# Table of Contents

**October 2016**

- **04** Preface
- **07** South Sudan in brief
- **10** The United Nations in South Sudan
- **14** Outcome 1. Enhancing the resilience of communities
- **22** Outcome 2. Strengthening social services for the most vulnerable
- **38** Outcome 3. Strengthening peace and governance
- **46** Outcome 4. Reinvigorating local economies
- **54** Outcome 5. Improving the status of women and youth
Only five years after gaining independence, South Sudan is embroiled in one of the most devastating humanitarian crises in recent memory. Thousands of civilians have been killed, maimed and abused; their homes damaged or destroyed. Half of all hospitals and one third of all schools are no longer functioning. More than 2.5 million people have been forced to flee and more than 6 million urgently require life-saving assistance, including access to food, safe drinking water and health care.

Yet even in the face of such horrific circumstances, the people of South Sudan are hopeful – not only for the end of war and the promise of peace, but also for reconciliation, recovery and sustainable development. They want to rebuild the damaged hospitals, schools and water infrastructure; to clear the land contaminated with mines, and to strengthen the resilience of their communities. They are committed to laying the foundations for a more prosperous and equitable future for all.

We at the United Nations know this future is possible. We have seen this country through a hard-won independence and we are continuing to respond to the humanitarian crisis. We know from experience that by leveraging the comparative advantages of each United Nations agency, fund and programme operating in South Sudan, by delivering together as one, based on solid national ownership, we can facilitate this recovery process and help the people of South Sudan to realize their nation-building goals.

Under the Interim Cooperation Framework 2016-2017, 20 United Nations organizations have come together to support South Sudan to overcome the challenges stemming from the humanitarian crisis and foster a fundamental transformation towards peace and prosperity. The United Nations System in South Sudan is working hand-in-hand with our national partners to build the resilience of the communities affected by war and displacement; to strengthen the delivery of and access to basic social services for the most vulnerable; to nurture peace and good governance; to reinvigorate local economies; and to improve the status of women and youth.

This book contains stories, voices and images that show the joint efforts of the United Nations and its partners in South Sudan. It is our hope that it will encourage you to join us in helping rebuild safe communities, heal the wounds of the past few years, and foster a stronger and safer future for the people of South Sudan.

Eugene Owusu,
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in South Sudan
Juba, October 2016
South Sudan is a landlocked country in East Africa that shares borders with the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda.

The world’s newest nation, South Sudan is a landlocked country in East Africa that shares borders with the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda.

South Sudan in brief

South Sudan is home to an estimated 11 million people and covers a land area of 640,000 square kilometres. The nation became an independent state in 2011.

The topography of South Sudan is largely open plains, marked by hilly regions and thick equatorial vegetation. The Nile River traverses the country and flows through some of its regional centres, including the capital city Juba, facilitating trade, administration and urbanization. South Sudan holds impressive natural resources, including oil, gold and silver, and its large fertile lands produce a range of staple crops. The climate is characterized by high humidity and plenty of rainfall.

Development context

During the period under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (2005–2011), South Sudan made significant gains towards establishing state structures and consolidating its state-building goals. Infant and under-five mortality rates decreased between 2006 and 2010, malnutrition rates dropped and access to safe drinking water increased.

In December 2013, civil conflict broke out, leading to humanitarian crisis and development challenges that reversed many of the gains made during the first years of independence. In 2015, South Sudan ranked 169 out of 188 countries on the Human Development Index. Decades of war have led to high mortality rates, low literacy rates and low income levels.

Key Events

1899–1955 Sudan is under joint British-Egyptian rule
1956 Sudan becomes independent
1955–1972 First Sudanese civil war
1972 Southern Sudan Autonomous Region formed
1983–2005 Second Sudanese Civil War
January 2005 Signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement
October 2005 Alliance Government of Southern Sudan formed
January 2011 South Sudanese vote for an independent state
July 2011 South Sudan becomes independent, United Nations General Assembly admits South Sudan as the 193rd member state
December 2013 The South Sudanese Civil War breaks out
August 2015 Signing of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
April 2016 Formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity
July 2016 Crisis in Juba breaks out

"South Sudan can turn its fortunes around. The tenacity of the South Sudanese is an asset and the opportunities are plenty."

Eugene Owusu, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in South Sudan
South Sudan is faced with myriad challenges, some of which arise from historical marginalization, conflict and underdevelopment; and others that are driven by more recent crises, including the armed conflict that broke out in December 2013, the subsequent spread of fighting across the country and the crisis of July 2016. The multiple, interlocking threats – armed conflict, inter-communal violence, economic decline, disease and climatic shocks – have generated massive humanitarian needs across the country.

**THE POPULATION IS UPROOTED**

More than 2.5 million people – one in every five people in South Sudan – have been forced to flee their homes since the conflict began. This includes 1.6 million internally displaced people (50% of whom are children) and over 1 million refugees in neighbouring countries.

**HUNGER IS WIDESPREAD**

A total of 4.8 million people (one in every three people in South Sudan) were severely food insecure in July 2016. Food insecurity is further aggravated by seasonal variations and worsening food production conditions. More than 180,000 children under age 5 are acutely malnourished, including 21,000 who are severely malnourished.

**INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES ARE EXTENSIVE**

A total of 110 million square metres of land is known to be contaminated by landmines and explosive remnants of war. Thousands of homes have been ruined during the fighting. In three counties of Unity State alone, more than 5,000 structures were destroyed or damaged between April and October 2015. As of September 2015, more than half of all health facilities in Lower Nile were no longer functioning.

**SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IS PERVERSIVE**

The women’s rights advocacy group has made a consistent call for a continued reports of widespread sexual violence, including rape and gang rape, particularly in Wau and Juba, during and following the July clashes.

**THOUSANDS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES**

Mortality has been exacerbated by acute malnutrition and disease: more than one in five countries surveyed (10 out of 46) have crude death rates above the threshold of 1 death per 10,000 people per day. The number of deaths from preventable diseases remains alarmingly high, with near as the largest recorded killer.

