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PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Updated May 2025

COUNTRY: SOUTH SUDAN

TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL: SEMI -ANNUAL

YEAR OF REPORT: 2025

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Title: Women in South Sudan's Security Sector: A Path to Inclusive and Transformative Leadership **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: 00140762**	
If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund: ☒ Country Trust Fund ☐ Regional Trust Fund **Name of Recipient Fund:** UN Women	**Type and name of recipient organizations:** **please select** UN Women (Convening Agency) (Convening Agency) **please select** UNDP **please select** UNESCO **please select** **please select**
Date of first transfer: 27th July 2024 **Project end date:** 29th July 2027 **Has this project received a cost or no cost extension? N/A** **Will this project be requesting a cost or no-cost extension? N/A** **Will this project be submitting a Fund Transfer Request (FTR) in the next six months? No** **If so, around which month do you expect to submit the request?** please select **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** No	
Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows: ☒ Gender promotion initiative ☐ Youth promotion initiative ☐ Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions ☐ Cross-border or regional project	
Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization): • *Please enter the total amounts in full US dollars allocated to each recipient organization* • *Please enter the original budget amount, amount transferred to date and estimated expenditure by recipient.*	

- *For cross-border projects, group the amounts by agency, even where transfers are made to different country offices. You can provide the detail in the attached budget.*

Recipient organisation	**Budget Allocated (in full USD)**	**Amount Transferred to date (in full USD)**	**Amount spent / committed to date (in full USD)**
UN Women	**$1, 000, 000.00**	**$700,000.00**	**$618, 265.46**
UNDP	**$1, 000, 000.00**	**$700,000.00**	**$92,861.27**
UNESCO	**$1, 000, 000.00**	**$700,000.00**	**$688,894.26**
TOTAL	**$3, 000, 000.00**	**$2,100, 000.00**	**$1,400,020.99**

Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget:

ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE

The budget templates are available here

Implementing partners

To how many implementing partners has the project transferred money **since the project's start***?*

5.

To how many implementing partners has the project transferred money **during this calendar period** *(for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-December (anticipated); for final reports: full project duration)?* 5

Please list all of the project's implementing partners and the amounts (in USD) transferred to each, both since the project's start, and specifically during this calendar period:

Name of Implementing Partner	***Type of Organization (ex. Govt, civil society, etc.)***	***What is the planned total amount (in USD) for the overall duration of the project to be disbursed to this implementing partner?***	***What is the total amount (in USD) disbursed to the implementing partner since the project's start?***	***What is the total amount (in USD) disbursed to the implementing partner during this calendar period?***	***Briefly describe the main activities carried out by the Implementing Partner during this calendar period (1500 characters)***

Hope Africa South Sudan	National Youth Civil Society Organization	400,000	200,000	200,000	Conducted a Stakeholder Engagement Meeting with members of the South Sudan Women's Security Sector Network. Carried out a Gender Barriers Assessment within security sector institutions in Juba. Organized Validation Workshops with key stakeholders. Facilitated consensus on a Security Sector Roadmap.
African Relief Development Foundation	National Youth Civil Society Organization	203,088	100,000	200,000	Launch of the project in Malakal. Formation of women in Security sector Network in Malakal.
Empower Youth Africa (EYA)	National Youth Civil Society Organization	179,950	53,985	53,985	Organized a consultative workshop in Juba. Identified and renovated the learning facilities in Juba. Enrolled and provided basic literacy lessons and materials, primarily for women in uniform.
Recovery and Access to Commonly Best Optimism	National civil society organization	205,000	61,500	61,500	Consultative workshop in Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State.

(RACBO) South Sudan					Identified and renovated a learning facility in Aweil town. Enrolled and provided basic literacy lessons and materials, primarily for women in uniform.
Bridge for Social Services	National civil society organization	200,000	60,000	60,000	Consultative workshop in Malakal, Upper Nile State. Identified and renovated learning facilities in Malakal. Enrolled and provided basic literacy lessons and materials, primarily for women in uniform.

Gender-responsive Budgeting:

Indicate what percentage (%) of the budget contributes gender equality or women's empowerment (GEWE) as per the project document? 100%

Indicate dollar amount from the project document to contribute to gender equality or women's empowerment: 1549980.00

Amount expended to date on efforts contributing to gender equality or women's empowerment: 1400020.99

Project Gender Marker: GM3

Project Risk Marker: Medium

Project PBF focus area: Gender Promotion initiative

Steering Committee and Government engagement

Does the project have an active steering committee/ project board?

NO

If yes, please indicate how many times the Project Steering Committee has met over the last 6 months? *(3000 characters)*

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Please provide a brief description of any engagement that the project has had with the government over the last 6 months. Please indicate what level of government the project has been engaging with *(3000 characters)*.

