



SUDAN VISIT, 3/1-18/1 2009

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	page 3
2. BACKGROUND TO THE CURRENT SITUATION IN SOUTHERN SUDAN	page 6
3. MEETINGS	page 9
Including with President Salva Kiir of Southern Sudan: Ministers in Juba Religious and Community leaders	page 11
4. HART PROJECTS	page 24
5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	page 28
<u>APPENDICES:</u>	page 29
1. PERSONNEL & ITINERARY	
2. INTRODUCTION TO HART.	
3. OBJECTIVES OF THE VISIT:	
Aid	
Advocacy	
4. HART DONATIONS	

“Look! We are Africans. We do not hate the northerners. We do not hate Muslims. We have religious freedom here. But they are Arabs – and the majority here are Africans and Christians – and looking inwards, we see ourselves as Africans. And we don’t want to lose our identity to Arabs and Muslims.”

“They use the slogan: give unity a chance.”

“Unity has brought us nothing but years of war.”

“The reasons for votes for secession. It is a lack of trust in the North, based on experience, which will not go away; fear of religious intolerance; and our knowledge that the North will seek to impose, in one way or another, Islamisation and Sharia – and the end of ourselves as Africans.”

The Beja people are largely a forgotten people. The Livelihood Survey showed that they have the worst living conditions in Sudan.”

“ We do not want war and we will never begin war. But if Khartoum begins another war ... El Bashir will lose, if the war is fought by only Sudanese people. He has so many enemies in Sudan. What we fear is if other countries are allowed to support him.”

“We encourage Egypt to have a close relationship with the Government of Southern Sudan. We encourage Egypt to invest in economic cooperation with us, and to change the situation, not through encouraging the North to fight again, but through the people of Southern Sudan.”

“We in the South do not have much power to prevent this war. It is the northern leadership which causes the problems.”

It is the East African curriculum which is desired by the people.”

“We have freedom of religion. Freedom of religion is the basis of humanity. If they in Southern Sudan are given the freedom to choose, then I think they will choose freedom.”

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

(Based upon visit to Bahr-el-Ghazal, Nuba Mts., Yei and Juba; and upon meetings with various political, religious and community leaders, including President Salva Kiir.)

The situation in southern Sudan and the Nuba Mountains is cause for increasing concern in many ways:

- The security situation has deteriorated severely. There is widespread expectation that Khartoum will break the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) sooner or later.
- If the International Criminal Court (ICC) indicts President El Bashir it is widely believed that this could be used by the government in Khartoum as a pretext to resume hostilities. However, despite this risk, there is general support for the indictment as people believe that justice needs to be done and seen to be done; that he should not be allowed to get away with the atrocities he has perpetrated, with impunity – and that the threat of the cessation of the CPA is a form of blackmail.
- If the ICC does not proceed with indictment, many people expect the North to find other pretexts to break the peace. They refer to Khartoum's build-up of military presence as an indication of its predisposition to war.
- The GNU and NCP are trying to project an image of the South as unable to govern itself and projects it as corrupt – and it is believed that the Ambassadors in Khartoum, including the British Ambassador, are 'buying into' this negative image.
- However, the development of the Central Administration by GOSS is widely considered to be more advanced than might be expected for a fragile new nation confronted by so many challenges.
- There is concern that powerful nations and organisations are putting pressure on the people of the South to opt for a 'United Sudan' in the 2011 Referendum, reflected in the slogan 'Give Unity a Chance'. Many feel that Unity has only caused suffering, war and discrimination, and they should be free to choose the option of secession, without pressure. Their choice and self-determination, including that of Abyie, must be respected by the international community.
- But the need of Sudan for the international community was emphasized again and again; that "we cannot achieve peace alone"; that their involvement is essential to guarantee that fair elections and the Referendum actually do happen, and that the necessary preparations are made; and that this is why the government in Khartoum is so resistant to that community, and does *not* wish for their involvement.
- One of the reasons why secession may be preferred is the history of aggression practiced by Arab, Muslim northerners against the African southerners. The perception that separation may be essential to maintain African identity and culture

is frequently cited as a reason for possible secession. The point is emphasised that there is no hatred of Arabs and Muslims but that it is time for African identity and freedom of religion (including freedom from sharia) to be ensured.

- The aftermath of the war which raged until the signing of the CPA in 2005 has left massive devastation with acute needs for essential services in many areas in Southern Sudan and the marginalised area, including education, health care and agricultural production. For example, in 2007, only 13% of Southern Sudan had an Immunisation Programme (EPI) – increasing to 19% in 2008 - and there were only 20 secondary schools serving this vast region. There is thus an urgent need for humanitarian assistance to complement the overstretched resources available to the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS).
- There is deep concern over ways in which the CPA is seen as operating to promote the interests of Khartoum at the expense of the South and so-called ‘marginalised areas’ – the Nuba Mountains, Southern Blue Nile and Abyie. (See below).
- There is concern that some prominent NGO’s and other aid organisations are influenced by Khartoum’s goals and strategies.
- Aid agencies should identify areas of work in consultation with local people, rather than ‘announcing’ what they will be doing.
- Inappropriate application of theoretical models differentiating ‘Relief’ and ‘Development’, resulting in withdrawal of relief agencies prematurely, and leaving a vacuum of provision of essential services, is a cause of continuing concern (see HART visit report, January 2008)
- The plight of returnees and of IDPs (Internally Displaced People) remains very serious, often with little or no provision of essential services such as health care or education.
- The failure of Khartoum to fulfil some of the CPA requirements has undermined confidence in its commitment to peace. For example, the refusal by Khartoum to be transparent with regard to oil revenues causes doubts about the fairness of allocation of resources due to the south.
- The need for more detailed monitoring of the CPA at grass-roots level, by persons in whom the local community can trust, was highlighted.
- The episodic outbreaks of violence instigated by ‘militias’ causes tension among civilian populations and the lack of confidence in security diminishes commitment to reconstruction programmes for local people and the resettlement for returnees.
- There are concerns that some of these outbreaks of conflict are instigated directly or indirectly by Khartoum. SPLA commanders claim that the weapons used by some of these militias can only come from Khartoum.
- The violent episode which erupted during the CPA Anniversary celebrations in Malakal this January, tragically resulting in 9 deaths, was seen as a result of long-standing inter-tribal tensions. Some comfort is drawn from the fact that the violence

was quickly contained, the celebrations were able to continue and President El Bashir was able to stay overnight in Malakal.

