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ACTION

2022 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

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MARCH 2023





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Foreword by the Resident Coordinator

I am pleased to present the 2022 UN Cooperation Framework (UNCF) annual report for South Sudan. It is the fourth and last of such reports under the 2019-2022 Cooperation Framework. Government approved the extension of the 2019-2021 United Nations Cooperation by one year to December 2022 to enable completion of the Revision of the National Development Strategy to inform the priorities of the next United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). The elaboration of the 2023-2025 UNSDCF was completed and signed on 16 November 2022 by Government and UNCT comprising of 21 Agencies, Funds and Programmes. The 2023-2025 UNSDCF builds on the achievements and lessons learnt from the 2019-2022 UNCF with a focus on 1) transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance [SDGs 5,16,17]; 2) sustainable economic growth and diversification [SDGs 2,8,9,13]; 3) social development with protection of the most vulnerable [SDGs 1,2,3,4,6]; and 4) empowerment of women and youth [SDGs 5,10,16].

In 2022, against the backdrop of significant humanitarian challenges, driven by climate change induced disasters and an upsurge in localised conflicts, the UN Country Team (UNCT) has nonetheless registered a delivery rate of 89%, with expenditure amounting to USD 211,112,571 in 2022. Throughout the year, the UNCT has enjoyed high-level dialogue with the government on a number of key humanitarian, peace and sustainable development concerns. For example, the Transforming of Education national consultations was used to inform global discussions at the Transforming Education Summit; the first ever Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) meeting and mission on/to South Sudan; and International women conference.

Other key achievements worthy of mention include PBF investment of \$11,180,700 in four projects—i) Local solutions to build climate resilience and advance peace and stability in Bor, Pibor and Malakal; ii) Women's leadership and political participation during South Sudan's transitional period; iii) Establishing participatory and inclusive local and national mechanisms for implementation of Youth Peace and Security Agenda in South Sudan; and iv) Challenging harmful and patriarchal gender norms for better mental and peace and security amongst girls and communities in the Wunlit Triangle. The UNCT's support with UNMISS to three key initiatives related to provisions under the Revised-Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS): the drafting of the permanent constitution, community action for peaceful resolution; and transitional Justice. A Peacebuilding Fund Secretariat is now established with relevant staff in RCO to provide coordination, monitoring and oversight of the PBF projects. Relatedly, a Joint Steering Committee co-chaired by the Minister of Peacebuilding and DSRSG/RC/HC is established to provide guidance on PBF investment in South Sudan.

Regarding Gender and Women's Empowerment (GEWE), with the UN's support, the first ever International Women Conference bringing over 400 women was hosted by the Vice President, H.E Rebecca Nyadeng. Several other initiatives were also supported related to the establishment of Women's Development Fund, the Anti-GBV Bill and Elimination of Child Marriage.

The UNCT has also provided technical support to government on the implementation of a range of economic reforms under the R-ARCSS. These reforms included both monetary and fiscal policy such as forex exchange auctions, development of a national and state budgets, and efforts to improve public financial management, strengthen key oversight institutions, and improve budget transparency. The government also developed a National Development Strategy and State Development Plans which articulate national and state priorities and provide strategic guidance for development actors on medium to long-term development priorities in the country. The revised NDS informed our new UNSDCF (2023-2025) and provides a basis for enhancing the Peace-Humanitarian-Development nexus.

As part of the operationalization of Humanitarian-Development-Peace (H-D-P) Nexus, an integrated office has now been established streamlining the three 'hats' of the office of DSRSG/RC/HC. The UNCT, Humanitarian Coordination Team (HCT) and UN Mission remain committed to joint analysis, risk assessment and strategic planning across the three domains. The review of the Common Country Analysis will involve actors from across all three sectors (P-H-D) and risk analysis will be an integral part of the CCA process. Relatedly, the Partnership for Peace, Resilience and Recovery (PfPRR) has agreed on three collective action to strengthen collaboration across the H-D-P nexus both within the UN family and with partners to build synergies and interlinkages including the creation of collective results and joint programmes: 1) agriculture and food security; 2) climate action and flooding; and 3) IDP transitioning/durable solutions. This will support the shift away from reliance on humanitarian assistance and towards sustainable development and long-term peace, expressed as a key goal under the R-NDS.

Finally, regarding the UN's operational efficiencies, the UNCT continues to implement the Business Operations Strategy 2.0 with cumulative realized cost avoidance of over 7 million between 2019-2022 due to collaboration and efficiency gains. This encompasses common services in human resources, administration and logistics, procurement, ICT and finance. We will continue to monitor and report on cost avoidance and quality improvement due to collaboration on agreed common services.

Sara Beysolow Nyanti
UN Resident Coordinator



1. The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) Sara Beysolow Nyanti held a meeting with South Sudan's President H.E Salva Kiir Mayardit
2. Hon. Dier Tong Ngor, the Minister of Finance and Planning(L), Sara Beysolow Nyanti, Resident Coordinator(C) and Hon. Deng Dau Deng the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation(R) during the dialogue on the 2023-2025 UNSDCF

UN Country Team



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



IFAD

Investing in rural people



International
Labour
Organization



IOM
UN MIGRATION



OCHA



UNAIDS



UN
environment
programme



UN HABITAT



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

unicef



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



ITC



UNOPS



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



**World Health
Organization**



UNDRR

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



UNMISS

Agencies Under the Cooperation Framework

The UN development system in South Sudan is led by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), who also serves as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) and the Humanitarian Coordinator. The DSRSG/RC/HC co-chairs the Heads of Development Cooperation Group and the Partnership for Peace, Resilience and Recovery (PfPRR).

The UNCT comprises of 21 Agencies, Funds and Programmes operating across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. There are 16 resident UN agencies in South Sudan (UNDP, FAO, UNIDO, UNOCHA, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UN HABITAT, UNHCR, WHO, UNESCO, UNOPS, UNAIDS, IOM, OHCHR and WFP) and 5 non-resident agencies (UNODC, IFAD, ILO, UNEP and ITC) operating in South Sudan.

The Humanitarian Response Plan is coordinated by OCHA, and interventions in the humanitarian response are linked to the Cooperation Framework through joint analysis and collective actions and joint programmes around agriculture/food Security, climate action/flooding and IDP transitioning/durable solutions.

Likewise, the UN Mission for South Sudan (UNMISS) contributes to UNCF priorities related to peacebuilding and governance. The World Bank and African Development Bank also participate in meetings of the UN Country Team, further facilitating joined-up, whole-of-system programming to address South Sudan's complex range of challenges.

ITC and UNDRR joined the country team in 2022, bringing much-needed expertise to two of the country's most pressing concerns, namely risk analysis and mainstreaming, and trade creation and facilitation. During the year, UNDRR in partnership with UNCT members developed the first ever South Sudan National Risk Portal.

Chapter 1: Context Developments

February 2023 marked 4.5 years of implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement since its signing in September 2018 and three years since the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) was formed in February 2020. The Transitional Period for the RTGoNU was expected to last for three years but has since been extended for the duration of 24 months with effect from February 2023 until February 2025. Dubbed the Roadmap, this period is meant to enable the RTGoNU to complete the pending critical tasks of unification of forces, making of the permanent constitution and preparations for the conduct of elections at the end of the transitional period now scheduled for December 2024.

In spite of the numerous challenges, especially trust deficit, lack of adequate and predictable funding and capacity gaps, which have delayed the implementation of the R-ARCSS, and necessitated the extensions of the Agreement timelines, progress has been made in many areas of the R-ARCSS. As the 24 months of extension commences, some key benchmarks have been realized. For instance, under chapter 1 on governance the structures of the executive and legislative arms of the RTGoNU were established, operationalized, and have continued to perform their functions at both national and state levels. The process of reforming the judiciary of South Sudan commenced with the establishment of the ad hoc Judicial Reform Committee (JRC) in July 2022 with the mandate to study and recommend appropriate judicial reforms. The JRC's mandate has been extended for 12 months from 27th February 2023 to enable it to complete the discharge of its mandate. The National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC) has completed the reviews of 18 laws out of the 21 priorities it set to undertake until May 2023 when its mandate ends. The reviewed bills were submitted to the RTGoNU, some of which have since been passed by the reconstituted Transitional National Legislature and assented into law by the President. Under chapter 2, the RTGoNU has made significant progress towards the unification of forces through cantonment, selection, training and graduation of Phase I of Necessary Unified Forces (NUF). The command structure of the top-level echelons of the parties to the R-ARCSS with armed elements have been united. The next steps are to redeploy the graduated forces, to harmonize the ranks of the middle to lower echelons, DDR and commencement of Phase II training. Currently, no emoluments are being paid to the graduated forces.

