THE UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM
CORE CONTRIBUTION
TO RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE IN SOUTH SUDAN
2019–2020
Introduction

“The United Nations Country Team is pleased to present its Core Contribution to Recovery and Resilience in South Sudan. It represents a selection of flagship initiatives from the United Nations Cooperation Framework. These initiatives illustrate our efforts to create positive change and to make meaningful contributions to the peace process in South Sudan. Over the next 18 months, we will work with all partners to achieve results that support the peaceful and prosperous future this country deserves.”

Alain Noudéhou

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator

The Core Contribution: A critical component of the UNCF

The Contribution supports the peace process and will facilitate South Sudan's transition to recovery and long-term development. These Contribution initiatives – anchored in the three-year United Nations Cooperation Framework (UNCF) (2019–2021) and complemented by the Humanitarian Response Plan (2019) – represent a snapshot of current UNCT efforts. They are sequenced to create results, considering both development and humanitarian objectives. The flagship initiatives contribute to the strategic outcomes of the National Development Strategy as well as priority Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These activities are also fully in line with the objectives of the reform of the United Nations Development System, which calls for the strengthening of the operational efficiency of United Nations country teams.

Together, the Contribution's flagship initiatives are valued at US$366 million. The initiatives make up a critical part of the three-year UNCF, which has a budget of US$650 million. Funding of United Nations recovery and resilience activities has increased significantly in the last few years with the improved country context. In 2018, UNCT members delivered US$172 million, which was 8 per cent more than in 2017. For 2019, the UNCT expects to increase its total delivery to US$272 million under the UNCF.

The current UNCF was developed through extensive consultation and was signed by the UNCT and the Government of South Sudan in December 2018. The UNCF's strategic focus centres on four priority areas:

i) Building peace and strengthening governance;
ii) Improving food security and recovering local economies;
iii) Strengthening social services; and
iv) Empowering women and youth

All of these are represented in this Contribution. The total scope of the UNCF consists of a broad range of forward-looking programmes, which are implemented by the 18 United Nations entities of the UNCT in collaboration with government counterparts at the national and state levels.
These activities are also fully in line with the objectives of the reform of the United Nations Development System, which calls for the strengthening of the operational efficiency of United Nations country teams.
II. Flagship initiatives and expected results

1. Fight gender-based violence
2. Provide essential health services
3. Educate children and youth
4. Ensure food and nutrition security
5. Improve governance and access to justice
6. Area-based economic recovery
7. Support families returning from displacement
8. Prepare for a full national census
9. Empower women
1. UNCT FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

Fight Gender-Based Violence

The UNCT Contribution is to reduce Gender-Based Violence by strengthening national capacities to prevent, protect and respond to gender-based violence and improve the legal, policy and community response.

Impact

- Strengthened mechanisms for gender-based violence prevention and response.
- Reduced vulnerability of women and change in harmful social norms on gender-based violence among men and boys.

Partners


Total budget

US$30 million, of which US$11.7 million has been funded.
2. UNCT FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

Provide essential health services

The UNCT Contribution is to deliver cost-effective, high-impact essential health services to areas that have experienced the strongest effects of conflict in the country and assist in assessing and monitoring the accessibility of health services and service readiness.

EXPECTED RESULTS BY THE END OF 2020

2 million people reached with high-impact health services:

- **100,000** PREGNANT WOMEN
- **100,000** CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE
- **400,000** CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE

**Mapping of availability and readiness of health services and facilities throughout South Sudan**

**Impact**
- Improved community well-being, enhanced social accountability and greater social cohesion.
- Improved delivery of health services and better policy decision-making informed by health baseline data.

**Partners**
- UNICEF leads the initiative to provide health services in conflict-affected areas in partnership with UNFPA (for provision of family planning commodities), the World Bank and the International Committee of the Red Cross and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.
- WHO leads the component related to access to health services and strengthening of sector coordination in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the National Bureau of Statistics.

**Total budget**
- US$62.7 million has been budgeted, and US$62.3 million is available as part of a World Bank programme implemented on behalf of the Government, with US$400,000 for the assessment of access to health services still required.
3.

**UNCT FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE**

Educate children and the youth

The UNCT Contribution is to strengthen capacities and build partnerships for education to reduce the number of out-of-school children and improve educational outcomes.

