



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Towards  
the South  
Sudan  
We Want





*Members of the Kabarthe Women's Group in Greater Pibor*

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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

**AIDS**      acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

**COVID-19**    coronavirus disease of 2019

**CTRH**      Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing

**GBV**      gender-based violence

**HIV**      human immunodeficiency virus

**NDCs**      Nationally Determined Contributions

**NDS**      National Development Strategy

**PFM**      public financial management

**R-ARCSS**    Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan

**SDGs**      Sustainable Development Goals

**SDPs**      state development plans

**SGBV**      sexual and gender-based violence

**TB**      tuberculosis

**UNDP**      United Nations Development Programme



*Supporting women's economic empowerment initiatives in Eastern Equatoria*

# FOREWORD

2021 was a challenging yet fulfilling year for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in South Sudan. It was the final year for implementing our three-year country programme document, the implementation of which was extended until 2022, and transitioning to a new development offer that espouses our aspirations in support of the development agenda of the government and people of South Sudan.

As in 2020, 2021 challenged our lives, work and programme delivery owing to development shocks and the impacts of COVID-19, as well as teething problems of state-building such as intercommunal violence, and a fragile political and security situation.



**Dr. Samuel Doe**

Resident Representative

Yet amidst the challenges, we stretched our limits, transformed into the new normal, reinvented ourselves and overcame bottlenecks to **deliver on our promise** to the government and people of South Sudan.



Other challenges included weak accountability mechanisms, extreme poverty, and natural disasters such as flooding and drought. A worsening humanitarian situation saw the increase in the number of people who needed humanitarian assistance reaching 8.3 million of an estimated population of 13 million. All these factors inhibited growth and recovery efforts. Almost 4 million people remain displaced by conflict, with nearly 1.6 million people displaced internally and some 2.2 million living as refugees in neighbouring countries such as Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Yet amidst the challenges, we stretched our limits, transformed into the new normal, reinvented ourselves and overcame bottlenecks to deliver on our promise to the government and people of South Sudan.

This annual report highlights some of our milestones, ranging from strengthening resilience; supporting the national response to COVID-19 and recovery efforts; capacitating institutional effectiveness; fostering good governance, access to justice, reconciliation and community cohesion; to digital transformation.

To achieve the 2030 Agenda, UNDP mainstreamed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national planning development frameworks such as the National Development Strategy (NDS), which

2022 is a momentous year, as it takes us deeper into the Decade of Action which calls for accelerated action to achieve the SDGs and ensure that no one is left behind. We will continue to work with women, youth and persons with disabilities as partners for peace.



was revised and extended to 2024 with our support. We also improved capacities in the country's climate change response by submitting South Sudan's Second Nationally Determined Contribution and the first National Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

In pursuit of lasting peace and community cohesion, UNDP developed a digital app to identify conflict early warning signs and built peace centres. These centres aimed to strengthen psychosocial and trauma healing services through trained peace committees and psychosocial volunteers. We also supported public consultations on the establishment of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH), and boosted access to justice, security and human rights observance by supporting the establishment of specialized gender-based violence and juvenile courts.

Our milestones and accomplishments would not have been achieved without a robust, and much appreciated, partnership with the government and people of South Sudan, development partners, United Nations agencies, academia, civil society organizations and the private sector. Your support made it all possible. Thank you for standing with us. My special appreciation goes to the incredible team at UNDP South Sudan who are the engine that drives our transformational work and programme delivery. It has been my pleasure to lead this team and I could not be more pleased with who we are and what we are doing together.

2022 is a momentous year, as it takes us deeper into the Decade of Action which calls for accelerated action to achieve the SDGs and ensure that no one is left behind. We will continue to work with women, youth and persons with disabilities as partners for peace and progress.

Ahead of the scheduled elections, it is also the final year for implementing key outstanding provisions of the revitalized peace agreement, such as the finalization of a permanent constitution, judicial reforms, the search for national healing through the establishment of the CTRH, enactment of key legislation, and restructuring and reconstitution of institutions and commissions at the national level.

I pledge continued UNDP support and partnership towards the implementation of outstanding provisions and the quest for sustainable peace and development in this nation of great promise.

With gratitude,

**Dr. Samuel Doe**

Resident Representative

# SOUTH SUDAN

UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustices of poverty, inequality and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries and territories, we help nations build integrated and lasting solutions for people and the planet.



UNDP has been working in South Sudan for over 30 years, supporting efforts to achieve sustainable development, building and strengthening resilience to crises and shocks, safeguarding development gains, fostering good governance, building lasting peace, protecting the environment, creating opportunities for empowerment and addressing the legacies of conflict.

With the formation of the independent Republic of South Sudan in July 2011, UNDP established its Country Office and has been working with the government and other partners to build more resilient, just, accountable, transparent, inclusive and sustainable institutions to deliver services and improve the quality of life for all citizens.

Our programme has, over the years, evolved around increasing access to justice; promoting good governance, peace and community cohesion; human and local economic development; and strengthening health systems. Additional programmes foster inclusive growth, gender equality and women's empowerment.

2021 was the final year of implementation of our 2019–2021 country programme document, the implementation of which was extended until 2022. It is now transitioning to a new development framework premised on consolidating and advancing development gains in this Decade of Action, 2020–2030.



*Renewing partnerships with the government to improve access to justice, security and human rights in South Sudan*

*A cultural dancer from the Murle community:  
South Sudan can use its rich cultural diversity  
to strengthen social ties and encourage growth*



# PROGRAMMATIC OVERVIEW OF 2021



Our 2021 programme drew from the 2019–2022 country programme document that outlined our contribution to national development aspirations and served as the primary unit of accountability to the executive board for alignment of results with the resources given to the programme at country level.

Its main goal was to contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, foster peace, build resilience to crises and shocks, and safeguard development gains.

## THE PROGRAMME HAD THREE INTERLINKED AND MUTUALLY REINFORCING PILLARS:



These pillars contributed to the delivery of the Country Office's value proposition of 'Building a peaceful, just and prosperous South Sudan'.

Our work in 2021 contributed immensely towards national development results and progress towards 'the South Sudan we want'.

This compilation is a summary of our impact and contribution to the development agenda in spite of the disruptions occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, a worsening humanitarian crisis, natural disasters such as floods, and a fluid security and political situation.

We have you and all our treasured partners, donors and supporters to thank for helping us in such a difficult time. Your support made it all possible.

# 2021 IN NUMBERS



**600,000+**

views on Facebook during the Governors' Forum, hosted by the government in partnership with UNDP. The event also garnered 3,000 shares and 4,000 comments.



More than

**2.2 million**

impressions amassed online, with a specific focus on South Sudan's influencers, creatives and innovators.



