Return to South Sudan

The building of a new nation, a place to call home

An exploratory study into the sustainability of voluntary repatriation of South Sudanese refugees

This thesis is submitted in partial fulfilment of the Masters in Development and Emergency Practice

Centre for Development and Emergency Practice

Oxford Brookes University

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25 January 2013
The Republic of South Sudan National Anthem

Oh God!

We praise and glorify you

For your grace on South Sudan

Land of great abundance

Uphold us united in peace and harmony

Oh motherland!

We rise raising flag with the guiding star

And sing songs of freedom with joy

For justice, liberty and prosperity

Shall forevermore reign

Oh great patriots!

Let us stand up in silence and respect

Saluting our martyrs whose blood

Cemented our national foundation

We vow to protect our nation

Oh God, bless South Sudan!

Source:
http://sudanation.wordpress.com/sudan-history/sudan-flags/

“Musicians rehearse for South Sudan’s independence day ceremony
Source:
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/jul/08/south-sudan-national-anthem
8 July 2011,
Abstract

In this dissertation, I aim to explore the sustainability of Voluntary Repatriation through the economic livelihood reintegration of returnees to South Sudan. The independence of South Sudan on 9 July 2011 triggered a large influx of returning refugees from Sudan, neighbouring countries and overseas. Due to the infancy of South Sudan’s independence, it is not yet known how sustainable this return will be. Voluntary repatriation is seen as a ‘durable’ and sustainable solution to refugees and therefore this dissertation argues that, for this to be true, both pre and post return conditions must be conducive in order for it to achieve this. Using qualitative methods of research collection, this study aims to provide an understanding of the micro level motivations and influences of return to South Sudan and will explore the existing challenges and opportunities in South Sudan for returnees to establish economic livelihoods. Independence did not generate a peaceful end within the country. The conflict in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile State has created a quasi-emergency situation in South Sudan and as such, this provides an interesting and challenging case study for a current repatriation context. Findings highlight that opportunities are lacking and therefore sustainable solutions regarding voluntary repatriation are limited. For progress to be seen, avenues for dialogue between all agencies, both at micro and macro levels must be kept open and effective in order to ensure long term sustainability.
Acknowledgements

Thank you Helia Lopez for guiding me though this dissertation process and creating a strong learning process for me.

To Mum, Dad and Jennifer for your continued love and support during this challenging period, thank you for all your help and advice. To Uncle Neville, for your help in this process.

Thank you to Grandma, Grandpa and Nana, without your love and support this Masters would not have been possible.

To Alex, your support and encouragement throughout these months has been invaluable and I could not have achieved this without you. Thank you!

A special thank you to all those who helped in my collection of research. Your generosity of time and assistance was essential in my understanding of this topic. I hope this final dissertation does justice to the help you provided me.
Statement of originality and ethics approval

Statement of Originality

This thesis is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Masters of Art in Humanitarian and Development Practice.

This thesis is the result of my own independent work/investigation, except where otherwise stated. Other sources are acknowledged by explicit references.

Signed Date 25 January 2012

I hereby give consent for my thesis, if accepted, to be available for photocopying and for inter-library loan, and for the title and summary to be made available to outside organisations.

Signed Date 25th September 2012

Statement of Ethics Review Approval

This dissertation involved human participants. A Form E1BE for each group of participants, showing ethics review approval, has been attached to this dissertation as an appendix.
## Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>COA</td>
<td>Country of Asylum</td>
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<tr>
<td>COO</td>
<td>Country of Origin</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPA</td>
<td>Comprehensive Peace Agreement</td>
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<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
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<td>EL</td>
<td>Economic Livelihood</td>
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<tr>
<td>GoS</td>
<td>The Government of the Republic of Sudan</td>
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<td>GoSS</td>
<td>The Government of The Republic of South Sudan</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDPs</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Persons</td>
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<td>INGO</td>
<td>International Non-Governmental Organisation</td>
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<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organisation for Migration</td>
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<td>NFI</td>
<td>Non Food Item</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisation</td>
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<td>RSP</td>
<td>Reintegration Support Packages</td>
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<td>SPLM</td>
<td>Sudanese Peoples’ Liberation Movement</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<td>VR</td>
<td>Voluntary Repatriation</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
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1. Introduction

This introductory chapter describes the reasons for researching Voluntary Repatriation (VR), and in particular the choice and significance of my case study: South Sudan. It will then outline the importance of this topic from my personal perspective and that of others undertaking research in this field. Following this I will proceed to summarise my research aims and more specifically my research questions. I conclude this chapter with a discussion of the limitations and opportunities I was presented with.

1.1 Significance of the research

From the literature reviewed for this research, VR, both the concept and the policy have been disputed, yet there is great importance surrounding research on VR as it is still, today, one of the most desirable solutions to the refugee situation.

It has been observed in the literature that assistance to refugees can sometimes stop once the refugee physically arrives back to their Country of Origin (COO). However, this should not be the case and what follows after their return, is a key factor to the sustainability of VR. Pantuliano et al, in a 2008 study on the return of southern Sudanese refugees showed that reintegration “has tended to be overlooked”\(^1\) and according to Andom socio-economic reintegration has been particularly overlooked in the past.\(^2\) Nielson noted that much remains to be done regarding the socio-economic integration of returnees.\(^3\) Black and Gent noted that “What happens to returnees, whether return is sustainable and what contributes to the sustainability of return

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\(^2\) N. G. Andom, ‘Refugee repatriation and socio-economic re-integration of returnees in Eritrea (the case of proferi programme in Dige Sub-zone)’, Masters KwaZulu-Natal University, March 2004, p. 9.

remain under-explored areas⁴ and there are still doubts regarding the sustainability of the repatriation process.⁵

The ability for VR to be a sustainable and ‘durable’ solution is a necessary and vital factor towards achieving successful repatriations. The sustainability of Economic Livelihoods (EL) of those who return is of utmost importance to the success of VR. Jackson states that “The hidden agenda of ‘successful’ repatriation is fundamentally that of meaningful economic reintegration”⁶.

Additionally, returnees are not a homogenous group and each will have their own reasons for return, their own personal assets and connections which may affect the challenges and opportunities they face on return. It is, however, important to explore the micro factors which can contribute to this and look at what is being done to create more opportunities and reduce the challenges faced by returnees.

1.2 The Republic of South Sudan

South Sudan is home to the largest number of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the world and has been part of the longest running conflict in Africa.⁷ In 2011 South Sudan became an independent State and therefore has a new government and is in the process of building a new nation. Two long running civil wars (1955-1972 and 1983-2005) has left the country crippled and a new escalating conflict in the border regions of South Kordofan and The Blue Nile has created a quasi-emergency context which threatens the country’s fragile state. Independence will bring with it, expectations for both residents of South Sudan and potential returnees.

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⁵ Ibid, p.4.
Gorman noted the importance of monitoring the status of returnees, particularly in the first year of return to help ensure that re-integration is successful. It is important, therefore, to keep these lines of research open in order to explore what the situation is for returnees. It is particularly important because if challenges continue to occur we may have to ask if the refugee cycle ends with VR.

I feel that the combination of the factors outlined, make South Sudan an extremely worthwhile, timely relevant and necessary case study.

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1.3 Research Aims

This dissertation will look at the economic livelihood sustainability of voluntary repatriation of South Sudanese refugees. Through an exploratory study into the EL opportunities for potential returnees, this study will a look at political and socio-economic factors of VR and argue that pre and post return conditions do not meet the criteria required for sustainable VR. My research will highlight what is being done to facilitate this process. I will look at the macro level factors of sustainable VR in terms of the structural challenges and opportunities involved in reintegration and at the micro level factors which will explore motivations for return. Through interviews with key informants, questionnaire feedback from key agencies in South Sudan and the UK and an analysis of secondary data obtained from International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs), this dissertation attempts to provide a better understanding of the returnee situation in South Sudan and assess whether the VR and re-integration process is in fact a sustainable solution. To do so I propose the following Research Questions.
1.4 Research Questions

This dissertation poses three guiding questions,

1) What are the factors influencing the South Sudanese refugee’s motivations to return?

2) What are the main challenges and opportunities involved in returnees establishing economic livelihoods?

3) How are key agencies in South Sudan facilitating the economic livelihood reintegration of returnees?

1.5 Dissertation layout

This dissertation comprises of six chapters. The introductory chapter focuses on my research aims, questions and significance of the research. Chapter Two highlights the methodology, limitations and opportunities I had both with the research and as the researcher. Chapter Three discusses the main concepts I use to guide my research. The first section of this chapter deals with VR as a concept and the idea of voluntariness, with a look at the concept of ‘home’ and what it means for returnees. This will be followed by studying the concept of sustainability in terms of ELs. Chapter Four provides a short profile of South Sudan, a history of the conflict and of the resulting mass displacement and return, followed by an insight into the economy and factors that play a key role in the country. Chapter Five provides a discussion of the actual research. It uses concepts introduced in Chapter Four in order to examine the current situation of returnees in South Sudan. The final chapter provides a conclusion of my findings and suggests areas of interest for future research.
2. Methodology

2.1 Preliminary research

Walliman defines preliminary research as the process of the “identification of promising problem areas and to a preliminary analysis of the issues involved”. In my position as researcher, preliminary research acted as the exploratory field work I needed in order to direct my primary research. I decided to do preliminary research because there are many challenges involved in the return of the South Sudanese refugees. To research these in their entirety would be too wide a scope and therefore this approach allowed me to identify key areas of concern.

To obtain information about those key areas, I attended ‘The Sudan Programme’ where I was able to engage in discussions on the contextual situation in Sudan and South Sudan and, more importantly, I was able to talk with members of South Sudanese Diaspora. I also attended the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) ‘Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) 2012’ at the International Conference Centre in Geneva. At this event I was able to interview Mr. Raouf Mazou, Deputy Director of Africa at UNHCR and another delegate who asked to remain anonymous, and shall be referred to by the pseudonym Mr Hassan. Both interviews provided invaluable advice aiding the contextualisation of my research, of which I will discuss in Chapter 5.

10 See Appendix A for details
11 See Appendix B for a full list of interviews
2.2 Primary research

My methodological approach to the study of South Sudanese returnees was qualitative. According to Bryman there are five main approaches to qualitative research. I implemented three of these, namely qualitative interviewing, questionnaires and analysis of text and documents. The purpose for using these methods was to encourage diversity and to limit the effects of the weaknesses each method on their own would present to the research.

During my primary research I held ‘informal conversations’ with members of the Sudanese and South Sudanese community in the UK. These provided me with further contacts which were also useful to my research. Through my dissertation supervisor Ms Helia Lopez Zarzosa I was able to make contact with Mr Waleed Abdallah, a refugee caseworker and Sudanese refugee living in the U.K. and Ms Helen Stawski, International Development Programme Officer to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Helen Stawski was further able to put me in contact with Mr John Diseremo an ordained priest who currently works in South Sudan as General Manager for Sudanese Development and Relief Agency for the Episcopal Church of the Sudan. I met my final respondent, Mr Masmino, a South Sudanese Applied Linguist, at ‘The Sudan Programme’ and we continued correspondence by e-mail. INGOs were also approached via e-mail through contact details found on their websites.

I decided to use self-completion questionnaires for INGO feedback because they require less time and are more convenient for the respondent than interviews. As a consequence it allowed the respondent time to reflect on the questions, thereby increasing the accuracy of the responses given. In addition self-completion questionnaires allowed me to obtain information to specific questions which I left ‘open-ended’ and ‘non-leading’ to maintain an explorative element to my research in

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13 See Appendix B
order to increase reliability. I was also able to gain opinions without influencing the respondent by being present. I was aware that the structure of the questionnaires could affect my response rate and the quality of the feedback. I kept the length of my questionnaire to an average 10 questions; ensuring questions were short with specific objectives for each. I was conscious, however, that there could be a lack of opportunity for respondents to expand on answers to questions or to elaborate on different issues that were raised. I overcame this limitation by suggesting a follow up e-mail to allow for any additional information. However, this was not needed as the feedback I received was detailed and satisfied my objectives. The INGOs Adeso and AAR Japan both provided feedback. Three INGOs requested to remain anonymous.

To broaden my primary research I conducted semi-structured interviews. During the interviews I asked the interviewee to choose a time convenient to them in order to reduce the possibility of interruptions during the interview. In addition to the two I carried out as preliminary research, I interviewed Ms Helen Stawski and Mr John Diseremo. I recorded all interviews to achieve a verbatim transcript and subsequently transcribed all four interviews in order to increase the validity of the research. Transcribing has its expected limitations.