The project has been engaging primarily with government entities at the state and institutional levels within South Sudan. Over the last six months, the project engaged with the national government through a key meeting held on March 24, 2025, between UN Women and the Ministry of Peacebuilding's Under-Secretary, Hon. Pia Phillips, and his Executive Secretary. This meeting introduced the implementing partners, Hope Africa South Sudan (HASS) and the African Relief Development Foundation (ARDF), who will support project activities in Juba, Aweil, and Malakal. The engagement at the national level emphasized accountability and transparency, fostering collaboration to align project efforts with government peacebuilding priorities. Follow-up Meetings with the Under-Secretary, the Deputy Inspector General of Police and the Director General of Prisons were held to inform them of the gender diversity study currently ongoing across the country that will be critical in the development of key reforms such as the gender policy for the security sector.

The consultant is working closely with the national teams including the national Implementing Partners and officers identified from the Security Sector Institutions to conduct the survey in the 10 States and 3 Administrative areas. So far, all the 10 states and one administrative (Pibor) have been visited. The senior state leadership of the 11 locations have been introduced to the project, provided their views and provided the necessary support for collecting the information needed for the study.

Stakeholder engagement meetings with members of South Sudan's Women in the Security Sector Network, which includes representatives from various security institutions such as the police, wildlife services, South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF), and the prison service have been conducted during this period. These engagements focused on briefing, informing, and educating participants on the project objectives and planned activities, ensuring alignment and understanding of the project's goals.

UNESCO has led in the conducting key collaborative meetings in Juba, Aweil and Malakal. The meetings involved the security sector institutions, partner organizations among other key stakeholders thus reinforcing the connection and coordination with state-level security bodies. These interactions highlighted the project's engagement with government institutions at the state level to address gender barriers and promote women's participation in security roles. In addition, the workshops resulted in achieving more information to enhance inclusivity to the literacy initiatives, participant selection criteria, and learning facility identification that fit the needs of the women in uniform.

Overall, the project worked closely with the national and government structures including the security sector institutions, focusing on collaboration, consultation, and gender-focused assessments within these bodies.

Report preparation:

Project report prepared by: Amuge Barbara Tauga

Email: amuge.barbara@unwomen.org

Project report approved by: Rukaya Mohammed

Have all fund recipients for this project contributed to the report? Yes

Did PBF Secretariat or RCO focal point review the report? Yes

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NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:

- Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.

- Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.

- Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.

- Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.

- In the results table, please be concise, you will have 3000 characters, including blank spaces to provide your responses

PART I: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

Please rate the implementation status of the following preliminary/preparatory activities *(Not Started, Initiated, partially Completed, Completed, Not Applicable):*

Contracting of Partners	Completed
Staff Recruitment	Completed for UN women and UNESCO and partially completed for UNDP
Collection of baselines	In progress
Identification of beneficiaries	Completed

Provide any additional descriptive information relating to the status of the project, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) *(3000 characters):*

UN Women, UNSECO and UNDP have all signed partner agreements with the implementing partners who will be working in Malakal, Aweil and Juba, and funds have been disbursed to the implementing partners.

All implementing agencies have completed the recruitment of project staff. The coordinators are now on board and actively managing their respective projects.

To support evidence-based implementation and monitoring, a consultant has been engaged to conduct the project's baseline study. The consultant has submitted an inception report, which has been reviewed and approved by all participating agencies. Although the consultant's travel to South Sudan was initially delayed due to security concerns, preparations for the field visit to collect baseline data are now actively underway. The baseline is expected to be completed by mid of July 2025.

A gender diversity study was completed, the report is currently being reviewed by the implementing agencies and is awaiting stakeholder validation, which planned for June 2025. This study aims to provide deeper insights into gender representation and dynamics within the security sector. Once completed, the findings will undergo a validation process with relevant stakeholders to ensure accuracy and relevance.

Describe overall project progress made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-December (anticipated); for final reports: full project duration). Do not list

individual activities. If the project is starting to make/has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context.

Is the project on track for the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan? Yes

If no, please provide an explanation *(6000 characters)*:

Project progress summary *(6000 characters)*:

Output 1.1: Evidence-based analysis is generated to advocate for the increased meaningful participation of women in the security sector.

UNDP, UNW in collaboration with UNMISS is undertaking a comprehensive Gender Barrier Assessment conducted across multiple security institutions, including the police and prisons, wildlife, in South Sudan. This assessment engaged a wide range of stakeholders and revealed systemic discrimination, cultural stereotypes, poor infrastructure, and a significant gap between policy and practice. Notably, women's leadership representation was found to be under 5%. In parallel a gender diversity study was carried out across the three states in multiple security sector institutions including the army, wildlife, and civil defense services, which confirmed gender imbalances favoring male officers and highlighted the additional burden on women due to low and delayed pay. A key achievement of this study was the establishment of state-level data management and reporting systems for police and prison personnel. These findings informed the development of a Security Sector Roadmap, created through a participatory process led by Hope Africa South Sudan and UN Women. The roadmap, validated by 186 stakeholders, outlines concrete policy recommendations and institutional reforms to address gender inequalities in the security sector. The roadmap is a working document that will be further refined and expanded to incorporate additional activities as implementation progresses.

