

July 2021



SOUTH SUDAN MARKS A DECADE OF SOVEREIGNTY

Ten years ago, the people of South Sudan set out on a path of self-rule and independence with the promise of a better future. Many challenges ensued, and progress towards nationhood was stifled by recurring cycles of conflict and incalculable loss of life. In addition to widespread internal displacement, 2.2 million people were forced to flee neighboring countries, placing South Sudan in the top five refugee producing countries in the world.

The 9 July Independence Anniversary is a significant milestone, not only for the country, but also because of its relationship with the United Nations, which began five days after the attainment of independence in 2011. Notwithstanding the many challenges faced over the years, the United Nations has provided unwavering humanitarian and development assistance that has been a crucial lifeline for millions of people in South Sudan and saved countless lives.

To continue providing lifesaving and lifechanging interventions in South Sudan, it is paramount that aid workers can work in a safe and secure humanitarian space, free of targeted attacks which inevitably undermines access to vulnerable populations in need of assistance.

As we look to the future, South Sudan can take pride that it has secured its place as a sovereign UN State among the family of independent nations.

The UN in South Sudan will continue to stand with all South Sudanese in pursuit of a peaceful, prosperous, and stable nation and looks forward to continued close and positive partnership in the years to come.

It is also essential that the international community to look forward, and to help stabilize South Sudan by supporting solutions for displaced communities and scale-up sustainable development, while maintaining a robust emergency response capacity. We, therefore, need to do more to reimagine and recommit efforts towards the country's peace, development, and future.

The United Nations Country Team takes this opportunity to convey to all South Sudanese citizens at home and abroad, its best wishes for health, happiness, peace, and prosperity on the occasion of the 10 years anniversary.

HIGHLIGHTS

- UN in South Sudan starts the process to rollout the New UNSDCF Development Road Map
- UNMAS surveys and clears the Nesitu-Torit Road to ensure safe trade and road construction
- News situation Analysis of Children in South Sudan to inform child friendly policies.



UN IN SOUTHSUDAN STARTS THE PROCESS TO ROLLOUT THE NEW UNSDCF DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP

As the South Sudan UN cooperation framework comes to an end in December 2022, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) has approved a roadmap to commence the preparation of the next UN Sustainable Development Coordination Framework (UNSDCF).

A key activity in the roadmap is the training of stakeholders on UN programming principles **with leaving no one behind as the overarching principle** that informs UN programming, policy and advocacy efforts.

Leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first is the central promise of the 2030 Agenda and represents the commitment of the United Nations to address the multidimensional causes of **poverty, inequalities and discrimination, and reduce vulnerabilities** of the most marginalized in society, including non-citizens.

This training was successfully concluded on Thursday 29th July 2021. It equipped UN staff, government line ministries and members of the civil society with skills to understand the new UNSDCF guidance and be better prepared to support progress towards 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the core programming principles, and their application; theory of change, and how they align to outcomes, outputs and key activities as a coherent thread of the UNSDCF.

“Our ambition is to build on the progress made in the current UNCF focusing on recovery and resilience to support peace building efforts. It is very important that, our plans are informed by comprehensive and quality Common Country Analysis that explains the root causes of development challenges in the country. We also have opportunity to align our support to the NDS conclusions and 3-year vision of the UN Mission” said Arafat Jamal the acting Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator.

The pledge to leave no one behind is underpinned by the other programming principles: **human rights, gender equality and women’s empowerment; sustainability and resilience; and accountability.**

Knowing and implementing these norms and standards, consistently and effectively, in policy, advocacy, programming and engagement with national counterparts, is essential for the success of the UN system on the ground.

The two-day intensive training focused on the following key areas: emerging National priorities from the NDS review, UN reforms and UNSDCF guidelines and development processes, principles and application of:

- Leave No One Behind,
- Accountability and Results Based Management,
- Gender Equality and Women Empowerment,
- Sustainability and Resilience,
- Human Rights Based Approach, Conflict sensitivity, Human -Development -Peace Nexus.

The other 2 major activities on the road map are the development of CCA which is currently being developed through an inclusive process where stakeholders including civil society and government will be involved.

The second process is the evaluation of the current cooperation framework. Lessons learnt from the implementation of the current framework will inform the new framework. The evaluation process will be followed by a prioritization workshop.



NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNMAS SURVEYS AND CLEARS THE NESITU - TORIT ROAD TO ENSURE SAFE TRADE AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The Government of South Sudan has contracted various companies to construct roads across the country which are vital to the movement of people and transport of goods; however due to the legacy of the war with Sudan, some routes are contaminated with anti-tank (AT) mines. In 2020, a bulldozer struck an AT mine while working on the Nesitu-Torit Road, near Jebel Malok village in Central Equatoria and the mine exploded. The operator sustained minor injuries and the machine was damaged.

UNMAS was requested to investigate the accident as well as conduct survey and clearance of the area by the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), on behalf of the Government, and removed and destroyed another anti-personnel (AP) mine in the vicinity of the accident site. Explosive ordnance risk education was also delivered to community members and the construction crew. The local community relayed their fears that mines and other explosive ordnance contaminated the road and areas along it, which pre-dated the accident, and hindered their use of the land for agriculture or small businesses.

