United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)

1 January 2023-31 December 2025

Republic of South Sudan

United Nations South Sudan

Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in South Sudan

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United Nations Development System in South Sudan

Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in South Sudan
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)
January 2023- December 2025
Republic of South Sudan
www.southsudan.un.org

Endorsed: 16 November 2022

Foreword

I wish to express my deepest appreciation to H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan, and the Government of South Sudan for their leadership of the peace and development processes in the country to date. I would also like to take this moment to reiterate our commitment as the UN system, across the peace, humanitarian and development dimensions, to sustain and strengthen our partnership with the Government and the people of South Sudan to accelerate progress towards the country's Vision 2040 as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2025 is the embodiment of this commitment. Created in collaboration with representatives of the Government, civil society (including NGOs, CSOs, academia and media), the private sector as well as development partners, it is designed to address the national priorities of today as well as prepare for and advance on the bright future planned for tomorrow. It therefore contains support for implementation of the Revitalised-Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) and the Revised National Development Strategy (R-NDS) 2021-2024, with strengthened linkages to our humanitarian work under the Humanitarian Response Plan corresponding to the period of the Cooperation Framework.

Going forward, peace, humanitarian and development dimensions will enjoy much closer relations through the establishment of the Integrated Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan (DSRSG/RC/HC). High-level coordination will be enhanced, joint analysis enabled, partnerships and donor engagement deepened, ultimately improving delivery and impact across all three domains. This is in acknowledgement that peace and sustainable development are complementary and mutually reinforcing. There can be no lasting peace without sustainable development and there can be no sustainable development without peace in South Sudan. Our development assistance will be measured in its approach, adopting a conflict sensitive lens and incorporating Do No Harm precepts, with initiatives tailored to the needs and readiness of the particular locales. Support will focus on those States with potential to transition to development on the understanding that, as context allows, such interventions will be extended until the entire territory of South Sudan is served.

During implementation of the UNSDCF, we will ensure our guiding principles—Leaving No-One Behind; Human Rights Based Approach to Development, Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment; Resilience; Sustainability; Accountability— not only inform the design and implementation of our initiatives but are reflected in the very systems and structures of the UN in South Sudan. This includes zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse of UN beneficiaries by our staff and partners. It also means promoting a gender balanced workforce across our Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

To conclude, the UNSDCF 2023-2025 defines the collective vision and response of the UN Country Team in South Sudan to the country's national priorities as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As Resident Coordinator of the UN in South Sudan, I am proud to introduce it. In the coming years, I anticipate an even greater spirit of collaboration with our friends and partners. I therefore look forward to the opportunities that this new cycle of cooperation brings.

Ms Sara Beysolow Nyanti

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General,
Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator

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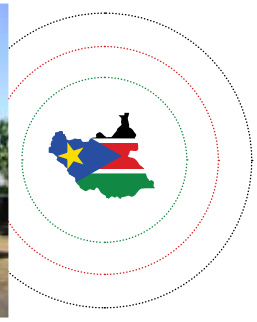


Government of the Republic of South Sudan and United Nations Joint Statement

By signing the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2025, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and the United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes (AFPs) operating in South Sudan reaffirm our commitment to work together to consolidate peace, stabilise and sustainably grow the economy, secure social development and build the resilience of the population.

The UNSDCF reflects the commitments of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), the priorities of the Revised National Development Strategy (R-NDS) 2021-2024 and the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The agreed results will be achieved by bringing together stakeholders from across the peace, humanitarian and development (PHD) sectors using integrated and multidimensional approaches in the spirit of national ownership, partnership, cooperation, transparency and mutual respect. The UNSDCF is anchored in the human rights based approach, underpinned by the principle of leaving no one behind and reaching those furthest behind first. It will serve as the United Nations' accountability framework to the Government of Republic of South Sudan and its people until the end of 2025.

The Government of Republic of South Sudan and the United Nations hereby endorse this Cooperation Framework as the basis of partnership and collaboration over the next three years.

For the Government of the Republic of South Sudan

H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit

On behalf of the President of the Republic of South Sudan

For the United Nations South Sudan

Ms Sara Beysolow Nyanti

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan

Joint Steering Committee

The implementation of the 2023-2025 UNSDCF will be undertaken through the established Joint Steering Committee (JSC) co-chaired by the Minister of Finance and Planning and the UN Resident Coordinator. Members will include key Government Ministries, UN Entity Heads, International Financial Institutions, bilateral Development Partners and Representatives of minority groups.

The JSC will provide strategic oversight and direction to the Cooperation Framework process, ensure its alignment to the evolving country context including national, regional, and international development processes, mechanisms and goals, with linkages to processes such as the National Voluntary Review. The Committee will also support resource mobilisation for the Cooperation Framework as part of a wider programme of optimising development financing opportunities. The JSC will monitor progress, opportunities and challenges emerging across the lifetime of the UNSDCF, guiding effective implementation whilst routinely updating the President on the Framework's delivery.

For the Government of the Republic of South Sudan

Hon. Dier Tong Ngor

Minister of Finance and Planning, Republic of South Sudan

For the United Nations South Sudan

Ms Sara Beysolow Nyanti

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan

United Nations in South Sudan

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

IFAD
Investing in rural people

International Labour Organization

IOM
UN MIGRATION

ITC

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

UNAIDS

UNDP

UNDRR
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UN environment programme

UNFPA

UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

unesco

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

unicef
for every child

UNIDO
UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNOPS

UN WOMEN
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

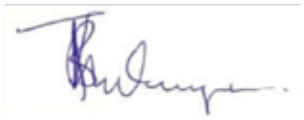
WFP
World Food Programme
wfp.org

World Health Organization

Signatures

IN THE WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised, have signed this UNSDCF on 16 November 2022 in Juba, South Sudan.

Meshack Malo
FAO Representative



Bernadette Mukonyora
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Amjad Abbashar
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Frank Turyatunga
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Julius Banda
UNESCO Resident Representative

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Cristina Albertin
UNODC Head of Office Sudan and South Sudan

Peter Mutoredzanwa
UNOPS Country Director

Peterson Magoola
UN Women Country Representative

Adeyinka Badejo
WFP Country Representative a.i

Fabian Ndenzako
WHO Country Representative a.i.

Executive Summary

The Republic of South Sudan became an independent state on 9 July 2011 following decades-long conflict with Sudan. In the wake of two civil wars (2013-2015 and 2016-2018) and the signing of a second power-sharing agreement, the Revitalised-Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS, recently extended to 22 February 2025) South Sudan appears set to resume its journey towards lasting peace and sustainable development.

Notwithstanding pledges made, South Sudan faces significant challenges, with many of the drivers of violent conflict left largely intact. Although direct confrontations between parties to the Revitalised Agreement have significantly reduced, sub-national and localized violence involving communities persist, including conflict-related sexual violence and widespread deliberate destruction of land and property. Meanwhile, progress towards all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is severely compromised in South Sudan, with the country ranked last in the 2022 Sustainable Development Report. Of the estimated 12.2 million people living within its borders, over 8 million are estimated to be living in extreme poverty and in need of some sort of humanitarian assistance.[1] There are approximately 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) plus 350,000 refugees, the majority of whom are from Sudan.[2]

The Revised-National Development Strategy (R-NDS) 2021-2024 acknowledges the obstacles to peace and sustainable development in country. Adopting a risk-informed approach, the Strategy aims to build the resilience of the population, whilst consolidating peace (incorporating and prioritising acceleration of the key components of the R-ARCSS), reducing the humanitarian footprint, stabilizing the economy and enabling a pathway to sustainable development.

Peace and sustainable development are complementary and mutually reinforcing in South Sudan. Efforts to address the instruments, impact and key drivers of violent conflict will equally address many of the principal causes of socio-economic deprivation in the country, creating the foundations for sustainable development across economic, social and environmental components.

The UNSDCF 2023-2025 for South Sudan articulates the collective offer of the United Nations in support of national priorities across the peace, humanitarian and development (PHD) domains, as defined by the South Sudan Vision 2040 and national planning documents, including the R-ARCSS and R-NDS. It is designed to advance realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contribute to additional regional and international commitments.

The UNSDCF has four, mutually dependent and reinforcing strategic priorities, namely:

- Consolidation of Peace & Transparent, Accountable & Inclusive Governance (in support of SDGs 5, 16 & 17)
- Sustainable Economic Growth & Diversification (in support of SDGs 2, 8, 9 & 13)
- Social Development with Protection of the Most Vulnerable (in support of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6)
- Women & Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development (in support of SDGs 5, 10 & 16)

Under the first priority area, UN AFPs and UNMISS will support the implementation of the R-ARCSS and associated sections of the R-NDS, specifically to: dismantle the instruments of war; promote healing, reconciliation and social cohesion; provide transitional justice and establish the rule of law; build the foundations of a modern, just, democratic state for a return to sustainable development.

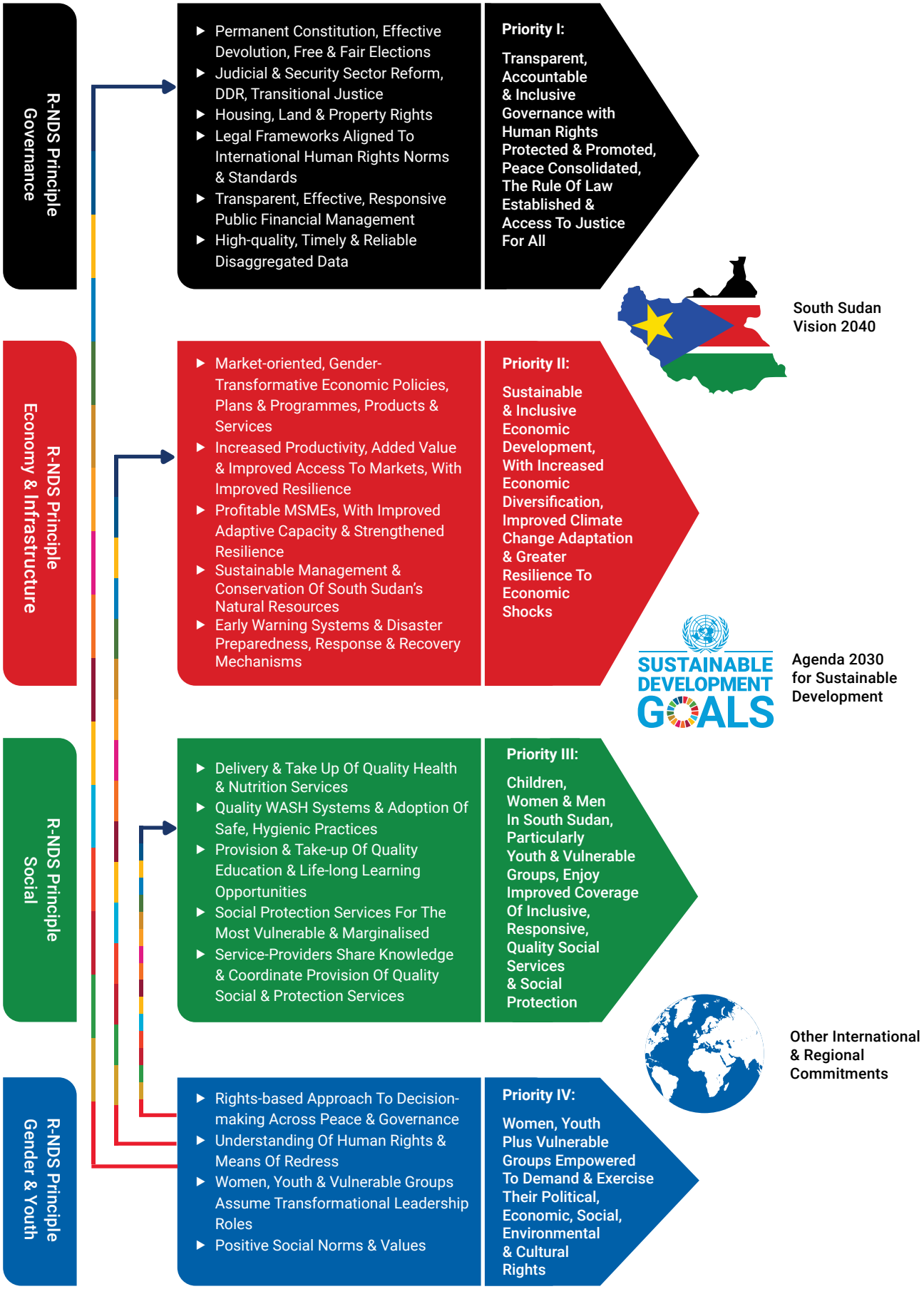
Under the second priority area, the UN will addreses some of the key drivers of conflict by promoting sustainable, greener pathways to economic growth, constructing essential infrastructure, generating decent employment opportunities and building resilience, particularly to the impacts of climate change.

Under the third strategic priority area, the UN will enable scale-up of the provision and take-up of social services, alongside social protection measures for improved human development and in support of peacebuiliding measures. National capacities, policies and systems will be strengthened to reduce dependence on donor aid and enable state delivery in the medium to long-term.

1 2.3 million girls; 2.0 million women; 2.3 million boys; 1.9 million men; 4.6 million children aged 0-17; 3.3 million adults; 0.6 million aged 60+. Gender and age disaggregation information does not include refugees. Data drawn from Humanitarian Response Plan 2022-2023.

2 OCHA (2022, May) South Sudan Humanitarian Snapshot

Figure I: UNSDCF 2023-2025



Finally, under the fourth strategic priority, the UN will work with key partners to further empower women, youth and other vulnerable groups to actively engage across all facets of peace and sustainable development in South Sudan, facilitating improved outcomes for all.

The UNSDCF 2023-2025 has been designed to reflect the 2019 OECD/DAC recommendations regarding the PHD nexus. It recognises the need to undertake joint, risk-informed, gender-sensitive analysis of root causes and structural drivers of conflict as well as opportunities to enhance resilience. It puts people at the centre of programming, ensuring immediate humanitarian needs continue to be met, whilst adhering to Do No Harm precepts and maximising impact through state and community engagement at national and sub-national levels.

Each of the Outcome Statements define the primary focus of the result, namely: women; men; youth; children and vulnerable groups. Those identified as *'being left behind'* will receive targeted support on the understanding that many experience multiple, intersecting factors of vulnerability, inequality and discrimination depending on age, disability, IDP and refugee status as well as location. The latter being in terms of conflict and/or disaster prone areas. Notwithstanding, particular emphasis will be placed upon women and girls across the results in acknowledgement of their particular vulnerabilities and in pursuit of *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*.

As per the *Human Rights Based Approach to Development,* each Output defines the duty-bearers and/or rights-holders who will receive capacity development support to assume their responsibilities and/or participate in the realisation of certain rights. This is a shift in business model for the UNSDCF and marks a gear change from the current primary focus on short-term humanitarian assistance towards a longer-term, development lens with *sustainability* concerns fully integrated. The latter should allow for the benefits secured today to be enjoyed and built upon in the future, with reduced dependence upon external actors, as per the R-NDS goal. Joint programmes involving actors from across the PHD nexus will ensure both the nation's immediate needs and medium-term priorities are met. Measures for improved transparency plus active, inclusive community engagement and participation will increase *accountability*, thereby creating the conditions for improved performance by duty-bearers.

Finally, efforts to increase *resilience* and recovery to a wide range of shocks run through the UNSDCF. They include mechanisms to improve disaster preparedness and response, increase adaptability to climate change (especially in agriculture) and strengthen the public health response in emergencies. Such endeavours will be complemented by support for the social protection system, further reducing high levels of vulnerability.

The UN system across PHD dimensions will adopt a measured approach to transition that routinely integrates a conflict sensitive lens underpinned by robust risk management analysis, systems and processes. Development initiatives will be undertaken in those States with potential for development that are in relative stability and security. Agility and adaptability will remain watchwords with UN entities ready to draw down as well as scale-up as the context dictates.

Importantly, the UNCT will continue to collaborate with UNMISS and draw support from DCO-Regional plus peer-to-peer information-sharing events to move forward on transition planning.[3] Under this process, it has been determined that early engagement and scaling up of AFP's peacebuilding and development programmes will mitigate against key UN transition challenges, while joint planning and programmes across the triple nexus will support a smooth transition operationally.

3 This is defined in Security Council resolution 2594 (2021) as a strategic process which "builds towards a reconfiguration of the strategy, footprint, and capacity of the United Nations in a way that supports peacebuilding objectives and the development of a sustainable peace"

I.

Country Progress Towards the 2030 Agenda

I.I. Country Context

The Republic of South Sudan became an independent state on 9 July 2011 following decades-long conflict with Sudan. In the wake of two civil wars (2013-2015 and 2016-2018) and the signing of a second power-sharing agreement (R-ARCSS, recently extended to 22 February 2025) South Sudan appears set to resume its journey towards lasting peace and sustainable development. The Agreement affirms signatories' commitment to a permanent ceasefire, a Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGNU), humanitarian assistance and reconstruction, as well as improved financial, economic and natural resource management. Implementation and monitoring of the R-ARCSS has been undertaken in coordination with regional structures such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) and the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC).

Notwithstanding pledges made under the R-ARCSS, South Sudan faces significant challenges, with many of the drivers of violent conflict left largely intact.

Although direct confrontations between parties to the Revitalised Agreement have significantly reduced, sub-national and localized violence involving communities persist, including abductions and conflict-related sexual violence plus widespread deliberate destruction of land and property.

During the Sudanese civil war, factionalism and reliance on community militias exacerbated ethnopolitical divisions in South Sudan and created a culture of guns and violence in many parts of the country. These still dominate Juba-based elite politics and the competition for political influence in various regions, partially facilitated by elements of the security forces.[4]

Conflicting parties have also found support from neighbouring states in pursuit of their own power agendas which have long-historical legacies.[5] Notwithstanding, there have also been positive relationships forged with countries such as Ethiopia and Uganda around concerns related to refugees, remittances and human trafficking (over 2.3 million refugees and asylum seekers remain in neighbouring States).

Straddled by Sudan and South Sudan, the politically disputed, oil rich Abyei Administrative Area (with an estimated population of around 125,000) is no stranger to violence. Claimed by both governments, its undefined political status in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and South Sudan's referendum for independence in 2011 has created a highly politicized environment where the rule of law is absent (beyond customary law) and inter-communal conflict is rife.

There has been a lack of incentives across both governments to invest in much-needed basic infrastructure, which has created a dire humanitarian situation: IDP sites are overburdened; food production is inadequate; water is scarce; 70% of children are not in school.

Abyei is also contested on inter-communal grounds. Longstanding territorial disputes, primarily between the agro-pastoralist Misseriya and southern-inhabiting Ngok Dinka communities, frequently erupt into armed attacks, gender-based violence incidents and child abduction. Clashes in February 2022 displaced over 70,000 people, exacerbating the extant humanitarian crisis.

There is a large international presence working to address needs on the ground, which includes NGOs, UN entities from the respective country teams and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). The latterwas first deployed in 2011 to protect civilians and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid.

In December 2021, the UN Security Council requested that UNISFA engage the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) of both countries in peacebuilding activities. This has laid the grounds for the creation of a Joint Programme to enhance links between peace, humanitarian and development activities, promoting peaceful coexistence, social cohesion and community resilience at the local level.[6]

4 Trias Consulting (2021) Sustaining Peace in South Sudan: Peace and Conflict Analysis and Opportunities for the UN Peacebuilding Fund.
5 UN South Sudan (2021) Common Country Analysis
6 This work will continue in the UNSDCF 2023-2025.

South Sudan holds sub-Saharan Africa's third largest oil reserves at an estimated 3.5 billion barrels. Oil represents approximately 95% of exports and is the main source for foreign exchange reserves in the country. South Sudan has relied on oil as the primary formal and informal public source of national revenue since independence. These funds have been critical for sustaining the political marketplace. The shutdown of oil production in 2012 due to heightened tensions with Sudan is seen as a significant trigger for the outbreak of the South Sudanese civil war in 2013.[7]

South Sudan is highly dependent on imported food supplies from neighbouring states. Between 2012-2019, imports from Uganda accounted for approximately 48% of total imports whilst Kenya accounted for 30%. South Sudan is therefore extremely vulnerable to global macro-economic shocks such as those created by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war between Russia and Ukraine. With regard to the latter, prices have increased by approximately 5% since the invasion while the South Sudanese Pound has depreciated against major currencies (USD 1/651 SSP as of 12 September 2022). Inflation has therefore increased (projected at 24% in 2022) adding to already high rates of food insecurity.

Dimunition of natural resources in recent years—as a result of displacement, mismanagement and climate change—has increased competition over land and related assets, becoming a major cause of conflict. Going forward, further challenges and risks are predicted around utilisation of transboundary resources (beyond those already experienced over oil), such as those related to the sharing of River Nile water.[8]

Uneven and unequal physical, social, economic and political access to natural resources, markets, governing institutions and services has further added to grievances and conflict. The widening gap between the few haves and the vast majority of

have-nots contributes to a perception of a zero-sum game, in which one group can advance only at the expense of others.[9] A large restive youth population lacking opportunities in employment, education and training, are easy targets for recruitment into armed groups. In the absence of a robust justice system to ensure accountability for human rights violations, individuals and communities resort to self-help measures, including revenge killings, further contributing to the cycle of violence and insecurity.

Destruction of assets, displacement and increasing incidence of natural disasters have also disrupted agricultural production and access to markets, creating large-scale food insecurity. Likewise, delivery and take-up of basic services has been thwarted or severely impeded (including provision of humanitarian assistance) further undermining human capital, household and community resilience.

Finally, weak governance, systemic corruption and inadequate institutional arrangements, including public finance management, coupled with harmful social norms, which perpetuate violence and discrimination, have constituted additional obstacles to the realisation of key human development indicators for the majority of South Sudanese.[10]

7 Trias Consulting (2021)
8 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR, 2022) South Sudan RiX Spotlight for Common Country Analysis (Draft)
9 WFP, South Sudan Country Strategic Plan (2023–2025)
10 Ibid

I.II Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Gaps & Challenges

Progress towards all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is severely compromised in South Sudan, with the country ranked last in the 2022 Sustainable Development Report.[11]

I.II.I People (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Of the estimated 12.2 million people living within its borders, over 8 million are estimated to be living in extreme poverty and in need of some sort of humanitarian assistance.[12] There are approximately 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) plus 350,000 refugees, the majority of whom are from Sudan.[13]

As of May 2022, 7.7 million people faced severe food insecurity across 78 counties (of these 13 are projected to be of extreme concern); and 2 million women and children were assessed as acutely malnourished. (The latter experience food insecurity more readily because of unequal food resource allocations within households.) Around one-third of children under the age of five years are estimated to be stunted[14]. whilst wasting affects approximately

Figure II: South Sudan's Progress Towards 2030 Agenda

Source: 2022 Sustainable Development Report, https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/south-sudan

11 South Sudan ranked fourth lowest on the latest Human Development Index, UNDP (2020) Human Development Report. The country was also scored fourth as the least peaceful country according to the Global Peace Index (2020). It is 1 of 32 countries which fall into the category of landlocked developing countries (LLDC) and 1 of 46 least developed countries (LDCs)

12 2.3 million girls; 2.0 million women; 2.3 million boys; 1.9 million men; 4.6 million children aged 0-17; 3.3 million adults; 0.6 million aged 60+. Gender and age disaggregation information does not include refugees. Data drawn from Humanitarian Response Plan 2022-2023.

13 OCHA (2022, May) South Sudan Humanitarian Snapshot

1.4 million children.[15] The main causes of childhood undernutrition include inadequate diets, frequent illnesses including from water-borne diseases, plus the young age and poor health and nutrition of many mothers. Until recently, nutrition interventions by government and development actors were primarily focussed on lifesaving wasting treatment, however recently more preventive and multisectoral approaches have been initiated.[16]

In regard to SDGs 3-6, little or no progress has been made over recent years. Life expectancy at birth remains one of the lowest in the world at 56.4 years for men and 59.4 for women in 2019. The Maternal Mortality Ratio per 100,000 live births is the highest in the world at 789. Neonatal Mortality is estimated to be 38.6/1000 and the Under-Five Mortality Rate is at 96.2/1000.[17] HIV continues to be a public health priority with an estimated prevalence of 2.5 per cent among adults aged 15-49 years. Knowledge of mother to child transmission (MTCT) of HIV is low, leading to poor demand for services, with MTCT of HIV measured 29.2% in 2020.[18] The inadequacy of water, hygiene and sanitation facilities and practices all contribute to the poor health and nutrition conditions. The majority of the population (86%) is not using safely managed water and 63% of drinking water at households is contaminated with E. coli. Some 74.7% of households practice open defecation, with only 10.3% of households having an improved sanitation facility and 5.6% having a designated place for handwashing with water and soap, creating further challenges for the spread of disease including COVID-19.[19] The country also has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world at 27% of the adult population (15% for women),[20] whilst an estimated 2.8 million children are out of school (59% of all children aged 3-17 years, of whom 53% are girls). There are limited technical and vocational education and training opportunities for young people with demand far exceeding supply.