- There is deep concern over the resurgence of activity by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the region. This rebel army, originating in northern Uganda, was responsible for widespread death and destruction in a 20-year war, until Peace Talks brokered by southern Sudan brought some respite. During that war, 500,000 perished, 95% of the local people were driven into overcrowded camps and at least 25,000 children were abducted and forced to become child soldiers. Khartoum was manifestly complicit, allowing some of the training camps, where the children were brutalised and trained to become soldiers, to be based in NIF-controlled areas in southern Sudan. In recent weeks, the LRA has renewed its activities, causing serious security problems in northern DRC and southern Sudan.
- There is also a fear that, in the event of a renewed conflict, the LRA may be used by Khartoum in ways similar to their use of the Janjaweed in Darfur.
- The Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission demonstrates an encouraging commitment by GOSS to try to develop and implement essential Rights and Freedoms. There is no equivalent in Khartoum. This is one example of ways in which many people believe that developments in southern Sudan could have a beneficial influence on other parts of Sudan
- The plight of the Beja people is deemed to be worse even than that of the people of Southern Sudan. The SPLM have expressed concern and highlighted the need for more to be done for the Beja and others living in dire conditions in eastern Sudan.
- The continued disappearance of those thousands taken in to slavery; and the failure by the Government in Khartoum to accept its responsibility in this matter, and to allocate proper resources for the identification and liberation of these casualties of the Khartoum imposed jihad, needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.
- While Darfur remains a necessary focus of attention for politicians, aid agencies and the media, this must not be at the expense of appropriate concern for the rest of Sudan and the need to prevent an even greater catastrophe in the form of resurgence of war and jihad elsewhere in the South and the marginalised areas.
- The outbreak of another war would not only be catastrophe for the people of Sudan but have far reaching repercussions throughout the entire region.
- How much has changed since the words spoken in the British Parliament by the Marquess of Salisbury, Victorian Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, referring to the rule of Khartoum, "barbarous, cruel, unscrupulous, inconsistent with any idea of civilization which one can entertain." For all his general friendliness, and positive attitude, to other Islamic governments, he would write, of those who died defending the rule of Khartoum, that, while it was "ghastly" to hear of so many thousands dying, "The only consolation is that they were sustaining the worst and cruellest Government in the world."

2. BACKGROUND

2:1 NUBA MOUNTAINS.

A spine of rocky hills with lush green valleys which rises from surrounding flat terrain, spanning north and south Sudan, is historically known as the Nuba Mountains. The people who inhabit this land have a rich and colourful culture, famous for traditional music, dance and wrestling. The people are also widely respected for their traditions of religious tolerance – Christians, Muslims and traditional believers have lived together harmoniously and with mutual respect from time immemorial. But recent years have seen catastrophic assaults on the people who inhabit these beautiful Mountains. When the National Islamic Front (NIF) regime seized power by military coup in Khartoum in 1989, it declared military jihad (Islamic ‘holy war’) against all who opposed it. It is widely acknowledged that, among the objectives of this jihad, were the Islamisation of those not already Muslims and the Arabisation of the African peoples inhabiting southern Sudan and the so-called ‘marginalised areas’: Southern Blue Nile, Abyie and the Nuba Mountains. The political status of these regions has been indeterminate – not identified as part of either southern or northern Sudan, but predominantly inhabited by distinctively African peoples. The jihad, instigated by the NIF resulted in 2 million dead and 4 million displaced people, before a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed in 2005.

Subsequently, the conflict moved to Darfur, where the population is predominantly African Muslim. They have been subjected to horrors comparable to those suffered by the victims of the war against the South and the marginalised areas. Indeed, that war has been described as a prelude to Darfur.

There is widespread belief that war is likely to break out again and that Khartoum has every intention of breaking the CPA.

As one local leader emphasised:

‘We do not want war and we will never begin war again. But if Khartoum begins another war, we are prepared. El Bashir will lose this time, if the war is fought by only Sudanese people. He has so many enemies in Sudan. He is already fighting against the people of Darfur; the people of the Nuba Mountains are against him – if he comes here and runs away, we hate him so much, we will kill him in the back; he has to fight against opponents in Southern Blue Nile and on the eastern front. And the SPLA are now well armed. But we know he may have support from other countries. Yesterday, the President of Iran visited Khartoum. But if the war has to be fought, if we can in this war, it may be the only way we shall ever achieve true peace.’

2:2 BAHR-EL-GHAZAL.

This westernmost region of Southern Sudan, bordering the North, suffered some of the most devastating military ground offensives in the war which ranged from 1989 until 2005. Much of this vast area consists of arid scrub and bush territory, interspersed with fertile riverbanks where the River Lol, a tributary of the White Nile, meanders through the land. The wide open terrain rendered the population vulnerable to massive military operations, in which up to 2,000 strong combined forces of Government of Sudan Regular Army, the mujahidin PDF (Popular Defence Forces) and murahaleen (local tribesmen recruited, armed and supported by the Regular Army) would sweep across the land, massacring civilians, abducting women and children as slaves, stealing or killing cattle and burning homes and crops in a savage scorched earth policy.

The suffering of the people was exacerbated by the horrors of the 'slave train'. The railway line from El Obeid to Wau cuts a swathe through the land and the passage of the train during the war brought terror and horror for civilians far and wide. The train would be accompanied by several thousands of armed forces who would fan out into the surrounding countryside, riding fast horses, killing the elderly and many of the men and taking women and children into slavery. The fact that the GOS (Government of Sudan) encouraged slavery as a weapon of war has been well documented and the plight of the people at Nyamlell, witnessed by Caroline Cox in 1993, is typical of the brutality perpetrated under the auspices of El Bashir's regime. In the first such raid on this township, 82 men were killed and 282 women and children abducted into slavery; the town was looted, pillaged and burnt. Countless similar raids were unleashed on the civilian populations in Bahr-El-Ghazal during that war.

It was often said that the only education a child received during those war years was the ability to distinguish between a Government Antoniov dropping bombs and a WFP (World Food Programme) aircraft dropping food – the children would run in panic whenever they heard the dreaded Antonovs. One child described the constant terror of aerial bombardment:

'The birds of steel fly overhead.

Some crap death on us; others crap life.'

The aftermath of the war has left the people with formidable challenges: a devastated land, another 'lost generation' of young people without any schooling and a dearth of essential services such as health care and education. There is also deep, ineradicable fear. The railway

line from the north which brought such terror was damaged in the war. Being asked whether they wish for its repair the people, too afraid to consider its restoration, reply:

'Only bad came to us on that line'.

Until there is some assurance that there will be a sustainable peace, they will not countenance the repair of a railway from the north which may once again bring death and abduction into slavery. It is their communications from the south which bring commerce and civilization.

Here, as elsewhere in southern Sudan, the need for education for the 'lost generation' is an urgent priority.

It is in this context that HART is supporting a school in Marol (near Luonyaker airstrip). The founder of the school, Jok Madut Jok, endured the horrors of the war years. Now a lecturer in Anthropology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, he is committed to helping his people by establishing a school. Aware of the importance of education for girls, and of the cultural bias in favour of boys, he has imaginatively designated the school 'A Girls' School which Boys may attend.'

Teaching has already begun on the 'Under Tree School' basis and HART supports them in both buildings and equipment, and in the funding of teachers' salaries, expressing gratitude for the grant from the Canning Trust, providing the salaries of 3 teachers. Jok is now working hard to build some classrooms and a dormitory for girls to enable pupils to attend from further afield. Buildings are needed, as the school terms operate in the rainy season – the local people dispersing in the dry season with their cattle, to find grazing.

(See below for details of the Projects).

2:3 YEI.

Yei, the capital town of Yei County in Central Equatoria, suffered from intense fighting in the recent war. Strategically located near the Ugandan border, it was captured by NIF forces and retaken by the SPLA after a battle in which so many perished that it was impossible to walk on one of the approach roads, as bodies were piled so high. for a kilometre.

As a result of the intense fighting there has been massive destruction of the infrastructure and another 'lost generation' of children unable to obtain education when schools could not operate under sustained daily bombardment of 13-14 aerial attacks on civilian targets by the NIF (National Islamic Front).

The war has left a cruel legacy. There is an acute need for reconstruction of essential facilities including schools, primary health care clinics and roads. There is also an acute shortage of educated people capable of providing professional and technical services,

resulting in heavy reliance on Uganda and Kenya for trained personnel and supplies for essential services, including education, health care, and construction.

