

# **Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping:** An Emerging and Cost Effective Tool for Protecting Civilians





# The Need

- ◉ World Bank: 1.5 billions people currently live in countries with repeated violence (WDR 2011)
- ◉ Not one of these countries has achieved a single Millennium Development Goal (WDR 2011)
- ◉ Vast majority of victims of violent conflict are now civilians



# Unarmed Civilian Protection & Peacekeeping

- Direct physical protection of civilians under threat of violent conflict
- Support local civil society to protect themselves and prevent further outbreaks of violence
- Support and/or build capacity of existing protection mechanisms

# Foundations

- ◉ Non-partisanship
- ◉ Non-violence
- ◉ International Human Rights Law
- ◉ International Humanitarian Law
- ◉ Conflict Sensitivity





# Unarmed Civilian Protection & Peacekeeping



- Specially trained professionals
- Full-time, 24/7
- Multi-national
- Strategic
- Nimble
- Deeply immersed in community
- Nonviolent
- Neutral
- Cost-effective





# Unarmed Civilian Protection & Peacekeeping

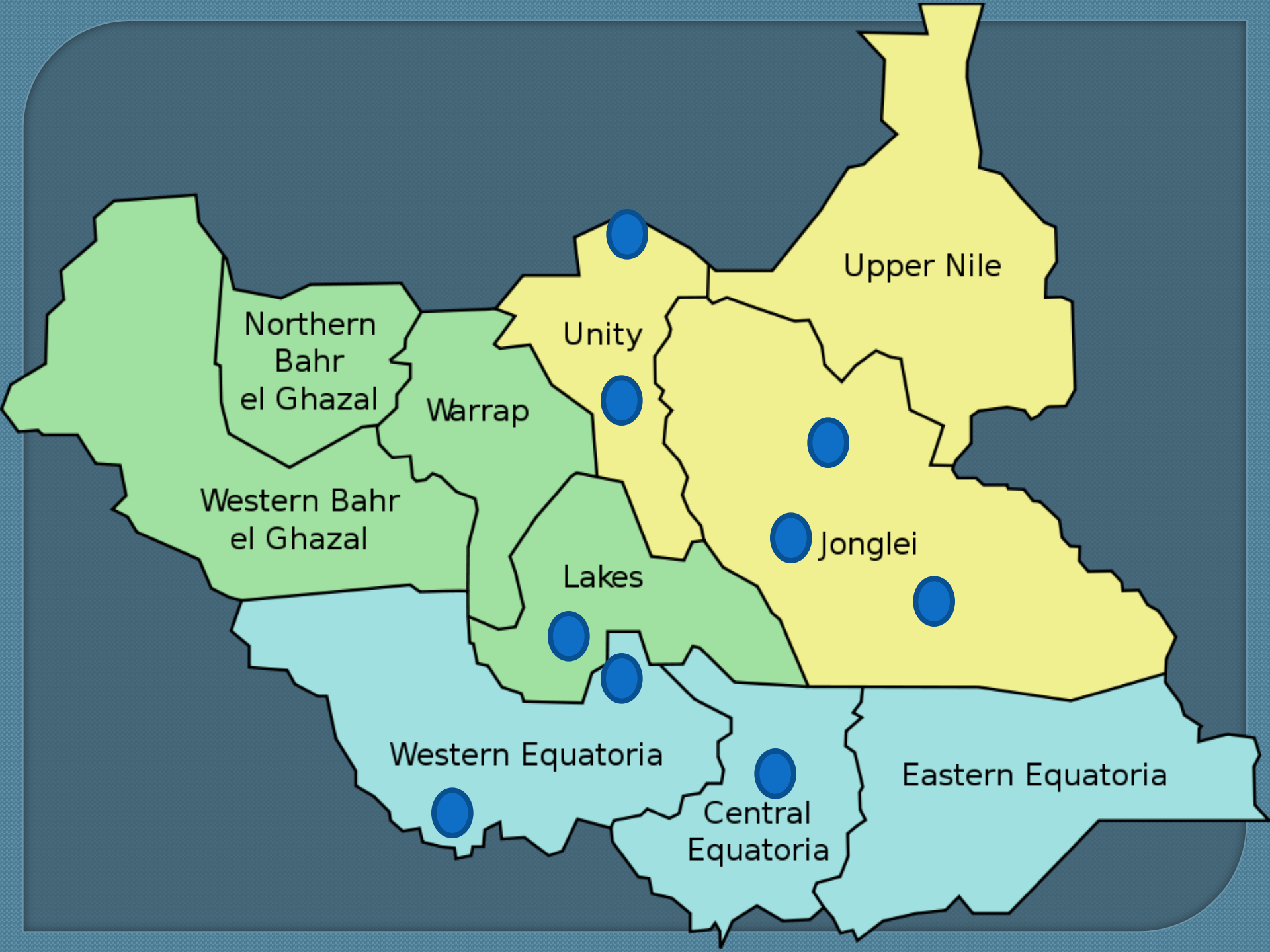
Activities include:

- Accompaniment of vulnerable individuals
- Strategic protective presence
- Conscious visibility
- Local level shuttle diplomacy
- Facilitated dialogue & safe space
- Confidence building
- Local capacity building
- Rumour control
- Interactive monitoring (e.g. ceasefires and truces)
- Conflict early warning/ early response



# Facilitated Dialogues to address local disputes

- Bringing parties together through local partners
- Using local and traditional methods of dispute resolution
- Resolving issues that might lead to violence
- Preventing further escalation
- Strengthening local capacities to handle such situations





# Focusing and Specializing



- Displaced populations
- Human Rights Defenders
- Inter-communal conflicts
- Intra-state conflict
- Child Protection
- Conflict Related Sexual Violence

# 2011 Conflict: Western Equatoria & Lakes State

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- ◉ 6000 homes burned down
- ◉ 76,000 people displaced
- ◉ Hundreds cattle stolen
- ◉ Tens of civilians killed and injured





# NP's Intervention

- ◉ Information, Analysis and Strategy Building
- ◉ Non-partisanship
- ◉ Multi-level diplomacy
- ◉ Protective accompaniment
- ◉ Facilitated Dialogue
- ◉ Accompaniment of the implementation of the agreements





# Impact



- ◉ Cease fire agreement
- ◉ Hospital, schools and shops re-opened
- ◉ 40,000 IDPs returned in the first month of the cease fire
- ◉ Peace agreement followed
- ◉ Specific implementable, detailed agreement for future cattle movements





# Feedback

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- ◎ Honorable Simon Malual Deng, said that what NP had accomplished “was a miracle” and that he had thought the chiefs who were involved “would never be willing to meet each other again”.
- ◎ Commissioner of Yirol West announced “I want to thank Nonviolent Peaceforce for their tireless efforts of moving through rough roads from Mvolo to Anoul to Yirol West to Mapourdit when no one else would; I owe you a lot of appreciation because the rescue of lives and properties is because of you.”















