



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN DAY 2022

### BREAK THE BIAS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Gender bias refers to the prejudice toward one gender over the other. The theme for this year's International Women's Day was "Breaking the Bias", which envisions a gender equal world free of bias and discrimination.

International Women's Day is marked yearly on 8<sup>th</sup> of March to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. This year, the celebrations did not only focus on breaking the gender bias but also on the importance that women play in sustainable development.

In Juba, a half-day event brought together over 1000 participants. Government officials, development partners, donors, non-governmental organizations, uniformed forces, and civil society came together to celebrate South Sudanese women. In addition to engaging speeches, the agenda also included poetry recitals on women's rights, handicrafts exhibitions, and awards to South Sudanese women-led organizations, inspirational women leaders, and female media persons.

The message for International Women's Day was overwhelmingly clear: the gender bias needs to be broken. The theme of this year's International Women's Day implores us to challenge gender bias for equality. Around the world, women frequently face insidious violence that continues to prevent their full participation and equality. To remove these barriers for South Sudanese women, we must challenge the violence.

The national theme for International Women's Day was "Gender equality for future sustainability: promote and

celebrate women and girls' achievements and resilience" which went hand-in-hand with UN Women's global theme "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow". Across South Sudan, women and allies came together to celebrate the immense accomplishments of women, reflect on how much work remains, and to make commitments to deepen and accelerate efforts to achieve gender equality.

The effects of climate change are particularly visible in South Sudan. Floods in vast areas of the country have left many at risk of displacement and lack of access to basic services. Vulnerable populations, especially women and children, are hit particularly hard by rising waters.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- International Women day. (PG. 1)
- DSRSG/RC/HC makes maiden visit to Eastern Equatoria and Northern Bahr El Ghazel (PG. 3)
- News from UN Agencies, Funds and Programs (PG. 4)





In many South Sudanese homes, women are at the heart of the household's nexus of water, food, and energy – and thus often know firsthand about the challenges and potential solutions in these areas. Women are the most convincing advocates for the solutions they need, so they should be at the forefront of decision-making on sustainable development and climate change mitigation.

The UN is committed to standing alongside the women of South Sudan, and to put their priorities and experiences at the center of its work.

## UN WOMEN CONDUCTS A VALIDATION WORKSHOP ON MAPPING OF WOMEN LED ORGANIZATIONS



*Participants at the validation workshop.*

**Photo Credit: UNWOMEN**

Women-led organizations (WLOs) are among the first responders to natural disasters and conflicts, to which the primary victims are women and girls.

The WLOs provide much needed humanitarian services to vulnerable populations and communities. However, the role they play is often unrecognized, undervalued, and undocumented.

UN Women in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare conducted a mapping exercise of WLOs in South Sudan. The exercise assessed the capacity of the WLOs and will in turn lead to the development of a strategy on how they can coordinate, network, and strengthen their capacity in their service delivery and support to women and girls, especially in humanitarian response.

On 9th March 2022, UN Women in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management held a workshop to validate the results of the mapping exercise. A total of 58 participants mainly Executive Directors from the women led organizations attended the workshop. The workshop was officially opened by the Undersecretary



*International women day celebrations in Juba.*

**Photo Credit: UNICEF**

Esther Ikere. UN Women will be hosting a Donor Roundtable where the recommendations from the report and validation workshop will be discussed.

## UN WOMEN ORGANIZES A WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS ON THE PERMANENT CONSTITUTION-MAKING PROCESS

On 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022, UN Women, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, held a two-days training workshop on the Constitution-making process for young women and youths. Over 60 participants, mainly young female emerging leaders, attended the workshop.

The aim of the training was to familiarize the participants with the permanent Constitution-making process, as well as to forge the development of a network of young women who may support each other to be involved in politics and the political process concerning the permanent Constitution.





## DSRSG/RC/HC SARA BEYSOLOW NYANTI MAKES MAIDEN VISIT TO EASTERN EQUATORIA AND NORTHERN BAHR EL GHAZEL STATES

On the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) visited Eastern Equatoria and Northern Bahr El Ghazel states to learn at first-hand, the development context of the States, gain an understanding of their development challenges and identify key entry points for speeding up the States' development.

"I had a constructive engagement with the Governor of Eastern Equatoria, partners on the ground and the team that travelled with me from Juba, representing the donor community, UN agencies, Funds and Programs, and UNMISS. We deliberated on how the Humanitarian, Peace and Development nexus can be operationalized, looking at the intersectionality and identifying areas where we can start to speak about development, taking it forward towards nation building in South Sudan" DSRSG/RC/HC Sara Nyanti summarized the take ways from her Torit visit.

While in Torit, she interacted with students at Torit Vocational Training Center, toured Torit meat market and had engagements with various stakeholders including the private sector, state leadership, rule of law partners and GBV survivors.

In Aweil, Northern Bahr El Ghazel, she toured the rice scheme, and interacted with the farmers and the state leadership.

"If we are able to harness its full capacity, the Aweil Rice Scheme can produce some 23,000 metric tons of rice annually," said DSRSG/RC/HC Sara Nyanti.

