

Resident Coordinator Support Office, Upper Nile State
Briefing Pack

Table of Contents	Page No.
Table of Contents	1
State Map	2
Overview	3
Security and Political History	3
Major Conflicts	4
State Government Structure	6
Recovery and Development	7
State Resident Coordinator's Support Office	8
Organizations Operating in the State	9-11

Map of Upper Nile State



Overview

The state of Upper Nile has an area of 77,773 km² and an estimated population of 964,353 (2009 population census). With Malakal as its capital, the state has 13 counties with Akoka being the most recent. Upper Nile shares borders with Southern Kordofan and Unity in the west, Ethiopia and Blue Nile in the east, Jonglei in the south, and White Nile in the north. The state has four main tribes: *Shilluk* (mainly in Panyikang, Fashoda and Manyo Counties), *Dinka* (dominant in Baliet, Akoka, Melut and Renk Counties), *Jikany Nuer* (in Nasir and Ulang Counties), *Gajaak Nuer* (in Longochuk and Maiwut), *Berta* (in Maban County), *Burun* (in Maban and Longochok Counties), *Dajo* in Longochuk County and *Mabani* in Maban County.

Security and Political History

Since inception of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), Upper Nile State has witnessed a challenging security and political environment, due to the fact that it was the only state in Southern Sudan that had a Governor from the National Congress Party (NCP). (The CPA called for at least one state in Southern Sudan to be given to the NCP.) There were basically three reasons why Upper Nile was selected amongst all the 10 states to accommodate the NCP's slot in the CPA arrangements. Firstly, the state did not have strong representation in hierarchy of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), and the decision to allocate Upper Nile was at the sole discretion of the SPLM/SPLA authority. Secondly, for many years trade and commerce had been dominated by Arab migrants who had established settlements in areas around northern areas of Upper Nile. Finally, the state's huge oil deposits attracted the interest of the Government of Sudan. All these factors; coupled with other inter-tribal issues have rendered Upper Nile a place of serious political contention. Today, the SPLM remains the single most dominant political party in the state, followed by the SPLM-DC (Democratic Change), and the third ranking NCP.

Overview of recent disarmament campaign

- *History:* Initiated in November 2009, overall figures of the recent disarmament campaign are not available and sources differ on the areas covered. Baliet and Ulang Counties were reportedly disarmed in February 2010, while 500 weapons were later collected in Nasir in March up to the Ethiopian border. In Early May, SPLA Division 7 announced its intention to initiate disarmament of the Shilluk as the king had not done so as previously agreed. In early June, SPLA then moved towards Fashoda County, while civilians were reportedly fleeing the area. This resulted in clashes with the population in Kodok. Disarmament was also reportedly conducted in Manyo County.
- *Process:* Collection mainly by SPLA forces, voluntary at first. After the Obel incident, SPLA then sent intelligence officers prior to the disarmament, which then led to the use of force.
- *Protection:* Forced disarmament has reportedly taken place in Obel, Korkok, Melut, Akoka, Wanding and Panyikang, with a few people reportedly killed in the process.
- *Efficiency:* Reportedly poor results of the voluntary process, mainly in SPLM-DC areas surrounding Malakal. There are also reports of people escaping to the Ethiopian border or hiding away from towns.

Major Conflicts

Partly fuelled by politicians, most conflicts are related to internal or inter-state boundaries, presence of small arms and cattle raiding.

Nomadic migrations

- They are a potential threat for the referendum period in areas along the north-south border. Arab nomads descend from South Kordofan to the Nile's west bank during the dry season (November to May). However, the 2009-2010 season was peaceful, accompanied by a chiefs conference prior to the movement and despite the reported presence of weapons with the nomads.
- Ambororo or Fellata nomads mostly come down from Blue Nile towards Longochuk and Nasir Counties to graze by the Sobat river. During the 2009-2010 season, they moved freely and peacefully with their weapons.
- Maiwut, Longochuk and Nasir Counties are regularly victims of cattle raids from Ethiopia, as nomads come and graze near the Sobat river.
- In search of water, the Lou Nuer seasonal movement towards the Sobat river is the major cause of cattle raids in Upper Nile, regularly affecting both Ulang and Nasir Counties.

Shilluk-Dinka land and ethnic conflicts

- There is a contested stretch of the Nile's west bank between Baliet, Akoka, Malakal, Dolieb Hills and Nagdiar (on the Sobat), which resulted in tribal clashes in 2008 and 2009, and more recent skirmishes during the disarmament process in Fashoda.
- Another contested area is along the border with Jonglei State (Shilluk in Panykang County and Dinka in Piji (aka Khorflus, Atar or Canal) County, resulting in a clash in early 2010.