**EXPECTED RESULTS BY THE END OF 2020**

- **110,000** out-of-school children provided with infrastructure
- **75,000** children in 150 schools supported to stay in school
- **1,250,000** textbooks
- **12,000** trained teachers
- **Support** psychosocial support available for conflict-affected children and adolescents
- **30,000** children and youth from pastoralist communities provided with learning opportunities

**Impact**

- Children and young people aged 3–18 years affected by conflict and emergencies provided with inclusive and equitable quality education and learning opportunities.
- Risk of adolescents and young people engaging in destructive social behaviour significantly reduced.
- Very high gender gap in literacy reduced.

**Partners**

FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF and WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of General Education and Instruction.

**Total budget**

US$26.8 million for 2019–2020, all of which has been funded.
4.

UNCT FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

Ensure food and nutrition security

The UNCT Contribution is to enhance household food production and strengthen capacities to absorb and adapt to shocks.

EXPECTED RESULTS BY THE END OF 2020

This initiative will provide an effective response to the acute food and livelihood crisis faced by 6.45 million people.

Impact
- Reduced dependency on food aid and improved capacity to absorb shocks.
- Reduced vulnerability of female-headed households.

Partners
FAO leads this initiative in partnership with WFP and in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

Total budget
US$115 million has been budgeted, with US$50 million already funded.
5.

**UNCT FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE**

**Improve governance and access to justice**

The UNCT Contribution is to strengthen capacity for effective governance and support the judiciary to implement reforms and the provisions of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan.

**EXPECTED RESULTS BY THE END OF 2020**

- **Impact**
  - Capacitated structures and institutions that contribute to implementing the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan and the peace process.

- **Partners**
  - UNDP leads the economic governance-related part of this initiative in partnership with the World Bank and African Development Bank, while the justice activities are led by UNDP in partnership with UNMISS, UNFPA and UN Women and in collaboration with the Ministries of Commerce, Industry and Investment; Petroleum and Mining; Finance and Economic Planning; Cabinet Affairs; Parliamentary Affairs; Internal Affairs; Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development; and Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

- **Total budget**
  - US$45 million, with US$11.3 million available.

- **Institutional Readiness Assessment Complete**
- **The number of cases adjudicated by the mobile court doubled**
- **The number of justice and confidence centres increased from 4 to 8**
- **70 experts with special skills deployed**
- **11 legal and institutional frameworks updated**
6.

UNCT FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

Area-based economic recovery

The UNCT Contribution is to assist the recovery of economy in Yambio through a comprehensive approach to rebuilding trust and re-establishing access to basic services; restoring productive capacities; and nurturing effective partnerships.

Impact

- Economic recovery in the Yambio area. Strengthened institutions and social cohesion, accountable public finance management, access to justice and basic services, and improved production capacity.

Partners

FAO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNMISS, UNOPS, UN Women and WFP in collaboration with the State of Gbudwe government and state ministries.

Total budget

US$54 million, with US$22.5 already funded.

EXPECTED RESULTS BY THE END OF 2020

70 COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS AND 14 TERRITORIAL AGREEMENTS ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

REHABILITATION OF 20 HEALTH CENTRES, 140 WATER SOURCES AND 30 SCHOOLS

PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND LAND ACCESS TO 11,000 HOUSEHOLDS

STRENGTHENING OF 60 COOPERATIVE UNIONS AND CREATION OF 7,000 JOBS

REHABILITATION OF 140 KILOMETRES OF ROAD AND 15 LOCAL MARKETS

COORDINATED SAFETY NETS TO 1,400 HOUSEHOLDS
7.

UNCT FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE
Support the return of displaced families

The UNCT Contribution is to support the safe, voluntary and dignified return of displaced people to allow them to rebuild their lives and return to productive activities.

Internally displaced persons will have been able to return quickly, with focused humanitarian support, to 10 counties in South Sudan through a six-month allocation from the Central Emergency Response Fund that provides:

- Targeted food and non-food assistance for returnees and improvements in health, education, protection and WASH services in 10 counties
- Response in a more holistic way to returnees
- Comprehensive investment to fill gaps in local social infrastructure

**Impact**
- Safe, voluntary, dignified and durable return of internally displaced persons allows people to rebuild their lives and resume productive activities.
- Returnees and host communities are able to recover and to consolidate peace.