"That's enough to feed the entire population of South Sudan and have surplus in stock. Right at this very moment, there are 8.9 million people who are hungry across the country. We must do everything in our power to ensure that this dire scenario changes for the better, noted the DSRSG/RC/HC. Urging everyone to do their best to double the yields and work collaboratively to restore the rice mill.



*DSRSG/RC/HC Sara Nyanti delivering her keynote speech in Torit.*  
Photo Credit: UNMISS



*Figure DSRSG/RC/HC Sara Nyanti tours the mechanic section at Torit Vocational Training Center.* Photo Credit: UNMISS



## NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

### UNICEF SUPPORTS TRAINING FOR HEALTH WORKERS TO IDENTIFY AND PREVENT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN UPPER NILE STATE



“As a nurse for 26 years, I’ve seen a lot of things in my life,” says Jachinta Ajak, a 48-year-old grandmother who has lived through some of the most trying times in this conflict wracked country. She has also had the unpleasant job of treating the victims of the violence.

“As a mother and a grandmother with 10 children and three grandchildren, I am very happy that the days of fighting are behind us, but I am sad that rape is still an issue in many communities,” she says, shaking her head slowly, her bright eyes clouding over with pain.

Civilians have borne the brunt of subnational fighting that has plagued South Sudan since its independence in 2011; and violence against women and girls remains high. Providing support to victims is an even bigger challenge in the remote regions of the country like Upper Nile and Jonglei States, where medical facilities and treatment options are few and far apart.

To address this, UNICEF works with the Ministry of Health and partners like the World Bank to empower and train health workers, including midwives and nurses to detect, treat, and to prevent gender-based violence (GBV).

“This training is very helpful because not only can we provide treatment to the victims, but we also counsel family members,” says Jachinta referring to the recent two-week training conducted in Malakal, the capital of the State.

The training conducted this quarter was attended by 16 health personnel who are working in the most remote counties in the Upper Nile State (some counties are only accessible by boat). Health workers are taught to provide counselling to victims of GBV and to provide referrals. In many instances, the health workers are the only connection to the outside world for many of the women who come in for treatment.

### WOMEN TAKE ON KEY ROLES IN MINE AND EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CLEARANCE

Mrs. Mary Atong joined an UNMAS mine action team as a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) in 2017 with the motivation to protect South Sudanese from the risk of landmines and explosive ordnance (EO).

The main role of CLOs is to provide communities with awareness sessions on the risks of EO and to encourage safe behaviors daily.

On International Women’s Day in Malakal, Upper Nile, Mary, and her team provided explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) sessions for the audience who came together to celebrate the day. She especially emphasized the risks women and children tend to face through their daily activities.



Explosive ordnance risk education session on International Women’s Day. Photo Credit: UNMAS



Explosive ordnance risk education session on International Women’s Day. Photo Credit: UNMAS



## ENHANCING ACTIVE FLACCID PARALYSIS SURVEILLANCE IN SOUTHSUDAN

Akol Kuol Magiir is one of the community champion informants in Kuac South Payam, Gogrial West County of Warrap State. Since his involvement as a community informant for Auto-Visual AFP Detection and Reporting (AVADAR), Magiir has sent in a countless number of alerts of suspected Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases out of which four AFP cases were found to be true AFP cases. When asked, what motivated him to work so enthusiastically, his answer was “I am doing it for the love of my community, and I don’t want to see any child left behind in the fight against polio”.

Since 2018, AVADAR has been able to contribute to the surveillance system in Juba and Terekeka Counties in Central Equatoria State and Gogrial West County in Warrap state with the detection of over 80 AFP cases.

AVADAR is a mobile-based application that enables the health system to notify any suspected AFP cases by community informants and share community-level AFP surveillance information from Payams, the lower-level administrative division.

Derived Poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2). Gogrial West County is one of the Counties that has seen tremendous change in detection, reporting and investigation of new AFP cases. Read More: <https://www.afro.who.int/countries/south-sudan/news/enhancing-active-acute-flaccid-paralysis-surveillance-south-sudan?country=876&name=South%20Sudan>



## NEW WATER SYSTEM BRINGS FRESH WATER TO JUBA’S KAPURI AREA

Rose Poni just returned from her nearby garden. Although she does not have water at home to clean and prepare her freshly picked vegetables, she worries no more.

She picks up a 20-liter jerrican and carries it a short distance to reach the water collection point behind her home in Kapuri West, Juba County, located in the southern part of South Sudan.

In no time, her jerrican is full.

“Since the water was brought here, it has helped us a lot because we no longer need to look for water,” says the 35-year-old mother of five children.

Poni lives in Kapuri, a relatively new settlement area where a new water yard, which collects and stores water, has been constructed to serve more than 3,000 residents.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in South Sudan constructed the water system fitted with a 30,000-liter tank and three water collection stations, each of which allows water to flow through six distribution taps. It is powered by hybrid solar panels fitted on the top of a water tower.

Before the water yard was constructed, residents of the area depended on unreliable boreholes and water purchased from truck drivers.

It took hours, and in some cases especially during the dry season, a whole day for Poni to buy water from the water trucks. Read more: [New Water System Brings Fresh Water to Juba's Kapuri Area | Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa \(iom.int\)](https://www.iom.int/news/new-water-system-brings-fresh-water-to-juba-s-kapuri-area)

