development.
- **19 March:** Sudan ratified the International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. The UN convention stresses that disabled persons must be guaranteed all human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination.
- **24 March:** Sudan's Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme began the reintegration phase in Ed Damazin with 14 participants, who received technical and material assistance to help them socially and economically reintegrate into civilian life.
- **24 March:** Governor of Western Bahr El Ghazal State Gen. Mark Nypouch launched the third polio immunization campaign in Wau. Acknowledging efforts by the World Health Organization and UNICEF to fight the disease, he said the state was joining the campaign.
- **24 March:** The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that the deteriorating security situation in some parts of Southern Sudan was preventing the return of refugees from Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia.
- **24 March:** A joint assessment report by the UN and Government of Sudan in Darfur revealed critical aid gaps, warning that the humanitarian situation there could worsen by May. The report followed the GoS decision to suspend three national and revoke the registration of 13 international non-governmental organizations working in the region.
- **25 March:** Senior UNMMIS officials visited Jonglei State to discuss inter-ethnic violence in Pibor County and environs between 5 and 13 March that had resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people and displaced an estimated 5,000. Meeting with Jonglei State Governor Kuol Manyang and other officials, the UNMIS delegation expressed the UN's deep regret over the loss of life.
- **27 March:** UNMIS Child Protection, UN Police, and the Southern Sudan Police Service in conjunction with the Central Equatoria State Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and UNICEF held a Training of Trainers workshop, funded by UNICEF, for 16 teachers from 11 Juba schools on traffic and road safety.
- **2 April:** National Election Commission Chairman Abel Alier announced that presidential and parliamentary elections, originally to be held in July this year, would be postponed until February 2010. The poll was delayed due to the rainy season and to allow needed preparations as well as the passing of relevant legislation to take place.
- **4 April:** International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was celebrated across Sudan. About 60 per cent of a reported 4,000 dangerous areas have been verified or cleared in the country and over 29,000 kilometres of high priority roads opened since 2002.
- **7 April:** The Child Act was launched by President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir. Defining a child as any person under the age of 18, the bill requires the government to recognize, respect and ensure the rights of children enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (for details, see January issue In Sudan).



United Nations Mission

# In SUDAN

## INSIDE

### 3 Humanitarian

- Darfur assessment reveals aid gaps

### 4 Interview

- FRED BABI:  
Memories of Wau

### 6 Peace and Security

- Escape from the LRA
- Fighting back
- Disputes erupt in Jonglei State

### 10 Profile

- EMMANUEL JAL:  
Forgiving sets you free

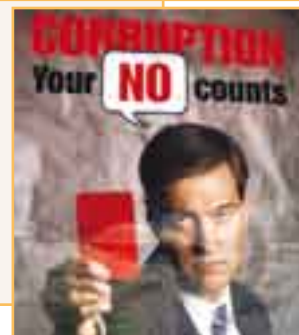
### 12 Environment

- Full steam on half energy
- Cleaning up the Nile

### 14 Legislation

- A bill to fight corruption

### 15 News Briefs



**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.

**Editor-in-Chief:** Khaled Mansour  
**Managing Editor:** Catherine Waugh  
**Associate Editor:** Joseph Contreras  
**Assistant Editor:** Eszter Farkas  
**Design:** Sezar Amin

For comments and suggestions contact  
[unmis-insudan@un.org](mailto:unmis-insudan@un.org)

FRONT COVER: Hip hop singer, Emmanuel Jal. PHOTO: Geof Pug  
 BACK COVER: Nile River, Southern Sudan. PHOTO: UNMIS/Tim McKulka

# DARFUR ASSESSMENT REVEALS AID GAPS

A joint assessment recently carried out in Darfur by the UN and Government of Sudan (GoS) revealed gaps in aid that can be met in the short term, but warned that the humanitarian situation there could worsen over the summer.

The assessment report, released on 24 March, followed the GoS decision to suspend three national and revoke the registration of 13 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the region.

The GoS decision came after the International Criminal Court had issued an arrest warrant against President Omar al-Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

The aim of the assessment mission was to gauge the humanitarian impact of the NGOs' departure as well as capacity to meet emergency needs.

Teams of GoS and UN officials travelled throughout the three Darfur states investigating conditions of food aid, health and nutrition, non-food items and shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene sectors.

According to the report, food was being distributed to about 1.1 million people in March and April by the World Food Program (WFP), which was carrying out emergency delivery with the help of local food committees.

But as the hunger gap (between harvests) approached at the beginning of May, these people may not receive their rations if no other distribution mechanisms were found, said UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan Ameerah Haq, as she presented the assessment's findings in Khartoum.

"Various partners must try to ensure that funding, plus adequate technical management and coordination capacity and administrative arrangements are in place," Ms. Haq said. Only then would civilians receive life-saving food, health care, shelter, and water and sanitation services previously provided by the ousted NGOs.

Thanks to the quick engagement of the GoS water department, UNICEF and national NGOs, over 850,000 people were still receiving potable water, said the Humanitarian Coordinator. But existing funds for spare parts and fuel would soon be depleted.

Hygiene and sanitation required urgent



IDP in Tawila, North Darfur.  
PHOTO: UNMIS/Frederic Noy

## Hygiene and sanitation required urgent attention to prevent disease outbreaks

attention to prevent disease outbreaks, according to the report. Immediate action was already needed for meningitis outbreaks in several areas.

The situation was worse in some IDP camps, including Kalma in South Darfur, and Hamadia and Hassa Hissa in West Darfur, where residents did not allow governmental bodies, national organizations or the UN and international organizations in.

