



Doing research in conflict affected areas

Risk management: Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC) South Sudan Program

Martina Santschi – Senior researcher

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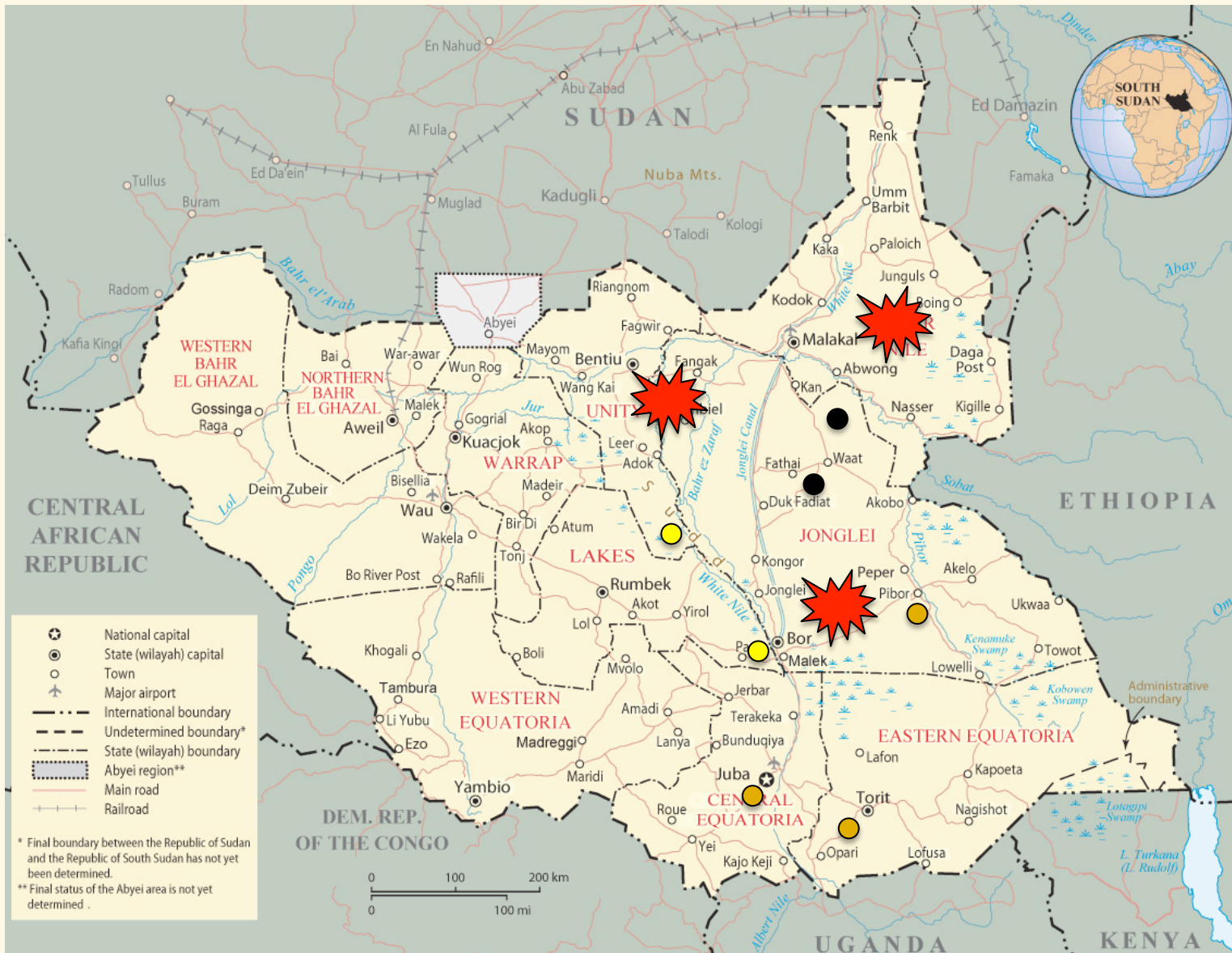
Background to SLRC South Sudan

Who are we and what are we doing?



- 6 years research program, exploring livelihoods, basic services, social protection, and governance in conflict-affected situations
- 8 core countries - DRC, Uganda, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal
- Funded by DFID, Irish Aid and EC
- SLRC South Sudan Team:
 - Leben Nelson Moro (University of Juba)
 - Philip Dau Thiong (National Bureau of Statistics)
 - Dan Maxwell and Rachel Gordon (Tufts University)

South Sudan: Research Sites: 2013-2014



Major risks in South Sudan before Dec. 2013



- Inter and intra-communal violence, clashes between armed youth and the SPLA
- Atrocities against civilians
- Banditry/theft
- Lack of infrastructure – vehicle problems, poor roads, health facilities, communication

Risk management before Dec. 2013



Protection of respondents

- Developing interview guide with South Sudanese team members
- Review of interview guide by Internal Review Board at Tufts, by national research team members and translators (sensitive, problematic topics/questions, adaptation of questionnaires to the context)
- Research ethics (informed consent, confidentiality, anonymity, conflict-sensitivity, (incl. terminology))

Risk management before Dec. 2013



Protection of research team

- Analysis of situation on the ground ahead of the research visit
- Information from embassies, professional contacts, NGO Forum, UN security etc.
- Information from national team members, local authorities, South Sudanese colleagues, drivers, etc.
- Transparent communication and exchange with national and local stakeholders
- Security regulations/plans
- Well-planned and prepared logistics (extra car, sat phones, etc.)

Major risks/limitations in South Sudan after Dec. 2013



- Armed violence against civilians and violent clashes between government armed forces and insurgents
- Physical/spatial division/frontlines between GRSS and SPLM/A-IO controlled areas, localized insecurity
- Political polarization
- Risk of re-traumatization of respondents

Risk management after Dec. 2013



Besides the risk mitigation measures already followed:

Protection of respondents

- Adapted review of interview guide by national research team members and translators (sensitive and highly political topics/questions, questions that could traumatize respondents)

Risk management after Dec. 2013



- More thorough and ongoing analysis of situation on the ground
- Continuing exchange with national partners, local authorities
- Split of teams: National team members only work in GRSS controlled areas; National staff does not travel across frontlines
- Cooperation with and introduction through international partners in SPLM/A-IO held areas
- Stricter security regulations/plans (communication twice a day, plan B for different scenarios etc.), partnership with international organization with security team
- Well-prepared logistics (extra car, sat phones, etc.), secure accommodation
- Sensitive dissemination of research findings

Researching livelihoods and services affected by conflict



www.odi.org.uk/slrc

Email: SLRC@odi.org.uk