

July 2022



WORLD POPULATION DAY

SOUTH SUDAN IN THE WORLD OF 8 BILLION: TOWARDS A RESILIENT FUTURE FOR ALL

On the 26th of July 2022, UNFPA South Sudan in partnership with the Government of South Sudan and the support of several donors including USAID, the Governments of Sweden and Norway, launched the State of the World Population Report and commemorated the World Population Day 2022 under the theme “South Sudan in the World of 8 billion: Towards a Resilient Future for All.”

The commemoration event was graced by guest of honor, Honorable Dr. Albino Bol, Minister for Youth and Sports, and brought together key Government officials, donors, stakeholders, and various partners, implementing sexual reproductive health programmes at the Nyakuron Cultural Centre.

This event highlighted key messages from the 2022 State of the World Report, showcased and exhibited programmes and interventions geared towards achieving the three zeros (zero preventable maternal deaths, zero unmet need for family planning, zero gender-based violence and harmful practices such as child marriage) and raised awareness among youth, stakeholders, and surrounding communities on strategies to end unintended pregnancies.

Dr. Ademola Olajide, UNFPA Representative in South Sudan remarked that “a society that fails to guarantee rights and choices for women and girls, will fail to optimize the contribution of 50% of its human capital to sustainable national development”.

The State of the World Population Report noted that nearly half of all pregnancies worldwide, totaling about 121 million each year, are unintended.

Moreover, over 60 per cent of unintended pregnancies end in abortion, with an estimated 45 per cent of all abortions being unsafe, and accounting for between 5 and 13 per cent of all maternal deaths recorded. In addition, nearly a quarter of all women are unable to decline sex and make decisions about their own health.

With the continued growth in global population, the absolute number of unintended pregnancies is expected to keep rising and the profound consequences of unintended pregnancies for women, girls, societies, and global health will continue to grow.

HIGHLIGHTS

- South Sudan in the world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future for all
- UNMISS Mine Action supports the people of upper Nile and Jonglei
- Nutrition partners in South Sudan join hands to step up for breastfeeding





Participants at the launch of the Report. Photo Credit: UNFPA

“Our population of 13 million people provides us an opportunity to enhance the well-being of the population through honest conversation and deliberately targeted policies to address choices and rights” said Honorable Dr. Albino Bol, Minister of Youth and Sports.

World Population Day is celebrated on the 11th of July annually and offers a moment to celebrate human progress. The world, despite its challenges, is one where higher shares of people are educated and live healthier lives than at any previous point in history.

It is important to keep this fact in mind when, in the next few months, the total number of people in the world will reach 8 billion. This milestone will attract much attention and debate, and likely scaremongering over “too many” people.

That would be a mistake. Focusing only on population numbers and growth rates often leads to coercive and counterproductive measures and the erosion of human rights. It can deepen already acute inequalities, such as policies shutting down reproductive health care or denying adequate pensions for the elderly, further marginalizing those left behind.

“We cannot have a nation without population and a nation’s population is linked to the national sustainable development agenda; It is not about numbers but about quality of life of the people” Hon. Majur, Chair Parliamentary Network on Population and Development remarked during the event.

The world is fast approaching 2030, the deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals and for UNFPA’s own transformative goals — to end the unmet need for family planning, end preventable maternal deaths and end gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child marriage.

UNFPA remains committed to transforming the lives of women and girls and reaching those furthest



UNFP Country Representative Dr. Ademola Olajide addressing the gathering at the launch of the world population report. Photo Credit: UNFPA

behind. Preventing unintended pregnancies is a nonnegotiable first step.

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has released its annual [State of World Population Report 2022](#). The report titled ‘Seeing the Unseen: the case for action in the neglected crisis of unintended pregnancy’, has found that nearly half of all pregnancies worldwide – 121 million annually - are unintended



NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNMISS MINE ACTION SUPPORTS THE PEOPLE OF UPPERNILE AND JONGLEI

This month DSRSG/RC/HC Ms. Sara Beysolow Nyanti is scheduled to visit the remote village of Canal, Jonglei where a community displaced by flooding, and seeing little alternative, resettled in a minefield. This visit will afford an opportunity to hear first-hand from community members about the impact of the mission's recent mine action clearance on their daily lives, as well as to listen to what challenges they still face, such as food, shelter, medical, and security needs.

In March 2022, following on from several Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions delivered by UNMAS, Chief of Mine Action, Fran O'Grady visited Canal to assess how clearance activities could be undertaken, in what was a race against time to get mechanical demining machinery on a barge to the site before the onset of the wet season.

Thankfully, this was achieved through solid team effort that resulted in the disposal of more than 25 anti-personnel mines and the clearance of over 17,000 sqm of land, making it safe for the 1,300 people to settle and undertake agricultural activities, as well as for safe access for humanitarian response.

Every year the Upper Nile and Jonglei regions of South Sudan face severe flooding, with the unprecedented rainfall in recent years compounding an already dire humanitarian situation leaving those displaced most vulnerable. As a mission component under UNMISS' Protection and Development Pillar, UNMAS continues its activities with the shared goal of ensuring that the girls, boys, women, and men of South Sudan can take safe steps on safe ground.



