



June 2010

United Nations Mission

In SUDAN



Riding high

Published by UNMIS Public Information Office



INSIDE

3 Special Focus: LEISURE

- Tradition vs. technology
- Riding high in Khartoum
- Kicking back in Juba
- A cradle of athletes
- A dash of Cuba in Juba

9 Demining: Recovering the land

10 Interview Ensuring long-term peace

12 Business: Suds and sodas Transport on four legs Cheaper than meat

15 Disarmament The curse of small arms

16 Development Long way home

18 Culture Pride of the Dinka Bor

19 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, with credit to *In Sudan*.

Managing Editor: Catherine Waugh
Associate Editor: Joseph Contreras
Assistant Editor: Eszter Farkas
Assistant Editor: Murugi Murekio
Design: Sezar Amin

For comments and suggestions contact
 unmis-insudan@un.org

FRONT COVER: Ferris wheel in motion at Riyadh Family Park, Khartoum.
 Photo: Tim McKulka

BACK COVER: Cattle drinking water at an Abyei cattle camp. Photo: Lt. Cdr. Piyanun Kaewmanee

Diary

14 May: Following an international meeting of water ministers in the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheikh, a new Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement was signed by four riparian countries -- Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The signatory countries said the agreement seeks to achieve a more equitable sharing of the Nile River waters. But Egypt and Sudan rejected the accord and called for further talks. Kenya became the fifth country to ink the pact on 19 May.

19 May: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a statement condemned recent reports of military build-up and clashes in Darfur and expressed concern about the safety and welfare of civilians. Mr. Ban urged all parties to respect the declared ceasefire and return to the negotiating table in the Qatari capital of Doha to resolve the Darfur crisis.

20 May: The UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan Georg Charpentier issued a statement denouncing the 18 May abduction of three Samaritan's Purse aid workers in Abuajura, Southern Darfur. He highlighted the important humanitarian work carried out by the non-governmental organization in the area and thanked the Government of Sudan for its efforts to secure their safe release. Two of the kidnapped workers were reportedly freed on 25 May while the third person remained in captivity as *In Sudan* went to print.

21 May: Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the UN Security Council to adopt tough measures against countries and insurgent groups that perpetrate the conscription of child soldiers. The UN chief's annual report to the council unveiled a list of violators that have been monitored by the UN for at least five years, and they include Somalia's transitional government as well as armed forces and rebel groups in Sudan, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

21 May: Salva Kiir Mayardit was sworn in as the first elected president of semi-autonomous Southern Sudan after garnering 93 per cent of the votes in the April general elections. At the Juba ceremony, Mr. Kiir urged citizens to reconcile with each other and heal past wounds, and he pledged more timely delivery of government services.

25 May: The UN World Food Programme (WFP) relocated 10 aid workers from Pibor County in Jonglei State when an armed group that has rejected the outcome of the Jonglei gubernatorial elections revolted against the state government. According to Jonglei WFP head Matt Persson, the crisis in Southern Sudan, where half of the population is facing severe food shortages, could worsen if political instability continues.

25 May: Detained opposition journalist Abu Zar Al-Amin was charged with terrorism and espionage, his lawyers said. The deputy editor-in-chief of the *Rai Al-Shaab* newspaper, which is close to Hassan Al-Turabi's opposition Popular Congress Party, was arrested earlier in the month in Khartoum along with four staff members on charges of terrorism, espionage and destabilizing the constitutional system. That followed the arrest of Mr. Al-Turabi on 15 May. The newspaper's general manager was released on 2 June while the others remained in detention.

26 May: The International Criminal Court (ICC) referred Sudan to the UN Security Council for "lack of cooperation" with the tribunal in its bid to arrest a former federal government minister and a militia leader accused of Darfur war crimes. The ICC had charged Southern Kordofan State Governor and former Humanitarian Affairs Minister Ahmed Harun and militia leader Ali Kushayb with crimes against humanity and war crimes.

27 May: Omar Hassan Al-Bashir was sworn in as President of Sudan after winning 68 per cent of the votes in last April's national presidential balloting. In his address to the National Assembly, President Al-Bashir vowed to redouble efforts to meet Comprehensive Peace Agreement benchmarks and support the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur.

27 May: A High Committee for Populations Census Awareness was formed in Southern Kordofan State to publicize the forthcoming population survey in the state, which is scheduled to take place between 15 and 29 June. The National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement agreed to postpone elections in the state until a new census is conducted.

30 May: At a Khartoum press conference, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes called for international support to prevent "a crisis from turning into a real disaster" in Southern Sudan during a visit to the country between 26 and 30 May.

Tradition vs. technology

Most young people in Sudan's greater Bahr El-Ghazal region are increasingly shunning traditional games, song and dance as their preferred means of relaxation.

Like Mathiang Beny Til, they spend a large chunk of their leisure time fixated on a computer screen or speaking into their mobile phone.

"Today, I can enjoy life by communicating with friends around the world during my leisure time through cell phones, internet and other means of modern communications, which were not there during the time of traditional society," said the 25-year-old resident of the Western Bahr El-Ghazal state capital of Wau.

A report entitled *The Lonely Society?* that was published in May by the London-based Mental Health Foundation concluded that the same technology that was originally supposed to facilitate more communication between people is rapidly replacing normal human interaction, especially among the youth.

The study, which was conducted only inside the United Kingdom, also found that loneliness is more prevalent among the young today than among pensioners.

The septuagenarian Kornelio Ucalla agrees.

"Now, the young people are not intimate friends," said the native of the Western Bahr El-Ghazal village of Mbili. "(They) do not help their families compared to the young people during our time."

Wol Deng Ajou has a similar perspective on today's teenagers and twentysomethings.

"Unlike the current generation who hang out at bars and other places inside the town, we enjoyed life out of the town during



Kornelio Ucalla sitting in front of his house in Mbili, Western Bahr El-Ghazal.

leisure time," said the 67-year-old resident of the Northern Bahr El-Ghazal state capital of Aweil.

Playing volleyball and listening to music were among Colleta Aku's favourite pastimes as a young girl. "When I heard music, I felt relaxed," she said.

Much of her leisure time was spent with family members and friends in the vicinity of her home and school because the country's armed conflicts discouraged long trips around Southern Sudan.

"The war and precariousness of our time forced us to spend our leisure time around our residence area," she said.

The 53-year-old Aku acquired an interest in singing during her studies at a Roman Catholic school in Wau. She soon joined the choir in the city's St. Mary Catholic Church, where she still sings to

this day.

Even the dating scene was quite different. Recalling his own halcyon days, Mr. Ucalla said he was 21 years old when he fell in love with the teenaged Treza Cugo.

Every evening after work, he would go to her home to woo her with song and dance.

"We used to explain our love and affections by singing and dancing in front of our would-be love partner during leisure time," said Mr. Ucalla, now 73. "I sang and danced in front of Treza to show her my feelings and affections."

But changing times spawn changing attitudes and customs. Mr. Ajou for his part acknowledges that every generation has its own way of having fun.

"I can see that people are playing football, watching movies and enjoying life around cafeterias and bars during their leisure time," he said.

Ms. Aku, who served as Deputy Team Leader of the Western Bahr El-Ghazal State High Committee during Sudan's recently concluded general election, noted that improved security conditions in the wake of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement have enabled young Sudanese to sally forth from hearth and home with greater confidence.