3. MEETINGS

All these meetings are presented in note format.

3:1 JUBA MEETINGS

We were warmly received by many: the President of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir, Ministers and many officials, all of whom had met Caroline Cox during her 30 visits to conflict zones in Southern Sudan and the marginalised areas during the war, between 1991 and 2003.

Dr Luka Biong Deng, Minister of Presidential Affairs.

- Southern Sudan and the SPLM should be strategic allies for humanity and the values of democracy.
'We have come out from terrible times and things are changing very fast – and our progress is having a beneficial effect on Khartoum, particularly with regard to human rights, which have been dismantled there.'
- The CPA is instrumental in changing the whole of Sudan. It is not just about the South, but about what is happening in the North as well.
- Antagonistic foreign policy in the region has been a problem. Salva Kiir has been working hard to bring a wider peace – for example, in Eastern Sudan.

'You need to keep this in mind: eastern Sudan is one of the worst areas in the world. The Beja people are largely a forgotten people. Although they made a cautious agreement with Khartoum their situation remains dire.'

The 'Livelihood Survey' showed that they have the worst living conditions in Sudan. Therefore, the situation is very volatile and if a new war breaks out, this could create a new regional catastrophe. The SPLM should take it upon themselves to speak up for and to help the Beja, who have not fully normalised relations with Khartoum and who are suffering so much.

Regional relationships:

- **Chad** has forged a good relationship with GOSS.
- **Egypt** has exerted great pressure on GOSS to remain in a United Sudan: President Mubarak recently visited Juba, saying that Egypt was strongly for a United Sudan and to encourage the South to remain within a United Sudan, arguing that they could benefit from aid and use their influence from within.
- *'However, we encouraged Egypt to have a close relationship with GOSS – for what matters is who you respect and therefore whom you are close to. We encouraged Egypt to invest in economic co-operation with us and to change the situation , not*

through encouraging the North to fight again, but through the people of southern Sudan.'

- **A representative from Chatham House** visited and wrote a report on the issue of self-determination. He had asked what would be the likely outcome and when he was advised 98% of the people of the South would choose separation, he then asked for the reason. The reply referred, not to issues of development and wealth, but to a lack of trust in the North, fear of religious intolerance, and the imposition of sharia. He, reportedly, replied to the effect that if the South seceded it would degenerate into a 'pastoral state' – a 'second Somalia' – a nation of cattle herders living in a state of anarchy. This elicited a response that this allegation flies in the face of the reality, where southern Sudan is striving to develop a model of democracy.
- **The USA** is also strongly in favour of a United Sudan.
- **Eritrea:** the President is the only Head of State to have stayed in Juba overnight. He sees the SPLM as an influence for good and had hoped that it would help to change Sudan as a whole; therefore he was disappointed by the likelihood of self-determination leading to secession. But we have a good relationship with Eritrea; we recognise their need to develop relationships with Khartoum, as Khartoum was involved in the troubles in Eritrea.
- **Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda** all have very good relationships with GOSS and we are encouraging them to develop direct relationships with us. They also support the CPA, including the right to self-determination.
- The principle of self-determination should be respected: that the future of southern Sudan should be what the people want – NOT what other people want to impose.
- *'Coming up to the election, the important thing is the right to self-determination. The people of southern Sudan have been consistently fighting for their existence. The main fruit of the CPA is that they can decide to be part of a United Sudan, or otherwise.'*
- The GNU and NCP are trying to project an image of the South as unable to govern itself and projects it as corrupt – and it is believed that the Ambassadors in Khartoum, including the British Ambassador, are 'buying into' this negative image. The recent episode of violence in Malakal could be cited as an example of this. However, some comfort is drawn from the fact that the violence was quickly contained and the celebrations were able to continue.
- It is believed that Khartoum is supporting the LRA (as it has in the past) and is associated with the recent escalation of LRA activities, It is feared that they may be used by Khartoum in ways similar to the way in which they use the Janjaweed in Darfur.
- **Other reasons for the likelihood of votes for secession do not relate to development or wealth. It is a lack of trust in the North, based on experience (which will not go away); fear of religious intolerance and our knowledge that the**

North will seek to impose, in one way or another, Islamisation and sharia – and the end of ourselves as Africans.

President Salva Kiir.

“Caroline Cox will be remembered in the history of Sudan for all you have done for Sudan in the difficult days – there are no limits to our gratitude and we will always keep you close in our hearts and never forget the good things you have done.”

We still face formidable challenges. For example, our maternal Mortality Rate is the worst in the world. So we need much more help with facilities and resources.

The kind of help HART provides is the kind we need.

- In the war, areas such as Bahr-El-Ghazal were completely wiped out, as Caroline Cox saw for herself. A whole generation lost out on education. The GOSS is trying to establish schools, but we need a great deal of help.
- **Conditions for returnees from Khartoum and the Diaspora are very difficult** because of the lack of health care, education and other essential services and the GOSS cannot meet all these needs.
- When we find friends who help us, this is a great encouragement for us.
- Slavery: it is estimated that there are still at least 8-10,000 people who were abducted as slaves in the war against the South and the marginalised areas who are still missing. There is an urgent need to increase commitment to their identification and return to their own communities. We in GOSS know this is a priority but we cannot focus on it, as our priority must be the implementation of the CPA.

Our priority must be the agreement with the NCP to implement what was agreed in the CPA. This is not easy, but we are trying.

The clashes last year in Abyie are an example of these difficulties: they caused massive displacement of civilians and, when the NCP forces left, they destroyed the school buildings which they had been using as barracks. We needed to return these buildings to the civilians, but they had been knocked down. We now need resources to help to rebuild.

- In response to our query about the usefulness of the proposed “Sudan Initiatives Campaign” (a coming together in the UK of NGOs, parliamentarians, and others to raise awareness and understanding of the situation, facing the *whole* of Sudan, in the media, political arena, churches and public): this would be very important, as there is a need for advocacy as the struggle persists. We are heading for the critical Interim period and everyone needs to be aware of the significance of the Referendum in 2011 amongst the people of Southern Sudan and Abyie.

The people of Abyie will have a choice between remaining within the north or to join southern Sudan. Their choice must be respected by all political forces. This applies whether southern Sudan votes to secede or to remain in a United Sudan.

Many powerful countries in the international community believe southern Sudan should not break away and that Unity would be better. But the people of the South and Abyie may choose secession because *“Unity of Sudan has brought war all the time and if the people in 2011 choose to go our own way, we deserve support.”*

The Ministry for Education.

The Ministry was set up in 2005 and its first priority was the Curriculum. At the beginning we had 300,000 pupils enrolled. Now there are about 1.5 million. It is the number of trained teachers that sets the ceiling. So many of the schools still function under trees; of which there is a shortage up north. We have now managed to set up about 115 Secondary Schools and about 3,000 Primary Schools. But there is a great difference in the level to which they are functioning.

And we have the highest illiteracy rate in the world: over 90% female, and over 80% male.

It is estimated that 20-25% of the population are of school age; which suggests that there are at least another 3 million who are not yet enrolled for schooling. We need to bring in the people in the rural areas. The Northern claims that there is a population in Southern Sudan of only 3 million are absurd. The population is approximately 18 million; as revealed in the last census of April/ May 2008.

The supply of teachers must be the cornerstone of our educational development. We need to attract them with suitable housing as well as salaries. So often money given by partners abroad is not allowed to go on teachers' salaries but is required to be spent on buildings and other development. This holds us back. Fortunately many teachers have now returned from exile. So many went to Uganda for training; and we need to attract these back. Procuring teachers from abroad is easy, as long as we offer the suitable salaries and accommodation. But, so much teaching is carried out by teaching assistants.

