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**Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF)**  
**2018 Annual Report**  
**United Nations Country Team in South Sudan, May 2019**

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## Preface

This final report on implementation of the three-year UN Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF) provides a summary of key achievements and challenges faced by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in 2018 with some background on delivery in 2016 and 2017. It documents the trends in UN support for recovery and resilience over the last three years with improved results and increased donor funding. It shows how the UNCT has been able to build on the gradual improvement in the situation in many parts of South Sudan despite the overall continued crisis and emergency, and continue to strengthen delivery with substantive results in building resilience and strengthening capacities and institutions.

In 2018, this improvement was not least due to the cooperation with partners within the Partnership for Recovery and Resilience, and the report shows that resilience-based work has been effective in providing support for communities in South Sudan. With further improvements in the country situation, this support will enable them to become less dependent on humanitarian aid and gradually resume normal livelihoods. This will be important for the many IDPs and refugees who are planning to return.

The UNCT has now launched its new UN Cooperation Framework (UNCF) 2019 to 2021 that replaces the ICF and builds on the positive experiences with this. The UNCF seeks to enhance and scale up the resilience-based approach of the ICF, and a significant increase in delivery is already planned for 2019.

I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our national as well as international partners for their support and collaboration with the UNCT under the ICF in 2018, and I look forward to continued cooperation under the UNCF in the coming years.

Alain Noudéhou

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UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator

## Overview

The UNCT launched its Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF) in January 2016 as a strategic framework to support national partners during the transitional period of the Agreement on Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS) of August 2015. The ICF was designed to enable coordinated and focused support by UN agencies to recovery and resilience. Originally, it was established as a two-year framework, but after the crisis in 2016 and the renewed fighting in many places, it was extended for another year until 2018.

The ICF has now ended and has been replaced by the new UN Cooperation Framework (UNCF) for a three-year period that corresponds to the transitional period of the Revitalized ARCSS. The present report is therefore the final results and financial report on progress towards implementation of the ICF. The ICF was evaluated in 2018 and an evaluation report completed in July of that year.

The situation in South Sudan has remained challenging as a consequence of the ongoing conflict since 2014. Despite this difficult context, positive progress was made by the UNCT in 2018, and ICF implementation performance continued to improve. This followed an improvement in 2017, as programme implementation recovered after the crisis in 2016, and with particularly positive results registered at the local and community level while cooperation with national partners continued to pose challenges. In the latter part of 2018, progress towards a new national peace effort with the Revitalized Peace Agreement, and an improved operational context at the local level with more stability and better access in many places sustained a continuation of the positive trend. In early 2019, the parties to the conflict in South Sudan are engaged in preparing for the beginning of the transitional period of the R-ARCSS, which will be an essential step towards re-establishing security and stability and a platform for moving towards recovery and long-term development.

Based on the reporting by UNCT members, the overall achievement of ICF outcome and output level targets by the UNCT at the end of 2018 is considered on track. The UNCT was able to mostly meet its targets in four out of five outcome areas with outcome 3 (strengthening peace and governance) as an exception, as outcome level progress depended critically on the delayed peace process.

**ICF 2016-2018: Summary Table**

US\$	2016			2017			2018		
Outcome	Resource mobilization target	Funding level and delivery	Results achievement	Resource mobilization target	Funding level and delivery	Results achievement	Resource mobilization target	Funding level and delivery	Results achievement
Outcome 1: Resilience of communities	47,814,797	38,185,792	On Track	40,865,000	40,990,000	On Track	47,592,777	45,863,579	On Track
Outcome 2: Service delivery for the most vulnerable	71,267,156	40,246,332	Partially on track	64,191,722	45,576,368	On Track	55,886,054	44,369,555	On Track
Outcome 3: Peace and Governance	53,662,882	24,067,177	Partially on track	62,082,653	32,274,430	Partially on track	26,493,862	22,938,684	Partially on track
Outcome 4: Local economy reinvigorated	68,901,861	16,864,332	Partially on track	20,038,141	13,228,141	On Track	15,356,955	14,360,289	On Track
Outcome 5: Women and Youth	NA	NA	Partially on track	48,843,703	27,686,563	Partially on track	15,923,480	45,053,165	On Track
<b>Total</b>	<b>241,646,696</b>	<b>119,363,633</b>	<b>Partially on track</b>	<b>236,021,219</b>	<b>159,755,502</b>	<b>On Track</b>	<b>161,253,128</b>	<b>172,585,272</b>	<b>On Track</b>
Funding level and delivery	<b>49%</b>			<b>68%</b>			<b>107%</b>		

Funding levels and delivery under the ICF have increased with better conditions for implementation over the period. In 2018 the overall funding and delivery stood at US\$ 172,585,272 (107%) against a target of US\$ 161,253,128. This represents a significant improvement over previous years relatively and in absolute numbers, and is consistent with the improved achievement of results due to an improved security situation in many parts of the country.

This is a significant achievement for the UNCT in an environment where donors had continued to remain skeptical due to continued armed conflict. With the signing of the R-ARCSS and the preparations for a new transitional government, the UNCT remains hopeful that the donor confidence towards South Sudan will continue to improve.