Output 1.2: Capacity and skills for women in the security sector is enhanced to assume leadership positions and promote gender equality

Hope Africa South Sudan organized a stakeholder meeting that brought together 32 women leaders from various security institutions. The meeting focused on strengthening women's participation in security sector reforms and leadership, aligned with the R-ARCSS and HRDDP. A key outcome was the planning for the establishment of similar women's networks in Aweil and Malakal, with existing network members committing to support these efforts. In Malakal, the African Relief and Development Foundation, in partnership with UN Women, officially launched the Network of Women in Uniform for Upper Nile State. This network includes 47 members from law enforcement agencies and related ministries, with 30 women and 17 men. The initiative was endorsed by the state Ministry of Gender, which pledged ongoing support. Additionally, sustained advocacy by the network led to the government donating office space, and the project successfully mobilized $15,000 from the Government of Norway for renovations. This office will serve as a hub for coordination, peer support, and capacity building.

Output 1.3: Participation of women is increased in adult literacy, computer skills and accelerated learning programmes.

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UNESCO, in partnership with EYA, BRISS and RACBO is providing a total of 504 women from various security sector institutions with basic literacy classes in Juba, Aweil, and Malakal. The classes in Juba and Aweil commenced in late March 2025 after delays caused by a national heatwave advisory, while classes in Malakal began in April due to heightened insecurity and the heatwave. To support these educational efforts, three consultative workshops were held in January and February 2025 in Juba, Aweil, and Malakal. These workshops provided a platform for explaining project activities, agreeing on beneficiary selection criteria, and choosing appropriate learning facilities. Participants included top security leaders, women in uniform, civil society members, and other partners. The workshops received positive feedback, with participants describing the activities as timely and complementary to existing literacy programs.

Output 2.1: Coordination mechanism is strengthened to enhance security service delivery at sub national and national levels

The project facilitated multiple stakeholder engagements that emphasized the importance of peer learning and coordination among women in the security sector. The establishment of the Women's Security Sector Network in Malakal and the planned expansion to Aweil are key steps toward strengthening coordination. The newly donated and soon-to-be-renovated office space will further institutionalize these efforts by serving as a strategic coordination hub.

Output 2.2: Capacity of the security sector is strengthened to respond to and combat GBV and CRSV in accordance with the international standards especially female officers.

The project integrated discussions on gender-based violence (GBV) and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) into its workshops and network activities. These engagements promoted gender-responsive approaches and enhance the capacity of female officers to address such issues effectively.

Output 2.3: Capacity of SSI is strengthened to develop, implement, and monitor gender responsive policies and SOPs.

The Security Sector Roadmap stands out as a major achievement. Developed through a consultative and gender-sensitive process, the roadmap provides a strategic framework for implementing reforms. It has been disseminated through stakeholder dialogues and advocacy forums, reinforcing its role as a tool for institutional change and the promotion of women's leadership in South Sudan's security institutions.

Is the project 1+ year in implementation? No

FOR PROJECTS 1+ YEAR IN IMPLEMENTATION ONLY:

Is the project demonstrating outcome-level peacebuilding results? No

Outcome-level peacebuilding results entail results achieved at the societal or structural level, including changed attitudes, behaviours or institutions.

If yes, please provide concrete examples of such peacebuilding results *(6000 characters)*:

If yes, please provide sources or references (including links) as evidence of peacebuilding results or submit them as additional attachments.

Evidence may be quantitative or qualitative but needs to demonstrate progress against outcome indicators in the project results framework.

Sources may include project surveys (such as perception surveys), monitoring reports, government documents, or other knowledge products that have been developed by the project.

PART II: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments, provide an update on the achievement of all outcome and output indicators in the table below. Please add additional entries as needed, based on the number of outcomes, outputs and indicators in the approved project results framework.

- Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state "N/A" and provide any explanation.
- Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (500 characters max per entry).

Outcome 1: Women in security sector are better equipped to participate and influence security sector reform, leadership, peacebuilding in full compliance with the R-ARCSS and HRDDP

Outcome Indicators	**Indicator Baseline**	**End of project Indicator Target**	**Indicator progress for reporting period**	**Indicator progress since project's start**	**Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)**
Indicator 1.1 % of women in leadership positions in seven security sector institutions (disaggregated by national level)	**TBD**	**3%**	0	0	Currently the baseline is being conducted, and the baseline figure will be updated in July. And the project progress for this indicated will be reported in November
Indicator 1.2 Status of security sector reform	Strategic Security Assessment and Security Policy Framework completed (2022)	Assessment of the gender responsiveness of the SSI completed (2025)	1	1	This assessment is already conducted, and the report is under validation and will be finalise by July 2025

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Output 1.1: Evidence-based analysis is generated to advocate for the increased meaningful participation of women in the security sector

Output Indicators	**Indicator Baseline)**	**End of project Indicator Target**	**Indicator progress for reporting period**	**Indicator progress since project's start**	**Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)**
Indicator 1.1.1 # of knowledge products developed	**0**	**1**	1	1	The Gender diversity study is already conducted, and the report is under validation and will be finalise by July 2025.

