

## Summary Action Report

Reporting Period: 01 March– 20 April 2018

### Greater Bahr el Ghazal Actions

#### Sports for peace, Raja, Lol State, 14-16 April

**Context:** The creation of Lol State under the 28 state model, carved out of the areas that were formerly part of Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal states, has been a source of polarized relations between Fertit and Dinka Malual communities. The Fertit opposed the formation of the new state on the basis that they would be marginalized by the larger Dinka Malual population.

**Action:** Recognizing the significant role youth play in communal conflict and the importance of leveraging their role toward improved social relations, CAD Aweil FO in partnership with the Lol State Ministry of Information, Culture, Youth and Sports, organised a two-day football tournament in Raja, Lol State, to facilitate communal linkages and promote coexistence between Fertit and Dinka Malual. The event featured the participation of over 60 Fertit youth from Raja, and Dinka Malual youth from Aweil North County (10 women participated). The Acting Governor, Speaker of State Legislative Assembly, Minister of Information, Culture and Youth, Minister of Education and SPLM commander of the area also attended the event and urged peaceful coexistence.

**Impact:** The participants expressed hope that the event will open avenues for people-to-people contact, improve communal relations and set a political discourse to resolving the differences heightened over the creation of Lol State. The commissioner of Raja County noted that the exercise served to help break the barriers between the Fertit and Dinka participants. The fact that Dinka Malual participants had to travel by road from Aweil to Raja may boost the confidence of actors to undertake social and business visits.

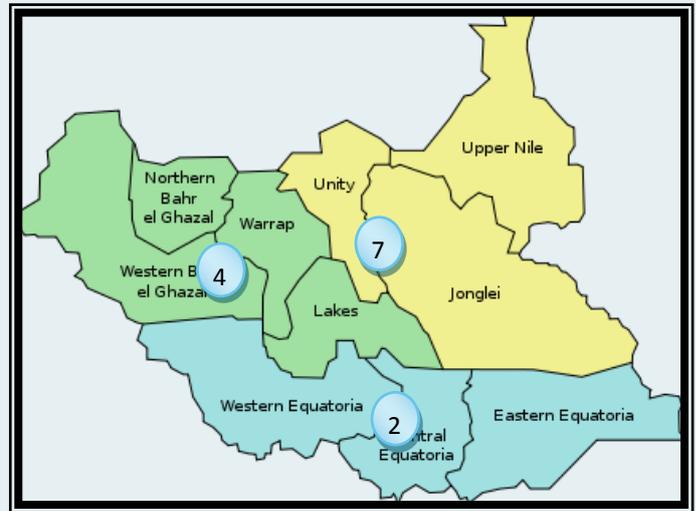


**Observation:** The event was first of its kind conducted by UNMISS in Raja since the July crises of 2016. While the larger political issue of perceptions of Fertit marginalization remain, the success of this event may, with future support actions, help to improve communal relations.

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#### Dissemination of Dinka Malual and Misseriya and Rezeigat migration resolutions; Aweil, 22 March to 14 April

**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, cross-border migration remains challenging as the security environment is highly unpredictable. This year, with support from CAD, the Dinka Malual



community of NBEG held separate pre-migration conferences with Misseriya and Rezeigat pastoralists from Sudan in Wanyjok, Aweil East, and Nymlal, Lol State, respectively. In both conferences, they reached a number of resolutions, which are recognized as binding on the communities. However, in remote areas, periodic tensions occur between pastoralists and farmers due to lack of knowledge about the agreed resolutions.

**Action:** CAD in partnership with the Joint Border Peace Committee, the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission and local authorities, conducted six peace resolutions' dissemination events in Chelkou, Arroyo, Mayom Agok, War Awar, Mading Achot and Rumaker to sensitise communities about the resolutions and conflict management mechanisms. Over 3,150 participants (950 women) drawn from the host Dinka Malual community and Misseriya and Rezeigat pastoralists as well as traditional leaders and local authorities attended these events. Participants highlighted good practices and identified issues that were affecting peaceful conduct of the migration season. Facilitators provided guidance on addressing disputes within the framework of the agreed resolutions.

