

## **Briefing Pack for Western Bahr el Ghazal State – June 2010**

### **State Overview**

Western Bahr el Ghazal (WBeG) State was once part of the Greater Bahr el Ghazal region which included (Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, Lakes and Western Bahr el Ghazal States), and used to be the region's headquarters. It is one of the largest among the other three states of NBeG, Warrap and Lakes. WBeG was separated from other states with a presidential decree declaring the division of Sudan into states, to bring services closer to the population and minimize conflicts. The state lies within the equatorial belt and is characterized by thick rainforest and heavy rains. It has the potential of being an economic powerhouse for Southern Sudan due to its natural resources such as minerals, thick forest and fertile agricultural land. It has a surface area of 93,900 sq. km. and is bordered by Warrap State in the east, Western Equatoria in the south, the Central African Republic (CAR) in the west; and Northern Bahr el Ghazal and South Darfur in the north. The state capital is Wau, and other important towns are Raja, Deim Zubeir, Kuajana and Kangi. The state can be accessed by air or land from bordering states, but Raja County is inaccessible during the rainy season. With regard to religion, WBeG is inter-denominational with Christians and Muslims being the largest groups though Christianity is predominant. Administratively, the state is divided into three counties: Wau, Jur River and Raja, with 16 payams and 122 bomas. Each county is headed by a commissioner who is accountable to the State Governor, and each payam is headed by an administrator answerable to the commissioner. According to the April 2008 population census, WBeG has an estimated 333,431 inhabitants. The source of livelihood for its inhabitants is subsistence farming, supplemented by small-scale cattle-rearing and petty trading.

### **Security/political history**

During the second civil war (1983-2005), the Dinka tribe were the majority in the state, protected by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) together with the Jur, while the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) assisted and armed the Fertit groups. These factions deepened the rift among the three ethnic groups (Luo, Dinka and Fertit), who fought among themselves for political reasons. The main issues were poor governance, lack of rule of law and human rights, decentralization of power, etc. After the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), a reconciliation conference was held in Mapel, where all the parties committed to observing a number of resolutions and recommendations.

In the pre-CPA era, four forces created insecurity in Raja County: (i) peace forces or peace defensive forces (PDF), (ii) Al-Fursan forces, (iii) northern nomads, and (iv) poachers. These forces were sometimes referred to as *Janjaweed* and are not signatories to the CPA. The peace forces operated clandestinely and, though not reportedly dangerous, they were monitored by security. The Al-Fursan forces split in two, with one force of about 200 men under the command of Haggar Basher joining the Sudan People's

Liberation Movement (SPLM). The second force, under the command of Imad, lingered around in the Timsaha area, and was supported by Khartoum with money, weapons, food, uniforms and other resources. They had no specific mandate, but maintained connections with nomads and poachers. The nomads were harmful and threatened areas of Raga. They moved with axes destroying the thick forest and looting along the way. Poachers along the south and north border were called *hafra hudud* (border guards). They were recruited by Khartoum and consisted of 60 men armed with rifles who travelled from western Raja, looking for elephants and buffalo, as far as Western Equatoria and Central Africa.<sup>1</sup>

There are tensions triggered by boundary disputes in WBeG State, especially in Kafia Kingi, one of the five payams of Raja County currently claimed by both Khartoum and the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS). It is now administered from Nyala, the capital of South Darfur. The area under contention is allegedly rich in natural resources, including uranium, bronze, gold and copper, with the SAF and other armed groups reportedly operating in its territory. The presence of militias and other security concerns reported in Timsaha (Ere payam, Raja County) were a source of concern in the period following the signing of the CPA. Areas such as Boro-Medina (Raja County) have since remained a host to IDPs from South Darfur.