**1,835,689**

people (51 percent female) sensitized on gender-based violence (GBV), child marriage, human rights and the services offered at the justice and confidence centres.



**936,201**

women sensitized on their rights in relation to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and empowered on the channels available to seek redress. As a result, 1,763 people (77 percent female) received legal support.



# 2,158 people,

of whom **72 percent** were **female**, benefited from **legal aid services** delivered with **civil society organization partners**.



## 385,318

people accessed HIV testing services through our support.



## 17,371

new HIV infections in 2021 in the country, slightly reduced from 19,000 in 2020.



## 53.5 percent

(49.3 percent for females).

The number of community members with confidence in the existing peace and security situation increased from 44.1 percent in 2019.



## 862,000

face masks were produced and distributed to vulnerable populations as part of the COVID-19 containment measures. This had a dual effect of creating job opportunities for 3,250 vulnerable persons (females: 1,684; males: 1,566).



**5,919**

vulnerable youths, including ex-combatants and persons with disabilities, were trained on a range of vocational and agriculture value chain-based skills and entrepreneurship.



**2,822**

adults (females: 1,490; males: 1,332) and youths were trained and later obtained internship opportunities and jobs.

**67 agriculture** value chain-based micro, small and medium-sized enterprises were established and provided with **business development, packaging and branding**, and **market access support** to increase their entrepreneurial success rates.



**949**

inmates cumulatively completed vocational training at Juba and Wau prisons.



**1,166**

vulnerable people were provided with start-up kits and business development support that enabled them to start their businesses.





We provided support to the national Ministry of Finance and Planning, and the

**10 state governments**

to prepare state development plans.



**4,125**

vulnerable youths (females: 2,075; males: 2,050) accessed career guidance and placement services.



Antiretroviral treatment coverage increased to 27 percent in 2021, up from

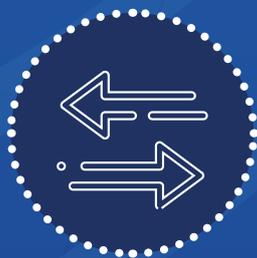
**23 percent**

in 2020.



**US\$57 million**

was mobilized in 2021, surpassing the target of US\$48 million.



The Government of South Sudan **secured US\$226.3 million** from the **Rapid Credit Facility** of the International Monetary Fund to address the **negative socioeconomic impacts** of **COVID-19**. UNDP supported the process.



## PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

Our milestones and development results are presented under what has come to be known as the five Ps of sustainable development. These encapsulate the 17 SDGs and represent an ambitious plan of action for... **people, planet, peace, prosperity** and **partnerships**.

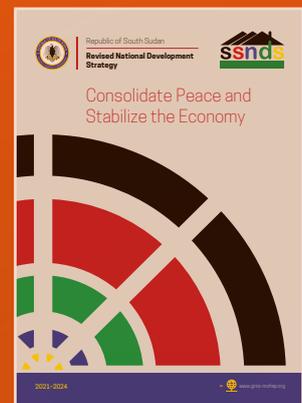
# PEOPLE

## SUPPORTING SDG INTEGRATION IN NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

Integrating the SDGs into national planning frameworks increases national ownership and is key to mobilizing sustainable resources and national budgets to achieve the global targets. Through UNDP technical and financial support, the National Development Strategy (NDS), aligned to the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), was revised and extended to 2024. Through the NDS Secretariat at the Ministry of Finance and Planning, UNDP ensured the integration of the SDGs into the national framework. Technical committees streamlined financing frameworks for the Government of South Sudan using tools such as the integrated national financing framework and the complete United Nations approach to mainstream gender in the NDS. This alignment ensured that the NDS offers strategic direction to the country's development agenda and sets best practices of international standards.



Through UNDP **technical** and **financial support**, the National Development Strategy was revised and aligned to the 2030 Agenda and the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, and **extended** to 2024.



In a bid to ensure broad-based stakeholder participation, UNDP supported consultations and dialogues with various stakeholders. These included NDS clusters, states, experts, the public financial management (PFM) oversight committee, the economic cluster of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity, heads of mission, heads of cooperation and the United Nations Country Team in the NDS review process.

In a bid to enhance service delivery and state-level PFM, UNDP facilitated the reorganization and orientation of structures in accordance with the composition of new state administrative structures.

As a result, the national Ministry of Finance and Planning and the three administrative areas and 10 state governments prepared state development plans (SDPs) aligned to the NDS, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other development frameworks. To bring the SDPs to life, UNDP trained core staff of relevant ministries in Western Equatoria State on linking budget and budget processes to SDPs, and supported the reconstitution of state development planning committees.

## DESIGN OF THE INTEGRATED NATIONAL FINANCING FRAMEWORK

The Government of South Sudan has made efforts to put in place institutional frameworks to achieve SDGs. For instance, its NDS is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063, among other regional and global planning instruments. However, while establishing such robust planning and institutional frameworks is critical, achievement of the SDGs could be inhibited by challenges related to mobilization and efficient use of resources, and alignment of budgets, plans, policies and processes at both national and local levels.

The Decade of Action calls for accelerating sustainable solutions to all the world's biggest challenges, ranging from poverty and gender to climate change, inequality and closing the financial gap.

UNDP is supporting the government to prepare an integrated national financing framework (INFF) to boost innovative mobilization and utilization of resources to implement the SDG Agenda. The INFF details strategies for financing development, and identifies key stakeholders and domestic revenue opportunities for financing development in South Sudan. As part of our contribution to the INFF, UNDP facilitated training and supported the government to design a comprehensive development financing assessment. We also facilitated financing dialogues to shape the INFF process in the country. The NDS Secretariat is now working to use the INFF as a platform for discussion on the gradual shift from heavy focus on financing humanitarian needs to medium- and long-term financing of development needs.

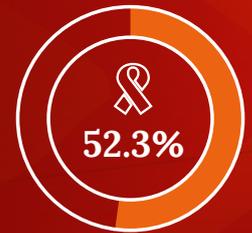
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## COMBATING TUBERCULOSIS AND HIV/AIDS

Our funding, response and management of HIV and TB strengthened subnational and national capacities to care, manage and deliver HIV and TB services to affected persons through community outreach and mobilization efforts. This reduced vulnerability, enhanced productivity and increased HIV testing outcomes and access to antiretroviral treatment. As a result, 385,318 people accessed HIV testing services, up from 163,127 who were facilitated to test the previous year. We also provided testing kits, scaled up HIV testing service training and enhanced reporting.

Owing to these interventions, new HIV infections in the country reduced slightly to 17,371 in 2021, from 19,000 in 2020. We digitalized HIV testing by installing a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) laboratory that meets biosafety levels and laboratory standards to test and monitor services to HIV-positive adults and infants. Prior to this, samples to test for HIV through PCR and molecular biology were processed in neighbouring countries, resulting in the delay of testing results.

