

November 2020



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

KEEP THE PROMISE: INVEST, PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GBV

High-level dialogue on GBV kicks off 16 Days of Activism campaign

The United Nations in South Sudan pushed for the enactment of the Anti-GBV Bill as it maintained that eliminating gender-based violence will require a robust legal framework that protects GBV survivors.

Speaking at the High-Level Dialogue on GBV, which launched this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, Mr. Alain Noudehou, Deputy SRSG, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, called on all stakeholders to keep up the Constitutional promise to the women and girls of South Sudan to enact laws to combat harmful customs and traditions which undermine the dignity and status of women.

The Anti-GBV Bill, which was drafted last year, is expected to be tabled for deliberations when the new Parliament convenes.

Mr. Noudehou also underscored the importance of involving and educating men, boys and the young generation about their responsibilities in eliminating gender-based violence.

"If we want gender-based violence to end, we must focus on educating our next generation on gender equality,

eliminate the socio-cultural practices and beliefs that perpetuate violence against women and begin to recognize the greater role of women in peace and nation building," he said.

UNFPA Country Representative Dr. Mary Otieno also emphasized the importance of addressing gender inequality and harmful social norms, which are at the root of the problem on GBV. "We must also look at the status of women and the girl-child, address poverty, as well as end impunity for GBV and the conflict that exacerbates violence against women and girls," she said.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Children are calling for a Clean and Green environment, for a better future
- UNMAS surveyed former battlefield to support WFP food airdrop in Gumuruk
- Women-led water management committee makes waves in Jebel Kheir
- A beacon of hope: Doreen Malambo wins UN women police officer
- World Aids Day 2020



The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and the UN jointly held the high-level national dialogue at the launch of the 16 Days campaign under the national theme “Keep the promise: Invest, prevent and respond to GBV.”

The national dialogue aims to bring to the fore the magnitude of gender-based violence in the country and highlight the need to step up support, including funding, for GBV prevention and response programmes.

The dialogue brought together government officials led by Vice President Rebecca Garang de Mabior, development partners, UN, and the civil society to give their perspective on the GBV situation and find ways to step up the fight against GBV.

According to the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBV IMS), more than 6,000 cases of GBV have been reported from January to September this year.

The cases include physical violence, emotional violence, and sexual violence. Government data also shows that child marriage, another form of GBV, remains a prevalent practice in the country where 40 per cent of girls under 18 are already married.

The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare is working with the GBV sub-cluster led by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in conducting a series of activities during the 16 days campaign to focus the spotlight on multi-sectoral initiatives to end GBV.

Gender based violence is not only manifested in the physical and sexual violence, but also through overall lack of equal opportunities for women and girls to lead a fulfilling life.

High rate of illiteracy amongst girls and women, high rate of child marriage, high maternal mortality due to preventable causes, and limited access to livelihood opportunities are some of the indicators that highlight the dire need to address the gender inequality at the grass root.

The 16 days campaign will culminate on 10 December, Human Rights Day, with a national dialogue on child marriage with traditional leaders.

This is a follow-up meeting from the 2019 Paramount Chiefs Conference on GBV where 33 chiefs from across the country adopted a national declaration to achieve zero gender-based violence cases in South Sudan.

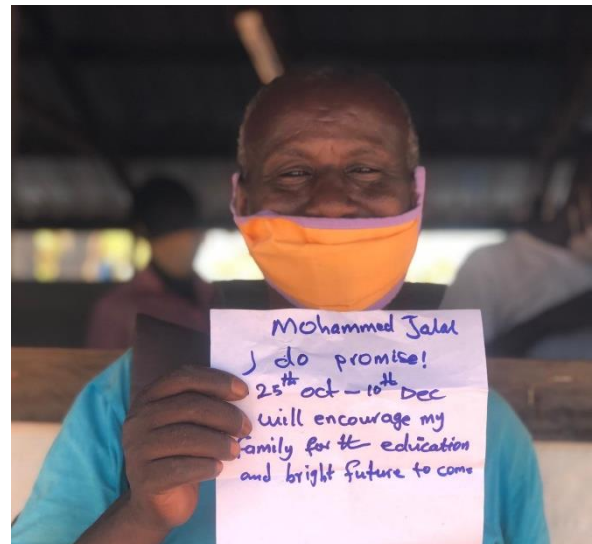
Other activities during the 16 days campaign will focus on multiple exclusions suffered by HIV positive GBV survivors, a forum on the role of health and social workers in providing survivor-centered services to GBV survivors, and discussions on GBV against persons with disabilities and their right to services.