Lou Nuer - Jikany Nuer land and ethnic conflicts

- Wanding Payam of Ulang County has been a flashpoint of the Lou-Jikany conflict over land, cattle and grazing areas, regularly resulting into clashes since 1993 (the latest occurred in 2009). The area is still tense despite numerous attempts to mediate and County Commissioners' meetings.

Other land issues

- Numerous land or internal border issues affect Upper Nile State, including tensions between Melut and Maban Counties, Baliet and Panyikang, Fashoda and Akoka Counties (Banim and Lul areas), while Lou Nuer from Jonglei State also reportedly occupy the Gashia area of Baliet County.

Political and military tensions within Joint Integrated Units in Malakal

- Malakal town witnessed two major battles involving SPLA and Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) in 2006 and 2009 respectively. Mostly political, this conflict has been fueled by former elements of the South Sudan Defence Forces (SSDF) militia now part of the SAF JIUs, and the presence of JIUs camps within the town.

Border demarcation and troop deployment along the border

- While Southerners claim the 1/1/56 border is as far as Jabalein in White Nile State (50 km north of Girgir), Wunthau (aka Joda or Hatham) in Northern Renk County is a clear potential flashpoint for the coming period, as both SPLA and SAF are deployed there. The road from White Nile was reportedly cut off twice by SAF prior to the elections. Renk County is composed of large pieces of land utilized for mechanised farming by Northerners and is the entry point to Melut County, the principal oil rich area of Upper Nile State.
- Samari is another potential flashpoint along the Eastern border of the State (Maban County), as the SPLA has not yet fully redeployed from west of the 1/1/56 line (probably related to commercial interests with Ethiopia). The SPLA is also present in Bebnis, east of Renk County.
- There is a SAF presence in small numbers in Magenis, northwest of Manyo County (border between Southern Kordofan, West Nile and Upper Nile) and claimed by Upper Nile State. Divided since the colonial period, the area is a centre for agricultural projects and gum Arabic production.
- The SAF is present in Paloic, the oil area of Melut County, where the situation was tense in 2009.
- Finally, the Kuek area, north of Manyo County is contested by Southerners as people have reportedly pushed southwards by as a result of cotton projects expanding from White Nile State.

State Government Structure

The present State Government was elected in April 2010 following the national presidential and state elections.

No.	Name	Position	Location
1	Brig. Gen. Simon Kun Puoch	Governor	Upper Nile
Ministers			
2	Cde Ayong Lual	Minister of Finance, Trade and Economic Planning	Upper Nile
3	Cde James Ruac Kun	Minister of Local Government and Law Enforcement	Upper Nile
4	Cde Riek Pal Rik	Minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development	Upper Nile
5	Cde Chol Chuoli Kak Ajang	Minister of Agriculture and Forestry	Upper Nile
6	Cde Kun Monyang Ding	Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Rural Development	Upper Nile
7	Cde Peter Lam Both	Minister of Information and Broadcasting	Upper Nile
8	Cde Aban Makol Ajal	Minister of Labour and Public Services	Upper Nile
9	Cde Tabisa Gwang Agwok	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs	Upper Nile
10	Cde John Thomas Reng Deng	Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport	Upper Nile
11	Cde Martha Nyamal Choat	Minister of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs	Upper Nile
Commissioners			
1	Cde Dak Tap Chuol	Commissioner	Nasir
2	Cde Peter Chuol Biel	Commissioner	Ulang
3	Cde Joseph Maker Ding	Commissioner	Baliet
4	Cde Gatluak Liphoth	Commissioner	Maiwut
5	Cde Stephen Kueth Gach	Commissioner	Longechuk
6	Cde Josua Wango Aman	Commissioner	Maban
7	Cde Deng Akui Kak	Commissioner	Renk
8	Cde El Tyieb Akiech	Commissioner	Manyon
9	Cde Akuoc Teng Ading	Commissioner	Melute
10	Cde Lt. Col. Pagan Ochayi Tipo	Commissioner	Payinkan
11	Cde Uthor Akwoc Deng	Commissioner	Fashoda
12	Cde Shougi Abach Ajang	Commissioner	Malakal
13	Cde Majak Ador Korajieng	Commissioner	Akoka

Recovery and Development

Infrastructure - Ongoing projects include construction of the road north of Malakal towards Khartoum, funded by the Unity Support Fund (Renk-Malakal portion yet to be completed), and the Nasir-Malakal road funded by the Trust Fund (work has yet to start due to issues with the contractor).