My third form of primary research collection was through ‘informal conversations’ with Sudanese and South Sudanese Diaspora in the U.K. I refer to these as informal conversations as opposed to interviews as they tended to happen at impromptu occasions. I also felt that this would be less intimidating and I could have open conversations rather than risk barriers being put up, which might have been the case in an interview. Whilst essentially informal, I ensured that I explained the nature and objectives of my research. During my informal conversations I took notes. To ensure rigour in my data collection I sent the notes back to these individuals to ensure they agreed with the opinions I noted and the quotes I was able to take down. The purpose

14 Walliman, Social Research Methods, 2006, p.87-92
15 Details of which can be found in Appendix B
16 These are outlined in section ‘The research: limitations and opportunities’.
of this was to increase the validity of my research, ensure ethical protection of my participants and do justice to the voices of the people I spoke to. As a consequence of this, opinions mentioned in this dissertation will not be quoted verbatim, however the wording has been pre-approved by my respondents. \textsuperscript{17}

\textsuperscript{17} I still take full responsibility for information interpreted in this discussion.
2.3 Secondary research

To complement the feedback I received from my questionnaires, I also obtained secondary research from INGO reports and organisations’ websites. I reviewed reports from 56 INGOs who were currently working in South Sudan. For each organisation I assessed the information available on their websites to identify if a) they were working specifically in South Sudan b) working with returnees and c) working specifically on Economic Livelihood activities. I noted that some of the websites had not been updated for some time and it was not possible to gain exact details of the organisations’ programmes and, in some cases, whether they were still operational, which at times was challenging. I initially e-mailed 35 organisations with specific questions that would enable me to understand their functions and activities. I personalised the e-mails, firstly because this would provide more precise information and secondly, a standard e-mail, although less time consuming, would not have conveyed my genuine interest in the organisation and would likely have provided less of a response. This being so, of those initial 35, eight organisations responded and also agreed to fill out a questionnaire (Appendix D). Of these eight organisations, five provided me with feedback and became the scope for my primary INGO research. Of the 35, I was able to identify 16 that provided useful information on their website, specific to my research (Appendix E). I was able to look at INGOs key focuses and analyse this data. In addition, I e-mailed Ministries within the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) but regrettably I received no response (Appendix F).

My research followed a current and ever-evolving context, including the first anniversary of South Sudan’s Independence (9 July 2012). This provided me with an excellent opportunity to collect information online from news and current affairs websites. My objective was to obtain information from as many points of view as

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18 See Appendix C for a full list
19 This was important as some organisations continued to refer to Sudan and South Sudan as one country (Sudan). Therefore it was important to look into even those who worked in Sudan and address the exact location of their projects.
possible and therefore obtaining a variety of sources was essential for me to avoid the risk of a biased assessment of the situation.

**2.4 Data analysis**

Establishing my conceptual framework allowed me to filter information when reading about returnees to South Sudan from online resources or organisation reports. With regards to the secondary research obtained from INGO websites, I created ‘Data Sheets’ to condense the vast amounts of information available (Appendix G). This allowed me to extract important details such as ‘The problem’, ‘The response’, ‘The result and evaluation’, ‘Interesting issues raised’, ‘New questions’, and ‘Key themes’, an influential approach by Walliman. Such an approach allowed me to compare and contrast the information more easily and also highlight key issues.\(^\text{20}\)

**2.5 The research: limitations and opportunities**

I set out to gain information from a sample of participants that covered all key agencies involved in the VR of South Sudanese: the INGOs, South Sudanese Diaspora and the GoSS. As mentioned, I received no response from the GoSS. This was unfortunate because I was not able to represent their opinions in this research. Looking on the GoSS website I was also unable to gain in depth information regarding the VR and reintegration of returnees.

As I indicated earlier, my aim was to transcribe all interviews to achieve a verbatim transcript, however difficulties arose due to recording quality, barriers in accents and quality of ‘Skype’ connections. This problem was overcome by note-taking throughout the interviews. I did not omit any key points despite not having a completely audible recording. In addition all participants offered me follow up conversations if I had any further questions to ask. My major limitation was not having access to returnees themselves and I was therefore relying on second hand information to understand the

\(^{20}\) Walliman with Baiche (ch.2), 2001, p262.
context. However, I was able to make use of other opportunities I had to hand. For example, I was able to take advantage of a South Sudanese Diaspora in the UK and contacts made with people in South Sudan and in the UK. These opportunities allowed me to examine the context within South Sudan in order to address my research objective and analyse the concepts which will be outlined in Chapter 3.

Throughout this process I found that despite a lack of response, those who did respond were extremely helpful and I was able to obtain feedback from UNHCR, INGOs and other key informants, and speak with Sudanese and South Sudanese Diaspora. Overall I am pleased with the level of feedback I received, especially considering the quasi emergency situation currently present in South Sudan.

2.6 The researcher: limitations and opportunities

Limitations were largely due to funding constraints and security risks. Firstly, it was not possible to partner with an organisation in South Sudan to gain field research. Secondly, I could not go to South Sudan because according to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website, the last update on the 30 August 2012 advised against, “all but essential travel to Unity State; we continue to advise against all travel to within 40km of South Sudan’s northern border with the Republic of Sudan.”21

I was also aware of the remote nature of this research because I have not experienced life or work in South Sudan. My analysis of the situation, therefore, must be read with these caveats in mind. As a result it was very important to me from the outset to gain as holistic a view as possible. Being in the field, however, would have been an asset to my understanding of the micro level factors affecting motivation to return. It was also conveyed through one of my respondents that not being South Sudanese may restrict my access to information. Although I was aware of this, everyone I met during this research process was extremely helpful and willing to assist me.

2.7 Ethical considerations

Collection of research

When contacting people via e-mail I introduced myself, my objectives, why I would like the person to be part of my research and included an ‘Information Sheet for Participants’ (Appendix H). This enabled them to make an informed decision on whether or not they would like to be a part of the study. There was no monetary gain for participation which reduced the possibility that people would feel coerced into taking part. Participation was completely voluntary. I also made it clear that participants were able to withdraw their information at anytime and if this were to happen, their responses would not be used in my final research report.

Participant confidentiality

With regards to confidentiality, I sent each participant a generic e-mail to obtain their consent and the level of anonymity they wished to have in the study. I obtained full consent from all but three of my INGO respondents who wished to remain anonymous. I will refer to these as Organisation A, Organisation B and Organisation C. and In addition to one interviewee who wished to remain anonymous, Mr Hassan, a respondent to one informal conversation wished to remain anonymous, henceforth to be referred to as Mr Deng.

Assessing vulnerabilities

I understood that some individuals would have a personal connection to South Sudan. I was careful in my primary research to avoid questions that could elicit emotions and possible be detrimental to the mental health of my participants. I felt that my research questions and the questions used in my interviews and questionnaires did not pose any ethical consequences for those involved. I also ensured that I received ethical
clearance at the outset of my project from my dissertation supervisor and the course convenor (Appendix I).
3. Conceptual Framework

3.1 Voluntary Repatriation

The “Refugee Regime” describes the entire network of those involved in cases of forced migration. Within each forced migration context there are three key parties; the Country of Origin (COO), the Country of Asylum (COA) and UNHCR. These three parties form tripartite agreements in an attempt to create lasting solutions to the refugee ‘problem’. In the current refugee regime there exists three policies that are recommended to states by UNHCR as ‘durable’ solutions to forced migration. These are VR, local integration into the first COA and resettlement in a third country. States who are signatory to the ‘1951 Convention’ and the ‘1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees’ have made a commitment to work towards these solutions. Non compliance of these conventions can lead to undesired outcomes such as repoulement or protracted stay in camps.

Local integration, also described as naturalisation, is outlined in Article 34 of the 1951 Refugee Convention. It relies on commitment from both the refugee and the COA to enable the refugee to achieve legal, economic, social and cultural integration. In Africa, local integration into the country of exile had traditionally been the most common solution for refugees, however in more recent times repatriation has become increasingly the case. Resettlement usually occurs “as a response to need and danger” and is likely to occur when local integration is not a viable option in the

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country of exile due to “political, religious or ethnic differences” with the local community. As a result the refugee is moved to another, third country.  

UNHCR advocate that the optimum solution to refugees is that of VR and it is this I will be focusing on throughout this Chapter. Historically VR was intended to protect refugees from having to return to countries where they felt threatened by the state. However, since the end of the Cold War, VR has increasingly been presented on the international stage as the recommended solution.

It was noted that, particularly during the 1980s little was understood of returnees and it was only in 1985 that the Executive Committee decided that UNHCR should have their mandate extended to include return populations and the reintegration of returnees.

According to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), “return refers broadly to the act of going back from a country of presence (either transit or destination) to the country of previous transit, or origin”.

Sadako Ogata, UNHCR’s High Commissioner at the time, is a key figure in the discussion of VR. Ogata declared the 1990s as the decade of repatriation and it was estimated that 12 million refugees repatriated to their COO through organised or spontaneous means during this period. Organised repatriations are facilitated and organised by outside agencies, typically IOM and UNHCR. Quite often, however,

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refugees individually or through self organisation decide to return spontaneously, foregoing international assistance: ‘Spontaneous Repatriation’. 32

The voluntary nature of repatriation is laid out in Article 33(1) of the 1951 Convention, ‘The Principle of Non Refoulement’ which states:

“No Contracting State shall expel or return ("refouler") a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion”. 33

This is further asserted in Article 5 of the 1969 Convention by the Organisation of African Unity, “The essentially voluntary character of repatriation shall be respected in all cases and no refugee shall be repatriated against his will”. 34

Once VR became a fixture in international refugee policy, it became promoted not only as a solution to the refugee ‘problem’ but as a refugee’s right to return. The foundation of the ‘Right to Return’ comes from Article 13(2) of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights; “Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country”. 35 A refugee’s right to go back to their COO is further based on the notion that all refugees would want to go back ‘home’ (a concept that will be addressed shortly) and therefore they should have the right to do so.

VR, both a concept and a policy is not without its criticism and there has been much debate regarding the effectiveness of VR as being the most desired ‘solution’ within the refugee regime. One criticism is that VR sometimes “is presented as the solution

which will be pursued, even in situations where conditions in the COO remain unsafe or unstable” which categorically goes against the idea of return in ‘safety’ and in ‘dignity’.  

Stein highlighted that:

“Less than 1 percent of the world’s refugees are resettled in third countries and almost none of the countries of asylum are prepared to offer permanent status to their refugees.”

This has lead researchers, such as Opondo, to question if it is in fact the most desirable and most durable solution, or is it, in part, merely a failure of the other two? Rogge argues that of the proposed durable solutions, repatriation is the “most difficult and problematic”, a complexity re-stated by Bariagaber.

3.2 Going ‘home,’ a voluntary and sustainable end?

Exile is seen as a temporary existence and indeed the legal implications that come with refugee status are of a temporary nature. Further, as discussed by Lopez Zarzosa the ‘temporariness’ of exile in forced migration can be seen by the refugee as a ‘pause’ or a ‘break’ that will come to an end once conditions that caused the refugee to flee the COO cease to exist. This will not happen automatically however and there will be a number of influences that affect the decision to return.

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In the past there have been cases, where return does not seem voluntary, but a consequence of factors such as restrictions of aid, discrimination or limitations affecting refugees self reliance in the COA.\textsuperscript{42} Reasons for return can include, but are not limited to, the confidence the refugees have in the COO; that the country will be stable, secure and have the capacity to provide for them; a planned election or the opportunity to reunite with family. These traditionally were thought of as push and pull factors; push factors result from less favourable conditions in the COA whilst pull factors encourage refugees to return due to conditions in the COO.\textsuperscript{43} Within these, there will be macro level structural factors and micro level influences and motivations that will affect a refugee’s decision to return. In the end, the decision reached must be theirs to make and it must be voluntary! Rogge and Lippman note that returnees who did not return in a wholly voluntary nature usually required additional assistance on return.\textsuperscript{44} This therefore highlights the effect of voluntariness on returnees’ ability to reintegrate and that the more voluntary repatriation is, the more sustainable it will be.

The connection a person has to their homeland is one that can elicit strong motivations to return but is also a complex multifaceted concept. As Koser and Black discuss, people feel connected to a physical place where a person identifies with a homeland or a motherland. A recent study by Pantuliano et al, describes an “overwhelming motive” for return of southern Sudanese refugees as being the desire to “be back home”, a motivation which remained, despite recognition that services were less available to them in South Sudan.\textsuperscript{45} Highlighting both the expectation held by refugees that one day they will go back home and the temporary nature of exile discussed by Lopez Zarzosa, where exiles live metaphorically “with one foot in the host country and the other in the home country”, thus emphasising this expectation that they will one day return ‘home’.\textsuperscript{46}

\textsuperscript{42} Global Consultations on International Protection: Local Integration, 4\textsuperscript{th} Meeting, 25 April 2002.
\textsuperscript{46} Lopez Zarzosa, 2011, p.28.
Chimni discusses that for some time “advocates of voluntary repatriation simply assumed that all refugees desired to go home” and that in reality, in fact, home can be made up of a number of contributory factors. Factors Malkki proposes go beyond a person’s birth place. Chimni adds, research has shown “that there were a number of situations in which refugees did not want to go home”.