"Now our children are enjoying their leisure time properly, and this is the fruit of the peace process in the country," she said.■

Dinka persons playing traditional game *awet* in Kuajok, Warrap State.



Riding high in Khartoum

As a turbulent haboob was descending on Khartoum, a group of teenage girls in jeans and scarves enthusiastically discussed the next ride they were planning to take at the Burri Family Park.

Pointing to the "Teacup", a round, spinning platform with aeroplane and car models on it, fifteen-year-old Shaza Abdelmoneim said "it was wonderful", adding that she enjoyed fast rides with lots of spinning that gave her an adrenalin rush.

Amusement parks abound around the Sudanese capital -- and since they offer one of the very few social leisure activities available in northern Sudan, they are quite popular.

Shaza and her friends visit parks about

once a month, primarily on Thursday or Friday after the evening prayers have ended at about 8 p.m, the hour when most visitors come.

The wind and dust seemingly fail to deter the Sudanese from spending time in open spaces with green grass and flashing lights. Many parents just shrugged their shoulders at this year's first major haboob that tore through Ebeid Khatim Street like a wall of sand aimed at the Burri Family Park.

At times, especially around the Muslim holidays of Ramadan and Eid, parks become so overcrowded that the gates must be shut to restrict admission, according to Anas Mohamed,

General Manager of the Blue Nile Company which operates the popular family park.

Mr. Mohamed's company built the entertainment facility in 2006 in an area that used to be a dumping ground.

The company had already acquired

Man standing at a photo studio at Riyadh Family Park.



Ferris wheel at Khartoum's Riyadh Family Park.



Kid having her face painted at Magic Land, Omdurman.





Children waiting to ride bumper cars at Omdurman's Magic Land.

experience in the Khartoum family entertainment business by managing another park along the Nile River, and it decided to expand.

Construction of the Burri Family Park cost about 12 million SDG (\$4.8 million), and the work including levelling the grounds, refurbishing buildings and erecting the star attractions -- the rides themselves.

"Three months ago I bought spare parts, equipment and lights in China to make the park more attractive," Mr. Mohamed said.

Most businesses import rides and spare parts from the Asian economic powerhouse as well as Saudi Arabia and Italy.

While Chinese products are much

cheaper, they are less safe in the opinion of Haitham Amin, board member of the RC Land Company that runs one of the largest parks, Magic Land in Omdurman. He added that one of his machines malfunctioned only three months after it was installed.

Sprawling across 100,000 square metres, Magic Land opened its gates two months ago with 12 rides, said Mr. Amin. Though there used to be an old amusement park in the same lot occupied by Magic Land, the premises still had to be revamped and new rides set up.

Walking across lush grass among families drinking tea, Mr. Amin explained that a rather basic ride imported from Italy cost his company about \$180,000.

With entrance fees generally ranging between two and three Sudanese pounds per person in Khartoum and each ride costing another two pounds, thrill seekers usually spend a minimum of ten pounds during each visit.

Waiting with his three children for the next departure of the mini-locomotive, Hassan Mamoun said that he usually spent about SDG 50 on a family park outing, which was his household's custom at least once a month.

"The kids enjoy difficult rides like the bumper car," said Mr. Mamoun said, adding, "for children, there is no other program (than amusement parks) in Khartoum."

Mr. Amin clearly understands that. His company is planning to build a gym, a pool, an open-air theatre and a



Boy riding the ferris wheel at Riyadh Family Park.

wedding hall on the premises of Magic Land to meet pent-up consumer demand for diversion. "At night people just sit under the bridge, sipping on tea," he said. "They complain that there isn't enough entertainment in town."

Besides soaring high on machines that whirl in the air and jerk them around, visitors can board ferris wheels and enjoy musical entertainment on their birthdays in some parks.

Exiting the "Octopus" ride, thirteen-year-old Ahmed Eissam said he enjoyed fast rides even if they sometimes upset his stomach.

"There you can fly high, you get tossed and turned around ... it feels good," he said, visibly impatient to sample the next adrenalin-pumping adventure of the evening.

Eszter Farkas

Photos by Tim McKulka

Kid getting an adrenalin rush riding a bumper car in Omdurman.



Kicking back in Juba

They say all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Indeed, the importance of leisure in helping us cope with everyday stress cannot be gainsaid. *In Sudan* spoke to a cross-section of Juba residents to find out how they enjoy their leisure time.

The university student



Alex Jackson Opio is a 24-year-old university student who values leisure time as being very important to human beings. But savouring it in Juba can be very expensive.

He therefore prefers to divide his “down” time between cultural and sporting events and dances organized by Juba University and playing board games like lido and domino that require little out-of-pocket money.

“The government should construct recreational centers around Juba and a public library that would encourage every class of people to take off some days in their lives for leisure,” said Mr. Opio. “(That will) make most people engaged and reduce the time some people use to instigate crimes in Juba.”

The musician



The 29-year-old musician Rusta “O” says the Southern Sudanese regional capital is a good place for rest and relaxation.

“Juba has almost all the angles required for spending leisure,” he said. “My musical band Rusta Clan Unit and I sometimes go climbing Jebel Kujur or visit the river where I meet with old friends.”

At these gatherings, Rusta and his buddies enjoy their drinks and discuss Sudan’s struggles of the past and the present efforts of the international community and the government to bring peace.

The tea seller

Suzan Yangi sees leisure as an instrumental way to refresh her mind after a long day of preparing cups of tea for passersby in Juba.

“I spend my leisure helping my small sister at home with the domestic work and knitting,” said the 24-year-old tea vendor.

When she isn’t doing domestic chores, Ms. Yangi goes to concerts performed by foreign and local musicians such as Emmanuel Kembe.

“Chatting with and visiting friends is the next thing I do during my leisure,” she added.



The storyteller

Leisure is a top priority for the 26-year-old university student Abraham Baguura, an accomplished raconteur who says he draws large audiences to hear his tales.

“I am known as ‘storyteller,’” he explained. “Even if particular people choose to spend their leisure time in the modern way, I prefer spending my leisure in Juba on storytelling, hunting and visiting friends.”

The marauding bands of the Lord’s Resistance Army have forced him to give up hunting in the forests of Central and Western Equatoria states.

When he visits his native Yambio County in Western Equatoria, Mr. Baguura often sits down with an old neighbour to hear the elder’s own stories from yesteryear.

“This type of leisure is beneficial to me because I get information that reminds me of our past,” he said. ■



The trader



For Ugandan trader Joseph Sskabira, leisure means relaxing, forgetting about the day’s work and recharging his batteries. But the cost of leisure in Juba does limit his options.

“There are few places to go out because Juba is still undergoing development,” he said.

While he likes to go to discos at night, the 32-year-old Sskabira said he is often worried about his security when it is time to go home.

He added that it is unfortunate that Juba’s

Nyakuron Cultural Centre cannot accommodate larger numbers of people for the events that are held there.

