

## Summary Action Report

Reporting Period: 21 April to 30 June 2018

### Greater Bahr el Ghazal Actions

#### Post-migration conference between the Misseriya and the Dinka Malual, Wanyjok, Aweil East State, 25-27 June

**Context:** The international cattle migration mechanism in Northern Bahr El Ghazal (NBeG) between Sudan and South Sudan has resulted in peaceful coexistence and reduction in violence since 2008. Despite this, successful cross-border migration remains challenging as the security environment is highly unpredictable. This year, with support from Civil Affairs Division (CAD) and partners, the Dinka Malual community of NBeG held pre-migration conferences with Misseriya pastoralists from Sudan in Wanyjok, Aweil East State. They reached a number of resolutions, which are recognised as binding for the communities, and requested CAD to support a post-migration conference to review the status of the implementation of the resolutions and their impact on the migration season.

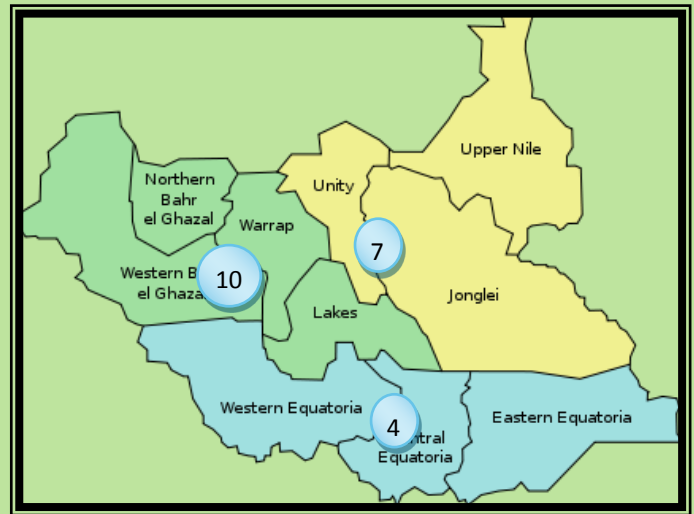
**Action:** CAD, UNDP and FAO supported the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Regional Coordinator, Aweil East State authorities and Joint Border Peace Committees (JBPC), representing Dinka Malual and Misseriya, in organizing the post-migration conference for 60 participants including community leaders, government officials, peace actors, youth and women. The conference reviewed the issues that affected the migration seasons and the role of the JBPC and security agencies in maintaining peace and security.



**Outcome:** The participants noted that a few cattle theft incidents and some minor tension between youth of two communities were peacefully resolved by the JBPC. The commander of SPLA Division III and representatives of the host government assured the Misseriya of their commitment to provide security during their return to Sudan and readiness to provide security during the next migration season. Misseriya and Dinka Malual leaders expressed their willingness to collaborate on peacebuilding efforts. CAD continuously encouraged the peace partners, government and JBPC to ensure the effective functioning of a peaceful migration process.

**Observation:** CAD and partners will continue to support international cattle migration mechanisms between Sudan and South Sudan, including exploring opportunities for replication of the same mechanisms in the greater Unity area.

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#### Community sensitisation sessions to promote reconciliation and peaceful coexistence between returnees and host communities, Lokoloko and Jebel Kheir return areas, Wau town, 19-20 June

**Context:** The national crises of 2013 and 2016 resulted in the displacement of thousands of community members from Wau State to the PoC site and IDP collection sites in Wau. With a relative improvement in security in Wau town, many IDPs have returned to their homes from the PoC site, but deep-rooted mistrust is affecting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between returnees and communities.

**Action:** CAD, in partnership with the Wau Civil Society network, organized two separate community dialogue sessions in the return areas of Lokoloko and Jebel Kheir to encourage voluntary return of the IDPs and promote peaceful coexistence between returnees and communities in return areas. The event featured activities including dramas, folk songs and dance to highlight the impact of war on the communities and to advocate for peaceful coexistence and social cohesion. A total of 110 community members (22 women) attended the event in Lokoloko while 90 (47 women) were present in Jebel Kheir.



**Outcome:** The use of entertainment for advocacy provided an enabling atmosphere for the participants to exchange views on their mutual preoccupations and issues that contribute to mistrust. The participants, particularly women, spoke strongly against issues that fuel prejudices and fear



among the community and called for the community members to embrace each other.

**Observation:** The use of entertainment during the sensitisation sessions proved to be very effective in addressing the fundamental issues causing communal tension between both sides. It created a safe space for open discussion.

