

**WESTERN EQUATORIA STATE (WES) BRIEFING PACK**

**RCSO WES Team**

**June 2010**

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# 1. Security-Political History

## Basic Facts

Western Equatoria State (WES) is a land-locked state bordering Lakes State and Western Bahr el Ghazal in the north, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the south, Central African Republic (CAR) in the west, and Central Equatoria State in the east.<sup>1</sup> It has a surface area of 79,319 km<sup>2</sup> and an estimated population of 619,029.<sup>2</sup> Its capital is Yambio, and there are presently 10 counties in the state.<sup>3</sup> There are eight ethnic groups in the state: Avokaya, Azande, Beli, Balanda Baka, Fertit, Mundu and Moru.<sup>4</sup>

## Security History

In WES, there are currently over 80,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), whilst the number of refugees is 13,124 registered people and an estimated 7,291 unregistered people.<sup>5</sup> The presence of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is a major threat that has caused and continues to cause insecurity in WES. So far in 2010, WES is the only state in Southern Sudan which has been affected by LRA activities. During 2009, there were a total of 87,670 people that were either displaced by LRA attacks or forced across the border from neighbouring states into Southern Sudan.<sup>6</sup> Since the beginning of 2010, there has been an influx of 2,003 refugees, including 129 in Ezo (Napere refugee settlement) and 1,874 in Makpandu refugee settlement due to the LRA attacks in neighbouring states.

Although no LRA attacks were reported between December 2009 and February 2010, on 2 March, a new attack in Napere refugee settlement in Ezo County was reported, and since then, there have been about alleged 19 incidents (as of 26 June), together displacing a total of 24,670 individuals and resulting in 40 abductions. The majority of those attacks have been observed in remote areas or villages along the border with CAR and the DRC. However, there have also been several incidents occurring deeper in Southern Sudan territory.<sup>7,8</sup>

The immediate threat to insecurity in WES is not only the LRA, but also inter-tribal and communal conflicts which have caused population displacement. In February 2010, in Mvolo County, there were clashes between members of the Jur Bel community (mainly agriculturalist) from Mvolo County, and those of the Dinka Agar community (mainly pastoralist) from Lakes State, over land access. As a result, a reported 16,454 individuals were displaced.

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<sup>1</sup> The state can be accessed by land and air from bordering states.

<sup>2</sup> Sudan Census, 2008

<sup>3</sup> The 10 counties in WES are: Ezo, Ibba, Maridi, Mundri East, Mundri West, Mvolo, Nagero, Nzara, Tambura, and Yambio.

<sup>4</sup> According to UNMIS Civil Affairs Division, counties in WES are not formed along ethnic liens.

<sup>5</sup> OCHA

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Near Mboroko Payam, two miles from Maridi Town, over 40 people were killed, an unknown number of people were abducted, and thousands were forced to flee their homes.

<sup>8</sup> According to UNDSS, areas in WES within 20 km from the DRC border are security level 3, requiring armed escorts for travel purposes.

## Political History

WES is the only state of Southern Sudan in which an independent candidate, Colonel Joseph Bakosoro, won the seat of governorship in the April 2010 elections. Prior to that, Colonel Bakosoro served as the State Secretary for Southern Sudan for the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). He also worked for UNICEF as a national security officer in WES between 2006 and 2008.

## 2. State Government

### Background

WES and its 10 counties have fully integrated their administrations into the civil service of Sudan. The state has its own constitution and functional executive, judiciary and legislative organs. Power is devolved from the State Executive to the county, payam, and boma levels as part of the decentralized system of governance. Counties are headed by County Commissioners, appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Governor, while payams and bomas are headed by administrators appointed by the State Governor upon recommendation by the Ministry of Local Government.