Output 1.2: Capacity and skills for women in the security sector is enhanced to assume leadership positions and promote gender equality

Output Indicators	**Indicator Baseline**	**End of project Indicator Target**	**Indicator progress for reporting period**	**Indicator progress since project's start**	**Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)**
Indicator 1.2.1 # of training modules developed	0	2	0	0	The leadership training modules will be informed by the gender barriers assessment currently being finalise.
Indicator 1.2.2 # of Women personnel from seven Security Sector Institutions accessing trauma Healing Services	0	500		0	Identification of trauma healing centres is being finalised and trauma healing services delivering will begin in third quarter.
Indicator 1.2.3 # Number of personnel from seven security sector institutions mentored to promote GEWE (disaggregated by sex, age, and institution)	0	400	0	0	Identification of key personality with ability to promote GEWE is being conducted and the mentorship process will begin in quarter three.

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Output 1.3: Participation of women is increased in adult literacy, computer skills and accelerated learning programmes.

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 1.3.1 # of established temporary learning facilities.	0	3	5	5	As the number of learners almost tripled, due to the need for literacy programming. there was need to increase the number of facilities to meet the learning needs of the participants.
Indicator 1.3.2 # of facilitators trained to deliver the APL and computer skills training.	0	6	15	15	As the number of learners almost tripled, there was need to increase the number of facilitators to meet the learning needs of the participants.
Indicator 1.3.3 # of basic literacy and teaching and learning materials printed and distributed	**0**	**270**	519 (514 F, 5 M)	519 (514 F, 5 M)	The number learners and facilitators were increased based on the need and ease at which they could be reached and so were the number of materials increase to be given to all the participants

Outcome 2: Security sector institutions (SSI) are better able to respond and provide support to the security needs of women and girls

Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 2.1: Number of operationalized coordination mechanisms for SSR established	1	4	**1**	**1**	One coordination mechanism is established in Malakal and

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Outcome Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
(disaggregated by sub national and national levels)					the remaining three will be established in quarter three
Indicator 2.2: Number of cases of GBV and CRSV reported.	**0**	**50**	**0**	**0**	Mapping and capacity assessment of the special protection unit is planned to be undertaken during the baseline and cases will be reported next quarter.

Output 2.1: Coordination mechanism is strengthened to enhance security service delivery at sub national and national levels

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 2.1.1 # of working group meetings conducted.	**1**	**4**	0	0	This is planned for the next quarter after the completion of the formation of the coordination groups
Indicator 2.1.2 # Functioning national and/or sub-national coordination and oversight mechanisms at the national and subnational level	TBD	4	1	1	This is planned for the next quarter after the completion of the formation of the coordination groups
Indicator 2.1.3 # of community members engaged in advocacy dialogues (disaggregated by sex)	**0**	**300**	236 (152 F, 84 M)	236 (152 F, 84 M)	An advocacy engagement was done through the dissemination of the security sector reform Road map to stakeholders and there was validation workshop that brought together different stakeholders. And advocacy

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Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
					by the women network for office space in Juba.

Output 2.2: Capacity of the security sector is strengthened to respond to and combat GBV and CRSV in accordance with the international standards especially female officers.

Output Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator progress for reporting period	Indicator progress since project's start	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Indicator 2.2.1 # of SSI with trained staff to respond and combat GBV and CRSV	**0**	**7**	0	0	The training will be conducted after the Mapping and capacity assessment of the special protection unit is planned to be undertaken during the baseline.
Indicator 2.2.2 # of women participating in community policing to respond to gender-based crimes and CRSV in the community		**300**	0	0	The community policing will commerce after the GBV and CRSV training
Indicator 2.2.3 # of women/youth led CSOs strengthened to support SSI	**0**	**3**	3	3	Two youth led organization (Empower youth African and Hope African South Sudan and one Women led Organization (BRISS)

Output 2.3: Capacity of SSI is strengthened to develop, implement, and monitor gender responsive policies and SOPs.

