



January 2023



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION

INVESTING IN PEOPLE, MAKING EDUCATION A PRIORITY

January 24 marks the International Day of Education - a day to celebrate education and reflect on the importance of learning for development and peace. This year the day was commemorated under the theme "Investing in People, Making Education a Priority".

In South Sudan, significant progress has been made to get children into school. Over the past decade, the number of children in school has increased by 20 percent and more girls are enrolling and staying in school. However, inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all remain elusive. More than half of the school age population - over 2.8 million children, are out of school and 53 percent of these are girls. Net enrollment is low at all levels, with only 3.3 percent at pre-primary, 37.6 percent for primary, and 5.2 percent at secondary level. Adult literacy rates remain very low, with only 34.52% reflecting an increase of 7.52 percent from 2008.

Poverty, conflict, insecurity, and natural disasters such as floods are key barriers for access to education for many children in South Sudan. In 2021 alone, 1,397 schools (18 percent of all schools) were not operational, more than half of these were because of conflict and natural disasters. More than half of the current teachers in schools are unqualified and untrained, they are poorly paid, and salaries are irregular, and attrition is high. Many of the teachers have not completed primary and secondary education school themselves and have limited proficiency in English – the current main language of instruction.

On top of this, schools lack facilities for children with disabilities and many girls dropout due to lack of menstrual hygiene facilities in schools (63% of schools are without latrines, and 52% have limited or no access to safe drinking water). More than 50 percent of girls in South Sudan are married before the age of 18 which further hinders schooling.

2023 marks the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. South Sudan is off track on many of the goals and is off track on all the education targets under SDG number 4. Unless action is taken and taken fast, another entire generation is at risk of not reaching their potential and this will affect communities and the entire country.

At the United Nations Transforming Education Summit (TES) in September 2022, the Government of South Sudan committed to transform education and accelerate the achievement of quality and inclusive education for all South Sudanese particularly the most marginalized. The Government committed to address systemic challenges that persistently present barriers for many children to access education.

Read More: <https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/press-releases/unicef-and-unesco-joint-statement-commemoration-international-day-education>

HIGHLIGHTS

- International Day of Education (PG. 1)
- News from UN Agencies, Funds and Programs (PG.2)
- COVID-19 Vaccination gets a boost (PG. 3)
- UN, Government launch Peacebuilding Fund Joint Steering Committee (PG. 6)

NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMS

VOCATIONAL TRAINING RESTORES HOPE FOR FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS IN WESTERN EQUATORIA



Former child soldier Susan* in Yambio sewing clothes to earn a living. Photo: UNICEF/CMMB.

While South Sudan's civil war ended in 2018, conflict and violence affecting and involving children remains common. Former child soldiers still suffer from the traumas of war, a training programme allows them to recoup some of their lost childhood dreams.

Emmanuel, Susan and Tito* were abducted by rebel forces near Maridi town when they were teenagers and forced to grow up on the frontlines of South Sudan's brutal civil war.

As former child soldiers, they have experienced more death and suffering than any person should witness and are slowly getting used to their new lives. They were abducted in 2016 while going to school. They walked with their captors for three days to reach the rebel-controlled area. While in the bush, the rebels beat them and warned them not to try to escape. "Life was terrible, but we could do nothing until the day we got released," Tito said.

These former child soldiers gained freedom following their release from the armed group, which was supported by UNICEF, the UN Mission to South Sudan (UNMISS) and the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission into Maridi town, 100 kilometres from Yambio town, where they now live.

"I always felt bad when (we were) attacked because I had seen people just being killed like they were not humans; women and girls used to be killed and raped just in front of me, and I watched helplessly. Moreover, I missed home and my colleagues at school," said Emmanuel.

Cases of rape and forced labour were widespread, and many young girls were trapped in captivity and vulnerable to acts of sexual violence by the armed groups.

Once captured, boys the age of Tito, Susan and Emmanuel were trained to shoot, loot homes, burn houses, and commit other horrendous atrocities against the civil population.

Susan had a bad experience at the hand of her captors; she was used as a wife, trained to loot properties and spy on other people. "I was not happy in the bush because I was used as a wife every night, and sometimes they sent us out for looting," she said.

The former child soldiers crave love and attention and the basic rights all children require. Now they enjoy hugs and smiles. Sometimes they say they feel weak and sick, but these are often just pleas for attention.

As a result of their traumatic past, it is hard to imagine that they will ever know peace. But they had not given up on their future and dreamed of becoming productive members of society.

