

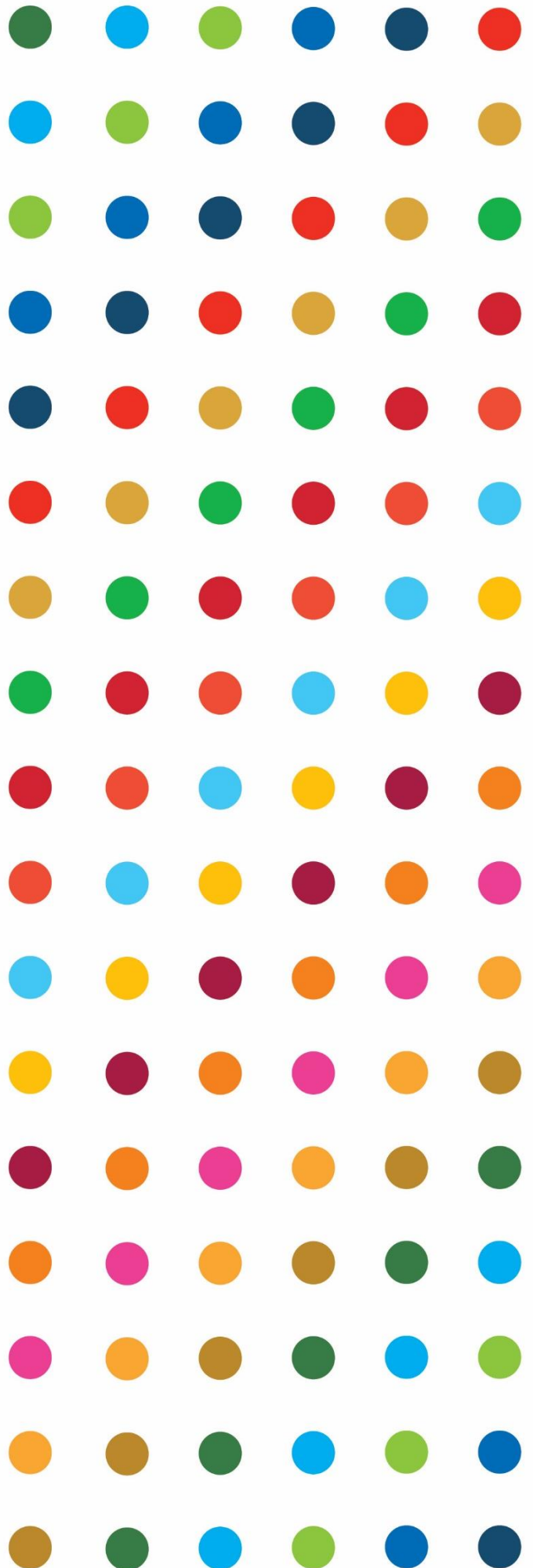


**UNITED NATIONS**  
**SOUTH SUDAN**



**United Nations Cooperation Framework  
2020 Mid-Year Implementation Update**

**FINAL VERSION**



## 1.0 Introduction

This UNCF implementation update provides an overview of key achievements by the UNCT<sup>1</sup> during the first 6 months (January -June 2020) with a focus at the output level indicator achievements and funding delivery. Detailed UNCF implementation and achievement report including outcome level indicators will be prepared at the annual reporting. The mid-year update measures progress at the output level as an average of the output level indicators' achievement against the targets set for 2020 for each individual output area.

## 2.0 Country context

The economic situation in the country remains challenging. Within the first six months of 2020, the country experienced severe flooding, an invasion of desert locusts, and now COVID-19. The humanitarian needs remain high with 7.5 million in need of assistance in 2020, as a result of the cumulative effects of years of prolonged conflict, chronic vulnerabilities and weak essential services. Also, though significant progress towards the peace process has been made, the political situation remains fluid and uncertain with the delay in formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity including state governments and some key pre-transitional tasks are yet to be accomplished. The transitional security arrangements, the screening, training and redeployment of a unified force is yet to be done; and the Transitional National Legislature is yet to be reconstituted. Inter-communal violence has recently increased and there have been cases of conflict-related sexual violence, forced recruitment, and supply route disruptions and ambushes, affecting freedom of movement. All these challenges and issues are undermining the Government's capacity to deliver peace dividends and has dented the previously optimistic economic outlook (arising with the signing of the revitalized peace agreement) and may put the R-ARCSS at risk.