**Impact:** The exercise enhanced intercommunal trust and knowledge about conflict resolution mechanisms. The migration of Sudanese pastoralists this season is regarded as the most peaceful in many years. Misseriya pastoralists stated that due to CAD supported peace conferences, commu-



nal relations have significantly improved, and this has resulted in family members accompanying them during their stay in South Sudan.

**Observation:** CAD is engaging Misseriya and Mayom communities to adopt a similar mechanism to regulate cross border cattle migration from Southern Kordofan and Abyei to Ruweng and Northern Liech States, following several violent clashes this year, between the two communities.

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### Training workshop for building social cohesion and reconciliation for Wau State Women's Association, Wau, 17 April

**Context:** The national crises of 2013 and 2016 resulted in the displacement of thousands of community members in Wau State, forcing them to live in the PoC and IDP collection sites. Like several other peace actors, the Wau State Women's Association is contributing to addressing ethnic divisions and animosities among the displaced and host communities by creating space for dialogue and reconciliation. Despite their conviction, the association's members lack skills and resources to reach out to a broader audience.

**Action:** CAD, in partnership with the Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO) and UNMISS Gender Affairs Unit, organized a daylong capacity building workshop to deepen the knowledge and understanding of the Wau State Women's Association members on skills required to implement social cohesion and reconciliation initiatives. Nine-



ty participants, including members of the Women's Association, women leaders of the PoC site and members of South Sudan Islamic Council, attended the event. Sessions discussed women participation in the peace process, negotiation and advocacy skills, conflict related sexual violence and its prevention, and the role of women in managing local conflicts.

**Impact:** An action plan was formulated to guide the work of Women's Association in support of government efforts on promoting reconciliation and the voluntary return of displaced people. The Women's Association and leaders of PoC Site planned joint initiatives to promote collaboration and peaceful coexistence.

**Observation:** The support to enhance women's participation in peace-building and peace processes will strengthen the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda of the United Nations pursuant to the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions.

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### Peace caravan in Medan Rabta, Wau town, 17 March

**Context:** The displaced community at the PoC and IDP collection sites in Wau remains reluctant to return to their areas of origin for fear of ongoing insecurity, lack of food, absence of police posts, youth unemployment, lack of free movement and inability to cultivate their farms. State authorities and UNMISS Wau FO are collaborating to improve conditions for voluntary return of IDPs.



**Action:** The Wau FO and Wau State government organized a peace caravan in Medan Rabta area of Wau town to demonstrate to communities that the local government recognizes IDPs' concerns and that it is ready to provide necessary protection and support. The occasion provided a platform to build confidence between displaced people, host communities and the state authorities. The peace rally was the third of its kind, and attendees included 700 community members from Lokoloko, Khai Kosti, Jebel Kheir and Hai Salama.

**Outcome:** Community members and returnee IDPs were receptive to the government's initiative and participated with enthusiasm. The state governor ordered the police commissioner to establish a police post in Medan Rabta, and to recruit 100 university graduates into police service. The governor promised to address other issues and urged the community to encourage their relatives to return from the PoC site.

**Observation:** CAD advocacy and engagement with the state government has delivered notable dividends in terms of improvement in the security situation in Wau town and return of IDPs to the areas of origin.

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## Greater Upper Nile Actions:

### Peace Dialogue for the resolution of land dispute between Duor, Angach, Patel and Nyer communities of Duk Padiet County, Jonglei State: 23-25 March

**Context:** The creation of new states and counties in South Sudan has resulted in communal disputes and conflicts in many areas, including Jonglei State. Similar disputes were seen in Duk Padiet, where communities of Duor, Angach, Patel and Nyer conflicted over the sharing of the county HQs while Duor claimed sole ownership. Tensions further heightened as a result of disagreements over the creation of more payams and bomas in the new Duk Padiet County. CAD advocated with Jonglei State authorities to bring all sides to a negotiating table and resolve their differences through dialogue.

**Action:** Working with the Jonglei State government, CAD organised a three-day dialogue forum for chiefs and elders of Duor, Angach, Patel and Nyer communities from Duk Padiet and their influential leaders based in Bor and Juba. The event was initially planned for 60 participants but ended up accommodating over 200 people (23 women) due to their interest and enthusiasm. The state peace advisor, chairperson of the state peace commission and one traditional leader from each community moderated the discussions. Each community selected five members to represent them in a group discussion, where they agreed on the agenda to guide the dialogue. Three-day long mediation by the facilitators, after several rounds of talks, finally yielded results and all sides agreed to reconcile their differences.

