

Peace and Community Cohesion Project

Project Number: 00125970

January – December 2023

GUWA TA MARA

South Sudan's Groundbreaking International Conference on Women's Transformational Leadership


By UNDP SOUTH SUDAN

Country: South Sudan

Total Project Budget: US\$38,432,494

2023 Budget: US\$11,097,831

Cumulative expenditure (January 2023 – December 2023):

Donor	Budget in USD	Expenditures
SWEDEN	4,147,471	3,701,000
UNDP	4,458,817	3,904,536
UN PEACEBUILDING FUND	600,000	385,667
FRANCE	514,394	165,267
FCDO	828,538	836,496
JAPAN	324,000	95,473
NORWAY	171,380	170,283
SWITZERLAND	42,534	42,263
UNAIDS	10,000	10,000
TOTAL	11,097,135	9,210,985

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Acronyms

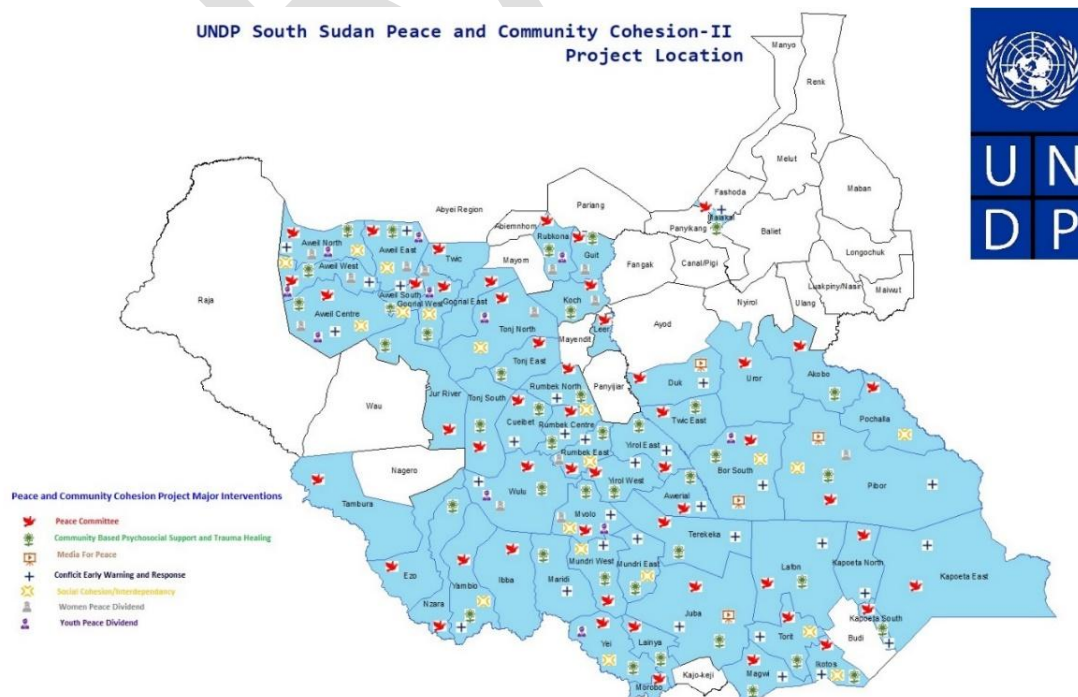
AA	Administrative Area
BCSSAC	Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control
COTAL	Council of Traditional Authority Leaders
CPD	Country Programme Document
CPRMS	County Peace Response Mechanism
CSO	Civil Society Organization
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
CVC	Community Volunteer Counsellor
CVR	Community Violence Reduction
EWS	Early Warning Systems
FCDO	Foreign and Commonwealth and Development Office
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
KII	Key Informant Interview
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MoGCSW	Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare
MoPB	Ministry of Peacebuilding
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	National Action Plan
NAS	National Salvation Front
NDDRC	National Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NTLI	National Transformational Leadership Institute
PaCC	Peace and Community Cohesion
NUD	National Unity Day
PoC	Protection of Civilians
R-ARCSS	Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan
R-TGoNU	Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index Assessment
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SSPRC	South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission
SSR	Security Sector Reform
ToT	Training of Trainers
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNMISS-CAD	United Nations Mission in South Sudan – Civil Affairs Division
Unipod	Innovation Pod at University of Juba
UNSCDF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
VSLA	Village Saving Loan Association

Executive Summary

The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Peace and Community Cohesion (PaCC) project Phase II contributed to reducing and mitigating national and local level conflict and insecurity by investing in initiatives that address the key drivers of conflict and by supporting the central and subnational governments and authorities to: a) establish and enhance the capacity of peace infrastructures to manage conflicts peacefully; b) deepen social, cultural and economic cohesion among communities to foster healing, reconciliation and peaceful coexistence; c) empower citizens, with added emphasis on women, youth and other marginalised groups for voice, agency and participation in governance, peacebuilding initiatives and demand accountability; d) implement legal, policy and civilian frameworks on small arms and light weapons; and e) promote conflict-sensitive access, use and control of natural resources by pastoral and farming communities in targeted areas.

Furthermore, the PaCC Phase II project contributed to improving community relationships by identifying and strengthening cultural, social, and economic connectors that make communities reliant on each other in times of peace and conflict. It employed an integrated and gender-sensitive approach to effectively support the communities in preventing, managing, and resolving conflict in a non-violent manner. The project collaborated with the government counterparts such as South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission (SSPRC); South Sudan Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control (BCSSAC); National Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (NDDRC); Ministries in charge of Gender, Peacebuilding; and other partners such as Civil Society Organizations, academia and directly with communities.

The project is implemented in seven conflict clusters: Eastern Plain/Bor cluster (Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria states); Magwi-Kajo Keji green belt/Torit cluster (Jonglei, Eastern and Central Equatoria states); Wau-Rumbek Mvolo-Mundri axis/Rumbek cluster (Western Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes and Western Equatoria states); Northern Sudan Border belt/Aweil cluster (Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal, Abyei AA, Unity, Upper Nile, and Warrap states); Subat-Bahr el Jebel-White-Nile Zone/Bentiu cluster (Upper Nile, Jonglei, Unity); Kuajok Cluster (Jur River, Tonj and Gogrial) and Malakal Cluster (Panyikang, Malakal and Kodok).



The funding that enables the realisation of the project objectives is drawn from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), Japan, France, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO - the Government of the United Kingdom), Norway, Switzerland, and UNDP internal resources.

The project contributes to the 2023-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) under:

Outcome 1: Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, benefit from and participate in more transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance that protects and promotes human rights, enables the consolidation of peace, establishes the rule of law, and ensures access to justice for all.

Outcome 4: Women, youth plus vulnerable groups are empowered to demand and exercise their political, economic, social, environmental, and cultural rights.

The project directly supports UNDP Country Programme Document under:

Output 1.1: Infrastructure for peace at all levels enabled to reduce community violence, strengthened cohesion, and streamline peacebuilding mechanisms.

Output 4.1: GEWE efforts strengthened and benefiting from national and local level governance and development initiatives.

Output 4.2: Women and youth are empowered to participate in decision-making at national and local levels.

Key achievements:

- *Strengthened local peace structures prevented and resolved communal conflicts:* 603 conflicts were resolved by 168 peace committees formed and supported by UNDP. These committees undertook transformational roles by maintaining peaceful coexistence across the seven clusters during the reporting period. In their peace work, the peace committees also collaborated with local leaders, who received training on transformational leadership and conflict management, therefore cascading the efforts of supporting peace capacity at local levels.
- *National peace infrastructures equipped with policies to build peace and combat hate speech:* The Ministry of Peacebuilding was supported with the development of various policies, plans, guides and frameworks which strengthened implementation and coordination of peacebuilding initiatives. These includes the National Action Plan to Combat Hate Speech, the National Peacebuilding Policy, Standard Operating Guidelines for Peacebuilding Coordination, and the South Sudan Peacebuilding Strategic Framework.
- *Decentralized conflict early warning and response systems improved responses to conflicts and tensions:* The SSPRC conflict early warning and early response system was created in five states. The capacities of 321 (52 female) people, including local leaders and peace committees, in 18 locations across Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Lakes, Jonglei and Greater Pibor Administrative Area were enhanced on conflict early warning and early response.
- *Enhanced communities' capacities and awareness to deal with psychosocial trauma associated with exposure to conflicts, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV):* 677 survivors of conflict related trauma (333 female) received basic counselling and psychosocial support provided by the 272 (138 female) Community Volunteers Counsellors (CVCs) trained on Trauma Healing and Psychosocial Support in the Rumbek, Bentiu, Aweil and Kuajok clusters.
- *Conditions for women's participation in decision-making improved:* The first ever International [Conference](#) on Women's Transformational Leadership in South Sudan brought together more than 430 women from South Sudan, various African countries and the South Sudanese diaspora. The conference generated political will and support towards increasing women's leadership roles in the country.

- *Socio-economic empowerment of the communities enhanced:* 22,174 (12,142 female) community members, with an emphasis on women and youth, were reached through social cohesion and economic empowerment initiatives such as sports and cultural events, celebration of the International Day of Peace, thereby improving trust and peaceful coexistence between communities.
- *Innovative spaces created increased youth engagement in peacebuilding:* UNDP supported the set-up of an innovation hub, the [UNIPOD at the University of Juba](#), that has motivated youth to engage in design thinking and ideation of solutions to address development challenges in the community.
- *Community violence reduction approach implemented deepened social cohesion:* UNDP and NDDRC supported community-based re-integration of 100 ex-combatants in Western Bahr el Ghazal to return to their communities located in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes, and Warrap States. Additionally, 200 community members (20 female), including youth who voluntarily surrendered their firearms, received skills training on various topics as an alternative to carrying firearms, which improved the economic productivity of communities in Cueibet, Yirol East, Yirol West, Rumbek Central, Awerial, Wulu, Rumbek North and Rumbek East, of Lakes state.

Key challenges:

The key contextual and thematic challenges encountered during the reporting period include:

- *Delays in implementing the transitional security arrangements of the R-ARCSS and related mechanisms:* The slow progress in the implementation of the R-ARCSS resulted in few milestones made in achieving vital outcomes at the national and state level including the complete unification of forces and operationalization of structures to support transitional justice, healing and reconciliation. This delay, especially on chapter 2 and 5, continues to create a sense of uncertainty and insecurity among community members and leaders, as well as limit access to some project locations.
- *Limited progress towards addressing cattle raiding:* Cattle raiding and theft and related revenge killings continued to be a hinderance to peacebuilding in different parts of the country. This affects the work done by the peace committees supported by the project.
- *Illegal possession of firearms by civilians remains a threat to durable peace:* Illegal possession of firearms by civilians and misuse of these weapons remains a threat to sustainable peace. The intercommunal conflicts involving armed civilians, especially the youth that conduct cattle rustling and armed highway ambushes have restricted movement of the peace committees. Additionally, the increase in the proliferation of arms and ammunitions aggravates criminality and communal violence.
- *Communications challenges:* Poor network coverage at Bomas and Payams hinders timely relay of information to activity participants, peace committees and partners which affected the functioning of the early warning mechanisms.
- *Climate related challenges:* Floods continued to be the main challenge in most counties, denying access to most part of the states for movement of goods, and vital commodities needed for the livelihood of community. Thus, affecting the project capacity for interventions planned on socio-economic empowerment.
- *Increase of population displacement:* Displacements of population due to insecurity was witnessed across the border areas. Thousands of new internally displaced persons (IDPs) moved from Jonglei state crossing to Upper Nile and settled in three IDP camps in Southern Malakal. The crisis in Sudan started in April 2023 with a direct impact on South Sudan due to a surge of returnees and refugees. This influx of IDPs, returnees and refugees led to the displacement of beneficiaries. UNDP responded to the Sudan crisis with an emergency response plan which focused on provision of psychosocial support for returnees, refugees and host communities which also delayed the implementation of initially planned activities.