## 3.0 Funding delivery

By mid-2020, UNCT's overall development funding delivery stood at US\$171,771,450 against the 2020 budget of US\$332,347,142 representing a 52% funding delivery. More funding went into the delivery of social services and improving food security compared to building peace and strengthening governance.

	2020 Budget	Funding delivery	% delivery
Building Peace and Strengthening governance	56,737,792	13,656,171	24%
Improving food security and recovering local economies	171,908,155	72,834,350	42%
Strengthening Social Services	94,245,021	82,034,957	87%
Empowering Women and Youth	9,456,175	3,245,972	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>332,347,142</b>	<b>171,771,450</b>	<b>52%</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Contributing UNCT members to 2020 mid-year UNCF implementation: FAO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNMAS, UN WOMEN, UNOPS, WFP & WHO. UNMISS contributes to UNCF priority area of building peace and strengthening governance as part of the Mission's mandate. Note UNEP & UN-HABITAT did not submit agency reports for the 2020 mid-year reporting.

#### 4.0 Progress on output achievements

Progress	Less than 50%: Off track	Between 50%-75%: Partially on track	More than 75%: On track
<b>Average mid-year achievement based on 2020 targets</b>			<b>Output</b>
Priority Area 1: Building Peace and Strengthening governance			70%
Priority Area 2: Improving food security and recovering local economies			71%
Priority Area 3: Strengthening Social Services			55%
Priority Area 4: Empowering Women and Youth			57%
Overall performance			63%

Overall, progress on the 2020 UNCF implementation is partially on-track, with delays attributed to the pending full formation of the revitalized transitional government, flooding, an invasion of locusts, increased inter-communal violence and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has particularly affected modalities of doing business—curtailing movements, disrupting supply chains—negatively impacting the implementation of activities.

#### 4.1 Priority Area 1: Building Peace and Strengthening Governance

Output Indicator	Status
Output 1.1: Political Governance Processes and Transitional Institutions and Mechanisms supported for effective, transparent and responsive governance.	5%
Output 1.2 Public Administration strengthened through institution building and reform	38%
Output 1.3 Mechanisms for conflict management, community security and social cohesion strengthened	86%
Output 1.4 Access to Justice, Rule of Law, Transitional Justice and Human Rights protection supported	138%
Output 1.5 Support CSOs/Media to promote peace, reconciliation, democratic governance, rule of law and human rights	81%
<b>Overall reach</b>	<b>70%</b>

On average, progress on outputs related to building peace and strengthening governance is partially on-track with particularly outputs related to strengthening public administration and political processes and transitional institutions off-track. This is attributed to the slow progress in the implementation of the revitalized peace process including the delay in the formation of the revitalized transitional government. While the Presidency (comprising the President, the First Vice-President and four Vice-Presidents) were sworn in on 22 February 2020 and the Cabinet was formed on 13 March 2020, a comprise on the number of states and appointment of Governors was concluded towards the end of this reporting period ---thereby affecting the implementation of planned activities that contribute to these output areas. Further, some key pre-transitional tasks are yet to be accomplished, including the transitional security arrangements, the screening, training and redeployment of unified forces, and the reconstitution of the Transitional National Legislature.

Under output 1.1, the UNCT continued to provide both technical assistance and capacity support to government institutions: the National Bureau Statistics was aided in migration-related data collection; the Ministry of Labor aided in the development of a Safe, Humane Labor Mobility and Labor Migration Policy;

aided the Ministry of Housing and the Parliamentary Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure to re-draft a National Land Policy; aided the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management on the development and publication of a climate-sensitive national disaster risk analysis; seconded senior gender advisors to RJMEC and IGAD to implement and monitor gender equality and women's empowerment provisions in R-ARCSS; and contracted an expert to work with the Ministry of Culture, Museums, and National Heritage on the technical review and validation of the draft Archives Bill. It also supported the study on Trafficking In Persons (TIP) to inform the Technical Taskforce on drafting of the comprehensive law on TIP. It has also supported the development of evidence-based, anti-trafficking and migrant smuggling policies; and collaborated with the Bank of South Sudan to conduct a survey on remittance flows to inform institutional reforms. Further, UNCT provided camp management services to the British military contingency in Bentiu and Malakal as well as UNMISS field offices and locations in the country. This is in addition to providing dispatch, shuttle and driver services to the UNMISS contingency to facilitate the peace keeping mission in the country.