### Achievement of Results against ICF indicators

Progress	Less than 50%: Off track	Between 50%-75%: Partially on track	More than 75%: On track
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Average achievement based on 2018 targets	Outcome	Output
Outcome 1: Enhancing the resilience of communities	106%	149%
Outcome 2: Strengthening social services for the most vulnerable	124%	91%
Outcome 3: Strengthening peace and governance	NA	166%
Outcome 4: Reinvigoration of the Local Economy	62%	100%
Outcome 5: Cross cutting: Improvement of the status of women and youth	127%	156%
<b>Overall Performance</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>132%</b>

### Outcome 1: Enhancing Resilience of Communities

#### General context, constraints and challenges in achieving the planned results

At community level, the conflict presented a critical operational challenge for building resilience and strengthening food security in 2018. Growing humanitarian needs demanded the attention of the international community, leaving limited resources to support development initiatives at the community level. While area-based coordination is essential for the realization of greater collective impact for resilience, it is also resource intensive and challenging in locations with limited or variable presence of concerned members. This challenge was increasingly addressed by UNCT in cooperation with its partners in 2018 through the new Partnership for Recovery and Resilience.

South Sudan presents a logistically challenging context due to a limited and poor road network that deteriorates significantly during the rainy season. Long distances, poor road infrastructure, conflict and insecurity as well as macroeconomic failure disrupt trade and markets by for both traders and consumers, leaving producers without access to sell their goods and buyers without access to food, agricultural inputs or other household needs.

### Key results achieved during the reporting period

Despite the limitations, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) made important progress in achieving their objectives and in pushing the rural economic development and resilience agendas forward. By focusing on areas where access was possible and by aligning interventions within joint programming and partnership frameworks like those in Aweil, Yambio, and Torit the UNCT was able to meet the set targets for the year 2018. The UNCT sought to strengthen the capacity of micro, small and medium enterprises to integrate with key agricultural value chains, particularly those run by youth and women; enhance agricultural production, diversify livelihoods through targeted vocational training, improve trade competitiveness and access to domestic and regional markets and improve security through the destruction of explosive remnants of war.

Outcome 1: Enhancing Resilience of Communities.				
Outcome Indicators	Baseline	2018 Target	2018 Achievement	% Reach
1.1A: Reduced coping strategies index (rCSI), average household scoring based upon use of 5 consumption-based coping strategies. The weighted score is an index of 0 – 56,	12.89	2.578	3.41	76%
1.1 B: Assets-based CSI: based upon use of 10 livelihood-related coping strategies	78% (Rural Pop)	77%	52%	148%
	Emergency Score: 56 % (Refugees)	55%	59%	107%
	Crisis: 13% (Refugees)	12%	15%	125%
1.2: Community Asset Score (CAS)	60% Communities have average of 2.4 functional assets (Oct 2015)	80% of communities have CAS over baseline value	N/A	In line with the new Corporate Results Framework (2017-2021) CAS data is no longer collected
1.3: Food Consumption Score (FCS)	44% population in target areas have acceptable FCS (Oct 2015)	65%	49%	75%
<b>Overall Reach</b>				<b>106%</b>

Recovery and resilience programmes were implemented but inaccessibility to most hard to reach areas due to insecurity remained an impediment. The UNCT therefore adopted resilience coordination enhanced through the creation of three new resilience platforms (out of the targeted six) in Western Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria and Warrap. These platforms brought together the national government, UN agencies, INGOs and local NGOs to agree on and monitor resilience building initiatives through an enhanced food security and nutrition information systems for planning and decision making. As a result, a total of 3 resilience analysis information systems were established.

Output Indicators	Baseline	2018 Target	2018 Reach	% Reach
1.1 Number of resilience analysis information systems established	0	1	3	300%
1.2 Number of multi-sectoral Resilience Platforms established at sub-national level	0	6	3	50%
1.3 Number of reported explosive hazards (AP, AT and UXO) destroyed	20,975	15,000	17,203	115%
1.4 Number of assets built, restored, or maintained by targeted households and communities, by type and unit of measure	94%	90%	73%	81%
1.5 Number of predictable, productive safety nets projects reaching vulnerable communities, by type of project	0	1	2	200%
<b>Overall Reach</b>				<b>149%</b>

Delivering humanitarian assistance and development in an environment of insecurity and inaccessibility due to continuous ethnic conflicts remained a huge challenge throughout the year. In 2018, the UNCT continued to clear mines and explosives to enhance security for both local population and the UN agencies' personnel. A total of 17,203 mines and explosive items were cleared by the UNCT in various sites to allow access to livestock and crop farming. This facilitated the utilization of around 38,000 hectares of land which were cultivated with staple crops, like sorghum, and vegetables. Over the same period 485 km of access roads, 65 water ponds, 25 km of water canals, and 200 km of dykes were also completed. This allowed approximately 610,000 people (25 % increase from 2017) to be supported with seasonal food assistance and supported to build productive assets.

