First *Southern Sudan Statistical Yearbook* to inform decision-making

Photo: Tim McKulka/UNMIS

Demographic and socio-economic information helps inform government programming, especially for basic service delivery.

Statistics are a critical part of evidence-based decision-making. Not only do they guide programming by identifying need by sector and geographical area, they can be powerful advocacy and fundraising tools as well. At the monitoring and evaluation stage, statistics can also help track progress by acting as clear points of reference. Regularly updated and reliable information is more important than ever within the Southern Sudanese context, where basic services are still lacking in many areas.

Under the leadership of the Southern Sudan Census Centre for Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE), UNDP and key partners supported the production of the first *Statistical Yearbook for Southern Sudan*. The document is intended to help the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), state officials, and international partners design and implement activities that require socio-economic and demographic information about the region.

The *Statistical Yearbook* was introduced to counterparts and stakeholders at its launch on 24 November 2009. Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of Energy and Mining — which work closely with the SSCCSE to track projects across Southern Sudan — described it as an important planning tool.

As Sudan moves toward the referendum — regardless of the outcome — it is essential to have a strong and viable state in place, which meets the needs of all citizens. Core institutions must be established and functioning effectively in order to push coordinated rehabilitation and systematic change.

One such institution is a strong centre for statistics like the SSCCSE that provides robust, reliable and useable data. This type of body is critically impor-

tant in helping the government to plan, budget, and implement sound policies and programmes.

UNDP has been providing technical support to SSCCSE since 2005. The Centre has come a long way since its inception, and has undertaken major surveys such as the Sudan Household Survey in 2006, the Sudan Population and Housing Census in 2008, and most recently, the National Baseline Household Survey (to be released in early 2010). These surveys contribute to poverty reduction in Southern Sudan by establishing a baseline to monitor the various programmes and initiatives underway to address food insecurity and violence.

SSCCSE also plays a vital role by combining credible and accurate information with sound analysis of key indicators. This data will help GoSS and local authorities target efforts to create an enabling environment for policies and programming that promote sustainable peace and development in Southern Sudan.

Photo: Jenn Warren

Evidence-based planning is key in ensuring critical gaps in programming and resource allocation are filled.

Mine Action Project builds national demining capacity

Photo: Severine Flores/IRIN

Landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs) not only threaten the lives and livelihoods of civilians, they also impede economic recovery and can hinder the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees. In Sudan, it is estimated that up to 1.3 million people are affected by this problem in approximately 202 communities – most of this contamination is located in Southern Sudan.

"There are significant obstacles to development posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war, and there is a real need for a sustainable and cost-effective solution," says UNDP's Mine Action Technical Advisor Ralph Hassall. "The work being done by our national partners is excellent and efficient, and staff are dedicated to making sure these communities are safe."

One of UNDP's key partner organizations – the Sudan Integrated Mine Action Service (SIMAS) – is the first UN-accredited national clearance organization to operate in Southern Sudan. At their site in Lirya (65 km from Juba), the work of demining teams is enabling surrounding communities to regain access to water sources and agricultural land.

SIMAS demonstrates how national organizations can undertake skilled, yet labor-intensive, public works at internationally-set performance standards. In collaboration with local armed forces and other demining groups, SIMAS works to identify high-risk areas in need of intervention and safely disposes of mines and UXOs. Once their work is done, the land they clear can be used by community members for farming and livestock grazing.

Communities face daily safety threats and restrictions because of contaminated land. Women and children are especially affected because they are often responsible for fetching water and

collecting firewood. Demining initiatives in Southern Sudan help protect the security and safety of communities while unlocking economic opportunities. This, in turn, contributes to community and individual development.

Within the unified structure of the UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO), UNDP plays the leading role in national mine action programming and capacity building. This is done in close coordination with national mine action authorities in the north and south of Sudan, in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). With funding from the US Department of State, UNDP also works with the wider mine action programme to help build sustainable clearance capacity that will meet the challenges posed by landmines and UXOs in the years ahead.

Crisis, Prevention, and Recovery in Southern Sudan

UNDP's Crisis, Prevention and Recovery Unit (CPRU) works to mitigate threats and risks to community security. UNDP works closely with national, state and county authorities — as well as with communities and civil society — on interventions to strategically address security priorities.

Ameerah Haq leaves Sudan

After nearly three years as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan as well as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, Ameerah Haq is leaving Sudan to take up her new post as the Special Representative for Timor-Leste and Head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

From 2007 until today, her expertise has provided vital support to the UN in Sudan, during a critical period of transformation and growth within the country. Before her term in Sudan, she served as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, as well as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan (2004 —2007).

Ms. Haq was formerly the Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Di-

rector of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery at UNDP Headquarters in New York. She also served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Malaysia from 1994 to 1997, and in the same capacity in Laos from 1991 to 1994.

Ms. Haq worked in the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific at UNDP Headquarters. She started her career in 1976 in Indonesia and was transferred to Afghanistan as Assistant Resident Representative in 1978.

Livelihoods trainings changing lives for ex-combatants

Photo: Kayode Egbeleye/UNDP

UNDP and JICA support the Southern Sudan DDR Commission to provide training for ex-combatants.

When armed forces demobilize, ex-combatants are often left with limited skills or economic opportunities to support themselves and their families. UNDP's support to the Southern Sudan DDR Commission ensures that these demobilized soldiers have access to training and employment that affords them the chance of a better life.

Last month, nineteen female ex-combatants were given a new start after graduating from a six-week livelihoods training course. The training — funded by the Japanese Government through JICA and facilitated by the UN integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programme — is part of a comprehensive initiative which is working with participants to provide them with the skills necessary to reintegrate into civilian life.