Unlike neighbouring Warrap and Lakes States, WBeG has experienced minimal tribal conflict. The people of WBeG are known to be peaceful, though occasionally their leaders are alleged to use tribalism as a tool to discriminate and marginalize others in managing state affairs. Externally, there are some Dinka cattle owners who seasonally go to the Fertit area, and they often come into conflict due to rivalries over grazing land. Seasonal tensions continue to arise along the border areas between South Darfur and WBeG, specifically around Raja, Balabala and Timsah. For example, in April 2010 the Reizegat nomadic tribe in the north collided with the SPLA as they moved southward through WBeG to graze their cattle, thereby resulting in a humanitarian crisis. Over 40 Reizegat and over 100 SPLA casualties were reported. The situation is presently calm with normal economic activities being conducted, though the incident has been discussed politically between the Governments in the north and south.

### **Ethnic groups**

The three predominant ethnic groups in the state are Balanda, Luo (or Jur) and Dinka. Divided into two main subgroups (the Balanda Bor and Balanda Viri), the Balandas are most commonly included in the Fertit area, a broader ethnic designation that embraces 22 ethnic groups extending over Wau to Raja County. The Fertit group consists of Sere, Ndogo, Gollo, Bal, Balanda, Boor, Balanda-Bviri, Bongo, Feroqe, Binga, Yulu Aja, Shatt and Kreish. There are also Sudanese from the north residing in the state.

### **State Government**

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: UNMIS Civil Affairs, WBeG State

The first government of Western Bahr el Ghazal State was formed in 2005. Like other southern states, it was established based on the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan and the National Interim Constitution of the Government of National Unity (GNU). The state constitution provides for the state executive, legislative and judiciary branches. In April 2010, the current Governor and state legislative assembly were elected into office. While the Governor, Secretary-General and Ministers of key lines ministries have already been ushered into office, other office bearers have yet to be appointed.

### **State Constitution**

The State exercises power based on a state constitution, known as Western Bahr el-Ghazal State Constitution (WBSC). Most of the provisions in the state constitutions are similar to and compatible with the national and regional constitutions.

### **Senior government officials: Governor's office/state secretariat**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Political party</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Governor</b>	Brig. Rizik Zakaria Hassan Dogoogoo	SPLM	
<b>Deputy Governor</b>	Col. Effecio Kon OGuak	SPLM	
<b>Secretary-General</b>	Matthew Faria Richard	SPLM	
<b>Deputy Secretary-General</b>	Charles Oguak	SPLM	0907492765
<b>Political Advisor</b>	Captain Kamil Wana Urac	SPLM	
<b>Security Advisor</b>	Lt. Col. Andrea Richardo Bola	SPLM	
<b>Economic Advisor</b>	Col. Peter Lau Madhieu	SPLM	
<b>Local Government Advisor</b>	Brig. Angelo Taban Biajo	SPLM	
<b>Education Affairs</b>	Salah Salim Ismail	SPLM	
<b>Gender Affairs</b>	Monica Louis Madut	SPLM	

### **State Executive**

The Executive branch of the State is headed by the governor, Brig. Rizik Zakaria Hassan Dogoogoo. The governor is accountable to the President of Southern Sudan while the State Ministers are accountable to the Governor. The State has eight Ministries, established under the constitution. The table below shows ministries and the newly appointed cabinet ministers (June 2010) by the Governor.

### **Table of line Ministries and Cabinet**

<b>Name of Ministry</b>	<b>Minister</b>	<b>Political Party</b>
<b>Finance Industry and Trade</b>	Morris Yel Akol	SPLM

	Tiit	
<b>Health</b>	Dr. Isaac Cleto Hassan	
<b>Local Government and Law Enforcement (Ministry of Legal Affairs)</b>	Mowlana John Peter Miskin	
<b>Information and Communications</b>	Baptist Sabit Francis	SPLM
<b>Social Development</b>	Theresa Anyuat Bola	SPLM
<b>Agriculture</b>	Col. Wol Akec Akol	
<b>Physical Infrastructure and Public Utilities</b>	Juliet Raphael Michael	SPLM
<b>Education, Science &amp; Technology</b>	Dr. Adil Athanasio Surrur	SPLM
<b>Minister for Parliamentary Affairs</b>	Mary Karlion Madut	SPLM
<b>Forestry and Animal Resources</b>	<i>Not yet appointed. Slot to be given to NCP/other political parties in the south.</i>	
<b>Public Service &amp; Human Resources</b>	<i>Not yet appointed. Slot to be given to NCP/other political parties in the south.</i>	

### County Commissioners

The state has three County Commissioners and a Commissioner for State Headquarters appointed by the Governor. The Commissioners report directly to the Governor and sometimes to the Minister of Local Government and Law Enforcement. The counties are still headed by caretaker commissioners.