The key operational and programmatic challenges encountered during the reporting period include:

- *Mobility challenges:* The poor road infrastructure coupled with a heavy rainy season during the second quarter affected smooth implementation of planned project activities, including monitoring and data collection initiatives, across the different clusters.
- *Global organization-wide shift of UNDP operating system from ATLAS to a cloud-based system-Quantum:* Quantum is at its early operating stage which delayed procurement processes and payments which affected the completion of key projects and support to implementing partners.

Key Lessons Learned:

- *Appreciation for the work of peace and community cohesion project:* There has been a demand for more peace advocacy workshops, trainings and meetings. This is believed to further enhance trust and confidence among the project stakeholders. Additionally, there has been increasing request to expand activities to new locations.
- *Community oriented participatory approaches:* Community-oriented participatory approaches are key towards sustainable and inclusive solutions for community challenges. Focusing on community dialogues, exchange visits, and support to youth initiatives has increased the overall impact of the project. Supporting peace committees with their initiatives for conflict mitigation, action plans and operational support has contributed to increased impact and results in peacebuilding.
- *Fostering the humanitarian, peace and development nexus:* Community re-integration support, alternative livelihood trainings, grants and psychosocial support initiatives implemented by the project contributed to forging a stronger path from crisis to early recovery for conflict-affected beneficiaries.
- *Effectiveness of partnering with local actors and the media:* The project increased collaboration and partnership with local actors and the media that created greater results and achievements. Effectiveness of partnering with the media increased wider dissemination and awareness of ongoing peace initiatives and facilitated access to new audiences and approaches. The project leveraged on these partnerships and reached complex, hard-to-reach locations.
- *Mainstreaming gender and local ownership in project planning and implementation:* This approach utilized by the project has proven successful in empowering local communities. Community-owned activities and processes yield more sustainable outcomes. A Do No Harm approach on project activities was met because conflict, gender and age sensitivity were taken into consideration during planning and implementation of activities.
- *The Importance of trauma healing and psychosocial support initiatives in preventing relapse into conflict:* Some conflict issues keep recurring because cases of trauma have not been satisfactorily addressed, combined with limited institutional capacity to enforce rule of law. Individual healing sessions within the Trauma Healing and Psychosocial Support Training for the community volunteers allowed them to address their own trauma, and in parallel, be empathetic with the trauma of other community members, herewith, contributing to increased social cohesion.

Budget Utilization: The provisional cumulative expenditure from January to December 2023 was US\$ 9,210,985 representing a delivery of 83% of the available budget (US\$11,097,135).

1. Situation Background

The effects of long political violence from 2013 to 2018 led to IDP crises, loss of livelihoods, loss of human lives and heightened levels of trauma in South Sudan. This further led to weak institutions of governance where armed individuals and groups take the law into their own hands. Communal violence and revenge killings have been fueled by resource-based conflicts, poverty, and proliferation of small firearms. Moreover, land grabbing, competition over access to water and pasture, and unstructured cross-border cattle migration drive conflicts. In addition, climate change induced disasters such as floods, mostly in Unity, Jonglei, Greater Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile states, and drought destroyed livelihoods and caused displacement of people. Limited alternative livelihoods and high unemployment amongst youth laid the ground for armed groups to resort to cattle raiding and counter-raiding.

A comprehensive conflict analysis was conducted in the third quarter of 2023 by UNDP, in cooperation with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) - Civil Affairs Division (CAD), to understand the key conflict issues, causes, effects and actors involved. The study revealed that the key conflict issues in South Sudan continue to be cattle raiding/cattle theft, natural resource-based conflict and seasonal cattle migration, conflict between herders and farmers, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and abduction of women and children, border and land conflicts as well as political and ethnic tensions. Despite these, there have been opportunities for peace through the implementation of the R-ARCSS, and existing national, state and grassroots level peace infrastructures.

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan continues to remain a concern. An estimated 9 million people, including refugees in South Sudan, will experience critical needs in 2024.¹ Overall, the legacy of protracted conflict in South Sudan has continued to perpetuate a severe and prolonged state of humanitarian crisis and underdevelopment. Although the signing of the R-ARCSS in September 2018 and the formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) in February 2020 resulted in reduction of national-level hostilities and a continuing ceasefire since 2018, the presence of localized conflicts in various parts of the country, and the effects of natural disasters, has made it difficult for the country to deliver on its development agenda as envisioned at independence. The country continues to grapple with violence by different groups, including non-signatory groups, specifically the National Salvation Front (NAS) in the Equatoria Region, and localized conflicts in different areas such as Jonglei and Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Central Equatoria, Lakes, Warrap, Unity, Upper Nile and Western Bahr El Ghazal.

South Sudan also faces severe climate vulnerabilities, ranking as the most vulnerable country globally to natural hazards, according to the 2023 INFORM Risk Index, with the highest risk ranking of 8.5.² Additionally, since 2019, South Sudan has been experiencing consecutive years of unprecedented flooding affecting over one million³ individuals in 2022, in various parts of South Sudan. Further, these climate conditions and compounding effect of natural disasters, food insecurity, conflict and persisting insecurity have hindered the return of 2.2 million IDPs⁴ and 2.25 million refugees.⁵ The 2.2 million IDPs represent the world's fourth most neglected displacement crisis.⁶ With the onset of the Sudan crisis in April 2023 and a combination of violence and the cessation of food distribution from parts of Ethiopia, thousands of people returned to South Sudan, many of whom are highly vulnerable and arriving in critically underdeveloped areas. Since April 2023, at least 541,888 Sudanese refugees and South Sudanese returnees have registered in South Sudan since the start of the Sudan crisis. In

¹ Report: Humanitarian needs and response plan South Sudan 2024

² <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index>

³ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-humanitarian-fund-annual-report-2022>

⁴ <https://displacement.iom.int/datasets/south-sudan-baseline-assessment-round-11-idp-and-returnee>

⁵ [Situation South Sudan \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/situation-south-sudan)

⁶ <https://www.unocha.org/south-sudan>

December 2023 only, United Nations agencies registered 71,757 people, the highest number of new arrivals from Sudan following the crisis.

The permanent ceasefire largely continues to hold among the signatory parties to the R-ARCSS, except for few politically affiliated unrests. Further, communal conflicts continued to be witnessed across several parts of the country, in particular Upper Nile and Unity States, Warrap, Abyei and the Equatoria region. For instance, violence erupted in Malakal causing death, displacement, and suspension of activities. By the end of 2022, Upper Nile faced security turbulence due to the organized forces clash in Tonga and Fashoda. This insecurity spilt over to 2023 and continued clashes caused many casualties and displaced communities, with around 20,000 new IDPs moving to Malakal Protection of Civilians (POC) site from Tonga and Fashoda. This influx of IDPs overstretched the PoC site and created an environment for tensions. Moreover, on 28 May 2023, the security situation in Malakal deteriorated due to the killing of a Nuer Youth in PoC. The tension quickly escalated to violent clashes on 7 June 2023 that resulted in more than 20 casualties and displacement of more than 5,000 people from the Nuer community from Malakal PoC to Malakal Town. By the end of June 2023, the tension has been reduced with the intervention of Government and UNMISS Protection Force. Further, the political tension, usually followed by violence in most part of Unity state and Ruweng Administrative Area affected the stability of the areas. For instance, the continuous tension between the Commissioner of Panyijiar that has fitted communities against each other, caused many youths to live in hiding while perpetuating cattle raids and violence. This remains the context that UNDP's Peace and Community Cohesion (PACC) project implements its initiatives.

The PaCC project is aligned with national and global strategies including South Sudan's Revised-National Development Strategy (2021-2024) and the UNDP Strategic Framework and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2025). The project continued to use a two-fold implementation approach: a) community security approach which focusses on strengthening local mechanisms for peace through inclusive peace committees, dialogues and conferences to prevent and mitigate conflicts, and b) social cohesion approach which focusses on supporting women, youth and other vulnerable groups to undertake interdependency initiatives to strengthen relations and social fabric of the society and enhance reconciliation; while at the national level strengthening infrastructures for peace and conflict management. The PaCC project supports the implementation of Chapter I, II and V of the agreement, concentrating on empowering youth and women's participation in the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU), transitional security arrangements, healing and reconciliation and ensuring that local communities, particularly women, youth and persons with disabilities, have a voice and agency in the implementation of the agreement.

2. Progress Towards Development Results

2.1 Contribution to Longer Term Results

UNSDCF OUTCOME 1: Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, benefit from and participate in more transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance that protects and promotes human rights, enables the consolidation of peace, establishes the rule of law, and ensures access to justice for all.

CPD outcome target	Summary achievement to date
Percentage of individual respondents with confidence in peace and security disaggregated by gender.	As per the UNDP Indicator Monitoring Perception Survey findings, 53.5 percent (49.3 percent female) of community members have confidence in the existing peace and security situation in their location compared to the 44.1 percent during the PaCC-I final evaluation in December 2019. The low

Baseline: 47.4% (46.6% male and 48.7% female) Target: 60% (58% male and 62% female)	confidence levels in 2019 were present due to the community's fear of the unpredictable political situation and its effect on implementing the Revitalized Peace Agreement. The smooth establishment of the Transitional Government and communities' hopes on sustaining the prevailing relative peace contributed to the improved perception. This finding corroborated the UNDP Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index Assessment (<u>SCORE</u>) which stated that 78 percent of people from Aweil, Bor and Rumbek are strongly agree that the implementation of the peace process will benefit their community. SCORE also reported that people's support for the peace process is strongly tied to their hope and expectation that it will improve their quality of life.
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CPD Output 1.1: Infrastructure for peace at all levels enabled to reduce community violence, strengthened cohesion, and streamline peacebuilding mechanisms

CPD Indicators	Summary achievement to date
Indicator 1.1.1.: # of Agencies with policies, strategies, and action plans to coordinate national and local peacebuilding efforts. Baseline (2022): 3 (N-MOPB, BCSSAC, NDDRC) Target (2025): 12	Four (4) agencies supported. (1) National Ministry of Peacebuilding - South Sudan Peacebuilding Strategic Framework, National Action Plan to Combat Hate Speech, National Peacebuilding Policy, Standard Operating Guidelines for Peacebuilding Coordination were developed; (2) Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control (BCSSAC) - A Civilian Disarmament Strategy for South Sudan was developed and disseminated in some of the states; (3) National Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (NDDRC)—Development of policy documents; (4) South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission (SSPRC) - Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for Conflict Early Warning and Response.
Indicator 1.1.2.: Communal and climate-induced conflicts resolved	
<i>a. # of communal and climate-induced conflicts resolved through local mechanisms.</i> <i>Baseline (2022): 430 Target (2025): 610</i>	603 conflicts resolved by 168 peace committees. Cumulatively, 38⁷ local peace agreements have been signed. In 2023, a total of 6 agreements were signed after negotiation and dialogue between communities to resolve the conflicts. These agreements include: Marial Bai Agreement for pre cattle migration conference in Wau; Rezeigat and Dinka Malual conference; Misseriya and Dinka Malual conference; Ayod and Fangak conference; Misseriya, the Falata and Hawazma and the host communities of Dinka in RAA; and Dinka and Murle inter-communal dialogue.

⁷ 27 from 2021 Annual report; 1 resolution in Kuajok cluster- Tonj North Community Initiative Resolution signed on 09 March 2022, 5 agreements signed in 2022 and 6 in 2023.

<i>b. % of timely responses based on UNDP supported early warning systems (EWS).</i> <i>Baseline (2022): 57% Target (2025): 75%</i>	70%.
Indicator 1.1.3.: # of conflict-affected people benefited from social cohesion initiatives disaggregated by sex. Baseline (2022): 36372M (18,913 F) Target (2025): 75,000M (39,000F)	Cumulatively, 61,551 (32,755), with 25,179 (13,842F) beneficiaries reached in 2023.
Indicator 1.1.4.: # of ex-combatants and vulnerable groups successfully reintegrated disaggregated by sex. Baseline (2022): 0 Target (2025): 2,000 (40% F)	200 youth (20 female) enrolled in vocational training centers.