In addition, the work of NGOs managing feeding programmes for malnourished children and for pregnant and nursing women had been interrupted, Ms. Haq noted. Up to 650,000 persons currently had no access to full health care.

The assessment found that about 692,400 people who would normally have received shelter materials before the rainy season would not do so unless the UN Joint Logistics Centre found distribution partners and had access to distribution lists.

GoS ministries and UN agencies were providing shelter to some 36,000 new arrivals in Zam Zam IDP camp and supplying water to the 70,000 residents

of Kalma camp. However, availability of these services depended on the continued supply of fuel as well as pump maintenance.

In terms of management, oversight and organizational capacity there was a significant gap, which the UN working together with the Sudanese authorities should help to fill. Expertise in technical assessments, planning, programme design and implementation had been lost, Ms. Haq said, and this capacity could not be replaced easily or quickly.

Access to those in need was also hampered by administrative hurdles – such as the lack of travel permits and technical agreements. "Prevailing bureaucratic impediments should be lifted and security conditions should not complicate issues such as access, if the people of Darfur are not to end up facing the most serious upheaval in years," Ms. Haq said.

If current efforts at filling the gaps in a sustainable manner were to be successful, the Humanitarian Coordinator added, resources would have to be made available from the government, donors or a combination thereof. ■



# MEMORIES OF WAU



Fred Babi.  
PHOTO: UNMIS/Cathy Waugh

**Breaking new ground as UNMIS Wau's first Head of Office in October 2005, Fred Babi witnessed remarkable change during the three and a half years he spent there. Having now completed his tour, Mr. Babi spoke with In Sudan about his experiences in Greater Bahr El Ghazal.**

## **In Sudan: What was your first impression of Wau?**

**Fred Babi:** I was shocked. It was nothing like I expected. Wau is the headquarters for Greater Bahr El Ghazal's four states – Western and Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Warrap and Lakes – but was completely isolated and cut off from them due to impassible, mine-ridden or non-existent roads.

The only access to Wau was by helicopter, as the airstrip had not been maintained during the conflict years and was unusable, in a horrible state. The runway was riddled with sharp stones and overgrown with grass. And there was no air traffic control tower.

The town was rundown and devastated by the war. Wau was still a garrison town then and there were SAF (Sudan Armed Forces) soldiers everywhere. About three food shops were open, selling basic items like bottled water, canned goods, Kleenex

and locally made household items.

My first night was quite a challenge. I checked into an Islamic NGO guesthouse, which had no lights, no toilets, flying insects that filled the room and hung around on the bed. Two days later, I moved to a house that had belonged to the previous OIC (Officer-in-Charge). It was clean, better constructed and had fewer insects. There was a generator so I had light, but no air conditioning. I was lucky to find a fan.

## **What were the area's main challenges when you arrived?**

Two big challenges were its destroyed infrastructure and utter lack of functioning institutions, including state assemblies, ministries, hospitals and police. Insecurity was high, as any policing was mainly done by soldiers hand-picked by local authorities. The soldiers set up random roadblocks, where they collected money and harassed the few travelers on the

roads.

The entire state of Warrap had no buildings, consisting only of *tukuls* (conical mud and straw huts). Its schools and hospitals had been completely levelled by bombs. Greater Bahr El Ghazal had been the main staging ground for the war. Wau, Gorgrial, Aweil and Raja were transformed into garrison towns with huge SAF presences.

Another challenge was the predominance of Other Armed Groups (OAGs) such as the Al-Fursan and Gades-Salaam (Peace Forces), who operated freely in the Wau and Raja areas. They were disbanded for the most part by 9 July 2007, when OAGs were expected to join either the SAF or SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army). They are illegal now and no OAGs are known to exist in the area.

## **What are the mission's biggest achievements there?**

The most remarkable achievements were the quick establishment of the AJMC (Area Joint Military Committee) and the setting up of sector headquarters in Wau, as well as a team site in Aweil. Because these were rapidly put in place, we were able to ensure full redeployment of the SAF from the sector, which is now about 99.9 per

cent complete.

Another major accomplishment was demining. Major roads between Wau, Aweil and Rumbek as well as from Wau to Kwajok/Agok and Abyei have been demined by UNMAO (UN Mine Action Office) and its contractors.

We also provided humanitarian assistance, especially to those affected by flooding. Low-lying land in the sector suffers regular annual flooding, displacing large numbers of people. In collaboration with other UN system partners, we also supported state-sponsored vaccination campaigns to contain diseases like measles, cholera and meningitis.

UN Police did an immense amount of training to help bring law and order to the area. This was vital, especially with the population increasing in all four states. The sector initiated conflict resolution mechanisms and supported peace conferences between the *Misseriya* and *Dinka* as well as between *Dinka* sub-groups to halt continuous fighting over available natural resources such as grazing land and water.

But one of the biggest achievements was in Wau town itself. The mission renovated the airstrip from January to June 2006, so that Chinese and Kenyan battalions were able to deploy to the sector. Once the Chinese arrived, they filled in the potholes and graded the road to town, which is now being paved by the state government.

## **What major hurdles remain?**

UNMIS needs to train more police and support the DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration) programme, which is only at the pre-planning stage. The sector needs to overcome logistical problems and stay on track for the elections. It will be a challenge reaching isolated new returnee and other settlements.

The sector must also continue to monitor activities along the border. The contested border runs between Warrap State and Abyei, then through South Darfur into Raja. Abyei was previously considered part of Warrap, but was annexed by the North during the war. There is an area in Raja called Kafia Kingi, which was annexed to South Darfur, but is still considered part of Western Bahr El Ghazal. As the area is known to be rich in mineral resources, resolution of the border issue is key to maintaining peace.