Achieving development and humanitarian targets in projects of national scale require strong strategic partnerships with well-planned coordination efforts. The UNCT therefore developed national, regional and local partnerships with strategic partners to enhance service delivery and livelihood support including most notably the Partnership for Recovery and Resilience. To strengthen the strategic partnerships and increase local capacities, the UNCT prioritised institutional capacity building as a vehicle for achieving success. Over five hundred community-

based organisations were trained on livelihood skills, income generating activities, seed multiplication and post-harvest processing. Climate smart technologies, including solar powered irrigation, flood tolerant seed varieties, raised bed planting techniques, mulching, green crop cover, basin planting, container gardens, were promoted.

To enhance local entrepreneurship initiatives the UNCT delivered capacity building support towards micro and small enterprises development particularly with special focus on the young entrepreneurs - both male and female - through provision of entrepreneurship skills training and business advisory services. A total of 152 youth in Yambio and Aweil were trained in entrepreneurship while 132 new business (65 owned by women) were registered in Yambio and Aweil and were provided with start-up kits.

## **Outcome 2: Strengthening Social Services for the most vulnerable**

### **General context, constraints and challenges in achieving the planned results**

About 48 per cent of South Sudan's population are children. However, children continue to bear the brunt of insecurity, with their safety and well-being deeply compromised. The continued fighting resulted in displacement and emergency levels of food insecurity have interrupted education. Destruction of schools and the departure of teachers from the affected areas severely impacted access to and quality of education, with two million children reportedly out of school. Disease outbreaks such as cholera also interrupted access to education, as many schools had to close, and children were not able to fully attend school. The Government continued to struggle with payment of salaries of health workers, impacting on deployment, retention and motivation of health care professionals. More health workers exited the public health sector. Expansion of conflict across the country affected the operations of health facilities which experienced repeated looting, destruction of infrastructure, equipment and harassment of health workers.

The humanitarian context in South Sudan is fertile ground for the HIV epidemic with multiple levels of vulnerability and risks (sexual and gender-based violence, displacement and destitution, food insecurity and communicable diseases). With national HIV prevalence among adults (15-49 years) at 2.4 percent in 2018, and wide geographic disparities across the country, women, girls and youth in South Sudan remain the most at risk of HIV infection. An estimated 180,000 people are living with HIV, though only 20-25 per cent of them know their HIV status.

Social and cultural norms constrained access to and uptake of services. Parents hindering adolescent and youth from accessing to and uptake of sexual and reproductive health services. Men being the power holders in households widely denied their wives access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services. Low awareness of women's rights, and fear of stigma and isolation, remained key challenges in addressing gender-based violence.



### Key results achieved during the reporting period

Despite years of conflict and violence against civilians resulting to displacement and deterioration of people’s livelihoods the UNCT successfully achieved its outcome targets by providing a wide range of social services to 4.2 million displaced people.

Improving access to maternal and infant healthcare services for expectant and breastfeeding mothers is an important step towards meeting universal healthcare coverage and agenda 2030. Through strategic partnerships the UNCT increased the proportion of births attended by skilled health professionals to 55% in target communities. This is a remarkable achievement compared to 2013 when only 11% births were attended by skilled healthcare professionals. The availability of trained health personnel allowed 80,021 pregnant women to attend at least 4 antenatal care visits.

ICF Outcome 2: Strengthening social services for the most vulnerable				
Outcome Indicators	Baseline	2018 Target	2018 Reach	% Reach
2.1: Proportion of births attended by skilled health professionals.	11% (2013)- UNFPA	13%	55%	220%
	80% - UNHCR	90%	85%	94%
2.2: Number of children and adults enrolled in education.	519,962	600,000	559,042	93%
2.3: Moderate acute malnutrition treatment recovery rate in children and pregnant and lactating women.	82%	85%	73%	87%
<b>Overall Reach</b>				<b>124%</b>

The UNCT published a report on the number of out of school children - a first for the country, in July 2018, revealing that 2.2 million children are out of school and warning that in just two years the number of children out of school will increase by another 200,000, to 2.4 million, if conditions in the country remain unchanged. Although displacement significantly contributed to the number of children who remained out of school, concerted efforts by the UNCT and its partners resulted to significant increase in the number of children and adults enrolled in education. A total of 559,042 children and adults were enrolled in schools, representing 93% achievement compared to 519,962 in 2017. The UNCT adopted school feeding programme as a strategy to increase access to basic education and maintaining most at-risk children in school. A total of 189,811 girls and 210,459 boys were reached with food rations against targets of 166,155 and 194,082 respectively. The UNCT disseminated the South Sudan Out-of-School-Children through a three-month electronic and print media campaign program. Through the “Back-to-Learning” initiative, the UNCT supported increased educational access for 559,450 children (227,247 girls) to quality education.