Story and photos by
Paiyo Charles Angelo

A cradle of athletes

Do the names Luol Deng, Ajuo Deng, Manute Bol, Deng Gai, and perhaps even Bak Bak sound familiar? No? Well, they have at least two things in common. Firstly, all five are sons of Sudan. And secondly, they made – or, as in the case of the 20-year-old university Bak, are making – their names in international basketball in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Manute Bol played for teams in the world's top-ranked league, the National Basketball Association (NBA) of North America, for 10 years. Luol Deng and Deng Gai have played for the NBA's Chicago Bulls and Philadelphia 76ers, respectively. Ajuo Deng has made his mark on the men's national basketball team of Great Britain, while Bak Bak of the University of California Berkeley men's squad dreams of following in his countrymen's big footsteps.

The similarities do not end there. The Deng brothers and Messrs. Bol, Gai and Bak all hail from the greater Bahr El-Ghazal region of Southern Sudan.

"Western Bahr El-Ghazal is one of the best states in Southern Sudan with its youth and teenagers full of enthusiasm for sports," said Peter Patricio Adam, Director for Youth and Sports in the state Ministry of Social Affairs.

But basketball isn't the only sport that young people from that corner of Southern Sudan excel in.

The Sudan national handball squad who traveled to Djibouti last month to participate in an annual tournament for teams from Central and East African countries had no fewer than nine natives of Wau on its roster.

Practicing karate at Wau Sports Complex.



The coach of the Western Bahr El-Ghazal State's handball team, Alor Deng Kur, describes his players as committed, punctual and enthusiastic about practice.

"I started my practice at the age of seven by filling the sock with cotton and kicking it around with my peers."

"We are capable of playing with any team even abroad," said Mr. Kur.

Many of Wau's youths devote their evenings to playing football, handball and volleyball games. Less prominent sports like gymnastics, boxing and karate also have a strong local following.

And the city's tradition of athletic achievement isn't limited to the male gender either.

In fact, Western Bahr El-Ghazal is one of the few states nationwide that fields female football and volleyball teams who compete against women's squads representing their own states.

"Sports... have become the means of social interactions for youth, teenagers and elderly people," said Justin Nenat, a football player with the Wau-based El Hilal club.

"I started my practice at the age of seven by filling the sock with cotton and kicking it around with my peers," said Mr. Nenat.

Coach Anthony Miskin of the Nazareth football club said the quality of his players

is not bad compared to the quality of other clubs' players in the state.

"I am proud of my team and have been coaching this team for almost 15 years," he said.

Yet for all the palpable enthusiasm surrounding the subject of sports in Western Bahr El-Ghazal, local athletes must cope with a shortage of good facilities and equipment.

Noting that his players had to personally clear the field used by the football club for practice, Mr. Miskin urged the Western Bahr El-Ghazal State's Ministry of Social Affairs to raise the standards of sports teams throughout the state.

Officialdom recognizes the challenges facing their state's sportsmen and sportswomen.

"At the level of the Government, we have only Wau Sports Complex accommodating basketball, boxing, karate and a good team of gymnastics," said Mr. Adam of the state ministry of social affairs.

"The problems we are facing are ... in terms of sports items and infrastructure, which includes lighting the stadium to allow night games and planting the playgrounds with grass," he added.

Mr. Adam said his ministry is planning to renovate the Wau and Isaac stadiums and raise them to international standards.

The ministry also intends to establish new playgrounds in and around the state capital and commence preparations for the national schools competition that is scheduled to take place in Wau later this year. ■

Story and photos by Michael Wondi

Boxing at Wau Sports Complex.



Football team practicing in Raga County, Western Bahr El-Ghazal.



A dash of Cuba in Juba

Luna llena no me puedes decir si por algo el espera para mi amor hace mucho que lo ando buscando si lo ves dile que es...



Vickie Desiree Baine: "Now I know so much about salsa."

The Puerto Rican singer Elvis Crespo's peppy rendition of the song "Luna Llena"

Salsa enthusiasts dancing at Juba's De Havana lounge.



rent the evening air as we entered the De Havana Lounge in Juba.

We had come for the popular salsa night that is held every Thursday night, and the place was packed with Caribbean music aficionados from different nations, races and backgrounds. Keen to be part of the crowd, we headed straight for the dance floor.

The salsa nights are the brainchild of Deng Aleer Leek, an architect and civil engineer who lived in Cuba for 14 years and was one of the hundreds of youths sent to the island nation to pursue their formal education.

He hit upon the idea about four months ago and pitched it to his cousin Deng Malual Leek, who happens to be the proprietor of De Havana.

Mr. Malual Leek pounced on the proposal, ever mindful of the need to offer something different in order to remain competitive in the burgeoning hospitality sector of the Southern Sudanese regional capital.

In addition to the Thursday night theme, De Havana launched dance classes, and word of mouth about the salsa classes raced through Juba like wildfire.

"There is a real need in Juba for any kind of entertainment," said the lounge's general manager Laurie Meiring. "People really need some form of release.

In the first class, we had 20 people show up, and the next week we had more."

Dedicated dancers

Piwang Ayang heard about salsa night from her friends. "I enjoy salsa because it is a workout," said Ms. Ayang, who goes to De Havana every Thursday. "It is a different culture from my culture, and the whole movement and coordination look awesome."

Vickie Desiree Baine was also at the lounge on the night we went. "I have been coming to De Havana for the last five months," said the travel consultant who moved from Uganda to Juba at the start of this year. "I did not know much about



Piwang Ayang: "I enjoy salsa because it is a workout."

salsa. Then I started training here, and now I know so much about it."

The lounge's dance instructor is John Agar who, like Mr. Leek, learned his salsa moves during his 14-year Cuban interlude. "When I came back to Sudan, people asked me to teach," he said. "So I decided to teach."

When De Havana opened its doors in March 2007, it attracted a clientele of mostly elite Southern Sudanese, some of whom spent time in Cuba pursuing their university education. But increasing numbers of expatriates are now frequenting the lounge.

Something for everyone

If salsa is not for you, another option is the Boom Boom Room, a soundproofed space at De Havana that can hold up to 40 people and plays music at eardrum-splitting decibel levels every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

"We play all kinds of music in the Boom Boom Room," said Mr. Malual Leek. "You can enjoy reggae, raga and hip hop."

But his resident dance instructor recommends salsa dancing as a great way to relax and unwind after a long day at the workplace.

"If we can do it in Cuba," asked Mr. Agar, "why not in Juba?" Why not indeed.

Story and photos by Murugio Murekio

Recovering the land



Manual deminers performing visual check, Abu Gamul. Photo: Deon von Landsberg

The often overlooked fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and Eastern Front rebels in Kassala State left behind a very tangible and dangerous legacy for the 3,000 residents of Abu Gamul village near the Eritrean border.

Located about 30 kilometres east of the city of Kassala, Abu Gamul and the surrounding countryside were strewn with row upon row of anti-tank and anti-personnel mines, making it impossible for the mainly agrarian and pastoralist community to cultivate crops and graze their livestock.

The eleven minefields identified by the United Nations Mine Action Office (UNMAO) and its implementing partners in and around Abu Gamul left its inhabitants with no choice but to relocate to the nearby village of Katakua in Kassala State.

The minefields ranged in area from 3,075 square metres to 26,277 square metres, and the presence of craters excavated by detonated mines provided Abu Gamul villagers with potent reminders of their lethal force.

“Despite the area having been perfect for economic activities like the grazing of animals and general agriculture ... people were afraid to venture out in the area as they saw some of the mines on the surface,” said Osman Ahmed, the headmaster of the Katakua primary school.