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### **Peace and reconciliation dialogue between Panawur and Panaguong sub-clans, Mayath, Duony County, Gok State, 31 May – 01 June**

**Context:** Duony, the second largest county in Gok State, faced serious insecurity during the civil war period, forcing residents to flee to neighboring Abiriu County. The residents, mainly Panawur and Panaguong sub-clans, began returning to Duony County in late 2016, however, in June 2017, renewed conflict caused further upheaval, leading to the death of several people, including four executive chiefs. During the conflict, the Nyang sub-clan was drawn into the conflict as an ally to the Panawur. To address persistent communal tensions, CAD, other peace actors, and state authorities proposed to organise a peace dialogue between Panawur and Panaguong community members.

**Action:** CAD supported the state authorities in organizing a peace dialogue for 115 participants (16 women) from Panawur and Panaguong sub-clans, where they discussed existing disputes, grievances, and contributing



factors. The peace dialogue also coincided with the ongoing disarmament exercise taking place across the Lakes states. The participants acknowledged that the conflict has resulted in loss of life, displacement, limited freedom of movement, hunger, starvation and poverty among other issues, mainly due to internal divisions, competition for superiority and over scarce resources, poor administration of justice, proliferation of arms and political influence.

**Outcome:** Both sides agreed to reconcile their differences and reached a 14-point peace resolution which they formally signed on 22 June in presence of the Deputy State Governor of Gok. Community leaders from both sides performed traditional rituals on 23 June to a seal the peace deal.

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### **Capacity building of religious leaders on peaceful coexistence and social cohesion, Aweil, 17 May**

**Context:** In Northern Bahr el Ghazal, ethnic divisions and disputes over the creation of new states and county boundaries have influenced communal relations in several areas. Cognisant of the influence of religious leaders in mending communal relations, peace building and promotion of social cohesion, the Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Northern Bahr el Ghazal requested CAD's support to bring religious leaders together to discuss strategies on how to best support peacebuilding efforts.

**Action:** The Episcopal church in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and CAD collaborated to organise a forum for 65 religious leaders from Christian and Muslim faiths to discuss efforts to support peaceful coexistence, reconciliation and social cohesion. The initiative complemented local efforts by religious leaders to promote peace in society through preaching peace, unity, equality, dialogue and reconciliation. The training aimed to strengthen the participation of religious leaders in building a cohesive society and contribute to peaceful coexistence and establish communication among religious leaders regarding their roles.

**Outcome:** The religious leaders agreed to promote social cohesion and national identity in their sermons and identify sources of disharmony in society, including nepotism, absence of rule of law, discrimination, and corruption and work with the government to address them. The deputy governor and state ministers attending the event acknowledged the positive role of the religious leaders in promoting peace and assured to provide the necessary support.

**Observation:** It would be important to continue supporting the work of inter-religious faith groups aimed at promoting social cohesion. The assurance by the deputy state governor to work with the religious leaders in addressing rule of law related issues is encouraging.

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### **Peace Dialogue between Thiik and Kongor communities, Tonj East, Tonj Sate, 5-6 May**

**Context:** In Tonj State, for years, Dinka Rek clans of Thiik and Kongor have been in conflict, mainly over competition for grazing areas, water points and sharing of other resources. Violent clashes between the two clans have resulted in the loss of numerous lives, displacement of civilians, destruction of properties and rampant food shortage. CAD has been supporting peace initiatives to bring both sides to reconcile to restore peace and unhampered pursuit of livelihoods for the mutual benefits of communities in Tonj East.

**Action:** CAD, in partnership with Tonj State authorities, organised a two-day peace forum in Aguomut, Ngabagok County, for 250 participants (50 women) representing Thiik and Kongor communities of Jalwau and Ngabagok counties. Among them were paramount and executive chiefs, spear masters, community leaders, cattle keepers, women, youth as well as county authorities. Participants discussed root causes of the conflict, effectiveness of past government interventions, the role of rule of law institutions, and social and economic factors that affect communal relations, and presented recommendations to address them.

**Outcome:** The dialogue forum produced a nine-point resolution agreed and signed by the two communities. Peace committees were also formed to disseminate the resolution, advocate for peaceful coexistence and impress the need for resolution of communal disputes through negotiations under the auspices of peace committees.



**Observation:** The timely establishment of a special court to address past cases of communal violence, as requested by the communities, would ensure sustainability of peace between the two communities.