### State Executive

The Executive is headed by Joseph Bakosoro, Governor of WES. The Council of Ministers consists of the Governor, the Deputy Governor (who also holds a ministerial position) and seven other Ministers, totalling eight Ministers. The President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), during the 6<sup>th</sup> Governor's Forum, mandated for the creation of a Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs within the existing state structure. The State Governor also has five advisers (security, political affairs, economic affairs, local government, HIV/AIDS and agriculture) working directly with the Governor's office. The Governor is accountable to the GoSS President, while the State Ministers are accountable to the Governor. Each State Minister is assisted by a Director-General who is the professional and technical head of the Ministry.

### State Secretariat/Governor's Office

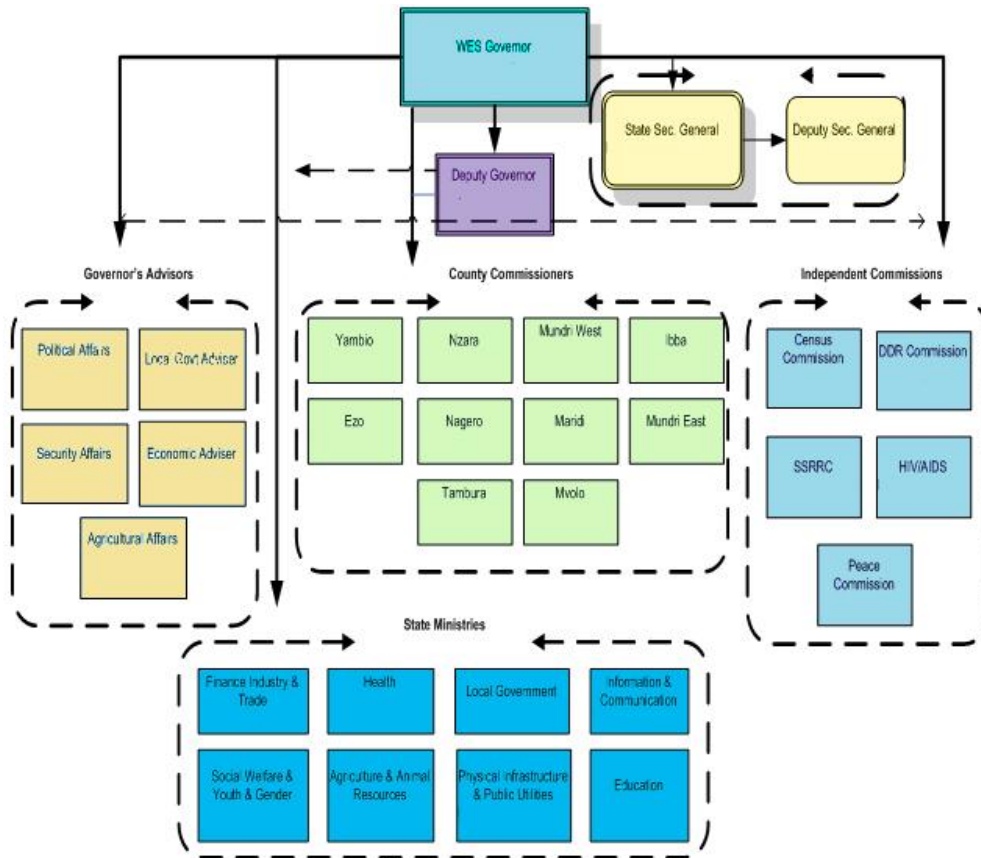
No	Position	Name	Party	Ethnicity
1	Governor	Col. Bangasi Bakosoro Joseph	Independent	To be confirmed (by UNMIS CAD)
2	Deputy Governor and Minister of Commerce, Trade and Investment	Mr. Ssapana Abui	TBC	TBC
3	Secretary-General	Mr. Alfred Riruyo	TBC	TBC
4	Deputy Secretary- General	TBC	TBC	TBC

5	Political Adviser	Mr. Robert Bandi	TBC	TBC
6	Security Adviser	Col. Lavric Liwa	TBC	TBC
7	Economic Adviser	Mr. Gibson Hosea Wande	TBC	TBC
8	Local Government and Administration Adviser	Col. Samuel Bati	TBC	TBC
9	Gender and HIV/AIDS	Miss Mary Biba	TBC	TBC
10	Commissioner State HQs	Mr. Angelo Parakondo	TBC	TBC