Therefore the idea of home should be seen as more than just a physical environment. This is particularly relevant when discussing the case of Second Generation Refugees. A Second Generation Refugee is a person born in exile and for them, returning to their COO will not automatically mean returning home. Rogge questions “Where is ‘home’ for those in exile for thirty years or those born in exile?” For these refugees, returning to the country of their ancestors may, but may not be enough to call a place home. Refugees must be able to see opportunities to build a life, one that will be sustainable. Therefore, even assuming a decision to return is voluntary, arriving physically ‘home’ should not be seen as the end of the refugee cycle. For repatriation to be accepted as a sustainable and ‘durable solution,’ Black and Gent say that it is necessary to look past just the refugees physical return and focus also on the sustainable reintegration of returnees.

49 Chimni, 1999, pp.4-5.
3.3 Sustainable return through sustainable reintegration

UNHCR specifically state that the conditions for return must be sustainable through full reintegration and ensure the ‘safety and dignity’ of the returnees in the COO for it to be a ‘durable’ solution.  

Factors that affect the sustainability of return are discussed widely in the research and include; experiences before exile; experiences in the COA; the decision and the level of voluntariness of return; the conditions of the COO on return and the amount and type of assistance returnees receive during their return. Important also is the level of socio-economic status the refugees achieve, their ties in the host country and the length of time spent in exile. Where exile is a protracted situation, it is more likely that refugees will integrate into the COA, a situation evident in the southern Sudanese repatriation in the 1970s. Many during this time will become self sufficient, establish businesses and hold good jobs. Those who marry in the host country and have children will be less inclined to return, especially if the conditions they are returning to are less favourable.

Reintegration can be viewed in a number of ways, encompassing social, political, psychological, economic and legal spheres. Kuhlman (1991, p.7) in Schaffer describes reintegration to include numerous factors including:

“If refugees are able to participate in the host community in ways commensurate with their skills and compatible with their cultural values; if they attain a standard of living which satisfies culturally determined minimum requirements (standard of living meaning not only income from economic

56 Ibid, pp. 78-95.
activities, but also access to amenities such as housing, public utilities, health services and education); ... if standards of living and economic opportunities for members of the host society have not deteriorated due to the influx of refugees...”

For Lassailly-Jacob reintegration would mean the ability to produce enough food to cover basic needs and, in addition, either produce enough cash crops or engage in alternative income generating projects in order to survive.

A livelihood is a concept first defined by Chambers and Conway as “a means of gaining a living” that goes beyond basic needs. A sustainable livelihood is one that can be maintained over time and is resilient to shocks and stressors.

One of the key areas needed to establish a sustainable livelihood is having access to assets and opportunities to generate an income, in order to be self sufficient. According to Andom, economic self sufficiency is achieved when people are able to “acquire an income (in cash or in kind) so that they do not need relief in the form of basic necessities”. In the reintegration of southern Sudanese from Uganda there was a lack of job opportunities, on top of which, many returnees were unable to meet even basic food production needs, meaning they did not have surplus crop to sell either.

The acquisition of an EL is difficult in returnee situations. According to Rogge, “In virtually every case, repatriation implies some measure of economic disruption”. A protracted stay in exile can create employment expectations on return. In the case of Somali returnees, the current state of the economy coupled with the states capacity to

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61 Butzer, 2007, p.60.
provide ELs was a significant factor in the refugees’ decisions to return.64 If the refugees’ COO does not offer economic opportunities then the end of a conflict may not be enough to motivate their return.65

Key to these types of expectations is the amount of information refugees receive when deciding to return. Depending on its accuracy, this can create unrealistic expectations as to the conditions of the COO and it is the duty of governments, both host and COO, and of international and national agencies to provide potential returnees with accurate information.66 Misinformation and over expectations result in returnees being less able to identify potential challenges they may face on return.67 According to Ruiz, repatriation should be "fully voluntary and fully informed".68 Accuracy of knowledge can limit the shock on arrival and lead to more sustainable repatriations.

Economic reintegration and self sufficiency are tied to employment conditions in the COO. According Pantuliano et al, “expectations of a better livelihood” which included adequate employment conditions, were reported as factors for southern Sudanese in Khartoum wanting to return.69 Further, in the same study, reintegration EL support provided to the returnees, in terms of utilising and developing skills and opportunities for business, was also considered by returnees as one of the top three priorities when deciding to return (along with security and access to services).70 Moreover it can affect where in the COO the refugee decided to return to.71 Kibreab added that, given the choice, most returnees would choose a place that could offer economic self sufficiency.72

66 Opondo, 1996, pp.23-34
70 Pantuliano, 2008, p. 32-34.
3.4 Challenges and opportunities to establishing an economic livelihood

Refugees who have been in exile for long periods of time may have had opportunities to develop new skills. Rogge provides an example of this with southern Sudanese refugees who fled to Uganda and the former Zaire in the 1960s. Many lived in organised refugee settlements where they were exposed to new cropping techniques. On their return to southern Sudan they were able to utilise these new skills and, in doing so, their productivity was increased, resulting in better living conditions than those who had continued using traditional methods.\(^73\)

The challenge occurs when skills developed in exile cannot be translated into employment sectors in the COO. Particularly families who, in exile, lived in towns and cities but who fled from rural areas, may not have the skills to adapt back to a rural livelihood and, crucially, may not want to.\(^74\) Those who develop skills that could be beneficial in rural areas, such as welding and brick making can sometimes fail to generate an income as the communities there have little surplus income and therefore no purchasing power; conditions which make it difficult for businesses to grow.\(^75\) Habte-Selassie recorded a drop of 20% in the number of households primarily engaged in agricultural activities on return compared with pre flight\(^76\) suggesting a foreseen lack of opportunities in rural areas.

Refugees therefore, may return with the skills to establish ELs discover that opportunities are not always available to them. Evolved from previous literature and discussed by Lopez Zarzosa is the notion of ‘Space Theory’. This theory is based on the principle that VR “occurs when refugees themselves perceive ‘space’ for return”. Based on this theory and relating it to ELs, it could be argued that refugees will choose to

\(^76\) Bascom, 1996, pp. 66-79.
return if they can see opportunities for formal employment or income generating activities.

Lack of opportunity can result in a need for international assistance. Initiatives such as Reintegration Support Packages (RSP) are short term forms of relief which can include food and non food items (NFI), to help returnees meet their basic needs and act as an initial ‘start up’ in their reintegration. According to Jackson’s study of Zimbabwean returnees, economic problems with reintegration are particularly difficult for those in rural areas. The Zimbabwean rehabilitation programme was able to offer agricultural tools, winter and summer crops and the rehabilitation of irrigation systems as start up for returnees.\(^{77}\) In the case of Ethiopian returnees, documented by Hammond, returnees were given cash grants of 1,500brr which provided returnees with purchasing power, meaning they could purchase “an ox, several goats and sheep, a sewing machine, or other property that could help them earn more money”.\(^{78}\)

South Sudan is not new to this form of assistance. In the 1970 repatriation of southern Sudanese refugees, a Repatriation and Resettlement Commission was set up to assist and facilitate repatriation efforts. In urban areas loans were given to small businesses that had been destroyed during the war. Similarly in rural areas, the government provided loans to “progressive” farmers to aid crop production. This had the additional advantage of helping to increase food production which was essential due to the large numbers returning to the country.\(^{79}\)

Support through these reintegration programmes is designed to bridge the gap between relief and economic self sufficiency with the aim of achieving sustainable and durable VR.\(^{80}\) Without relief and development programmes, returnees achieving self

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\(^{77}\) Jackson, 1994, pp. 126-166.  
\(^{78}\) Hammond ‘The long road home’ 2004, p.191  
\(^{79}\) Akol, 1994, pp. 78-95.  
\(^{80}\) Andom, 2004, p. 9.
sufficiency will surely be stunted, examples of which can be seen in Hammond.\textsuperscript{81} Further Opondo notes that, key to the successful reintegration of Eritrean refugees, was the support provided by International Agencies.\textsuperscript{82}

An undesired consequence of RSP is that they have the potential to cause dependency in what Allen and Turton refer to as the “relief syndrome”.\textsuperscript{83} They also may catalyse tensions within the communities between returnees and those who stayed (to be referred to as stayees, henceforth) who are facing equal hardships but not benefiting from RSP.\textsuperscript{84}

One avenue for increasing the effectiveness of RSP is the approach of asking communities what they need to re-establish themselves. This has been advocated by researchers such as Bascom, and Pantuliano et al.\textsuperscript{85} In an example provided by Opondo, Cambodian refugees in Thailand were allowed to choose between a cash grant, building materials and a plot of land, or a tool kit. The choice allowed returnees to decide what would benefit them the most in order for them to rebuild their lives.\textsuperscript{86} Although returnees couldn’t fully develop themselves with this, it was seen as one of the best repatriation packages at the time and of added importance, the returnees were \textit{asked} what they needed.\textsuperscript{87} Hendrie (1996, p.35) in Nilsson claims that community managed programmes do in fact work more effectively than those that are agency driven.\textsuperscript{88} Moreover, this approach is not limited to relief but can be applied to long term development solutions.

\textsuperscript{81} L. C. Hammond, \textit{This place will become home: refugee repatriation to Ethiopia}, Cornell University Press, New York, 2004.
\textsuperscript{82} Opondo, 1996, p.60.
\textsuperscript{83} Allen and Turton, 1996, pp. 1-22.
\textsuperscript{84} Allen and Turton, 1996, pp. 1-22.
\textsuperscript{86} Opondo, 1996, p.29.
\textsuperscript{87} Kibreab, 1996, p.57.
Land is a key issue in the returnees’ ability to establish sustainable ELs. If returnees do not have access to land, particularly in rural areas where farming is the main source of income, many will find it hard to establish alternative ELs, since access to more commercial business opportunities may not be viable in remote areas of the country. Issues of land can also create competition between stayees and returnees. Returnees may assume that they can return to land which was formally theirs and this is not always the case. Eritrean refugees returned from Sudan to find their land already occupied or destroyed. In countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq, the right to own land is particularly weak, which causes problems in assessing ownership. There are ways in which this can be facilitated, resulting in a less challenging reintegration process and UNHCR has seen results from land allocation schemes with returnees to Afghanistan. However, land allocation schemes may not always work and, following the end of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, many returnees requested to return to where they lived before the war. Despite the Dayton Agreement asserting “the right of refugees...to return to their homes of origin”, poor implementation of property laws and the difficulties refugees faced in asserting their rights following the war, meant that four years on from the signing of the agreement many returnees remained without property. Situations such as these hinder reintegration as returnees cannot settle and begin rebuilding their lives.

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92 Opondo, 1996, pp. 23-34.
4. South Sudan in Context

4.1 South Sudan: A country profile

The Republic of South Sudan is situated in East Africa bordering Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. South Sudan achieved independence in July 2011 following an overwhelming majority of 98.83% voting in favour of the south’s secession from the north. Its capital city Juba is home to the President Salva Kiir Mayardit. The main political party is the Sudanese People Liberation Movement (SPLM) who since independence forms the majority of the GoSS. South Sudan holds a population of over eight million (estimated May 2012). The population has been increasing since the end of the civil war in 2005, as refugees return to the country.

4.2 Conflict and displacement

Sudan and South Sudan have been in conflict for nearly 60 years. The first civil war, lasting from 1955 to 1972, was brought to an end following the signing of the Addis Ababa Agreement, in which regional autonomy of the south was agreed. A second civil war began in 1983 and became Africa’s longest running civil war, not ending until 2005 with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Significantly the CPA granted southern Sudan autonomy for six years after which it was agreed that a referendum be held to decide whether the south was to gain full independence from the north. This was held in January 2011.

Both civil wars led to mass displacement. Since 1983 it is estimated that one million people have fled the country and approximately six million have been internally displaced.\textsuperscript{100} Sudan remains, with Columbia the country with the highest number of internally displaced persons in the world.\textsuperscript{101} Displacement was increased by conflicts in the east of Sudan in the 1990s and the war in Darfur which reached its peak in 2003 until the Doha Peace agreement was signed in 2010. In 2011, approximately two million people were displaced as a result of the war in Darfur.\textsuperscript{102} Sudan has also been affected by migration flows from neighbouring countries, specifically Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.

Since the independence of South Sudan, conflict has ensued in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile State, over the positioning of the border and oil rich regions such as Abeyei. This conflict, at the time of writing was still unresolved and thus has led to an influx of refugees into South Sudan.