## Dialogue between Ajak and Ajongdith communities, Aweil, 23 May

**Context:** In Aweil, the Ajak and the Ajongdith communities have been in conflict for many years over the ownership of a fertile agricultural farm in the Dang area. In 2016, at a CAD organised forum, both sides had signed a resolution to peacefully resolve the matter and abide by the provisions of the resolution. However, cultivation season in 2017 witnessed renewal of the conflict, necessitating state authorities and CAD to organise a follow up forum to urge the two to re-commit to the previous resolutions.



**Action:** CAD supported commissioners of Aweil and Aweil East states in organising a daylong forum for the Ajak and the Ajongdith communities to discuss issues that caused the failure of the previous resolution and identify causes of the renewed conflict. The commissioners informed the two communities that the disputed land was earmarked by the government for national agriculture schemes and should be shared by both sides, according to norms set by the state government.

**Outcome:** A resolution was reached to equally divide the portion of disputed land between the two communities and a committee was formed to monitor its implementation and intervene in the event of disputes. The community chiefs confirmed their commitment to abide by the resolution and maintain peace. The commissioners of Aweil and Aweil East states, in coordination with community chiefs, will demarcate the land that will be given to each community. CAD was requested to monitor the implementation of agreed upon resolutions.

**Observation:** Timely demarcation of land will be important to sustain the agreed upon resolution.

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## Forum to discuss boundary disputes, Aweil, 30 April

**Context:** The creation of 28 new states in 2015 and further subdivision in 2017 to 32 states in South Sudan has created tension in some areas over boundary disputes. Aweil State is among those areas where county boundary disputes have divided communities and created tension. Some communities fear that the newly created counties within Aweil State will undermine their influence and weaken them against other communities. Following the failure of several mechanisms to produce results, the ministry of local government and other government agencies requested that CAD support a dialogue forum between traditional leaders and government authorities to seek a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

**Action:** CAD, in partnership with Lol State authorities, including the ministry of youth, culture and sports, organised a dialogue forum for 50 participants including local authorities, county commissioners, state legislative assembly members, traditional leaders, youth and women. The forum discussed the local government act on the creation of counties and payams and suggested ways to address existing disputes in light of lessons learnt



from other areas where subdivision of states and counties was peacefully carried out.

**Outcome:** The forum recommended that boundaries of new counties and payams be determined according to majority ethnic representation, in compliance with the Local Government Act of 2009. It was also recommended that neutral people from outside the disputed territories be used to mediate the border disputes. Participants called for a moratorium on the appointment of additional executive chiefs, and proposed payment of taxes in areas of residence instead of payment to administrations in their ancestral area.

**Observation:** It remains to be seen if neutral arbitrators would be able to reconcile the communities and influence government authorities to accept new proposals for border demarcation.

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## Discussion forums on best practices related to the implementation of Marial Bai Agreement, Wau, 30 May-7 June

**Context:** The pastoral migration from Tonj and Gogrial states into Wau State is usually marked by violence and displacement of host farmers due to disputes with pastoralists. CAD has been supporting state and local communities in mainstreaming the terms of the Marial Bai Agreement, named after the location where it was signed by the three states, since its adoption in 2015. The migration season in 2017 saw an upsurge in communal violence in Wau and Kuajena counties of Wau State, prompting the three states to revisit the agreement and revise its terms to strengthen compliance. At the request of state authorities, CAD and other partners supported the Interstate Coordinating Committee on Cattle Migration (ICCM) in their efforts to sensitise communities about provisions of the revised agreement from December to January with the aim to improve the implementation of the agreement. The current exercise was undertaken to review the status of its implementation.



**Action:** CAD in partnership with CARDO (Community Aid for Relief and Development Organization) supported the ICCM led campaign to review the implementation of the Marial Bai Agreement during the 2018 migration season in Udici, Kangi, Marial Bai, Rocrocdong and Kuajena counties and Wau Municipality. Focus group discussions were held with 128 influential community leaders, county authorities, area chiefs, farmers, youth and women. The discussions evaluated lessons learnt and best practices from the five counties of Wau State on the implementation of the revised agreement and its impact on improving relations between pastoralists and host farmers.

**Outcome:** Focus group discussions revealed that the migration season in 2018 remained mostly peaceful throughout the five counties of Wau State, attributed to better implementation of the agreement, civilian disarmament, better coordination between state authorities, effective information sharing and monitoring by ICCM. They also identified areas for improvement in future migration seasons including issuance of migration permits by traditional leaders instead of county commissioners, abiding the agreed dates for migration and establishing joint mechanisms to address general criminality.

**Observation:** There is a need to include Aweil South in the Marial Bai Agreement as many pastoralists from that area also migrate to Wau State during the dry season.