UNSDCF OUTCOME 4: Women, youth plus vulnerable groups are empowered to demand and exercise their political, economic, social, environmental, and cultural rights.

CPD outcome target	Summary achievement to date
Status of legal and policy frameworks to promote and enforce equality and on discrimination on the basis of sex, age, and disability. Baseline (2022): 0; Target: 4	Two initiatives have been undertaken: (1) Gender Equality Bill/Women Empowerment Bill – has been developed and presented to Ministry of Justice and constitutional Affairs for review. (2) UNDP provided training and mentorship on transformational leadership to a wide variety of young men and women, who were included as key stakeholders during the public consultations that informed the drafting of the Youth Constitutional Charter. Further, UNDP is contributing to the process towards the development of the Youth, Peace and Security National Action Plan led by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Consultations with the respective agencies were held to identify future pathways for collaboration regarding the development and implementation of the NAP.

Output 4.1 GEWE efforts strengthened and benefiting from national and local level governance and development initiatives

CPD indicators	Summary of achievement to date
Indicator 4.1.2.: # of MDAs mainstreaming gender in plans and programs. Baseline (2022): 0; Target (2025): 7	1 (National Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare). Gender Equality Bill has been developed to enhance mainstreaming gender and women's leadership.
Indicator 4.1.3.: # of UNDP supported women led Civil Society Organization (CSOs) with enhanced capacities to engage peacebuilding, development, and political processes. Baseline (2022): 0 Target (2025): 10	6 CSOs supported (4 women led CSOs and 2 women focused CSOs) in 2023.

CPD Output 4.2: Women and youth are empowered to participate in decision-making at national and local levels	
CPD indicator	Summary of achievement to date
Indicator 4.2.2.: # of conditions met for the endorsement of a Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) framework. Baseline (2022): 0 Target (2025): 4	To date, none of the Integrated Results and Resources Framework (IRRF) indicators are met for the endorsement of a YPS framework. Consultations are ongoing on development of a national strategy on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS).

2.2 Progress Towards Project Outputs

Project output one: Infrastructures for peace at the central and local levels are enabled to manage conflicts and foster peaceful co-existence

Indicator	Indicator Target (2023)	Summary achievement	Status
Indicator 1.1: No. of functional Peace committees established/ strengthened (Baseline: 116)	150	168 committees to date. 11 new committees in 2023. Total 281 (113 female) committee members	Completed
Indicator 1.2: No. of Youth former combatants enrolled in vocational training centers (Baseline: 0)	300	200 youth (20 female)	Partially Completed
Indicator 1.3: Number of local government officers with increased skills on transformational leadership and conflict management (Baseline: 47)	450	532 (150 female) cumulatively. 95 leaders (35 female) in 2023 through 2 trainings conducted in Bor and Kuajok	Completed
Indicator 1.4: Proportion of reported conflict cases that are responded to by the efforts of the peace committees (Baseline: 70%)	85%	70% of incidences reported by peace committees are resolved. 38 out of 54 reported incidences were resolved.	Partially Completed
Overall status			Partially Completed

1.1. No of functional Peace committees established/ strengthened (Baseline: 116)

Since the start of PACC phase two in 2020, more community structures to prevent and resolve conflicts have been strengthened at the payam level, localising the conflict prevention and response capacity as close as possible to where the tensions and conflicts occur. Cumulatively, 168⁸ peace committees have been established at county and Payam level. In 2023, eleven (11) new Payam Peace Committees were established and strengthened through training. A total of 281 (113 female) committee members received training on transformation leadership, conflict management, conflict analysis and peacebuilding during the reporting year. The trainings were delivered by the National Transformational Leadership Institute within the University of Juba. The participants comprised chiefs, Payam Administrators, youth, women leaders, and teachers, who expressed their interest and

⁸ The target was overachieved due to additional needs in communities that were initially not targeted and availability of resources.

commitment to continue advocating for peace in their communities. After the training, the peace committees developed action plans for utilising the skills gained from the training.

The table below summarizes the peace committee trainings conducted in 2023 and the participation.

S/N	Peace Committee Training	Participants		
		Female	Male	Total
1	Barmayen Payam Aweil Centre, Northern Bahr El Ghazal	5	25	30
2	Lui Payam in Mundri East County, Western Equatoria	10	15	25
3	Cit-cok payam in Cuiebet County of Lakes State	14	11	25
4	Payak Payam Leer County, Unity State	11	19	30
5	Bow Payam in Rubkona county, Unity State	13	17	30
6	Toch North Payam, Unity	8	14	22
7	Manlor Payam in Tonj North, Warrap State	8	14	22
8	Nyandit Payam of Akobo County of Jonglei state/Riwetto	10	15	25
9	Payam of Kapoeta North County of Eastern Equatoria state	9	16	25
10	Payam Level Peace Committee in Yomding Payam, Ulang County	12	10	22
11	Ikwoto Payam in Ikwoto county, Eastern Equatoria	13	21	34
	Total	113	168	281

In 2023, the peace committees continued to play a critical role in resolving conflicts in their communities. Since the start of the PaCC project, peace committees cumulatively responded to 603 community conflicts and incidences that had the potential to escalate. Incidences resolved ranged from cattle raiding, revenge attacks, road ambushes, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) up to disagreements over the utilization and management of natural resources like water and grazing land.

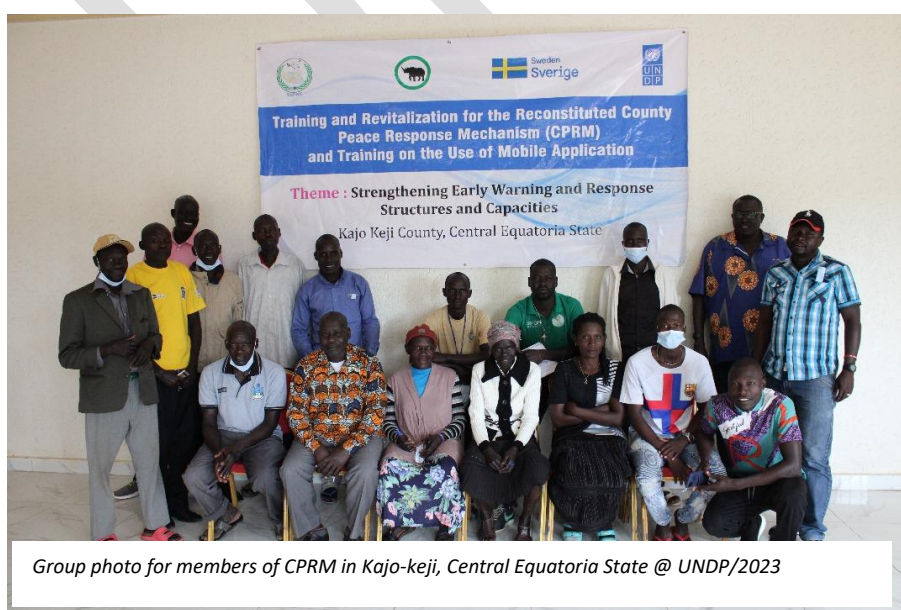
Further, UNDP, partners, communities and peace committees jointly played critical roles in mitigating and resolving conflict at the communal level. Key examples in this regard include:

In Torit cluster, UNDP continued to support dialogues and reconciliation efforts in various locations that are contributing to peaceful co-existence and cohesion. In Torit, a three-day dialogue was held in June 2023, aimed at addressing youth gang violence and promoting peaceful coexistence among conflicting youth gangs. The conference brought together 117 (25 female) participants including different youth gangs, youth organizations, international and national Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), government representatives, community leaders to collectively tackle this pressing concern. The dialogue ended after the conflicting youth were reconciled.

In Kuajok cluster, a dialogue between Luajanage Communities of Tonj East and Pakam communities of Rumbek North of Lakes State was conducted in Tonj South. The dialogue was attended by 200 (45 female) participants and concluded with the resolution of the conflict between the two communities. Additionally, a Greater Tonj conference was conducted to foster peace and reconciliation where 500 (150 female) people participated in Tonj South. In Bentiu cluster, the state government of Unity State, the peace committees and community members conducted a three-days peace and reconciliation dialogue in Guit County, with the sole aim of stopping revenge killing. In Aweil cluster, the Joint Border Peace Committee conducted dialogues with the State government to discuss the arrival of refugees from Sudan, and facilitated a dialogue between the Misseriya community of Sudan's West Kordofan State and the host community in Aweil, where 40 participants attended. The dialogue resolved to dedicate more land and space for returnees arriving, assuring peaceful reception of the returnees and refugees.

In the Eastern Plain Cluster, in Gakdong payam of Akobo County, the reconciliation between Cieng Longar and Cieng Buor (initiated in 2021) was completed with the blood compensation (compensation for blood shed) of the 15 people killed during the height of the conflict. This broke the urge amongst youths to go for revenge killing. Further, in May and June 2023, UNDP supported Dinka and Murle intracommunal dialogues in Bor and Pibor respectively. The dialogues brought together 70 (24 female) participants in Pibor (Greater Pibor Administrative Area) and 80 (20 female) participants in Bor (Jonglei State) that represented women, youth, members of parliament, state cabinet members, members of independent commissions, chiefs, and religious leaders. The participants had a discussion on conflict triggers amongst and within the neighbouring communities. The dialogues tasked the government and traditional authorities to ensure peace is maintained amongst community members as well as in ensuring justice and access to rule of law to promote reconciliation and social cohesion. The dialogue further tasked the government to put measures to reduce early and forced marriages, reduce the rampant cattle migration outside Jonglei that triggers conflict between the crop farmers and pastoralists, and to enforce regulations on drugs and alcoholic sales and consumptions. The dialogues recommended a continuous engagement between the governments of Jonglei and Greater Pibor Administrative Area to promote reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. The dialogues further recommend an annual Jonglei – GPAA peace conference to solidify the peaceful coexistence and recommended establishing of a joint Jonglei – Greater Pibor Administrative Area peace committee to enhance quick response to the conflict incidences.

Further, UNDP strengthened the policy environment on peacebuilding through secondment of an international expert to support the Ministry of Peacebuilding (MoPB) with the development and rollout of different policies, plans, guides and frameworks. With technical support of the Peacebuilding Advisor, the Ministry of Peacebuilding has finalized the following policy documents: National Action Plan to Combat Hate Speech, National Peacebuilding Policy, Standard Operating Guidelines for Peacebuilding Coordination and the South Sudan Peacebuilding Strategic Framework. As part of the collaboration with the Ministry of Peacebuilding, UNDP supported the launch of the National Peacebuilding Coordination Forum that brought together 54 (14 female) representatives from UNMISS, UNWOMEN, UNFAO, Embassy of Sweden representatives and other international and national partners. This launch created a forum for partners to coordinate peace initiatives to promote synergies and minimize duplication. As a result, terms of reference document was developed and one coordination meeting was conducted that mapped out 58 peacebuilding partners at the national level. At the local level, UNDP cluster offices took a lead role in facilitating monthly peace actors working group meetings.



UNDP continued to strengthen the conflict early warning and early response system through its work with the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission (SSPRC). So far, capacities of 321 (52 female) local leaders in 18 different locations across five states (Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western

Equatoria, Lakes, Jonglei and Greater Pibor Administrative Area) have been strengthened on early warning and engaged as members of the County Peace Response Mechanism (CPRM). The CPRM training brought together leaders from faith-based groups, youth, women, local government authorities, CSOs, people with disabilities, local leaders and chiefs. CPRM members acquired knowledge and skills on the use of the mobile application (AlertMe) for timely conflict early warning alerts for prevention and response. In 2023, the AlertMe app was consistently used for sending early warning reports and received over 1,551 alerts. The CPRM members also worked with peace committees to identify and resolve conflict incidents.

1.2. No. of Youth former combatants enrolled in vocational training centers (Baseline: 0)

UNDP and national partners have prioritized efforts towards Community Violence Reduction (CVR) through voluntary disarmament campaigns, vocational skills trainings and engaging ex-combatants in various livelihood activities. In Lakes State, UNDP supported the Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control (BCSSAC) with piloting a Voluntary Civilian Disarmament Initiative, thereby fostering the implementation of the South Sudan Voluntary Civilian Disarmament Strategy. The project engaged 250 households who voluntarily handed over their weapons in exchange for support packages.