\textbf{4.3 Return to South Sudan}

Large expectations surrounded the CPA in 2005. However in the months following the CPA, only a small proportion of refugees and IDPs returned to South Sudan. At the time, the south was still so unstable that there was concern that it was “devoid of infrastructure, administration and opportunities for resuming a livelihood that its capacity to absorb returnees” would be limited.\textsuperscript{103} IOM reported a peak in the number of returns to South Sudan in 2008 and 2009 with a high level of returns being concentrated on border regions including North Nahr El Ghazal and Southern Kordofan.\textsuperscript{104}


Estimates of the number of returns can be seen in Figure 1.\footnote{\textsuperscript{105} All the States shown in Figure 1 except for Southern Kordofan are now States in the Republic of South Sudan.}

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.8\textwidth]{figure1.png}
\caption{IOM tracking of returns by state. Source: IOM Migration in Sudan: A Country Profile}
\end{figure}

The number of returnees, both through spontaneous and organised repatriations largely increased following the January 2011 referendum, and subsequently following the declaration of independence in July 2011.

One of the most significant points in the return process occurred in August 2011 when the GoS made an amendment to the nationality laws which meant that southern Sudanese could not hold dual nationality. The GoS set a deadline of 9 April 2012 for all southern Sudanese to declare themselves as either Sudanese and apply for citizenship, or return to South Sudan. Many did repatriate before the April 2012 deadline, however South Sudanese who stayed in the North and did not apply for Sudanese citizenship were rendered stateless unless they declared themselves a foreign resident. Being stateless brings with it problems not limited to legal rights, employment, and healthcare, thereby increasing vulnerability. Many lost their jobs as they were no longer legally allowed to work in the country.\footnote{\textsuperscript{106} Pantuliano et al, 2008, pp. 15-20.}
4.4 Religion in South Sudan

Religion is an extremely important factor when researching South Sudan, particularly in relation to its conflicts with Sudan. The predominant religion in South Sudan is Christianity, but Islam and Animism are also practiced and in Sudan the main religion is Islam. On 8 September 1983 the an-Numeiry Government in the north introduced Islamic Shari’a law to the penal code which was seen as an act intended to compromise the Christian beliefs of the south and as such, the Government in the north was seen to be neglecting the provisions laid out in the Addis Ababa Agreement. This action is generally accepted as the catalyst for the second Sudanese war. Although religion has divided the Sudan and South Sudan consequently this acted as a uniting force within the south, even between those of different faiths. Religion has been seen as instrumental to the building of the new nation. Churches that were destroyed in the war are gradually being reconstructed and new places of worship being built in both rural and urban areas.

4.5 Clanship and kinship in South Sudan

There exists in South Sudan over 60 cultural groups who hold a strong sense of tribal citizenship. The official languages in South Sudan are English and Arabic however there are many tribal languages are also spoken. With so much diversity in the nation, there are occurrences of internal tribal and ethnic conflicts in the country, for example in Jonglei State. The ‘glue’ that has united the different groups in the south has been

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through their fight for freedom and independence against a common enemy, Sudan.\textsuperscript{112} The concern since independence could mean an increase in inter-tribal fighting\textsuperscript{113} and tensions have been noted between the Dinka tribe (the largest tribe in South Sudan) and the Nuer tribe over distribution of resources in the lead up to independence.\textsuperscript{114} Map 1 shows the tribal distribution in South Sudan.

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{tribal_distribution_map.png}
\caption{Map 1: Showing the tribes in South Sudan and their distribution: Source: Adapted from: BBC 2012.}
\end{figure}

People’s land rights are affected by “rules of descent and ethnicity”.\textsuperscript{115} Much of the land rights and ownership in South Sudan falls to traditional leaders, which has caused tensions between communities and the government regarding land allocation, an issue which is extremely important when considering returning populations.\textsuperscript{116} Being able to provide land to the large influx of people returning to South Sudan is seen as a major challenge for the GoSS. Many who have returned in previous years have done so with the hope of reclaiming land that was once rightfully theirs, however, as a result of

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\textsuperscript{115} Pantuliano, 2007, p.5.
\textsuperscript{116} Pantuliano, 2008, p.3.
years of displacement this land may now be occupied by “often more influential stakeholder who will not vacate the land.” This is problematic particularly those in rural areas who require land to re-establish livelihoods, which can consequently cause further displacements.\textsuperscript{117} Papers documenting land ownership may not exist or can be incomplete\textsuperscript{118} and sometimes land leases were issued several times, either to new occupants or for public services e.g. roads.

\textbf{4.6 A challenging economy}

South Sudan’s troubled history, decades of civil war within the former Sudan and intertribal conflicts has had devastating effects on the country’s economic situation and has rendered it one of the poorest regions in the world.\textsuperscript{119} It has been estimated that 51% of the population are living below the poverty line.\textsuperscript{120} One result of decades of war has been the lack of basic education of those living in South Sudan, with adult literacy levels as low at just 25%.\textsuperscript{121} South Sudan is faced with huge challenges in order to create a sustainable nation state with a functioning government in order to provide for its citizens.

Approximately 80\% of people live in rural areas.\textsuperscript{122} The majority of the land in South Sudan is fertile meaning that for a large population, subsistence agriculture is a main source of income.\textsuperscript{123} Although agriculture is the primary livelihood in South Sudan, due to the heavy reliance on oil production since the end of the 1990’s, it has become less of a focus. Oil is now South Sudan’s main income, with oil revenues now constituting 98\% of the government’s budget.\textsuperscript{124} An ‘oil sharing agreement’ between the north and

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{117} Pantuliano, 2007, p.4-5.
\item \textsuperscript{118} Ibid.
\item \textsuperscript{120} D. Dange, ‘The Republic of South Sudan: Opportunities and Challenges for Africa’s newest country’. Congressional Research Service. October 2011, p.15.
\item \textsuperscript{121} IOM, ‘Migration in Sudan: A Country Profile 2011’, p. 25.
\item \textsuperscript{123} IOM, ‘Migration in Sudan: A Country Profile 2011’, p.17.
\end{itemize}
south meant that income from oil would be split evenly between the two. However, independence of South Sudan brought this agreement to an end and resulted in South Sudan owning almost 75 percent of the former Sudan’s oil productions.\(^{125}\) The two pipelines that transport the oil, go through the north to refineries at the Red Sea (see Map 2). It has been highlighted that too much reliance on a single resource of income can render a country extremely vulnerable.\(^{126}\) Indeed in January 2012, disputes over the oil transit fee demanded by Sudan, caused Juba to cease the export of oil through Sudan. This has resulted in a drastic loss of income for the South.\(^{127}\)


Map 2: Showing the location and distribution of the oil fields and oil pipelines within South Sudan and Sudan. Source: BBC 2012.
5. Discussion and analysis

This chapter will provide a discussion of the economic livelihoods reintegration of South Sudanese returnees, from the research I obtained. It will bring together the concepts outlined in Chapter 3, with the current context of South Sudan outlined in Chapter 4, in order to analyse the sustainability of voluntary repatriation in the case of South Sudan.

5.1 A new nation and a return to ‘home’

“A nation of God given rights. A nation of patriots, who because of their bravery, honour, and sacrifices, there will live a free people on that soil”.

This quote was published by the South Sudan News Agency two days after South Sudan gained independence (9 July 2011). It was a freedom that people had been waiting and fighting for, for decades. In the years and even months leading up to independence and since this date, Southern Sudanese have been returning to their new country. The South Sudan News Agency displayed messages quoted from Martin Luther King Jr. exclaiming “Free at last! Free at Last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last”. It seems that freedom amongst other things was a key motivating factor for those who returned. Waleed Abdallah, a Sudanese refugee who had previously spent three years in South Sudan said “many want to return for freedom after the long war, they are happy to go back”. Testimonials of people experiencing feelings of coming home were seen all over the news; Aluak Mantong spoke to Aljazeera “I am happy to be in the South. I have family here and it’s my home”. Similarly, 19 year old Yiey Deng said “I was born in Khartoum and I went to school there, but I never felt it was my home. I always wanted to come and live in the South. This is my real country and

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129 Ibid.
130 Waleed Abdallah Interview
I’m happy now that I’m here”. Mr Raouf Mazou UNHCR’s Deputy Director for the Africa Bureau noted “the peak time (for returns) was at the time leading to the independence.” Waleed Abdallah spoke of people he knew who had been living overseas and who had returned. In his opinion they had come back to help build their country. We can see similar factors affecting the decisions of those returning in Pantuliano et al’s study on southern Sudanese reintegration in 2007. Pantuliano et al interviewed southern Sudanese refugees in Khartoum and described what they found to be an “overwhelming motive” for people to return to help reconstruct the south. My findings resonate with literature on the idea of a ‘homeland’, in that the South Sudanese feel connected to the South as their home. Even the South Sudanese national anthem makes reference to this, exclaiming, “Oh Motherland!” During this research, I have come across examples of people described as having a deep rooted, moral and political motivation to return ‘home’ to a ‘free’ and independent nation. This affiliation with the country is an important factor and necessary for people to come back to South Sudan, enabling it to grow and be successful.

This research has found, however, that these feelings are not the driving force behind return for everyone. The amendment of the citizenship laws by the GoS saw a large influx of returnees in the months leading up to the 9 April 2012 deadline. After this deadline, many South Sudanese were forced to return due to lack of access and opportunities for livelihoods. Raouf Mazou noted that in January 2012 the High Commissioner for UNHCR “went to South Sudan and then he went to Sudan and one of his main objectives was precisely to talk to the governments to make sure that the 9 of April will not see a situation where south Sudanese living in Sudan would be kicked

132 Ibid.
133 Raouf Mazou interview
134 Waleed Abdallah informal conversation
135 Pantuliano et al, 2007, p.42
Although negotiations such as this exist, discrimination and restrictions to their lives have forced people to leave. On 14 May 2012, shortly after and as a result of this deadline, IOM flew 15,000 returnees back to South Sudan from Khartoum, the majority of whom had spent their whole lives in Sudan. The Sudan Tribune reported in June 2012, a case of a man who had been ‘let go’ from his company in Khartoum because he was no longer a Sudanese citizen. Lack of work meant he and his wife had to return to South Sudan.

In an interview with Raouf Mazou he suggested that I “must make a distinction between the south Sudanese who are in living in Khartoum who are coming back and the south Sudanese who were living as refugees in other countries and who are also coming back”. Throughout this research process it became clear that the situation is very different for those in Sudan compared with refugees elsewhere. This research observed that those returning from neighbouring countries or from overseas may not return as a whole unit: one family member may return ahead of the others. Those who have the option are able to plan their return in order to minimise risk. Mr Deng, one interviewee, said that with the case of some Diaspora, women and children will stay in the UK whilst the husband goes to South Sudan, especially as the lifestyle in the UK is comfortable with access to schools and free health care.

This is not a new movement and previous repatriations have also seen this type of staged return. Pantuliano et al noted that those with good socio-economic status will have the opportunity to observe the economic situation of their COO before making the decision to return. In South Sudan this situation has occurred because the country is still in the early stages of establishing itself as a new nation and staged

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138 Raouf Mazou interview
141 Mr Deng informal conversation
142 Pantuliano et al, 2007, p5.
returns seem a good way for people to assess if they can establish themselves, without the risk of losing everything they built up in exile. This links in well with the idea of ‘Space Theory,’ which relies on refugees deciding voluntarily to return when they perceive space for their re-integration into the COO. Staged return could be seen as a way to do this, in a sense ‘testing the water’ to see if such ‘space’ really exists for them. In this current research, we can see this as returnees identifying areas for themselves to engage in EL opportunities, (discussion as to whether this is the case will follow).

Many refugees in Sudan, however, as a result of the acts of GoS, have not had the freedom to decide to return in this way. This is evident in quote below:

“North Sudan is chasing them to return. They arrange buses to send them back home”. 144

This undoubtedly raises huge concerns over the seemingly involuntary nature of this repatriation process, which may have consequences for the sustainability of VR as according to Lippman voluntariness can affect sustainability. 145

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144 Waleed Abdallah interview
5.2 Expectations and Promises

The independence of a new country brings with it a wealth of expectations and indeed, in an interview with Helen Stawski, she spoke of her work with Sudanese Diaspora in Uganda saying, “the expectations of going back to the homeland were huge and this was just before the peace deal was signed”. The CPA was signed six years before independence and even at this stage, evidence of wanting to return to an independent homeland was becoming apparent. This can be linked to the idea that refugees feel that their time in exile will come to an end. Central to expectations are the idea of promises. Waleed Abdallah in speaking of the GoSS, said that the “South Sudanese Government is promising jobs and a good life”. In Waleed’s opinion “people came back because of these promises”. He adds, “After independence, some were so happy and ambitious to find jobs. It was seen as a dream country but it is still being built”.