In addition, UNMIS should assist more with capacity building efforts in the sector. The rebuilding of state institutions providing services like healthcare, hospitals, schools, prisons and other needs is critical.

### What are the main causes of any remaining insecurity?

First, there are too many guns in the hands of civilians. It is suspected that many former SAF who returned to the area as traders have kept their guns. People are fearful that this could lead to outbreaks of violence. Also, it is quite easy to obtain SPLA uniforms and other military paraphernalia in the local market and impersonate a soldier to carry out illegal activities.

Insecurity has also arisen from intra-tribal clashes. The GoSS (Government of Southern Sudan) tried to carry out civilian disarmament but was only successful in a few areas like Aweil and some parts of Warrap State. Guns create insecurity. When disputes arise, people run to their huts, grab their guns and before you know it 50 people are down.

Then there are ongoing cattle grazing disputes between the *Misseriya* and *Dinka* as well as other groups. The *Misseriya*'s "brothers", the *Rezeigat*, have crossed into

the sector from South Darfur and are now in Aweil, Raja and Wau. The *Misseriya* and *Rezeigat* travel with heavy weapons and the *Dinka* are also armed. This results in clashes, often deadly ones.

The recent peace conferences held in Tonj and Aweil are key to containing inter-group and inter-community fighting. UNMIS should do more to support them, especially with follow-up to ensure peaceful results.

### Electricity just came to Wau. How do you think it will change the town?

Electricity coming to Wau is one experience I will take home with me. One night in 2006, I came upon a group of kids sitting under my security lights struggling to study. Wau hosts Western Bahr El Ghazal University, which has a very large student population. You can expect that they will now study better with electricity in town.

Electricity will just improve life generally, especially in terms of economic activity, as traders will be encouraged to come from neighbouring countries. It will also improve security at night.

### How are returnees faring in the Wau area?

They were very excited to come back. In

2005, we received figures for coordinated returns, but those numbers have gone sky high. They are coming in truckloads. This is one of UNMIS' biggest areas of success – supporting returns. There has also been a huge number of spontaneous returns.

However, grassroot services to support returns are lacking. Mechanisms in the four states to support returnees are weak or non-existent, so they are on their own. They get a piece of land, pitch their tents and settle.

Many have difficulties adjusting. If they are from Khartoum, they must deal with an educational system in English. If they are from East Africa or Uganda, they suffer from an inadequacy in available services like health care, educational facilities and libraries.

### What is your most vivid memory of Wau?

Well, there are many. The coming of electricity was certainly one of them. As was rehabilitating the airport and the road into Wau town. I miss Wau tremendously, just seeing its progress continue. It's really amazing that you can now drive from Wau to Aweil, Rumbek and Kwajok. ■





# ESCAPE FROM THE LRA

**T**he two teenagers met last year after they were kidnapped by the fearsome rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Unlike some youths who never manage to free themselves from the brutal killers widely known as the *tong tong*, Jemma and Bosco (not their real names) eventually fled from their captors and lived to tell the tale.

Fate threw them together when they were assigned to the household of an LRA officer based in Garamba National Park inside the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Both teenagers were captured in March 2008 during separate LRA raids in their native Central Equatoria State county of Kajo Keji.

They lived on the run for months on end, rarely spending more than three days in any one spot after Ugandan, Congolese and Southern Sudanese forces launched a joint anti-LRA offensive last December. After making good their escape at different junctures earlier this year, Bosco and Jemma spent days trekking through the bush and surviving on wild fruits and honey before they crossed back into Sudan.

They were reunited recently at the Totto Chan Centre, a Juba facility donated by UNICEF that is now run by the Government of Southern Sudan's Ministry of Culture and Social Services. The centre has served as a transit point for over 700 children who were kidnapped by the LRA and wish to return to their families.

Both youths relate chilling stories of life at the hands of the LRA. Jemma actually met the rebels' infamous commander Joseph Kony during the early days of her captivity.

Her ordeal began with a nighttime raid on her village slightly over a year ago. Within minutes, two armed men had stormed into the room Jemma shared with her sister.

The 15-year-old girl was abducted along with three other children between the ages of 12 and 17 and three adult men, including her uncle.

They were forced to

accompany the LRA rebels as they carried out attacks against other communities in Western and Central Equatoria States. Along the way, some of the older captives were released, including Jemma's uncle, before the group moved into the DRC.

The girl lost count of the days she spent marching with the LRA, carrying heavy luggage through the Garamba forest until they finally reached a rebel camp.

Awaiting them was one of the most wanted men on the African continent. "I had heard about Kony in whispered conversation because people in my village were scared of him," recalled Jemma. "When we met him face to face, I was afraid I would die."

The LRA chief administered some traditional medicine to the new arrivals, apparently to render them immune to bullets and at the same time unable to flee.

On her third day in the camp, the adolescent was handed over to a lieutenant colonel who took her on as his fourth wife. A tearful Jemma said she was sexually assaulted on several occasions and forced to perform various domestic chores at the camp.

"If I failed to accomplish a task, I would be beaten by the junior soldiers on the

instructions of my 'husband' or by the other women," she said.

Bosco was also placed in the lieutenant colonel's household after he was seized by an LRA unit moving through the Central Equatoria State *payam* (township) of Kagwada last year. The 16-year-old student later received basic training in military tactics and participated in village raids when food supplies ran low.

When Bosco went missing during an LRA reconnaissance mission, Jemma started to plan her dash to freedom.

