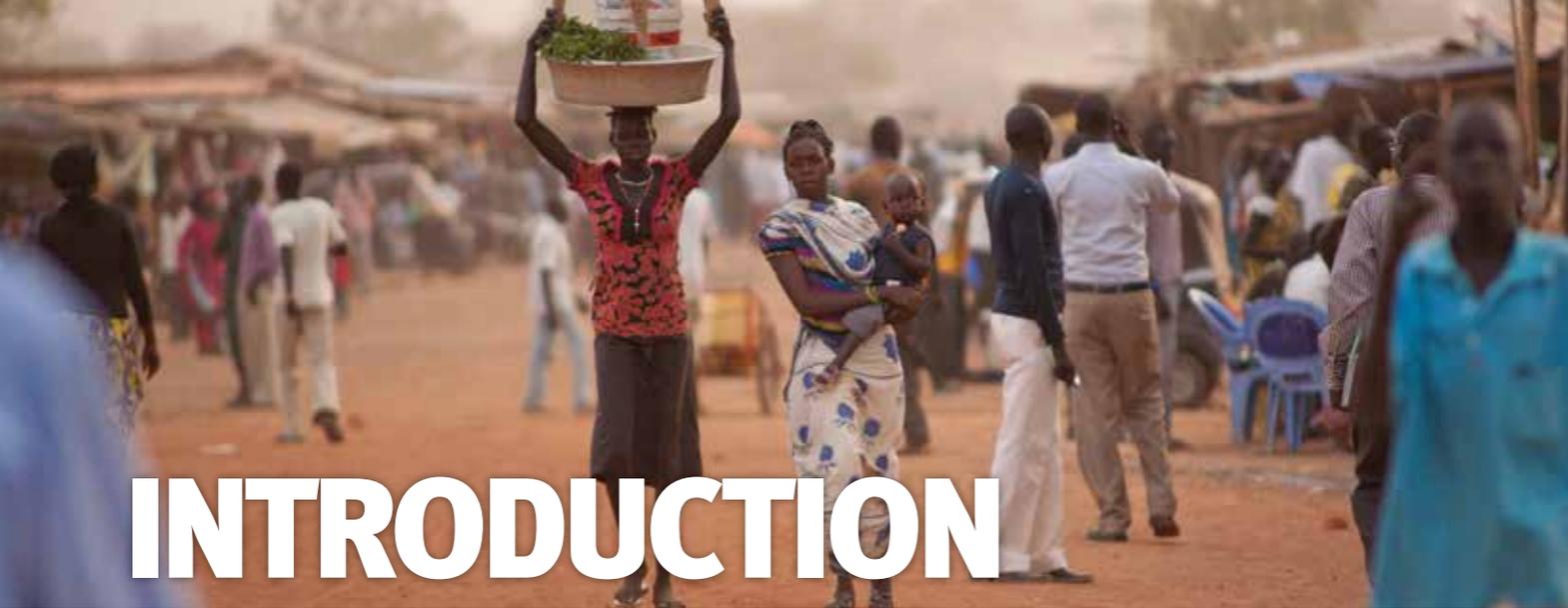




**SAFERWORLD**  
PREVENTING VIOLENT CONFLICT. BUILDING SAFER LIVES

# SAFERWORLD

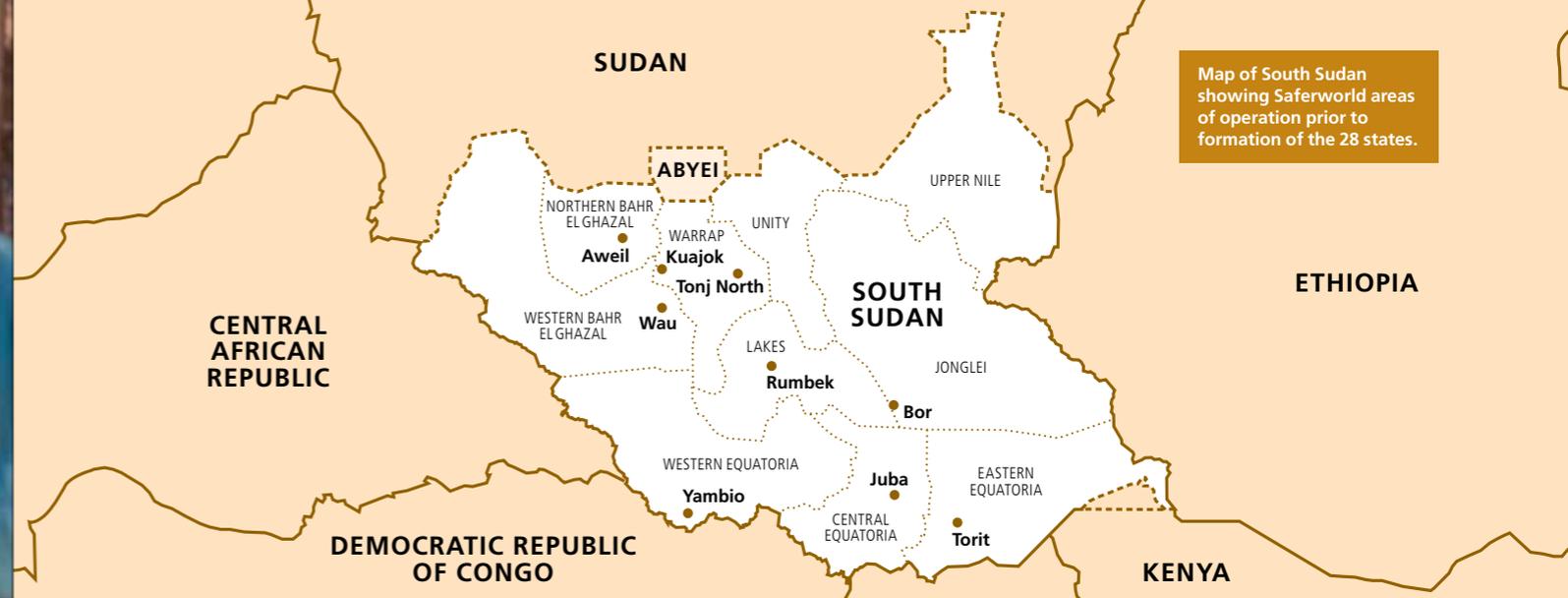
# IN SOUTH SUDAN



# INTRODUCTION

**South Sudan, the youngest country in the world, continues to struggle with the legacy of civil wars and marginalisation, and faces profound governance, security and development challenges. Less than three years after it won independence from Sudan, the country was drawn into a civil war that broke out in December 2013, and has since continued with the most recent violent resurgence in July 2016 slowing down the process to effectively implement the August 2015 peace agreement.**

The Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCISS) is so far the most progressive way forward to address this conflict and provide renewed hope for peace. However, communities in Tonj North, Rumbek Central, and Rumbek East still suffer from intra and inter-communal violence and inter-sectional cattle raids and revenge attacks. Armed violence continues in most of the country, including in Bor, Wau, Yambio and Torit. While child abduction is prevalent in Jongei state, and occasionally reported in Torit, the main issues in Western Equatoria and Wau are ethnic clashes that pit the government against armed groups. These communities, along with Kuajok and Aweil, also face a wide range of safety concerns including domestic violence, thefts and armed robberies, and border and boundary disputes. Across the country, there is a proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW) by civilians and armed groups. As the police are unable to respond adequately to local security concerns due to a lack of capacity and resources, this increases fear of a growing emergence of other militia groups, and continuity of long-standing inter- and intra-ethnic conflicts, persistent localised cattle raiding, revenge killings, and further ethnic polarisation.