So many of our schools and Universities were taken over as Arabic institutions during the war, even though English is our common language. They became Koranic schools. And Khartoum still possesses the main responsibility for higher education. We need to repatriate the Southern Universities from Khartoum to the South. But we receive no help from the Government of National Unity. We are still lacking the buildings and infrastructure where they can be re-established. We have Universities in Juba, Malakal (the Upper Nile), Wau, Rubek, and Bor (the John Garang Institute of Science and Technology). But Lecture Rooms and dormitories are often appalling; and staff development is a problem. 80% of Juba University is still in the North; a great deal also of those of the Upper Nile and of Wau. **These**

Universities are so important as “they will enable us to transform our socio-economic structure.”

The funds agreed on in Oslo, in 2005, 2006, and 2008, “ ... are not forthcoming. These funds need to be released.” We would “ ... appreciate very much bi-lateral support from Great Britain because of our previous colonial partnership.” Perhaps early-retirement teachers could come here through VSO.

As regards teaching materials: most must come from abroad. We are talking to Macmillans as they have said they might help with printing text books. “We are grateful to all those who support us as partners.” “We need our partners to walk with us for a long time yet.” We need much support for materials; and for our documentation. The latter is mainly in Durham and in SOAS.

Some of us say that for the first three years of Primary education the indigenous language should be the teaching language. A mother-tongue is “the sanctuary of a culture.” The Khartoum Government did not like the use of indigenous languages; and still doesn’t. But they are now included in the system; and international bodies have helped us in this.

We are also encouraging private education.

Ministry of Health, Gender and Social Welfare.

Her Excellency Mary Kiden Kimbo: Minister for Gender and Social Welfare

Dr. Monywiir Arop Kuol: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health

Undersecretary of Social Welfare and Gender

Our greatest request and need is to achieve the Millennium goal in maternal mortality. This is the priority area upon which to concentrate. Our maternal mortality rate is 2,054 per 100,000 live births. The best strategy is to follow the Norwegian model of training Community Midwives, with an Emergency Obstetric Care Centre at Payam level; the latter hopefully equipped with an ambulance, and working with the PHCCs (Primary Health Care Clinics).

We intend that each of the 10 States shall have a Midwifery Training School. The Training Course we have already designed, including teaching in the early recognition of problems. Such schools are now established in Yei, Meridi, Lui and, finally, in Kajo Keji. The main problems are suitable candidates because of the low basic educational level, especially amongst women, and the attracting of women with good education to this demanding profession. We are not well supplied with qualified teachers of midwifery. In the whole of Southern Sudan there are only about 10 qualified midwives. However, the professional market in east Africa is large.

There used to be Nurse training schools in most of our hospitals, and these need re-establishing. But, midwifery first. A midwife requires two years training. A nurse can be

trained in midwifery in one year. Our big Teaching Hospitals were Juba, Wau and Malakal. We need to double the intake in these, along with the above-mentioned centres. We won't meet the Millennium Target by 2015; but simply to double the number of Community Midwives would be a great achievement. To train a Community Midwife cost up to \$7,000/ year during the war; but it is less now, perhaps about \$5,000/ year. A Registered Nurse would be paid about SDP (Sudanese Pounds) 1,000/ month; a Midwife about 1,200/ month.

The EPI rate was 13%. By early 2008 it had risen to 19%; still very low. GAVI are helping. \$1 million are being given per year. UNICEF, WHO and others are contributing. 13 cases of polio have recently been identified and we are trying to increase immunisation. But we shall achieve full coverage. Each child born will have a record booklet containing the details of their immunisation that the midwives in the Payams will oversee.

In the East there are particular problems. The Muralei are a problem with their practice of child abduction. They say they do this because they have no children of their own. This people migrated from Eastern Equatoria to the area of Jonglei. Their problem of infertility seems to have existed for about twenty years. In addition to abduction, children suspected of being illegitimate are traded to them. The price they pay is about 25 cows for a child. We recently recovered 5 children, but such success is not frequent. Before 1983, research was being carried out in to their infertility, but this stopped in the war. Their abductions increased during the war, and they are worsening now. We need to restart the research. It seems that abducted children also become infertile, so the problem must be in the area. The County worst effected is Skiboo. The French construction company, C.C.I., is interested in sponsoring such research. For now the violence continues. And it extends to cattle raiding, for, if you have no cows to trade for a child you must take another's cows.

The Hon. Peter Basher Gbandi, MP for the Meridi Constituency and Chairman of the Committee of Information and Culture.

Southern Sudan is in a very delicate political position right now. We are almost in the final stages of the CPA, and there are several provisions which have not been implemented. We do not know if the July elections will take place. Many factors will cause difficulties: the rainy season inhibiting travel; illiteracy, LRA activity and the failure as yet to establish a satisfactory framework.

- **The resurgence of the LRA:** More than 50 people have been killed since attacks began again on December 24th. Over 50 bodies have been found; others have been abducted and fighting has broken out in East and West Equatoria and there are also reports of fighting on the east bank of the Nile.

- An Antonov was heard over Meridi, believed to be sent to drop supplies for the LRA, but it was driven away by helicopter gunships. Regular flights of GNU Antonovs heading for LRA locations are heard flying over Juba.
- The LRA is destabilising the whole region.
- Khartoum is intent on returning to war. Since the SPLA defeated the LRA, they now focus on soft targets such as civilians, whom the GOSS can't protect. These then become dissatisfied with the GOSS.
- Western Equatoria was the stronghold of the SPLA during the war, so Khartoum is targeting this region and wants to use the LRA to scare the people there and to destroy their confidence in southern Sudan.

Joy Kwaje Eluzai, Chairwoman, Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission.

Thank you very much for all your help and work for Sudan. Now, we are grateful and impressed that you are working to raise awareness of southern Sudan.

- Since the CPA, Darfur has taken over and the situation here seems to have been forgotten, although it is immensely important. We don't want to return to the suffering of the people and therefore we are struggling to maintain this very costly peace.
- The work of the Human Rights Commission is very important, as the SPLM/A has been accused many times of violations. Our mandate is to promote and to protect Human Rights.
- At the end of last year, we completed the Survey of 'Baseline Awareness of Human Rights'. It emphasised how much education work we still need to do, to enable people to understand their basic rights. We need to remember that we have been at war all our lives. This need gives us our priority and our focus.
- We are a new Commission. We have no files to which we can refer. So we visited and examined what is done in other countries: Kenya, Uganda, South Africa and Rwanda. The British Embassy has helped us very much with these visits and we wish to thank them.
- There is no equivalent Commission in Khartoum. We have made a statement on Darfur – and once the Bill of Human Rights is passed, we hope that Vice-President Salva Kiir will make representations and put pressure on the NCP in Khartoum.
- We have also picked up some individual cases of arrest by soldiers. After all our experience, the notion of law and order is something new. No-one has yet been taken to court. Victims often do not want cases to be legally pursued – they merely want to be released.
- Other important cases are concerned with land. We have had 5 cases; 3 have been settled by mediation. But it is difficult for citizens to bring cases to court as we do not yet have the resources to give legal aid for lawyers.