Despite the above progress, some governance related tasks are still pending, for example, although the RTGoNU commenced internal processes for the restructuring and reconstitution of Institutions and

Commissions at the national level, the tasks are yet to be concluded. The RTGoNU tasked the High-Level Committee of the parties to undertake this crucial role. Also, the Political Parties Council is yet to be reconstituted to enable it to register political parties to participate in the elections. Moreover, the reconstitution of the National Elections Commission as provided for in the Revitalized Peace Agreement can only be undertaken upon the enactment of the National Elections Bill 2022. This Bill is before the Council of Ministers of the RTGoNU for endorsement. The political situation remains complicated with a lot of uncertainties. On 3 March 2023, the President issued a Republican Order (Decree) relieving two Ministers – Hon. Angelina Teny, Minister of Defense and Veteran Affairs and Gen. Mahmoud Solomon, Minister of Interior from their respective portfolios. Also, the President swapped the two ministries between the Incumbent Transitional Government of National Unity (ITGoNU) and the SPLM-IO. This has created a political deadlock between the parties. As per the ministerial portfolio allocations negotiated between the parties, the SPLM/A-IO (Chaired by the First Vice President H.E. Riek Machar) was allocated the Ministry of Defense while the ITGoNU which is chaired by the President was allocated to the Ministry of Interior. It is important for the two principals to resolve the current political impasse through dialogue and within the framework of the R-ARCSS.

South Sudan was eighth on the 2021 Global Conflict Risk Index (GCRI) and remains heavily exposed and vulnerable to climate change, notably frequent droughts and floods. Climate change-induced natural disasters and inter-communal clashes have triggered internal displacements and socioeconomic deprivation for the most vulnerable. They have also increased the incidence of infectious diseases in a weak national health system, with diarrhoea and malaria among the top five causes of death, according to the Second Nationally Determined Contribution (SNDC) Report of 2021.

The humanitarian situation remains dire, significantly impacting on the country's population, particularly on women and children. Over 9.4 million people in South Sudan are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2023 compared to 8.9 million in 2022, including food, shelter, and healthcare. The crisis has also resulted in significant displacement, with over 4 million people either internally displaced or seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. Relatedly, human rights violations remain a serious issue with widespread attacks against civilians, systematic sexual violence against women and girls, the ongoing presence of children in fighting forces, and extrajudicial killings.

Real GDP Growth
Annual percent change

5.61



Real Non-Oil GDP Growth
Annual percent change

6.5



Real Per Capita GDP Growth
Annual percent change

2.64



Total Investment (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

31.38



Gross National Savings (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

33.48



Overall Fiscal Balance, Including Grants (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

2.49



Overall Fiscal Balance, Excluding Grants (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

2.49



Government Revenue, Excluding Grants (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

29.78



Government Expenditure (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

27.29



Government Debt (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

29.71



Broad Money (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

7.71



Claims on Nonfinancial Private Sector (%)
Annual percent change

45.35



Claims on Nonfinancial Private Sector (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

0.89



Broad Money Growth
Annual percent change

11.7



Exports of Goods and Services (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

59.52



External Current Account, Incl.Grants (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

2.09



Imports of Goods and Services (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

64.91



Trade Balance (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

4.1



Net Foreign Direct Investment (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

0.49



Reserves (Months of Imports)
Months of imports of goods and services

0.78



Real Effective Exchange Rates (2010=100)
Annual Average Index, 2010 = 100

no data

Nominal Effective Exchange Rates (2010=100)
Annual Average Index, 2010 = 100

no data

External Debt, Official Debt, Debtor Based (% of GDP)
Percent of GDP

no data

Consumer Prices, Average (Annual % Change)
Annual average percent change

21.68



Chapter 2: UN Development System Support to National Priorities through the Cooperation Framework



2.1. Overview of UNCF Results

As earlier indicated, in 2022, South Sudan continued to face multiple challenges including widespread ethnic conflict and violence, political instability, humanitarian crises, economic hardship and climate change. To effectively respond to these challenges, peace, humanitarian, and development actors worked more closely together with a view of paving the way for South Sudan towards sustainable development. To this end, the UNCT sought to better understand and manage risks to enable the UN and its partners to address root causes of needs and prevent violence, while meeting lifesaving needs of the most vulnerable, and supporting resilience- building and longer-term development approaches by developing the first ever comprehensive risk assessment framework and national risk platform for South Sudan that considered a wide range of potential risks, including political, economic, social, and environmental risks

Risk reduction is a critical tool to maximize

achievements against the challenges that South Sudan faces. The UN system together with its partners in South Sudan is working towards more targeted and prioritized programming, building on opportunities enabled through the United Nations Cooperation Framework and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and other related frameworks.

Across the UNCF, including the joint programmes—as part of our commitment to Leave No-One Behind (LNOB), the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) plus Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE)—our support prioritises the most vulnerable. In South Sudan, this meant targeting women and youth. It also meant focusing on those most in need of humanitarian assistance and most likely to be marginalized as various drivers of vulnerability intersect. This includes children, IDPs, refugees, persons with disabilities and those living in flood-affected areas.

In 2022, building on the strong foundations established in the first three years of UNCF implementation, significant contributions were made by the UN across the H-D-P nexus. Substantial support was delivered to implement (some of) the key provisions agreed under the R-ARCSS, deliver basic services to the population, build capacity and strengthen resilience and enable medium to longer-term processes for the achievement of national sustainable development priorities as elaborated in the R-NDS.

With support from peace partners including the UN system, key provisions of the peace agreement were implemented, namely the structures of the executive and legislative arms of government were established and operationalized; established the ad hoc Judicial Reform Committee (JRC); the National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC) has completed the reviews of 18 laws out of the 21 priorities; and graduation of Necessary Unified Forces (NUF). The government with UN support continued with the PFM reforms to address the adverse socioeconomic impact of COVID-19. This included taking steps to reform macroeconomic governance, liberalize the foreign exchange (FX) market and restore price stability. The reforms led to improvement in Public Finance Management and governance resulting in a dramatic reduction in inflation, at a time when inflation was rising in many other countries. The reforms also led to a significant increase in non-oil revenue mobilization. Understanding of human rights, human rights law and humanitarian law has been enhanced among core government, security and justice sector personnel which should contribute to the establishment of the rule of law in the country. Access to justice has been expanded through the use of mobile courts, provision of legal aid services and set-up of Police Community Relations Committees. Support has also been provided to establish youth peace networks and youth-led peacebuilding innovative initiatives to support the implementation of the R-ARCSS in and outside their communities. Case management services for children have significantly improved through a range of interventions including development of multidisciplinary training module based on the Child Act 2008 for children's rights actors; the dissemination of positive messages around children's rights and case management services including mental health and psychosocial support, referrals, family tracing and reunification.

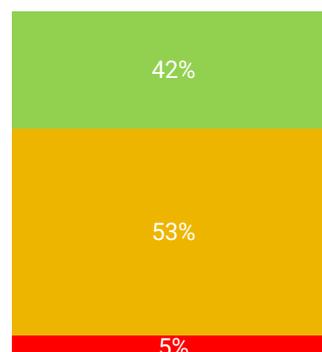
Conditions for the recovery of local economies were also improved (albeit marginally) given the climate change challenges. Climate shocks continue to exacerbate the already fragile food security situation in the country. Floods and droughts affect agriculture-dependent communities, increase crop and livestock disease incidents, loss of pasture, and influence pastoralist mobility patterns and routes as they search for stable conditions for their households. This has contributed to loss of crop production, grazing environmental degradation and competition over scarce natural resources and in some cases causing conflicts and further disruption of livelihoods. Flooding particularly has been one of the main drivers of food insecurity since 2019. Food consumption gaps are extreme, and people have largely exhausted their emergency coping strategies.

During the peak of the lean season (April – July 2023), 7.76 million people (62.7% of South Sudan population) are expected to be facing severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+). In 2023, the precarious situation is expected to be further exacerbated by the country's increasing humanitarian caseload, the expected increase in the duration of needs in the most affected areas, and the projected reduction in humanitarian assistance across the country due to declining funding levels and security threats

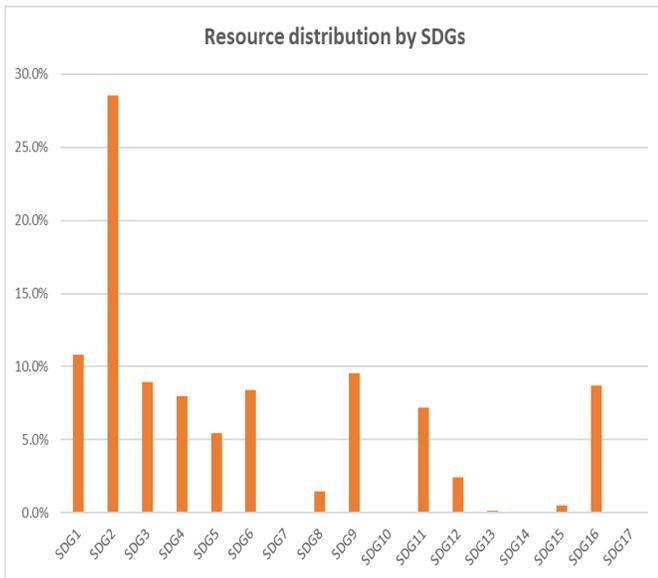
Access to basic healthcare, nutrition, education and WASH services in South Sudan has been enhanced and delivered to the most vulnerable populations, in particular women and children, despite significant challenges. For instance, in 2022, the following key health results were secured: 2,096,657 caregivers of infants 0 – 23 months were reached with counselling on appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding; 2,439,217 children 6- 59 months received vitamin A supplementation twice during the year (92 per cent); and 283,294 girls and boys were treated for severe wasting in 2022, an increase of 42,186 children treated compared to 2021, with a cure rate of 96.3 per cent. Access to and take-up of quality, gender responsive, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services was also expanded, with over 3 million people (including the most vulnerable populations adolescents and young people, persons with disabilities, sex workers and persons living with HIV) reached with related services. The health supply management system was upgraded, with e-LMIS software and stock monitoring for all health facilities instituted. Improvements in HIV prevalence and medical treatment of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) were also seen with the estimated adult (15-49 years) HIV prevalence decreasing to 2.1%, number of PLHIV on treatment increased to 27%, and increased number of people reached with HIV combination prevention services.