Working with partners like the United Nations Population Fund and United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, we extended services to sex workers and underserved and vulnerable populations in internally displaced persons camps, surpassing our target. Services offered included testing services, which reached 6,466 people compared to the target of 5,248. Through civil society organizations, we promoted health-seeking behaviour among men, women and children through the engagement of home health promoters, mentors, mothers and counsellors.



**385,318 PEOPLE**  
 ACCESSED  
 HIV TESTING  
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## STRENGTHENING THE COUNTRY'S RESPONSE TO AND RECOVERY FROM COVID-19

UNDP and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria led the COVID-19 Response Mechanism for South Sudan and in that role strengthened the national COVID-19 response through procurement and operationalization of two multi-disease laboratory diagnostic GeneXpert machines of higher testing capacity that mitigated the impact of COVID-19 and HIV and TB in the country. We supported the Ministry of Health to mobilize funds to support decentralization of COVID-19 testing through the use of the GeneXpert machines, and expansion of testing at the national public health laboratory by using an Abbott PCR machine. We also procured test kits that boosted the government's capacity to test for COVID-19.

UNDP supported the Ministry of Health and the COVID-19 taskforce with the procurement and installation of two incinerators that elevated the national public health laboratory's capacity to manage health- and COVID-19-related waste at a global standard, which requires incineration at over 1,000 degrees Celsius.

We also assisted the rapid response team to enhance active surveillance. The data collection and reporting systems were strengthened to enable informed decision-making through the activation of the COVID-19 app in the district health information system.



## PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF FACE MASKS

As part of the COVID-19 response, UNDP supported production of 862,000 units of reusable/washable face masks and their distribution to vulnerable populations for infection prevention and control. This had the double effect of creating job opportunities for 3,250 vulnerable persons (females: 1,684; males: 1,566). UNDP also provided job placement and internship opportunities for an estimated 20,000 beneficiaries and 6,000 vulnerable youths and women acquired skills and vocational trades. In addition, 5,000 vulnerable youths and women were channelled to jobs and employment through business linkages, trade and marketing.

## STRENGTHENING RESPONSE TO EPIDEMICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Regarding emergency preparedness, UNDP strengthened the capacity at all levels to respond to shocks and public health emergencies. We supported response to epidemics and coordination of public health emergencies in South Sudan through our support of the Ministry of Health call centre operation located at the public health emergency operations centre. UNDP installed 16 call stations and a situation room that served as a command centre for coordination of the national COVID-19



*The talented and committed team that drives our transformation work with Sara Beysolow Nyanti, Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, at a UNDP staff retreat*

response, as well as providing additional laptops to staff of the centres to enhance their operational efficiency. Additionally, in conjunction with UNDP Global Fund Programme, we provided technical expertise in the areas of planning, monitoring and coordination, and trained national staff of the centre to take over responsibilities.

## **STAFF ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT**

UNDP's transformational work was made possible by an incredible team comprising people from different spheres of life. We instituted measures to protect, inspire and grow our staff through providing them with opportunities for empowerment. The office continued to monitor the extent of COVID-19 infections and instituted a COVID-19-specific business continuity plan, which was activated in February and December following increasing cases. Staff were supported through the provision of data bundles to allow them to work seamlessly from home. Six staff members were provided with detail mission opportunities to Senegal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Chad and eSwatini. One national officer joined UNDP's Regional Service Centre for Africa, while three staff members moved from junior posts to higher posts and three others were supported to undertake the certified public finance and accountancy course.



## SUPPORTING GBV AND JUVENILE COURTS TO EXPEDITE CASES



Violence against women and girls is a widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violation that hinders the fulfilment of women's and girls' human rights and development.

In South Sudan, 65 percent of women will experience physical or sexual violence from a partner or non-partner in her lifetime. Yet GBV cases are among the backlogged cases because of limitations in judicial, legal aid and prosecutorial institutions, leading to lengthy periods of pretrial detention, delayed justice and a culture of impunity. UNDP's support strengthened the institutional capacities of the judiciary of South Sudan as it operationalized the first GBV and juvenile courts and ensured that the courts operated optimally. Amongst others, we donated three vehicles to curb the high rates of absenteeism of judicial staff and to ease transportation of inmates from police and prison facilities.

UNDP deployed mobile courts in remote locations with limited judicial presence to fast-track reporting and adjudication of cases. As a result, 110 cases were registered at the GBV court and 48 were concluded.

Progress has been made in advancing gender justice and justice for women as part of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, resulting in 2,218 women and girls benefiting from justice mechanisms, 1,160 female SGBV survivors accessing courts and the establishment of five women-led community policing platforms.

A total of 6,481 disadvantaged people gained access to justice. Various measures were taken to enable people to receive justice, namely through the mobile court system; police special protection unit; early release from pretrial detention; use of police bond and bail; and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as the traditional courts and mediation. Disadvantaged groups now have an opportunity to secure their rights under the law.

Similarly, UNDP mentored and strengthened the national police on applying a survivor-centred approach during investigations and case management. Additional special protection desks, which minimized impunity and fostered accountability, were operationalized in two counties.

In terms of message reach, UNDP and its partners sensitized 1,835,689 people (51 percent of them female) with messages on GBV, child marriage, human rights and the services offered at the justice and confidence centres, while an additional 936,201 women were sensitized on their rights in relation to SGBV and empowered on channels for seeking redress. Consequently, 1,763 people (77 percent female) received legal support.

Some 2,158 people, of whom 72 percent were female, benefited from legal aid services delivered with civil society organization partners. As a result, vulnerable groups including women, survivors of SGBV, people affected by conflict, persons living with HIV/AIDS, internally displaced persons, and returnees and host communities pursued their legal claims in court and through other administrative structures.

## TRAUMA AND PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALING OF THE COMMUNITY FOR RECONCILIATION

Managing trauma and the psychosocial needs of people is key to addressing the legacies of a conflict that has severely impacted people's wellbeing and state of mind. Through a consultative process, UNDP identified community members from all 10 states and three special administrative areas to complete immersive trauma and psychosocial support training in Juba. The training-of-trainers' approach resulted in a national rollout of volunteers to share systematic approaches to dealing with trauma, awareness and reconciliation support.

UNDP rolled out a national trauma awareness and reconciliation initiative, and recruited, trained and deployed volunteers who provided psychosocial support to conflict-affected communities, thus facilitating the conflict mediation process. UNDP also infused psychosocial support, trauma healing and reconciliation into peacebuilding initiatives, which was vital for sustaining peace gains. To take this forward, plans are under way to develop a trauma and psychosocial support curriculum and training guide. Community trauma awareness, resilience and reconciliation was also supported by UNDP to prepare communities to engage with the CTRH.



