



## UN Agencies partners with the Government of South Sudan to Implement a project on Enhancing Community Resilience and Local Governance

UNOPS and IOM in partnership with the Government of South Sudan have started the implementation of the USD 45m Enhancing Community Resilience and Local Governance Project (ECRP). The project aims to address immediate needs for basic services throughout the country.

Funded by the World Bank, International Development Association (IDA), ECRP will cover about one fourth of the country, geographically, benefitting an estimated 630,000 people. In addition to the 10 counties selected for “quick wins”.

The Quick wins are sub-projects that were committed to be delivered during the Local Government and Service Delivery Project (LGSDP), which was implemented between 2014-2019. These sub-projects now are main components of the ECRP as foundations for local institutions strengthening in South Sudan.

The ECRP will scale up these efforts, with a focus on conflict-affected and vulnerable areas. The project will support around 10 vulnerable counties in South Sudan, identified through the World Bank’s Vulnerability Index. It will focus on those areas that were heavily conflict affected, food insecure, exposed to natural hazards, and

facing increased demand for basic services due to high concentration of returnees. The project will address the needs of 630,000 people approximately 50 percent of whom are women, across 10 states, 20 out of 79 counties, who are expected to directly benefit from project investments and support.

“ECRP will improve the provision of basic service delivery, particularly in vulnerable areas that were affected by the conflict, high concentration of returnees, and natural hazards such as flood. The project will also contribute to social cohesion among different groups in our country.” said Hon. Clement Khamis, Chairperson of the Local Governance Board.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ UN Refugee Chief urges authorities to commit firmly to Security, Rule of law and Good Governance to support gains from the peace process
- ✚ UNICEF supports MoGEI with delivery of primary 8 exams papers
- ✚ Children have no Place in armed conflict and their abuse must end now



The project has secured endorsement from the relevant government authorities at the national and state levels.

“The World Bank, UNOPS and IOM are partners of choice to the government of South Sudan and Central Equatorial State in particular,” said Hon. Emmanuel Adil Anthony, Governor of Central Equatoria during the ECRP introduction meeting at the Governor's office on December 9, 2021.

He stated that the government will continue to support the project in consultation with the relevant line ministries, especially in the Central Equatorial State.

A project MoU was signed with the Ministry of Finance and Planning. A Project Steering Committee and National Technical Working Group have been established to provide oversight to the project.

These are chaired by Under Secretary and the Director General respectively of both the Ministry of Finance and Planning and with membership from relevant Ministries such as local Government Board (LGB); Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare (MoGCSW); and South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC).

“UNOPS combines its strong Infrastructure expertise by applying a systematic community engagement approach that will see the project involve all levels of the formal and community institutions from the National through to the Payams and Bomas in consultative and inclusive processes to effectively deliver the project to meet the needs and aspirations of the people of South Sudan. UNOPS is grateful for the trust and confidence the Government of South Sudan has placed on it and its implementing partner the IOM”, said Peter Mutoredzanwa, UNOPS Country Director and Representative to South Sudan.

“IOM is very proud and grateful to have been chosen as one of the two UN agencies to implement this project. While there is no question that there will be a continued need for emergency humanitarian assistance in South Sudan, it is critical for the future of the country that resources are increasingly allocated to projects like this, which focus on improving resilience and services at the community-level. This, together with continued peace and a reduction in violence, is the best way of ensuring a future where people will no longer need to rely on aid for their survival. IOM is committed to use its grassroots-level presence across the country, the knowledge and expertise of its teams on the ground to, together with the

Government of South Sudan, the World Bank and UNOPS, ensure that this project will be a success” said Peter Van der Auweraert, IOM South Sudan Chief of Mission.

The International Development Association (IDA) is the World Bank's fund for the poorest. Established in 1960, it provides grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve poor people's lives. IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 76 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa.



*The ECRP Technical working Group during a visit to Hon. Sarah Cleto Rial, Governor of Western Nahar el Ghazel. Photo Credit UNOPS*

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Hon. Emmanuel Adil Anthony**





## UN REFUGEE CHIEF URGES AUTHORITIES TO COMMIT FIRMLY TO SECURITY, RULE OF LAW AND GOOD GOVERNANCE TO SUPPORT GAINS FROM THE PEACE PROCESS.