Map of South Sudan showing Saferworld areas of operation prior to formation of the 28 states.

As a response to these challenges, the army patrol units have reportedly employed sophisticated security approaches to respond to local security issues. Non-state security actors, such as the *Galweng* in Lakes State and the Arrow Boys in Western Equatoria State, continue to thrive and are also reportedly involved in perpetuating a cycle of violence, including through cattle raids and revenge killings. It is still challenging to deal with non-state security actors because they provide security services, in the form of protecting the lives and property of their communities. Nonetheless, formal security service providers are trying their best to respond to the various safety concerns across the country with limited resources. Their efforts are also hampered at local levels with unending community tensions, and limited trust, cooperation, and dialogue between the police/security providers and communities.



## ABOUT SAFERWORLD

**“We believe everyone has the right to lead peaceful, fulfilling lives, free from fear and insecurity.”**

Saferworld is an independent international conflict prevention and peacebuilding organisation working to prevent violent conflict and build safer lives. We operate in over 20 countries and territories across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Europe. Saferworld has been working in South Sudan since 2002, and established an office in Juba in 2007. We have field coordination offices in Aweil, Wau, Yambio, Torit, Rumbek, Bor, and Kuajok. We use an integrated approach to security building that emphasises improving **community security**, strengthening **small arms controls**, addressing **gender inequality**, and advocating on policy issues related to conflict-sensitive development, the national peace process, and **China-South Sudan engagement**.