Output Indicators	Baseline	2018 Target	2018 Reach	% Reach
2.1. Number of pregnant women attending at least 4 antenatal care visits	42,586 (2017) (Not cumulative)	134,211	80,021	60%
2.2 Pupil-Classroom Ratio (PCR)	Nationally (w/o GUN data): 84.6, GUN region 194 (2017)	85	N/A	
2.3 Coverage of Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programs Under 5	75% (2017)	90%	89%	99%
2.4 % of children with SAM admitted among the total number of estimated caseloads	70%	80%	77%	96%
2.5 % of people with access to an improved drinking water source in target areas	59% (2015)	65%	65%	100%
2.5 # of children reached with birth notification services in target area	279,225 (2016) (cumulative)	100,000	99,012	99%
<b>Overall Reach</b>				<b>91%</b>

The UNCT supported 924,787 refugees, and surrounding host populations with healthcare services ranging from consultations, diagnosis, treatment, nutrition, water and sanitation. To strengthen the services delivery and uptake of HIV prevention services the UNCT embarked on capacity building of partner organizations and community focal persons. In Jonglei and Greater Bahr-el Ghazal, 136 HIV counsellors were trained to reach 200,000 service users, their families and host communities. The UNCT continued to scale up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services, and helped improve reproductive health, mental health and psychosocial service provision within Protection of Civilian Centers. A total of 273,670 IDPs were reached in and out of the POCs with key HIV messages, testing and treatment.

Through capacity building and partnership with local NGO's, 21,213 key populations were reached across the country with a HIV prevention program conducted through outreach activities and 8,125 were tested and referred for treatment. The uptake of comprehensive package of HIV treatment, care and support services coverage increased from 14 per cent (25,500) in 2017 to 17 per cent (31,000) in 2018. The establishment of the CSOs and Civil Society coordination forum increased CSOs engagement in the HIV and AIDS response leading to increased scale up of antiretroviral therapy coverage, with sites increasing from 22 in 2017 to 69 in 2018.

Emergency and disaster preparedness are fundamental strategies towards the provision of humanitarian assistance. The UNCT and partners supported the government to put in place

health emergency preparedness and response, through an epidemiological survey that helped identify 24 cholera hotspots for targeted preventive programming. The strategy enhanced the identification and control of least 33 cholera outbreaks while rapid response mechanism missions reached 51,649 people with curative consultations and 119,277 children with measles vaccinated in hard-to-reach areas.

The UNCT supported development and implementation of the reproductive, maternal, newborn child and Adolescent Strategy and Operational Plan. Through partnerships capacity building support was provided to 500 Ministry of Health midwives and other health professionals, including seven obstetricians, two anesthetists to strengthen the government's capacity to provide maternal and newborn healthcare services in rural communities.

The UNCT supported the Ministry of Health to establish the Nursing, Midwifery Council and develop the Nurses and Midwives Bill and South Sudan Parliamentary Network for Population and Development, focusing on maternal and child health. Support was provided for the costing of the National Health Sector Strategic Plan 2017-2022 to inform and guide financing of interventions towards attainment of health-related goals. The South Sudan Essential Medicines List 2018 was revised to guide, inform and facilitate procurement, distribution and use of selected medicines and commodities in health facilities and community. Guidelines plans of action and strategies were developed for neglected tropical diseases (Hepatitis B and C, malaria and tetanus) as well as mental health. This enhanced the utilization rate of outpatient departments which increased from 0.6% capita per year in 2017 to 1.3% capita per year in 2018. As a strategy to improve services delivery and uptake of services by targeted communities, the UNCT engaged strategic partners in social mobilization to accelerate health system strengthening. The Ministry of Health approved the Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health (ASRH) Strategy. The South Sudan National Action Plan to End Child Marriage was launched in June 2018 while South Sudan's Civil Registry Act and the policy on children without appropriate parental care were passed with UNCT support. This enabled 99,012 children (49,724 girls) to receive birth notification services while 470,519 children and 266,221 adults received critical child protection services, including mine risk education, prevention and response to gender-based violence and psychosocial support.

Acute malnutrition remains a threat to child survival among most at risk populations. The UNCT worked towards recovery from acute malnutrition among children, pregnant and lactating mothers. Coverage of quality care for severely acute malnourished children saw significant increase from 60 percent in 2017 to 77 percent in 2018, thanks to an increase in the number of outpatient therapeutic programme treatment sites from 736 in 2017 to 858 in 2018. This enhanced the coverage of Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programs for children under 5 years was achieved at 89%. Through targeted interventions 520,221 people received access to safe drinking water while 158,274 people were provided with safe sanitation facilities in communities and health centers. The scaling up of Open Defecation Free activities significantly improved access to safe sanitation and dissemination of key hygiene practices among communities that

have adopted community-led total sanitation methods in 66 villages benefiting 23,589 people while 34,198 girls and women benefitted from dignity kits, allowing girls to attend school regularly.

### Outcome 3: Strengthening Peace and Governance

#### General context, constraints and challenges in achieving the planned results

Political instability, weak institutional capacities and lack of security in most parts of the country continued to be priority obstacles towards attaining sustainable development in South Sudan. Non-implementation of the 2015 peace agreement and slow progress in the R-ARCSS implementation gave rise to political risks effectively hampering the achievement of planned results while increased inter-communal violence posed significant challenges on advancing peace and community cohesion. Actions aimed at advancing women’s participation in political peace process remained a challenge due to lack of political will. Proliferation of small arms and rising criminality with deteriorating economic situation exacerbated insecurity leading to widespread displacement and inability for people to engage in building their livelihoods.

