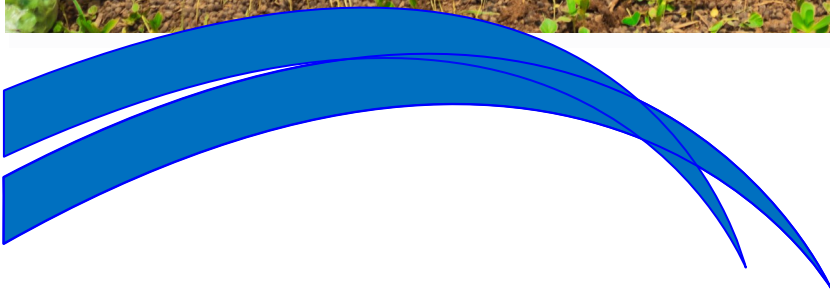




**UNITED NATIONS
SOUTH SUDAN**



2023 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULT REPORT

SOUTH SUDAN



Table of Contents

Foreword by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident Coordinator, and Humanitarian CoordinatorPG.3

UN Country Team.....PG. 4

Chapter 1: Country Context.....PG.5

South Sudan Development Indicators.....PG. 6

Chapter 2: UN Development System Support to National Priorities through the Cooperation Framework.....PG.7

2.1 UNCT vision and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation FrameworkPG. 7

2.2 Overview of UNSDCF Implementation and Results in 2023... PG.8

2.3 Progress on Priorities under the UNSDCF

2.3.1 Strategic Priority 1: Transparent, Accountable & Inclusive Governance (in support of SDGs 5, 16 & 17).....PG.10

2.3.2 Strategic Priority 2: Sustainable Economic Growth & Diversification (in support of SDGs 2, 8, 9 & 13).....PG.21

2.3.3 Strategic Priority 3: Social development with protection of the most vulnerable (in support of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6).....PG.34

2.3.4 Strategic Priority 4: Women & Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development (in support of SDGs 5, 10 & 16).....PG.45

2.4 Financial overview, Resource Mobilization, and Partnerships...PG.54

2.4.1. UNSDCF delivery.....PG.54

2.4.2 Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).....PG.55

2.4.3 Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience Trust Fund (RSRTF)PG.56

2.4.4 Partnerships.....PG.56

2.5 Operationalizing the SG’s vision in South SudanPG.56

2.5.1 Call for SDGs acceleration by 2030.....PG.56

2.5.2 Efficiency Agenda.....PG.57

2.5.3 Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)PG.57

2.5.4 Early Warning for All Initiative (EW4ALL).....PG.58

2.6 Challenges and Lessons Learnt from 2023 UNSDCF implementation.....PG.58

Chapter 3: UNCT Key Focus in 2024.....PG.58



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



As we reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year, I am pleased to present the 2023 report on the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in South Sudan. This report serves as a testament to the dedication and collective efforts of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in partnership with the government and other stakeholders towards advancing sustainable development in the country.

The year 2023 marked a period of intensified commitment and action towards achieving the objectives outlined in the UNSDCF. Despite the numerous challenges facing South Sudan, including protracted conflict, humanitarian crises, and socio-economic disparities, the UNCT remained steadfast in its mission to support the country's path towards peace, stability, and prosperity.

One of the key highlights of 2023 was the significant increase in financial delivery, with expenditures reaching 80% of available funding. This amounted to USD 461,847,675 out of the available funding of USD 578,015,755 and represented 44% of the budget of USD 1,045,724,178. This expenditure marked a remarkable increase

compared to the average yearly delivery under the 2019-2022 UNCF, which stood at USD 222,938,157. This remarkable achievement reflects the UN's enhanced investment in critical sectors such as community infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare, and education, underscoring our commitment to addressing the most pressing needs of the South Sudanese people.

Moreover, the UNSDCF's focus on transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance, sustainable economic growth, social development, and empowerment of women and youth has guided our interventions and contributed to tangible results on the ground. From improving access to essential services to promoting gender equality and empowering marginalized communities, our collective efforts have begun to yield positive outcomes that are laying the foundation for long-term sustainable development.

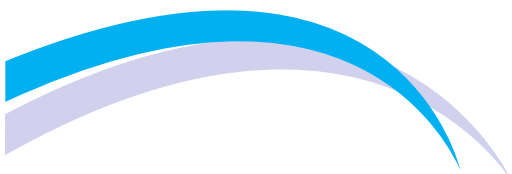
As we move forward, it is imperative that we build on the progress achieved in 2023 and redouble our efforts to overcome the remaining challenges. The UNSDCF will continue to serve as our roadmap for action, guiding our interventions and ensuring alignment with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2024, our focus will revolve around several key priorities, including the continuation of the second-year implementation of the UNSDCF, accelerating progress on the SDGs, and preparing for the Summit of the Future. Additionally, we remain steadfast in our commitment to Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), the Early Warning for All Initiative and the rollout of durable solutions, among other critical endeavors.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all UN agencies, government counterparts, development partners, and civil society organizations for their unwavering support and collaboration throughout the year. Together, we have made significant strides towards our shared goal of a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable South Sudan.

I invite you to explore this report and join us in our ongoing journey towards realizing the aspirations of the South Sudanese people for a brighter and more hopeful future.

Ms. Anita Kiki Gbeho
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General,
Resident Coordinator, and Humanitarian Coordinator South Sudan.



UN Country Team

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in South Sudan plays a crucial role in addressing the multifaceted challenges facing the country, spanning humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts. In 2024, the UNCT welcomed Ms. Anita Kiki Gheho as the new UN Resident Coordinator (RC), who also assumed the roles of Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) at the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and Humanitarian Coordinator (HC). This consolidation of roles under Ms. Gheho's leadership underscores the integrated approach adopted by the UN system in addressing South Sudan's complex issues.

Comprising 21 Agencies, Funds, and Programs, the UNCT operates across various sectors, forming a critical nexus between humanitarian response, development initiatives, and peacebuilding endeavors. Among these agencies, 16 are resident in South Sudan, while 5 operate as non-resident entities, reflecting the comprehensive nature of UN involvement in the country. These agencies cover a wide spectrum of domains, ranging from food security, livelihoods and economic development, education, health, gender equality and women empowerment, infrastructure and connectivity, rule of law and justice and peacebuilding and human rights.

Relatedly, central to the DSRSG/RC/HC functions is the coordination of the Humanitarian Response Plan through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). This plan, informed by the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) analysis, guides humanitarian interventions, ensuring a coordinated and effective response to the country's pressing needs. Relatedly, the Common Country Assessment (CCA) which is updated yearly, serves as a foundational document for shaping development strategies, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national priorities.

In 2024, the UNCT and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) continues to explore opportunities for joint programming and collective actions, particularly in areas such as food systems, climate action, basic services (health and education), and durable solutions for peace. These collaborative efforts aim to maximize impact and optimize resource utilization, fostering synergies among various stakeholders along the peace-humanitarian-development nexus.

While UNMISS operates separately from the UNCT, it contributes to the realization of priorities outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), particularly in peacebuilding and governance initiatives. Moreover, the participation of international financial institutions such as the World Bank and African Development Bank in UNCT meetings enhances coordination and facilitates a whole-of-system approach to address South Sudan's complex challenges.

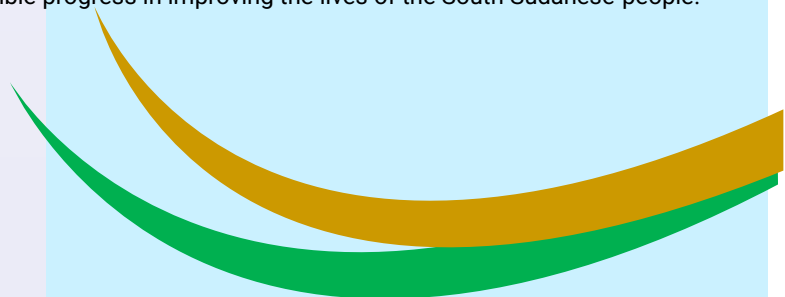
Furthermore, to enhance collaboration and coordination within the UNCT, HCT and UNMISS, an integrated office was established, bolstering capacity for risk analysis and management. This organizational structure ensures smooth alignment and synergy across the DSRSG/RC/HC functions, fostering a cohesive and strategic response to South Sudan's evolving needs.

Overall, the UNCT in South Sudan remains committed to supporting the country's journey towards peace, stability, and sustainable development, leveraging its diverse expertise and resources to make tangible progress in improving the lives of the South Sudanese people.

RESIDENT AGENCIES



NON RESIDENT AGENCIES





Chapter 1: Country Context

South Sudan finds itself at a critical juncture, marked by a complex interplay of political, economic, and humanitarian challenges.

Political situation

Since the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) in September 2018, the country has experienced a period of relative political stability. However, the implementation of the agreement has been slow (including an extension of the transitional period by 2 years to February 2025), and its transformative potential for sustained peace is yet to be fully realized.

While the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) has remained functional, there have been challenges in adhering to the agreement's provisions, leading to tensions and diminishing trust among parties.

The upcoming national elections scheduled for December 2024 present an opportunity for the country to transition towards a more inclusive and democratic governance framework. However, ensuring the effective functioning of key electoral institutions and addressing underlying political grievances will be crucial for the success of this transition.

Economic situation

South Sudan continues to face profound economic challenges characterized by macroeconomic instability, high inflation, currency depreciation, and fiscal deficits.

The lack of economic diversification and overreliance on the oil sector exacerbate the country's vulnerability to external shocks, including fluctuations in global oil prices and regional crises such as the Sudan crisis. The failure to pay civil servants and organized forces for several months has further exacerbated poverty and demotivation, contributing to widespread corruption and economic uncertainty.













Addressing these economic challenges requires concerted efforts to improve fiscal management, promote economic diversification, and enhance the resilience of vulnerable populations.

Humanitarian situation

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains dire, compounded by ongoing localized conflicts, food insecurity, economic shocks, and climate distress. Over 8 million people are estimated to be living in extreme poverty, with millions in need of humanitarian assistance (9.4 million). Internal displacement, with approximately 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and influx of returnees and refugees from the Sudan crisis, exacerbates the strain on resources and infrastructure. Severe food insecurity and malnutrition affect over 7 million people, posing significant challenges to achieving Sustainable Development Goals related to health, nutrition, and education. The prevalence of violence at the sub-national level further complicates humanitarian efforts, with gender-based violence remaining a pervasive concern. Climate-related displacement adds another layer of complexity, underscoring the need for climate-smart programming to address the underlying drivers of conflict and displacement.

In summary, South Sudan continues to face a multitude of challenges across political, economic, and humanitarian domains. Addressing these challenges will require sustained political will, effective governance, and coordinated efforts from national and international stakeholders to pave the way for lasting peace, stability, and development in the country.

South Sudan Development Indicators

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Population |  | 12 million |
| People in need of humanitarian assistance |  | 9.4 million |
| People in IDPs |  | 2.2 million |
| Poverty |  | Over 80% of the population live below the national poverty line |
| Multi-dimension poverty index (MPI) |  | MPI is 0.479, thus poor people face 47.9% of the possible deprivations related to education, health, living standards and livelihoods |
| Life expectancy |  | Life expectancy at birth is 56.4 years for men and 59.4 for women |
| Illiteracy |  | Adult illiteracy is over 70% (literacy rate is low at 35% for the adult population (29% for women) |
| Education |  | 60% of school aged children are out of school (2.8 million) |
| Health |  | Maternal mortality ratio (1,223/100,000 live births; Malaria incidence 274.80 per 1,000 population |
| Water |  | Majority of the population is not using safely managed water sources, drinking contaminated water |
| Sanitation |  | 90% of the population do not have access to sanitation facilities resulting into pervasive open defecation |
| Energy |  | only 7% of the population have access to electricity |



Chapter 2:

UN Development System Support to National Priorities through the Cooperation Framework

2.1 UNCT vision and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

The vision of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) for South Sudan is ambitious yet achievable, aiming for the transformation of the nation into a peaceful, inclusive, democratic, and prosperous society by the year 2030. This vision is underpinned by a commitment to resilience-building, human development, gender equality, youth and women’s empowerment, and the protection of vulnerable and marginalized groups, ensuring that no one is left behind.

To realize this vision, the UNCT has outlined a strategic approach centered on the following key principles:

- ◆ Acknowledge, strengthen, and further develop the capacities of the South Sudanese people at all levels to own and lead the consolidation of peace and sustainable development in their country.
- ◆ Adapt and respond to the evolving needs of South Sudan as it transitions from a humanitarian to a development and peacebuilding context, prioritizing interventions that are catalytic and transformational.
- ◆ Integrate peacebuilding efforts with humanitarian and development initiatives to address the root causes of conflict and instability, fostering sustainable peace.
- ◆ Prioritize durable solutions for displaced populations, including returnees and refugees, by supporting their reintegration and recovery, and addressing the structural drivers of displacement.
- ◆ Utilize the UN's wealth of technical expertise and positioning as a neutral actor and global advocate to leverage critical resources for South Sudan's progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"Our vision for South Sudan is a nation that is peaceful, inclusive, democratic, and prosperous by 2030. We envision resilient communities capable of anticipating, absorbing, and recovering from shocks, including those induced by climate change. Significant advancements in human development, gender equality, and youth and women's empowerment are achieved through effective,

The UNCT vision is aligned with South Sudan's Vision 2040 and relevant national planning documents, including the Revised-National Development Strategy and the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. Additionally, it reflects global commitments under various frameworks and agendas, such as Agenda 2063, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the World Humanitarian Summit.

The UNCT Vision serves as the longer-term goal in the Theory of Change of the 2023-2025 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for South Sudan, ensuring that our strategic approach is grounded in both the national development context and the UN's comparative advantage in-country.

The 2023-2025 UNSDCF focuses on four strategic priorities:

Transparent, Accountable and Inclusive Governance in support of SDGs :

Sustainable Economic Growth and Diversification (in support of SDGs :

Social development with protection of the most vulnerable in support of SDGs:

Women and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development in support of SDGs:



2.2 Overview of UNSDCF Implementation and Results in 2023

In 2023, the first year of implementation of the 2023-2025 UNSDCF in South Sudan witnessed significant financial delivery, with total expenditure reaching 80% of the available resources. This amounted to USD 461,847,675 out of the available funding of USD 578,015,755 and represented 44% of the budget of USD 1,045,724,178. Notably, this expenditure marked a remarkable increase compared to the average yearly delivery under the 2019-2022 UNCF, which stood at USD 222,938,157. The heightened financial delivery was primarily fueled by intensified investments in critical sectors such as community infrastructure development, agriculture, healthcare, nutrition services, and education.

Among the priority areas outlined in the UNSDCF, Priority III (Social development with protection of the most vulnerable) and Priority II (Sustainable Economic Growth and Diversification) made significant contributions to the overall financial delivery, accounting for 60.3% and 35% respectively. Conversely, the contributions from Priority I (Transparent, Accountable and Inclusive Governance) and Priority IV (Empowerment of Women and Youth) were relatively lower, with only 3.3% and 1.3% of the total delivery respectively.

This robust financial delivery reflects the commitment of the UNCT to advancing sustainable development in South Sudan by allocating resources to key sectors and priority areas identified in the UNSDCF. It underscores the collective efforts to address the multifaceted challenges facing the country and accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By focusing on these thematic areas and leveraging partnerships with government, civil society, and other stakeholders, significant progress was made towards achieving the SDGs and improving the well-being of the population.



01

TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

Efforts were directed towards promoting transparent, accountable and inclusive governance systems, crucial for achieving SDGs 5,16, and 17. Initiatives aimed at strengthening governance systems, crucial for achieving SDGs 5,16 and 17. Initiatives aimed at strengthening governance structures, enhancing rule of law, and promoting human rights were implemented. This included support for legal and institutional reforms, capacity building for government institutions, and initiatives to foster citizen participation and engagement in decision making processes.

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

03

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH PROTECTION OF THE MOST VULNERABLE

Addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations remained a priority, aligning with SDGs 1,2,3,4, and 6. Initiatives focused on improving access to basic services such as health care, education, and clean water. Social protection programs were implemented to alleviate poverty and reduce inequality, with a particular emphasis on reaching marginalized and conflict –affected communities. Efforts were also made to strengthen resilience to health emergencies, mitigate the impact of natural disasters, and promote sustainable water resource management.

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



02

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DIVERSIFICATION

In line with SDGs 2, 8, 9, and 13, significant focus was placed on fostering sustainable economic growth and diversification. Initiatives targeted job creation, promoting entrepreneurship, and enhancing resilience to economic shocks. Efforts were made to stimulate agricultural productivity, support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and facilitate access to financial services. Additionally, measures were taken to promote sustainable community infrastructure development, roll-out of early warning systems and renewable energy adoption.

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

04

WOMEN AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the importance of gender equality and youth empowerment in sustainable development (SDGs 5, 10, and 16), targeted interventions were implemented to promote the rights and participation of women and youth. Initiatives aimed at advancing gender equality, combating gender-based violence, and increasing women's leadership and economic empowerment were prioritized. Youth-focused programs sought to enhance education and skills development, promote civic engagement, and create opportunities for meaningful participation in decision-making processes.

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



2.3 Progress on Priorities under the UNSDCF

2.3.1 Strategic Priority 1: Transparent, Accountable & Inclusive Governance (in support of SDGs 5, 16 & 17)

In 2023, the UNCT actively engaged in advancing Transparent, Accountable, and Inclusive Governance, aligning its efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 16, and 17. Through collaborative initiatives with the government, civil society, and other stakeholders, the UNCT has made significant contributions to promoting democratic governance, advancing gender equality, strengthening institutions, and fostering peace and stability in the country.

SDG 5: Gender equality

Women's empowerment and participation

- ◆ The UNCT has supported initiatives to enhance women's empowerment and participation in decision-making processes at all levels. This includes advocating for gender-responsive policies, promoting women's leadership, and strengthening women's representation in governance structures.
- ◆ Capacity building for gender mainstreaming- efforts were made to build the capacity of government institutions and civil society organizations to mainstream gender considerations into policies, programs, and budgets.
- ◆ Training sessions, workshops, and awareness campaigns have been conducted to raise awareness about gender issues and promote gender equality in governance.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

- ◆ Promoting rule of law and access to justice -the UNCT has supported initiatives to strengthen the rule of law, enhance access to justice, and promote human rights in South Sudan. This included providing technical assistance to justice sector institutions, supporting legal aid programs, and promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.
- ◆ Security sector reform -efforts have been made to support security sector reform and promote civilian oversight of security institutions. This included providing training and capacity-building support to security forces, advocating for human rights compliance, and strengthening community policing initiatives.
- ◆ Transitional justice and reconciliation- UNCT has supported efforts to promote transitional justice, reconciliation, and peace-building in South Sudan. This included facilitating dialogue between conflicting parties, supporting truth and reconciliation processes, and providing psychosocial support to victims of conflict-related violence.

SDG 17: Partnerships

- ◆ Multi-stakeholder collaboration -the UNCT has facilitated partnerships and collaboration among government institutions, civil society organizations, international donors, and other stakeholders. This included convening multi-stakeholder forums, coordinating joint initiatives, and fostering knowledge-sharing and best practices.
- ◆ Capacity building and institutional strengthening- efforts have been made to enhance the capacity of government institutions and local authorities to promote transparent, accountable, and responsive governance. This included providing technical assistance, training programs, and institutional support to strengthen governance structures and processes.

In summary, the UNCT's contributions towards Transparent, Accountable, and Inclusive Governance in South Sudan have been comprehensive and multi-dimensional in 2023. By addressing key challenges and priorities identified in SDGs 5, 16, and 17, the UNCT has played a vital role in promoting democratic governance, advancing gender equality, strengthening institutions, and fostering peace and stability in the country.

2.3.1.1 Output 1.1 The Government of South Sudan has enhanced capacities to develop a permanent constitution, implement effective devolution, and run free and fair elections, as per the provisions of the R-ARCSS, in partnership with civil society.

