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Foreword

I am pleased to present the 2024 Country Results Report of the United Nations Country Team in South Sudan.

In 2024, South Sudan faced a convergence of complex and interconnected challenges—including food insecurity, economic stagnation, inter-communal violence, severe flooding and a protracted humanitarian crisis, compounded by the conflict in Sudan.

Through the United Nations Cooperation
Framework and in response to these challenges,
the United Nations Country Team worked
closely with the government and partners to
redouble efforts in advancing the Sustainable
Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on four
key areas: food security, climate resilience,
community empowerment—including health
and education—and governance.

In agriculture, government-led initiatives supported by the United Nations increased food production from 800,000 to over 1.1 million metric tons in 2024. Over 3 million people across 10 states benefited from livelihood support through agriculture, fisheries and livestock, enhancing both food security and resilience.

In the health sector, 2.5 million children received vitamin A supplements, and 2.1 million were dewormed. Investments were made in the areas of essential medicines and financial support for government health workers, helping to maintain critical services. Additionally, 11 automatic weather stations were installed to strengthen the national early warning system and improve disaster preparedness.

Concerning education, thousands of crisisaffected and displaced children benefited from school supplies, teacher training and safe



learning spaces. We supported the Ministry of General Education and Instruction in developing a Unified National Technical and Vocational Education and Training policy. We expanded access to education for over 52,000 out-of-school children and supported 97,000 new enrolments in primary school, helping close critical learning gaps.

On governance, civic awareness campaigns on the Constitution-Making Process Act reached over 2.1 million people. We facilitated the launch of the South Sudan Women's Charter—jointly developed with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and civil society organizations—to empower women to advocate for their priorities in the constitutional process, and also supported the Youth Charter for the same purpose. We also contributed to South Sudan's first-ever Voluntary National Review, which sets a baseline for tracking progress toward the SDGs and aligning national strategies with global commitments.

Our support is anchored in four pillars: policy support, technical capacity strengthening, service delivery and community engagement. This approach places the needs of the most vulnerable at the centre of our work and reinforces people's participation in their own development. This includes the area-based coordination model, which we began strengthening in Upper Nile, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Unity states to foster collaboration among peace, humanitarian and development actors.

While this foreword shares some examples of achievements in 2024, I hope the Country Results Report illustrates further our contribution towards South Sudan's national priorities. As we look ahead to 2025, we remain focused on achieving tangible results for those most in need. We will continue working through closer collaboration, stronger partnerships and a shared commitment to peace, stability, and sustainable development.

On behalf of the United Nations Country Team in South Sudan, I extend my sincere appreciation to our partners—the Government of South Sudan, donors, civil society organizations and the communities we serve—for their trust and collaboration. This report is a testament to what we can achieve together.

Looking forward, the challenges remain immense—but so too does our resolve. We continue to stand committed to leaving no one behind.

Ms. Anita Kiki Gbeho

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

United Nations South Sudan



Acronyms and abbreviations

ABC area-based coordination

ECD early childhood development

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GBV gender-based violence

HIV human immunodeficiency virus

ICT information and communication technology

IDSR Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

ILO International Labour Organization

IOM International Organization for Migration

ITC International Trade Centre
LGAs local government authorities

MDAs ministries, departments and agencies

PBF Peacebuilding Fund

R-ARCSS Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan

R-NDS Revised National Development Strategy

SDG Sustainable Development Goal

SSP South Sudanese pound

UN United Nations

UNCT United Nations Country Team

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNDRR United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization

UNMISS United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS United Nations Office for Project Services

UN Women United Nations Organization for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

US\$ United States dollar

WASH water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP World Food Programme
WHO World Health Organization

United Nations Country Team

















































Key development partners

Government donors (embassies and development agencies)

Embassy of Canada; Embassy of Norway; Embassy of Sweden; Embassy of Germany; Embassy of Japan; Embassy of Qatar; Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Embassy of the Netherlands; Government of Denmark; Government of Finland; Government of France; United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Prosperity Fund; United States Agency for International Development; United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance; German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development; Swedish International Development Agency; Luxembourg Ministry of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs

Multilateral and global development funds

Global Agriculture and Food Security Program Fund; The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations; Global Affairs Canada; Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) Development Bank; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; Global Partnership for Education; Multi-Donor Trust Fund; Peacebuilding Fund

International financial institutions and development banks

The World Bank; African Development Bank

Private foundations and non-governmental funds

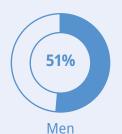
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation; German National Committee for UNICEF

Country context



Demographics

Population: Estimated at **15.2 million**, with a very young demographic **(74% are under 30 years old)**.



49% Women¹



1.2 million people in South Sudan live with **disabilities. 20%** of these **impairments** are **linked to conflict and violence**. ²



Human development and poverty

Human Development Index: South Sudan ranks second to last globally, dropping from **0.385 (2023)** to **0.381 (2024)**.

67.3% live below the international poverty line **(US\$2.15/day)**. **91.9%** experience multidimensional poverty





Social and humanitarian spending: Increased from 0.4% (2023) to 4.5% (2024) but remains insufficient.

Public spending and economic crisis

Low social sector investment: Only 11.2% of the SSP 4.2 trillion (US\$1.4 billion) budget was allocated to health, education and social/humanitarian affairs.

Electricity access:

7.2% of the total population have access to electricity

13.9% urban areas

5.6% rural areas



Healthcare and water access

Only **1.3% of the national budget** is **allocated to health** (down from 2.1% in 2023). The **health system remains critically underfunded** and donor-dependent.

1,223 maternal deaths per **100,000 births**. Less than **20%** of **births attended by skilled personnel**.

Only **41.2%** have **access to basic drinking water**; **24.8%** have access to **improved sanitation**.

Food security and nutrition

Severe food insecurity: 6 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse; **1.7 million** in **Emergency** (IPC Phase 4)

2.1 million children under 5 years are expected to **suffer from wasting**°

Education

Literacy rate:

40.26% men

28.9% women

Government spending on education fell from **8.3% (2023)** to **5.4% (2024)** of the **SSP 4.2 trillion budget**.

Displacement and humanitarian crises

In 2024, **735,000 people were displaced across 38 counties** due to **floods**, which **damaged homes**, **crops** and **infrastructure**.

- 1 National Bureau of Statistics, 'South Sudan Population Projections, 2020–2040', January 2016.
- 2 Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), 'Multidimensional Poverty Analysis: South Sudan 2023/2024', SIDA, May 2024.
- 3 MPI, April 2024.

- 4 SIDA, 2024.
- 5 Integrated Phase Food Security Classification (IPC), 'IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Analysis, September 2024–July 2025', 18 November 2024.
- 6 IPC, 2024.
- 7 National Bureau of Statistics, 2016.



Only **22%** of **health facilities are fully functional**, mostly in urban areas.⁵





Out-of-school children: 2.8 million in 2023, projected to rise to **3.5 million** in 2024.⁷



Nearly 1 million Sudanese refugees have further strained South Sudan's limited resources.





Chapter One: Key developments in the country and regional context

On 17 September 2024, the Government of South Sudan announced a two-year extension of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) implementation period, citing delays (only 10 percent of provisions had been fully implemented, 33 percent were in progress and 57 percent remained pending). The postponement of the December 2024 elections delayed the country's first democratic polls for the fourth time since 2011. Prior to this announcement and throughout the rest of the year, civic space remained restricted, with heightened oversight of civil society organizations, journalists and political opposition bodies. While the Tumaini peace talks aimed to engage non-signatory groups, localized conflicts in Jonglei, Upper Nile and Warrap states persisted, often fuelled by political and military elites. Political wrangling about succession within the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement In-Government party created fear and uncertainty regarding the future political trajectory in South Sudan.

South Sudan stood at a critical juncture in 2024, facing severe economic challenges driven by the shutdown of oil production, the spillover effects of conflict in Sudan, recurrent flooding and subnational violence. These overlapping shocks contributed to a continued economic contraction for the fourth consecutive year. According to the International Monetary Fund, the economy shrank by 11.9 percent in FY2024/25, while the World Bank projected a further contraction of 30.2 percent in 2025, underscoring the scale of the crisis.

The rupture of the main oil export pipeline through Sudan in February 2024 triggered a 70 percent drop in oil revenue, which in turn led to a 22 percent reduction in the national budget in US dollar terms and a fiscal gap of US\$758 million—equivalent to 46 percent of the previous year's budget. This fiscal strain exacerbated public sector arrears, with some salaries going unpaid for up to a year.

Inflation soared to 107 percent by July, while the South Sudanese pound depreciated sharply, falling from an average of SSP 1,200 per US dollar in January to around SSP 5,100 on the unofficial market by December. This rapid currency devaluation severely eroded household purchasing power and deepened economic vulnerability. By the end of 2024, 92.6 percent of the population was reported to be multidimensionally poor, up from 84 percent the previous year.

Economic and social inequalities worsened, particularly in rural areas, where poverty, food insecurity and lack of services were most severe, with over 82.5 percent of the population reported as multidimensionally poor.