DSRSG/RC/HC Ms. Sara visits a minefield to see UNMAS clearance operations. Photo Credit: UNMAS

DON'T STOP YOUR GIRLS FROM JOINING THE MILITARY, SOUTH SUDAN PEOPLE'S DEFENSE FORCES WOMEN'S NETWORK LAUNCHED



The Women's Network for South Sudan People's Defense Forces was launched on 4th of July 2022 in Juba, South Sudan, with the support from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and as a collaboration between the Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, UN Women, UNDP and UNMISS.

The network does not only aim at bringing women in the defense forces together, but also allows them to advocate for better positions within the security sector to better realize their rights to gender equality.

Similar institutional Women's Networks were also launched for the South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS) on 6th of July and the National Prisons Service of South Sudan (NPSSS) on 12th of July.

Women in uniform also act as role models in the local environment, inspiring other women, and girls in often male-dominated societies to push for their own rights and participation in peace processes. Lt. Col. Fouzia Ginaba, one of the role models, had a very clear message for the people of South Sudan, "Do not stop your girl from joining the military. Do not stop your wife from joining the military. They are the future of South Sudan. Let them come and join."

The launch of the women's network will be followed by a human rights training focusing on increasing awareness of the applicable human rights laws, as well as the members' responsibilities, rights, and obligations as uniformed personnel. Read [More](#):

NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNICEF SUPPORTED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME BOOSTS GIRLS' EDUCATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

UNICEF is supporting reconstruction of schools destroyed during the conflict, thanks to donors like the African Development Bank.

In a ceremony replete with traditional dancers, ululating women and screams of happy children, the Malakia Girls Primary School was officially inaugurated in Malakal recently; almost nine years since it was destroyed during the fighting in 2013.

"Today is a historic day for the parents and children of Malakal," said H.E. Hon. Awut Deng Acuil, the Minister for General Education and Instruction as she unveiled the stone marker denoting her action.



"Our government is committed to the education of children, particularly girls' education. Providing education for our children is also the responsibility of society, and I call upon all duty bearers to support maintenance and management of this school from today so that children can continue to learn," said the hon. minister.

Prior to the outbreak of fighting in 2013, the Malakia Primary Girls School was providing education to just over 300 girls. As she spoke, the sturdy-blue-roofed buildings with gender-friendly toilets and a water point, stood like a resurgent and reassuring testimony to the wishes of the parents in the community, the support of donors, and the governments' objective to ensure equitable basic education for the children of South Sudan, particularly girls.

Malakal used to have 46 schools and many of them got destroyed or damaged in the conflict. To date, only half of these schools have reopened. Schools that are not functioning are just one of the many challenges that the children of South Sudan face every day to access basic education.

South Sudan has one of the highest rates of out-of-school children in the region with an estimated 2.2 million children not in school even before the COVID-19 related closures. Prolonged humanitarian crises and the continued subnational violence threatens to further increase the number of dropouts. As part of the *Back to Learning Initiative*, UNICEF, with the generous support of the African Development Bank is supporting the construction and rehabilitation of schools, Community Education Centres and Teacher Training Institutions in four states of Upper Nile, Jonglei, Eastern Equatoria and Unity.

PROVIDING A SOCIAL SAFETY NET IN SOUTH SUDAN



Supporting the Country's development priorities improving peace, security and enhancing connectivity through improved infrastructure. Photo Credit: UNOPS

Much like the rest of the world, many low-income and vulnerable families in South Sudan have struggled to cope with the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Flooding, locusts' invasions, and high inflation also increased food insecurity in many parts of the country.

To alleviate this, UNOPS is implementing the South Sudan Safety Net Project on behalf of the government of South Sudan, using \$40 million in funding from the World Bank.

It uses a combination of labor-intensive public works and direct grants to provide economic support and temporary income opportunities to more than 65,000 low-income and vulnerable households – nearly 430,000 people – across the country.

The project also provides training in areas such as financial literacy, early childhood development and nutrition, and hygiene and sanitation to build local skills and resilience among communities.

The South Sudan Safety Net Project provides reliable access to income opportunities and temporary employment for nearly 430,000 people in some of the most vulnerable communities in 10 counties: Bor, Gogrial West, Juba, Kapoeta East, Melut, Pibor, Raja, Tonj South, Torit and Yei. The project is funded by the World Bank's International Development Association and implemented by UNOPS.

Read more: [Providing a social safety net in South Sudan | UNOPS](#)

NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

WHO DELIVERS CRUCIAL HEALTH SUPPLIES TO FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN SOUTH SUDAN

Since 2021, Unity State in the northern Greater Upper Nile region of South Sudan has been hit by severe flooding that has displaced more than 220 000 people. In addition to exacerbating food insecurity, the floods have restricted local populations' access to basic health care services and increased the spread of potentially fatal diseases such as malaria.