**Impact:** The four conflicting parties reconciled and agreed that Duk Padiet will remain the HQ of the new county. An agreement was also reached over demarcation of boundaries of five proposed payams in the new county. The chiefs and community members of Duk Padiet agreed to live harmoniously while their influential leaders from Bor and Juba pledged to support local initiatives to further strengthen intercommunal relations. The communities also undertook to improve relations with Lou Nuer IDPs from Urur and Ayod who are currently displaced to the greater Duk Padiet area.



**Observation:** CAD will examine whether this model of community engagement would be useful in addressing border-related communal conflicts in other areas of the country.

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### Peace building and conflict management workshop for Murle women, Pibor Town, Boma State, 28-29 March

**Context:** In Boma State, the Murle community continues to face age-set related conflicts, which often lead to loss of life and property. Intra-communal tensions as well as relations with neighbouring communities such as Dinka, Nuer, Kachipo, and Anyuak often remain tense due to persistent incidents of cattle raiding and child abduction. To address this issue, a women's group in Pibor established a network called,

“Kabarize” (Women for Peace Group) in November 2017, with the aim to discourage age-set fighting and to improve communal relations. However, the group faces challenges in relation to technical skills necessary to implement its vision.

**Action:** CAD organised a two-day training workshop in Pibor for 94 participants (including three men) drawn from eight villages (Wunkok, Munyumen, Tangajon, Lenyirez, Beh, Manyirany, Kavachoch and Akillo) of Pibor North and Pibor South counties to build their skills on conflict management and reconciliation. The participants discussed factors that contribute to the practice and tradition of age-set fighting, child abductions and cattle raids, and identified opportunities for intervention. The chairperson of the Boma State Peace Commission assured the participants that the commission will provide opportunities for the involvement of Kabarize members in government-led peace and reconciliation initiatives.



**Impact:** The Kabarize members agreed to discourage age-set fighting by influencing their sons and brothers. To address the tradition of child abductions, they decided not to accept abducted children in their care and vowed to report such cases to the state authorities. Suggestions were also made to improve relations with neighbouring communities through regular engagements. They also agreed to mobilize more members and ensure that all villages are represented in Kabarize.

**Observation:** CAD will continue to follow up on the work of Kabarize to assess their achievements and challenges. CAD is planning a program to introduce Kabarize to influential chiefs and government actors in order to maintain momentum and sustainability of their preventative measures.

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### Workshop on conflict management for Bor PoC Site community leaders, Bor, 6-7 March

**Context:** The displaced community at the Bor PoC Site periodically organises elections to appoint the leadership at various levels, including the executive committee, youth and women associations, community watch group, as well as the court of elders. The last elections were held in October 2017. These newly elected members are sometimes challenged in terms of having the required technical skills for the management of communal disputes that routinely arise at the PoC site as well as with the host community.

**Action:** CAD organised a two-day capacity building workshop on conflict management for 51 participants (23 women), representing the executive committee, block leadership, youth and women associations, community watch group, religious leaders and court of elders. Through interactive discussions, the participants identified various conflict scenarios that may require their attention and intervention during the dispensation of their duties at the PoC Site. They highlighted that effective use of traditional conflict management methods would be beneficial to resolving intercommunal conflicts. CAD facilitated presentations, group work, and role-plays, to familiarize the participants with various approaches to addressing conflict scenarios.

**Impact:** CAD has noted that following the training, the IDP leadership has successfully resolved many internal disputes. The IDP leaders acknowledge that the CAD workshop improved their skills to address disputes in a neutral manner, which has resulted in better intercommunal co-existence.



**Observation:** While political engagement and capacity building in conflict management is a vital means to preventing and resolving conflict in the PoC site, more work is required to address the lack of livelihood opportunities for the PoC site residents.

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### **Workshop on conflict management between pastoralists and host communities, Duk Padiet County, Jonglei State, 28-29 March**

**Context:** Every year, the cattle migration from Ayod and Urur to Duk Padiet County during the dry season often results in communal conflicts over competition for scarce water sources and grazing lands. There are no existing mechanisms and norms to regulate the cattle migration and resolve disputes. Prevalence of gender and sexual violence between these communities also adds to tense relations between them.