Under output 1.2, through the National Constitutional Amendment Committee, the process to finalize revision of the Public Financial Management (PFM) Act and the National Audit Chamber Act 2012 has been initiated. UNCT supported the reactivation of the PFM Donor Working Group and initiated a Public Expenditure Review (PER) and Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) process for the education sector. It also provided technical support for mainstreaming gender considerations in security sector reform and aided the DDR commission in finalizing the development of the DDR policy and operational plans; Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management to strengthen capacities of the ministry in risk mapping; worked on civil registry and identity management; developed a draft youth participation guide; and has started engagements with Political Party Council, Anti-Corruption Commission and National Election Commission to identify entry points for institutional support.

Further, the UNCT conducted market and tax assessments to inform the design and creation of a unified tax system to harmonize revenue collection and administration in Jubek, Aweil and Gbudue. Also, in partnership with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management and the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, it conducted a rapid gender analysis on COVID-19 in Juba that informed the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group scenario planning session for COVID-19 response. It also supported national and sub-national land legislation and land management institutions with capacity assessments, training, technical guidance, policy development and material support. It also conducted training for archives staff, volunteers and interns and carried out stakeholder consultation at national level to inform the design of a copyright policy to support the cultural and creative industries in the country.

Under output 1.3, UNCT continued to support and implement programmatic activities across the country focusing on conflict management, reconciliation, social cohesion as well as the implementation of the peace agreement that have contributed to reduction in local conflicts and cattle-raiding incidents, and enhanced freedom of movement, trade and humanitarian access. Activities included pre- and post-migration conferences, inter-community and inter-state dialogues, support to community peace structures and networks and early warning and response mechanisms, support to local rapprochement and trust-building between government and opposition communities and enhancement of civil-military relations, and establishment of multi-sectoral youth coordination forums at the state and national level.

Further, the UNCT provided support to women led/focused organizations to promote women's participation in local peacebuilding efforts and peace dialogues. It created spaces for public interaction and awareness on topical issues including COVID-19 through radios, provision of mobility equipment, public address system and establishment of toll-free lines. It strengthened monitoring and referral

mechanisms for protection issues and provided risk education to over 90,000 civilians on explosive ordnance and destroyed stockpiles comprised of over 3,500 explosive devices.

Under output 1.4, with support from UNCT, legal support through traditional and formal legal systems is being provided to beneficiaries. This included support for legal representation for GBV survivors where about 558 cases (82% female) received judgement in a formal justice system—thereby increasing people's trust in the formal justice system for seeking redress to abuses and injustice. Additionally, working in partnership with CSOs, SGBV survivors have improved access to basic services and benefitted from referral pathways and victim redress mechanisms such as victim support groups, Police Special Protection Unit, counselling services, trauma management and psychosocial support. Relatedly, through legal aid, access to justice and fair trials was provided to indigent persons who could not afford the cost for having a legal representation during trials.

Further, Police Community Relation Committees (PCRCs) have been established to improve local level security and coordination between communities and reporting and preventing of crimes. Also, with technical support from UNCT, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs has developed a Case Management Procedure policy to ensure a more efficient use of its resources and enhance case disposition time. Relatedly, asylum-seekers and refugees were helped in resolving their civil disputes and training provided to local authorities, judiciary, prosecutors and community leaders on refugee law and enforcement. Support was provided for the development of a National Action Plan on Eradication of Statelessness in South Sudan by 2024; and a policy team has been set up to spearhead the drafting of operating guidelines for the Civil Registry Act.

Under output 1.5, UNCT has provided support for establishing and operationalizing community radio programming which has been instrumental for promoting peace and access to information on COVID-19 prevention measures and messages of solidarity and countering stigmatization and hate towards those affected by the COVID-19 Virus. Support has also been provided to institutions to raise awareness and promote freedom of expression, access to information and the safety of journalists especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. It supported the training of community radio journalists, developed a training toolkit on Gender and Conflict Sensitive Reporting, and equipped the centre of Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS) with computers and internet.