- We have been asked to monitor compliance with various international treaties. So the Commission must educate people on these.
- We have made a number of visits to all major prisons and places of detention. In 2008, we managed to visit all 10 States. The conditions were very bad: sometimes we found buildings with no roofs, leaving the prisoners exposed. Sanitation is always very poor. There is overcrowding: in a room 4x4 metres, there may be 10-17 people. There is always inadequate ventilation and often, even during the day, we have to use a torch.
- On December 10th 2007, we held a Human Rights Day in Juba. The President said: *'We have made mistakes in the past. We are in a new era. We fought for freedom and human rights and we need to be worthy of this.'*
- Re. our structure: we have 5 Commissioners; we have set up a Secretariat under Victor as Director; as yet we have no allocated offices so we have hired an office opposite the British High Commission. It is our intention to set up offices in each of the 10 States and that more than half our staff (60:40) will be out there in the State offices rather than in Juba.
- *'This is essential if we are to organise local awareness campaigns.'*
- 45 people of the SSHRC staff have been trained and we are very grateful to the British Embassy for their help – including funding travel to Uganda and South Africa.
- *'We are still in a struggle, but in a different phase. I think the CPA is not on firm ground.'*

3:2 NUBA MOUNTAINS' MEETINGS

We appreciated the opportunity to have discussions with community leaders in Kauda, including:

Faroug Idris Kuku – Rashed County Commissioner

Hamid Musa – SRRC/HAC Kauda

Younah Abbaroud Asour – Rashad County SPLM Chairperson

Sultan Suliaman Bahar eldeen, Chief of Darfur IDPs', Kauda

Mary Badawi Kuku – Assistant Secretary

Hellen Mohamed – Assistant Secretary

Yagando Mallak – Former County Acting Commissioner/ Secretary (?) of Social Welfare

Anour Burtail – National Convention Member.

The Chairman expressed gratitude to Caroline Cox for all her help in the dark days of the war and her concern for the people of the Nuba Mountains, as well as other parts of Sudan.

Issues discussed included:

'The only good thing about the CPA is the ceasefire: nothing else has improved for us.'

Many issues were highlighted in these discussions. While the CPA has brought relief from the terrors of war and there is universal relief that NIF Antonovs and helicopter gunships no longer rain down instruments of death on civilian targets, serious concerns were identified with regard to the CPA.

- In the Nuba Mountains, there is intense dislike of the change of name of their land to 'Southern Kordofan'. As the local people adhere strongly to the name 'Nuba Mountains', we respect their wishes and retain the use of this name.
- The change of name is also an indication of the extent to which the people feel penalised by the provisions of the CPA, which they see as skewed in Khartoum's favour.

Among the CPA provisions seen as adversely affecting the people of the Nuba Mountains are:

- The relocation of administrative authority to an Assembly in Kadugli, with a 55%-45% weighting in favour of the National Congress Party (the new name for the NIF faction in the new 'Government of National Unity').
- Provisions in the CPA for 'Integration' of key services, such as the police, the civil service and the armed forces, have not been fulfilled. Rather, they have been abused. For example, police from the Nuba Mountains were sent to the North for training, but have not been allowed to return, whereas their replacements from the North have remained in the Nuba Mountains. As these personnel were responsible for many of the killings and other violations of human rights perpetrated during the war, their presence is a source of fear for the local community and of distrust of the outcomes of the CPA.
- *'The situation in the Nuba Mountains grows worse and worse – and concern continues over sporadic outbreaks of conflict initiated by local militias, believed by the local people to be supported and resourced by Khartoum.. The North is arming Arab tribes with guns and the PDF (Popular Defence Force mujahidin Jihad warriors) are operating as local militia). If you move around, you find these militia and SAF (Sudan Army Forces – the GNU northern troops) disturbing the INGOs and civilians in SPLM areas, creating massive insecurity.'*
- The restrictions put on the transfer of resources for redevelopment and reconstruction. Previously, the people of the Nuba Mountains obtained their supplies and logistical support from Kenya and Uganda; since the CPA, they have been put under administrative authority from Kadugli and Khartoum. The people

living in the SPLM administered areas describe how resources to which they are entitled are now withheld, delayed or manipulated.

- For example, one of the top priorities is the urgent need for education, especially secondary education. There has been a concerted effort to provide primary schooling for growing numbers of children: in 2008 six hundred children completed primary education and the number is expected to reach a thousand in 2009. However, the government does not provide adequate support for secondary schools: the only viable high school in the SPLM controlled areas is run by the Church. A state secondary school in Kauda is operating out of an old, decrepit building but it is inadequately staffed, as there are no resources available for payment of adequate salaries for the teachers.
- In the summer of 2008, UNICEF undertook to provide funding for the NGO Samaritans' Purse to build a secondary school with residential accommodation in Kumo in a camp in for displaced people from Darfur, which would be available for the local community as well as for the IDPs. However, no money has been forthcoming as yet, despite repeated requests and enquiries
- It is therefore clear that the situation with regard to provision for secondary education is desperate. Local leaders claim that the funds so desperately needed for education are deliberately restricted and/or only allowed for the building of schools teaching an Islamic curriculum. No money has been made available from Kadugli for secondary schools which teach the East African curriculum which is desired by the local population.
- It is claimed that no resources have been made available for other essential services such as health care, administrative costs or rebuilding of essential infrastructure such as roads.
- Proposals to relocate the World Food Programme (WFP) base from Kauda to Kadugli are causing deep anxiety. There is particular anger over the reasons allegedly given two months ago for the relocation of WFP on the grounds that the airstrip at Kauda was not operational and was overgrown. However, when the airstrip had been proved satisfactory a new excuse was given: lack of cooperation by the local authorities. The local community leaders say this is manifestly untrue and that the decision was taken by WFP, influenced by the NCP, without any reference to the SPLM.

Further concern was expressed over the implications of WFP's move: as the WFP is the major user of Kauda airstrip, the viability of the airstrip will be threatened and this will jeopardise access to the Nuba Mountains by all NGOS.

There is widespread fear the NCP want to close all NGOs working in the SPLM administered areas and to ensure that all operations are controlled directly from Khartoum.

Such developments exacerbate the severe problems already facing returnees who have to try to survive without adequate water supplies, health care, education or housing. If WFP withdraws its support for returnees, especially those with children, it may be impossible for them to survive and they may have to turn their backs on their homeland again.

It is believed that one reason why Khartoum is discouraging the return of Nuba Mountain people to their own land is to influence the demographic composition of the population prior to any consultation with the people about their future political and geographical status.

The SPLA armed forces have relocated, according to the requirements of the CPA, to line 1156. But despite this, in violation of the CPA, Khartoum is deploying large numbers of troops in the Nuba Mountains causing considerable anxiety amongst the local community.

Re the ICC: the local leadership are prepared for El Bashir to be indicted and handed over.

'If war breaks out, we will defend ourselves. Here in the Nuba Mountains, we are surrounded by SAF and PDF soldiers. The international community needs to know that we do not want war and we will not start a war. We want peace and are committed to the CPA. But if we are attacked, we will protect ourselves. If El Bashir comes here and is forced to flee, we will kill him from behind as he runs.'

'If war does come and we are successful, then that may be the only way in which we will be able to enjoy genuine peace and freedom. We will never have true peace and freedom while the NCP has power in Khartoum. If we have true peace, we can then invite other people here from outside and build things and make a good peace.'

'UNMIS is here not to protect us but the UN monitors. They are here under Article 6; they should be here with a duty to protect us, not just the UN monitors.'