County	Commissioner	Political party
<b>Raga</b>	Razik Dominic Hamid	SPLM
<b>Wau</b>	Luka Anthony	SPLM
<b>Jur River</b>	Wol Madung	SPLM
<b>Headquarters</b>		

## **State Judiciary**

The state constitution provides for the establishment of state courts by the state judiciary as needed. State courts have civil and criminal jurisdiction with respect to the state, and the High Court also deals with cases at the state level. County judges adjudicate cases at the county level while, at the payam and boma levels, judicial affairs are handled by the payam executive and boma chiefs.

## **State Legislative Assembly**

The legislative branch consists of the Interim State Legislative Assembly. They deliberate on laws relating to the matters within the state. The Interim State Assembly has 48 appointed members of parliament. The percentage of representation is in accordance with the CPA provisions which include other political parties. The parliament officially started in January 2006. The state has many political parties though most of them are not as active as SPLM and NCP.

## **Political parties (as of 2006)**

<b>Name of the party</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM)</b>	Major Gen. Mark Nyipwoch	0912339288
<b>National Congress Party (NCP)</b>	Philip Gula	0122529956
<b>United Democratic Front (UDF)</b>	Hon. Ali Hassan Mohamed	0122425493
<b>United Democratic Salvation Front (UDSF)</b>	Hon. Sebit Khamis Bandas	0129208412
<b>Union of Sudanese African Parties (USAP) 1</b>	Hon. Tingo Peter	0122205410 0122374933
<b>Union of Sudanese African Parties (USAP) 2</b>	H.E. Hillary Atem	0122802923
<b>Sudanese Association National Union (SANU)</b>	Hon. Barsham Musa	0918225649 0122396931
<b>Southern Sudan African Democratic Front (SSDF)</b>	H.E. Ishag Elias Ibrahim	0121785539
<b>African National</b>	Baptist	0122178062

Congress (ANC)	Suleiman	
----------------	----------	--

### United Nations agencies and NGOs

AGENCIES	Programmes/Activities	Contact Person	Contact Details
<b>ACTED</b>	Water, sanitation & hygiene, food security	Peter Munuve; Laure Saporta	<a href="mailto:Peter.munuve@acted.org">Peter.munuve@acted.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:laure.saporta@acted.org">laure.saporta@acted.org</a> 123954176; 0923015933; 123954170
<b>AED</b>	Water, sanitation & hygiene		
<b>Al-Turath</b>	Capacity-building support (training) of local leaders & teachers, schools rehabilitation	Muhiedeen Eltalibrah	<a href="mailto:turathorganization@hotmail.com">turathorganization@hotmail.com</a> ; 0912606512; 0129177 264
<b>Catholic Diocese of Wau</b>	Pastoral work, social services	Bishop/Vicar General	0911764308
<b>CHF</b>		Munish Persaud	<a href="mailto:perish@yahoo.com">perish@yahoo.com</a> ; 0910260344
<b>Danish Red Cross</b>	Health (first aid support to state); information dissemination of Red Cross knowledge and international humanitarian law, tracing & reuniting separated children	Tsheaie Ghebresus	<a href="mailto:tgag@drk.dk">tgag@drk.dk</a> ; 910114032; 911747172
<b>Dawa Islamic Organization</b>	Education, water services, medical support to health centres	Matang Deng Agot	0122742672
<b>Dorcas Aid International</b>	Water, sanitation, reintegration	Joseph Mwirigi	<a href="mailto:euyouku@yahoo.com">euyouku@yahoo.com</a> ; 910554360
<b>EDC</b>			
<b>El-Shaddai</b>			
<b>EMDH</b>	Protection	Maiwenn Abjean	<a href="mailto:Tm.wau@emdh.org">Tm.wau@emdh.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:admin.wau@emdh.org">admin.wau@emdh.org</a> ; 122478342;
<b>FAO</b>	Food security, capacity-building, tools and seeds support	Jonny Dennis Okenye	129314471
<b>German Red Cross</b>	Health (first aid support to state); information		

