



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

UN REITERATES ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH SUDAN ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

On September 21, South Sudan and countries around the world commemorate the International Day of Peace. It is a special day established by the United Nations 40 years ago to strengthen the ideals of peace.

In South Sudan, the journey from war to peace and recovery is underway. Positive progress has been made since the peace deal was signed in 2018 but much more remains to be done to fully implement the peace agreement.

Key benchmarks need to be met, including graduating, and deploying unified security forces, finalizing the permanent constitution, and preparing for elections. The UN family is working alongside the government and people of South Sudan as a partner in this process, providing all possible support – humanitarian, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, recovery, and development.

At least 21 UN Agencies, Funds and Programs are supporting millions of people suffering as a result of flooding, violence, food insecurity and COVID-19.

Providing this assistance is a huge challenge in the face of dwindling resources. The Humanitarian Response plan is seeking \$1.7 billion dollars from generous donors this year to reach at least 6.6 million people with urgent life-saving assistance, out of 8.3 million people estimated to be in need. Food insecurity this year is the worst in a decade and recent floods were the worst in 60 years, affecting 480,000 people.

“We are also seeing subnational conflict across the whole country at a time when, actually, we want to see the political gains that have happened since the unity government came into place last year strengthened,” said World Food Programme Representative and Country Director, Matthew Hollingworth.

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan has almost 19,000 peacekeepers working in locations right across the country. The mission takes a proactive and robust approach to protecting civilians, deploying troops rapidly to areas where there is a threat of violence or conflict is underway. They have established numerous temporary bases and have increased patrolling in hotspots.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Funding for ICPD commitments emphasized at high level meeting
- ✚ UNESCO supports MOHEST to review and develop South Sudan National Science, Technology, and Innovation policy
- ✚ UNMAS surveys and clears surroundings of MSF clinic to ensure safe community access to health care



Civilian peacekeepers carry out many activities to monitor and investigate human rights violations and abuses, to help prevent and resolve conflict, as well as support reconciliation and peace.

During a recent visit to South Sudan, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix reiterated the UN's full support for all efforts to build peace and stability.

“We will be backing every positive step that is taken, and we believe that achieving the ultimate objective of peace and stability requires a very strong and trustworthy partnership between the Government and international partners” he said.

This month, as we mark the International Day of Peace, we ask communities across the country to join the efforts of the UN family to create a more equitable and peaceful future for South Sudan.

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JEAN-PIERRE LACROIX

UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR PEACE OPERATIONS

FUNDING FOR ICPD COMMITMENTS EMPHASIZED AT HIGH-LEVEL MEETING



First Vice President Riek Machar (at the head of table) presides over a meeting with Finance and Planning Minister Athian Ding Athian, Youth Minister Albino Bol Dhieu, and Member of Parliament Majur Babur to his right, and Health Minister Elizabeth Acuei Yol and UNFPA Country Representative Dr. Mary Otieno to his right. **Photo Credit: UNFPA**

First Vice President Riek Machar emphasized the importance of funding to meet the commitments made by the government at the Nairobi Summit on the International Conference on Population and Development in 2019.

With the support of UNFPA, the First Vice President recently convened a high-level meeting to review the progress of the government commitments on advancing sexual and reproductive health in the country, announced during the Nairobi Summit.

While South Sudan is on track in meeting some commitments, Vice President Machar urged the ministers to implement follow through actions to ensure that the country does not fall behind its ICPD targets. He also urged the ministries to allocate funding during their annual budget planning specifically for the implementation of the commitments.

UNFPA Country Representative Dr. Mary Otieno highlighted three key commitments that would greatly impact on the others if met. These are (1) increasing budget allocation for the health sector, (2) passing of the Youth Development Policy and establishment of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, and (3) passing of the Anti-GBV Bill, creation of a Family Law and review of the 2008 Child Act.

Dr. Otieno emphasized the importance of government ownership of the commitments but pledged continued UNFPA support for the implementation of the commitments in pursuit of the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.



NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

UNMAS SURVEYS AND CLEARS SURROUNDINGS OF MSF CLINIC TO ENSURE SAFE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

A large stockpile of explosive items and ammunition were abandoned in the Maruwa village in Eastern Equatoria after heavy fighting occurred in 2015. This past April, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) planned to open a clinic in the village and reported the ordnance which was in a building previously used as a school.

UNMAS conducted a survey and found that the minimum lethal radius of the stockpile was 250m, which would have destroyed most of the village, including the MSF Clinic, the storage of the World Food Program, and the local marketplace.

The UNMAS team removed 1,284 explosive items and 3,118 pieces of ammunition safely. The team also delivered explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) to approximately 600 people in the village.

On 21 August the task was completed, ensuring safe access to the clinic and other public facilities for villagers and MSF medical staff.



The UNMAS team delivering explosive ordnance risk education to the Maruwa village community in Boma, Eastern Equatoria.
Photo Credit: UNMAS

UNESCO SUPPORTS MOHEST TO REVIEW AND DEVELOP SOUTH SUDAN NATIONAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION (STI) POLICY (2022-2032).



Participants at the South Sudan National STI Policy Validation Workshop. Photo Credit: UNESCO

UNESCO supported Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology (MoHEST) to undertake technical review and development of the draft South Sudan Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Policy.