The social sector suffers from a lack of basic infrastructure with 57% of health facilities not operational in conflict-affected areas and 30% of schools damaged, destroyed, occupied or closed.[21] There are also insufficient numbers of trained professionals: the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in 2020 was 19%;[22] pupil-to-teacher ratios in primary education can reach 100 in some urban schools and only 21% of teachers are trained. Direct and indirect costs of services, safety and security in and around education facilities, low population density, language barriers, inadequate access to accurate information/education and recurrent health crises all contribute to the low performance of the sector.

Harmful practices such as gender-based violence and discrimination (one study showed 65% of women and girls in key conflict affected locations had experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime), child marriage (45% of women aged 20-49 years were married or in a union before age 18 in 2020[23]) and early childbearing (birth rate aged 15-19 years per 1,000 women was 158 in 2020[24]) place additional obstacles to socio-economic development for women and girls. Gender inequality and GBV are perpetuated by conflict, weakened community and social support systems, and cultural norms which normalise violence and discourage reporting of GBV cases to service providers.[25] There is currently limited availability and access to GBV prevention and response services plus weak capacity and investment for addressing GBV both generally and in emergencies.

Despite the significant needs of the majority of the population and the approval of a National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF) in 2015, there is little national investment in social protection. At present, 99.7% of annual expenditure on related activities (conditional and unconditional cash transfers, food for assets and some livelihood support) in South Sudan is provided by donor funding.[26] Debt servicing is instead given priority. In 2019 South Sudan spent over 11 times more on debt service than on health, education and social protection combined (13.5% of GDP vs 1.21%).

The pattern of high donor dependency is repeated across the social sector, affecting accessibility (priority is given to displacment sites and returnee settlements which are not easily accessed by established communities), and negatively impacting on medium to longer-term institution-building at

14 UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Malnutrition Estimates - Country Level Stunting Estimates
15 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) South Sudan 2022
16 WFP (2022)
17 UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (2022)
18 UNAIDS https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/
19 National Household Health Survey, Ministry of Health, Republic of South Sudan, May 2021
20 World Bank (2022) World Development Indicators, https://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/
21 Ibid

the central and state level. There are currently inadequate institutional systems and capacities with respect to policy formulation, planning, design, implementation, monitoring and oversight (including data generation and utilisation of the demographic distribution of multi-dimensional poverty), negatively impacting on delivery (and targeting) of essential services.[27]

I.II.II Prosperity (SDGs 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11)

South Sudan's high dependence on oil has served as an enabler of corruption and in some cases caused displacement of communities living in oil producing areas. Moreover, it has left the country over-exposed to fluctuations in global markets and vulnerable to regional instability.[28] The capital-intensive industry currently provides few opportunities for decent, formal employment with approximately 80% of the population engaged in subsistence farming.

South Sudan's land is largely fertile, but only 4% of the land is arable and only 3% of agricultural land is irrigated. Displacements and insecurity have prevented access to farmlands for many households (especially for women/female-headed households) during planting, growing and harvest periods. Despite the Land Act (2009) allowing all citizens to own and access land irrespective of their sex, ethnicity or religion, many women continue to be discriminated against due to patriarchal laws and practices. (In South Sudan women are responsible for 60% to 80% of food production; but they are generally regarded as farm assistants and not as farmers or economic agents in their own right.[29]) Most recently, unprecedented flooding, dry spells and arrival of new crop pests (attributed partially to climate change) plus disruptions to the supply chains caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have further impacted negatively on agricultural productivity and food security whilst compounding conflict over pasture and livelihoods.

In 2021, the country ranked 185th of 190 on the Ease of Doing Business Index.[30] Amongst the biggest challenges identified were: access to electricity (6.7% of the population had access in 2020); protection of minority investors against misuse; access to credit (in 2017 only 8.6% of the population aged 15+ and only 4.7% of women owned an account at a financial institution or with a mobile money service provider); trading across borders. The latter is despite membership of the East African Community (EAC) and being a signatory to the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCTA).

Only 1% of South Sudan's 20,000 kilometre road network is paved. Contamination by explosive ordnance alongside inadequate government funding, low capacity of professional engineers and planners, difficulty in obtaining construction materials and severe weather conditions have stalled road and wider infrastructure improvement and/or construction efforts. This is a major barrier to trade and market integration, reducing the ability of the economy to respond to supply and demand conditions, while contributing to the high cost of delivering humanitarian assistance. The poor transport and communication infrastructure has led to persistent marginalisation and inequitable access to social and economic opportunities for many. These entrenched fragilities have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and create further incentives for armed conflict.

I.II.III Planet (SDGs 6, 12, 13, 14 & 15)

In 2019, South Sudan ranked amongst the ten countries most affected by climate change globally.[31] An estimated 95% of the population is dependent on climate-sensitive livelihoods,[32] and at risk of reduced/insufficient access to water and sanitation, food insecurity and health outbreaks induced by climate change. As seen in previous sections, climate-related events are already amplifying existing vulnerabilities and increasing competition for/conflict over resources.[33] Flooding and the resulting expansion of wetland areas represent a long-term structural change contributing

22 UNICEF, https://data.unicef.org/resources/data_explorer
23 UNFPA (2021) World Population Dashboard, https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population-dashboard
24 UNICEF (2020). https://data.unicef.org/resources/data_explorer
25 UNFPA Country Programme Document for South Sudan 2023-2025
26 UNICEF (2021) Update of the Situation of Children and Women in South Sudan 2018–2020
27 WFP (2021)
28 The Republic of South Sudan is bordered by Ethiopia, Sudan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Kenya. All of these countries have or continue to experience violent conflict and/or threats from violent extremism.
29 Common Country Analysis DataStats from Government of the Republic of South Sudan (2019)
30 World Bank (2021) Ease of Doing Business
31 Global Climate Risk Index (2021)
32 UNDP Factsheet (2022, March) Climate Change, Food Insecurity and Resilient Livelihoods in South Sudan
33 WFP (2023-2025)

to displacement and changes in pastoral movement patterns, necessitating urgent adaptation measures.

Climate change impacts are being intensified by significant rates of deforestation, degradation and pollution of the country's natural resources. Whilst figures diverge, some studies assert a total deforestation rate of 40% between 1973 and 2005.[34] This would be amongst the highest in the world and if sustained, would result in complete forest loss within 50 years.[35] The principal reasons for deforestation and degradation are to meet energy needs, supply the construction industry and to make space for farming and livestock. Meanwhile, pollution in the oil fields and surrounding areas has been 'enabled' by weak government enforcement of critical environmental standards and guidelines. In response to these concerns, the Government has pledged to address key challenges in its second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and first National Adaptation Plan (NAP) launched in 2021.

I.II.IV Peace & Partnerships (SDGs 16 & 17)

Despite the significant challenges to the peace process in South Sudan, key benchmarks of the R-ARCSS have been achieved. The R-TGNU and the sub-national governments have been established and a roadmap for a permanent constitution created which paves the way for free and fair democratic elections. Reforms in areas such as the foreign exchange market and public financial management have also contributed to an improvement in macroeconomic stability after the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

All branches of government will nontheless require more support to create and implement frameworks, systems and processes which are aligned to international human rights norms and standards, respect the rule of law and enable effective, gender and youth responsive governance. In 2021, South Sudan was ranked (alongside Somalia) as the most corrupt country in the world[36] and on the latest Open Budget Survey scored 7 for transparency, 11 for public participation and 43 for budget oversight of a possible 100. The national budget cycle remains weak and non gender-responsive, with allocations, execution and spending out-turns showing considerable divergences. Despite provisions under the R-ARCSS for 35% of posts to be allocated to women, only one governor is a woman and only 116 of 550 legislators are women.

South Sudan public debt is sustainable but with high risk of debt distress. The present value of external debt-to-GDP ratio increased from 31.4% in 2020 to 46.9% in 2021. The 2022/2023 budget has a deficit of USD 1.2 billion which is expected to be financed through external borrowing, mainly with non-concessionary borrowing. This will likely increase the debt which stands at USD 2 billion (minus interest), according to 2022/23 budget readouts. As an oil producer and exporter, South Sudan may benefit from the windfall stemming from increased oil prices because of the Russia/Ukraine war. However, this may not necessarily translate into increased funding for development priorities as revenue from oil is not recorded in the national treasury. The current practice of forward sale of oil and significant mandatory payments tied to oil revenue, will determine any net gains. If oil prices remain elevated at current levels for some time, fiscal space could increase.

Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) processes are incomplete although progress has been made on the formation of a unified, security force with the graduation of the first batch of the South Sudan Necessary Unified Force (NUF). Law enforcement agencies are severely under-resourced, with low capacity to apprehend and arraign suspects in court. Meanwhile, the limited number and capacity of statutory courts to adjudicate cases means prisons and detention centres across the country are overcrowded with many inmates enduring extended periods without trial.

The effectiveness of governance institutions is undermined by significant gaps in data: its generation, analysis and use. The official national statistical system headed by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is challenged to produce basic official data, due to lack of human and financial resources, a weak Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system, limited coordination, inadequate infrastructure and pervasive insecurity. It is currently unable to provide the disaggregated data (including by central categories such as gender and age) necessary to inform strategic development interventions,[37] contributing to weak

34 UN Environment (2018) South Sudan First State of Environment and Outlook Report 2018
35 UN Environment (2021) https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/disasters-conflicts/where-we-work/south-sudan/community-forestry
36 Transparency International (2021) https://www.transparency.org/
37 Only 23 per cent of indicators needed to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective are available, with gaps in key areas including unpaid care, domestic work, and gender pay gap, UN South Sudan (2021)

policy coherence and an absence of evidence-based decision-making. Meanwhile, a parallel humanitarian data ecosystem co-exists, which is better funded and therefore fairly data-rich, although it is mostly comprised of short-term fragility studies, assessments and evaluations. The two worlds are not sufficiently interlinked or coordinated to build a robust, sustainable national data structure.

I.III Understanding Those Left Behind

The lack of progress made by South Sudan across the SDGs is most keenly felt by: women; children and youth; the elderly; Persons with Disabilities (PWDs); IDPs; refugees. Whilst these are dealt with separately below, it is understood that few fall into only one category with multiple factors of vulnerability, inequality and discrimination intersecting to heighten risks and magnify needs. Likewise, the geographical location of segments of the population—such as those residing in conflict-prone and/or hard to reach locations plus nomadic communities—may add further layers of complexity, increasing the risk of being left behind.

Some of the challenges faced by women have already been referenced in the previous section. Traditional, patriarchal norms mean women are consistently discriminated against in terms of access to educational and professional opportunities as well as productive assets. These vulnerabilities are compounded by harmful practices such as child marriage plus early and extensive child-bearing. Women's lack of economic independence negatively impacts upon their capacity to participate in decision-making within the household, with heightened risk of intimate partner violence. GBV has become almost normalised against the backdrop of protracted conflict, with high rates of conflict-related sexual violence (CSRV). Meanwhile, few women hold leadership positions in government and conflict resolution/mediation mechanisms, despite commitments made in the R-ARCSS. Notwithstanding these concerns, the country has signed up to all the main international treaties and protocols relevant to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) with a comprehensive National Gender Policy agreed. The R-NDS 2021-2024 also contains specific commitments to mainstream gender in all development policies and programmes, empowering women (alongside youth) as drivers of growth and nation building. Several legislative gaps are now being addressed in the preparation for the Permanent Constitution-making Process (PCP) with Anti-GBV and Affirmative Action Laws in the pipeline. Further, in terms of women, peace and security, the government is currently in the process of developing a new National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its subsequent frameworks. More resources will be required to ensure all commitments are fully implemented and a comprehensive whole-of-society approach adopted to empower women and girls going forward.

South Sudan's population is young: 73.6% (10.1 million) are under the age of 30, while 48.1% (6.6 million) below the age of 14. Children and youth face a myriad of obstacles to well-being and fulfilment of rights, requiring holistic approaches to ensure their socio-economic needs and aspirations are met. Given the lack of quality education, training and decent employment opportunities (youth unemployment rates were at 29% in 2019), South Sudan's youth (15-24 years) are especially vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups, violence and exploitation.[38] Equally, thousands of children (both boys and girls) have been co-opted into armed forces and groups; some as young as 8 years old.[39] Years of conflict have resulted in a lack of comprehensive child protection systems, including welfare and justice, exacerbated by the aforementioned weak CVRS (only 35% of children under five have had their birth registered). This combined with increased livelihood pressures and large-scale displacement has meant children are extremely vulnerable to being trafficked for the purposes of sex work or as child labour, including in hazardous activities such as mining.[40] It has been estimated that since 2013, over a million children have been affected by psychosocial distress.[41] Around 25% of all reported cases of conflict-related violence are against children.[42]

The elderly (65+ years) are currently estimated to be about 1.6% of all the population (95,258 females; 123,073 males).[43] Communities can view older people as a burden and less valuable, putting

38 WFP (2023-2025)
39 MoFP and UNICEF, The Situation of Children and Women in South Sudan 2018–2020
40 Ibid
41 UNICEF (2019). https://m.reliefweb.int/report/3323433
42 UNICEF (2019), South Sudan Country Programme Gender-Based Violence Briefing note https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/media/2071/file/UNICEF-South-Sudan-GBV-Briefing-Note-Aug-2019.pdf
43 UN South Sudan (2021) CCA

them at risk of depression, social isolation and/or discrimination in terms of access to healthcare, information and other basic services. During displacement, older people's traditional power and influence diminishes because of a disruption to local rules/values as well as loss of productive assets. Older women, in particular, are often subject to discriminatory inheritance and property laws, and face greater discrimination in accessing services. To promote and protect the rights of older people in South Sudan, targeted social security programmes are required plus the collection of robust, disaggregated data which enables monitoring of age inclusion and gender equality across the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Further, there is an urgent need for the government to ratify, domesticate and implement the AU Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of Older Persons in Africa.

Based on the last census undertaken (2008), PWDs in South Sudan account for approximately 5.1% of the population or around 1.2 million.[44] This is likely an underestimation given the definitions used, the numbers harmed during the subsequent years of violent conflict plus the stigma attached to disability. Children and especially girls with disabilities are particularly at risk of violence and marginalization. Existing barriers to education (such as distance to school, risk of sexual abuse and child marriage) are further compounded for children with disabilities by poor attitudes and discrimination by teachers, peers and parents[45] plus an inaccessible school environment (including WASH facilities) and lack of support materials. In addition, children are often designated as a caregiver of an adult with a disability, which compromises their chance of attending school.[46] To date, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has yet to be ratified and there is no disability-specific legislation. Nevertheless, the rights of persons with disabilities are incorporated in the South Sudanese Constitution and the South Sudan National Disability and Inclusion Policy 2015 has been drafted alongside a National Action Plan for Victim Assistance and Persons with Disabilities (2019-2024). The National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF 2015), yet to be enacted, also includes a Disability Grant.

Of the 1.4 million IDPs in South Sudan, 77% reside with host communities and 23% within displacement sites. Approximately half of IDPs have been in a situation of protracted displacement for over five years.[47] IDPs are often left to cater for themselves or supported by the host communities where resources are already scarce. Access to services and humanitarian assistance is most stable within largest IDP camps and displacement sites. (Four of the five POC sites under the protection of UN Mission in South Sudan, UNMISS have transitioned to conventional camps for IDPs which are under sovereign control of the Government). Gaps in infrastructure and services, persistent insecurity, explosive ordnance contamination, unresolved housing, land and property conflicts, natural disasters and limited means for return or relocation are only some of the challenges IDPs face. They urgently require comprehensive and integrated interventions for durable, long-term solutions that work across the PHD[48] domains.

The majority of the 350,000 refugees in South Sudan are Sudanese (92%), with women and children representing 81% of the total. In addition to security concerns, their capacity to access essential services and livelihood opportunities has been further undermined by the COVID-pandemic. Local governance structures in refugee-hosting areas face acute funding shortfalls, with delayed salary payments, prolonged staff absences, poor infrastructure and capacity challenges. Notwithstanding, the Government has signalled

44 HRW (2017); Forcier et al. (2016)
45 Mrisho M, Kakih, B, Greenwood M and Steff M (2016) Hear My Voice: Old Age and Disability Are Not A Curse, Sightsavers
46 MoFP and UNICEF, The Situation of Children and Women in South Sudan 2018–2020
47 IOM South Sudan (2021)
48 The standard sequencing of the triple nexus, namely Humanitarian-Development-Peace, has been altered to reflect the critical importance of peace in South Sudan. It remains an absolute priority upon which the other domains rely.

its commitment to the rights and well-being of refugees across a number of legislative and policy commitments. The country has acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention, the 1967 Protocol and the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. The National Legislative Assembly adopted the Refugee Act on 5 June 2012 in line with the Transitional Constitution, 2011 (as amended) which recognizes, among others, the right for refugees to seek employment. In 2019, South Sudan developed a National Framework for Return, Reintegration and Relocation of Displaced Persons. Furthermore, the Government of South Sudan has finalized the development of a draft National Durable Solutions Strategy and an Action Plan for Refugees, Returnees, IDPs and Host Communities.

I.IV National Development Priorities

The Revised-National Development Strategy (R-NDS) 2021-2024 acknowledges the obstacles to peace and sustainable development in country, seeking to prepare for the multiple threats and complex risks posed by the currrent context within both planning and implementation processes. The risk-informed approach arguably represents the best prospect to date for the country's journey towards the 2030 Agenda.

The content of the R-NDS has been informed by several key processes, including:

- national and state level consultations with citizens and development partners
- a fragility assessment framework to identify opportunities for building resilience in the country
- a review of policies and priorities to ensure due alignment with the R-ARCSS, 2030 Agenda, Africa Agenda 2063, South Sudan's Nationally Determined Contributions and Humanitarian Response Plan
- use of gender analysis and gender mainstreaming approaches
- A Development Finance Assessment and Roadmap for an Integrated National Financing Framework.

The Strategy aims to build the resilience of the population, whilst consolidating peace, reducing the humanitarian footprint, stabilizing the economy and enabling a pathway to sustainable development. This goal is further broken down into five core objectives, which encompass aspects of peace and governance (incorporating and prioritising acceleration of the key components of the R-ARCSS), economy, infrastructure, social development and protection, plus empowerment of women and youth.

Figure III: Revised National Development Strategy for South Sudan (R-NDS) 2021-2024

South Sudan VISION 2040

R-NDS Goal: Consolidate peace, reduce humanitarian footprint, stabilise the economy & return to sustainable development

R-NDS STRATEGIC APPROACHES

- Government Leadership
- Partnership & Coordination
- Triple Nexus
- Inclusion & Spatial Representation
- Youth Centred & Empowered
- Invest in Value Chain Development
- Results Orientation

R-NDS Core Objective: Establish +/or strengthen institutions for transparent, accountable and inclusive governance

R-NDS Core Objective: Foster macroeconomic stability & lay foundations for the diversification of the economy

R-NDS Core Objective: Build critical infrastructure for sustainable development, inc. roads, energy, public buildings & broadband capability

R-NDS Core Objective: Increase support to the social sector for human capital and protect the vulnerable population to leave no-one behind

R-NDS Core Objective: Mainstream gender in all development policies & programmes, empower women and youth as drivers of growth and nation-building

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGETED

R-NDS Guiding Principles

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- International Relations
- Environmental Sustainability

II.

UN Development System Support to the 2030 Agenda

II.I. From CCA to UNSDCF

The first phase of UNSDCF formulation encompassed: an independent evaluation of the current UN Cooperation Framework (UNCF) 2019-2022 to capture lessons learned; and the creation of the UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) to better understand the key challenges of and opportunities for peace and sustainable development in South Sudan, including regional dimensions. Both drew upon a wide range of studies/analyses and involved broad consultation with stakeholders from across the peace, humanitarian and development (PHD) sectors, leveraging processes involved in creating agency-specific country programme documents. The key findings generated from the two analyses were shared in a validation workshop in November 2021. Representatives from the Government of South Sudan (at the level of Under Secretaries), Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs, including those representing vulnerable and marginalised groups), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Academia/Think Tanks, Media Practitioners and the Private Sector, as well as UN Heads of Agencies and UNMISS (including Head of Field Offices, HOFOs) were engaged. Non-Resident Agencies were invited to join online.

Key amongst the recommendations of the UNCF Evaluation was to strengthen the alignment of the UNSDCF to national planning frameworks and strategies with particular attention to emerging issues related to climate change, environment, gender, youth and the private sector. Emphasis was also placed on integrating the nexus approach in programming and deepening the New Way of Working.[49]

These recommendations were taken forward into the creation of the UNCT Vision 2030, which defines the higher level change that the UNSDCF seeks to realise and frames the approach it will adopt. Designed to be fully aligned with the South Sudan Vision 2040, the UNCT Vision ensures the Cooperation Framework is positioned within a broader strategic view which is informed by both an understanding of the national context (derived from the CCA) and insight into the UN's potential contribution (as per its comparative advantage in-country).

The same range of internal and external representatives from across the PHD spectrum then participated in a three-day workshop to identify those areas of the R-NDS (and thereby R-ARCSS) that the UN could best support and the particular interventions that would be required. The two national documents were used as starting points for prioritisation given the aforementioned recommendations of the UNCF Evaluation and the commitments made under the UNCT Vision to support South Sudanese ownership and leadership of their peace and development processes.

Agreed results areas were subsequently reframed according to Results Based Management standards by M&E personnel, approved by the UNCT one month later and then endorsed by Government on 11 May 2022.

Figure IV: UNCT Vision 2030

By 2030 South Sudan is a peaceful, inclusive, democratic and prosperous nation. Communities are resilient, able to anticipate, absorb and recover from shocks, including those induced by climate change. Significant improvements have been achieved in human development, gender equality, women and youth's empowerment by an effective, accountable and transparent government working in partnership with a vibrant civil society. There is meaningful progress towards addressing the rights, voices and needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups; no-one is left behind.

The UNCT, united in purpose and action across the Peace, Humanitarian and Development sectors, undertakes to:

- Acknowledge, strengthen and further develop the capacities of the South Sudanese to own and lead the consolidation of peace and sustainable development in their country
- Adapt and respond to the changing needs of South Sudan as it transitions from humanitarian to development and peacebuilding context, prioritising interventions which promise to be both catalytic and transformational
- Optimise the UN's wealth of technical expertise plus positioning as a neutral actor and global advocate to leverage resources critical for South Sudan's progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

49 The remaining recommendations from the UNCF evaluation will be covered in Chapter III.

II.II. UNSDCF Theory of Change

Peace and sustainable development are complementary and mutually reinforcing in South Sudan. Efforts to address the instruments, impact and key drivers of violent conflict will equally address many of the principal causes of socio-economic deprivation in the country, creating the foundations for sustainable development across economic, social and environmental components.

As a first step to realisation of lasting peace, the instruments of violent conflict must be dismantled and the rule of law re-established. This will entail not only the completion of the DDR processes and effective operationalisation of transitional justice mechanisms (as per Chapter V of the R-ARCSS) but also wider reform of the security and justice sectors.

A professional, unified force which is inclusive, accountable and disengaged from politics will better serve the safety and security needs of all those living within South Sudan's borders. Effective people-centred approaches to community policing and non-discriminatory community security mechanisms which respect human rights will likewise ensure all feel safe, secure and protected, acting as a deterrent to inter-communal violence, theft and SGBV. A reformed justice system subject to procedural safeguards and fully aligned to international standards of human rights, able to manage disputes fairly, equitably and in a timely fashion across all areas of South Sudan will further discourage criminal activities or pursuit of violent retribution outside of the law.

Empowerment of communities to meaningfully participate in decision-making on security and justice challenges that affect them, alongside support to address pyscho-social trauma to promote healing and reconciliation, will complement these measures, increasing trust in and ownership of the peace process.