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Output Indicators	**Indicator Baseline**	**End of project Indicator Target**	**Indicator progress for reporting period**	**Indicator progress since project's start**	**Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)**
Indicator 2.3.1 # of official dialogues with relevant official to advocate for the inclusion of women in the Security Sector	**0**	**10**	0	0	This is planned for next quarter
Indicator 2.3.2 # Number of opportunities to promote security Sector Leaders Foster Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment among women in the security sector.	1	**10**	0	0	This is planned for next quarter
Indicator 2.3.3 # Number of security sector leaders trained to promote GEWE.	**432**	**400**	0	0	This is planned for next quarter

Please repeat the outcome level and output level reporting for each indicator under each outcome and their respective outputs

PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Is the project planning any significant events in the next 6 months (e.g., national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc.)? Yes

If yes, please state how many, and for each, provide the approximate date of the event and a brief description, including its key objectives, target audience and location (if known).

Event Description	***Tentative Date***	***Location***	***Target Audience***	***Event Objectives (900 characters)***
Finalization of Baseline Study	28th July 2025	Juba	Project Stakeholders	Validate and finalize the baseline data of the project
Finalization of the Gender Diversity Study	10th July 2025	Juba, Aweil	Project Stakeholders	Finalize and present the Gender Diversity Study
Literacy Classes for Women in	Ongoing	Juba, Aweil, Malakal	Women in Security Sector Institutions	empower women in uniform by improving their foundational literacy and numeracy skills, thereby

Security Sector Institutions				enhancing their ability to participate more effectively in their institutions, access training and promotion opportunities, and contribute meaningfully to peacebuilding, leadership, and decision-making processes within the security sector.
Validation of the Gender Diversity Study	5th to 6th June	Juba	Ministerial and state leadership representatives SSR Senior Leadership UN Agencies and CSOS Female officers Security Sector Networks Community Leaders	Validate findings of the gender diversity study as well as provide further insight proposals to enrich the report. .
Regional Benchmarking excursion	August 2025	Uganda	Ministerial and state leadership representatives, Female officers in the Security sector Regional Experts in SSR- Gender Mainstreaming	Initiation of potential discussions for a regional gender mainstreaming working group and policy development
Capacity Building for the Female Police Personnel in Aweil on Investigations	May 26- 30	Aweil- Northern Bahr El Ghazal	25 Female Police Personnel	Build the capacity of the 25 selected female police personnel on crime investigation and presentation skills. The technical team has lobby for the officers once completed training to be deployed in the Specialized Units including the Criminal Investigation Units and Special Protection Units. The officers qualifying for promotion to different ranks will also be recommended by the project and follow up done with the police leadership in Juba.

Human Impact

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This section is about the human impact of the project. Please state key stakeholders (including but not limited to: Civil Society Organizations, Beneficiaries etc.) of the project, and for each, please briefly describe:

i. The challenges/problem they faced prior to the project implementation
ii. The impact of the project on their lives
iii. Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from a representative of each stakeholder group

Type of stakeholder	What has been the impact of the project on their lives (2000 characters)	Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from the stakeholder (2000 characters)
Beneficiary October 2024. The Newly Appointed National Police deputy spokesperson Major Lith Wilson	The SSWSN has empowered women in uniform to understand and demand for their rights.· The network has also helped women to understand their role in promoting peacebuilding and promoting development.· It has also enhanced cooperation and collaboration as the women in the network interact with women from different security sectors. The network has also enhanced coordination among women from different security sectorsThe network is also a breeding ground for mentorship as women in the security sector interacted with their senior colleagues who encouraged them to inspire for higher ranks and positions in the security sector.The network also promotes unity among different women from different security sectors as when they come together, they come up with common goals to achieve as a team since there is strength in numbers.The network has also built the capacity of members through the skills trainings which puts them at the same level of competition with their male counter parts.	Major Lith Wilson Simon: Rising Through the Ranks with Strength from the SSWSN Since becoming a member of the South Sudan Security Sector Women's Network (SSWSN) when it started in 2022, Major Lith Wilson Simon has experienced remarkable growth in both her career and personal life. In October 2024, she was named Deputy Spokesperson for the National Police Service, a milestone she credits largely to the mentorship, training, and support she found within the network. "Before joining, we barely knew each other. The network helped us come together, recognize shared challenges, and build confidence. Now, we stand up for our rights and lift each other up," she shares. Her journey has been fueled by guidance from senior women officers, peer exchanges, and targeted skills development. Motivated by the network, she completed an English course to enhance her competitiveness. Beyond South Sudan, she has forged strong bonds with women officers across the East African Community, connecting with peers in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania. These regional

		relationships have enriched her leadership outlook and broadened her experience. "Many of us didn't fully understand our roles before, but now we advocate for our rights and inspire one another. The network has brought us coordination, capacity building, and cross-border peer learning, even with women in Uganda," Lith explains. She highlights how SSWSN has become a platform for unity, leadership growth, and gender advocacy, where women in the security sector mentor and push each other toward equal opportunities. "They used to say a woman's place was in the kitchen, but this network has shattered that myth," she says. Major Lith Wilson Simon is grateful for UN Women's support and hopes her story encourages more women in uniform to rise and lead.

