The long road home

Challenges to the reintegration of IDPs and refugees returning to southern Sudan

Jonglei State Report
JONGLEI

- Size: 122,000 Km² (England 130,000 Km²)
- 8 ethnic groups; numerous clans
- Starting place of second civil war & intensification of south/south conflict
- Broken or no basic infrastructure
- Widely scattered pop & complicated return
REINTEGRATION CHALLENGES IN JONGLEI STATE:

Research among returnees & residents emphasised 3 major issues negatively affecting the return process and early recovery.

Anxieties over;
• Physical security and the ability to be protected
• Shortfalls in quantity & quality of essential social services
• The future, and whether livelihoods can be secured and maintained

The context is placing exceptional burden on regional government and international assistance.

Response is mixed and, given the scale of the challenge, largely inadequate.

‘A case of needing to introduce exceptional measures for exceptional circumstances’
Social

Urban V Rural
mentalities & experiences
(IDPs & Residents)

Age & Gender
profiles

Languages, dress, diet,
hygiene, courtship, worship

Underlying legacies & divisions
from war

• Under-estimated factors shaping the pace & nature of reintegration.

• Residents overall recognise returnee benefits, but left carrying the burden.

• Survival is primary occupation: Returnees not yet fully integrated socially.
Security

Primary preoccupation: And a fundamental challenge to successful reintegration

• Situation has improved (2005/6), but not to extent of creating conducive environment for return.
• Causes complex (political, economic, social, security), and not widely understood.
• Security and rule of law institutions are expected to develop incrementally: Question of what is done in the interim?

• Residents & returnees emphasised a focus on;
  1. The control of small arms at community level
  2. Reconciliation & regulation between specific inter-ethnic relationships
Second major concern is access to essential services: A benchmark for peace and confidence in the future in the eyes of many returnees.

- Modest increases in services being outstripped by returning population

- Returnee profile very young (60% between 5 & 17): Making lack of services even more disruptive & causing secondary (women headed) displacements

- Returnee expectations higher than residents.

- Imbalance between institution building & service delivery: Assumptions about what the GOSS can sustain - causing decline in some services and presenting additional challenges for delivery agents (mostly NGOs)
Economic

Third major concern about being able to secure the means to survive & live productively.

Rural livelihoods:
- Land available, but needs substantial labour/time & inputs to be productive.
- Returnee agriculture skills range from progressive to almost none.
- Decline in NR regulation & increasing competition for forest products (distance)
- Livestock perceived as premium savings: Sector needs significant regulation.

Urban livelihoods:
- Major transformation of markets; Entrepreneurs and sources for commodities
- Majority attracted to markets: Insufficient opportunities & capital for available skills.
- Unregulated market growth creating inequalities: Petty trading over-subscribed.
- Resentment over state employment practices: returnees contending residents get preferential treatment.
Conclusion

• **50% returned?:** Impressive, but reintegration is fragile & unsettled. **Spotlight** on wider trends.

• Although progress, still falling far short of minimal targets for successful reintegration: **Fundamentals** for sustainable outcome not in place.

• Especially **alarming** in a society where forces of instability remain & can easily escalate.

• **Implications:** not just a threat to CPA, but fear we are witnessing an environment unfolding that is deeply vulnerable to post-CPA crises.