Food insecurity deepened, affecting six million people classified as Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Phase 3 (Crisis) or higher, including 1.7 million in the Emergency phase (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Phase 4). Malnutrition remained widespread, with maternal and child health indicators showing high levels of stunting and wasting among children.

The health sector remained critically underfunded, with donor support sustaining key interventions. Education continues to be a critical challenge, with 2.8 million children out of school, 60 percent of them girls.¹ Flooding and insecurity led to widespread school closures, further diminishing learning outcomes. Government investment in education was minimal, with available resources primarily covering recurrent costs. Cholera outbreaks in seven states highlighted weaknesses in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, disproportionately affecting displaced populations.

South Sudan experienced one of its worst flooding seasons in 2024, displacing thousands and destroying infrastructure. Floods affected over 735,000 people across 38 counties and the Abyei Administrative Area, damaging homes, destroying crops and disrupting access to essential services. Heavy rains rendered roads impassable, further isolating communities and necessitating reliance on air transport for humanitarian aid delivery. Deforestation, illegal logging and unregulated mining continue to degrade the environment, leaving the country highly vulnerable to climate change.

¹ South Sudan, 2024 Voluntary National Review Report on the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, June 2024, available at https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2024/South%20Sudan%202024%20VNR%20 Report.pdf>.





Chapter Two: UN system support to national priorities through the Cooperation Framework

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2025 outlines the United Nations Country Team's (UNCT's) collective vision and response to South Sudan's national priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Aligned with the Revised National Development Strategy (R-NDS) 2021–2024, the framework integrates several key guiding principles: leaving no one behind, a human rights-based approach, gender equality and women's empowerment, and resilience, sustainability and accountability. The Cooperation Framework also supports the implementation of the R-ARCSS and aligns with humanitarian efforts under the Humanitarian Response Plan, ensuring a coordinated approach to both immediate needs and long-term development.

In partnership with the government and people of South Sudan, the Cooperation Framework aims to accelerate progress towards Vision 2040 and the 2030 Agenda through four interdependent strategic priorities:

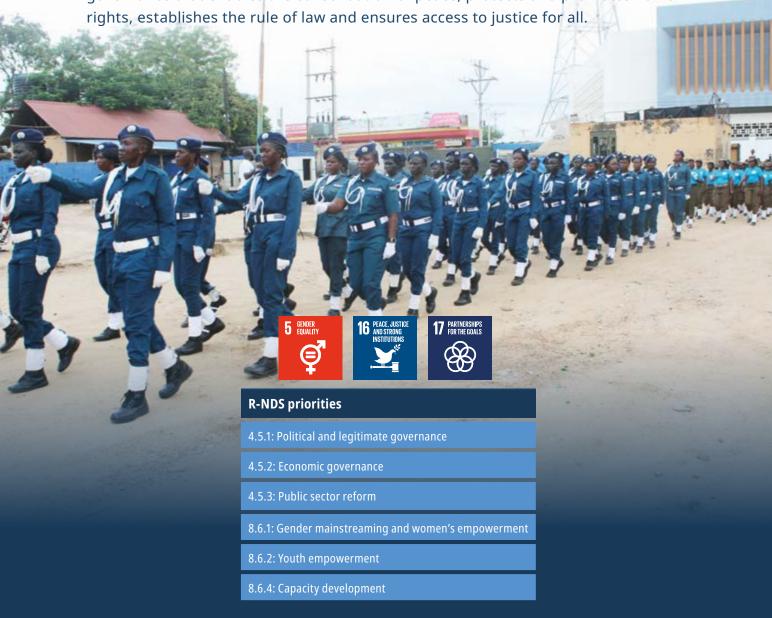
- Consolidation of peace and transparent, accountable and inclusive governance:
 By contributing to SDGs 5, 16 and 17, the UN supports the R-ARCSS and
 relevant sections of the R-NDS by dismantling war structures, strengthening
 reconciliation, strengthening transitional justice and building the
 foundations of a modern, democratic state.
- 2. Sustainable economic growth and diversification: By contributing to SDGs 2, 8, 9 and 13, the UN supports sustainable and climate-resilient economic growth, developing infrastructure, creating decent jobs and enhancing resilience to climate change.
- 3. Social development, prioritizing the protection of the most vulnerable: By contributing to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, the UN supports the government to expand access to social services and protection measures, strengthens national systems and reduces reliance on donor aid to ensure long-term state-led service delivery that supports human development and peacebuilding.
- 4. Women and youth empowerment for sustainable development: By contributing to SDGs 5, 10 and 16 the UN works with key partners to empower women, youths and vulnerable groups, ensuring their active participation in peacebuilding and sustainable development.

2.1 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Consolidation of peace and transparent, accountable and inclusive governance

Outcome 1: Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, benefit from and participate in more transparent, accountable and inclusive governance that enables the consolidation of peace, protects and promotes human rights, establishes the rule of law and ensures access to justice for all.





























Strategic Priority 1



132 electoral stakeholders (101 women, 31 men) enhanced their understanding of **inclusivity in elections** and the constitution-making process.



200 journalists across 10 states improved their skills in **ethical and gender-responsive reporting**.



The South Sudan Women's Charter was launched on 29 May 2024, **empowering women** to advocate for their priorities in the **constitution-making process**.



238 governance stakeholders, including traditional leaders and civil society, adopted a rights-based approach and **strengthened** their roles in **constitution-making**.



Over 8,900 individuals, including nearly 5,000 women, **accessed justice** through **mobile courts**.



Trauma-healing talk shows reached 200,000 community members, promoting reconciliation.



The **National Land Policy** was approved by the economic cluster and the Council of Ministers, laying the **foundation for improved land governance**.



493 participants across 10 states contributed insights on **security, rule of law, land and housing**, shaping the South Sudan Strategy and Action Plan for Return, Reintegration and Recovery.



The **National Youth Development Policy** was approved by the **National Legislative Assembly**, and the **Youth Peace Strategy** was finalized, **strengthening youth engagement in peacebuilding**.



Civic awareness campaigns on the Constitution-Making Process Act reached over **2.1 million people** across three regions, boosting public participation.

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.

Under this output, UN entities focused on increasing the inclusion and participation of women, youths and civil society in the constitution-making process. As a result of training, 132 electoral stakeholders (101 women, 31 men) enhanced their understanding of their roles and responsibilities in elections and the constitution-making process. Additionally, over 200 journalists across 10 states, including Upper Nile, Pibor and Eastern Equatoria, developed skills to promote gendersensitive and ethical reporting on electoral and constitutional matters. The launch of the South Sudan Women's Charter on 29 May 2024 marked a significant step in strengthening women's capacity to advocate for their priorities in the constitution-making process. Similarly, the Youth Charter was created to ensure that youth aspirations are reflected in the new constitution.

Technical support was also provided to duty bearers to promote a rights-based approach to governance and to strengthen the National Electoral Commission. This included establishing the commission's standard operating procedures, developing an organizational chart and providing information technology equipment. Additionally, 44 participants (32 women) improved their leadership skills, encouraging greater cooperation and political participation. Seven state legislative assemblies received support to enhance legislative oversight. To further strengthen the constitution-making process, 238 stakeholders, including traditional leaders and civil society representatives, were empowered to play a more active role in preventing violence against women in elections, emphasizing inclusivity.

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

To expand access to justice in remote areas, 13 field missions, including for investigations, assessments and mobile courts, were deployed to improve legal services and accountability. Government-provided justice advisers and corrections personnel were stationed in all 10 field offices, ensuring wider judicial presence. Specialized training and mentoring for judicial actors included a focus on enhancing capacities for investigating and prosecuting conflict-related sexual violence cases.

As part of broader transitional justice efforts, key legislation establishing the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing and the Compensation and Reparation Authority was passed into law, laying the foundation for truth-seeking and reparations. Technical support was provided in drafting these laws, with nationwide and regional consultations informing their development.

Community-based peace and reconciliation initiatives were expanded. Thirty-six senior mediators, including state-level ministers and officials, received specialized training in insider mediation, strengthening peacebuilding capacities. Trauma healing was prioritized, with 218 psychosocial community volunteers trained to support trauma healing sessions for 923 individuals (527 women). Additionally, 150 local leaders participated in trauma awareness workshops.

Community outreach and social cohesion activities reached a broad audience, including 200,000 listeners to trauma healing radio talk shows in Eastern Equatoria State. Sportsfor-peace and cultural events engaged 3,808 participants (2,240 women) across multiple states, promoting inclusion among returnees, refugees and host communities.

Efforts to strengthen child protection and juvenile justice resulted in the release of 594 individuals (516 adults, 73 boys and 5 girls) from detention centres, with follow-up social work support being provided. A road map for gang violence prevention was developed through a national conference, and a monitoring and reporting mechanism for child protection was sustained to track and prevent violations such as the recruitment of children in armed groups.

At the national level, 126 conflict management, reconciliation and civic engagement peacebuilding initiatives reached 29,720 beneficiaries (including 9,554 women and 10,273 youths). These efforts contributed to reducing local conflicts, enhancing freedom of movement and strengthening trust between communities and security actors. Support for pre- and post-migration conferences led to a reduction in cattle-raiding incidents, improving compliance with peace resolutions.