In addition to the stakeholder specific impact described above, please use this space to describe any additional human impact that the project has had *(4000 characters)*:

The project have strengthened women's participation and leadership within the security sector. By actively engaging women officers through networks and consultations, the project has created dedicated spaces where women can share experiences, advocate for their rights, and influence policy. This is crucial in a traditionally male-dominated sector and helps break down systemic barriers.

The project has generated tangible improvements in gender-responsive institutional reform. The gender barrier assessment and validation workshops led to concrete policy recommendations and the co-development of a Security Sector Roadmap, which sets a clear path for embedding gender equality in security sector reforms. This kind of structural change is essential for lasting impact.

The literacy classes for 519 (504 F, 5 M) Women have elevated educational and career opportunities, enhancing individual empowerment and professional capacity. Literacy is a foundational tool that enables women to advance and take on leadership roles.

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The inclusive stakeholder engagement across regions (Juba, Aweil, Malakal) and sectors (police, defense forces, prison service, wildlife, civil defense) has fostered ownership and collaboration. Such wide buy-in is vital to making gender equality and women's empowerment a shared priority in South Sudan's security sector reform process.

You can also upload up to 3 files in various formats (picture files, PowerPoint, pdf, video, etc..) to illustrate the human impact of the project and/or provide links to online resources (OPTIONAL).
https://youtu.be/zCYn1tEGUso

Please tick the applicable change based on above narrative.

How we worked: (please select up to 3) *(3000 characters in each selected option)*

☐ Enhanced digitization [please explain]

☐ Innovative ways of working[1] [please explain]

☒ Mobilized additional resources [please explain]

In various stakeholder meetings, the network consistently advocated for a dedicated office space to support peer learning, coordination, and capacity building. This advocacy led to the donation of office premises by the government and a subsequent request to UN Women for renovation support. the project successfully mobilized USD 15,000 from the Government of Norway to renovate the donated office space. An inspection was conducted, and a Bill of Quantities (BOQ) was submitted by the Ministry of Gender.

☐ Improved or initiated policy frameworks [please explain]

The project has generated tangible improvements in gender responsive instructional reform. the gender barrier assessment and gender diversity study led to concrete recommendations that address the gender policy.

☐ Strengthened capacities [please explain]

☐ Partnered with local/grassroots civil society organizations [please explain]

The project worked with local national NGOs with grassroot organization to engage local communities and bring about social and policy change.

☐ Expanding coalitions & galvanizing political will [please explain]

☐ Strengthened partnerships with IFIs [please explain]

☐ Strengthened partnerships within UN Agencies [please explain]

[1] Where innovation is defined as **a product, service, or strategy that's both novel and useful.** Innovations don't have to be major breakthroughs in technology or digital solutions but includes here a new and/or creative approach to solving development challenges.

THIS TEMPLATE PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF QUESTIONS IN THE ONLINE REPORTING FORM: IT IS INTENDED TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE REPORTING QUESTIONS

Who are we working with *(3000 characters)*:

☐ Strengthened partnerships with IFIs [please explain]

■ Strengthened partnerships between UN Agencies [please explain]

Coordinated with other UN agencies both at the national and at the state level to conduct. In most states for example UNMISS provided technical assistance the teams as part of the UN colleagues on the ground especially for UNPOL, Corrections, Gender among other units that are part of the Project's technical working group. In places where UNDP is not physically present UNMISS has fully facilitated logistics and organizing meetings with the state-based stakeholders such as in Unity State and in Pibor Administrative Area.

■ Partnered with local civil society organizations [please explain]

■ Partnered with local academia [please explain]

☐ Partnered with sub-national entities [please explain]

■ Partnered with national entities [please explain]

☐ Partnered with local volunteers [please explain]

The project has fostered strong partnerships across UN agencies, civil society, government, and academia to advance its objectives. UN Women, as the lead agency, collaborates closely with UNDP and UNESCO, while also engaging UNMISS divisions such as Civil Affairs (CAD), Gender Affairs (GAD), and Rule of Law and Security Institutions Service (RoLSIS) to ensure technical coordination, policy alignment, and community outreach. At the national level, the project works in partnership with key ministries including the Ministry of Peacebuilding, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, and the Ministry of General Education and Instruction, ensuring government ownership and alignment with national frameworks. Five national civil society organizations—Hope Africa South Sudan (HASS), African Relief Development Foundation (ARDF), Empower Youth Africa (EYA), RACBO, and Bridge for Social Services (BRISS)—have played central roles in implementing stakeholder engagement, gender barrier assessments, literacy programming, and the establishment of Women's Security Sector Networks in Juba, Aweil, and Malakal. The project partnered with the University of Juba, particularly in the validation and review of the Gender Diversity Study, reinforcing its academic credibility and ensuring that findings reflect both field realities.