High Commissioner Filippo Grandi meets with internally displaced people in Mahad settlement, Juba. **Photo Credit: UNHCR**

The High Commissioner's visit comes at a time of gathering momentum for a push by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to identify lasting solutions for forcibly displaced people originating from and within South Sudan and Sudan.

Grandi also praised South Sudan's open-door policy for refugees and the continued display of generosity and solidarity toward the nearly 300,000 refugees currently present on its soil.



High Commissioner Filippo Grandi and SRSR David Shearer at Panakuach border crossing. **Photo Credit: UNHCR**

Visiting the Republic of South Sudan to observe the opportunities and challenges of the fragile peace process, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi met with government officials, refugees, internally displaced people, host communities and those who have recently returned in January.

Grandi visited Mahad settlement in Juba, Makpandu refugee camp in Yambio, as well as a joint visit with Special Representative of the Secretary General, David Shearer to Benitu. At Panakuach, a border point between Sudan and South Sudan, they met returning refugees travelling in buses packed high with their belongings.

While UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is not promoting or facilitating return to South Sudan, recognizing that some 350,000 refugees have returned to South Sudan since 2017, strategic thinking by the government and partners to help returnees and the communities they settle in live in safety and dignity, with greater security and services is needed.

He called for the commitment of authorities to security, rule of law and good governance, with special attention to be paid to the security and needs of the country's women, who have borne the brunt of violence and trauma during the country's civil war.

Grandi also called for the international community to help strengthen development efforts to make sure schools, health services and work opportunities are serving the people.



## NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

### UNICEF SUPPORTS MOGEI WITH DELIVERY OF PRIMARY 8 EXAMS PAPERS



Exam papers being transported to Tonj East. Photo Credit: UNICEF

UNICEF delivered examination papers to seven counties in South Sudan where Primary 8 exams had been postponed till 15 February, thereby responding to an urgent request from the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoEI).

With only four days between the announced postponement and the exams, UNICEF South Sudan put all hands-on deck. Thanks to the support of the UN family led by the SRSG and WFP, UNICEF was able to successfully fly over exams papers for 1,732 students, together with exam invigilators.

“This was an important mission for UNICEF as access to education is a right for every child, regardless of location,” said Andrea Suley, UNICEF South Sudan Representative a.i.

UNICEF also supported children in the former protection of civilian sites (PoC) in Juba and in Malakal to sit their exams. In collaboration with MoGEI, UNICEF organized transport between the former PoCs to the examination venue and provided the students with masks and ensured handwashing stations were in place.

The final exams mark the completion of primary level education allowing students to move to senior level education. Securing exams for students is an essential part of ensuring access to education for all children. Senior four is sitting their exams starting 22 March, and UNICEF is confident that the Ministry of General Education and Instruction will ensure all exams will be conducted as scheduled.

Together with the examination papers, UNICEF delivered face masks for the students, hand sanitizers and soap for handwashing to maintain hygiene throughout the examination week. More info [here](#).

### CHILDREN HAVE NO PLACE IN ARMED CONFLICTS AND THE ABUSE MUST END NOW

The use of children in armed conflict violates a battery of child rights, said UNICEF for the International Day against the use of child soldiers (12 Feb).

Children are killed, injured, maimed, abused mentally and sexually. Physical injuries can become lifelong disabilities if not attended to and mental wounds can cause long-term psychological effects. Since 2013,

UNICEF has supported the release and reintegration of 3,785 children associated with armed forces and armed groups in South Sudan.

“It is with frustration and impatience in my voice I’m asking all armed entities to stop the recruitment and the use of children immediately,” said Andrea Suley, UNICEF South Sudan Representative a.i. “I’m calling upon the Government of South Sudan to allocate funding for and start implementing the Action Plan against all the Six Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflict, which was signed last year.”

UNICEF has appealed for US\$4 million for its programme for children associated with armed forces and armed groups in South Sudan for 2021



On the International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers, UNICEF is calling for the use of children in armed conflict to end.

Photo Credit: UNICEF





## NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

### UNMAS FACILITATED UNICEF'S SAFE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER PIPELINES IN JEBEL KUJUR VILLAGE, CENTRAL EQUATORIA

From December 2020 to January 2021, UNMAS supported UNICEF's construction of water pipelines in Jubel Kujur village, Central Equatoria.

The planned pipeline route passed by a previously cleared area, which was once polluted with abandoned ammunition both above and below the ground.

