



ROSS HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Relief Organization for South Sudan (ROSS), formerly known as South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (SSRRA) is a humanitarian wing of the SPLM/A (IO) that provides license and registry for NGOs, CBOs/CSOs and any humanitarian organization operating in SPLM/A controlled areas in South Sudan. SSRRA coordinates, liaise and monitor humanitarian organizations and other NGOs in the areas controlled by the SPLM/A in the Republic of South Sudan for effective and efficient humanitarian intervention and service delivery. ROSS provides safe working environment to the humanitarian organizations in SPLM/A controlled areas. It conducts needs assessments and identifies target groups for humanitarian interventions. It builds capacity of stakeholders and local partners to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the target groups. ROSS is an agency that promotes peace, trust and healing to the traumatized and conflict affected communities by creating awareness on peace and reconciliation among South Sudanese citizens in collaboration with relevant partners.

ROSS -USA is a nonprofit 501 (c) 3 incorporated to solicit funds legally from the US corporations, foundations and small private organizations and provides humanitarian assistance to South Sudanese in devastated areas in South Sudan. It builds capacity of stakeholders and local partners to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the target groups. It provides nationwide education to create awareness on the need for peace and reconciliation among South Sudanese citizens in collaboration with relevant partners. ROSS has regional offices across the US to streamline resource mobilization and coordination of humanitarian assistance for South Sudan. It collaborates with stakeholders to effectively coordinate and deliver humanitarian needs (food and medicines) to South Sudanese in devastated areas in South Sudan. The agency works to create awareness of the humanitarian needs in devastated areas of South Sudan through public conferences and latest field reports.

VISION

Envisage transforming lives and working for justice and prosperity for all in a peaceful society

MISSION

To coordinate humanitarian assistance to save lives, restore dignity through psycho-socio rehabilitation service, and promote sustainable development by empowering community to effectively utilize the abundant natural resources as a process to transition from relief to rehabilitation

GOAL

To coordinate, implement programs and partner with humanitarian agencies (UN Agencies, NGOs, etc...) for effective and efficient delivery of humanitarian services to reach unreachable residents, IDPs and to safeguard the voluntary return of South Sudanese refugees from the neighboring country after peace.

ROSS Leadership and Operation Worldwide

Pagak, South Sudan

Hon. Aggrey Izbone Idri, Chairperson of National Committee for Humanitarian Affairs

Hon. Moses Gatkuoth Lony, Deputy Chairperson of National Committee for Humanitarian Affairs

Hon. Thiang Luony, Executive Director

United States Office

Dr. John Chuol Kuek, Country Director

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mr. James Gatwech Reath, Country Director

Khartoum, Sudan Office

Hon. William Garjang. Gieng, Country Director

Nairobi, Kenya Office

Mr. Ezekiel Gorei Dang, Country Director

Australia Office

Mr. Ruot Khat Marwang, Country Director

Canada Office

Mr. Nhial K. Wicleek, Country Director

Uganda

Mr. Francis Dabe, Country Director



Dear Attendee:

Welcome to the 5th Annual ROSS* USA * Diaspora Humanitarian Conference 2019



The ROSS-USA was established in September 2014, with a goal to mobilize and coordinate the efforts of South Sudanese community stakeholders, groups and individual contributions throughout the United States to help provide basic emergency assistance to South Sudanese. The primary aim of the agency is to provide humanitarian assistance to South Sudanese in devastated areas of the country. The ROSS - USA premiere conference began in 2015 as part of the hopes and dreams of leadership to address challenging humanitarian crisis in South Sudan. Its grassroots efforts, dedication, commitment, resulted in a highly-regarded, educational, and professional conference.

April is ROSS – USA Annual Conference Month, a time where we as a community recognize our national commitment to address humanitarian crisis and take affirmative steps to end the effect of unlawful segregation of some ethnics groups in South Sudan. While this is the 5th Anniversary year of the inception of the Juba Nuer Massacre, which made the government of South Sudan’s act a civil war, the struggle continues today not only to address humanitarian crisis in some parts of the country, but to unwind the effects of unlawful segregation of some ethnic groups in our country. This year’s conference looks forward to initiatives that ROSS – USA will take to address the humanitarian crisis, especially health issues in rural areas in the country. We are honored to have a distinguished list of speakers who will lead us in discussion. It is our hope that you will find this conference educational and enjoyable!