# OUR WORK

CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY SECURITY ASSESSMENTS

**Our goal in South Sudan** is to contribute to improved security, peace, and development. We do this by increasing community safety and security through active, informed, and inclusive societies that value women and men, and more effective and accountable government institutions. We work to ensure that national and international actors use conflict- and gender-sensitive approaches to achieve sustainable peace and development goals.

These objectives help to guide Saferworld's South Sudan programme:

- To improve the security of conflict-affected communities, including vulnerable groups such as women and youth, by supporting government authorities, security providers, civil society, and communities to develop collaborative, conflict- and gender-sensitive responses to security issues at local, state, and national levels.
- To promote policy changes that support the empowerment of women and girls, men and boys in addressing gender-related issues; to increase their participation in platforms for advocacy to challenge notions of masculinity that lead to violence and to address gender norms and gender inequality at the

grassroots level; to strengthen women's full and equal participation and leadership in efforts to prevent, manage, and resolve conflict and build peaceful societies; and to empower women and girls in communities by providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to enable them to become self-reliant.

- To contribute to the reduction of small arms proliferation and misuse by supporting government actors, civil society, and communities, and to influence the design and implementation of people-focused, conflict- and gender-sensitive small arms control responses.
- To strengthen partnerships with donors, United Nations (UN) agencies, international organisations, private sector, and Chinese actors, and to advocate for and provide technical support on more conflict- and gender-sensitive policies and practices in their development, humanitarian, and investment initiatives.
- To strengthen the capacity of formal and informal authorities, civil society, and communities (particularly women and youth) to participate in peacebuilding and reconciliation processes at the community, state, and national levels.

Saferworld has been using community security approaches for more than 10 years in nine countries and diverse contexts affected by conflict and insecurity. In 2012, Saferworld began working with local civil society partners in Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal States to pilot community security approaches in South Sudan. Since then, we have continued to use our experiences, evaluations, outcomes, and lessons learnt to continually refine and improve our programme design and approach for more successful and sustainable results. From 2014, we expanded our community security programme to seven more counties (Aweil, Bor, Juba, Rumbek Central, Rumbek East, Torit, and Yambio) across South Sudan, bringing the total number of programme locations to 10. Saferworld plans to expand to new locations based on its 'expansion and sustainability strategy'.

Together with our local partners, Saferworld uses community security assessments (CSAs) as an entry point to understanding key security and conflict issues in the locations we work and to inform and adapt our interventions. Key concerns that we identified through CSAs in all the locations we work include ethnic tensions, intra- and inter-communal conflict, cattle raiding and revenge killings, domestic violence, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and lack of resources such as access to healthcare, education, and water.





## COMMUNITY ACTION GROUPS: OUR LINK TO THE COMMUNITY

Saferworld has supported the formation of 38 Community Safety Working Groups (CSWGs), Police-Community Relations Committees (PCRCs), and inclusive Peace Committees. These groups bring together the views of over 900 members – including women and men, ethnic and religious groups, youth, civil society organisations (CSOs), and local authorities – to better understand local security and justice needs, and how they can collaborate to address them. The groups have reached around 35,000 households, or 140,000 people, through their work.

With our support, CSWGs continue to identify and prioritise community security concerns by examining underlying sources of insecurity, formulating work plans, implementing projects with the support of Saferworld seed funds, and involving the wider community, security providers, local authorities, and other service providers. Many communities' concerns and solutions highlight the important link between community security and underlying socio-economic and political drivers of insecurity and conflict.

We established monthly PCRC meetings, bringing together police and their communities to discuss and arrive at a consensus about safety concerns, and how they can be addressed. We also engage 'hard to reach' non-state actors, such as the *Galweng*, in dialogues. Through our advocacy strategies, Saferworld links our local-level community security work to state, national, and international actors, such as the UN and EU.