But their outlook brightened when the UNMAO implementing partner Ronco Consulting Corporation led an operation to comb the village and environs for mines and unexploded ordnance. By the end of last May, 260,000 square metres of land had been cleared of such explosive devices.

“We get reliable, first-class information from soldiers and the locals,” said the company’s eastern states team manager Deon von Landsberg, who singled out the national Joint Integrated Demining Units for special praise. “That makes our job much easier.”

Some of those local residents are now ready to come home.

“This used to be a school and now it’s empty,” said the Sheikh of Abu Gamul, Mohammed Idris, as he pointed to an abandoned building. “We want to come back ... and now we have our land back.”

At one time, red and white stones marked paths no more than two meters wide to indicate the frontline between safety and danger, between people and the belts of explosives that lay hidden in the ground.

By the start of June, over 11 million square meters of land in the eastern states of Sudan had been handed back to the local population, and at least 2,569 anti-personnel mines and 889 anti-tank mines were located and destroyed in the process.

The existence of over 90 minefields in the country’s eastern states has hindered mineral exploration projects, the construction of roads and housing for internally displaced persons, and the promotion of traditional economic livelihoods like bee-keeping and animal breeding.

Funding issues complicate the demining work in eastern Sudan because the states of Kassala, Red Sea and Gedaref fall outside the UNMIS mandate area of operations.

“The main factor that makes the eastern states one of the most problematic areas for the mine action agencies to operate in is a lack of funding,” said Armen Harutyunyan, the regional coordinator of UNMAO operations in northern Sudan.

“Given the importance of rural development in stability and peace building under the political climate of 2010, mine action activities need support now more than ever,” he added.

Provided that sufficient funding can be secured, UNMAO plans to complete the clearance of all high- and medium-priority areas by the middle of next year in the country’s three eastern states, where an estimated three to four million people currently live.■

Adina Dinca, UNMAO



Ground preparation machine working in an Abu Gamul minefield. Photo: Deon von Landsberg



Manual deminer working at Abu Gamul. Photo: UNMAO

Ensuring long-term peace

Haile Menkerios Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan

Arriving at UNMIS in February 2010, Haile Menkerios became Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Sudan as the country was entering the final stages of its peace accord. To learn more about the challenges Sudan faces in the coming period, *In Sudan* spoke with Mr. Menkerios about the referenda, border demarcation and other crucial issues.

In Sudan: What was your initial impression of Sudan?

Haile Menkerios: I worked in the Department of Political Affairs at New York headquarters before coming here. My focus was peace and security issues in Africa, so I followed developments in Sudan. Prior to that, until 2001, I was an Eritrean official. Thus, I had a fair understanding of the realities in Sudan. I can't say I found any surprises on my arrival.

What would you say are the country's main challenges in the months to come?

A significant one is preparations for the 2011 referenda in Southern Sudan (on whether to secede or continue unity with the north) as well as Abyei (on whether to become part of Northern or Southern Sudan) and carrying them out peacefully, credibly and on time.

The parties must also agree on post-referendum arrangements to ensure long-term peace and stability, not just in Sudan but the entire region.

Finally, there is the uncertain security situation inside Southern Sudan, which could hamper peaceful referenda. The region also needs to develop government institutions, which were neglected for so long, to ensure peace and security, provide social services and protect democratic freedoms. Such institutions are necessary whether Southern Sudan opts for unity or separation.

What are the key outstanding referenda issues to be considered?

Well, in Abyei, implementation of the PCA (Permanent Court of Arbitration) decision on its boundaries and demarcation of the Abyei Area still needs to take place. An Abyei

referendum commission also needs to be established. Then there is the issue of residency (who will be eligible to vote) and how the referendum will be conducted.

A referendum commission must also be set up and approved by parliament for the south. The north-south border must be demarcated, decisions taken on who is eligible to vote and new voter registration carried out.

The technical needs of conducting the referenda on time, which UNMIS is mandated to support, must also be determined and taken care of. And of course, as I mentioned, there is the uncertain security situation in the south, which needs to be managed.

What about post-referenda arrangements?

The parties must complete or at least make enough progress on post-referenda arrangements so that they can continue to cooperate after the poll. The north must focus on which of its vital interests would be affected by the referenda, whatever the outcome, and vice versa for the south.

Once a framework agreement is in place and confidence built, it will be possible for the two parties to continue cooperation after the referenda for mutually beneficial ends. With such an agreement, unity and separation need not be seen as a zero-sum game.

Let's take as an example the border between north and south. The parties must decide whether it will be an impassable

barrier or a more indistinct line allowing the movement of people and goods. Some people living along the border, for instance, depend on seasonal migration to maintain their livelihoods.

What is the current status of border demarcation? Is UNMIS doing anything to assist?

An AD Hoc Technical Committee was set up by the two sides to carry out this task. According to the parties, they have agreed on all except four to six areas of the border. The technicians have concluded that the remaining disagreements are not technical, but political, and need decisions by the two parties.

So agreement on remaining portions of the border lies with the leaders of the NCP (National Congress Party) and the SPLM (Sudan People's Liberation Movement). We have been consistently encouraging them to make progress on these issues. In the meantime, the parties have agreed to begin demarcating the border on the ground in undisputed areas.

UNMIS has provided significant technical and logistical assistance to the Committee, including computer software, cartographic support and logistical as well as technical assistance.

Political analysts have pointed to the possibility of unrest either during or after the referenda. What would

SRSG Menkerios (right) visiting new UN headquarters' construction site in Juba.



UNMIS do if violence or conflict occurred?

UNMIS' mandate is to assist the parties in implementation of the CPA. Within that, we monitor and verify the ceasefire zone through already established mechanisms like the CJMC (Ceasefire Joint Military Committee) and the AJMCs (Area Joint Military Committees), which include the parties as well.

With the cooperation of the parties, these mechanisms have performed well in the past, wherever and whenever violence erupted. Recently, there have been increasing claims by one or the other party of troop and arms concentrations around some bordering areas outside the security zone. We have been asking both sides to allow free movement of our troops in these areas to verify the allegations. The parties have now agreed, and we shall be carrying out necessary verifications to inform the parties of possible violations or threats, if any, so they can take corrective measures.

We will continue to assist with conflict prevention and mitigation through all possible means. But the key factor will be the willingness of the parties to work with each other and maintain peace. That being so, any disturbance by irregular groups is containable.

What will UNMIS' main role in the country be after the referenda?

According to the mandate given by the Security Council, UNMIS will assist with peaceful implementation of the referenda results for six months, from January to July 2011. What the mission becomes or does after that will depend on the parties and the UN Security Council.

Sudan's peace accord grants Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states a "popular consultation" mechanism to evaluate CPA implementation in those areas. What progress has been made with this process?

Popular consultations are to be conducted by the elected assemblies of the two states. The elections have just been concluded in Blue Nile and final results are still pending. Popular consultations can only commence once an elected state assembly has been sworn in.

In Southern Kordofan, elections have been postponed with the mutual consent of both CPA signatories, so popular consultations in that state will take place once an elected state assembly is in place.

Disarmament, demobilization and

reintegration (DDR) is vital in any post-conflict situation. How is it going in Sudan?