In the area of security sector reform and community violence reduction, technical workshops were held to train 383 security and governance actors (111 women) on reform strategies. The Strategic Defence and Security Review Board finalized key policy documents, including the Security Sector Transformation Road Map and the White Paper on Defence and Security, which are pending government approval. Additionally, training for 1,056 subnational actors (396 women) improved security coordination. This included specific support for 42 female former combatants and active female security personnel. The National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission was supported in the development of the National Community Violence Reduction Strategy. Through a pilot programme on community violence reduction, 950 individuals, including ex-combatants, women associated with armed groups and at-risk youths were successfully reintegrated.

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.

In 2024, progress was made in operationalizing the Land Reform Unit within the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development. With the validation of its terms of reference, the unit is now positioned to coordinate the implementation of the National Land Policy and facilitate stakeholder dialogues on land governance. To build consensus on the National Land Policy, consultations were facilitated with 650 parliamentarians from the Transitional Legislative Assembly, the Council of State and senior government officials. This engagement aimed to sensitize lawmakers on the policy and strengthen collective commitment toward its implementation.

Efforts to promote gender equality in land rights were advanced through the legal assessment of SDG Indicator 5.a.2. The assessment's findings will guide priority actions identified by the Technical Task Force on Land Policy, which includes 13 national ministries, civil society organizations, UN agencies and technical stakeholders.

Further progress was achieved with the approval of the National Land Policy by the economic cluster and the Council of Ministers. To inform the permanent constitution-making process, a consultative forum on South Sudan's land tenure system was convened, bringing together 61 participants, including 19 women, to develop recommendations for land reform.

In supporting the permanent return and reintegration of displaced populations, the South Sudan Strategy and Action Plan on Return, Reintegration and Recovery (2024–2028) was reviewed across all 10 states, engaging 493 representatives, including 96 women, from government, civil society, non-governmental organizations, traditional leaders and displaced communities. Key recommendations focused on security deployment, strengthening the rule



of law, addressing land and housing issues and restoring essential services in returnee areas. Additionally, advocacy efforts contributed to the operationalization of national and state-level task forces to drive the full implementation of the National Action Plan under Chapter III of the Revitalized Agreement.

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.

A national workshop on enhancing women's leadership was convened to promote meaningful participation in the Transitional National Legislative Assembly. Additionally, a training workshop on legislative drafting, minute taking and report writing equipped members of

the Legislation and Justice Committee, other relevant committees and support staff with essential skills to enhance legislative efficiency.

Efforts to combat corruption and strengthen governance were reinforced through engagement with the South Sudan Anti-Corruption
Commission. Awareness sessions in Western
Bahr el Ghazal enhanced the oversight capacity of the State Legislative Assembly's specialized committees, while consultations in Aweil (Northern Bahr el Ghazal) and Kuajok (Warrap) strengthened civil society participation in anti-corruption efforts following the adoption of the National Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2023 on 4 October.

Key milestones were achieved in advancing human rights and prevention of statelessness. Parliament endorsed South Sudan's accession to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The signing of accession instruments by the President marked a transformative step toward eradicating statelessness, pending finalization at the UN Treaty Office in New York.

Progress was also made in advancing durable solutions for displaced populations. The Internally Displaced Persons Bill was tabled for a final review before Cabinet discussions. This legislation, once enacted, will complement the South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action, endorsed on 8 October 2023, which provides a framework to support refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons and host communities in finding long-term solutions.

Output 1.5: Relevant ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) and local government authorities (LGAs) have improved capacities to develop and operationalize systems and processes for transparent, effective and responsive public finance management.

Institutional capacity was enhanced with the delivery of prefabricated structures and furniture, establishing a one-stop investment facility to attract foreign and private investments. Additionally, the development and approval of the Investor Map by the economic cluster, along with ongoing procurement of ICT equipment, provided valuable market intelligence and strengthened

the infrastructure needed to boost investment opportunities in the country.

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.

The ongoing implementation of the South Sudan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey round 7 (MICS7) will provide critical data for decisionmaking. The capacity of the National Bureau of Statistics was enhanced through the MICS7 process, with high-level technical support being given to the bureau. Capacity-building efforts have enhanced the ability of 63 staff members from key ministries to generate, analyse and disseminate data on sexual and reproductive health and GBV, while data on 80 percent of routine sexual and reproductive health indicators are now collected and made publicly available through the national health information system. Additionally, 25 data managers and health facility staff have improved their capacity to use revised health management information system tools, further strengthening health data management. Fiftytwo gender focal persons from MDAs have enhanced their skills in improving the quality of administrative data collection, contributing to better, data-driven, policymaking.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: Sustainable economic growth and diversification

Outcome 2: Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youths and vulnerable adaptation and greater resilience to economic shocks.









UNDRR

WUNOPS

Strategic Priority 2



3 million individuals in 10 states received **livelihood support** across **agriculture**, **fisheries** and **livestock value chains**.



736,960 individuals (361,110 men, 375,850 women) gained **market access** through new **feeder roads**.



Key policies (Seed Policy, Land Policy, Fisheries Policy and Strategic Plan) were implemented to support diversified and increased food production.



8,305 entrepreneurs received **business development support**, improving their **skills** and **confidence**.



300 MSEs gained improved banking access via **mobile money platforms**, enhancing savings and transactions.



225 government and private sector staff (40% women) were trained in post-harvest management, resulting in a **transfer of** knowledge to **26,079 smallholder farmers**.



distributed to **495 households** (94% women), ensuring clean and **efficient cooking alternatives**.



Over **70,000 fruit and shade trees** were planted to support reforestation and ecological stability.



56,136 refugee households and **22,196 internally displaced persons** and returnee households received climate resilience assistance.



24 automatic weather systems were installed and linked to the World Meteorological Organization's global platform for **improved forecasting**.

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

Key milestones under this output include South Sudan's accession to the World Trade Organization, enhancing the country's integration into the global trading system, and the development of the first comprehensive trade policy framework aimed at reducing trade barriers and supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Progress was also made in infrastructure development, enhancing market access and social service delivery. Thirty-eight kilometres of community access roads were constructed, while an additional 312 kilometres were rehabilitated through a productive safety net approach. Additionally, 153 kilometres of community feeder roads were identified for development across five counties (Terekeka, Bor, Kajokeji, Magwi and Torit), with environmental and social screening completed to assess potential impacts. To ensure long-term sustainability, 240 individuals were trained in road maintenance, and road management committees were established in Magwi County. Key infrastructure projects also included the completion of 22 kilometres of the Kayango-Basilia feeder road, 22 kilometres of the Gok Machar-Nyamlel feeder road, the Nyamlel bridge and seven water points, which provided clean water access to 12,960 individuals (6,350 men, 6,610 women).

Efforts to strengthen food security and rural market infrastructure led to the construction of four rural aggregation centres, one with a capacity of 100 metric tons and three with a capacity of 50 metric tons each, supporting smallholder farmers in accessing markets. South Sudan's Animal Breeding Policy was finalized and handed over to the relevant ministry, providing a regulatory framework to enhance livestock production. Additionally, a capture fishery development strategy was prepared and validated, outlining a strategic plan for the

fishery sector's growth from 2024 to 2027 and unlocking its potential for improving livelihoods and food security.

Food security monitoring efforts continued with regular data updates on market prices, exchange rates, rainfall and crop production, contributing to evidence-based decision-making. A comprehensive food security and nutrition monitoring survey was conducted across 40 counties, ensuring timely and accurate assessments of food security conditions.

Output 2.2: Public and private sector providers are strengthened to provide gender-transformative, market-oriented and quality models, products and services to food producers and traders, food producer organizations and micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, particularly those led by women, youths and vulnerable groups.

A total of 8,305 entrepreneurs received business development support services, equipping them with the necessary skills and confidence to improve their business performance.

Efforts to strengthen micro and small enterprises led to the disbursement of SSP 2,027,300,000 in interest-free loans to 607 MSEs, enabling them to expand, revive and sustain their businesses. Additionally, 133 women- and youth-led MSEs accessed interest-free loans, with 45 of these businesses reporting increased revenue as a direct result of this financial support. Since May 2024, SSP 839,389,000 (US\$534,981.12) was disbursed to 234 approved MSEs, further reinforcing business resilience. Moreover, 300 MSEs gained improved access to banking services through mobile money platforms, allowing for enhanced enterprise savings and transactions.

To further strengthen agricultural cooperatives, 10 seed enterprise groups were successfully registered, including six newly established seed enterprise groups in Juba, Magwi and Terekeka and four existing seed enterprise groups in Bor and Torit. These groups received training on good agricultural practices, seed multiplication, post-harvest management and

financial literacy. The expansion of local seed production is expected to reduce dependence on seed imports, lower costs of logistics and ensure timely availability of quality seeds for farmers.

Cooperatives also benefited from targeted training and linkages with market buyers, including agro-dealers, milling companies and local businesses. UN-supported financial and market linkages resulted in increased revenues for 45 MSEs and facilitated the sale of 146 metric tons of white maize, generating income for smallholder farmers.