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Comment |
|---|--|--|---|--------------------|---|
| % of the Permanent Constitution Roadmap completed | Activities towards the first benchmark underway (2022) | 25% (Benchmark 1 completed) (2023) | 12.5% (National Constitution Review Commission (NCRC) was reconstituted and members sworn in towards the end of 2023). | Partially achieved | The reconstitution of the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) and the swearing-in of its members represent progress in South Sudan's constitution-making process, albeit with delays. The formation of the NCRC underscores a commitment to fostering democratic governance and ensuring broad-based participation in shaping the country's future legal framework. The NCRC, comprising 57 members, including 19 females (33.5%) and 2 youth representatives, serves as the key body for initiating the drafting of the permanent constitution through a consultative and inclusive process. However, the slow formation of statutory bodies has led to significant delays in the drafting process. |
| Status of free and fair elections | No preparation (2022) | The election commission reconstituted; legal framework established; legal provisions enacted for electorate Code of Conduct (2023) | National Election Commission (NEC) reconstituted; National Elections Amendment Act enacted; Political Parties Council reconstituted | Fully achieved | The National Election Commission (NEC) was reconstituted at the end of 2023, with members sworn in during January 2024. Despite noted slow progress in electoral preparations, there were some achievements in 2023, including the enactment of the National Elections Amendment Act and the reconstitution of the Political Parties Council (PPC). The reconstituted NEC was sworn in 2024, and both the NEC and PPC secretariats have made strides in planning for upcoming elections. Parliament conducted consultations on the National Elections Amendment Bill, gathering input from various stakeholders, including parliament members, NEC representatives, academia, civil society, women's groups, youth groups, and persons with disabilities. Technical assistance was provided to the NEC and PPC secretariats to aid in planning and preparations, and initial consultations were held for an elections early warning and response framework. |
| # of CSOs engaged in consultation processes around the constitution and elections | 10 (35% women or youth led CSOs) (2022) | 13 (>35% women or youth led CSOs) (2023) | 58 (33% women or youth led CSOs). | Fully achieved | A total of 58 organizations, including 19 (33%) led by women or youth, participated in consultation processes concerning the constitution and elections, following the guidelines of the Constitution Making Process (CMP) Act 202. These organizations, comprising Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and media entities, effectively raised public awareness and provided civic education on the constitution-making process. These initiatives spanned across all ten states and three administrative areas of South Sudan, ensuring broad outreach and engagement |

Overall, the UNCT's efforts in 2023 demonstrated a commitment to supporting the Government of South Sudan in enhancing its capacities for constitution-making, devolution, and electoral processes, while ensuring the active participation of civil society, women, youth, and marginalized groups in shaping the country's future. Despite challenges and delays, progress was made towards promoting inclusive governance and democratic principles in South Sudan.

Support for Women's participation in constitution making.

Facilitated the formation of a women-led coalition comprising 27 women organizations in Juba to advocate for women's participation in the Constitution Making Process (CMP). This coalition played a vital role in conducting civic education, lobbying for women's concerns, and positioning women's priorities in the CMP. Additionally, through extensive consultations involving 300 participants, including women, men, and persons with disabilities (PWD), support was provided for the development of the South Sudanese Women's Charter, which served as an advocacy tool for gender inclusion and addressed critical women's issues related to gender equality and women's rights, and ensure women's representation in the constitution-making process. This has led to increased awareness and recognition of women's rights and priorities within the CMP.

Strengthened youth engagement in constitution-making.

The UNCT collaborated with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to develop a Youth Constitutional Charter, aligning it with the Women's Charter to ensure inclusivity and representation of youth perspectives in the constitution-making process. This initiative engaged youth leaders and activists from diverse backgrounds across South Sudan, fostering a sense of ownership and participation among young people in shaping the country's future legal framework. Initiatives such as the Youth Constitutional Charter and inter-university debates have provided platforms for young people to actively participate in the constitution-making process. By amplifying youth voices and perspectives, these initiatives have fostered a sense of ownership and engagement among young citizens.

Support for Reconstituted National Constitutional Review Commission (R-NCRC)

Despite delays in the formation of other institutions for the CMP, with UNCT support, significant progress was made in reconstituting R-NCRC in November 2023 to play a role in overseeing the constitution-making process in South Sudan. The R-NCRC, comprising 57 members, including 19 females (33.5%) and 2 youth representatives, signifies progress towards advancing democratic governance and inclusive participation in South Sudan. The inclusion of women and youth representatives in the commission demonstrates a commitment to inclusivity and diversity in governance. The reconstitution of the R-NCRC signifies a significant milestone towards advancing the constitution-making process in South Sudan and underscores the commitment to fostering democratic governance and ensuring broad-based participation in shaping the country's future legal framework.

Engagement of CSOs in constitution and electoral processes

UN entities, in collaboration with various stakeholders, engaged 58 organizations in consultation processes concerning the constitution and elections, including facilitating consultations on the electoral amendment bill, bringing together electoral and legal experts, civil society representatives, women's groups, youth organizations, and persons with disabilities to provide inputs and recommendations for electoral reforms. These organizations, including CSOs and media entities, effectively raised public awareness, provided civic education, and ensured broad outreach and engagement across all ten states and three administrative areas of South Sudan. This initiative contributed to promoting transparency, inclusivity, and citizen participation in the governance processes.

Civic education and awareness on constitution-making

In collaboration with the South Sudan General Students Union (SSGSU), UNMISS facilitated two-day inter-university debates aimed at empowering students on constitution-making, gender issues, and the UNMISS mandate. Four hundred students (400), including 150 women, from various universities participated in the event, focused on constitution-making, gender issues, and the UNMISS mandate, fostering critical thinking and youth leadership, which are essential for effective participation in governance processes. Furthermore, consultations and outreach activities conducted by UN entities and other stakeholders have raised public awareness and provided civic education on constitution-making and electoral reforms. These efforts have enhanced public understanding of democratic processes and promoted citizen participation in shaping the country's legal and electoral framework.



2.3.1.2 Output 1.2. The Government of South Sudan is better equipped to undertake judicial and security sector reforms, complete DDR processes, and deliver transitional justice in full compliance with the R-ARCSS, in partnership with civil society.

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Comment |
|---|--|---|---|--------------------|--|
| Status of key judicial reforms | Ad hoc Judicial Reform Commission (JRC) formed (chair and co-chair not appointed) (2021) | Ad hoc JRC operationalized (2023) | JRC operationalized | Fully achieved | In South Sudan, challenges persist regarding the preparedness of rule of law institutions to manage election disputes with effectiveness and credibility. There's a notable lack of trust among the populace in state institutions, including the formal justice system, with frequent interference from the executive adding to the complexity. To tackle these issues, the Judicial Reform Commission, operationalized under the R-ARCSS, is engaging in consultations to formulate recommendations for judicial reforms. These consultations aim to foster transparency and encourage active participation of South Sudanese citizens in the reform process. Furthermore, assistance has been extended to the Ministry of Justice and other relevant bodies to review laws pertaining to local governance, land, and resettlement. |
| Status of security sector reform | Strategic Security Assessment and Security Policy Framework completed (2022) | Revised Defense Policy and Operational Analysis under R-ARCSS completed (2023) | Awaiting approval of strategic security assessment, revised defense policy, security policy framework, security sector transformation roadmap, and a white paper on defense and security; await | Partially achieved | The Strategic Defence and Security Review Board (SDSRB), with support from partners, organized technical workshops to discuss and validate crucial documents including a strategic security assessment, revised defense policy, security policy framework, security sector transformation roadmap, and a white paper on defense and security. These documents outline principles and reforms to guide the national security sector transformation process from 2024 to 2028. They are expected to be submitted to the Council of Ministers and Parliament for approval. Additionally, support has been provided for Community Violence Reduction (CVR) programming to contribute to security sector reform efforts. |
| Status of the voluntary civilian disarmament strategy (VCDS) | Voluntary Civilian Disarmament Strategy completed by BCSSAC (2022) | Reintegration piloted in one county and assessment on disarmament completed (Lakes State) (2023) | Reintegration piloted in eight (8) counties in Lakes state | Fully achieved | In Lakes State, a pilot Voluntary Civilian Disarmament project aimed to build livelihood skills for 250 households across eight counties (Rumbek Center, Wuluk, Rumbek East, Rumbek North, Yuiol West, Awerial, Yuiol East, and Cueibet counties) was undertaken. Supported by SIDA funding, this initiative encouraged youth and women's groups from cattle camps to voluntarily surrender 500 arms to the government in exchange for skills training opportunities. Among the beneficiaries, 200 youth who relinquished their weapons underwent vocational skills training, revitalizing their means of livelihood. Additionally, office equipment procured with funding from SIDA enhanced the institutional capacity of the South Sudan Voluntary Civilian Disarmament Strategy (BCSSAC). By 2023, BCSSAC's presence had decentralized to two states, from being limited to Juba in 2022. The Voluntary Civilian Disarmament Project in Lakes State complemented efforts by the Lakes State government to mitigate armed violence associated with cattle activities, resulting in a reported 2% decrease in armed-related incidents in July 2023, compared to 20% in April 2023. |
| Status of transitional justice mechanisms (Commission on Truth, Reconciliation and Healing, CTRH); Hybrid Court for South Sudan, HCSS; Compensation and Reparations Authority, CRA) | CTRH, Public Consultations initiated; HCSS, No progress, CRA: No progress (2022) | CTRH, Public Consultation completed and reported submitted to MOJ; HCSS, judges, prosecutors, defense counsels and registrar nominated (2023) | Draft bills on CTRH and Compensation and Reparation Authority presented to parliament for deliberation and enactment. Consultations involving key stakeholders still on-going | Partially achieved | The overall implementation of the 2018 Peace Agreement in South Sudan has been slow, hindering progress in establishing transitional justice institutions, including the Hybrid Court for South Sudan. The Government's financial support for transitional justice initiatives has been insufficient. However, significant progress has been made in drafting bills to establish the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing and the Compensation and Reparation Authority. These bills have been presented to the Reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly for deliberation and enactment. Efforts are underway to ensure the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms, implementation processes, protection of victims and witnesses, representation of vulnerable groups, and procedures for compensation and reparations. Consultations involving key stakeholders, including victims/survivors' networks and civil society organizations, are ongoing to ensure their views are considered. Additionally, capacity-building initiatives, such as training sessions for judge advocates and workshops on transitional justice, gender, and inclusion, have been conducted to enhance understanding and promote participation in transitional justice processes. Despite delays, advancements have been made in the formation of crucial transitional justice mechanisms, albeit awaiting final approval from the legislative and executive branches of government. |

The implementation of UNSDCF activities in 2023 made significant contributions towards Output 1.2, which aims to equip the Government of South Sudan for judicial and security sector reforms, DDR processes, and transitional justice in alignment with the R-ARCSS, in partnership with civil society. Overall, the implementation of these activities in 2023 facilitated progress towards Output 1.2 by enhancing the capacity of government institutions, fostering community involvement in security and justice processes, and addressing key challenges related to migration, organized crime, and security sector transformation. These efforts represent important steps towards achieving comprehensive judicial and security sector reforms in South Sudan.

Support for migration governance

The formulation of the Comprehensive Migration Policy and subsequent capacity building for frontline officers and border management committees supported the enhancement of migration governance. By addressing issues such as trafficking and smuggling of migrants, the initiative contributed to strengthening security sector reforms.



Legal gap analysis on transnational organized crime

This analysis identified gaps in South Sudan's legal frameworks related to organized crime, corruption, and obstruction of justice. Recommendations provided a roadmap for aligning South Sudan with international standards, thus aiding in judicial reform and compliance with international conventions.

Capacity building for community policing

Support in forming police-community relations committees, training on Agenda 1325, and community infrastructure development strengthened community-police cooperation. This effort enhanced security sector reforms and contributed to community involvement in peacebuilding and security management.

Capacity building and awareness raising on trafficking.

Through workshops and training sessions, raised awareness about trafficking indicators and built the capacity of government officials and protection actors.

This initiative not only addressed issues of forced labor and exploitation but also supported transitional justice by addressing human rights violations.

National unity and peacebuilding

Initiatives, including peacebuilding workshops, engagement with civil society organizations, and support for the National Transitional Justice Conference, contributed to fostering unity and reconciliation. These efforts are essential components of transitional justice processes.

Security sector transformation

Provided strategic advice, technical assistance, and capacity building to advance security sector reforms. This included support for the formulation of key security documents and workshops to strengthen civilian oversight and engagement in security sector issues.

Disarmament and livelihood support

Projects like the Voluntary Civilian Disarmament in Lakes State, aimed to reduce armed violence and enhance livelihood opportunities. By addressing security challenges at the grassroots level, such initiatives contributed to broader security sector reforms and peacebuilding efforts.

2.3.1.3 Output 1.3 The Government of South Sudan is resourced to operationalize legal and policy frameworks, systems, and processes, including enforcement mechanisms, to protect housing, land and property rights, in accordance with the rule of law.

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|--|--|---|---|--------------------|---|
| Status of inclusive legal framework governing housing, land, and property | Land Policy is undergoing consultations (2022) | Land Policy tabled and adopted by Parliament (2023) | National Land Policy reviewed, revised and passed the Council of Ministers under Resolution 102/2023. | Fully achieved | The Council of Ministers revised and approved the National Land Policy. Following this, Ministerial Order 005/2023 was issued to establish the Land Reform Unit within the Ministry of Land, Housing, and Urban Development. Capacity-building and technical assistance from partners continue to be provided to enhance the operational efficiency of the Land Reform Unit. Additionally, efforts are underway to review several laws and ensure alignment with the constitution to enhance clarity in local governance. |
| # of land commissions established and operational at national and state levels | 0 (2022) | 2 (2023) | 2 | Fully achieved | The Council of Ministers revised and approved the National Land Policy, leading to the issuance of Ministerial Order 005/2023 for the establishment of the Land Reform Unit within the Ministry of Land, Housing, and Urban Development (MHUD). Partners continue to facilitate capacity building and provide technical assistance to MHUD, enhancing the efficiency of the Land Reform Unit's operations. |
| # of land registries (within judiciary) established and in operation | 6 (2022) | 7 (2023) | 1 | Partially achieved | Land registry established and operationalized in Western Bahr-Ghazal state (WBeG) |
| # of spatial strategic urban plans developed per year | 1 (2022) | 1 (2023) | 1 | Fully achieved | The ongoing review of customary law and traditional courts aims to enhance dispute resolution mechanisms. Assessment, review, and validation of customary laws conducted for communities in Abyei, Western Bahr El Ghazal and Central Equatoria. Plans in pace for reviews in Warrap and Jonglei states in 2024. The customary law review process is driven by community representatives and tackles topics such as marriage, divorce, rape, adultery, land tenure and ownership and succession of property. The final product of the review process – documented, ascertained customary laws of the communities from the states is transmitted to the government in the form of State Customary Law Bill for the review and potential codification through the State Legislative Assembly. Additionally, in Wau, ongoing efforts are focused on return and reintegration planning. A comprehensive plan has been developed and approved by the Western Bahr El Ghazal (WBeG) authorities to facilitate this process. |

In 2023, UNCT made significant contributions towards achieving Output 1.3, which aims to ensure that the Government of South Sudan is equipped to operationalize legal and policy frameworks, systems, and processes to safeguard housing, land, and property (HLP) rights in accordance with the rule of law. Through capacity-building, dialogue facilitation, advocacy, and monitoring activities, these efforts reflect the UNCT's commitment to supporting South Sudan in strengthening its legal and policy frameworks, enhancing governance structures, and ensuring the protection of HLP rights for all its citizens, essential for peacebuilding and development in the country.



DIALOGUES ON ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR)

UN entities facilitated interactive sessions aimed at promoting understanding and consensus-building among diverse stakeholders, including community members, government officials, women-led CSOs, academia, cooperatives, private sector representatives, and individuals from IDP camps or returnee communities. The dialogues on ADR were structured to foster inclusive participation, particularly emphasizing the involvement of women in decision-making processes related to land and natural resource allocation in Wau County. Relatedly, preliminary mapping exercise provided valuable insights into conflict hotspots and climate shocks in Bor, Pibor, and Malakal, laying the groundwork for targeted support to Natural Resources Management Committees in these areas.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT

The technical support provided for the legal and institutional assessment of the SDG indicator 5.a.2 involved a comprehensive analysis of existing laws, policies, and institutional capacities relevant to housing, land, and property rights. The assessment aimed to identify gaps and opportunities for enhancing legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms to effectively address HLP issues in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

DISSMINATION OF THE DRAFT LAND POLICY

UN entities ensured wide dissemination of the final draft of the land policy through multiple channels, including government departments, civil society networks, and community outreach programs. Efforts were made to engage stakeholders at various levels to solicit feedback and inputs for the refinement of the policy document, facilitating its eventual adoption and implementation by the government. The drafting of terms of reference for the Land Reform Implementation Unit within the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development was conducted in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, ensuring alignment with national priorities and strategies.

STRNGTHENING POLICY AND GOVERNANCE OF HLP

Conducted training sessions tailored to address the specific needs and contexts of different counties and states, focusing on building the capacity of participants in HLP governance, traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, and effective case management. Emphasis was placed on empowering traditional authorities to play a proactive role in resolving HLP disputes and promoting community-based approaches to conflict prevention and resolution. The sessions provided a platform for knowledge exchange and networking among participants, fostering mutual learning and collaboration across different sectors and institutions.

ADVOCACY AND COORDINATION OF HLP GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

Advocacy efforts targeted local authorities and community leaders to raise awareness about the importance of addressing HLP issues as a prerequisite for sustainable peace, development, and humanitarian assistance delivery. Engagements in protection training and discussions on HLP situations in conflict-affected areas such as Upper Nile and Jonglei underscored the need for integrated approaches to address the root causes of displacement and insecurity. The successful revision and approval of the National Land Policy, coupled with the establishment of the Land Reform Unit, marked significant milestones in advancing HLP governance and institutional reform processes in South Sudan.

LAND REGISTRY ESTABLISHMENT

Provided technical support and capacity-building initiatives to ensure the effective functioning of the land registry, including training programs for registry staff and stakeholders. The establishment and operationalization of a land registry in Western Bahr El Ghazal (WBEG) represented a critical step towards enhancing land tenure security, facilitating land transactions, and resolving disputes through transparent and accountable mechanisms.

CUSTOMARY LAW REVIEW AND RETURN PLANNING

Ongoing efforts to review customary law and traditional courts were guided by a participatory and inclusive approach, involving consultations with local communities, legal experts, and traditional leaders. The South Sudan Customary law review program was completed successfully in Abyei, Western Bahr-El Ghazal, Central Equatoria. Jonglei and Warrap state are planned for 2024. Return and reintegration planning activities in Wau and other areas affected by displacement prioritized community-led initiatives, livelihood support, and infrastructure development to promote sustainable returns and peaceful coexistence. The comprehensive plan approved by authorities in WBEG reflected a holistic approach to addressing the multifaceted challenges of return and reintegration, encompassing land tenure regularization, basic service provision, and community reconciliation efforts.

2.3.1.4 Output 1.4. The Legislative Assembly has the knowledge and skills to create and oversee legal frameworks aligned to international human rights norms and standards for effective, gender and youth responsive governance, in partnership with civil society.

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|---|---|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| Proportion of bills tabled by MPs and passed that are gender and youth-responsive | 0% (2022) (Legislative Assembly only reconstituted on 31 August 2021, committees assigned Feb 2022) | ≥50% (2023) | No data reported | No achievement | No data reported |
| Frequency of meetings of each key select committee (Public Accounts; Finance and Planning; Members Affairs, Ethics, and Integrity; Governance Assurance, Monitoring, Follow Up and Evaluation; Human Rights; Justice and Legal Affairs; Gender and Youth; Committee for Security and Defence) | 0 (2022) (Legislative Assembly only reconstituted on 31 August 2021, committees assigned Feb 2022) | Twice a month (2023) | bi-monthly meetings | Fully achieved | Workshops were conducted to bolster governance and accountability in South Sudan. In Wau, WBeG, from April 24-28, leaders of specialized committees in the State Legislative Assembly were educated about their oversight responsibilities, particularly in combating corruption. Participants included local chiefs, government officials, judiciary members, anticorruption officers, and civil society representatives. Additionally, a workshop held on March 28-29 focused on the legal framework and transparency rules governing the management and oversight of public resources, bringing together senior government officials and civil society organizations to promote transparency, accountability, and civic engagement. Moreover, the Specialized Committee on Defence and Veterans' Affairs of the Revitalised Transitional National Legislative Assembly conducted a workshop on defence budgeting and financial oversight on April 13-14, aiming to strengthen civilian oversight of the defense sector. |
| # of public consultations on legislation held by parliament, including by select committees | 0 (2022) (Legislative Assembly only reconstituted on 31 August 2021, committees assigned Feb 2022) | 4 (2023) | 3 | Partially achieved | Workshops were conducted to bolster governance and accountability in South Sudan. In Wau, WBeG, from April 24-28, leaders of specialized committees in the State Legislative Assembly were educated about their oversight responsibilities, particularly in combating corruption. Participants included local chiefs, government officials, judiciary members, anticorruption officers, and civil society representatives. Additionally, a workshop held on March 28-29 focused on the legal framework and transparency rules governing the management and oversight of public resources, bringing together senior government officials and civil society organizations to promote transparency, accountability, and civic engagement. Moreover, the Specialized Committee on Defence and Veterans' Affairs of the Revitalised Transitional National Legislative Assembly conducted a workshop on defence budgeting and financial oversight on April 13-14, aiming to strengthen civilian oversight of the defense sector. |
| # of Youth related policy and legislative frameworks approved/endorsed | 0 (2021) | 1 (2023) | 1 | Fully achieved | Supported government through the Ministry of Youth and Sports to develop a national youth development strategy to address the unique needs and aspirations of the youth, fostering their active participation in various sectors and contributing to overall national development. |

In 2023, the UNCT played a pivotal role in contributing towards achieving Output 1.4 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in South Sudan. This output focuses on empowering the Legislative Assembly to create and oversee legal frameworks aligned with international human rights norms and standards for effective, gender-responsive, and youth-inclusive governance, in collaboration with civil society. These efforts by the UNCT demonstrate a comprehensive approach to strengthening legislative capacity, promoting human rights, enhancing transparency and accountability, and fostering youth inclusion in governance processes in South Sudan.