First, I should explain that the United Nations is only associated with the DDR of ex-combatants and not with civilian disarmament, which is conducted by the respective authorities.

The DDR programme in Sudan is a nationally owned process and being run through the two DDR Commissions in the north and south, respectively. It is the largest the UN has ever been involved with and the exercise has not been without challenges.

To date, a total of 22,307 ex-combatants have been demobilized -- 18,365 in the north and 3,942 in the south. Only about 3,000 have been reintegrated. Political, organizational and financial challenges explain the large disparity between participants who have been demobilized and those reintegrated.

Furthermore, reintegration presupposes stable communities into which formerly armed elements are to be reintegrated. That has not been the case so far in much of Southern Sudan.

Do you think UNMIS should become more involved in preventing tribal conflicts or protecting civilians?

UNMIS military has undertaken several operations to mitigate tribal violence. Our civil affairs component has arranged various peace conferences and other efforts to generate communal harmony and prevent future conflicts. Our humanitarians have constantly provided relief to those affected by these clashes.

Of course, we should strive to do more and we intend to continue our efforts to the best of our capacity. In the end, I would also like to point out that while we will do all we can to help, the prime responsibility to resolve conflict and protect civilians rests with the state and its government.

You previously served as DRSRG in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Do you see any similarities or differences in the post-conflict situations of the DRC and Sudan?

The key difference is that the government and its institutions in the DRC were newly formed by several parties that were themselves, at one time or another, rebel groups, and are thus fragile. One can easily see the differences, for instance, between the Congolese national security institutions formed by and of a conglomeration of former armed groups and Sudanese ones, which have a long



SRSR Menkerios during a town hall meeting with UNMIS staff in Juba.

history.

The former government (of President Mobutu Sese Seko) and its institutions collapsed. Sudan is not a failed state. In fact, it has sophisticated state institutions. The conflicts in Sudan resulted from policies and practices of the central government that some of the governed saw as unacceptable to them. The fact that the NCP agreed to negotiate with them has started the processes of a peaceful settlement of the conflicts we are here to support.

Have you had any particular experiences that encouraged you to enter peacekeeping?

I was a member of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front for 18 years, from 1973-1991. After Eritrean independence, I worked in Somalia and the Great Lakes Region as Special Envoy of Eritrea. These experiences showed me the cost of war, its horrors, and the suffering of innocent people. I began to think there must be a different way of settling conflicts than just force.

Every effort must be made to try to settle conflicts through peaceful means. War, as horrible as it is, must be taken only as a last resort. My belief in peaceful attempts to resolve conflict has been reinforced by my further experiences in several other conflict areas in Africa representing the UN. ■

Photos by Tim McKulka

Suds and sodas

Globally, the link between beer and nationalistic pride is undeniable. In Kenya, the flagship beer Tusker Lager uses the motto "My country, my beer." The Canadian brew Molson trumpets the slogan "I am Canadian." The well-known Dutch brand Amstel goes for a slightly more subtle but still patriotic approach: "Amstel. Our beer."

Besides ending Sudan's 22-year civil war, the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 also created a semi-autonomous south free of the restrictions imposed on alcohol consumption by the Jaafar Nimeiri regime in the early 1980s.

Not surprisingly, some of the first trucks to ferry goods into Southern Sudan from neighbouring countries were laden with bottles bearing familiar foreign beer brands like Tusker and Uganda's Bell.

These beers dominated the Southern Sudanese market for four years until the first quarter of 2009, when Southern Sudan Beverages Limited (SSBL) unveiled a new, locally brewed entry named White Bull Lager. Its slogan was particularly apt: "Celebrating Peace and Prosperity".

Explaining the choice of the name White Bull in a press statement, SSBL said the white bull is "a culturally treasured symbol that has an important status in the many cultures of this land and promotes the positive feelings of celebration, success and peace."

According to SSBL Managing Director Ian Alsworth-Elvey, the company has expanded its range of beer brands over the past 12 months to satisfy the different tastes of southern consumers. "We now in fact produce four brands of beer," he said, citing Nile Special, Club Pilsner and Chairmans ESB as the three more recently

Nile Special Lager being produced in Southern Sudan.

launched products.

A subsidiary of the multinational beverage giant SABMiller, SSBL has also moved into the soft drinks and beverages market with Source bottled water and the Club Minerals line of sparkling sodas that offers consumers a choice of five flavours – apple, berry, orange, pineapple and Muscatella.

The \$37 million (92.5 million Sudanese pounds) investment has created jobs for 280 Sudanese workers as well as business opportunities for many small-scale distributors and retailers who buy and sell SSBL products.

Mr. Alsworth-Elvey said the company constantly sends its staff members abroad for training courses and also offers in-house workshops. SSBL also has a support team of international staff whose primary responsibility is to upgrade the skills of their Sudanese colleagues.

SSBL has faced some significant obstacles in the nearly 18 months since it began operations in Southern Sudan. Topping the list is the region's weak road infrastructure. "It takes a long time to get a case of beer from Juba to Aweil," said Mr. Alsworth-Elvey. "However, it is getting easier and easier all the time as the road infrastructure improves."

Traditional beer still going strong

Local beer cottage industries in the regional capital of Juba continue to thrive despite the impressive growth of industrial-scale beer manufacturing and importing activity in the south.

Seven women in the outlying Juba district of Gudele West formed a self-help association for brewing and selling

traditional beers such as *sico* and *kwete/kimbo*.

"We are earning between 150 and 200 pounds (\$60 and \$80) a day after each sale," said the association's chairperson Mary Kiden. "We found our lives improving as we continue doing this business."

Unlike other parts of East Africa where production and consumption of traditional liquor are prohibited, the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly has yet to enact any legislation outlawing this type of liquor.

But excessive consumption of alcohol is a leading cause of domestic abuse and other forms of violence, and several state governments have issued provisional orders to limit the consumption of alcohol.

Central Equatoria State authorities have adopted regulations that limit all alcohol sales to the hours between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m., though the restrictions are rarely enforced. In May, Lakes State interim governor Telar Deng issued a provisional order prohibiting the consumption and sale of alcoholic beverages in the state capital of Rumbek before 5 p.m. on weekdays and before 11 a.m. on weekends. ■

Story and photos by Ojja Bosco

Mary Kiden brewing alcohol in Juba.



Transport on four legs

Most Khartoum cabbies generally move people around the Sudanese capital on taxis, minibuses and rickshaws.

But some enterprising transportation professionals use donkeys to ferry their passengers and merchandise across Khartoum.

For nearly 20 years, Musa Shuker has set out from his home in the Soba Aradi shantytown 18 kilometres south of Khartoum at daybreak astride a donkey to make a modest living in the streets of the capital.

He distributes a dozen 20-litre jerrycans of water to a variety of clients ranging from sidewalk tea vendors to thirsty construction site workers.

Mr. Shuker's daily take-home usually comes to around 44 Sudanese pounds (\$18), and his donkey cart is sometimes hired for the transport of mud, bricks and other construction materials at a rate of between five and ten pounds for each job.

"Without the donkey, I would have raised children who are malnourished because of starvation and poor medical attention," the father of ten said. "But because of it, my children have never suffered an acute lack of food or insufficient medical care."