Capitalising on the considerable fatigue for violence amongst communities, current cases of civic engagement (across delivery of services and DRM processes) and established infrastructures for peace (such as peace committees, Inter-Church Committees and Councils, inter-ethnic gender and youth conflict transformative dialogues) will improve social capital and contribute to much needed social cohesion. Wide-ranging outreach and sensitisation efforts will be required, coupled with mediation and reconciliation initiatives plus socio-economic programmes which educate and empower. Collectively, these will contribute to the creation of a widely shared and integrative national identity that is able to override political manipulations of ethnic diversity and build effective public pressure on elites to address the nation's needs.

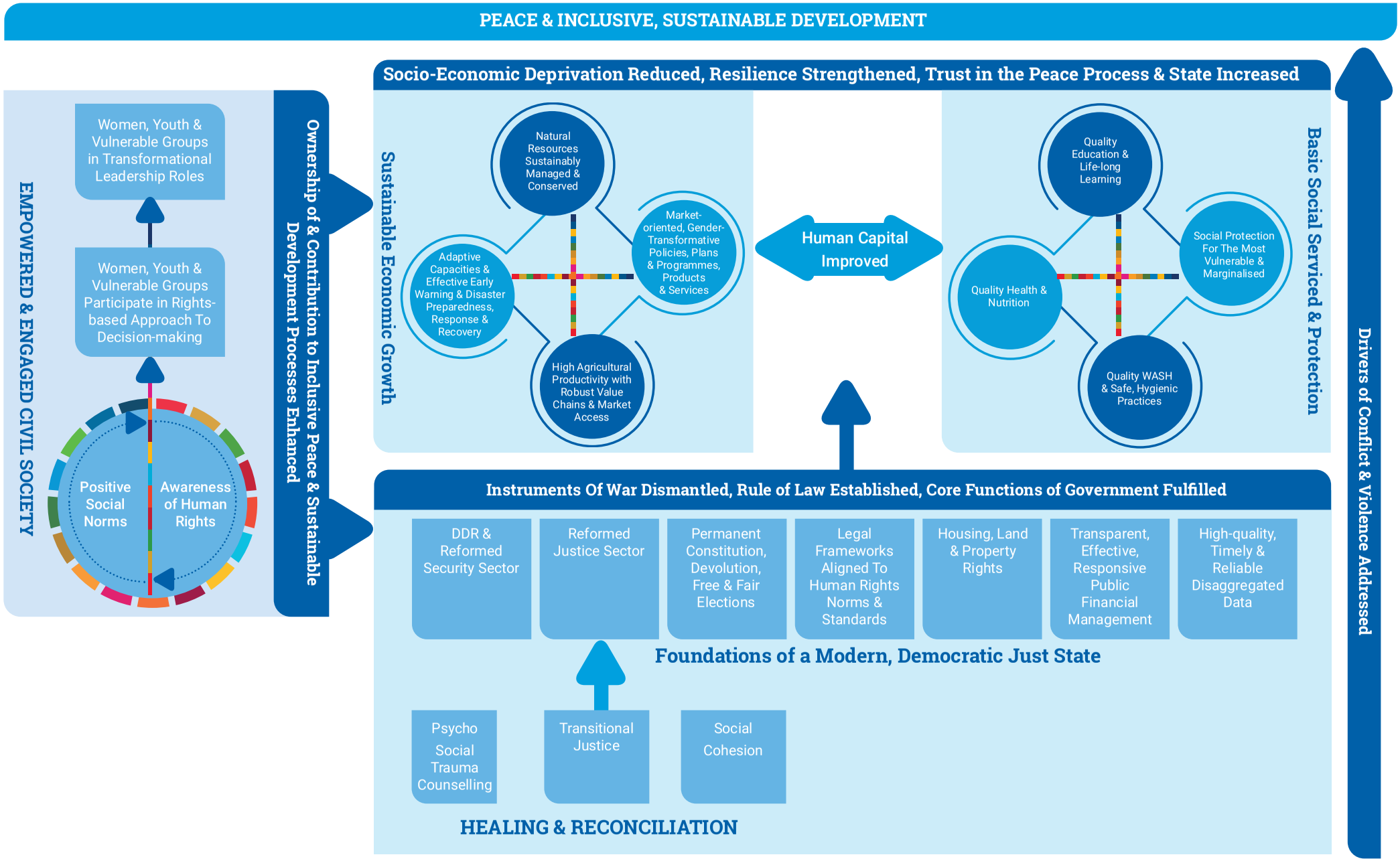
Also critical for the creation of a modern, democratic and just state in South Sudan will be the establishment of a new permanent constitution which enshrines equality of all under the law, is gender-responsive, inclusive and drafted through a participatory and peaceful process with the citizenry. The holding of free and fair elections (at all levels) with the promise of a peaceful transfer of power will further bolster trust in and legitimacy of the State.

Constitution-making and elections will require resources for the national commissions, as well as other national and sub-national state institutions. They will also depend upon civil society organisations to promote participation in and monitor the integrity of both processes. Aforementioned social cohesion efforts will be key, as will the role of youth groups. The latter tend to be well-organised in South Sudan, located in centres close to state or county governments and represented in local government structures. They can therefore be a positive force in civic engagement initiatives, if appropriately sensitised. The support of inclusive and responsive policing will also be secured in the lead up to and during the elections to mitigate against potentially disruptive and violent behaviour.

Building the capacity of institutions (such as the legislative assemblies at national and state level) to undertake core functions of government will address a number of issues around the enabling legal and policy environment for peace and sustainable development.

Core legal frameworks which respect the rule of law and human rights will be established. Support will encompass review and reform of existing legislation to ensure it is harmonized, consistent with international human rights instruments, and offers legal protection to all South Sudanese without discrimination. Fiscal and administrative capacities (including generation and utilisation of disaggregated data) will be built to ensure appropriately targeted delivery of core services and the creation of conditions for strong economic performance, greener pathways to growth and strengthened resilience at household and

Figure V: UNSDCF Theory of Change



community level. Measures will require the creation of platforms for state and society engagement, enabling needs-led decision-making that considers women, youth and other vulnerable groups for shared ownership of the country's peace and development processes.

Particular attention will be given to the challenge of land and property ownership plus security of tenure (including related gender-discriminatory practices) which is a major cause of sub-national violence and serves as a barrier to investment. Initiatives will strengthen related legislation and regulation as well as work with the security and justice sector to explore options for effective dispute resolution.

Capacities will be built to address the high levels of corruption which are draining the country of much needed resources for social development and future economic growth. This will require strengthening mechanisms such as the Anticorruption Commission and National Audit Chamber but also a broader range of economic governance measures (including improved management of public finances). For instance, a tightening of legislation governing the oil sector with a view to enhancing transparency, equity and sustainability will optimise profits for the public purse enabling investments in infrastructure and services, with positive impacts upon human capital and productivity. It will also underpin efforts to minimise or reverse environmental degradation through creation and/or enforcement of regulatory standards, with the added potential to ameliorate climate change impacts.

A push for economic diversification will further reduce risks of corruption (diminishing opportunities to use extractive rents to secure political buy-in) and the country's over-exposure to global markets. It will also encourage exploration of other more sustainable options for growth, including those related to the joint-utilisation of the Nile River resources. Importantly, it will create opportunities for decent employment for young people, resolving a major driver of violent conflict.

Effective management of economic diversification which includes substantial investments in the agricultural sector will increase productivity, improve livelihoods and address another key challenge in the country, namely food security. This will entail support to smallholder farmers and communities for enhanced access to productive resources, markets, knowledge, technology and financial services whilst strengthening post-harvest management, agribusiness and marketing skills. Complementary support to MSMEs, as the mainstay of a growing economy, to establish, sustain and expand their businesses will also enable value addition and expansion of markets for South Sudan produce, reducing dependence on imports and aid (which is also subject to fluctuations in commitment and priorities). If increases in food production are situated in a broader systems approach which addresses challenges such as transport of produce, women's engagement in agriculture and social norms affecting feeding habits (see below), improvements will also have positive impacts upon nutrition, health and education helping to build resilience and improving women's status at household level.

Full integration of environmental sustainability principles across economic policy and interventions will enable more effective management of scarce resources, reducing degradation and competition, as well as supporting key indicators related to health and WASH. It will also create an entry point for the introduction of adaptive measures to improve resilience to climate change impacts. Operationalisation will depend upon the active involvement of a range of actors from a range of sectors, including govenrment, private sector and affected communities. Application of Do No Harm principles and conflict analysis will help to manage trade-offs and support fair allocations.

Investments in key infrastructure—including roads, flood protection structures, telecommunications and energy—will enable delivery of emergency supplies, facilitate trade, support provision and take-up of services and indirectly improve resilience at household and community level. Importantly, for future growth, the expansion and enhancement of telecommunication services alongside the provision of affordable and sustainable power supplies will attract private sector investment, facilitate manufacturing and cross-border commerce, and encourage expansion of the digital economy. Improved access to sustainable energy for example the use of biogas stove will also reduce dependence on charcoal, positively impacting upon rates of deforestation, pollution and related health problems as well as serving as an enabler of education. Critical will be the creation of a legal and regulatory enabling environment for private sector investment alongside institutional capacity building for government counterparts at national, state and local levels.

Multi-dimensional poverty in South Sudan will be directly addressed if (technical and financial) investments address key infrastructure, resource and capacity gaps across the social sector. This needs to be underpinned by evidence-based, gender-responsive social and behavioural change and community engagement (including promotion of child- and gender-friendly social norms and practices) to ensure take-up and increase demand for services. A comprehensive national social protection system which not only protects the most vulnerable against recurrent shocks but also targets high-impact social service interventions will be key for improvement in broader human development outcomes and essential to meet commitments to Leave No-One Behind.

Progress across the social sector, including education, health, nutrition and WASH will help build human capital, generating a productive and gender equitable labour force capable of driving growth and reducing the country's dependence on humanitarian assistance. Improved provision of quality basic social services and protection will also help to build trust between the state and the people, further demonstrating the dividends that peace can bring and disincentivising future conflict.

As stated above, the inclusiveness, responsiveness and sustainability of peace and development processes in South Sudan will largely rely upon the active engagement of individuals and communities. In the first instance, this will require broad education around human rights content and principles, alongside sensitisation on the adverse impact of negative social norms. Related initiatives will need to address the particularly high rates of violence and discrimination, especially against women and other vulnerable groups.

The potential and/or current agency of women, youth and other vulnerable groups will be further optimised through support to women and youth-led civil society groups, political groupings and movements. If given relevant knowledge and skills these can advocate for, meaningfully engage and, in some cases, lead a rights-based approach to policy and decision-making across peacebuilding, humanitarian and development dimensions. Their engagement will build accountabilty and contribute to ensuring that no-one is left behind and those furthest behind are reached first.

II.II.I UNSDCF Strategic Priorities & Alignment to R-NDS, R-ARCSS and SDGs

The UNSDCF 2023-2025 for South Sudan articulates the collective offer of the United Nations in support of national priorities across the PHD domains, as defined by the South Sudan Vision 2040 and national planning documents, including the R-ARCSS and R-NDS. It is designed to advance realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contribute to additional commitments under: Agenda 2063; Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development; the Paris Agreement on Climate Change; World Humanitarian Summit; the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development; the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs; the Summit on Refugees and Migrants and Secretary General's Agenda on New Ways of Working.

The UNSDCF has four, mutually dependent and reinforcing strategic priorities, namely:

- Consolidation of Peace & Transparent, Accountable & Inclusive Governance (in support of SDGs 5, 16 & 17)
- Sustainable Economic Growth & Diversification (in support of SDGs 2, 8, 9 & 13)
- Social Development with Protection of the Most Vulnerable (in support of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6)
- Women & Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development (in support of SDGs 5, 10 & 16)

Under the first priority area, UN AFPs and UNMISS will support the implementation of the R-ARCSS and associated sections of the R-NDS, specifically to: dismantle the instruments of war; promote healing, reconciliation and social cohesion; provide transitional justice and establish the rule of law; build the foundations of a modern, just democratic state for a return to sustainable development.

Under the second priority area, the UN will addreses some of the key drivers of conflict by promoting sustainable, greener pathways to economic growth, constructing essential infrastructure, generating decent employment opportunities and building resilience, particularly to the impacts of climate change.

Under the third strategic priority area, the UN will enable scale-up of the provision and take-up of social services, alongside social protection measures

for improved human development and in support of peacebuiliding measures. National capacities, policies and systems will be strengthened to reduce dependence on donor aid and enable state delivery in the medium to long-term.

Finally, under the fourth strategic priority, the UN will work with key partners to further empower women, youth and other vulnerable groups to actively engage across all facets of peace and sustainable development in South Sudan, facilitating improved outcomes for all.

II.II.I.I UNSDCF Intervention Strategies

Initiatives to realise these results will be framed by stakeholders' commitments to collaborate across the PHD domains, focusing on joint risk analysis, joint programming and financing within an integrated office, underpinned by strong community engagement (see Chapter III for more information regarding risk planning and scenario setting).

Likewise, interventions will be planned and implemented according to the pledges made in the UNCT Vision 2030. This involves firstly acknowledging, strengthening and further developing the capacities of the people of South Sudan to own and lead the consolidation of peace and sustainable development in their country.

This has been actioned to date through the comprehensive consultation process for the UNSDCF formulation, the full alignment of the Framework to the R-NDS and R-ARCSS and the results areas identified. Going forward, it will encompass more support for capacity development, policy advice, integration of the normative agenda and civil society engagement.

Secondly, the UN explicitly recognises the importance of relationships across the PHD nexus[50] (particularly relevant in a country which has seen development gains destroyed by conflict and humanitarian crises) and the national desire to transition from a humanitarian/negative peace to development and positive peace context. The UN therefore will adapt and respond to the country's changing needs, whilst prioritising interventions which are both catalytic and transformational for maximum impact in the shortest timeframe possible. This will entail adoption of a conflict sensitive lens and Do No Harm precepts. Sub-national development initiatives will be rolled out to those States which are ready to transition serving as incentive for other locations. On the understanding that the transition from humanitarian to development is rarely linear, the UN will remain flexible and ready to respond to risks and unexpected crises, informed by the UN transitional Plan and robust risk analysis, systems and processes.

This will entail greater investments in infrastructure, knowledge management, risk management, innovation, research and technology including digitalisation/e-governance as well as changes to service delivery modalities with significantly increased public funding. It will also mean the creation of PHD Joint Programmes to bring the design and operationalisation of short-term humanitarian assistance and longer-term development programming together, thereby ensuring both immediate needs are met *whilst* future aspirations are planned for and ultimately achieved.[51]

Finally, the UN will optimise its wealth of technical expertise, plus positioning as a neutral actor and

50 The PHD nexus is where peacebuilding, humanitarian and development actors meet, building bridges and synergies between short-term assistance, medium-term outcomes and longer-term impact. The aim is to reduce needs, risks and vulnerabilities and provide better results for the affected population. The term was coined by the UN in 2016 during the World Humanitarian Summit and in the framework of its "New Way of Working approach".

51 The UNCT Configuration Paper 2022 explains how this will be operationalised. For example, UNFPA will gradually shift their focus from direct supply of humanitarian SRH commodities and GBV Area of Responsibility coordination (detailed in the HRP 2022-2023) to strengthening the institutional capacities of relevant government ministries and civil society to assume those same responsibilities. Similarly, WHO will maintain a significant health service delivery operation to respond to recurrent disease outbreaks (measles, cholera, polio, yellow fever) and humanitarian crises as required (as per the HRP), however the surveillance systems including the early warning alert system (typically deployed in humanitarian settings) will be progressively transitioned into the integrated disease surveillance and response system and the response activities will be integrated into routine primary healthcare services. Full report available on request.

global advocate, to leverage resources critical for South Sudan's progress towards the 2030 Agenda. This will mean drawing upon the UN's convening role to establish multi-sectoral and multi-level partnerships across government, development partners, regional institutions and increasingly private sector actors.

Interventions will be primarily resourced through representative and/or separate liaison offices with field offices in key locations. The latter will enable more targeted support to address the particular needs of the local population. It should also help to create and retain relationships with stakeholders on the ground, building trust, accountability and in some cases allowing for more efficient decision-making. A number of AFPs will also draw upon expertise from colleagues at regional and headquarter level. (Further details of the different types of support offered and partnerships envisaged are shared in the next section.)

Across all operations, the UN system will maintain zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse. Further the UN commits to driving towards a gender-balanced staffing .

II.III. UNSDCF Outcome-Level Theories of Change

II.III.I Strategic Priority: Consolidation of Peace and Transparent, Accountable & Inclusive Governance

IF the Government of South Sudan has enhanced capacities to develop a permanent constitution, implement effective devolution, and run free and fair elections, as per the provisions of the R-ARCSS, in partnership with civil society

IF the Government of South Sudan is better equipped to undertake judicial and security sector reforms, complete Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) processes and deliver transitional justice in full compliance with the R-ARCSS, in partnership with civil society

IF the Government of South Sudan is resourced to operationalise legal and policy frameworks, systems and processes, including enforcement mechanisms, to protect housing, land and property rights, in accordance with the rule of law

IF the Legislative Assembly has the knowledge and skills to create and oversee legal frameworks aligned to international human rights norms and standards for effective, gender and youth responsive governance, in partnership with civil society

IF relevant MDAs and LGAs have improved capacities to develop and operationalise systems and processes for transparent, effective, responsive public financial management

IF the National Statistical System is strengthened to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data to inform decision-making and enable reporting at all levels of government

THEN women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups will benefit from and participate in more transparent, accountable and inclusive governance that enables the consolidation of peace, protects and promotes human rights, establishes the rule of law and ensures access to justice for all

UN AFPs together with UNMISS will prioritise and facilitate collaboration across govermment, civil society, and other peace and development stakeholders at the international, regional, national and sub-national level to enable full implementation of the R-ARCSS. Support will be afforded for the comprehensive mainstreaming of international human rights and gender norms and standards across all processes and products, with particular emphasis upon women's political participation and leadership, the engagement of vulnerable groups (including those that have been displaced), social cohesion and community based solutions to dispute resolution.

Institutional capacity-building will be supported to enable routine government functions (informed by the CEPA's principles of effective governance), including budgetary oversight and improved public finance, alongside the domestication of key conventions, international norms and standards. The repeal or amendment of discriminatory legislation (especially in relation to GEWE and VAWC) will be prioritised, as will better regulation and enforcement of land ownership and property rights. As part of the process, dialogue and partnerships between central authorities and devolved bodies will be facilitated,

the capacity of gender machineries further developed to play a leading advocacy and supportive role and spaces for civic engagement in law-making created.

Financial and technical assistance will be given to build national capacity to generate and better manage high quality, timely population data, including census, surveys and expansion of the CVRS. Particular assistance for data disaggregation (including by sex, age, IDP status) and identification of risks will be given for improved targeting of services. Partnerships will be strengthened for improved sharing of data, related to a range of concerns, including (but not limited to): food security; nutrition; markets and prices; climate change impacts; plus refugee and IDP return numbers. Collectively, better data management horizontally (across sectors and state/non-state stakeholders) and vertically (central, state and local level), will be sought, wherever possible using new digital technology including big data.

Strong partnerships forged with government, development partners and CSOs during the current UNCF will be built upon under the UNSDCF and expanded in terms of South-to-South and triangular cooperation. The UN acknowledges the wealth of expertise available in peer countries and regional commissions, and therefore aimsaiming to enable robust cross-fertilisation on policies, innovations and systems with positive impacts likely magnified across the remaining Outcomes.

National Government Partners: Transitional National Legislative Assembly and Council of States (MPs and Specialised Committees); Gender Machineries; Ministry of Cabinet Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Ministry of Defence and Veterans' Affairs; Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Peace Building; Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; Ministry of National Security; Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; Ministry of Federal Affairs; Ministry of East African Community Affairs; Ministry of Finance and Planning; Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare; Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management; Ministry of Youth and Sports; National Constitutional Amendment Committee; South Sudan DDR Commission; South Sudan's Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control; National Police Service; Government Accountancy Training Centre; Judiciary; South Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission; National Audit Chamber.

Non-Government Partners: Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (R-JMEC); Relevant International and National NGOs contributing to the Humanitarian Response Plan; CSOs, especially women and youth groups or those representing/led by vulnerable groups; FBOs; Traditional Chiefs

And: World Bank; South Sudan Partnership for Peace, Recovery and Resilience (PfPRR) comprised of donors, UN Agencies and NGOs

For good offices/political weight

International/Regional Government Partners: AU; IGAD; EU; South Sudan Troika (Governments of the UK, Norway and USA)

Progress across the remaining three Outcomes—in particular measures around greener growth and diversification, sustainable livelihood opportunities, access to quality social services and the empowerment of women, youth and vulnerable groups to effectively voice their needs and lead positive change—will help to underpin peacebuilding achievements in this Outcome area, diminishing risks of political and social instability and the incidence of localised violent conflict.

II.III.II Strategic Priority: Sustainable Economic Growth & Diversification

IF relevant MDAs and LGAs have strengthened capacities to develop, operationalise and monitor market-oriented and gender-transformative policies, plans and programmes in support of decent work, sustainable economic growth, integration and diversification

IF public and private sector providers are strengthened to provide gender-transformative, market-oriented, quality models, products and services to food producers and traders, food producer organisations and MSMEs particularly those led by women, youth and vulnerable groups

IF food producers and traders, in particular women, youth and their organisations, have enhanced adaptive capacities to increase productivity, add value to their products and access markets, with improved resilience to economic shocks

IF women, youth and vulnerable groups are better equipped to establish and grow profitable MSMEs, with improved adaptive capacity and strengthened resilience to economic shocks

IF relevant MDAs, LGAs and communities have the knowledge and skills to co-create and implement policies, plans and programmes to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of South Sudan's natural resources

IF relevant MDAs, LGAs and communities are better equipped to establish and maintain inclusive, gender-responsive, early warning systems and disaster preparedness, response and recovery mechanisms

THEN Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups will benefit from and contribute to more sustainable and inclusive economic development, with increased economic diversification, improved climate change adaptation and greater resilience to economic shocks

UN support under this Outcome adopts a holistic approach: it seeks to improve the enabling environment for sustainable growth and diversification, whilst providing direct support to those leading MSMEs and working in Food Systems.

This will entail technical and financial assistance to improve Ease of Doing Business across policy, regulatory frameworks and infrastructure. It will also encompass support to increase access to core products and services, such as (rural) finance, business development skills and TVET. The latter will involve strong linkages with stakeholders working in the broader Education sector to maximise market responsiveness and minimise duplication of effort. The diversification agenda will focus on sustainable, climate-smart agriculture (given this is the main source of livelihoods and will positively impact on the high rates of food insecurity) and non-oil mining sectors (this is where existing knowledge and capabilities can be most readily utilised).

Those working in agriculture and agribusiness/agro-industry development, including residents of POC sites, will receive support around good agricultural practices, value chain linkages, post-harvest management and adherence to food standards for improved productivity and trade opportunities, including those created by AfCFTA. Resilience will be increased through use of climate smart agriculture, adoption of new information technology and community asset creation.

In support of improved natural resource management, assistance will be given to better enforce and operationalise relevant legislative and policy framework (including the National Environment Policy) with strengthened social and environmental impact assessment monitoring of mining (oil) companies alongside community-driven development approaches which integrate environment-sensitive livelihood strategies.

The UN will also assist national and sub-national stakeholders to implement the full range of community-focused disaster risk management measures and early warning systems with cross-linkages to health-related emergencies. This will include concomitant infrastructure, collection and analysis of risk data and the scale up of digital systems. Gender concerns will be fully mainstreamed across all areas.

Key partnerships will be reinforced with a range of actors, including line ministries, development

partners, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), the Global School Meals Coalition, NGOs and academia plus women, youth and disability-led organisations. AFPs will also explore opportunities to strengthen, expand and leverage partnerships with the private sector in line with UNCF Evaluation findings including building on current initiatives with finance insitutions and mobile phone operators. NRAs will be encouraged to expand their country level presence, as South Sudan adds to its development agenda and the transformation of the economy moves further up the list of priorities.