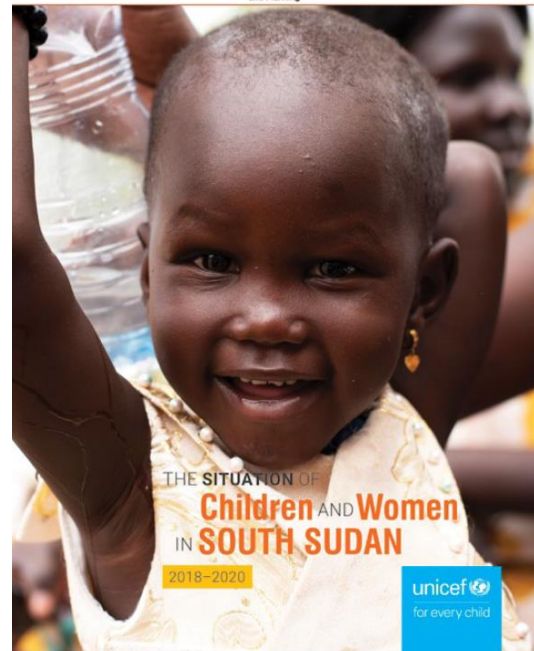
In April 2021, the construction company was able resume their work



An UNMAS team delivering explosive ordnance risk education to a road construction crew on the Nesitu-Torit Road in Central Equatoria.

Photo Credit: UNMAS

NEW SITUATION ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN IN SOUTHSUDAN TO INFORM CHILD FRIENDLY POLICIES



A visual of the SitAn. Photo Credit: UNICEF

On 27 July UNICEF launched the new Situation Analysis of Children and Women of South Sudan under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) and the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW). Authored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with support and the participation of both ministries, this detailed report provides an update of the situation of children and women in South Sudan.

It will provide policy makers with crucial data and recommendations that will inform better planning for national health and development goals, particularly those related to children and women and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To download the report, go to www.unicef.org/southsudan/reports

**UNICEF works to
protect the rights of
every child in South
Sudan**

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND UNICEF PROMOTES BREASTFEEDING TO REDUCE MALNUTRITION

From 1 to 7 August countries worldwide are celebrating World Breastfeeding Week. In South Sudan, the Ministry of Health and UNICEF have joined hands to promote exclusive breastfeeding till the age of six months.

The breastfeeding campaign includes media activities, a billboard campaign, public service announcements, radio programmes etc. Breastmilk is the best nutrition for young children and protects them from diseases and malnutrition.

More about the breastfeeding campaign on www.unicef.org/southsudan



Breast Feeding helps prevent malnutrition among children.
Photo Credit: UNICEF

SOUTH SUDAN LAUNCHES A NATIONWIDE SECOND DOSE OF ROUTINE INACTIVE POLIO VACCINE INTRODUCTION TO PROTECT CHILDREN AGAINST ALL TYPES OF POLIO VIRUS

South Sudan has reached another milestone by launching a second dose of routine Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV2). The immunization services led by the Ministry of Health is supported by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and other partners.

The second dose of routine IPV is essential for children's protection from paralysis in South Sudan, as the country remains at risk for importation of the wild polio virus and other polio viruses as demonstrated by the recent outbreak of the circulating derived polio virus, with 58 confirmed cases, where the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF swiftly responded to reaching approximately 2.5 million children.

The second dose of this vaccine has been introduced to increase protection against all three types of polioviruses. Two doses of IPV will ensure adequate protection against all strains of poliovirus. The IPV first dose was introduced in 2015 and is given to children at 14 weeks.

The second dose of IPV is recommended at 9 months of age, according to the Republic of South Sudan immunization schedule.

[Read more.](#)



A health worker gives an injectable inactivated polio vaccine in Juba. Photo Credit: WHO

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INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

South Sudan celebrates 10 years of independence and whilst this comes with a lot of joy and aspirations, the country's infrastructure is still wanting. The country is in dire need of structurally sound infrastructure that will lead the populations into sustainable development, economic growth and food security.

Funding from the European Union, in partnership with UNOPS, has led to the gradual construction of feeder roads, farm produce markets and WASH systems. The program incorporates capacity building of state engineers from the Ministry of Roads and Bridges - who are embedded in the project activities that seek to support trade and market development in rural communities.

"I am very happy to be able to access this clean water close to my house. I used to collect water from old Aluakluak and that used to take us more than forty minutes before this facility was constructed, but now it is only few minutes from my house and that gives me an opportunity to do other work at home." Akur Marial, Housewife, Aluakluak.

Cognisant of South Sudan's national development plan, this project contributes to alleviation of poverty for local communities, youth empowerment, women engagement and community participation. Materials and labour used in these road construction activities have been sourced from nearby communities, consequently giving the members a sense of ownership and responsibility in addition to a decent income.

Additionally, UNOPS has incorporated the use of geo-cells in feeder road construction - an emerging and innovative technology that ensures the materials are compact and intact, to avoid disintegration during the rainy seasons. This prevents the roads from being washed away, therefore lasting longer and providing all year accessibility in these communities. (Picture 2 attached)

UNOPS and the European Union continue to provide sound, resilient and sustainable infrastructure in Warrap, Lakes, Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states in South Sudan. (Picture 3 attached)

UNOPS helps to drive Sustainable Development, enhance connectivity, provide critical and lifesaving services, and supplies and improve peace and



Akur is happy to be able to access clean water. Photo Credit: UNOPS



The use of geo-cells in feeder road construction ensures that materials are compact and intact to avoid disintegration during rainy season. Photo Credit: UNOPS



A woman heading to the market using the road construction by UNOPS. Photo Credit: UNOPS

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