Enjoy and soak up the knowledge and insight today as we honor the 5th Annual Conference as the result of the imposed civil war on South Sudanese people. Thanks you for coming to the conference in the Music City of Nashville, TN.

Sincerely,

John Chuol Kuek, PhD
Country Director
Relief Organization for South Sudan (ROSS) USA
Office: (402) 595-8125
Cell: (619) 347-1411
Website: <http://www.ross-usa.org>



2019 Conference Team Leaders

1. Mr. Augustino Gore
Conference Chair
Fifth Annual Conference 2019
2. Mr. Wal Rambang Chuol
Deputy Conference Chair
3. Tibisa Jiechlat Thor
Member of Secretariat Committee
4. Mr. Lam Thot Muang
Deputy Chair for Administration and Finance
5. Mr. Matthew Reer
Deputy Chair for Secretariat Committee
6. Bidit Biel Luak
Member of Secretariat Committee
7. Mrs. Nyakor kueth
Secretariat Committee
8. Mr. Nelson Loponi
Deputy Chair for Community Mobilization Committee
9. Toang Gatkuoth Buom
Deputy for Administration and Finance Committee
10. Nyater Chuol Wuol
Member of Finance Committee
11. Samuel Mayian Pan
Deputy for Community Mobilization Committee
12. Rosemary Lokule
Conference Team Advisor
13. Dr. Gatluak Ter Thach
Conference Team Advisor
14. Aluel Gang
Conference Advisor



Program Schedule

DJ: Mr. Dominic Onen

Masters of Ceremony: Dr. Kajijo Guya/ Mr. Koang Chuol

Saturday, April 27, 2019

1:00 pm (Music and Slide Show)

2:00pm-2:05pm: South Sudan and US National Anthem

(Prayer: Rev. Martin Drani)

2:10-2:15pm: Opening Remarks, House Keeping Rules and Guests Introduction

Mr. Augustino Gore, the Chair of the Conference

2:20 –4:00pm: Presentations

Welcome with song by our homegrown Artist, Nya JJ

Presenter 1: Rosemary Lokule (15 min)

Current Humanitarian Crisis Updates

Presenter 2: Simon Puok Dak (10 min)

SPLM Chapter leadership's 2019 initiatives update

Presentation 3: Dr. Gatluak Thach (15)

What does it mean to be an American: Integration of Immigrants into American Society

Presenter 4: Dr. Kajijo Guya (15)

Health Issues as Humanitarian Crisis in South Sudan

Presenter 4: **Dr. Bivens Noel** (15 min)

Financial Literacy

Presenter 5: Mr. John Ujwok (15 min)

Community Health and Well-being: Taking social, economic, cultural and political conditions into consideration.

Presenter 6: **Keynote Speaker, Dr. Isaac Gang** (15 min)

Updates on recently signed Peace Initiative in South Sudan: Obstacles and possibility for reaching a comprehensive implementation in 2019

Break and Entertainment (10 min)

Words of Encouragement: 4: 00 pm - 4:15 pm (15 mins)

4:15 – 4:20pm: Closing Remarks by: Dr. John Kuek, Country Director

Closing Prayer by: N/A

5:05-6:05 pm: Dinner

6:10 pm-10:00pm: Concert/Entertainment/ Fundraising/ Nya JJ

MC: Dr. Kajijo Guya/ Mr. Koang Chuol



Goi Jooyul Yol, MBA, PhD Student

Goi Jooyul Yol is currently an independent management consultant, a member of political Bureau and Chair of Committee for Education, Science and Technology of the SPLM in Opposition. He is a Negotiator and a Chair of Humanitarian Cluster for IGAD –led Peace High Level Revitalization Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He is a former advisor of Jonglei’s Governor on investment. He was a focal point of Arusha INTRA-SPLM reunification process in Arusha Tanzania in 2014-2015. He has intensive experiences in relief and development for the work he had done for six years, 1994- 2000. He is former Senior Civil Servant in the Government of South Sudan’s President Office. He has extensive roles in

Humanitarian Relief, Development and Research with NGOs and UNDP.