### State Ministries

No	Name of Ministry	Minister	Party	Ethnicity
1	Deputy Governor and Minister of Commerce, Trade and Investment	Mr. Sapana Abui	TBC	TBC
2	Finance	Mr. Evans Doctor	TBC	TBC
3	Health	Mr. Stephen Komuyangi	TBC	TBC
4	Local Government and Law Enforcement	Col. Wilson Sidigi	TBC	TBC
5	Information and Communication	Mr. Gibson Bullen Wande	TBC	TBC
6	Social Development	Miss Norma Fadul	TBC	TBC
7	Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Resources	Mr. Charles Yore	TBC	TBC
8	Physical Infrastructure	Mr. Boutros Magaya	TBC	TBC
9	Education, Science and Technology	Mr. Adel Ssandrai	TBC	TBC
10	Labour and Public Service	Mrs. Jackcilia E. Salathiel	TBC	TBC

## Organogram of WES Government (as of January 2010)



Source: Adopted from UNMIS Civil Affairs Division, “*Western Equatoria State Profile*,” January 2010.

### 3. Recovery and Development Situation and Needs

Situated at the Equatorial forest and veering into some parts of the African rain forest, WES has high economic potential that has yet to be exploited. During the war years, the State was the major crop surplus area of Southern Sudan, encompassing the productive Green Belt and Ironstone Plateau agro-ecological zones. However, the sustained threat of the LRA and further LRA attacks resulted in a drop in production and the emergence of a new crop deficit. This has increased the vulnerability of the population to food insecurity, and to related nutrition risks.

Major crops grown include sorghum, maize, beans, groundnuts, cassava, and sesame. Fruit such as mangoes, granadillas, oranges, guavas and pineapples also grow in abundance, and provide another good source of nutrition. Livestock ownership (cattle and goats) is generally low compared to other states in Southern Sudan, and as

a consequence the state has not been affected by the cattle raiding that has had such a serious impact on other states.

In spite of its richness of agricultural produce, historically, there have not been any major agricultural industries established in WES. The textile industry was established in Nzara by the British colonial administration, but it was halted by the civil war.

One of the major developments which have been taking place in WES after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 is road construction.<sup>9</sup> Owing to the main road which cuts across the state and connects major counties to the state capital, WES has trade links to formal and informal markets within the state, to other parts of Southern Sudan and with neighbouring countries. Consequently, there is greater availability of goods in local markets and shops than in most other states. Another post-conflict development was the mobile telecommunication network.<sup>10</sup>

#### 4. Composition and Activities of the RCSO State Team

##### a) Composition of RCSO State Team

No	Name	Title	Email
1	Antoine Waldburger	Team Leader, Humanitarian Affairs Officer (UNMIS)	<a href="mailto:waldburger@un.org">waldburger@un.org</a>
2	Tomohiro Yamanaka	Humanitarian Affairs Officer (UNDP)	<a href="mailto:yamanaka@un.org">yamanaka@un.org</a>
3	Takashi Kamishiro	RRR Officer (UNMIS)	<a href="mailto:kamishiro@un.org">kamishiro@un.org</a>
4	Joseph Mabe	Programme Assistant (UNMIS)	<a href="mailto:mabe@un.org">mabe@un.org</a>
5	Elia Sebastiano	Driver (UNMIS)	<a href="mailto:sebastiano@un.org">sebastiano@un.org</a>

##### b) Activities of the RCSO State Team

###### Regular Activities

Activity	Team Member	Notes
UNMIS Yambio Team Site Team Leader's meeting	Team Leader (TL)	Every Tuesday
UNMIS coordination meeting with WES Governor	TL	Every Tuesday
WES Area Security Management Team (ASMT) meeting	TL	Every Friday