## REHABILITATING INMATES FOR SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

Vocational training in prisons, which started in 2016 at Juba Central Prison, was expanded to Wau and Malakal prisons to transform livelihoods, prepare inmates for social reintegration, reduce recidivism, decongest prisons and enhance community safety. Cumulatively, 949 adult inmates, 137 juveniles and 197 prison officers have graduated from this programme since 2016. Of the graduates, 438 adults and 51 juveniles were released back into the community between 2016 and 2021, with no known reoffending cases. Some 307 former inmate graduates have been absorbed into the job market, opted for self-employment or been selected as trainers in the programme. Presently, 349 inmates and 38 prison officers are undergoing training in Juba, Wau and Malakal vocational training centres and are scheduled to graduate in July 2022.



*Transforming the lives of inmates through vocational training in Wau and Western Bahr el Ghazal*

## ADDRESSING GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY GAPS TO ENHANCE SERVICE DELIVERY



UNDP supported the national government to address critical institutional capacity needs to implement the R-ARCSS and set the country on a pathway of reform for sustainable peace, development and improved well-being of its citizens.

UNDP supported the PFM Secretariat to establish a communications and networking platform which improved the attendance of meetings and ensured continuity of activities, given the limitations on physical interactions occasioned by the COVID-19 containment measures. With funding from the African Development Bank, UNDP supported the secretariat to coordinate training for the Ministry of Finance and Planning on the integrated financial management information system. We also assisted the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Bank of South Sudan to establish a treasury single account.

Additionally, UNDP supported the Ministry of Roads and Bridges to review, verify and validate contracts. These included all road contracts that were collateralized against crude oil and direct payments. This action involved support to the Debt Management Unit within the ministry to collect and analyse data on debt records.

UNDP supported national efforts to promote open and accountable management of oil, gas and mineral resources. To this end, we supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to sensitize stakeholders on the obligations of member state parties to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and in promoting South Sudan's adherence to the EITI protocols. This engagement is envisaged to improve the country's capacity to manage its oil and other extractive resources.

Our support also led to the reactivation of the undersecretary forum and helped with the finalization and rollout of the training of civil servants on the updated public service master curriculum.

Further, UNDP supported the design of the national policing strategic plan and its alignment to R-ARCSS and Vision 2040 and contributed to the establishment of a unit for border police in which 28,000 personnel were assembled and deployed.

UNDP supported the Ministry of Public Service and Human Resource Development and Ministry of Labour to review and align their respective strategic plans and policy frameworks (2021–2025) with delimitation of the new mandate and job description. We also trained, coached and mentored the change agents of the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs on good governance and ethics while discharging the government mandate.

In addition, UNDP supported the Ministry of Interior with computers, printers, office desks, chairs, stationery and communication devices which facilitated the establishment of four crossing points with the Sudan (Paanthou, Panakuach, Timsah and Majok-Nyinthuoi).

The above institutional capacity-building efforts were made possible by the generous contribution of the government and people of the Kingdom of Norway.

*Empowering South Sudanese women to be champions of peace*



# PEACE

## SUPPORTING THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH-TELLING, RECONCILIATION AND HEALING

Addressing legacies of conflict is a springboard to achieving national cohesion and lasting peace in South Sudan. Our support for peace and reconciliation led to the ministerial establishment of a technical committee for the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH), under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. The technical committee's primary work laid the foundation for the process and led to the government launch of public consultations on the CTRH. The outcomes of these consultations will inform the drafting of legislation for the CTRH, one of the transitional justice mechanisms to fulfil the revitalized peace agreement alongside the establishment of the hybrid court for South Sudan and the compensation and reparation authority.

In partnership with the Ministry of Peacebuilding and the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission, UNDP commenced a national trauma healing and psychosocial support programme to prepare communities for the CTRH process. UNDP supported training and orientation of the CTRH technical committee members, which created a shared understanding of consultation methodologies that are inclusive, rights-based and victim-centred.



Our support for peace and reconciliation led to the ministerial establishment of a technical committee for the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing, under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

In addition, UNDP supported the establishment of support groups to empower victims to participate meaningfully in the truth, healing and reconciliation process to ensure that the process is victim-centred. In addition, we supported community-led consultations on trauma awareness and reconciliation aimed at strengthening social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

## SUPPORTING THE CONSTITUTION-MAKING PROCESS

The process of forming a permanent constitution lies at the heart of the transitional phase for South Sudan. In 2021, UNDP played a central role in advancing this process through advocacy and technical and financial support. As a result, UNDP supported the drafting of the Constitution-Making Process Bill 2021, which defines a road map, institutional arrangements to guide the making of a permanent constitution and promises a participatory and inclusive process.

## INCREASED CONFIDENCE IN PEACEBUILDING AND TRANSBOUNDARY COMMUNITY COHESION

A 2021 UNDP perception study revealed that the number of community members with confidence in the existing peace and security situation in their locations had increased to 53.5 percent (49.3 percent for females), up from 44.1 percent in 2019.



UNDP strengthened peace infrastructure by supporting peace committees through training in conflict mediation, peacebuilding, transformational leadership and response to gender-based violence. Across the 10 states and two administrative areas in South Sudan, the peace committees executed their roles as arbiters and mediators of community-level conflicts, disputes and security concerns and this led to increased confidence in the work of peace committees. As a result, the peace committees resolved 441 community conflicts, addressed conflict drivers, met vulnerable people's needs, de-escalated grievances and social tension, and curbed tendencies for violent retribution. Interventions to build peace infrastructure and peace centres through the committees have been pivotal in enhancing community cohesion and socioeconomic recovery from conflict. UNDP has revitalized South Sudan's oldest shea butter cottage factory and established peace centres for women to regain agricultural vocational skills for subsistence and employment.

UNDP's partnership with Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan enabled the signing of six local-level agreements that mitigated seasonal cattle migration-related conflicts in border communities between Sudan and South Sudan and internally across states. A policy to regulate the seasonal movement of cattle, which is one of the conflict triggers, was also initiated to serve as a model for managing cattle migration.



*Community members in Northern Bahr el Ghazal using inter-cultural dancing to advocate for peaceful co-existence*

## **STRENGTHENING CONFLICT EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE MECHANISMS**

UNDP supported the design and roll-out of a conflict early warning and response mobile app developed as an outcome of a competitive youth innovation challenge for peace. The mobile app (Alert Me) was piloted in three states where it strengthened the national conflict early warning and response system mechanisms that received and acted on over 300 alerts across a two-month period. Through a partnership with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, a rapid response fund was established within the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission that bolstered response to early warning alerts received from the mobile app.