**Partners**
FAO, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, supported by OCHA.

**Total budget**
US$11 million already funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund.
Prepare for a full national census

The UNCT Contribution is to support efforts to prepare a full national census and define the national populace and electorate by collecting population and administrative data.

Impact
- Improved and updated national sampling frame established, in preparation for a full national census and future surveys.
- Improved and better coordinated social and economic policy-making and programming.

Partners
UNFPA leads this initiative in partnership with FAO, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics; the Ministries of Health; Finance and Planning; Agriculture; Housing, Lands and Urban Development; Education; Interior; Defense; National Security; and Humanitarian Affairs.

Total budget
US$754,000, with $54,000 already funded for preliminary work.
9.

UNCT FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

Empower women

The UNCT Contribution is to promote women’s empowerment and gender equality.

EXPECTED RESULTS BY THE END OF 2020

- Gender experts deployed to institutions under the Peace Agreement
- 50 women’s savings and loans cooperatives established
- 86 women leaders trained in customary court law
- 5,000 women with access to skills training (including for climate change adaptation), assets and grants to improve livelihoods
- 495 women trained in transformational leadership, peacebuilding and mediation skills

Impact

- Women’s participation and leadership in peace, socio-economic development and politics enhanced, and 35 per cent representation of women in all governance structures under the terms of the Peace Agreement achieved.
- Women, especially returnees, have access to land and small grants to re-establish livelihoods.

Partners

UN Women, FAO, IOM, UN HABITAT, UNDP, UNEP and UNESCO in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, the Women’s Parliamentary Caucus and the National Transformational Leadership Initiative.

Total budget

US$20.4 million, of which US$6 million has been funded.
Beyond this first set of flagship initiatives under the Contribution for 2019–2020, four new initiatives are being proposed for consideration:

- **Promote Agricultural Transformation to Reduce Long-Term Food Insecurity and Diversify the Economy**
- **Create Livelihood Opportunities for Youth and Promote the Engagement of Youth in the Peace Process**
- **Further Explore How to Extend Basic Services in Areas of Return**
- **Reduce the Risks of Natural Disasters through Policy Support and Building the Capacities of Local Communities**

This is not an exhaustive list of the key pipeline initiatives but it reflects the UNCT’s current plans to respond to South Sudan’s evolving challenges.
IV.

How will we achieve these results?

1. Align the UNCT’s activities with national development priorities and the SDGs
The UNCF takes into account the strategic objectives of South Sudan’s National Development Strategy as well as the priorities outlined in South Sudan’s inaugural SDG report, notably SDG 16 and its focus on building a peaceful, just and inclusive South Sudan. As part of the implementation of the UNCF and to enhance coordination, the UNCT holds consultations with its national counterparts twice a year to discuss priorities going forward and to report on results achieved during previous periods. Regular dialogue is also held with civil society to enhance cooperation and improve joint delivery.

2. Working with the donor community
The Contribution is made possible with the support of a broad range of donor partners, both in terms of their proactive technical engagement with the UNCT and their significant and sustained financial contributions. The United Nations Resident Coordinator and heads of agencies hold regular dialogue with members of the donor community.

These donors include Canada, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), China, Denmark, the European Union, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), Germany, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), the Global Partnership for Education, the Health Pooled Fund, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), the Trust Fund for Reconciliation, Stabilization and Resilience in South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.
3. Build and maintaining strong partnerships

The Contribution relies on strong and inclusive partnerships for analysis, data generation, financing, coordination and joint ownership by:

**Joint programming and advocacy through the Partnership for Resilience and Recovery (PfRR).** The PfRR convenes an inclusive group of local and international non-governmental organizations, bilateral donors, UNMISS and United Nations agencies. The PfRR is a new way of doing business and collaborating across the humanitarian development nexus, to help communities cope with the multiple shocks they face. Through area-based programming, cooperation with local stakeholders, effective advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, learning and data collection the PfRR delivers targeted, context-specific assistance in areas that are ready for this. Using this model, joint programmes have been launched in Yambio and Aweil, and activities and consultations are ongoing in Torit and Wau. Four United Nations agencies have come together to form the joint Resilience Analysis, Measurement and Monitoring Unit in support of the PfRR, and to provide and coordinate resilience analysis and measurements.