**“People come to me with problems that range from issues around adultery, girls being taken [for marriage], money issues and loans, cattle, domestic violence, stealing. I take these problems to the CAG [Community Action Group] and if there is a problem that we cannot solve, we now have the connections and we can call the police.”**

Chairperson of a CSWG in Warrap State



Community security aims to promote community ownership and leadership, and to improve relationships between communities, civil society, authorities, and institutions by providing opportunities for collective action. Community security is not just about the end result of safer communities; rather, it is focused on the process of changing behaviours and building relationships. Community security is achieved when people feel protected and can articulate their security needs to local authorities and security providers, and trust these institutions to respond to them.

**“[As a result of direct intervention] the police are talking more to young people and vice versa than ever before, which makes them all feel happier and builds trust – and the police are talking more to general community members and vice versa than ever before, which also makes both parties feel much better, but this needs to be expanded.”**

South Sudan National Police Service member, Wau

**“Before the Police-Community Relations Committee deployed emergency police, most women in Hai Munuki were afraid to walk around in the evenings for fear of being raped or robbed. Now women are no longer afraid thanks to the committee’s response and increased police presence as a result.”**

A woman member of the Committee in Munuki payam, Juba

### **CASE STUDY: IMPROVED POLICING IN MUNUKI PAYAM, JUBA**

Despite being the capital city, poor infrastructure within Juba contributes to security problems for local communities. In Munuki *payam* (sub-county), residents identified the lack of a functional road as a block to safety and security: the 777 police emergency service vehicles could not access the area; inadequate lighting increased insecurity; and an absence of street signs meant that even if police made it into the *payam*, it would be difficult to identify the correct address. Underlying these practical concerns was a lack of trust between communities and security providers.

Saferworld and our local partner, Organisation for Non-violence and Development (ONAD), worked with the zone Chairperson from the area’s quarter council to select men, women, and youth who had lived in Munuki for more than two years to form a CSWG. Together they prioritised problems, discussed them with the *payam’s* residents, and approached the Mayor when they did not have the resources to implement solutions. Problems arising from the lack of a safe and serviceable road were dealt with collectively: the mayor was able to provide a tractor, while the business community and local residents voluntarily contributed funds to improve the road, leading to smoother access to the *payam*. Improving access for the 777 service has led to better understanding between communities and the police and the development of a PCRC. This has contributed to a reduction in the crime rate, and improved quick response by police. The hope is that gains made by the CSWG will be sustained, through increased, inclusive dialogue and problem-solving.



### **CASE STUDY: CONFLICT PREVENTION AMONGST IDPS AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN KUAJOK, WARRAP STATE**

CSWG members from Barpuot and Mayen Gumel *bomas* (villages) in Kuajok identified tensions between the host communities in Warrap State and some internally displaced person (IDP) groups that were formally refugees and returned from Khartoum as an issue they wanted to address. Over 30,000 IDPs returned to Warrap State through the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Returnee Monitoring Programme in 2011, and were allocated land (in cooperation with the government). However, a section of IDPs from Khartoum – approximately 183 families – returned to Kuajok outside of the IOM programme. They lacked the same privileges afforded to those registered by IOM, were often marginalised, denied access to land, and referred to in derogatory terms by host communities. Saferworld, working with one of our local partners at the time, KUADA, integrated representatives from the IDP community in the CSWGs to establish a common understanding between all community members. Following a series of community dialogues and CSWG meetings with police and state authorities, the CSWG successfully advocated with the Town Mayor of Kuajok and the County Commissioner from Gogrial West to allocate land to the 183 IDP families from Khartoum.

Following consensus by the host community, the order was formally approved by the Ministry of Lands and Physical Infrastructure through the governor’s office. The existence of CSWGs has improved communication channels between returnees from Sudan and communities in Kuajok through joint action planning and implementation of activities, thereby improving inter-community relations. The fact that the CSWG prioritised this issue and jointly advocated with state authorities is also significant and suggests that with proper support and room to make their own decisions, communities can rise above ethnic and nationality differences and prevent or resolve conflict before it becomes violent.

**“Before the group was formed, there was no understanding between local communities and people returning from Khartoum. After the group was selected, these issues reduced and we are able to sort them out by ourselves. Now we understand each other and are cooperating (together) with the authorities.”**

Male CSWG member, Mayen Gumel, Kuajok



**CASE STUDY:  
CONTROLLING MISUSE OF SMALL ARMS  
AND LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW) IN  
TONJ NORTH**

The availability of small arms and light weapons (SALW) has significantly aggravated local-level conflicts in South Sudan. In Tonj North, the presence of weapons in the market and other public places was identified as a major issue, primarily because gun owners easily used guns to threaten people in disagreements. In addition, several trigger happy gun owners fired guns unnecessarily in public places. Along with inter-clan and inter-state fighting, residents felt unsafe in the marketplace and this affected economic trade significantly. Community members raised their concerns with the Tonj North PCRC, who advocated for prompt action from the County Commissioner, who as a result passed a decree against unauthorised personnel carrying firearms in the marketplace.