SUPPORT FOR TRAINING ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Facilitated training sessions for members of the Legislative Assembly on relevant international law and human rights related to migration governance. This initiative aimed to enhance parliamentarians' understanding and capacity to develop legislation that upholds human rights standards in migration governance.

ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATIVE CAPACITY

Engaged with the government to oversee the implementation of recommendations and outcomes from the third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Cycle. Advocacy efforts led to the identification and agreement on a matrix of prioritized actions, including the development of a human rights action plan. Additionally, UN entities aided State Legislative Assemblies by producing printed copies of their Rules of Procedure, facilitating transparency and adherence to procedural norms during parliamentary sessions.

SUPPORT FOR CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF SECURITY SECTOR

Provided support for the Legislative Assembly's specialized committees to finalize their action plans, particularly those related to defense, veteran affairs, national security, and public order. Workshops were conducted to engage civil society and stakeholders on critical security sector issues, promoting transparency and accountability.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Conducted capacity building workshops in various locations focused on educating leaders of specialized committees in State Legislative Assemblies about their oversight responsibilities, particularly in combating corruption. These workshops emphasized the legal framework and transparency rules governing the management and oversight of public resources, promoting civic engagement and accountability.

SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Supported the government, through the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in developing a national youth development strategy to address the unique needs and aspirations of youth. This strategy aimed to foster the active participation of youth across various sectors, contributing to overall national development and promoting inclusivity in governance processes.



2.3.1.5 Output 1.5. Relevant MDAs and LGAs have improved capacities to develop and operationalize systems and processes for transparent, effective, responsive public financial management.

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|--|----------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| # of MDAs with improved legal and regulatory environment for tax administration and monitoring of illicit financial flow at all levels | 4 (2022) | 4 (2023) | 3(2023) | Partially achieved | Tax policies have been enacted in three states to enhance revenue generation and fiscal management, including the enactment of the State Revenue Authority Act in NBGs, WES, and CES, aiming to establish efficient mechanisms for taxation and revenue collection to support economic development and public services in these regions. |
| # of relevant MDAs and LGAs scoring ≥2 on capacity indices for revenue collection, diversification, and management | 1 (2022) | 4 (2023) | 3(2023) | Partially achieved | There has been a significant increase in non-oil revenue mobilization in Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, and Northern Bahr El Ghazal states, highlighting their strategic importance in diversifying revenue sources and reducing dependence on oil income for sustainable development. |
| # of relevant MDAs and LGAs scoring ≥2 on capacity indices for budget preparation, execution, and accountability systems | 0 (2022) | 2 (2023) | 13 (10 states & 3 admin areas) | Fully achieved | All ten states - Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile, Warrap, Western Bahr El Ghazal, and Western Equatoria - along with the three administrative areas have developed state development plans. These plans are integral to guiding their budget preparation, execution, and accountability systems. |

In 2023, UNCT made significant contributions towards achieving Output 1.5 of the UNSDCF in South Sudan. This output focuses on enhancing the capacities of relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and Local Government Authorities (LGAs) to develop and operationalize transparent, effective, and responsive public financial management systems and processes. These efforts by the UNCT contributed to strengthening public financial management systems, enhancing revenue mobilization, promoting investment promotion, and fostering sustainable development across states and administrative areas in South Sudan.

Development of State Development Plans (SDPs)

All ten states and three administrative areas have developed SDPs, which are crucial for guiding budget preparation, execution, and accountability systems, ensuring a comprehensive approach to development planning at sub-national levels.

Capacity building on Public Finance Management (PFM)

Supported the development of strategic documents, including a comprehensive Public Financial Management (PFM) document tailored for the states and an extensive report outlining a strategy for capacity development. Capacity-building workshops were initiated in 2023, targeting all State Ministers of Finance and Administrative Areas. Trained staff members and partners on Public Finance for Children, while the national Ministry of Finance trained Abyei-based civil servants on PFM. Orientation was provided by the Juba-based State Transfer Monitoring Committee to the Abyei County Transfer Monitoring Committee, and local government experts trained Abyei Executive Officers on PFM and leadership skills. These efforts aimed to raise awareness among participants about PFM architecture, budget preparation and execution, fiscal decentralization, and the implementation modalities of the State Development Plans (SDPs).

Fiscal decentralization and revenue diversification

Efforts focused on defining sub-national expenditure and revenue assignments to facilitate the diversification of sources of own revenues at both the state and county levels. In collaboration with the national Ministry of Finance and State Governors and Chief Administrators, introduced SDPs in six states and three administrative areas, with four more in progress. SDPs are integral to guiding budget preparation, execution, and accountability systems.

Investment Promotion and Public Investment Program (PIP)

In collaboration with the Ministry of Investment, completed an assessment of investment mapping opportunities and developed a one-stop guide for investment. Consultations are ongoing with the Ministry of Investment to develop a public investment program regulation manual and guidelines for project selection, appraisal, and evaluation. Various trainings have been provided on the public investment program, capacity-building policymakers on environmental, social, and climate risk management, and establishing functioning investment promotion agencies.

Tax policy and revenue generation

Tax policies were enacted in three states to enhance revenue generation and fiscal management, including the enactment of the State Revenue Authority Act in Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Western Equatoria, and Central Equatoria states. There has been a significant increase in non-oil revenue mobilization in Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, and Northern Bahr El Ghazal states, demonstrating progress in diversifying revenue sources.

2.3.1.6 Output 1.6. The National Statistical System is strengthened to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data to inform decision-making and enable reporting at all levels of government.

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|---|-----------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| # of States producing annual statistical reports (cumulative) | 0 (2022) | 1 (2023) | 0 | No achievement | No state has produced an annual statistical report, Capacity and logistical challenges hindered achievement of this target. |
| # of sectors producing quarterly reports generated from routine data provide by NBS | 0 (2022) | 4 (2023) | 5 | Fully achieved | Three statistical policy briefs have been developed in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), covering sexual and reproductive health (SRH), gender, and demographics. Additionally, five quarterly bulletins have been produced on national and health facility SRH and gender-based violence (GBV) indicators to support data-driven decision-making. Assistance was provided to enhance data management systems across five key sectors, including NBS, MoH, Bank of South Sudan, Commission for Refugees Affairs, and Ministry of Interior, to enable the production of annual and quarterly reports for informed planning. |
| % of SDG indicator profile data annually updated by NBS | 0% (2022) | 25% (2023) | 15% | Partially achieved | With support from partners, NBS has made significant progress in updating SDG indicator profile data annually. The 2023 SDG profile report was generated. However, lack of data continues to hamper SDG profiling. Additionally, three NBS staff participated in a MICS7 Survey Design and Planning Workshop, facilitating the establishment of critical MICS7 committees and tools. This preparation, which included forming Steering and Technical Committees, developing a Memorandum of Understanding, creating a Sampling Frame, and crafting the MICS7 Workplan and Budget, lays the groundwork for conducting the MICS in 2024, covering half of the household survey-based SDG indicators. |

In 2023, UNCT made significant contributions towards achieving Output 1.6 of the UNSDCF. This output focuses on strengthening the National Statistical System to increase the availability of high-quality, timely, and reliable disaggregated data to inform decision-making and enable reporting at all levels of government. The contributions by the UNCT have played a vital role in strengthening the National Statistical System in South Sudan, thereby enhancing data availability and quality for informed decision-making and sustainable development planning at all levels of government.

Capacity building on National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

The NBS received support in enhancing its capacity and mandate for data collection and analysis. This included training for NBS staff in various areas such as data collection, management, and analysis, as well as in the development of mobile phone data collection tools. Efforts were made to update enumeration areas in six major urban areas of South Sudan, crucial for accurate census data collection.

Gender statistics strategy

The NBS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare, developed a Gender Statistics Strategy. This strategy aims to improve gender-disaggregated data collection and mainstream gender statistics into national development planning. Capacity-building sessions were conducted for participants working as gender focal persons in government ministries and civil society organizations.

Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and policy development

The NBS, with support from partners, created a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to guide policy measures for poverty reduction and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Other studies were conducted on various topics, including the impact of humanitarian assistance on governance, security, justice, socio-economic development, and social cohesion.

Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS7) design and planning

The NBS participated in a MICS7 Survey Design and Planning Workshop, enabling the establishment of critical committees and tools necessary for conducting the survey in 2024. Efforts were made to raise funds and create partnerships required for the successful implementation of MICS7.

Supported generation, analysis, and dissemination of population data

Conducted two crucial national surveys in 2023: the Population Estimation Survey and the Violence Against Women and Men Prevalence Survey. The population estimation survey including its thematic reports will provide much needed information to inform population-based decisions by the government, development actors and humanitarian organizations. Disseminated population estimates reports to 624 national stakeholders, informing evidence-based advocacy for sexual and reproductive rights. The modelled population estimates can now be used to engage in evidence-based advocacy to hold duty bearers accountable for sexual and reproductive rights. The PES Thematic Report has been compiled and will be disseminated in 2024.

National progress reports for International Conference on Population and Development

Produced a semi-annual monitoring report on implementing the ICPD@25 National Commitments, informing policy decisions and resource allocation. The evidence of this report can be used to engage policy makers to advocate for resource allocation, improved service delivery and positioning youth issues. Compiled the National Report on the progress of implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD). The report highlighted progress, challenges and recommendations. The report provided South Sudan input into

2.3.2 Strategic Priority 2

Sustainable Economic Growth & Diversification (in support of SDGs 2, 8, 9 & 13)

The UNCT actively contributed to the progress of Sustainable Economic Growth and Diversification in various regions, aligning its efforts with the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 8, 9, and 13. Through collaborative initiatives and partnerships with governments, local communities, and other stakeholders, the UNCT has implemented a range of interventions aimed at fostering inclusive economic growth, promoting entrepreneurship, enhancing infrastructure, and addressing climate change. Through coordinated efforts and partnerships, the UNCT continues to play a crucial role in advancing sustainable development and building resilience in communities around the world.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

The UNCT worked towards SDG 2 by supporting initiatives that aim to improve food security, enhance agricultural productivity, and promote sustainable food systems. Key contributions include:

- * Providing assistance to vulnerable households through the distribution of agricultural inputs, tools, and training programs to enhance food production.
- * Supporting smallholder farmers with capacity-building initiatives, technical assistance, and access to markets to increase productivity and resilience.
- * Facilitating market linkages and trade fairs to connect food producers with buyers and expand market opportunities.
- * Promoting sustainable farming practices and compliance with food safety standards to ensure the availability of nutritious and safe food.

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

The UNCT actively promoted decent work and economic growth through initiatives aimed at creating employment opportunities, supporting entrepreneurship, and strengthening labor market institutions. Key contributions include:

- * Implementing programs to promote decent work and strengthen labor market institutions, including capacity-building on employment policy elaboration and competition law.
- * Providing business development support, mentorship, and access to finance for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to stimulate economic activity and job creation.
- * Empowering women, youth, and vulnerable groups through entrepreneurship training, skills development, and access to financial services to enhance their economic opportunities.
- * Investing in infrastructure development projects to improve access to markets, basic services, and employment opportunities in rural areas.

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

The UNCT contributed to SDG 9 by supporting initiatives that promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, foster innovation, and improve infrastructure. Key contributions include:

- ◆ Investing in infrastructure development projects, such as roads, bridges, and rural aggregation centers, to enhance connectivity, facilitate trade, and stimulate economic growth.
- ◆ Promoting digital trade and e-commerce platforms to enable MSMEs to access wider market opportunities and enhance competitiveness.
- ◆ Supporting initiatives that promote technology transfer, innovation, and research and development to drive sustainable industrialization and economic diversification.
- ◆ Strengthening institutional capacities and policy frameworks to promote inclusive and sustainable infrastructure development and innovation.



SDG 13: Climate action

The UNCT actively addressed climate change and its impacts through initiatives aimed at promoting climate resilience, enhancing adaptation, and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Key contributions include:

- * Supporting climate-sensitive development planning initiatives to integrate climate considerations into development policies, plans, and programs.
- * Investing in climate-resilient infrastructure projects, such as water harvesting systems and livestock-related facilities, to enhance resilience to climate-related shocks.
- * Promoting sustainable agricultural practices, climate-smart technologies, and natural resource management initiatives to mitigate climate change impacts and build resilience.
- * Strengthening early warning systems, disaster preparedness, and response mechanisms to enhance resilience to climate-related disasters and extreme weather events.

Overall, the UNCT's contributions towards Sustainable Economic Growth and Diversification and the achievement of SDGs 2, 8, 9, and 13 have been multifaceted, addressing various aspects of economic development, entrepreneurship, infrastructure, and climate action. Through coordinated efforts and partnerships, the UNCT continues to play a crucial role in advancing sustainable development and building resilience in communities around the world.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



2 ZERO HUNGER



2.3.2.1 Output 2.1 Relevant MDAs and LGAs have strengthened capacities to develop, operationalize and monitor market-oriented and gender-transformative policies, plans and programs in support of decent work, sustainable economic growth, integration and diversification.

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|---|--|--|---|--------------------|---|
| Status of bills and policies developed in support of sustainable economic growth | Seed Policy Framework Drafted; Fishery Bill (2022) | Seed Policy consultative review completed; Fishery Bill reviewed to align with international standards (2023); Women Enterprise Development Fund Bill (2023); Microfinance Bill (2023) | Draft seed policy and seed bill are currently under review; 2023-2027 fishery policy developed. Various sector strategies have been formulated, including: National Export and Investment Strategy; Gum Arabic Sector Strategy; Oilseeds Sector Strategy; Natural Honey Sector Strategy; Hides and Skins Sector Strategy; Fruits and Vegetables Sector Strategy; Tourism and Wildlife Sector Strategy; Transport and Trade Facilitation Cross-Sector Strategy. Additionally, the National Quality Policy of South Sudan has been established. | Partially achieved | The five-year fishery policy for South Sudan (2023-2027) was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, outlining key development areas in the fishery sector. A stakeholder review meeting for the seed policy took place in December 2023, bringing together experts and key sector actors to expedite the policy review process. Following the integration of expert suggestions, a final stakeholder validation workshop will refine the draft before parliamentary submission. Furthermore, a national export and investment strategy, along with six sectoral and one thematic strategy documents addressing key areas like Gum Arabic, Oilseeds, Natural Honey, and Tourism and Wildlife, have been crafted. These efforts align with the objectives of the South Sudan National Development Plan. Additionally, a revised National Quality Policy, enhancing the quality of industrial and agricultural output, has been developed in collaboration with the South Sudan National Bureau of Standards. Furthermore, a seed policy and seed bill are presently under review, and various sector strategies, including the National Quality Policy, have been formulated. |
| # of trade related reforms undertaken in support of implementation of AfCFTA, EAC customs and Common Market protocols | 0 (2022) | 5 (2023) | 2 | Partially achieved | The Trade Policy Framework (TPF) has been formulated for South Sudan with the primary aim of enhancing transparency and predictability in the business environment. This involves implementing measures to streamline import and export administration, eliminating Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), addressing market access issues related to standards and conformity assessment procedures, SPS measures, E-Commerce development, Intellectual Property Rights, tax harmonization, land access, and providing support to trade-related institutions. Additionally, a draft Competition Bill has been developed to support the implementation of the East African Community (EAC) Common Market. The draft bill seeks to foster and promote competition in the economy by prohibiting anti-competitive trade practices, regulating monopolies, safeguarding consumer welfare, and enhancing the efficiency of the production and distribution of goods and services. |
| Length of feeder and trunk roads constructed or rehabilitated and made accessible per annum | 0 (2022) | 65 km (2023) | 402 km | Fully achieved | Strategic infrastructure investments continued across South Sudan to support humanitarian assistance, drive food systems transformation, and enhance community adaptation to climate shocks. Road construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance projects were successfully planned and implemented in various locations. A total of 358 kilometers of roads were constructed and made accessible in Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, and Unity states, including routes such as Torit-Magwi, Saura-Li Rangu-Nzara, Bor-Kolmerek, Mayom-Kilo30, Rubkuai-Koch-Mirmir, Ajakuach-Mankien, and Bentiu-Mayom. Additionally, 44 kilometers of feeder roads were constructed in NBeG and WBeG states. These infrastructure projects have been handed over to the state governments, with communities currently benefiting from improved connectivity. |

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| Length of feeder and trunk roads maintained and made accessible per annum | 0 (2022) | 561 km (2023) | 1,115 KM | Fully achieved | Investments were made in community infrastructure to preserve the livelihoods of vulnerable communities, improve access to markets and basic services, facilitate job creation, and enhance resilience to climate shocks, ultimately contributing to social cohesion and peace. A total of 569.9 kilometers of roads were made passable, reopening access to vital supply routes, improving logistics efficiency, and connecting isolated communities to services and markets. Additionally, 306 kilometers of feeder roads were maintained in various states. Furthermore, 47 community access roads, totaling about 240.56 kilometers, were completed through a social safety net program for Labor-Intensive Public Works (LIPW) implemented in 2023, based on stakeholder engagement and consultation, indicating the preference for connecting farmers to markets and main roads. |
| # of warehouses/ aggregation centers constructed (cumulative) | 34 (2022) | 42 (2023) | 28 | Partially achieved | Investing in critical food system and market development infrastructures remained a key priority. Collaborating with key partners, direct support and capacity strengthening were provided to local communities in maintaining and constructing aggregation centers across various regions. Over 28 rural aggregation and marketing centers were established to facilitate collective bulking and marketing of seed and grain, as well as agro-processing for smallholder farmers. These centers serve as crucial hubs in strengthening linkages between urban and rural economies, enhancing market access, and creating employment opportunities, particularly for youth. Additionally, an Aggregation Business Centre was established in Juba County, equipped with post-harvest processing equipment for groundnuts. Furthermore, upgrades for existing ABC structures in Terekeka, Torit, and Magwi are being assessed, including solar power, boreholes, and fencing. Equipment procurement for 10 ABCs has been completed, with pre-positioned equipment for six ABCs in three states. Distribution of equipment to each ABC will occur upon completion of rehabilitation, upgrading, or construction. |
| % of community members providing Short-Term Wage Labour during infrastructure construction | 31.40% (2021) | 35% (60% Female) (2023) | 32% (54% female) | Partially achieved | In 2023, 22,300 households and community members participated in providing Short-Term Wage Labor during infrastructure construction through a social safety net program for Labor-Intensive Public Works (LIPW). These projects supported the creation of community assets that benefited the entire target communities in various ways. The cash received also helped supplement the incomes of participating families. |
| % of sampled beneficiary community satisfied with access to functional infrastructure (boreholes, market sheds and health centres, roads, bridges) to improve their economic development | 2021: 44% (19% females) | 50% (60% females) (2023) | 96% (97% females) | Fully achieved | In 2023, the Enhancing Community Resilience and Local Governance Project (ECRP) funded by the World Bank, completed the construction or rehabilitation of 19 schools, 18 health facilities, 55 boreholes, and 5 roads. These initiatives are anticipated to benefit approximately 258,755 individuals, with females comprising 131,965 of the total. A remarkable 96% of the sampled beneficiary community expressed satisfaction with access to functional infrastructure, including boreholes, market sheds, health centers, roads, and bridges, to enhance their economic development. Among female respondents, satisfaction levels remained even higher at 97%. |

In 2023, the UNCT made significant contributions towards achieving Output 2.1 of the UNSDCF. This output focuses on strengthening the capacities of relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and Local Government Authorities (LGAs) to develop, operationalize, and monitor market-oriented and gender-transformative policies, plans, and programs in support of decent work, sustainable economic growth, integration, and diversification. Through different collaborative efforts and partnerships, the UNCT demonstrated its commitment to promoting sustainable economic growth, decent work, and gender-transformative policies in South Sudan, contributing to the achievement of the UNSDCF objectives and the country's development priorities.

Food security and nutrition monitoring

UN entities, through collaborative efforts, played a crucial role in supporting the regular monitoring of various indicators contributing to food security and nutrition analysis. This included monitoring market prices, exchange rates, rainfall, crop performance, and livestock-related information. The data collected was uploaded onto the CLIMIS portal, facilitating informed decision-making in the food security and nutrition sector.

Policy development and review

Supported the review of the Draft National Food Safety Policy and the refinement of procedural manuals related to food safety standards. Additionally, it collaborated with the Government of South Sudan (GOSS) to revise the National Fishery Policy, addressing key development areas in the fishery sector. Efforts were made to expedite the review of the seed policy through stakeholder engagement and expert consultation, aiming to enhance seed quality and agricultural productivity. Further, it supported the development of sectoral strategies, including the Fruits and Vegetables Sector Strategy and the National Quality Policy, to promote trade and investment and improve the quality of industrial and agricultural output.