LNOB – Leaving No one Behind: Select all beneficiaries targeted with the PBF resources as evidenced by the narrative? [mandatory]

☐ Unemployed persons

☐ Minorities (e.g. race, ethnicity, linguistic, religion, etc.)

☒ Indigenous communities

☒ Persons with Disabilities

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☒ Persons affected by violence (including GBV)

☒ Women

☒ Youth

☐ Children

☐ Minorities related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity and expression

☐ People living in and around border areas

☐ Persons affected by natural disasters

☒ Persons affected by armed conflicts

☒ Internally displaced persons, refugees or migrants

PART IV: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND COMPLIANCE

Monitoring: Please list key monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period *(3000 characters)*: Two monitoring visits were made to Aweil and Malakal in January and February 2025. The main aims for the visits were to attend the consultative workshops and to verify the learning facilities in the respective locations. For Juba, there were visits to the learning facilities identified as well as attending the consultative workshop which was organised by the IP. On the other hand, members of the leadership of South Sudan Security Sector Women's Networks alongside the staff of the National Ministry of General Education and Instruction conducted an independent and unannounced visit to the learning centres in Juba. Their feedback was so positive after interacting with the learners. Issues flagged included the challenges the learners face when coming for classes as some of them live far away from the learning centres and are faced with mobility issues (cost, etc.). Some learners also complained about the learning materials being hard while others complained that the materials were shallow.	Do outcome indicators have baselines? yes If yes, please provide a brief description *(3000 characters)*: If not, explain why not and when they will be available *(3000 characters)*: A consultant to conduct the baseline has been recruited and is currently working on the baseline data collection. The baseline report will be finalized by July 2025. This report will serve as the foundation for setting realistic targets for the outcome indicators and measuring progress. Elaborate on what sources of evidence have been used to report on indicators (and are available upon request) *(3000 characters)*: During the reporting period, monthly project implementation progress report, training reports, project participants database were used for reporting. Has the project launched outcome level data collection initiatives e.g. perception surveys*? no **Perception survey is a formal collection of information from a randomly selected sample of respondents through their responses to standardized questions. See PBF Guidance Note for more information.* If yes, please provide a brief description of the efforts *(3000 characters)*:

	Has the project used or established community feedback mechanisms*? yes **Community feedback mechanism, or community-based monitoring, is an organized system for communities of participants to monitor the local effects and impact of an intervention. Ideally, this system empowers the community to express whether their expectations are being met and to provide suggestions to decision-makers for possible (re)focusing. See PBF Guidance Note for more information.* If yes, please provide a brief description *(3000 characters)*: The project has actively used and established community feedback mechanisms as an integral part of its implementation strategy. Throughout the project lifecycle, participants, community members, and local stakeholders have been encouraged and empowered to provide direct feedback to the project team, partner staff, and community leaders. This feedback loop has been carefully organized to ensure that the voices of the community are both heard and acted upon. Community members have had multiple channels to share their experiences, concerns, and suggestions, including face-to-face meetings, focus group discussions, and regular consultations facilitated by local institution leaders and partners. These mechanisms have created a structured environment where participants can openly discuss whether the project is meeting their expectations and highlight any challenges or unintended consequences they observe. Importantly, the feedback collected has not only served as a means for monitoring and evaluation but has also been used in real-time to inform and adjust project activities and strategies. The project team, together with partner organizations and community leaders, reviews project participants feedback regularly to identify areas that need improvement or refocusing.
Evaluation: Is the project on track to conduct its evaluation? yes	Evaluation budget included in the project budget (response required): 70000.00 If project will end in next six months, is your upcoming evaluation on track? no

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>Please describe the preparations (3000 characters):

Please mention the focal person responsible for sharing the final evaluation report with the PBF: Bungi Emmanuel Gonda
Organization: UN Women
Job title: Monitoring and Reporting Analyst
Email Bungi.gonda@unwomen.org</td></tr>
<tr><td><u>Catalytic effects (financial)</u>:
Has the project mobilized additional non-PBF financial resources since the project's start? please select

If yes, please indicate name of all funding agencies and respective amounts of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project since it started, as well as specifically during this reporting period.</td><td><table><tr><td>Name of funder</td><td>Amount mobilized since project's start (USD)</td><td>Amount mobilized during reporting period (USD)</td></tr><tr><td>Government of Norway</td><td>15000 USD</td><td>15, 000 USD</td></tr></table></td></tr>
<tr><td><u>Catalytic Effect (non-financial)*:</u> Has the project enabled or created a larger or longer-term peacebuilding change to occur, in addition to the direct project changes? please select
*Please refer to PBF Catalytic Effect Guidelines for more information.