'This is the most diabolical regime known in Sudan. The international community needs to recognise that the way things are going on now will produce a catastrophe. They must recognise that this is a regime which is giving a headache, not only to Sudan, but to the world.'

3:3 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Juba, the Metropolitan of southern Sudan.

"Caroline Cox is part of Sudan's history. I have followed her closely, including her visits in the war with Bishop Macram and I am deeply grateful for her contributions then and now."

All the churches here are united. We have all been tormented and tortured together and so we have struggled and fought together – including Catholics, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Pentecostals.

There are problems with the CPA, which is not going well.

GOSS and President are good, they are trying hard and they deserve our support.

The GNU in Khartoum is not happy and wants to manipulate the situation like Darfur; it is also trying to restart the war.

We still feel the need of support from the international community. If we are left alone, we feel that there will not be peace – now or in 2011.

- The GNU does not want this or the involvement of the international community. They are afraid of separation of the South.
- Everyone in the South wants peace.

Now is the time to become Africans, to feel ourselves as Africans and to become a people, separate from Arabs and Muslims.

'Look, we are Africans. The majority in the North are Arabs and Muslims. We have no hatred for them. But the majority in here are Africans and Christians. Muslims have no problems here. But freedom of religion is the basis of humanity. We are not against the North, but looking inwards, we see ourselves as Africans and we don't want to lose our identity to Arabs and Muslims. Our identity as Africans and Southerners is stronger than our religion. If those in southern Sudan are given the freedom to choose, then I think they will choose freedom.'

The fear we have for 2011 is that the referendum is not being properly prepared. We need the help of the international community to ensure that it is prepared and that it does happen.

The slogan 'Give Unity a Chance' is being promoted and pushed. But this was the basis of the CPA but it is not working well and we still have problems. They say we are a 'United Sudan' but they have been fighting us. So we now think 'Give Separation a Chance.'

This theme was reflected in the Roman Catholic Pastoral Letter.

Problems still abound, including corruption. We are a poor people. In the bush, we suffered everything – that is what the soldiers say. Now is our time to enjoy the fruits of our suffering. There are problems with displaced people, food shortages and the LRA disrupting food supplies, with lorries travelling from Uganda, knowing the danger of attacks. We need to encourage people to make good use of their land.

In education and so many other areas, we cannot do much, because the support is government to government and we do not see it.

'One thing we are glad of, is that the British people cannot leave Sudan!'

3:4 YEI MEETINGS

We were received by the Bishop Elias Taban of the EPC and the Rt. Revd. Bishop Hilary of Yei (ECS).

The following issues were raised:

Yesterday, while we celebrated the 4th anniversary of the CPA, there was a feeling of deep unease.

- We are now enjoying relative peace, which is one of the achievements of the CPA: people can move, set up businesses, children can go to school, there is some health care. But we still have problems as GOSS is struggling to establish the structure of local government. But despite the problems, they are trying their best. We still have a desire for a good life.
- The GOSS has been trying hard not to respond to provocations from north – such as the skirmishes with northern Government forces in Malakal in 2006. These are issues which the GNU and GOSS should have addressed but they are dragging their feet.

Other outstanding problems include:

- **The GNU in Khartoum** are dragging their feet with regard to the definition of the border boundary. In July 2009, elections are due for local and national government - to allow space for other political parties to come into GOSS and GNU. However, we are not sure if elections will take place.
- **The conflict in Abyie** between SAF (ex-NIF, official GNU Army) was another major problem: Abyie was destroyed, threatening the CPA.
- **Oil:** the GNU will not be happy with secession by the South, because the oil located in the South provides massive revenue to North – so this also threatens the commitment of the North to the provisions of the CPA.

'The North will not allow a referendum for secession: it would mean the South taking the whole of the oil in the South. They in the desert are counting on the oil in the South to pay for their development.'

The ICC indictment of El Bashir: if he is captured and taken to court, other forces may take power and we do not know them. They may dissolve the CPA.

These are issues which, if not addressed., could cost us a high price. The people really do not want another war. They have suffered too long – but the leadership in the north have caused us this problem.

Darfur: They are also still bombing heavily in Darfur – and people are still dying in Darfur. This is an issue affecting the security of the whole of Sudan. Even if there is progress for the south, Darfur still threatens our future.

'The international community is there in Darfur, but GNU still manipulates the situation and the international community really doesn't have the guts to tell El Bashir to stop his practices.'

Although the people of the south do NOT WANT war, it is the northern leadership which causes the problems.

'We in the South do not have much power to prevent this war'.

- *'There are also problems for GOSS: they are new to political processes, and there is corruption; they don't have experience of administration – they have had to be fighters. I don't think the structures of integrity are yet in place for the South. But the situation is far worse in the North.'*
- The common people are not receiving what they expect and are dissatisfied; there is a great deal of tribalism – and the stronger tribes dominate at the expense of the smaller. This makes people feel bad about the leadership.
- **The GOSS have only 4 years of experience and have many difficulties.** The roads are appalling; there are no Health Care facilities; the local people feel neglected; a woman in childbirth is put on a bicycle to get to hospital. There are no schools; millions of children have no schools. People ask why, when they sacrificed so much for the SPLA, they are not benefiting now. There are huge needs for water – especially with climatic changes, streams have dried up and women now have to walk 5 miles to water sources – which may be contaminated by animals. People are dying of water-borne diseases.
- **Resource management is a challenge.** Nurses in the Government hospital have not been paid for 3 months, so they went on strike. The hospital is in an appalling condition: patients are lying on the floor. Everywhere is dirty.
- Yei receives large-scale revenue from import taxes, immigration etc, but the money cannot be used by the Commissioner as it is sent north, for the Republic's revenue.
- **The church:** As the war has been so recent, the churches should be supported by the Christians but the people are so poor. The people are just beginning to give but we have had to depend on outside aid from our partners: the Diocese of Yei is trying to build schools (3 primary schools) and a modern Primary Health Clinic and improve our income-generating Guest House; vocational training in carpentry, building and joinery, electric installation, vehicle mechanics, plumbing. It is very important to use the enthusiasm of local youth, including demobilised child soldiers, and to reduce dependence on Uganda. This also breaks the taboo on women's employment – to help themselves and the community.
- "Across" is funding YTTC (Yei Teacher Training College) which is seeking affiliation with Kyambogo University in Uganda. The province of the ECS has been divided into clusters (about 6, with 4 dioceses each) to share resources: Yei, Lanyia, Rokon and Kajo Keji. Another cluster involves Khartoum, Kadugli, El Obeid and Port Sudan.

- Food security: in central Equatoria, we have the richest region of Southern Sudan in soil fertility – but there is no work to utilise this, because of the war and the lack of know-how and technology for food production. So the people just use traditional tools and a hoe does not produce enough for a family, let alone the community. It is difficult to obtain the money to utilise these resources. In other parts of Sudan, people receive food relief – but not here, because there is so much natural food. We have thousands of mangos rotting, because people do not have the technology to use them. Therefore, we need investment to use these resources.
- The Diocese of Yei has one tractor which was mismanaged and is not operational. There is an urgent need for training in tractor maintenance.
- The church has plenty of land in many parishes which could be used effectively to grow good harvests.
- There is a need for V-SAT connections for internet connection. 10 Dioceses have been selected for this but Yei was not included, as it is deemed to be relatively well resourced.