Academic credentials: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Management, Walden University-Minneapolis, Minnesota USA (doctoral Student). Master of Business Administration (MBA) Walden University-Minneapolis, Minnesota (2014). Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Business Administration, Lindsey Wilson College in Kentucky (2002). Diploma of Community Development and Leadership (AA), Ethiopian Adventist College (1994)

Publications: Jooyul and Associates: Baseline Study. Socio-economic Applications of TOTAL France Oil Drilling in Jonglei, Bor (2008). Global Access Project Unified Research Locator: Department of African Studies, at Indiana University Bloomington (2004). Baseline Study: Jonglei Officer’s Handbook. Retrieved at Sudan archive and Rift Valley Institute (1998). Akobo Model: A Handbook on Establishment in Rural Sustainable Governance & Enterprise (Pending Publication).



Mrs. Rosemary Samuel Lokule Deputy Chair

Mrs. Rosemary graduated from Juba University with Diploma in Community and Rural Development. She also has diplomacy at South Sudan Christian University and was Interrupted in her final year by the current civil war in South Sudan, which was the reason to seek asylum in the United States. She also completed religious order formation as a Catholic non in the order of Canossian Daughters of Charity. She is currently married to her one and only love Joseph.

Mrs. Rosemary is an experienced leader who had worked for international NGOs as listed below: Fellowship for African Relief in the area of sanitation



and health education for Action Africa Help International (AAH-I) as Admin Assistant and Inter-Church Organization for Cooperation Development (ICCO) as Administrative officer. She is currently serving the Board Chair of Relief Organization for South Sudan's nonprofit part of it; she is on the board of Alliance for South Sudan in Diaspora; a board member of Sudanese Community of Holy Name Catholic Church Nashville, and the current Chair Lady of Equatoria Community of TN.

Among the activities that she does, she is a singer in the church and was privileged to have participated in recording and singing of the South Sudan National Anthem on her Independent day. She is also an actress, an oppressed part of her.



Dr. Isaac Kueth Gang, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Computer Science & Information Systems at Texas A&M University-Commerce's College of Science & Engineering, Department of Computer Science & Information Systems
SPLM/A – in Opposition (IO) Representative to the United States

He is a former director of Relief Organization for South Sudan (ROSS) USA's **South Region**.

Dr. Gang is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science, MIS, and Information Systems at Texas A&M University-Commerce's College of Science & Engineering, department of Computer Science & Information Systems. He joined the A&M faculty in the

fall of 2017 from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor where he taught Computer Science & Engineering for 6 years. Before coming to UMHB, Gang was an Adjunct Professor of computer science at the University of Southern Mississippi's School of Computing. Dr. Gang earned an Associate of Arts (AA) degree in computer science from Hinds Community College in 2000, Bachelor of Art (BA) degree in history from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2004, a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in computer science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2004, Master of Science degree in computer science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2008, and Doctor of Philosophy in computational science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2010. Dr. Gang is the founding member of Alliance for South Sudanese in Diaspora (ASSD); a founding member of Coalition of Advocates for South Sudan (CASS), and a founding member of Jonglei Peace Initiative –North America. In addition to his professional expertise in science, technology and IT, Gang has an extensive peace and leadership training background with the Institute of Sustainable Peace based in Houston, Texas, United States. He has attended and facilitated peace and leadership training for over 4 years with ISP.



Gatluak Ter Thach, PhD
Adjunct Professor, Tennessee State University.
Founder, President/CEO of Nashville International Center for Empowerment (NICE).

He is also a refugee and immigrant rights activist who serves on board of directors for several organizations, include Sudanese Human Rights Organization, Advisory Council of Tennessee Department of Children’s Services, Mayor’s New American Council, Tennessee for All of Us, Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity, Sudanese Presbyterian Church, Alliance for South Sudanese in Diaspora, Relief Organization for South Sudan – USA, and Volar Collegiate Academy, among others. Dr. Thach authored [My New American Dream and Life of the Leader and Life of the Leader](#). His upcoming books include: *“The Successful Integration and Why My People Continue to Suffer in South Sudan.”* Dr. Thach is an expert in community and organizational development, program and budget planning and management, strategic planning, collaboration and partnership building, resource development (grant writing), executive coaching for new executive grassroots’ leaders, and strategic advocacy. Dr. Thach earned a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science with minor in mathematics from Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN. A master’s degree in public service from Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN, where he graduated with Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in social science, and a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership with emphasis on Strategic Planning from Argosy University in Nashville, TN. Dr. Thach received numerous awards, including White House Champion of Change Award from President Obama, CEO of the Year Award, Distinguished Service Award, Human Right Rising Advocate Award, Power of Inclusion Award, Community Empowering Award, New Immigrant Leadership Award, Peace Ambassadors USA Award, among others.