National Government Partners: Ministry of Information, Communication, Technology and Postal Services; Ministry of East African Community Affairs; Ministry of Finance and Planning; Ministry of Petroleum; Ministry of Mining; Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security; Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries; Ministry of Trade and Industry; Ministry of Environment and Forestry; Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation; Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development; Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism; Ministry of Investment; Ministry of Higher Education; Ministry of General Education and Instruction; Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development; Ministry of Energy and Dams; Ministry of Transport; Ministry of Roads and Bridges; Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare; Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management; Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Non-Government Partners: Private Sector Institutions and Service-Providers; Relevant International and National NGOs contributing to the Humanitarian Response Plan; CSOs, especially women and youth groups or those representing and led by vulnerable groups; FBOs; Traditional Chiefs; 'Disaster' Affected Communities; Academia; Media

And: World Bank; South Sudan Partnership for Peace, Recovery and Resilience (PfPRR) comprised of donors, UN Agencies and NGOs

Achievements under this Outcome will have wider positive implications not only for poverty reduction measures (SDG 1) but should also further realisation of SDGs encompassing: Gender Equality; Clean Water & Sanitation; Affordable & Clean Energy; Reduced Inequalities; Sustainable Cities & Communities; Responsible Consumption & Production; Life Below Water and Life on Land.

Progress across the remaining three Outcomes - in particular economic governance, health, nutrition, education and skills training– will likewise be critical for achievements in this Outcome area, creating a secure environment for investments and a labour force capable of taking on the demands of the growing economy.

II.III.III Strategic Priority: Social Development with Protection of the most vulnerable

IF relevant MDAs and LGAs are capacitated to develop, operationalise and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies, systems and programmes for improved delivery and take up of inclusive, responsive and quality health and nutrition services

IF relevant MDAs and LGAs are capacitated to develop, operationalise and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies, and programmes for improved quality WASH systems and adoption of safe, hygienic practices

IF relevant MDAs, LGAs and institutions are capacitated to develop, operationalise and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies and programmes for increased provision and take-up of inclusive, equitable, quality and market-oriented (formal and non-formal) education and life-long learning opportunities resilience to economic shocks

IF relevant MDAs and LGAs are capacitated to develop, operationalise and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies and programmes for improved social protection services for the most vulnerable and marginalised

IF mechanisms are established and supported to enable public and private service-providers, including CSOs, to share knowledge and coordinate provision of quality health, nutrition, WASH, education and social protection services

THEN Children, women and men in South sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, will enjoy improved coverage of inclusive, responsive, quality social services and protection

The UN will work to ensure basic needs are met through direct and supported delivery, whilst building in measures for the gradual transfer of services to state-run institutions. Capacity development and systems-strengthening assistance will seek to ensure approaches are gender responsive and inclusive, with improved governance and adherence to global standards, plus effective monitoring and evaluation.

AFPs will support improvements to the design and quality of care provided under the essential health services package, with specific targeting of POCs, refugees and host communities plus quality referral care (secondary and tertiary). Community health promotion programmes—including adaptation and implementation of standard training curriculum, relevant information, education, and communication materials and strategies—will encourage take-up of services.

Public-Private Partnerships will be facilitated, alongside improvements in procurement and supply chain management systems. Meanwhile the public health response in emergencies will be strengthened through epidemics preparedness and response, immunisations, supplementary national immunisation days and prepositioning of supplies.

To meet the spectrum of nutritional needs, direct treatment of moderate acute malnutrition will be delivered, complemented by targeted food and nutrition assistance with supplementary feeding for persons living with HIV and TB, children, pregnant women and lactating mothers including POCs. Work to support food enrichment and fortification will create critical linkages with food production under Strategic Priority II, Sustainable Economic Growth and Diversification.

Low-carbon, climate smart WASH solutions will be introduced that mainstream gender and promote women's full participation, including solar-powered technologies and flood resilient infrastructure. Improved access to safe WASH in health facilities will also be assisted.

Support to the education sector will involve policy formulation and equitable service delivery, including for students with special needs. There will be initiatives for teacher training and retention, school management and accelerated learning. Safe, accessible WASH facilities will also be established or rehabilitated in schools, contributing to enrolment and retention especially amongst adolescent girls. As referenced above, linkages will be made with work being done under Sustainable Economic Growth and Diversification to ensure education and skills training are market-oriented.

Social safety nets and cash transfers for both rural and urban populations will be designed and rolled out, increasing real income and reducing the adoption of negative coping mechanisms. Support will also be given for individual protection assistance including protection assessments with a focus on women. Linkages to improved Public Finance Management will be made.

Under this Outcome, the UN will leverage existing partnerships with key line ministries across the social sector as well as globally established 'networks' such as the H6 programme. The UN system will also support national coordination through key technical working groups, promoting and supporting joint planning, risk management, implementation and monitoring by humanitarian and development practitioners for the short to long-term.

National Government Partners: Transitional National Legislative Assembly and Council of States (MPs and Specialised Committees); Ministry of Finance and Planning; Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security; Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries; Ministry of Environment and Forestry; Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation; Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development; Ministry of Higher Education; Ministry of General Education and Instruction; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development; Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare; Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management; Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Non-Government Partners: Private Sector Institutions and Service-Providers; Relevant International and National NGOs contributing to the

HRP; CSOs, especially women and youth groups or those representing/led by vulnerable groups; FBOs; Traditional Chiefs

And: South Sudan Partnership for Peace, Recovery and Resilience (PfPRR) comprised of donors, UN Agencies and NGOs

Progress across the social sector should enable the creation of a healthy, educated labour force, with age-appropriate and life-long learning translating into livelihood/ decent employment opportunities and civic engagement, both essential for Prosperity (SDGs 7-11) and Peace (SDG 16).

Movement across the remaining three Outcomes–in particular peacebuilding efforts, infrastructure development and disaster risk reduction/mitigation measures–should facilitate access to services. Likewise, climate smart agriculture and gains in food productivity, food security and livelihoods should significantly improve the nutrition and broader health/well-being of the nation.

II.III.IV Strategic Priority: Women & Youth Empowerment For Sustainable Development

IF civil society, political groupings and movements, particularly those that are representing women, youth and vulnerable groups, have enhanced knowledge and skills to meaningfully engage in a rights-based approach to decision-making across peace and governance structures, systems and processes

IF women, youth and vulnerable groups have enhanced understanding of their human rights, how to hold duty-bearers to account and how best to seek redress if these rights are violated

IF women, youth and vulnerable groups have improved capacities to assume transformational leadership roles in the public and private sector

IF Opinion leaders alongside community structures are capacitated to promote positive social norms and values, including for the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women, youth, children and vulnerable groups

THEN Women, youth plus vulnerable groups will be empowered to demand and exercise their political, economic, social, environmental and cultural rights

UN AFPs and UNMISS will provide trainings and resources for groups led by or representing women, youth and other vulnerable populations to build their confidence and learn the means to ensure their voices are heard and reflected across peace and governance (including service delivery) structures, systems and processes. Connections will be enabled across national and international networks and partnerships on issues relating to GBV, SGBV and Protection, underpinning efforts to improve access to justice and the rule of law.

Whilst a range of individuals will participate in empowerment and leadership trainings as well as life skills packages, some 'graduates' will be afforded additional assistance to assume public office with linkages to work around women's political participation and leadership.

All efforts under this Outcome plus the initiatives under the other results areas, will be given further succour through behaviour change communication methods and platforms which address negative social norms. Particular emphasis will be given for the promotion of positive masculinity norms and elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination, especially against women, youth, children and vulnerable groups.

In line with the complementary, reinforcing role of this Strategic Priority, all of the partnerships specified in the previous results areas are equally relevant here, with a emphasis on collaborations with women, youth and disability-led organisations. Their role will be critical for the sustainability of any political, socio-economic gains secured under both the R-NDS and the UNSDCF. Partnerships with national NGOs and CSOs plus community leaders and influencers will therefore be of special interest.

National Government Partners: Transitional National Legislative Assembly and Council of States (MPs and Specialised Committees);

Gender Machineries; Ministry of Cabinet Affairs; Ministry of Peace Building; Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; Ministry of Finance and Planning; Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare; Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disater Management; Ministry of Youth and Sports; National Police Service; Judiciary.

Non-Government Partners: CSOs, especially women and youth groups or those representing/led by vulnerable groups; FBOs; Traditional Chiefs

And: South Sudan Partnership for Peace, Recovery and Resilience (PfPRR) comprised of donors, UN Agencies and NGOs

Given the central role played by women and youth in nation-building and growth, plus the importance of the LNOB agenda to Agenda 2030, the empowerment of the individuals and groups under this Outcome will have positive implications for the realisation of all three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environment.

Progress across the first three Outcomes—in particular measures to improve access to justice and productive assets, increase education, training and decent employment opportunities, expand delivery and take-up of quality social services will significantly improve the well-being of women, youth and vulnerable groups, better positioning each to exercise their rights across all domains.

II.IV. Operationalising Our Peace, Humanitarian and Development Approach

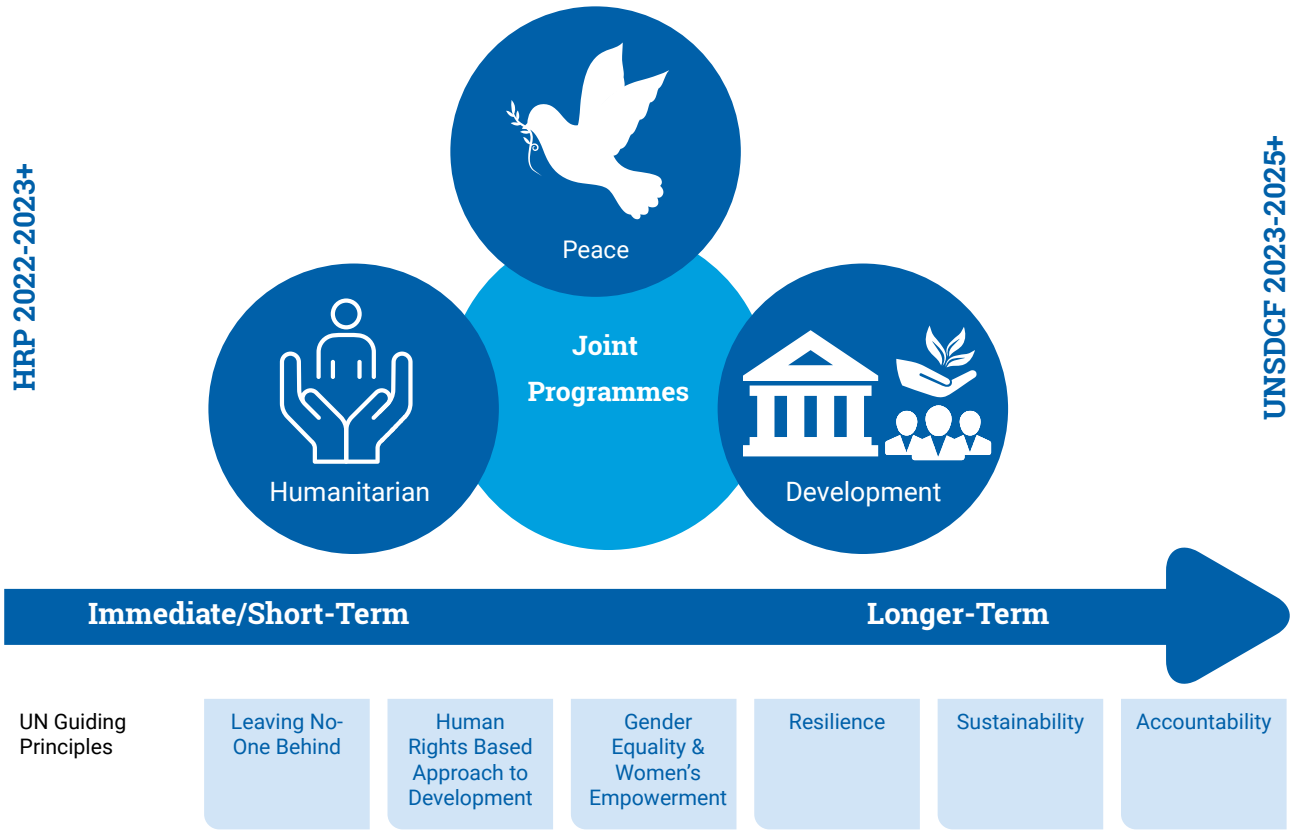
The UNSDCF 2023-2025 has been designed to reflect the 2019 OECD/DAC recommendations regarding the PHD nexus. It recognises the need to undertake joint, risk-informed, gender-sensitive analysis of root causes and structural drivers of conflict as well as opportunities to enhance resilience (see section below for further details of risk management processes). The Framework acknowledges the importance of and seeks out ways to collectively resource and collaborate for results across the PHD domains. It puts people at the centre of programming, ensuring immediate humanitarian needs continue to be met, whilst adhering to Do No Harm precepts and maximising impact through state and community engagement at national and sub-national levels.

Each of the Outcome Statements define the primary focus of the result, namely: women; men; youth; children and vulnerable groups. Those referenced in the opening pages of this document as *'being left behind'* will receive targeted support on the understanding that many experience multiple, intersecting factors of vulnerability, inequality and discrimination depending on age, disability, IDP and refugee status as well as location. The latter being in terms of conflict and/or disaster prone areas. Notwithstanding, particular emphasis will be placed upon women and girls across the results, both in terms of prioritised 'recipients' and agents of positive change. This is acknowledgement of their particular vulnerabilities and in pursuit of *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.*

As per the *Human Rights Based Approach to Development*, each of the Outputs defines the duty-bearers and/or rights-holders who will receive capacity development support to assume their responsibilities and/or participate in the realisation of certain rights. This is a shift in business model for the UNSDCF and marks a gear change from the current primary focus on short-term humanitarian assistance towards a longer-term, development lens with *sustainability* concerns fully integrated. The latter should allow for the benefits secured today to be enjoyed and built upon in the future, with reduced dependence upon external actors, as per the R-NDS goal.

The UN/Partner Working Group has agreed to revitalise the Partnership for Peace, Recovery and

Figure VI: UNSDCF 2023-2025 Operationalising the Triple Nexus



Resilience (PfPRR) for the operationalisation of the PHD nexus in country with pursuit of peace dividends, localisation, inclusive dialogue and sustainability as key objectives. At present three joint programmes have been proposed to run for the lifetime of the UNSDCF. Two fall within the parameters of Strategic Priority II, 'Sustainable Economic Growth & Diversification', namely: Food Security and Agriculture; Climate Action & Flooding. The third is cross-cutting: IDP Transitioning (Durable Solutions). These Joint Programmes involving actors from across the PHD nexus will ensure both the nation's immediate needs and medium-term priorities are met.

Measures for improved transparency plus active, inclusive community engagement and participation across the UNSDCF will increase *accountability*, thereby creating the conditions for improved performance by duty-bearers.

Finally, efforts to increase *resilience* and recovery to a wide range of shocks run through the UNSDCF. They include mechanisms to improve disaster preparedness and response, increase adaptability to climate change (especially in agriculture) and strengthen the public health response in emergencies. These improvements will be complemented by support for the social protection system, further reducing the high levels of vulnerability.

Figure VII: UNSDCF 2023-2025

South Sudan Vision 2040

UNCT Vision 2030

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Other International & Regional Commitments

UN STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

- Integrated Policy Advice & Thought Leadership
- Normative Support & Gender Transformative Approaches
- Capacity Development/ Technical Assistance
- Data Generation, Management, Analysis & Use
- Innovation, Research & Technology inc. Digitalisation/ E-Governance
- Multi-Sectoral & Multi-level Partnerships inc. Financing
- Direct Support/ Service Delivery
- Civil Society Engagement & Advocacy Support

R-NDS Principle Governance

TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE & INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

Outcome I: Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, benefit from and participate in more transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance that protects and promotes human rights, enables the consolidation of peace, establishes the rule of law and ensures access to justice for all

R-NDS Principle Economy &Infrastructure

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH & DIVERSIFICATION

Outcome II: Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, benefit from and contribute to more sustainable and inclusive economic development, increased economic diversification, improved climate change adaptation and greater resilience to economic shocks

R-NDS Principle Social

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH PROTECTION OF THE MOST VULNERABLE

Outcome III: Children, women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, enjoy improved coverage of inclusive, responsive, quality social services and social protection

R-NDS Principle Gender & Youth

WOMEN & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Outcome IV: Women, youth plus vulnerable groups are empowered to demand and exercise their political, economic, social, environmental and cultural rights

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGETED

Peace-Humanitarian-Development Nexus: Joint Programmes

UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Leaving No-One Behind
- Human Rights Based Approach to Development
- Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment
- Resilience
- Sustainability
- Accountability

III.

Cooperation Framework Implementation Plan

III.I. The UN System in South Sudan, Risk Management & Transition Planning

The UN System in South Sudan is comprised of UNMISS[52] under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and the UNCT under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator (RC). Twenty-one UN entities, including UNMISS, will contribute to the UNSDCDF. Of these, eight (dual mandated) UN AFPs will also contribute to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2022-2023.[53]

The RC also serves as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG)–Humanitarian plus the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) in South Sudan. In addition, the RC has a joint responsibility for humanitarian and development operations in Abyei. In the lead up to UNSDCF implementation, the offices of the DSRSG/RC/HC across PHD dimensions will be integrated. This will improve high-level coordination on analysis and programming whilst deepening partnerships and donor engagement to support the same.

The Integrated Office will include a Risk Management Unit. To date risk management has been informed by a range of studies undertaken by UN entities and partners. These include: Programme Criticality Assessments; Joint Agency Conflict Analyses, such as those used to inform prioritisation under the Peacebuilding Fund; Joint Asessments of the Drivers of Humanitarian Needs (led by OCHA); Multi-Dimensionsal Risk Assessemments (supported by UNDRR).[54] Going forward, the Risk Management Unit will assume responsibility for technical leadership of risk communications. It will promote risk-related information-sharing, increase joint accountability and quality assurance activities plus support threat and opportunity analyses at politico-strategic level. Importantly, the Unit will develop joint analysis drawing upon the sources listed above and augmenting with information such as those captured during the UNSDCF reviews and the Mission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment System (CPAS), thereby creating a common narrative for improved risk mitigation systems and processes generally, as well as programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation under the UNSDCF.

Recent forecasting[55] from peace and conflict analysis has identified three scenarios for South Sudan. The best case scenario predicts implementation of the key components of the R-ARCSS, albeit with some delays and continued violence at the sub-national and local level. The most likely scenario foresees more delays in the implementation of the peace process, some of which are deliberate to prevent institutional change. This would still provide considerable openings for peacebuilding and development activities in certain States. Finally, the worst-case scenario entails a return to large-scale violent conflict, likely triggered by the multiple conflict dynamics outlined in Chapter I. This would severely hamper peacebuilding efforts and necessitate refocusing on humanitarian relief. Notwithstanding, even under such circumstances, it is recommended that peacebuilding should continue and complement relief activities.

With this in mind—as alluded to in Chapter II—the UN system across PHD dimensions will adopt a measured approach to transition that routinely integrates a conflict sensitive lens and Do No Harm principles underpinned by robust risk management analysis, systems and processes. Development initiatives will be undertaken in those States with potential for development that are in relative stability and security. Agility and adaptability will remain watchwords with UN entities ready to draw down as well as scale-up as the context dictates. In line with recommendations from the UNCF Evaluation, coordination and collaboration between the UNCT structures in Juba and state/field level structures will be strengthened to support rapid, responsive decision-making.

Importantly, the UNCT will continue to collaborate with UNMISS and draw support from DCO-Regional plus peer-to-peer information-sharing events[56] to move forward on transition planning.[57] Under

52 Strategic Priorities of UNMISS can be summarised accordingly, to: prevent a return to civil war in South Sudan; build durable peace at the local and national levels; support inclusive and accountable governance; and facilitate the conduct of free, fair, and peaceful elections in accordance with the Revitalized Agreement

53 The AFPs contributing to both HRP and UNSDCF are: FAO; IOM; OCHA; UNESCO; UNFPA; UNHCR; UNICEF; UNMAS; WFP; WHO. Only the mandates of OCHA and UNMAS precludes their direct support for the UNSDCF.

54 Enterprise risk management compliance policies and internal controls, the Offices of Audit and Investigations, and ongoing monitoring and spot-checks are also used to further mitigate risks to implementation at programmatic level.

55 Trias Consulting (2021)

56 Examples include the UN transition planning workshop in in June 2022 which brought together strategic planners, programme officers and representatives from the UN AFPs, regional coordinators' offices, peacekeeping, and special political missions operating in Iraq, Mali, Central African Republic, South Sudan, and Somalia

57 This is defined in Security Council resolution 2594 (2021) as a strategic process which "builds towards a reconfiguration of the strategy, footprint, and capacity of the United Nations in a way that supports peacebuilding objectives and the development of a sustainable peace"

this process, the UNSDCF has been identified as a critical tool that should serve as a preliminary roadmap for transition. It has been determined that early engagement and scaling up of AFP's peacebuilding and development programmes will mitigate against key UN transition challenges, while joint planning and programmes across the triple nexus will support a smooth transition operationally,

III.II. Cooperation Framework Governance & Management

The UNSDCF governance and management schema has been reconfigured to better reflect the key commitments of the UNCT Vision 2030 and the Framework's aforementioned implementation approach, including the PHD nexus. These 'changes' can be summarised accordingly:

- Establishment of a Joint Government and UN Steering Committee (JSC), with representation from donor, IFI, NGO and CSO stakeholders (including vulnerable groups), to provide high-level strategic leadership which ensures full alignment to national needs and priorities
- Creation of an Integrated Office for effective cross-pillar collaboration heightening delivery across all mandates (see above)
- Strengthened communication mechanisms which ensure data and analysis is shared for real-time decision-making across the PHD domains, including management of risks
- Expansion of operations at the State-level through leveraging the humanitarian clusters, enabling more effective coordination in alignment with state-level governance systems.
- A 'lighter' Programme Management Team (PMT) which focuses less on process and more on strategy and policy support to the UNCT
- Revitalised Results Groups led by Heads of UN entities for improved accccountability, analysis and reporting, enabling the generation of integrated policy advice
- Explicit linkages to a revitalised PfPRR and the Joint Programmes thereunder to further enhance collaboration and accountability for collective results across the triple nexus on the three themes of: climate action, including flood prevention and mitigation; food security and agriculture; IDP durable solutions.

III.II.I Government Consultation

Government consultation will occur at multiple levels, in line with commitments to national ownership and leadership under the UNCT Vision 2030. As stated above, at the highest level this will take place routinely through the Joint Steering Committee. Additional, complementary high-level donor/government consultations will be organised on an annual basis. These will allow for a larger number of participants and broader range of topics to be discussed than may be covered by the JSC.

The Sector Working Groups will be invited to participate in key discussions with the Results Groups, in particular for: information-sharing and decision-making around emerging issues; prioritisation; state-level coordination and implementation; review of results achieved and lessons learned. AFPs will also continue to engage with relevant ministry personnel on sectoral issues, regularly feeding back to the Results Groups and PMT.