If yes, please select the relevant option below:
☐Some catalytic effect
☐Significant catalytic effect</td><td>If relevant, please describe how the project has had a (non-financial) catalytic effect, i.e. removed barriers to unblock stalled political, institutional or other peacebuilding processes at different levels in a country, and/or created the conditions to establish new processes to do so (3000 characters):</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2"><u>Sustainability:</u> Please describe any steps that have been taken to ensure the sustainability of peacebuilding gains, including any mechanisms, platforms, networks and socio-economic initiatives supported, beyond the duration of the project (3000 characters):
To ensure the sustainability of peacebuilding gains focused on enhancing women's participation and leadership in South Sudan's security sector, several strategic mechanisms and initiatives have been established beyond the immediate project timeframe.
Central to this effort has been the creation and strengthening of Security Sector Women's Networks. For example, Hope Africa South Sudan, in partnership with UN Women, organized stakeholder meetings to engage existing networks and plan the establishment of new ones in key locations such as Aweil and Malakal. These networks, comprising women leaders from institutions including the South Sudan People's Defence Forces, National Police Service, Prisons Service, and Wildlife Service, serve as platforms for peer support, coordination, and collective advocacy to promote gender equality within security</td></tr>
</table>

institutions. In Malakal, the launch of the Network of Women in Uniform – Upper Nile State brought together women from various law enforcement bodies and related ministries, signalling institutional backing with the Ministry of Gender's official support.

To build a solid evidence base for advocacy, a comprehensive Gender Barrier Assessment was conducted targeting multiple security sector institutions. This assessment identified systemic challenges such as discrimination, policy gaps, cultural stereotypes, and underrepresentation of women in leadership roles. The findings informed the development of a Security Sector Roadmap, a participatory, gender-sensitive strategic framework outlining concrete policy recommendations and institutional reforms. This roadmap was validated through a multi-stakeholder workshop and has been actively disseminated to guide ongoing reforms.

Further supporting sustainability, literacy classes for women in security institutions commenced in Juba, Aweil, and Malakal, enhancing their capacity for meaningful participation. Additionally, consistent advocacy by the women's networks led to the donation of office space by the government, which is now being renovated with funding mobilized from the Government of Norway. This dedicated office will serve as a strategic hub for network coordination, capacity building, and institutionalizing women's leadership in security sector reform processes.

Other: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(3000 characters)*:

Insecurity in certain areas, such as Malakal, has caused delays in project implementation. Political instability and the sensitive nature of security sector institutions particularly with some government stakeholders having returned to Juba due to insecurity in Upper Nile have also resulted in key stakeholders being absent from certain activities.

Inflation remains a major challenge, as rising market prices are affecting the project budget. Implementation agencies and partners will continue to closely monitor market trends and promptly report any significant changes that could substantially impact the budget to PBF.

Additionally, a heatwave has delayed some activities in the literacy classes for women in Aweil and Malakal.

Monitoring and Oversight Activities[2]

Name of the event	Summary	Key findings
UNESCO -Monitoring visit to basic literacy learners in Juba	A mixed team of leadership from the South Sudan Security Sector Women's Networks, officials from the Ministry of General Education and Instruction, Executive Director of Empower Youth Africa (EYA) and UNESCO visited 3 learning centres in Juba to see the learners being taught.	The learners are very excited and appreciate the basic literacy classes and expressed their dedication to realize their dreams of being able to read and write. Some learners flagged and issue related their mobility. They said that some of them lived in faraway neighbourhoods

[2] These include Steering Committee meetings, Monitoring visits, Third party monitoring, Community based monitoring, any data collection, Perception or other survey findings, evaluation reports, audit or investigations.

		from the learning centres and hardly afford transport fares to and from the learning centres. Some also felt that the learning textbooks were hard for them. The felt that the lessons needed simplified. On the other hand, other learners felt the textbooks were also shallow. Some members of women in uniform who studied in Arabic language also requested, through those already attending the literacy classes in English language, to be considered for English language lessons. EYA (the implementing partner) has promised to see if they could support these women from their other funding streams since their current funding from UNESCO could not cover this request. UNESCO will also deliberate on this and see if they could support from this project, from other funding sources.
Technical Working Group Meeting	The TWG Inception Meeting held on 13 March 2025 brought together UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, and implementing partners to launch coordinated activities under the PBF-funded Security Sector Reform project. The meeting focused on clarifying roles, reviewing progress to date, planning for baseline data collection, and strengthening coordination and joint interventions at national and sub-national levels.	The meeting confirmed alignment of partner roles and project outcomes, with HASS, RACBO, ARDF, and BRISS outlining their scopes of work in Aweil and Malakal. Participants noted strong progress since July 2024, particularly in stakeholder engagement and site identification, but highlighted the need to expedite baseline data collection. Breakout discussions emphasized improving coordination mechanisms across locations, aligning efforts with the UNMISS SSR Working Group, and ensuring visibility, GEWE integration, and conflict sensitivity. Partners also

		called for streamlined M&E tools and greater clarity on reporting and community-based monitoring expectations.