**RISING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN SOUTH SUDAN**

- **Population**: More than 2.5 million people – one in every five people in South Sudan – have been forced to flee their homes since the conflict began. This includes 1.6 million internally displaced people (50% of whom are children) and over 1 million refugees in neighbouring countries.
- **Hunger**: A total of 4.8 million people were severely food insecure in July 2016. Food insecurity is further aggravated by seasonal variations and worsening food production conditions. More than 180,000 children under age 5 are acutely malnourished, including 21,000 who are severely malnourished.
- **Infrastructure Losses**: A total of 110 million square metres of land is known to be contaminated by landmines and explosive remnants of war. Thousands of homes have been ruined during the fighting. In three counties of Unity State alone, more than 5,000 structures were destroyed or damaged between April and October 2015. As of September 2015, more than half of all health facilities in Lower Nile were no longer functioning.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence**: The women’s rights advocacy group has made a consistent call for continued reports of widespread sexual violence, including rape and gang rape, particularly in Wau and Juba, during and following the July clashes.
- **Mortality**: Mortality has been exacerbated by acute malnutrition and disease: more than one in five countries surveyed (10 out of 46) have crude death rates above the threshold of 1 death per 10,000 people per day. The number of deaths from preventable diseases remains alarmingly high, with near as the largest recorded killer.
The objective of the ICF is to stabilize the situation in South Sudan and build the necessary foundations for long-term development by strengthening capacities and fostering policy dialogue at national and local levels. The following five ICF outcome areas were developed in close consultation with the Government, donors and civil society:

- Enhancing the resilience of communities
- Strengthening social services for the most vulnerable
- Strengthening peace and governance
- Reinvigorating the local economy
- Improving the status of women and youth

Following independence, and as a first step towards state-building, the Government of South Sudan launched the first South Sudan Development Plan (SSDP), with the broad engagement of the United Nations, covering the interim period from independence to the end of 2013.

The Government and the United Nations formulated the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012-2013 to support the key priorities laid out in the SSDP. Following the onset of the civil conflict in 2013, the UNDAF was extended and adjusted to respond to the new situation and United Nations humanitarian agencies, funds and programmes, together with non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, responded to the increasing humanitarian needs.

Interim Cooperation Framework 2016-2017

The 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict represents an important new roadmap for peacebuilding and development in South Sudan at a time when humanitarian response is a critical aspect of the United Nations Country Team focus. The Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF) 2016–2017 was developed to serve as the United Nations’ strategic plan for recovery during this transitional period. Under the ICF, the United Nations is actively supporting the Transitional Government of National Unity to formulate a new national development framework, which will be closely aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.
THE UNITED NATIONS CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN SOUTH SUDAN

Members of the United Nations Country Team contribute to a principled, effective and timely humanitarian response in South Sudan. The response is coordinated within the Humanitarian Country Team, supported by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and includes the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donor partners. When crisis breaks out, the Humanitarian Country Team works together to deploy rapid response teams, assess needs, take action, secure funds, negotiate access and raise awareness of the situation.

Through mechanisms such as the annual Humanitarian Response Plan, a management tool that articulates a shared vision of how to respond to the expressed and assessed needs of affected people, the Humanitarian Country Team supports country-based decision makers and helps to raise funds for the response in a coordinated manner.

The Humanitarian Country Team also manages the Common Humanitarian Fund, a pooled funding mechanism that supports the allocation and disbursement of donor resources to meet the most critical humanitarian needs identified through the Humanitarian Response Plan. This improves the humanitarian response by providing funds in a timely and predictable way; ensuring funds are channeled to jointly agreed priorities; helping to respond to both anticipated and unforeseen needs; and strengthening coordination and the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordination.

“Even with generations being born and raised in war; with a total absence of roads to reach the most vulnerable; with unspeakable challenges, we are hopeful. We believe that together, we can help South Sudan get stronger every day, and support the South Sudanese people to reach their full potential.”

Eugene Owusu, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in South Sudan

Humanitarian action
Decades of war and conflict, as well as poor governance and low investment in agriculture and social services, have led to widespread vulnerability in South Sudan.

Enhancing the resilience of communities

Communities and individuals facing displacement, food insecurity, disease outbreaks and destroyed livelihoods are struggling to withstand additional shocks and stresses, including the consequences of conflict, and natural disasters.

Outcome 1

- Over the past 12 years, more than 1.1 billion m² of contaminated land have been cleared of mines by UNMAS and nearly 3 million explosive devices have been destroyed.
- An estimated 4.8 million people are facing emergency levels of food insecurity. This figure could deteriorate further due to seasonal variations and changing food production conditions.
- An estimated 2.1 million people received emergency livelihood kits provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2015, including inputs for planting and fishing.
The United Nations in action

The United Nations is strengthening the capacities of communities to absorb and adapt to shocks and stresses. Information is being generated on a range of issues, such as mine action, agriculture, education, meteorological trends, gender and land rights, to strengthen the systems essential to a resilient population. This includes:

Establishing systems to strengthen resilience,
including agricultural extension services, the national early warning system for natural disasters and a social protection scheme, and mainstreaming gender in all disaster response and resilience-building efforts.

Supporting communities to reduce disaster risk and adapt to climate change
through targeted capacity building efforts, including for national and local actors and institutions, pastoralist communities, and youth and children associated with armed forces and groups.

Addressing the risk associated with mines
by clearing land of explosive remnants of conflict, educating communities on mine risk to support behaviour change and developing the capacity of the National Mine Action Authority and the organized forces.
For millions of agro-pastoralists in South Sudan, livestock is their most important asset. Since the outbreak of conflict, however, pastoralist livelihoods are increasingly under threat, as insecurity and displacement disrupt cattle markets and decimate cattle populations. Thanks to FAO-supported improvements in the cold chain system for livestock vaccines, veterinarians are now able to take their vaccines and knowledge on the road, to keep animals alive and productive in hard-to-reach and insecure areas.

In 2015, the food security situation in South Sudan continued to deteriorate, particularly in conflict-affected areas of Greater Upper Nile.

In 2015, the food security situation in South Sudan continued to deteriorate, particularly in conflict-affected areas of Greater Upper Nile.

In 2015, the food security situation in South Sudan continued to deteriorate, particularly in conflict-affected areas of Greater Upper Nile.

THE EMERGENCY LIVELIHOODS RESPONSE PROGRAMME

In 2016, the food security situation in South Sudan continued to deteriorate and spread to areas not previously affected in the Bahr el Ghazal and the Equatoria regions. By July, an estimated 4.8 million people were facing crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity, representing an 80% increase since September 2014.

The FAO Emergency Livelihood Response Programme was developed in January 2014 following the outbreak of fighting to protect vulnerable, conflict-affected populations – such as farmers, fishers and pastoralists – against hunger, malnutrition and destitution. Despite access restrictions, FAO has stayed and delivered results for millions of people as part of the humanitarian response. In 2015, these included:

- 2.1 million people received emergency livelihood kits, including for planting crops and fishing.
- 19,000 survival kits were reinforced with critical inputs, including seeds, fishing hooks and line.
- 138,325 rapid response kits, including vegetable seeds and fishing tools, were airlifted to families in hard-to-reach areas.
- More than 3 million animals were vaccinated and received medical treatment.
- More than 1,000 community-based animal health workers received training in all states and in Abyei Administrative Area.