**Action:** CAD organised a two-day conflict management workshop for 48 participants (four women) including pastoralists from Ayond and Urur (Gawar Nuer, Lou Nuer) the host community (Dinka Duk) as well as county and payam authorities. Discussions focused on methods to prevent conflicts between pastoralists and the host community during current and future migration seasons, and setting up norms to address communal disputes. The participants proposed various actions to address the root causes of the conflict, including competition over water and pastures, cattle and property theft and lack of respect for other cultures.

**Impact:** The workshop resulted in the adoption of a mechanism to ensure peaceful cattle migration in the area. A 15-member joint peace committee, represented by five members each from Gawar Nuer, Lou Nuer and Dinka Duk communities and a traditional court (one member each)



were formed to address all communal issues. The county authorities agreed to streamline the issuance of passes for the migrating cattle camps. To guarantee a peaceful migration the meeting also agreed upon the imposition of fines for violating established norms.

**Observation:** In order to help sustain the work of the committee to visit various camps, logistics support from the state authorities will be required.

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### **Round table discussion on reconciliation and social cohesion for local and traditional authorities, Renk County, Northern Upper Nile State, 17 March.**

**Context:** Historically, the institution of traditional authorities enjoyed considerable legitimacy and power and contributed to maintenance of rule of law and local governance in South Sudan. However, the national crisis contributed to the weakening of the institution of traditional authorities across the country. Traditional leaders do not wield the same status and power, enjoyed prior to the national conflict of 2013 and are often unable to influence the peaceful resolution of communal conflicts.. The gradual return of displaced persons to Northern Upper Nile State sees a need to invigorate the role of traditional authorities in order to help mitigate tensions between returnees and other host communities.

**Action:** CAD organised a forum for traditional and local authorities and representatives of civil society and community based organizations from Renk El Gelhak, Eastern Renk County Shomedi, Northern Renk Geiger and Renk Municipality with the aim to rebuild trust in traditional dispute resolution mechanisms. The interactive discussions allowed experience sharing and reflection on the contributions of traditional mechanisms to communal harmony and social order. The discussions revealed that the national crisis contributed to diluting the authority of the chiefs, as some were influenced by political and security developments while others faced displacement.

**Impact:** The participants concluded that restoration of traditional authority and other conflict resolution mechanisms was important for the maintenance of peace and security at local levels. The participants also agreed that a bottom-up approach to community leadership contributes to consensus building and serves as a source of legitimacy. Local authorities assured CAD of their readiness to provide necessary support to traditional authorities.

**Observation:** The relative stability in Renk County offers CAD opportunities for further engagements to promote social cohesion between returnees and host communities through involvement of traditional leadership.

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### **Intercommunal dialogue on reconciliation and social cohesion, Renk County, Northern Upper Nile State, 15-16 March**

**Context:** Following the closure of the PoC site in Melut in December 2017, a large number of displaced families resettled in Renk County. Reports also indicate return of refugees from Sudan to the area. Presently, the host community and returnees are living in relative harmony but past grievances and prevailing political and security dynamics in the county could negatively influence their relations.

**Action:** CAD organised a two-day intercommunal dialogue in Renk County to foster reconciliation and social cohesion between the returnees and local community. 50 participants (16 women) including community elders, women and youth as well as traditional and county authorities attended the dialogue. They explored ways to cultivate mutual trust, social cohesion and interdependency. They recalled that conflict has affected all Sudanese without discrimination and identified root causes that affected peaceful coexistence.

**Impact:** A consensus was reached to improve communal relations through intermarriage, participation in each other's cultural events and respecting diversity. They agreed that a sense of national identity should take precedence over ethnic and tribal identities in order to build a socially cohesive society.

**Observation:** CAD noted an overwhelming desire by all sides to contribute to peaceful coexistence. There is a need for continued engagement and support so that traditional authorities play a key role in the management of communal conflicts.

