



## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

### ORANGE THE WORLD: END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NOW!

The year 2021 marks the 30th anniversary of the Global 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender Based Violence, inspired by the vision and history of the Campaign which is focused on raising awareness about violence against women (VAW). Program activities to end gender-based violence (GBV) are a major focus of the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare in partnership with the United Nations in South Sudan.

While this year's global theme is "Orange the World: End Violence Against Women Now!" South Sudan adopted "Take Action, Be Accountable: End Violence against Women and Girls, a departure from raising awareness to upholding accountability. The national theme aims at holding everyone accountable.

The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and the United Nations in South Sudan in collaboration with other stakeholders jointly hosted series of activities as they launched the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence on 25 November. The activities will run till 10<sup>th</sup> December marking Human Rights Day. Over the past two years, the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic cannot be overlooked as gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence against women and girls, teen-age pregnancies and other violations of women's rights have witnessed an upsurge in South Sudan and around the world. According to the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBV IMS) report, a total of 6,237

Incidents of GBV were reported from January to September 2021 in nine states out of the ten in South Sudan, of these, 97% of survivors are female.

It is worth noting that women and girls are disproportionately affected by GBV incidents; the report also identifies physical assault as the topmost type of GBV standing at 36%, followed by emotional abuse at 25% sexual violence (rape) at 18% and sexual assault standing at (4%) giving a cumulative account of 22% of the reported incidents. The data further shows, 28% of survivors are below the age of 18 years, bringing out the complex and perpetual issue of violation of child rights, as child sexual abuse and early marriage account for 31% and 11% of the incidents perpetrated against children respectively.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 16 DAYS ACTIVISM
- UN women provides Gender Sensitivity trainings for uniformed forces
- On world children's day, Children call upon adults to respect the right of every child to be a child Programs



The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and United Nations together launched the Campaign through an art exhibition 'Noor-Le-Humon' / 'Spotlighting Them'. This exhibition put on spotlight the issues of gender-based violence. The exhibition is curated by South Sudanese artists to depict issues of gender-based violence and generate public discussion to find collective solution.

The Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare in partnership with UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, are holding a three-day joint conference with the National Traditional Chiefs and the Government to discuss the roadmap for ending child marriage, to shed light on different approaches including consistent and sustained awareness raising on GBV prevention and response.

Activities to mark the launch of the 16 Days of Activism were opened to the public. People had an opportunity to participate in the various platforms including online attendance, and conference with people with disabilities, discussion forum with men to strengthen the role of men and boys, film shows on child marriage, and will culminate on 10 December, through Human Rights Day, with a Policy Dialogue on Access to Health for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in South Sudan.

In South Sudan, GBV is a result of complex factors but often driven by gender inequality, deeply rooted patriarchal norms, and civic and inter-communal conflicts in the country.

It hinders women's participation in peace and nation building and undermines efforts to achieve sustainable peace and development.

GBV is a serious human rights violation and a significant global health and security issue.

Studies suggest that the rates, perpetrators, and types of GBV fluctuate during conflict; evidence shows that sexual violence against both women and men increases during conflict.

While the South Sudan Penal Code provides for the criminalisation of several forms of sexual violence, customary courts decide on most of these cases, often with unfavourable results for survivors.

**Gender based violence is one of the most persistent, widespread, and horrific human rights violations in the world. It is so widespread that someone around you could possibly be suffering in silence – that person could be a family member, a co-worker, a neighbor.**





## NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

### UN WOMEN PROVIDES GENDER SENSITIVITY TRAININGS TO UNIFORMED FORCES

As part of the greater goal of gender mainstreaming the South Sudan security sector reform, UN Women has conducted gender sensitivity trainings for uniformed forces in five locations across the country. The trainings aimed at increasing security personnel's knowledge of gender, equipping them with skills to respond to gendered needs, and promoting gender equality in the security sector, ensuring women's representation in all security institutions and at all levels.

The trainings, which took place in Rumbek, Kuajok, Bentiu, Malakal and Juba, drew participants from the South Sudan's uniformed forces, including People's Defense Force, National Security Service, National Police Service, Prisons Service, Wildlife Service, and Fire Brigade (Civil Defense Force). There were participants from all ranks and different units, with more than 60 percent of the participants being women. The trainings were conducted with the support from UNMISS, UNDP, and the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare.



### UNMAS CLEARANCE IN NGULERE, CENTRAL EQUATORIA CREATED SAFE PLAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN

In Ngulere, Central Equatoria, legacy contamination by cluster munitions and abandoned small arms ammunition (SAA) had long posed threats to the community members, separating their village in half, hampering the return of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and hindering villagers from cultivating the land as well as playing on the ground. UNMAS commenced clearance operations in August 2021, safely removing and destroying 22 items of explosive ordnance (EO) and 5,866 SAA. The cleared land totaled 84,501 m<sup>2</sup>—equivalent to 12 football pitches.