Working with the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization, we addressed community conflicts between cattle keepers and crop farmers through the construction of shallow dams. These prevented cattle keepers moving to crop-farming areas in search of water until after the crop farmers' harvest.

## SUPPORTING SECURITY SECTOR REFORMS

UN Women and UNDP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, supported gender mainstreaming in the security sector reform processes in South Sudan. Implementing partners across the 10 states and the administrative areas were involved in facilitating community-level engagement on security sector understanding and reforms.



## STRENGTHENING LOCAL-LEVEL SECURITY SYSTEMS

UNDP improved community security through targeted support to develop police and prison professionalism and infrastructure at county level and in crime hotspot areas. In partnership with the South Sudan national police service and the United Nations police, 42 new police and community relations committees were established. The committees identified crime hotspots and held outreach and engagement meetings to strengthen local-level security systems and response mechanisms.

UNDP also supported the review of the community policing policy to guide actions to achieve the desired democratic policing outcomes in communities and build public trust in the police. This policy has the potential to transform the police by comprising more inclusive and gender-sensitive structures to address violence and crime.

At the national level, UNDP has enhanced the security sector by co-designing a standard operating procedure for community policing, and establishing emergency call centres to increase trust between police and the community.

## SUPPORTING WOMEN TO CHAMPION GROWTH, PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

While women are the primary victims of conflicts, they are also strong champions and advocates for peace and resolution of conflicts. UNDP supported and strengthened women's capacities to play a major role in conflict prevention and transformation. As a result, the Kabarthe Women's Group in Pibor mediated conflicts and facilitated the return of 50 percent of abducted children in Pibor between January and August 2021, compared to 33 percent during the same period in 2020. A flagship study was published on the traditional and changing role of gender and women in peacebuilding.

Additionally, UNDP constructed two women's centres which provided spaces for interaction and income generation. A cottage factory producing shea butter oil was constructed for women beneficiaries while 382 women leaders and young women aspiring leaders underwent a mentorship and coaching programme for transformative leadership through a partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and the University of Juba. At least eleven women leaders from the group were appointed in the new government administration.

UNDP's work to build peace and social cohesion is made possible through support from Sweden, Korea, Japan and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.



*Re-affirming UNDP's support for South Sudan's peace and reconciliation efforts*

## **SUPPORTING POLICY FORMULATION AND LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES TO IMPLEMENT THE PEACE AGREEMENT**

Through UNDP's technical and financial support, several bills, legislation and policy instruments were formulated to provide a basis for sustainable, equitable and inclusive service delivery, and foster accountability and enjoyment of rights. We assisted with technical inputs for two of the seven legal frameworks completed by the national constitutional amendment committee. These are the Public Finance and Accountability Act and the Taxation Act. We also coordinated additional inputs on the remaining five bills that are still under review, and updated policy documents and regulatory frameworks to be adopted in the economic and financial public sector.

To facilitate implementation of the 35 percent gender provision of the revitalized transitional agreement, and aid execution of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, UNDP supported the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare to draft the Gender Mainstreaming Affirmative Action Bill.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Peacebuilding, UNDP supported the ministry to develop a national strategic framework for peacebuilding, ensuring that it is aligned to SDGs 5 and 16 and the R-ARCSS. UNDP's partnership with the Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control saw the development of the voluntary civilian disarmament strategy to enhance ownership among the leaders at the community level and to advocate for disarming the youth.



# PROSPERITY

## SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT TO DIVERSIFY REVENUE STREAMS

South Sudan holds sub-Saharan Africa's third largest oil reserves and is heavily reliant on this commodity, with oil exports accounting for 98 percent of the country's revenue. Given the country's vast development needs and oil production disruptions, this is unsustainable and incapable of triggering sustainable economic growth. Diversification of the national revenue streams is thus essential.

UNDP strengthened the capacity of PFM institutions to generate and manage non-oil revenue. Amongst other initiatives, with assistance from the African Development Bank, UNDP supported the Non-Oil Revenue Mobilization Conference to strengthen dialogue and collaboration between the national revenue authority and the state revenue authorities (SRAs) and standardized an effective, transparent, progressive and fair tax system in South Sudan. This improved coordination between the national revenue authority and the SRAs on key issues of tax administration. UNDP enabled SRAs to use a progressive tax structure to facilitate the collection of non-oil revenues in different states.

UNDP also supported data collection, and identification and classification of taxpayers as one of the measures to broaden the tax base to tackle systematic challenges to establishing a progressive tax system for South Sudan.



UNDP supported the Non-Oil Revenue Mobilization Conference to strengthen dialogue and collaboration between the national revenue authority and the state revenue authorities and standardized an effective, transparent, progressive and fair tax system in South Sudan.



*Innovative financial solutions promote peace and economic empowerment at the Sudan/South Sudan border points*

## **FOSTERING GROWTH THROUGH DIGITAL DISRUPTIONS, INNOVATIONS AND CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMMING**

With support from the regional bureau of Africa Borderlands Centre Innovation Challenge and in partnership with UNDP Sudan Accelerator Lab, UNDP South Sudan fostered financial and digital inclusion of youth, women and men in rural borderlands, and transformed Sanduk, a local traditional savings scheme, into mobile banking.

This initiative has resulted in economic and social empowerment and inclusion of vulnerable and underserved women/communities in the formal digital and banking economy. The digital transformation component of the programme sought to build business readiness in the wake of limitations on movements and social gatherings occasioned by COVID-19.

Africa's borderland communities rely on informal cross-border trade for their livelihoods but conflict, climate change and COVID-19 disruptions make their operations difficult. Access to finance is a central component to unlocking the economic potential of borderland regions.

## **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUPPORT**

A total of 67 agriculture value chain-based micro, small and medium-sized enterprises were equipped with business development, packaging and branding and market access support to increase their entrepreneurial success rates.

UNDP enhanced the capacity of trade officials on key trade policy issues ranging from investment, standards, packaging and small and medium-sized enterprises to business development. In addition, UNDP contributed to an evidence-based trade policy-making process through the development of the Diagnostic Trade Integration Update concept note and the Enterprise South Sudan web portal – a digital system that will enhance the ability to do business in South Sudan, while providing a forum for businesses to dialogue and engage.



*Creating spaces for youth to succeed like the Integrated Business, Employment and Innovation Hub (i-Hub)*

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

UNDP trained 5,919 vulnerable youth, including ex-combatants and persons with disabilities, in a range of vocational and agriculture value-chain-based skills and entrepreneurship. These provided them with essential skills and enhanced their readiness for the job market, as well as increasing their potential to establish businesses and enhance local economic growth and recovery.