Under the WASH sector, in 2022, a total of 190,028 people in non-humanitarian and 467,811 people in humanitarian situations were provided with access to safe drinking water, while 133,745 people have been empowered to access basic sanitation facilities and 301,416 people in humanitarian settings have been provided with access to emergency sanitation. 1,047,995 people were reached with key hygiene messages through emergency and recovery WASH interventions.

■ No Achievement ■ Partially Achieved ■ Fully Achieved



UNCF Output Target Delivery 2022



Supported completion of the annual education census, mapping of out-of-school children, conduct of annual education sector review, finalization of the education sector Public Expenditure Review (PER) and Tracking Survey (PETS), procurement and distribution of 2.7 million textbooks to 2,246,622 million schoolchildren (35 per cent female), improving pupil-to-textbook ratio from 8-to-1 to 3-to-1. Successfully coordinated education partners to support 556,328 (260,861 female) children in humanitarian situations to access and utilize pre-primary, primary, and secondary education services. Also, WASH and Nutrition interventions were integrated across health and education sectors to improve service delivery and take-up. Other interventions in the education sector include delivery of Comprehensive Sexuality Education to 25,891 adolescents and youth alongside 20,745 adult stakeholders plus provision of non-formal education to 4,503 youth (1,691 female; 2,812 male) from pastoralist communities. The coverage of Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis vaccination increased from 44 in 2019 to 83 per cent in 2022 while measles-vaccines coverage increased from 42 in 2019 to 64 per cent in 2022

Supported the increased coverage through expansion, scale-up and solarization of cold chain system for immunization. On the other hand, a decline in both antenatal-25 per cent in 2019 to 23 per cent in 2022- and skilled birth attendance-26 per cent in 2020 to 18 per cent in 2022 was observed. Both these trends were constrained by COVID-19 disruptions, perennial floods, and conflicts.

Under UNCF Priority IV, women’s and youth’s participation in and leadership of decision-making processes has been promoted, including participation in the permanent constitution making process. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW), progress of South Sudan’s National Action Plan (SSNAP) on UNSCR 1325 (Women, Peace, and Security) has been reviewed,. In addition, the national youth development strategy was developed with the leadership of Ministry of Youth and Youth Enterprise Bills tabled. The United Nations Security Council Resolution around Youth, Peace and Security (UNSDCR 2250) has also been domesticated.

In terms of protecting women and youth from violence, key support included: advocacy against harmful practices such as GBV and discrimination, child marriage and early childbearing; setting up one stop centres and trainings of justice and security sector institutions on issues related to SGBV survival, case management and referral; establishment of Women Empowerment Centres and Women Peace Huts as safe spaces for women and girls where GBV and harmful social norms are confidentially discussed; supported with GBV risk mitigation, prevention, or response interventions and referrals to other specialized services.

Financial delivery 2022
89%

Financial delivery 2019-2022
85%

Types of UN Support

- ✓ Capacity development/technical assistance
- ✓ Policy advice
- ✓ Normative support
- ✓ Direct support/service delivery
- ✓ Support functions
- ✓ Partnerships/knowledge sharing
- ✓ Data collection and analysis
- ✓ Coordination support

2.2. Priorities Under the UNCF: Key Results Secured with UN Support

PRIORITY I: BUILDING PEACE & STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

Provisions of the Peace Agreement Implemented

- The United Nations Development System continued to monitor and support Government on the implementation of the outstanding provisions as elaborated in the roadmap (e.g., completion of a permanent constitution; conduct of civic education; conduct national census and voter registration; etc) with a focus on building resilience, delivery of social services and strengthening institutions for transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance and elections. The extension of the peace agreement by twenty-four months to February 2025, provides an opportunity for parties to the agreement and national stakeholders to implement the critical outstanding provisions to enable proper conduct of elections in December 2024 and peaceful end of the transitional period.
- RTGoNU structures of the executive and legislative arms of the RTGoNU established and operationalized, and have continued to perform their functions at both national and state levels
- Through the National Dialogue and Governors Forum, Governors have been brought together to deliberate on the critical issues related to the implementation of the peace agreement,
- Established the Adhoc Judicial Reform Committee (JRC) in July 2022 with the mandate to study and recommend appropriate judicial reforms
- The National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC) has completed the reviews of 18 laws out of the 21 priorities and submitted to parliament for passing into law.
- PFM reforms enabled, including revision of key legislation such as the PFM Act and National Audit Chamber Act, plus the reactivation of the PFM Donor working group. The reforms led to improvement in Public Finance Management and governance resulting in a dramatic reduction in inflation and increase in non-oil revenue mobilization.

Improved governance and peacebuilding

- Implemented South Sudan Joint SDG Fund on revenue enhancement and resource mobilization with progress in evidence generation, capacity building, oversight, and accountability.
- Implemented confidence-building activities, including support for rapprochement and trust-building efforts at the local level; enhancement of civil-military relations; and the development of local peace structures, directly targeting 20,151 beneficiaries across the country.
- Multiple mechanisms, including legal frameworks and policies, developed to address conflict-related sexual violence and protect victims, survivors, witnesses and other judicial actors.

- Provision of assistance to community-led mechanisms in managing pastoral migration resulted in a notable reduction in cattle-raiding incidents and enhanced compliance with the resolutions reached at pre-and post-migration conferences. Other activities the establishment of youth peace networks and youth-led peacebuilding innovative initiatives to support the implementation of the R-ARCSS.

Human Rights Better Protected

- Enhanced understanding of human rights through trainings and awareness-raising initiatives of political leaders, Government officials, members of the Armed Forces, the Police and the National Security Service, representatives of the Prison service, the judiciary, the Human Rights Commission plus human rights defenders, civil society activists, community leaders and youth. It included training in international human rights law and humanitarian law.
- Documented and advocated against human rights abuses and violations

Access To Justice Enhanced

- Mobile courts deployed to hard-to-reach locations, facilitating improved case disposal rates of 86% up from 57.6% and enhancing public confidence and trust in the judicial system.
- Vulnerable people benefitted from legal aid services delivered in Justice and Confidence Centres (JCCs).
- Established Police Community Relations Committees (PCRCs) in consultation with the police, traditional authorities and communities. As part of the set-up, PCRC members were trained on their roles and responsibilities in community policing.
- 414 prisoners profited from vocational skills training across three central prisons. Each are now equipped with livelihood skills for their rehabilitation and successful reintegration following release.

Justice For Children Improved

- Awareness of children's rights enhanced, with approximately 36,557 people reached with positive messages
- Case management services for children significantly improved through a range of interventions including development of a multidisciplinary training module based on the Child Act 2008 (with both facilitators guide and participants handbook) for critical national and state Justice for Children actors and capacity support to state social workers around the provision of the Child Act 2008 and broader children's rights.
- 561 children and youth (191 girls) benefitted from case management services including mental health and psychosocial support, referrals, family tracing and reunification.

Target Delivery 2022 (Output)

No Achievement
15%

Partially Achieved
49%

Fully Achieved
36%



Caption: Participants at the first of its kind in South Sudan PBC meeting, convened under the theme of Building Peace through Institutions and Governance” Photo: © RCO

First Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) meeting on South Sudan

The UN Peacebuilding Commission’s (PBC) ambassadorial-level meeting on South Sudan calls for collaborative approaches towards attainment of sustainable peace through full implementation of the 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement

The first of its kind in South Sudan, the PBC meeting was convened under the theme of “Building Peace through Institutions and Governance”

Sustained engagement from the international community, including the United Nations system and regional and sub-regional organizations remains a critical tool in supporting South Sudan’s ongoing national peacebuilding priorities. These were the calls that were made during the UN Peacebuilding Commission’s (PBC) first ever ambassadorial-level meeting on South Sudan on 26 October 2022 that emphasized more sustainable and collaborative approaches towards the full implementation of the 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement.