An opportunity arose when she was sent out of the camp to fetch water along with another teenage girl. Jemma elected to make a run for it, but the other girl stayed behind to care for her six-month-old infant back at the camp.

The former kidnap victims are hoping to reunite with their families in the near future, but long months spent in LRA custody have left their mark.

"I am very anxious to see my people," says Bosco. "(But) although I am happy to be free, I fear to go back to my village because the LRA is still there and they might recapture me and kill me." ■

Antonette Miday



Members of LRA, Southern Sudan. PHOTO: UNMIS/Tim McKulka

# FIGHTING BACK



**W**hile hundreds of Southern Sudanese have been forced into the ranks of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) against their will, others are joining self-defense units in Western Equatoria State to repulse attacks launched by the infamous rebel group against their towns and villages.

The units have sprung up in response to a decree issued by Western Equatoria Governor Jemma Nunu Kumba earlier this year, urging civilians to confront LRA insurgents who have targeted rural communities in retaliation for a joint military offensive against the rebels that began on 14 December 2008.

Popularly known as "arrow boys," these young men get their nickname from the bows, arrows and other traditional weapons they use to fend off LRA marauders.

Their arsenal includes clubs treated with thick, black powder that is supposedly poisonous. The use of such weapons dates back several generations, according to Maridi County Commissioner Mathias Boyi Onzi.

"We thought we could use our boys instead of the army to stop the killing of our innocent people," explained Onzi. "The

arrow boys are very effective because they can move at night and go to locations where the soldiers can't go."

The commissioner said that arrow boys have been deployed at 18 different locations inside Maridi County in groups of up to 35, adding that they do not fall under the command of the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

It's not just youngsters who are heeding the state governor's call to arms. Mboroko village elder Jima Gbandi has ordered his neighbors to rise up against the ruthless foot soldiers of LRA leader Joseph Kony.

"Our people were attacked and killed like dogs, and a baby was taken and thrown into a fire," said Gbandi. "That is why I have organized our youths and armed them with machetes, axes and knives to face the LRA."

Although the self-defense units have driven off small groups of rebels in some instances, the menace posed by the insurgents continues to disrupt life in Southern Sudanese state.

Hundreds of Ibba County residents uprooted by LRA attacks now live in the bush under mango trees with little or no access to clean water and toilet facilities.

"Food is a problem," says John

Venasio Gala, the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission deputy secretary for Ibba County. "There is too much suffering in Ibba due to displacement by the LRA."

Over 1,300 internally displaced Sudanese have poured into the town of Ibba since last February, nearly two-thirds of them coming from the nearby *payam* (township) of Nambia, which is located five kilometers away from the county seat.

One of the homeless is Zanjia John, a Nambia resident who witnessed the abduction of seven children from neighboring houses during an LRA raid on his village earlier this year.

"Our house was burned down, and we survive on cassava leaves," said Zanjia. While he wants more protection from security forces to ward off future rebel forays, Zanjia is prepared to fight the LRA with the traditional weaponry already in his possession.

"I have bows and arrows to protect myself and my family from the *tong tong*," he said. ■

Taban Kenyi  
Photo: Tim McKulka



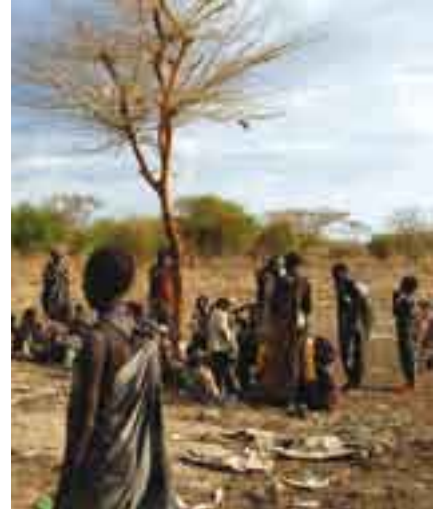
# DISPUTES ERUPT IN JONGLEI STATE

**U**p to 700 people may have died in Jonglei State over the past few weeks during armed clashes between the Murle, Lou Nuer and other clans.

The conflicts have been mainly over cattle and child abductions, State Governor

Kuol Manyang Juuk told *In Sudan*, insisting that tribal conflict played no part in the violence.

"This is a cattle issue; raiding and counter raiding.... these are not tribal sentiments," the governor said. "These are actions driven by economic needs. People



need the cattle for their survival ... to pay the dowry for their marriages."

During the dry season (from November to May), the Lou Nuer and Murle move their cattle close to the state's main water sources -- the Sobat, Gilo and Pibor rivers -- or the Jom and the Sudd swamplands.

Conflicts arise over access to water and grazing land between the two tribes, whose main source of livelihood is cattle rearing. Residents place more value on the animals than farming, and have never cultivated enough land to cover annual food needs.

According to Governor Juuk, disarmament is the only way to end disputes between residents, who had acquired guns to either raid cattle from others or protect their own during the country's civil war.

The governor said he had appealed to the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) to carry out forceful disarmament of Jonglei's civilians. "Our people are destroying themselves ... the losers at the end of the day are the people and the Government of Southern Sudan."

As for peace conferences, they had been occurring since before the end of the war in 2005, but had failed to control the conflicts, he said. "Anybody talking about peace conferences when the guns are in the hands of the civil population is somebody who is either dreaming or is a newcomer to Southern Sudan and to Jonglei State."

UN Development Programme Officer Bernard Mugisha said people also needed to find other livelihoods so that "they do not think that without the cows and guns they are dead". Otherwise, they would simply acquire new guns and the cattle raids, deaths and casualties would recur.