However, due to COVID-19, there are delays in engagement of citizens in the budgeting processes and production of budget briefs; though a series of Budget Sector Working Groups were supported and the Ministry of Finance and Planning launched the initial planning consultations in the national budget process. Also, the 2019 Open Budget Survey (OBS<sup>2</sup>) for South Sudan was released on 30 April 2020 that showed some improvements despite still low, in terms of Open Budget Index (OBI) and Public Participation scores (OBI from 5 to 7, and Public Participation from 2 to 11) compared to 2017.

#### **4.2. Priority Area 2: Improving Food Security and Recovering Local Economies**

Output Indicator	Status
Output 2.1: Vulnerable communities engage in development of and benefit from functional and accountable policy, legislative frameworks and natural resource management practices to improve the enabling environment and the right to adequate food.	68%

<sup>2</sup> OBS is a fact-based global research instrument that assesses budgetary processes pertained to transparency, participation and oversight.

Output 2.2 Vulnerable communities are supported to enhance production, increase productivity, access and linkages to markets to strengthen resilience.	67%
Output 2.3 Vulnerable communities and partners benefit from learning, knowledge agricultural practices and skills development to improve their resilience.	103%
Output 2.4 Vulnerable communities have access to competitive and enabling private sector led initiatives and trade opportunities to increase production and promote markets integration.	47%
<b>Overall reach</b>	<b>71%</b>

Average progress on outputs related to improving food security and recovering local economies is partially on-track. However, efforts towards increasing private-sector led production and market integration is off-track as the COVID-19 situation has affected movement of both people and goods, impacting market access and trade opportunities. Also, with the lockdown of people in IDP and refugee camps, the pandemic has reduced meaningful engagement with vulnerable communities, particularly displaced persons and expected returnees in the development of functional and accountable policies, legislative frameworks and natural resource management practices to strengthen livelihood recovery efforts. This, coupled with the delay in the formation of the R-TGoNU, also affected the planned allocation of land by local authorities/communities to support displaced women/returnees with economic recovery efforts.

Nevertheless, under output 2.1, over 7 million sqm have been surveyed or cleared of explosive ordnance, and released to local communities for productive use, including agriculture, markets, and other livelihood activities. The UNCT also supported and facilitated several national coordination mechanisms, policies, strategies, plans and analysis: Partnership for Recovery and Resilience (PfRR); Wau Technical Committee on Land Governance and Administration; Parliamentary Land Committee; high-level committee to discuss desert locust developments and coordinate the control measures including developing desert locust national preparedness plans and establishing monitoring teams in six counties of Eastern Equatoria state; and completed gender analysis of food for assets activities. Also, it established Resilience Platforms at state level to support government participation and coordination of resilience activities and trained national and state level line ministries on Community Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) and Seasonal Livelihoods Programming (SLP).

Further, the UNCT trained community members on housing, land and property related documentation and provided financial support to women to obtain land occupancy certificates while facilitating people to participate in cross-border peace building and livestock migration conferences. It also supported the National TVET working group and its coordination committees by developing tools for drafting the national TVET policy, COVID- 19 TVET Response plan and TVET re-opening guidelines. Additionally, the Partners Social Protection Working Group (PSWG) was reactivated in 2020 and an updated National Social Protection Mapping is being undertaken to reflect COVID-19 situation; and developed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials for COVID-19 risk communications.

Under output 2.2, the UNCT supported and provided households and communities with cash for seed, farm inputs, nutrition vouchers, auction yards, market shades, goat fattening shelters, rehabilitated fish farm ponds, fish fingerlings, fuel efficient stoves, solar refrigerators, slaughter slabs and boreholes. It set up vegetable farm sites for training on good agricultural practices and conducted training on conservation agriculture, land preparation, seed management, kitchen gardening and nutrition practices, post-harvest technologies, and livestock vaccination and treatment.

In addition, UNCT completed the construction of up to 200KM of feeder roads across the country that are now all in use. In Bar-el-Gazel region, it completed the Nyinakok- Akorok Payam Feeder Road, Bar Urud-Kayango feeder road, Achol Pagong-Ayien market feeder rod, Ayien market to Panlieth feeder road; Aluakluak-Mapuordit-Agurany feeder road; Kayango-Getti extension feeder road. In Gbudue, Western Equatoria state, it constructed Nzara-Basukangbi feeder road and Gangura-James-Diko-Remenze feeder road; while in Aweil, it constructed Jorbioch Payam - Mayom Angok and Panthou- Tieraliet Feeder Roads. Also, market infrastructures in Gok Machar, Kangi and Ayien have been completed and community-based management committees formed to run the markets.