At the graduation ceremony, UNDP's Emmett Watson reiterated the organization's commitment to improving the lives of ex-combatants and their families. He went on to say, "UNDP sees gender equality and improved livelihoods opportunities as key ingredients for poverty reduction."

Ambrose Kambaya, a representative from the Southern Sudan DDR Commission, remarked, "This is the beginning of an alternative life for the ex-combatants, who can use their new skills to generate income that supports them and their families."

Twenty-nine year old Yar Boul, a mother of seven from Lakes State, was one of the graduating DDR participants. She reflected on the impact of the training saying, "I learned a lot during the training. I feel empowered, and I'm ready to open a small shop."

To date, over 2,000 demobilized combatants have been counselled in Central Equatorial State and are waiting to receive their reintegration packages in the coming months. As the DDR programme gathers momentum in the south, it helps promote peace and reconciliation for people across Sudan.

Photo: Kayode Egbeleye/UNDP

A graduating DDR participant proudly displays her livelihoods training certificate.

Providing strategic information for conflict prevention

To respond to the urgent need for strategic planning tools in Sudan, UNDP launched the Crisis Risk Mapping and Analysis (CRMA) project back in 2007. Implemented in partnership with the UK's Department for International Development, the project is developing a geo-referenced state-by-state mapping and analysis of key security threats and socio-economic risks across Sudan.

CRMA supports the UN Information Management Working Group (IMWG) by helping to compile, update and distribute the IMWG Atlas — an open-source database of maps and information. This tool allows for various layers of information to be extracted and visualized, thereby facilitating the analysis and programming of national and international partners.

"In addition to traditional mapping components, CRMA uses a participatory mapping process which uses consolidated information from local stakeholder forums," said Judith Omondi, CRMA's Southern Sudan Coordinator. "Information is gathered from community leaders at the state and county level, who provide input on the resources they need."

The forums and participants give special consideration to cultural sensitivities, environmental concerns and current political and social conditions.

In Southern Sudan, the project became operational in late 2009, following formal approval from the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS). In collaboration with the Southern Sudan Centre for Census and Statistics Evaluation (SSCCSE), CRMA aims to provide an enhanced information base to strengthen the existing multi-sectoral planning, coordination and monitoring processes at GoSS and state level. This will be done through the development of a common and sustainable information-sharing platform to be used be GoSS, the states and the counties, as well as relevant international development actors.

Knowledge Corner:
A new perspective on post-conflict programming

Earlier this year, Sudan-expert Alex de Waal gave a presentation to Oxfam-Novib on programming in post-conflict environment. In it, he argued that dealing with fragile states should start with an analysis of how these countries are organized politically and aim to work *with* already established systems, rather than *against* them. Failing to do so will make international agencies ineffective, condemning them to limited impact and missed opportunities. "We tend to define these countries [failed states] by what they are not, rather than what they are. We should look at what is there rather than what isn't," said de Waal.

He went on to explain that in most places at most times, political conflicts have been managed by means other than autonomous state authority. Units of socio-political organization exist, and continue to exist, at a level lower than the state and include ethnic groups, warlords, and even governmental institutions such as ministries and security agencies. The key question for a ruler is how to sustain political authority. So, in most fragile states, the political arena resembles a marketplace of loyalties in which the ruler seeks to secure sufficient loyalty at the lowest price, to remain in power, or expand power. There are three main ways the ruler can do this: force, custom (such as kinship, tribalism, religion), and patronage.

This could be depressing since it suggests that corruption and patrimony are intrinsic to the way some

countries work, and not easy to stamp out. Alternatively, through a clearer understanding of how places like Sudan and Afghanistan actually function, agencies might be better able to achieve specific goals. "One of the reasons why a state is classified as fragile is precisely because it cannot achieve a monopoly on the use of violence – that is, it cannot win its civil wars. In these contexts, violence is auxiliary to political bargaining in the marketplace. Fighting and negotiating happens at the same time," said de Waal. This helps explain many aspects of the organization of violence in fragile states. It is neither war nor peace, neither political nor criminal violence, but a mixture of all.

While development agencies expect capable states to emerge through a process of institution building combined with the right political leadership, what tends to happen is that — with the political command of society unresolved — every institution that is built is subordinate to an existing instrument of patronage or a faction. Therefore, building governmental institutions should mean building up the capabilities of the faction that controls them. There is no point resisting the ingrained trends in society, work should be done to build on them.

De Waal urged international agencies to be more honest with themselves about the limitations of their frameworks and the reasons for their past failures. In transitions from conflict to

post-conflict there is an assumption that the end of a conflict represents a reversion to 'normality'. This overlooks the ways in which the end of conflict is a politically-defined moment, which may be less meaningful for the people involved. The notions of 'war' and 'peace' need to be revisited in the context of a country that functions in this way.

"We tend to define these countries [failed states] by what they are not, rather than what they are. We should look at what is there rather than what isn't,"
— *Sudan-expert, Alex de Waal*

He offered two ways forward for international engagement. Firstly, listen more carefully to the people in fragile states since they have a more profound analysis and understanding of their predicament than any outsider. The most important external skill required for this is facilitation and translation of local concepts. Secondly, practice evidence-based peacekeeping. While law enforcement agencies collect and use data as the basis for their deployment and strategy, it is remarkable how UN peacekeeping missions are resistant to comparable efforts to compile and analyse information. Since peacekeeping is really a matter of policing, community peacemaking, and pre-emptive deployment of combat troops in many cases, this should be much higher up on their agenda.