



WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

WE STAGE A GLOBAL RACE TO HIGHLIGHT THE HUMAN TOLL OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Every year on 19 August, World Humanitarian Day (WHD), we commemorate humanitarian workers who work tirelessly to reach millions of crisis-affected people - women, men, boys, girls, older persons and persons with disability - with assistance and protection. We advocate for their well-being and dignity.

The UN Secretary-General refers to 2021 as the world's 'make-or-break year', and he is calling for a 'breakthrough' to slow the pace of climate change and build resilience to protect the most vulnerable people from increasingly severe and frequent climate impacts. We are joining his push to create a greener, safer, more resilient world. This year's World Humanitarian Day theme is - #TheHumanRace, a global race for climate action for people who need it most. South Sudan is ranked among the five countries in the world who is most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The country regularly experiences torrential rains, seasonal flooding and drought. The climate emergency impacts on the most vulnerable people. The effects of climate change are already visible as bouts of widespread and severe flooding affect people year on year.

Last year, more than a million people were severely impacted by a second consecutive year of major flooding, with women and children most affected.

For many people, their overall food security situation has worsened, and some communities were now facing catastrophic needs.

Climate change also contributes to livestock mortality and a decline in the amount and viability of land farmers can cultivate and reduced harvests.

The traditional seasonal migration routes of pastoralists are affected by the changes to the climate and are further disrupted by and contribute to conflict. At times when searching for pasture and water for their livestock, pastoralists bring their herds into established farming

HIGHLIGHTS

- World Humanitarian Day 2021
- UN conducts a consultative meeting on the PBF programming
- News from UN Agencies, Funds and Programs



Already vulnerable people of South Sudan are suffering from the direct and indirect effects of climate change—from flooding to violence derived by competition over limited resources. As humanitarian needs are growing, humanitarians work around the clock to address them, however, insecurity, violence, attacks against humanitarian personnel and assets, and looting of humanitarian supplies have significantly impacted a much-needed response to people.

Since March, there has been a rise in the number of attacks against aid workers, people serving the community, and assets across South Sudan. Recently, aid workers have been attacked and assets looted in several locations across the country. Every day, aid workers are risking their lives to provide assistance to the most in need in South Sudan. Four aid workers have been killed this year, bringing the number of aid workers killed since 2013 when conflict broke out to 128.

[#WorldHumanitarianDay](#) [#NotATarget](#) [#TheHumanRace](#)

UN CONDUCTS CONSULTATIVE MEETING TO REVIEW PBF STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND THREE NEW PBF PROJECTS

The half day consultative meeting was organized jointly by the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator and the Ministry of Peace Building to provide an opportunity to all stakeholders to acquaint themselves with the Peace Building Fund (PBF) resourcing modality and provide feedback on the 5 five strategic results framework which will inform the Peace Building Fund (PBF) programming.

Speaking at the event, the RCO team leader explained that the meeting was a good avenue for the stakeholders to listen to each other. “This is an opportunity for us to shape the PBF strategic results frame as we exchange ideas, priorities to come up with a consolidated framework that will guide PBF programming in the next 5 years” said the RCO Team leader/Strategic Advisor George Otoo.

The PBF is one of the UN Secretary -General’s financial instruments intended to prevent violent conflict and sustain peace in countries emerging from conflict from conflict. South Sudan has been implementing peacebuilding activities with support from PBF since 2012 and has been granted another eligibility for the next five years.

In his keynote speech, the Under Secretary Ministry of Peace Building Hon. Pia Michael stressed that the meeting would help stakeholder to input and track the performance of the interventions supported by the PBF Fund.” PBF funding should go for the implementation of impact-oriented projects that will support the achievement of sustainable peace, building partnership and bring synergies together” concluded Hon. Pia.

The trend of increased violence against communities, humanitarian organizations and assets cannot continue. We must be able to safely reach people in remote and highly food-insecure areas without the threat of attack. Time is already running out for millions of the most vulnerable people – those who have contributed least to the climate emergency but are hit the hardest. On WHD in South Sudan, we take the opportunity to highlight the vital work of all humanitarian workers and call on authorities to make every effort to protect communities, humanitarian personnel and assets across the country.



Undersecretary Pia and RCO team leader George Otoo during the meeting. PHOTO CREDIT:RCO



A participant shares her views during the consultative meeting. PHOTO CREDIT: RCO



NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNMAS CLEARS THE BENTIU-KUERGUINI ROAD TO ENSURE SAFETY FOR SECURITY OPERATIONS OF UNMISS

The Bentiu-Kuerguini Road, located close to the UNMISS Bentiu Field Office, is critical for peacekeeping patrols and humanitarian partners to access the surrounding areas.

