**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Human Rights Council Advisory Committee**

1. . How is local government organized in your country? Please describe the existing legal framework for the organization, functioning, competences and financial resources of local government in your Country.

Description of the existing legal framework for local Government in Western Bahr el Ghazal:

1. Organization : **three (3)** urban councils with total of **105** councilors and **one (1)** municipal councils with total of **35**councilors as detailed below, these councils created and established by an order issued by the Governor also members of these councils including Commissioners and Mayor were appointed by the Governor in consultation with his followers :

**Urban Councils:**

* Wau county council – 35 councilors (11 females and 24 males).
* Jur River council – 35 councilors (10 females and 24 males)
* Raga council – 35 councilors (11 females and 24 males)

 **Municipal Council**:

* Wau Municipality -35 Councilors (7 females and 18 males).
* The organs of the local government Councils composed on the following:
* The Legislative Councils
* The Executive Council and
* The Customary Council
1. Functions, competences and financial resources of local government:

Subject to provisions of the Constitution, the Local Government has a clearly defined legislative, executive and customary judicial authority on matters and functional areas specified in Appendix ii in Local Government Act 2009. But the most challenge is the exercising and implementation and the worse part of it is

 - Mismanagement of finance (revenue collection, distribution and utilization)

* Destruction of forests.
* Weak relief, repatriation, resettlement, and rehabilitation of IDPs and returnees.
* Poor services delivery.
* Poor institutions of rule of law
1. . Is local government in your country required by legislation to promote and protect human rights? Please describe how local government in your country is involved in the implementation of human rights obligations.

Yes, the act stated that; protection of the right of people and their interests is one of the primary responsibilities of the local government, but.\, in my County – implementation of this Act is a challenge to the authorities, there are clear violations to what stated in the law, therefore, communities of Western Bahr el Ghazal specially people of Wau County are victims to different types of violence, Below are some example of violation of rights which created vulnerability to Wau community:

* Creation of Municipality and forced transfer of County Capital from Wau town to Rural Ngo-Baggari village.
* Provoking of dispute and arm-conflicts between the Fertit (Non Dinka) communities and Dinka tribes through encouragement of Dinka pastoralist by the state authorities to transfer their cattle camps to agricultural lands of the fertit communities.
* Wider acquisition of community lands without consultation with the community leaders.
1. Is there any cooperation between local government and the central government in your country regarding the implementation of human rights at local level? If yes, please describe the existing cooperation framework.

Never at all, most of these violations have been designed and directed by the central government to be implemented at the local level.

1. Do you have human rights protection mechanisms at the local level in your country (e.g. ombudspersons, human rights commissions, mediators, etc.)?

Yes, but not functional

1. What initiatives have been taken to include human rights mainstreaming in local administration and public services?

There are numbers of forum and sub cluster formed at the state level from UN agencies, NGOs, CBOs and line ministries to address this issues yet implementation of recommendations and action plans is challenging.

1. What is the role of civil society in the planning and implementation of activities for the protection and promotion of human rights at local level in your country?

The role of civil societies can be summarized in the following:

* Civic education at the grass root level
* Networking with other human rights organization for similar issues.
* Creation of a more gender sensitive and enabling environment for women to participate in political decision making processes to promote peace and stability.
* Monitoring and evaluation of governmental human rights institutions, recording and documentation of violations.
* Advocacy and lobby.
1. What is the role and program of your organization for promotion and protection of human rights at local level or in enhancing local governance for human rights?

In partnership with other NGOs and with support from some Donors (NDI, NPA, Manitese, ICCO and others) we are implementing the following projects to contribute to protection and promotion of human rights in our State within in three years period:

1. Community Briefings on South Sudan Constitutional Review in Western Bhar el Ghazal State/South Sudan targeting at least 5000 participants.
2. Community trainings on land act and issues in Western Bhar el Ghazal State/South Sudan targeting at least 10000 participants.
3. Civic Education in Baggari Payam- Wau County/ Western Bhar el Ghazal State/South Sudan targeting 80 trainers.
4. Revitalizing the community-based food production in Wau County Western Bhar el Ghazal State/South Sudan targeting 200 Households.
5. UNSCR 1325 project ( enhancing capacity of 30 potential and existing women leaders in political decision making and security sectors) to influence change in Western Bhar el Ghazal State/South Sudan
6. Cross-cutting progaramme on HIV/ADIS, peace building, human rights, reproductive health, girl’s education ---------etc.)
7. What are the main challenges faced by local government in your country in the promotion and protection of human rights?

The major challenges are the implementation of Local Government Act 2009.

Lack of implementation of Local Government Act 2009 and reluctance of the leaderships to respect the laws.

1. Please provide any best practices with regard to the above mentioned issues.

The only best practice to the best of my knowledge is the implementation of the Local Government Act 2009 and pardon from authorities to respect the rule of law.

Let’s advocate for it.

**O God have mercy on innocent people of South Sudan**

Notice: this questionnaire is filled from the experience of Local Government in Western Bahr el Ghazal/ South Sudan only it is not for the whole South Sudan.

Thanks