"I witnessed horrible things when I was still in the bush. Women and girls were raped before me". "Being released was the best thing that happened to me in my entire life. No more seeing blood, and I felt relieved", Tito said.

In early 2022, advocacy by UNICEF and UNMISS led to the release of 18 children (17 boys and 1 girl) from an armed group in Maridi, Western Equatoria.

The children were moved to Yambio and provided interim care services at a centre managed by the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB), and funded by UNICEF.

The vocational training through CMMB has supported 50 children --- 18 Children Associated with Armed Groups and Forces (CAAFAG) and 32 other vulnerable children who receive vocational training in Yambio.

Today, as Emmanuel and Tito, learn new skills in the training workshop, it is difficult to equate the the young men, now in their early 20s, as former child soldiers exposed to such trauma and atrocities.

As they work and learn to become tailors, masons, carpenters and other trades, in the Tiindoka Vocational Training Centre supported by CMMB, with other young men and women they are reshaping their dreams of the future as well.

Their acquired skills usher in new life for them, which is an essential step for a positive change and healing of the trauma of war. In the process, they are creating new friends and integrating into their community.



Tito* is one of graduates from the vocational training in Yambio. He runs a carpentry shop, thanks to the training.

The training has provided a sense of healing to the former child soldiers and enabled them to start a new life.

"The training that was given to us healed us and gave us a reason to start a new life, and now I can support my family," said Tito who also is helping some boys in his area. Tito and his colleagues earn SSP 10,000 to SSP 100,000 per week depending on the type and volume of work they do. "I use the money to pay the school fees of my brothers and sisters," he said.

Read More: <https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/stories/vocational-training-restores-hope-former-child-soldiers-western-equatoria>

COVID-19 VACCINATION KICKS OFF TO BOOST COVERAGE IN SOUTH SUDAN

The Ministry of Health, the World Bank, UNICEF and WHO launched a COVID-19 vaccine campaign in January, following the arrival of 3.9 million vaccine doses into the country.

The Vice President for Service Cluster, His Excellency Hussein Abdelbagi Akol launched the campaign and government officials and attendees received their required vaccines and booster shots to instill confidence and uptake by the general population.

Vaccination coverage remains low in South Sudan and the country-wide campaign aims to reach the 70% target. Teams of health professionals and community mobilisers are working across 80 counties over the next 3 months to engage with leaders and communities to administer COVID-19 vaccines for all people aged 18 and above, through the support of World Bank financing improving the essential health systems.

“These extra resources will enable South Sudan to strengthen its health system preparedness and help address the urgent health and nutrition needs, I call upon you to be a COVID-19 vaccine ambassador in your family, community, church and work. The vaccine is safe and effective for all people within South Sudan. Get vaccinated and tell your family and friends to get vaccinated too,” said Honorable Yolanda Awel Deng, Minister of Health, Republic of South Sudan.

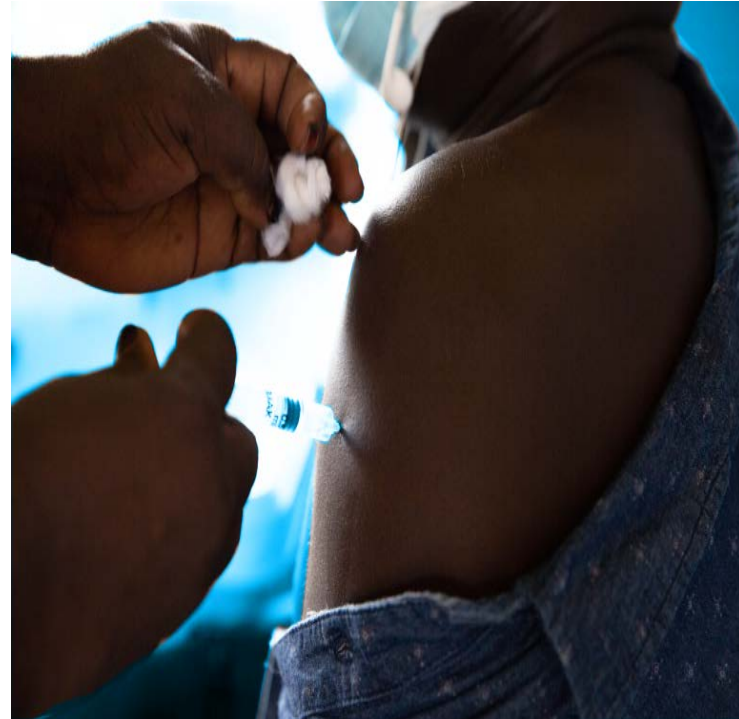
Representing the World Bank Group, Country Manager Firas Raad emphasized that “this additional financing and campaign will help the Government of South Sudan address challenges in both the procurement and deployment of vaccines across the country. It will also strengthen South Sudan’s disease surveillance systems, laboratory capacity, and overall emergency preparedness at the national and subnational levels.”