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### Roundtable discussion on reconciliation and social cohesion, 18-19 April, Kodok, Fashoda State

**Context:** The national conflict in South Sudan and fighting between government and opposition forces in Upper Nile (West bank of River Nile), Panyikang County and Fashoda (Kodok) had forced the entire population of Kodok into displacement, to areas such as Aburoc and Tong, Malakal PoC Site as well as into Sudan. With relative peace returning to the area,

displaced communities have gradually started returning, but they are faced with many social and humanitarian challenges. In April 2018, UNMISS established an Austere Operating Base in Kodok to extend its protection of civilians mandate and to support government efforts to create an enabling environment for the returnees.

**Action:** CAD organised a two-day roundtable discussion in Kodok to review opportunities for enhancing reconciliation and social cohesion among the returnees and local authorities. The event was attended by 48 participants (two women) representing local government, traditional leaders and community based organizations. Participants explored existing conflict management practices and examined how local stakeholders could advance their roles in addressing communal conflict.

**Impact:** The participants agreed to work towards improving communal relations and civil-military cooperation, and promote women and youth empowerment. Government authorities

**Observation:** The event marked the first CAD programme activity engagement in Kodok County since 2015. It increased the community trust and support for UNMISS presence in the area. The governor appreciated the initiative and called for CAD's continued engagement with the community to address post-conflict challenges and facilitate peaceful coexistence.

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## Greater Equatoria Actions:

### Capacity building workshop on conflict management for chiefs and elders, Yei River State, 27-29 March

**Context:** The ongoing conflict in Yei River State between government and opposition forces has polarized social relations and severely eroded the space for the traditional leaders to fulfil their role as community representatives. Despite these challenges, the chiefs of Yei River State are mak-



ing efforts to mitigate intercommunal tensions, and address mistrust between the civilian population and military, as well as with the state authorities. The recent return of many displaced communities to the Yei River State, especially to Mukaya, necessitates the engagement of traditional leaders with both returnees as well as with the state authorities and government forces to improve civilians-military relations and attract further returns. However, there is a need to form a common vision and partnerships to mend broken social structures and relationships.

**Action:** CAD, in collaboration with the Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO), the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and CTSAMM, organised a three-day training workshop for 52 chiefs and elders drawn from Dinka and Nubian communities living in Yei River State. The workshop featured interactive discussions about the security challenges affecting intercommunal relations and op-

portunities for the chiefs to mitigate them. The case studies on the role of traditional leaders in communal conflict management and reconciliation from neighbouring states were also shared with the participants.

**Impact:** An in-depth analysis of the conflict, root causes and triggers led to the adoption of a set of measures that can help to enhance peaceful coexistence in the state. The participants formed a chiefs-elders forum at the state and county levels to identify and resolve intercommunal disputes. In addition, peace, early warning and response committees were formed to work at the boma levels and monitor intercommunal relations, facilitate reconciliation and report issues that require the intervention of chiefs-elders forum.

**Observations:** CAD will follow up on the status of the work of the chiefs-elders forum on a quarterly basis.

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### Workshop to promote relations between government forces and integrated former South Sudan National Liberation Movement (SSNLM) soldiers, Yambio, 5-6 April

**Context:** The national crises of 2013 resulted in the alignment of South Sudan National Liberation Movement (SSNLM) towards the opposition, for, among other reasons, the perceived marginalization and exclusion of Equatorians (Azande) from the civil service structure. Following a



peace agreement with the government, 1,926 SSNLM and surrendered SPLA-iO members were officially integrated into the organized forces on 23 January 2018. The government of Gbudue State requested CAD to organize a forum to promote mutual trust and cohesion between the organized government forces and integrated soldiers.

**Action:** CAD and the government of Gbudue State organised a workshop on national identity entitled “One People, One Nation”, targeting 64 members of organized government forces and integrated soldiers. Discussions focused on recalling the long period of the struggle leading to independence, the current security and political landscape, the call for rejection of tribalism and nepotism, and need to appreciate diversity of the country’s 64 tribes to build the nation. They agreed that the spirit of forgiveness and respect for each other was fundamental to building an effective institution.

**Impact:** Participants acknowledged that unity, tolerance and peaceful coexistence is the only way forward to end the ongoing conflict. They committed to work for the betterment of the communities and the country by spreading peace messages and promoting unity among their respective units.

**Observation:** While political engagement to build harmony between the integrated and organized forces remains vital to ensuring the integrity of the forces in the state, it remains equally important that the livelihood concerns of the integrated forces are met in order to prevent desertions or joining other armed groups.

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Civil Affairs Division