On 30 September, upon completion of clearance, UNMAS South Sudan hosted its first event of the global campaign, 'Safe Ground,' in the village. Turning a former minefield into a safe playing field, UNMAS and its partners celebrated by organizing exhibition football matches between teams from the village school. Goal posts, pinneys, and footballs were handed over to the school for future games. Concurrently, explosive ordnance risk education was conducted for the pupils, their parents and other community members providing informative and life-saving messaging.

### UN WOMEN CONDUCTED AN ANALYSIS OF SOUTH SUDANESE LAWS FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE



During August-October, UN Women conducted a mapping and analysis of South Sudan's national laws from a gender perspective. The mapping aimed at identifying national laws, policies, and judicial decisions for analysis to determine their direct and indirect effects on women and girls' rights with a focus on revealing gaps. The gender analysis looked at twenty-seven (27) national laws and found that twenty-five (25) discriminate against women and girls and need to be amended.

Various stakeholders, including UN agencies, international organizations, civil society organizations, women's groups, and key line ministries, were involved in the process. A validation workshop to review the draft report was held on the 11th of November and drew participants from four selected states, embassies, civil society, and key ministries.

The mapping and analysis of the national laws was done as a part of a greater goal of eliminating all discriminatory legislation in South Sudan.



*Safe ground exhibition football match by local students on a field released after clearance in Ngulere village.*

**Photo Credit: UNMAS**

## ON WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY, CHILDREN CALL UPON ADULTS TO RESPECT THE RIGHT OF EVERY CHILD TO BE A CHILD

20 November marks the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. On that day the world celebrates World Children's Day, a day for children by children. For this year's World Children's Day, children of South Sudan call upon adults to allow them to live a childhood uninterrupted from child labour, marriage, and recruitment by armed groups. For many children in South Sudan, the basic right to childhood is not respected.

Children in South Sudan are given responsibilities beyond what should be expected of a child. Children must work, look after their siblings. Many are married before they turn 18 and become mothers. Many children are abused, used as soldiers by armed groups and exploited for sexual purposes. They have limited time to be a child, go to school and play with their friends.

To celebrate World Children's Day, the State Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, UNICEF and partners have conducted a series of events coordinated by UNICEF Child Reporters, including a celebration event on 20 November with authorities, UN agencies, donors, and children. Children took over the UNICEF Representative and the State Minister of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare, as well as several radio stations

UNICEF South Sudan's external walls along one of Juba's main roads were painted blue and now feature child rights messages. Billboards were set up and public service announcements aired on radio. Many similar activities were conducted in the states.

I am a child. I am not a wife, soldier, or labourer. For every child, a childhood

Read more: [UNICEF South Sudan](#)



## THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WITH SUPPORT FROM WHO STRENGTHENS EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE READINESS IN THE HIGH-RISK COUNTIES OF MOROBO AND YEI RIVER, CENTRAL EQUATORIA

To strengthen the capacities to detect, investigate and respond to suspected Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), WHO supported the Ministry of Health to deploy a multidisciplinary team of epidemiologists, clinicians and infection prevention and control (IPC) officers, and risk communication experts to Morobo and Yei River counties of Central Equatoria State to strengthen coordination, surveillance, IPC, and risk communication activities for prevention, detection, investigation and response to a threat of cross-border spread of the EVD outbreak.

During the mission, the team implemented several EVD outbreak preparedness priority activities including reactivating the emergency response coordinating taskforce, reconstituting, and training the county rapid response teams, conducting risk communication, social mobilization and community engagement activities and galvanizing community support for prevention. Health facility visits were also conducted to strengthen capacities for EVD case detection and reporting infection prevention and control as well.

In addition, the team also conducted a one-day Tabletop simulation exercise and a half-day of drills on donning and doffing of personal protective equipment for the county rapid response teams. The exercise aimed at enhancing rapid response teams' operational readiness by familiarizing participants with the EVD Standard Operating Procedures on rapid response team activation, deployment, and field investigation procedures. Read more: [South Sudan: Ministry of Health with support from WHO strengthens Ebola Virus Disease preparedness and response readiness in the high-risk counties of Morobo and Yei River, Central Equatoria state | WHO | Regional Office for Africa](#)





## BEYOND PRESTIGE: FAO LIVESTOCK SHOW IN KUAJOK PROMOTES COMMERCIALIZATION OF COWS, SHEEP AND GOATS

After suspension due to the pandemic, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has resumed livestock shows activities in South Sudan.