“The provision of COVID-19 vaccines to the people of South Sudan contributes to the equitable access to vaccines that is required to effectively respond to this pandemic,” said Dr. Fabian Ndenzako, WHO Representative for South Sudan.

The unprecedented floods in as well as violence in some parts of the country have further hampered COVID-19 and regular childhood vaccine deployment efforts as well as access to health services – increasing risks of social exclusion particularly of those living in remote, conflict, and flood-affected areas.

“Our unique partnership with the World Bank and the Ministry of Health allows UNICEF to reach women and children in some of the hardest to reach communities in South Sudan and provide critical access to basic health services, and to ensure COVID-19 vaccination coverage -- enabling their right to survival and health,” said Hamida Lasseko, UNICEF Representative in South Sudan.

The arrival of the largest batch of COVID-19 vaccines, and the vaccination campaign is a part of the additional financing of US\$ 200 million from the World Bank, aimed at improving capacity to respond to COVID-19 and provide essential health service delivery.



The COVID-19 vaccine campaign was launched in January, following the arrival of 3.9 million vaccine doses into the country. Photo: UNICEF South Sudan.

First launched in 2021, the South Sudan COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project has been supporting the country to prevent, detect, and respond to the threats posed by COVID-19.

It has helped accelerate vaccine deployment efforts across the country and increased access to essential health services in Upper Nile and Jonglei states and in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area.

Additionally, the project has been supporting the government’s stewardship of the health sector and its preparedness systems.

Read More: <https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/press-releases/covid-19-vaccination-campaign-kicks-boost-coverage-south-sudan>

Quick Facts:

Globally, as of 31 January 2023, there have been 753,479,439 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 6,812,798 deaths, reported to WHO.

As of 23 January 2023, a total of 13,156,047,747 vaccine doses have been administered.

Visit the WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard <https://covid19.who.int/?mapFilter=vaccinations>

REDUCING THE RISK OF MEASLES SPREAD IN SOUTH SUDAN



A health worker administers a measles vaccination during the reactive measles vaccination campaign in Yirol West County, Lakes State. Photo: WHO.

In the morning hours of Thursday (19 January), Mr Adut Bullen Kot, brought his 3-year-old son to Yirol West County Hospital in Lakes state for measles vaccination.

“I have seen a lot of children in the hospital suffering from measles. Today I brought my son to be vaccinated against measles because we must protect our children from the disease”, said Mr Kot.

“Yirol West County is facing an outbreak of measles affecting children. Thanks to WHO, UNICEF and other partners for supporting the county to make sure children between the ages of 6 to 59 months are protected against measles, a highly infectious illnesses that can easily spread between unvaccinated children”, said Dr Riak Ammor Kulang, Medical Officer, Yirol West Hospital.

"We mobilized community volunteers to raise awareness and to educate parents on the importance of the measles vaccination ahead of the reactive immunization campaign. As a result, the response and the number of children who were vaccinated is significantly high," Dr Kulang emphasized.

In December 2022, the Ministry of Health South Sudan declared an outbreak of measles. To date, 3581 suspected measles cases have been reported, including 41 deaths in the country. Across all the ten states laboratory confirmed outbreaks have been reported from 25 counties.

In South Sudan measles vaccination coverage rates have remained low and reached only 69 per cent in 2021, which is far below the target of 95 per cent of two doses of the measles containing vaccine.

Due to low vaccination coverage which was also contributed by COVID 19 pandemic and with conditions favorable for transmission of measles virus that include increased population displacement, disruption of healthcare service delivery and limited access to healthcare services, this outbreak could further exacerbate an already weak health system which is also battling malnutrition, flooding and malaria.

To interrupt the outbreak and protect the health of populace, the Ministry of Health with support from WHO, UNICEF and other partners is conducting a reactive vaccination campaign aimed at closing immunity gaps to stop the transmission of the virus.