I PROMISE! REFUGEE COMMUNITIES REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO STAND UP AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

“I will encourage my family for education, and the bright future to come.” Those were the words penned by Mohammed Jalal, a father and husband taking part in an event aimed at spreading awareness on gender-based violence in Yida settlement and Ajuong Thok and Pamir refugee camps, in Ruweng Administrative Area.

As part of the roll-out of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, 51 community outreach volunteers supported by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, handwrote their commitments to combat gender-based violence both within their homes, as well as their communities, emphasizing equality between parents and encouraging school attendance for girls.

The community outreach volunteers have also designed awareness raising through door to door visits, a radio drama, songs as well as poster drawing with activities set to take place across South Sudan from 25 November to 10 December.



Mohammed Jalal displays his commitment as part of the 16 days of activism campaign to end Gender Based Violence. Photo Credit: UNHCR



NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

CHILDREN ARE CALLING FOR A CLEAN AND GREEN ENVIRONMENT, FOR A BETTER FUTURE



A campaign poster of children calling for a clean and green environment.

Photo Credit: UNICEF

On 20 November – the anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – the world celebrates World Children's Day.

This year's celebration is highlighting climate change. UNICEF Child reporters in South Sudan developed a set of advocacy calls for a clean and green environment and took-over radio stations, as well as UNICEF, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare.

They also organized a garbage collection and a tree planting event. Similar activities took place in the States. More information on www.unicef.org/southsudan.

UNMAS SURVEYED FORMER BATTLEFIELD TO SUPPORT WFP FOOD AIRDROP IN GUMURUK, JONGLEI

In the last week of October, 15 civilians were reported to have died of starvation due to flooding in Gumuruk, Jonglei.

As an emergency response, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) planned to airdrop over 300 tons of cereals and pulses in the area, expected to aid over 22,000 South Sudanese, including more than 4,000 children under five years old.

To support this operation, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) surveyed the intended food drop zone, which was a former battlefield. From 7-9 November, UNMAS assessed a total of 54,000 m² of land, the equivalent of 7.5 football pitches.

Two grenades were found and destroyed, and explosive ordnance risk education was delivered to 35 community members through a door-to-door modality. By 10 November, WFP safely dropped the first batch of food.



The second grenade that was found and destroyed in WFP's intended airdrop zone. Photo Credit: UNMAS

WORLD AIDS DAY 2020



Annually on 1 December, the world commemorates World AIDS Day (WAD) to show support for people living with and affected by HIV, and those lost to AIDS. It is also observed to raise awareness, increase knowledge and amplify the voices of communities towards ending the AIDS epidemic.

The theme for this year is "Global solidarity, shared responsibility". For South Sudan, the WAD 2020 theme underscores unified actions towards a South Sudan free from HIV and COVID-19 as HIV continues to be a public health challenge.

WAD 2020 reiterates the challenges of epidemics, this time COVID 19. It shows once again how health is interlinked with other issues, such as human rights, gender inequality, social protection and economic growth.



NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

WOMEN-LED WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MAKES WAVES IN JEBEL KHEIR, SOUTH SUDAN

We're in Jebel Kheir, a village on the outskirts of Wau, which lies in South Sudan's Western Bahr el Ghazal region of South Sudan. Not very long ago, if you were sitting in one of the community meetings here, you would see it would only be men running things. Speaking. Leading. Dominating.

A Water Management Committee in Jebel Kheir made up of 12 villagers, eight of whom are women, are a force to be reckoned with.

The Water Management Committee is responsible for the management of three communal water points in Jebel Kheir. "We were the first committee made up of mostly women in our area, and I know there was skepticism on whether we would rise to the occasion", says the deputy Chairperson of the Water Management Committee, Veronica Raphael Yor. "We told them be patient, you will see".



Deputy Chairperson of the Water Management Committee, Veronica Raphael Yor. Photo Credit: UNMAS

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has constructed the water points the Management Committee oversees that benefit over 4,500 individuals living in the vicinity through provision of safe drinking water as a result.

The Organization has made some of this possible by incorporating more women in leadership structures such as water management committees. IOM encourages processes that take into consideration the concerns of women and marginalized individuals while also empowering their voices in their communities.