The government also needed to provide jobs for youth and educate people through the media, according to Steve Goi, Coordinator for the non-governmental organization PACT Sudan for Upper Nile. "The media needs to play a role by bringing information on how to be part of a positive change that was brought about by the CPA." ■

Francis Shuei Diu  
Photos: Tim McKulka





Photos: Displaced members of Murle tribe waiting to receive food and non-food items in Pibor, Jonglei State.

# FORGIVING SETS YOU FREE

Internationally acclaimed singer Emmanuel Jal tells his story



Emmanuel Jal

**C**hatting over the phone from his London residence, hip hop singer Emmanuel Jal said he originally wanted to be an engineer, someone who worked with machinery.

"But now I'm singing. I never thought I would do this ... it is a career that came without me preparing for (it)," Emmanuel said.

The singer has even been using hip hop to tell American students and refugees in Kenyan camps about his life – leaving his Southern Sudanese home to seek an education and becoming a child soldier.

Confessing that he was still learning about the music, Emmanuel said, "I just got myself into something I didn't know much about." But he had always been familiar with the genre, which is characterized by ego-games and rhyme battles.

Living as a child with his mother and siblings near Bentiu, Emmanuel and his friends tried to outdo each other with insults. "I remember ... telling another kid that 'your mother is so ugly that when she stands next to a forest, she can scare the lions away'."

Emmanuel has also told his story through a documentary called *War Child*,

which premiered at the Berlin Film Festival in February 2008, and published an autobiography under the same title.

"There was peace in Sudan for the first three years of my life, but I cannot remember it," he writes in his book *War Child: A child soldier's story*. "All I knew was a war that grew as I did," he says of a conflict that robbed him of his mother and eventually his childhood.

"I'd left my home because I wanted to go to school," said Emmanuel, recalling when his father sent him off to study in Ethiopia about 1986. Along with hundreds of other children, he was bound for a refugee camp across the Sudanese-Ethiopian border when their boat overturned, and many of them drowned.

## A born storyteller

Surviving the boat incident, Emmanuel joined the lines of "Lost Boys" marching towards Pinyudo refugee camp in Ethiopia. On the way, he witnessed starvation and lost friends to the desert as well as "monster" wild animals, the singer writes.

Emmanuel became popular with foreign aid workers in the camp, always

willing to talk. A small child with a heart-shaped face appears in an archive snippet of the documentary, telling the workers about his dream to return home.

The foreigners were unaware that children in the camp were being trained nearby as child soldiers. In 1991, Emmanuel was fighting with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) against Ethiopian rebels. But the refugees and SPLA were forced to move back to Sudan when the Ethiopian conflict intensified later that year.

Emmanuel escaped with some friends to Waat, Jonglei State, where Emma McCune found him around 1991. An immediate connection sprang up between Emma, a British aid worker and second wife of SPLA Commander Riek Machar, and Emmanuel.

Deciding he should have a better education, Emma smuggled him into Kenya in 1993. After she died in a car accident later that year, her friends took care of Emmanuel, until he moved to London four years ago.

Initially, Emmanuel used music against haunting memories, but it became a career when his debut album *Gua* (meaning peace



in his native Nuer) was released in 2005. When his second album *Ceasefire* came out, Emmanuel began making money from music and set up an educational charity named Gua Africa (see box).

With his third album *Warchild* now released, Emmanuel is practicing a “lose to win” campaign to raise money for the Gua Africa-sponsored Emma Academy, to be built in Leer, Southern Sudan. Since December 2008, he has been eating only one meal a day, donating other food money to the Academy. With the help of other contributors, he has already reached \$83,000, out of an ultimate fundraising target of \$300,000.

Describing Southern Sudanese people as “education hungry”, Emmanuel said, “The only thing that will stop war in Sudan is empowering people with knowledge.” In his view, many people resorted to fighting because they lacked other ways of communicating to resolve disputes. “I think a lot of Sudanese ... don’t know what they fight for.”

## Need for women’s voices

Emmanuel also gained relief from war-time memories through his autobiography *War Child*. While working on the book, he admitted, “Every morning ... my chest used to shrink and half-way through the book I started to have terrible nightmares. It’s horrible! Dead bodies ... houses burning ... But when I finished the book, I felt light.”

In response to the argument that child soldiers are given more publicity than other victims of war, including young girls who are raped, Emmanuel noted the lack of women speaking out. His sister, he said, had only recently begun to feel she should talk about being raped.

“She is willing to speak about her story for the sake of women who are suffering,” he said, emphasizing the need for strong women to speak about pain they had endured. Some women feared their communities would isolate and stigmatize them, he said. “They will be considered defective for being raped,” thus unable to marry.

Emmanuel said he had eventually gained the ability to forgive his former enemies and himself. “I’m a peacemaker now because forgiving is the beginning of your healing.”

The singer believes that once people forgive, they become free and powerful. “The first thing we need to do is to forgive the person (for) what they did to us, and then you forgive yourself. And you move on.” ■

Eszter Farkas  
Photos: Geoff Pug



## A school for Leer

Emmanuel Jal founded Gua Africa to provide Kenyan and Sudanese children access to education. The organization has been planning a large scale project in Leer, Unity State.

“Emmanuel Jal had a dream of building a high-school in Leer, where Emma (McCune) had lived and worked, and was buried”, said Trustee and Director of the would-be Emma Academy, Ruth Gumm.

When Emmanuel was working on his documentary *War Child* and met Leer town officials, he was awarded a 50-acre plot of land. The community also suggested that the existing primary school be renovated before further construction took place.