In addition to these two roads, the Minister of Physical Infrastructure is considering construction of two priority roads: Pagak-Meiwut-Mathiang and Paloic-Maban-Renk, as well as two bridges to connect Malakal to Panykang County towards Jonglei State.

There are growing activities in trade and commerce, especially around the Malakal and Renk areas in addition to huge investment in the oil industry. Upper Nile promises to be an area of steady economic growth, if resources are adequately utilized for the benefit of the population. However, the social impact of approximately 106,623 refugees and IDPs who have resettled in the state since 2005 has accelerated the pace of change. On the one hand, promising new skills and fresh ways of thinking have been introduced whereas, on the other hand, challenges are presented given the state's impoverished and ill-prepared post-war social and economic environment. As a result, return and reintegration has placed additional pressure on an already underserved and economically poor resident population. This has to some extent exposed the fundamental weaknesses in state government, and in the work of international agencies that do not have adequate resources to cater for such a growing population.

Basic social services such as roads, schools, health care, and water provision still remain a major challenge for the suffering population. If the state authorities and international partners are to make any significant changes; they will have to increase their provision of services to people in these areas.

There are efforts been made by United Nations agencies and NGOs to address some of these challenges. UNOCHA recently re-established its presence in the state, given the deteriorating humanitarian situation throughout 2009 and continuing into 2010. They are basically managing humanitarian coordination as a key function of their mandate. WFP is performing well in bridging the food gaps created either as a result of conflict or natural disaster. FAO is working with farmers to increase food production in the state through the provision of seeds, tools, and other farming implements. UNICEF is very supportive of the State's Ministries of Health and Education, as well as rural water department, in an effort to strengthen the government's capacity in delivering basic services to its people. UNDP is working on a wide range of projects including governance, peacebuilding, as well as human rights. UNHCR has contributed immensely in the return of refugees and IDPs to their communities of origin, as well as in supporting reintegration projects that facilitate resettlement of people to their communities. WHO has been working with the State Ministry of Health and the county health teams to strengthen the health delivery system at all levels. Additionally, a tremendous amount of work has been undertaken by international and local NGOs, as well as the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in the areas of emergency response, education, health, water and sanitation, agriculture/food security, as well as peacebuilding programmes.

State Resident Coordinator's Support Office

Since the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement in 2005, the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) has worked closely with partners to address humanitarian issues, extend state authority, and expand the safety-net, regularize and modernize the security forces, establish governance systems, put in place the preconditions for economic growth and prepare for the 2011 referendum on self determination. As part of the United Nations effort to better address these complex challenges, combined with the current security and humanitarian situation in Southern Sudan, the Resident Coordinator's Support Office (RCSO) merged with other UNMIS components to create a joint office. By merging these sections, United Nations capacity and coordination at the state level in the areas of humanitarian action, stabilization, protection of civilians and state support will improve significantly.

The newly joint office in Upper Nile State is composed of six staff members who discharge the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator's functions. These include:

- Represent the Deputy Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator at all official 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 United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.
- Support visiting delegation and donors.
- Attend all UNMIS coordination meetings.
- Convene regular meetings of the United Nations State Team.
- Provide strategic guidance to United Nations agencies on the basis of the strategic frameworks agreed at the Juba level.
- Support the work of United Nations agencies working in the state.
- Facilitate the work of all NGOs operating in the state.
- Support state officials in the key dossiers of humanitarian action, stabilization, protection of civilians and state support.