In 2015, the food security situation in South Sudan continued to deteriorate, particularly in conflict-affected areas of Greater Upper Nile.
BUILDING LASTING HOMES FOR THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED

The neighborhood of Gurei was built to accommodate the influx of internally displaced persons and returnees. Basic infrastructure, including water and sanitation, is completely lacking in Gurei, however, and there are no public schools – the only school is private and unaffordable for most parents.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has taken on the challenge of building essential infrastructure in Gurei as part of the United Nations effort to strengthen the resilience of communities. Already, water tanks and water points serving as many as 10,000 people have been built and local people have been trained to build boreholes. Makeshift toilets have been established in each area of the camp, and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has contributed with child-friendly toilets designed to prevent accidents and abuse.

The project also looks to the longer-term, providing flood prevention activities for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees, as well as livelihood support for urban agriculture, including the distribution of agricultural tools to community members. Communities are receiving training in water management and hygiene promotion to improve overall community living standards.

CLEARING LANDMINES AND PROVIDING MINE RISK EDUCATION

Years of conflict in South Sudan have resulted in widespread explosive hazards throughout the country. Nearly 8 million people live in counties where the presence of exploitable remnants of war threatens their safety.14 Each year, dozens of people are maimed and killed in accidents, communities are prevented from receiving humanitarian aid, and development is stalled due to the threat of mines.

Since 2004, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has used small explosive detection dogs and aerial demining equipment to remove landmines and unexploded ordnance from the country.15 This effort is part of the humanitarian response. Over the past 12 years, the Mine Action Programme has released more than 1.1 billion square meters of contaminated land, opened nearly 20,000 kilometers of mine-free corridors, and destroyed nearly 3 million explosive devices.

This achievement has not only reduced risks of injury, but has also opened access to land and water resources and livelihood activities, so that communities can support agricultural livelihoods and grow crops for consumption. The effort has also paved access routes, enabling the delivery of vital humanitarian aid to hard-to-reach areas and the expansion of Protection of Civilians sites.
In South Sudan, decades of protracted conflicts and slow development progress have resulted in weak social service systems and low delivery capacity in the social service sector.

**Outcome 2**

**Strengthening social services for the most vulnerable**

With a maternal mortality rate of 780/100,000 live births and a 27% adult literacy rate, the country’s health and education indicators are among the worst in the world. More than 1 million people (children and pregnant and lactating women) are acutely malnourished and 4.4 million lack access to safe water and basic sanitation.

**RESULTS**

Since the onset of the conflict, UNICEF and partners have used family tracing to reunify nearly 4,000 children with their families as part of the humanitarian response. With more than 8,800 children yet to be reunified with their loved ones, this work remains essential.

More than 1 million people – 20% of them children under the age of 5 – have received life-saving assistance from UNICEF, WFP and their partners in South Sudan through 82 joint emergency missions to communities hardest hit by conflict.

Only 41% of the population has access to safe water.

One in every three people or more is experiencing severe food insecurity, including 6 million children and pregnant and lactating women.

South Sudan has the highest proportion of out-of-school children globally.

Only 12 trained midwives, one anaesthetist and one obstetrician/gynaecologist are available for every 200,000 people.

With a maternal mortality rate of 780/100,000 live births and a 27% adult literacy rate, the country’s health and education indicators are among the worst in the world. More than 1 million people (children and pregnant and lactating women) are acutely malnourished and 4.4 million lack access to safe water and basic sanitation.
The United Nations in action

The United Nations is working to strengthen the coverage of essential services and the quality of service delivery to improve access to essential programmes in health, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, child protection and social protection. Key to this effort is promoting equitable access to social services by focusing on the inclusion of vulnerable groups, particularly children, women and marginalized youth and addressing the root causes of poor service provision. This includes:

**Increasing the quality of education and promoting literacy**

at primary and secondary levels and providing skills training to teachers, adults and marginalized youth. Efforts will also be made to strengthen education systems and develop education policies and programmes targeting vulnerable groups.

**Reducing morbidity and mortality resulting from malnutrition**

by assisting pregnant women through joint programmes for the treatment of acute malnutrition and blanket supplementary feeding, as part of the humanitarian response, as well as institutional, technical and policy support in treatment and prevention.

- **Supporting the achievement of universal health coverage,** and fostering the participation of the population in health promotion, disease prevention and community-based activities. This includes rehabilitating health facilities in conflict-affected areas, building the capacity of health staff, strengthening health financing and information management, and scaling up HIV treatment and prevention.

- Midwife trainees attend deliveries and help women in labour at the Juba Teaching Hospital, supported by UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA.

- The El Sabaah Children’s Hospital in Juba is the only paediatric hospital in South Sudan. The hospital itself is in a dire state, with limited resources, no electricity and no fuel generator. WHO and UNICEF are helping by training health workers, facilitating treatment of malnutrition and supporting vaccination efforts. UNICEF also recently renovated the paediatric ward for malnutrition.
The conflict in South Sudan has compounded an already weak education system, which provided primary school for only 42% of school-aged children and saw only a 10% completion rate. UNICEF has partnered with the Government and with local and international NGOs on the ‘Back to Learning’ campaign. In 2015, approximately 400,000 South Sudanese children whose schooling was interrupted by the conflict were able to return to their studies. This included 200,000 children in conflict zones and 200,000 children in non-conflict areas. Training was also provided to 4,000 teachers and early childhood development facilitators, as well as 1,500 parent-teacher association members.

For those children sheltering in camps for internally displaced persons or in host communities devastated by the war, where no education services are available, UNICEF is providing a comprehensive package of education support for school-aged children as part of the humanitarian response. This includes pre-school and basic education, catch-up programmes for adolescents and psychosocial support in the classrooms.

“Quality education is the single most important element for a country to develop economically, socially and culturally. It is also a critical human right.”
Jonathan Veitch, former UNICEF Representative in South Sudan

“Children get back to learning in South Sudan

Providing child protection support to conflict-affected children,

including the reintegration of children recruited into armed groups, psychosocial support to children in distress, the identification, registration, tracing and family reunification of separated and unaccompanied minors, and the development of a national birth registration system.