In a first of its kind in South Sudan the PBC meeting, whose theme was “Building Peace through Institutions and Governance”, sought to formulate ways through which the UN could further support South Sudan in strengthening its national and local institutions to address the root causes of conflict and develop capacities to deliver services responsive to the needs of the population. The meeting also offered an opportune platform for the government to update the PBC on its peacebuilding efforts, with a specified focus on accountable governance, public finance management and the delivery of public services at the local level.

During the PBC meeting on South Sudan, the Vice-Chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, H.E. Mr. Jose A. Blanco, and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations highlighted the critical areas in South Sudan that need support, further reaffirming the UN’s and PBC’s continued partnership.

“The meeting sought to create greater awareness among the international community and Member States of certain concrete and urgent peacebuilding challenges South Sudan is facing in its transition process such as public finance management, service delivery and inclusive governance, peacebuilding architecture, and encourage additional bilateral and multilateral support in the areas discussed in the meeting,” he said.

The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), a key partner of the PBC, has invested a total of \$53.1 million in support of the implementation of the R-ARCSS, focusing on a nexus-based approach that prioritizes peacebuilding and governance, food security, social services, gender-based violence, and empowering women and youth. In addition to the PBF, the UN SDG Fund further supports South Sudan in its economic reforms to address public financial management, improve transparency and enhance the mobilization of non-oil revenue sectors.

“South Sudan continues to remain a core focus for the PBC particularly in offering support for the implementation of the benchmarks enshrined in the Revitalized Peace Agreement. This meeting is just one of many that the PBC hopes to engage with South Sudan while also ensuring our activities align to its national priorities,” H.E. Mr. Jose A. Blanco noted.



Over 100 people participated in the political parties' dialogue. Photo Credit: UN Women South Sudan Country Office

Key Challenges facing peacebuilding and strengthening governance

- Delays in R-ARCSS implementation, including creation of the Unified Forces and completion of permanent constitution making and electoral processes
- Weak Governance institutions in particular those related to security, justice and the rule of law
- Increase in sub-national and localized violence involving community-based militias, including abductions and conflict-related sexual violence plus deliberate destruction of land and property



PRIORITY TWO: IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY & RECOVERING LOCAL ECONOMIES

Conditions for Recovery of Local Economies Improved

- 7,477,362 sqm of land that was formally contaminated with explosive ordnance was surveyed, cleared, and released to the communities. By doing so, this enabled the community members to access 31 natural water sources, 201 agricultural lands, 12 markets, 17 clinics, and 6 schools and to support resumption of livelihood activities across the country.
- provide water for irrigation, livestock, and domestic use while road rehabilitation enhanced access to markets and basic services and connected productive areas to markets. The dikes enabled communities to mitigate the adverse effects of increasing floods. The participating households also cleared and cultivated land, with each harvesting about 100 kg of cereals. In addition, WFP procured 517 mt of maize worth USD198,932 from 3,805 smallholders (2,550 men and 1,255 women) through the pro-smallholder food supply agreements. The maize procured was used for school feeding in 46 schools where WFP was piloting home-grown school feeding, reaching 27,515 school children (13,867 boys and 13,648 girls).

Access to Basic Goods and Services Enabled

- Social safety net project targeting the vulnerable households with cash transfers. Access to basic goods and services significantly improved through cash transfers to households through cash for work, direct income support. Targeted households were also trained in WASH, financial literacy and early childhood development and nutrition. Beneficiaries used the cash to purchase food, education and health services. 93% of households indicated an improvement in living standards as a result of the cash transfer, 79% no longer needed to sell assets to purchase food or meet other basic needs, 77% were enabled to purchase assets, essential goods and services which they ordinarily could not afford. Anecdotal evidence also indicates a reduction in negative coping mechanisms.
- Constructed 234 basic infrastructure (14 schools, 13 health facilities, 203 boreholes and 4 roads) completed (in Juba, Kapoeta North, Rumbek Center, Wulu, Aweil East, Aweil North, Tonj North, Jur River, Ezo, and Ibba). 97KM of feeder roads in Warrap state (Gogrial West county) and Western Bahr el Ghazal state (Jur River county), this included both earthworks and drainage works. Through conditional cash transfers 572 Km of road maintained and /rehabilitated, 2390 acres planted yielding over 1300 tones of produce, 7063 acres of land cleared/cleaned, 82 Km of drainage created/rehabilitated, and 41,000 square meters of facilities constructed and or rehabilitated. Over half a million people are benefiting from the trainings and infrastructure created, Additionally, 49,722 beneficiaries (in Pibor, Torit, Kapoeta East, Melut, Raja, Yei River, Gogrial West, Bor South, Tonj South) received a combination of conditional and unconditional cash transfers worth US\$11,8 million. UNOPS also trained 468 Master Trainers who in turn provided training to 25,094 cash transfer receiving beneficiaries with Financial Literacy Training

Assets for Vulnerable Communities Created

- Facilitated Seasonal Livelihood Programming in four counties where asset creation and livelihood activities started in 2022 and conducted Community-Based Participatory Planning in 536 communities. The planning involved local authorities and community leaders. The structures helped communities to identify appropriate conflict-sensitive interventions such as access roads to connect communities based on the specific context, rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach.
- Supported the construction of auction yards, fencing, borehole/water tank and toilet in Tonj South County, Warrap State; construction of auction yard including fencing, office buildings, borehole/water tank and toilet in Tonj South County, Warrap State; repair of boreholes in Chahari and Ikotos; boreholes drilling, Water tower/tank and water supply system in Gorgial West and Tonj North Counties; construction of Milk bar, 2 door flush toilet and drilling of boreholes with elevated water tank in Gogrial West County of Warrap State; renovation of bush shop fish market in Terekeka and construction of a 1 km road in Aweil for Aweil rice scheme
- Supported food insecure households and communities to build assets and infrastructure necessary for sustained self-reliance and resilience in the face of increased shocks and stressors. The assets created such as multipurpose ponds and shallow wells helped to

Livelihoods & Resilience of Vulnerable Populations Enhanced

- In 2022, under improving resilient livelihoods, especially women-headed households, 15 Natural Resource Management Committees (NRMCS) were established in Wau and Torit in addition to already existing 5 Committees, 3 in Wau and 2 in Torit, making a total of 20 NRMCS 10 per location. An assessment indicated that the capacities of the existing NRMCS to manage natural resource related conflict is low and explains why violent conflicts continue to surface in Wau and Torit. As such, conducted trainings for 150 NRMCS members (50 males and 100 females) in Wau to create awareness on the negative impact of various practices on natural resources in 10 locations as well as conflict mitigation

Target Delivery 2022 (Output)