Access to justice remains a challenge due to weak formal justice system as well as erosion of role of traditional justice systems. Strengthening of child justice systems were significantly constrained. There are no functional statutory courts in most of the conflict affected communities. Destruction of education and health facilities and disruption of services due to conflict impacted the service delivery in many locations. Combating fraud and corruption and impact of rising humanitarian needs also impacted development efforts. Resource constraints and knowledge gaps negatively impacted implementation of development programming.

#### Key results achieved during the reporting period

Despite political instability and weak institutional capacities, the UNCT made some partial achievements towards strengthening peace and governance in South Sudan. The UNCT supported rule of law institutions in drafting five legislations enabling the government to meet legislative requirements. The UNCT made some progress with all three targeted governance and security reforms (constitutional review, legislative, military and civil service reform agreed as part of peace agreement) achieved and this was part of the background for the signing of the R-ARCSS. However, a survey on people’s perception on security in South Sudan could not be conducted due to insecurity in many parts of the country.

Outcome 3: Strengthening peace and governance				
Outcome Indicators	Baseline	2018 Target	2018 Reach	% Reach
3.1: Number of targeted governance and security reforms are implemented	The constitution review process, legislative, military and civil service reforms agreed as part of the peace agreement (2015)	3	3	100%

3.2: % of respondents who report increased personal safety and security disaggregated by sex and age.	28.1% (male 27.1% and female 29.5%) (2015)	50%	N/A	Survey not conducted due to insecurity
3.3: Percent of transitional governance mechanisms with CSO/media participation.	0 (2015)	80%	N/A	
<b>Overall Reach</b>				<b>NA</b>

At the output level the UNCT made progress in some areas as outlined in the results table below.

Output indicators	Baseline	2018 Target	2018 Reach	% Reach
3.1: Support to Political Governance processes	25% (2015)	30%	35%	117%
3.2 Support to public Administration Indicator: Number of public sector structures and systems supported	0 (2015)	1	1	100%
3.3: Support Community Security and Reconciliation Indicator: % reduction in intercommunal violence	10% (2015)	22%	19%	88%
3.4: Support to Access to Justice and Rule of Law (a) Indicator 1 (a): Number of people (men) trained in the formal justice systems (disaggregated by sex and age)	4 (2015)	320	214	67%
(b) Indicator 1 (b): Number of people (females) trained in the formal justice systems (disaggregated by sex and age)	2 (2015)	80	56	70%
Indicator 2 (a): Number of men accessing the formal justice systems	94 (2015)	344	1491	433%
Indicator 2 (b): Number of women accessing the formal justice systems	67 (2015)	656	1948	297%

3.5: Support to CSOs/Media Indicator: Number of CSO/Media organizations supported	3 (2015)	9	14	156%
<b>Overall Reach</b>				<b>166%</b>

Lack of institutional capacity and high levels of insecurity caused by low levels of motivation among the South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS) and provided a fertile ground for human rights abuses and GBV against women, girls and children. The UNCT provided relevant security trainings to the SSNPS to enhance their capacity to respond to emergencies, accessing legal aid, and SGBV response services. Support to mobile courts helped to reduce case back log and arbitrary detention in 149 cases across South Sudan. With UNCT support, the National Dialogue (ND) carried out 200 inclusive grassroots consultations with the participation of 20,000 people (30 females) resulting in improved community cohesiveness and appreciation of cultural, religious and social diversity.

Support was provided to the national government to strengthen south-south twinning arrangements between South Sudanese and IGAD countries of Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia. Support was also provided to the national government's efforts to improve border migration management including the establishment of integrated border management committee at Nimule resulting to improved coordination, capacity development against human trafficking, humanitarian border management and operationalization of border immigration clearing point in Aweil East. The UNCT supported the peacebuilding and conflict mitigation initiatives including pastoral migration management, peacebuilding training to teachers, establishment of peace clubs in schools, peace committees, peace conferences culminating in signing of local peace agreements.

The UNCT provided forums and capacity development trainings to women to enhance their participation in the peace agreement process. The UNCT supported members of women networks to enable them to participate in the high-level revitalization forums and advocated for women's participation in the structures envisaged in the R-ARCSS. Support was also provided to Women Parliamentary Caucus which culminated into the establishment of 16 state women caucuses assemblies to strengthen women leadership in governance.

The media continues to play a profound role in promoting peace, co-existence and governance. The UNCT supported the National Committee on Safety of Journalists to establish measures to ensure accountability, justice and safety of journalists. Support was provided for platforms on matters of press freedom, freedom of expression and access to information.

During 2018, the UNCT continued to clear mines and explosives to enhance security for both local population and the UN agencies personnel. The UNCT provided for the destruction of 20

stockpiles and 12,379 rounds of small arms ammunition and cleared 124 battlefield areas, enabling humanitarian and development actors to implement their critical activities.