To facilitate UNICEF's excavation of the trenches near this area as well as ensuring the safety and security of the local community, UNMAS worked closely with the project team in acquiring information on the construction plan, designing a site-specific assessment plan, and conducting survey and clearance of the planned excavation route.

UNMAS also delivered explosive ordnance risk education to the local communities and the UNICEF team working on-site so they recognize, avoid, and report explosive hazards they potentially encounter in this project area and beyond.

"Now our community is safer with the cleared land; we can cultivate, and we will have clean water to drink; thank you, UNMAS and UNICEF," said Martin Wani, the Chief of the village.



An UNMAS deminer utilized a metal detector to search for potential explosive items. **Photo Credit: UNMAS**

### IN SOUTH SUDAN AND IN SPREADING INFORMATION ON COVID-19, RADIO (MIRAYA) REIGNS SUPREME



Radio Miraya Presenter. **Photo Credit: UNMISS**

Globally, they might be giants, but in South Sudan the likes of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram don't stand a chance against old-fashioned radio waves – at least not as bearers of news.

A perception study reveals that 84 per cent of the South Sudanese receive "most" of their news on radio. Almost as many, 76 per cent, affirmed that Radio Miraya, run by the peacekeeping mission, is available in their areas. Yet more impressive: 92 per cent of them listen to Miraya every day.

With all restrictions imposed by COVID-19, radio listening has rarely been more relevant, for learners and others alike. Chances are many listened on 13 February, World Radio Day, as well.

**Radio Miraya is a United Nations radio station in South Sudan owned and run by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan**

## THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND WHO TO BUILD THE SECOND PHASE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER IN JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN



Ministry of Health officiating the project. Photo Credit: WHO

The African Development Bank (AfDB) and WHO are to build the second phase of the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) in Juba, South Sudan.

The groundbreaking ceremony was presided over by Honorable Hon. Elizabeth Acuei Yol, Minister of Health, in the presence of the African Development Bank Country Manager for South Sudan, the Head of Cooperation in the Embassy of Japan, the Undersecretary and Directors General in the Ministry of Health, WHO South Sudan Staff and the media.

The project comprising infrastructure, furniture and equipment will strengthen preparedness and response capacities of the country for public health emergencies, in line with the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005. South Sudan continues to experience recurrent epidemic-prone diseases, and other public health and humanitarian emergencies.

“By putting our collective efforts into a PHEOC project, the Ministry of Health will be better placed to respond promptly and effectively to public health risks and public health emergencies of international concern”, said Hon. Elizabeth Acuei Yol.

The ability of the PHEOC to effectively function depends on appropriate design and infrastructure, staffing and command structure, and plans and procedures developed prior to the event. Multi-sectoral coordination will be required and PHEOC should be positioned with such authorities.

In her remarks, Honorable Minister Acuei Yol highlighted the tremendous and ongoing commitments of the Government of South Sudan, the contributions of the African Development Bank and the commitments of WHO and other partners to strengthen

mechanisms for delivering more integrated public health response during emergencies.

Speaking during the ceremony, Mr Benedict Kanu AfDB Country Manager for South Sudan underscored that “the support provided by the Bank is yet another testimony of the Bank’s growing commitment to closely work with the Government of South Sudan, a valued shareholder of the Bank, and other partners, to assist to build health system capacity for emergency preparedness in the country.” Mr Kanu assured the government of the significance the Bank attaches to human development in its partnership with South Sudan and its donors, and indeed, all other African member countries of the Bank to promote inclusive growth and development on the continent. Read [more](#):

### ZIRAA TANNA: DISSEMINATING CLIMATE INFORMATION TO FARMERS THROUGH RADIO IN SOUTH SUDAN

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has launched Ziraa Tanna, a series of talk shows on climate information and agriculture practices that will be broadcasted by local and national radio stations across South Sudan.

Each episode of Ziraa Tanna, Our Farm in Juba Arabic, provides farmers with key weather updates and guidance on proper management of agriculture, livestock, and fisheries in South Sudan. The radio programmes also give tips on the actions that farmers, cattle keepers and fisherfolk should undertake to reduce risks to their livelihoods and maximize their productivity.

The radio shows are produced by FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security of South Sudan with funding from the United Kingdom through the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). All the episodes are regularly uploaded on SoundCloud. For [more](#)