Output 2.3: Food producers and traders, in particular women, youths and their organizations, have enhanced adaptive capacities to increase productivity, add value to their products and access markets, with improved resilience against economic shocks.

To expand agricultural opportunities and economic empowerment, 469 farmer producer groups were established across 13 counties in seven states. These groups received training in diverse enterprises, including seed and crop production, vegetable farming, agroforestry and value addition. In addition, farming communities were supported with key agricultural inputs such as improved drought-tolerant seeds, hand tools, irrigation kits, post-harvest storage materials and value-adding machinery. The shift from importing seeds to local seed

production was enhanced, further supporting agricultural sustainability.

Despite climate shocks, including prolonged dry spells, flooding and conflict, 28,000 hectares were cultivated through a productive safety net approach. By mid-year, 26,523 hectares had been reached, though expansion was constrained by funding limitations. Additionally, 377,939 vulnerable farming households (approximately 2.3 million people) in 65 counties across 10 states received support through crop, vegetable and fishing kits, enabling them to produce their own food. Of these, 133,510 households were trained in good agricultural practices, climate-smart agriculture and post-harvest handling, contributing to improved food security, with cereals covering at least 5.5 months of consumption needs, and surplus vegetables providing additional household income.

Recognizing the importance of business development in driving agricultural success, 1,845 participants—including community facilitators, rural development officers and government officials—were trained in business plan development. This equipped them with the knowledge and skills necessary to support community-based organizations in preparing business plans for funding.

To further promote agricultural sustainability and livelihood diversification, 7,848 beneficiaries



(62 percent women, including 1,560 internally displaced persons, 1,008 returnees and 5,280 refugees) were supported with training and agricultural inputs, achieving 77 percent of the target. Innovative approaches, such as insect farming, were introduced alongside the distribution of 2,001 Kuroiler chickens and 5,000 tilapia fingerlings to diversify food production. Additionally, more than 600 feddans were allocated to refugee farmers, and over 30 metric tons of seeds and 200 tools were provided to expand agricultural capacity. Economic and social inequalities worsened, particularly in rural areas, where poverty, food insecurity and lack of services were most severe.

Output 2.4: Women, youths and vulnerable groups are better equipped to establish and grow profitable micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, with improved adaptive capacity and strengthened resilience to economic shocks.

Through various initiatives, 330 MSEs, stemming from 55 village savings and loan associations, were established in Western Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal. Association members (1,050 women, 600 young men) were trained in financial management, business development and entrepreneurship. As a result, 750 individuals reported earning income from their engagement in 300 active MSEs, which have provided self-employment opportunities. Additionally, 180 MSEs received one-on-one business mentorship focused on customer care, product quality, packaging strategies and advertising, enhancing their competitiveness and sustainability.

In Lakes State, 20 female and 180 male youths received MSE skills training on commercial farming, keeping livestock, hospitality, hotel and retail shop management, welding, metal fabrication, brick laying, concrete practice, tailoring, carpentry, joinery and solar repair and installation. This improved the economic productivity of women and youths in Cueibet, Yirol East, Yirol West, Rumbek Central, Awerial, Wulu, Rumbek North and Rumbek East.

To further advance community-based economic development, 347 micro projects were selected

for community-based organizations in livestock, fisheries, vegetable farming and tree nurseries. One hundred and twenty-three community development projects were upgraded to business plans, each receiving a US\$3,000 grant for implementation. To ensure smooth execution, 123 land agreements were secured to provide access to land, benefiting women-led enterprises particularly.

To expand financial inclusion and entrepreneurship opportunities, 3,267 individuals (73 percent women) benefited from targeted training and financial literacy programmes. This included facilitating 415 refugees and 105 internally displaced persons in opening bank accounts to improve access to formal financial services. Additionally, 1,561 individuals (86 percent women) participated in 65 village savings and loan associations, strengthening their financial resilience. A targeted livelihood graduation pilot programme enrolled 100 vulnerable urban refugees, 70 percent of whom were women, equipping them with critical business and financial skills. Moreover, 1,191 youth- and women-led businesses were supported through business development grants, benefiting 244 refugees, 60 internally displaced persons and 887 returnees.

To promote employability and self-reliance, 943 youths (60 percent women) received skills training across various trades, including ICT, bakery and catering, plumbing, hairdressing, carpentry, soap- and garment-making, embroidery and welding. Of these youths, 636 refugees, 115 returnees and 156 internally displaced persons were equipped with market-relevant skills, expanding their employment opportunities and economic stability.

Output 2.5: Relevant MDAs, LGAs and communities have the knowledge and skills to co-create and implement policies, plans and programmes to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of South Sudan's natural resources.

UN-supported initiatives contributed to environmental sustainability and community resilience among displaced populations. Efforts to enhance renewable energy access saw the installation of two 14 kilowatt solar systems for vocational training centres, promoting sustainable energy solutions. Additionally, 100 Ecoca solar cookers and briquette fuel were distributed to 495 households, 94 percent of which were female-headed, ensuring cleaner and more efficient cooking alternatives.

To further support environmental conservation and climate resilience, over 70,000 fruit and shade tree seedlings were planted, contributing to reforestation and improved ecological stability. In response to increasing flood risks, comprehensive interventions reached 79,180 households, providing multipurpose cash assistance, early warning information and structural support for flood protection. Among the beneficiaries, 56,136 refugee households and 22,196 internally displaced persons and returnee households received targeted assistance to strengthen their capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate-related risks.

Output 2.6: Relevant MDAs, LGAs and communities are better equipped to establish and maintain inclusive gender-responsive early warning systems and disaster preparedness, response and recovery mechanisms.

To enhance weather monitoring and forecasting, 24 automatic weather systems were installed and linked to the World Meteorological Organization's global platform. These systems enabled weekly radio broadcasts, providing vital weather updates, including rainfall predictions, temperature forecasts and advisories to the public.

Efforts to improve livestock disease surveillance led to six disease investigation missions across multiple regions, responding to alerts from livestock owners and key stakeholders. Investigations covered rabies, haemorrhagic septicaemia, East Coast fever, lumpy skin disease and anthrax, ensuring rapid intervention and mitigation measures. Surveillance activities were further enhanced, with plans under way to develop training and implementation guidelines for improved response capacity.

Disaster preparedness and early warning systems were strengthened through collaboration with

local telecommunication companies. Some 205,000 people received early warning messages about floods through disaster early warning and response mechanisms, equipping them with mitigation strategies to protect lives and property. Additionally, 256 members of county early warning technical working groups across eight counties were trained to enhance disaster preparedness, ensuring communities are better equipped to respond to emergencies.

Public health interventions also saw improvements, with 220 health workers trained in integrated disease surveillance and response (IDSR) and 145 trained in the early warning, alert and response system (EWARS). The IDSR/EWARS system verified 74 percent (7,912 of 10,698) of alerts generated, strengthening the country's epidemic response capacity. The National Public Health Laboratory network received essential enhancements, including improved reagents and supplies for specimen referral. Rapid response teams were deployed to address disease outbreaks, including yellow fever (Western Equatoria), cholera (multiple counties), circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses (multiple counties), suspected meningitis (Aweil), hepatitis E (Abyei, Bentiu and Wau) and anthrax (Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal).

Trauma healing and psychosocial support interventions saw improvement in the mental health of 1,308 vulnerable displaced people, who were mentally prepared to participate in World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) cash for assets and cash for work programmes. Returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons, pastoralists and communities displaced by flooding were provided with land and could therefore make alternative livelihoods in farming and trading. This decreases their vulnerabilities to disasters. The training of 150 psychosocial community volunteers in trauma awareness saw improvement in the number of people with improved mental well-being. A total of 3,218 people (1,294 men, 1,924 women) from host communities, internally displaced communities and returnees in Upper Nile and Eastern Equatoria State were provided with psychosocial support that enhanced their recovery resilience.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Social development prioritizing the protection of the most vulnerable

Outcome 3: Children, women and men in South Sudan, particularly youths and vulnerable groups, enjoy improved coverage of inclusive, responsive, quality social services and social protection.

























Strategic Priority 3



2.5 million children (86%) received **vitamin A supplements**, and **2.1 million** (81%) were **dewormed**.



168,747 children with severe **acute malnutrition** received treatment and **293,011 children** benefited from **lifesaving acute malnutrition care**.



579,975 long-lasting insecticidal nets were distributed, benefiting more than **1.1 million people**.



4.5 million people (including 2.16 million children under 5 years) were **tested for malaria** and **2.4 million confirmed cases** were treated.



HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis services were **expanded**, providing **treatment to 67,953 people living with HIV**, achieving 53% coverage.



72% of target health facilities (69 of 96) now provide basic **emergency obstetric** and **newborn care**.



US\$68.7 million was allocated to **primary healthcare expansion**.



132 health facilities were equipped with functional **WASH facilities**, improving **hygiene** and **health outcomes**.



Access to safe drinking water was increased, benefiting over 1 million people (501,605 men, 565,640 women).



School feeding programmes provided **336,815 children** (46% women) in 667 schools with nutritious meals, improving **enrolment** and **attendance**.



52,116 out-of-school children (15,635 girls) gained access to education, while **183,272 children** (78,234 girls, 105,038 boys) received individual learning materials.

