



EMPOWERING WOMEN IN SOUTH SUDAN

WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE AT THE CENTER OF THE RECOVERY PROCESS.

The overarching goal of UNDP's Integrated Crisis Response Programme

is to support recovery and stabilization and lay down a strong foundation for national reconciliation and sustainable development.

Participation and empowerment of women and girls is at the center of this work. In response to the July 2016 crisis, UNDP increased its programmatic focus on SGBV and is looking to strengthen the entire referral pathway from communities to courts.

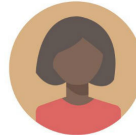


Women at new market in Rajat.

Women are key to livelihood restoration and the development of micro-enterprises. Markets have been built to enhance intercommunity exchanges and broaden the food market beyond the subsistence work.

The recovery process has opened the doors for young women to step into the world of innovation, entrepreneurship, and with it better understanding of corporate social responsibilities- in line with the SDG principles.

Despite the setbacks South Sudanese men and women continue their endeavours for peace. Leaders and communities persist in conducting dialogues for their communities. Women and girls remain at the center of those endeavours lead by UNDP.



SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

SGBV remains at crisis levels in South Sudan.

There has been an increase in the number of reported incidents of sexual violence since July 2016 and reports of sexual violence, including rape, by soldiers in uniform have increased dramatically in the capital, Juba and other states.

The documented rate of SGBV in South Sudan is 40%, however, it is possible that the numbers are higher because of how frequently SGBV goes unreported.

IGAD Regional Initiative

Laura Poni Hatim is a social worker at the Special Protection Unit of the State Ministry of Education, Gender and Social Welfare office in Yambio.

She receives coaching from Moses Kimani, a special protection officer from Kenya who works as civil servant support officer through IGAD Regional Initiative.

She is completely dedicated to assisting victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Thanks to the support of the governments of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda and with fund from the government of Norway, UNDP is strengthening South Sudanese civil service capacity placing civil servants from the mentioned three IGAD countries in different national and regional government offices to mentoring South Sudanese counterparts.



"I see women distressed, desperate, humiliated, physically battered. What is troubling me now is seeing the harmful reality of the violence and what the providers are to do. I would advise the women within the field to know that the abuse was perpetrated," said Laura Poni Hatim, social worker.

ACTION IN NUMBERS



416 police and social workers (171 female) were trained on SGBV and deployed to provide services in special protection units.



3,109 sex workers received HIV prevention, testing and counseling services, addressing an information gap, and providing them with options for testing or treatment.



150 vulnerable women benefited from income generating activities as a means to curb SGBV. 89 women received legal counsel, while 1,941 women benefited from outreach activities.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Community Security and Arms Control



The Youth Innovation Challenge for Peace recognizes the strength of youth-led initiatives and the impact of home-grown ideas on societies emerging from conflict. COORDUS-ICT Initiative won third place and received US\$4,000 to engage, educate and empower women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, through a philosophy of chain-based trainings.

"We were delighted to come and share our great ideas. In my personal view, it was a matter of administration. I was welcomed, I got to register, today we are going ahead," said one participant, said Prof. COORDUS, Initiative.

Food Security, Emergency Flood Response and Recovery



Due to the arrival of a significant number of internally displaced population, Mingkaman is growing and the needs of the communities have moved from primarily emergency-based aid, to an increased focus on recovery and economic development. 128 people have received livelihoods skills training in dairy processing.

"Before, sometimes the milk we would produce would rot, because it was not processed properly. Now, the knowledge I received, I now know how to use the milk and the starter, and how to keep the milk in a clean container," said one woman.



UNDP continues to emphasize women's participation and leadership in Dialogue and Leadership for Peace, in Transitional justice and in the roll out of the 2016 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions was selected as the top goal. This commitment is captured through the provisions of The National Action Plan (NAP) for UNSCR 1325 on Women Peace and Security and Related Resolutions (2015 - 2020), which outlines specific actions to be undertaken by the various sectors of government, donors and civil society.