Further, it constructed agro-processing centres, conducted market needs assessment and supported training in entrepreneurship skills such as hairdressing, tailoring, soap making, computer and Village Saving and Loan Association skills to promote economic empowerment. Further, the UNCT provided food assistance under the food for asset activities and cash-based interventions to engage communities in cash for work activities like mask production, rehabilitation of community infrastructure and agriculture livelihood programmes. It also initiated the design of a voucher project for COVID-19 hygiene materials planned for Q3/4 of 2020. Relatedly, preparation and beneficiary registration has started for the social safety nets and cash-based intervention in Juba and cash distribution to over 10,000 beneficiaries will commence in Q3/4 of 2020. Once COVID-19 eases down, the UNCT will roll out the safety nets and cash-based intervention to nine other counties across the country and register even more beneficiaries.

Under output 2.3, to improve resilience of vulnerable communities, UNCT provided training and skills building on agricultural practices to several institutions: Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF), Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoE), Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW); State Ministry of Physical Infrastructure; County Agriculture Departments; County Animal Resources Departments; Nyamlel Agriculture Research Centre; John Garang University in Bor and Juba University. It also supported the release of IPC and food security and nutrition monitoring reports and conducted assessment of COVID-19 on markets and trade.

In addition, the UNCT provided livelihood group members and beneficiaries with various livelihoods skills to restore their livelihood systems and create opportunities to become more economically self-reliant. This included trainings in business enterprise skills, small-scale construction for seed/granary storage, VSLA, post-harvest technologies, fish farming, beekeeping, and fuel-efficient stove construction. They were also trained on alternative livelihoods and vocational skills: carpentry, blacksmiths, masons, plumbers, climate smart agriculture, seed multiplication, poultry, etc.--- supplemented with functional literacy classes for women and youth.

Further, the UNCT offered on-the-job training on road construction works to engineers in the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure (MoPI) in Northern Bar-el-Gazel. The engineers were trained in construction and feeder road maintenance works, including road survey, materials laboratory testing and analysis which has led to noticeable improvement in the quality of their involvement in the construction work over the last six months.

Under output 2.4, through existing vocational training centres, the UNCT continued to empower the youth and nurture their entrepreneurial culture and market oriented skills. It provided start-up kits for various livelihood activities including agriculture production kits and VSLA kits. It distributed hermetic storage and conducted direct training of farmers before COVID-19 (the training has now been put on hold due to COVID-19), established new Rural Aggregation Centers and offered existing warehouses to farmers to promote collective aggregation. It also developed contracting modalities for food purchases from smallholder farmers.

#### 4.3 Priority Area 3: Strengthening Social Service

Output 3.1 Health: People in South Sudan, particularly children, women, youth and people living with chronic illnesses have increased access to and utilization of quality essential health services.	70%
Output 3.2 HIV: Population in South Sudan particularly youth, key population and people living with HIV have increased access to and utilization of quality HIV services	63%
Output 3.3 Nutrition - Girls and boys under age five, adolescent girls and women in South Sudan increasingly access more equitable and better-quality nutrition services by 2021	62%
Output 3.4 WASH: Vulnerable and emergency-affected people in South Sudan including children and women have access to basic drinking water, sanitation facilities and increased the capacity for effective emergency preparedness, response and recovery for WASH services.	51%
Output 3.5 Education: Children, adolescents, youth and adults have increased and equitable access to lifesaving quality education with improved learning outcomes and essential life-skills.	30%
<b>Average reach</b>	<b>55%</b>

Average progress on outputs related to strengthening social services is partially on-track, though progress related to education is particularly off-track. Good progress was particularly registered in the coverage of immunization services among children, better stocking of essential medicines, EVD preparedness and readiness, HIV prevention services, and provision of functional WASH facilities to health facilities. However, there was not much improvement in the number of outpatient department visits due to COVID-19 pandemic among other challenges related to access and availability of quality care. Also, the closure of schools because of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected achievements related to education.