Thanks to his donkey business, Mr. Shuker was able to put his elder

"donkey for hire"

daughter through university and send his son to secondary school and electrical engineering training courses that recently landed him gainful employment.

The income of donkey owners varies widely. When he is making the rounds on his animal, Ahmed Yagug earns 20 pounds (\$8) a day – or roughly half of Mr. Shuker's average receipts – but that sum drops to only 7 pounds when he rents out the donkey as he is doing at present.

However, his profit margins swell during occasional power cuts in town as demand for water among households and businesses suddenly spikes.

A creative use of the beast of burden is "donkey for hire," which can be a popular diversion at social events such as a wedding. Donkeys are cheaper than buses and can carry an entire stereo music system on their backs, according to Charles Lubajo, a Khartoum resident for more than 20 years who recently returned

to his native Southern Sudan last April.

Donkeys are also used for shuttling children between their homes and schools, bringing crops and vegetables to the city's open-air markets and delivering trash to garbage dumps.

"The maximum cost for taking children over a distance of ten kilometres is five pounds, as opposed to 20 pounds on a rickshaw and 30 pounds on a taxi," noted Mr. Lubajo, adding that he once was taken to a health clinic via donkey cart when his family could not locate a taxi.

Donkeys are especially useful for reaching destinations that are inaccessible to buses, taxis and rickshaws. They are also a nimble, all-weather means of conveyance capable of negotiating potholed streets and flooded alleys after a heavy downpour.

But the four-legged beasts are not made of steel and must contend with disease and harsh climate conditions throughout the year. "It is too hot here in Khartoum," notes 35-year-old Mohammed Babiker of the Mayo internally displaced persons' camp located south-west of the capital.

"My donkey falls sick very often," he added. "My business comes to an abrupt standstill for a week or so if my animal falls sick, which badly affects my earnings that month."

To ensure a steady income, Mr. Shuker tries to treat his donkey right. He refrains from caning the animal and feeds it sorghum and grass to maintain its strength for bearing heavy loads.

"If you are stubborn, the animal will also be acting up," said the 56-year-old donkey owner. "But if you look up to it, it will also give back the same respect to you." ■

James Sokiri



Donkey cart with water tank in Khartoum's Soba Aradi shantytown. Photo: Eszter Farkas

"My business comes to an abrupt standstill for a week or so if my animal falls sick, which badly affects my earnings that month."

Donkey trader resting after a long day's work in Khartoum. Photo: James Sokiri



Donkey and cart waiting to be loaded. Photo: Eszter Farkas



Cheaper than meat



James Aban with his daily catch in Malakal.

Touted as having huge potential for post-war earnings in Southern Sudan, fishing is a rapidly growing business in the riverside town of Malakal.

"Malakal people like to eat fish. We can eat fish everyday because it is cheaper than meat," noted Upper Nile State Director of Animal Resources and Fisheries Administration and Finance Cornelius Aywok.

North Malakal fisherman Abon Aton makes an average of 80 to 100 SDG (\$32 to \$40) selling his catch at Hai Matar market.

"The fishing business is good in Malakal," said Mr. Aton. Depending on their size, he sells six to eight tilapias for 5 SDG (\$2).

Other fish he may reel in from the White Nile waters include perch as well as indigenous fish like Beyada, Bajrus, Bitkoya-Citharsinus and Dabis-Labeo.

The price of fish varied depending on its state, said Mr. Aywok. His department had set prices of 10 SDG (\$1.4) for 1 kilogram of fresh fish, 3 SDG (\$1.2) per bundle of sun-dried fish and 1 SDG (\$0.4) for one wet, salted fish.

The wages he earns as a fisherman allows 17-year-old James Aban to support his parents and four sisters in a distant village. "I come from Dollieb Hill of Upper Nile State ... I bring my money to them (his family) every time I go back home."

To regulate the industry, Mr. Aywok noted that the department issued an annual licence to registered fishermen for SDG 96 (\$38.4).

Although many of the town's people depended on fishing, only 101 fishermen were currently licensed, the ministry director said. "We have 31 fishermen in North Malakal, 29 in Central Malakal, and 41 in South Malakal."

Fishermen who failed to obtain licenses, generally those living in the town temporarily, were taxed 5 per cent on their earnings, he added. "If one non-licensed fisherman wants to sell 50 kilos of his fish to the market, he has to pay 5 per cent of the total price ... to the State Fisheries Department."

The department holds monthly meetings with team leaders from North, Central and

South Malakal fishing groups to discuss current activities, challenges, and support they may need from the government.

But the state government has only been able to offer fishermen limited assistance.

"We don't have a budget to support them with fishing equipment like hooks and nets," Mr. Aywok said.

"We (also) can't provide security on the river," he added. "Some fishermen have been looted or even killed while they were fishing. This happened for various reasons, but mostly (due to) tribal clashes."

The department has also faced obstacles in developing fishing into a revenue-earner for the state.

"Before the war, we used to export our fish to Juba," Mr. Aywok said. "We had fish camps in Manyo and Panyikang counties. But because of war we closed those camps and were unable to breed fish anymore. Unfortunately, we don't have a budget to get new equipment."

But Malakal fishermen are receiving some support from UN agencies and non-governmental organisations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Vision and International Relief and Development.

FAO Agriculture Field Officer John Awet said his organization was training fishermen in the state. "We teach them how to make fishing nets, how to preserve fish -- either sun-dried or smoked -- and how to sell them."

FAO distributed fishing twine and hooks to 10,000 Upper Nile households in 2009.

"We expect them to be able to produce sufficient food for themselves and produce income by selling it to the market. This may create employment too, once they can develop businesses," said Mr. Awet.

Story and photos by Imelda Tjahja

"Malakal people like to eat fish. We can eat fish everyday because it is cheaper than meat."



Fisherman at work in Malakal.

The curse of small arms

There has been limited progress in exerting greater control over the possession of small arms and light weapons among civilians during the five years since the signing of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Against a backdrop of widespread insecurity for most Southern Sudanese citizens, the region's high levels of poverty, unemployment and illiteracy have combined with food shortages and chronic cattle rustling to spur the acquisition of illegal arms, especially among young men.

John Cheik of the Southern Sudan Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control (CSSAC) said that youths frequently use such weapons in ethnic clashes, cattle raids and garden-variety crimes like robbery.

Operating under the Government of Southern Sudan's Ministry of Internal Affairs, the CSSAC bureau is charged with overseeing civilian disarmament campaigns to enhance community security.

But the widespread possession of firearms by civilians continues to undermine the rule of law in the region, and rural community residents scattered across Sudan's 10 southern states usually suffer the consequences of their use.

Agnes Labong, a primary school teacher in the Eastern Equatoria State town of Kapoeta, said that cattle keepers from the local Toposa ethnic group and from the Turkana tribe in neighbouring Kenya have access to large arsenals of small arms and light weapons.

"The increasing insecurity in Southern Sudan is entirely among the cattle keepers and it's caused by cattle rustling," said Ms. Labong.

A series of consultative meetings and workshops was held last March in Eastern Equatoria State to identify major security-related issues at the grassroots level.

"Over 200 community representatives from seven counties attended the meetings and were sensitized on the impact and dangers of possessing illegal weapons," said Mr. Cheik, whose bureau organized the meetings in conjunction with the Eastern Equatoria State Peace Commission (EESPC) and the UN Development Programme.