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## Capacity building workshop on conflict management, peacebuilding, and reconciliation, Wau, 09 May

**Context:** The government of Wau State has consistently expressed its intention to restore peace in Wau town and undertook various actions to build the confidence and trust of displaced people living in the PoC site and other locations to return to their homes. The state government established security posts across Wau town, deployed security forces to the areas deserted by the IDPs and in collaboration with CAD, organised caravans to spread peace messages. In October 2017, the state government constituted a 35-member State High Committee to promote peaceful coexistence and reconciliation among various communities, but due to lack of capacity and an unclear mandate, the committee remained largely unfunctional.

**Action:** CAD organized a capacity building training workshop on conflict management, reconciliation and peacebuilding for 20 members of the State High Committee and 19 others (20 women) from line ministries and departments and civil society organisations. Sessions discussed the role of the State High Committee and the activities that may be undertaken to support peace and reconciliation. Additionally, CAD gave presentations on mediation, reconciliation and dialogue to promote sustainable peace. State officials emphasised the need to form local peace committees that will support the State High Committee in the implementation of their mandate.

**Outcome:** The State High Committee members outlined their roles and drafted a set of key actions to be undertaken in the state to promote peace

and reconciliation at the grassroots level. A mechanism was also agreed upon to strengthen coordination between the committee and the state advisor for peace.

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## Inter-state Peace Dialogue on the Apuk, Aguok and Kuac conflict, Ajiep, Kuac East County, Gogrial State; 21-25 April 2018

**Context:** The competition over sharing of natural resource, unresolved past cases of violence and struggle for political dominance have been among the root causes of longstanding animosity between Apuk and Aguok communities in Gogrial State. The continuing cycle of conflict between the two communities during April-June 2017 spilled over to neighbouring communities of Kuac (Gogrial State), Marial Bai (Wau State) and Abiem (Tonj State). The violence during this period resulted in over 100 people killed and injured, scores displaced, and properties looted. In July of 2017, the government declared a state of emergency in Gogrial and parts of Wau and Tonj and Aweil East State and commenced civilian disarmament to stem violence. CAD, in consultation with Gogrial State authorities, proposed a peace initiative to bring together relevant stakeholders, including government and community leaders of Apuk and Aguok as well as Kuac, Marial Bai and Abiem, and set a mechanism to address issues affecting intercommunal relations.

**Action:** CAD supported a Gogrial State government led peace conference between Apuk, Aguok and Kuac communities which was attended by over 500 participants (150 women) including community leaders, traditional chiefs, spear masters, cattle keepers, youth and other influential community leaders. The Vice President of South Sudan, James Wani Igga, governors of Gogrial and Twic states, deputy governors of Tonj and Gogrial, deputy administrator of Abyei Administrative Area, National MPs as well as Gogrial and Twic State Legislative Assembly members were also present on the occasion. The participants noted that since its manifestation in 2005, the communal conflict has claimed 4,028 lives, despite eight previous reconciliation initiatives, which failed due to violations by both sides. In addition, they noted that political interference, lack of rule of law, proliferation of arms in the hands of civilians, and unresolved border disputes were among the main contributors to the violence. The forum reviewed challenges to previous peace agreements and agreed upon coordination and implementation mechanisms.

**Outcome:** After several rounds of group discussions, Apuk, Aguok and Kuac communities signed a declaration denouncing violence and calling for peaceful coexistence. The declaration sets principals for the resolution of the conflict and provides a workplan for community engagement, expected to culminate in the signing of a peace agreement by 30 November 2018.

**Observation:** The formation of peace committees as well as affective coordination and dissemination of the declaration and inclusive consultations are important preparations in advance of the 30 November peace agreement. CAD will conduct follow up meetings with the Aguok and Apuk communities to advocate for the implementation of the declaration.

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## Greater Upper Nile Actions:

### Post-migration workshop between pastoralists and host communities, Duk Padiet County, Jonglei State, 29 May

**Context:** The seasonal migration of pastoralists during the dry season from Ayod and Uror areas to Duk Padiet County in Jonglei State often results in conflicts between Lou and Gawar (sub-clans of Nuer) pastoralists and host Dinka cattle keepers due to competition over scarce water and grazing areas. A CAD organised pre-migration workshop in March 2018 had set norms and mechanisms to ensure peaceful conduct of the migration and recommended a review at the end of the migration season.