In Rumbek, the selection of 200 (20 female) youth from the 250 households was finalised and



Disarmed youth learning catering skills at Rumbek Centre, Lakes State @ UNDP/2023

processed for voluntary civilian disarmament. The process is based on a rapid stakeholder assessment that was conducted in Lakes state in light of the ongoing voluntary civilian disarmament process. On 12th September 2023, the BCSSAC, with support from UNDP, launched an orientation workshop for 200 (20 female) youth who voluntarily surrendered their weapons to the Government of Lakes State and the BCSSAC. The workshop disseminated the Voluntary

Civilian Disarmament Strategy, the Firearms Regulation and Firearms Act of 2016. The 200 youth were enrolled into vocational skills training after the orientation workshop.

In Wau and Jur River counties of Western Bahr El Ghazal, a pilot project for Community Violence Reduction was officially launched with the presence of community members, the National Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (NDDRC), CSO partners and donors. The implementation of the CVR project gives voice to the State-level disarmaments strategy. The project commenced with community consultations to identify former combatants and community members associated with this group. A total of 500 beneficiaries were selected, including: former combatants, women former combatants, women associated with armed forces, disarmed youth, and youth at risk of recruitment. In collaboration with NDDRC and UNMISS, the project completed the profiling of 250 ex-combatants (62 female) and 250 community members (69 female) residing in the conflict-affected areas in Western Bahr el Ghazal State. The process identified skills sets imperative to [sustainable livelihood](#) opportunities for the CVR beneficiaries, such as carpentry, masonry, tailoring, auto mechanic, business and farming skills. Trainings covering the different components will be organized in Wau. Further, UNDP, NDDRC and SMARD provided reinsertion support of USD 100 to 100 ex-combatants between 17-22 December 2023. The reinsertion support enables the ex-combatants to return to their communities. The beneficiaries are from Northern Bhar eL Ghazal, Lakes State, and

Kuajok. An additional of 400 community members and ex-combatants are being formed into cooperative groups, currently receiving training for income generating activities and grants.

UNDP and the NDDRC launched a baseline report that has been a long-awaited milestone to help transform the reintegration landscape in South Sudan. The report also serves as a reference tool to inform a context-specific based intervention of DDR programming. The NDDRC commissioned this baseline study and assessment to ensure that re-integration planning will be based on- and informed by reliable and detailed contextual assessments. The assessment fosters a shift in traditional DDR as it is widening its scope from only ex-combatants towards encompassing reintegration of people associated with armed groups. The assessment reached a total of 12,226 respondents, making it the largest assessment done to inform DDR programming in South Sudan.

1.3. Number of local government officers with increased skills on transformational leadership and conflict management (Baseline: 47)

Collaborative local leadership enhanced: capacities of local governments and local leadership structures were strengthened to contribute to more effective governance at the sub-national level. 95 (35 female) local leaders were trained on transformational leadership and conflict management in Gogrial West and Boma county. Local leaders that participated in this training included Payam Administrators, Counties Executive Directors, chiefs, community leaders, youth representatives, women representatives and CSOs representatives. The training was delivered in partnership with National Transformational Leadership Institute (NTLI) at the University of Juba. At the end of the training, the participants committed to work together with peace committees, engage in dialogue and reconciliation activities, contribute to the implementation of early warning and early response system in each county to address cases of communal conflict.

Trained leaders have started practically applying the skills and lessons learned in the training. In September 2023, Boma County local authorities hosted a pre-cattle migration dialogue between Taposa of Kapoeta and Jie, Murle and Kachipo of Boma County. The dialogue was hosted by the Boma County Commissioner with support from UNMISS Civil Affairs Department. The dialogue resolved and established mechanism for peaceful sharing of the natural resources (water and pastures) during the dry season migration.

The role of traditional Leaders in addressing communal challenges enhanced: The traditional Leaders continue to play a key role in addressing communal conflicts in South Sudan. However, the erosion of the role of traditional leaders is increasingly becoming a challenge with new cultures emerging like the youth sub-cultures that have been accused of disregarding this. UNDP and partners successfully conducted a national conference for traditional authority leaders in September 2023. The conference aimed at enhancing understanding on the role of traditional authorities in conflict management and resolving community disputes. The conference was a follow-up on the resolutions and recommendations of the 2022-2023 regional traditional leaders conferences supported by UNDP in collaboration with UNMISS, National Ministry of Peacebuilding, Local Government Board and other partners. It brought together 122 leaders (10 female), mainly paramount chiefs, Director Generals of State Ministries of Local Government and law enforcement agencies from the ten States and Greater Pibor Administrative Area as well as national level representatives of the governance cluster institutions of South Sudan. The conference concluded with the signing of resolutions in which traditional leaders called for comprehensive disarmament of civilians; deployment of unified forces, including police, to maintain law, order and protection of chiefs; establishment of reformatory centres for suspects of cattle raids; training of local government administrators to effectively carry out their role; organization of State level COTAL conferences to enhance the participation of head chiefs, executive and sub-chiefs in the leadership conferences.

Enhanced Insider Mediation Capacity at National and Local Level: A holistic transformation of complex and protracted conflicts necessitates multiple levels and forms of engagement that connect and integrate the whole of society and leverage local/national capacities and approaches of transforming conflict. In recent years, insider mediation has emerged as a process to prevent, manage,

and resolve conflicts by involving trusted local personalities, such as civic, social, religious, or political leaders, in local and national peace efforts. This approach relies on the influence, legitimacy and knowledge of the individuals who are themselves an intrinsic part of the conflict context.



To this end, UNDP South Sudan together with the Clingendael Institute⁹ strengthened the capacities mediation capacities of peace committees, local leaders with influence and key strategic personalities through three Insider

Mediator trainings, which were hosted by the International Peace Support Training Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. The first insider mediator training held from 26 to 28 April 2023 strengthened the capacities of 25 (8 female) insider mediators from across South Sudan. Out of this, 10 insider mediators received a Training of Trainers (TOT) from 01 to 05 May 2023 as part of localising the mediation training capacities in the country. The participants varied from the Undersecretary of the national Ministry of Peacebuilding, state Minister of Peacebuilding, National Transformational Leadership Institute – University of Juba, the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission, and peace committee members at the Payam level. The diversity of the group created a unique dynamic, enabling a two-way exchange of knowledge and experience between the high-level national stakeholders and local peacebuilders at the grassroots level.

Recognising the interconnectedness between national and subnational conflicts, a third training was held from 25 – 29 September 2023 targeting 10 (5 female) high level insider mediators at the national level. The training brought together a pool of influential government, academia and religious representatives. The training aimed creating a group of high-level insider mediators who will engage in internal mediation and conflict resolution at the national level. Herewith, decreasing the need to rely on international partners or regional bodies to undertake mediation when conflict or tension arises.

1.4. Proportion of reported conflict cases that are responded to by the efforts of the peace committees (Baseline: 70%)

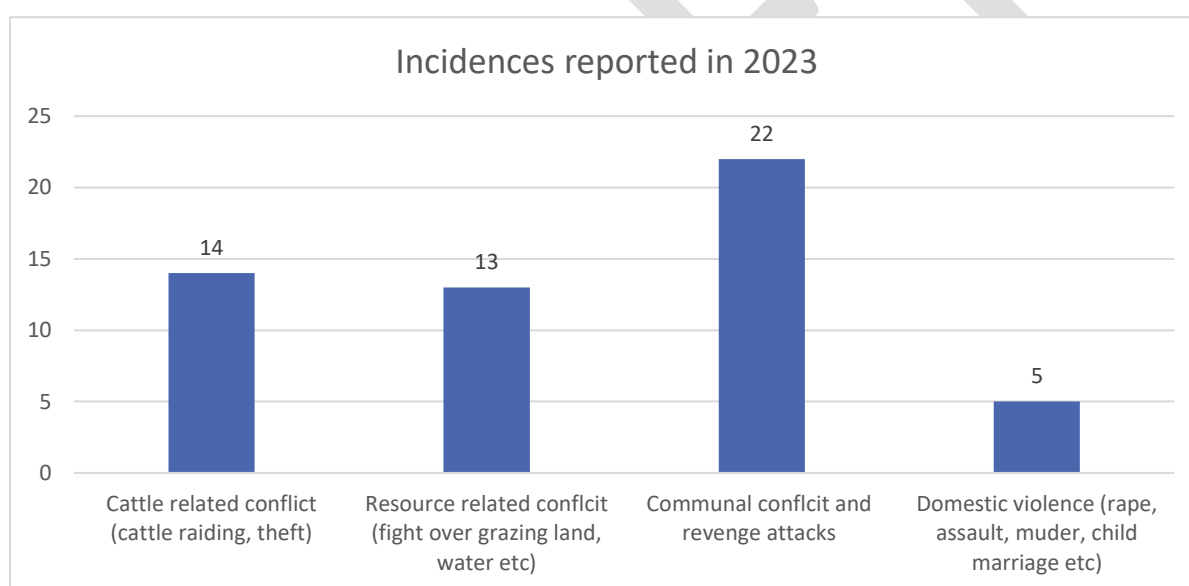
To date, 70% (38 out of 54) conflicts reported to the SSPRC have been resolved by efforts of the peace committees in collaboration with village, Boma and Payam authorities. Most of the incidences were reported via the Alert Me application. From the conflicts reported, communal conflicts and revenge attacks were the highest at 41% followed by cattle raiding and theft at 30% and resource related

⁹ The Clingendael Institute is one of the largest independent diplomatic training centers around the world. It is a non-profit and non-partisan organization, training diplomats, military officers, international civil servants, and humanitarian frontline negotiators in more than hundred countries.

conflicts including conflicts over grazing land and water stood at 24%. While the majority of the cases have been managed by the peace committees themselves, they have also referred some cases to local leaders for conflict resolution.

For instance, in the Eastern Plain Cluster, Kolnyang payam peace committee helped to mitigate a violent conflict between the cattle camp youths from Biong and Nyara communities who were competing over pastures and water points. In 2023, the competition of natural resources has increased amongst cattle keepers who were forcefully evicted in the Equatoria region and returned to Jonglei. Through the effort of the peace committee, Biong youths were requested to move to another location, averting what would have been a worse case of violence. Similarly, the Akobo County peace committee resolved a conflict incident amongst the White Army which was threatening to create a cycle of retaliatory attacks. Through the intervention by the peace committee, the adultery case which triggered the conflict was addressed, enhancing reconciliation between the White Army of Chienglungar and Chienkuol.

The nature of reported conflicts that appeared to be unresolvable by the local peace committees consist out of armed violences such as cattle raids and highway ambushes, as perpetrators in these instances are hard to be apprehended using the grassroots' conflict resolution mechanisms.



Project output two: Strengthened structures to encourage trauma healing, reconciliation and reinforce social cohesion at all levels

Indicator	Target (2023)	Summary achievement	Status
Indicator 2.1: Number of people receiving Psychosocial support for trauma from trained volunteer counsellor (Baseline: 167)	200	27,843 to date. In 2023, 677 individuals (333 female) were reached through psychosocial support and trauma healing training, awareness, and support.	Completed

Indicator 2.2: A national Strategy on Trauma Healing and Psychosocial Support Elaborated (Baseline: No)	Yes	Draft Mental Health Strategy Plan 2023 – 2027 was developed	Completed
Indicator 2.3: Percentage of cattle related conflicts that are successfully resolved through traditional conflict resolution (Baseline: 10%)	30%	In 2023, 71% (10 out of 14) of cattle related conflicts reported were resolved.	Completed
Indicator 2.4: Number of people benefited from community interdependency initiatives (Baseline: 30,723)	50,000	To date, 64,758 (21,920 female) reached. In 2023, a total of 22,604 (12,572 female) participated in economic empowerment, social cohesion and interdependency activities.	Completed
Indicator 2.5: Number of youths involving in peace building activities through youth initiative interventions (Baseline: 1,394)	15,000	To date, 13,590 youth reached. In 2023, a total of 1,420 (729 female) youth participated in peacebuilding activities.	Partially Completed
Overall status			Completed

2.1. Number of people receiving Psychosocial support for trauma from trained volunteer counsellor (Baseline: 167)

In 2023, 677 individuals (333 female) survivors of conflict related trauma received psychosocial support from the community volunteer counsellors and facilitators (ToTs) trained and facilitated by UNDP. In the reporting period, nine (9) psychosocial support groups were formed in Bentiu (2), Rumbek (3) Kuajok (2), Aweil (1) and Torit (1) clusters. A total of 176(89F) community volunteer counsellors (CVCs) were trained on psychosocial support to foster trauma healing by addressing individual and communal traumas.