Partially Achieved
55%

Fully Achieved
45%

Livelihoods & Resilience of Vulnerable Populations Enhanced

- Similarly, in Torit, 210 NRM members (112 females and 98 males) were trained on NRM to create awareness on the negative impact of various practices on natural resources and the NRMCs supported to develop their action plans.
 - Provided technical support to the Partnership for Recovery & Resilience (PfRR) at national level (Steering Committee, Task Force, Technical Engagement Group and Joint Analysis, Monitoring and Measurement Group). At the field level, support was provided to the Area reference groups in Yambio, Torit, Wau and Aweil for coordination, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Moreover, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, the Food Security and Nutrition and Monitoring System (FSNMS) data results and reports, market and rainfall data analysis, and crop production assessments (flood report and CFSAM) reports were produced and disseminated. According to the FAO Food Security Information Systems annual user survey, these are the most accessed products, with the majority (more than 80 percent) of user survey respondents indicating the IPC and FSNMS reports as either useful or extremely useful in their operations.
 - The IPC facilitated evidence-based humanitarian and development programming, as well as provided data and information which fed into the South Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) Cluster plans. Moreover, food security information is routinely presented and with briefs provided to and used by various forums, including the donor community, Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG), and the FSL Cluster, among others.
 - Contracted national and international academics to produce policy papers in areas of triple nexus, medium to long-term holistic financing strategies, democratic governance, transitioning to a green economy, economic diversification, population settlement, human development, and macroeconomic management as emerging issues to government policies, programs, future national plans, and capacity build national research capacities.
 - Created 5,618 new jobs through career development and employment opportunities. About 54% (3,044) of the new job created were availed by women. The income generated from the employment opportunity has improved the living conditions and socioeconomic status of youths.
 - Procured 517 mt of maize worth USD198,932 from 3,805 smallholders (2,550 men and 1,255 women) through the pro-smallholder food supply agreements. The maize was distributed in 46 schools where WFP was piloting home-grown school feeding programme. Overall, 27,515 school children, comprising of 13,867 boys and 13,648 girls were supported with the maize.
- Supported vulnerable communities to enhance production, increase productivity, access and linkages to markets to strengthen resilience by continuing to support the Government in strengthening formal and informal outlets and local markets for agricultural inputs through support to farmer/producer organizations and small entrepreneurs to effectively bridge the last mile delivery of improved agricultural inputs to smallholder farmers.
 - Trained at least more than 6500 farmers and farmer groups/cooperatives in seed production and marketing, seed business models, Farming-as-a-Business (FaaS); Financial literacy; Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA); Good Agricultural Practices (GAP); Integrated Pest Management (IPM); and Smart Agriculture. These trainings go a long way in enhancing farmers' skills on production, farming as a business, marketing, institutional management, and social and environment management.
 - 49,722 beneficiaries (in Pibor, Torit, Kapoeta East, Melut, Raja, Yei River, Gogrial West, Bor South, Tonj South) received a combination of conditional and unconditional cash transfers worth US\$11,8 million
 - To improve the livelihood of people in crisis or post-crisis settings, supported 6,248 households, at least 60% women), were provided with emergency employment through cash for work at a time when unemployment and loss of income were significant due to closures of about 50% of businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The employment opportunity and income generated improved the living conditions and the households were able to better provide for their families (buy food, pay school fees, pay medical bills).
 - Support for learning, knowledge, agricultural practices and skills development to vulnerable communities and partners in order to improve their resilience including training and engagement of at least 6 seed laboratory technicians. Additionally, conducted ToT for about 63 government officials at different levels (national, state, county) in seed production and marketing and conducted another training of at least 34 government officials at different levels (national, state, county) and engagement in rapid seed security assessment and the assessment of crop genetic diversity. Further, 44 government and implementing partners staff have been trained as trainers on cooperatives development, 25 farmer organizations (in 6 states have been trained on good agricultural practices, 39 extension staff from State Ministry of Agriculture and County Agriculture Department and implementing partners were trained on crop and vegetable production.
 - Contributed to skills enhancement and knowledge in production, post-harvest handling and agro-processing operation and management of farmers and traders from vulnerable communities, particularly women and youth to increase their production and market integration. In 2022, over 6000 farmers were mobilized to participate in capacity development activities through farmer groups and cooperative societies. These trainings go a long way in enhancing farmers' skills on production, marketing, institutional management, and social and environment management. Moreover, they were further supported with access to quality and certified seeds which were distributed during the main season of 2022.

Working with farmers to counter climate change

Tucked away in the northwestern corner of South Sudan, the village of Ayok-Hong, in Northern Bahr el Gazal State, is hot throughout the year. Unpredictable rainfall over the past few years has put precious property, crops and livestock at risk. As the climate crisis sweeps across the world, developing countries that contribute the least to global warming are bearing the brunt of its devastating impact.

Record floods for three consecutive years have displaced thousands of people, drowning hectares of crops, livestock, and villages. Such climate shocks are compounding an already fragile food security situation in a country where 7.2 million people, 60 percent of its population, are going hungry. WFP, in partnership with Irish humanitarian agency Concern Worldwide, is supporting 900 farming families in Ayok-Hong village to improve their food security and to build resilience against climate shocks such as floods and drought in agriculture.



Abuk uses the water from shallow wells to irrigate her crops in the dry season. Photo Credit: WFP

Key Challenges facing food security and recovery of local economies

- Widespread flooding and COVID-19 pandemic restrictions disrupted livelihood activities, including food production and trading opportunities.
- High prevalence of localised violence and road ambushes negatively impacted on movement of goods and people.
- Continued depreciation of the South Sudan Pound against the Dollar resulted in increased prices of basic commodities and reduced purchasing power for vulnerable households



PRIORITY THREE: STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SERVICES

Access to Integrated, Quality Health Care, including HIV Improved

- Contributed to the increased coverage through expansion, scale-up and solarization of cold chain system for immunization. Immunization coverage of Penta 3 is 82% in 2022, an improvement over the last 2 years, with at least 7/10 States consecutively meeting the Penta 3 target of 80% in 2022. On the other hand, a decline in both antenatal from 25 per cent in 2019 to 23 per cent in 2022- and skilled birth attendance-26 per cent in 2020 to 18 per cent in 2022 was observed. Both these trends were constrained by COVID-19 disruptions, perennial floods, and conflicts.
 - The coverage of Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis vaccination increased from 44 in 2019 to 83 per cent in 2022 while measles-vaccines coverage increased from 42 in 2019 to 64 per cent in 2022.
 - The EPI performance reviews conducted at national and state levels facilitated the identification of challenges and re-strategizing demand creation and scaling up of immunization services delivery from March- April 2022. The ANC 4 and SBA coverages of 23% and 18% respectively are quite low and attributable to the multiple shocks (floods, conflict) inspite of efforts made in demand creation through engagement of local and religious leaders as champions of sexual and reproductive health and rights.
 - The pharmacy policy and strategy were developed to provide the overall regulatory framework within the sector including ensure addressing stock outs.
 - Update of the maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR) guidelines couple with training of master trainers contributed to revitalization of MPDSR system
 - Supported the design and pilot of the ICVOP, which is the current strategy used for COVID-19 vaccination. It was piloted in 7 counties (Torrit, Magwi, Aweil center, Jur river, Wau, Rubkona, and Juba) with a coverage of 57% achieved from 17 to 28 Feb 2022.
 - Working with MOH and other partners, developed and finalized several GAVI applications (Targeted Country Assistance, Equity Accelerator Funding, Measles campaign, Cold Chain Equipment Optimization Plan). This has been endorsed, with over 20 million dollars approved for the 2023- 2024 workplan.
 - Finalized the Measles outbreak response strategic plan 2023-2024, in line with the AFRO region Measles elimination goal.
 - Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) guidelines updated and trained/mentored 37 master trainers(Trainer of trainers) of Health Workers.
 - Total of 832,281 under 5 years curative consultations (436,223 male, 396,058 female) were made from Greater-Pibor-Administrative-Area (GPAA), Jonglei and Upper-Nile states with treatment of: 140,786 (79 per cent) malaria cases, 84,678 (76 per cent) pneumonia cases with amoxicillin and 89,727 (61 per cent) cases treated for diarrhoea with ORS+Zinc.
 - Supported the replenishment of supplies, supervision, and mentorship to 197 health facilities in Jonglei, Upper Nile and Greater Pibor Administrative Area. Out of these 53% had no stockout of essential medicines in the last 3 months prior to reporting. \
- ### Sustainable WASH services Delivered to Vulnerable, Underserved and Emergency Affected Populations
- Reached a total of 190,028 people in non-humanitarian and 467,811 people in humanitarian situations with access to safe drinking water, while 133,745 people have been empowered to access basic sanitation facilities and 301,416 people in humanitarian settings have been provided with access to emergency sanitation. 1,047,995 people were reached with key hygiene messages through emergency and recovery WASH interventions.
 - Drilled 203 boreholes in 10 counties, trained two engineers from the State Ministries of Roads, Bridges and Transport on how to plan, construct and maintain feeder roads, conducted both practical and theoretical training programmes on operation and maintenance of the barge for 4 crew members (for River Barge project implemented on the behalf of GoSS)
 - 50 health centers were supported with WASH facilities. To ensure timely and quality programme implementation, a long-term agreement for latrine construction and borehole drilling, including a construction environmental screening checklist were developed; and mapping of water and sanitation infrastructure in ten counties to inform WASH needs done.
 - Supported the development of the Ebola preparedness and response when WHO declared the Ebola outbreak in Uganda as a pandemic. Support has now been provided to government and partners in the development and implementation of Cholera response plans.
 - Support on the implementation of CLTS activities resulted in a total of 128 communities reaching open defecation-free status. Further efforts will be geared towards integrating market-based sanitation with community-led total sanitation, bringing local toilet producers/importers and consumers together to match affordable toilet designs to consumer preferences and household budgets.

Target Delivery 2022 (Output)

Partially Achieved
42%

Fully Achieved
58%

Nutrition of Vulnerable Women and Children Enhanced

- Advocacy and support led to remarkable increase in utilization of essential nutrition services, including when access is challenged by flooding and intercommunal violence. 2,096,657 caregivers of infants 0 – 23 months were reached with counselling on appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding. 2,439,217 children 6- 59 months received vitamin A supplementation twice during the year (92 per cent). 283,294 girls and boys were treated for severe wasting in 2022, an increase of 42,186 children treated compared to 2021, with a cure rate of 96.3 per cent.
- Reached 481,660 children aged 6 – 59 months and 417,587 PLWG through treatment of acute malnutrition programme. Admissions in MAM treatment programmes increased by 10 percent and 15.6 percent among children aged 6 -59 months and PLWG, respectively compared to 2021. The increase was due to an overall deterioration in the food and nutrition security situation across the country. The use of family mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) through which caretakers of children monitored their children's nutrition status also contributed to a higher uptake of nutritional services.
- Supported the treatment of 9,765 children under five years with SAM and medical complications through provision of 85 SAM/MC kits; training of 8 health workers on SAM/MC to improve quality in stabilization centers. Trained 98 health workers in nutrition surveillance to enable early detection and referral of malnutrition.
- Treated 283,294 children aged 6-59 months (54 per cent girls) for severe wasting, representing a 17.5 per cent increase from 2021. The quality of treatment for severe wasting remains in line with international standards with 96.3 per cent cure rate, 1.9 per cent defaulter rate and 0.3 per cent death rate. The treatment of severe wasting among young children was supported through a network of 1,238 treatment sites (1,138 outpatient treatment programme sites and 100 stabilization centers) across the country. Contributed to enhance the knowledge of primary caretakers of children aged 6 to 23 months on appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and care practices. A total of 2,096,657 caregivers were counselled on IYCF practices along with hygiene, sanitation and health care seeking behavior messages, through a network of 6,931 (2,965 female) CNVs.