Infrastructure Development

In partnership with relevant stakeholders, invested in infrastructure development to support economic growth and enhance community resilience. This included the construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of feeder roads, bridges, and rural aggregation centers in Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Northern Bahr-Ghazel, Western Bhar-Ghazel and Unity states, including routes such as Torit-Magwi, Saura-Li Rangu-Nzara, Bor-Kolmerek, Mayom-Kilo30, Rubkuai-Koch-Mirmir, Ajakuach-Mankien, and Bentiu-Mayom, improving access to markets and basic services for communities. The Enhancing Community Resilience and Local Governance Project (ECRP) completed the construction or rehabilitation of 19 schools, 18 health facilities, 55 boreholes, and 5 roads, benefiting many individuals, particularly women.

Labor market and employment policies

UN entities, through collaborative efforts, initiated the implementation of the Decent Work Country Program (DWCP), to promote decent work and strengthen labor market institutions. Efforts focused on employment policy elaboration, capacity building on competition law, and the formulation of policies to support regional integration and enhance trade facilitation. Stakeholders underwent training on vital topics related to competition law, including consumer protection and merger considerations, contributing to the formulation of a competition bill to support regional integration efforts.

Social safety nets and community development

Social safety net programs, such as Labor-Intensive Public Works (LIPW), provided short-term wage labor opportunities to households and community members, supporting the creation of community assets and supplementing household incomes. Investments in community infrastructure and agriculture-focused initiatives, such as the construction of boreholes, feeder roads, and agricultural aggregation centers, aimed to improve access to markets, enhance agricultural productivity, and create employment opportunities.



2.3.2.2 Output 2.2.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PROVIDERS ARE STRENGTHENED TO PROVIDE GENDER –TRANSFORMATIVE, MARKET ORIENTED, QUALITY MODELS, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES TO FOOD PRODUCERS AND TRADERS, FOOD PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS AND MSMEs PARTICULARLY THOSE LED BY WOMEN, YOUTH AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| # of people accessing start-up and financial services through MSEs supported by the UN, disaggregated by sex | 9,192 (64% Female) (2022) | 12,352 (63% Female) (2023) | 869 (62% female) | Partially achieved | A total of 517 individuals accessed financial services, with 62% of them being women. These financial services played a crucial role in aiding their recovery, reviving and boosting businesses, promoting job creation, and facilitating local economic growth. Additionally, 131 graduates were provided with start-up kits to support their entrepreneurial endeavors. In 2023, a total of 221 students (69 women, 152 men) have graduated from the Abyei Vocational Training Center (AVTC). The course provided in the VTC include computer application, catering & hospitality management, building & construction, tailoring and business management. A total of 39 graduates (16 women, 22 men) of tailoring, catering & hospitality management, and building and construction received their start up kits. |
| # Of women and youth led MSEs that access interest free loans | 60 (2021) | 150 (2023) | 137 | Partially achieved | A total of 137 micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSEs) led by women and youth received interest-free loans totaling \$412,331. This financial support was aimed at enhancing, reviving, and expanding their businesses, with the goal of contributing to heightened economic growth, improved livelihoods, and increased economic resilience within the community. |
| Proportion of cooperative members, producers, and agribusiness/agro-dealers reporting increased sales through the service provider platform created by agribusiness forums | 0 (2022) | > 40% (2023) | 43% | Fully achieved | 43% of cooperative members, producers, and agribusiness/agro-dealers reported increased sales through the service provider platform created by agribusiness forums, indicating the platform's effectiveness in facilitating market access and potentially improving the economic viability of agricultural activities. |

In 2023, the UNCT in South Sudan played a crucial role in advancing Output 2.2 of the UNSDCF. This output focuses on strengthening public and private sector providers to deliver gender-transformative, market-oriented, and quality models, products, and services to food producers, traders, producer organizations, and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Through different interventions, the UNCT in South Sudan demonstrated its commitment to promoting gender equality, entrepreneurship and fostering inclusive and sustainable economic development, with a particular focus on empowering women, youth, and vulnerable groups. By addressing key challenges and leveraging partnerships with government and private sector stakeholders, the UNCT contributed to building resilient communities and advancing the country's development agenda.

Capacity building for cooperatives development

Initiated efforts to strengthen the capacity of the state Ministry of Cooperative and Rural Development. Activities included organizing exchange visits to Nairobi for State Ministers of cooperatives to facilitate knowledge sharing and networking opportunities, enabling state officials to gain insights into effective cooperative development strategies; conducting training of trainers to equip cooperative representatives, as well as national and state government staff, with the necessary skills on cooperative formation and development; and establishing aggregation business centers equipped with post-harvest processing equipment. By building the capacities of these stakeholders, UN entities aimed to foster sustainable cooperative models, enhance the functionality and effectiveness of cooperatives, and empower local communities and contribute to inclusive economic growth in South Sudan.

Women's enterprise development and access to financing

Played a significant role in supporting the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare (MGCSW) in developing the Women Enterprise Development Fund (WEF) Bill and establishing practical mechanisms for financing and capacity building, which aims to support women-owned businesses and facilitate access to financing through private sector players. Through partnership agreements with leading banks, such as Stanbic Bank and Alpha Bank, it facilitated the creation of financing facilities to provide interest-free loans to women and youth-led MSMEs. These facilities not only provide access to capital but also offer technical assistance and mentorship to entrepreneurs, enhancing their chances of success. Additionally, it facilitated the establishment of a private sector forum to enhance women's participation and access to financing in the private sector. By bringing together government officials, private sector representatives, and civil society organizations, the forum fosters innovation, identifies opportunities, and addresses challenges in promoting women's participation and access to financing in the private sector.

Business development support and entrepreneurship

Provided business development support services to 224 young entrepreneurs, including both males and females, to improve their entrepreneurial skills. This training aimed to promote gender equality by providing women and girls with access to entrepreneurship skills, employment opportunities, and income-generating activities, thereby empowering them economically. Furthermore, by focusing on youth entrepreneurship, UN entities addressed the specific needs and challenges faced by young people in accessing markets and building sustainable businesses.

Through mentorship and networking opportunities, young entrepreneurs were better equipped to navigate the business landscape and contribute to economic development.

Agribusiness support and financial services

UN entities revised their strategy for agribusiness support reflecting a shift towards more tailored and impactful interventions. By providing direct support to cooperating partners and farmer organizations, it facilitated the development of viable business plans and provided training in management and financial literacy. These capacity-building efforts not only improved the functioning of cooperatives and increased sales of agricultural products but also enhanced the overall resilience of rural communities.

The extension of financial services to over 500 individuals, with a majority being women, underscores the UNCT's commitment to promoting gender equality in access to finance and facilitating business recovery, job creation, and local economic growth. Thus, by targeting vulnerable groups and providing them with the necessary resources and support, it empowered women and youth to participate more actively in economic activities and improve their livelihoods.

Interest-free loans and market access

A total of 137 MSEs led by women and youth received interest-free loans amounting to \$412,331, aimed at enhancing business expansion and economic resilience within the community. The provision of interest-free loans to MSEs led by women and youth was a significant step towards promoting inclusive economic growth. These loans not only provided much-needed capital but also fostered entrepreneurship and innovation among marginalized groups. By focusing on MSEs in sectors such as agriculture and agribusiness, UN entities contributed to the diversification of the economy and the creation of sustainable livelihoods.

Furthermore, cooperative members and agribusiness/agro-dealers reported increased sales through the service provider platform created by agribusiness forums, indicating improved market access and economic viability of agricultural activities. The success of the service provider platform created by agribusiness forums highlights the importance of market access in driving economic development. By facilitating transactions and connecting producers with buyers, the platform enhanced the competitiveness of local products and contributed to the growth of rural economies.



2.3.2.3 Output 2.3

FOOD PRODUCERS AND TRADERS, IN PARTICULAR WOMEN , YOUTH AND THEIR ORGANISATION, HAVE ENHANCED ADAPTIVE CAPACITIES TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVELY, ADD VALUE TO THEIR PRODUCTS AND ACCESS MARKETS, WITH IMPROVED RESILIENCE TO ECONOMIC SHOCK.

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|---|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| Proportion of small scale producers who sell through groups (organized entities) | 23% (2022) | 30% (2023) | 26% | Partially achieved | Cooperatives were empowered through capacity strengthening initiatives, monitoring visits, and enhanced linkages with private sector actors. These efforts aimed to bring markets, finance, and technology to smallholder farmers. Specifically, in Western Equatoria State, initiatives were implemented to connect farmers to markets and improve their livelihoods. |
| Volume of food commodities sold by small-scale producer organizations | 1,200MT (2022) | 1,500 MT (2023) | 650 MT | Partially achieved | The procurement process is currently underway, with contracts already awarded. Efforts have been made to facilitate direct procurement from farmers, and initiatives promoting post-harvest management practices and low-cost technologies are being implemented to reduce food loss. These endeavors are part of broader efforts to support producers in increasing their income by improving access to markets and various financial and agricultural services |
| Proportion of farmer groups/ cooperatives who report improved access to markets and agricultural services with UN support | 0 (2022) | 30% (2023) | 25% | Partially achieved | Continued efforts to enhance the capabilities of smallholder farmers, focusing on improving production, productivity, and reducing food loss. This involved initiatives such as developing and rehabilitating aggregation centers, upgrading processing and storage infrastructure, and empowering farmers on post-harvest management. Additionally, they facilitated access to necessary inputs, including seeds and tools for land preparation. Relatedly, organized nine series of fruits and vegetables trade fairs, establishing market connections for 213 producers and traders. These events enabled participants to exhibit and sell their produce to various domestic buyers, including hotels, restaurants, and individual consumers. Notably, women exhibitors earned 68.7% of the total sales, amounting to SSP 1,148,600, with 249 beneficiaries reporting increased business transactions in fruits and vegetables due to project support. |
| Hectares of arable land cleared for crops through food assistance for assets activities | 44,552 (2022) | 50,000 (2023) | 36,150 | Partially achieved | Challenges, including climate shocks such as prolonged dry spells, floods, and conflicts in certain areas, hindered the attainment of optimal targets. Additionally, reduced funding limited the capacity to expand operations as planned. |
| Proportion of households (small scale producers) reporting an increase in production | 0 (2022) | 30% (2023) | 63.1% | Fully achieved | Beneficiaries reported increased production as a result of seed interventions and agricultural support, including inputs distribution and adoption of improved technologies and practices such as Good Agriculture Practices (GAP), Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices (CSA), and Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture (NSA). Meanwhile, 192 producers successfully cultivated various horticultural products, resulting in an estimated total production of over 2 million kilograms of fruits and vegetables. Additionally, 232 beneficiaries improved or introduced changes to their production practices due to support from the project. |
| Proportion of small-scale producers who have adopted improved climate resilient techniques and approaches | 0% (2022) | 30% (2023) | 58% | Fully achieved | Households trained on Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs) adopted various agricultural practices such as crop rotation, minimum/zero tillage, mulching/cover cropping, manure application, and Integrated Production and Pest Management (IPPM). In relation to environmental sustainability, 91 beneficiaries improved business operations in areas including climate change adaptation, mitigation, and waste management. Moreover, 255 producers and traders, including 137 women, introduced changes to their fruit and vegetable business operations, enhancing competitiveness. These changes encompassed various aspects such as business networks, marketing, sales, production, quality, financial management, and risk management. Additionally, 90 beneficiaries adopted sustainable farming practices. |
| # of producers/ HHs who have adopted environmentally sustainable value addition technologies and techniques meeting market and value chain requirements | 30,000 (2022) | 40,000 (2023) | - | No achievement | No data reported |

The UNCT in South Sudan made significant strides in contributing towards Output 2.3 of the UNSDCF, focusing on enhancing the adaptive capacities of food producers and traders, particularly women, youth, and their organizations. Despite challenges such as climate shocks and funding constraints, the UNCT's concerted efforts in 2023 yielded tangible results, empowering food producers and traders to increase productivity, add value to their products, access markets, and build resilience to economic shocks. Through collaborative partnerships and targeted interventions, the UNCT contributed to advancing food security, promoting sustainable agriculture, and improving livelihoods in South Sudan.

Support to food insecure/vulnerable households

Nearly 487,879 food insecure/vulnerable households were supported through the distribution of crop, vegetable, and fishing inputs and tools, aimed at enhancing food production and livelihoods. This comprehensive support addressed various aspects of agricultural activities to increase productivity and resilience to economic shocks. Additionally, 6,155 lead farmers received training in fishing, crop, and vegetable production, empowering them with the knowledge and skills needed to adopt best practices and improve agricultural outcomes.

Capacity building and training for smallholder producers

Smallholder producers received extensive support through orientation sessions and various training programs covering value addition, improved technologies, financial literacy, and good agricultural practices. These capacity-building efforts aimed to equip farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge to enhance productivity and resilience. Over 600 farmer groups, comprising approximately 18,000 individuals, were identified, formed, and registered to engage in vegetable production. Furthermore, these active farmer organizations were supported in transitioning into cooperatives, fostering collaboration and collective action among producers.

Market access and trade fairs

The organization of fruits and vegetables trade fairs created market linkages for over 143 producers and traders, enabling them to exhibit and sell their produce to domestic buyers. Through these trade fairs, market opportunities were expanded, and producers gained exposure to potential customers. Additionally, more than 2,000 producers, traders, and processors received support, including training in good agronomic practices, post-harvest handling, and cooperative management. This capacity-building initiative aimed to enhance the competitiveness of smallholder farmers in accessing markets and increasing their incomes.

Technical support and extension services

Facilitated the training of technical staff on post-harvest handling and agricultural practices, reaching over 40,000 farming households across the country. Through collaborations with national and subnational partners, extension services were strengthened to provide farmers with the necessary support and guidance. Cooperatives were empowered through capacity strengthening initiatives, monitoring visits, and enhanced linkages with private sector actors. These efforts aimed to improve market access, finance, and technology for smallholder farmers, ultimately enhancing their resilience and livelihoods.

Promotion of sustainable practices

Efforts were made to promote sustainable farming practices, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, waste management, and environmental sustainability. Through training and technical support, producers and traders adopted sustainable business operations, contributing to the long-term viability of agricultural activities. Moreover, entities supported the establishment of the Food Safety Association of South Sudan (FSASS), focusing on enhancing food safety and quality management systems. By building local capacities and promoting adherence to international standards, we aimed to ensure the safety and quality of food products.



2.3.2.4 Output 2.4

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

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------|----------------|---|
| # of people benefiting from jobs and other livelihood opportunities with UN support, disaggregated by sex and IDP/Returnee status | 9,192 (64% females); 0 IDP & Returnees (2022) | 9,522 (63% Female); 500 IDP & Returnees (60% Female) (2023) | 14,974 (women >50%; youth >55%) | Fully achieved | Supported 185 producers and traders of fruits and vegetables, creating a total of 694 jobs. Over 2,500 producers, traders, and processors received training in agronomic and water harvesting practices, post-harvest practices, and cooperative management. Additionally, 844 producers received agricultural tools and 151 producers and traders were provided with crates to improve product handling. The project facilitated the formation of 22 producer cooperatives with 950 members across eight locations, and provided tillage services to 63 producers covering more than 44 hectares of land. Furthermore, 48 extension officers were trained in various agricultural practices, and capacities were built in food safety and quality management in collaboration with SSNBS. The initiative also established the Food Safety Association of South Sudan and supported 7 MSMEs in horticultural value addition. Additionally, provided business and financial management training to 321 unemployed youth, with a focus on female empowerment, enabling them to participate in entrepreneurial activities and improving their livelihoods while reducing their susceptibility to violence. A total of 11,294 people benefited from the livelihood activities such as groundnut processing machines, grinding mills, vocational training and distribution of start-up kits, and Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) activities. |
| Women and youth led MSEs reporting increased revenue (at least 50% women) | 10% (2021) | 20% (2023) | 52% | Fully achieved | 266 beneficiaries, including 139 women and 160 youth, reported increased sales revenue from fruits, vegetables, and processed products due to project support. The total revenue earned by these beneficiaries amounted to SSP 301,152,759 (USD 298,636). Additionally, 1,205 young people received training in business management and entrepreneurship related to fruit and vegetable production. Furthermore, 467 producers, traders, and processors were linked to financial institutions through sensitization meetings, resulting in 61 MSMEs, predominantly women and youth, obtaining loans totaling SSP 14,880,000 (USD 13,934). |

The UNCT in South Sudan made significant contributions to achieving Output 2.4 of the UNSDCF, which aimed to empower women, youth, and vulnerable groups to establish and grow profitable Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), thereby enhancing their adaptive capacity and resilience to economic shocks. Through various interventions, it significantly contributed to equipping women, youth, and vulnerable groups with the necessary tools and resources to establish and grow profitable MSMEs. By fostering entrepreneurship, enhancing business skills, and promoting inclusive economic growth, these initiatives strengthened resilience to economic shocks and promote sustainable development in South Sudan.

Rural Enterprises for Agricultural Development (READ)

In collaboration with the government of South Sudan, UN entity signed the Financial Agreement for the READ project, with \$20 million in funding to enhance the capacity of Producer Organizations to improve social cohesion and serve as effective value chain actors and partners. The READ project, scheduled to be launched in early 2024, is expected to play a crucial role in investing in the development of inclusive rural financial services, supporting entrepreneurship and economic development initiatives.



Capacity building for youth and women entrepreneurs

Over 600 youth and women engaged in fruit and vegetable production, trading, and processing received comprehensive training and technical advisory support to enhance their business management and entrepreneurship capacities. This included skill-building sessions, coaching, mentoring, and formalization of businesses through registration and licensing processes. Special emphasis was placed on ensuring gender parity in training and support initiatives, with female participants accounting for a significant proportion of beneficiaries. Coaching and mentoring sessions specifically tailored to the needs of women entrepreneurs further empowered them to navigate the business landscape effectively. In Abyei, a total of 221 people (69 women, 152 men) completed vocational training courses, from which 39 (16 women, 22 men) received start up kits to start their business.

Establishment and support of MSMEs

A total of 300 MSMEs were constituted from 50 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) established in 2023. These MSMEs received training in financial management, business development, and entrepreneurship, equipping them with the skills necessary to operate effectively and access financial support from institutions like Stanbic Bank. Efforts were made to strengthen the institutional capacity of VSLAs through training in group leadership, governance, and management. By fostering a conducive environment for entrepreneurship and enterprise development, these initiatives aimed to stimulate economic growth and job creation at the grassroots level.



Promotion of digital trade and e-commerce

To harness the potential of digital technologies for economic empowerment, facilitated the establishment of the South Sudan Dukaanye digital marketplace. This online platform serves as a hub for business-to-business linkages and enables SMEs to showcase and sell their products to a wider market audience. Through targeted training sessions, over 1100 SMEs were equipped with the necessary skills to leverage digital trade and e-commerce opportunities. By embracing digital platforms, SMEs were able to expand their market reach and improve their competitiveness in the digital economy.

Strengthening food safety and quality standards

Collaborative efforts were undertaken to enhance compliance with food safety and quality standards among fruit and vegetable producers, processors, and traders. Training sessions on good agronomic practices, post-harvest handling, and food safety management systems were conducted to improve product quality and safety. The establishment of the Food Safety Association of South Sudan (FSASS) and the training of food safety advisers further contributed to building local capacities in food safety management and quality assurance. By adhering to international standards, MSMEs could enhance consumer confidence and access premium markets.



Facilitating access to finance

Conducted fundamental business and financial management training for 321 unemployed youth, with a focus on empowering female participants. This initiative facilitated access to finance, enabling youth to engage in entrepreneurial activities and improve their livelihoods. As a result, 266 beneficiaries reported increased sales or revenue from fruit and vegetable products, amounting to SSP 301,152,759 (USD 298,636). Additionally, 1,205 young individuals received training in business management and entrepreneurship, while 467 fruit and vegetable producers were linked to financial institutions. Furthermore, 61 fruit and vegetable MSMEs, predominantly comprising women and youth, obtained loans totaling SSP 14,880,000 (USD 13,934), fostering economic independence and sustainable livelihoods.

2.3.2.5 Out Put 2.5.

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

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|---|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| # of people directly benefitting from initiatives to protect nature and promote sustainable use of resources disaggregated by Gender IFAD | 0 (2022) | 27,659 (52 % Female) (2023) | - | No achievement | No data reported |
| % of UN supported CBOs successfully implementing a Climate-sensitive Community Development Plans | 0 (2022) | 20% (2023) | 20% | Fully achieved | Implementing partner in Jonglei on a PBF project is implementing climate sensitive development planning |

In 2023, the UNCT made significant contributions to Output 2.5, focusing on building knowledge and skills within relevant government agencies (MDAs), local government authorities (LGAs), and communities to co-create and implement policies, plans, and programs for the sustainable management and conservation of South Sudan's natural resources. Overall, the UNCT's efforts in 2023 focused on empowering communities, government agencies, and local authorities with the knowledge and skills necessary to collaboratively manage and conserve South Sudan's natural resources. These activities align with the broader goal of promoting sustainable development and resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

Community sensitization and capacity building

Facilitated the completion of community sensitization groups and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) registration in 15 Payams. These efforts aimed to engage local communities in understanding the importance of sustainable natural resource management. Ongoing screening and verification activities by committees ensured the legitimacy and effectiveness of registered CBOs, fostering community participation in conservation efforts.