“The risk of further spread of diseases is a major concern”, said Dr Aggrey Kaijuka Bategereza, Emergency Preparedness and Response Team Lead, WHO South Sudan. “An analysis of the current cases reported has shown that overall, 55.2 per cent of reported cases have no history of immunization, while the zero-dose rate for children under 5-years of age is 71 per cent. WHO and partners are working hard to stop the transmission”, said Dr Bategereza.

To get vaccines into the arms of children who remain unprotected, WHO with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), continue to work closely with the Ministry of Health and partners to conduct reactive measles vaccination campaigns in 15 of the 22 affected counties targeting individuals surrounding cases to break transmission, heighten rapid detection and response to cases, increase immunization coverage including distribution of essential medicines to manage measles complications, said Dr Bategereza.



Women holding their babies wait for a measles vaccine. Photo: WHO.

Read More: <https://www.afro.who.int/countries/south-sudan/news/reducing-risk-measles-spread-south-sudan>

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION HELPING SCHOOL DROPOUTS GAIN HOPE



Headteacher Zimo, together with the AMREF CSE coordinator and CSE club members pause for a photo in front of their classroom at King's College. Photo: UNFPA.

Menstruation, sexuality, puberty – the things that parents and elder people won't talk about especially educating the young ones as they grow to teenage. "It is hard for a parent to sit her daughter down and talk to her about sexual education, but through AMREF, who are implementing CSE here at King's College, the situation is changing" these were the words of Mr. Paul Zimo Bamongoyo, the head-teacher of Kings College in Western Equatoria State (WES) where AMREF with funding from UNFPA in implementing CSE.

Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is a curriculum-based process of teaching and learning about the cognitive, emotional, physical, and social aspects of sexuality. It aims to equip children and young people with knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that will empower them to: realize their health, well-being, and dignity; develop respectful social and sexual relationships; consider how their choices affect their own well-being and that of others, and understand and ensure the protection of their rights throughout their lives.

Anipai Jenifer (not her real name) is a senior two student, her dream has always been to become a doctor. She dropped out of school at 17 years of age after conceiving, now at 18 she is back to school to resume her studies which she attributes to sessions on sexuality education that built her confidence and made a decision to return to school. The 11 months she spent out of school struggling with pregnancy was an eye opener and shared her experience to educate fellow girls Her 3-months old baby is being supported by a nanny as she goes to school.

"My fellow girls learn from my experience; I wasted eleven months out of school due to pregnancy. Prioritize your studies first and always make the right decisions for your life to earn a better future. I also urge parents to have an open conversation with their children about sexuality and body changes" Anipai advises.

Read More: <https://southsudan.unfpa.org/en/news/how-comprehensive-sexuality-education-helping-school-dropouts-gain-hope>

BREAKING THE SILENCE: 50-YEAR- OLD NURSE SHARES HER 20-YEAR- LONG BATTLE WITH AIDS



Suzie Enoka dispensing drugs at the ART. Photo: UNFPA

Suzie Enoka is professional nurse based at Juba Teaching hospital, trained in the early 90's at the then Juba Nursing School, now Juba College of Nursing and Midwifery, she plies her trade at the nation's only referral hospital's ART (Anti-Retroviral Therapy) clinic. Mondays are a typical busy /hectic day on her schedule as she serves clients who visit the ART clinic to replenish their stock of ARVs.

Love for nursing:

"When I gave birth to our first child in 1992, I got challenges administering medicines prescribed to my daughter by nurses, that gave me the urge to go for training in nursing" she narrates. In 1996 after completing her nursing course she stayed for few years and got deployed to Yei Civil Hospital, she worked up to 2006 and mid-way she fell sick.

Then their world started crumbling.

"I lost my husband in 2004, that time I worked in Yei Civil hospital in the pediatric ward, doing the daily routine of blood transfusion among other tasks, when I lost my husband in unclear circumstances, I became suspicious and myself instincts told he passed on due to HIV/AIDS, the same year my six-year-old son passed on, I was devastated but strong," Suzie recounts.

Suzie said when she got back to work her then supervisor, an Ethiopian national told her from the signs she presented, she could be carrying the virus that causes HIV if being tested would let her to know her status.

"I had become so frail, I lost weight, as I could not eat following loss of appetite, but my colleague's male and females were all supportive to, and that time a mere mention of the word AIDS was like taboo" she revealed.

Following all the nightmare her family decided to rush her to Uganda from where she was tested, and the results came out positive.