United Nations Agencies and NGOs by Sector

S/No.	AGENCY	LOCATION
Health		
1	ARC	Malakal Town
2	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)	Maban
3	Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS)	Kodok, Renk
4	GOAL	Malakal, Baltet, Ulang
5	IRD	Baltet, Sobat, Nasir
6	Ideas for Consultancy & Research (IDEAS)	Upper Nile State
7	MEDAIR	Melut
8	Medecins du Monde France (MDM)	Tonga, Pez
9	Malaria Consortium South Sudan	North Jonglie
10	Medecins sans Frontières-Holland (MSF-H)	Nasir, Longochuk
11	Maban Relief & Development Organization (MRDO)	Maban
12	Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	Nasir, Pagak, Longochuk, Maban
13	Nasir Community Development Agency (NCDA)	Nasir, Ulang
14	Upper Nile Consortium (Mercy Corps, FAR, Tearfund, Stromme Foundation)	Renk, Melut, Maban
15	OXFAM	Upper Nile State
16	Relief International (RI)	Maban
17	Save the Children Fund USA (SCF-USA)	Pagak, Nasir
18	Save the Children Fund UK (SCF-UK)	Upper Nile State
19	Tearfund	Kodok, Payuer (Renk)
20	UNICEF	Upper Nile State, Unity, Jonglie
21	WHO	Upper Nile State
22	Upper Nile Kalazar Eradication Association (UNKEA)	Nasir, Ulang
23	Church Ecumenical Action in Sudan	Maban, Panyikang, Tonga
Water and Sanitation		
1	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)	Maban
2	Cooperation for Assistance/Relief Everywhere (CARE)	Maban
3	Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS)	Kodok, Renk
4	MEDAIR	Melut
5	Maban Relief & Development Organization (MRDO)	Maban
6	Upper Nile Consortium (Mercy Corps, FAR, Tearfund, Stromme Foundation)	Renk, Melut, Maban

7	Partner Agencies Collaborating Together	Upper Nile State
8	World Vision International (WVI)	Manyo, Panyikang, Fashoda, Sobat
9	Solidarités	Malakal,, Khor Fulus, Road to Nasir
10	YARRDSS	Panyikang, Malakal, Manyo, Fashoda
Food Security		
1	Action Against Hunger/Action contre la faim (AAH/ACF)	Tonga, Toch, Malakal
2	Fashoda Youth Forum	Shilluk Kingdom
3	Fellowship for African Relief	Renk, Melut, Maban
4	FAO	Upper Nile State
5	Food for the Hungry International (FHI)	Mandeng (Nasir), Obel, Chuil(Jonglei)
6	Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	Nasir, Pagak, Longuchuk, Maban
7	Nasir Community Development Agency (NCDA)	Nasir, Ulang
8	OXFAM	Upper Nile State
9	Sudan Aid	Maban
10	Sudan Council of Churches (SCC)	Upper Nile State
11	Vétérinaires sans Frontières-Germany (VSF-Germany)	Upper Nile State
12	Vétérinaires sans Frontières-Belgium (VSF-Belgium)	Upper Nile State
Education		
1	Fashoda Youth Forum	Shilluk Kingdom
2	Handicap International (Mine Risk Education)	Malakal, Maban, Pagak
3	Ideas for Consultancy and Research (IDEAS)	Upper Nile State
4	Maban Relief & Development Organization (MRDO)	Maban
5	Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	Nasir, Pagak, Longuchuk, Maban
6	Upper Nile Consortium (Mercy Corps, FAR, Tearfund, Stromme Foundation)	Renk, Melut, Maban
7	Save the Children Fund USA (SCF-USA)	Pagak, Nasir
8	Save the Children Fund UK (SCF-UK)	Upper Nile State
9	Stromme Foundation	Renk, Melut, Maban
10	UNICEF	Upper Nile State
11	Windle Trust	Upper Nile State
12	World Vision International (WVI)	Manyo, Panyikang, Fashoda, Sobat
13	Upper Nile Kalazar Eridication Association (UNKEA)	Nasir, Ulang
Non-food Items (NFIs)		
1	ADRA	Pagak, Nasir, Malakal

2	GOAL	Ulang, Baliat, Malakal
3	MEDAIR	Melut
4	Relief International (RI)	Maban
5	UNICEF	Upper Nile State
6	World Vision International (WVI)	Manyo, Panyikang, Fahoda, Sobat
Protection		
1	UNHCR	Upper Nile State
2	UNICEF	Upper Nile State
3	UNMIS-POC	Upper Nile State
4	Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW)	Upper Nile State
5	Christ's Ministries Continuous Mission (CMCM)	Malakal
6	ADRA	Pagak, Nasir, Malakal
7	SOS-Kinderdorf International (Child Protection)	Malakal Town
8	World Vision International (WVI)	Manyo, Panyikang, Fahoda, Sobat
Microfinance		
1	American Refugee Committee (ARC)	Malakal Town
2	BRAC	Malakal Town
Emergency Response		
1	MEDAIR	Melut
	Sudan Red Crescent (SRC)	Upper Nile State
Rule of Law		
1	UNDP	Upper Nile State
Returns		
1	UNMIS	Upper Nile State
2	ADRA	Malakal, Pagak, Nasir
3	UNHCR	Upper Nile State
Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)		
1	UNMIS	Upper Nile State
Demining		
1	SLIRI	Upper Nile State
2	UNMIS	Upper Nile State

September 2010