UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake made a strong call for stakeholders to support and amplify young people’s role in the implementation of the peace process. During her five-day (26th - 31st January) visit to South Sudan, the youth envoy said it is important that young people are engaged and represented in the peace process in various roles as they make up more than 70 per cent of the country’s population. “There should be a little bit more in terms of including them meaningfully, especially young women and girls and young people with disabilities, in this process.”

The UN Youth Envoy called on government and other stakeholders to deliver on five key areas, which consistently came up during her dialogues with young people:

1. Adoption of the National Youth Development Policy
2. Ratification of the African Union Charter on Youth
3. Quality education
4. Ending gender-based violence and child marriage
5. Providing young people, the space to engage meaningfully in the peace agreement

Ms. Wickramanayake looks forward to the commitment made by President Salva Kiir to have 20 per cent quota for youth representation in government decision-making. “I hope this would be implemented across party lines and across different levels to give more representation to young people, also in accordance to the peace agreement, to really have young voices heard at the highest level of decision-making,” she said.

UN Youth Envoy calls for political representation of young people........ PG. 1

Critical support for former child soldiers in South Sudan at risk from lack of funding..................PG. 3

Creating opportunities for youth through agriculture...PG.3

South Sudan launches a nationwide campaign to protect 2.5 million children against measles..................PG.3

South Sudan marks International World Radio Day........PG.3

Young mother hopes 7th fistula surgery will be her last........PG.4

Graduates vow to transform their families and Country......P.5
During her visit, the Youth Envoy listened to challenges, ideas, and solutions directly from the young people of South Sudan. She also met with partners from the Government, civil society organizations and international donors to strengthen partnership and collaboration on key developmental, humanitarian and peacebuilding initiatives.

South Sudan is the youngest country in the world with the youngest population. From all the interactions I have had in this role, I can say without hesitation that peace is a precondition for young people to thrive and contribute to their country’s growth. As we look forward to the implementation of the peace agreement, I urge leaders to ensure that the environment stays safe and conducive for young people to thrive,” she said.

Undersecretary Kuac Wek Wol of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports also emphasized that implementing peace is the priority for the youth. “Ending war and conflict will pave the way for the youth to explore their potentials and their talents so they can realize the future that they want,” he said.

Mr. Alain Noudehou, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, reaffirmed UN’s commitment to the development of the young people of South Sudan. “This generation has grown up mostly in conflict and deserves to experience peace and enjoy services in an inclusive environment,” he said. “The UN Country Team is dedicated to enhancing young people’s participation and leadership in decision-making and ensure protection against gender-based violence.”

During her visit, the Youth Envoy interacted with young people in a Protection of Civilians (POC) site, visited a one-stop center for survivors of gender-based violence in Juba, and a youth skills training project in Torit. She also engaged in dialogues focused on the issues identified in the 2019 South Sudan State of Adolescents and Youth Report; intergenerational dialogues, and a special Town Hall meeting on the youth policy and solutions to tackle the employment gaps in the country.

“IT'S MY HOPE THAT THE 20 PER CENT QUOTA FOR YOUTH REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT DECISION MAKING IS IMPLEMENTED ACROSS ALL SECTORS”

JAYATHMA WICKRAMANAYAKE
UN YOUTH ENVOY
CRITICAL SUPPORT FOR FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS IN SOUTH SUDAN AT RISK FROM LACK OF FUNDING

Programmes providing support for children released from armed forces and groups in South Sudan may be forced to end if urgently needed funds are not provided, UNICEF warned on the International Day against the use of child soldiers (12 February).

The three-year reintegration programme costs US$2,000 per child, providing psychosocial support and a dedicated social worker, family tracing and reunification, education services, and other vital services to help children rebuild their lives.

In a joint effort with the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Committee and UNMISS, UNICEF has supported since 2013 the release and reintegration of more than 3,600 children who were used by armed forces and armed groups in South Sudan.

UNICEF South Sudan requires US$4.2 million for 2020 to cover new releases and the immediate enrolment into reintegration programmes and for the continuation of the programme for children released previously.

UNICEF’s call came just a week after the visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict in South Sudan. While in South Sudan Ms Virginia Gamba witnessed the signature by the Government of a Comprehensive Action Plan to make an end to the six grave violations against children in armed conflict, including the recruitment and use of children. More information: www.unicef.org/southsudan

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH THROUGH AGRICULTURE

A strong woman of humble beginnings. Filemina Simon is not your average young woman. Once, she relied on the World Food Programme for help but now she sells food to them.

Divorced and left to fend for her two young children, Filemina and some 200 other women in Yambio, Equatoria are now taking the first steps out of poverty thanks in part to an initiative run jointly by WFP, Star Trust Organisation and a local bank.