Education and TVET Opportunities Provided

- Continued to support national education system strengthening and meeting needs of children affected by crises, conflicts, floods, and the economic downturn.
 - Supported the completion of the annual education census, mapping of out-of-school children, conduct of annual education sector review, finalization of the education sector Public Expenditure Review (PER) and Tracking Survey (PETS), procurement and distribution of 2.7 million textbooks to 2,246,622 million schoolchildren (35 per cent female), improving pupil-to-textbook ratio from 8-to-1 to 3-to-1.
- Successfully coordinated education partners to support 556,328 (260,861 female) children in humanitarian situations to access and utilize pre-primary, primary, and secondary education services.
 - Reached 35,429 learners out of a plan of 150,000 learners with onsite nutritious meal. The low coverage is mainly due to funding constraints. Nevertheless, the nutritious meals provided helped improve student attendance.
 - Supported 556,325 (260,861 female) children and adolescents aged 3 -18 from IDP sites and host communities with education services such as education supplies including 1,510 Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits, 23,526 teaching and learning materials, sets of supplementary reading materials, 2.2 million textbooks, 34,845 dignity kits for adolescent girls, 3,246 recreational materials, 6,159 teacher and 6,416 student kits.
 - Contributed to ensuring that crisis affected populations, particularly women and adolescent girls, have increased access to information and services for maternal and newborn health, family planning, gender-based violence and HIV prevention in emergency and fragile contexts.
 - Capacity of healthcare service providers and managers were strengthened for provision of SRH/GBV services and information in emergencies including in the context of Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in crisis situations. Service providers were trained on general MISP and specific training on BEmONC, Post Abortion Care, Family Planning, Adolescent sexual and reproductive health, Clinical Management of Rape services, HIV/HCT, and Syndromic Management of STIs.
 - Improved provision of and access to integrated sexual reproductive health services in displacement areas and other target facilities. 27,611 IARH kits (750) and dignity kits (26,861) were procured and distributed.
 - Over 187,534 people have been reached with integrated SRH information in the 5 PoCs/IDPs (Juba, Mingkaman, Bentui, Wau and Malakal) and conflict affected counties of Leer and Mayendit and about 136,974 people have been provided with information on GBVIE prevention and response (WGFS in PoC and host communities).
 - 12 health facilities were staffed with essential health workers. Health facilities in Bentiu (2), Leer, Bor (3), Malakal, Juba, Wau, Kajo Keji, Lainya, Yambio were staffed with deployed essential health workers.
 - Improved Fistula Treatment and Management. A total of 180 fistula patients received repair services through routine repair and campaigns in Bentiu, Wau, Aweil, Yambio and Juba.
 - Supported the functioning of the Inter-agency reproductive health working group and gender-based violence sub-cluster coordination bodies. Also, supported linking GBV survivors with multisectoral and survivor centered response services by ensuring availability of GBV SoP and referral pathways in 15 locations.

Routine Immunization to protect children against infectious diseases

Clutching his mother's arms, baby Emmanuel Aban jerks his legs to no avail as his mother, Nyachan Aban, restrains him. He cries out as the needle pierces his skin, delivering a mixture of vaccine doses. "Khalas Khalas!" his mother says in Arabic, to comfort him that the painful experience is over. Nyachan picks up her baby's vaccination card and walks out of the doctor's room as baby Emmanuel begins to calm down.

"I brought my baby for the third vaccination so that he will grow up healthy, without diseases," says Nyachan. "Children are always falling sick, but now that he has been vaccinated, he is protected." "Millions of children have been protected against vaccine-preventable deadly childhood diseases because they were vaccinated," says Leku Dominic, IOM Senior Medical Assistant in Malakal. "Vaccination keeps children healthy."

Through its Routine Vaccination Programme supported by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, IOM aids South Sudan's Expanded Immunization Programme through routine, mobile and outreach missions. These initiatives are carried out through various programmes in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and key partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and Gavi. In 2021 alone, over 83,000 children were immunized by IOM and its partners through routine polio vaccination and 30,000 through routine measles vaccination in emergency and low-income contexts across the globe.



Baby Emmanuel receives his routine immunization at an IOM run clinic in Malakal, South Sudan. Photo Credit: IOM

Key Challenges facing social services delivery

- Lack of basic infrastructure (57% of health facilities not operational in conflict-affected areas; 30% of schools damaged, destroyed, occupied or closed) and insufficient numbers of trained professionals (proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel was 19% in 2020; only 21% of teachers are trained.)
- Direct and indirect costs of services, low population density, language barriers, inadequate access to accurate information/education, recurrent health crises alongside harmful practices such as gender-based violence, discrimination & child marriage contribute to low performance across the social sector.
- Unprecedented levels of flooding negatively impacted access to safe water services already compromised by poor maintenance (of limited facilities), fragmented and weak government institutions, limited funding and COVID-19 pandemic.



PRIORITY FOUR: EMPOWERING WOMEN & YOUTH

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Advanced

- The participation of women in the peace process at the national, state and community level was strengthened as shown by the gains in the percentage of women assuming positions in government. Some of the significant female leadership positions at national level include 1 Vice President for Gender and Youth Cluster, 8 Ministers, 3 National Undersecretaries and 1 Right Honorable Speaker. Women constitute 16% of officials appointed to positions in the 10 states of South Sudan. The positions include advisers, ministers, chairpersons of independent commissions, deputy chairpersons of independent commissions, and county commissioners. Out of 550, 180 seats of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly are occupied by women. At the grassroots level, women's participation in leadership also increased.
- Improved provision of and access to GBV Prevention and Response services. All the 10 states continued to have functioning multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for ending child marriage and GBV. To strengthen the coordination mechanism, a total 1,127 service providers (HWs, Social workers, lawyers, doctors, nurses and midwives, frontline staff, media, religious leaders, community leaders etc) were trained on GBV case management/ response, Child marriage and early pregnancy prevention. Also, 1,617 duty bearers (police, judiciary, religious and traditional leaders /chiefs) were trained in legislation, policies governing GBV and child marriage and early pregnancy. Based on the long-standing need to train the frontline workers, all the social workers, community mobilizers and legal officers of the One Stop Centre were trained in case management by the OSCs' senior case workers, lawyers. A streamlined engagement with men and boys was established. This followed training 70 male champions in Engaging Men in Accountable Practices (EMAP). The male champions undertook extensive community engagement on changing social norms on masculinity.
- To build the capacity of the national and state level governments, and CSOs, two South-South Cooperation actions were facilitated to South Africa and Ethiopia for the Government of South Sudan to learn from these countries' experiences of setting up shelters/ safe houses.

- As part of community response, a total of 40 villages/Bomas have functional Anti GBV Community Action Groups. The groups play a crucial role in educating the public on dangers of GBV, prevent and report GBV cases and act as support groups to the survivors. A total of 600 community leaders were reached through training and engagement through Community Action Groups.
- Strengthened community mobilization and action to end child marriage by providing technical support on the implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan on ending child marriage. A total of 55 communities made public declarations to end Child Marriage and all 13 States and Administrative Areas have either passed or drafted laws/ by laws, declarations/resolutions against GBV, child marriage and early pregnancy. This was a result of acceleration in engaging with traditional leaders, paramount chiefs, and community leaders to collectively stand up against child marriage and gender-based violence. All States now have paramount chiefs who have engaged in ending child marriage actions.
- About 589,000 individuals were reached out with messages on GBV and ending child marriage, using radio programmes, house to house community mobilization and use of public outreach mediums. More than 60,000 community members were reached with awareness messages on challenging gender stereotypes. This was through innovative approach using sports as a medium for challenging the gender stereotypes, several sports for Gender equality actions were undertaken. The Girls Football Tournament was played with 16 girls football teams across central Equatoria, six teams in Rumbek, and 2 teams in Northern Bahr El Ghazal.

Youth Empowerment and Participation Boosted

- Developed a national youth strategy
- Collaboration improved across a range of issues of significance to South Sudan's youth through the creation and operationalisation of multi-sectoral youth coordination mechanisms.