Strengthening social protection

through joint analyses and vulnerability monitoring, advocacy for stronger social sector budgeting, investments in inclusive social service delivery systems, and the establishment of an effective social safety net at central and state levels.

Facilitating equitable and sustainable access to safe water and basic sanitation, and promoting hygiene with special attention to the needs of children and mothers.

Facilitating child-friendly spaces and providing psychosocial support and medical services at child-friendly spaces and at educational facilities.

“Quality education is the single most important element for a country to develop economically, socially and culturally. It is also a critical human right.”
Jonathan Veitch, former UNICEF Representative in South Sudan

Bakhita Abas, 21, already has two children. She is a senior in high school and unmarried, but wants to make sure that she doesn’t get pregnant again before graduation. When she heard about family planning, she realized she could be in control of birth spacing.
“The rapid response missions have been standing between people and starvation in several parts of the country. They facilitated an integrated response where it was most needed,” explains Joyce Luma, WFP Representative and Country Director in South Sudan.

As of early 2016, more than two years following the outbreak of conflict, 1.6 million people were displaced in South Sudan. By July 2016, an estimated 4.8 million people were facing acute food and nutrition insecurity. Populations cut off from humanitarian assistance remain at serious risk of famine. 22 The UNICEF-WFP Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) contributes to the humanitarian effort by providing life-saving assistance to children and families affected by conflict and ensuring hard-to-reach locations where partners are unable to adequately respond to the critical level of need. In addition to providing immediate services, the RRM establishes a framework of humanitarian access, which enables partners to establish longer-term presence in disaster-affected locations.

Between March 2014 and March 2016, UNICEF, WFP and partners reached more than 1 million people, including more than 200,000 children under 5 through 82 multi-sectoral RRM missions. RRM includes general food distributions, preventive blanket supplementary feeding, curative nutrition services, immunization, and support for access to safe water, education and child protection services. The RRM has played a key role in accelerating humanitarian responses, expanding coverage, rehabilitating the presence of humanitarian actors and broadening overall humanitarian space. Preliminary data suggests that the scale up in operations – facilitated through the UNICEF-WFP RRM – has helped to stabilize the fragile food security and nutrition situation in South Sudan.
THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING TOGETHER: MAINSTREAMING HIV PREVENTION INTO EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Life in the Protection of Civilians sites can be particularly difficult for people living with HIV. In overcrowded camps, medical facilities struggle with logistical challenges, including shortages of antiretroviral medicines and overstretched staff, often resulting in long wait times for patients. As part of the humanitarian response, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are working to mainstream HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for vulnerable internally displaced persons into existing services offered in the Protection of Civilians sites in Malakal, Bentiu and Bor. Comprehensive reproductive health services, including prevention, treatment, care and support for HIV, sexually transmitted infections and gender-based violence, have so far been initiated at ‘one stop centres’ in Malakal and Bentiu. In 2015, these sites conducted more than 6,700 antenatal care consultations and more than 500 facility-based deliveries and provided treatment for 370 cases of sexually transmitted infections.

IMPROVING SANITATION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

The protracted conflict in South Sudan has compounded the need for safe water, sanitation and hygiene within an already vulnerable population. Only 13% of South Sudanese people have access to improved sanitation, 85% of the population practice open defecation and only 41% have access to safe water.

With funding from the Government of Japan, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is helping to construct river ports to improve humanitarian access, sanitation and drainage systems, benefitting internally displaced persons and host communities in Mingkaman and Bor. Despite persistent insecurity, the construction effort has already improved access to humanitarian supplies and health conditions for internally displaced persons through fixes to the drainage system and removal of stagnant water. Nearly 125,000 internally displaced persons stand to benefit from the project in Mingkaman and 70,000 will benefit in Bor.

PROTECTING THE NEXT GENERATION

In areas directly affected by armed conflict, a dramatic degradation in human security and breakdown of the social fabric have worsened what was already a weak protective environment for children. More than 876,000 children are believed to be psychologically distressed due to violence and displacement, while nearly 13,000 girls and boys have been identified and registered as unaccompanied or separated and are at risk of further abuses.

During the first half of 2016, UNICEF and partners reached more than 36,000 children with critical child protection services designed to reduce psychosocial distress and the risk of further abuses. Nearly 4,000 unaccompanied children were reunited with their families and more than 44,000 men, women, boys and girls received sexual violence prevention and response services.
HELPING TO ASSIST AND PROTECT REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

In South Sudan, UNHCR works with South Sudan’s Commission for Refugee Affairs and more than 20 national and international humanitarian organizations to deliver protection and humanitarian assistance to over 261,000 refugees. The vast majority of refugees are Sudanese from South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, with smaller numbers from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia.

UNHCR’s key priorities are to improve the living conditions of refugees in camps; build better shelters for families; ensure high standards in health care, education, water and hygiene; provide documentation such as refugee certificates and identification cards; and help men and women who fled refugee in South Sudan become more self-sufficient. As lead agency of the Protection Cluster, UNHCR is also part of the multi-agency response to the 1.6 million internally displaced people.

In 2015, UNHCR recorded the following key achievements for refugees and internally displaced persons in South Sudan as part of their contribution to the humanitarian effort:

**REACHING THE MOST VULNERABLE IDPs WITH CRUCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- **54,149** vulnerable IDPs identified and assisted through mobile response teams
- **166,165** vulnerable IDPs provided with non-food items
- **1,632** vulnerable IDPs provided with emergency shelters

**BUILDING MORE DURABLE SHELTERS**

- **20,694** new arrival refugees provided with shelter materials
- **3,731** transitional shelters completed
- **42** new blocks built in Ajuong Thok camp

**HELPING TO ASSIST AND PROTECT REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS**

- **51,715** refugee children attended primary school
- **2,528** refugee children attended secondary school
- **107** classrooms constructed

**FACILITATING LEARNING AND THE CONTINUATION OF EDUCATION**

- **20,694** new refugee arrivals registered
- **10,052** refugees relocated within South Sudan
- **1,292** refugee children reunited with their families

**PROVIDING SANCTUARY TO REFUGEES FLEEING CONFLICT**

- **135,620** refugees treated for malaria
- **25,108** refugees vaccinated against polio and measles
- **7,173** safe deliveries

**TREATING MALNOURISHED CHILDREN AND WOMEN**

- **14,560** refugee children enrolled in supplementary feeding programmes
- **10,530** pregnant/lactating mothers treated for malnutrition
- **5,635** refugee children treated for malnutrition

