

New beginnings for former combatants



Francis Achalla studied agriculture for his reintegration training and is now running his own market garden (© UNDP)

The bullet wound on his left elbow tells the story of the life Luca Matwitch has led. Serving on the frontlines of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) for 21 years, he was injured in battle but survived and now looks forward to a life of peace.

Mr. Matwitch has recently been demobilized from the army and is currently attending reintegration training at the Don Bosco Centre in Wau, Western Bahr El Ghazal State, as part of Southern Sudan's Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme.

Training options for former SPLA members range from welding and bricklaying to small business management. "I have chosen small business training, so I can benefit from this programme,"

Inside this issue:

- [New beginnings for former combatants](#) 1
- [Becoming a sovereign State](#) 2
- [Changes at UNDP](#) 3
- [Resettling in Southern Sudan: New neighbourhoods](#) 4

said Mr. Matwitch. "When I am finished I will open a small shop in my village."

The DDR programme is a joint effort led by the Southern Sudan DDR Commission with technical support from across the United Nations. UNMIS provides disarmament and demobilization assistance whilst UNDP is focused on the reintegration aspects of DDR. In Wau, the International Organization for Migration is an implementing partner and the World Food Programme has been providing former combatants with food assistance. Local NGOs also provide micro-finance services and other support.

The line of people at the DDR centre in Wau waiting to go through the demobilization and reintegration process consists largely of older soldiers, 'special needs' groups such as people with disabilities, and women associated with the armed forces.

"This is Phase One of DDR, which has been during the CPA," said the Chair-

person of the Commission, H.E. William Deng Deng, referring to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement which is due to end in July with the expected declaration of independence for Southern Sudan. "Phase Two will be post-CPA. We are in the process of writing the government policy for DDR for Phase Two."

The Commission has begun the process of redesigning the DDR strategy by discussing future DDR needs with the SPLA. Other stakeholders, including the UN, donors and other partners, will then be invited to review the draft policy and make inputs before it is finalized and presented to the Council of Ministers.

The second phase of DDR is likely to be a challenging one, with a much broader focus. "We need to see it address the needs of the ex-combatants," said Mr Deng, "with a combination of individual demobilization and community reintegration." He points to the need for services such as schools and hospitals and the possibilities for 'mega-projects' such as road building and construction which can be used to provide work for ex-combatants.



Mr. William Deng Deng, Southern Sudan DDR Commission Chairperson (© UNDP)

"We want to make sure the DDR programme in the next phase is attractive to the military," said Mr Deng. Helping the Commission to create a new vision for the DDR programme and a positive future for former combatants is a UNDP priority for 2011.

Becoming a sovereign State



Laying the foundations of a new State: training in construction in Juba (© UNDP)

Following a historic referendum in which 98.83% of voters opted for secession, Southern Sudan will become the world’s newest state when the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed in 2005, concludes on 9 July 2011.

Preparations for the transition are well underway. Work continues on putting in place the “core governance functions” the Government of Southern Sudan identified as essential for successful “State take-off.” Development partners are coordinating to provide technical advice and assistance in the delivery of these functions..

UNDP is focusing on helping the government to manage finances, deliver basic services and establish and maintain the rule of law. For example, UNDP is assisting state governments in planning and developing budgets.

The Ministry of Labour and Public Service also recently rolled out an electronic payroll system for all Southern Sudanese civil servants. Supported by a six-donor Capacity Building Trust Fund with technical advice from Booz and Co, this system ensures the right person gets

paid the right amount at the right time – and helps eliminate ghost workers.

Delivering on this plan, said H. E. David Deng Athorbei, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, during the 2011 Budget Speech, “will help to ensure we are ready for the end of the interim period with an accountable, transparent and effective government for the people of an independent South Sudan.”

Planning for development

Moving beyond the interim period, the Government of Southern Sudan, with support from development partners, has begun developing a Southern Sudan Development Plan. The plan aims to provide an overarching strategy for development with a pro-poor agenda that will guide planning and development interventions in Southern Sudan for the next three years, while more extensive consultations are undertaken to draft a long term plan.

Led by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, working groups on each of the plan’s four main pillars, plus cross cutting issues and specific sectors, are meeting weekly to discuss all aspects of the plan. The plan will help to determine budget allocations

and donor funding in the medium term.

UNDP specialists are supporting the working groups and is the co-chair of the Social and Human Development Pillar, three sector working groups (Public Administration, Rule of Law and Social Protection) and the Capacity Development sub group.

In March 2011, state consultations on the development plan began. These meetings give state government representatives a chance to present their development priorities and discuss how they will be incorporated into the development plan.

UNDP Senior Advisor Sam Barnes, co-chair of the Social and Human Development Pillar, said that the plan will be key to building trust in government among the people. “They need to see something concrete,” she said, “They need to see something for the benefit of their children and communities.”