Kajijo Guya, Pharm. D.
Pharmacist
Cultural Community Officer, Kuku Community of North America

Dr. Guya was born and raised in Kajo-Keji, South Sudan. He became a refugee and lived in multiple refugee camps in East Africa. He first lived in Uganda in early the 1990s after he was dislodged from his village by the civil war that went on for more than 50 years in South Sudan, one of the longest civil war in the



world. Dr. Guya attended school in Uganda, moved to Kenya and completed high school in 1994. Dr. Guya got resettled to the United States in 1995 at Washington State, where he joined the University of Washington at Seattle in 1998. He graduated with a double major in Chemical Engineering and Chemistry in 2001. After graduation, he moved to Houston, Texas and worked as a Cell-culture Process Engineer until 2005 and moved to Memphis. Dr. Guya joined the University of Tennessee Health Science Center at Memphis and graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree (Pharm. D). After completing his doctorate in pharmacy, he has been working for various pharmaceutical settings up to date. In addition, he has been a community services advocate and a peace activist who has been following the South Sudan peace process very closely.



John Atilio Ujwok (AKA) Atilio Ukoth (AKA) Landi Dwong, MPH.

Mr. Ujwok is currently works as a Public Health Data Analyst for Bureau of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases, County Department of Health in Memphis, Tennessee. He currently analyzes public health, population, and forensic data for Shelby County and the West Tennessee region. He was a Health Program Manager for the Nashville International Center for Empowerment – a nonprofit refugee resettlement organization founded by our own Dr. Gatluak Thach. He Managed refugee health program with emphasis on

community health education to prevent chronic diseases among refugees and immigrants. He previously worked as a Neglected Tropical Disease Coordinator, Christian Blind Mission in South Sudan. He coordinated the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the National Onchocerciasis Control Programs in collaboration with the National Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization and other non-profit entities. **Interests and hobbies:** Reading novels, writing and reading poetry, politics.



**Bivens Noel
Broker with WFG/ Transamerica Group of
companies.**

Mr. Noel is also a Professional MMA Fighter He is from Haitian of African descent and grew up in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He started his early and diverse careers included a trucking company in Florida.



ROSS Leadership

National Office

1. Dr. John Chuol Kuek, Country Director
2. Ms. Rosemary Lokule, Deputy Country Director
3. Ms. Tibisa Jiechlat Thor, National Coordinator
4. Mr. Matthew Malual Reer, Director of Programs and Operation
5. Mr. Lam Thot Muang, Director of Administration and Finance
6. Mr. Toang Gatkuoth Buom, Deputy of Administration and Finance
7. Mr. Augustino Gore, Head of Information and Public Relations

Regional Directors

1. Mr. Nelson Loponi, South Region
2. Mr. Dep Nhial Tuany, West Region
3. Mr. Bidit Biel Luak, Midwest Region
4. Mr. Khor Bayak Chuil, East Region

National Advisors

1. Dr. Gatluak Ter Thach, Senior Advisor for Planning and Resource Mobilization
2. TBA, Senior Advisor for Relief and Social Affairs
3. Rev. James Kuajien Deng, Senior Advisor for Religious Affairs

State Representatives/ Departments

1. Mrs. Nyakor Mading Kueth, Washington Sate
2. Mrs. Nyadeng Jock Yaak, State of Utah
3. Mr. Peter Both Gach, State of California
4. Mr. Lewis Barud, Community Engagement Officer
5. Mr. Stephen Khor Chambang, Donor Relations Officer
6. Mr. Riet Gach Bor, State of Colorado
7. Mr. Wal Rambang Chuol, Deputy South Region Director