Known as the smallholder agriculture market support, the initiative aims at supporting small scale farmers by connecting them to viable markets whilst also strengthening farmers’ capacity on post-harvest management and marketing.

In 2019, WFP procured more than 8,000 metric tons of cereals from some 5,000 small holder farmers like Filemina. On her part, Filemina has already built a house, put her children in school and enrolled has now for a nursing course at a local university.

SOUTH SUDAN LAUNCHES A NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT 2.5 MILLION CHILDREN AGAINST MEASLES

With the aim of vaccinating 2.5 million children against measles, a nationwide vaccination campaign is kicked off today. The campaign is a cooperation between the Ministry of Health, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and other partners. In addition to the vaccine, the children will also receive vitamin A supplement and deworming tablets.

The campaign is essential for children’s health in South Sudan, as the country is still battling an unprecedented measles outbreak with over 4,700 confirmed cases and 26 deaths since January 2019 to date. Vaccination is the most effective way to protect children against this very contagious disease. Vitamin A and deworming are crucial for children’s immune system and ability to fight diseases in addition to prevent blindness.
“We need to boost the vaccination coverage to protect children against measles outbreaks”, said Dr Makur Matur Kariom, Undersecretary, Ministry of Health. "Unfortunately, in South Sudan routine vaccination coverage against measles remains low at only 59 per cent. That means many children in our country are not protected against the disease. Hence the importance of this vaccination campaign cannot be over emphasized”. Read more.

**SOUTH SUDAN MARKS INTERNATIONAL WORLD RADIO DAY**

On 13 Feb 2020, South Sudan joined the rest of the world to commemorate the ninth edition of the World Radio Day marked under the theme “Radio and Diversity for Peaceful Coexistence in South Sudan”. The World Radio Day is a time when media actors gather to share their experiences and further discuss avenues on how the media environment can be improved for radio broadcasters to better deliver and advance the growth of broadcast media in the country.

UNESCO’s Country Representative Mr. Julius Banda reminded policy makers to facilitate policy environments conducive to transparency and diversity of media ownership which are a keystone to a pluralistic, inclusive, democratic and sustainable radio sector. He also called on radio managers to reflect diversity in their day-to-day work at the stations.

The national event was organized by radio stations in South Sudan, with support from UNESCO, UNDP, Internews, British Embassy, US Embassy and Norwegian People’s Aid.

**YOUNG MOTHER HOPES 7TH FISTULA SURGERY WILL BE HER LAST**

Mariye Atak Ajuaj learned her lesson on child marriage and early pregnancy the hard way.

Sitting on her hospital bed at the Aweil State Hospital, she quietly contemplates how life would change after she recovers from the surgery to repair her obstetric fistula.

It was the seventh surgery she had gone through after developing the fistula in 2010 as a result of complications during childbirth while delivering her first baby in the hands of an unskilled traditional birth attendant. She was married off very young – at age 16 – her body obviously not ready to conceive and give birth to a child.


**GRADUATES VOW TO “TRANSFORM THEIR FAMILIES AND COUNTRY” AFTER RECEIVING VOCATIONAL TRAINING FROM PEACEKEEPERS**

Jacob Mayom Malueth and 32 other young men and women have graduated from a vocational training centre in Bor with a diverse set of new skills including baking, electrical work, welding, construction and carpentry.

“With this knowledge, we will transform our families and South Sudan,” said Jacob proudly as he received his certificate for agricultural training. The training school is operated by South Korean engineering troops serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan to help the war-ravaged Jonglei region recover and to provide young people with job opportunities. In the past four years, 552 South Sudanese youth have graduated from the six-month long course.
MY DISABILITY DID NOT STOP MY ABILITY TO LEAD: JULIATA EDWARD’S STORY

“I am very happy that my community did not look at my disability but my ability to lead. I would like to encourage other women to believe in themselves and know that despite challenges that we face as women, opportunities still exist for women to be in decision-making roles.”

Juliata Edward is the first woman female living with a disability to be elected the Chairperson of the Community Leadership Committee in the UN Protection of Civilians site. Read about IOM Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) work in addressing obstacles facing Persons with Disabilities and structural challenges that exist in the PoC site. https://bit.ly/2UhDSEV

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION SAVES LIFE

Nancy Inyaa was born and has grown up in Birisi village in the southern part of South Sudan. She received her first training on explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) in February 2020.

“The training is useful for us. I can help people and I can explain to them the meaning of the (landmine) markings and how they can manage in the field.”

In 2019, UNMAS delivered EORE training to over 850,000 civilians in South Sudan. This enabled them to recognize, mitigate and report explosive hazards.