On May 20, an UNMISS patrol reported a suspected anti-tank (AT) mine in the area. Upon the confirmation of the contamination, the road closure hindered the movement of UN, humanitarian, Government entities, and civilians.

At the request of UNMISS, UNMAS immediately commenced clearance and safely destroyed two AT mines.

The team also delivered explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) to local communities in the vicinity, including a primary school and an SSPDF installation.

On June 23, the 8.95 km road was handed over to the community and authorities, ensuring freedom of movement for all traveling the road, including UNMISS patrols.



An UNMAS team delivering explosive ordnance risk education to community members in Kuerguini, Unity. PHOTO CREDIT: UNMAS

UNMISS PEACEKEEPERS FROM BANGLADESH TREAT EYE PROBLEMS AMONG WAU RESIDENTS

Wau veterinarian Francis Bangi has suffered poor eyesight for more than 20 years. Despite all his efforts, local doctors were unable to solve his problem.

Bangladeshi peacekeepers serving with UNMISS were able to help Francis and more than 200 other community members at a free medical camp dedicated to treating patients with vision-related issues.

“I’ve really been suffering. I tried everything from repeatedly changing spectacles to trying every medication I could find but nothing worked,” said Francis.

“This free clinic was exactly what I needed.” Student Alf Adil Osman had been finding it more difficult to read as his vision deteriorated over the past four years. “The peacekeepers tested my eyes, gave me medication and a new pair of reading glasses. I already feel much better,” he said.

The peacekeepers are pleased to provide the service as part of their efforts to build trust and confidence with the communities they are here to support.

“We deployed to South Sudan to protect civilians,” said Lieutenant-Colonel Mizanur Rahman. “Part of our mandate is to support the communities we serve in every capacity we can so that they are able to lead fruitful lives. Providing them with free medical checkups is essential since conflict has hugely impacted the levels and availability of proper healthcare across South Sudan.”



UNMISS peacekeepers from Bangladesh attending to eye patients in Wau. PHOTO CREDIT: UNMISS

NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

AIRBORNE VACCINE: THE FLIGHTS TAKING ON COVID-19 IN SOUTH SUDAN

The World Food Program-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Service takes critical assistance to vulnerable people.

Kicking up dust 10ft high, an aircraft touches down on the airstrip in Pochalla – a remote town – a two-hour flight east of Juba, South Sudan’s capital. The co-pilot jumps out of the plane and hands an icebox to aid workers who whisk it away to a hospital.

This is one of the many journeys carried out by the [United Nations Humanitarian Air Service \(UNHAS\)](#) which has so far transported 30,000 COVID-19 vaccines countrywide on behalf of the Government and in partnership with the World Health Organization and UNICEF.

UNHAS, which is managed by the World Food Program (WFP), is the UN’s humanitarian air service – providing regular passenger and light cargo services to more than 300 humanitarian organizations in 57 locations in South Sudan every month.

Throughout the pandemic, UNHAS has evacuated frontline aid workers from the field and transported personal protective equipment, emergency health kits, ventilators, face shields and surgical masks to protect health workers and enable them to remain in the field.

Denis Makhu, a project officer with the [Norwegian People’s Aid](#) and one of WFP’s implementing partners, is one of many frontline workers in South Sudan who risk their lives to serve vulnerable people.

Having received his first vaccine means he is enabled to continue with his life-saving work. Read more: [Airborne vaccine: The flights taking on COVID-19 in South Sudan | World Food Programme \(wfp.org\)](#)



An UNHAS staff member finalizes boarding documents for vaccines destined for Malakal in the north of the country. PHOTO CREDIT: WFP

IN ALL CONDITIONS, ON ALL TERRAINS: REACHING SOUTH SUDANESE COMMUNITIES CUT OFF BY FLOODS



With vast experience in heavy duty vehicles, FAO staff member Musa Kenyi has become one of the few specialized mechanics and drivers of ATVs, trucks and boats in all of South Sudan. This expertise has been vital to the missions to reach communities isolated by flooding. PHOTO CREDIT: FAO

“I escaped to save myself, now I am saving others,” says Musa Kenyi, a highly skilled senior mechanic and driver with FAO in South Sudan. But All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are his specialty and passion, and he is known throughout the country for this expertise.

This desire for driving large vehicles and learning how to fix them developed during Musa’s time in Malawi, after he fled his country (then known only as Sudan) due to the civil war.

He joined his sister in Lilongwe, Malawi to begin a new life, and there his passion for all-things mechanics was unleashed. After attending trainings at a technical center and acquiring some hands-on experience, Musa became a well-versed mechanic and easily found a job in a transportation company that moved goods all over sub-Saharan Africa.