The PCRC ran a campaign to inform people about the new decree. The commissioner closed shops for the day and personally addressed a gathering of over 250 people at the county headquarters in Warrap Town. The commissioner stressed that anyone carrying a gun in the Tonj North marketplace areas would be arrested – and added that spears and sticks were also not allowed in the marketplace because all weapons undermine security. He said that for Tonj North to achieve a crime-free society, the police have

to respond to community needs by practicing policing through harmony, not pressure, and that they should be part of the community. Since then, safety has increased around the markets, and people are now selling and buying goods and services without feeling threatened. Residents also report that most shops remain open for part of the evening which was not the case in the past when most shops closed by late afternoon due to fear of insecurity.

Saferworld has also been working with partner The Organisation for Children Harmony (TOCH) to increase communities’ awareness of the dangers of SALW in Tonj North’s cattle camps. A day-long awareness-raising workshop was organised by Saferworld and brought together over 70 cattle camp youth leaders to teach them about safety measures to undertake when carrying firearms, and how to monitor and report security threats. The workshop aimed to promote youth participation and ownership of security issues by establishing a security focal point, managed by a youth leader in charge of security issues (known in the local language as *Gol*) in each of Tonj North’s cattle camps, who reports crime to the South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS) and local authorities. This has strengthened the relationships between communities and security providers.

**“We are happy that we reached [an] understanding with Kuei clan. We have abandoned fighting and we [have] resumed our mutual lives where you visit friends and relatives from other areas.”**

A member of the community in Rumbek East

**“Peace is development and no development can be achieved when communities are fighting. Let’s stop the violence and focus on developing our community.”**

Acting County Commissioner, Rumbek East

**CASE STUDY:  
PROMOTING PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE  
IN RUMBOK EAST**

Since 2006, there have been frequent outbreaks of violent armed conflicts involving four *payams* (sub-counties) in Rumbek East County, Lakes State: Aduel, Akot, Atiaba, and Paloch *payams*. Rooted in cattle raiding, the violence had escalated and led to communal attacks, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), revenge killings, road ambushes, and a consequent decrease in socio-economic activity in the area.

Saferworld and our local partner, Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO) worked with these *payams* to form several peace committees, each composed of chiefs, women, and youth in early 2016. Inclusion of the *Galweng* (armed young cattle keepers) was key to the success of the committees. After identifying and prioritising problems affecting the *payams*, initiatives were set up to create dialogue and promote peace. A key area of contention was demand for accountability for the *Galwengs’* crimes.

Chiefs, having the greatest authority, played an important role by emphasising that engagement in peace dialogues, including discussion with the bereaved, was the only long-term route to the cessation of violence. Women, who had previously been involved in composing war songs, were persuaded to desist, and compose peace songs instead. Where SGBV had been committed, women were encouraged to report crimes to government authorities, in order to increase awareness and demand for service provision.

However, the greatest and perhaps most sustainable avenue to peace was created through exchange visits by 100 *Galweng* from their respective *payams* to the *payams* of former enemies. Trust was built during visits, which involved dialogue, dance, music, and other cultural activities to cement bonds. The work done by the peace committees has already seen improved perceptions of safety and increased use of the road between Rumbek Central and East, which also leads to Juba, thus opening up economic activity, as well as marriages between members of the four *payams*.



#### **PARTNERS**

Organisation for Non-violence and Development (ONAD)  
Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO)  
Change Agency Association (CAA)  
Aweil Grassroots Initiative Development Programme (AGIDP)  
Solidarity Association for Rehabilitation and Recovery Affairs (SARRA)  
Church and Development (C&D)  
The Organisation for Children Harmony (TOCH)

#### **PREVIOUS PARTNERS**

Kuac Area Development Agency (KUADA)  
Unity Cultural and Development Centre (UCDC)



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For further information about us and our work, please visit [www.saferworld.org.uk/southsudan](http://www.saferworld.org.uk/southsudan).

You can keep up to date with our work by signing up at [www.saferworld.org.uk/stay-informed](http://www.saferworld.org.uk/stay-informed) or by following us on social media.

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