"When I was taken to Uganda, I could barely support myself, my CD4 count was 40, I was frail, but I got enrolled on ARVs, shortly after I regained my strength, threw down the walking stick and supported myself with my movements, although weak," she narrates.

Read More: <https://southsudan.unfpa.org/en/news/breaking-silence-50-year-old-nurse-shares-her-20-year-long-battle-aids>

UN, GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH SUDAN SET UP PEACEBUILDING FUND JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE



Jutta Hinkkanen, the Head of Integrated Office, and Hon. Pia Phillip Michael, Undersecretary in the Ministry of Peacebuilding launched the JSC on behalf of the co-chairs. Photo: RCO.

The United Nations and the Government of South Sudan have launched a Joint Peacebuilding Steering Committee (JSC) to guide the planning and implementation of Peacebuilding Funds allocated to South Sudan.

The UN Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund is a multi-year standing trust fund that provides financial and technical support for post-conflict peacebuilding.

The JSC is co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and the Minister of Peacebuilding. Other members include heads of UN agencies, national and international NGOs, interested donors and International Finance Institutions.



Members of the Peacebuilding Fund Joint Steering Committee. Photo: RCO.

The launch of the Peacebuilding Steering Committee for South Sudan comes at a critical time for the country, as the government seeks to garner international support to execute its peacebuilding priorities and implement the revitalized peace agreement.

The JSC is a governance structure for PBF investments in South Sudan, guiding the effective management of PBF investments in South Sudan.

The JSC fosters effective partnerships, coordination and collaboration among national authorities, the UN, Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society Organizations engaged in peacebuilding.

“Establishment of the JSC is a significant milestone for the Peacebuilding Fund,” said Jutta Hinkkanen who inaugurated the JSC on behalf of Ms. Sara Beysolow Nyanti, the UN Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan.

“The Joint Steering Committee has a critical role to play in ensuring that the PBF realizes its full potential for making strategic contributions towards sustained peace in South Sudan.”

The Minister for Peacebuilding—Hon. Stephen Par Kuol said: “there are many local peacebuilding efforts at community level that need support, and we are going to make this steering committee functional for such efforts to be amplified and supported.”

Speaking during the launch, Hon. Deng Dau Deng, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said " it is important for us as the Government of South Sudan and UN agencies to collectively coordinate and plan together so that our priorities meet the aspirations of the people of South Sudan."



Hon. Deng Dau Deng, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Photo: RCO.

“We need to support efforts to build peace for this country to move forward,” Hon. Deng Dau emphasized.

South Sudan's eligibility to access funding through the PBF was renewed in 2021 for a period of 5 years. Through the PBF, South Sudan will focus on strengthening national democratization, justice, and accountability processes; addressing conflict related to displacement; and strengthening local peace and conflict prevention mechanisms.

Read More: <https://southsudan.un.org/en/press-centre/press-releases>

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR A.I. IN SOUTH SUDAN CONDEMNS TARGETED ATTACK ON HUMANITARIAN WORKERS AND ASSETS IN PIBOR



The Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim in South Sudan, Mr. Peter Van der Auweraert, has condemned in strongest terms the attack on humanitarian workers and assets in Pibor, Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA).

On 18 January, several armed attackers broke into an international NGO compound in Pibor. At least one humanitarian worker was beaten and required medical attention. The attackers targeted the NGO looking for cash and other assets and stole valuables.

“Such attacks while humanitarian workers are providing critical services to most vulnerable people are beyond comprehension. The whole humanitarian community is united in its call for immediate end of these repeated acts of violence against civilians and humanitarian workers,” stressed Mr. Van der Auweraert.

The incident follows the killing of two aid workers in the Abyei Administrative Area and another aid worker in Jonglei State earlier this month. “The ongoing violent attacks against humanitarian workers inadvertently hamper the delivery of much needed life-saving support to millions of people affected in times of escalating conflict and exacerbated humanitarian situation,” stated Mr. Van der Auweraert. “The direct victims of those attacks are the humanitarian workers, almost invariably South Sudanese nationals. The indirect victims are the most vulnerable in the communities humanitarian workers serve. They see the services on which they rely to survive interrupted and, as was the case in some instances in the past, suspended. Only if there is a safe and conducive environment for all civilians with unrestricted access for humanitarian actors, humanitarian assistance can reach the most vulnerable people,” he added.