The original primary school was built in 1962 by the British, said Ms. Gumm. “It’s in a poor state. The roof is infested with bugs, so it needs replacing.” About 2,000 children study there at present, with classes split between the morning and afternoon based on age groups. Thus, the students receive only a half a day of education.

In the initial phase of the project, the goal was to add five classrooms to the already existing ones and build a library, toilet facilities and kitchen, said the director.

The second phase would focus on building a secondary school on the land granted by Leer. The site would also host sports facilities as well as a teacher and vocational training centre. Emmanuel said they were planning a bakery too, where students would learn the art of bread making.

Gua Africa, which works mainly with volunteers, including the architect, is presently fundraising for the Emma Academy. The project budget is about \$2 million with a two to three year time frame. The director said they were hoping to start construction in October this year, after the rainy season.

You can donate online to the Emma Academy at [www.gua-africa.org](http://www.gua-africa.org).

# FULL STEAM ON HALF ENERGY

**New cooking devices conserve fuel and reduce hazards for women**

As the mouth-watering smell of a chicken and rice casserole in a large parabolic (curved) dish filled his Khartoum North workshop, Solar Energy Enterprises Director Salih Hamad explained a solar cooker.

"It does all the cooking processes -- you can fry, you can simmer your stuff, it will even burn the food," Mr. Hamadto said. He indicated the dish, collecting powerful rays of the mid-day African sun and focusing them on the pot sitting in a frame attached to the dish.

Solar energy was the biggest resource in sub-Saharan Africa, said the physicist-turned-businessman. But he noted that 80 per cent of the region's energy consumption came from charcoal and firewood, while the rest depended on petroleum derivatives as well as hydro energy.

A 2005 report from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) states that the average Sudanese person annually consumes a little over one cubic metre of wood for fuel use. This contributes to the deforestation of about 0.96 million hectares per year, according to a figure published by the FAO in 2001.

In addition to endangering forests, wood-fuelled cooking creates pollutants like carbon-monoxide, contributing to global warming.

Wood-fuelled cooking also poses health risks to cooks and may indirectly threaten wood-gatherers. Women venturing out to collect wood from internally displaced person (IDP) and refugee camps could be vulnerable to attack and rape.

Fuel-efficient stoves -- also called improved stoves -- could reduce this risk and also help preserve the environment. Saving a minimum of 50 per cent of energy, improved stoves cut the number of times women must leave camps to collect wood in half. "Instead of going two-three times a week, they can go only once," said Mr. Razzag.

The key element of improved stoves is the liner, which keeps heat at the simmering point of cooking, saving a large



Salih Hamad demonstrating solar cooker, Khartoum. PHOTO: UNMIS/Johann Hattingh

amount of charcoal. The liner is usually made of clay mixed with additives like sawdust and brick powder.

Last November, Mr. Razzag worked together with the NGO World Vision on a "training of trainers" project in IDP camps around Ed Damazin. "We taught the women how to make fuel-efficient mud stoves and use more efficient cooking practices," as well as how to install and operate them, he said.

Aicha al-Karab, Director of the Sudanese Organization for Research and Development, said the popularity of improved stoves was a matter of attitude. As stoves in Sudan are generally mobile rather than fixed, moving the heavier and more easily broken improved ones might be problematic.

In Darfur, several organizations had introduced improved wood or charcoal stoves, said Dr. Hamadto, but these had failed to solve the environmental problem. Solar power could be the answer, especially in North Sudan, which receives about 6.5-7 peak sun hours a day, at a rate of 1 kW/m<sup>2</sup> each hour.

In a joint project with the UN Industrial Development Organization, Solar Energy Enterprises has developed improved solar box cookers, testing and distributing 20 of them in Darfur camps over the past year. These devices use a solar-thermal technology with a mirror lid reflecting the sun onto a glass-covered box, in which

cooking pots are placed.

Box cookers are fairly easy to operate, but camp beneficiaries are still somewhat reluctant to use them, according to Mr. Hamadto. "The number one reason why people resist solar box cookers is the quality of the food," as all ingredients must be added when cooking begins. Adding spices or more ingredients would mean opening the box and letting all the heat escape.

Being much more complex in design and larger in size, the "solar community kitchen" produced at the workshop can provide food for 300 people when the eighty-litre pot is full.

As its name suggests, this massive device, comparable to a 2.5 kW household cooker, is used for institutional cooking. The workshop has sold 45 of them over the past 15 years to institutions, including a prison facility in Eastern Sudan, a public restaurant in El Fasher and a hospital in Khartoum.

But what keeps solar cookers from becoming popular seems to be a fear of the unknown. "People are skeptical about anything new, this is a fact... what we need is a big project for people to see and believe that it will work," said Mr. Hamadto.

*Eszter Farkas*



# CLEANING UP THE NILE



Nile River near Juba. PHOTO: UNMIS/Tim McKulka

**S**itting at Juba's Mango Camp Resort enjoying the Nile breeze, Makir Beilu sipped a cool drink and admired the graceful flow of the world's longest river.

"As a child I used to swim in the Nile almost on a daily basis and enjoyed swimming games with my peers," said the 32-year-old Juba resident, who has spent almost his entire life on the river.

As a teenager, Mr. Beilu said he fished on the river from a wooden raft to support his parents with the money he earned.

"The Nile is everything for me and for all the people here in Juba ... we drink from it ... we eat and make money from the fish we catch."

Now, he transports goods like soda,

beer and other commodities from Juba to Jonglei on a sailboat. "The Nile is my mother ... it is my life," Mr. Beilu said.