III.II.II Resourcing the Cooperation Framework

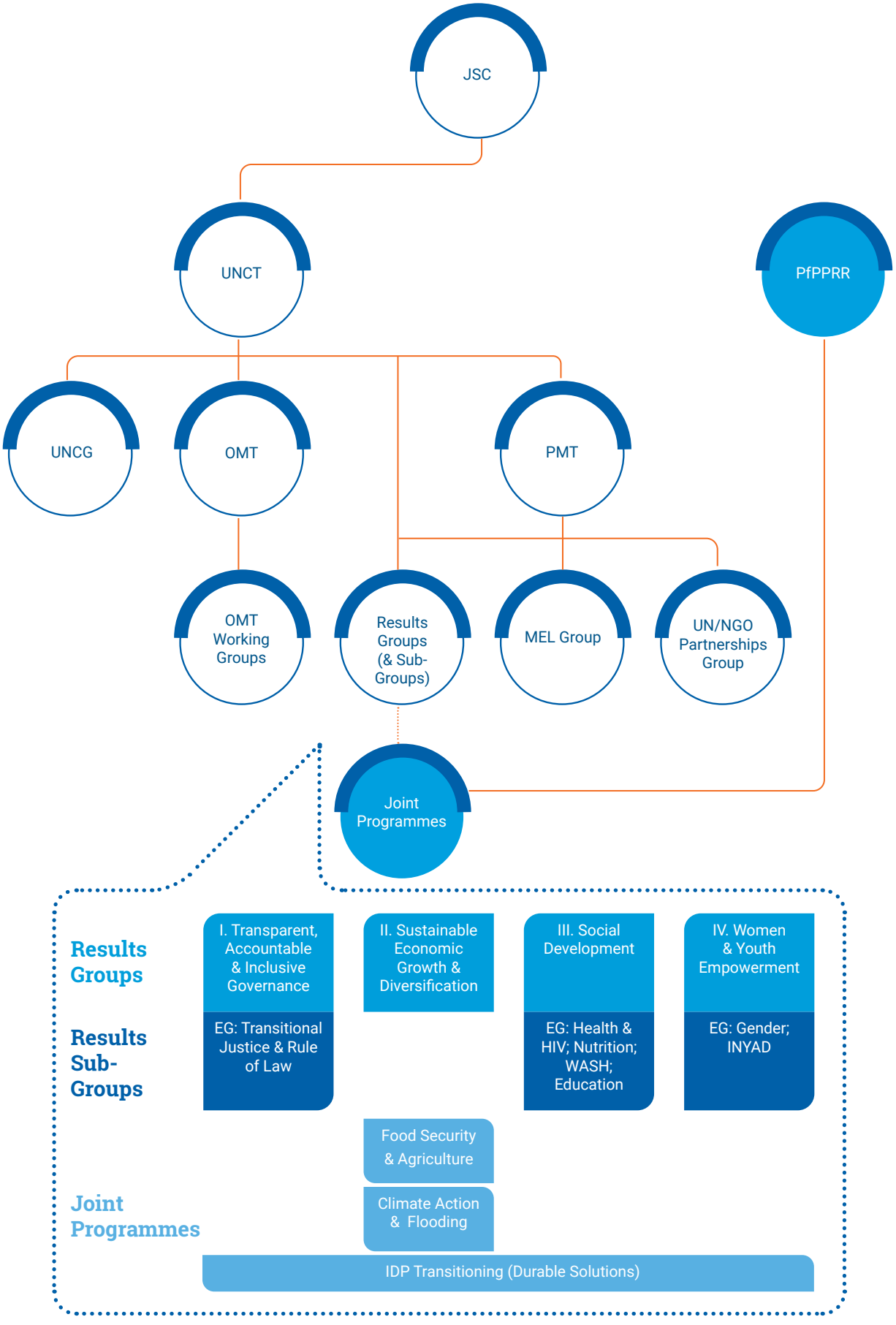
South Sudan has a significant number of mutually reinforcing country-level pooled funds which are relevant to the UNCF 2019-22, the UNMISS Mandate (2021-24), the HRP and the PHD nexus.

The South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) continues to support life-saving activities in South Sudan. It leverages the cluster system and promotes strategic collaboration and coherence across multi-sectoral interventions in the education, health and nutrition, WASH and food security sectors.

The South Sudan Reconciliation, Stabilisation and Resilience Trust Fund (RSRTF) through its three pillars promotes integrated programming among AFPs, drawing on comparative advantages across the PHD nexus. The Reconciliation Pillar focuses on rebuilding trust and confidence, reinforcing social cohesion and prevention of conflict. The Stabilisation Pillar aims to strengthen the social contract between the citizens and state institutions, supporting the restoration of security, rule of law and access to justice. The Resilience Pillar invests in capacities, assets and opportunities that foster inter-communal interdependencies and social integration.

The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) in South Sudan has a five-year Strategic Result Framework that guides

Figure VII: UNSDCF 2023-2025 Organogram (see Annex VIII for core roles and responsibilities)



peacebuilding activities in South Sudan. It reinforces the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) and the UN Joint SDG Fund and is aligned to the overarching policy frameworks for South Sudan including the R-NDS and UNCF. PBF investments aim to address the root causes and drivers of conflict by focusing on three priority areas namely: strengthening national democratisation, justice and accountability; addressing conflict resulting from and around displacements and strengthening local peace mechanisms and conflict prevention.

Following strategic prioritisation and the formulation of the UNSDCF Results and M&E Framework, each contributing AFP submitted preliminary budgets as part of the UNCT Configuration Exercise. These were analysed to provide insight into both the overall budget plus funding gap which then informed UNCT discussions about reach and options for resource mobilisation. Consequently, the UNCT has committed to develop a joint resource mobilisation strategy as recommended in the UNCF evaluation. This will be created once the UNSDCF multi-year funding framework has been formulated together with the Joint WorkPlans (see next chapter). The Strategy will promote greater coordination and collaboration as well as reduce competition amongst UN entities. It will reference and build upon agency-specific resource mobillisation efforts and partnerships as well as the country-level pooled funds currently available.

In addition, the UNCT will explore alignment of the existing funding modalities to better support UNSDCF and PHD nexus priorities.

III.III. Business Operations Strategy in Support of the Cooperation Framework

The UN in South Sudan first developed a Business Operations Strategy (BOS) in 2019 to support efforts to deliver on its PHD assistance commitments.

The South Sudan BOS covers the UN system's joint priorities in the areas of common operations for 2019-2024 with agreed common services in: Administrative and Logistics; Finance; Human Resources; Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Procurement. It builds on ongoing efforts by the UN system in country to harmonize and simplify its business operations and aims to address the gaps identified by the UN General Assembly in strategic planning, coordination and monitoring of the UN's inter-agency operations and activities.

To date, under the BOS, cost avoidance amounting to USD 8.18 million has been recorded for the period 2019-2021 with the reported quality of those services also improving. These savings will be continued across the lifetime of the UNSDCF, realised principally through reduction in recurrent costs and staff time for the acquisition of goods and services either through development of new joint Long-Term Agreements (LTAs) and/or piggybacking on existing Agreements.

Going forward, there will also be closer collaboration with UNMISS on BOS implementation and enhanced cooperation between OMT and PMT in particular for the scale-up of HACT. In addition, OMT will seek to further strengthen and streamline operations for reduced costs and improved quality on agreed common services. It will also explore opportunities for additional common services with high impact, such as initiatives on environmental, gender sensitive procurement and Common Premises.

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Working Group (MEL WG) is tasked with creating and updating the UNSDCF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (see Annex III for summary version[58]). The Plan outlines UNCT commitments to joint monitoring missions, support to national surveys and voluntary national reviews of the SDGs, as well as capacity development efforts, thematic studies, reviews or publications. It also references the recommendations of both the UNCF Evaluation and the latest results of the Gender Scorecard Assessment, in terms of strengthening the M&E system. The latter focusing particularly on gender mainstreaming across budgeting processes and the contributions of the gender group to M&E processes.

IV.

CCA Update, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan

IV.I. Joint Work Plan Formulation, Monitoring, Review and Reporting

The UNSDCF will be implemented through joint costed workplans: one for each Outcome and one for each Joint Programme. These will operate on a rolling basis accommodating multi-year interventions, with pre-defined indicators and targets at both Outcome and Output level.[59] Indicators at the Outcome level are currently derived from the global SDG Targets. As the national statistical system develops and national level SDG indicators and targets are defined, the Outcome level indicators may require further revision and contextualisation.

The online UN Info system, which is open to both resident and non-resident participating UN entities, will provide the platform whereby Results Groups can enter their planned interventions, report against achievements including contributions to the UN's normative agenda and track funding gaps. Customized tags will be used to track and extract documents for different components, including the Joint Programmes' plans and reports.

The workplans will be reviewed and updated on a biannual basis. Their formulation and revision will involve consultation with partners by each Results Group and PHD Task Team. Such discussions will be informed by any recent thematic studies, reviews or publications related to the sector(s) under review, including the Humanitarian Needs Overview report. The financial section will provide details of planned budgets and expenditure including the percentage of committed resources and by whom, thereby enabling more effective tracking of funding gaps and concomitant resource mobilisation efforts. Quality assurance will be provided by the MEL WG to ensure alignment with agreed results and SDGs, coherence across planned activities plus due application of UNSDCF guiding principles.

At the mid and end of year, Results Groups and PHD Task Teams will be required to produce a narrative explaining their results, examples of good practice and options for replication and scale-up, opportunities and threats, constraints/challenges and remedial action taken plus any lessons learned for integration in plans going forward. The narrative will also highlight any changes to the programming context to inform updates to the CCA, the UNCT configuration as well as due exploration of emerging opportunities and risks by each Results Group and PHD Task Team. In addition, at the time of the Annual Review, UN entities will be required to report on delivery against Output level targets.

Findings from the review processes will enable appropriate strategic, programmatic and operational adjustments, including revisions to the overarching Results and M&E Framework and Theory of Change as necessary. (Particular attention will be given to options to provide disaggregated data as national data systems are improved over the lifetime of the UNSDCF.) Thus, the UNSDCF will undergo a systematic process of review and renewal to ensure the UN's continued relevance in country.

At the conclusion of each annual review process, key lessons learned will be extrapolated (including those gathered during joint monitoring missions) and presented in a single document, disseminated to the JSC, UNCT, PMT, RGs, OMT, UNCG and PHD Task Teams. Additional learnings from research, surveys or studies undertaken during the year will be circulated with the relevant documents at time of publication.

Once all annual review data has been entered and quality assured at Results Group and PHD Task Team level, the RCO will prepare a Country Results Report. Following internal validations by first the Results Group and then the PMT, the report will be submitted for UNCT endorsement. Once approved, the report will be publicly available on the UN South Sudan website.

UN entity country programming instruments for South Sudan were developed subsequent to the formulation of the UNSDCF Results and M&E Framework. Each instrument uses the agreed results (devised in collaboration with Government, DPs and civil society) as its overarching framework, copying the Outcomes verbatim to ensure absolute alignment.

UN Entity Country Programming Instruments

58 The detailed version lists the full titles of each analysis/assessment to be undertaken by UN entities over the three years and is available on request.

59 The full Results and M&E Framework is provided in Annex I.

IV.II. UNSDCF Evaluation

An independent evaluation of the UNSDCF will be undertaken in the penultimate year of implementation to ensure knowledge generated informs the formulation of the successor Framework. The purpose of the assessment will be twofold:

i) to promote accountability for the achievement of agreed results as defined in the UNSDCF and PHD Joint Programmes.
ii) to support learning for improved (future) results across all aspects of programming, including operationalisation of the PHD nexus

The primary users of the UNSDCF evaluation at the country level will be the UNCT (resident and non-resident UN entities), the Government and Non-State Actors (including civil society and private sector), alongside Development Partners. On the global stage, the evaluation should contribute to knowledge regarding good practice; other UN country offices, UNDCO-regional and UNDCO headquarters will therefore also form an important audience.

The evaluation will be jointly commissioned by the UNCT and the national government. The Evaluation Team will work under the supervision of a dual-tiered evaluation management structure.

i) Direct supervision will be provided by the Evaluation Management Group (EMG) comprised of UN and national M&E specialists with support from RCO. The EMG will safeguard the independence of the evaluation. It will be responsible for the day-to-day coordination of the evaluation, including facilitating access to key informants/data and management of the evaluation budget
ii) The decision-making organ for the Evaluation is the JSC, bringing together representatives of the Evaluation Commissioners (UNCT and national counterparts) and other key stakeholders such as CSOs and donor representatives.

The Evaluation shall conform to UNEG norms and standards for evaluations, as well as ethical guidelines. As part of the quality assurance process, regional UNDCO will review the key products.

In acknowledgement of the 2030 Agenda's transformative promise to leave no-one behind, all efforts will be made to draw upon and generate both data and analysis which supports understanding of the dimensions of inequity relevant to the country. These include but are not limited to sex, age, geographical location, disability and migratory status.

The evaluation will be timed to run in parallel with assessments of AFP's country programmes (where possible). This will provide opportunities for collaboration or cross fertilisation of the various teams. For example, AFP evaluations may drill down into the results achieved and provide data around key initiatives, whilst the UNSDCF evaluation may focus more on the overarching systems and processes related to joint programming and joint initiatives which can augment the agency specific analysis. For any country programme evaluations which take place after the conclusion of the UNSDCF evaluation, key data and findings will be duly shared. Wherever possible, the burden upon implementing partners will be minimised, through coordination of data collection processes by the MEL WG in partnership with the various evaluation teams.

The preliminary findings of the Evaluation will be shared with national stakeholders for their feedback prior to finalisation. Once the final document has been approved by the JSC, it will be made publicly available alongside the management response. Lessons learned from the evaluation will be extracted and disseminated to contribute to strategic planning, learning, advocacy and decision-making at all levels, including for the formulation of the UNSDCF successor document.

Annex I: Results and M&E Framework[1]

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE AND TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE & INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

Revised-National Development Strategy Priorities	SDG Targets	Agenda 2063 Goals
4.5.1. Political & Legitimate Governance	5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	11: Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched
4.5.2. Economic Governance	16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	12: Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place
4.5.3. Public Sector Reform	16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	13: Peace Security and Stability is preserved
8.6.1 Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment	16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	17: Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life
8.6.2. Youth Empowerment	16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	18: Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children
8.6.4. Capacity Development	17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection	

Assumptions (specific to Strategic Priority Area I)

- Improvements in governance performance (including reduction in corruption, increased civic participation and access to justice) builds trust and commitment to the peace process
- Government is committed to honour its existing (and expand) international and regional human rights obligations including those related to reporting and implementation of treaty body recommendations
- Political leadership for removal of legal & institutional bottlenecks related to discrimination & exclusion
- Gender-responsive budgeting is embraced by the Ministry of Finance and Planning plus key Sector Ministries
- Duty-bearers at all levels embrace the role of (disaggregated) data for development, in particular for targeted support to those left behind or at risk of being left behind
- The political leadership is unwavering in its commitment to full implementation of anti-corruption measures

Assumptions (common to all Strategic Priority Areas)

- Peace agreement (R-ARCSS) holds and all stakeholders at regional, national, state and local level remain committed or can be persuaded to commit to the full range of peacebuilding interventions envisaged, including those national actors who are not currently signatories.
- Civil, social, cultural & political rights are protected and promoted for all, including the media or marginalised groups, with a robust open civic space wherein Government stakeholders value and promote inputs from civil society
- Communities, community leaders, women, men and youth are responsive and willing to contribute to positive change, including to address sensitive issues, such as SGBV, CRSV and those related to harmful traditional practices
- The UNSDCF guiding principles (LNOB, HRBA, GEWE, Resilience, Sustainability & Accountability) are upheld by implementing partners
- Identified priorities remain relevant to the GoSS throughout the programme cycle or changes can be incorporated in a timely manner
- Challenges in the enabling environment (including policy and infrastructure) plus existing skills gaps and absorptive capacities can be measurably improved within the timeframe of the UNSDCF
- UN Agencies have the minimum financial, technical and human resources requirements year-by-year to implement the UNSDCF
- Financing for development can be leveraged and new partnerships created across public and private spheres to increase available funds.

1 UNEP data pending.

Risks (specific to Strategic Priority I)

- High #s of youth not in education, training or decent employment contribute to political and social instability
- Resistance of coalition parties to collaborate across all governance functions, with some conflict among the political parties

Risks (common to all Strategic Priority Areas)

- Conflict in neighbouring countries spills over to South Sudan and disrupts UNSDCF implementation
- Persistent and increasing natural and/or climate change-induced disasters, including flooding and pest infestations plus localised conflict negatively impacts food production, access to markets/trading opportunities, service delivery and infrastructure development
- Pandemics & epidemics (inc. COVID-19 and Ebola) halt or counterbalance economic and social development gains (includes diversion of resources for delivery and expansion of core social services). Vulnerable people will be especially impacted as a result of low coverage of quality health services.
- ODA flows decrease as a result of a COVID-19 induced global economic downturn, concerns regarding persistently high levels of corruption or diversions to other fragile states/countries in conflict such as Ukraine

Participating UN Entities: IFAD; IOM; UNDP (co-lead); UNEP; UNESCO; UNFPA; UN-HABITAT; UNHCR; UNICEF; UNMISS (co-lead); UNODC; UN Women; WFP

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Outcome 1: Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, benefit from and participate in more transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance that enables the consolidation of peace, protects and promotes human rights, establishes the rule of law and ensures access to justice for all	Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index Score	Score 11/100 (Ranking 180/180) (2021)	Score 19/100 (Ranking 175/180) (2025)	Transparency International Corruptions Perception Index
	Africa SDG Index Overall Score	Score 32.4 (Ranking 52/52) (2020)	Score 40 (Ranking 47/52) (2025)	Africa SDG Index and Dashboards Report
	# of civilian casualties, incidents and physical threats to civilians and areas of concentration for IDPs and refugees	3,000 (2020/21)	TBD (2025)	UNMISS Civilian Casualty Reports
	Pre-trial/unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population			
	UNDP	57.13% (2021)	20% (2025)	Reporting from GoSS Prison Service
Output 1.1 The Government of South Sudan has enhanced capacities to develop a permanent constitution, implement effective devolution, and run free and fair elections, as per the provisions of the R-ARCSS, in partnership with civil society	% of the Permanent Constitution Roadmap completed UNDP	Activities towards the first benchmark underway (2022)	25% (Benchmark 1 completed) (2023) 50% (Benchmarks 1 & 2 completed) (2024) 100% (All 4 Benchmarks completed) (2025	Permanent Constitution-Making Roadmap; National Constitutional Review Commission Reports
	Status of free and fair elections UNDP	No preparation (2022)	The election commission reconstituted; legal framework established; legal provisions enacted for electorate Code of Conduct (2023) Voters registration, voting, filing complaints and dispute resolution mechanism completed; Voters awareness-raising conducted; Political parties dialogue conducted (2024) The election process completed; Post election process completed (2025)	Government reports (parliamentary reports, government white papers); Reports from media, UN agencies, and CSOs; Election Observer Missions.
	# of CSOs engaged in consultation processes around the constitution and elections UNDP	10 (35% women or youth-led CSOs) (2022)	13 (>35% women or youth-led CSOs) (2023) 15 (>35% women or youth-led CSOs) (2024) 18 (>35% women or youth-led CSOs) (2025)	Government reports (parliamentary reports, government white papers); reports from CSO Forum and NGO Partnership

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Output 1.2. The Government of South Sudan is better equipped to undertake judicial and security sector reforms, complete DDR processes, and deliver transitional justice in full compliance with the R-ARCSS, in partnership with civil society	Status of key judicial reforms UNMISS	Ad hoc Judicial Reform Commission (JRC) formed (chair and co-chair not appointed) (2021)	Ad hoc JRC operationalised (2023) JRC completes report (2024) Recommended Judicial Reforms are underway (2025)	RJMEC Reports, MoJ Reports; Ad hoc Judicial Reform Commission Report
	Status of security sector reform UNMISS	Strategic Security Assessment and Security Policy Framework completed (2022)	Revised Defence Policy and Operational Analysis under R-ARCSS completed (2023) White Paper on Defence and Security and Security Sector Reform Transformation Roadmap under R-ARCSS completed (2024) SSR Transformation initiated in accordance with Roadmap (2025)	RJMEC Reports; White Paper on Defence; Security and Security Sector Reform Transformation Roadmap
	Status of the voluntary civilian disarmament strategy (VCDS) UNDP	Voluntary Civilian Disarmament Strategy completed by BCSSAC (2022)	Reintegration piloted in one county and assessment on disarmament completed (Lakes State) (2023) Reintegration begun in Wau and Juba, Stockpile electronic small arms management system completed, piloting of arms for livelihood underway (2024) 2000 ex-combatants reintegrated; 2000 youth engaged in arms for livelihood (2025)	BCSSAC reports; NDDRC Reports
	Status of transitional justice mechanisms (Commission on Truth, Reconciliation and Healing, CTRH); Hybrid Court for South Sudan, HCSS; Compensation and Reparations Authority, CRA) UNDP	CTRH, Public Consultations initiated; HCSS, No progress, CRA: No progress (2022)	CTRH, Public Consultation completed and reported submitted to MOJ; HCSS, judges, prosecutors, defence counsels and registrar nominated (2023) CTRH, 7 commissioners nominated and established, legislation completed; HCSS, judges, prosecutors, defence counsels and registrar approved by parliament and trained on transitional justice; CRA, Reparation Authority established (2024) CTRH, fully operational; HCSS, jurisdiction defined and fully functional; CRA, reparation fund established and received application from victims (2025)	RJMEC Reports; MoJ Reports; African Union Report

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Output 1.3 The Government of South Sudan is resourced to operationalise legal and policy frameworks, systems and processes, including enforcement mechanisms, to protect housing, land and property rights, in accordance with the rule of law	Status of inclusive legal framework governing housing, land, and property UNMISS	Land Policy is undergoing consultations (2022)	Land Policy tabled and adopted by Parliament (2023) Land Act amended, Community Land Act and IDP Law passed by Parliament and adopted (2024) Implementing regulations issued and remaining laws (Town and Country Planning Act; Land Survey Act; Land Registration Act; Land Valuation and Property Mortgages Act; Land Information Act; Land Commission Act) passed by Parliament and adopted (2025)	Ministry of Justice gazetted laws/policies
	# of land commissions established and operational at national and state levels IOM	0 (2022)	2 (2023) 1 (2024) 1 (2025)	Ministry of Land reports
	# of land registries (within judiciary) established and in operation (cumulative) UNMISS	6 (2022)	7 (2023) 9 (2024) 10 (2025)	Judiciary of South Sudan records
	# of spatial strategic urban plans developed per year UN Habitat	1 (2022)	1 (2023) 1 (2024) 1 (2025)	Agency Progress Report

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Output 1.4. The Legislative Assembly has the knowledge and skills to create and oversee legal frameworks aligned to international human rights norms and standards for effective, gender and youth responsive governance, in partnership with civil society	Proportion of bills tabled by MPs and passed that are gender and youth-responsive UNDP	0 (2022) (Legislative Assembly only reconstituted on 31 August 2021, committees assigned Feb 2022)	≥50% (2023) ≥75% (2024) ≥90% (2025)	Government Records (Ministry of Justice)
	Frequency of meetings of each key select committee (Public Accounts; Finance and Planning; Members Affairs, Ethics, and Integrity; Governance Assurance, Monitoring, Follow Up and Evaluation; Human Rights; Justice and Legal Affairs; Gender and Youth; Committee for Security and Defence) UNMISS	0 (2022) (Legislative Assembly only reconstituted on 31 August 2021, committees assigned Feb 2022)	Twice a month (2023) Twice a month (2024) Twice a month (2025)	Government records; Agency Monitoring
	# of public consultations on legislation held by parliament, including by select committees UNMISS	0 (2022) (Legislative Assembly only reconstituted on 31 August 2021, committees assigned Feb 2022)	4 (2023) 6 (2024) 8 (2025)	Government records; Agency Monitoring Reports
	# of Youth related policy and legislative frameworks approved/endorsed (cumulative) UNFPA	0 (2021)	1 (2023) 2 (2024) 4 (2025)	Programme Annual Reports

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Output 1.5. Relevant MDAs and LGAs have improved capacities to develop and operationalise systems and processes for transparent, effective, responsive public financial management	# of MDAs with improved legal and regulatory environment for tax administration and monitoring of illicit financial flow at all levels (cumulative) UNDP	4 (2022)	4 (2023) 8 (2024) 11 (2025)	Government records; agency monitoring
	# of relevant MDAs and LGAs scoring ≥2 on capacity indices for revenue collection, diversification, and management UNDP	1 (2022)	4 (2023) 8 (2024) 11(2025)	STMCs and CTMCs Reports (Accountability Frameworks)
	# of relevant MDAs and LGAs scoring ≥2 on capacity indices for budget preparation, execution, and accountability systems UNDP	0 (2022)	2 (2023) 6 (2024) 10 (2025)	STMCs and CTMCs Reports (Accountability Frameworks)
Output 1.6. The National Statistical System is strengthened to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data to inform decision-making and enable reporting at all levels of government	# of States producing annual statistical reports (cumulative) UNDP	0 (2022)	1 (2023) 2 (2024) 5 (2025)	State Statistical Yearbook
	# of sectors producing quarterly reports generated from routine data provide by NBS UNFPA	0 (2022)	4 (2023) 8 (2024) 10 (2025)	Sector quarterly reports
	% of SDG indicator profile data annually updated by NBS UNFPA	0% (2022)	25% (2023) 50% (2024) 75% (2025)	Updated SDG indicator profile databank

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH & DIVERSIFICATION

Revised-National Development Strategy Priorities

4.5.2. Economic Governance (natural resource management)
5.4.2. Economic Diversification
8.6.1 Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment
8.6.2. Youth Empowerment
8.6.3 Environment

SDG Targets

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

Agenda 2063 Goals

1: A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens
3: Healthy and well-nourished citizens
4: Transformed Economies
5: Modern Agriculture for increased productivity and production
7: Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities
17: Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life
18: Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children

Assumptions (specific to Strategic Priority Area II)

- Economic growth and the creation of training and employment opportunities builds trust and commitment to the peace process
- The enabling environment can be sufficiently improved (including creation of appropriate national investment policies and strategies) to attract/facilitate investment flows, for expansion of industry, take-up of technology and innovation, growth of the green and blue economies
- Government remains committed to a form of economic diversification which prioritises natural resource management and broader environmental sustainability concerns as well as job creation in particular for women, youth and other marginalised groups.
- Life-long and age-appropriate learning will translate into jobs, livelihood opportunities and civic engagement
- Economic growth and the creation of training and employment opportunities builds trust and commitment to peace and sustainable development processes (reducing the likelihood of violent conflict)
- Political leadership for removal of legal & institutional bottlenecks related to discrimination & exclusion, including rights related to land, property and business ownership
- Barriers and discriminatory norms and practices that limit young women and men's participation in the labour market are addressed.
- Strong engagement, collaboration and interest from the private sector to invest in South Sudan and collaborate with the GOSS on development issues, using ethical practices which fully integrate sustainable development concerns, including human rights and protection of natural resources

Assumptions (common to all Strategic Priority Areas)

- Peace agreement (R-ARCSS) holds and all stakeholders at regional, national, state and local level remain committed or can be persuaded to commit to the full range of peacebuilding interventions envisaged, including those national actors who are not currently signatories.
- Communities, community leaders, women and youth are responsive and willing to contribute to positive change, including to address sensitive issues, such as SGBV, CRSV and those related to harmful traditional practices
- The UNSDCF guiding principles (LNOB, HRBA, GEWE, Resilience, Sustainability & Accountability) are upheld by implementing partners
- Identified priorities remain relevant to the GoSS throughout the programme cycle or changes can be incorporated in a timely manner
- Staff turnover in key Government positions is kept to a minimum to enable strong, effective working relationships between UN and Government partners, plus capacity development initiatives to translate into sustained institutional-level positive change
- Challenges in the enabling environment (including policy and infrastructure) plus existing skills gaps and absorptive capacities can be measurably improved within the timeframe of the UNSDCF
- UN Agencies have the minimum financial, technical and human resources requirements year-by-year to implement the UNSDCF
- Financing for development can be leveraged and new partnerships created across public and private spheres to increase available funds.