**Action:** The CAD organized post-migration workshop brought together 135 participants (six women) comprised of chiefs, youth of Lou and Gawar pastoralist communities, and host Dinka cattle keepers. The representatives of the three communities noted that the cattle migration during the dry season of 2018 had mostly been peaceful due to adherence to the provisions of the pre-migration conference agreements. They noted that the host community facilitated the access of pastoralists' cattle to water sources during their passage through the county headquarters and allocated separate cattle camps in the grazing areas. Pastoralists also appreciated the security and safety provided to them by the Dinka youth by escorting their cattle all the way to the border during the return. The Gawar noted that some criminal elements attacked them on several occasions, forcing them to return to Ayod earlier than the anticipated time. All sides highlighted that the return of stolen cattle by the traditional courts helped to prevent conflict among the cattle keepers in the grazing area.

**Outcome:** The post-migration workshop helped the three communities to appreciate the positive outcomes of the implementation of the resolutions



of the pre-migration workshop and committed to implement good practices during subsequent migration seasons. They also appreciated that the peaceful relationship between Bieh, Fangak and Jonglei states contributes to peaceful coexistence.

**Observation:** The construction of additional water reservoirs along the migration routes would be important to maintain peace between these groups during future migration seasons.

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### Reconciliation forum between four conflicting sections in Akobo East County, Akobo State, 04-07 June

**Context:** In Akobo, sub-clans of Lou Nuer have been prone to conflicts due to unresolved disputes and cycles of revenge killings. Since September 2017, two sections of Cie Bur and Cie Luongor have been in conflict, which led to violent clashes in early 2018, claiming many lives on both sides. Another continuing conflict between Cie Bol and Chie Mankoat also resulted in loss of life on both sides during early 2018. After several unsuccessful mediation attempts and continuing tensions, county and traditional authorities requested that CAD facilitate a dialogue process between these four sections to reconcile them.

**Action:** CAD organised two separate forums to facilitate a dialogue between Cie Bur and Cie Luongor as well as between Cie Bol and Chie Mankoat. Each dialogue was attended by 40 participants, comprised of county authorities, chiefs, elders, youth and women. The dialogue session between Cie Bur and Cie Luongor sections featured accusations against



each other for not paying blood money for past killings and provocation by singing offensive folk songs. After heated discussions, they agreed that the contentious issue of blood compensation needs to be resolved for a meaningful reconciliation promoting peace. The dialogue between Cie Bol and Chie Mankoat noted that conflict between them started over a marriage dispute and escalated to claim many lives due to a cycle of revenge killings. They stated that previous reconciliation attempts failed due to disagreements over the quantity and quality of compensation offered to each other.

**Outcome:** The Cie Bur and Cie Luongor sections signed a resolution to reconcile and pay compensation for the killing of three people from each side by the end of August 2018. The resolution also calls for immediate relocation of each community from the areas where they live in close proximity, the end of revenge killings and random firing, and for community members to avoid singing offensive songs and refer future disputes to state authorities.

The Cie Bol and Chie Mankoat sections agreed to end fighting, and compensate the families of those killed by the end of June. They also agreed to sensitise youth about the peace resolutions and ensure implementation. The executive director of Akobo appreciated CAD intervention and stated that the workshop successfully resolved conflicts between the communities which were previously deemed unsolvable.

**Observation:** The payment of blood compensation within the set deadlines will be essential to maintaining peace between the parties.

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### Inter-state conference to support peaceful cattle migration, Mayendit County, Southern Liech State, 23 April

**Context:** Mayendit County in Southern Liech State receives a large number of cattle during the migration season from Rubkuay and Koch counties as well as from Maper in Lakes and the Makuac, Luany Jang area of Warrap. Despite formation of a joint committee in October 2017, cattle raids and migration related disputes are a common occurrence in the area. To address this issue, the commissioners of Mayendit (Southern Liech), Maper (Lakes) and Luany-Jany (Warrap) counties proposed to hold a joint conference in Pabuong Payam of Mayendit (considered a central location) and requested CAD support.

**Action:** In Mayendit, CAD and local authorities organised a daylong peace conference featuring participation of 100 community representatives from Mayendit and Makuac communities, including local authorities, traditional chiefs, elders, cattle camp youth leaders and women groups. The aim of the conference was to establish mechanisms to regulate cattle grazing and migration and address issues that affect peaceful coexistence. Nuer communities from Mayendit and the Dinka communities from Makuac equally expressed their desire to promote peaceful coexistence and stressed the need to establish joint mechanisms to curb the cycle of cattle raids and





revenge attacks, which they identified as major issues contributing to insecurity and tension between the two communities. CAD briefed the participants on the best approaches to conflict management and promotion of social cohesion and guided discussions to identify root causes and recommend a way forward.