Key Challenges

- Persistence of harmful traditional practices and discriminatory social norms
- Limited access to quality education, decent employment opportunities and productive assets, particularly for women, youth and other vulnerable groups
- Under-representation of women and youth in decision-making bodies

Target Delivery 2022 (Output)

No
Achievement
8%

Partially Achieved
72%

Fully
Achieved
20%

South Sudan Hosts First-Ever International Conference on Women Transformational Leadership

Dubbed “GuwaTamara”, the strength of a woman, the conference presented a unique opportunity for women to share experiences and learn from each other.

Over 430 women representing all the states of South Sudan and African women leaders from more than 15 countries, including Ghana, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Liberia, Zambia, Mauritius, Central African Republic, Egypt, and the United States of America, gathered in Juba, South Sudan for a three-day inaugural International Women Conference on Transformational Leadership. The conference took place on 13-15 February. The conference was hosted by H.E Rebecca Nyandeng De Mabior, Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan responsible for the Gender and Youth Cluster, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social welfare, the National Transformational Leadership Institute (NTLI), and the United Nations.

Dubbed “GuwaTamara”, and translated as the strength of a woman, the conference presented a unique opportunity for women to share experiences, learn, deepen, and expand regional and international networks to catalyze learning in support of South Sudanese women in advancing women peace and security, and gender equality.

In his opening remarks, President Salva Kiir Mayardit acknowledged the importance of providing women with a conducive environment to meaningfully participate in the political arena and other aspects of life. This conference not only recognizes the role and potential of women in our country but also gives them support to create an enabling environment for equal participation in all aspects of our society, President Kiir said. He noted that the Government of South Sudan allocated a 35% quota for women inclusion and participation in all aspects of society. I am aware that there is still a lot of outstanding work on women empowerment, he said, recalling the 35% quota endorsed by the Revitalized Peace Agreement of 2018.

The UN Resident Coordinator, Sara Beysolow Nyanti, co-convenor of the conference, called on all stakeholders to put all efforts together to ensure the implementation of all recommendations, urging them to work together to support South Sudanese women walk on a path to development and peace.

“This is about action, taking the strength of women and putting it into action. We shouldn’t stop here,” Ms. Sara emphasized.

The Resident Coordinator said UN entities in South Sudan are committed and will continue to support the government and the women of South Sudan to ensure the achievement of gender parity at all levels.

On her part, Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa, the Assistant Administrator and UNDP Regional Director for Africa, highlighted the words of Pope Francis during his visit to South Sudan in early February.

“Women, mothers who know how life is generated and safeguarded needed to be increasingly involved in political life and decision-making processes. Women must be respected, for anyone who commits an act of violence towards women commits it towards God”.

Vice President H.E Rebecca Nyadeng De Mabior noted that the experiences shared by women leaders are very inspiring. She encouraged women to persist while “looking at the big picture.”

While closing the conference, First Vice President Dr. Riek Machar advised women to utilize the relative peace in the country to make gains toward addressing issues affecting women. He also encouraged South Sudanese women to support girl child education, noting that illiteracy is one significant structural causes of inequalities.

The conference provided space for women leaders to reflect on their personal leadership journeys, share perspectives, and recommend forward-thinking strategies on women leadership and decision-making across peace, security, governance, climate change, and intergenerational pathways to leadership.

Participants deliberated on actions and strategies to strengthen women’s participation in decision-making. They further expanded networks for shared learning nationally, regionally, and internationally to build strong women’s movements for transformative change and advance gender equality in a digital age.

Perspectives from young people on the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda: Working together for the South Sudan We Want

Peace and stability are essential for South Sudan to prosper and develop. Despite considerable progress towards peace with a reduction in direct conflict between parties, sub-national and localized violence continue to occur in many parts of the country which continues to severely affect the country's progress.

It is noted that securing a lasting peace is the responsibility of all generations in the country particularly with the participation of the young people who under the age of 30 constitute 73.6 percent of the population according to UNFPA State of the World Population Report 2022 estimates.

Like in most countries, young people in South Sudan are faced with many challenges including lack of employment, education, and limited participation in decision-making as they are systematically excluded due to their age and assumptions that they are inexperienced. Such a situation has led to frustration among youth and has contributed to youth engaging in violence including armed conflict



Precious Speaking at the intergenerational dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security as Anna Maneno looks on. Photo: © UNFPA

In 2015, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 2250, the first resolution that specifically, addresses the role of young people on matters of peace and security. This ground-breaking resolution on Youth, Peace and Security recognizes the positive role young people can play in conflict prevention, the prevention of violence, and the promotion and consolidation of peace. In this regard, the government of South Sudan has committed to advancing the Youth Peace and Security agenda in the country.

UNFPA together with the University of Juba organized a series of intergenerational dialogues with the youth, bringing together officials from the government, private sector, activists, and people with disability in the spirit of leaving no one behind. The discussion centered around the role of young people in youth, peace, and security while tackling issues of reproductive health and rights.

This follow-up dialogue was held to specifically discuss openly the role of young people on matters of youth, peace, and security and explore solutions to address the challenges.

Hon. Pia Philip, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Peacebuilding, in recognizing the positive role young people play in conflict prevention, the prevention of violence, and the promotion and consolidation of peace, stated that, "The vibrant discussions and contributions by young people in peacebuilding presents hope, together with the joint efforts of youth organizations, the UN, and government working together. The young people have a big role to play, they are the biggest percentage of this country's population, and the solution lies in their hands. The Government with its limited resources will do the best it can".

The panel was made up of Precious Ankangelo who is living with a disability from the Youth Advisory Panel, Anna Maneno a Youth gender advocate, Achai Kuol representing the Private Sector, a representative from the Ministry of Youth, Hon. Pia Philip Michel, Under Secretary, in the Ministry of Peacebuilding and moderated by Dr. Ademola Olajide, the UNFPA Resident Representative.

The intergenerational dialogue brought together around 250 students from the University of Juba, the University of Upper Nile, and other universities. They discussed perspectives, challenges, and priorities to support the active participation of men, women, and young people, considering their diversity in conflict prevention, social cohesion, conflict transformation, local and national peacebuilding, and reproductive health and rights touching on cultural practices that hinder access.



2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

During 2022, the UNCT increased its engagement with government, development and local implementing partners, strengthening coordination to help meet immediate needs, advance progress on national priorities, P-H-D Nexus approach, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Resources have been mobilized through a range of channels, such as agencies' core funds, bilateral arrangements with donors in-country and Multi-Partner Trust Funds.

The UN's partnership with the Government has continued to mature culminating in the establishment of Joint Steering Committees for UNSDCF and PBF with government. The DSRSG/RC/HC and UN Heads of Agencies have engaged the political leadership at the presidency and ministerial level on concerns related to the peace process and broader humanitarian, recovery and development issues. For development planning and operations, the UN has worked closely with the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP)—in particular for the review of the NDS and the formulation of the UNSDCF 2023-2025—whilst UN agencies have partnered with a range of sectoral ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) and local authorities for particular thematic/sectoral interventions. The UN's partnership with local authorities and local implementing partners has been particularly critical to ensure hard-to-reach communities and vulnerable groups have benefitted from both humanitarian and development support.

There remain challenges with regard to data on development financing, partially because donors currently do not share their funding data with government. However, as part of the NDS review and on-going PFM reforms, the MoFP undertook a Development Finance Assessment which will inform an Integrated National Financing Framework with a costed plan which includes financing strategies and funding sources. Development partners are providing capacity support to the MoFP on PFM reforms. Meanwhile, the UN is working with Development Partners alongside relevant MDAs to revive the Sector Working Groups (SWGs). These have been created to inform sectoral level planning, budgeting and coordination, ensuring full alignment with and improved delivery for the achievement of national priorities.

In addition, at sub-national level, the UN is participating in the Partnership for Peace Recovery and Resilience (PfPRR). This brings together donors, UN agencies and NGOs to reduce vulnerability and improve the resilience of people, communities and institutions. The Partnership serves as a useful entry point for localization and area-based programming and implementation of the nexus approach.

Going forward, the UN will continue to deepen its partnership with NGO Forum and also scale up support to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), given their crucial role in the implementation of the peace agreement and broader objectives related to good governance, the rule of law and access to justice. For its own operations in 2022, the UNCT continued to strengthen the Contractor Information Management System (CIMS) Database to mitigate the risk of doing business with entities that do not abide by the highest ethical standards.

Efforts will also be made to explore interlinkages among the RSRTF, PfRR, PBF, and SDG Joint Fund initiatives with a focus on options for cross-initiative exchanges and possible synergies to support HDP nexus fundraising and financing. It also involves identifying ways to move from funding of individual projects towards financing of results.