Location/Cluster	No of groups formed	CVC Members Trained	Female Members	CVC Male Members
Bentiu/Bentiu	1	30	5	25
Rumbek/Rumbek	2	60	43	17
Kuajok/Kuajok	1	32	12	20
Yirol//Rumbek	1	30	17	13
Leer//Bentiu	1	30	21	9
Aweil/Aweil	1	30	10	20
Jur river/Kuajok	1	30	15	15
Ikwoto/Torit	1	30	15	15
Total	9	272	138	134

In Bor cluster, CVCs provided psychosocial support to 22 vulnerable victims affected by violence in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area and Panyagor in Twic East County, following the violence that erupted between December 2022 and January 2023 due to a conflict between Greater Pibor Administrative area and the youth of Jonglei state comprising of Lou Nuer, Gawaar and Dinka. In

addition, the CVCs also provided support to four cases of depression and trauma associated with the dire social and economic situation, and one rape case in Panyagor, Twic East. Further, a psychological first aid sessions was conducted for 29 staff members (3 female) of the hospital in Boma combined with a psychosocial support awareness session for 62 participants (8 female), representing youth, chiefs, women leaders, and local authorities in Boma, Jonglei State.



In Rumbek cluster, CVCs conducted several awareness raising sessions reaching 30 community members (13 female) in Rumbek town. In addition, a total of 400 (200 female) community members in Yambio and Nzara benefited from 10 sensitization workshops on the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing. Moreover, a total of 20 (10 female) community survivors received psychosocial

support in the same locations, and a total of 200 (100 female) people participated in healing and reconciliation workshops in Yambio and Nzara organized by Rural Development and Agricultural Agency (RDAA) with UNDP support.

Trauma Awareness Workshops of State Leaders: UNDP along with partners provided capacity strengthening to local leaders on trauma healing and psychosocial support awareness. A total of 151 local leaders (44 female) participated in, Tambura, Ikwoto, Pariang, Tonj East and Mvolo.

Following the crises in Sudan, an unprecedented influx of returnees and refugees have affected the programming in Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Unity and Upper Nile States. UNDP designed and implemented an emergency response strategy focusing on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), contributing to peacebuilding and social cohesion within the communities. The PaCC project provided crucial MHPSS and Psychological First Aid (PFA) to returnees, refugees and host communities, including:

- PFA for police and social workers training for 21 (10 Female) in Wau.
- Trauma healing and psychosocial support for 11 women in Wau, who survived GBV/SGVB.
- Trauma awareness sessions for 83 community members (53 Female) in Wau.
- Psychosocial support awareness to 22 (14 Female) returnees from Sudan in Wau, awaiting to be transferred to Kuajok.
- Psychosocial Support Groups of returnees and Psychological First – Aid / Do No Harm Awareness session reaching 663 people (543 returnees and 120 refugees) in Wau, Aweil East, Aweil North, Aweil West, Bentiu, Rotriak, Rubkona, Ajuang Thok, Jam Jang, Pamir and Malakal.
- 310 Members of host communities participated in PFA awareness session in Bentiu, Rotriak, Aweil, and Malakal POC.

Further, the CVR project provided social reintegration support to 30 community leaders (17 female, 18 male) in Wau and Jur River Counties which was conducted for by the NDDRC and a Psychosocial and Trauma Awareness facilitator. The training supports the social reintegration process of the CVR project beneficiaries by providing education to disarm the mind and to foster peaceful co-existence, anger management, psychosocial counselling.

2.2. A national Strategy on Trauma Healing and Psychosocial Support Elaborated (Baseline: No)

The first draft South Sudan National Mental Health Strategic Plan 2023-2027 was developed in 2022. A workshop was held in March 2022 by the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Technical Working Group (TWG) to provide feedback and inputs to the draft Plan. The inputs were taken to the Ministry of Health for presentation to the senior board. A Validation Workshop of the developed South Sudan Mental Health Strategic Plan took place from 4th to 7th of October 2022, with the intention of reviewing and validating the objectives and activities. In 2023, the Department of Mental Health of the Ministry of Health updated the Mental Health Strategy plan to cover 2024 – 2028. Once this strategic plan is approved and disseminated, it will set the basis for further and more specific MHPSS interventions, including Trauma Healing and Psychosocial Support activities, that would require the collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Peacebuilding.

2.3. Percentage of cattle related conflicts that are successfully resolved through traditional conflict resolution (Baseline: 10%)

In 2023, more than 71% of cattle related conflicts reported to peace committees were resolved. Out of the 14 cattle related conflicts reported, 10 were resolved. Moreover, cumulatively, a total of 38 local agreements and resolutions for were signed between different communities. In 2023, a total of five agreements were signed after negotiations to prevent conflicts, including: the Marial Bai Pre-cattle migration agreement; Rezeigat and Dinka Malual; the Misseriya and Dinka Malual; the Ayod and Fangak; the Misseriya, the Falata and Hawazma and the host communities of Dinka in Ruweng Administrative Area.

In Bor cluster, due to the return of large numbers of cattle keepers from Equatoria region, the water points and pastures became limited in Jonglei leading to increased competition over these resources. This resulted in high tension amongst cattle keepers in Kolnyang Payam in Bor County. The heighten the competition over the limited natural resources was associated with armed youth threatening to use violence. The Payam peace committee and local chiefs conducted a meeting with cattle camp youths, resulting in the movement of one group of youth to another location to avoid confrontation and ease on access to water points and pastures.

2.4. Number of people benefited from community interdependency initiatives (Baseline: 30,723)

Women and youth empowered: Economic empowerment activities continue to pay dividend in the form of increased income. To date, a total of 2,090 (1,862 female) people are supported with economic empowerment activities across the target clusters. From which, a total of 723 people (505 female) are youth that were engaged in various livelihood and income generation activities. Summary of the key livelihood for peace activities are:

In Rumbek cluster, 25 youth groups were supported to undertake income generating activities and agri-business. The youth were provided start-up kits in the form of agricultural inputs and assorted items to start their own businesses. A total of 505 (287 female) in the 3 locations were supported through UNDP partner, [Salaam Junub](#). The agricultural inputs provided include seeds, ox-ploughs and other related resources. This has helped to equip them with the necessary tools to start their own businesses as well as scale up production and generate income towards their cooperative group. With this support, members were able to produce more crops for commercial purpose hence each member saved up to 81,000 South Sudanese pounds. The group members as well as the wider community in Yeri have now shifted their concentration [from conflict and home consumption production to](#)

commercial production. The group members now generate more income from offering ox-plough services to the community at a cheaper price which has encouraged more commercial agriculture. Further, in Rumbek cluster, the youth and women groups that received start-up kits experienced a positive change in their economic status as those that embarked on selling goats, fish and tea recorded increases in profit which enabled them to send their children to school and cater for the cost of medication and food. Daniel Mayan from Tali payam of Terekeka County said *“I am very happy because in three months I managed to buy four cows and that means by the end of the year, I’d be able to buy 12 cows which will multiply in the next few years as I continue with my business. By just selling one cow at 200,000 SSP I was able to send my children to school, save some money for medication and buy seeds and agricultural tools to diversify my sources of livelihood”*.

In Bentiu cluster, women’s economic empowerment activities reached more than 570 people (560 women and 10 men) across Unity state. The support provided include trainings and provision of startup kits such as chairs, umbrellas etc through UNDP partner, Women Vision.



Women beneficiaries of the economic empowerment training and start up kits in Bentiu, UNDP/2023

In Kuajok cluster, 120 women were trained in business skills in Jur river County by UNDP Partner, Sudan Evangelical Mission (SEM). Since then, the group started their saving and loan system.

In Bentiu cluster, the Youth Peace Center recorded an income that is equivalent to 3,700\$ in just a quarter. This amount was collected from the rent of the hall and other small business activities that generated incomes for them.

Water system handed over to community: The rehabilitated Tambura Water Plant was handed over to the communities of Tambura County during the first quarter of 2023. The water plant is benefiting 8700 people (4176 Female). The water plant is creating a social and economic interdependency by restoring the solar powered water supply system in Tambura town, after the significant escalation of violent conflict in Tambura County, in 2021. UNDP conducted consultations with community members (women, youth, and elders), UN colleagues, and the Commissioner of Tambura County, who committed to protect the water system. The communities jointly worked on the restoration of the water plant, hereby increasing the social fabric.

Innovation hub launched: In 2023, the Innovation Pod at the University of Juba (UNIPOD) was launched and is expected to be fully operational within the next year. The UNIPOD is aimed at promoting innovation, inter-disciplinary research and nurture the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs in the University. The UNIPOD is the first high tech innovation hub in South Sudan and is furnished with equipment for: woodwork lab, agri/food tech lab, textiles/fabrics lab, electrical and electronics lab, audio visual and augmented reality/visual reality lab and other spaces. To ensure sustainability of the management of the hub, 52 Faculty members and allied staff (21 Female) were



Young Woman at the Entrance of the UNIPOD during the launch, UNDP/2023

selected by the Dean of Academic affairs to attend a 3-week innovation training run by the UNIPOD Director, an international expert engaged by UNDP. At the end of the training 15 faculty members were selected towards moving their initiatives from ideation to design stage within the innovation hub. In addition, an MOU agreement is in place between Go Girls ICT Initiative and UNIPOD to engage young women out of university environment for an incubation programme.

Sports and cultural activities: A total of 5,228(3,062 female) people were reached through sports, cultural and traditional dance activities across the different clusters.



Cultural dance for peace in Aweil, @HASS, 2023

In Kuajok cluster, 1,059 people were reached via an outreach program aimed at promoting social cohesion for women and girls. In Aweil cluster, sports competitions and traditional dances for peace and reconciliation reached a total of 1,083 (652 female) people. In Rumbek, a sports tournament and wrestling competitions for enhancing peaceful coexistence among the communities attracted a total of 3,096 (1,446 female) spectators.

International Peace Day: Enhanced understanding of milestones on peace and the roles of stakeholders in building peace in South Sudan was created during the International Peace Day celebration in Juba, supported by UNDP and the national Ministry of Peacebuilding in collaboration with partners. A total of 5,409 people (2495 female) participated in the event. The Ministry of Peacebuilding emphasised the importance of collective actions for peace as reflected in this year's theme '*Me and you for peace in South Sudan*'. In addition, partners were urged to create platforms for youth to interact and gain livelihood skills; women's economic empowerment and more support to peacebuilding activities in South Sudan.

Intergenerational Dialogues: Intergenerational gap was bridged between the youth leaders and local leaders, including chief, elders, women, local government and peace committees, which has led to reduced conflicts in the community due to the collaborative approach between the youth and the

leaders. A total of 205 people (88 female) participated in intergenerational dialogues conducted in Jonglei, Eastern Equatoria, Warrap, Lakes and Unity states. Intergenerational dialogues held, based on active listening and mutual respect mitigated the risk of marginalisation and alienation, allowed acknowledgement of grievances by the youth and incorporation of diverse perspectives in solving the communities' problems. The dialogues that aimed to address the disconnect where the young people feel misunderstood or underappreciated regarding the critical role they play in peacebuilding and socio-economic development. The intergenerational dialogues strengthened the participation of young people in the peacebuilding architectures and the overall decision-making processes, by highlighting the benefits for both youth and elders and on collaborative peacebuilding across different ages and genders. The participation of young people in peacebuilding reduces incentivization to participate in violence and pervasive practices such as cattle raiding. These dialogues also reinforced social cohesion by nurturing mutual understanding, empathy, and respect across age groups. As a result, the sense of belonging and collective responsibility for community well-being was strengthened, reducing potential conflicts and tensions.