Output 3.1: Relevant MDAs and LGAs are capacitated to develop, operationalize and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies, systems and programmes for improved delivery and take-up of inclusive, responsive and quality health and nutrition services.

Collaborative initiatives focused on policy development, capacity-building, nutrition, immunization, maternal and child health and disease control, ensuring improved healthcare access for vulnerable populations.

To support national health strategies, key guidelines and training materials were developed, including voluntary medical male circumcision guidelines, new HIV testing service guidelines, consolidated tuberculosis guidelines, key population standard operating procedures and elimination of mother-to-child transmission guidelines for HIV, syphilis and hepatitis. Additionally, the first National Mental Health Strategic Plan (2024–2028) and the guinea worm eradication programme guidelines were finalized, with training for health workers under way. Efforts also supported the cervical cancer screening and treatment guidelines, currently under stakeholder review.

Health worker training was expanded, with 650 targeted for the electronic logistics management information system programme. By mid-2024, 131 healthcare workers had completed training across four states. Mental health and noncommunicable disease services were strengthened, with 497 persons with psychosis and 9,019 hypertension patients receiving care. Overall, 3,626 health workers received mentorship, exceeding the annual target.

Nutrition interventions reached millions of vulnerable children and pregnant and breastfeeding women. The targeted supplementary feeding programme treated 416,151 children under 5 years and 333,678 pregnant and breastfeeding women between January and August. The blanket supplementary feeding programme prevented malnutrition in 198,981 children and 135,283 pregnant and breastfeeding women,

while 16,107 caregivers and patients benefited from the institutional feeding programme. Over 9,873 metric tons of food were distributed by August, despite funding constraints. Maternal, infant and young child nutrition counselling reached 897,726 women, while 2.5 million children (86 percent) received vitamin A supplements and 2.1 million (81 percent) were dewormed. Additionally, 168,747 children with severe acute malnutrition received treatment, and 293,011 children benefited from lifesaving acute malnutrition treatment.

Disease prevention efforts saw the rollout of the malaria vaccine in 75 percent of planned counties, with expansion ongoing. Mass drug administration campaigns reached 1.74 million people across 11 counties, targeting onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis. To combat malaria, 579,975 long-lasting insecticidal nets were distributed, benefiting over 1.1 million people, and 4.5 million people (including 2.16 million children under 5 years) were tested for malaria. Of those tested, 2.4 million were confirmed cases and treated with firstline antimalarials.

Immunization efforts were strengthened with 409 new cold-chain units installed, increasing functional cold-chain capacity to 1,218 health facilities. An effective vaccine management assessment recorded a 71 percent improvement, up from 65 percent in 2019. Additionally, 2.78 million vaccine doses were procured and distributed for routine immunization and outbreak response. Cold-chain capacity increased from 52 percent in 2023 to 62 percent in 2024, with 396 solar direct-drive refrigerators installed.

Primary healthcare services expanded under the health sector transformation project, improving access to 816 facilities. Essential medicines and supplies worth US\$24.2 million were distributed, while 24,379 health workers received US\$16 million in incentives. Additionally, 280 health facilities across three states received new medical equipment, and 892 boma health workers reached 46,700 people with health messages.



HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis services expanded, providing treatment to 67,953 people living with HIV, achieving 50 percent coverage. However, there is a high proportion of people living with HIV that do not know their HIV status (45 percent). There has been steady progress in the treatment uptake of HIV-positive pregnant women in the reporting period, which reached to 81 percent in 2024 compared to 76 percent in 2023. However, HIV continues to be a considerable public health burden with 150,000 people living with HIV and annual new infections of 7,500 people.

HIV and tuberculosis services were integrated with primary healthcare centres and supported by community health volunteers and Grant Cycle 7 secured US\$140 million for the period 2024–2026, ensuring sustained funding for HIV and tuberculosis response, with US\$5.5 million allocated monthly for 700 health workers and US\$650,000 for outreach workers. Two and

a half thousand boma health workers were supported with US\$6 million for household health interventions. In addition, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief supports an HIV/AIDS programme with an annual investment of US\$40 million. UN Joint Team support mobilized additional catalytic funds of US\$600,000.

Through Global Fund support, South Sudan's Ministry of Health independently conducted a health facility assessment, strengthening national capacity and promoting sustainability of such initiatives in the future.

Uninterrupted, integrated HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis services continued with the installation of solar power systems in 10 key health facilities, including Juba Teaching Hospital, Al-Sabah Children's Hospital, Rumbek State Hospital, Yambio State Hospital, Torit State Hospital, Kuajok State Hospital and Kator PHCC and the procurement of three eco-friendly incinerators for safer waste management in Juba Teaching Hospital and Juba Medical Warehouse and the hub in Wau.

The Health Management Information System was strengthened as UN agencies and partners worked to improve health data quality in facilities using supervision, tools and joint reviews to improve the quality of data recorded and reported into the system, which is the single, national health reporting platform.

Maternal and child health services saw improvements, with 72 percent (69 of 96 target facilities) now providing basic emergency obstetric and newborn care. Antenatal care uptake (four antenatal care visits per pregnancy) increased by 50 percent (53,084 visits); this is attributed to improved access for refugees. Rehabilitation of 26 flood-affected health facilities, expected to be completed by early 2025, was initiated.

Community health outreach expanded significantly, promoting sexual and reproductive health, HIV prevention and maternal health through local collaborations and media advocacy, including radio, community dialogues and information, education and communication materials. Mobile outreach clinics integrated sexual and reproductive health, HIV testing and antenatal care, improving access for remote and marginalized populations.

Significant investments were made in strengthening health infrastructure, with US\$68.7 million allocated to primary healthcare expansion. Investments included improving malaria diagnostics (US\$12.4 million allocated), treating 2.4 million confirmed cases and distributing essential medicines and medical supplies. Mentorship, capacity-building and financial incentives supported government health workers at central, state and county levels, ensuring sustainability of healthcare service delivery.



Output 3.2: Relevant MDAs and LGAs are capacitated to develop, operationalize and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies and programmes for improved, quality WASH systems and adoption of safe, hygienic practices.

UN agencies increased access to safe drinking water and strengthened WASH infrastructure, positively impacting over 1 million individuals (501,605 men, 565,640 women). A hundred and thirty-two health facilities were equipped with functional WASH facilities, contributing to improved hygiene and health outcomes across communities.

A joint sector review successfully integrated climate resilience into WASH programming, ensuring sustainability in the face of environmental challenges. Additionally, a WASH information management system was piloted in key states, including Jonglei, Western Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria and

Lakes. This system enhanced data collection and monitoring, enabling better planning and delivery of water and sanitation services to underserved populations.

Output 3.3: Relevant MDAs, LGAs and institutions are capacitated to develop, operationalize and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies and programmes for increased provision and take-up of inclusive, equitable, quality and market-oriented (formal and non-formal) education and life-long learning opportunities.

School feeding was successfully implemented in 667 schools, providing 336,815 children (46 percent women) with nutritious meals, improving both enrolment and attendance. Over 3,495 metric tons of school meals were distributed, and over US\$1.5 million was invested in purchasing food commodities from local retailers and smallholder farmers, increasing local economic opportunities.



A sum of US\$856,000 was secured from the Global Partnership for Education and US\$11 million from the Swedish International Development Agency to support technical and vocational education and training subsector policy framework development. Additionally, US\$711,537 was utilized to support the education sector plan, ensuring better coordination and resource allocation for education services.

To improve early childhood education, 53 early childhood education centres were reached with integrated early childhood development (ECD) services. A total of 46,994 children (23,027 girls) participated in learning and school readiness activities, and 289 teachers and caregivers (59 percent women) were trained on using ECD kits and pedagogical skills. To further support learning, 939 ECD kits were distributed and, to expand access, 21 community-based ECD centres were integrated with nutrition services.

Targeted interventions successfully improved access to education for 52,116 out-of-school children (15,635 girls) and provided

183,272 children (78,234 girls, 105,038 boys) with individual learning materials. In primary education, 97,244 out-of-school children (55,325 boys, 41,919 girls) were enrolled, helping bridge learning gaps. Twelve back-to-learning campaigns and three national girls' dialogues were conducted to encourage school enrolment, particularly for girls. Additionally, research was conducted on barriers to girls' education, leading to the development of a social and behaviour change strategy to drive positive change.

Teacher capacity-building efforts trained 6,169 teachers (30 percent women), 630 head teachers (10 percent women) and 56 examiners, to improve learning outcomes. The development of a teacher policy and diagnostic study for South Sudan, aimed at improving foundational literacy and numeracy, was also supported. To strengthen oversight and accountability within the education system and improve public finance management, education technical monitoring committees were established in 78 counties, supporting the work of such committees at state and national levels.



Considering the impact of emergencies on education, significant investments were made in education in emergencies, including mapping education partners, harmonizing data and strengthening disaster preparedness for floods and other crises. The National Education in Emergencies Strategy was reviewed and reinforced to enhance response capacity.

Output 3.4: Relevant MDAs and LGAs are capacitated to develop, operationalize and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies and programmes for improved social protection services for the most vulnerable and marginalized.