Development Plan Structure

Governance	Accountability Public administration
Economic Development	Infrastructure Economic functions Natural resources
Social & human development	Education Health Social & humanitarian
Security & conflict resolution	Security Rule of law

The challenges are enormous, with the need for basic service delivery, food security and infrastructure development highlighted by all states. At state consultations held in Wau, the Warrap State Minister for Finance, Trade and Industry, Mr Majok Bol Kur, said that Warrap lacks infrastructure, banks and police services at a time when it is trying to resettle large numbers of returnees. “Warrap cannot be compared to other states of the Greater Bahr el Ghazal,” said Mr. Kur, “we have nothing. We are starting from scratch.”

Changes at UNDP in Southern Sudan

UNDP Southern Sudan is preparing for its transformation from regional office to Country Office in what will be the new State of South Sudan. "UNDP will be ready to support the government during the critical transition period," said Joe Feeney, Head of Office for UNDP Southern Sudan.

One major change will be our reassignment from the current UNDP Regional Bureau of Arab States to the Regional Bureau for Africa. This will give the new Country Office stronger linkages to the expertise and support of UNDP staff working in 45 other sub-Saharan African countries.

Increased demands on the office will mean changes to the compound and further construction of low cost housing in the field to enable expansion of UNDP support to local and state governments.

New focus areas

The basic structure of the office will remain broadly the same and key projects begun in the South under current country programmes will continue. However, UNDP programming will adjust to focus on the priorities of the new Southern Sudan Development Plan. This will include a shift in focus from State stabilization to long term development, including poverty reduction, economic growth, private sector development and environmental management and climate change.

In response, UNDP will be supporting more initiatives like the workshop on the Clean Development Mechanism held on 3 March 2011. This workshop introduced government and private sector representatives to a scheme where industrialized countries can earn emission credits through investing in low carbon development in countries such as Southern Sudan.

The nascent private sector in Southern Sudan, with the support of the Government of Southern Sudan, could benefit greatly from engaging with carbon markets and UNDP will continue to



UNDP field presence is extending to ensure support to local governments (© Jenn Warren/UNDP)

provide technical advice on energy and environment issues, drawing on the Regional Bureau for Africa's experience in this area.

In the longer term, UNDP will be placing increasing emphasis on private sector development, from advocating for legislation to create an enabling environment for business to creating opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises to link to local and regional markets.

Opportunities for youth

Another initiative with a long term economic objective is a joint programme on creating opportunities for youth employment in Southern Sudan. This pilot scheme aims to leverage such opportunities created through the existing work of nine UN agencies, plus the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration. This

experience will inform the development of a longer term strategy for the promotion of youth employment in the country.

Deepening democracy

More broadly, UNDP will continue to focus on deepening democracy in Southern Sudan. The core governance functions initiative aimed to strengthen the executive and a next crucial step is to support oversight functions including a strong legislature and active media as well as anti-corruption entities such as the Southern Sudan Audit Chamber and the Anti-Corruption Commission.



Vocational training schools are one of the entry points targeted by the Youth and Employment Joint Programme (©Jenn Warren/UNDP)

Resettling in Southern Sudan: New neighbourhoods

Since 30 October 2010, approximately 250,000 men, women and children have returned to Southern Sudan from northern Sudan and neighbouring countries.

In support of the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is coordinating the efforts of local and international aid agencies to provide emergency food, shelter, medical care, education, and water and sanitation for the individuals and families who are often stranded at transit sites.

Once the immediate needs of returnees have been met, the next step is to provide support for reintegration, targeting both returnees and the receiving communities.

A new Reintegration Theme Group, chaired by UNDP, has been established to coordinate reintegration efforts. The group is simultaneously working on providing immediate support in return communities through quick impact projects and community-based activities that help returnees establish livelihoods, and supporting the sustainable reintegration initia-



Demarcating plots in Kwajok, Warrap State (© UNDP)

tives being identified through State Reintegration Plans.

Six group members (FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNECSO and UNHCR) have developed a series of community stabilization and reintegration project proposals, that total approximately \$19 million, in response to GoSS priorities for reintegration.

Meanwhile, the UNDP Support to the States in Southern Sudan project is already working with local government to reintegrate returnees in Warrap State, one of the states with the highest rate of return. In Kwajok, the capital of Warrap State, UNDP's urban management specialist is advising a team that is creating six residential neighbourhoods for returnees.



Constructing a borehole to provide water for the returnee neighbourhoods (© UNDP)

A total of 5,600 plots of land, or 1,100 per neighbourhood, are being allocated by the local government and community. Based on the standard household size it is anticipated that around 33,000 people will be accommodated in the six residential blocks.

These neighbourhoods will be served by centrally placed amenities including 11 boreholes, a primary school, playgrounds, a police post, a place of worship and corner shops. A sanitation system is also being developed.



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Reintegration, especially land allocation, is a complex and sensitive issue so UNDP is cooperating closely with the host community and multiple agencies, including the SSRRC, the government allocation committee, State Ministry of Public Infrastructure, other UN agencies and NGOs.