Through a partnership with private sector companies, 2,822 (females: 1,490, males: 1,332) youth who were trained in this initiative secured jobs and industrial internship placements that offered them the opportunity to apply their skills, advance their careers and increase their prospects for substantive employment. An additional 1,166 vulnerable persons received start-up kits and business development support that enabled them to start their own businesses.

In a related initiative, at least 4,125 vulnerable youths (females: 2,075, males: 2,050) accessed career guidance and placement services through integrated business, employment and innovation hubs established in five states. This allowed them to gain new skills to make themselves marketable, as well as to access new opportunities in the labour market.

## STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE THROUGH REHABILITATION OF ROADS

UNDP contributed to the rehabilitation and construction of access roads and drainage canals, which increased agricultural productivity, food security and strengthened protection and resilience to climate-induced disasters, especially flooding. This was also a cash-for-work initiative that provided people with employment.

## SUPPORTING THE GOVERNORS' FORUM TO ENHANCE SERVICE DELIVERY

With UNDP support, the 5th Governors' Forum, a high-level symposium chaired by President Salva Kiir Mayardit and facilitated by the First Vice-President and Chair of the Governance Cluster, Dr Riek Machar Teny. Participants included 10 state governors and administrators from three administrative areas. The symposium deliberated on contemporary policy issues hinging on governance, the humanitarian-development nexus, nation-building and peace consolidation.

The forum also provided a platform for reflection on the role of the states and special administrative areas in the implementation of R-ARCSS for a peaceful, stable and prosperous country. A total of 30 resolutions and 78 recommendations were agreed on. These included addressing significant capacity gaps at state level; accelerating the implementation of the revitalized peace agreement; averting conflicts; managing natural resources; and improving the delivery of social services for citizens.

## STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Strong and effective institutions are the bedrock of service delivery and are crucial in driving organizational development and fostering transparency and accountability. UNDP contributed to strengthening the effectiveness of state institutions in many ways on the national level.

1



OUR POLICY AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY SUPPORT TO ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND PFM REFORMS CONTRIBUTED TO IMPROVEMENTS IN MACROECONOMIC STABILITY. THIS WAS MANIFESTED IN THE HARMONIZATION OF THE OFFICIAL CURRENCY EXCHANGE AND PARALLEL MARKET RATES, AND THE REDUCTION IN THE INFLATION RATE.

2



UNDP SUPPORTED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CHAPTER IV OF R-ARCSS IN ESTABLISHING KEY PFM STRUCTURES, CONTRIBUTING TO AN EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND STRONG NATIONAL OWNERSHIP IN ACCELERATING PFM REFORMS.



*A symposium attended by national and state governments in South Sudan*

### 3



WE ALSO SUPPORTED REVIEWS OF VARIOUS ECONOMIC LAWS, AS WELL AS REFORMS OF THE PFM SYSTEM. SUSTAINED SUPPORT FOR PFM REFORMS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER RESULTS THROUGH INCREASED FISCAL SPACE FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

### 4



UNDP TECHNICAL SUPPORT CONTRIBUTED TO THE SECURING OF EMERGENCY FUNDING OF \$226.3 MILLION FROM THE RAPID CREDIT FACILITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND TO ADDRESS THE NEGATIVE SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19.

AT THE SUBNATIONAL LEVEL:

1



UNDP STRENGTHENED THE CAPACITY OF STATE-LEVEL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, RESULTING IN INCREASED NON-OIL REVENUE MOBILIZATION, AN IMPROVED LEGAL AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT, AND SOME PROGRESS IN SERVICE DELIVERY.

2



WE FACILITATED TRAINING OF STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES IN 10 STATES ON BUDGET OVERSIGHT AND APPROPRIATION BILLS. THIS IMPROVED LEGISLATORS' CAPACITY TO OVERSEE AND SCRUTINIZE GOVERNMENT BUDGETS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES, AND ENSURE GENDER EQUITY.

Our support also ensured provision of a clean and sustainable power source to facilitate internet connectivity, assisting South Sudan to enter the fourth industrial revolution with effective and efficient revenue mobilization and accountability. Additionally, UNDP and the United Nations Children's Fund held joint communication outreaches on PFM issues to enhance PFM tenets and avoid duplication. Working together ensured that key issues of concern for the two agencies, such as children and development planning, were addressed simultaneously.

Our Country Office acknowledges the institutional support and provision of training and equipment to make public service delivery possible. Over the year, UNDP handed over equipment and established offices such as the integrated Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (iMRV) Office for improving national climate data coordination. We also provided computers for the National Bureau of Statistics to strengthen evidence- and data-based policymaking.



UNDP supported installation of solar panels to drive the Wulu Women's Oil Cottage Mill in Rumbek, Lakes State

3



TRAINING IN THE PFM CYCLE AND PROCESSES FOR THE STATE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING TO CREATE SUSTAINABLE FINANCE BUDGETING WAS ACHIEVED IN SIX STATES. GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN AND THE SDG JOINT FUND MADE THIS POSSIBLE.

4



WITH UNDP SUPPORT, STATE REVENUE AUTHORITIES IN THE THREE STATES OF WESTERN EQUATORIA, CENTRAL EQUATORIA AND NORTHERN BAHR EL GHAZAL DIGITALIZED THEIR OPERATIONS THROUGH ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT (SOLAR, VSAT, ETC.).

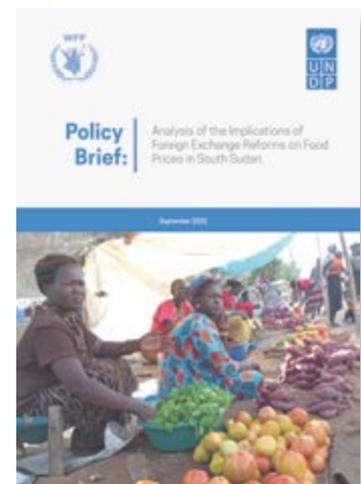
## SUPPORTING DATA GENERATION TO INFORM NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

Credible data and analytics are important for evidence-based programming. UNDP supported capacity strengthening for the National Bureau of Statistics of South Sudan to collect, analyse and disseminate integrated, reliable and timely statistical information to support development processes.

In collaboration with the United Nations Country Team, we supported the National Bureau of Statistics to conduct an SDG data landscaping exercise for coordinating, monitoring, tracking and reporting on the SDG progress in the country. UNDP co-chaired the national task force and provided financial, technical and coordination support.

Furthermore, our support enabled the National Bureau of Statistics to establish the national gross domestic product using production data, to reflect sectoral contributions to the economy. In addition, we provided bridge financing to enable the National Bureau of Statistics to produce three month estimates of the consumer price index to determine inflation trends in the country.