<sup>9</sup> UN-HABITAT, *Mapping/Capacity Assessment of Local Organizations involved in Community Driven Development/Recovery (CDD/CDR) in Southern Sudan: State Annex Report, Western Equatoria* (May 2009)

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

UNMIS Sector 1 tele-conference	TL	Every Wednesday
Weekly WES coordination meeting with United Nations agencies and other organizations	TL (Chair), and RSCO WES team	Every Friday

Other activities include:

- Overall coordination and participation in inter-agency IDP verification missions
- Monthly NGO Forum meetings (last Thursday of the month)

## 5. List of United Nations Agencies and other Organizations

Sector	Agency	Focal Person	Contact
Health	WHO	Dr. Hamzaoui Larbi	arbihamzaoui@yahoo.fr
	MSF Spain	Catee Lalonde	msfe-yambio-fieldco@barcelona.msf.org
	World Vision International (WVI)	Judi Otieno	Judi_Otieno@wvi.org
	IOM	Shawn Pomeroy	shawnpom@hotmail.com, spomeroy@iom.int
	German Red Cross/Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS)	Ute Westphal	<a href="mailto:U.Westphal@grc-sudan.org">U.Westphal@grc-sudan.org</a>
	ICRC		Jub_juba@icrc.org
	Comboni Sisters		
	IMC		
Education	UNICEF	Grace Kyeyune	gkyeyune@unicef.org
	Intersos	Domenica Costantini	Yambio.south.sudan@intersos.org
	UNHCR	Tamba Amara	amara@unhcr.org
	WVI	Judi Otieno	Judi_Otieno@wvi.org
	CAFOD/Catholic Diocese of Tambura and Yambio (CDTY)	Arthur Alollo (CAFOD)/Richard Zizi (CDTY)	<a href="mailto:aamollo@cafod.org.uk">aamollo@cafod.org.uk</a> (CAFOD), <a href="mailto:rziziscc@yahoo.com">rziziscc@yahoo.com</a> (CDTY)
Water and Sanitation	UNICEF	Charles Gale	cgale@unicef.org
	IOM	Shawn Pomeroy	shawnpom@hotmail.com, spomeroy@iom.int
	Intersos		Watsan.south.sudan@intersos.org



	WVI	Judi Otieno	Judi_Otieno@wvi.org
	MSF Spain	Catee Lalonde	msfe-yambio-fieldco@barcelona.msf.org
	CAFOD/CDTY	Arthur Alollo (CAFOD)/Richard Zizi (CDTY)	<a href="mailto:aamollo@cafod.org.uk">aamollo@cafod.org.uk</a> (CAFOD), <a href="mailto:rziziscc@yahoo.com">rziziscc@yahoo.com</a> (CDTY)
	Cooperation and Development	Guido Pollini	Coodev.sudsudan@live.com
Non-food items (NFIs)	IOM	Shawn Pomeroy	shawnpom@hotmail.com, spomeroy@iom.int
	CAFOD/CDTY	Arthur Alollo (CAFOD)/Richard Zizi (CDTY)	<a href="mailto:aamollo@cafod.org.uk">aamollo@cafod.org.uk</a> (CAFOD), <a href="mailto:rziziscc@yahoo.com">rziziscc@yahoo.com</a> (CDTY)
	Intersos	Domenica Costantini	Yambio.south.sudan@intersos.org
	WVI	Judi Otieno	Judi_Otieno@wvi.org
	Lacha Community and Economic Development (LCED)	Driuni Jakan	<a href="mailto:driuni05@yahoo.com">driuni05@yahoo.com</a>
	Samaritan's Purse	Aaron Shapiro	ashapiro@samaritan.org
HIV/AIDS	UNICEF	Grace Kyeyune	gkyeyune@unicef.org
	Intersos	Domenica Costantini	Yambio.south.sudan@intersos.org
	CAFOD/CDTY	Arthur Alollo (CAFOD)/Richard Zizi (CDTY)	<a href="mailto:aamollo@cafod.org.uk">aamollo@cafod.org.uk</a> (CAFOD), <a href="mailto:rziziscc@yahoo.com">rziziscc@yahoo.com</a> (CDTY)
Food Security & Livelihoods	FAO	Massimo Moilinga	Massimo.moilinga@fao.org
	CAFOD/CDTY	Arthur Alollo (CAFOD)/Richard Zizi (CDTY)	<a href="mailto:aamollo@cafod.org.uk">aamollo@cafod.org.uk</a> (CAFOD), <a href="mailto:rziziscc@yahoo.com">rziziscc@yahoo.com</a> (CDTY)
	WFP	Mary Lero	mary.lero@wfp.org
	LCED	Driuni Jakan	<a href="mailto:driuni05@yahoo.com">driuni05@yahoo.com</a>
Governance & Rule of Law	UNDP	Aleksandar Kostovski	Aleksandar.kostovski@undp.org
	UNMIS	Uduak-Abasi Akpabio	akpabio@un.org
	National	Rajab John Simon	<a href="mailto:rmohandis@ndi.org">rmohandis@ndi.org</a>