**Outcome:** The conference provided a platform for the Nuer and Dinka communities in Mayendit and Makuach, respectively, to meet and exchange ideas on how to promote peaceful coexistence. The local authorities, cattle camp youth leaders, elders and chiefs from both sides pledged to work together to achieve sustainable peace at the local level.

**Observation:** National political and security developments would likely impact the outcome of the conference.

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### Cattle migration conference between Misseriya pastoralists from Sudan and host Mayom community, Mayom town, 25-26 April

**Context:** Seasonal cattle migration from Sudan to greater Unity in South Sudan invariably experiences conflicts between pastoralists and host communities in the absence of a migration mechanism, unlike Northern Bahr el Ghazal where such mechanisms have been in place for years. Migration season in 2018 in January and February saw an upsurge in migration related conflicts between Misseriya pastoralists from Sudan and the host Bul Nuer community in Mayom, resulting in loss of life and stealing of cattle. Following numerous engagements and efforts by CAD to advocate peaceful resolution of the conflict, state and county authorities proposed to host a dialogue between pastoralists and host communities to address insecurity and facilitate the peaceful conduct of the migration season.

**Action:** CAD organised a peace forum between the representatives of Misseriya pastoralists from Sudan and host communities in Mayom with the participation of local authorities, traditional chiefs, elders, cattle camp youth leaders, and women groups. The deputy commissioner for Bul East County stressed the need for both sides to work together to normalise their



relations and to coexist peacefully. Representatives from both sides identified factors affecting their relations, including cattle raids, and made recommendations to address them. Key speakers from both sides highlighted the negative impact of the ongoing tension, including loss of lives and reduction in commercial interactions.

**Outcome:** The leaders of Misseriya and Bul Nuer host communities formed a joint committee and agreed to work towards improving communal relations and identifying criminal elements involved in cattle raiding.

**Observation:** Establishment of a permanent mechanism through political engagement would be essential to regulate annual cattle migration across international borders between Sudan and South Sudan.

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### Dialogue and reconciliation conference against the culture of revenge killings, Guit County, Northern Liech State, 29-30 May

**Context:** In the past few months, Guit County in Northern Liech State has been marred with a cycle of revenge attacks and killings, especially involving Chienglem and Chiengkuoth communities of Kuach Payam. These triggers have led to communal tension and strained relations between the residents of the PoC site in Bentiu. In response, the commissioner of Guit County and local chiefs requested that CAD facilitate a dialogue and reconciliation forum between conflicting communities to address the cycle of revenge attacks.

**Action:** CAD, in partnership with local authorities, organised a two-day dialogue and reconciliation conference featuring the participation of 103 (36 women) traditional chiefs, spiritual leaders, elders, women, youth, reli-



gious leaders and government authorities from all nine payams of Guit County. CAD moderated sessions on conflict management and conflict transformation and methods to address communal disputes. In an open and interactive dialogue, the participants identified root causes of communal conflicts in Guit County that affect communal relations and peaceful coexistence. They noted that weak rule of law institutions, lack of social cohesion, and dilapidation of the traditional justice system were among main reasons contributing to communal tensions.

**Outcome:** A set of recommendations were adopted to address communal tensions, including commitment to the continuation of dialogue between communities adversely affected by revenge killings and attacks, identification and punishment of those involved in revenge attacks and criminality, and efforts to strengthen the role of traditional chiefs and elders. A 21-member joint peace committee was constituted to implement the action plan regarding the recommendations. Two spiritual leaders performed the traditional bull sacrifice as a symbol of commitment to breaking the practice of revenge killings.

**Observation:** Stronger political will to address communal conflicts in Guit County would be important as some suspects involved in revenge killing incidents remain at large allegedly due to lack of action by authorities.

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## Reconciliation forum between refugees from Sudan and host communities, Jamjang County (Ruweng State), 3-4 May

**Context:** Jamjang County in Ruweng State is host to thousands of refugees from the Southern Kordofan region of Sudan. Relations between the host community and refugees generally remain peaceful but competition over limited natural resources and criminal activities of individual perpetrators often strain relations and threaten peaceful coexistence. Government authorities have also expressed their frustration over lack of cooperation from refugees to address issues of criminality. Following interactions with refugees, host community and government authorities, CAD proposed to organise a reconciliation forum to improve mutual trust and cooperation

**Action:** At the request of the Ruweng State Governor, CAD in collaboration with UNHCR and state authorities, facilitated a reconciliation conference to bring over 60 refugee and host community leaders together to discuss ways to promote peaceful coexistence. CAD introduced the participants to various tools and techniques required for conflict management and impressed the need for the negotiated settlement of community disputes. Participants highlighted poverty and competition over limited resources as main reasons behind communal conflicts.