With funding from the Kingdom of Norway and the South Sudan Reconciliation, Stabilization and Resilience Trust Fund (RSRTF), FAO in partnership with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries organized a Livestock Show and Agricultural Exhibition in Kuajok on 17 and 18 November. The show brought together Warrap State cattle, goat, and sheep owners as well as farmer groups who displayed their produce

Government officials, representatives of UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and donor representatives including Canada, China, Norway, Switzerland, and USAID witnessed livestock keepers competing based on best productive traits of their animals.



FAO introduced livestock shows in South Sudan for the first time in 2019 in Rumbek as a means of promoting peaceful interaction between communities while encouraging commercialization of livestock.

Photo Credit: FAO

FAO introduced livestock shows in South Sudan for the first time in 2019 in Rumbek as a means of promoting peaceful interaction between communities while encouraging commercialization of livestock by emphasizing quality over quantity. Read more: [Beyond prestige: FAO Livestock Show in Kuajok promotes commercialization of cows, sheep, and goats | FAO in South Sudan | Food and Agriculture](#)

## HOW WFP IS WORKING WITH FARMERS TO COUNTER CLIMATE CHANGE

Tucked away in the northwestern corner of South Sudan, the village of Ayok-Hong, in Northern Bahr el Gazal State, is hot throughout the year. Unpredictable rainfall over the past few years has put precious property, crops and livestock at risk.

As the climate crisis sweeps across the world, developing countries that contribute the least to global warming are bearing the brunt of its devastating impact.

Record floods for three consecutive years have displaced thousands of people, drowning hectares of crops, livestock, and villages. Such climate shocks are compounding an already fragile food security situation in a country where 7.2 million people, 60 percent of its population, are going hungry.

In response to the climate crisis, the [World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#) is implementing programmes to support countries and communities to anticipate climate hazards, restore degraded ecosystems and protect the most vulnerable against climate extremes.

“Climate change is a reality we must contend with as the future requires climatically conscious farmers,” says Matthew Hollingworth, WFP Country Director in South Sudan. “Bringing communities up to speed on the latest agronomical practice is critical as we expand our livelihoods activities to enable families to produce their own food and sell any surplus at market.”

WFP, in partnership with Irish humanitarian agency Concern Worldwide, is supporting 900 farming families in Ayok-Hong village to improve their food security and to build resilience against climate shocks such as floods and drought in agriculture.



Abuk uses the water from shallow wells to irrigate her crops in the dry season. Photo Credit: WFP

*Training in 'climate smart' agricultural techniques allows people to feed their families while creating a small income*

## THE UN COUNTRY TEAM IN SOUTH SUDAN PRESENTED THE DRAFT FINDINGS FROM THE UN COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS AND UNCF 2019-2022 INDEPENDENT EVALUATION TO STAKEHOLDERS

The UNCT held a multi-stakeholder workshop on 25 November to present the findings from CCA and the independent evaluation of the 2019-2022 United Nations Cooperation Framework (UNCF).

The workshop was attended by 130 key stakeholders including the Government, Development Partners, Civil Society, NGOs, Private Sector, Media, and UN Agencies, and UNMISS.

The conclusions from the workshop will inform the formulation of the next UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the period 2023 - 2025, which will replace the current UNCF due to end in December 2022.

The new UNSDCF will be anchored to the South Sudan Revised National Development Strategy (R-NDS), and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The CCA provides a snapshot of the country's context and dynamics of development in the country to inform the programmatic.

The CCA identifies current development issues and challenges and their underlying causes. The workshop enabled stakeholders to validate the key challenges and issues identified in the CCA, as well as the findings and recommendations from the 2019-2022 UNCF evaluation.

In his opening remarks Mr. Meshack Malo RC/HC ai remarked:

“Findings from the independent evaluation of the UNCF and CCA, along with the emerging findings of the National Development Strategy and the 2030 agenda will inform the priorities of the next UN Sustainable Cooperation Framework for the period of January 2023 to December 2025”

“Achieving sustainable development in South Sudan is not about our individual entities, but what we can do together for the people of South Sudan. The Framework will profoundly guide our working between 2023-2025” stressed Meshack.

The next step after the CCA/UNCF evaluation workshop will be the UNCT Visioning workshop on 30 November 2021. The outcome of the workshop will be the definition of the impact level change that the UN wishes to see and is able to contribute to in South Sudan by 2030.

This will be followed by the Strategic Prioritization Workshop on 7-9 December 2021, where the same participants/stakeholders of the validation workshop will be invited to deliberate and agree on broad priority areas for the 2023-2025



*The Representative of the food and agriculture organization, RC ai speaking during the opening of the workshop. Photo Credit: RCO*



*Participants following the workshop proceedings. Photo Credit: RCO*



*Panelists contributing to the discussion at the CCA presentation workshop. Photo Credit: RCO*