Oversight committees, including county core teams, payam development committees, boma development committees and boma appeal committees, were reactivated or newly established in 12 locations. These committees, comprising 1,812 members (767 women, 1,045 men), were trained to enhance local decision-making and accountability. To support programme targeting, 63,300 households were registered across 10 counties (Yei, Melut, Kapoeta, Juba, Bor, Torit, Gogrial West, Tonj South, Pibor and Raja) out of the 15 planned counties.

Strengthening social protection systems remained a priority. Engagement with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare focused on policy development, system building, coordination and programme implementation. This included contributions to the World Bank-led review of the National Social Protection Policy Framework to align it with emerging needs.

To provide direct financial support to vulnerable households, preparatory activities were launched for multiple cash transfer projects designed to strengthen social protection infrastructure, including the management information system for improved tracking and service delivery. A key initiative, the Shock-Responsive Cash Transfer Project, targeted 12,109 pregnant and breastfeeding women and caregivers of children under 2 years in 10 state capitals and three administrative areas, ensuring

critical financial support for child health and well-being.

Further expanding the reach of social assistance, two additional cash transfer projects were implemented, (i) the Aweil Young Child Support Grant, an upscaled continuation of the 2023/24 initiative, providing financial relief to vulnerable families; and (ii) the Ruweng Young Child Support Grant, introduced as a proof of concept for cash assistance in remote and challenging environments to explore new ways to reach marginalized populations. These unconditional cash transfers were integrated with nutrition, health and protection services, with a strong focus on GBV prevention and response to ensure that vulnerable women and children receive comprehensive support beyond financial aid.

Output 3.5: Mechanisms are established and supported to enable public and private service providers, including civil society organizations, to share knowledge and coordinate provision of quality health, nutrition, WASH, education and social protection services.

To enhance WASH governance, technical support was provided for the drafting of terms of reference to procure a consultant for reviewing the Water Bill and the WASH Sector Strategic Action Plan, contributing to improved regulatory frameworks and sector planning.

UN coordination efforts engaged over 80 agencies and partners, shaping the National Work Plan for Scaling Up Nutrition, aligning interventions with national priorities. In the health sector, support was provided for the Health Development Partners Group Forum, including managing the secretariat and convening monthly meetings, thus ensuring harmonization and alignment of stakeholders with national health priorities under the Health Sector Strategic Plan. Additionally, thematic health sector technical working groups were regularly convened, facilitating the development of standardized sector guidelines, operating procedures and thematic standards to enhance service delivery.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: Women and youth empowerment for sustainable development

Outcome 4: Women, youths and vulnerable groups are empowered to demand and exercise their political, economic, social, environmental and cultural rights.











R-NDS priorities

6.5.1: Education

6.5.2: Health

6.5.3: Social protection

8.6.1: Gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment

8.6.2: Youth empowerment

8.6.4: Capacity development























Strategic Priority 4



100,000 people were reached through **digital platforms**, sports and public campaigns, raising awareness about **GBV**, **child marriage** and **harmful social norms**.



292 community leaders were trained to engage local stakeholders in **addressing harmful practices** and promoting **sexual** and **reproductive health rights**.



Youth-led peace dialogues in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria engaged 150 youths (65 women), fostering community cohesion and youth leadership in peace processes.



In Western Bahr el Ghazal State, **500 community members**, including **ex-combatants** and **at-risk youths**, **benefited from a community violence reduction pilot project**.



351 traditional chiefs actively participated in statelevel conferences in Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Kapoeta, working to address harmful social norms and GBV prevention.



State-level conferences in all 10 states and three administrative areas engaged 325 women in discussions on women's political participation, with recommendations feeding into the National Conference on Women's Transformational Leadership.

Output 4.1: Civil society, political groupings and movements, particularly those representing women, youths 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.

The Youth Leading Peace initiative advanced peacebuilding by engaging youths through state-level dialogues and coalition meetings, culminating in the development of the Youth, Peace and Security Strategy.

Economic empowerment programmes supported 155 conflict-related sexual violence survivors in Bor, Ezo and Maridi, enabling them to initiate sustainable livelihoods. In Rubkona, 50 women received training in economic activities to enhance resilience and self-reliance.

Community engagement initiatives reached 100,000 people, raising awareness about GBV, child marriage and harmful social

norms through digital platforms, sports and public campaigns. Forty-three community action groups were established to support GBV survivors at the grassroots level, while 292 community leaders were trained to engage local stakeholders in addressing harmful practices and promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights.

To empower young women and adolescents, 4,253 participants in Yambio and Kapoeta took part in sports, arts and mentorship programmes as catalysts for social norm transformation. The girls' boxing space in Juba provided a unique avenue to advocate for the elimination of child marriage and GBV.

Legislative advocacy was strengthened through a national-level dialogue between civil society and government, ensuring that recommendations were integrated into the revision of the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Bill. At the state level, a chiefs' conference in Eastern Equatoria convened leaders from all seven counties, resulting in county-level action plans to combat child marriage.



To enhance policy coordination, 83 legislators, civil society organizations and other stakeholders participated in consultative discussions on the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Bill. A multi-stakeholder annual plan was developed for GBV and child marriage prevention across five states, while government and civil society staff received specialized training in South Sudan's adapted social norm empowerment package.

A gender observatory, co-led by the civil society organization Men4Women and the Women Parliamentarians Caucus, together with close to 11 civil society organizations, was established. More than 15 institutions supported it, including the governments of Norway and South Sudan, through the Ministries of Parliamentary Affairs and Gender, Child and Social Welfare. This multi-stakeholder platform plays a pivotal role in preventing, monitoring and addressing barriers and violence that hinder women's political rights and leadership. The gender observatory engages civil society, media, academia and local government representatives to influence policy and legislation in support of gender equality.

Output 4.2: Women, youths 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.

Comprehensive sexuality education was operationalized in selected out-of-school settings through collaboration with youth clubs and community leaders, increasing awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV prevention and GBV. Peer education networks were established and institutions began referring young people to youth-friendly centres, improving access to essential services.

Efforts to strengthen legal protections for women and children, including GBV survivors, led to enhanced community awareness of the draft Commission for Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing and Compensatory Reparations Act and the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Bill. Additionally, contributions were made to the drafting, review and finalization of survivorcentric transitional justice legislation and a multi-stakeholder annual plan for GBV and child



marriage prevention was developed across five states.

Support for GBV survivors was strengthened through the establishment of 43 community action groups in Wau, Yambio, Kapoeta, Aweil and Bor, providing survivor-centred support at community level. A toll-free GBV helpline was also developed, and its implementation strategy was completed by the end of the year. Additionally, a multi-stakeholder advocacy and learning platform, consisting of 14 organizations, was launched to drive peacebuilding efforts and promote women's political participation.

In the health sector, 16,470 female sex workers accessed HIV prevention services and information and 8,132 women were tested for HIV, with those testing positive being linked to care. Capacity-building initiatives also supported 15 men-men support groups in Bor and two in Western Equatoria, equipping them with

sexual and reproductive health and family planning information.

Capacity-building programmes also played a key role in promoting long-term change. Thirty-two traditional and religious leaders were trained to challenge harmful social norms, exceeding the initial target. Additionally, 292 community leaders were equipped to lead dialogues about GBV prevention and sexual and reproductive health and rights, while government and civil society staff received specialized training through a social norm empowerment package adapted to the South Sudan context.

Output 4.3: Women, youths and vulnerable groups have improved capacities to assume transformational leadership roles in the public and private sector.

To advance gender-responsive transitional justice, advocacy dialogue workshops were held in Juba, Wau and Malakal, engaging 98 participants, including National Legislative Assembly



members, the Women Parliamentarians Caucus, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare representatives and civil society members. These workshops identified and addressed gender gaps in the reviewed Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing Bill and the Compensation and Reparation Authority Bill to strengthen justice mechanisms for survivors. Additionally, the Women Parliamentarians Caucus Strategic Plan (2023–2027) was launched to institutionalize gender-responsive law-making, enhance accountability and address barriers to women's political participation.

Youth engagement and peacebuilding efforts led to 13 intergenerational dialogues across Ruweng Administrative Area, Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes, Eastern Equatoria, Upper Nile and Warrap, bringing together 650 youths and elders to cultivate mutual respect and conflict resolution. Additionally, youth-led peace dialogues in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria states engaged 150 youths (65 women) from diverse backgrounds, providing a platform to address community tensions and reinforce youth leadership in peace processes. A youth centre was launched in Malakal, serving as a hub for peaceful coexistence and youth empowerment.

In efforts to reduce community violence and promote voluntary civilian disarmament, 250 youths in Lakes State participated in vocational training in carpentry, farming and small business management, equipping them with skills for economic self-sufficiency and disengagement from violence.

Output 4.4: Opinion leaders, along with community structures, are capacitated to promote positive social norms and values, including for the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women, youths, children and vulnerable groups.