**HELPING REFUGEES LEARN NEW SKILLS**

- **119,728** refugees provided with seeds and agricultural tools
- **26** boreholes constructed
- **3,725** hectares of agricultural land given to refugees
- **196** refugees graduated from vocational training

**INVESTING IN WATER AND SANITATION SOLUTIONS**

- **26** boreholes constructed
- **3,725** average litres of water available per refugee per day
- **1:16** average latrine to refugee ratio

**TRADING MALNOURISHED CHILDREN AND WOMEN**

- **10,530** pregnant/lactating mothers treated for malnutrition
- **5,635** refugee children treated for malnutrition

**PROVIDING SANCTUARY TO REFUGEES FLEEING CONFLICT**

- **15,715** refugee children attended primary school
- **2,528** refugee children attended secondary school
- **107** classrooms constructed
Protection of Civilians in South Sudan

When violence broke out in South Sudan in December 2013, tens of thousands of internally displaced persons fled insecure areas and sought refuge at United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) peacekeeping bases in Juba, Bor, Akobo, Bentiu, Malakal and Melut. For the first time in history, the United Nations opened the doors of its compounds to the affected population. UNMISS and humanitarian partners prepared six Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites to house the displaced.

As of mid-2016, UNMISS is protecting more than 200,000 internally displaced persons throughout the country. United Nations agencies are complementing these efforts by providing housing, nourishment, water, sanitation, education and livelihoods services. These combined efforts have saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

Beyond the emergency, humanitarian partners are helping families living within PoC sites rebuild their livelihoods and develop skills and competences that will help them secure better futures once they return home.

“It is a critical part of the Mission’s mandate to protect civilians, both inside the United Nations camps and outside.”
Ellen Margrethe Løj, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in South Sudan

Key statistics (as of December 2015)

- Wau: 146,101
- Bentiu: 27,987
- Bor: 2,283
- Juba: 1,111
- Malakal: 47,731
- bentiu: 1,111

TOTAL IDPs UNDER PROTECTION IN SOUTH SUDAN: 240,000
FOOD DISTRIBUTION
Families gather at the Juba PoC site to receive their monthly food rations. All IDP beneficiaries at the Juba PoC site also receive value vouchers that can be used to purchase food from local traders to facilitate dietary diversity while stimulating the local economy. Food assistance is a central aspect of the life-saving humanitarian assistance provided by WFP and partners at PoC sites throughout South Sudan.

SAFE WATER
UNICEF and partners coordinate the trucking of 6,000 litres of water every day in 150 trucks. In Juba, the PoC site is completely dependent on outside water trucked into the camp on a daily basis. If water doesn’t arrive for any reason – security, violence, political unrest – the population is left without. In addition to guiding trucks and loading water points, UNICEF and partners also train communities to keep water containers clean and sanitary.

HEALTH SERVICES
Teshome Adebabai, the only doctor serving the entire camp, works out of a health clinic run by the International Medical Corps with support from UNICEF, WHO, and UNFPA. He and his staff carry out a range of procedures at no charge in makeshift conditions. Internally displaced persons receive all services free of charge, including in-patient, out-patient, nutrition, trauma, counselling, vaccination, pre-natal follow up and deliveries. Communal women are performing in a makeshift operating theatre made of plastic sheeting that runs on a fuel generator.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT
UNDP provides livelihood training to internally displaced persons living in the Juba PoC site on trades such as food production and sewing/tailoring. The food production trainees sell their yields to WFP, which uses the products to provide food assistance to the camp population.

SANITATION AND HYGIENE
Given the high population density, one of the main challenges at the PoC sites is enabling good sanitation and hygiene, particularly for children. UNICEF and partners are maintaining makeshift latrines throughout the camp including in the PoC site to ensure hygiene and safety. These efforts not only improve sanitation, but also offer job opportunities for beneficiaries to keep the areas clean and spread hygiene messages within the community.

EDUCATION
Primary and secondary students attend class in straw huts at the Juba PoC site. A wide range of ages includes children preparing for life. Though the schools offer refuge for displaced children, the makeshift huts of straw and plastic sheeting provide little protection during the rainy or hot seasons.

MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY
UNMISS peacekeepers monitor who enters and exists the camp. After the Mission opened its doors to people seeking refuge and protection, UNMISS took on the physical security of the Protection of Civilians sites, which are densely populated and consist of shanty’s facilities. As of early 2016, more than 12,000 UNMISS peacekeepers are stationed across all PoC sites in South Sudan.

MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY
UNMISS peacekeepers monitor who enters and exists the camp. After the Mission opened its doors to people seeking refuge and protection, UNMISS took on the physical security of the Protection of Civilians sites, which are densely populated and consist of shanty’s facilities. As of early 2016, more than 12,000 UNMISS peacekeepers are stationed across all PoC sites in South Sudan.

HEALTH SERVICES
Teshome Adebabai, the only doctor serving the entire camp, works out of a health clinic run by the International Medical Corps with support from UNICEF, WHO, and UNFPA. He and his staff carry out a range of procedures at no charge in makeshift conditions. Internally displaced persons receive all services free of charge, including in-patient, out-patient, nutrition, trauma, counselling, vaccination, pre-natal follow up and deliveries. Communal women are performing in a makeshift operating theatre made of plastic sheeting that runs on a fuel generator.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT
UNDP provides livelihood training to internally displaced persons living in the Juba PoC site on trades such as food production and sewing/tailoring. The food production trainees sell their yields to WFP, which uses the products to provide food assistance to the camp population.

SANITATION AND HYGIENE
Given the high population density, one of the main challenges at the PoC sites is enabling good sanitation and hygiene, particularly for children. UNICEF and partners are maintaining makeshift latrines throughout the camp including in the PoC site to ensure hygiene and safety. These efforts not only improve sanitation, but also offer job opportunities for beneficiaries to keep the areas clean and spread hygiene messages within the community.

EDUCATION
Primary and secondary students attend class in straw huts at the Juba PoC site. A wide range of ages includes children preparing for life. Though the schools offer refuge for displaced children, the makeshift huts of straw and plastic sheeting provide little protection during the rainy or hot seasons.

MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY
UNMISS peacekeepers monitor who enters and exists the camp. After the Mission opened its doors to people seeking refuge and protection, UNMISS took on the physical security of the Protection of Civilians sites, which are densely populated and consist of shanty’s facilities. As of early 2016, more than 12,000 UNMISS peacekeepers are stationed across all PoC sites in South Sudan.