The LRA: when the joint offensive started in December (DRC, Uganda and SPLA) the LRA couldn't be contained. They are still abducting people, in Yei, Mundri, Meridi and Yambio. By Christmas, 90 people had been killed. The LRA are now here and people have been killed, tortured (eyes plucked out) and abducted. They move in small groups and create terror, and rain havoc, on the people. The SPLA Garrison Commander says they are aware of the security situation in Yei, but they don't know where the LRA are, so he is asking the local people to notify them as soon as possible so they can act quickly. He was also appealing to the local people not to engage in criminal activity, as they cannot distinguish local people from the LRA and they could be killed. He is asking local people to give up their guns. But local people resist this as they fear another war.

Khartoum is supporting the LRA: there are reports that GNU supply LRA with food and weapons (allegedly dropping from Antonovs – but we cannot prove this).

We are advised not to go out because it is too dangerous and if we arrive safely, it is by the grace of God. But we have to go, to be with our people.

Although the LRA are here; it is worse in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where they have been killing people and burning people in church.

4. HART PROJECTS

(Brief and incomplete summary.)

HART continues to expand its work in the Yei area, specifically with Bishop Taban, without ruling out the possibility of working with other Partners.

It is seeking to expand its work in the Nuba Mountains, including the work with the NRRDO (Nuba Relief, Rehabilitation and Development Organization).

It has initiated a new partnership in Luonyaker, Bahr-El-Ghazal; and may seek further partners.

4:1 YEI COUNTY

In Yei County HART continues to cooperate with Bishop Elias Taban of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and his extensive organization, which receives the full support of the South Sudanese Government. The Director in Juba for Widows, Orphans and the Disabled stated to him last year: *'We must take you as our primary partner because you have so much experience of caring for these people, even before the CPA, while war still raged'*.

HART continues, with the support of the Barnabas Fund and others, to fund a Programme for progressively setting up 5 Primary Health Care Centres (PHCC); and also to explore the possibility of being of assistance with the obvious shortfall in trained medical personnel.

We continue to visit, and support in small ways, 2 Children's Homes, at Morobo and Lora.

Our support for the Agricultural Programme has increased over the past year. The breadth of consequences in other areas, of this Programme, increase all the time, raising its priority; and we are satisfied that the considerable benefits it provides in support for other Programmes, referred to in last year's report, are being more than fulfilled.

4:1:1 Primary Health Care Programme

5 PHCCs are planned:

2 continue operations, at Logo and Lora, the latter in Lanyo County.

1 has recently become fully operative at Morsak.

2 further ones are to be built at Payawa and Balamuke.

In addition, the EPC has been asked by the County of Lanyo to take responsibility for a further Clinic building at Lora, nearly completed by the agency of a foreign government but seemingly “abandoned”. This situation obviously needs careful investigation, both by the EPC and by HART.

The Programme is deliberately gradual to allow for learning from experience.

A standard Budget is followed, in each case consisting of \$10,000 for the Building, and \$14,000 for the *first* year’s Running Costs, including Staff salaries and supply of Medication. HART is providing these funds for all 5 Clinics. The GOSS (Govt. of South Sudan) has stated that it will take over all Running Costs once a Clinic is built and has functioned for one year. This has already happened in the case of Logo Clinic. The Clinic at Lora is a different case, being a part of the Children’s Home there, as well as a Community service. In each case it is intended that the Staff should consist of a Midwife, Nurse and Community Health Worker. However the shortage of trained staff will not make this possible for some time. In the construction it has been decided, based on experience of what is required, to move to what is termed “semi-permanent”, i.e. the foundations and floor are made of cement; the roof likewise is strongly built, of metal sheeting and timber; but the walls are of timber skeleton, with bamboo and mud, thus needing renewal.

Monitoring:

It has been arranged through the County Chief Medical Officer that HART will receive, at six-monthly intervals, the report sent to him by our sponsored Clinics. These are the standard reports sent monthly by all Clinics. Along with those of our own Clinics we shall receive reports from other Clinics, for comparative purposes.

Personnel:

Bishop Taban still seeks for a Health Coordinator comparable to the most able one employed for Agriculture. At present Pastor Scopas fills in for this role.

At Lora there is an enrolled nurse, of whom doctors whom we met spoke very highly; mentioning her to be a prime candidate for training to registered level, so rare and so needed in Sudan.

At Logo there is a Community Health Worker functioning as a nurse; plus a traditional birthing attendant and a watchman.

Morsak also has a Community Health worker functioning as a nurse.

A nurse is already specified for the Clinic to be built this year at Balamuke: Chaplain Wongo, native to that village, has very nearly completed his training in Lira, Uganda, and is enthusiastic to return.

At Golu Hospital (not HART supported) there is a Medical assistant who helps; along with other staff.

4:1:2 Agricultural Programme.

This began at the beginning of last year when HART gave money to cover initial operating costs for two tractors donated to the EPC by AST in the U.K.. We did this having first investigated with specialists in Food Security and Agriculture working in Southern Sudan the viability and correctness of the working proposals of the EPC at Yei for the careful use of mechanized farming. Since then, HART has provided further funding for the second Season's planting. There is no doubt that money has been well used, both the initial grant and the further grant in September 2008.

The information that follows is the result of conversation with Bishop Taban and his Executive Committee, including the Agricultural Coordinator, Manaseh Tito. The latter was trained at Agricultural College in Uganda, finishing in 1986, and since then has worked, predominantly in Food Security, mainly with NGOs, in Southern Sudan and in the Congo. He commenced as Coordinator in Yei in August 2008.

In the past too much food, as they said, had been brought in by Arab traders, discouraging local initiative. Why should this be left to continue in such a fertile land, with a wet season so reliable that it only fails, perhaps once in ten years? Why depend so much on expensive food imports? Why fail to make the most of local fertility and not raise funds by exporting foods? (See pineapples below.)

Golu Farm.

Most of the work has been carried out at Golu, on land donated to the EPC by the local community, and authorized by the County administration. The County is especially encouraging of this project because of the initiative being shown in seeking out and trialing different hybrids of crops and different forms of cultivation in the particular situation of this soil and this climate; as well as growing standard, locally proven, crops and methods.

The donation of land for this purpose has entailed the careful and generous compensation of a small number of individual farmers whose trees, beehives, etc. have been disturbed. Land used by particular farmers is very much mixed up; not in solid blocks. It has been important to maintain the cooperation of the local community.

[Areas of land are referred to in terms of a feddan, equal to a piece of land 60 metres x 70, or 4,200 square metres.]

In the second season, roughly August to December, there were planted: 7 ½ feddan of Sorghum (of two varieties, one new which proved successful); 2 ½ feddan of beans;

Local employment is produced by weeding, harvesting, and the processing (such as winnowing, grinding, etc.) of increased yields.

Sharing of mechanized farming with the community.

There have been attempts at renting out the tractors and mechanical equipment to local communities. In one place this led to community problems with individual farmers claiming the benefit through alleged land ownership. The EPC has decided, not to abandon such efforts, but to move more carefully and slowly in to this particular area of use, telling that one community that it will not return until the community has sorted out its own problems.

Local College – Training – and Future plans

The local agricultural college continues to function.

Persons are being trained in a variety of agricultural skills.

Future plans include the extension of Golu farm; the growing of pineapples as a cash crop, at the same time encouraging other communities to see its feasibility as a profit maker for Southern Sudan; and the continuing to supply some employment for many unemployed through restricting the use of mechanization to the preparation of the ground and the sowing, using human labour to weed and to harvest.

4:1:3 Women's Empowerment Programme

We heard of five different activities in which the Women's Programme is involved.