2.5. Number of youths involving in peace building activities through youth initiative interventions (Baseline: 1,394)

To date, 13,590 youth engaged in various initiatives aimed at building trust and empowerment. In 2023, a total of 1,420 (729 female) youth participated in peacebuilding activities. For instance, the South Sudan National Unity Day (NUD) was successfully conducted. PaCC has supported and facilitated the participation of wrestlers from Unity, Warrap and Juba. The wrestlers with their coaches and two cheerleaders per state (a total of 8 people per state) participated in the event. During this event, UNDP organized a workshop on peacebuilding, gender and trauma awareness. A total of 420 athletes and coaches (326 female) participated during the workshop. The youth transferred the obtained knowledge and own experiences into paintings and peace songs. UNDP provided track suites for 420 athletes, 200 sports uniforms and distributed 2000 posters with peace messages. UNDP also supported NUD in Warrap where 1,000 people (403 Female) attended.

Project output three: Peace processes are engendered, and conditions of women's participation in decision making improved

Indicator	Target (2022)	Summary achievement	Status
Indicator 3.1: Number of women trained on mediation, public speaking, and engagement skills, engaged in local and national peacebuilding work (Baseline: 57)	600	To date, 548 women have been reached. In 2023, a total of 30 women participated in women mentorship training.	Completed
Indicator 3.2: Number of youth and persons with disability trained on mediation, public speaking and engaged in local and national peacebuilding (Baseline: 146)	150	To date 1,823 youth and persons with disabilities reached. In 2023, 222 youth (including 133 female) received training and 1,300 (650 female) persons with disabilities engaged in social cohesion activities.	Completed
Indicator 3.3: Number of states with funded action plan to end child marriage (Baseline: 0)	2	Ongoing	Partially Completed

Indicator 3.4: Number of sectoral policy reviews, analysis and dissemination incorporating women peace and security issues (Baseline: 0)	1	3 (Brochures on women in security sector, National Action Plan on Gender and Security Sector, Report on women security needs)	Completed
Indicator 3.5: Gender affirmative action bill developed in an inclusive manner and presented and debated in parliament (Baseline: No)	Yes	The Bill was developed and presented to the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for review.	Partially Completed
Overall status			Completed

3.1: Number of women trained on mediation, public speaking, and engagement skills, engaged in local and national peacebuilding work (Baseline: 57)

To date, 548¹⁰ women leaders' capacities to lead and articulate priorities and concerns of women and the community have been strengthened through a women mentorship and coaching programme by



Participants at International Women's Leadership Conference in Juba, @UNDP/ 2023

UNDP, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MoGCSW) and NTLI. In Aweil, 30 young women benefited from the training and mentorship support to ensure their participation in mediation, public speaking, and engagement skills. The training increased their knowledge, enhanced their participation and confidence, and recognized their effort toward peace and security

at the state level.

Further, an [International conference](#) on women's leadership was hosted in South Sudan. 430 women representing all the States and Administrative Areas of South Sudan as well as African women from 15 countries representing a cross section of women leaders, gathered in Juba for the inaugural International Women's Conference on Transformational Leadership. The conference was hosted by H.E. Rebecca Nyandeng De Mabior, Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan Gender, Youth and Humanitarian Cluster, the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, the National Transformational Leadership Institute, UNDP and other United Nations entities. The Conference was officially opened by H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan, highlighting the political will to support the women's leadership agenda. The conference presented a rare opportunity for African women to deepen and expand regional and international networks and catalyse learning in support of South Sudan's women in advancing women's leadership in the peace and security arena. During the deliberations at the conference, participants discussed actions and strategies to; strengthen women's participation and leadership in decision making and peacebuilding; enhance women's economic empowerment as a driver for gender equality; safeguard and deepen gains made;

¹⁰ 40 women in Aweil; 37 in Bentiu; 49 in Wau; 44 in Juba; 45 in Jebel Boma; 42 in Bor; 40 in Kuajok; 45 in Kapoeta; 65 in Kuajok, 71 in Bentiu

engage with young women to bridge the intergenerational gap; promote inclusion of all women including rural women and girls in climate action and policy formulation; eliminate gender based and sexual violence against women and girls; and engagement with men as allies for gender equality.

3.2. Number of youth and persons with disability trained on mediation, public speaking and engaged in local and national peacebuilding (Baseline: 146)

To date, capacities of 2,023 young men and women and persons with disabilities were enhanced through trainings and engagements on peacebuilding initiatives. In 2023, a total of 222 youth (133 female) participated in the youth mentorship trainings and 1,300 (650 female) persons with disabilities participated in social cohesion initiatives. The trainings were conducted in Akobo, Aweil, Bentiu, Juba, Kuajok, Malakal and Torit. The youth mentorships were three-day trainings implemented by NTLI. The youth were trained and informed on the role of youth in peacebuilding, the R-ARCSS, how to conduct lobby and advocacy to strengthen the voices of young men and women, communication, and practiced public speaking. Further, the mentorships provided a platform for youth to discuss their challenges and needs with their peers and brainstorm on strategies how to address these. The youth were stimulated to account for the 'multiplier effect', meaning that they will go back to their communities and spread their knowledge among their peers, and mentor youth on how they can and should contribute to peacebuilding.

Further, in December 2023, the role of persons with disabilities on building peace was amplified through a peace and social cohesion festival that brought together 1,300 (650 female) participants as



Amputee Football teams playing for the trophy as part of the celebration of the IDPWDs in Juba, @HH/ 2023

a celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Various groups of persons with disabilities showcased their talents and skills that contribute to peace and social cohesion.

These included Football competition between amputee football teams, performance by hearing impaired musician group, and performance by dance and cultural groups. Further, the festival organized by a UNDP partner Helping Hands, was an opportunity to raise awareness of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that was ratified by the President of the Republic of South Sudan on 24th February 2023. The event drew attention to the work being done by the government and partners to fast track the efforts committed to persons with disabilities at the signing of the Convention. Some of the key highlights include: economic empowerment of persons with disabilities by providing employment opportunities and provisions of employable and vocational/technical skills to equip them with necessary skills and be able to support themselves independently, extension of the Trauma and Psychosocial support services or programs to grassroots levels to reach out to other many survivors of the wars or intercommunal conflicts in villages across the country, ensure equal opportunities for full participation of persons with disabilities in all spheres of life.

3.3. Number of states with funded action plan to end child marriage (Baseline: no)

In the reporting period, no formal state resolution/commitment with a funded action plan to end child marriage was developed. A Terms of Reference was prepared for a consultant to consolidate the recommendations from consultations and support the development of a policy document on action plans for ending child marriage, which will be submitted to adoption by state cabinets for implementation by the state level actors. Community consultations have been conducted in various parts of the country which discussed the causes of child marriage, the link between child marriage and conflict, and developed recommendations aimed at addressing child marriages as a driver of conflict and improving social cohesion among communities. The [consultations](#) organised by UNDP partner , Community Initiative for Partnership and Development (CIPAD) were held in Wathmuok Payam, Aweil South County; Yargot Payam in Aweil East County; gar-tong Payam in Aweil East County; Naivasha Payam in Aweil Center County, Northern Bahr El Ghazal State.

3.4. Number of sectoral policy reviews, analysis and dissemination incorporating women peace and security issues (Baseline: no)

Three knowledge products were produced and disseminated that supports policy processes on gender mainstreaming in the security sector, namely; the brochure on women in the security sector, National Action Plan (NAP) on Gender and Security Sector Reform (SSR), and a report on women's security needs. These were developed through a participatory process through community consultations led by the women coalition for peace and development, a signatory to the R-ARCSS. These products have been used by the various security sector institutions to strengthen gender mainstreaming and responses to security needs of women, girls, boys and men. For instance, UNDP brought together gender equality champions (supported by UNDP and UN Women) and senior leaders within the institutions to develop a strategy to implement the NAP on gender and SSR. Some of the immediate results include:

"The presence of the gender champions in the Prisons have increased gender awareness, which is very important, it has helped the officers to respect institutional roles and avoid discrimination in the institution. It has increased the understanding among the officers that what men can do, women can also do. We also acknowledge that women are left behind due to patriarchal cultures and we are now working hard to have accelerated promotions, so that more women can come into leadership positions." **Major General. General Redento Tongun**

"Being part of the gender equality champions meeting has created very good interactions with armed forces. We were fearing when we hear about forces, I found out that that they are good people and are educated. We now become like colleagues and partners in addressing security issues affecting us." **Female Project Beneficiary**

Conflict Analysis: Conflict in South Sudan is a multifaceted issue, with complex historical roots and significant humanitarian consequences and challenges for sustainable development. To this end, UNDP jointly with UNMISS-CAD conducted a thorough conflict analysis to enable a better understanding of conflict dynamics in South Sudan across specific locations from national level down to Boma level to inform forward planning and programming. The methodology and approach involved an extensive primary data collection exercise across South Sudan. Identified groups of key informants included traditional authorities and religious leaders, peace committee members, community-based leaders, youth leaders, women leaders, and local government officials as well as staff from the UN and NGOs. Primary data was supplemented and triangulated with secondary data from a range of sources. Approximately 1,590 respondents participated in the primary data collection exercise, 46% of whom were women and approximately one third were youth. Over 70 documents and reports were reviewed as part of the secondary data collection exercise.

3.5. Gender affirmative action bill developed in an inclusive manner and presented and debated in parliament (Baseline: No)

To ensure gender-responsive and inclusive National and State Governance, UNDP supported the MoGCSW in drafting the Affirmative Action Bill to facilitate the implementation of the 35% gender provision of the revitalized agreement. UNDP hired a consultant in 2021 to support the Ministry to facilitate the process of consultation and bill drafting. In 2022, draft Affirmative Action Bill was presented to different stakeholders including Political Parties, Civil Society, Academia, people living with disabilities and faith-based organizations as well as members of parliament for buy-in and endorsement. So far, the Bill has been handed over to the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for review and approval, who provided feedback on the Bill to the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. The Bill, once revised and passed as a law, will be launched, and disseminated.

2.3 Human Interest Story

Dut's Story - Perception Change Leading to Economic Empowerment

In Aweil, the implemented activities are contributing to the realization of the change through training on entrepreneurship, conflict resolution and start-up kits for small businesses.



One of the participants that demonstrated change after the trainings and usage of the start-up kit is Dut Ding. Dut has a small shop where he is selling commodities like sugar, tea, biscuits, etc supported by a UNDP partner, Empower Youth Africa (EYA). Before having the small business, Dut was idle and was tempted to consider a way of living centered around violent practices like cattle raiding.

His way of living changed after the intervention. *“Having the business made me resistant to participate in violent practices like cattle raiding, it makes me feel like a peace champion”,* said Dut. He is earning around 55,000 SSP per month and is saving money to buy more commodities like fish, aiming to expand his business.

Dut Ding in his shop, preparing a package of Sugar, Aweil, @EYA/2023

Selina's story- Her journey to Economic Sustenance

The Peace and Community Cohesion activities are contributing to the realization of the results of the project as witnessed during a CSO monitoring visit conducted in Eastern Equatoria. First and foremost, the visited areas witnessed a spike in number of returnees mainly from the refugee camps in Uganda and elsewhere. According to the Payam Administrator in Pajok Payam, Eastern Equatoria, about 15,000 people have returned to Pajok Payam and the numbers are increasing. The discussions revealed that the desire for peace and for establishing lives and livelihood was found to be very high. Despite the limited support provided by UNDP, community members, and the members of different groups supported demonstrated significant impact the project have had in their lives. One of the women that demonstrated change is Selina Achola in Magwi.