To enhance GBV prevention and response, 33 women- and girl-friendly spaces were operationalized across 16 counties, providing case management and psychosocial support to survivors of sexual violence, intimate

partner violence, child marriage and other forms of GBV. These services were delivered in collaboration with 12 organizations, including six women-led organizations, two national non-governmental organizations and four international non-governmental organizations. Additionally, a community-based social norms change programme (Communities Care) was implemented in nine locations, engaging six women-led organizations and two nongovernmental organizations to promote gender equality and survivor-centred care. As part of this initiative, 72 community discussion leaders were trained, facilitating dialogues that reached 672 participants (60 percent women). Public declarations and community action plans will be implemented in nine locations in 2025 and will reach an estimated 5,000–10,000 people per location.

Engagement with traditional leaders was expanded through state-level conferences in Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Kapoeta, leading to the active participation of 351 traditional chiefs in efforts to address harmful social norms and GBV prevention. Additionally, 372 male champions were trained in engaging men in accountable practices, leading community dialogues on positive masculinity in Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria, with sustained activities in Yambio and Juba.

A national-level stakeholder engagement conference brought together decision-makers and women-led civil society organizations from subnational levels to address the gender dimensions of climate change, peace and security. Discussions highlighted the negative impact of climate-related challenges on women and girls, particularly in relation to sexual, gender-based and conflict-related sexual violence arising from hazardous journeys to collect firewood, water and food.

Support for gender mainstreaming in the security sector continued through mentorship programmes for over 100 senior organized force members, integrating gender considerations into justice administration, prison service delivery and female representation in leadership. Additionally, 457 female officers were trained in weapons and arms management, with regular training sessions being held on light weapons. A peer support network for female police officers was strengthened, and the second Women in Uniform Day event was held, engaging over 500 female officers in promoting their participation in the security sector. Consultations were also launched to develop a national gender mainstreaming strategy for the security sector, engaging key security representatives and relevant ministries.

To advance women's political participation and leadership, training on transformational leadership and conflict management was conducted for local government officials in Ruweng Administrative Area and Northern Bahr el Ghazal, with a focus on gender equality and sexual and GBV prevention. In Jonglei State, dialogues with local leaders, political party representatives and individuals with disabilities promoted the inclusion of women with disabilities in decision-making processes.

Legislative advocacy efforts resulted in significant progress on the Women's Empowerment Bill, which supports the National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and aims to establish a gender equality authority and gender equality fund. A three-day advocacy workshop engaged 117 participants (108 women), raising awareness among parliamentarians, ministry officials and civil society members. Following a review by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, provisions for the gender equality authority and the gender equality fund were separated into distinct bills, which were finalized and prepared for submission to the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. Learning visits to Kenya and Ethiopia helped inform a comprehensive gender equality fund strategy, developed through consultations with women across six states.

Additionally, state-level conferences were held in all 10 states and 3 administrative areas,

engaging 325 women to discuss women's political participation, with recommendations feeding into the National Conference on Women's Transformational Leadership.

2.2 SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

In 2024, the UN system in South Sudan continued to strengthen strategic partnerships to advance the SDGs and the country's national development goals. A key milestone was the launch of the South Sudan Development Cooperation Mapping Dashboard in December 2024, developed in collaboration with the Heads of Cooperation. As part of broader efforts to promote transparency and accountability, the Resident Coordinator's Office worked closely with development partners and the Heads of Cooperation to develop and launch this interactive online tool, ensuring better alignment of donor-supported initiatives in South Sudan. Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and supported technically by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, the dashboard enhances transparency and coordination by providing a centralized repository of development projects across the country. It allows stakeholders to track funding sources, project locations and timelines, contributing to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by improving coordination and development financing.

South-to-south partnerships were further cemented through learning visits to neighbouring countries, which were facilitated by multiple UN agencies, allowing South Sudanese officials to observe gender policy implementation in other countries.

Various high-level missions were undertaken to the country and hosted by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator to further strengthen partnerships and raise the profile of the complex development context.

2.3 RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

Stronger joint advocacy efforts played a key role in driving policy change. UN Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) led a concerted push for the finalization of the Women's Empowerment Bill, reinforcing the importance of gender equality in governance and economic participation. Their collaborative approach strengthened the legal and institutional framework for advancing women's rights, demonstrating the effectiveness of coordinated advocacy.

Several joint programmes were implemented to enhance the impact of interventions, including the Joint Programme on Food Security, where the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WFP worked alongside stakeholders to integrate key elements into programming. This ensured a more comprehensive and effective approach, aligning food security interventions with nutrition, health and education initiatives.

A more integrated humanitarian–developmentpeace nexus approach facilitated increased coverage of essential health, WASH and nutrition services in flood-affected areas, ensuring that displaced populations received adequate support while also strengthening the joint response to disease outbreaks.

In addition to immediate service delivery, interventions focused on long-term economic development by integrating local producers into supply chains. School feeding programmes that procured food from local smallholder farmers not only improved nutrition outcomes for children but also stimulated the local economy, creating sustainable benefits beyond the immediate impact of food assistance.

In 2024, the Operations Management Team completed a common premises review to assess office space availability and support the future establishment of common back offices. This helped determine agency capacities for operational leadership. Through joint advocacy with the Resident Coordinator's Office and senior leadership, the Operations Management Team successfully engaged the government to



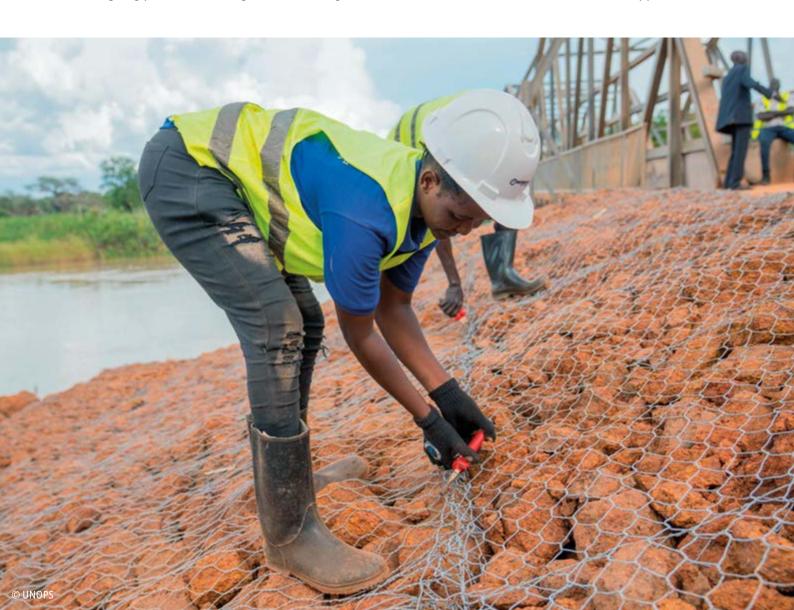
address tax exemption challenges, leading to the formation of a taxation committee to resolve border clearance bottlenecks. The team also streamlined inter-agency common services, including the UN Clinic, security telecoms, the UN Department of Safety and Security security budget and UNCT cost-sharing.

In 2024, the UN in South Sudan began shifting towards a more integrated, development-focused approach in three pilot areas—Upper Nile, Unity and Wau. These regions, historically reliant on humanitarian interventions, continue to face critical challenges requiring sustained support. This transition is guided by the areabased coordination (ABC) model. The goal is to align efforts with long-term development priorities while empowering communities to drive sustainable solutions.

The Resident Coordinator's Office worked on aligning priorities, refining the overarching ABC

strategy, and establishing essential support structures. In Upper Nile, a durable solutions road map was formally published in April 2024 and a new ABC leader took responsibility for sustaining the strategy and ensuring that local authorities had ownership over its implementation. In Unity and Wau, progress was made in the deployment of ABC leaders throughout 2024.

As the ABC model moves into 2025, one of the top priorities is joint analysis and road map development. The success of the ABC model hinges on a community-driven approach, and in 2025, efforts will be made to conduct joint assessments under the leadership of the Governor. At the national level, the Resident Coordinator is leading an evaluation of the added value of the ABC model. This assessment will provide key insights into what is working and what needs to be adjusted. Simultaneously, resource mobilization efforts are under way to secure the financial and technical support



necessary for sustaining and expanding ABC implementation in pilot areas.

2.4 KEY LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2024 experience of the UN system in South Sudan highlights the need for stronger national implementation mechanisms, diversified financing models, economic governance reforms and community-driven solutions, which are critical for ensuring sustainable development progress in the country and ensuring that no one is left behind.

While efforts were made to drive the governance and policy agenda, without stronger national ownership and enforcement mechanisms, policy achievements will continue to remain symbolic rather than transformative. Going forward, support in the strengthening of technical capacities for policy implementation and enforcement is highly recommended.

The funding gap faced in 2024 (57 percent) limited the scale and implementation of planned UN interventions and support. Although the available funds were well utilized (83 percent), the experience demonstrates the need for UN agencies to not only diversify sources of funding and use innovative mechanisms but also advocate strongly for government uptake of provision of services, especially in the social sector, for which the allocation is minimal and insufficient (education and health).