Similar workshops have been conducted in Warrap, Jonglei and Lakes states.

The EESPC Director General Thobias Athari hailed the meetings

for fostering greater awareness of the impact on communities of living with guns.

"All these efforts are to ensure that citizens change their minds and accept to live without guns and to promote the rule of law, which in turn will help government ensure effective security so that services are also provided," he said.

Mr. Athari said that \$200,000 (500,000 Sudanese pounds) will be spent in each of the state's counties to implement projects aimed at improving community security across Eastern Equatoria.

"The increasing insecurity in Southern Sudan is entirely among the cattle keepers and it's caused by cattle rustling."

Last year, the CSSAC Bureau received two electronic weapon-marking machines

Women and men of Duk Padiet.



Residents of Duk Padiet, Jonglei State, holding weapons days after they were attacked.

from the Nairobi-based Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA) to physically identify government-owned small arms and light weapons in Southern Sudan.

With the support of 13 member states, RECSA coordinates action against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons throughout the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region.

Thirty security personnel will receive training in the proper use of the machines, which will help authorities track down private individuals and organizations that illegally use weapons belonging to government security forces. "Fifteen shall be from the Sudan People's Liberation Army and 15 from other organized forces (such as the police and wildlife protection forces)," said Mr. Cheik. ■

Ojja Bosco

Photos by Tim McKulka



Long way home



Hand-dug well containing dirty water near Alap village, Western Bahr El-Ghazal.

The grey and stale-looking water in an uncovered hand-dug well in a Western Bahr El-Ghazal village looked unfit for human consumption.

But until the non-governmental organization (NGO) of a former Sudanese refugee appeared on the ground, villagers were forced to drink it.

On a hot and humid April day, men of Alap village were standing next to Water for Sudan's drilling machinery, illustrated with the emblem of a blue water drop in a black hand.

The atmosphere was tense, as the first drilling of that day had failed. A young man named Salva Dut, wearing cargo pants, a

Hand-dug well with dirty water near Alap village.



long-sleeved shirt and a baseball cap was giving instructions.

"If the mud from under the ground is not coming up, the water in the borehole will never be clean enough for drinking, so we'll have to try a third spot," said Mr. Dut, Water for Sudan President and Team Operations Leader.

The NGO provided water mainly in Upper Nile and Bahr El-Ghazal states. Located 20 kilometres from Wau in Roc Roc Dong payam, Alap village, with a population of a few hundred, desperately needed a safe water source.

A slim woman of about thirty named Adut Malong Akwat said she had been walking at least two hours daily to collect water from the nearest open well since she had become an adult.

Women walked to the next village to fetch water in jerrycans, taking an hour each way in the mornings. As they carried water for large families, they usually had to repeat the trip in the evenings.

Ms. Akwat has three children, who had been sick with cholera several times. No wonder, as the wells she used contained unclean water. Cattle also drank from them and defecated nearby.

The reason Salva Dut, a former Sudanese "Lost Boy" during the country's civil war, founded Water for Sudan was also health-related. While studying in the United

States, he learned that his father, whom he had last seen 17 years before, had fallen ill from a water-borne disease and been admitted to a hospital near Rumbek.

"I knew in my heart that some day I would go back to Sudan, but I didn't know what I would do to help people," Mr. Dut told *In Sudan*. Only when his father got sick did he realize the great need for water.

Mr. Dut established his organization in 2004, beginning by fundraising in the United States and contracting a drilling company. He himself was a student of international development and lacked experience with water and sanitation projects.

Due to two decades of war, the NGO founder said, it was difficult at first to find Sudanese workers with good skills. But now he had more than 20 employees, about one-third Sudanese.

After setting up hand pumps, Water for Sudan also trained beneficiaries about their use and maintenance. The local community contributed hard labour as well as gravel and bricks for the pump platform.

Another initial hardship was that land-mined roads made many areas inaccessible. Moving equipment long distances still posed a challenge, Mr. Dut admitted, but security had been much more stable since the 2005 peace agreement.

Village chief Michael Majak Yuo acknowledged that the area had been severely hit during the civil war. Though the situation was calm now, lack of clean water



Water for Sudan

jeopardized health and education. At times young girls and children were tasked to fetch water, skipping school.

Despite constant challenges, seeing development was rewarding, Mr. Dut said. The prevalence of diseases had dropped, children were attending school and the long daily journey of women to collect water was becoming a past burden.

"If I didn't have to walk so far, it would improve my life," Ms. Akwat remarked as men were tirelessly working at the drilling. "I could finish all the other housework that now I don't have time for." ■

Story and photos by Eszter Farkas



Water for Sudan staff and local residents busy drilling.

Water for Sudan President Salva Dut giving instructions At Alap drilling site.



Lost Boy bond

Salva Dut was 11 years old when civil war came to his hometown, Lounariik, Tonj North County, Warrap State, in 1985. According to the 35-year-old man, his whole classroom ran in all possible directions when government troops attacked the village "accusing (it) of sponsoring rebels".

"The incident happened around 10 a.m. while I was in school," Mr. Dut recalled. "There was no opportunity to run back to your family."

After two months of walking initially with 25 boys, Mr. Dut arrived with about 75 Lost Boys to Itang refugee camp in Ethiopia, which he left two years later for the country's Pinyudo camp.

In 1991, due to the Ethiopian civil war, masses of Sudanese refugees fled back to Southern Sudan and then to Kakuma camp in Kenya.

As a teenager, the now lanky man with boyish features ended up leading over 1,000 displaced boys after years of walking. "When I was 11, I was leading about 30 boys, then 250 and then 1,500."

Although calm and positive, Mr. Dut remembered horrors of the war. "I swear to God ... I saw a lot of death."

They were about 12,000 when they arrived in Kakuma in 1992. About 5,000 had died since they left Ethiopia due to disease, bullets, hunger and other causes.

"There was a guy from my class, Marial, he didn't make it," Mr. Dut said. "He died but he wasn't shot. It was something else ... wildlife actually."

Mr. Dut had been displaced for over 10 years when he was finally resettled, along with about 3,800 other Lost Boys, in the United States in 1996, under the auspices of the US State Department and the United Nations.

But he still considers himself partly homeless, as he stays in the Sudanese bush for six months when drilling, and travels back to the US for the rest of the year.

Lost Boys still meant family to each other, he said, sometimes spending more time together than with their spouses.

"We've been together supporting each other ... if you get sick, no one else will help you but your comrade," Mr. Dut said. "You have all the challenges together ... that will really build a good bond. That will never go away."

Pride of the Dinka Bor

Women and children covered in white ash from burnt cow dung eagerly welcomed herds of cattle back into *kraals* (enclosure for livestock) at the Wundor Cattle Camp in Bor, Jonglei State, after a day's grazing.

"These cows you are seeing are everything to me," said Gabriel Kuany, 42, who has four wives and nine children. "They give me milk that I sell, and I buy food and pay my children's school fees."

Cattle keeping is one of the oldest economic activities in Southern Sudan. Shunning the western lifestyle common in many African cities, the Dinka Bor community keeps cows for social prestige and the payment of wedding dowries and use their milk for food.