The GuestHouse – to offer hospitality, and to raise funds for Credit.

The provision of the abovementioned credit for women starting businesses.

Groups learning the Bible and learning from there of their important role in the community, including in leadership.

Playgrounds for the Orphans' Homes.

Teaching soap making as a form of income for land-mine victims (an off-shoot of sunflower oil production in the agricultural programme).

4:1:4 Brickbuilding Programme

The EPC under Bishop Taban continues to run this, training and employing local unemployed in the making of bricks, to again reduce the reliance on other countries, and build up a more skilled work force.

4:2 NUBA MOUNTAINS

Our involvement with the NRRDO (Nuba Relief, Rehabilitation and Development Organization) continues to be with a Widows' Empowerment programme: helping them to unite amongst themselves; to generate income when they are left unsupported; and to take a fuller and more prominent role in their communities in contrast to their present marginalization. This is long-term work and we intend to support them for a further year to ensure their establishing themselves effectively.

4:3 BAHR-EL-GHAZAL

We have begun to develop a supportive relationship with the Marol School, near Luonyaker. This is described as "a girls' school, to which boys may come!", emphasizing the need to increase female education. Last year they had prepared for c. 250 pupils. They in fact received c. 450. Some had come from a considerable distance. Allowing for another school set up in the distant village becoming fully functional and taking the pupils from close to it – the Marok school still expects to be dealing with c. 320-340 pupils once it reopens in March 2009. They functioned last year with 7 full-time and 3 part-time teachers. Commencing this year they intend to send 3 teachers for 3 months training during the school's close-down period in the dry season. It is HART's intention to help with this. Schools throughout Southern Sudan close down during the dry season: from December to February or March. This is due to the common practice of families, with their children, moving away from the home in order to pasture animals nearer to rivers, until the rains return.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*To all those who offered us hospitality, or assisted with our logistics;
all who gave up time to meet with us;
and all our donors and supporters who make our work possible.)*

President Salva Kiir of Southern Sudan and first Vice-President of the Republic of Sudan for granting us the meeting.

The Ministers for Presidential Affairs; Education; Health, Gender and Social Welfare; and Regional Cooperation; and Undersecretaries and Directors within Departments; in the government in Juba.

Archbishop Paolino of Juba (RC); Bishop Hilary of Yei (ECS); and Bishop Taban (EPC).

The Chairwoman of the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission (SSHRC).

The Chairman of the Committee of Information and Culture.

The Members of the British Embassy Office in Juba: David Lelliott and Brad Porter.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) for, like last year, making our Itinerary possible; for much patience – and for hospitality in Juba.

The Commissioners for Yei County; and for Rashad County.

The Chief Medical Officer for Yei County.

Bishop Elias Taban, and his Staff and Coordinators.

All those who received us, so hospitably, in Balamuke.

The Women's Empowerment Programme in Yei for their hospitality.

The Community at Marol and Luonyaker; to Jok Madut and his family; and to the Administrator of the Payam.

The staff and pupils of Lora Children's Home.

The NRRDO (Nuba Relief, Rehabilitation and Development Organization), especially Juma and Sima, for their information, and arrangement of our programme.

Sergey and the other members of Samaritan's Purse, Kauda, for their hospitality.

The community leaders and representatives of organizations in Kauda who met us.

All our Donors and supporters, including:

Barnabas Fund

Canning Trust

Rev. and Mrs. Marsh

Signed:

Caroline Cox and David Thomas

January 19, 2009.

Appendix 1. Personnel and Itinerary

a) Personnel:

Caroline Cox, HART CEO; the Rev'd David Thomas, HART Projects Co-Ordinator; Naomi Pendle, teacher; Luigi Ventimiglia, photographer.

b) Itinerary:

January

- 4: arrive in Kampala
- 5: planning meeting with MAF; meeting at British High Commission; visit Kampala School
- 6: to Marol School, near Luonyaker in Bahr el Ghazal
continue to Kauda in Nuba Mts.
- 7: meetings with NRRDO, and with County Commissioner and other leaders
continue to Yei, Central Equatoria
- 8: meet children from Lora Orphanage
- 9: receive Reports from our Partners in Yei re. Primary Health Care, Women's Empowerment, and Agriculture
- 10: meeting with Bishop Hilary, Anglican Bishop of Yei; visit community of Balamuke, in Abegi, site of future Health Care Unit
- 11: with local people in Church worship; further Project meeting with Bishop Taban; farewell ceremony
- 12: meeting with Chief Medical Officer, Yei County;
to Juba; meetings with Chairman of Information and Culture Commission; Chairwoman and Director of Human Rights Commission; Minister, Undersecretary and Directors of Education;
Minister of Gender and Social Welfare, and Undersecretaries of Education.
- 13: meeting with President Salva Kiir of Southern Sudan (and First Vice-President of the Republic of Sudan)
meetings with Minister for Presidential Affairs, Minister and Undersecretary for Regional Cooperation; meeting with R.C. Archbishop of Juba (and Metropolitan of Southern Sudan).
to Gulu, Uganda; meet with R.C. Archbishop of Gulu
- 14: meeting with Canon John Ochola; to Patongo; meeting with Dr. Abbass
- 15: visit JCRC; to Kampala
- 16: meet British High Commissioner

Appendix 2. Introduction to HART

HART operates on the basis of 4 interrelated principles:

aid

advocacy

authenticity

accountability.

(i) **Aid:** assessing and providing the most appropriate type of relief.

HART seeks to focus primarily on people in need who are not receiving adequate assistance from major organizations – often for security and/or political reasons. Large organizations are often constrained by due need to consider safety of expatriate personnel working on location. HART, being a small organization, committed to working with local partners, keeps no expatriate staff ‘on the ground’; rather establishing, supporting and evaluating projects on the basis of regular visits, involving a different assessment of “Risk” for its personnel.

This policy enables HART to provide humanitarian aid in areas when and where many major aid organizations are not operating – thus making a difference, even with relatively small budgets.

HART is non-denominational and will offer aid and advocacy to all in need, unconditionally.

(ii) **Advocacy:** making known the needs and concerns of those who are suffering.

Most major aid organizations can only visit locations with the permission of the sovereign government, no matter how great the humanitarian needs. As many of our partners live in conditions of oppression and persecution, at the hands of their own governments, HART seeks to visit them in order to obtain evidence of their situation and then to represent their concerns, as appropriate, to the wider communities, national and international.

(iii) **Authenticity:** gathering first hand evidence of oppression, persecution and humanitarian needs.

HART personnel regularly visit people ‘on location’ in order to seek their advice on their priorities for aid, to support and to evaluate the development of programmes and to be able to speak as advocates on the basis of first-hand experience.

(iv) **Accountability:** to those for whom HART speaks and to those who support our work.

Ensuring our advocacy is accurate and sensitive to their situation;
Informing our supporters of what we have done and what they made possible.

Appendix 3. Objectives of the Visit**Aid:**

- a) to meet HART's Partners, share encouragement, and assess development of our existing Projects.
- b) to seek to develop further contacts and partners in the areas of Bahr-el-Ghazal and the Nuba Mountains.

Advocacy:

To obtain first hand evidence of the present Humanitarian, Political, and Security situation in Southern Sudan and in the Nuba Mountains; including with regard to fulfilling of the CPA; and of the actual functioning on-the-ground of other Aid organizations.

Appendix 4. HART donations

including:

TrustHouse:

Barnabas Fund:

Rev. and Mrs. Marsh:

Canning Trust: