

The Support to Access to Justice and Rule of Law for Conflict-Affected People and Returnees Project

Final Report to the Government of Japan



Returnees doing practical work at Don Bosco Vocational Training Centre, Wau



From
the People of Japan



**Project
Summary:**

Country: South Sudan

Project Duration: March 2013 to July 2015

Donor: Japan

Total contribution: US\$ 1,000,000

Cumulative expenditure until 31 July 2015: US\$999,752.68

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Acronyms

AzJ/RoL	Access to Justice and Rule of Law
BPPS	Bureau for Policy and Programme Support
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
DFID	Department for International Development
ECC	Emergency Call Centre
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
GRSS	Government of Republic of South Sudan
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
JoSS	Judiciary of South Sudan
LEAs	Law Enforcement Advisors
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
NPSSS	National Prisons Service of South Sudan
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RoL	Rule of Law
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SPUs	Special Protection Units
SSNPS	South Sudan National Police Service
SSRRC	South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
WGS	Western Bahr el Ghazal State
WPS	Warrap State

1. Executive Summary

The Support to Access to Justice and Rule of Law for Conflict-affected People and Returnees project was implemented within the overarching United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Support to Access to Justice and Rule of Law (A2J/RoL) project¹. The A2J/RoL project supports rule of law institutions such as the Judiciary of South Sudan (JoSS); the Ministry of Justice (MoJ); and the Ministry of Interior (MoI), including the South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS) and the National Prisons Service of South Sudan (NPSSS); traditional justice and community level interventions through a sector-wide holistic approach designed to increase the availability, affordability, adaptability, and acceptability of justice services in South Sudan. The project addresses the demand and supply sides of justice and combines support to both local government institutions and returnees.

While the UNDP's Support to Access to Justice and Rule of Law project is being funded by several donors (the Netherlands, Norway, Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, and the UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS)), the Support to Access to Justice and Rule of Law for Conflict-affected People and Returnees project was specifically funded by the Government of Japan from March 2013-July 2015 through the Japan Supplementary Budget¹.

The presence of a large number of returnees after independence strained nascent local government structures for the provision of basic services including access to justice and rule of law. This project was therefore designed to increase the availability, affordability, adaptability and acceptability of justice services for returnees. Specific project objectives were to a) support vocational training and provide essential equipment and tools to returnees to foster self-employment and b) increase the service delivery capacity of local governments in returnee settled areas to expand access to justice and rule of law.

This final report documents the results achieved, the challenges faced, and lessons learned from March 2013 to July 2015.

Key achievements

- **Returnees gained employable skills:** A total of 250 returnees (89 female) were trained in seven courses; (carpentry, masonry, welding, electrical works, tailoring, computers, and auto mechanics) and provided with tool kits at the Don Bosco Vocational Training Centre in Wau, Western Bahr El Ghazal State (WGS). In addition, 116 of these returnees (39 female) were provided three weeks refresher trainings in their different trades.
- **Local government ministries equipped with essential assets to enhance their operations:** In WGS, the state ministries of Local Government and Law Enforcement in three counties Wau, Jur, and Raga, as well as the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) were provided with furniture, ICT, and transportation equipment.
- **Paralegal association established:** Forty paralegals (nine female) were trained on legal aid services in Wau. The trained paralegals provided legal aid awareness to returnees through outreach programmes and established an association to provide pro bono legal aid to returnees.

Challenges and Issues

- **Non-availability of vocational training institutes:** Lack of vocational training center in Kwajok, Warrap State (WPS) and logistical challenges for transportation of returnees from Kwajok to Wau for training compelled the project to implement activities only at one location.
- **Insecurity:** The December 2013 crisis disrupted project implementation as it forced UNDP to evacuate staff from states, conduct conflict sensitivity analysis and review and reprioritize its Access to Justice and Rule of Law Project. The absence of staff in the first quarter of 2014 and

¹ Originally the project aligned to Access to Justice and Rule of Law 2013 Annual Work Plan Output "*Improved coordination and institutionalization of justice sector services and access to remedies delivered through mandated rule of law institutions and other service providers.*" In 2014 the Access to Justice and Rule of Law project was restructured and Support to Returnees was aligned to the 2014 Annual Work Plan Output "*Increased access to justice to citizens of South Sudan with special focus on vulnerable groups and women.*" This output also remains in 2015.

the need to comply with UN security requirements delayed project implementation in 2014.

- **Prolonged selection process:** The selection of vocational trainees was conducted by the local government in collaboration with SSRRC. The government authorities took long to provide list of vocational training participants, which further delayed the timely delivery of agreed activities.

Lessons learned and way forward

- **Importance of national ownership:** Engagement with SSRRC, traditional leaders, and communities facilitates selection of trainees/returnees and their further integration into communities.
- **Importance of working with established training center:** UNDP's engagement with Don Bosco Vocational Training Center facilitated the timely delivery of quality vocational training for returnees. Though procurement and delivery of toolkits to the returnees was delayed, the vocational training center continued the training using their own toolkits in the meantime (trainees eventually received their own toolkits).

Budget

The project budget was US\$1,000,000 and total project expenditure was 999,752.68 (99.97%)

¹ Original agreement: March 2013-November 2013. First no-cost extension: December 2013- September 2014; second no-cost extension: October 2014-February 2015; third no-cost extension: March 2015-July 2015.

2. Progress towards project results

Output 1: Improved coordination and institutionalization of justice sector services and access to remedies delivered through mandated rule of law institutions and other service providers².

Project output target	Summary achievements	Status
Baseline established on the status and challenges of returnees	Returnees' baseline data was collected in collaboration with the SSRRC in Wau.	Achieved
150 returnees trained in vocational training and provided with toolkits	250 returnees were trained and provided with vocational tool kits. 116 returnees were provided with refreshers	Achieved
2 local government offices supported with ICT equipment and furniture	Three local government offices and one SSRCC office were provided with furniture, ICT and transportation equipment	Achieved
Returnees in 2 counties to be provided with legal aid service.	Returnees in three communities have access to legal aid services through 40 paralegals (nine female) who were identified and trained by UNDP.	Achieved
Overall status		Achieved

NOTE: Targets are based on approved project document and no-cost extensions approved (March –November 2013; December 2013 – September 2014; October 2014 to February 2015 and March to July 2015).

Baseline established on the status and challenges of returnees

In May 2013, the project team conducted a field mission to Kwajok in Warrap State (WPS) and Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal State (WGS) to assess vocational training needs among returnees. The assessment revealed that, there are more than 65,000 returnees who in Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal state. Most of the returnees lack basic and employable skills, are not engaged in gainful livelihood activities and often resort to adverse coping strategies that include criminal activities. The assessment team noted that whilst there were not vocational training facilities in Warrap State, Wau (WGS) had a well-established Don Bosco Vocational Training Centre that offers vocational training in various areas. The Assessment also noted that it will not be economically feasible to bring returnees from Warrap State for a training in Wau. In the end, the project team resolved to train returnees from Western Bahr el Ghazal State at Don Bosco Vocational Training Centre in Wau.

The project coordinated with the office of SSRRC and Don Bosco Vocational Training Centre, Wau for selection of returnees and identifying courses. Accordingly, 350 returnees were identified for training in seven courses (carpentry, welding, computer skills, tailoring, masonry, vehicle mechanics and electrical works).

150 returnees trained in vocational training and provided with toolkits

Two hundred and fifty returned received vocational trainings which equipped them with essential employable skills in seven areas:

Courses	Returnees trained
1. Auto mechanics	21
2. Carpentry	42
3. Electrical works	42
4. Tailoring	45
5. Computer skills	35
6. Masonry	40
7. Welding	25
TOTAL	250

The trainings were aimed at equipping returnees with vocational skills to increase their employability and household income, reduce the tendency to engage in criminal conduct, and increase their ability to access justice services. The trainings were conducted in two batches:

- a) Two hundred returnees (62 female) were trained in the seven courses from September to December 2013 and graduated in January 2015.
- b) Fifty returnees (27 female) were trained in the five courses from May to July 2015 and graduated in August 2015³.

UNDP provided toolkits to all the 250 returnees to help them engage in their various trades. However, the December 2013 conflict resulted in delays in the procurement and delivery of toolkits for the first batch of returnees. To ensure that the returnees utilise their acquired skills and tool kits appropriately, UNDP, in consultation with the Government of Japan conducted a two-week refresher course for 116 (39 female) returnees. The remaining 84 returnees could not be accessed as they had moved to other locations.

On 24 August 2015, during the graduation ceremony of 50 returnees, the SSRRC Director reported that most of the returnees from first batch of 200 returnees were earning their livelihood with knowledge and toolkits they received. He thanked the people of Japan and UNDP for supporting their office with office furniture and motor bikes, through which now they are able to reach more than 12,000 returnees in three counties of Western Bahr el Ghazal State.

Two local government offices supported with ICT equipment and furniture

Three state ministries of Local Government and Law Enforcement offices in three counties Wau, Jur, and Raga and one SSRRC office were equipped with furniture, ICT, and transportation equipment to improve their accessibility and strengthen their capacity to deliver services to returnees. The table below shows the distribution of furniture and equipment.

A	ICT Equipment	Wau	Jur	Raga	SSRRC	Total
1	Desktop computers	5	5	5	5	20
2	Scanner	1	1	1	1	4
3	Photocopier	1	1	1	1	4
4	Printer	1	1	1	1	4
B	Furniture					
1	Executive Chair	4	4	4	4	16
2	Visiting Chair	6	6	6	6	24
3	Table	4	4	4	4	16
4	Filing Cabinet	1	1	1	1	4
C	Transportation Equipment					
	Motor cycles	2	2	2	2	8

Returnees in two counties to be provided with legal aid service

Forty persons (nine female) including returnees and civil society members were trained as paralegals from 30 June to 21 July 2014 in Wau. The trained paralegals served as resource persons and facilitated four legal aid awareness initiatives in four communities in WGS. The legal aid awareness events were attended by a total of 171 (97 female) persons, including returnees. The table below shows the distribution of legal aid awareness raising activities by community:

Communities	Male	Female	Total
Alelchok	38	24	62
Gazire	14	50	64
Jebel Kheir	22	23	45
Total	74	97	171

³ After the completion of the first course, the project requested the Government of Japan to use the remaining fund for conducting refresher course for the first batch and the training of additional 50 returnees

Forty three male prisoners in state prison detention facilities were provided legal advice specifically on the rights to legal aid services.

The trained paralegals formed a state level Paralegals Association, which is under registration. The paralegals have been accepted by the police, prisons, judiciary, and Directorate of Public Prosecution in Wau, a development which enabled them to access vulnerable groups in detention including convicts and provide them with legal advice.

3. Promotion of Japanese visibility

In line with the Japan-UNDP Partnership Fund policies and procedures, the Japanese funding was announced and acknowledged at all events, including during graduation ceremony of vocational trainings and handover ceremony of equipment and furniture to local governments. This acknowledgement was made both by UNDP representatives at events as well as by senior government officials of Western Bahr el Ghazal State during their official remarks in graduation ceremonies. Senior officials of the Japanese embassy were invited to make remarks. The Japanese logo “From the People of Japan” was affixed on the equipment and furniture items handed over to returnees. The Japanese logo and reference to Japanese funding also appeared on the invitations circulated by UNDP in respect of project events as well as on articles published on the UNDP South Sudan website and social media. Examples are provided below:

1. http://www.ss.undp.org/content/south_sudan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/01/22/two-hundred-returnees-receive-toolkits-following-successful-completion-of-a-four-month-vocational-training.html
2. http://www.ss.undp.org/content/south_sudan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/08/24/fifty-returnees-graduate-with-marketable-skills-in-wau/
3. <https://www.facebook.com/UNDPSouthSudan/posts/961218360604371>

4. Partnerships

UNDP worked with major national counterparts namely, JoSS, MoJ, and Mol, in the implementation of this project, and specifically collaborated and partnered with state level institutions such as SSRRC, Ministry of Local Government and Law Enforcement of Wau, Jur, and Raga counties, state legal administration office, traditional leaders, returnees, and UNMISS in Western Bahr el Ghazal State. The collaboration with government institutions, communities, and traditional leaders helped the project in the identification of the most vulnerable and appropriate returnees for vocational training activities, selection of paralegal trainees, and also enabled access to returnee communities for direct consultation. The collaboration with Don Bosco Training Centre helped the project to provide quality vocational training for 250 returnees. Further, collaboration with UNMISS facilitated the airlifting of toolkits, furniture, and equipment in a context where road transportation was difficult.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Project staff based in Juba undertook periodic M&E missions to project location at Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal State whilst Law Enforcement Advisors and Rule of Law Officer based in Wau regularly monitored the implementation of the vocational training in collaboration with SSRRC and Don Bosco Vocational Training Centre. In addition, the project was closely monitored through the submission of monthly, quarterly and annual reports. To further strengthen the monitoring of the project and address challenges in a timely manner, bi-weekly updates were prepared and submitted to the embassy of Japan from April 2015 to July 2015.

6. Challenges/Issues

- **Non-availability of vocational training institutes:** Non availability of vocational training center in Kwajok, Warrap State and logistical challenges for transportation of returnees from Kwajok to

Wau for training compelled the project to target returnees from one state.

- **Insecurity:** The absence of staff in the first quarter of 2014 after the December 2013 conflict-induced evacuation and the need to comply with UN security requirements delayed project implementation in 2014.
- **Prolonged selection process:** This delayed the timely inception and delivery of agreed activities.
- **Non availability of toolkits in South Sudan:** Toolkits for carpentry, masonry, welding, electrical works, tailoring, computers, and auto mechanics were all imported. As a result, the procurement process took longer than expected. This, compounded with the logistical challenges of transporting the toolkits to Wau, delayed project completion.
- **Economic Challenges:** The post-December 2013 economic decline diminished economic opportunities in South Sudan. This has severely hampered the employability and economic prospects of trained returnees.

7. Lessons Learned and Way forward

- **Importance of national ownership:** Engagement with SSRRC, traditional leaders, and communities facilitated selection of trainees/returnees and their further integration into communities.
- **Importance of working with established training centers:** UNDP’s engagement with Don Bosco Vocational Training Center facilitated the timely delivery of quality vocational training for returnees. Although procurement and delivery of toolkits to the returnees was delayed, the vocational training center continued the training using their own materials.
- **The importance of provision of tools:** The trainees were drawn from vulnerable returnee communities without disposable income to procure necessary tools to apply their vocational knowledge and skills. The provision of toolkits helped returnees to access training and utilize the acquired skills.

8. Risks and Mitigation Measures⁴

Risks	Mitigation Measures
Unavailability of vocational training centre in the selected state and county to train selected returnees	In consultation with donors and local government, the project selected WGS as a target location.
Political instability, interrupting project implementation.	Conducted Conflict Sensitivity Analysis, UN Human Rights Due Diligence Assessment and reprioritized project activities. In addition, the project worked closely with UNDSS in understanding local security situations and acted accordingly. Based on UNDSS advice, the project continued in Wau with little interruption.

⁴ The table shows only key risks related to the project

9. Financial Summary(US\$)

Expenditure Report for the period 1 March 2013 to 31 July 2015 (US\$)*

Activity	Budget	2013 Expenditure	2014 Expenditure	2015 Expenditure	Total Expenditure	Balance
1 Conduct rapid assessment and establish baseline on the status and challenges of returnees to determine or confirm the target counties of this project	17,400.00	1,204.96	0	0	1,204.96	16,195.04
2 Procure and provide Local government with office equipment and furniture	42,600.00	0	81,777.10	0	81,777.10	-39,177.10
3 Facilitate vocational training and provide tool kits to returnees	597,218.52	172,532.85	298,829.12	122,188.50	593,550.47	3,668.05
4 Provide legal aid services to returnees	53,332.29	0	42,246.89	0	42,246.89	11,085.40
5 Project Management	224,028.63	118,730.76	99,188.45	6109.43	224,028.64	0.00
6 General Management Services	65,420.56	20,471.57	27,492.20	8980.85	56,944.62	8,475.94
Total	1,000,000.00	312,940.14	549,533.76	137,278.78	999,752.68	247.32

*please note that 2015 figures are provisional