"Initially our cows are purely for prestige -- we cannot sell or slaughter for meat unless they are sick," said Mabior de Maluk, a 30-year-old native of Bor. "But now with modernization, people can sell bulls to send their children to school."

A bull is valued at about 1,000 SDG (\$400).

Pastoralists here burn cow dung to smoke out mosquitoes and other insects from the camp. Cow dung ash is then applied to cows and residents to protect them from insect bites.

The Dinka Bor live in *aduel* (temporary pyramid-shaped, makeshift huts) built from *arual* (reeds) within the cattle camp, which form a large part of their culture.

"Living in *aduel* in the cattle camp and rubbing our bodies with ashes of burnt cow dung are our pride," said 50-year-old Nhial

Kuol Garang. "As cattle keepers, we look smart in it."

Cattle are not only valued for food and their dung but also help determine an individual's status, power and influence in the community.

"When you have many cows, you are highly respected and have greater influence in the community and can easily become the chief," said Mr. Garang.

The desire to have more cows has made it difficult for the herdsmen to sell their cows to improve their lives.

"You are always a happy person when you have big bulls with long curved horns," added Mr. Garang. "While dancing, you demonstrate the style of the horn of your bull."

The Dinka's attachment to their cattle also shows in their baby-naming practices. Children are sometimes named after the colour of the family's best bull or cow, said Mr. Maluk, noting that Machar means black, Mabior white and Marial black and white.

Although the majority of the Dinka Bor shuns money, vehicles and stone houses for the simple life in the cattle camp, some have embraced a few aspects of modern society such as formal education.

"I go to school and come back to the camp because it is comfortable staying in the camp," said the 15-year-old herdboyer Ayen Mangok.

Back in the old days, according to Mr. Kuany, only stubborn and disobedient children were sent to school as a form of punishment.

"But this ideology has changed," he explained as he gathered cow dung on a smoky evening in April. "All the children are going to school including girls, unless it is the choice of the child to remain in the cattle camp."

Attitudes towards cattle keeping may be changing as increasing numbers of educated youths now regard life in the cattle camp as old-fashioned.

"Most of our children who have gone to school do not like staying in the cattle camp," said Mr. Garang. "They like staying in towns even if they have nothing to do there."

The cattle keepers' life can be difficult. Raids and tribal clashes with neighbouring communities are commonplace, and peace in Southern Sudan is all the more vital to the prosperity and security of the cattle camp dwellers.

"We voted (in the April 2010 elections) because we want to elect leaders who can bring us peace," said Mr. Kuany. "We need peace for our cows, we need peace for our children. If all the cows died, then we are also dead."■

Emmanuel Kenyi

Photo by Tim McKulka

Coming Events

Khartoum

Concert

The annual global event "Feast of Music" opens the floor to all musical styles from traditional songs to electronic music, with a focus on women musicians this year. On the night of 21 June, singer Amal Al Nour and the Sudanese Band Group perform at the French Cultural Centre's terrace. Free admission.

Basketball

Despite the summer break, basketball practice continues at the Khartoum American School from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. on Mondays. Contact Ton Bigorra at tonbigorra@gmail.com to sign up.

Juba

Themed dinner nights

Enjoy authentic Moroccan cuisine on Wednesdays, Mexican dishes every Thursday and the best of South African cooking on Fridays from 6.30 p.m. at the Logali House. To make a reservation, call 0957-103-800.

Herdsmen tending to bull at Wundor cattle camp near Bor. Photo: Emmanuel Kenyi



NEWS BRIEFS

UN Humanitarian Chief: Southern Sudan needs urgent support

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes called for international support for Southern Sudan to prevent "a crisis from turning into a real disaster" during a five-day trip to Sudan that ended on 30 May.

At a Khartoum press conference that concluded his last visit to the country in his present role, Mr. Holmes said that about 1.5 million people were expected to face varying degrees of food insecurity across Sudan's ten southern states during 2010.

In addition to crop shortages, other factors like limited pasture land, scarce rains and the displacement of 90,000 people have further worsened the looming humanitarian crisis, Mr. Holmes added.

His trip included visits to the cities of Wau, Juba and Nyala where he met with Sudanese government and UN officials as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations. "If humanitarian needs are allowed to spiral further, stability could be jeopardized at a critical time," warned Mr. Holmes.

UNMIS Military builds roads, treats illnesses

From medical assistance to road construction, UNMIS military contingents provided support to Sudanese development activities in various locations including Maridi, Juba and Kadugli between 7 and 14 May.

The Bangladeshi Battalion offered medical care to over 130 Sudanese patients at the UNMIS Level-1 clinic in Juba and repaired a water point in the first half of May.

By providing engineering support and agricultural equipment, Bangladeshi military personnel also helped to improve roads, including one linking the towns of Lasu and Yei in Central Equatoria State, and levelled and ploughed farm land for the population of Maridi in Western Equatoria State.

In the same time period, the Egyptian military contingent based in Kadugli, Southern Kordofan State, treated nearly 140 Sudanese people mainly for diseases like malaria, worm infestations and gastroenteritis.

In addition, the military supported the improvement of Kadugli's main road and the construction of channels to prevent flooding during the rainy season.

"Due to the availability of medical assistance in the vicinity and good roads, we don't have to worry about making an arduous journey to get treatment in far areas," 22-year-old mother Noel Akol said.

New UNMIS Force Commander arrives in Sudan

Newly appointed UNMIS Force Commander Maj. Gen. Moses Bisong Obi arrived in Sudan on 29 May, replacing Lt. Gen. Paban Thapa of Nepal, who served in the mission for two years.

The Nigerian officer brings to the position vast experience in military and peacekeeping duties. He served as Chief of Training and Operations in the Nigerian Army's Headquarters, and then joined United Nations peacekeeping missions in Lebanon and Sierra Leone, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) monitoring group in

Liberia, the Multinational Joint Task Force Lake Chad and the ECOWAS Monitoring Group in Sierra Leone.

General Obi will head approximately 10,000 uniformed international peacekeepers, including military observers, staff officers and force protection troops.

UNMIS marks Peacekeepers Day



The International Day of UN Peacekeepers was commemorated across Sudan with week-long celebrations involving medical camps, clean-up activities and games, and culminated in a friendly football match in Juba on 29 May.

The Southern Sudanese capital celebrated Peacekeepers Day with a five-kilometre peace walk and a football match pitting university students against members of the UNMIS Bangladeshi Battalion.

In the national capital of Khartoum, children from the Al Rashad and Al Baraka internally displaced persons' camps also played a football game on 25 May, and residents exhibited handicrafts and performed traditional dances on the following day.

UNMIS handed over a new traffic police office and 14 public latrines financed by Quick Impact Project funds to county officials in Yambio, Western Equatoria State.

In the Upper Nile State capital of Malakal, peacekeepers played a variety of games with orphans living in the city's SOS children's village. In Torit, Eastern Equatoria State, over 60 primary and secondary school students attended an interactive lecture on the role of UN peacekeepers.

UNMIS medical personnel visited the Rumbek Civil Hospital in Lakes State on 25 May to treat patients and clean up the premises, and two days later they collected refuse at the city's prison.

At mission headquarters in Khartoum, outgoing UNMIS Force Commander Lt. Gen. Paban Thapa hoisted the UN flag on 28 May in honor of peacekeepers who died on duty in 2009.