Developing knowledge and skills on sustainable natural resource management

Engaged in the development and customization of training documents focusing on sustainable natural resource management. These documents are crucial for imparting knowledge and skills to relevant stakeholders, including MDAs, LGAs, and communities. Awareness activities planned to kick off in November 2023 signify a proactive approach to disseminating information and building capacity among stakeholders.

Climate-sensitive development planning

As part of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) investment, implementing partners (IPs) in Jonglei Province actively involved in implementing climate-sensitive development planning. This demonstrates a holistic approach to integrating climate considerations into development initiatives, thereby contributing to sustainable natural resource management.



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

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|---|----------|---|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| Status of early warning and disaster preparedness system, in UN supported areas | 7 (2022) | 17 community and local level Disaster Risk Management (DRM) committees established (2023) | 16 | Partially achieved | In various regions including NBG, Upper Nile, Unity, and Equatoria, 16 Community-based Disaster Risk Management Committees (CBDRMCs) have been established, each consisting of 20 members who received training. These committees play a leadership role in their communities, ensuring participation and effective coordination of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives. Additionally, two multi-hazard early warning bulletins have been developed and distributed by the National Early Warning Technical Working Group, coordinated by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM). Furthermore, 50 members of the National Early Warning Technical Working Group were trained to support multi-hazard analysis, develop quarterly bulletins, and utilize geospatial monitoring and mapping to identify flood-prone areas for early preparedness. Early Warning and Early response systems are built for conflict prevention and mitigation in Abyei, Jonglei, Malakal and Pibor. |

In 2023, the UNCT made significant contributions towards establishing and maintaining inclusive, gender-responsive early warning systems and disaster preparedness mechanisms in South Sudan. These efforts aimed to strengthen South Sudan's capacity to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, thereby reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience at various levels of society.

Livestock health management

- ◆ Launched a wet season campaign in partnership with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, vaccinating and treating over 4 million animals and supported the operationalization of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and facilitated six animal disease investigation missions.
- ◆ Worked with a network of over 2,100 Community Animal Health Workers to enhance the Early Warning System for livestock diseases and contributed to the establishment of gender-sensitive and climate-smart infrastructure in greater Kapoeta, including rehabilitation of water harvesting systems and establishment of livestock-related facilities.

Weather forecasting and climate services

- ◆ Produced weekly and seasonal weather forecasts disseminated through radio shows to enhance early warning capabilities.
- ◆ Invested in climate service infrastructure by purchasing 15 automated weather stations to improve data collection and analysis for generating precise early warning messages.

Health surveillance and response

- ◆ Supported the Ministry of Health in conducting the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) Review meeting, identifying areas for Improvement.
- ◆ Assisted Rapid Response Teams in Investigating alerts of infectious diseases at state and county levels.
- ◆ Conducted training sessions for health care workers and data officers on early warning and disease surveillance systems. Formed and trained 16 Community-based Disaster Risk Management Committees, enhancing local-level disaster preparedness and response coordination.
- ◆ Developed multi-hazard early warning bulletins and trained National Early Warning Technical Working Group members to support hazard analysis and quarterly bulletin



2.3.3 Strategic Priority 3

Social Development with protection of most vulnerable (in support of SDGs 1,2 ,3,4 &6)



Overall, the UNCT's contributions towards social development and the achievement of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 in South Sudan have been instrumental in improving the well-being and resilience of vulnerable populations, addressing poverty, hunger, health disparities, education gaps, and water and sanitation challenges. By working in partnership with governments, civil society, and other stakeholders, the UNCT has helped to advance progress towards a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future for all in South Sudan.

SDG 1: No poverty

Livelihoods support and economic empowerment -the UNCT has implemented programs aimed at improving livelihoods and economic opportunities for vulnerable populations, including refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities. This included providing vocational training, livelihood support, and access to microfinance initiatives to enable individuals and communities to generate sustainable income and lift themselves out of poverty.

Social safety nets -efforts have been made to establish and strengthen social protection mechanisms to support the most vulnerable households. Cash transfer programs, food assistance, and social welfare services have been provided to mitigate the impacts of poverty and ensure basic needs are met for those most in need.

SDG 2: No hunger

Food security and nutrition- the UNCT has implemented programs aimed at improving food security and nutrition outcomes in South Sudan. This included supporting agricultural development, promoting sustainable farming practices, and providing nutrition interventions targeting vulnerable populations, especially women and children. Initiatives such as school feeding programs, nutrition education, and therapeutic feeding for malnourished individuals have been implemented to address hunger and malnutrition.

SDG 3: Good health and well-being

Healthcare access and service delivery - the UNCT has worked to improve access to quality healthcare services and strengthen health systems in South Sudan. This included supporting the construction, renovation, and equipping of health facilities, training healthcare workers, and facilitating the provision of essential medicines and medical supplies. Efforts have also been made to combat infectious diseases, improve maternal and child health, and address non-communicable diseases through prevention, treatment, and awareness-raising initiatives.

Disease prevention and control -the UNCT has played a key role in supporting disease prevention and control efforts, including vaccination campaigns, disease surveillance, and epidemic response. This includes addressing major public health threats such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and waterborne diseases through targeted interventions and community health promotion activities.

SDG 4: Quality education

Education access and quality -the UNCT has worked to improve access to quality education for all, with a focus on marginalized and vulnerable populations, including girls, children with disabilities, and those living in conflict-affected areas. This includes supporting the construction and renovation of schools, training teachers, developing curriculum materials, and promoting inclusive education practices. Efforts have also been made to improve literacy rates, school enrollment, and retention through targeted interventions and awareness campaigns. Innovative programming targeting young adult at risk youth through functional adult literacy has resulted in increased prevalence for continued education and income generating activities, reducing illegal activities and risk of mobilization for conflict.

SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation

Access to safe water and sanitation- the UNCT has prioritized efforts to improve access to clean water and sanitation facilities in South Sudan, particularly in rural and underserved areas. This includes supporting the construction of water supply systems, drilling boreholes, and promoting hygiene and sanitation practices at the community level. Efforts have also been made to strengthen water resource management, increase access to sanitation facilities, and promote hygiene behavior change through education and awareness-raising initiatives.

2.3.3.1 Output 3.1

Relevant MDAs and LGAs are capacitated to develop, operationalize and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies, systems for improved delivery and take up of inclusive, responsive and quality health and nutrition service

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| % of health facilities with a functioning cold chain | 65% (881 of 1,350) (2021) | 75% (1,013 of 1,350) (2023) | 90% (1,218 of 1,350) | Fully achieved | Efforts continued to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) in South Sudan in mobilizing resources to provide cold chain equipment for health facilities lacking or requiring replacement of obsolete equipment. Donors such as Gavi, the World Bank, Canada, Africa CDC, and KFW contributed to these efforts. Additionally, USD 2.5 million worth of contraceptives were procured to support the family planning program and improve commodity security. Collaboration with the MoH focused on enhancing policy and guideline environments for family planning programming, with various key strategies and guidelines reviewed and finalized. In refugee camps and nearby county hospitals, primary healthcare facilities were equipped with functional cold chain systems. Efforts to ensure vaccine availability for routine immunization, supplemental activities, and outbreak responses were ongoing, with enhancements made to the cold chain system for vaccine storage at various levels. |
| % of facilities that offer BEmONC facilities (PHCCs) that provide all 7 signal functions | 39% (2021) | 42% (2023) | 58% | Fully achieved | Healthcare initiatives have focused on comprehensive abortion care guidelines, training for healthcare workers, and support for maternity complexes. Thirteen health facilities received resources for Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) services, with over 400 health workers trained. A functional maternal and perinatal death surveillance system was established, and refugee camp healthcare facilities offer BEmONC services. Rehabilitation efforts are ongoing for health facilities affected by floods, with 262 health workers trained in BEmONC. |
| % of PLHIV who are on treatment | 23% (2021) | 50% (2023) | 37% | Partially achieved | Efforts were made to enhance HIV treatment coverage and retention through community systems, treatment simplification, and quality care management. Investments were sought for the 2024-2026 period to sustain and expand the HIV program. Capacity building and solar-powered healthcare facilities were prioritized, with the implementation of an electronic logistics management system improving supply chain efficiency. Over 62,000 People Living with HIV gained access to treatment, and prevention services were provided to over 15,000 Female Sex Workers, with positive cases linked to care. Sixty-seven HIV-positive individuals were enrolled onto Antiretroviral Therapy. |
| % of HIV-positive women who received ART during pregnancy and/or labour and delivery | 44% (2021) | 55% (2023) | 53% | Partially achieved | Efforts to integrate and coordinate RMNCAH and HIV services were strengthened, particularly in humanitarian settings. Progress toward the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) target was nearly achieved, with significant contributions from the UN Joint Team on AIDS. Strategic information was enhanced through collaboration with the Ministry of Health on policy revisions and data analysis to evaluate HIV service delivery effectiveness. |

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|--|---|--|---|--------------------|---|
| % of TB cases, all forms successfully treated among all TB cases registered during a specified period | 83% (2022) | 85% (2023) | 85% | Fully achieved | MOH and partners continued to optimize TB care by providing timely diagnostics, decentralizing point-of-care testing, integrating TB/HIV care, and ensuring access to effective medicines. Additionally, the engagement of community leaders and trained healthcare workers in refugee settings resulted in expanded healthcare access beyond set targets. |
| Status of a pre-service training curriculum for nutrition for health and nutrition workers | No approved training module on nutrition in pre-service curriculum (2022) | Training needs assessment on nutrition for pre-service curriculum completed (2023) | Nutrition pre-service curriculum was developed and endorsed by the government | Fully achieved | Technical, financial, and logistical support was provided to develop the nutrition pre-service curriculum, which involved hiring a consultant and engaging partners to ensure their contributions. The Nutrition Cluster lead facilitated partner involvement in developing and endorsing the curriculum. Over 300 health workers received continuous in-service training on sexual and reproductive health/maternal and newborn health. Additionally, 12 health sciences institutes received educational resources to improve training for essential health workers, and 20 students completed training as national tutors. The final midwifery and nursing curriculum was printed, distributed, and utilized by all health sciences institutes. Moreover, 97 academically qualified nutrition staff were deployed across all camps, with 88 fully trained in various programmatic modules, and nine newly recruited staff are awaiting training. |
| # of young people (15-24 years) utilizing the package of sexual and reproductive health services (ANC, family planning, HIV, Deliveries) disaggregated by type of services | ANC - 35,291; HIV- 25,255; Family planning - 14,759; Deliveries - 11,544 (2021) | ANC - 38,820; HIV - 27,781; Family planning - 16,235; Deliveries - 12,698 (2023) | ANC- 26,788; HIV- 3,238; Family Planning-7,776 Deliveries 168,374 | Fully achieved | Support was extended to the Ministry of Health to draft national guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care management and training materials for healthcare staff, awaiting validation and distribution for use in facilities. Two Training of Trainers sessions on Post Abortion Care (PAC) were held in Wau and Juba, targeting obstetricians, gynecologists, medical doctors, and midwives as trainers. A total of 36 healthcare workers were trained in two sessions in Juba (19) and Wau (17). Additionally, support was provided to six maternity complexes, including Juba Teaching Hospital and Alsabah Hospital, with RMNCAH drugs. Twenty-one health facilities offered Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Services, reaching 162,693 adolescents and youth with SRH/HIV information, and providing services to 32,427. In total, 206,176 young people accessed sexual and reproductive health services, including ANC, family planning, HIV services, deliveries, and support for sexual and gender-based violence. |
| % of children aged 6-59 months with MAM who are admitted for treatment | 64% (2021) | 66% (2023) | 61% | Partially achieved | Frontline health workers received training to manage severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and improve nutrition surveillance at health facilities, aiming to detect and refer malnourished children early. PED/SAM kits were distributed to cater to 665,985 children admitted with SAM-MC in stabilization centers. Support was provided for the development of the National Nutrition Policy 2023-2030 and for monitoring and supervision to enhance health workers' skills in SAM-MC case management. The Nutrition Annual Review Meeting received assistance. Additionally, 620,105 children aged 6-59 months received treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) between January and November, with 74,502 children screened for nutrition, and 9,062 admitted for MAM treatment. The nutrition cluster estimates the total number of people in need of MAM treatment to be 1,057,703. |

In 2023, the UNCT made significant contributions towards Output 3.1 of the UNSDCF Sudan. Output 3.1 aimed at capacitating relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) as well as Local Government Authorities (LGAs) to develop, operationalize, and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies, systems, and programs for improved delivery and uptake of inclusive, responsive, and quality health and nutrition services. Overall, the UN's contributions in 2023 played a crucial role in improving the capacity, infrastructure, service delivery, and policy environment for health and nutrition programs in South Sudan, ultimately contributing to the achievement of Output 3.1 of the UNSDCF. Their collective efforts contributed to strengthening health systems, improving service delivery, and enhancing the overall health and well-being of the population.

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

Provided comprehensive technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the South Sudan AIDS Commission (SSAC) to finalize the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for health and HIV/AIDS. This support aimed at enhancing the strategic planning and resource allocation for health and HIV/AIDS programs in the country. Capacity-building initiatives were undertaken to enhance the skills and knowledge of government officials, healthcare workers, and community volunteers. Trainings covered areas such as strategic planning, program management, data analysis, and community outreach.

Joint TB/HIV program review

The UN system, in collaboration with the MoH, conducted a joint TB/HIV review to assess the progress of national response in combating TB and HIV/AIDS in South Sudan. This review involved stakeholders at both national and state levels and provided insights into the current context and the pace of progress towards global targets. The review not only identified gaps and challenges but also highlighted best practices and opportunities for improvement. Recommendations from the review were used to inform policy decisions, programmatic adjustments, and resource allocation strategies. Stakeholder engagement throughout the review process ensured ownership and buy-in from all relevant parties.

Health services delivery and infrastructure enhancement

UN agencies spearheaded efforts to improve health service delivery by investing in infrastructure upgrades, equipment procurement, and renewable energy solutions. This included the maintenance, renovation, and construction of health facilities across the country and the installation of GeneXpert machines for diagnostic capabilities and the expansion of solar power for sustained service delivery. Emphasis was placed on strengthening primary healthcare services, including maternal and child health, immunization, and infectious disease management. Investments in infrastructure aimed to expand access to quality healthcare services, particularly in remote and underserved areas. Additionally, efforts were made to improve cold chain management for vaccine storage, with the procurement and installation of refrigerators in health facilities. This initiative aimed at ensuring the availability and quality of vaccines for routine immunization and outbreak response. Support was also provided to strengthen the health personnel training national training institutions to produce quality health professionals to fill the health personnel gaps in the country.

Preventive services and nutrition support

In addition to providing preventive services at scale such as immunization and Vitamin A supplementation, UN agencies supported comprehensive nutrition interventions. This included the treatment of severely wasted children and the provision of life-saving treatment for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), counseling for mothers on infant feeding practices, and distribution of therapeutic foods. Moreover, training and capacity building activities were conducted to strengthen health workers' knowledge and skills in nutrition surveillance, screening and case management. Training programs focused on early detection of malnutrition, referral pathways, and community-based interventions to address food insecurity and nutritional deficiencies.

Development and implementation of policies and guidelines

The UN system played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of policies, guidelines, and strategic frameworks related to reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH), HIV/AIDS, family planning, and nutrition. Support was also provided for the integration of key health interventions, such as HIV/AIDS and family planning through training curricula, and monitoring tools, into existing healthcare systems. These efforts provided standardized guidance for service delivery and quality assurance aimed at ensuring evidence-based and integrated service delivery at the facility level. Additional support was provided for the development of guidelines for comprehensive abortion care, post-abortion care training, and maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR) implementation. These initiatives were geared towards improving the quality of maternal and reproductive health services in South Sudan.

Strengthening the policy environment

UN continued to work with the MOH to further enhance a favorable policy and guidelines environment for family planning programming and implementation in the country, and increase access, utilization, and rights to choices on family planning. The key strategies reviewed, revised, or finalized included: The Family Planning Policy 2023-2030, The Family Planning 2030 Commitments and 2023 Implementation Strategy, The Family Planning Strategy and Technical Guidelines, Guidelines for Medicines Registration, National Guidelines for Logistics Management, National Standard Operating procedures for Storage and Distribution of Pharmaceutical Supplies, Standard Operating Procedures for Quantification of Reproductive Health Products in South Sudan.

Data collection, monitoring, and evaluation

UN agencies contributed to strengthening health information systems and data collection mechanisms, including the revision of the Health Information System policy and the implementation of electronic logistics management information systems (eLMIS). Efforts were made to harmonize data collection methodologies, streamline reporting processes, and enhance data sharing among relevant stakeholders. This facilitated real-time tracking of health indicators, identification of emerging trends, and targeted responses to public health challenges. These efforts aimed at enhancing data quality and utilization for decision-making.

Community engagement and advocacy

The UN system, along with its partners, engaged communities through awareness campaigns, outreach activities, and community-led initiatives to promote health-seeking behaviors and prevent diseases. Additionally, advocacy events were organized to mobilize resources, garner political support, and raise awareness about public health priorities, such as malaria control and HIV/AIDS prevention, participating in policy dialogues, and leveraging partnerships to amplify advocacy messages.

Improved Reproductive Health Commodity Security

UNCT contributed to South Sudan's achievements of the family planning program realized during the year 2023. A total of 367,118 couple Years of Protection (CYP) were distributed during the year. Continued to support the South Sudan Government with both short-term and long acting reversible contraceptives. UNFPA procured USD 2,546,174 worth of contraceptives to support the family planning program and contribute to improved FP commodity security. These commodities were delivered to the Central Medical Supplies (CMS) to allow for last mile distribution by implementing partners and the Government. When there were financial and logistics challenges UNFPA also supported distribution of supplies directly to implementing partners. The overall average availability of contraceptives at the central warehouse commodities was maintained above 90% throughout the year. UNFPA continued to track and monitor RH commodity stock availability monthly which guided the inter-and intra-state redistribution efforts. This process was institutionalized at both the national and subnational levels. UN support also resulted in strengthening Reproductive Health Supply Chain Management System, Improved National level coordination for forecasting, quantification, and procurement of RH/FP commodities and related commodities, Strengthened National supply chain information systems to provide end-to-end data visibility for RH/FP commodity-related data.

2.3.3.2 Output 3.2

Relevant MDAs and LGAs are capacitated to develop, operationalize, and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies, and programs for improved quality WASH systems and adoption of safe, hygienic practices.

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| # of people (including host communities, IDPs and refugees) who access and use safe drinking water with minimum quality and quantity | 817,000 (49% Female) (2021) | 1,745,630 (52% Female) (2023) | 823,651 (49% Female) | Partially achieved | In response to the IDP and Returnee situation in South Sudan, protection and basic life-saving services were provided to 823,651 people. This included ensuring access to clean water supply meeting minimum quality and quantity standards as per Sphere standards. |
| # of health facilities with functional WASH facilities | 90 (2021) | 116 (2023) | 59 | Partially achieved | Approximately 51% of the targeted 116 health facilities equipped with functional WASH facilities for refugee settlements, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities have been achieved, totaling 59 facilities. These facilities are spread across various regions, including Upper Nile state, Unity state, Central Equatoria State, Western Equatoria State, Renk county, and Aweil East County. They include 10 health facilities, 1 county hospital in Maban/Bunj (Upper Nile state), 3 health facilities and 1 county hospital in Ruweng Administrative area (Unity state), 1 primary health care center in Gorom, 2 health facilities in Yei (Central Equatoria State), and 2 health facilities in Yambio (Western Equatoria State). |
| # of people (including host communities, IDPs, refugees) who access and use adequate sanitation with minimum quality and quantity | 303,500 (49% Female) (2021) | 850,022 (49% Female) (2023) | 139,201 (53% Female) | Partially achieved | The target set for 2023 aimed to provide adequate sanitation access to 850,022 people, but only 139,201 individuals were reached, approximately 16% of the target population. The shortfall was attributed to the target being based on anticipated humanitarian crises, which did not manifest as expected. Actual crises, such as the Sudan crisis and the Cholera outbreak in Malakal, affected fewer people in need (PIN) than initially projected. |

In 2023, the UNCT, along with its partners, made significant contributions towards Output 3.2 of the UNSDCF. This output aimed at capacitating relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) as well as Local Government Authorities (LGAs) to develop, operationalize, and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies, and programs for improved quality Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) systems and the adoption of safe, hygienic practices. Overall, the UNCT's contributions in 2023 significantly advanced Output 3.2 of the UNSDCF, focusing on improving WASH systems, promoting hygienic practices, and enhancing access to essential healthcare services for vulnerable populations in South Sudan. The target for 2023 was to ensure 850,022 people gained access to adequate sanitation, but only 139,201 people were reached, representing approximately 16% of the targeted population. The shortfall was attributed to crises that affected fewer people than anticipated, such as the Sudan crisis and the Cholera outbreak in Malakal.

