From War to Peace: Reflections on Post-war Resettlement and Development in South Sudan

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Interim GOSS to an Independent State of S. Sudan

- From Negative Peace & Turmoil Towards Positive Peace & Development

- Multiple challenges
  - State building
  - Imagining, inventing an overarching, inclusive common identity: unity in diversity – diversity in unity
  - Demilitarisation & internal pacification
  - Post-war Development-Peacebuilding vision: Policy and agenda? S. Sudan – IC (donors) relations
    - Resettlement, Integration, Livelihood revival
      - Entitlements: Rights/Access to resources & social opportunities
      - Capabilities

- CPA, GOSS, donor pledges: incentive for IDPs and refugees to return
  - End of 2009: 2 million had returned voluntarily – two processes: 1) individuals/families returning on their own; 2) organised return supported by the UN, IOM, GOSS, GOS

- Resettlement, livelihood revival & social integration: raised multiple problems: institutional, social, economic, infrastructural, logistical

- Focus on repatriation----> human security, resolution of resource conflicts, livelihood revival, and (re)integration to the back burner
  - Entitlement failures → Livelihood insecurity, and in several areas - human insecurity
The ground realities showed that resettlement, (re)integration and livelihood revival did not mean a return to *status quo ante* and that even the negative peace that was guaranteed by the CPA was fragile.

- Prolonged displacement, experiences of life elsewhere, intra-family changes in demography and capacities, and the promise held out by the CPA had their impact on the preferences and expectations of the returnees.

- The conditions in the areas they fled had changed too due to:
  - the destructive effects of the war
  - subsequent influxes and temporary and permanent settlement of displaced people from other parts of S. Sudan. This had its spatial and temporal variations.

- Returnees-IDPs conflicts over land resources -> Inter-communal conflict -> identity conflict
– Competing land uses: Pastoralists in farming areas → problems of resource governance → crisis of institutions

– Secondary displacements & new internal displacements throughout the IP

– Human security situation:
  • Attacks by the LRA in Equatoria
  • SSR, DDR - problems due to peculiarities of the IP: uncertainty; war may return
  • Large supply of small arms
Differential impact of humanitarian aid (‘one size fits all’ - 3 months) & input supply for livelihood revival

- Time of arrival to first harvest –cropping season I: 3-5 months; II: 3-4 months; Many returnees missed the first season; + crop failure in some areas
- Differences in household endowment-entitlement statuses
- Seeds, tools, credit, uncertainty (rainfall, pests & diseases) – low potential for surplus generation at current technology & productivity levels
- Non-existent/ destroyed infrastructure
- Lack of planning & coordination
- Capacity constraints at different levels--> High dependence on external agencies and their resources→ Trusteeship
Customary institutions in a changing post-war environment

- The revival of customary institutions has been impressive and the role they play in resettlement, livelihood revival and reintegration is indispensable.
- **BUT** the tasks they (e.g. Payam Land Council, Boma Landlord Committee) have to handle are more demanding and subject to new legislation & policies.

- GOSS agencies<->Customary institutions;

- **Land Act, 2009 & Customary institutions:** emerging larger institutional & legal framework; new land use needs, new land tenure regimes
– Customary institutions have to deal with resettlement, resource conflicts and social tensions in circumstances that demand knowledge, skills and authority they did not seem to possess in sufficient measure.

– Post-war: many areas have become more multi-ethnic than they were in pre-war times → institutional challenges at local levels
• Official (legal) definition of ‘reintegration’ & complex local realities
  – Land Act of 2009: Reintegration 'means the re-entry of formerly internally displaced persons into the social, economic, cultural and political fabric of their original community.'
    • A static definition of a dynamic, differentiated process
    • Problematic terminologies: ‘Re-entry’, ‘… Original community’

Needed: Normative, dynamic concepts of resettlement, integration, and livelihood security articulated in terms of entitlements, enhancement of human agency and progress towards positive peace.

Note: Resettlement remains an unfinished business with implications for livelihood security and long-term development
Resettlement, social integration, and livelihood revival need to be envisioned as integral parts of the larger strategies for development, durable peace and state building in post-war S. Sudan
Thank You