	dissemination of Red Cross knowledge and international law, tracing and reuniting separated children.		
<b>Health Net TPO</b>	Support to primary healthcare clinics, professional support services, HIV/AIDs, psycho-social support,	Gerrard Kettles	<a href="mailto:gerardketles@gmail.com">gerardketles@gmail.com</a> ; 0926293595
<b>Hope Agency for Relief &amp; Development</b>	Food security	Santo Garang; Evans Owino	912606512; <a href="mailto:hard@wananchi.com">hard@wananchi.com</a> <a href="mailto:evansagola@yahoo.com">evansagola@yahoo.com</a>
<b>IAS</b>	Water, sanitation, education	Jimmy Taban	0916181793; 0126572234
<b>Intermón Oxfam</b>	Food security, WASH		<a href="mailto:cdirs@intermonoxfam.org">cdirs@intermonoxfam.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:washmgrsd@intermonoxfam.org">washmgrsd@intermonoxfam.org</a> ;
<b>IOM</b>	Reintegration	Salvatore Sortino	<a href="mailto:ssortino@iom.int">ssortino@iom.int</a> ; 0922406683
<b>Islamic Relief Worldwide</b>	Rehabilitation of health centres, schools and capacity-building support	Khamis Bilal	<a href="mailto:Khamis.bilal@islamicrelief.org">Khamis.bilal@islamicrelief.org</a> ; 917800161
<b>Mubadiroon Organization</b>	Adult education, health, HIV/AIDs awareness, capacity-building	Moses Madut	0126115681
<b>National Democratic Institute</b>	Capacity-building of local authorities	Peter Chol	<a href="mailto:pchol@ndi.org">pchol@ndi.org</a> ; 0122742672
<b>PSI</b>	Health: safe water system & child survival, malaria control, HIV/AIDs	Amin Joseph	<a href="mailto:Aminjoseph22@yahoo.com">Aminjoseph22@yahoo.com</a> ; 910260344
<b>Save the Children-SS</b>	Education, food security & livelihood, protection	Dr. Maina Kibata	<a href="mailto:M.kibata@savethechildren.org">M.kibata@savethechildren.org</a>
<b>Solidarity for Southern Sudan</b>	Food security, protection		
<b>Sudan Red Crescent Society-Southern Secretariat</b>	Health (first aid support to state); information dissemination of Red Cross knowledge and international humanitarian law,	Forino Anthony Abul	910114032

	tracing & reuniting separated children		
<b>Sub-Sahara International Development Organization</b>	Education capacity-building	Hasim Assaid	477118109
<b>Sudan Council of Churches</b>	Food security; resettlement of returnees, rehabilitation	Kristo Kiir Deng	0122414856
<b>Trócaire</b>		Carol Nyamu; Aine Magee	<a href="mailto:cnyamu@trocaire.or.ke">cnyamu@trocaire.or.ke</a> ; <a href="mailto:Aine.magee@gmail.com">Aine.magee@gmail.com</a>
<b>UNDP</b>	State support in rule of law & governance		
<b>UNICEF</b>	Education, water, sanitation and hygiene, child protection, HIV/AIDs, health & nutrition, non-food items	Carmen Garrigo	<a href="mailto:cgarrigos@unicef.org">cgarrigos@unicef.org</a> ; 129061946; 0917632680
<b>UNOPS</b>	Rehabilitation, rural enterprise investment programme (REIP)	Thair William Muchira	<a href="mailto:thaiv@un.ops.org">thaiv@un.ops.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:williamM@unops.org">williamM@unops.org</a>
<b>WFP</b>	Food aid and food distribution, food support to reintegration programmes	Nguyenvan Tien	<a href="mailto:Nguyenvan.tien@wfp.org">Nguyenvan.tien@wfp.org</a> ; 0912153008
<b>WHO</b>	Health (polio campaign, disease surveillance)		
<b>Windle Trust</b>	Education	Paul Mitchel	
<b>Winrock International</b>	Education (scholarships)	Rosemary Cunyua	Perish@yahoo.com; 0910260344
<b>World Concern</b>			
<b>Women Development Group</b>	Food security, capacity-building, micro-finance	Mariana Barir Felbert	0122174904
<b>WOTAP (Women Training &amp; Promotion)</b>	Education, health, food security, capacity-building, women's mobilization & advocacy	Lina Ferdinand	

### Recovery and development situation

The state's recovery and development needs are highlighted below:



## **Returns and reintegration**

Under the GNU/GoSS/United Nations returns operations, UNMIS secured funding for IOM to facilitate the organized transportation and return of IDPs from Khartoum. The exercise also included the repatriation of refugees from the CAR, Kenya and Ethiopia. As a result, over 74,367 IDPs and refugee returnees reached the state between 2004 and 2008, broken-down as follows: 3,188 IDPs facilitated under the United Nations/IOM organized returns operations; 1,179 other organized returns; and 70,000 spontaneous returns.<sup>2</sup>

In 2009, the state received a total of 28,693 spontaneous returnees, state-organized and returnees facilitated by IOM under the return and reintegration of qualified Sudanese (RRQS) programme. In 2010, a total of 9,194 unverified spontaneous returnees tracked from January-June 2010 reached the state. The majority of IDPs in the 2004-2007 period came from neighbouring states, while repatriated refugees returned mainly from the CAR, Kenya and Ethiopia. All three state counties have received returnees, but they have settled mainly in Wau and Jur River counties. To date, more returnees continue to arrive spontaneously.

UNMIS coordinated with the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC), United Nations agencies, government line ministries, NGOs and other partners for the provision of early reintegration assistance of food rations, non-food items (NFIs), and seeds/tools for sustainable reintegration and early recovery. Some of the key players included FAO, IOM, UNICEF, WFP and Intermón-Oxfam. Returnees gained access to land through the local government, and received basic services in water, health, education and other areas from partner entities.

Various inter-agency assessments (returnees' reintegration and spontaneous returnees verification missions, humanitarian emergency missions, vulnerability assessments, annual needs and livelihoods assessments) have been conducted to identify and collect data on the social and economic welfare of returnees during spontaneous emergencies, reintegration and recovery phases in all three counties. Responses were received in the following fields: water and sanitation with construction and rehabilitation of boreholes in places with gaps; education, with the provision of instructional materials/supplies and teachers training workshops; health; and agriculture, with the provision of tools and seeds and extension services. Such undertakings took prominence from 2006 until the first quarter of 2010. There has been much improvement of road infrastructure, and most payams in Wau and Jur River are now accessible throughout the year.

### **State needs**

Basic socio-economic needs are: schools, training of more teachers, attractive teacher retention incentives, clean and safe water for domestic use in Wau and Jur River counties, health centres, decentralized health provision mechanisms, security, agriculture extension services to guarantee food security, income generating activities, among others. Above

---

<sup>2</sup> UNMIS Recovery, Return and Reintegration (RRR) Operations Annual Report - 2008

all, the state needs equitable distribution of basic social services to curtail massive population movement to urban areas.

In terms of social/cultural needs, a transformation of marriage practices would ultimately reduce the incidences of cattle raiding allegedly committed to acquire cattle for dowry.

### **Expanded RCSO team**

The expanded RCSO team in the state is currently composed of seven members: two RRR officers, one humanitarian affairs officer, one programme assistant, one office assistant and two drivers. Its roles and responsibilities are to coordinate and provide support to the overall humanitarian, recovery and development programmes within the state under the four portfolios of humanitarian action, stabilization, protection of civilians and state support. In addition, the team leads the coordination structure with regard to the following core functions:

- establish and maintain supportive working relations with the state government;
- facilitate all coordination structures related to the work of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes;
- facilitate the collection, analysis and dissemination of field information relevant to the work of the United Nations system;
- support visiting delegations and donors; and
- facilitate the operational work of organizations on the ground.