Continued collaboration between the UNCT and UNMISS on support for peacebuilding, including in capacity-building for reconciliation and durable peace and in preventing inter-communal violence. A joint Trust Fund for Reconciliation, Stabilization and Resilience in South Sudan has been established. United Nations agencies and UNMISS also collaborate in support of the National Dialogue and other initiatives to promote dialogue and reconciliation, as well as strengthening access to justice, including through the mobile court approach. The UNCT and UNMISS also work together to raise human rights awareness and build capacity of rights-holders and duty-bearers.

**Working with international financial institutions,** notably the African Development Bank and the World Bank, has led to innovative approaches in the health, social protection and agricultural sectors, as well as in economic management and governance. The partnership with the World Bank is based on strong and unique complementarities and synergies in the current context in South Sudan and aims to achieve maximum joint impact and effectiveness.

4. Leverage humanitarian and development responses

In the spirit of the New Way of Working, the Contribution enables recovery and resilience efforts to leverage the comprehensive humanitarian efforts of the Humanitarian Country Team through the Humanitarian Response Plan for South Sudan. Humanitarian actors assisted more than 5 million people last year with lifesaving support. These efforts, which have been facilitated by improved access, form a solid basis upon which recovery and resilience efforts can be implemented. Humanitarian–development cooperation under the New Way of Working is implemented by:

- Drawing on the knowledge and expertise of the entire United Nations family to conduct joint analysis and develop a common understanding of challenges.
- Collaborating to implement joint activities that enhance resilience and recovery.
- Pursuing collective outcomes – leveraging the UNCT and Humanitarian Country Team efforts to achieve joint results that bring both short- and long-term impacts.

Two collective outcomes are being pursued through both the UNCF and the Humanitarian Response Plan:

- Preventing gender-based violence: By 2021, a minimum package of services and activities for prevention, risk mitigation and response to gender-based violence will have been rolled out in 80 per cent of priority locations, with a focus on safe and timely access to quality case management and psychosocial services, as well as building capacity to provide those services.
- Improving food security: By 2021, at least 10 counties will have moved from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification emergency level (IPC 4) to crisis level (IPC 3) or lower levels of food security, with an outlook for remaining below the emergency threshold.
5. Effective coordination of the UNCT and resource mobilization

Coordination of the collective action of the UNCT will be carried out through:

- Regular consultations among the heads of United Nations agencies to set strategic direction and for joint decision-making: The UNCT normally meets on a biweekly basis and is in turn supported by several sub-teams that provide input and expertise, including the Programme Management Team, the Operations Management Team and the United Nations Communications Group. The UNCT coordinates all these activities to maximize its collective impact in support of national development aspirations and progress towards the SDGs, and to promote human rights and gender equality.

- Alignment of agency programmes to the UNCF: All United Nations agencies fully align their activities to the UNCF, and heads of agencies support the collective effort for more effective impact.

- New measures to strengthen efficiency and value for money: Through a new business operations strategy, a set of joint goals for cost-saving and increased operational efficiencies based on common services and co-location is being implemented.

- Resource mobilization: Achieving the results targets of the Contribution and those of the broader UNCF will require adequate and timely funding for the flagship initiatives, as well as other UNCT activities. The UNCT develops strategic and funding partnerships with bilateral and multilateral donors; international financial institutions and pooled funding mechanisms, including:
  - The Health Pooled Fund in South Sudan
  - Partnership for Education – a global multi-partner facility
  - The Peacebuilding Fund at the United Nations Headquarters
  - The Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Reconciliation, Stabilization and Resilience in South Sudan
  - The Human Security Trust Fund at the United Nations Headquarters
  - The SDG Fund at the United Nations Headquarters
  - The private sector and private foundations.
With this Core Contribution, which is part of the overall programme being implemented by United Nations agencies under the UNCF, the UNCT is well prepared to support the people of South Sudan as the country transitions to recovery, and long-term development progresses. The activities of the UNCF will change and adapt to the evolving country context to deliver results for the greatest positive impact.