South Sudan is one of the most dangerous places for aid workers, with nine humanitarian workers killed in the line of duty and 450 incidents reported in 2022 and already three humanitarian workers killed in 2023. “Protecting humanitarian workers and civilians is a duty of the authorities. The humanitarian community is united in calling on the authorities to do all they can to stop attacks on humanitarian workers and civilians. But that alone is not enough. I urge the authorities to bring the perpetrators swiftly to justice.

Press Release Here <https://www.unocha.org/south-sudan>

US\$1.7 BILLION NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE MOST VULNERABLE IN SOUTH SUDAN IN 2023



The humanitarian community in South Sudan launched in December its 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan. The plan seeks US\$1.7 billion to provide life-saving assistance and livelihood support to 6.8 million of the most vulnerable people affected by conflict, climatic shocks and protracted displacement across the country.

In launching of the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, Ms. Sara Beysolow Nyanti, Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan said, “Today’s launch reflects months of consultations and planning by humanitarian workers to ensure that we can respond to people’s needs in the face of competing global emergencies and dwindling funding. The people of South Sudan deserve more, and not just efforts that allow them to survive,” said Ms. Nyanti.

Endemic violence, ongoing conflict and floods continue to increase people’s vulnerabilities. Over two-thirds of South Sudan’s population will need some form of humanitarian and protection assistance in 2023. Eight million people may be severely food-insecure at the peak of the lean season between April and July. Women and girls are likely to continue to be at risk of being attacked while carrying out their daily routines as they take care of their families, and children may not have access to education. Life-saving health services risk not being accessible to millions of people. The lack of proper water, sanitation and hygiene services may lead to more infectious diseases and malnutrition.

“Our immediate priorities in 2023 include sustaining our response to people with urgent humanitarian and protection needs, especially women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Humanitarian partners need unimpeded and safe access to deliver timely and essential life-saving assistance. We also need urgent funding to prevent further deterioration of the humanitarian situation,” Ms. Nyanti stressed.

Read More: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/221220_hrp_launch_press_release_final.pdf

IOM HANDS OVER MHPSS CENTRE TO MINISTRY OF GENDER CHILD AND SOCIAL WELFARE IN WAU



IOM hands over files of the MHPSS center to the Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare. Photo: IOM.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has handed over a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) centre to the State Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare in Wau.

The centre was constructed in 2017 under the Capacity Building Package project funded by the United Kingdom's Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) and IOM has been supporting MHPSS activities at the centre including an on-job training of 33 Social workers. These social workers have acquired skills in case management, advocacy, psychosocial First Aid, counselling and facilitating group sessions.

"This centre was constructed to provide basic MHPSS services to conflict affected populations and host communities. IOM is confident that the social workers trained will continue with the great work that the MHPSS team has been doing at the centre, especially handling mental health and psychosocial problems affecting vulnerable populations" said Ronald Gara, IOM South Sudan's Officer in Charge for Wau Sub-office.

To ensure sustainability of the Capacity building Package project, IOM and the State Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare designed an on-job training approach to enable local communities acquire the necessary skills to continue providing affected populations as easy access to basic mental health support services.

This collaboration between IOM and the Ministry through its Directorate of Gender and Social Development has revived and empower local social services and re-build a network of operational and qualified social workers that can timely and effectively respond to the demands of people in need across collective sites, areas of returns and host communities.

"The ministry is proud to receive trained social workers and MHPSS Centre. There are so many people who need support emotionally in the community, these trained social workers will continue to offer this support to the populations in need using the knowledge and skills they have learnt" said Honorable Christina Gabriel Ali, State Minister of Gender Child, and Social Welfare.

The handover event was witnessed by Hon Minister of Gender Child & Social Welfare and Director General of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Social Workers & community leaders.

Read more online: <https://bit.ly/3hJOkmP>

UN WOMEN DISTRIBUTES DIGNITY KITS TO DISPLACED WOMEN AND GIRLS IN JUBA



Women after receiving dignity kits in Juba. Photo: UN Women.

To support women and girls' dignity, self-esteem, and confidence, UN Women with the support of the Embassy of Japan in South Sudan distributed 70 dignity kits to internally displaced people (IDPs) at an IDP Camp in South Sudan.

"Dignity kits are important for women and allow them to participate fully in the society even if they are in their menstruation period," said William Deng, Executive Director of Action for Sustainable Improvement and Management Organization (ASIMO), who implements the Japan-funded project.

2000 more dignity kits will be distributed to the IDPs and host communities in Juba under the project to ensure that women and girls' dignity is upheld.