Key Catalytic Funding:

- USD 11 million Peacebuilding Fund in 2022
- USD 12 million under the Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience Trust Fund (RSRTF)
- USD 1 million from SDG Fund for Finance
- USD 250,000 million from the SDG Emergency Fund

2.4. Results of the UN Working More And Better Together: UN Coherence, Effectiveness and Efficiency

In recognition of the cumulative effects of years of prolonged conflict and chronic vulnerabilities and immense need for lifesaving humanitarian assistance and protection of civilians in South Sudan, the UN and national stakeholders have adopted the Peace-Humanitarian-Development (PHD) Nexus Approach to meet the current humanitarian needs while at the same time, reducing risk and vulnerability. The approach promotes collaboration among P-H-D actors to build capacity to cope with, recover from, and adapt to shocks and stresses in the short- to medium- and the long-term. This is particularly relevant for South Sudan which has seen its development gains destroyed by conflict and humanitarian crises and the expressed national desire to transition from a humanitarian/negative peace to development and positive peace.

Initiatives to realise the Nexus results are hinged on stakeholders' commitments to collaborate across the PHD domains, focusing on joint risk analysis, joint programming and financing, underpinned by strong community engagement. It also involves fostering area-based programming, agreeing on collective actions based on the P-H-D approach, and strengthening accountability mechanisms towards affected populations. In 2022, through the Partnership for Peace Resilience and Recovery (PfPRR), the UN, Donors, and other stakeholders agreed on collective action/joint programmes in three areas: climate action including flooding; agriculture and food security and IDP transformation for durable/permanent solutions.

The UN system is supporting improved and strengthened coordination within and among stakeholders [UN, Donors, NGOs, Governments] by enhancing interagency coordination – PfRR Steering Committee, and Technical Working Groups; exploring ways of closer coordination between HCT, UNCT and UNMISS; and expanding UN-government coordination both at the national and state level including the establishment of a joint UN-Government Steering committee for UNSDCF and PBF. An integrated office was created in the DSRSG/RC/HC office for better coordination and collaboration among UNMISS, HCT and UNCT and build synergies and coherence in P-H-D delivery

Business Operations

The UN in South Sudan first developed a Business Operations Strategy (BOS) in 2019 to support efforts to deliver on its Peace-Humanitarian-Development 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 about USD 8 million has been recorded for the period 2019-2022 with the reported quality of those services also improving. These savings will be continued across the lifetime of the 2023-2025 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.

2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

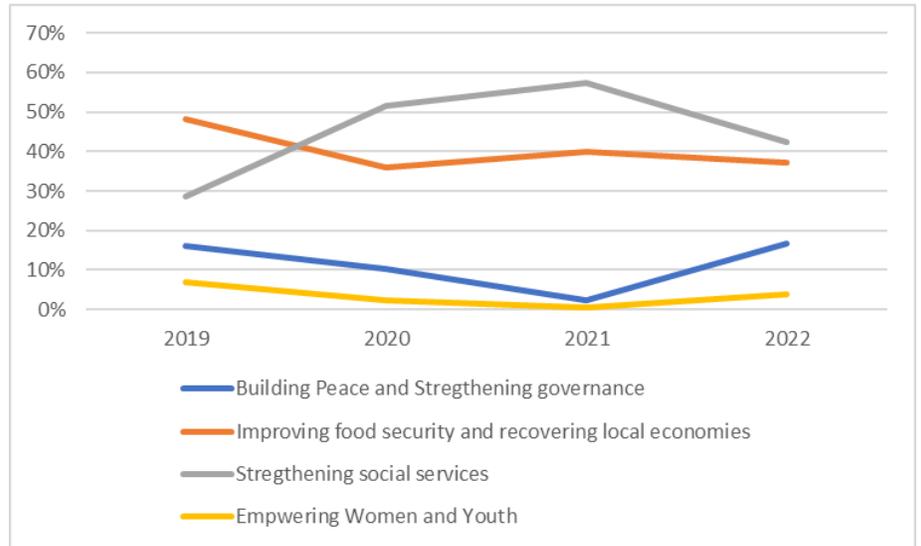
In 2022, the UNCT continued to follow-up and integrate into its operations and programming key findings, lessons learnt and recommendations from the independent evaluation of the 2019-2022 UNCF conducted in 2021. These included:

- Continue alignment of the Cooperation framework to national planning frameworks and strategies whilst paying particular attention to emerging issues related to climate change, environment, gender, youth, and the private sector.
 - Further integrate the Nexus Approach in programming and optimize the collective contribution by the UN system, including through technical support from regional bodies and NRAs
 - Deepen the New Way of Working and strengthen coherence between UNCF and other key frameworks like PfRR, HRP, Mission Strategic vision, while extending collaboration to new development partners.
 - Strengthen and improve the availability of routine, comprehensive, disaggregated data and data systems, including the development of a national framework for monitoring and reporting on SDGs.
 - Explore opportunities for better collaboration and coordination with IFIs and donors to promote the development of the private sector.
 - Develop a coherent UNCT funding strategy to streamline resource mobilization for UNCF implementation.
 - Consider striking a balance in the allocation of the South Sudan Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience Trust Fund (RSRTF) across the H-D-P window
 - Establish a Joint Steering Committee of Government, UN and Donors to provide direction and strategic oversight of the Cooperation Framework, whilst raising awareness of the UNCF among national and state level stakeholders.
- Review the existing UNCT technical architecture/working groups to respond to changes in context and needs (including strengthening coordination and collaboration between UN structures in Juba and state/field level structures for increased impact).
 - Strengthen the alignment and coordination of the UNCF Results Groups, Sector Working Groups, humanitarian clusters to avoid duplication and ensure effective utilization of resources.

2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

In 2022, UNCT's financial delivery stood at 89%, with an expenditure of USD 211,112,571 against a budget of USD 236,129,392 compared to expenditure of USD 264,359,599 against a budget of USD 290,154,177 in 2021. This represents a 20% decrease in delivery over the previous year and provides an average of 85% delivery over the lifetime of the 2019-2022 UNCF.

As in previous years, the 'average' delivery rate shows significant differences in performance across the four priority areas.



UNCF Financial Delivery Trend by Priority areas 2019-2022

Specifically, in response to several severe shocks experienced during the year such as flooding and pandemics, most of the funding went into provision of social services and then improving food security. Conversely, the two priority areas most closely related to the R-ARCSS provisions, namely Priorities I and IV, reveal significant under-performance, given the delays in implementation of key peace agreement provisions referenced above.



Chapter 3: UNCT Key Focus for 2023

The UN Development system in South Sudan has developed the 2023-2025 UNSDCF that articulates the collective offer of the United Nations in support of the country's national priorities across the Peace-Humanitarian-Development (PHD) domains as elaborated in the R-ARCSS and 2021-2024 Revised National Development Strategy (R-NDS). The UNSDCF has four, mutually dependent and reinforcing strategic priorities: 1) Consolidation of Peace & Transparent, Accountable & Inclusive Governance (in support of SDGs 5, 16 & 17); 2) Sustainable Economic Growth & Diversification (in support of SDGs 2, 8, 9 & 13); 3) Social Development with Protection of the Most Vulnerable (in support of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6); and 4) Women & Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development (in support of SDGs 5, 10 & 16).

Under the first UNSDCF priority area, UN AFPs and UNMISS is supporting 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 system is addressing 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 system is enabling scale-up of the provision and take-up of social services, alongside social protection measures for improved human development and in support of peacebuilding measures. Finally, under the fourth strategic priority, the UN system is working 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

Going forward, the UN Development System in South Sudan will continue to adopt and operationalize the P-H-D Nexus Approach and optimize on its convening role to contribute to the country's efforts to make progress on SDGs by 2030.

We shall continue to pursue:

- Revitalization of the Partnership for Peace, Resilience and Recovery (PfPRR) Agenda including developing P-H-D joint programmes with a focus to expand to less secure locations and hard to reach areas.
- Integrate and mainstream risk analysis and assessment into our programming
- Localization and Decentralization agenda for area-based support including provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance and creating durable/permanent solutions and conditions for return of displaced populations.
- Build and strengthen our coordination mechanisms at the national and state levels to leverage synergies and avoid duplication of interventions and ensure continuous engagement to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders [UN, Donors, Government, NGOs, private sector, etc]
- Continue engagement with UNMISS on peacebuilding and governance aspects to build synergies.
- Review and build on existing joint initiatives under UNSDCF/HRP as well as on the work of individual agencies within these frameworks to ensure synergies and linkages including developing joint programmes in the three agreed collective actions.
- Support the strengthening and development of the national data ecosystem for data generation and utilization in planning and decision making.
- Advocate for 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.
- Strengthen our systems and response for reporting, investigating and addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, particularly in the field.



Signing Ceremony

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)

January 2023-31 December 2025
Republic of South Sudan

The UNSDCF comprehensively outlines the UN Development System's collective action to support the Government of South Sudan's national development priorities for the period 2023-2025.

2022 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

SOUTH SUDAN



UNITED NATIONS
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