Under [output 3.1](#), the number of pregnant women attending antenatal care visits improved attributed to the collective efforts in maternal health services such as provision of environmentally sound and gender-sensitive MNCH services including skilled birth attendance and family planning by health professionals, providing maternity equipment and reproductive health supplies and medicines to health facilities, and supporting pre and in-service training of midwifery professionals, strengthening the enabling environment for delivery of MNCH services, general training and availability of skilled health workers, capacity building for better reporting, increased awareness on health seeking behavior and easy access to the facilities. In partnership with the Ministry of Health, UNCT continued to support routine and supplementary immunization services nationwide by ensuring uninterrupted availability of vaccines and injection devices, strengthening immunization supply chains, and enhancing access through outreach and mobile strategies and Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization (PIRI). It also supported the roll out of Standard Treatment guidelines (STG) to facilitate rational prescription practices, capacity building and training of health workers on management of common conditions and STGs in selected facilities. It finalized the list of Essential Medicines to guide procurement of quality, safe and efficacious medicines and supported regional redistribution of over stocked supplies in some facilities to avoid stock outs. This included ensuring last mile delivery of family planning commodities and supporting reproductive health and gender-based violence services as part of the package of essential health services.



Further, it developed the EVD preparedness plan, established the Incident Management System and in collaboration with OCHA leads the coordination, epidemiological surveillance, laboratory support, case management, public awareness and community engagement / risk communication. It is supporting the prepositioning and distribution of standard Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) WASH supplies in isolation and holding units and health facilities across the EVD/COVID-19 high risk locations. It equipped ambulances with materials and supplies, trained teams for immediate alert response, and repaired/rehabilitated water supply and sanitation facilities in health care facilities and reached over one million through hygiene promotion and EVD messaging in public places.

Under output 3.2, with support from UNCT, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has continued to strengthen its implementation of the HIV Test and Treat policy. Indeed, HIV testing, treatment and counselling services have been scaled up to increase coverage by testing in family planning clinics, nutrition clinics, weekend testing in certain locations, strengthening index texting, and community outreach settings targeting key and vulnerable populations including Female Sex Workers (FSWs), boda-boda riders, truck drivers, refugees and Internally Displaced Populations (IDPs). Also, support has been provided to new facilities providing ART services which has consequently increased ART coverage from 15.6% at the end of June 2019 to 19% at the end of this reporting period. However, initiation and retention on HIV treatment was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; even though to prevent loss of patients currently on treatment, Multi Month Distribution (MMD) of ARVs has been implemented in 36 sites and additional resources has been mobilized and reprogrammed from Global Fund and UBRAF to address issues related to support people living with HIV for the prevention of COVID-19. Also, awareness raising through community health workers / health promoters and mother-to-mother support groups has been limited due to COVID-19.

Further, the UNCT provided technical assistance to MoH and the South Sudan Aids Commission to update HIV estimates, submit South Sudan country report for the 2019 AIDS Global Report and develop HIV/TB funding request for Global Fund. It also provided training, mentorship and supervision to PMTCT sites providing PMTCT services including prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Also, teachers were trained on how to better deliver Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) to encourage health seeking behavior.

Under output 3.3, UNCT continued to support building capacity of health care and nutrition workers on management of SAM by providing SAM kits to support management of medical complications, health education of caregivers and easy access to nutrition services----including treating children suffering from SAM in inpatient and outpatient therapeutic programs. Health and nutrition workers have also been trained to improve the quality of CMAM services and adhere to the national protocol for treatment of children with SAM. UNCT also supported the procurement, prepositioning and distribution of life-saving supplies for treatment of children with SAM and used a single therapeutic product (RUTF or RUSF) to treat children with SAM and MAM in the absence of one of the therapeutic products.

Relatedly, the UNCT is providing technical leadership for a paradigm shift through nutrition sensitive interventions and a multisectoral response for preventive interventions. This includes scaling up and integrating WASH services, strengthening health service delivery, improving food security interventions and strengthening community engagement through focused social behavior change communication (SBCC) strategy. The UNCT has also been fully engaged in relevant task forces and has been playing a key role in steering the task forces which has led to strengthening of coordination of nutrition rapid responses, development of guideline for Nutritional Care in the context of EVD, documentation of EVD preparedness lesson learned, provision of support to implementing partners in flood response, and replenishment of nutrition supplies and revision of RRM guideline and tools. Relatedly, the UNCT technically and financially

contributed to improvement of data quality of nutrition component of Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS), development of a multi-sectoral strategic plan (MNSP) road map, conducted bottleneck analysis (BNA) of selected nutrition interventions, performance scorecard (PSC) and improved Nutrition Information System (NIS) database for use in evidence-based planning.