Improvement of sanitation facilities

UN entities, along with its partners, worked on various strategies to improve sanitation facilities, including innovative approaches such as refugee community-led sanitation activities, slab distribution, and community sensitization to prevent open defecation and avert disease outbreaks. However, the latrine coverage remained inadequate, with an annual coverage rate of about 55% household latrines. Efforts were ongoing to increase coverage and improve sanitation practices. In response to the IDP and returnee situation in South Sudan, protection and basic life-saving services were provided to 823,651 people. This included ensuring access to clean water supply meeting minimum quality and quantity standards as per Sphere standards.

WASH facilities in health facilities

Approximately 51% of the targeted 116 health facilities with functional WASH facilities for refugee settlements, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities were achieved, totaling 59 facilities. These facilities were distributed across various regions, contributing to improved hygiene and sanitation practices.

Integrating WASH with health and nutrition delivery

UN entities, alongside its partners, prioritized maintaining and improving access to primary healthcare services for over 350,000 refugees and 30% of the surrounding host communities. Despite facing adverse public health trends among Sudanese refugees and returnees due to the influx from Sudan, particularly in Ruweng/Unity, Upper Nile, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal States, the UN entities' interventions were pivotal in reversing these negative trends. Their contributions were instrumental in South Sudan's national emergency response strategies, which focused not only on medical care but also on ensuring the availability of safe water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion. This comprehensive approach addressed the interconnected challenges of health, nutrition, and WASH.

Relatedly, the implementation of public health and nutrition programs, facilitated through Implementing Partners (IPs) and some direct implementation, aimed to address the pressing needs of vulnerable populations. Despite budget constraints, the UN system persisted in supplying potable water to refugee camps and surrounding communities, recognizing the critical role of WASH in preventing waterborne diseases and promoting overall health. However, challenges arose with the reduction of general food ration assistance to 50%, which had adverse effects on the nutrition and overall health of refugees. Nevertheless, concerted efforts were made to advocate for increased assistance to the population served, acknowledging the importance of adequate nutrition and healthcare access in conjunction with WASH interventions for promoting resilience and wellbeing.



2.3.3.3 Output 3.3

Relevant MDAs, LGAs and institutions are capacitated to develop, operationalize and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies and programs for increased provision and take-up of inclusive, equitable, quality and market-oriented (formal and non-formal) education and life-long learning opportunities.

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|---|--|--|--|--------------------|---|
| Gross Enrolment Rate for learners at pre-primary, primary and secondary school | Pre-primary 8.1%; Primary 61.8%; Secondary 7.9% (2021) | Pre-primary 9%; Primary 65%; Secondary 9% (2023) | Pre-primary 8.1%; Primary 61.8%; Secondary 7.9% (2021) | Partially achieved | The Annual School Census report for 2023 will be available at the beginning of 2024. Therefore, the achievement for 2023 remains consistent with the baseline figures, which are 8.1% for pre-primary, 61.8% for primary, and 7.9% for secondary education. |
| # of out of school youth (men and women) enrolled in Technical Vocational Institutions p.a. disaggregated by gender | 6759 (39% Female) (2021) | 10,000 (45% Female) (2023) | 2,204 | Partially achieved | Abyei Vocational Training Center (VTC) has enrolled students in four courses, totaling 244 students. Data from other VTCs will be updated after the release of the 2023 Education Census report. 460 youth engaged in functional adult literacy in Jonglei and GPAA, 1500 youth engaged in Western Bahr El Ghazel and Warrap |
| # of State Governments who are implementing Out of School Youth CSE programming | 3 states (2021) | 4 (2023) | 4 | Fully achieved | In summary, a total of 34,960 young individuals, comprising 16,474 in-school and 18,486 out-of-school youth, received Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) information. In-school youth participated in weekly CSE sessions conducted in specific secondary and primary schools across various regions. These sessions, scheduled during free time, were led by School CSE Clubs, overseen by trained teachers and peer counselors. Out-of-school youth were reached through sessions held in youth centers and communities, facilitated by trained Peer Educators who possessed CSE knowledge and skills. |
| # of education policies, frameworks, bills, plans for the ministries of education (MoGEI and MoHEST) developed | 0 (2021) | 1 (2023) | 2 | Fully achieved | Two significant policy documents were developed: the Female Teacher Affirmative Action Policy (FTAAP) and the Pre-Primary Education Policy. The Pre-Primary Education Policy seeks to boost enrollments in this subsector, while the revised FTAAP holds promise in expanding opportunities to recruit and train female teachers. Moreover, it aims to tackle the challenge of increasing girls' enrollment in schools by providing female teachers as role models and encouraging girls' return to education. |
| # of schools with functional WASH facilities | 0 (2021) | 150 (2023) | 84 | Partially achieved | A total of 84 schools, benefiting 41,500 individuals, have gained access to WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities. This includes the establishment of wash facilities at the Abyei Vocational Training Center (VTC). |
| # of boys and girls receiving school feeding assistance | 526,511 (26% Female) | 599,200 (49% Female) (2023) | 206,000 (46% Female) | Partially achieved | A school feeding program was effectively carried out in 401 schools, notably increasing children's access to education through enhanced enrollment and attendance. Around 206,000 children benefited from nutritious school meals, with nearly half being girls. To evaluate its effectiveness and guide future strategies, a decentralized evaluation of the program has been initiated. This assessment aims to support the government in crafting a national school feeding policy. |

In 2023, the UNCT made significant contributions towards Output 3.3 of the UNSDCF. This output focused on capacitating relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), Local Government Authorities (LGAs), and institutions to develop, operationalize, and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies, and programs for increased provision and uptake of inclusive, equitable, quality, and market-oriented education and lifelong learning opportunities. Overall, the UNCT's contributions in 2023 towards Output 3.3 demonstrated a concerted effort to improve education access, quality, and inclusivity in South Sudan, with a focus on addressing the needs of vulnerable populations and promoting lifelong learning opportunities. The UNCT's contributions were multifaceted, encompassing various initiatives aimed at improving education access, quality, and inclusivity in South Sudan. Through strategic partnerships, evidence-based interventions, and a commitment to sustainability, the UNCT demonstrated its dedication to fostering lifelong learning opportunities for all, particularly the most vulnerable populations.

Equitable access to education

Technical and material support was provided to MOGEI to increase access to equitable quality education for vulnerable children, particularly adolescent girls. This included national back-to-learning campaigns, construction and rehabilitation of temporary learning spaces, WASH facilities, and provision of teaching and learning materials. Back-to-learning campaigns played a crucial role in re-enrolling children, particularly girls, who may have dropped out due to various socio-economic factors. The construction and rehabilitation of learning spaces and WASH facilities not only addressed infrastructure gaps but also created a conducive learning environment essential for student well-being and academic success.

Promotion of learning outcomes

The Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MOGEI) undertook Learning Outcome Assessments targeting primary 3 learners in Early Grade Reading and Mathematics. The Assessments were a pivotal step in understanding the educational landscape and identifying areas for improvement. By focusing on early grade reading and mathematics, the assessments provided granular insights into student performance, enabling tailored interventions to enhance learning outcomes. The results of these assessments will inform the implementation of the revised curriculum, ensuring better learning outcomes for students.

Policy development and infrastructure improvement

MOGEI, with technical support, developed the Pre-primary Education Policy and translated Early Childhood Education (ECE) materials into local languages. The development of the Pre-primary Education Policy represented a strategic move towards early childhood education, recognizing its importance in laying the foundation for lifelong learning. Translation efforts ensured accessibility for communities where local languages are predominant. Additionally, classroom blocks were constructed in 19 primary schools, and infrastructure was handed over to communities and the government. The construction of classroom blocks not only expanded physical infrastructure but also fostered community ownership, essential for sustainability and long-term impact.

Relatedly, two key policy documents were developed: the Female Teacher Affirmative Action Policy (FTAAP) and the Pre-Primary Education Policy, signaling a proactive stance towards addressing gender disparities in education. The FTAAP not only aimed to increase the representation of female teachers but also recognized their role as role models, particularly for girls. Thus, the policies aim to increase enrollments in the pre-primary subsector and address gender disparities in the teaching profession. By formalizing these policies, South Sudan has demonstrated a commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive educational environment.

Support for family planning (FP) program

Procured USD 2.5 million worth of contraceptives to support the family planning program, underscoring the commitment to addressing reproductive health needs. By ensuring the availability of contraceptive, this initiative aimed to contribute to improved FP commodity security, thereby empowering individuals, particularly women, to make informed decisions about their reproductive health, including with the means to plan their families, leading to better health outcomes and improved family well-being.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)

Supported reaching a total of 34,960 young people with CSE information, including 16,474 in-school and 18,486 out-of-school young people. The outreach efforts targeted both in-school and out-of-school youth, recognizing the diverse settings where young people can benefit from CSE. In-school youth participated in weekly CSE sessions held in targeted secondary and primary schools across various regions. In-school sessions were structured to integrate seamlessly into the school curriculum, leveraging the expertise of trained teachers and peer counselors. Out-of-school youth were reached through sessions conducted in youth centers and communities by trained Peer Educators. Out-of-school sessions, conducted in community settings and youth centers, demonstrated a proactive approach to reaching marginalized youth populations.

School feeding program

A school feeding program was successfully implemented in 401 schools, benefiting 206,000 children, with 46% being girls. The successful implementation of the school feeding program went beyond addressing hunger; it served as a catalyst for improved educational outcomes. This initiative significantly enhanced children's access to education by improving school enrollment and attendance. By providing nutritious meals, the program incentivized school attendance, particularly among vulnerable populations. The decentralized evaluation reflected a commitment to continuous improvement, ensuring that future strategies are informed by evidence and stakeholder feedback.

WASH facilities in schools

A total of 84 schools, benefiting 41,500 individuals, gained access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities. This included the establishment of WASH facilities at the Abyei Vocational Training Center (VTC), ensuring a conducive learning environment for students. The establishment of WASH facilities in schools not only promoted hygiene and sanitation but also contributed to improved health outcomes and increased school attendance. By addressing a fundamental aspect of infrastructure, the UNCT's intervention laid the groundwork for a holistic approach to education, recognizing the interconnectedness of health and learning.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education

In 2023, the UNCT continued to support South Sudan to expand Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) impacting both in-school and out-of-school youth. A total of 34,960 young people were reached with CSE information. This comprised of 16,474 in-school 18,486 out-of-school young people. The in-school young people were engaged through weekly CSE sessions in targeted secondary and primary schools across Juba, Yambio, Kapoeta, Wau, and Maridi. These sessions were led by School CSE Clubs during free time, guided by trained teachers and peer counsellors. The out-of-school were reached through sessions conducted in youth centers and communities by trained Peer Educators, equipped with knowledge and skills in CSE.

2.3.3.4 Output 3.4

Relevant MDAs and LGAs capacitated to develop, operationalize, and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies, and programs for improved social protection services for the most vulnerable and marginalized.

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|---|------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| Public spending on social protection from domestic resources as a proportion of the national budget | 1% (FY2021/2022) | 1% (2023) | 0.4% | Partially achieved | Only 0.4% of the total national budget for the fiscal year 2023/2024 has been allocated to social and humanitarian affairs, encompassing social protection measures. This low allocation implies potential limitations in addressing social welfare needs and providing adequate support for vulnerable populations within the country. |
| # of beneficiaries reached with social safety net programmes | 0 (2022) | 40,000 (2023) | 1,623 | Partially achieved | Only 4% of the intended 40,000 beneficiaries have been served by social safety net programs. Notably, cash transfers have been provided to 1,623 pregnant and lactating mothers and caregivers of young children through a pilot program called the Young Child Grant in Aweil East, Northern Bahr El Ghazal. Although several project activities have been initiated, such as inception meetings, community mobilization, and sensitization, the registration process and cash transfer assistance are still pending commencement. |

Overall, the UNCT's contributions in 2023 towards Output 3.4 demonstrated a multifaceted approach to strengthening social protection services in South Sudan. Despite challenges, some progress was made in reaching targeted beneficiaries, with 4% of the intended 40,000 beneficiaries reached with social safety net programs. Throughout the year, the UNCT conducted various project activities aimed at reaching vulnerable households with social protection interventions. These activities included inception meetings, establishment of project oversight committees, community mobilization, sensitization sessions, subproject selection and screening, and mapping of Social Risk Assessments (SRAs) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) referral pathways. These efforts have laid the groundwork for the effective implementation of social protection programs and ensured that they are responsive to the needs of the target populations. For instance, cash transfers were delivered to 1,623 pregnant and lactating mothers and caregivers of young children through a Young Child Grant pilot program in Aweil East, Northern Bahr El Ghazal. Thus, through capacity building, policy support, and advocacy, the UNCT played a pivotal role in advancing social protection outcomes and improving the well-being of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations in the country.

Policy review and development

In collaboration with government counterparts, UN entities supported the review of existing social protection policies and frameworks in South Sudan. Recognizing the importance of technical expertise, entities contracted an International Social Protection Specialist to review relevant documents related to social protection and contribute to the development of the South Sudan Social Protection Policy. This specialist provided valuable insights and recommendations to strengthen the policy framework and enhance its effectiveness in addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. This review aimed to identify gaps, challenges, and opportunities for improvement in the country's social protection system. Based on the findings of the review, the UN system plans to support the development of a new South Sudan Social Protection Policy, aligning with international standards and best practices.

Consultation and stakeholder engagement

The UN system, alongside the Social Protection Working Group, facilitated extensive stakeholder engagement and consultation processes, including government agencies, civil society organizations, community leaders, and vulnerable populations. They reviewed the Terms of Reference (ToR) of consultancy services and engaged with the Ministry of Gender to discuss the next steps in developing the South Sudan Social Protection Policy. This inclusive approach ensured that the perspectives and needs and voices of all stakeholders, including government agencies and civil society organizations, are considered in the policy development process, promoting inclusivity and ownership.

Capacity building and technical assistance

Provided capacity building and technical assistance to relevant MDAs and LGAs involved in social protection initiatives. This support aimed to enhance their ability to develop, implement, and monitor evidence-based policies and programs effectively. Workshops, training sessions, and knowledge-sharing forums were organized to build the capacity of government officials and local stakeholders in social protection strategies and best practices.

Advocacy and resource mobilization

Despite progress, challenges persisted, including low budget allocations for social protection measures, limited coverage of social safety net programs, and delays in the registration and disbursement of cash transfers to beneficiaries. UN entities actively engaged in advocacy efforts to raise awareness about the importance of social protection and mobilize resources to support social protection initiatives in South Sudan. Advocacy campaigns targeted policymakers, donors, and the public to garner support for increased investments in social protection programs and services. By highlighting the impact of social protection interventions on vulnerable populations, the UNCT advocated for greater prioritization of social welfare issues in national development agendas and budget allocations.

2.3.3.5 output 3.5

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

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|---|-------------------------------|---|--|--------------------|--|
| # of WASH sector coordination mechanisms in place | 1 (2021) | 11 (national and state) (2023) | 5 | Partially achieved | Progress has been made compared to the baseline, showing an increase of four mechanisms since 2021. However, the initiative fell short of the 2023 expectations, with only five out of the targeted 11 WASH sector coordination mechanisms established. Efforts will persist to support the establishment of WASH sector coordination mechanisms in the remaining states throughout 2024. |
| # of health sector coordination bodies that are functional and include civil society participation | 3 (2021) (HDPG, HSWG, HSGTWG) | 4 (HDPG, HSWG, HS Gender; RH Coordination Forum) (2023) | 4 (HDPG, HSWG, HS Gender; RH Coordination Forum) | Fully achieved | Supported the Ministry of Health in organizing three quarterly Health Sector Steering Committee coordination meetings led by the Minister of Health. Discussions centered on addressing the Sudan crisis in the Northern states and shaping the future of the Health Program. Offered incentives for the Health Sector Steering Committee secretariat to ensure regular meetings. Facilitated twelve Health Partners Discussion Group sessions, covering diverse topics like health worker incentives, HMIS challenges, service scaling, and Sudan crisis response. Provided secretariat support for these meetings and ensured dissemination of invitations and minutes. Led a self-assessment initiative known as Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) within the Nutrition cluster, enhancing the score from 3 to 4. This process assesses clusters' effectiveness across six core functions and their accountability to affected populations, adhering to a globally endorsed country-driven approach. |
| Existence of a functional PPP for health service delivery | No (2021) | No (2023) | No | No achievement | No PPP has been established so far, although a consultative meeting with private health practitioners in Juba on the need to establish a PPP engagement framework has been agreed. |
| Existence of a coordinated mechanism for getting routine, patient /client satisfaction modalities for the provision health services, including family planning, gender-based violence and harmful practices | No (2021) | Yes (2023) | No | No achievement | There is no coordinated mechanism for getting routine, patient /client satisfaction modalities for the provision health services, including family planning, gender-based violence and harmful practices. |
| # of knowledge products produced on provision of quality, health, nutrition, WASH, education and social protection services | 0 (2021) | 4 (2023) | 1 | Partially achieved | Collaborated with multiple partners and the Government of South Sudan to coordinate the 2023 food security and nutrition monitoring system, crucial for the 2023 IPC food security and acute malnutrition assessment. An ongoing ethnographic study is underway to comprehend the factors influencing children's nutritional status, with findings anticipated by June 2024. Documentation efforts are ongoing for the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) program in South Sudan, alongside enhanced partnership initiatives in 2023. |

In 2023, the UNCT played a pivotal role in advancing Output 3.5 of the UNSDCF by establishing and supporting mechanisms to facilitate the collaboration of public and private service providers, including Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), for the provision of quality health, nutrition, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), education, and social protection services. Overall, efforts by UN agencies in 2023 significantly contributed to enhancing coordination, knowledge-sharing, and service provision across various sectors, ultimately advancing the goal of improving the quality and accessibility of health, nutrition, WASH, education, and social protection services in South Sudan.

Nutrition cluster coordination

UN agencies, through the leadership of the nutrition cluster coordinator, actively engaged in organizing and facilitating 24 coordination meetings at the national level. These meetings served as platforms for stakeholders to share information, align strategies, and coordinate efforts in addressing malnutrition challenges. Moreover, UN entities ensured the effective functioning of nutrition clusters at sub-national levels, fostering collaboration among partners and stakeholders working on nutrition-related interventions. Technical working groups were established to focus on critical areas such as the treatment of wasting, malnutrition prevention, and information management systems, enhancing the overall coordination and effectiveness of nutrition initiatives.

WASH sector strengthening

In collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI), UN agencies supported the Government of South Sudan in committing to sign a Presidential Compact during the World Water Week in Stockholm. This commitment aimed to address water and sanitation challenges, including efforts to make South Sudan Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2030. As part of this initiative, the UNCT supported the strengthening of policy frameworks and the revitalization of the Water Information Management System (WIMS) to improve monitoring and evaluation of WASH indicators. Additionally, efforts were made to establish and strengthen WASH sector coordination mechanisms in various states, enhancing collaboration and resource allocation for WASH interventions.

Health sector coordination

UN agencies provided critical support to the Ministry of Health in conducting assessments of State-level health sector coordination mechanisms. These assessments identified areas for improvement and facilitated the mobilization of resources to address gaps in coordination. Quarterly Health Sector Steering Committee meetings were convened, chaired by the Minister of Health, where key discussions were held on responses to health crises, future program strategies, and resource allocation. Moreover, UN agencies facilitated regular Health Partners Discussion Group meetings, providing a platform for partners to discuss challenges, share best practices, and align efforts in supporting the health sector. Incentives were provided to ensure the effective functioning of the Health Sector Steering Committee secretariat, further enhancing coordination efforts.

Partnerships and engagement

While no Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) were established in 2023, UN agencies initiated a consultative meeting with private health practitioners in Juba to explore the potential for establishing a PPP engagement framework. This engagement aimed to leverage the expertise and resources of the private sector to improve healthcare delivery and address health system challenges. Efforts were also made to enhance routine patient/client satisfaction modalities for health services provision, including family planning, gender-based violence, and harmful practices, to ensure that services meet the needs of vulnerable populations.

Food security and nutrition monitoring

Through collaboration with partners and the Government of South Sudan, UN agencies facilitated the organization of the 2023 food security and nutrition monitoring system. This initiative provided crucial data for the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) exercise, enabling stakeholders to assess food security and nutrition status and inform decision-making. Additionally, an ongoing ethnographic study aimed to deepen understanding of the drivers affecting children's nutrition status, with results expected in June 2024. Documentation efforts were also underway for the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) program and enhanced partnerships in 2023, aiming to strengthen nutrition interventions and improve outcomes.