	Democratic Institute (NDI)	Mohandis	
Protection	UNHCR	Emmanuel Egyir	Egyir@unhcr.org
	UNICEF	Grace Kyeyune	gkyeyune@unicef.org
	UNMIS	Shelina Doro	doros@un.org
Coordination with the State	SSRRC (Director)	Lexson Wari Amozai Bashir	lexwari.amozai@gmail.c om

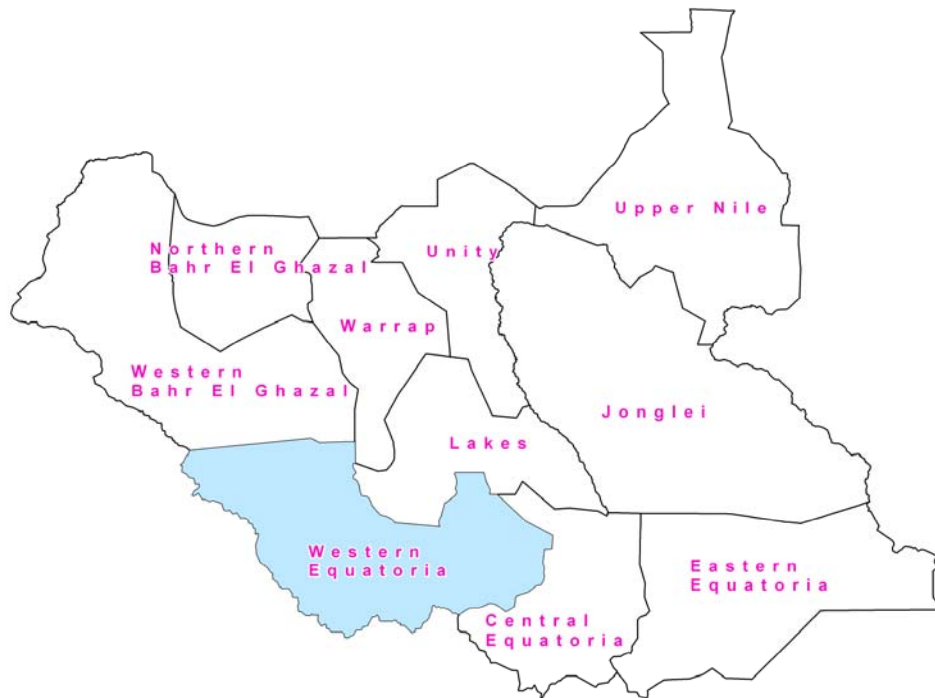
## **6. References**

UNMIS Civil Affairs Division (CAD), *Western Equatoria State Profile* (January 2010)

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UNOCHA, *Western Equatoria State Humanitarian Brief* (May 2010)

**Annex: WES Map(s)**



Source: UNMIS Civil Affairs Division, “*Western Equatoria State Profile*,” 2010.