Risks (specific to Strategic Priority II)

- Inflation continues to rise, with food prices and cost of social services out of the reach of most
- Global demand for oil reduces as part of greener growth/renewable energy initiatives, resulting in lower revenue for GoSS
- Fluctuations in the global oil market undermine macro-economic stability

Risks (common to all Strategic Priority Areas)

- Conflict in neighbouring countries spills over to South Sudan and disrupts UNSDCF implementation, increases cost of food imports, cuts short growth of cross-border trade and improved regional integration
- Persistent and increasing natural and/or climate change-induced disasters, including flooding and pest infestations plus localised conflict negatively impacts food production, access to markets/trading opportunities, service delivery and infrastructure development
- Pandemics & epidemics (inc COVID-19 and Ebola) halt or counterbalance economic and social development gains (includes diversion of resources for delivery and expansion of core social services). Vulnerable people will be especially impacted as a result of low coverage of quality health services.
- ODA flows decrease as a result of a COVID-19 induced global economic downturn, concerns regarding persistently high levels of corruption or diversions to other fragile states/countries in conflict such as Ukraine

Participating UN Entities: FAO (co-lead); IFAD; ILO; IOM; ITC; UNDP (co-lead); UNDRR; UNEP; UNESCO; UNFPA; UN-HABITAT; UNHCR; UNIDO; UNOPS; UN Women; WFP; WHO (co-lead)

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Outcome 2. Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, benefit from and contribute to more sustainable and inclusive economic development, with increased economic diversification, improved climate change adaptation and greater resilience to economic shocks	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) FAO	Moderate or Severe FIES 83.8%%; Severe FIES 61.2% (December 2021)	Moderate or Severe FIES 63.8%%; Severe FIES 41.2%% (2025)	FSNMS
	Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes (non-oil revenue) UNDP	10% (2021)	25% (2025)	Budget and Budget Reporting (NRA and MoFP)
	Metric tonnes of cereal food produced net (crops) FAO	839,494 MT (2021)	900 000 MT (2025)	CFSAM
	Proportion of households reporting improved physical access to markets, processing and storage facilities WFP	13% (2022)	40% (2025)	IFAD Programme Impact Surveys; WFP Outcome monitoring
	# of policies and guidelines in place to enable the enhancement and/ or implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement UNDP	0 (2021)	3 (2025)	Reports from Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Output 2.1 Relevant MDAs and LGAs have strengthened capacities to develop, operationalise and monitor market-oriented and gender-transformative policies, strategies, plans and programmes in support of decent work, sustainable economic growth, integration and diversification	Status of bills and policies developed in support of sustainable economic growth FAO	Seed Policy Framework Drafted; Fishery Bill; Animal Breeding Policy developed; National Aquaculture Strategy reviewed (2022)	Seed Policy consultative review completed; Fishery Bill reviewed to align with international standards (2023) Seed Policy revised and regulatory framework developed; Fishery Bill revised and validated by stakeholders (2024) Provisional/Ministerial Seed Policy Bill tabled; Revised Fishery Bill ratified by Parliament (2025); Animal Breeding Policy completed (2024); Aquaculture Strategy completed (2024)	Seed Policy Review Roadmap; Workshop/ Validation meeting reports; Project progress reports; Fisheries law and relevant legal documents
	# of trade related reforms undertaken in support of implementation of AfCFTA, EAC customs and Common Market protocols UNDP	0 (2022)	5 (2023) 6 (2024) 7 (2025)	Reports from Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Investment, UN agencies
	Length of feeder and trunk roads constructed or rehabilitated and made accessible per annum UNOPS	0 (2022)	65 km (2023) 16 km (2024) 0 km (2025)	Agency progress reports
	Length of feeder and trunk roads maintained and made accessible per annum UNOPS	0 (2022)	306 km (2023) 0 km (2024) 0 km (2025)	Agency progress reports
	# of warehouses/ aggregation centres constructed (cumulative) WFP	34 (2022)	42 (2023) 48 (2024) 50 (2025)	Agency progress reports; Cooperating Partners' reports
	% of community members providing Short-Term Wage Labour during infrastructure construction UNOPS	31.40% (2021)	35% (60% Female) (2023) 40% (60% Female) (2024) 45% (60% Female) (2025)	Agency progress reports

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
	% of sampled beneficiary community satisfied with access to functional infrastructure (boreholes, market sheds and health centres, roads, bridges) to improve their economic development UNOPS	44% (19% females) (2021)	50% (60% females) (2023) 55% (50% females) (2024) 60% (50% females) (2025)	Agency progress reports
Output 2.2. Public and private sector providers are strengthened to provide gender-transformative, market-oriented, quality models, products and services to food producers and traders, food producer organisations and MSMEs particularly those led by women, youth and vulnerable groups	# of people accessing start-up and financial services through MSEs supported by the UN, disaggregated by sex UNDP	9,192 (64% Female) (2022)	12,352 (63% Female) (2023) 13,572 (62% Female (2024) 14,000 (26% Female) (2025)	Reports from Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports reports, UN agencies
	# of women and youth led MSEs that access interest free loans UNDP	60 (2021)	150 (2023) 200 (2024) 250 (2025)	Agency progress reports
	Proportion of cooperative members, producers, and agribusiness/agro-dealers reporting increased sales through the service provider platform created by agribusiness forums FAO	0 (2022)	> 40% (2023) > 45% (2024) > 50% (2025)	Agency progress reports; Cooperating Partners' reports

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Output 2.3. Food producers and traders, in particular women, youth and their organisations, have enhanced adaptive capacities to increase productivity, add value to their products and access markets, with improved resilience to economic shocks	Proportion of small scale producers who sell through groups (organized entities) WFP	23% (2022)	30% (2023) 45% (2024) 60% (2025)	Agency progress reports; Cooperating Partners' reports
	Volume of food commodities sold by small-scale producer organizations WFP	1,200MT (2022)	1,500 MT (2023) 3,000 MT (2024) 5,000 MT (2025)	Reports of WFP & Partners
	Proportion of farmer groups/cooperatives who report improved access to markets and agricultural services with UN support WFP	0 (2022)	30% (2023) 40% (2024) 45% (2025)	Agency progress reports; Cooperating Partners' reports
	Hectares of arable land cleared for crops through food assistance for assets activities WFP	44,552 (2022)	50,000 (2023) 55,000 (2024) 60,000 (2025)	Agency progress reports; Cooperating Partners' reports
	Proportion of households (small scale producers) reporting an increase in production FAO	0 (2022)	30% (2023) 40% (2024) 45% (2025)	Agency progress reports; Cooperating Partners' reports
	Proportion of small-scale producers who have adopted improved climate resilient techniques and approaches FAO	0% (2022)	30% (2023) 45% (2024) 53% (2025)	Agency progress reports; Cooperating Partners' reports
	# of producers/HHs who have adopted environmentally sustainable value addition technologies and techniques meeting market and value chain requirements FAO	30,000 (2022)	40,000 (2023) 50,000 (2024) 65,000 (2024)	Agency progress reports Cooperating Partners' reports

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Output 2.4. Women, youth and vulnerable groups are better equipped to establish and grow profitable MSMEs, with improved adaptive capacity and strengthened resilience to economic shocks	# of people benefitting from jobs and other livelihood opportunities with UN support, disaggregated by sex and IDP/Returnee status UNDP	9,192 (64% females); 0 IDP & Returnees (2022)	9,522 (63% Female); 500 IDP & Returnees (60% Female) (2023) 9,697 (62% Female; 500 IDP & Returnees (60% Female) (2024) 10,000 (60% Female); 500 IDP & Returnees (60% Female) (2025)	Reports from Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare, Ministry of Labour, Contributing UN agencies
	Proportion of women and youth led MSEs reporting increased revenue (at least 50% women) UN Women	10% (2021)	20% (2023) 50% (2024) 50% (2025)	Agency progress reports
Output 2.5. Relevant MDAs, LGAs and communities have the knowledge and skills to co-create and implement policies, plans and programmes to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of South Sudan's natural resources	# of people directly benefitting from initiatives to protect nature and promote sustainable use of resources disaggregated by Gender IFAD	0 (2022)	27,659 (52 % Female) (2023) 59,854 (52% Female) (2024) 98,328 (52% Female) (2025)	Reports from Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, UN agencies
	% of UN supported CBOs successfully implementing a Climate-sensitive Community Development Plans IFAD	0 (2022)	20% (2023) 40% (2024) 80% (2025)	Agency progress reports
Output 2.6 Relevant MDAs, LGAs and communities are better equipped to establish and maintain inclusive, gender-responsive, early warning systems and disaster preparedness, response and recovery mechanisms	Status of early warning and disaster preparedness system, in UN supported areas FAO	7 (2022)	17 community and local level Disaster Risk Management (DRM) committees established (2023) 28 community and local level DRM committees established; committees disseminate weather information and trained for enhanced response capability (2024) 30 community and local level DRM committees established; committees disseminate weather information and training updated for enhanced response capability (2025)	Agency monitoring reports

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH & DIVERSIFICATION

Revised-National Development Strategy Priorities

6.5.1. Education
6.5.2 Health
6.5.3 Social Protection
8.6.1 Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment
8.6.2. Youth Empowerment
8.6.4. Capacity Development

SDG Targets

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

Agenda 2063 Goals

1.: A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens
2: Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation
3: Healthy and well-nourished citizens
17: Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life
18: Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children

Assumptions (specific to Strategic Priority Area II)

- Sustainable economic growth and diversification, alongside improvements in public finance management will increase funding flows to social services and reduce dependency on external assistance
- Political leadership for removal of legal & institutional bottlenecks related to discrimination & exclusion, including provision of inclusive services
- Barriers and discriminatory norms and practices that limit access to services are addressed.
- Duty-bearers at all levels embrace the role of (disaggregated) data for development, in particular for targeted support to those left behind or at risk of being left behind
- Gender-responsive budgeting is embraced by the Ministry of Finance and Planning plus key sector ministries for social services and protection
- Direct and indirect costs of health and education services can be offset, enabling all to access healthcare and children of school-going age to enrol and regularly attend school.

Assumptions (common to all Strategic Priority Areas)

- Peace agreement (R-ARCSS) holds and all stakeholders at regional, national, state and local level remain committed or can be persuaded to commit to the full range of peacebuilding interventions envisaged, including those national actors who are not currently signatories.
- Civil, social, cultural & political rights are protected and promoted for all, including the media or marginalised groups, with a robust open civic space wherein Government stakeholders value and promote inputs from civil society
- Communities, community leaders, women and youth are responsive and willing to contribute to positive change, including to address sensitive issues, such as SGBV, CRSV, harmful traditional practices or in any way undermine take-up of services
- The UNSDCF guiding principles (LNOB, HRBA, GEWE, Resilience, Sustainability & Accountability) are upheld by implementing partners
- Identified priorities remain relevant to the GoSS throughout the programme cycle or changes can be incorporated in a timely manner
- Staff turnover in key Government positions is kept to a minimum to enable strong, effective working relationships between UN and Government partners, plus capacity development initiatives to translate into sustained institutional-level positive change
- Challenges in the enabling environment (including policy and infrastructure) plus existing skills gaps and absorptive capacities can be measurably improved within the timeframe of the UNSDCF
- UN Agencies have the minimum financial, technical and human resources requirements year-by-year to implement the UNSDCF
- Financing for development can be leveraged and new partnerships created across public and private spheres to increase available funds.

Risks (specific to Strategic Priority III)

- High #s of youth not in education, training or decent employment contribute to political and social instability
- Access to target locations and populations is interrupted by conflict and violence, seasonal rainfall or natural disasters
- Inflation continues to rise, with food prices and cost of social services out of the reach of most
- Population growth rate continues to outstrip multi-dimensional poverty reduction measures inc. coverage of quality services

Risks (common to all Strategic Priority Areas)

- Conflict in neighbouring countries spills over to South Sudan and disrupts UNSDCF implementation
- Persistent and increasing natural and/or climate change-induced disasters, including flooding and pest infestations plus localised conflict negatively impacts food production, access to markets/trading opportunities, service delivery and infrastructure development
- Pandemics & epidemics (inc. COVID-19 and Ebola) halt or counterbalance economic and social development gains (includes diversion of resources for delivery and expansion of core social services). Vulnerable people will be especially impacted as a result of low coverage of quality health services.
- ODA flows decrease as a result of a COVID-19 induced global economic downturn, concerns regarding persistently high levels of corruption or diversions to other fragile states/countries in conflict such as Ukraine

Participating UN Entities: ILO; IOM; UNAIDS; UNDP; UNESCO; UNFPA; UNHCR; UNICEF (co-lead); UNIDO; UN-HABITAT; UNMISS; UNOPS; UN Women; WFP (co-lead); WHO

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Outcome 3: Children, women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, enjoy improved coverage of inclusive, responsive, quality social services and social protection	% of total government spending on essential services (health, education and social protection) UNICEF	National 21% (Education 13%; Health 7%; Social and Humanitarian Affairs 1%) (2021/22)	National Level (Sector) 28% (Education 16%; Health 10%; Social and Humanitarian Affairs 2%) (2025)	Fiscal Year Budget Books
	% of children under 5 years of age who are stunted UNICEF	31% (2020)	26% (2025)	National Health Survey
	% of children under five years of age who are wasted UNICEF	15% (2021)	12% (2025)	National Health Survey; Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring Report (FSNMS)
	% of live births attended by skilled health personnel (home and facilities) UNFPA	19% (2021)	25% (2025)	Survey data / HMIS/DHIS2 (Administrative) Data
	% of confirmed malaria cases that received first-line antimalarial treatment at public sector health facilities UNICEF	72% (2021)	90% (2025)	HMIS and/or IDSR
	% of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods UNFPA	21% (2021)	31% (2025)	State of World Population South Sudan 2022, FP2030 Annual Report
	% of surviving infants who received three doses of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP) vaccine UNICEF	82% (2021)	90% (2025)	Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)
	# of new HIV infections per annum UNAIDS	14,000 (2010)	7,000 (2025)	MoH and South Sudan AIDS Commission HIV estimates
	% of Grade 4 students who achieve ≥50% in the National Learning Assessment UNICEF	Reading 53%; Mathematics 71% (2019)	Reading 80%; Mathematics 90% (2025)	Early Grade Reading Assessments (EGRA); Early Grade Mathematic Assessments (EGMA)

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
	Participation rate of youth and adults in non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months UNESCO	0.3% (6,579) (2018)	1.3% (36,000 learners/ trainees) (2025)	EMIS
	% of the population using at least basic drinking water services UNICEF	2% (2020)	10% (2025)	NHHS
	% of the population using at least basic sanitation services UNICEF	10% (2020)	20% (2025)	NHHS
Output 3.1 Relevant MDAs and LGAs are capacitated to develop, operationalise and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies, systems and programmes for improved delivery and take up of inclusive, responsive and quality health and nutrition services	% of health facilities with a functioning cold chain UNICEF	65% (881 of 1,350) (2021)	75% (1,013 of 1,350) (2023) 84% (1,138 of 1,350) (2024) 90% (1,220 of 1,350) (2025)	Cold Chain Inventory Reports/ Programme Reports
	% of facilities that offer BEmONC facilities (PHCCs) that provide all 7 signal functions UNICEF	39% (2021)	42% (2023) 46% (2024) 50% (2025)	Programme Reports
	% of PLHIV who are on treatment UNAIDS	23% (2021)	50% (2023) 60% (2024) 70% (2025)	HIV Estimates (MOH and UNAIDS
	% of HIV-positive women who received ART during pregnancy and/or labour and delivery UNAIDS	44% (2021)	55% (2023) 60% (2024) 70% (2025)	MOH GF Annual Reports (HIV estimates (MOH, South Sudan AIDS Commission and UNAIDS)
	% of TB cases, all forms successfully treated among all TB cases registered during a specified period UNDP	83% (2022)	85% (2023) 85% (2024) 85% (2025)	MOH GF Annual Reports South Sudan Global AIDS Program Report

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
	Status of a pre-service training curriculum for nutrition for health and nutrition workers UNICEF	No approved training module on nutrition in pre-service curriculum (2022)	Training needs assessment on nutrition for pre-service curriculum completed (2023) Draft training module (based on the training needs assessment) on nutrition for pre-service curriculum is developed (2024) Approved training module on nutrition in pre-service curriculum (2025)	Pre-service training curriculum
	# of young people (15-24 years) utilizing the package of sexual and reproductive health services (ANC, family planning, HIV, Deliveries) disaggregated by type of services WHO	ANC - 35,291; HIV- 25,255; Family planning - 14,759; Deliveries - 11,544 (2021)	ANC - 38,820; HIV - 27,781; Family planning - 16,235; Deliveries - 12,698 (2023) ANC - 42,349; HIV- 30,306; Family planning - 17,711; Deliveries- 13,853 (2024) ANC - 45,878; HIV - 32,832; Family planning - 19,187; deliveries- 15,007 (2024)	DHIS2/ MIS (service data)
	% of children aged 6-59 months with MAM who are admitted for treatment WFP	64% (2021)	66% (2023) 68% (2024) 70% (2025)	NIS
Output 3.2 Relevant MDAs and LGAs are capacitated to develop, operationalise and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies, and programmes for improved quality WASH systems and adoption of safe, hygienic practices	# of people (including host communities, IDPs and refugees) who access and use safe drinking water with minimum quality and quantity UNICEF	817,000 (49% Female) (2021)	1,745,630 (52% Female) (2023) 1,745,630 (52% Female) (2024) 1,768,912 (52% Female) (2025)	Programme Reports
	# of health facilities with functional WASH facilities UNICEF	90 (2021)	116 (2023) 232 (2024) 348 (2025)	Programme Reports
	# of people (including host communities, IDPs, refugees) who access and use adequate sanitation with minimum quality and quantity UNICEF	303,500 (49% Female) (2021)	850,022 (49% Female) (2023) 890,088 (48% Female) (2024) 904,443 (48% Female) (2025)	Programme Reports

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Output 3.3 Relevant MDAs, LGAs and institutions are capacitated to develop, operationalise and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies and programmes for increased provision and take-up of inclusive, equitable, quality and market-oriented (formal and non-formal) education and life-long learning opportunities	Gross Enrolment Rate for learners at pre-primary, primary and secondary school UNICEF	Pre-primary 8.1%; Primary 61.8%; Secondary 7.9% (2021)	Pre-primary 9%; Primary 65%; Secondary 9% (2023) Pre-primary 15%; Primary 70%; Secondary 12% (2024) Pre-primary 20%; Primary 75%; Secondary 15% (2025)	MOGEI EMIS
	# of out of school youth (men and women) enrolled in Technical Vocational Institutions p.a. disaggregated by sex UNESCO	6,759 (39% Female) (2021)	10,000 (45% Female) (2023) 14,000 (46% Female) (2024) 12,000 (50% Female (2025)	Enrolment records at TVET centres; EMIS report
	# of State Governments who are implementing Out of School Youth CSE programming UNFPA	3 states (2021)	1 (2023) 2 (2024) 3 (2025)	Ministry of Youth and Sports Annual Report
	# of education policies, frameworks, bills, plans for the ministries of education (MoGEI and MoHEST) developed UNESCO	0 (2021)	1 (2023) 2 (2024) 3 (2025)	EMIS
	# of schools with functional WASH facilities UNICEF	0 (2021)	150 (2023) 300 (2024) 450 (2025)	EMIS reports
	# of boys and girls receiving school feeding assistance WFP	526,511 (26% Female)	599,200 (49% Female) (2023) 629,960 (49% Female) (2024) 661,296 (49% Female) (2025)	Country Programme Reports

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Output 3.4 Relevant MDAs and LGAs capacitated to develop, operationalise and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies and programmes for improved social protection services for the most vulnerable and marginalised	Public spending on social protection from domestic resources as a proportion of the national budget UNICEF	1% (FY2021/2022)	1% (2023) 1% (2024) 2% (2025)	MoFP Budget Book
	# of beneficiaries reached with social safety net programmes UNOPS	0 (2022)	40,000 (2023) 90,000 (2024) 110,000 (2025)	Project MIS and reports
Output 3.5 Mechanisms established and supported to enable public and private service-providers, including CSOs, to share knowledge and coordinate provision of quality health, nutrition, WASH, education and social protection services	# of WASH sector coordination mechanisms in place UNICEF	1 (2021)	11 (national and state) (2023) 11 (2024) 11 (2025)	ToRs
	# of health sector coordination bodies that are functional and include civil society participation WHO	3 (2021) (HDPG, HSWG, HSGTWG)	4 (HDPG, HSWG, HS Gender; RH Coordination Forum) (2023) 4 (HDPG, HSWG, HS Gender; RH Coordination Forum (2024) 4 (HDPG, HSWG, HS Gender; RH Coordination Forum) (2025)	MoH reports; UNCT reports; coordination meeting minutes
	Existence of a functional PPP for health service delivery WHO	No (2021)	No (2023) Yes (2024) Yes (2025)	Programme reports; MOH reports
	Existence of a coordinated mechanism for getting routine, patient /client satisfaction modalities for the provision health services, including family planning, gender-based violence and harmful practices WHO	No (2021)	Yes (2023) Yes (2024) Yes (2025)	Programme reports; MOH reports
	# of knowledge products produced on provision of quality, health, nutrition, WASH, education and social protection services	0 (2021)	4 (2023) 8 cumulative (2024) 12 cumulative (2025)	Programme reports; UNCF reports

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH & DIVERSIFICATION

Revised-National Development Strategy Priorities

4.5.1. Political & Legitimate Governance
8.6.1 Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment
8.6.2. Youth Empowerment

SDG Targets

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
5.a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Agenda 2063 Goals

17: Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life
18: Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children

Assumptions (specific to Strategic Priority Area IV)

- Government is committed to honour its existing (and expand) international and regional human rights obligations including those related to reporting and implementation of treaty body recommendations
- Political leadership for removal of legal & institutional bottlenecks related to discrimination & exclusion
- Gender-responsive budgeting is embraced by the Ministry of Finance and Planning plus key Sector Ministries
- Improvements in GEWE can be achieved by challenging negative gender norms and related gender stereotypes, removing structural barriers, expanding work opportunities and removing discrimination in the legal framework
- Political leaders acknowledge and take action to eliminate harmful traditional practices

Assumptions (common to all Strategic Priority Areas)

- Peace agreement (R-ARCSS) holds and all stakeholders at regional, national, state and local level remain committed or can be persuaded to commit to the full range of peacebuilding interventions envisaged, including those national actors who are not currently signatories.
- Civil, social, cultural & political rights are protected and promoted for all, including the media or marginalised groups, with a robust open civic space wherein Government stakeholders value and promote inputs from civil society
- Communities, community leaders, women and youth are responsive and willing to contribute to positive change, including to address sensitive issues, such as SGBV, CRSV and those related to harmful traditional practices
- The UNSDCF guiding principles (LNOB, HRBA, GEWE, Resilience, Sustainability & Accountability) are upheld by implementing partners
- Identified priorities remain relevant to the GoSS throughout the programme cycle or changes can be incorporated in a timely manner
- Staff turnover in key Government positions is kept to a minimum to enable strong, effective working relationships between UN and Government partners, plus capacity development initiatives to translate into sustained institutional-level positive change
- Existing skills gaps and absorptive capacities can be measurably improved within the timeframe of the UNSDCF
- UN Agencies have the minimum financial, technical and human resources requirements year-by-year to implement the UNSDCF
- Financing for development can be leveraged and new partnerships created across public and private spheres to increase available funds.