2.3.4 Strategic Priority 4: WOMEN & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (IN SUPPORT OF SDGS,5,10 AND 16)

Overall, the UNCT's comprehensive efforts towards women and youth empowerment in South Sudan have significantly contributed to progress on SDGs 5, 10, and 16, fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and peaceful society for sustainable development.

SDG 5: Gender equality

- Establishment of women's centers and mentorship programs in Central Equatoria.
- Capacity-building initiatives for women leaders, focusing on leadership skills and gender-based violence awareness.
- Training programs to enhance understanding of human rights among women and promote their participation in decision-making processes.
- Efforts to establish women-led Community Interest Groups (CIGs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to enhance economic empowerment.

SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

- Capacity-building programs for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and out-of-school youth, on comprehensive sexuality education and legal frameworks.
- Vocational skills training for youth and women to improve livelihood opportunities.
- Mentorship programs for youth on leadership in peacebuilding and implementation of peace agreements.
- Initiatives to challenge harmful gender norms and promote positive masculinities among men and boys.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

- Engagement with security sector institutions to promote gender equality and support the implementation of the National Action Plan on Security Sector Reform (SSR).
- Formation of Gender Equality Champions within the security sector to advocate for gender equality.
- Establishment of community structures and capacity-building workshops to promote positive social values and eliminate gender-based violence.
- Training programs for journalists and human rights defenders to monitor and report on fundamental freedoms and promote women's leadership in the media sector.



Girls' empowerment of women!
empowering the women
strength for

2.3.4.1 Output 4.1

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

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|--|---|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| # of reports submitted to international treaty bodies on time and according to agreed standards | UPR submitted (2021) | 2 (UPR; CEDAW) (2023) | 3 | Fully achieved | In 2023, collaborative efforts focused on providing inputs on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) for the Secretary-General's report. Additionally, contributions were made to the visit of the Informal Experts Group as outlined in SCR 2242, and inputs were provided on sexual violence against children (SVC) during the visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC). Joint support was also provided for participation in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to the Vice President of the Gender and Youth Cluster and the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare. |
| # of CSOs contributing to national and shadow reporting to international treaty bodies | 2 CSOs reports submitted to respective international reporting processes (2021) | ≥4 (UPR; CEDAW; CRC; CAT) (2023) | 2 | Partially achieved | Efforts were undertaken in collaboration with multiple partners to facilitate the participation of civil society representatives at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Furthermore, a side event was coordinated at the CSW in partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Gender and Youth Cluster and the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare. The event centered on discussions concerning Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) as well as women's rights in South Sudan, offering a platform for civil society organizations and government representatives to collectively address these pertinent issues. |
| # of position papers on the status of South Sudanese women, girls and youth presented at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), UPR and other platforms. | 2 (2022) | ≥2 (2023) | 1 | Partially achieved | Collaboratively supported civil society representatives' participation in the Commission on the Status of Women. Additionally, in partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Gender and Youth Cluster and the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare, a side event was organized during the CSW to address issues concerning Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and women's rights in South Sudan. |
| # of women and youth organizations capacitated to advance GEWE policy and legal frameworks by participating in and influencing the national and state level political and governance processes and forum | 17 (2022) | 19 (2023) | 38 | Fully achieved | Efforts were made to empower Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in Aweil South, Tonj South, Rumbek, Torit, and Abyei by enhancing their capacity and awareness of rights. This involved providing training on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and disability inclusion models. Collaboration persisted with 6 Government Ministries and 33 civil society organizations, focusing on capacity building and advocating for gender and reproductive health rights. Training sessions encompassed various domains such as institutional management, finance, communication, and human rights-based approaches. These endeavors have empowered a network of organizations and partners, fostering inclusive policies and practices for persons with disabilities, gender equality, and reproductive health rights. |
| Existence of a functional national youth coalition on youth, peace and security | No (2022) | Yes (2023) | Yes | Fully achieved | A functioning National coalition on youth, peace, and security has been established and operational with the purpose of fostering collaboration and coordination among various stakeholders to address issues related to youth, peace, and security within the country. |

In 2023, the UNCT played a significant role in advancing Output 4.1 of the UNSDCF by empowering civil society, political groupings, and movements, particularly those representing women, youth, and vulnerable groups, to meaningfully engage in a rights-based approach to decision-making across peace and governance structures, systems, and processes in South Sudan. Overall, the UNCT's comprehensive efforts in 2023 significantly contributed to empowering civil society, political groupings, and movements, enabling them to engage meaningfully in decision-making processes and advance rights-based approaches across peace and governance structures in South Sudan.

Empowerment of women's groups

Supported the construction of women's centers and conducted capacity-building initiatives for women's associations in Morobo, Yei, Lainya, and Kajokeji. These capacity-building programs targeted elected women leaders, women in various government positions, women in business, women with disabilities, and women religious leaders. Training sessions focused on enhancing women's leadership skills, confidence-building, gender-transformative curriculum, coalition building, and advocacy, particularly in peacebuilding structures and processes. Women were empowered to actively participate in rule of law initiatives, including housing, land, and property rights, as well as upcoming electoral processes.

Enhancement of disability rights advocacy

Conducted capacity assessments for four organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in Rumbek, Torit, and Abyei to identify capacity gaps related to disability inclusion and rights advocacy. Subsequently, capacity-building activities were organized to strengthen the effectiveness of OPDs, focusing on protection and inclusion principles, human rights approaches to disability, and advocacy and communication skills. These efforts aimed to empower OPDs to advocate for the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in various spheres of society.

Youth and women's participation in decision-making

Facilitated the participation of women organizations and youth groups in the International Women's Conference, where they influenced a communiqué advocating for a 35% quota for women's participation in decision-making processes. In Juba, women organizations were supported to form a coalition focused on influencing the constitution-making process, conducting civic education, and advocating for women's concerns. Additionally, various stakeholders, including advocates, political parties, media, and civil society representatives, participated in discussions on gender equality in public administration, gender-responsive legislation, women's empowerment, and transitional justice processes.

UNCT Supported Youth-Led Innovative Initiatives

Innovations in youth engagement have been a cornerstone of our 2023 strategy. The establishment of a Functional Incubation Hub, in partnership with Senius Hub, marked a significant stride in this direction. This hub fostered the development of youth-led digital solutions, addressing key issues like GBV, SRH, FP, STI/HIV, and business-related challenges. Alongside, a youth-led digital solution was successfully launched, providing young people with crucial information and services on SRHR, Family Planning, HIV&AIDS Gender Equality, and GBV. This digital platform reached an impressive 44,404 young individuals, far exceeding the initial target of 1,500, demonstrating the power and reach of innovative, technology-driven approaches. Reaching Adolescent girls with Girl-Centered Programs, including those with disabilities and from marginalized backgrounds. A total of 798 adolescent girls were reached with girl-centered programs designed to build life skills, health, social, and economic assets, 152 youth leaders were trained in participation in decision-making, and 374 national and state-level policymakers were engaged with advocacy messages on youth participation. A total of 21,986 youth participated in events that amplify youth participation in decision-making for SRH, FP, Gender Equality, and GBV.

Strategic advice and capacity building

Provided strategic advice, technical assistance, and capacity building to advance security sector transformation in South Sudan. This included support for the formulation of the long-term development framework for the security sector, workshops on security sector reform with civil society and media, and specialized trainings for security sector personnel on justice and gender-based violence issues. Collaborative efforts were also made to contribute inputs on conflict-related sexual violence to international bodies and support civil society representatives' participation in global events such as the Commission on the Status of Women.

Promotion of inclusive policies and practices

Efforts were made to engage and strengthen organizations of persons with disabilities in Aweil South, Tonj South, Rumbek, Torit, and Abyei, focusing on rights awareness and organizational capacity building. Training sessions covered topics such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, disability inclusion models, institutional management, finance, communication, and human rights-based approaches. Additionally, a national coalition on youth, peace, and security was established to foster collaboration and coordination among stakeholders addressing youth-related issues in South Sudan.

2.3.4.2 Output 4.2

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

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|--|---|--|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| # of women, youth and other vulnerable groups who report having higher understanding of their human rights | 0 (2022) | 3,000 Female (1,500 women & 1,500 youth); 1,000 Male (500 men & 500 youth) (2023) | 2,005 | Partially achieved | Various initiatives have been implemented to raise awareness among approximately 400 vulnerable individuals about their rights and improve access to justice, especially for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). These efforts involve community consultations, awareness campaigns, and capacity-building sessions targeting women, youth, and other vulnerable groups. Programs have also been introduced within prison settings to empower detainees in understanding and asserting their rights. Additionally, community engagement activities have been conducted across multiple locations to address violence, and training sessions have been organized for 650 women from diverse sectors, focusing on women's rights, leadership skills, and advocacy, with a specific emphasis on women leaders and peace networks in various regions. Furthermore, 834 service providers have undergone training on GBV core concepts, case management, safe referrals, and preventive measures, thereby strengthening support for vulnerable individuals. Facilitated two separate community workshops on peacebuilding and human rights in Abyei with Ngok Dinka and Misseriya communities. A total of 121 participants (45 women and 76 Men) participated. The workshop aimed to foster behavioral change and strengthen conflict resolution capacities among the community members, emphasizing the importance of peaceful negotiation and dialogue. |
| # of national and sub-national platforms for civil society to dialogue around human rights concerns. | National coordination platform yet to be established (2021) | 10 (2023) | 13 | Fully achieved | Efforts were directed towards enhancing coordination and collaboration across all states and Administrative Areas through multi-stakeholder mechanisms. Traditional chiefs were actively engaged through state-level interactions and the convening of Chiefs' Council Conferences in several regions, including Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Pibor Administrative Area, Abyei Administrative Area, and Lakes State. These conferences yielded commitments from chiefs to tackle issues like child marriage and the formulation of community by-laws, with the development of 25 such by-laws currently underway. |

In 2023, the UNCT made substantial contributions towards Output 4.2 of the UNSDCF by enhancing the understanding of human rights among women, youth, and vulnerable groups in South Sudan, empowering them to hold duty-bearers accountable and seek redress in case of rights violations. Overall, the UNCT's comprehensive interventions in 2023 significantly contributed to enhancing the understanding of human rights among women, youth, and vulnerable groups in South Sudan, empowering them to advocate for their rights and seek redress when violations occur. Multi-stakeholder mechanisms were strengthened to promote coordination and collaboration across states and Administrative Areas. Traditional chiefs were actively engaged through state-level conferences, leading to commitments to address issues such as child marriage and the development of community by-laws. These efforts aimed to empower local communities to assert their rights and hold duty-bearers accountable.

Establishment of women's centers and mentorship programs

Established two women's centers in Central Equatoria, providing mentorship to elected women leaders in Morobo and Kojokeji counties. These mentorship sessions focused on enhancing women's leadership skills, confidence-building, and raising awareness of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and accountability mechanisms. Additionally, a women's engagement strategy was developed through a participatory process to address peacebuilding, resilience, and stabilization priorities identified by women in these counties.

Awareness-raising on SEA and GBV

Through implementing partners, reached over 27,000 community members in various states with awareness-raising activities on the prevention of SEA, SEA reporting mechanisms, and available services for victims. Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training was conducted for partner organizations, with 28 organizations nominating focal points and 29 individuals attending the training. Moreover, female survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and GBV in Malakal, Wau, and Juba received training on the South Sudan legal framework and case management to empower them to advocate for their rights.



Capacity-building and empowerment initiatives

Various capacity-building initiatives were conducted to enhance the knowledge and understanding of vulnerable groups on human rights and access to justice. This included training sessions for community leaders, religious and traditional leaders, chiefs, and out-of-school youth on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) and legal frameworks. Additionally, mentorship programs using sports for gender equality were implemented for 100 girls, and 50 communities established functional action groups to prevent and respond to GBV and child marriage.

Health awareness and service provision for key population groups

Efforts were made to provide HIV testing and prevention services to vulnerable populations, with over 13,000 individuals tested for HIV and linked to care and treatment. Key population groups received HIV prevention packages, contributing to the overall reduction of HIV transmission. Furthermore, programs targeting adolescent girls, including those with disabilities, were implemented to build their life skills, health, social, and economic assets.

Public awareness campaigns and dialogues

Facilitated political party forums and dialogues to improve relationships between political parties, expand political and civic space, and create an enabling environment for elections. A weekly 'Your Rights' program was aired on Radio Miraya, covering various human rights topics, while public awareness-raising segments on human rights were broadcasted as part of the "Know Your Rights" talk show. Additionally, a Youth Forum on civic engagement and a roundtable on women and youth participation in democracy and transitional justice processes were organized to promote inclusive participation.

Functionality of multi-stakeholder national and state-level mechanisms to address discriminatory gender and social norms, at the individual, social and institutional levels.

All the states and Administrative Areas continued coordination and collaboration through the multi-stakeholder mechanisms to address negative social norms including involvement of traditional chiefs through the state level engagement and organizing State level Chiefs' Council Conferences. The State level Chiefs Conferences were organized in Northern Behr El Ghazal, Pibor Administrative Area, Abyei Administrative Area, and Lakes State. These Chiefs Conferences have led to several actions where the Chiefs committed to ending child marriage and passing the by-laws. So far, there are 25 By-Laws under designing by the communities. Total of 834 (281 males, 243 females) service providers were trained on GBV core concept, GBV case management, safe referrals, GBV guiding principles and GBV prevention and mitigation measure.

2.3.4.3 Output 4.3

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

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|---|--|---|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| % of women position supported by the UN to contest for elective positions | 16% (these are appointments in the executive at national level) (2021) | 35% (2023) | 16% | No achievement | Indicator status not changed from baseline as elections are yet to be conducted in 2024 |
| % of women who secure positions in national and state governments | 25% (2022) | 35% (2023) | 25% | No achievement | Indicator status is the same as at baseline no updated data is available |
| % of firms with female and youth participation in ownership | 1.9% (2017) | 23% (2023) | 1.9% | No achievement | Indicator status is the same as at baseline no updated data is available |
| # women and youth-led newly established enterprises per year | 0 (2022) | 500 (350 youth including 175 females; 150 women) (2023) | 100 | Partially achieved | In partnership with the South Sudan Football Federation, over 100 girls were provided with training opportunities, fostering their development as role models and mentors for other young girls. These girls, known as the 'Bright Starlets', serve as inspirational figures within their communities, leveraging sports for peace and equality initiatives in South Sudan. |

In 2023, the UNCT played a crucial role in advancing Output 4.3 of the UNSDCF by enhancing the capacities of women, youth, and vulnerable groups to assume transformational leadership roles in both the public and private sectors in South Sudan. Overall, the UNCT's comprehensive efforts in 2023 significantly contributed to enhancing the capacities of women, youth, and vulnerable groups to assume transformational leadership roles in both the public and private sectors, thereby fostering sustainable development and peace in South Sudan.

Establishment of women's centers and capacity building

Finalized the formation of women-led Community Interest Groups (CIGs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in various sectors such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and agro-processing. These groups serve as platforms for women to enhance their leadership skills and engage in economic activities. Women's centers were established in Central Equatoria, particularly in Morobo and Kojokeji. Mentorship programs were provided to elected women leaders from women's associations in these counties, focusing on leadership, confidence-building, and awareness-raising activities. Additionally, a women's engagement strategy was developed through a participatory process with women in Kajojeji, Morobo, Lainya, and Yei to prioritize peacebuilding, resilience, and stabilization efforts.

Vocational skills training and economic empowerment

Vocational skills training programs were conducted for 244 youth and women, focusing on carpentry, joinery, catering, fashion design, and other skills. Startup kits were provided to enable trained individuals to start their own businesses, fostering self-reliance and improving livelihoods. In Abyei, vocational skills training in catering, tailoring, and computer skills was ongoing, further empowering women and youth in the region.

Transformational leadership capacity building

A total of 144 women leaders received capacity-building training in transformational leadership. Out of these, 30 women developed Joint Action Plans and implemented individual action plans, reaching approximately 1,900 individuals in schools and orphanages through workshops, training sessions, radio talk shows, and programs on various issues such as gender-based violence (GBV), economic empowerment, HIV/AIDS, trauma, and mental health.

Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) engagement

The WPC collaborated with constituencies to develop actionable plans supporting women's preparedness for participation in the Constitutional Review process and elections by December 2024. Constituency engagements were conducted in Bor, Aweil, and Kajojeji, as part of a series of capacity-building efforts undertaken by the WPC.

Youth mentorship programs

Mentorship programs were organized for 107 young individuals, with a focus on youth leadership in peacebuilding and the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). These mentorship sessions, conducted in Juba, Malakal, and Bentiu, aimed to develop the leadership skills of youth, with a specific focus on female participants.

Media and human rights advocacy

Tailored trainings were conducted for journalists and human rights defenders in various states, equipping them with skills in context analysis, strategic planning, security planning, monitoring, and reporting on fundamental freedoms. Additionally, efforts were made to promote women's leadership and representation in the media sector through capacity-building workshops and networking opportunities for female journalists and editors.

Sports for peace and equality initiatives

Over 100 girls were provided with training opportunities in collaboration with the South Sudan Football Federation, fostering their development as role models and mentors for other young girls. These initiatives, known as the 'Bright Starlets', leverage sports for peace and equality initiatives in South Sudan, promoting empowerment and leadership among young girls. A total of 1,100 (400 boys, 450 girls, 50 women and 200 men) participants attended peace sports tournament in Abyei. The activity brought together host communities, IDPs and refugees.



2.3.4.4 Output

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

| Indicator | Baseline | Target (2023) | Achievement (2023) | Status | Narrative |
|---|-----------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| # of community engagement platforms established to promote positive social norms on GEWE (cumulative) | 30 (2022) | 60 (2023) | 107 | Fully achieved | Several initiatives have been undertaken to address harmful practices like child marriage through partnerships with Women Led organizations. Challenges in reaching community engagement platforms were faced due to bureaucratic processes, but progress is ongoing with plans for exponential growth in platform establishment and norm-shifting efforts in 2024. 33 community structures were established to promote gender empowerment and positive social values, engaging 779 individuals in group organization, gender awareness, and livelihood training. These efforts aimed to strengthen community resilience and support survivors of gender-based violence and child marriage. Community support mechanisms were intensified, resulting in 61 community leaders committing to combatting GBV and child marriage. Additionally, 102 Community Action Groups (CAGs) were established across various regions to create a social safety net for survivors. Over 30,000 community-level women and girls received leadership development inputs, and about 100 girls benefited from mentorship programs addressing discriminatory social norms. |
| # of opinion leaders reporting community level actions to promote positive social norms (cumulative) | 85 (2022) | 125 (2023) | 240 | Fully achieved | Capacity building workshops were conducted to empower participants in protecting human rights, particularly preventing grave child rights violations. Training sessions were provided to 1,965 participants from various sectors, including protection partners, government officials, and security forces, aiming to enhance their knowledge and abilities in safeguarding human rights. Engaged 165 community leaders, promoting affirmative action and raising awareness on gender violence elimination. Support was provided for male engagement initiatives to promote positive masculinity, collaborating with boda boda riders and organizing discussions reaching over 10,000 community members. A Change-makers' kit was developed for gender-based violence awareness, and a national cooking competition challenged gender norms. A peace and gender transformative program engaged youth and community influencers, reaching around 3,000 community members through 75 male participants. Challenges in reaching community engagement platforms were addressed, paving the way for increased progress in 2024. |

The UNCT made significant contributions to promoting positive social norms and values, particularly aiming to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women, youth, children, and vulnerable groups. Here's a detailed overview of the activities and results achieved in 2023 towards Output 4.4 of the UNSDCF. Overall, the UNCT's efforts in 2023 contributed significantly to building the capacity of opinion leaders and community structures to promote positive social norms and values, thereby advancing the elimination of violence and discrimination against women, youth, children, and vulnerable groups in South Sudan.

Capacity building for GBV service providers

Organized workshops for GBV service providers and case workers in Tonj South and Jur River. These workshops aimed to enhance the effectiveness of local GBV referral pathways. A total of 48 individuals (19F; 29M) participated in these workshops, where they reviewed previous recommendations, discussed challenges, and updated referral pathways to ensure the provision of up-to-date services and contact information.

Training and mentorship for youth on gender and violence

The UN system, in collaboration with partners, initiated the implementation of a Gender Transformative Curriculum in Yei. This involved training 40 youth aged between 18-35 (19 female, 21 male) to become facilitators of the curriculum. These facilitators subsequently led workshops on gender and violence for over 200 youth in their communities over a 16-week period. This initiative aimed to challenge harmful gender norms and promote positive social values among young people.

Awareness and training on Trafficking in Persons

Recognizing the risks of trafficking in humanitarian crises, organized six training sessions on trafficking in persons (TiP) for various stakeholders in high-risk areas along the border with Sudan. These sessions reached 181 individuals (66 women, 115 men) and increased participants' knowledge of key issues surrounding trafficking in crisis situations and relevant indicators.