HEALTH SERVICES
Teshome Adebabai, the only doctor serving the entire camp, works out of a health clinic run by the International Medical Corps with support from UNICEF, WHO, and UNFPA. He and his staff carry out a range of procedures at no charge in makeshift conditions. Internally displaced persons receive all services free of charge, including in-patient, out-patient, nutrition, trauma, counselling, vaccination, pre-natal follow up and deliveries. Communal women are performing in a makeshift operating theatre made of plastic sheeting that runs on a fuel generator.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT
UNDP provides livelihood training to internally displaced persons living in the Juba PoC site on trades such as food production and sewing/tailoring. The food production trainees sell their yields to WFP, which uses the products to provide food assistance to the camp population.

SANITATION AND HYGIENE
Given the high population density, one of the main challenges at the PoC sites is enabling good sanitation and hygiene, particularly for children. UNICEF and partners are maintaining makeshift latrines throughout the camp including in the PoC site to ensure hygiene and safety. These efforts not only improve sanitation, but also offer job opportunities for beneficiaries to keep the areas clean and spread hygiene messages within the community.

EDUCATION
Primary and secondary students attend class in straw huts at the Juba PoC site. A wide range of ages includes children preparing for life. Though the schools offer refuge for displaced children, the makeshift huts of straw and plastic sheeting provide little protection during the rainy or hot seasons.
Conflict and insecurity have undermined the governance and institutions of South Sudan and diminished state-society relations, as well as the national identity of the South Sudanese people.

Strengthening peace and governance

The crisis has severely weakened the delivery capacity of local law enforcement and justice institutions, leaving the population with limited legal resources. The fragile situation of journalists has also worsened.

“We have been fighting for 50 years. I have only known war. I was born in war, grew up in war, schooled myself in war, and worked in war. I am only just now starting to adjust to peace.”
A South Sudanese civil servant

Outcome 3

FACTS

- 80% of South Sudanese use customary rather than formal justice mechanisms
- 42% of civil servants have no more than primary education
- 110 judges administer justice across South Sudan
The United Nations in action

The United Nations is supporting the Government to strengthen its institutions, systems and processes to improve governance, peace and security and foster stronger and more resilient state-society relations based on respect for human rights. The aim is to reduce the risk of regression into active conflict and peacefully resolve political differences. This includes:

Strengthening public administration and data management, including government reporting, accounting, budgeting and capacity to collect, analyse, validate and maintain gender and age-disaggregated data.

Fostering justice, accountability and conflict resolution, particularly for vulnerable groups, enhancing access to justice, judicial, legislative and institutional reforms, and supporting the ratification and operationalization of key human rights treaties.

Facilitating nation-building and national reconciliation by strengthening the participation of civil society groups, entrenching and leveraging media freedom and establishing community-based communication platforms to raise awareness of peace, social cohesion and nonviolence.

Enhancing the legitimacy of the organized forces based on human rights, building appropriately sized and trained forces and increasing the control of weapons and explosive remnants of war.

Participants from around the country exchange ideas and experiences at the Peace and Reconciliation Stakeholders Meeting held at the Aron International Hotel in Juba on 19 May 2016. The National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation organized the meeting, which focused on collaborative partnerships for peace throughout the transitional period and beyond.

In early 2016, leaders representing different sectors of South Sudan met for the second Collaborative Leadership Dialogue to share diverse opinions on how to approach the peace and reconciliation process. UNDP works with the Women’s Caucus of the National Legislative Assembly to host dialogues and trainings to foster new ideas on how leaders can facilitate peace and conflict resolution.
PROMOTING MEDIA FREEDOM AND THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

The development of a free, diverse and professional media and the guarantee of freedom of expression and information are critical to promoting good governance, democracy and rule and human rights. Although the Government has increasingly recognized the importance of improving public access to information, South Sudan has dropped 15 places in the latest World Press Freedom Index, at 140 out of 180 countries ranked.

As part of the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is working throughout South Sudan to provide training for master trainers, including policy officers and national security service personnel, on freedom of expression, press freedom, human rights, access to information and the protection of journalists. Despite limited funding, 20 police officers have received training and gained capacity on these issues. Dialogue forums between the media and the police have helped to clarify the role of the police in the protection and safeguarding of public order.

“Press freedom is a shared value amongst the community of nations, of which South Sudan is an important member. And for South Sudan, its government and people, the opportunity to optimise the fruits of this country’s hard won independence will not be fully achieved if liberty and freedom do not also extend to the media.”

Eugene Owusu, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATION

UNDP is supporting South Sudan to establish sustainable, accountable and transparent governance and systems and involved civil society and the media in national discourse on development policy and governance processes. This includes:

Creating impartial space for dialogue and debate. Six public debates attended by 203 people (33 women) have been conducted that address democratic governance issues. Attendees included politicians, diplomats, academics, development partners, civil society organizations and the general public. In addition, two policy briefs were published to inform public policy-making in democratic governance issues.

Promoting community level democratic governance awareness. UNDP collaborated with five civil society organizations to conduct 38 civic education outreach programmes in eight counties. These activities have reached more than 5,300 people (932 women).

Promoting dialogue on accountability. Twenty-seven radio talk shows have been held on conflict resolution, accountability, transparency and the participation of youth and women in community safety and peacebuilding in Central and Western Equatoria states. The public has received a total of 294 SMS promoting community voice and participation in governance issues.

UNDP is supporting South Sudan to establish sustainable, accountable and transparent governance and systems and involved civil society and the media in national discourse on development policy and governance processes. This includes:

Creating impartial space for dialogue and debate. Six public debates attended by 203 people (33 women) have been conducted that address democratic governance issues. Attendees included politicians, diplomats, academics, development partners, civil society organizations and the general public. In addition, two policy briefs were published to inform public policy-making in democratic governance issues.

Promoting community level democratic governance awareness. UNDP collaborated with five civil society organizations to conduct 38 civic education outreach programmes in eight counties. These activities have reached more than 5,300 people (932 women).

Promoting dialogue on accountability. Twenty-seven radio talk shows have been held on conflict resolution, accountability, transparency and the participation of youth and women in community safety and peacebuilding in Central and Western Equatoria states. The public has received a total of 294 SMS promoting community voice and participation in governance issues.
UNDP supported the establishment of the Emergency Call Centre (777) managed by the police, including by training officers, supplying equipment and providing emergency vehicles, in an effort to curb crime and help the police address crime and violence in Juba. The Call Centre has responded to a total of 13,984 calls, including 575 related to sexual and gender-based violence, 1,414 traffic emergencies and 2,577 medical emergencies.