## Outcome 4: Reinvigoration of the Local Economy

### General context, constraints and challenges in achieving the planned results

Limited access due to insecurity, poor road conditions and limited road networks were the major constraints which had a significant impact on the programmes and operations at the local level planned under outcome four during the entire period of ICF implementation. The macro-economic context remained problematic with high inflation, instability, poor economic and public financial management.

### Key results achieved during the reporting period

The UNCT made significant achievements in their efforts towards reinvigoration of local economy. Success was achieved in creating value chain addition strategies in agriculture, livestock and fisheries. Cooperatives, micro small and medium size enterprises were established to promote the production and marketing of agricultural, livestock and fisheries products. However, the number of people who benefited from micro-finance and lending initiatives remained below the expected target.

ICF Outcome 4: Reinvigoration of the Local Economy				
Outcome Indicators	Baseline	2018 Target	2018 Reach	% Reach
4.1: Number of value chain enabling strategies in agriculture, livestock and fisheries.	4	8	6	75%
4.2: Number of Cooperatives and Micro Small and Medium sized Enterprises in place for production and marketing of produce (cumulative)	70	130	135	104%
4.3: # of people benefiting from micro-finance/lending initiatives	25,000	30,000	2,250	8%
<b>Overall Reach</b>				<b>62%</b>

Rural Aggregation Centers were established in more than 15 locations in Western Bahr el Ghazal State to provide marketing and extension opportunities for small holder farmers. These contributed to the purchase of over 4,000 metric tons of commodities from local markets and small holder farmers, including an increasing number of female small holder farmers.

Agricultural inputs comprising an assortment of farming tools, crop and vegetable kits were provided to over 20,000 refugees in Jamjang, Maban, Yambio, Yei and Juba (Gorom) to support agriculture production. Women's participation in the management of agricultural cooperatives was enhanced through targeted trainings and capacity building initiatives. Construction and

rehabilitation of key community infrastructure were undertaken, including vocational and livelihoods training centers in Yambio and a multipurpose youth training Centre.

Output Indicators	Baseline	2018 Target	2018 Reach	% Reach
Output 4.1: Agriculture-based value chains actors (including women farmer) better organized and their capacity to produce and market enhanced	0	1	1	100%
Output 4.2: Opportunities and capacities for sustainable livelihoods enhanced, especially for women and youth,	0	12	12	100%
Output 4.3: Appropriate national policies, strategies and actions plans prepared, reviewed and strengthened to support sustainable management of natural resources and improve livelihoods,	0	4	4	100%
<b>Overall Reach</b>				100%

The UNCT published two reports on technical and vocation education and training (TVET) in 2018. The rapid assessment on TVET calls for urgent attention to invest and reform South Sudan’s TVET sector to provide incentives for South Sudanese - especially the youth, which represent almost 70% of the population - in becoming involved in conflict, and to provide meaningful economic productive engagement for all. Likewise, a labour market assessment and review recommend to align TVET provision in South Sudan better with labour market demands and needs. In Western Equatoria 4 milk, 9 fish and 92 crop value chain for 105 groups were formed and supported. In Torit 1 slaughterhouse was constructed while in Pibor 20 fisher folk groups were trained on fish post-harvest management. In Juba 35 facilitators received training on business skills and fish processing and preservation. In Yambio 115 crop and 6 fish value chain development groups were formed to enhance market opportunities focusing on gender equity for producers of agricultural products and food while in Juba 10 market groups were formed to improve value chain addition to enhance earnings.

The UNCT developed infrastructure to improve processing, labor saving technologies in Juba. This included two market shades/stalls constructed in Gurei and Lologo II markets while in Pibor one Fish market was established which allowed more traders to start self-help projects.

To enhance stakeholder feedback mechanisms participatory risk assessments (both at community and national levels) through technical workshops and specialized thematic seminars were supported to ensure stakeholder input into the National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) document.



## Outcome 5 - Cross cutting: Improvement of the status of women and youth

### General context, constraints and challenges in achieving the planned results

Gender disparities in South Sudan continue to slow down initiatives aimed at building progress and acceleration towards agenda 2030. The 2018 Gender Development Index ranked South Sudan 187 out of 189 countries, indicating high level of disparities between women and men. Women exercise limited decision-making at household and community levels; partly due to cultural norms about the roles and abilities of women and men, exacerbated by women's lack of access to education, information, training and employment opportunities. A survey revealed that gender-based violence (GBV) is pervasive, severe and that over half of households had experienced a form of GBV against females. It found several harmful gender norms which viewed women's status as subordinate within marriage and attitudes that justified GBV. This is corroborated by another study in 3 locations, which indicated that up to 65% of women and girls have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime - yet it is grossly under-reported. Child marriage in South Sudan remains prevalent at 40%. The rate of teenage pregnancy contributes to only 6% and 20% of girls completing primary and secondary education respectively.