These promises made by the GoSS may have influenced people to return to South Sudan, as Waleed suggested. Key to VR is that it must be “fully voluntary and fully informed”. If the GoSS are making promises they cannot keep, then this is a concern. People may have relied on this information when making their decision to return. Pantuliano et al, raised the point that confidence in the COO and its ability to provide for returnees is a factor for return. Waleed believes that now some have returned and have seen the conditions in South Sudan, people are more aware of the reality of the situation. He describes there being a “shock” for many of the returnees. Mr Deng said that currently there is a sense of disappointment which is consistent with the opinions of many South Sudanese.

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146 Helen Stawski interview.
147 Waleed Abdullah, informal conversation.
148 Ibid.
151 Mr Deng interview.
Adeso, a questionnaire respondent, said “a year ago, everyone was very hopeful and flocked back, whereas now I think people are slightly better informed about how hard life is upon repatriation”. Considering this, would refugees be less likely to return on receiving such negative information? The notion of staged return can allow those overseas to potentially wait until the situation improves, if they here undesired information. When I put this question to Waleed Abdallah regarding refugees in Sudan, however, he emphasized the point that despite information South Sudanese are receiving in Sudan, the GoS is “hassling and chasing, so it is not easy to live in now, even with this information”. Therefore it seems that the South Sudanese people will return even if they receive undesired information regarding conditions in the south, purely because political pressure from the GoS means returning is more desirable than staying in the North. This again enforces the point regarding how voluntary this repatriation is. Helen Stawski suggests a reason why people have moved back to South Sudan; “A lot of the movement of people has to do, in Sudan anyway, has to do with how much confidence there is in people living in the north, have in the northern government...Especially now the countries have separated”.

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152 Adeso questionnaire  
153 Waleed Abdallah informal conversation.  
154 Helen Stawski interview.
5.3 Challenges and opportunities for economic livelihoods

“Now of course the challenge for them when they return is to have access to economic means to rebuild their lives”.

Skills and education

Rogge notes that education and skills gained in exile should mean that returnees achieve “rapid economic reintegration”. In the case of South Sudan, however, my research has shown the opposite to be the case. An observation made by Waleed Abdallah provides an example;

A friend in South Sudan had returned with the hope of getting a new job after graduating from a university in the North. Being an “ambitious” person he wanted to get back to South Sudan as soon as possible to start work, however 7-8 months later he was still unemployed.

As well as highly educated individuals returning, people are coming back with skills that would otherwise not have been acquired in South Sudan, especially throughout the war where many services and businesses were unable to operate. One of my respondents, Organisation B said “Returnees from Khartoum offer different skills that are lacking or in demand i.e. more skilled professions”. These professions would tend to be sought after in urban areas; however the majority of South Sudan is rural. Throughout my research I often came across regarding this. Adeso work predominantly in Northern Bahr el Ghazal where “the predominant livelihood in this area is agriculture but many of the returnees, especially from Khartoum have almost no experience of planting and cultivation”. They add that, “many are now moving to the more urban areas to attempt to find work in the more skilled sector (artisans) or as

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155 Raouf Mazou interview
157 Organisation B
labourers as opportunities for skilled work (carpentry, masonry etc) are still relatively limited in the rural areas”. These findings were further supported by Waleed who agrees that there is “absolutely” a rural-urban migration particularly he assumed “for the well educated people or those who had graduated in the North or abroad”.

One organisation, in an assessment of women who had returned from Khartoum and other large urban centres, found:

“The main livelihoods of these women were domestic helpers (maids, cleaners etc)...Domestic work is not in high demand in the areas they returned to South Sudan, and as they were from Urban centres they did not know how to farm”.

However it seems from this research, that it is not only the rural areas that are lacking in employment opportunities Mr Deng said that even towns like Malakal, Wau and Juba do not have jobs. He gives the example:

*The man had returned to South Sudan, having previously worked in a hotel in Khartoum. He had the intention of working for his country however he came to find no job and four years later he was still unable to find work. In addition to his work experience, the man speaks Arabic, English and his own local languages.*

At this point it is evident that although some returnees lack skills in agriculture, they those who are returning do not lack the ability to enter formal job markets. This research has provided examples of skilled, highly competent and educated individuals returning, however the success of people getting jobs does not reflect this. A limited employment sector combined with a disproportionate number of people heading for urban areas has created a very challenging situation. Mr Deng asked a South Sudanese student who had recently qualified from a UK University “Why don’t you go back?” to which she replied “I would like to go back because my family is there, however there

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158 Adeso questionnaire
159 Organisation B
aren’t jobs”. Here, we see again, a desire to go back and a willingness to return which is being limited by the opportunities available.

An additional challenge in finding employment is language, with Sudan predominantly speaking Arabic speaking and South Sudan being largely English speaking. Nane Hannes Ibrahim, aged 29, who repatriated from Khartoum spoke to Aljezeera, "In Khartoum I was a businesswoman - I made money by making and selling alcohol, and I think I'll have to do the same here. As I don't speak English, I won't be able to get a better job". In a discussion with Mr Masmino, a South Sudanese Applied Linguist resident in the UK, he stressed the issue that “most of the returnees, particularly those returning from Khartoum after independence of South Sudan may find it hard to access education and labour markets because the medium of instruction/education has been changed to English...These language policy changes potentially jeopardizes the interests (of) those returnees”. This problem would be particularly significant amongst Second Generation Refugees in Sudan will have completed their education in Arabic.

Even for those who are engaged in formal employment, the situation remains unsustainable. AAR Japan provided the following example from a recent visit to Nadapal on the Kenyan border of South Sudan, where an immigration officer spoke of

“officers working for the government have had their salaries cut because of the oil problem...the same thing is frequently happening to local government employees and teachers...some people suddenly get their names removed from the payroll list. Stable working conditions are not guaranteed for everyone.”

A point of concern to make here is that, the cases reviewed in this research are of experienced workers and newly qualified graduates, some of whom speak multiple

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160 Mr Deng informal conversation
162 Mr Masmino discussion
languages. If they are finding access to the job market difficult, what will the outlook be for those who are less skilled and had fewer opportunities in exile?

I did find some answers to this question in my research. Mr Deng noted that some refugees in Sudan lived a nomadic lifestyle. Mr Hassan adds that “South Sudanese have been away for the last 20 something years, not away somewhere where they were getting services, for example like education. But in the bush... even if there was the opportunity of creating more jobs, then there would still be this problem of say people from South Sudan not being qualified for taking the jobs”. In Mr Deng’s opinion, one sector which needs skilled workers is in the trades; however, there are not enough people with skills to be able to be carpenters, plumbers, joiners and builders. Those that do engage in this work are usually under-skilled and there are no training facilities available to improve this sector. If there were, such training facilities, places such as Juba would benefit and increase its standard of living. However, if there is no money to invest from the government then these opportunities cannot be made available. It is becoming apparent that there is another issue, where some people have not had opportunities in exile and therefore do not have the skills required. Training opportunities will be a great asset to these returnees and is a point discussed later regarding the work of INGOs in South Sudan.

The question remains, why this current context is proving to be so unfavourable to skilled and educated return populations? This research provided avenues of insight into this question.

A saturated job market

“Urban centres in South Sudan might mean a small market that are not urban per-se but usually semi-permanent structures forming a market centre. As these market

163 Mr Deng informal conversation
centres can be relatively small it has caused congestion and increased competition for daily wage/casual labour job”.\textsuperscript{164}

Competition for jobs was a key point raised during this research. AAR Japan said “Some people do their own business but most of them are Kenyans or people who used to live in Kenya, Uganda and other neighbouring countries”. Organisation A. made a similar point emphasising that a main challenge to the returnee populations is “the lack of customers: returnees are newly arriving and getting into the local (job and business) markets, already well occupied by Ugandans, Eritrean and Ethiopians who have built the reputation of hard and experienced workers and who got a loyal list of customers”. Indeed Pantuliano et al, also found that in previous years Ugandans and Kenyans had hold over the job market in urban centres.\textsuperscript{165}

This competition therefore makes the current market saturated and competitive in what we have seen to be an already very limited formal and informal job market. With an increasing number of refugees returning, it can only be assumed that this space will become increasingly filled.

\textit{Conflict and Oil}

\textit{“The two issues you’ve got is the returnees issues who want to be repatriated but at the same time you have the emergency crisis, in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile….so my understanding is that the resources for the returnees are very strained”}.\textsuperscript{166}

The humanitarian crisis in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile State as discussed in Chapter 2 has added a significant challenge to what would have been an already strained context. Not only is South Sudan working with large influxes of returnees,
they are also coping with refugees fleeing these border regions. A report by VOA News in February 2012 stated that “returnees crossing the border in the coming months will be entering a country struggling with a number of serious humanitarian crises”. Therefore, not only does this create a increasingly difficult context for refugees to attempt to return and reintegrate, it puts huge pressures on the GoSS to not only provide for their citizens but also the returning population and new refugees. It also stretches the resources and capacity of outside agencies. Raouf Mazou raises a similar concern; “Our means are very limited, if you look, our resources are used to support the government in providing asylum and protection to the new refugees who are arriving now. That is where we are putting out resources right now”.

Restriction of the use of oil pipelines by the GoS means there is little money coming in to the state and as a result little is being put into the labour market. Raouf Mazou also commented saying “I must say that with the suspension of the export of oil the currency has started crumbling and it is more and more difficult to for the government to respond to the needs of those who are coming back”. This was further supported by Mr Hassan who said that oil is “a very big problem as we speak now...that’s something that really needs to be solved”. He adds “If the money is not there then employing people is not easy, much as the Government would like to employ as many people as possible”.

In terms of international support in South Sudan, Waleed Abdallah noted that “American’s and the international community before the referendum were offering support, projects and money. Very little of this happened because of the war...this is still ongoing and therefore nothing had happened”. A similar view expressed by

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168 Ibid
169 Mr Deng informal conversation.
170 Raouf Mazou interview.
171 Waleed Abdallah informal conversation.
Adeso, in that any financial help received by South Sudan “can be reversed very quickly should the security situation deteriorate as people will become reluctant to invest”.  

It is apparent from a vast majority of my respondents that solving the issues relating to oil is of paramount importance and should be made a priority. It is affecting the revenue being produced by the country, it has also raised issues regarding foreign investment and involvement in the conflict means any money the government does receive will go on funding it.

As Stein points out countries “still embroiled in conflict are not ideal arenas for reintegration”.  

South Sudan is in a quasi-emergency state which the research is identifying as being a problem in the countries ability to focus on development. For the country to have any hope of developing, providing for their citizens and creating a sustainable environment for their returning population the conflict really must come to an end.

**Access and availability of land**

“Access to land is one of the major challenges of returnees, especially in rural areas...(and) both for housing and business purposes in urban areas where they can set up a business or find a job in their specialization. This situation represents a brake to their rapid integration into the local business or job markets as it is a destabilising factor”.  

Land in South Sudan has been an issue for many years but as existing literature has demonstrated it is crucial for the establishment of ELs. AAR Japan made the point that; “For most of the local people, they are making a living with cattle-breeding and

172 Adeso questionnaire  
173 Stein, 1994, p. 68.  
174 Organisation A  
175 Pantuliano et al, 2007. p.3.
agriculture but those works need some assets such as land and cattle which are
difficult to obtain for returnees”.\textsuperscript{176} This would be especially difficult for those from
poorer households who do not have financial means to invest in assets.

Although access to land is a big challenge, Organisation B felt that “land allocation to
returnees has been ongoing, however many of the urban returnees favoured to stay
around more urban centres instead of moving to rural areas where they had been
allocated land”.\textsuperscript{177}

Organisation A volunteered very interesting statistics:

\textit{“The initial plan of (the South Sudanese) Government was to settle in returnees at 80%}
in rural area where access to land (for housing and agriculture purposes) is easier and
20% in urban areas. But, as the last decision is made by returnees themselves, the
opposite happened!”}\textsuperscript{178}

Helen Stawski suggested that “mainly because many have been living in Khartoum or
in cities in the North which are more developed and therefore the thought of going
back to a place which is very undeveloped is not very attractive for them. And it is not
attractive in terms of being able to get work...There is very little formal employment
but you know there is much more access to informal employment in the town”.\textsuperscript{179}

Informal employment has been previously discussed in relation to small emerging
market areas, particularly in Juba. These however are described as very small which
will create competition in the informal sector. Additionally, the capacity of these is not
yet known, a point which would be interesting to monitor over time. This reaffirms just
how critical the situation is and the urgency to open up spaces, with regards to
opportunities and availability for people to enter the formal job market.