**Outcome:** The forum resulted in the formation of a joint committee that will work to manage conflicts emerging between the two communities, address issues of mutual concern, and enhance collaboration and cooperation with the state authorities in addressing security challenges.

**Observation:** CAD will continue to follow up with the state authorities and community leaders to ensure the provision of support to the joint committee. Relative stability in the area provides the opportunity for further engagements to promote peaceful coexistence.

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## Roundtable on communal conflict management, reconciliation and social cohesion for local and traditional authorities, Tonga, Panyikang County, Central Upper Nile State, 23-24 May

**Context:** The national crises of 2013 resulted in the displacement of civilians from Upper Nile State to the Malakal PoC site, Sudan, and Tonga Payam in Panyikang County. Tonga remained under opposition control from 2015 until early 2017. The renewed fighting between government and opposition forces in April and May of 2017 resulted in further displacement, loss of lives and family separations. However, due to relative peace under opposition control, many displaced communities returned to the area in late 2017 and early 2018. During a visit to Tonga in February 2018, CAD noted the return of a sizeable number of civilians from Leer, Abrouc, Pangak, and Kodok including Shilluk, Nuer, Sudanese communities who were facing various issues affecting peaceful coexistence.

**Action:** CAD organised a roundtable discussion to support local authorities and rebuild trust in traditional and informal dispute resolution mechanisms. The event was attended by 85 chiefs, elders, youth and women groups from Nuer and Shilluk communities. It was the first major UNMISS engagement in Tonga since the national conflict of 2013. The participants deliberated on the linkage between formal and informal dispute resolution and mediation mechanisms and proposed to promote social cohesion by making the best use of them. Participants discussed conflict management techniques and concluded that conflict can be negative or positive depending on how it is managed.

**Outcome:** The event contributed to raising awareness amongst the authorities on conflict management approaches, and participants agreed to work to enable communities to develop relationships based on mutual respect.

**Observation:** CAD plans to hold additional workshops in Tonga and Pigi counties to create a platform for intercommunal interaction.

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## Greater Equatoria Actions:

### Dialogue forum between Jieng Council of Elders and Jubek State elders, Juba, 8 June

**Context:** The presence of Dinka Bor pastoralists from Jonglei State in greater Equatoria since the early 1990s has been a source of tension for local farming communities. The national crises of 2016 further strained these relations, resulting in periodic clashes between these groups. President Salva Kiir issued separate decrees in 2015 and 2017 ordering the return of cattle from the Equatorias to their places of origin, but several factors impeded effective implementation, despite concerted efforts by government authorities. In early 2018, many Dinka Bor cattle camps were gathered from Central and Eastern Equatoria in the Nesitu area south-east of Juba for onward travel to Jonglei under the supervision of a government committee, but they dispersed again creating fears of further tension with the local farming communities. Cognisant of the situation, CAD recommended that the leaders of both communities mitigate tension and discuss a mutually acceptable way forward.

**Action:** CAD organised a daylong forum for the Jieng Council of Elders (Dinka leadership) and the Council of Elders of the Equatorias to deliberate and explore mechanisms to address root causes of the conflict and promote peaceful coexistence. Both sides reviewed the implementation status of a joint communique issued by both councils in October 2016 at a CAD facilitated forum and deliberated on the factors that were impeding the implementation of the Presidential decree on the cattle return from Equatoria. They noted that major factors affecting the returns were insecurity along the route and inadequate pastures in Jonglei and proposed the identification of alternate options to address communal tension.

**Outcome:** The leaders of both communities formed a joint committee to support the implementation of the Presidential decree on the cattle return by sensitising Dinka Bor pastoralists and host communities. They agreed to host a joint peace conference after reaching out to the cattle camps



across Central Equatoria. Additionally, they further recommended the disarmament of cattle keepers and resolution of disputes through rule of law institutions.

**Observation:** CAD will continue engagements with the joint committee and relevant government officials to advocate for the implementation of the agreed upon resolutions and support the proposed reconciliation conference.