Under output 3.4, the UNCT continued to provide life-saving interventions through the provision of access to safe water, basic sanitation and hygiene services to vulnerable people in host communities, Protection of Civilian (PoCs) and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in collective sites through water trucking and the construction of new and rehabilitation of existing water points. It also continued to provide support in the operation and maintenance of water yards, Surface Water Treatment (SWAT) systems and urban water systems. Also, the process of building a river barge to facilitate transport on the River Nile in Juba is continuing with the construction of the water crossing vessel and plans to have it shipped to Juba for assembling by the end of 2020. The UNCT also supported access to basic sanitation facilities through the construction and rehabilitation of emergency communal and household latrines. In relatively stable communities, Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is being implemented as the approach to improve the sanitation coverage. Health facilities are being supported with IPC services, triage and screening areas have been set up and health facilities have been provided with PPE and IPC supplies.

Further, WASH committees and pump mechanics have been trained on operation and maintenance of water systems to ensure their sustainable use. Also, women, men and children have been reached with key hygiene promotion messages and core-pipeline supplies and WASH NFIs which include jerry-cans, buckets, soap and water treatment chemicals have been distributed. In line with the promotion of safe hygiene practices and dignity, adolescent girls have been supported with menstrual hygiene management (MHM) interventions. The WASH Cluster contributed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by developing a sectoral response plan, aligned with the National Response Plan for the country.

Under output 3.5, the UNCT with partners continue to support the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) in building capacity for system strengthening. Learning spaces have been renovated or built and office spaces for EMS at the national Ministry of General Education expanded. New Textbooks developed to implement the South Sudan new curriculum have been distributed to schools and the UNCT is working closely with MoGEI's Teacher Development Management Services (TDMS) to roll-out the Continue Professional Development programme to teachers in selected areas. Parents Teacher Association (PTA) members and School Management Committee (SMC) members have been trained to enhance school-community participation for increased enrolment, safe and protective school environment and skills for effective management and pedagogy.

Further, through community facilitators, the UNCT has provided skills to children, youth and adults of pastoral communities in cattle camps/learning centres through regular training sessions integrated with literacy, numeracy and life skills learning sessions. Also, despite the closure of schools due to COVID-19, take home ration has been provided to families of around 200,000 children; and through MoGEI, supported is being provided to the "Education on Air" programme and radio learning to keep students and pupils learning as a response to the COVID-19 impact. Modules have been prepared for distance learning and are being broadcasted through radios. Also, support was provided for the development of three COVID 19 Response Plans on general education, Higher education and TVET.

#### 4.4 Priority Area 4: Empowering women and youth

Output Indicator	Status
Output 4.1 Strengthened capacities of women of all ages to participate, engage and lead in political, governance, social and economic institutions at national and state level.	66%
Output 4.2 Strengthened capacities of multi-sectoral services providers and community-based support to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV) including violence against women & girls (VAWG), harmful practices and child marriage.	97%
Output 4.3 Youth and young women are empowered and informed to participate in humanitarian – development and peace nexuses planning, programming, implementation and evaluation.	64%
Output 4.4 The government of South Sudan and partners are capacitated to systematically assess progress on implementation of CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, UNSCR 1325, UNSCR 2250, Maputo Plan of Action and SDGs.	0%
<b>Overall reach</b>	<b>57%</b>

On average, progress on all outputs related to empowering women and youth is partially on-track due to delays in activity roll-out or processes still on-going particularly those related to development of policies and frameworks. Also, the COVID-19 pandemic led to cancellation of some activities particularly activities that required physical interaction and participation of people and support towards national reporting processes: CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, UNSCR 1325, UNSCR 2250, Maputo Plan of Action and SDGs.

Under output 4.1, to promote women's participation in local peacebuilding efforts and peace dialogues, UNCT provided capacity support to several organizations: Community Youth For Development Aid, Community Empowerment for Progress Organization, Self Help Women Development Organization, Initiative for Peace Communication Association, Samaritan Mission Aid, Upper Nile Women Welfare Association and Hope Restoration South Sudan. This included training, coaching and mentoring on transformational leadership, conflict mediation, protection and psychosocial support, tracking and reporting the implementation of affirmative action, leadership and peacebuilding skills, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment. It also included strengthening women inclusion and participation in the camp governance structures. Further, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare, women leaders from political parties, organized forces and civil society organizations (CSOs) were coached on leadership and on how they can lobby for available positions under the R-ARCSS to contribute to the realization of the 35% gender quota. As a result, an advocacy booklet, analyzing the gender provision and the number of women in each position in the R-ARCSS was published.