IOM is also involved in training sessions to equip the Committee with skills to administer, operate, repair and maintain the water points. Read more: [here](#)

A BEACON OF HOPE: DOREEN MALAMBO WINS UN WOMAN POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Chief Inspector Doreen Mazuba Malambo.

Photo Credit: UNMISS

When you teach a woman, you teach a nation," said Chief Inspector Doreen Mazuba Malambo in 2017. Little did the Zambian police officer imagine that three years later she would win the 2020 UN Woman Police Officer of the Year Award.

Doreen first deployed to UNMISS in 2016. "Three months after I arrived, violence erupted, and the country was in chaos. It was like a nightmare when I heard bullets flying over my head," she recalls. "I had no direction on the first day of the crisis.

On the second day, we were following radio updates and they called on UNPOL officers to do our primary job—protect South Sudanese people flooding into the UNMISS camp in Juba to seek refuge. I was the first woman officer to head out; I didn't even have a protective jacket." Doreen's contribution did not go unrecognized.

Her first tour of duty came to an end in 2018 but she returned to UNMISS as the UNPOL Gender Adviser just three months later.

"I've always believed that women need to be heard on any issue that has a direct bearing on their day-to-day life.

My work allows me to help empower South Sudanese women and girls every day. Being able to build capacities of local law enforcement agencies is a bonus." Doreen also helps build the skills of fellow UN police officers.

"Knowledge is the only commodity that doesn't decrease when you share it. I love sharing everything I know with my colleagues from across the world. I learn from them every day as well."

SOUTH SUDAN COMMEMORATES THE INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END IMPUNITY FOR CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS

South Sudan joined the rest of the world to commemorate the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Committed against Journalists. The national event was marked under the theme “Promoting a safe and Conducive Media Environment for Journalists in South Sudan”. The event drew participants from government, parliament, media associations and houses, journalists, academia, CSOs, lawyers and Judges

At the opening of the 2-day engagement, Hon. Baba Medan, Deputy Minister for Information, Telecommunication and Postal Services noted that the government was committed to promoting freedom of expression and access to information in the country as already instituted in the laws of South Sudan such as the Transitional Constitution 2011, the Media Authority Act, 2013 and the Access to Information Act, 2013.

The deputy minister also encouraged journalists to be professional and continue building their capacities as they carry on their work

This year’s national event was jointly organized by the South Sudan Female Journalists Network, Union of Journalists of South Sudan,

local media houses and civil society organizations with support from UNESCO’s Multi-Donor Programme on freedom of expression and safety of journalists, British Embassy and Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA)



Deputy Minister for Information, Hon. Medan Baba, speaking at the IDEI. Photo Credit: UNESCO

VACCINATING 1.5 MILLION CHILDREN TO CURB POLIO OUTBREAK IN SOUTH SUDAN

A campaign aiming at vaccinating 1.5 million children against polio was launched in South Sudan. Currently 15 cases of vaccine-derived poliomyelitis are confirmed in seven counties across five states, namely Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Warrap, Lakes and Eastern Equatoria. The reported cases are children under five years of age who now have irreversible paralysis.

“We need to move fast to stop this outbreak from harming more children,” said Minister of Health Hon Elizabeth Achue “I urge all parents to take their children for polio vaccination including those who have already been vaccinated. It is safe to receive an additional dose and we want to make sure every child is protected.”

Less than 50 per cent of children in South Sudan are immunized against polio and other life-threatening diseases, putting them at risk of life-long disability and death.

Widespread displacement and continual population movements compounded with COVID-19 restrictions, have further aggravated the country’s immunization coverage and have exacerbated children’s vulnerability to poliovirus, especially those in hard-to-reach areas.

“No child anywhere should suffer from Polio a completely preventable disease”, said Dr Olushayo Olu, WHO Representative for South Sudan. “Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and flooding sweeping much of the country, the campaign provides greater opportunity for vulnerable population to receive critical interventions that could avert life threatening disease such as disability from poliomyelitis”.

“Immunization is a must and complacency can kill,” says Mohamed Ayoya, UNICEF South Sudan Representative.

We must ensure all children in South Sudan are taken for routine immunization which includes the polio vaccine, so this don’t happen again when the outbreak is curbed. There is a lot of love in every needle prick, that is how we are protecting the next generation.”