It is clear that there is a strong link between governance and economic stability. The continued political uncertainty and weak public finance management systems, lack of progress in implementing security sector reforms and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, coupled with economic crisis and fiscal deficits, make it difficult to attract private sector investment. Economic stabilization and public finance management reforms must be prioritized alongside governance reforms. Without stronger fiscal management and

revenue diversification, state institutions will remain underfunded, leading to weak service delivery and further economic instability.

Localized interventions that bring together humanitarian, development and peace efforts yield greater long-term impact. Future programming should prioritize community-driven solutions, engage local markets and integrate service delivery across multiple sectors.

2.5 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

2.5.1 Financial overview

The annual funding framework is detailed in the joint annual workplans of the Cooperation Framework. These workplans present the budgeted key interventions implemented by each agency to achieve output-level results. They are accessible to the public on the UNINFO platform at https://uninfo.org.

In 2024, financial performance demonstrated strong fund utilization, with 83 percent of available funds being spent. However, a significant funding gap of 57 percent affected programme implementation. Of the US\$1.01 billion required, only US\$437 million was available, leaving a shortfall of US\$570 million.

Despite these constraints, expenditure reached US\$360 million, reflecting efficient use of available resources. Of the programme outcomes, Outcome 3 on social services achieved the highest spending efficiency, utilizing 98 percent of available funds, indicating strong absorption capacity and effective implementation. In contrast, Outcome 4 faced the greatest challenges, with an expenditure rate of only 44 percent, pointing to implementation bottlenecks or delays in fund disbursement.

The most significant funding gap occurred in Outcome 2, where 63 percent (US\$226 million) of the required funds remained unavailable, severely limiting programme scope.

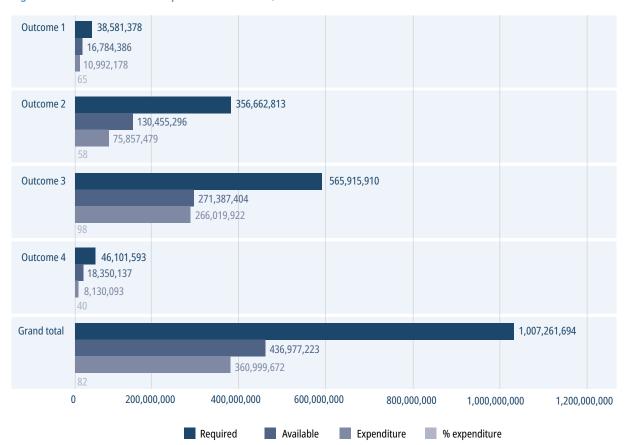


Figure 1: South Sudan financial performance in US\$, 2024

A key constraint in 2024 was limited resource mobilization, with only 43 percent of required funds secured. This shortfall restricted programme effectiveness, particularly in areas with the highest financial needs. Moving forward, targeted resource mobilization, strategic donor engagement and improved fund allocation will be essential for addressing funding shortfalls and enhancing programme efficiency and impact.

2.5.2 Resource mobilization

Through concerted advocacy and strategic engagement, UN agencies successfully catalysed increased resource mobilization, enabling key sectoral interventions. In the education sector, advocacy efforts led to the mobilization of US\$856,000 through the Global Partnership for Education. Additional resources were secured, including US\$11 million from the Swedish International Development Agency to support technical and vocational education and training,

policy development and education sector planning. Furthermore, substantial resources were mobilized for the HIV and tuberculosis response from the Global Fund, with a total of US\$140 million secured to enhance prevention, treatment and care programmes.

2.5.3 The Peacebuilding Fund

The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) remains a critical facilitator of peace, stability and development in South Sudan, supporting the implementation of the R-ARCSS within the framework of UN cooperation. It continues to play an important role in addressing South Sudan's complex peacebuilding challenges, bridging policy-level impact with grassroots transformation to encourage long-term stability.

In 2024, the PBF funded 13 active projects with a total budget of US\$40,064,069, advancing key interventions at both national and subnational levels to tackle the root causes of conflict.

The PBF Joint Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/ Humanitarian Coordinator and the Minister of Peacebuilding, remained engaged throughout the year, providing strategic oversight of the fund. Meetings in March, May and November assessed progress, addressed emerging challenges and refined priorities. This sustained engagement with the government led to progress in gender equality, youth empowerment, transitional justice and land rights. Policy achievements supported through the PBF included the passing of the Women Empowerment Bill, the adoption of the National Strategy on Youth, Peace, and Security and the enactment of two transitional justice laws, along with the strengthening of structures for housing, land and property rights.

At the subnational level, progress towards transforming harmful social norms and strengthening community resilience was made during the reporting period. In Jonglei State, the review of customary laws among ethnic groups aligned local practices with national and international human rights standards. A landmark outcome was the Murle community's decision to criminalize child marriage and set the legal marriage age at 18. Women were also elected to the Murle Customary Law Council for the first time. In Lakes, Warrap and Unity states, a decade-old intercommunity conflict was resolved, leading to the return of 500 stolen cattle and the reinforcement of local peace structures. In Upper Nile, peace dialogues between Dinka, Nuer and Shiluk communities

facilitated joint access to water and pasture—an unprecedented development after more than 30 years of conflict.

Despite these achievements, several obstacles hampered implementation. Insecurity in the Abyei Administrative Area disrupted youth consultations for the National Strategy on Youth, Peace and Security, making remote engagement necessary before key discussions were later facilitated in Juba. Advocacy and lobbying efforts with executive and legislative bodies were delayed, in particular around constitutional reform and transitional justice. Slow fund disbursement for both ongoing and new projects affected implementation timelines, requiring strategic stakeholder engagement to mitigate reputational risks for the fund and its recipients.

Looking ahead to 2025, the PBF will continue to support ongoing projects while focusing on strategic enhancements through the Resident Coordinator's Office and the Ministry of Peacebuilding. A key priority will be analysis to inform the fund's forward looking investments in support of the country's extended transition period, while leveraging deeper partnerships with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Efforts will be made to map peace actors nationwide in collaboration with the Ministry of Peacebuilding, to improve coordination across the peacebuilding landscape. A dedicated monitoring and evaluation project will be developed to strengthen learning and data-driven decisionmaking and optimize fund allocation.





Chapter Three: UNCT key focus for next year

In 2025, the UN system in South Sudan reaffirms its commitment to supporting the Government of South Sudan and redoubling its efforts to advance the four UNCT priorities. These priorities, aligned with the R-NDS, aim to address the most pressing needs of the country and drive sustainable progress. With the extension of the electoral period and the R-NDS, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework will also be extended until December 2026. This will allow the UN system to continue supporting national priorities while maintaining alignment with evolving development and governance needs.

The UN system will intensify its focus on:

- Strengthening existing partnerships: Deepening collaboration with national institutions, civil society, development partners and the private sector to enhance the impact of interventions.
- Diversifying funding sources: Establishing mechanisms to attract additional financing and broaden the resource base for sustainable development and humanitarian response.
- Unlocking policy bottlenecks: Addressing regulatory and institutional barriers that hinder progress in key sectors, ensuring a more enabling environment for development.

IN 2025, THE UN SYSTEM IN SOUTH SUDAN REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH SUDAN AND REDOUBLING ITS EFFORTS TO ADVANCE THE FOUR UNCT PRIORITIES.

Strategic Priority 1: Governance and peacebuilding

- Supporting the National Constitutional Review Commission and National Elections Commission in developing civic education messaging to promote voter awareness, participation and informed decision-making ahead of the electoral process.
- Engaging with the Ministry of Peacebuilding to mitigate political interference and advance locally-driven solutions.
- Strengthening humanitarian-developmentpeace programming to support state-building efforts by making coordination structures more functional and responsive.

Strategic Priority 2: Economic growth and climate resilience

- Aligning with the Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan and advocating for increased investment in agriculture.
- Leveraging the 'Year of Farming' initiative and the Vice-President's economic agenda and mobilizing support for the Agriculture Investment Forum to attract investment in high-impact value chains, including fish, sorghum, honey and shea butter.
- Enhancing commercialization through improved roads, storage facilities and market centres, while deploying climate adaptation strategies such as early warning systems and automated weather monitoring.
- Strengthening stakeholders' ability to use geographic information system-based climate monitoring and forecasting.
- Finalizing South Sudan's Nationally Determined Contributions 3.0 and advancing climate action with a strong focus on attracting green climate financing for climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainable agricultural development.

Strategic Priority 3: Social sector investment and policy reform

- Advocating for increased social sector financing to promote greater public investment in health, nutrition, education and social protection to ensure inclusive growth and long-term development.
- Supporting the acceleration of stalled policies through technical assistance, policy analysis and high-level engagement with government stakeholders.
- Enhanced integrated social sector programming in support of the Health Sector Transformation Plan.

Strategic Priority 4: Women and youth empowerment

- Supporting the government and civil society in elevating key issues affecting women and youth on global platforms, including major international events such as the Commission on the Status of Women, Beijing+30, Women, Peace and Security +25, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and International Women's Day.
- Advocating for the finalization and passing of key laws and policies that safeguard the rights of women and girls, including the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Bill, the Family and Women's Enterprise Fund, the Second National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Ensuring effective implementation of the UN system-wide strategy on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse by optimizing resources and aligning efforts with international norms and best practices.



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