Selina Achola, a member Village Saving Loan Association (VSLA) group in Magwi was supported by Peace Link Foundation through UNDP support. She received 10,000 SSP from the SACCO group along with the training on business management and book-keeping. “With the money received, I bought small goats for 5000 SSP and with the 5000 SSP remaining laid bricks to construct rental shops in my

plot. The shops constructed are now rented for 55,000 SSP a month. I then sold the goats making a good profit and opened a restaurant that makes on average 11,000 SSP income a day”, said Selina.

Selina plans to take over the shops she is renting to other traders and start her own shop. She says this will enable her start earning good income to send her kids to good colleges. Right now, her three children are in boarding school, and she is paying their fees without a problem, which was previously a challenge.

3. Cross-Cutting Issues

3.1 Gender Results

Gender Results	Evidence
Gender Result One: Increased women participation in local and regional peace and development committees. 35% of state government leaders trained were women. Through the capacity building of the state government officials on transformational leadership, peace and conflict management, women participation on peacebuilding has increased.	• Activity Reports
Gender Result Two: Women playing leadership role in resolving local disputes. 35% of the intergenerational dialogues were women. Kabartho Women leaders who were central in the dialogue themed, a dialogue of mothers, sons and elders on peaceful coexistence with neighbours, continued their peace efforts. The women leaders used their skills in encouraging peaceful coexistence between communities of Greater Pibor Administrative Area with their neighbours.	• Activity reports
Gender Result Three: Promoting participation and representation of women in community peace and livelihoods initiatives: The women within the peace committees trained and those that attended the insider mediators training constituted 35%. These women actively participate in the resolution of the grassroots conflicts. This ensured that women’s role as leaders is enhanced, which led to more inclusive outcomes of the conflicts and incidences the peace committee responded to.	• Activity reports
Gender Result Four: Improvement in the reporting of the GBV cases: Through the intervention of the local peace committees in Bor there were number of the gender-based violence cases which were reported to the local police. The survivors were also supported with basic psychosocial support and counselling. The communities reported the presence of SGBV issues including child marriages and early pregnancies of teenage girls without proper accountability. The presence of the Community Volunteer Counsellors increased the awareness to report cases to relevant authorities.	• Activity Reports • CVC reports

3.2 Partnerships

UNDP collaborated with various institutions, including the Government, CSOs, Academia and other UN agencies.

- UNDP collaborated with UN Agencies including UNMISS, UNFPA, UN Women and government counterparts like the Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare the Office of the Vice President to conduct the International Women’s Conference on Transformational Leadership in Juba, South Sudan.

- UNDP collaborated with UNMISS – Civil Affairs Division (CAD) in the implementation of community dialogues. The partnership has increased coordination and quick response to conflict incidents as both agencies complement each other's strengths.
- UNDP collaborated with the Ministry of Peace Building, Commission of Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation, and the Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare in the organization of the trauma healing and psychosocial support trainings.
- UNDP worked closely together with the University of Juba regarding the launch of the Unipod.

3.3 Environmental Considerations

- The project encouraged staff, implementing partners, beneficiaries and vendors to foster proper disposal of non-biodegradable items, usage of reusable containers/objects, and sparing use of paper by being mindful about the need to print documents. The beneficiaries also collected plastic bottles and recycled them for containing other domestic items like seeds and oil.
- Use of solar energy at CSO offices and for infrastructure projects. e.g., the Tambura water plant.

3.4 Strengthening national capacity

Results achieved	Institution	National capacity strengthened
3 CPRM trainings reached 60 individuals (8 Women)	South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission (SSPRC)	Seconded Communication Officer, ICT Officer to support trainings, data organization and visualization
Finalized National Action Plan to combat hate speech	Ministry of Peacebuilding	Seconded International Peacebuilding Advisor at the ministry
Finalized National Peacebuilding policy	Ministry of Peacebuilding	Seconded International Peacebuilding Advisor at the ministry
Finalized Standard Operating Guidelines for peacebuilding coordination	Ministry of Peacebuilding	Seconded International Peacebuilding Advisor at the ministry
Finalized South Sudan Peacebuilding Strategic Framework.	Ministry of Peacebuilding	Seconded International Peacebuilding Advisor at the ministry
Conducted International Women Conference in South Sudan	Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare	Seconded international and national consultant at the office of Vice President (responsible for social cluster) and Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare
Conducted Traditional Authority Leaders Conference in Juba	Local Government Board, Partners	Peacebuilding Analyst supported the coordination

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Key M&E activity	Key outcomes	Recommendation	Action taken
CSO monitoring mission in Kuajok cluster	A monitoring visit was conducted to the Sudan Evangelical Mission (SEM) project aimed at empowering women and girls and formation of the group Village Saving Loan Association (VSLA) in Mapel, Kuajina, Mubili Payams of Jur River County, where a group of 14 women had been supported agricultural tools and seeds.	The need to continue providing technical support to groups formed, trained and provided with startup kits until they are self-sustainable.	Follow up on the use of the startup kits by the beneficiaries.
CSO monitoring mission in Torit for the Green Belt cluster	Interaction with beneficiaries, gaps identified, propose solution and document success stories from the work of HUMAES and PLF	Continuous technical support and monitoring on the support provided to the community.	Recommendations and actions needed are debriefed with the CSOs and being followed up.
CSO monitoring mission in Unity cluster	The team oversaw and assessed the work of CSO Women Vision (WV) involving the provision of umbrellas, chairs, and tables to the women who had received training on bakery and soap making aimed at assisting them in launching their businesses.	The need to ensure continued monitoring and technical support to groups formed.	Follow up on the use of the startup kits by the beneficiaries.
UNDP monitoring mission to Malakal, Upper Nile State	(i) Met the Governor and senior officials of Upper Nile State to discuss UNDP's activities and critical gaps and areas of cooperation. (ii) Visited the Malakal PoC site, met with women groups on psychosocial support and trauma healing	(i) Awareness raising for the community on GBV (such as early marriages) (ii) UNDP to explore opportunities with other UN agencies and INGOs to provide support as a response to the newly arrived IDPs. (iii) Support widows and orphan children that	Findings were discussed with PaCC team, UNDP management and the Governor's office

	(iii) Met women and youth supported with livelihood initiatives, and peace committee members in Malakal town (iv) Visited and monitored the construction of the youth center in Malakal town (v) Met with the UNMISS Head of Office and representatives of CSO partners.	are affected by the conflict (iv) Provide support and training for youth in PoC. (v) Support women livelihood activities (vi) Need for more peace committee trainings (vi) Strengthen cooperation with the government in Upper Nile State	
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5. Risk Management

Risks	Mitigation Measures
Escalation of communal armed violence and conflict	- UNDP collaborated with peace committees to continually monitor the situation aiming to provide early warning information. This involved working the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission on the early response to the conflicts, including advocating for a government response. - UNDP partnered with the local authorities and provided support for local intercommunal dialogue to resolve and reduce chance of relapse to violence. - Priority was given to implementation of activities in other relatively peaceful counties where operations could be conducted safely. - Security clearance and briefing of security information was obtained from UN and local authorities ahead of any program design and implementation. - Flexibility and adaptive, conflict-sensitive planning were employed throughout implementation of initiatives.
Flooding/rainy season making it difficult to access certain areas	The majority of activities were implemented during the dry season.
High inflation rates in the country	Project activities were budgeted in in USD to mitigate the impact of inflation and project inputs were procured in hard currency (USD) to prevent fluctuating exchange rates resulting to prices hiking in the local markets.

6. Challenges

The key contextual challenges encountered during the reporting period include:

- The implementation of the R-ARCSS is still a challenge with very few milestones made to achieve vital issues such as unification of forces, and a fully functional state assembly. The

ongoing delay in implementation of the R-ARCSS, especially chapter 5, continues to generate apprehension among community members and leaders.

- Cattle raiding and theft continued to be a hinderance to peace building.
- Poor Network coverage at Boma and Payams hinders relay of information. There were delays on information reaching some participants due to bad communication networks.
- During the first quarter, activities were limited in Malakal due to the insecurity in Tonga, Kodok, and Sobat River Corridor. Thousands of new IDP were coming from Jonglei state crossing to Upper Nile and settled in three IDP camps in Southern Malakal.
- The general difficult economic situation and hard standard of living (high inflation) is a problem to stability and relative peace in the cluster.
- Floods continued to be the main challenge in most parts of the all the counties in Unity state, denying access to most part of the state for movement of goods, and vital commodities needed for the livelihood of community.

The key operational challenges encountered during the reporting period include:

- Poor road infrastructure and rainy season affected the monitoring of activities. The poor road infrastructure network coupled with heavy rainy seasons during the second quarter affected smooth implementation of planned project activities across clusters.
- Delays in procurement due to system challenges occasionally prevented timely execution of activities in the field.

7. Lessons Learned

Key lessons learned include:

- Community sensitizations largely resulted in decreased Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) proliferation and armed criminality in Lakes State. Metal detectors for identifying weapons is useful to achieve project results on SALW control.
- The presence of SALW in the hands of civilians continues to revert peacebuilding gains and triggers conflict.
- Community re-integration support, alternative livelihood trainings and grants and psychosocial support are identified to be core ways of establishing linkages between stabilization, cohesion, and sustainable communities.
- A focus on community dialogues, exchange visits, and support to youth initiatives increases the overall impact.
- Support to peace committees regarding their initiatives for conflict mitigation, actions plans and operational support accounts for increased impact and results in peace building.
- Collaboration and partnership with other UN agencies created greater results and achievements.
- Community-owned activities and processes yielded sustainable outcomes.
- Conflict, gender and age sensitivity are key in the implementation of activities to foster a Do No Harm approach.
- Some conflict issues keep recurring because cases of trauma have not been satisfactorily addressed combined with weak institutional capacity to enforce rule of law.
- Individual healing sessions within the Trauma Healing and Psychosocial Support Training allow new community volunteers to address their own trauma, and in parallel, be empathetic with the trauma of other community members. Herewith, contributing to increased social cohesion.

- Collective and individual trauma are a continuous burden to effective participation in the peace- and constitution-making process, and unaddressed trauma prevents reconciliation.
- The role of local peace infrastructures is essential in preventing, mediating and addressing local conflict. However, the sustainability and operational capacity is sometimes inadequate.
- There remains a significant burden for women to effectively engage in peace- and decision-making processes at all levels.
- Emerging issues and dynamics situations are increasingly affecting the peacebuilding field, and sometimes even reverting peacebuilding gains.

8. Conclusions, Recommendation and Opportunities for Follow-up

Peace and Community cohesion activities are playing important role in the communities. A couple of areas that need follow up have been recommended below:

- It is essential to prioritize programs driven by community initiatives that hold economic significance. These include training youth on vocation skills, computers, carpentry, fisheries and start-up kits for youth enterprises. Such initiatives aim to tackle issues like idleness and trauma and reduced the cycles of violence. Moreover, this will reduce the rate of youth unemployed at the state level.
- Enhance cooperation with peace building partners like UNMISS-CAD. An identified opportunity for collaboration involves utilizing UNMISS flights to reach regions inaccessible during both dry and wet seasons.
- Increase collaboration with partners on MHPSS for referral pathways of individuals or families in need of specialized services.
- Social inclusion activities such as sports, cultural shows, musical concerts need to be supported to engage the communities.
- Peace capacity enhancement and coordination; support to establishing a center for peace committees, where they will have pool of resources such as laptops, resourceful library for trainers to conduct of more trainings at local level.
- There is a requirement for weekly radio talk show focusing on promoting peaceful coexistence and trauma healing. CVCs and psychosocial support groups currently lack counselling corner (counselling unit) where they could address confidential cases of GBV and/or trauma healing and reconciliation case management process. Some of groups and CVCs lack skill of case management and principles of SGBV.