With conflict raging on over the years, limited accessibility, high risk of insecurity and lack of political goodwill from the leadership have slowed down gender equality and equity initiatives. On the other hand, women and girls continue to bear the brunt of cultural beliefs and customs that restrict their mobility and access to productive resources.

### Key results achieved during the reporting period.

Although the UNCT experienced challenges related to conflict and restrictive cultural values and customs significant achievements were made at the outcome and output levels.

Outcome 5 - Cross cutting: Improvement of the status of women and youth				
Outcome Indicators	Baseline	2018 Target	2018 Reach	% Reach
5.1 (a) % of women in parliament	26.5% (2015)	30%	28%	93%
(b) % of women in cabinet ministerial positions.	10 % (2015)	15%	17%	113%
5.2: # of youth employment friendly labour laws, regulations, policies and programmes to create favorable environment for job creation	1 drafted	3	0	0%
5.3: # of discriminatory legislations, laws and traditions reformed/formulated/adopted	1 Transitional constitution (2015)	4	12	300%
<b>Overall achievement</b>				<b>127%</b>

At the outcome level affirmative action regarding the percentage of women in parliament saw an increase from 10% in 2015 to 28% in 2018 (against a target of 30%). In the same period the percentage of women in cabinet ministerial positions rose from 15% to 17%. The UNCT supported the formulation 12 legislations that seek to eliminate discriminatory against women based on cultural and traditional values. However, the UNCT did not register any achievements on the number of youth employment friendly labour laws, regulations, policies and programmes to create favorable environment for job creation since the government directed its efforts and resources towards national peacebuilding and conciliation.

At the output level the UNCT surpassed five out of six of its output indicator targets. A total of 559 women were trained on women's leadership and confidence building conducted in Juba, Kapoeta, Mayom and Magwi from WMCs and livelihoods groups and in Bentiu POC camp coordination structures. To promote gender equity, gender equality, sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment the UNCT supported the training of 8,808 women and 1,729 girls in entrepreneurial and agricultural production skills.

Outputs	Baseline	2018 Target	2018 Reach	% Reach
5.1: Women's leadership and decision-making capacity enhanced	65 (2017)	150	559	373%
5.2: Capacity of multi-sectoral services including justice sector improved for prevention and response to gender-based violence	2890 (2017)	27,000	5,219	19%
5: 3: (a) Women skills enhanced to promote sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment,	660 (2017)	7,500	8,808	117%
5: 3: (b) Girls skills enhanced to promote sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment,	817 (2017)	2,200	1,729	79%
5.4: Access to Youth Friendly Reproductive Health Information and Services including HIV	118,566 (2017)	100,000	244,275	244%
5.5: Enhanced Youth Participation in the decision-making process and peacebuilding	3 (2017)	4	3	75%
5.6: Enhanced opportunities for youth to access education, life skills and livelihood opportunities	105 (2017)	200	371	186%
<b>Overall Reach</b>				156%

Despite restrictive cultural values, myths and traditions the UNCT supported 244,275 women and girls of reproductive age to access sexual and reproductive health services. These included condoms, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, contraceptives and maternal healthcare services. To enhance youth participation in the decision-making and peacebuilding process, 316 young women were trained on leadership skills while 371 young women and girls were provided with sponsorships and scholarships as a strategy towards improving women's and girl's access to education, life skills and livelihoods opportunities.

The first-ever National Youth Conference in South Sudan with over 200 youth from all over the country was held in Juba, South Sudan on 29-30 August 2018 under the theme "Promotion of Youth Voices for Sustainable Peace and Development in South Sudan." The ground-breaking conference was organized by the UNCT in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, National Youth Union, youth organizations/networks and development partners. The conference served as an inaugural platform for youth to engage decision-makers and other stakeholders on issues important to them. A youth declaration was ratified at the conference with signatures from all the involved youth participants calling upon all stakeholders to support youth engagement and participation, vocational skills training, sports, arts, peace and health initiatives.

Child marriage has permanent lifelong negative implications on the life of girls and women. The UNCT supported the formulation and launch of the National Action Plan to end Child marriage in South Sudan as a policy document to guide implementation of efforts to end child marriage. 12 communities in Pibor and Aweil were supported to develop local by-laws for ending child marriage in their communities. To strengthen the capacity of medical staff on how to provide comprehensive quality clinical care to survivors of GBV using the survivor-centered approach and enhance collaboration and referrals with the one stop center a total of 244 service providers were trained on various aspects of GBV case management, while 65 (22 males, 43 females) medical personnel in Rumbek and Maluankon were trained in Clinical management of rape. To enhance support to survivors of GBV UNCT supported the Ministry of Gender to develop safe homes guidelines for protection and temporary accommodation to the survivors of GBV.