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\textsuperscript{176} AAR Japan questionnaire
\textsuperscript{177} Organisation B
\textsuperscript{178} Organisation A
\textsuperscript{179} Helen Stawski interview
\end{flushleft}
Mr Deng pointed out that if returnees have land allocated to them or if they spontaneously settle they may not have the financial capital to build on the land. Organisation A said that “In Malakal, for example, the local government has just given a big piece of land of the outskirts of the town for the returnees to come to”. However they add, that on arrival “people are building houses out of what they can find”. Not having financial resources can hinder how useful the land is to the returnee. Waleed Abdallah noted that much of “the land must be prepared as a lot of it has been left for a long time”. Similarly, according to the World Food Programme (WFP) review in 2012, they reported that “Livelihood constraints are enormous, only four percent of arable land is cultivated”. A specific example was provided by The Sudan Tribune who documented one family’s return from Uganda to their village in Kayo Keju, South Sudan. They describe the land they left behind as bush land and the fact that the returning family had no money to make it farmable.

Concerns were noted in Chapter 4 regarding a possible rise in tribal conflicts since independence. This research highlighted that there have been reports of conflicts between tribes which have affected returnees’ ability to settle and, as a result, created problems in access to jobs, for example in Jonglei State. Helen Stawski stated that “The southerners really have massive conflicts between themselves which now have become exacerbated now they are not fighting the north any more. It has calmed down a bit now that they have a common enemy back”. One issue that came out of my research which poses an additional problem to land access is conflict between tribes and the GoSS. An example came from my conversation with Mr Deng, where he

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180 Mr Deng informal conversation  
181 Helen Stawski interview  
182 Waleed Abdallah informal conversation  
186 Helen Stawski interview
said that Juba is traditionally land which is owned by the Bari Tribe and therefore they do not want building work to take place on their land. For this reason it is thought that the GoSS are looking to change the capital from Juba to overcome this disagreement and consequently, should make it easier to allocate land, build on land and provide services. With regards to building on land, Waleed held a different opinion. He explained that there is “no problem with land, the population is very small, the land belongs to tribes and they won’t mind projects being built as this creates money”. When asked whether it would depend on the tribe who wished to build on the land and whether this could create intertribal conflict, Waleed answered that although he felt there could be some conflict he felt that between the main 3-4 tribes this would not be the case.  

We are noting here again the desire for South Sudanese to build their country. Although conflicts may occur it seems that many want investment and projects to begin in South Sudan and would support these movements in order to see progress.

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187 Waleed Abdallah informal conversation
5.4 The role of key agencies

Capacity of the Government of South Sudan

“A problem is the lack of experience for those ruling the country...they are still very fresh in this environment”. 188

One main challenge highlighted regarding the role of the GoSS was a shortage of investment. Adeso raised the point that there must be “serious long term commitments from donors and the South Sudan Government” for the work of NGOs to be sustainable. 189 Waleed Abdallah talked about the situation as there being “so much to be done and not enough money”. 190

Usually, large towns and cities would be able to offer more jobs, however even in these urban areas, opportunities are limited. Waleed Abdallah explained that there were “no big projects like factories and hospitals which would provide jobs...just waiting for the government to approve new projects”. It would seem that projects like this would improve the situation as it would create avenues for job creation. Similarly the job market would diversify if there did exist training projects for unskilled returnees, filling the gaps in the employment sector which lack trained individuals.

A challenge articulated by a few people I spoke to was related to corruption. Mr Deng made the point that so far billions of dollars have been given in foreign aid to the GoSS and both the people and the donors are not seeing results comparable to this amount. In time, he notes, the international community may become less forthcoming. 191 Waleed Abdallah suggested that “South Sudan must use its fortunes, they have Gold, Uranium, Copper and Oil. They just need peace to do this and build the country”. 192
view was supported by the WFP. Who stated “South Sudan is endowed with natural resources which if well managed could offer the new country immense opportunities to enhance its overall economic and social well-being”. This takes us back to the effect the current border conflict is having on the country’s development, in that, even with South Sudan’s natural wealth, the conflict will not allow these opportunities to start benefiting the nation.

The main Government Ministry mandated to accommodate for returnees is the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. It has three priority areas: “1) To coordinate relief, repatriation, rehabilitation, resettlement and reintegration; 2) To coordinate reconstruction efforts by GOSS, UN and other agencies and 3) Risk reduction management”. UNHCR works in close partnership with the commission to ensure these priorities are met.

According to John Disserno the “Government gives (returnees) the choice either to remain in towns or, if they wanted to, go to respective areas. Most decided to go to respective areas”. The key to this is ‘choice’ and we have previously discussed that in not having the choice to repatriate can impede how sustainable a livelihood can become. Similarly, on return, people should be able to decide what areas to locate to, to best re-establish themselves.

It is evident that investment is needed to create space and opportunities within the employment sector. However an important point to remember here is that the GoSS are a new and establishing government and are dealing with multiple pressures of building the state in all areas, not merely the ones highlighted in this dissertation. In addition to this they are dealing with movements of people in and out of the country.

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195 John Disserno interview
Crucial to this discussion therefore, is the work of INGOS as they are providing assistance in South Sudan which at this time seems to be of great need.

*International Non-Governmental Organisations*

I identified 16 organisations during my research which fulfilled the requirements of my data collection methodology. The next section of this chapter will discuss the research obtained from my data, supported also with further feedback from my questionnaires.

The INGOs I sourced provided a combination of both relief and development assistance, which has allowed for a holistic view and a cross-section of the type of programmes which currently exist in South Sudan. I compiled my data from the 16 organisations, to create the graph below, according to each organisations area(s) of focus. This is displayed in Figure 2 and I will discuss them in the following sections.

*Figure 2: The area(s) of focus identified in INGO sample*
**Short-term approaches**

“South Sudan’s current situation is in an emergency phase still now...South Sudan has not reached to the level of development where we can focus on providing that kind of assistance”.\(^{196}\)

Organisations such as Adeso are “supporting returnees to meet their immediate needs upon arrival”. In terms of short-term assistance, as mentioned in the literature, RSP such as the distribution of seeds and tools and cash start ups, are key elements in international assistance programmes. Examples of these are, ACTED\(^{197}\) who have provided seeds and tools to 6727 returnee households and The International Rescue Committee who provide start up grants to farmers to enable them to purchase tools and seeds; crucially ones that are resilient to disease and drought.\(^{198}\) In the previous repatriation of southern Sudanese, years of civil war meant assistance and financial aid has traditionally gone on emergency needs over long term development.\(^{199}\) Organisation C looked specifically at meeting “the basic needs of returning populations (to) act as a pull factor to rural areas”. This is particularly beneficial to prevent too many people moving to cities and, if this ‘pull factor’ is successful, it should create more space for returnees in urban areas and would allow those who want to move to rural areas to engage in a livelihood.

From my respondents’ feedback it was evident that they all focused on immediate relief efforts in their target areas. They all specified, in some way, either the need for long term development, and the fact that they were expanding to incorporate this, or that they had long term planning as a secondary area of focus. Some of those planning to include longer term development programmes were waiting for funding before they could begin. From this research, the understanding is that many returnees are arriving

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\(^{196}\) AAR Japan questionnaire


\(^{198}\) See [http://www.rescue.org/irc-south-sudan-0](http://www.rescue.org/irc-south-sudan-0) for further information.

\(^{199}\) Bützer, 2007.
with minimal assets and that finding work is proving challenging, these relief efforts I believe are essential in keeping returnees afloat.

There is however a problem with putting too much attention on short term relief efforts. One consequence links to the “relief syndrome”. 200 This is the idea that we can create dependency among those we help, making them reluctant to be independent of this assistance. Helen Stawski mentioned that “there is an expectation that the international community will provide everything, they can’t provide everything”. Throughout this research, however, we have seen the self mobilisation of women creating small enterprises and evidence of men leaving their families in rural areas to find work in the towns. These examples suggest that people want to find sustainable solutions and not rely wholly on international aid. Akol discussed that until 1978, in the repatriation of southern Sudanese, foreign aid organisations focused on relief and aid which created little incentive for people to focus on areas of long-term development. There was little grassroots programming which resulted in peoples’ expectations not being met and, as a consequence, of which contributed to the next civil war (1983-2005). 201 We must be aware not to make similar mistakes and risk seeing history repeat itself.

The idea of dependency can be seen as vicious cycle one that unintentionally is created by the type of aid provided by the International Community who can view the beneficiaries of aid as “victims” rather than looking towards “enabling refugees to enjoy their rights” those. 202 In the case of returnees to South Sudan the research has provided examples of business men and women who either wanted to or felt compelled to return. Whether returnees had been self-sufficient or not in exile, if they return to find no opportunities and no space to integrate into the job market, then relief assistance is necessary. For many returnees, this must be a frustrating experience, particularly for those who were not dependent in exile. My research

evidence is showing that INGOS are aware of the need for long term development support in addition to relief, which can be seen as a very positive step.

**Long-term approaches**

In terms of longer term strategies, Figure 2 demonstrates that long-term programmes favoured urban skills training (63%) compared to rural skills programmes (44%). From my research there seems to be a great preference for refugees returning to urban areas. Therefore it is good that attention is being focussed in this area. Additionally, rural skills initiatives are also being carried out and this is encouraging for those who do want to, or have to, return to rural areas.

Women and Men in South Sudan face different challenges and opportunities with regards to EL opportunities. According to Adeso, women are generally “less skilled so have difficulty getting formal employment”.\(^\text{203}\) Feedback from Organisation A. shows that “Women have less access to school and to land and property (compared to men). Considering this situation they have less job opportunities compared to men in public, private and humanitarian sectors.”\(^\text{204}\) This being true, Organisation A points out that women do “have economic opportunities in small scale businesses (small trade, food business), services (tailoring, hairdressing etc) and farm income activities (especially vegetable crop production)”.\(^\text{205}\) An interesting point is raised by Adeso, with regard to the existence of “a culture of women to work together in small women’s groups and open restaurants and other small businesses”.\(^\text{206}\)

This shows that there are spaces specifically for women to use their skills and generate income for their families, in a sustainable way. Women are shown here to be self-mobilising and making a vital contribution to a family’s income and moreover to long term self sufficiency. With regards to women’s groups, Adeso mentioned that “NGOs

\(^{203}\) Adeso questionnaire
\(^{204}\) Organisation A
\(^{205}\) Organisation A
\(^{206}\) Adeso questionnaire
seem to be seeing the potential in this and are starting to work with many of these groups”.207 Figure 2 shows, however, that only 31% of organisations stated that they were engaged in programmes specifically designed with women in mind.

Reintegration is an area situated in a difficult position between relief and development work.208 It therefore poses challenges for international players who must find their focus and comply with what the donor requires to gain funding. From my research it seems that even when agencies are focused on relief programmes, they commonly have an exit plan in preparation for longer term development which will be extremely essential to the sustainability of returnees’ EL.

Through this research I established 35 different organisations whose work was related to my focus of study. In addition to this, if we consider the total number of organisations on the ground providing both short and long term assistance, combined with the vast number of donors providing help, there seems adequate assistance available to create lasting solutions for returnees. Pantuliano et al, ascertains that the knowledge and understanding of the specific economic context returnees are coming back to, is essential when planning programmes to facilitate reintegration.209 As a result of this research, I have come to strongly believe that key to really creating sustainability is through a heterogeneous approach. We must not see every returnee community as being the same, as Harrell-Bond discusses, “Refugee populations are heterogeneous in every respect (age, education, gender, social class and so on)”.210 We must focus on each area and have an understanding of what is needed; assess what skills and assets already exist in the population and work with these, (e.g. the aforementioned women’s groups) and look at specific short-term and long-term needs of the communities to ensure a balance of the two accordingly. One key way to gain

207 Adeso questionnaire
208 Pantuliano, 2008, p. 74-76.
such local knowledge and understanding is by working with the people who are living in the community.
5.5 Community engagement

“It helps (in) targeting the right vulnerable households, build strong transparency and by way of acceptance within the local community, strengthens sustainability, as the stronger is the community involvement, better will be their ownership feeling/attitude and motivation to replicate (and) develop performed activities.”\textsuperscript{211}

Only 38\% of INGOs I looked at included community participation in their programmes. However, all four key agencies that provided feedback to my questionnaire.

When asked whether community participation and engagement benefited their programmes, responded “yes”. Furthermore, a consistent finding with these respondents was their knowledge of the importance of this type of engagement.

The idea of engaging with communities dates back to Robert Chambers and his work on Participatory Rapid Appraisal.\textsuperscript{212} Organisation C stated that they “consult extensively with (the) local community via PRA mechanisms such as stakeholder meetings and focus group discussions”, showing a practical example of how organisations implement this approach in their work. Evidence of success in using this approach is demonstrated in the case of Cambodian refugees in Thailand, and the assistance of RSP.\textsuperscript{213} Engaging with returnees’ specific needs recognises, as Helen Stawski expressed, the need “to get the people who are returning, to own what they are doing for pride and ownership and to mobilise themselves and to participate in building their own homes and forging their new lives”.\textsuperscript{214} Organisation B stated that “All of our programmes are designed in participation with the target communities...usually we include the participation of local leaders and elders, local administration and some other key informants”.