The peace that the people of South Sudan seek goes beyond the cessation of hostilities, and indeed it goes beyond the Transitional Government of National Unity. The peace that the people of South Sudan want and need includes the freedom to live a life of dignity, the freedom from fear, the freedom from want, and the right to pursue happiness.

Eugene Owusu, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in South Sudan

At the Juba Central Prison, more than 200 prisoners – both male and female – receive training through the UNDP-supported Vocational Training Workshop. Inmates can train in eight disciplines: carpentry, masonry, electrical, welding, vehicle mechanics, agriculture, hair dressing and tailoring. The programme is innovative in that it provides significant job skills and earning opportunities for inmates.

Decades of instability in southern Sudan devastated the delivery capacity of local law enforcement and justice institutions, leaving individuals and communities with extremely limited legal resources. Basic instruments of coordination, accountability and transparency were also shattered.

Over the past five years, UNDP has responded to this situation by working to increase the availability, affordability, adaptability and acceptability of justice services in South Sudan. This has included efforts to bring together representatives of rule of law institutions and members of the broader rule of law community, traditional leaders, community-based organizations and women’s organizations. Already, engagement between citizens and rule of law institutions has increased. Nearly 1,000 people (31 female) attended 34 forums conducted in five states. The effort has also enhanced knowledge of sexual and gender-based violence among police and social workers. A total of 144 (45% female) social workers and police personnel were trained in four states on survivor-centred approaches to investigation, sensitization and coordination.

ENABLING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

ENABLING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

ENABLING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

ENABLING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

ENABLING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

ENABLING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW
Macroeconomic instability, uncertainty and conflict have undermined conditions for productive investment and sustainable private sector-led growth in South Sudan.

A large majority of households rely on subsistence agriculture and pastoralism as their main sources of livelihood, and many have faced disruptions due to displacement and insecurity. Employment opportunities are limited and unemployment rates remain high, particularly among youth.

FACTS
- The production and export of oil comprises 98% of total government revenue
- For 78% of households, subsistence-based agriculture and pastoralism are the main sources of livelihood
- Only 12% of the population are paid employees

RESULTS
- Eight marketplaces have been rehabilitated in Bor and new fish markets have been constructed in Nimule and Konyo Konyo with UNIDO support.
- More than 100 internally displaced persons in the Protection of Civilians sites in Juba and Central Equatoria received sustainable skills training and income generation support from UNDP.
Enabling the sustainable management of natural resources

by enhancing the Government’s ability to carry out sustainable and inclusive co-management of fisheries resources, engaging fishing communities, improving agricultural productivity to support food security and income generation and supporting community-driven protected areas management and use of energy saving technologies.

The United Nations in action

The United Nations is working to lay the foundations of resilient, inclusive and balanced growth to reduce poverty. A key strategy will be to support nationally-owned and led interventions related to economic diversification, the generation of non-oil revenues, the revitalization of the agriculture and livestock sector, and the stimulation of the services sector. Systematic efforts will be made to build in gender equity objectives, including equitable access to productive assets for men, women and youth.

Efforts will also be made to mitigate conflicts over control of land and water resources between farmers and pastoralists, which are common in areas where farming and pastoralism intersect. The practice of livestock rustling – rampant among pastoralist communities in South Sudan – is a conflict driver that influences the livestock sector.

Supporting economic diversification and recovery efforts,

including by helping the government allocate resources more transparently and equitably, promoting micro, small and medium enterprises, strengthening private sector linkages with local communities and working with farmers to develop local solutions.

Restoring livelihoods and generating sustainable employment

through tailored, context-specific and market-linked support for sustainable livelihood generation and skills training in rural, urban and pastoral communities.

Enabling the sustainable management of natural resources

by enhancing the Government’s ability to carry out sustainable and inclusive co-management of fisheries resources, engaging fishing communities, improving agricultural productivity to support food security and income generation and supporting community-driven protected areas management and use of energy saving technologies.
UPGRADING THE FISHERY SECTOR

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is working to upgrade the fishery sector in South Sudan. The initiative aims to address the range of needs of fishing communities, including improving food security, particularly in rural households, creating jobs and setting South Sudan’s fishery sector on a path of sustainable growth.

So far, UNIDO has constructed fish markets in Nimule and Konyo Konyo, as well as a child care facility for the market workers in Nimule, and a low-cost habitation and fish smoking facility in fishing communities along the Rubia Rapids. UNIDO has also provided inputs and expertise to promote alternative income generating activities for small-scale business development and women’s empowerment in Nimule and Mangalla.

“Before the crisis, you could catch as many fish as you wanted. We know we can’t substitute what we have lost, but the equipment we received helps us help ourselves.”

One of the 172 beneficiaries who received livelihoods training skills in a fishery group in Mingkaman, after relocating there due to conflict.

SUPPORTING TRANSITION AND RECOVERY

IOM is conducting multiple peacebuilding and development initiatives in South Sudan to address the root causes of instability and conflict.

The IOM-supported Abyei Rehabilitation Initiative has used targeted outreach to mitigate the risk of conflict and promote recovery in Abyei Administrative Area, a contested oil-rich territory of more than 16,000 square kilometres. Since January 2013, the initiative has reached 1,300 people with peacebuilding activities, 316 students with informal livelihoods training and 224 students with business skills training.

Since 2012, IOM has also managed the Peace and Stability Quick Impact Fund, a small grants mechanism that supports the implementation of quick and visible interventions to support peacebuilding and community development. To date, IOM has disbursed €470,000 through 90 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) including water pumps, contactor training, veterans’ support and vocational training. Work with local groups and NGOs, IOM has also funded five waterpoints, 128 solar micro-irrigation systems, a training workshop for teachers and 500 South Sudanese police officers to support peace and community cohesion.

“We are grateful for the computer classes offered at the Centre. It is a chance for young people to acquire the skills needed to improve their livelihoods.”

Angelina Amajok, 22, is working to build her skills at the free computer classes offered at the IOM-supported Community Peace Resource Centre in Warrap town. She has already applied to Juba University and dreams of becoming a doctor. The Centre also offers computer classes to help local youth acquire the necessary skills to improve their livelihoods.

Armani Hafsa works at the Konyo Konyo Fish Market to support her six children. She is a widow. With the additional income she earns thanks to UNIDO-supported training on how to improve her fish business, Armani plans to purchase land and build a house for her family.
In South Sudan, the vast majority of livelihoods depend on natural resources, which also provide for basic household needs, such as energy, shelter, water and food. Recognizing that the development of strong natural resource management solutions will be essential to creating lasting peace in South Sudan, the United Nations is addressing the environmental drivers of poverty and conflict throughout the country.