With funding from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (UN CERF), the World Health Organization (WHO) has sought to help reduce the adverse health impact of the humanitarian crisis that has resulted from the recurrent flooding. Among other critical interventions, the Organization has helped to make available essential and often life-saving drugs and supplies for both fixed and mobile health facilities across the affected counties of Unity State.



A first consignment of eight metric tons procured by WHO as part of the UN CERF contribution towards the early and anticipatory action for an effective health response to flood-affected communities in Unity State, South Sudan arrived on 29 June 2022 and has been distributed in various parts of the state.

A second shipment organized by WHO and financed by UN CERF of approximately seven metric tons of health emergency kits and other essential medicines and supplies arrived in Unity State on 6 July 2022.

The supplies have been delivered to 11 health facilities in Bentiu Internal Displaced Persons Camp and in Rubkona County. Together, these supplies will meet the needs of an estimated 300 000 people, primarily women and children, for around three months. The shipments include emergency health kits, malaria and cholera drugs, pneumonia kits, cholera investigation kits and snake anti-venom.

WHO has also trained local health workers and Boma community health teams to ensure quality case management for malaria, diarrheal illnesses, and other common diseases associated with flooding and displacement.

Read more: [WHO delivers crucial health supplies to flood-affected communities in South Sudan](#) | WHO | Regional Office for Africa

UNESCO TRAINS SOUTH SUDAN JOURNALISTS ON MEDIA INCIDENTS REPORTING



Mr. Julius Banda, UNESCO Country Representative addresses journalists during the media monitors workshop in Juba.
Photo Credit: UNESCO

UNESCO in partnership with the Union of Journalists of South Sudan (UJOSS), and Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO) has trained twenty South Sudanese journalists on reporting incidents targeting media professionals in the country. The workshop was held in Juba from 13 to 14 July 2022.

The participants included eight journalists from the capital, Juba, seven from selected regional states, which are hotspot areas where journalists face numerous challenges, and two from human rights defenders. Amongst those trained were eight female monitors.

Speaking during the opening of the workshop, Mr. Oyet Patrick, UJOSS President, thanked UNESCO for the support extended to UJOSS. He noted that as a result of the support, the Union's state presence has been sharpened and journalists' capacities strengthened. Mr. Oyet also urged the participants to verify the information they will be reporting about. He warned them to be careful, report accurately on the issues affecting journalists in South Sudan.

Mr. Julius Uma, Communications/Media Officer at CEPO, said that they are working to strengthen the capacity of media professionals in South Sudan, urging that they cannot do it alone. He appreciated the support UNESCO is extending to media development in the country.

“We are concerned about inadequate knowledge of ethics of journalism amongst media professionals” and “absence of suitable media environment” for journalists in South Sudan Mr. Julius noted.

NUTRITION PARTNERS IN SOUTH SUDAN JOIN HANDS TO STEP UP FOR BREASTFEEDING

Exclusive breastfeeding of children until 6 months is one of the simplest, safest, and healthiest means of feeding a baby and can help prevent malnutrition among children

As we celebrate World Breastfeeding Week from 1-7 August, the Ministry of Health and UNICEF are working with the coalition of nutrition partners to educate and support all mothers to adopt and increase the practice of exclusive breastfeeding of infants up to six months of age.

The theme for this year's celebration, "*Step up for breastfeeding, educate and support,*" is a rallying call to increase awareness of mothers around the world that breastmilk provides the optimal nutrients for the first 6 months of a child's life and to support them to overcome barriers to exclusive breastfeeding.

Recent data suggests that only 68 per cent of children in South Sudan are exclusively breastfed during the first six months of their life. This is a positive improvement from 2010 when rates were only 45 per cent, but this means that one in three children - are still not being exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life.

"It is proven that breastmilk is the only food that babies need for the first six months of their life and it keeps them healthy and protected.



The Ministry of Health will work with all partners to increase knowledge among all mothers in South Sudan to ensure that all babies are exclusively breastfed for the first six months of their lives," said H.E Yolanda Awel Juach, the Minister of Health.

Breastfeeding for the first six months is particularly crucial right now as South Sudan is currently going through a nutrition crisis and malnutrition rates have continued to worsen. More than 300,000 are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition in 2022 which is the highest since 2013. Read more: [Nutrition partners in South Sudan join hands to "Step up for breastfeeding" \(unicef.org\)](#)

THE MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILD, AND SOCIAL WELFARE'S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2027 VALIDATED

On 14th of July, the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare validated their five-year new Strategic Plan for 2022-2027. The Strategic Plan has eight strategic areas, including among others gender equality and women's empowerment, social protection and rehabilitation, and protection of children and their rights.

The validation workshop, supported by UN Women, gathered close to 50 participants from the line Ministries, independent commissions, UN agencies and the civil society.

As next steps, the draft report will be reviewed and finalized, and then submitted to the Subcluster of Gender, Youth and Infrastructure and Services for a final review. The strategy will be approved by the Council of Ministers before official launch. UN Women continues to support the Ministry in the process.