\textsuperscript{211} Organisation A questionnaire
\textsuperscript{213} Opondo, 1996, p29.
\textsuperscript{214} Helen Stawski interview
Adeso suggested that “The key time is during the development of a proposal and this in turn makes implementation easier, ensuring buy-in from communities and the government alike as well as helping to ensure that the project is meeting the needs of the beneficiary population”. 215

Women’s participation was specifically highlighted by Organisation B who reported that although local leaders and elders “are usually male dominated we try to encourage the participation also of different groups of women”. 216 This is extremely important as involving both women and men in decision making processes will enable them to establish EL and improve the chances of sustainability as a while.

Although it is seen to be a “benefit” to programming, the disparity between the theory and practice of community engagement was noted by a couple of organisations. One issue raised, regarding community engagement is that it can sometimes fail due to time constraints and lack of resources. 217

Another issue relates to community-based approaches to long term planning specifically within some returnee communities. Organisation B expressed “It has been difficult for many households I have spoken to, to really quantify longer term needs. I think this has been the result of the prolonged civil war and regular flare ups of violence for households really to look towards the future”. 218 In this sense, the concern could be for the returnees that this is not a permanent end to their struggle and therefore they may be reluctant to look forward. This could be the case, especially for those who feel that they have been pushed from Sudan. Perhaps they do not see South Sudan as a place they will stay or, even those who would like to stay may always be expecting the worst as a result of South Sudan’s turbulent history and current

215 Adeso questionnaire
216 Organisation B
217 Anonymous communication
218 Organisation B
quasi-emergency state. This links back to Koser and Black in that, although return may be seen as the end of one cycle, perhaps it is the start of another.  

5.6 Returnee-Stayee Dynamics

“I think what you have to consider also is supporting host communities to help support the returnees. As many of the places people are returning to are incredibly vulnerable...Basically people are returning to many areas which are fragile and highly susceptible to shocks and stresses”.  

One key area to focus on is that of the relationship between those who stayed and those who left. Adeso raised the concern, “The sheer number of people returning to such an underdeveloped region of the world has put massive strains on the local environment and local communities”.  

AAR Japan suggests that the “Economical situation should be solved to secure the livelihoods of not only returnees but also local civilians”. Achieving this, according to Allen and Turton, could possibly reduce tensions and conflict between the groups.  

MR DENG. raised the following issue with returnee-stayee dynamics specific to employment. He noted that, although returnees are coming back with skills it is thought that those who stayed are more worthy of jobs. As a result the GoSS may bypass the new skills the South Sudanese are bringing back and concentrate on the fact that the returnees left and therefore have no right to come back and demand jobs. The main reason for this, Mr Deng says, is that the SPLM (who fought for independence) now make up the majority of the GoSS; they stayed fighting whilst others left. Priority in the employment sector is, therefore, given to ex-military.  

However, when I had put this question to Mr Hassan, he felt the opposite. “Almost the

220 Organisation B questionnaire  
221 Adeso questionnaire  
222 AAR Japan questionnaire  
224 Mr Deng informal conversation
majority of people have been away. It is a different of who came when. There are very few people, they did not stay because they wanted to... Those that stayed in the south knew that those on the outside were there to liberate them and those on the outside new that those on the inside were there because they were forced to.” He adds “There is no hatred between South Sudanese staying here and those coming from outside and vice versa”\textsuperscript{225} It seems from Mr Hassan’s comment that it was not so much a matter of choice for people to stay but a matter of means. This evidence shows that on the one hand, a type of elite is forming for ex military prioritising those who stayed highlighting further disadvantages for those who fled to access employment. On the other hand Mr Hassan sees no conflict. This may be a result of the stage of repatriation my two respondents are viewing it from.

A further point raised by AAR Japan was that “in Eastern Equatoria state where we work in, we cannot say that there are adequate job opportunities for, not only the returnees but also the local people”\textsuperscript{226} Additionally Adeso point out that, “Returnees cannot be seen as totally separate from the host population as many of their problems are exactly the same.”\textsuperscript{227}

Therefore, although it is important to engage with returnees in terms of their ideas on return and reintegration, it is also imperative to do this in relation to the place of return and the existing community there. Figure 2 (page 54) shows that engagement with communities were seen as just as important as returnee-stayee dynamics and this can be seen as positive however there was still a low percentage (38%) of INGOs who explicitly state that they are working in this area.

\textsuperscript{225} Mr Hassan interview
\textsuperscript{226} AAR Japan questionnaire
\textsuperscript{227} Adeso questionnaire
5.7 Role of the church

“The church is indigenous, it’s there, it’s constantly available. It doesn’t have the technical expertise, it doesn’t have the resources to implement large programmes, but it is there.”

As discussed in Chapter 4, the role of religion is of paramount importance in South Sudan. During my research I was able to gain an insight into the role and importance of the church, particularly in bridging the gap between communities, INGOs and larger organisations such as UNHCR.

Helen Stawski was key in my understanding of this issue. She stated that in South Sudan “people are generally still religious”. There is a sense of trust with church groups more so than INGOs who may at times be seen as “outsiders”. During my informal conversation with Mr Deng, he noted that people trust the church because they feel there is no imposition and no motive, they take time to conduct surveys to find out what people want and need, acting as middle men by talking both with experts and the community to create plans and ensure that all parties involved are in agreement, whereas in comparison, at the moment people seem disappointed with the State. He then added that people feel that the church is more in touch with the grassroots compared to larger organisations.

At this final stage of my discussion we have seen that both rural and urban areas are low on resources and the arrival of new people will have a direct effect on this meaning these resources are being stretched even further. As mentioned there have been some examples given when tensions already exist within communities, and therefore Helen Stawski makes an important point in saying “You really do need solid community engagement to make sure that you do not get tension between the host

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228 Helen Stawski interview.
229 Ibid.
community and the returnee community.” She further stated “I think that the churches efforts to reach out...and try to integrate the new population to the existing population are really beneficial.”

Given the importance of the issue of land in South Sudan, Helen Stawski noted that “It is very difficult for those that have been away for a long time because obviously someone else is on their land now. The church is playing a role to actually negotiate between the people who are on the land and the people who claim it is their land”.

The role of the church in resolving land issues, as well as other challenges highlighted in this research, would have to be partnered with agencies with a more technical and operational aspect to their work. Helen Stawski believes that it is important to combine both the work of the technical experts and the community-based organisations to ensure a “mowing of different expertise, complimentary expertise.”

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230 Ibid.
231 Helen Stawski interview.
232 Ibid.
6. Conclusion

The objective of this research was to explore the sustainability of voluntary repatriation of South Sudanese refugees. Looking at both micro factors such as motivations to return and post return factors relating to economic livelihoods, the central argument to the research aimed to address if the conditions of voluntary repatriation were conducive to being seen as a sustainable and ‘durable’ solution.

The first of my research questions sought to establish what factors contributed to the South Sudanese refugee’s motivations to return. My research has shown that there is a strong feeling, observed by my respondents, that many South Sudanese want to go back to their country. They see that the South Sudanese have an affiliation with South Sudan and they see hope in an independent and Free State. From my respondents and from secondary sources there does seem to be a ‘want’ to return and contribute to the building of the nation.

One area which was highlighted throughout the research, was the non-voluntary nature of repatriation, under which some South Sudanese are returning from Sudan. As highlighted in Chapter 3, sustainability of voluntary repatriation is more likely to occur if the repatriations are voluntary and therefore there is the concern that the longevity of returnees stay in South Sudan will be compromised. In terms of economic livelihoods: people will have had less time to prepare to ensure that they have livelihood provisions set up on their return.

This dissertation explored the main challenges and opportunities ‘offered’ in South Sudan to returnees establishing economic livelihoods. Key to returnees establishing economic livelihoods is first having the opportunity to access formal employment. It was evident that returnees to both rural and urban areas are experiencing hardships in doing so. The main issue raised from the research, particularly in rural areas, was the lack of experience and skills returnees have in agriculture, meaning that many find it
hard to make a living in this sector. My research showed a tendency for of the returning population choosing to settle in urban areas. The view that there would be more opportunities and ones more closely related to the returnees skills and experience was key in this decision. This would seem to solve the problem of lack of agricultural knowledge. However the research highlighted great concerns in this area. Even in urban areas there was a distinct lack of “space” in employment markets with an already saturated employment market and lack of foreseeable projects. This suggests that the situation will not improve unless considerable investment is made from the GoSS in the job market.

The current conflict in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile is an increasingly worrying issue. Highlighted in this dissertation was the fact that the capacity of the GoSS is being divided between managing the conflict and the economic development of the country. The conflict, driven predominantly by disagreements over oil, has created further problems within South Sudan’s economy. Lack of revenue entering the country has meant limited money is available for infrastructure and services; factors which would lead to job creation. It follows that the conflict has to come to an end before the country can concentrate its efforts on the development of its nation and the quasi emergency situation South Sudan is in is not conducive for sustainable development, nor for refugees to return in safety and dignity.

Land was an issue within urban areas as well as in rural areas and this research highlighted this as a destabilising factor in returnees being able to rebuild their lives and access employment. It was mentioned that the GoSS has been active in land allocation and this must continue and be adequately regulated to ensure sustainable return. A problem arose of land allocation however, resulted from people are moving to urban areas despite having been allocated land in a rural part of the country.

In addressing my third research question, this dissertation showed that INGOs are working to provide opportunities for returnees through programmes that focus on
training and skills development as well as the provision of initial start up assets such as reintegration support packages, to help returnees meet basic needs. Reintegration support packages that incorporate seeds and tools are necessary for returnees to be able to start establishing their livelihoods, to ensure that they become agriculturally sustainable. It was also found that INGOs are also working on urban training programmes in order to facilitate the reintegration of returnees. As discussed, INGOs are providing assistance which aim to provide both short and long term help both of which seem essential in achieving sustainability.

One important finding is that a community-focused approach to tackling the problems in South Sudan was highly recommended amongst my respondents. This suggests that if agencies treat returning populations as heterogeneous and work with communities themselves, programmes implemented will more likely address the specific needs of the community and can further allow agencies to understand and utilise the existing skills within the population.

Important also in this discussion, and related to the previous finding, is that both the GoSS and the INGOs must take a holistic approach to the communities they are working with. My research showed that those who stayed in South Sudan are experiencing the same hardships in establishing economic livelihoods as those who are returning. We must, therefore, look at the community as a whole, to avoid creating tensions between stayees and returnees. The role of the church was highlighted as a key facilitator in this process and one that should be incorporated in negotiations between key agencies and community leaders.

Further areas of research arising from my dissertation relate to the role of women in the VR and reintegration process. Although this wasn’t a particular focus of this dissertation, women were noted as being self-mobilising and resourceful in establishing income generating strategies. I believe the women’s role in the economic
livelhood sustainability of VR in South Sudan would be an extremely interesting and important area for further study.

Another highlighted issue were the many relationships that exist. This includes the micro level relationships between host and returnee communities and those at a macro level that exist between INGOs, the Church, and the GoSS. Essential to understanding and implementing sustainable solutions to VR would be a further understanding of the exact avenues in which these agencies are working together.

This research has shown that the conditions in South Sudan will not, for the majority of returnees, allow for sustainable return. With all the good will from INGOs and key agencies, and from those South Sudanese who want to return and build the country if there is no chance to build a life on return then we will either see failed returnees moving to other countries or an escalation of other problems within the country. There must be a level of opportunity and space for people to return to, and when this becomes so, perhaps South Sudan can move forward, become a home to those who want to return and be the Independent nation people fought so hard for.
References


Andom, N. ‘Refugee repatriation and socio-economic re-integration of returnees in Eritrea (the case of proferi programme in Dige Sub-zone)’, Masters KwaZulu-Natal University, March 2004, pp. 1-171.


Pantuliano, S., Buchanan-Smith, M., Murphy, P. ‘The Long Road Home. Opportunities and Obstacles to the Reintegration of IDPs and Refugees Returning to Southern Sudan and the Three Areas. Phase I’ 2007 London: ODI.

Pantuliano, S., Buchanan-Smith, M., Murphy, P., Mosel, I. ‘The Long Road Home. Opportunities and Obstacles to the Reintegration of IDPs and Refugees Returning to Southern Sudan and the Three Areas. Phase II. Conflict, Urbanisation and Land’, 2008 London: ODI.