But the former fisherman said he was worried about current practices affecting the river's environment. "It is bad. How can people come to appreciate the Nile and dump their cans, empty bottles or any garbage into it?" he asked.

Mr. Beilu is just one of many Juba residents concerned about the river's future. "People should think about where they get water for drinking before they dump anything into the river. They should realize they will drink what they dump," said soil laboratory technician Matioop Kuol Reng.

Mr. Reng grew up in Juba drinking Nile water – he buys a barrel (200 litres) of water for three Sudanese pounds from trucks that pump it from the river for distribution in town. The 27-year-old technician believes that most people drink water without any treatment.

Spotting bundles of garbage floating on the river, however, is all too common now. "There is pollution ... a lot of solid waste is accumulated at the nearby markets daily," said Alier Oka, Director General for Water Resources Management at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation.

Mr. Oka noted that waste was washed into the river during heavy rainstorms. In addition, guests at hotels on the Nile throw trash like plastic bottles into the river without any repercussions.

Director of Environmental Protection in the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) Ministry of Health Victor Wurdalo Tombe said, "Unless effective environmental management is soon implemented, pollution of the Nile River can be grave."

The director believed that ending environmental pollution would be difficult without rules to enforce it. Similarly, Mr. Oka pointed to a gap in the legal framework. "At the moment ... we are lacking environmental laws."

The Environmental Protection Directorate was working on laws and management strategies in an environmental policy paper that would soon be presented to the Cabinet for endorsement, according to Mr. Tombe. The document was expected to handle issues of uncontrolled household, municipal and industrial garbage dumping.

As an important step towards protecting the Nile, the GoSS launched the first ever Southern Sudan Water Policy on 7 April this year. "It's what we were lacking," said Mr. Oka, hailing the policy launch.

The policy defined rules and responsibilities of water management bodies and authorized the government to design policy implementation strategies, which would tackle water resources management and rural and urban water supply sanitation policies, he said.

The Director General added that they were currently recruiting consultants with the help of partners like UNICEF to assist in developing water management strategies.

"We are heading in the right direction," he said. ■

*Negus Hadera*

## Policy promises better water and sanitation

To improve access to water and effective use of water resources, the GoSS Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation launched on 7 April the first water policy of Southern Sudan, which would serve as a working document for all water and sanitation service providers.

"It will be a corner stone in the development and management of water resources across the territory," GoSS President Salva Kiir said in a message read at the launch, celebrated jointly with World Water Day (normally commemorated on 22 March).

The Southern Sudanese region is endowed with high rain and river water resources. Yet, as the Water Policy states, scarcity of water for drinking and sanitation is one of the main challenges faced by people.

As the policy's background material states, prolonged conflict between North and Southern Sudan had been among the main drawbacks for development of water and other infrastructures.

Enhancing water supply coverage and sanitation practices were among key areas of intervention, according to the policy's foreword, written by Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Joseph Duer Jakok. However, there had not been a "coherent policy to guide management and use of water resources and delivery of water supply and sanitation service in Southern Sudan," the new policy states.

Mr. Jakok's foreword emphasized that the policy alone would not ensure results, but that "successful implementation will depend on continued collaboration among different arms of the government; coordination between government and non-governmental partners; and active involvement of communities/beneficiaries."

Students of Saint Joseph School presented songs and a hand washing procedure aimed at raising sanitation and hygiene awareness. Their key message was, "If you mishandle water, water will mishandle you more."

# A BILL TO FIGHT CORRUPTION

**A**s a long-awaited step towards combating public graft, the Anti-Corruption Act was passed by the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly (SSLA) on 23 March.

The Act, now awaiting final endorsement by President of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir to become law, has been described by SSLA Speaker James Wani Igga as second in importance only to the region's constitution.

Once signed by the president, the act will allow the Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission and other institutions like the Audit Chamber to enter any government body without prior notice and monitor its accounts to investigate cases of corruption.

"Once the bill is out we will work out a strategy with our partners, including other government institutions and the media, on how to disseminate the act to the grass roots," said Commission Executive Director Francis Kupako. "If they understand the act, they will help us greatly in fighting the war against corruption in Southern Sudan."

But he expressed difficulty in bringing the bill to all Southern Sudanese due to logistical challenges posed by the nearing rainy season, which may cut off accessibility to other areas in the south.

The Commission Director noted that public pressure had mounted with every delay in passing the bill. Many believed the act would guard against corruption, as the Anti-Corruption Commission, backed by the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development, would be able to investigate and arrest those found guilty of illegal acts.

"A number of corruption cases have been registered by the Commission since 2008 ... but we have not yet started carrying out investigations since the Act was not yet out," said Mr. Kupako.

Earlier, President Kiir had declared "zero tolerance" to corruption. "Any one found embezzling public funds must be squeezed until he/she vomits it out," he said. With the president's commitment to a corruption-free Southern Sudan, the bill will hopefully gain necessary support from other government institutions.

Some feel little can be done to stop corruption, as other senior officials may resist, making the bill difficult to enforce, but Mr. Kupako disagreed. "There is no one above the law when we are touching the 'high stones' officials with immunity. The immunity has to be removed before arresting him/her."

Mr. Kupako noted that the Commission



would soon draft the Property Declaration Bill, which would require all people holding public office to make a confidential declaration of their income, assets and liabilities.

The Anti-Corruption Act is vital for Southern Sudan at a time when it is experiencing a financial meltdown due to the global economic crisis and falling oil prices. The government treasury is drying up, yet there is a huge demand to finance reconstruction and development projects as well as upcoming general elections.