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### Forum for conflict prevention between pastoralists and farmers, Mvolo, Amadi State, 25 May 2018

**Context:** The cattle migration season in South Sudan brings conflicts between farmers and pastoralists resulting in loss of life and property. To address migration related tension in the five states of Amadi, Terekeka, Eastern, Western Lakes and Gok, CAD initiated efforts in partnership with VISTAS. At a conference in Mvolo in May 2017, a baseline agreement for

managing cattle migration between the five states was signed. A second conference in Rumbek in August 2017 saw official formulation of the Joint Border Peace Committee (JBPC) and drafting of roles and responsibilities. At a third conference in Yirol, Eastern Lakes State, in October 2017, training was delivered to JBPC members to help build technical skills in carrying out their functions. The fourth conference in Tali (Terekeka) in February 2018 concluded with the signing of an agreement between the communities of the five states to abide by the process initiated in Mvolo in May 2017, and to manage cattle migration within the parameters established by the JBPC. With the expected migration of cattle from Mvolo to Amadi State, CAD planned to sensitise communities in



Mvolo about the provisions of the peace agreement to ensure peaceful migration.

**Action:** CAD Yambio FO organized a peace forum for 53 participants (10 women) including members of the Joint Border Peace Committee, chiefs, elders, youth, farmers, pastoralists and county representatives from Mvolo, Bar-el Grindi and Yero counties. The JBPC members briefed them about the provisions of the agreement and shared their good practices and challenges in monitoring the conflict issues related to migration. They stated that migration related conflicts in Mvolo and Bar-el Grindi counties were caused by pastoralists from Gok, Eastern and Western Lakes states, however, effective implementation of the agreement would reduce such incidents.

**Outcome:** The activity enhanced participants' knowledge and understanding about the five-state cattle migration agreement and the role of JBPC. Farmers and pastoralists agreed to report all migration related incidents to the JBPC for peaceful resolution.

**Observation:** Lack of resources and delays in the provision of promised resources by the five states to the JBPC would be detrimental to the success of the implementation of the migration agreement. CAD will continue to advocate for the governors of the five states to provide support to the committees.

### Conflict management training workshop, Kapoeta South County, Kapoeta State, 3-5 May

**Context:** Since December 2017, Kapoeta State in Eastern Equatoria has experienced an upsurge in cattle raids, revenge attacks and general criminality along major roads. The State Peace Commission, mandated to foster peace by supporting conflict mitigation and resolution between various communities, lacks capacity and technical skills to efficiently perform its duties. The youth union in the area, which could play major role in conflict prevention and mitigation, also lacks capacity to effectively leverage its potential.

**Action:** CAD organised a workshop to capacitate 65 participants (16 women) including members of the State Peace Commission, youth union and members of civil society organisations on conflict management and



peace building skills and the identification of early warning indicators. The participants shared information on local conflict dynamics in Kapoeta State and developed many scenarios that would require intervention of state authorities and youth. CAD sessions discussed tools and techniques required for affective dialogue, mediation and negotiation.

**Outcome:** The State Peace Commission, youth and representatives of civil society organisations drafted a strategic intervention workplan to address various communal conflicts and issues of insecurity.

**Observation:** It is important that CAD and other peace actors support implementation of the strategic intervention workplan.

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## Reconciliation and Peace Forum for conflicting communities of Loguruny, Iloli and Omaha areas, Torit East County, Torit State, 23-24 May

**Context:** Loguruny, Iloli and Omaha communities of Torit East County lived in relative harmony in the past, sharing natural resources, grazing lands and cementing their relations through inter-marriages, however relations turned in March 2017 following an isolated criminal incident. They reconciled in April after intervention of the state peace commission, CAD and the youth union, but another incident involving the burning of harvested crops led to a cycle of revenge attacks and killings involving Loguruny, Iloli and Omaha communities. A series of meetings between CAD, affected communities and state authorities resolved to reconcile the communities through a peace forum.

**Action:** CAD, in partnership with the county authorities, state peace commission, and inter-religious council, organised a two-day reconciliation forum at a neutral venue for 83 participants (16 women) from Loguruny, Iloli, and Omaha as well as 12 neighbouring villages. The participants highlighted their grievances and provided an account of their losses because of fighting. Participants from neighbouring villages also mentioned that the communal conflict between Loguruny, Iloli and Omaha has affected their livelihoods, access to services and created insecurity along major routes.

**Outcome:** After several rounds of face-to-face discussions, conflicting parties agreed to reconcile by agreeing to a set of resolutions. They concluded that no community will claim compensation for previous killings and losses, and that community elders and youth unions will be responsible to maintain peace in the area and along the supply routes.

**Observation:** CAD will coordinate with other peace actors, the state peace commission and the youth union to ensure the implementation of resolutions.

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Civil Affairs Division