Risks (specific to Strategic Priority IV)

- Access to target locations and populations is interrupted by conflict and violence, seasonal rainfall or natural disasters
- High Adolescent Birth Rates persist, serving as a significant obstacle to women and girls' access to education, training and decent employment opportunities plus broader political, economic and social empowerment
- SGBV increases in backlash to women and youth empowerment

Risks (common to all Strategic Priority Areas)

- Conflict in neighbouring countries spills over to South Sudan and disrupts UNSDCF implementation
- ODA flows decrease as a result of a COVID-19 induced global economic downturn, concerns regarding persistently high levels of corruption or diversions to other fragile states/countries in conflict such as Ukraine
- Conflict among political parties undermines full implementation of the peace agreement

Participating UN Entities: IFAD; ILO; IOM; UNAIDS; UNDP; UNFPA (co-lead); UN-HABITAT; UNHCR; UNICEF; UNMISS; UN Women (co-lead)

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Outcome 4: Women, youth plus vulnerable groups are empowered to demand and exercise their political, economic, social, environmental and cultural rights	Status of legal and policy frameworks to promote and enforce equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex, age, and disability UNDP	The Anti-GBV Bill drafted; Family Law in design phase; National Youth Policy awaits being tabled at Council of Ministers; Financial Inclusion Policy drafting underway; Phase II of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security drafted underway (2021)	The Anti GBV Law enacted; Family Law enacted; the National Youth Policy adopted; NAP Phase II adopted with financing mechanism (2025)	Anti-GBV Law; Family Law; National Youth Policy; Financial Inclusion Policy; Phase II of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security
	# of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence in the previous 12 months reporting GBV UNFPA	3,195 by current or former intimate partner; 3,905 by non-intimate partner) (2021)	3,674 by current or former intimate partner; 4,490 by non-intimate partner) (2025)	GBVIMS database

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
	% of reported conflict related sexual violence cases that were prosecuted by judicial authorities where compensation was awarded to CRSV survivors. UNMISS	Of 194 survivors of CRSV UN documented and verified, 21% reported the incident to the authorities, 8% cases were investigated, 4 cases were prosecuted where compensation was awarded to survivors (2021)	30 % increase of survivors of CRSV reporting incidents to authorities. 15 % CRSV cases investigated and prosecuted (2023) 36% increase of survivors of CRSV reporting incidents to authorities. 20 % CRSV cases investigated and prosecuted (2024) 42% increase of survivors of CRSV reporting incidents to authorities. 25 % CRSV cases investigated and prosecuted (2025)	SSHRC Report of UNMISS office of Senior Women Protection Advisor
	% of women aged 20–24 years who were married before age 18 WHO	40% (2021)	35% (2025)	HMIS database
	% of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and b) state assemblies UN Women	32% (2021)	35% (2025)	GEWE Analysis; Database of the Cabinet/ Parliamentary Committee on Gender and Human Rights
	# of national state institutions which engage adolescents and youth in decision-making UNFPA	21 (2022)	21 (2023) 40 (2024) 50 (2025)	Agency Annual Programme Reports; Government Consultation Records
	# of States and Administrative Areas (AA) with functional multi-sectoral youth coordination mechanisms, including youth led CSOs that advocate for increased investments in marginalised adolescents and youth UNFPA	8 States	10 states (2023) 10 states & 3 AA (2024) 10 States & 3 AA (2025)	Agency Annual Programme Reports

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Output 4.1. Civil society, political groupings and movements, particularly those that are representing women, youth and vulnerable groups, have enhanced knowledge and skills to meaningfully engage in a rights-based approach to decision-making across peace and governance structures, systems and processes	# of reports submitted to international treaty bodies on time and according to agreed standards UNMISS	UPR submitted (2021)	2 (UPR; CEDAW) (2023) ≥3 (UPR Mid-Term Report; CEDAW; VNR (2024) ≥4 (CEDAW; CRC; UPR; CAT) (2025)	Government reports on/for: UPR; CEDAW; VNR; CRC; CAT
	# of CSOs contributing to national and shadow reporting to international treaty bodies UNMISS	2 CSOs reports submitted to respective international reporting processes (2021)	≥4 (UPR; CEDAW; CRC; CAT) (2023) ≥4 (UPR; CEDAW; CRC; CAT) (2024) ≥4 (UPR; CEDAW; CRC; CAT) (2025)	CSOs reports for UPR; CEDAW; CRC; CAT
	# of position papers on the status of South Sudanese women, girls and youth presented at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), UPR and other platforms. UN Women	2 (2022)	≥2 (2023) ≥3 (2024) ≥5 (2025)	CSO position papers
	# of women and youth organizations capacitated to advance GEWE policy and legal frameworks by participating in and influencing the national and state level political and governance processes and forum UN Women	17 (2022)	19 (2023) 20 (2024) 33 (2025)	AFP partners annual reports
	Existence of a functional national youth coalition on youth, peace and security UNFPA	No (2022)	Yes (2023) Yes (2024) Yes (2025)	Programme Annual Reports

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Output 4.2. Women, youth and vulnerable groups have enhanced understanding of their human rights, how to hold duty-bearers to account and how best to seek redress if these rights are violated.	# of women, youth and other vulnerable groups who report having higher understanding of their human rights UN Women	0 (2022)	3,000 Female (1,500 women & 1,500 youth); 1,000 Male (500 men & 500 youth) (2023) 3,500 Female (1,750 women & 1,750 youth); 1,500 Male (750 men & 750 youth) (2024) 4,000 Female (2,000 women & 2,000 youth); 2,000 Male (1,000 men & 1,000 youth) (2025)	AFP annual reports
	# of national and sub-national platforms for civil society to dialogue around human rights concerns. UNMISS	0 - National coordination platform yet to be established (2021)	10 (2023) 10 (2024) 10 (2025)	HRD monitoring report
Output 4.3. Women, youth and vulnerable groups have improved capacities to assume transformational leadership roles in the public and private sector	% of women positions supported by the UN to contest for elective positions UN Women	16% (these are appointments in the executive at national level) (2021)	35% (2023) 35% (2024) 35% (2025)	AFP reports; Government reports
	% of women who secure positions in national and state governments UN Women	25% (2022)	35% (2023) 35% (2024) 35% (2025)	AFP reports; Government reports
	% of firms with female and youth participation in ownership UN Women	1.9% (2017)	23% (2023) 25% (2024) 34.8% (2025)	Country Gender Profile 2017; AFP progress reports
	# women and youth-led newly established enterprises per year UN Women	0 (2022)	500 (350 youth including 175 females; 150 women) (2023) 500 (350 youth including 175 females; 150 women) (2024) 500 (350 youth including 175 females; 150 women) (2025)	Agency Reports

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & REPORTING UN ENTITY	BASELINE	TARGET(S)	SOURCE/MOV
Output 4.4. Opinion leaders alongside community structures are capacitated to promote positive social norms and values, including for the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women, youth, children and vulnerable groups	# of community engagement platforms established to promote positive social norms on GEWE (cumulative) UNICEF	30 (2022)	60 (2023) 120 (2024) 160 (2025)	AFP progress reports
	# of opinion leaders reporting community level actions to promote positive social norms (cumulative) UNFPA	85 (2022)	125 (2023) 207 (2024) 329 (2025)	AFP progress reports

Annex II: Legal Annex

This Legal Annex refers to the cooperation or assistance agreements or other agreements that are the already existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government of South Sudan and each UN organization supporting the country to deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2025).

Whereas the Government of South Sudan (hereinafter referred to as "the Government") has entered into the following relationships:

1. **UNDP:** With the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a basic agreement to govern UNDP's assistance to the country was signed by the Government and UNDP (the "Standard Basic Assistance Agreement" or "SBAA") on [10 November 2011]. This Cooperation Framework, together with a joint results group work plan specifying UNDP programme activities further to this Cooperation Framework (which shall form part of this Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference), constitute together a "project document" as referred to in the SBAA. The implementing partner and UNDP will sign a project agreement containing the specific arrangements for each project further to the relevant project document.
2. **UNICEF:** With the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 9 July 2011.
3. **UNFPA:** With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the agreement concluded between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of South Sudan on [10 November 2011] (the "Basic Agreement") mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of UNFPA.
4. **WFP:** With the World Food Programme (WFP), a Basic Agreement concerning assistance from the World Food Programme, which Agreement was signed by the Government and WFP on [17 October 2013]
5. **UNHCR:** With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the agreement concluded between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of South Sudan on [10 November 2011] (the "Basic Agreement") mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of UNHCR.
6. **UNIDO:** With the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the exchange of letters dated 9 July 2011 providing for the provisional application of the Standard Basic Cooperation Agreement between UNIDO and the Government of South Sudan shall apply to all UNIDO projects in South Sudan.
7. **FAO:** With the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the Agreement for the opening of the FAO Representation in South Sudan on [21 June 2017].
8. **IOM:** With the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Cooperation Agreement concluded between the Government of South Sudan and IOM on [1 September 2011].
9. **UNAIDS:** With the United Nations Joint Programme for HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed by UNDP and the Government on [10 November 2011] applies, mutatis mutandis, to UNAIDS.
10. **UN-HABITAT:** With the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) signed between the Government of South Sudan and UNDP on [10 November 2011] applies mutatis mutandis.
11. **UN WOMEN:** With UN WOMEN, a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed by UNDP and the Government on [10 November 2011] applies, mutatis mutandis, to UN Women.
12. **WHO:** With the World Health Organization (WHO), a Basic Agreement was concluded between the Government and WHO on 25 October 2013.
13. **UNESCO:** With the United Nations Education Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) the agreement concerning the establishment of a UNESCO office in South Sudan as signed with the Government on [22 June 2014]
14. **OHCHR:** The participation of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the Cooperation Framework will be in accordance with its mandate established by the General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993.

15. **IFAD:** With the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development on the Establishment of IFAD's Country Office" signed on [22 August 2022]
16. **For all agencies (inclusive of ILO, ITC, UNDRR, UNODC, UNEP):** Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures.

The COOPERATION FRAMEWORK will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner, that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.

The Government will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in paragraph on the Basis of the Relationship.

Without prejudice to these agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the "General Convention") or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the "Specialized Agencies Convention") to the Agencies' property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission. The Government shall also accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privileges, immunities, and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the Government. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on a mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by the Government.

(a) "Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement".
(b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

CATEGORY	COMMITMENT	RESPONSIBLE UN ENTITY/IES	YEAR I (2023)				YEAR II (2024)				YEAR III (2025)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Joint Monitoring Missions	During annual joint work planning processes, each Results Groups identify ≥1 joint initiative for which they will undertake a joint monitoring mission in the following year. Monitoring reports summarised in a standard template and shared with all RGs and PMT/UNCT	Each Results Group, RCO				X				X				X
Annual Monitoring & Reviews	Monitoring data for each sub-Output and Output Indicator collected and entered into UN Info at time of annual review, with RG alerted in cases of under-performance (includes multi-stakeholder consultations where relevant)	Each PUN working with UN reporting agencies, RCO				X				X				X
	Additional Output monitoring data collected and shared in narrative form with the RG lead and PHD Task Team at time of annual review (includes multi-stakeholder consultations where relevant). The narrative focuses on ▶ key results achieved ▶ examples of good practice and options for replications/scale-up ▶ challenges experienced and solutions identified ▶ lessons learned ▶ changes to the programming context, including emerging opportunities, threats and risks ▶ contribution to UNSDCF guiding principles, inc. LNOB and GEWE	Each PUN working with the RG Lead and PHD Task Team Lead, RCO				X				X				X
	Results Groups (under the leadership of the co-Chairs at technical level) jointly analyse reporting data, identify and undertake amendments to the UNSDCF Results and M&E Framework if required, following quality assurance by the MEL WG. Any amendments to be approved by PMT and communicated to UNCT for endorsement	RG (at technical level) and MEL WG, PMT, RCO				X				X				X

CATEGORY	COMMITMENT	RESPONSIBLE UN ENTITY/IES	YEAR I (2023)				YEAR II (2024)				YEAR III (2025)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	Data for each Outcome indicator collected and entered into UN Info, for final annual review, with RG alerted in cases of under-performance	Each PUN working with UN reporting agencies, RCO												X
Mid-Year Monitoring	Each Results Group and PHD Task Team to develop a short narrative providing updates at Output level. The narrative focuses on ▶ key results achieved inc. ▶ examples of good practice and options for replications/scale-up ▶ challenges experienced and solutions identified ▶ lessons learned ▶ contribution to UNSDCF guiding principles, inc. LNOB and GEWE	RG (at technical level) and PHD Task Team, RCO		X				X				X		
Preparation of UN Annual Country Results Report	Once all annual review data has been entered and quality assured at RG level, RCO prepares the Country Results Report. Shared with RGs for accuracy check and final review/inputs, PMT for further quality assurance and then UNCT for final review and endorsement.	UNCT, PMT, RCO, Results Groups, MEL WG					X				X			
Learning	At the conclusion of each annual review process, key lessons learned extrapolated and presented in a single document (including those gathered during joint monitoring missions), disseminated to UNCT, PMT, RGs, OMT and UNCG [This may be done at the same time of preparing the annual country report]	MEL WG, RCO					X				X			
	Additional learnings from research/studies undertaken during the year should be circulated with the relevant documents at time of publication	Relevant PUN, RCO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

CATEGORY	COMMITMENT	RESPONSIBLE UN ENTITY/IES	YEAR I (2023)				YEAR II (2024)				YEAR III (2025)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Support to National Surveys	Plans to support national surveys documented and updated on a quarterly basis in the MEL Plan. This will be circulated to all RGs to enable their inputs and/or extrapolation of findings for their own programmes, where relevant.	MEL WG working with programme staff, RCO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Thematic studies/ reviews & publications	Plans to undertake thematic studies, reviews and publications documented and updated on a quarterly basis in the MEL Plan. This will be circulated to all RGs to enable their inputs and/or extrapolation of findings for their own programmes, where relevant.	MEL WG, RCO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Support to Voluntary National Reviews	Support government (MoFP) to conduct ≥1 VNR during the lifespan of the UNSDCF (1 informal VNR planned for 2023)	UNCT with UNDP serving as lead agency and supported by RCO (Economist]	X	X	X						X	X	X	
MEL Capacity - National	Provide technical support to efforts across the UNSDCF to improve data generation, analysis and use in-country, in particular initiatives to strengthen the National Statistical System planned under Output 1.6	MEL WG, RCO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Provide technical support to the design and implementation of the National MEL Capacity Development plan.	MEL WG, RCO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MEL Capacity - UN	Design and deliver RBM/MEL trainings for UN staff	MEL WG, RCO	X				X				X			
	Design and deliver trainings for relevant UN staff in UN Info	RCO, MEL WG				X				X				X

CATEGORY	COMMITMENT	RESPONSIBLE UN ENTITY/IES	YEAR I (2023)				YEAR II (2024)				YEAR III (2025)			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Independent Evaluations - UNSDCF	UNSDCF Evaluability Assessment	MEL WG, RCO	X	X										
	Data for each Outcome indicator collected where available and provided to UNSDCF independent Evaluation Team, with RG alerted in cases of under-performance	Each PUN working with UN reporting agencies, RCO							X	X				
Independent Evaluations - Country Programme Evaluations	Country Programme Framework (CPF) Evaluation (Tentative)	FAO											X	X
	UNDP CPD Evaluation (MTR and ICPE)	UNDP							X	X				
	UNFPA Country Programme Evaluation	UNFPA							X	X				
	Independent evaluation of WFP country programme instrument	WFP									X	X	X	X
	UNICEF Country Programme Evaluation (CPE)	UNICEF					X	X	X	X				
	End-of-Term Independent Evaluation to be undertaken for each Joint Programme (depending on set-up, funding modality and donor requirements)	Relevant PUNs, MEL WG, RCO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Annex IV: UNCT Configuration Exercise in Summary

UNCT Configuration Background & Process

The UNSDCF 2023-2025 marks a gear change for the UN system in South Sudan from the current focus on short-term humanitarian assistance towards a longer-term, development lens with sustainability concerns fully integrated. The latter should allow for the benefits secured today to be enjoyed and built upon in the future, with reduced dependence upon external actors as per the objectives of the Revised-National Development Strategy (R-NDS). Joint programmes involving actors from across the Peace-Humanitarian-Development (PHD) nexus will enable both the nation's immediate needs and medium-term priorities to be met. Measures for improved transparency plus active and inclusive community engagement/participation will also increase accountability, thereby creating the conditions for improved performance across government.

To ensure that the UNCT adjusts its capacities and modes of engagement to deliver on this new programmatic approach, a UNCT configuration exercise was undertaken between February and June 2022. This was designed to enable analysis of the capacities available, key programmatic and operational needs (including current gaps) plus potential synergies to achieve the UNSDCF agreed results.

The UNCT configuration exercise was open to all UN entities, whether operating in South Sudan or not. Twenty-one UN entities (including UNMISS and non-resident agencies) submitted data. The exercise was coordinated by the RCO, with the support of DCO-Regional and a consultant contracted for the formulation of the Cooperation Framework. It was undertaken across three stages:

i) Initial Mapping of UN Entity Capacities – Each UN entity planning to participate in the UNSDCF defined their contribution using a standard template. Content encompassed technical, functional, operational and financial elements.
ii) Compilation and Analysis of the Initial Mapping – All submissions were collated, analysed and represented in a draft Concept Paper.
iii) Review of the UNCT Configuration Concept Paper - A joint meeting of the Programme Management Team (PMT) and UN Country Team (UNCT) undertook a collective review of the key findings and agreed any additional follow-up action required. The paper was subsequently submitted for endorsement and signature by the UNCT and then shared with partners including Government.

Key Findings[1]

The key information provided by UN entities during the UNCT configuration exercise, as well as the follow-up action agreed, have been reflected in the main text of the UNSDCF. For ease of reference these are summarised below. The full report along with the original data shared by each UN entity is available on request from the RCO South Sudan.

i) Distribution of UN entities

- Analysis at the higher results level reveals that the majority are contributing to Economic Growth & Diversification (Outcome II) and Social Development (Outcome III). Both have a strong showing from the smaller agencies with highly specialised technical expertise. There is a particularly high concentration of AFPs in the Output related to early warning systems and disaster preparedness, response and recovery. This reflects the significant upsurge in natural disasters (flooding and drought) in recent years as a result of climate change within the country and the devastating impact that these have had on food security, social services and infrastructure. There is also a high number of AFPs contributing to Outputs 2.1 (inclusive, enabling business environment) and 2.4 (establishment and growth of profitable MSMEs with improved productive capacities). This underlines the gradual shift occurring in the country from pure humanitarian forms of support to those which integrate a longer-term development perspective.

1 Note, UNEP data pending.

ii) Capacities Offered and Interlinkages Across Results Areas (in addition to the agreed PfPRR Joint Programmes)

- Each of the UN entities participating in the UNCT configuration process identified a range of thematic areas for which they will contribute technical and functional capacities. These are reflected in the main text under Section II.III.
- In South Sudan, there are already cases of UN entities coming together to work on areas of common interest. For example, as part of the global H6 programme UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank, WHO, UNAIDS and UN Women build upon their collective strengths, comparative advantages and capacities to improve the survival, health and well-being of women, newborns, children and adolescents in the country. This collaboration will continue into the UNSDCF.
- At the individual Output level, there are further synergies that may attract new partners, help to leverage new or better utilisation of existing resources for increased impact. Seven such linkages were identified by UN entities during the UNCT Configuration process for further exploration. For example, rather than viewing actors working in WASH and natural resource management as competing for the same freshwater resources, their overlapping interests can be seen as an opportunity. Each group of stakeholders share common objectives: to prevent depletion or contamination of water resources; to mitigate against and build resilience to future natural and environmental hazards including those induced or exacerbated by climate change. They may therefore be brought together to improve the management and thereby quality and availability of freshwater to meet all of their needs.

iii) Financial Resources

- The total estimated budget for the UNSDCF represents a significant increase from the previous Framework, reflecting a substantial scale-up of development activities. As referenced in Chapter III.II of the main text, the UNCT has therefore agreed two key action points to meet these resource needs. Firstly, the UNDS will devise—in collaboration with the GoSS—a clear business investment case for development partners to expand their current development budget. This will be informed by the recently completed Development Finance Assessment and complement the work underway to develop an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). Secondly, a joint resource mobilisation strategy will be formulated to promote greater coordination and collaboration as well as reduce competition amongst UN entities. It will be positioned within the broader financial landscape, cognisant of the range of financial flows and options for leveraging SDG financ¬ing defined in the INFF with due reference to the country-level pooled funds currently available.

iv) Operational Business Model

- The majority (approximately three-quarters) enjoy a representative office in South Sudan. Amongst the remaining six AFPs, three (IFAD, ITC and UNODC) plan to have some form of separate liaison or project office which reports back to regional or head office.
- There is only one change in business model from the Cooperation Framework 2019-2022: IFAD will establish an office in Juba led by a National Coordinator. The Country Director and Representative will remain in the Multi-Country Office located in Addis Ababa.
- UNFPA will retain three sub-national project offices located in in Wau, Bentiu and Malakal. Meanwhile, WHO will maintain its field offices in each of the 10 State capitals. UNDP also plan to strengthen its field offices in all States.
- A number of AFPs (10) will draw upon expertise from their regional/sub-regional or multi-country offices outside of the country, eight will also draw from headquarter-based specialists. The provision of short-term technical support is further programmed by 9 entities.

v) Implementation Modalities

- Direct delivery and working through IPs are the preferred option, closely followed by working with other UN entities, the Government of South Sudan and civil society.
- There are a number of mechanisms for UN entities to collaborate (in addition to 'standard' UN-only joint programmes) which will continue into the UNSDCF. This includes the joint UN Programme on HIV/

AIDS (UNAIDS), which brings together the efforts and resources of 11 UN system organizations to unite against AIDS. There are also: the UN-UN partnership agreements between UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women; Memorandum of Understanding for joint programming for FAO, UNFPA, WFP).

vi) Innovative Approaches

- Generation of expert conflict analysis for mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity (at operational and field level) for use by multiple agencies across their programming.
- Application of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) to gather, analyse and disseminate critical multi-layered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities and needs of displaced and mobile populations enabling appropriate, context-specific assistance.
- Integration of mainstreaming themes, such as gender, youth, nutrition and climate, to better understand their interconnectedness and ensure adequate consideration across programming
- Application of nutrition lens to all agricultural investments enabling identification of entry points for nutrition-sensitive interventions along value chains from production to consumption.
- Adoption of the Community Driven Development Approach to empower communities (especially women and youth) to prioritise production and infrastructure investments for climate change adaptation and viable, sustainable livelihoods in rural areas.
- Introduction of the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) as a household methodology which addresses root causes of inequality and disempowerment, enacting a change in power relations in the household and communities. Through a visioning exercise, household members question key drivers of inequalities, including labour allocation, decision-making or intra-household food distribution, and create a joint forward-looking vision which centres upon joint-decision making and an equitable division of labour.
- Scale-up of Women Empowerment Centres as physical spaces that enable women to come together, receive economic empowerment skills, psychosocial support and access justice (for survivors of GBV). These also allow for efficiency gains with multiple projects operating from the centres.
- Expansion of measures to engage men and boys as champions of change, challenging negative social norms whilst promoting positive masculinities to reduce the occurrence of GBV.
- Leveraging of innovations, experimentation, solutions mapping, foresights and scenario-building from Accelerator Labs to realise local solutions that have the potential to quicken development in South Sudan
- Initiation of game-changing technologies to achieve effectiveness and efficiency gains. This will encompass better use of mobile technology, artificial intelligence in satellite imagery as well locally-driven innovation ecosystems and networks to strengthen beneficiary information management.