9. Financial Expenditure

Peace and Community Cohesion PACCII						
JAN - DEC 2023 Financial Report by Project/Output (US\$)						
Project/Outputs /Activity Results		Actual Resources Budget (US\$) (Jan – Dec 2023)	Expenditure USD (Jan to Dec 2023)	PO Commitments USD	Total Expenses and Commitments USD (Jan-Dec 2023)	% of Utilization as at 31st Dec 2023
		A	B	C	D=(B+C)	D/A*100
OUTPUT 1 : 00120156_INFRASTRUCTURES FOR PEACE AT CENTRAL AND LOCAL LEVELS ARE ENABLED TO MANAGE CONFLICTS AND FOSTER PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE						
Activity 1.1	Establish and operationalize 92 inclusive county level peace committees	723,026	682,022	17,752	699,773	97%
Activity 1.2	Build capacity of local governments on transformational leadership and conflict prevention	403,813	162,324	228,643	390,967	97%
Activity 1.3	Support review of legislation on infrastructures of peace in line with R-ARCSS	652,249	522,230	115,737	637,967	98%
Activity 1.4	Strengthening of the conflict early warning and response (CEWAR) system, in line with IGAD framework for CEWARN	390,847	332,767	42,914	375,681	96%
Activity 1.5	Support cattle migration conferences, national and community dialogues, mediation and consultations	341,555	297,400	25,784	323,184	95%
Activity 1.6	Support voluntary civilian disarmament initiatives and peace education to disarm the mind	489,008	471,924	0	471,924	97%
Activity 1.7	Support development of a national and or state specific policies on cattle migration and raiding	311,498	291,498	0	291,498	94%
00120156_Sub-total		3,311,997	2,760,165	430,829	3,190,995	96%
OUTPUT 2: 00120157_STRENGTHENED STRUCTURES TO ENCOURAGE TRAUMA HEALING, RECONCILIATION AND REINFORCE SOCIAL COHESION AT ALL LEVELS						
Activity 2.1	Support public awareness and consultation on the CTHR	200,407	-31,243	193,311	162,067	81%
Activity 2.2	Establish teams of volunteers counsellor in 80 counties to support community trauma healing and reconciliation	537,283	376,646	13,618	390,264	73%
Activity 2.3	Engage youth and women in social, cultural and economic activities to deepen relationship and offer alternatives to violent practices	719,134	698,192	8,510	706,702	98%
Activity 2.4	Provide community-oriented infrastructure to generate employment, improve local service delivery and increase social interaction	305,388	255,388	0	255,388	84%
Activity 2.5	Organise people to people and intergenerational dialogues and intercommunal learning exchanges to address local peace issues	151,388	144,589	0	144,589	96%
Activity 2.6	Facilitate transformative and voluntary civilian re-integration as part of DDR	201,367	180,268	1,067	181,334	90%
Activity 2.7	Support initiatives to reduce child abduction and cattle raiding related violence	231,704	190,604	2,110	192,714	83%

Activity 2.8	Undertake media, information and communication activities for peace.	272,307	240,082	0	240,082	88%
00120157_ Sub-total		2,618,978	2,054,525	218,615	2,273,141	87%
OUTPUT 3: 00120158_ PEACE PROCESSES ARE ENGENDERED, AND CONDITIONS OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING IMPROVED						
Activity 3.1	Support implementation of National Action Plan on women peace and security	186,110	104,138	62,758	166,896	90%
Activity 3.2	Build capacity of women, youth and minorities in mediation, advocacy and engagement skills	135,127	113,178	14,750	127,928	95%
Activity 3.3	Support women participation in reconciliation and trauma healing initiatives	162,585	141,003	30,353	171,356	105%
Activity 3.4	Support initiatives and action against child marriage	256,632	218,506	0	218,506	85%
Activity 3.5	Build capacities of women, youth and minority groups for increased participation in governance and peace processes	177,698	41,914	113,900	155,813	88%
Activity 3.6	Provide socio-economic opportunities to girls and women for voice and agency	186,250	176,250	0	176,250	95%
3.7	Project Management, oversight and communication and Evaluation and Reporting	870,823	865,620	4,162	869,782	100%
00120158_ Sub-total		1,975,226	1,660,610	225,922	1,886,532	96%
	00132988_ Support to SSD Peace Process	828,538	588,322	248,175	836,496	101%
	00132988_ SubTotal	828,538	588,322	248,175	836,496	101%
	00133570_CVR in Western Bahr el Ghazal	514,394	163,957	1,310	165,267	32%
	00133570_ SubTotal	514,394	163,957	1,310	165,267	32%
	01000214_ Stabilization of conflict affected communities for a dignified and sustained return of displaced populations in Eastern Equatoria and Upper Nile States	324,000	45,473	0	45,473	14%
	01000214_ SubTotal	324,000	45,473	0	45,473	14%
	01000668_ Support to Peace and Community Cohesion	924,697	378,544	48,869	427,413	46%
	01000668_ SubTotal	924,697	378,544	48,869	427,413	46%
	01000774_ Women's Leadership and Political Participation	600,000	306,190	79,478	385,667	64%
	01000774SubTotal	600,000	306,190	79,478	385,667	64%
Grand Total		11,097,830	7,957,786	1,253,198	9,210,984	83%

10. Annex I – List of Media Links (January – December 2023)

	Activity name and location	Link
1.	International Conference on Women's Transformational Leadership	https://undpsouthsudan.exposure.co/guwa-ta-mara
2.	Integration of Trauma Awareness and Psychosocial Support-Rebuilding Reconciliation and Social Cohesion in South Sudan	https://www.undp.org/south-sudan/blog/integration-trauma-awareness-and-psychosocial-support
3.	Promoting Inclusivity and Healing: Trauma Awareness Workshops Empower Persons with Disabilities in South Sudan	https://www.undp.org/south-sudan/news/promoting-inclusivity-and-healing-trauma-awareness-workshops-empower-persons-disabilities-south-sudan
4.	France Funds Pilot Project on Community Violence Reduction in Western Bahr El Ghazal State	https://www.undp.org/node/433946
5.	Role of Traditional Leaders in Peace, Security and Development: National Conference	https://www.undp.org/south-sudan/blog/role-traditional-leaders-peace-security-and-development-national-conference
6.	Reintegration of Ex- Combatants in South Sudan: Where do we stand?	https://www.undp.org/south-sudan/news/reintegration-ex-combatants-south-sudan-where-do-we-stand
7.	Future Forward UNIPOD: Launched at the University of Juba, South Sudan	https://www.undp.org/south-sudan/news/future-forward-unipod-launched-university-juba-south-sudan
8.	Conducted Payam level community consultation and advocacy workshop on ending force and child marriage-a driver of conflict at Akuem Boma of Yargot Payam	https://cipadsouthsudan.org/aweil-east-payam-level-community-consultative-and-advocacy-workshop-on-ending-child-and-forceful-marriages-as-a-driver-of-conflict-was-concluded-successfully-on-18th-january-2023/
9.	Conducted County level community consultation and advocacy workshop on ending force and child marriage-a driver of conflict at Kan-Ajak Boma of Mangar-Tong Payam	https://cipadsouthsudan.org/aweil-east-county-level-community-consultative-and-advocacy-workshop-on-ending-child-and-forceful-marriages-as-a-driver-of-conflict-was-concluded-successfully-on-19th-january-2023/
10.	Conducted State level community consultation and advocacy workshop on ending force and child marriage-a driver of conflict at Naivasha Boma of Naivasha Payam	https://cipadsouthsudan.org/nbeg-state-level-community-consultative-and-advocacy-workshop-on-ending-child-and-forceful-marriages-as-a-driver-of-conflict-was-successfully-organised-on-15th-february-2023/
11.	Support coordination meetings of already trained community volunteer counsellors at Madhol Boma of Madhol Payam Aweil East County Northern Bahr El Ghazal State	https://cipadsouthsudan.org/trained-community-volunteer-counsellors-successfully-supported-to-conduct-one-1-day-trauma-awareness-and-counselling-services-on-27th-march-2023-in-

		madhol-boma-of-madhol-aweil-east-county-northern/
12.	Support coordination meetings of already trained community volunteer counsellors at Malual Baai Boma of Malual Baai Payam Aweil East County Northern Bahr El Ghazal State	https://cipadsouthsudan.org/coordination-meeting-of-malualbaai-community-volunteer-group-of-counsellors-was-successfully-supported-on-21st-march-2023-in-malualbaai-payam-aweil-east-county-northern-bahr-el-ghazal-state/
13.	Support coordination meetings of already trained community volunteer counsellors at Akuem Boma of Yargot Payam Aweil East County Northern Bahr El Ghazal State	https://cipadsouthsudan.org/coordination-meeting-of-akuem-community-volunteer-group-of-counsellors-was-successfully-supported-on-22nd-march-2023-in-yargot-payam-aweil-east-county-northern-bahr-el-ghazal-state/
14.	Support coordination meetings of already trained community volunteer counsellors at Wanyjok Block 1A of Baac Payam Aweil East County Northern Bahr El Ghazal State	https://cipadsouthsudan.org/coordination-meeting-of-wanyjok-community-volunteer-group-of-counselors-was-successfully-supported-on-23rd-march-2023-Block 1A of Baac-payam-aweil-east-county-northern-bahr-el-ghazal-state/
15.	Support coordination meetings of already trained community volunteer counsellors at Malou-Aweer Boma of Ayuang Payam Aweil Town Northern Bahr El Ghazal State	https://cipadsouthsudan.org/coordination-meeting-of-malou-aweer-community-volunteer-group-of-counsellors-was-successfully-supported-on-24th-march-2023-in-ayuang-payam-aweil-center-county-northern-bahr-el-ghazal-state/
16.	Support 1 day trauma awareness meeting and counselling service which was conducted by already trained community volunteer counsellors at Madhol Payam	https://cipadsouthsudan.org/trained-community-volunteer-counsellors-successfully-supported-to-conduct-one-1-day-trauma-awareness-and-counselling-services-on-27th-march-2023-in-madhol-boma-of-madhol-aweil-east-county-northern/
17.	Conducted Payam level community consultation and advocacy workshop on ending force and child marriage-a driver of conflict at Akuem Boma of Yargot Payam	https://cipadsouthsudan.org/aweil-east-payam-level-community-consultative-and-advocacy-workshop-on-ending-child-and-forceful-marriages-as-a-driver-of-conflict-was-concluded-successfully-on-18th-january-2023/
18.	Conducted County level community consultation and advocacy workshop on ending force and child marriage-a driver of conflict at Kan-Ajak Boma of Mangar-Tong Payam	https://cipadsouthsudan.org/aweil-east-county-level-community-consultative-and-advocacy-workshop-on-ending-child-and-forceful-marriages-as-a-driver-of-conflict-was-concluded-successfully-on-19th-january-2023/
	Salaam Junub delivers Start-up kits for income generating activities and sports materials to Terekeka groups.	https://salaamjunub.org/project/salaam-junub-delivers-start-up-kits-for-income-generating-activities-and-sports-materials-to-terekeka-groups/

11. Annex II – List of CSO Partners

	CSO Implementing Partners
1.	National Transformational Leadership Institute (NTLI)
2.	Hope Restoration South Sudan (HRSS)
3.	Humans Must Access essentials (HUMAES)
4.	Community Media Network South Sudan (COMNETSS)
5.	Helping Hands
6.	EVE Organization for Women Development
7.	Solidarity Ministries Africa for Reconciliation & Development (SMARD)
8.	Organization for Peace, Relief and Development (OPRD)
9.	Rural Development Action Aid (RDAA)
10.	Rumbek University of Science and Technology (RUST)
11.	Recovery and Access to commonly Best Optimism- South Sudan (RACBO-SS)
12.	Community Initiative for Partnership and Development (CIPAD)
13.	Empower Youth Africa (EYA)
14.	Hope Africa South Sudan (HASS)
15.	Women Vision (WV)
16.	Greater Upper Nile Organization (GUNO)
17.	Jonglei women empowerment programme (JWEP)
18.	Lukluk Community Agency for Development (LCAD)
19.	Peace Link Foundation (PLF)
20.	Women Aid Vision
21.	Salaam Junub