Following the completion of review and consultations with relevant stakeholders, a Draft South Sudan National Policy on STI 2022-2032 has been validated by key stakeholders, who provided appropriate recommendations and endorsed the draft policy.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, the sciences, and culture.

UNICEF PROVIDES CASH INCENTIVES TO ENSURE TEACHERS REMAIN IN SCHOOL

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) to provide 33,000 primary school teachers with a one-time cash incentive, totaling **21,400 SSP** each. The payments cover a period of three months through the OUTREACH project in collaboration with the MoGEI and with support from the European Union (EU).

As teaching is one of the least paid jobs in South Sudan, UNICEF is working with partners to ensure that teachers remain in school and continue to teach our children.

The first phase of this program included the Return to School Initiative where 33,000 teachers will be paid a one-time cash incentive to support a return to school and resume regular teaching activities for the period from May to July 2021.

During the second phase in November 2021, 7,450 (1,950 qualified and 5,500 volunteers) teachers in rural areas, will be paid monthly cash incentives to support regular teaching activities.

Due to inflation, salaries became unstable and was compounded by COVID-19, and many teachers were not paid for some time. UNICEF seeks to stem the flow of school dropouts and further learning losses in 2021.



Teachers are the most important school-level factor for improving learning and supporting children's wellbeing; investing in their professional motivation is essential to ensure quality education.

Photo Credit: UNICEF

SOUTH SUDAN'S FIRST OXYGEN PLANT COMES ON STREAM AT JUBA HOSPITAL TO HELP FIGHT COVID-19

South Sudan has begun producing oxygen following the successful installation of the country's first oxygen plant at Juba Teaching Hospital, set up with funding from the African Development Fund.

The oxygen plant was procured as part of measures to support the country's ongoing COVID-19 response with a grant from the African Development Bank Group's concessional lending arm. The project was implemented by the World Health Organization (WHO) on behalf of the government.

With a generation capacity of 2,500 liters per day and the ability to refill around 72 D-type oxygen cylinders daily, the plant will be a centralized production and supply hub for remote locations. The equipment included 240 cylinders and four years of service and accessories. The \$980 000 oxygen plant project cost includes the procurement and construction of a facility to house the plant.

South Sudan's Health Minister, Honourable Elizabeth Achuei said the installation of the plant was good news to the nation and would bolster the country's preparedness for oxygen in

anticipation of the third wave of COVID-19. "South Sudan will no longer be importing oxygen from neighboring countries, and this means oxygen will be supplied to facilities on time and more lives will be saved," Honourable Achuei added. Read more: [South Sudan: Country's first oxygen plant comes on stream at Juba hospital to help fight COVID-19 | WHO | Regional Office for Africa](#)



DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Elaboration of UNSDCF:

As part of elaboration process for the next UNSDCF, the RCO organized a consultation dialogue with the 10 co-chairs of Sector Working Groups to discuss key sector challenges and possible priority areas. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) has contracted a consulting firm to commence the independent evaluation of the current UN Cooperation Framework. The overall objective is to support greater learning about what works, what does not and why in the context of a UNCF. The evaluation will provide important information and platform for engaging stakeholder to provide inputs and feedback on UNCF implementation for strengthening future programming and results at the country level, specifically informing the planning and decision-making for the next UNCF programme cycle and for improving United Nations coordination at the country level.

New Joint Programmes

The UNCT endorsed six joint programmes to support continue implementation of UN Cooperation Framework 2019-22.

- Provision of Essential Health Services Project (PEHSP) in Upper Nile and Jonglei states [UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNAIDS, IOM]
- South Sudan Pastoralist Livelihood and Education Program [FAO, IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP]
- Agriculture Production for Food and Nutrition Security [FAO, WFP, IFAD, UNWOMEN, UNICEF]
- Prevention of and Addressing gender-based violence in South Sudan [UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, IOM, FAO, UNESCO, UNHCR, WHO]
- Governance and Access to Justice [UNDP, UNMISS, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR]
- Strengthening Capacity of South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics for conducting the National Population and Housing Census [UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, WHO, FAO, IOM, UNHCR, UNDP, WFP, UNWOMEN, UNESCO].

PBF / PBSO

- The UNCT also endorsed a 5-year PBF Strategic Results Framework that focusses on three outcomes 1) South Sudan enjoys more democratic, accountable, and just national institutions which foster increased public confidence; 2) The return of refugees and displaced persons is more peaceful and durable; and 3) Violence is reduced and intra- and inter-group understanding is enhanced at the local level. The SRF is coherent and aligned to the Ministry's strategic framework for peacebuilding and implementation of the R-ARCSS at both national and sub-national level.

Triple Nexus Adviser

The UNCT has recruited a Triple Nexus Adviser. Among other areas, the adviser will Identify opportunities, and provide support to new and existing mechanisms, to strengthen joint approaches and planning across the triple nexus; Promote national ownership of initiatives across the nexus and help build partnerships in this area; Contribute actively to joint learning and ensure that lessons learned and best practices – especially experiences of H-D-P multi-year planning, are shared among practitioners and the donor community in order to strengthen expertise and understanding of inter-linkages and added value of nexus-based funding.