In a March 2009 article called *South Sudan: Urgent action needed to avert collapse*, the International Refugee Organization stated that global assistance

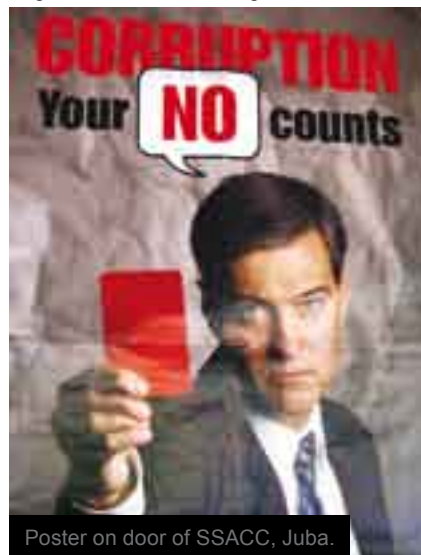
was urgently needed to rescue Southern Sudan from the brink of an unfolding crisis. It noted that current donor support was inadequate for the huge region, where decades of civil war had left minimum social services and non-existent essential infrastructure.

"There is a common misconception that south Sudan receives enough international funding. But costs in south Sudan are extremely high," the article said.

The GOSS has embarked on drastic political and administrative measures in an effort to curb the financial downturn. On 27 March, President Kiir, presidential advisors, ministers, the governor of the Bank of Southern Sudan, World Bank officials and the Joint Donor Team held a meeting in Juba.

In a television interview, Minister of Information and Broadcasting Gabriel Changson Chang said the meeting decided to form a ministerial committee to seriously look into political, economic and administrative issues and recommend possible measures for government action.

The Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission was formed two and half years ago, with a mandate to protect public property, investigate cases of corruption involving public and private property and combat administrative malpractices in public institutions like nepotism, tribalism, gender discrimination, bribery, embezzlement and sexual harassment. ■



Poster on door of SSACC, Juba.

Story and photos by Emmanuel Kenyi



# NEWS BRIEFS

## Polio campaign launched in Wau

Governor of Western Bahr El Ghazal State Gen. Mark Nypouch placed two drops of liquid in a child's mouth as he launched the third polio immunization campaign in Wau on 24 March.

Wearing a hat with the campaign slogan "Just Two Drops", Gen. Nypouch said, "Down, down with polio in South Sudan and Wau in particular."

The governor acknowledged intensive efforts by the World Health Organization and UNICEF's Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) to fight the disease. But he also stressed that the state had joined the effort, directing its commissioners to administer the three-day immunization campaign.

State Minister of Health Isaac Elias said the fight against polio was the collective responsibility of parents, UN agencies and the state government. He emphasized the need to immunize all children, including those in remote villages.

EPI's Bahr El Ghazal State Director, Mr. Eugenio Longer, thanked UNMIS Military for providing transport to immunization teams, allowing them to travel to campaign target areas.



## Over 200 police graduate in Wau



Western Bahr el Ghazal state graduated the first batch of 220 newly recruited police on 7 April, following a six-month training course at Wau Police Training Centre.

Speaking at the event, State Governor G. Mark Nyipouch Ubong said, "As a member of the police forces and custodians of the law, you must respect the rights..... and dignity of your people wherever you are assigned."

Southern Sudan Inspector General of Police, Lt. Gen. Makuei Deng Majuch urged the new policemen and women to protect people's lives and property. "The people expect a lot from you.... and you should demonstrate your duty professionally.... and with neutrality."

During the course, UN Police presented lectures on criminal investigation, community policing, rule of law and human rights, arrest of criminals, psychology of police and other matters.

Major Redentor Agcio, Acting Training Coordinator of Wau UN Police, said the new police graduates would take another week-long course on criminal investigation and community policing organized by UN Police prior to deployment throughout the state.

## DDR begins reintegrating ex-combatants

Sudan's Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme marked a milestone on 24 March in Ed Damazin, Blue Nile State, when it began reintegrating ex-combatants into civilian life.

Reintegration is the last and most crucial phase of the multi-million dollar DDR scheme for more than 180,000 combatants of the country's north-south war. In reintegration, ex-soldiers receive technical and material assistance to socially and economically reintegrate into society.

Some 14 participants, including four women, were received by the Individual Counseling and Referral Service (ICRS) at the office of the Joint (north/south) DDR Commission in Ed Damazin on the first day and provided with the standard kit on income generation support.

They were the first DDR beneficiaries to be processed when the adult demobilization exercise kicked off in Ed Damazin on 10 February. Some 1,500 have been demobilized since the operation began, out of 5,000 to go through the programme in Blue Nile State this year.

The focus is in Blue Nile State, Southern Kordofan and Abyei during this initial phase of the DDR programme. Preparations are well advanced for demobilization to start in the Southern Kordofan localities of Julud and Kadugli in early May 2009.

## Ban Ki-moon welcomes election date

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed on 3 April the announcement that Sudanese national elections would be held in Sudan in February 2010, stating it would be an important step in consolidating the country's hard-won peace.

"The holding of nationwide elections is an important benchmark in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)," Mr. Ban's spokesperson said in a statement.

Mr. Ban urged Sudanese authorities to proceed with necessary preparations according to the timeframe proposed by the National Election Commission (NEC), expressing hope that the National Assembly would urgently pass all relevant legislation.

"He further encourages all political parties to participate in this historic vote, which will further contribute to the consolidation of the ideals set out in the Interim National Constitution," the statement added. "The United Nations stands ready to assist the parties in the conduct of free and fair elections."