With an over-arching goal of assisting the people of South Sudan to achieve peace, recovery and development on an environmentally sustainable basis, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and partner ministries are supporting the finalization of the National Environment Bill, the National Environment Policy, the Action Plan for Addressing the Issue of Climate Change, the Biodiversity Strategy and guidelines for water harvesting structures, as well as capacity building and broad public awareness-raising efforts.

To address issues of deforestation and improve forest-based livelihoods, UNEP is also working with communities on the sustainable use of forests by building community skills, establishing tree nurseries and supporting the production of fuel efficient cooking stoves. In addition, UNEP has introduced the ‘Environmental Marker’ for the integration of environmental concerns into humanitarian activities to minimize the environmental footprint of humanitarian response.

UNDP is supporting the Government of South Sudan to integrate trade into its national development strategies by leveraging its comparative advantage as a driver of inclusive growth.

In Phase I, a market shed was made operational in Mingkaman and is now in use by 48 beneficiaries (12 women) whose incomes have increased by an estimated US$10,000. An additional 40 women also gained livelihood skills in pastry making during this stage of the project.

In Phase II, 51 beneficiaries (32 women) participated in a cash for work project to build 48 market stalls, generating approximately US$5,600 in income for each beneficiary. These efforts to revitalize and expand the market have led to a number of positive impacts, including fostering social cohesion among diverse community members, incentivizing small-scale agricultural production, offering a source of livelihood for private sector actors, and promoting the exchange of goods and services for the local population of more than 50,000.
Improving the status of women and youth

The crisis that erupted in 2013 has exacerbated gender inequality due to women's vulnerability to poverty, their distinctive social obligations and responsibilities and exposure to sexual and gender-based violence.34 More than half of young women have suffered some form of gender-based violence35 and an adolescent girl in South Sudan is three times more likely to die in childbirth than to complete primary school.36

“We want to send a loud message to the warring parties: enough is enough. As women, we want our voices to be heard in South Sudan and we want the war to stop now.”
Florence Guliba, peace activist from the Women’s Grassroots Network, 18 September 2014

The vast majority of internally displaced and food insecure persons in South Sudan are women and children.

An adolescent girl is three times more likely to die in childbirth than to complete primary school.

An adolescent girl in South Sudan is three times more likely to die in childbirth than to complete primary school.36

Only one third of seats in the Legislative Assembly are held by women.32

Half of young women aged 15-24 have suffered some form of gender-based violence.33

More than half of young women have suffered some form of gender-based violence:34 and an adolescent girl in South Sudan is three times more likely to die in childbirth than to complete primary school.36
The United Nations in action

The United Nations is working to mainstream gender and youth issues across all four outcome areas under the ICF in order to empower women and youth to enhance their well-being, socioeconomic status and capacity to engage in the peacebuilding process. This includes:

Improving the livelihoods and economic security of women and youth

by supporting the Government to remove structural barriers and implement gender and youth-sensitive approaches that contribute to the well-being and economic improvement of women and youth.

Combatting sexual and gender-based violence

by supporting the Government to review and implement the National Gender-Based Violence Strategy and strengthen the capacity of stakeholders across a range of sectors to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.

Reducing maternal mortality and strengthening reproductive health

through initiatives that break down political, economic, social and cultural barriers that women face in making decisions on their reproductive health.

Increasing the participation of women and youth in leadership and decision-making

by raising awareness among key stakeholders of the importance and benefits of increased representation of women and youth and ensuring that the peace agreement and related processes are inclusive and appropriately address issues related to women and youth.
PROMOTING WOMEN’S ROLE IN PEACEBUILDING

The Women’s Grassroots Network (WGN) was created under the auspices of the UNDP-supported National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation. The WGN aims to raise women’s voices and promote a unified agenda for peace, healing and reconciliation. The WGN’s peacebuilding perspectives, including on the role of women at the grassroots level in the interim government, were presented to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development-led peace talks in July 2014 in Addis Ababa.

In 2014, 246 women from the WGN participated in a peaceful march in the streets of Juba to demand peace as part of the National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation Seven Days of Peace Activism. In addition, 30 women from Nuer and Dinka communities jointly developed an action plan to help restore peace between the two communities in Jonglei state, as a result of the Dinka-Nuer Pastors’ Peace Initiative. The WGN also mobilized 15 female parliamentarians to build intra-gender bridges and promote a unified agenda for peace among elite women and those at the grassroots level.

In total, 48 young women, aged 17-20, attended the three-week, UN Women-supported training for girls on building strong leadership, communication, business and life skills. For many of the young women, this was the first time traveling outside of their home villages to Juba. The participants met each other, shared experiences and discussed their hopes and dreams for the future. The workshop has helped the young women build a strong network of other talented, outspoken and empowered peers that will become South Sudan’s entrepreneurs of tomorrow. “This training has transformed my life,” said Sarah Stephen, 18. “Women are a key resource for promoting peace and stability. Fighting for women’s rights is a just and right struggle.” Eugene Owusu, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in South Sudan.

LINKING HIV AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS

Even before the outbreak of conflict in 2013, gender-based violence was widespread in South Sudan. The current conflict has seriously exacerbated the problem. Survivors of violence face heightened risk of sexual and reproductive health consequences, including sexually transmitted infections such as HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS has developed an integrated HIV-gender-based violence (GBV) intervention that involves the provision of direct services to GBV survivors and persons living with HIV through community mobilization, sensitization and dialogue to prevent partnerships, HIV and gender-based violence.

Despite consistently low reporting of GBV to health facilities, high stigma and discrimination, and impunity for GBV perpetrators, parents and community leaders engaged with the programme have demonstrated a positive response in addressing both issues. UNAIDS has also established clinical management of rape centres where survivors of sexual and gender-based violence can access treatment.
Endnotes

1 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview – South Sudan.
2 The World Bank, 2015.
6 Ibid.
7 The World Bank, 2015.
10 Unless otherwise noted, 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview – South Sudan.
15 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview – South Sudan.
16 Ibid.
18 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview – South Sudan.
21 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview – South Sudan.
23 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview – South Sudan.
26 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, ‘Year in Review 2015 South Sudan’.
28 From UNESCO country programming document unless otherwise noted.
30 Food and Agriculture Organization, ‘South Sudan Livestock Crisis’, August 2015.
31 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview – South Sudan.
33 Protection Cluster South Sudan GBV sub-cluster fact sheet.
35 Protection Cluster South Sudan GBV sub-cluster fact sheet.
36 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview – South Sudan.