To increase livelihoods a total of 124 livelihoods groups with membership of 1,247 women in Kapoeta North and South counties, Wau and Malakal POCs were supported with different forms of startup capital. The UNCT provided 847 women in Kapoteta, ikotos, budi, pibor/boma with poultry and goats, bee hives, bakery businesses, cloth businesses, groceries and food product trading. A total of 4 milk bars were constructed in Torit, Kapoeta, Ikotos and Pibor. To improve value addition, post crop, honey harvesting and milk production a total of 641 women were trained on milk handling and processing and provided with milk handling and processing kits. 600 women involved in agriculture value chain and livestock value chain were trained on business skills for voluntary savings and lending while 66 women were trained on improved fish farming methods and sustainable fishery management. As a strategy to promote agricultural production among the youth, 25 Junior Farmers Field Schools (JFFS) consisting of 762 members with 251

male, 341 female and 170 former child soldiers were supported to learn various farming trades (crop production, poultry, livestock, bee keeping and fisheries).

In Wau and Aweil, the UNCT supported 1,000 breastfeeding and lactating mothers with nutrition food vouchers containing vegetable, meat, milk, fish, and poultry and goats to improve the nutrition intake of their children and families. On the other hand 30 TOTs and 1,000 women who benefited from nutrition food vouchers were trained in fabricating fuel efficient stoves from local materials for sustainability and efficiency.

## Conclusion and way forward

Implementation of the ICF in the volatile context of South Sudan in the three years since the crisis in 2016 has shown that progress towards resilience and recovery objectives is possible, even in difficult circumstances. UNCT efforts have been able to leverage humanitarian action and work across the nexus and help people in South Sudan gradually become less dependent on humanitarian aid in many places. The annual ICF implementation reports have documented how UN agencies bounced back after the serious setback following the crisis in 2016 and steadily improved delivery and results performance. This ability to quickly recover from crisis has been based on the strong field presence and local partnerships of UNCT members, and will be an important asset going forward with implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement, which will face its own challenges and uncertainties.

ICF implementation has provided a number of important specific lessons learned that now form the basis for the new UNCF. These lessons are further developed and documented in the 2018 evaluation of the ICF.

Going forward based on the lessons learned from the ICF, the main focus of the UNCT under the new UNCF will be on strengthening the development and implementation of joint programming approaches to transition communities from reliance on humanitarian assistance to greater self-sufficiency and ability to productively engage in development activities. Initiatives currently include the Aweil Joint Stabilization and Recovery Programme and the Yambio and Torit initiatives under the overall Partnership for Recovery and Resilience that now provides a strong framework of cooperation with government, donors and NGOs. These multi-sectoral and integrated approaches enable partners to capitalize on programme synergies and deliver development impact on the ground.

Following progress on delivering essential health and nutrition services and building fragile health systems, the UNCT will continue engaging with the Ministry of Health and partners to support delivery of quality health services. The UNCT will help expand provision of basic commodities and essential maternal, newborn and child health interventions. The UNCT and partners will hold 100-day right to health campaign to help generate data to inform action against HIV and allow more people to know their status, put more people living with HIV on treatment and suppress viral load. Integrating HIV into humanitarian response could ensure efficiencies and broaden reach.

Involving key government and community members in working with vulnerable populations is also crucial.

There is a need to broaden engagement with stakeholders to maximize the school meals programme's impact. Closer coordination between education partners will maximize synergies. Following the National Home-Grown School Feeding Strategy, pilots will link the programme to smallholder farmers and contribute to resilience building. The UNCT and partners will strengthen staffing of nutrition services, facilities and information, do more to rehabilitate nutrition facilities and accelerate roll out of training to health and nutrition workers based on the new national guidelines to improve service delivery quality on acute malnutrition.

It is expected that the R-ARCSS will enable an enhancement of child protection, human rights and GBV interventions. As the R-ARCSS is being implemented, the UNCT will build on its provisions and continue working closely with the Ministry of General Education and Instruction in the areas of pastoralist education, youth skills training, comprehensive sexuality education, peace education, and education in emergencies to increase enrolment and retention of children and youth to decrease the number of out of school children.

Although South Sudan situation remains fragile with deep ethnic tensions, insecurity, weak governance and humanitarian crisis, the signing of R-ARCSS and the grassroots National Dialogue (ND) consultations have provided UNCT with opportunities to support the building of foundations for peace and good governance. Both the R-ARCSS and ND have provided an opportunity for women's participation and increased the role of civil society in peace building, recovery and resilience. If security situation permits, the country can also transition from a pro-active to reactive clearances to explosive hazards.

There is a need to put more emphasis on increasing national and multi-sectoral capacity to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child marriage. The UNCT will continue to focus on the empowerment of women to improve leadership, and their economic and social standing in the society.

While initiatives to empower women are crucial, South Sudan is a highly patriarchal and unequal society, and without investment in gender transformative programming, engaging men and boys work for social norms change, women's empowerment alone may increase risks of GBV in the short term. GBV risks will continue to be very high and will hinder peacebuilding efforts. The male involvement is fundamental in preventing gender-based violence given that they are key decision-makers, community leaders, perpetrators, allies and agents of change. This will create awareness for men on issues of women's leadership, honoring women's voices and developing men's engagement in ways that improve, and do not further endanger the lives of women and girls. Furthermore, there is need to develop community mobilization and multimedia campaigns using informal community groups and engage women, men, boys and girls in advocating and taking actions against gender-based violence.