“My life was on the road,” Musa recalls. “I crossed borders almost every day with my truck. From Lilongwe to Dar-es-Salaam, to Kigali, to Johannesburg and back to Lilongwe.” In these daily travels, Musa drove through the most adverse terrains and weather conditions in Africa.

Musa then moved to Cape Town for a better job, and there he learnt to drive highly digitalized ATVs. Musa became enthralled with the ins and outs of these vehicles. Read more: [In all conditions, on all terrains: Reaching South Sudanese communities cut off by floods | FAO Stories | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)

NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN COLLABORATION WITH WHO CONVENES HEALTH SECTOR LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE TO IMPROVE CAPACITIES FOR EFFECTIVE HEALTH GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

To strengthen governance and leadership capacities at both national and subnational levels towards a more effective and efficient health system, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), with funding from Gavi, the Vaccines Alliance, Government of Canada and European Union and convened a health sector leadership and governance conference in Juba.

The five-day conference was intended to orient and equip the senior Ministry of Health leaders and managers on key health sector governance, leadership and management structures, principles, and skills.

“The people of South Sudan have lacked health services for too long due to the war and instability in the country”, said His Excellency Hussein Abdelbagi, Vice Precedent of Service Cluster, South Sudan. “It’s time to come together and work with development partners to deliver health care services to the people of South Sudan who need it the most”. He also added that the Government of South Sudan has increased the health budget allocation from 1.9% to 10% this fiscal year 2021/2022.

This was the first leadership and governance conference conducted after the formation of the transitional government of national unity in the Republic of South Sudan in 2020. [Readmore: Ministry of Health in Collaboration with WHO convenes Health Sector Leadership and Governance Conference to improve capacities for effective health governance and leadership | WHO | Regional Office for Africa](#)



Remarks by H.E. Hussein Abdelbagi, Vice Precedent of Service Cluster Health Sector during the Leadership and Governance Conference. PHOTO CREDIT: WHO

JOURNALISTS TRAINED ON GENDER RESPONSIVE REPORTING IN JUBA



Journalists at a 2-day training workshop on gender responsive reporting in Juba. PHOTO CREDIT: NPC

UNESCO, in partnership with the National Press Club South Sudan, conducted a capacity training workshop for twenty-five journalists and editors in Juba on 17 and 18 August 2021. The workshop aimed at enhancing skills of media professionals on gender reporting and safety for female of Journalists.

Mr. Julius Banda, UNESCO Country Representative to South Sudan urged journalists to use the media to call for the effective implementation of the agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 of the African Union in the country.

He urged the journalists to use the power of the media to break the negative cultural barriers, attitudes and norms that exacerbate gender inequality in all the areas that our society and our lives cover.

The workshop is part of UNESCO efforts to strengthen capacities of media decision-makers, practitioners, and civil-society groups to support SDG 5 through improved gender and youth representation and portrayal in the media as well as build awareness and capacities of the journalists on gender sensitive reporting.

CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS ARE REAL IN SOUTH SUDAN

Young people living in South Sudan are ranked number seven for most at risk of the impacts of climate change, threatening their health, education, and protection, according to a new UNICEF report ‘*Children’s Climate Risk Index*,’ the first comprehensive analysis of climate risk from a child’s perspective.

In South Sudan, children are highly exposed to heatwaves and vector-borne diseases.

But investments in social services, particularly in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and child health and nutrition can make a significant difference in our ability to safeguard their futures from the impacts of climate change. UNICEF is calling on governments, businesses and relevant actors to act now.



Bor floods. PHOTO CREDIT: UNICEF

JOURNALISTS TRAINED ON MEDIA LAWS AND CODE OF CONDUCT IN JUBA

UNESCO, in partnership with the Union of Journalists of South Sudan (UJOSS), conducted a capacity training workshop for journalists in Juba from 18 and 19 August 2021. The workshop was aimed at increasing understanding and knowledge on the Media Laws and the Code of Conduct for practicing journalists.

Speaking at the opening, Mr. Julius Banda, UNESCO Country Representative urged journalists to acquaint themselves with the laws and regulations especially the Journalists Code of Conduct on the practice of journalism which fosters self-regulation, professionalism, and a step towards building trust between the journalists and their audiences.

He encouraged journalists to use the media to promote peace and achievement of Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

“Use the media to tackle issues on education, promote South Sudanese culture, and gender equality. I also want to remind you that you have the power to empower citizens and ensure engagement of communities in the development process.”

The workshop is in line with UNESCO’s efforts to support freedom of expression, strengthen capacities for journalists and media workers and promote of safety of journalists under UNESCO’s Multi-Donor Program on freedom of expression and safety of journalists.