Engagement with security sector institutions

Supported the formation of Gender Equality Champions within the Security Sector institutions. A total of 104 security personnel (31 females, 73 males) were trained to promote gender equality and support the implementation of the National Action Plan on Security Sector Reform (SSR). Additionally, a workshop was conducted for these champions to enhance their capacity in promoting gender equality within their respective institutions.

Promotion of positive masculinity

In partnership with the Boda Boda and Motorbike Riders Association in several states, implemented the Engaging Men in Accountable Practices (EMAP) initiative. This initiative aimed to challenge harmful gender norms and promote positive masculinities among men and boys. Activities included workshops, discussions, and the organization of a national cooking competition to challenge traditional gender roles.

Capacity building for journalists and human rights defenders

Conducted tailored trainings for journalists and human rights defenders in various states. These trainings equipped participants with skills in monitoring and reporting on fundamental freedoms, digital data protection, and strategic planning. Additionally, support was provided to promote women's leadership and representation in the media sector.

Community engagement and empowerment

The UN system, through various initiatives, established community structures, conducted capacity-building workshops, and engaged community influencers to promote positive social values and eliminate gender-based violence. Over 33 community structures were established, engaging 779 individuals in group organization, gender awareness, and livelihood training. Moreover, over 30,000 community-level women and girls received leadership development inputs, and approximately 100 girls benefited from mentorship programs addressing discriminatory social norms.

Communities' declaration of elimination of GBV and child marriage

UNCT support intensified community support mechanisms for prevention and response to GBV and Child Marriage. As a result of this, a total of 61 communities declared elimination/abandonment of GBV and Child Marriage. A total 102 Community Action Groups (CAG) are established to create social safety net for the survivors. By establishing these groups, safe spaces for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and empowerment have been created. The involvement of community members, including both men and women, is instrumental in challenging harmful norms and practices that perpetuate child marriage and discrimination against girls. These groups provide opportunities for community-led initiatives, advocacy campaigns, and the implementation of interventions that directly impact the lives of girls and contribute to their well-being.



2.4 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW, RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND PARTNERSHIP

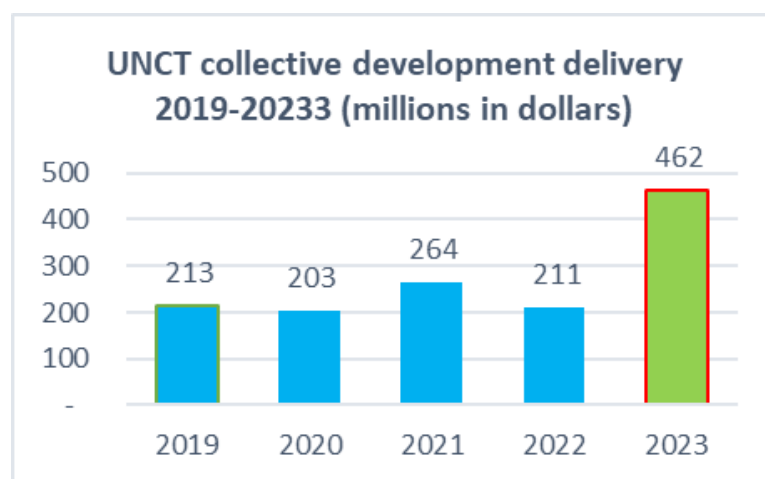
2.4.1. UNSDCF delivery

| Cooperation Framework Priorities | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Transparent, Accountable & Inclusive Governance (in support of SDGs 5, 16 & 17) | 34,424,320 | 20,670,260 | 5,939,917 | 35,124,260 | 15,442,652 |
| Sustainable Economic Growth & Diversification (in support of SDGs 2, 8, 9 & 13) | 103,025,502 | 73,110,043 | 105,899,554 | 78,638,346 | 161,686,401 |
| Social development with protection of the most vulnerable (in support of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6) | 61,035,978 | 104,644,787 | 151,578,592 | 89,277,639 | 278,565,679 |
| Women & Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development (in support of SDGs 5, 10 & 16) | 14,875,054 | 4,494,519 | 941,533 | 8,072,326 | 6,152,943 |
| Total | 213,360,853 | 202,919,610 | 264,359,596 | 211,112,571 | 461,847,675 |

In 2023, total UNCT's financial delivery stood at 80%, with total expenditure of USD **461,847,675** against available funding of **USD 578,015,755**, and 44% against a budget of USD **1,045,724,178**, indicating substantial progress in utilizing available funding to implement development programs and initiatives. The 2023 expenditure represents a more than 100% increase compared to the average yearly delivery under the 2019-2022 UNCF of **USD 222,938,157**. The increased financial delivery was driven by intensified investments in critical areas such as infrastructure development, agriculture, healthcare, nutrition services, and education.

Key investment areas:

- * Maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction of community and feeder roads to improve transportation and trade infrastructure and connectivity.
- * Support to farmers to expand agricultural production and enhance food security.
- * Strengthening healthcare systems and providing curative nutrition services to address health challenges.
- * Expansion of integrated HIV/TB services to combat infectious diseases.
- * Implementation of school feeding programs to improve nutrition and education outcomes.



As in previous years, there were variations in financial delivery across the four priority areas outlined in the UNSDCF. Priority areas related to improving food security and basic services demonstrated higher levels of contribution compared to areas closely tied to peace agreement. Priority III (Social development with protection of the most vulnerable) and Priority II (Sustainable Economic Growth & Diversification) consequently contributed more to the UNSDCF delivery at 60.3% and 35% respectively. Conversely, the two priority areas most closely related to the R-ARCSS provisions, namely Priorities I and IV, reveal significant under-contribution, given the delays and uncertainties related to the implementation of key peace agreement provisions. 'Transparent, Accountable & Inclusive Governance' therefore contributed 3.3% of total delivery for the year whilst 'Empowerment of Women and Youth' contributed only 1.3%. The increased financial delivery in 2023 signifies a positive step towards achieving the objectives outlined in the UNSDCF and advancing sustainable development in South Sudan. However, continued efforts are needed to address challenges and ensure equitable distribution of resources to effectively meet the diverse needs of the population.

2.4.2 PEACEBUILDING FUND (PBF)

The PBF continues to play a crucial role in supporting peacebuilding efforts in South Sudan, with a diverse range of projects aimed at promoting inclusive and sustainable peace and development in the country. The PBF Secretariat in South Sudan is now fully operational, providing essential support for the coordination and management of PBF-funded projects. Its functions include facilitating communication among stakeholders, monitoring project implementation, and ensuring accountability and transparency in PBF activities.

The PBF Joint Steering Committee in South Sudan, co-chaired by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) and the Minister of Peacebuilding, plays a crucial role in overseeing and guiding the implementation of PBF-funded projects. It ensures coordination among stakeholders and alignment with peacebuilding priorities identified by the government and international partners.

The Government of South Sudan continues to engage with the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) to address peacebuilding priorities in the country. This engagement involves consultations with key stakeholders and the submission of proposals for PBC support, including projects related to women's leadership, political participation, and youth empowerment. Between 15 - 19 April 2024, there will be a headquarters Director level PBF partner visit to South Sudan, aimed at showcasing the impact of PBF investments on individuals, communities, and institutions in South Sudan.

Currently, there are several PBF projects underway in South Sudan, addressing various peacebuilding challenges across the country. The current portfolio of PBF projects in South Sudan amounts to USD 28 million and includes:

- Support to a people-driven and gender responsive permanent constitution making process in South Sudan (\$4,000,045)
- Building peace through promoting inclusive and participatory transitional justice processes and mechanisms in South Sudan (\$3,997,826)
- Youth Leading Peace: Establishing participatory and inclusive local and national mechanisms for implementation of Youth Peace and Security Agenda in South Sudan (\$3,000,000)
- Community Action for Peaceful Resolution of Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Disputes and Conflicts (\$3,700,000)
- Women's Leadership and Political Participation during South Sudan's Transitional Period (\$3,000,000)
- Local Solutions to Build Climate Resilience and Advance Peace and Stability in Bor, Pibor and Malakal (\$3,680,700)
- Secretariat support to the PBF portfolio in South Sudan (\$2,148,026)
- Challenging harmful and patriarchal gender norms for better mental health and peace and security, amongst women and girls and communities in the Wunlit Triangle (\$2,000,000)
- Resourcing change: inclusive peacebuilding from the ground up (\$2,000,000)
- Inclusive Governance for Peace: Promoting young women's meaningful political participation in South Sudan (\$600,000)
Pastoralist youth's civic engagement for equitable, safer, inclusive & united South Sudan (\$600,000)

For 2024, an additional portfolio of USD 15 million has been allocated, covering various peacebuilding priorities:

- Community violence reduction/pre-reintegration, incl. a component on Early Warning/Hate Speech in conjunction with planned elections December 2024 (USD 4,000,000)
- Durable solutions in greater Malakal region (USD 3,000,000)
- Gender Security Sector Reform follow-on (USD 3,000,000)
- Gender Promotion Initiative 2.0 (USD 3,000,000)
- M&E project – data collection for peacebuilding (USD 500,000)
- PBF Secretariat Cost Extension (USD 1,500,000)

2.4.3 RECONCILIATION, STABILIZATION AND RESILIENCE TRUST FUND (RSRTF)

Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience Trust Fund (RSRTF) in South Sudan focuses on strategic priorities aimed at promoting peace, stability, and resilience in the country. The fund's priorities include:

- ◆ Reconciliation: Building trust and confidence through gender and age sensitive conflict prevention, management and resolution.
- ◆ Stabilization: Increasing participation in peaceful political processes, strengthening the social contract between citizens and the state and restoring security and access to justice.
- ◆ Resilience: Investing in capacities that foster interdependency between communities to deter at risk youth from emerging violence.

Ongoing RSRTF projects

Locally driven solutions for social cohesion and promoting early recovery in the country's former breadbasket phase II (Southern – Central Equatoria State – 2024 - 2025)

Community Violence Reduction (CVR) in central-southern Jonglei and Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) – Phase II (2023 – 2025)

Laying the foundation for Peaceful, stable and resilient communities in greater Tonj (2022 – 2024)

2.4.4 PARTNERSHIPS

In pursuit of sustainable development and lasting peace in South Sudan, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) has forged strategic partnerships with key international entities and government. These collaborations are instrumental in addressing complex challenges faced by the country, ranging from social cohesion and conflict prevention to economic development, resilience and institutional strengthening.

The UNCT, in conjunction with its partners, is committed to implementing initiatives that foster positive change and build a resilient future for the people of South Sudan. These ongoing partnerships represent a collective effort to contribute to the country's progress, ensuring a comprehensive and integrated approach to address multifaceted issues.

EU Multi-Annual Indicative Program (2021 – 2027)

Improved social cohesion including conflict prevention mechanisms in host communities with voluntary and spontaneous IDP and refugee returns.

Strengthened Access to Education and Livelihoods and Enhanced Reintegration and Community Cohesion in Areas Affected by Displacement and Returns. (UNICEF, IOM, WFP – Western Bahr Ghazal).

UK Foreign Commonwealth Development Office

Peacebuilding Opportunities Fund (POF), targeting conflict systems in Lakes and Greater Jonglei/Pibor and border dynamics around these locations.

Netherlands

Transitional Justice Funding to UNDP

World Bank Country Partnership Framework (2024 – 2029)

Better functioning state providing greater security and justice.

Greater job opportunities in a more diverse economy

Greater prosperity, social cohesion, and resilience to shocks.

African Development Bank (2022 – 2024)

Increased agricultural productivity, household income, and diversified tradable commodities.

Access to reliable and affordable improved water and sanitation services through appropriate systems along the sanitation value chain

Contribute to building resilient state institutions with emphasis on capacity building in Public Finance and Management

Regional body partnership [ECA, RCPs/OIBCs]

Heads of Cooperation (HoCs)

2.5 OPERATIONALISING THE SG's VISION IN SOUTH SUDAN

2.5.1 Call for SDGs acceleration by 2030

Significant steps have taken to make progress on the United Nations Secretary-General's call for accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Key developments include:

Support for SDGs summit and VNR preparation: The United Nations system in South Sudan actively supported the government of South Sudan in its preparation for the SDG Summit scheduled for September 2023. This support aimed to ensure that South Sudan's priorities and commitments are well-represented at the global summit, fostering collaboration and alignment with international development agendas. In 2024, the UNCT is supporting government to conduct the first SDGs Voluntary National Review for South Sudan.

Development of South Sudan SDGs Rescue Plan: In collaboration with government partners, a comprehensive South Sudan SDGs Rescue Plan has been developed. This plan serves as a strategic roadmap to inform the country's SDGs acceleration pathways and progress by 2030. Through a participatory process, key targets with the highest potential for acceleration impact have been identified. By focusing on these priority targets and implementing transformative policy reforms, South Sudan aims to accelerate progress towards the SDGs and contribute to sustainable development and prosperity for all its citizens.

Target 16.6: Developing effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.

Target 8.5: Achieving full employment and decent work with equal pay.

Target 9.2: Promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization.

Target 2.4: Ensuring sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices.

Target 3.3: Combating communicable diseases, including AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases.

Target 4.7: Ensuring learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.

Target 13.1: Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.

Transformative policy reforms: South Sudan is committed to pursuing transformative policy reforms and actions to create an enabling environment for advancing progress on all SDGs. This includes integrating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) and Youth Empowerment into national strategies, enhancing financing mechanisms for SDGs implementation, and improving data collection and monitoring for SDGs reporting.

Enabling environment: There are on-going efforts to create an enabling environment conducive for achieving the SDGs. This involves strengthening governance structures, promoting inclusive economic growth, enhancing access to quality education and healthcare, and building resilience to climate change and natural disasters.

2.5.2 Efficiency Agenda

Business Operations strategy (BOS): The implementation of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) has been ongoing since 2020 in South Sudan. This strategy aims to streamline and optimize business operations within the UN system, leading to increased efficiency and cost savings. As a result of BOS implementation, there have been reported cost avoidance measures amounting to approximately 8 million USD. These savings contribute to the overall effectiveness of UN operations in South Sudan by ensuring that resources are utilized judiciously.

Common premises: Efforts have been made to explore the concept of common premises within the UNCT in South Sudan. The initiative involves mapping and inventorying common premises across the country. Discussions are underway among UNCT members to pilot the concept of common premises in Malakal. By consolidating office spaces and facilities, common premises initiatives aim to enhance collaboration, communication, and resource-sharing among UN agencies. This not only promotes efficiency in operations but also fosters a more cohesive and integrated approach to delivering UN mandates and services in South Sudan.

2.5.3 Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

In 2023, in alignment with the United Nations Secretary-General's Prevention Vision, South Sudan has undertaken several initiatives to prevent and address instances of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Through the implementation of these initiatives, South Sudan is actively working to prevent incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse, protect vulnerable populations, and promote a culture of respect, dignity, and accountability within the humanitarian and development sectors. The operationalization of the prevention vision includes:

PSEA deep dive review: Conducting an in-depth review of existing prevention mechanisms to assess their effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. This review aims to strengthen prevention strategies and ensure robust measures are in place to mitigate the risk of SEA and SGBV and inform the country's next PSEA strategy.

UNCT/HCT PSEA action plan: Collaboratively developing and implementing a comprehensive action plan for the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in South Sudan. This action plan outlines specific prevention initiatives, response mechanisms, and accountability measures to prevent and address incidents of SEA and SGBV.

Inter-agency PSEA capacity building: Organizing capacity-building missions involving multiple agencies to enhance awareness and understanding of SEA and SGBV prevention strategies. These missions include training sessions, workshops, and skill-building exercises to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders in the states, including in Wau and Aweil.

Strengthening inter-agency referral mechanisms: Enhancing collaboration and coordination among agencies to improve referral mechanisms for addressing cases of SEA and SGBV. This includes establishing clear protocols, communication channels, and support systems to ensure survivors receive timely and appropriate assistance.

Facilitating coordinated approach to victim's assistance: Promoting a coordinated and coherent approach to helping and support to survivors of SEA and SGBV. This involves aligning efforts across various stakeholders to ensure comprehensive and holistic support for victims, including access to medical care, psychosocial support, and legal assistance.

Mobilizing resources for prevention and response: Engaging in resource mobilization efforts to secure funding and support for prevention and response initiatives at both sub-national and national levels. This includes advocating for financial resources, leveraging partnerships, and allocating resources strategically to address the root causes of SEA and SGBV.

2.5.4 Early Warning for All Initiative (EW4ALL)

The Secretary-General's Early Warning for All Initiative was officially launched in South Sudan in November 2023. The launch event brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including government officials, humanitarian organizations, civil society groups, and community representatives. The event served to raise awareness about the importance of early warning systems and garnered support for the initiative. Following the launch, the immediate next step is to develop a comprehensive national roadmap for its implementation in South Sudan. This roadmap will serve as a guiding document outlining the specific steps, activities, and timelines for rolling out the initiative at the national level.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt from 2023 UNSDCF implementation.

Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Implementation of the UNSDCF in 2023:

Funding Shortfall:

- * Only 55% of the UNSDCF budget was funded in 2023.
- * Limited financial resources hindered the full implementation of planned activities and initiatives.

Delays in R-ARCSS:

- * Delays in the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) impacted the delivery of support towards implementing peace agreement provisions.
- * Political instability and uncertainty contributed to delays in achieving key milestones, affecting overall progress.

Increasing Cost of Program Delivery:

- * The worsening economic situation, high depreciation, and inflation led to an increase in the cost of program delivery.
- * Limited resources had to be allocated strategically, prioritizing critical areas despite rising operational costs.

Weak Development Coordination:

- * Development coordination, particularly through Sector Working Groups (SWGs), remained weak.
- * Lack of a clear platform bringing together the government and development partners hindered effective collaboration and coordination efforts.

Lack of Reliable Data:

- * Reliable national and state-level development data remained a challenge across various sectors.
- * Insufficient data hindered evidence-based decision-making and planning, impacting the effectiveness of development interventions.

Sub-National Development Planning:

State development plan priorities were not adequately reflected in development programming at the sub-national level. Aligning development interventions with state-level priorities is essential for addressing localized needs and achieving sustainable development outcomes.

Chapter 3: UNCT Key Focus in 2024

The UNCT in South Sudan is dedicated to advancing the nation's development goals, fostering peace, and enhancing resilience in the face of challenges. As we enter 2024, the UNCT has identified key focus areas to guide its efforts for the year ahead. These priorities are aligned with the UNSDCF and aim to address critical needs while accelerating progress towards the SDGs. Through collaborative initiatives and strategic interventions, the UNCT will endeavor to support the government and people of South Sudan in achieving sustainable and inclusive development, peace, and resilience. The following outlines the UNCT's key focus areas for 2024:

Second year implementation of UNSDCF

Continue the second-year implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), including the development of joint programs and collective outcomes in key priority areas:

- Food Systems: Enhance Sustainable Food Production & Resilient Agricultural Practices.
- Education & Health: Improve Coverage of Inclusive, Responsive, and Quality Social Services.
- Climate Action: Increase Resilience and Adaptive Capacity to Climate-Related Hazards and Natural Disasters.

SDGs acceleration

- * Establish a technical Working Group (WG) on SDGs acceleration.
- * Develop a national roadmap and action plan for accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- * Support Preparation and submission of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) report.
- * Establish the National SDG Data Tracker platform to monitor and track SDG progress.

Preparation for the Summit of the Future

- * Support government consultations with key stakeholders in preparation for the Summit of the Future.

SG's Early Warning for All Initiative

- ◆ Establish Steering and technical Working Groups to operationalize the Early Warning for All Initiative.
- ◆ Develop a national roadmap and action plan for early warning and response mechanisms.

Roll-out durable solutions

Implement initiatives aimed at achieving durable solutions for displaced populations.

Abyei joint program implementation

- ◆ Continue with the implementation of the Abyei Joint Program to promote peace and stability in the region.

Early transition agenda implementation

Implement the Early Transition Agenda, focusing on the following pillars:

Pillar I: Security Sector Reform (SSR), Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR), and Community Violence Reduction (CVR).

Pillar II: Rule of Law, Access to Justice, and Policy & Legal Reforms.

Pillar III: Human Rights, Gender Equality, and Youth Empowerment.

Pillar IV: Civic Space, Political Participation, Mediation, and Dialogue

Pillar V: Good Offices, Positive Legacy, and Support Issues.

Continued implementation of the efficiency agenda

- * Continue implementing the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) to enhance operational efficiency.
- * Further develop common premises initiatives.
- * Strengthen collaboration between UNCT and UNMISS on BOS and common premises.
- * Implement Gender-Responsive Procurement practices.
- * Pilot renewable energy solutions to promote sustainability and environmental conservation.



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR
UNDP COMPOUND ,MINISTRIES ROAD
JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

Email: unctcommunications-southsudan@un.org

Facebook: UN in South Sudan

Twitter: @UN_SouthSudan

Website: <https://southsudan.un.org>