Additionally, UNCT established networks/groups and community-based protection structures to promote positive social norms on gender equality and women empowerment. It reached people with gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services including awareness raising, positive social norm transformation messages, community dialogues on GBV, access to women and girls-friendly services and referrals for case management and other specialized services. It also reached organizations with the focus on capacity building on participation and advocacy for SRH/GBV and ending child marriage. As a result, community mobilization mechanisms for ending child marriage are established in Juba, Wau, Bor, Aweil,

Torit, Yambio, Malakal, Kapoeta, Akobo, Rumbek, Malualkon; and efforts are underway to ensure this initiative is scaled up to other areas.

Under output 4.2, UNCT continued to support capacity building on GBV prevention and response. It conducted awareness raising events and trainings on counselling for GBV survivors, caring for child survivors, case management, clinical management of rape, engagement of men on accountable practice (EMAP), safety and GBV risk mitigation. It maintained the GBV One stop centres in Juba, Wau, Bor, Aweil, Torit, Yambio, Malakal, Kapoeta, Akobo, Rumbek, Malualkon and provided integrated GBV case management in health facilities and streamlined referrals to other services including to recreational, counselling and women's empowerment centers for integrated GBV case management. Also, SGBV survivors benefited from victim redress mechanisms, including transitional justice.

Additionally, in collaboration with South Sudan Law Society, law enforcement and legal actors were trained on gender-based violence core concepts as well as customary/justice systems and the role of the police and community chiefs in addressing GBV cases. Further, in collaboration with Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, UNCT is advocating for women- and girl-friendly laws and services including for survivors of GBV acts such as child marriage, conflict related sexual violence etc.

Under output 4.3, UNCT supported the establishment and operationalization of multi-sectoral youth coordination mechanisms/networks to coordinate and report on youth engagement in humanitarian development and peace nexuses. The networks champion youth participation and advocate for inclusion of youth issues in national and state policies, plans and programmes and decision-making processes. The youth have been engaged through different programmes including skills building on livelihoods and business development; training on adolescent kit; peer-to-peer support; peacebuilding; and human rights, rights of persons with disabilities, women's rights and engagement with service providers on their rights and entitlements. Also, a pilot programme was designed and is currently being implemented to empower youth gangs and criminalized youth in Wau.

Additionally, identification, verification and release of CAAFAG continued but the achievement was low partly as a result of COVID-19 which has severely restricted travel to locations where CAAFAG are based and partly due to a lack of action from the armed forces to release the children. Also, the Draft National Menstrual Hygiene Management guideline has been developed and is currently being reviewed. Advocacy for establishment of the Youth Enterprise Fund has been initiated; however, the approval of the National Youth Development Policy is still pending awaiting the reconstitution of the revitalized legislative assembly.

Under output 4.4, in the light of concerns regarding COVID-19 pandemic, no significant progress was made in capacitating the government to systematically assess progress on implementation of CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, UNSCR 1325, UNSCR 2250 and Maputo Plan of Action. Indeed, even the support to the South Sudan delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, a Draft Anti-GBV Bill has been developed and will be presented to parliament once the Revitalized National Legislative Assembly is reconstituted. Also, working in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics, a National SDG Taskforce for tracking and reporting on SDGs has been formed.

## **5.0 Conclusion**

Overall, implementation of the UNCF by the UNCT during the first 6 months (January -June 2020) is partially on-track; nevertheless, UNCT delivery supported and contributed to critical development priorities in the country. The limited progress is attributed to the delay in the full formation of the R-TGoNU that has impacted on implementation of UNCT's planned support towards the peace process particularly support for institutional capacity building and policy reforms. Relatedly, the several shocks – flooding, invasion of desert locusts, and now the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the recovery and resilience process in the country. COVID-19 particularly has affected modalities of doing business—curtailing movements, disrupting supply chains, and in some instances to shifting of priorities and resources and cancellation of planned activities. However, with the finalization of the Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP), the UNCT is now better equipped to respond to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 by re-purposing existing activities and formulating new interventions.