The long road home

Challenges to the reintegration of IDPs and refugees returning to S. Sudan

Juba report
The context – Juba town

- Population increase
- From garrison town to capital of Southern Sudan
- A challenging transition for a young government
Social reintegration

- Positive: families reunited, new skills
- Negative: language differences; youth behaviour; antagonism residents/returnees
- Resident population bearing the burden of reintegration:
  - hosting large numbers of returning relatives
  - severe pressure on household resources
  - relatives forced to stay even when they find work (no land)
- Violence and intimidation by soldiers
Economic reintegration

- Rapidly growing economy, yet saturated labour market for unskilled
- Challenges for returnees with skills in finding work
- Lack of micro-credit opportunities and limitations of vocational training
- Public sector employment:
  - integration of SPLM workforce and impact on payroll
  - language barrier, nepotism and corruption
  - unrealistic expectations of returnees
- Private sector:
  - ‘cowboy capitalism’
  - work permit issue
  - legislative vacuum
Services

- Population expansion → deterioration of services
- Service delivery dependent on NGOs: decline in funding = decline in services
- Education: very crowded schools; drop in quality; language problem
- Health: reliance on JTH; lack of PHCCs in suburbs
- Water: reliance on the Nile with serious consequences
- Basic services personnel challenges
- Returnees used to higher levels of services in area of displacement
- Lack of services in other areas of CES
Leadership and institutions

- Tribal leadership shaped by urban context and GoS rule
- Mistrust of urban Bari chiefs by GOSS
- IDP and refugee chiefs not recognized on return; returnees not yet integrated into leadership structures
- Uncertainty about new leadership structures at local level: awaiting local elections and new legislation
Land

- Cornerstone of returnees’ reintegration
- Land and property disputes
  - IDP occupation of abandoned property
  - plots being forcibly occupied by military or the powerful
  - multiple issuing of leases for one plot
  - unauthorised building on plots
  - illegal sale of land
  - long term occupancy without registration
  - women’s rights
- Town planning (evictions)
- Creation of new plots (Bari vs CES and GOSS)
- Dispute resolution: hybrid system/contested chief role
- Legislative vacuum
The new land allotment committee had stopped all applications for any type of land. Those who applied since even before 2005 are to be considered when land becomes available. Therefore all files are to be kept by the department until the period of the distribution of forms to those who have not filled the forms.

Land

21/12/2008
Conclusion

• The next few years will be crucial to the future stability and prosperity of Juba.

• Successes must be built on and the lessons of failure learnt.

• Head of UNMIS in S.S.: ‘there is a real opportunity to make a difference here, but it needs serious investment’. 