UNCT Configuration Process: Review Process

Each UNSDCF Results Group will serve as a platform for day-to-day discussion/consideration of the UNCT configuration amongst relevant AFPs. Major changes or needs will be communicated to the UNCT for further discussion and action through the PMT.

The UNSDCF annual review and reporting process will also be occasion for discussion and documentation of amendments. These will be discussed by UNCT during a scheduled team meeting with their recommendations communicated to the Joint Government and UN Steering Committee (in conjunction with the planned annual review of the UNSDCF results).

Annex V: Commitment to Gender Parity

Overview:

The goal of gender parity at all levels in the UN is a commitment that is now two decades old and is reflective of core values that are as old as the Organization itself. Whilst some progress has been made in South Sudan there is more to be done. The UNCT leadership is committed to the following actions to address gender parity:

> "Gender parity at the United Nations is an urgent need. It is a moral duty and an operational necessity. The meaningful inclusion of women in decision-making increases effectiveness and productivity brings new perspectives and solutions to the table, unlocks greater resources and strengthens efforts across all the three pillars of our work."
>
> **- UN Secretary-General António Guterres**

Commitment 1:
Make gender parity and creating an enabling environment for all a priority

The UNCT commit to linking the Parity Implementation Plan with the wider context of gender mainstreaming and UN-SWAP to the extent possible. To actively support organizational initiatives that drive gender equality and gender parity through taking measures recommended in the Field-specific Enabling Environment Guidelines. We pledge to be alert to our surroundings and will engage in open conversations to foster an inclusive and equitable workplace culture. We will also ensure to appoint the Gender Focal Point/Focal Point for Women and closely work with him/her on issues of gender parity, enabling environment and diversity and inclusion.

Commitment 2: Lead by example

The UNCT commits to driving change to create an enabling environment for all personnel by demonstrating appropriate behaviour and being a positive role model for all. We pledge to communicate our commitment to gender parity specifically, to lead by example and be accountable for demonstrating inclusive behaviors.

Commitment 3: Take the Panel Pledge

The UNCT understands that a lack of diversity limits the quality of conversations and potential outcomes and, therefore, commits to the Panel Pledge to improve gender balance in our agency, the forums on any panels that we host or participate in.

Commitment 4: UNCT is committed to actively implement the Secretary-General's Strategy to achieve gender parity structured around the following key areas:

- **Leadership and Accountability:** Evidence from several entities demonstrates that rapid transformation can be achieved when underpinned by dedication from senior leadership and accountability measures. Establishing real accountability, backed by consequences, for senior leadership in relation to targets will assist to replicate this culture more widely within the Organization. The UN Agencies in South Sudan will designate Gender Parity Focal Points at the P4 level or equivalent or above, with written terms of reference and at least 20 per cent of their time allocated to focal point functions, as requested by the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP).
- **Recruitment, Retention:** Temporary special measures have long been recognized as critical elements to level the playing field and overcome inherent gender biases in recruitment, whether in national governments, private sector, or the UN. Therefore, The UN agencies in South Sudan through the leadership of the UN Gender Thematic Group will develop and disseminate a Best Practice Guidance Note and provide all staff, especially senior leaders, with gender mainstreaming and social behavior change training on eliminating unconscious bias in the workplace in general, and in job design, job descriptions and vacancy announcements, to increase awareness and standardize practice across

the different agencies. The Guidance Note will also provide information on specific gender-inclusive recruitment measures that will be implemented by all UN agencies in South Sudan.

- **Progression, Retention and Talent Management:** The achievement of gender parity will require considerable effort and accountability along with creation of enabling environment for South Sudanese girls and women to be able to recognize, recruit and retain female talents. In South Sudan, this achievement will be matched with public recognition and incentives to encourage many UN agencies to transform. Therefore, the UNCT in South Sudan will put in place a gender champion initiative within the UNCT, to recognize and portray both individuals and agencies who stand out for gender equality. The initiative will also be geared towards enhancing gender skills leading to credentialing/recognition in talent management. Organizational best practices will be published in UN newsletters and will include a formal thanks to those who are providing sourcing intelligence/ encouraging those in their professional networks to apply to UN job adverts.
- **Senior Appointments:** Success in reaching gender parity among senior leaders requires a multi-pronged approach. While the numbers can be moved initially by the increased selection and appointment of women, it must then be sustained and facilitated throughout a life-cycle approach. Therefore, the efforts that will be implemented by UN agencies in South Sudan and outlined in the Best Practice Guidance Note will provide guidelines on all the human resource management processes from vacancy through to selection, approval process, in-briefings, support, career development and appraisal.
- **Creating an Enabling Environment:** The Secretary General's System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity underlined the importance of creating enabling environments to attain and retain gender parity. The leadership of UN agencies will therefore ensure that the forms and processes for obtaining FWA are streamlined so as not deter uptake, and guidance is readily available and understood[1]. Senior managers lead by example and encourage the use of FWAs and gender-responsive working practices. Considerations to ensure retention should be emphasized. Research within UN agencies indicates that while progression is happening retention is a challenge for female staff above P4.
- **Mission Settings:** To improve the mission settings for staff working in South Sudan, all UN agencies in South Sudan will strive towards improving the working and living conditions of staff by making sure they provide a safe and supportive environment to all and particularly assessing and addressing female staff needs, opinions and views. The UN Agencies will also offer extra parental leave or remote working for staff in non-family duty stations, whether married or unmarried. The UN agencies will organize workshops to build capacities for Gender Focal Points to adequately address allegations of sexual harassment and each agency will openly communicate to their staff how serious they take sexual harassment and will work towards creating a positive environment for all.

Commitment on Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Overview:

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) consists of UN agencies, funds, programmes, and peace-keeping mission; committed to promoting and nurturing staff well-being, learning and the implementation of staff rules and policies, including human rights, gender parity, civility and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment; ensuring the delivery of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development goals; guided by the UN System Leadership Framework, Management and Accountability Framework of the UN Development and Resident Coordination System, and the UN Charter; hereby commit:

Commitment 1: Develop and implement systemwide coherent mechanisms to address sexual exploitation and abuse

The UNCT commits to develop and implement a systemwide collective Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Strategy and country-level PSEA action plan that promotes accountability for enforcement of the zero tolerance to SEA policy, establishes safe and accessible child-sensitive and gender-responsive reporting mechanisms and coordinates victims/ survivors' access to quality, survivor-centred assistance

1 See the Enabling Environment Guidelines Supplementary Guidance "Field-specific Enabling Environment Guidelines". It specifically puts forth recommendations and best practices on supporting field staff. See UNCT South Sudan Gender Score Card report, 2021

services. Entities pledge to commit financial resources and designate senior personnel as PSEA Focal points to implement the PSEA strategy and PSEA action plan at the agency and inter-agency levels.

Commitment 2: Enabling environment that prevents sexual exploitation and abuse

The UNCT commit to promoting lasting change in organizational culture, behaviors, and attitudes towards all forms of sexual misconduct by development, humanitarian, and peace-keeping entities. Each of the entities will be accountable and responsible for training its staff ad personnel on the expected code of conduct, safe recruitment and contracting practices, a safe and accessible reporting mechanism for allegations of sexual exploitation, investigation and follow-up on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse concerning their personnel, and the provision of assistance services to victims.

UN entities pledge to provide regular progress updates to the UN Resident Coordinator on accountability for allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by their staff and related personnel in line with existing policies and procedures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

Commitment 3: Respect for dignity and rights of survivors through provision of victim-centred assistance services and investigations

The UNCT is committed to a victim/survivor-centred approach in handling allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. We will put the rights and dignity of victims at the forefront of our work. The UNCT pledge to facilitate provision of quality support and assistance services for victims/survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and enhanced accountability, including through trauma-informed investigations.

Commitment 4: Establish safe, accessible community-based complaint mechanisms

The UNCT commit to working with communities to develop safe, accessible, and effective interagency community-based complaint mechanisms that are culturally and gender-sensitive. We will facilitate the participation of affected people in the planning and decision-making processes and ensure that their feedback is integrated effectively in the development and implementation of the UN sustainable development cooperation framework. The UNCT pledge to conduct outreach to local communities and authorities to ensure awareness raising and to establish, with the participation of the local population, context-appropriate reporting/community-based complaints mechanisms and ensure the availability of appropriate holistic services for victims/survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Monitoring of progress: Monitoring of the Gender Parity Pledge and commitments on Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) will be aligned to the UN Cooperation Framework monitoring system. Targets are set for the duration/timeframe of the cooperation framework. The M&E group will design the indicators that will be monitored on a quarterly basis, as well as undertake bi-annual reviews

Annex VI: Gender Parity – Status as of September 2022

Background

In South Sudan, as of May 2021, UN staff comprises a total of 4,953 staff, 1,675 women and 3,278 men, including both international, national, and national volunteer contracts). Therefore, in general terms gender parity is far from being achieved, with women being 36% and men 64%. The biggest gap is in national staff, where women account only to 23%, followed by international staff (40% women vs. 60% men). National volunteer contracts are the only category where gender parity is close to being achieved (47% women and 53% men). Within national staff categories, women's participation in GS is only one out of five staff (20%), similarly to NO contracts (26% women vs. 74% men)[2].

Progress to date in UN South Sudan:

UN agencies in South Sudan do not currently have a common mechanism to track gender parity and therefore, there are no trends that can be demonstrated at this time The suggested actions are not exhaustive, as they intend to provide an overview of the diverse and key areas of gender parity and to inspire the UN leadership in South Sudan and their staff to do more.

Distribution of women and men across UN contract categories in South Sudan[3]

Category	% Women	% Men
G1	15%	85%
G2	5%	95%
G3	25%	75%
G4	29%	71%
G5	31%	69%
G6	25%	75%
G7	24%	76%
Total GS	**23%**	**77%**
NOA	22%	78%
NOB	31%	69%
NOC	35%	65%
NOD	0%	100%
TOTAL NO	**27%**	**73%**
Nationals	**23%**	**77%**

Category	% Women	% Men
P1	33%	67%
P2	48%	52%
P3	38%	62%
P4	35%	65%
P5	34%	66%
Total IP	**39%**	**61%**
D1	80%	20%
D2	**50%**	**50%**
Total ID	**71%**	**29%**

2 See UNCT South Sudan Gender Score Card report, 2021
3 See UNCT South Sudan Gender Score Card report, 2021

Why Gender Parity?

Gender parity is a commitment, not only an aspiration

The UN Charter states that the UN shall not restrict the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that there can be no distinction or discrimination on the basis of gender.

Repeated General Assembly resolutions have reaffirmed the "goal of 50/50 gender balance in the UN system, especially at the senior and policymaking levels."

Gender parity is not new

The General Assembly first requested measures to achieve equal opportunities for women in 1970, and in 1985 set the first target at 30% overall participation of women by 1990.

The goal of 50/50 was set by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995. The initial deadline was for 2000, now almost 20 years past due.

Gender parity is a UN priority

The UN is the principal international standard-setting instutition with a responsibility to lead by exemplifying the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion and should model the Agenda 2030 "leave no one behind" principle.

"Gender parity at the UN is an urgent need - and a personal priotity. It is a moral duty and operational necessity."

—Secretary-General Guterres

UN WOMEN

Gender parity benefits all

Gender parity is not against men - it is about equality.

Barriers that limit women negatively affect men - without equal parental leave, women become default primary caregivers and men are prevented from playing an active parental role and achieving a better work-life balance.

"We must be clear that these efforts are not about shifting the rules of our Organization to accommodate half of our population. It is in fact about changing the rules so that they no longer only suit half of our staff."

—Secretary-General Guterres

Gender parity modernizes the workplace

The UN must align policies with the desires of the modern workforce to continue as an attractive employer and to recruit the highest caliber of talent.

Workforce trends show preference for flexible workplaces that are responsive to professional and personal needs.

Gender parity is about maximizing talent

Greater diversity is directly correlated with gains in operational effectiveness, improving innovation, strategy, decision-making as well as results and profits.

Unconscious biases and gender stereotypes negatively impact recruitment, retention, and career advancement. Systematic bias mitigation allows the UN to capitalize on each employee's potential to optimize the overall impact of the UN's work.

Annex VII: Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse – Status as of September 2022

Background

Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) is among the top priorities of the United Nations Secretary-General, with a special focus on putting the victims first and ensuring accountability of PSEA on senior management. South Sudan is ranked among the top four -countries globally at risk of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA).

The South Sudan PSEA Taskforce was established in 2007 and revitalized in 2016 as a system-wide coordination body under the leadership of the Deputy SRSG/Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator. The PSEA Taskforce includes UN agencies, funds and programmes, the UN Mission in South Sudan, and all other categories of institutions and entities having direct cooperative and or contractual arrangements with the UN, such as international and national NGOs, partners, and service providers. The main functions of PSEA Taskforce include engagement with and support of local populations, prevention of SEA, and establishing response systems for reporting and procedures for referrals and management and coordination.

Progress

The UNCT in South Sudan developed a systemwide strategy 2018 – 2022, whose implementation was disrupted due to challenges such as access constraints and other restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The lessons from the recommendations of the mid-term review and lessons learnt during the implementation of the current strategy will inform the new system-wide PSEA strategy 2023 - 2026.

The UNCT conducts leadership dialogues on PSEA with staff and personnel. UNCT pooled funds for cost-shared implementation of the PSEA Strategy and PSEA Action Plan. PSEA communications materials have been developed and utilized for awareness. raising. Communities are beginning to report allegations of SEA. PSEA is mainstreamed into the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

UNCT in South Sudan has already developed and is implementing the 7-point leadership action plan under the system-wide PSEA Strategy 2018 – 2022. The commitments include mandatory trainings on SEA and sexual harassment and abuse for all staff; leadership dialogues on PSEA involving UNCT/ HCT, internal dialogues on PSEA with entity's leadership and staff, and internal policies and procedures on PSEA to ascertain consistency in SEA complaint management, internal agency-specific work plan on PSEA, CBCM location assigned to a UN entity, with the responsibility to establish and maintain the CBCM and NGO leadership engaged in adopting a unified/common system for PSEA in South Sudan.

The PSEA Taskforce has established field-level taskforces in Aweil, Bor, Bentiu, Yei, Malakal, Wau, Yambio Torit, Jamjang, Mingkamam and Greater Pibor Administrative Area. The field-level PSEA taskforces lead the system-wide prevention and response to SEA work at the community level. It has established community-based compliant mechanisms with different levels of functionality at Aweil, Bor, Bentiu, Yei, Malakal, Wau, Yambio, Torit, Maban, Kuajok, Rumbek, Jamjang, and Mingkaman.

Annex VIII: UNSDCF Governance in Detail

Joint Government and UN Steering Committee (JSC)

In line with recommendations from the UNCF Evaluation, a Joint Steering Committee will be established to provide a joint development dialogue platform for the UN development system, Government and other stakeholders in support of national priorities, enabling focused, high-level discussion on key and emerging concerns, such as climate change, protection, regional dimensions and data generation and use. The JSC will also provide strategic leadership and oversight to UNSDCF implementation, ensuring alignment with national priorities and enabling progress towards the R-ARCSS, R-NDS, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and additional regional/global commitments.

The JSC will be chaired at the outset by the Minister of Finance and Planning with the DSRSG/RC/HC as the highest-ranking representative of the UN development system at country level. In attendance will be members of Government with representation at the level of Minister or Under-Secretary from all the line ministries relevant to the UNSDCF Strategic Priorities, plus the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for protocol purposes. The UN will be represented by Heads of the UN entities leading the four Results Groups. Their positions as leads will be held on a rotational basis. To ensure appropriate reflection of stakeholder views, an appointed representative from Development Partners, IFIs and civil society (NGO and CSO) will also be invited to participate.

The UN Country Team (UNCT)

As per the agreed Management and Accountability Framework of the UN Development and Resident Coordinator System, the UNCT is the principal in-country mechanism for UN inter-agency coordination, coherence and decision-making. It is led by the RC and composed of the country representatives of the UNSDG entities. Representatives of entities that are not signatory to the UNSDCF, such as the Bretton Woods institutions (World Bank, IMF, AFDB, OCHA), are considered full members of the UNCT but recuse themselves from decision-making in relation to Cooperation Framework implementation.

UNCT members provide strategic leadership across a range of processes in-country such as: the creation and update of the CCA; planning, implementation and monitoring of agreed UNSDCF results; annual UN country results reporting; communication in support of the 2030 Agenda, including the normative agenda; support to the implementation of the collective PSEA Strategy and Action Plan.

Programme Management Team (PMT)

Under delegated authority from the UNCT, the PMT is responsible for ensuring a coherent approach across the UN Development System in South Sudan for effective delivery of planned results, due adherence to the UNSDCF guiding principles and alignment with national priorities, enabling progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and additional regional and global commitments. In fulfilment of this role, the PMT will provide evidence-based strategic policy analysis and advice across the PHD domains as well as management level oversight for all aspects of UNSDCF design, delivery and MEL. It will promote horizontal linkages, information-sharing and cross-fertilisation to optimise synergies, maximise results and minimise duplication across the Results Groups and Joint Programmes. It will also work closely with the OMT to ensure programmatic cost effectiveness and operational efficiency plus collaborate with the UNCG to ensure effective messaging and advocacy.

All UNCT member entities plus UNMISS are represented in the PMT, including Non-Resident Agencies.

Results Groups (RGs)

The Results Groups undertake strategic prioritization within each results area, framing and guiding joint approaches, collective resource mobilization, common monitoring and reporting plus information exchange. Importantly, it ensures a coherent UN approach to analysis, planning, implementation and review, promoting complementarity and synergies, reducing overlaps and gaps within each strategic priority whilst working with

the PMT and MEL group to form linkages across the Outcome areas and magnify impact where possible. It is in this fora that integrated policy advice will be generated for further discussion on positioning at UNCT level and subsequently in joint platforms such as the PfPRR.

The Chairs of each Results Group are derived from contributing UN entities, including UNMISS. These are agreed by the UNCT, with representation at the Head of Agency Level. Day-to-day responsibilities for Results Group coordination may be delegated to senior programme staff within the lead agencies. The Results Group Leads (Head of Agencies) provide updates to the UNCT on a quarterly basis.

Results Groups are encouraged to create opportunities for closer dialogue with Sector Working Groups, PHD Nexus Task Teams, MDAs, civil society representatives of partner NGOs, and Development Partners. To support such approaches, two engagement strategies are currently being designed for implementation in the UNSDCF: one for civil society and one for the private sector.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Working Group (MEL WG)

Under the auspices of the PMT, the MEL WG ensures the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of the UNSDCF MEL systems and processes, in support of the planned results, with due adherence to the UNSDCF guiding principles and alignment with national priorities. This entails contributing to the formulation and update of the joint workplans, the UNSDCF Results and M&E Framework and the MEL Plan. The MEL WG also supports the independent evaluation of the Cooperation Framework (see next section for details).

Under the UNSDCF, the Group's role in data generation and analysis will be expanded to include substantive support to the CCA revisions, joint missions, the capture and dissemination of lessons learned and the independent evaluation of the UNSDCF. Further, given the challenges with data generation and use in country, the MEL WG will also provide technical support to improve related processes. This will include initiatives to strengthen the National Statistical System planned under Output 1.6 plus better sharing of data and analysis amongst various state and non-state actors operating in and across PHD domains. The MEL WG will also provide assistance for the design and implementation of the National M&E Capacity Development Plan, alongside capacity development of UN staff around Results Based Management (as per the recommendations of the UNCF Evaluation).

All UNCT member entities and UNMISS are represented in the MEL WG. Each designates a member and an alternate with representation at the level of most senior M&E Officer.

Operations Management Team (OMT)

Under delegated authority from the UNCT, the OMT provides leadership on the common operational support agenda at country level. It seeks to ensure quality and timely operational support is provided to all contributing AFPs for cost-effective, efficient delivery of UNSDCF results and support to national priorities.

The OMT is responsible for planning, implementation and reporting on the Business Operations Strategy. It also provides oversight and/or coordinates activities across the following operations areas: common premises and field locations; common procurement; common human resources management; common logistics; common ICT; common finance; Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT); common back office.

UN Communications Group (UNCG)

The UNCG endeavours to communicate the collective UN story in South Sudan, explaining the results and impact of UN programming across the PHD dimensions, in response to national needs and priorities and in support of the 2030 Development Agenda, plus other regional and international commitments. It does not supersede or replace the communication efforts of individual agencies but rather enhances these endeavours by pooling resources and expertise for the production of results based communications, promotion of coherent messaging, coordination of advocacy and outreach campaigns plus support for a strengthened media for enhanced communication for development.

Annex IX: Acronyms

AA	Administrative Area
AfCTA	African Continental Free Trade Agreement
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFPs	UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes
ANC	Antenatal Carae
AU	African Union
AUPSC	African Union Peace and Security Council
BCSSAC	Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control
BEmONC	Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
CAT	Convention Against Torture
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CFSAM	Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission
CRA	Compensation and Reparations Authority
CRC	Convention for the Rights of the Child
CRPD	UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSRV	Conflict-Related Sexual Violence
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CTMCs	County Transfer Monitoring Committee
CTRH	Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
DPs	Development Partners
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DSRSG	Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General
DTP	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis
EAC	East African Community
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
EGMA	Early Grade Mathematic Assessments
EGRA	Early Grade Reading Assessments
EMG	Evaluation Management Group
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FBOs	Faith Based Organisations
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale

FSNMS	Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring Report
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBVIMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GoSS	Government Of South Sudan
HACT	Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HCSS	Hybrid Court for South Sudan
HDPG	Human Development Promotion Group
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HoA	Heads of Agencies
HOFOs	Head of Field Offices
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
HRD	Human Resource Development
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
HSGTWG	Health Systems Group Thematic Working Group
HSWG	Health System Working Group
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
JP	Joint Programme
JRC	Judicial Reform Commission
JSC	Joint Government and UN Steering Committee
LGAs	Local Government Associations
LNOB	Leaving No-One Behind
LTAs	Long-Term Agreements
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MoFP	Ministry of Finance and Planning
MOGEI	Ministry of General Education and Instruction
MOH	Ministry of Health
MoHEST	Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology
MOJ	Ministry of Justice

MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NAP	National Action Plan
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NDDRC	National Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Council
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NHHS	National Household Health Survey
NIS	Nutrition Information Systems
NRAs	Non-Resident Agencies
NSPPF	National Social Protection Policy Framework
NSPPF	National Social Protection Policy Framework
NUF	Necessary Unified Force
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Overseas Development Aid
OECD/DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/ Development Assistance Committee
OMT	Operations Management Team
PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
PCP	Permanent Constitution-making Process
PFM	Public Finance Management
PfPRR	South Sudan Partnership for Peace, Recovery and Resilience
PHCCs	Primary Health Care Centres
PHD	Peace, Humanitarian and Development
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PMT	Programme Management Team
POC	Persons of Concern
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
R-ARCSS	Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan
RC	Resident Coordinator
RGs	Result Groups
RJMEC	Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission
R-NDS	Revised National Development Strategy
RSRTF	South Sudan Reconciliation, Stabilisation and Resilience Trust Fund
RTGNU	Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
SSHF	South Sudan Humanitarian Fund
STMCs	State Transfer Monitoring Committee
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training

UN	United Nations
UN Women	UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCF	UN Cooperation Framework
UNCG	UN Communication Group
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNDCO	UN Development Coordination Office
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNDRR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNDS	UN Development System
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNEVOC	UNESCO Vocational Education
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UN-Habitat	UN Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	UN Refugee Agency
UNIC	UN Information Centre
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
UNIDO	UN Industrial Development Organisation
UNISFA	UN Interim Security Force for Abyei
UNMISS	UN Mission in South Sudan
UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	UN Office for Project Services
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNSDG	UN Sustainable Development Group
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VAWC	Violence Against Women and Children
VCDS	Voluntary Civilian Disarmament Strategy
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation

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