Map 1:

BBC, ‘Sudan: One country or two?’ BBC News Website. 2012 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-12115013>

Map 2:

BBC, ‘Sudan: One country or two?’ BBC News Website. 2012 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-12115013>
Appendix A

The Sudan Programme: St. Anthony’s College, Oxford, U.K.

I visited the ‘The Sudan Programme’ on two occasions during my research. The first was on date and title of programme. The second occasion on date and title of programme

The Sudan Programme followed Chatham House rules, one of which expresses,

“When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participants, may be revealed.”

Therefore information I obtained on the day will remain anonymous in accordance with this. Exceptions to this are those individuals I contacted following the event who I obtained permission to use their views and opinions.
Appendix B

Interviews for preliminary research

The UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs: International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. Attended from 3 to 5 July 2012.

Anonymous interview (Mr Hassan)
  Interview Date: 5 July 2012
  Interview Time: 11.00 am
  Duration of interview: 32 minutes 39 seconds

Mr. Raouf Mazou, UNHCR’s Deputy Director, Africa Bureau and was a member of the panel for the Africa Regional Session on Protracted Refugee Situations.
  Interview Date: 4 July 2012
  Interview Time: 11.10 am
  Duration of interview: 7 minutes 36 seconds

Interviews for primary research

Ms Helen Stawski, Archbishop of Canterbury's Deputy Secretary for International Development.
  Interview Date: 25 October 2012
  Interview Time: 4.00pm
  Duration of interview: 25 minutes 40 seconds

Mr John Sebit Diseremo, “From the Diocese of Mundri, General Manager for Sudanese Development and Relief Agency for the Episcopal Church of the Sudan. An ordained Priest and Project Manager.”
  Interview Date: November 26th 2012
  Interview Time: 3.00pm
  Duration of interview: 36 minutes 36 seconds

Informal conversations:

Waleed Abdallah, Volunteer case worker; Sudanese Refugee in the UK for six years; previously had lived in South Sudan for 3 years.

Mr Deng, who wishes to remain anonymous
## Appendix C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation advertised as working in Sudan and South Sudan</th>
<th>Active specifically in South Sudan</th>
<th>Those working with Returnees</th>
<th>Those active in Economic Livelihoods</th>
<th>Comment (if necessary)</th>
<th>Date contacted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Action Against Hunger,</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Focused predominantly on food programmes</td>
<td>25 October 2012</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 October 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 October 2012</td>
</tr>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 October 2012</td>
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<td>?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>25 October 2012</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td>25 October 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DanChurchAid</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>26 October 2012</td>
</tr>
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<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
<td>26 October 2012</td>
</tr>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>26 October 2012</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td>26 October 2012</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>26 October 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>JEN,</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Organization</td>
<td>Days Available</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy Corps,</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>27 October</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>27 October</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>27 October</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>27 October</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>27 October</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>27 October</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>27 October</td>
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<td>Free Voice;</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) – are they ngo or govt??</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>29 October</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Merlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medair</td>
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<td>29 October</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACT SUdan</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>29 October</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Relief Service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>29 October</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carter Centre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>29 October</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Children</td>
<td>Returnee</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counterpart International</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Programmes not currently active</td>
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</tr>
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<td>?</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Children Focused</td>
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<td>Hope Ofiriha</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>?</td>
<td></td>
<td>30 October 2012</td>
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<td>World Vision International - South Sudan</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>Returnee IDPs, unsure about returnee refugees. Not enough programme detail</td>
<td>30 October 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FARM-Africa</td>
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<td>?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>30 October 2012</td>
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<td>?</td>
<td></td>
<td>30 October 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesuit Refugee Service</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Does not specify programmes specifically for returnees</td>
<td>30 October 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adeso</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 November 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Community Development Agency-South Sudan</td>
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<td>?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 November 2012</td>
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</table>
# Appendix D

**Name and position:**

**Organisation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key agencies and type of assistance in the repatriation of South Sudanese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) What is the role of your organisation in the repatriation and reintegration of South Sudanese returning from the North?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Does your assistance to returnees focus on relief or development? What is the reason for this focus?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Does your organisation work in conjunction with the large organisations assisting in the repatriation process (e.g. IOM/UNHCR)? How does the assistance they offer complement or enable you to implement your assistance programme?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post- return livelihood opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4) What are the current opportunities for returnees to South Sudan, in terms of engaging in economic and job opportunities?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) What are the main challenges/problems facing the returnee populations with regards to accessing economic and jobs opportunities?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6a) In your experience have you noticed a large rural-urban migration of returnees seeking employment in South Sudan?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6b) What is being done to encourage and enable returnees to stay and work in rural areas?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7a) Does your organisation engage with local community groups in the decision making processes and strategic planning of your assistance programmes?

7b) Do you think this engagement has benefited your programmes?

8) Compared to men, what is the situation for women returnees with regards to accessing economic and job opportunities? Do you have specific programmes in place to overcome any disparity regarding this?

**The current situation**

9) So far, to what extent, do you feel the reintegration of South Sudanese returnees has been successful?

10) Before repatriation, how informed are the returnees about the economic and job opportunities in South Sudan?

11) In your opinion what are the next steps needed to see that more returnees gain access to jobs and sustainable economic livelihood opportunities?
Appendix E

List of INGOs used for Secondary research:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INGO</th>
<th>Website Accessed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACTED South Sudan</td>
<td>25 October 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADRA Sudan</td>
<td>25 October 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Refugee Committee</td>
<td>26 October 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association for Aid and Relief, Japan</td>
<td>26 October 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Communities (formally CHF International)</td>
<td>26 October 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish Refugee Council</td>
<td>26 October 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL Ireland</td>
<td>26 October 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Rescue Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Rescue Committee</td>
<td>7 November 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercy Corps</td>
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<td>Norwegian Refugee Council</td>
<td>8 November 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief International</td>
<td>8 November 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
<td>8 November 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Aid Services</td>
<td>11 November 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mennonite Central Committee</td>
<td>11 November 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesuit Refugee Service</td>
<td>19 November 2012</td>
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</table>
Appendix F

A list of the South Sudan Government Ministries contacted as part of my data collection

<table>
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<th>GoSS – Ministries contacted</th>
<th>Date of Contact</th>
<th>Date of Response</th>
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<td>Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning</td>
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<td>Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry</td>
<td>19 November 2012</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of General Education and Instruction</td>
<td>19 November 2012</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management</td>
<td>19 November 2012</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Cooperation and Rural Development</td>
<td>19 November 2012</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning</td>
<td>19 November 2012</td>
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</table>
Appendix G

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
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Appendix H

Information sheet for participants
November 2012

This research dissertation is in partial fulfilment of the Masters course Development and Emergency Practice, part of the School of the Built Environment at Oxford Brookes University.

The aim of my research is to understand the opportunities for returnee populations in establishing economic livelihoods. I will be focusing on the Republic of South Sudan as a case study, specifically the returnee populations from the North of Sudan, in the years leading up to and following independence. Using literature from previous repatriation and reintegration programmes and data from those involved in assistance programmes in South Sudan, I hope to go some way in understanding the current situation.

I am looking to engage with a cross section of individuals and organisations involved in the repatriation and reintegration of the returnee population. Your participation therefore will provide me with valuable insight into the current context and allow me to develop my understanding of the situation.

Receiving this information sheet has been a result of your kind expression of interest in taking part in this research project however you are free to not take part at any time. I am required to submit this dissertation on 25th January and therefore until this date you are able to withdraw the information you have provided to me.

The questionnaire you are about to complete is made up of eleven questions and should not take more than 30 minutes to complete.

This research has been approved by the University Research Ethics Committee at Oxford Brookes University. If you have any concerns regarding the research, please feel free to contact the Chair of the University Research Ethics Committee on ethics@brookes.ac.uk.

I hope that this research will help to better understand the situation in South Sudan, hopefully provide some insight into current operations in country and potentially make some suggestions for the future.

The information I obtain during the course of my research will be used in the write up of my final dissertation. This will be kept in the University of Oxford Brookes archives and possibly uploaded on the course page of the University’s website. Following its submission I will e-mail a copy of my dissertation to each participant. I hope it will be of interest to yourself and may be useful in some way within your organisation.

I would like to thank you once again for your participation in my research. Your contribution is extremely appreciated.

Kind regards,

Christina Haneef
Appendix I

Faculty Of Technology, Design & Environment, Oxford Brookes University
ARCHITECTURE / PLANNING / REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION

RESEARCH ETHICS FORM E18E FOR STUDENTS ON TAUGHT COURSES
Please read the Guidance Notes at www.brookes.ac.uk/reaethics/forms

Section A - You & your project
What is your name?
CHRISTINA HANEI

What is your student number?
11082745

What is your email address?
11082745@brookes.ac.uk

What is your supervisor's name?
HELENA LOPEZ ZARZA

What is your supervisor's email address?
helealopez@brookes.ac.uk

In which Department are you studying?
Architecture

What course are you taking?
HADEVELOPMENT AND EMERGENCY

What is the topic area of your research?

Section B - Your participants
What kind of participants will be involved in your research? (Please tick one - if more than one, then complete a separate form)

☑ Professional/management group
☑ Members of the general public
☑ Vulnerable individuals

Briefly describe these participants

Members of NGOs and aid organisations

How many participants will be involved?
9 Number of people

How will the participants be selected?
Participants will be contacted via email.

Section C - Your data collection
When is your data collection likely to start?
8/09/12

What will be your method of data collection?
☑ In-depth interviews
☑ Telephone
☑ Face-to-face surveys
☑ Email
☑ Direct observation
☑ Post

☑ Other, please specify

What kind of data will you be collecting?
☑ Qualitative/quantitative/numerical
☑ Images/drawings/maps

☑ Qualitative/quantitative/numerical
☑ Images/drawings/maps

Will it be possible to avoid asking for personal data from the participants?
☐ Yes ☑ No

Will it be possible to ensure the participants are not being deceived in any way?
☐ Yes ☑ No

Will it be possible to ensure the participants remain completely anonymous?
☐ Yes ☑ No

Will it be possible to ensure the participants do not suffer any negative consequences?
☐ Yes ☑ No

Section D - Declaration
I declare that I will
☒ give all participants an information sheet conforming to university guidelines
☒ not contact any participant until my supervisor has approved my information sheet, research questions and methodology
☒ be sufficiently well-trained in necessary methods of data collection and analysis

Student signature

Date

Supervisor signature

Date

Module Leader signature

Date

You may only start fieldwork when this form has been signed by your supervisor & your Module Leader
Faculty Of Technology, Design & Environment, Oxford Brookes University
ARCHITECTURE / PLANNING / REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION

RESEARCH ETHICS FORM E1BE FOR STUDENTS ON TAUGHT COURSES
Please read the Guidance Notes at www.brookes.ac.uk/ethics-forms

Section A - You & your project
What is your name?
First name: CHRISTINA
Surname: MAGEE

What is your student number?
110864745

What is your small address?
1082.46@brookes.ac.uk

What is your supervisor's name?
First name: HELENA
Surname: LOPEZ ZAMORA

What is your supervisor's small address?
helena.lopez@brookes.ac.uk

In which Department are you studying?
Architecture
Planning
REC

What course are you taking?
MA DEVELOPMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
What is the topic area of your research? PRACTICE
Voluntary Participation to South Sudan

On what kind of topics will you be collecting data from the participants in the research?
The current employment situation in South Sudan opinions on Returning

Section B - Your participants
What kind of participants will be involved in your research? (Please tick one - if more than one, then complete a separate form)

- Professional/management group
- Members of the general public
- Vulnerable individuals

Briefly describe these participants
South Sudanese individuals living in the UK
Number of people 2

How will the participants be selected?
Aranet will ask to participate over email

You may only start fieldwork when this form has been signed by your supervisor & your Module Leader

Section C - Your data collection
When is your data collection likely to start?
01/07/2012

What will be your method of data collection?
- In-depth interviews
- Telephone
- Face-to-face surveys
- Email
- Direct observation
- Other, please specify

What kind of data will you be collecting?
- Quantitative/statistical/numerical
- Qualitative/verbal/threat
- Images/drawings/maps

Will it be possible to avoid asking for personal data from the participants?
Yes [ ] No [ ]

Will it be possible to ensure the participants are not being deceived in any way?
Yes [ ] No [ ]

Will it be possible to ensure the participants remain completely anonymous?
Yes [ ] No [ ]

Will it be possible to ensure the participants do not suffer any negative consequences?
Yes [ ] No [ ]

Section D - Declaration
I declare that I will
- give all participants an information sheet conforming to university guidelines
- not contact any participant until my supervisor has approved my information sheet, research questions and methodology
- be sufficiently well-trained in necessary methods of data collection and analysis

Student signature: [Signature]
Date: 01/07/2012

Supervisor signature: [Signature]
Date: 01/07/2012

Module Leader signature: [Signature]
Date: 01/07/2012