Regarding knowledge generation, UNDP and the World Food Programme produced a policy brief on the implications of exchange rate reforms for food prices, which helped to inform policy response on the impact of multiple shocks such as COVID-19, the desert locust infestation and severe flooding.





*Water is life: handover of a peace centre in Aweil North County to mitigate resource-induced conflict in Northern Bahr el Ghazal*

# PLANET

Climate change is among the greatest challenges of our time and South Sudan is already faced with glaring evidence of its impacts such as extreme rainfall, flooding, drought and a gradual rise in temperature. With more than 11 million of its people (up to 95 percent of the country's population) dependant on climate-sensitive sectors including agriculture, forestry resources and fisheries for their livelihoods, South Sudan is highly susceptible to climate shocks that could potentially exacerbate current humanitarian and development challenges. The cost of inaction in South Sudan will be increased fragility, delayed recovery, reduced socioeconomic growth and reversal of the many hard-earned development gains.

UNDP supported the development, finalization and submission of South Sudan's first National Adaptation Plan for climate change and its second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Developed under the United Nations Climate Promise, the National Adaptation Plan is the country's blueprint to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience and facilitating the integration of climate change adaptation into relevant planning frameworks, laws, policies, programmes and activities at all levels. Funding from the governments of Germany, Sweden, Spain and Italy, as well as the European Union and UNDP's other core contributors, provided a framework for mainstreaming adaptation planning within the government's development planning architecture.



UNDP supported the Government of South Sudan to design and launch the first digital integrated Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (iMRV) system that provides the country with the capacity to track, verify and report estimated greenhouse gas emissions and track and monitor climate actions and SDG impacts. The iMRV allows South Sudan to fulfil requirements under the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement.



South Sudan has strategized to build on nature-based solutions, green infrastructure and to foster socioeconomic recovery pathways centred on climate change and natural disasters.



*Impact of climate change in Bor, Jonglei State*



*In support of nation-building through the delivery of quality education, UNDP supported solar installations at Upper Nile University*

South Sudan has strategized to build on nature-based solutions, green infrastructure and to foster socioeconomic recovery pathways centred on climate change and natural disasters.

NDCs are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of long-term climate change goals. They embody commitment to global climate goals such as reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in forestry and wetlands, energy, transport and agriculture sectors, and adaptation to the impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each member party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs that it intends to achieve.

The NDC design includes a resource mobilization plan and communication strategy to ensure implementation. The NDCs detail strategies that will be implemented by the Government of South Sudan to integrate a gender perspective into national-level climate change policies and strategies. Gender perspectives will also be integrated into climate change mitigation and adaptation interventions.

UNDP supported the Government of South Sudan to design and launch the first digital integrated monitoring, reporting and verification system, which provides the country with the capacity to track, verify and report estimated greenhouse gas emissions and track and monitor climate actions and SDG impacts. The system allows South Sudan to fulfil requirements under the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement.

In South Sudan, there is increased competition over natural resources due to increasing population and change in climate patterns (prolonged floods and droughts). The influx of displaced individuals such as refugees and internally displaced persons leaving protection of civilian sites means more people are dependent on fewer and fewer resources. UNDP has supported communities to resolve climate-change-induced displacement and conflicts.

*Partnering with the Government of South Sudan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands to ease access to justice, security and human rights for vulnerable groups*



# PARTNERSHIPS



## PARTNERING TO MAXIMIZE IMPACT

In recognition of the urgent call to action for the 2030 Agenda, the Decade of Action requires accelerating sustainable solutions to all the world's biggest challenges, ranging from poverty and gender to climate change, inequality and closing the financial gap. Addressing such deep-rooted challenges cannot be achieved in isolation. It requires strong and robust multi-stakeholder partnerships with both state and non-state actors.

Leveraging its comparative advantages – convening power, thought leadership and a trusted partner role, UNDP collaborated with various institutions including government, development actors, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, the private sector, the telecoms sector, civil society organizations and academia in programme design and execution, resource mobilization and delivery of results in support of the country's development agenda.

We also collaborated with the Government of South Sudan and its various ministries and agencies at national and subnational levels on the development of policies, legislation and service delivery, ensuring national ownership and advancing the achievement of programme results.

**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



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## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION ACHIEVEMENTS

Successful resource mobilization efforts raised US\$57 million, surpassing the target of US\$48 million. The main and regular sources of non-core funding were the Global Fund, The Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Japan, African Development Bank and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

The Country Office also received funds from new donors such as the United States of America, European Union, France and the United Kingdom and is in the process of negotiating cost-sharing agreements with potential funding from China, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Global Environment Facility.

We implemented a number of joint programmes with other United Nations agencies to deliver common results through joint programmes such as Breaking the Cycle of Violence, Justice and Accountability Mechanisms for the Transformation of Violent Conflict, Protecting Women and Girls, Gender Mainstreaming, Strengthening Food Systems and Deepening Financial and Digital Inclusion.

We worked with private sector actors to promote innovation, create opportunities for empowerment and support business development and skills acquisition, and convened business expos and spaces to discuss business ideas such as the Accelerator Lab's quarterly meet-and-greet with young business innovators.

UNDP partnered with civil society organizations to provide legal awareness, legal aid, community policing and awareness on transitional justice mechanisms that strengthened their capacities for ensuring sustainability of project results.



*Working with treasured partners to deliver results*

We worked with private sector actors to promote innovation, create opportunities for empowerment and support business development and skills acquisition, and convened business expos and spaces to discuss business ideas.

# OUR PARTNERS

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

UNDP collaborates with government institutions, ministries, departments and agencies at national, state and local government level, as well as those in the administrative areas.

## BILATERAL PARTNERS

UNDP is a major recipient of the Global Fund to Fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria and is an active member of the local development partners' group, with whom we work closely. This group includes the Kingdom of Norway, Kingdom of The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Government of Sweden, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Government of Japan and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund. Other partners include Germany, France and The United States Agency for International Development.

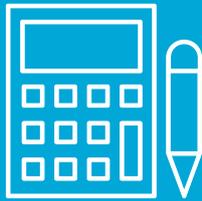
## UNITED NATIONS PARTNERS

Our partners in the United Nations include the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, the Office of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, as well as the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team.

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

We mainly partnered with the African Development Bank in creating and expanding opportunities for the empowerment of the youth and other vulnerable populations and the growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. UNDP also partnered with Stanbic Bank.

# SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



**US\$60,262,345**

Total budget for  
financial year 2021

Both TRAC and  
non-TRAC –  
**85 percent**  
of budget



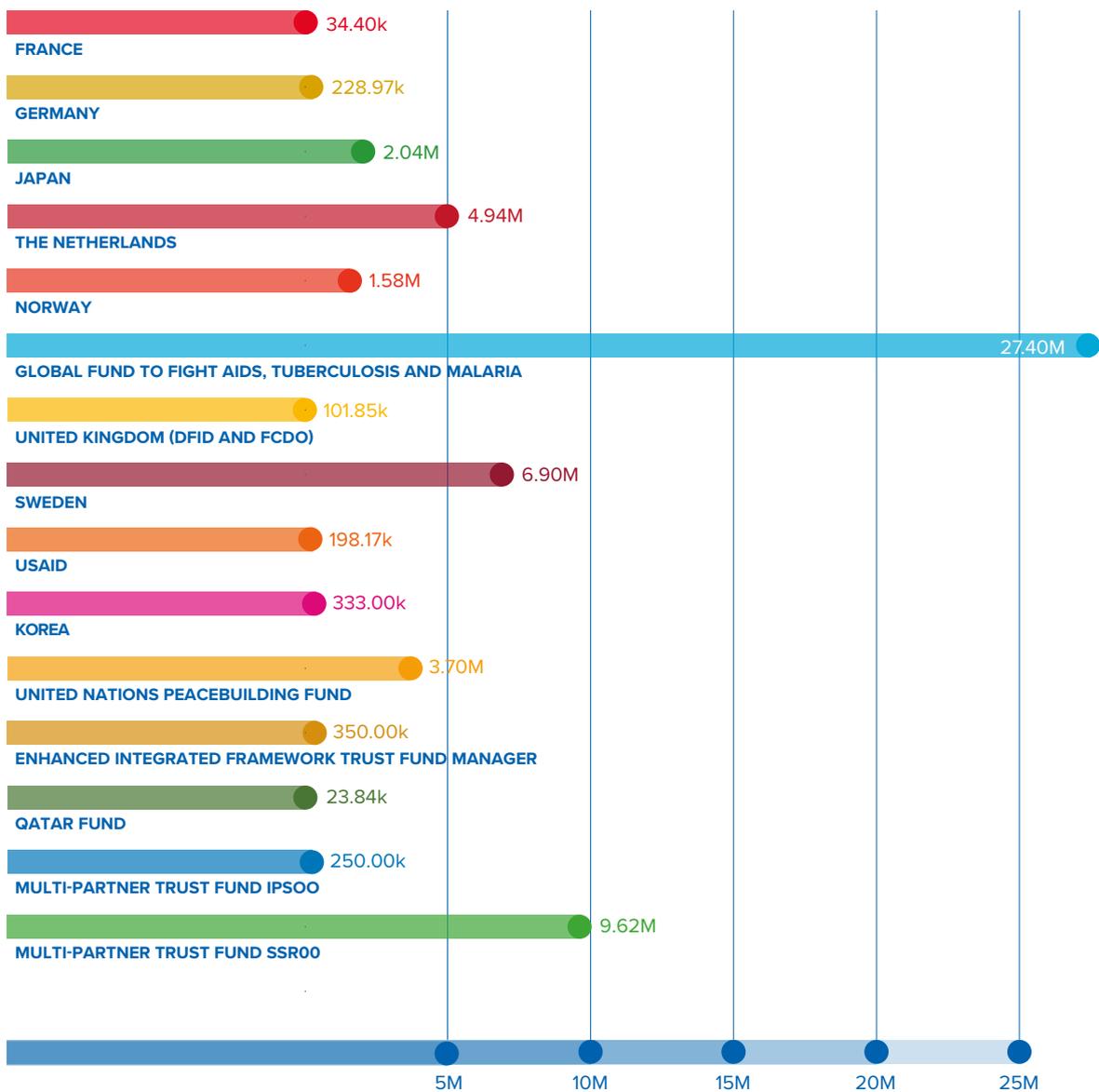
**US\$50,890,060**

Delivery

UNDP resources (TRAC)

**US\$5,420,345**

## CONTRIBUTION/RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FROM DONORS



**GRAND TOTAL: US\$57,737,744**

# CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES



## INNOVATIONS, CREATIVITY AND TECHNOLOGY

Creativity and innovation offer new realms of opportunity to leapfrog SDG achievement in South Sudan. At UNDP South Sudan, the Accelerator Lab, which is part of the 91 Accelerator Lab networks supporting 115 countries globally, takes the lead to make innovation, creativity and technology the co-drivers of our sustainable development offer.

In partnership with Africa Borderlands Centre, UNDP South Sudan fostered financial and digital inclusion of youth, women and men in rural borderlands, transforming Sanduk, a local traditional savings scheme, into mobile banking. This initiative will result in economic and social empowerment and inclusion of vulnerable and underserved women and communities in the formal digital and banking economy.

The Accelerator Lab's quarterly meet-and-greet interactive session with young entrepreneurs, innovators and marketplace leaders is deepening innovation and private sector engagement. The meet-and-greet sessions provided space for thought-provoking discussions on business development, where young innovators networked, showcased and interacted with market leaders.

The Country Office continued to infuse the Accelerator Lab methodology into our programme offer to explore innovative solutions; co-create innovative development pathways and promote digital solutions; establish innovative financing facilities to scale up tested solutions; and provide analytical and programming support during and after the COVID-19 recovery and resilience-building period.

Innovations, creativity and technology were also instrumental in our peacebuilding work. UNDP supported the design and roll-out of a conflict early warning and response mobile app (Alert Me) in three states, which strengthened the national conflict early warning and response system mechanisms and facilitated early detection and response to conflict alerts.

### **Innovation hubs offer employment support**

In business development and youth empowerment, five integrated business, employment and innovation hubs (i-Hubs) were established and operationalized in Juba, Yambio, Torit, Bor, and Rumbek offering career guidance, job placement and business development services and fostering youth-led innovation. The i-Hubs are equipped with computers and Internet connectivity to reduce the digital divide among youth, especially in the remote states, so that they can access e-learning courses and employment support.



### *Harnessing the potential of the youth through business innovations*

Through the i-Hubs, close to 10,000 youth received career advice and placement services while over 1,000 youth secured internship opportunities. The i-Hubs are known as a space for youth to acquire and exchange information on employment, business and innovation, attracting walk-in youth who have not received the skills training offered by the project.

In wake of COVID-19, UNDP supported young women in the fields of computer science, information systems, information and communications technology (ICT) for development, innovation and peacebuilding under the auspices of the GoGirls ICT initiative to develop South Sudan's first locally produced hand sanitizer to support the country's response to the pandemic. This intervention also enabled job creation. The GoSanitize enterprise relies on local communities and capacities as the supply chain for raw materials. The production ecosystem comprises farmers who provide lemons as antioxidants and aloe vera as a moisturizer for the product, local female brewers who provide alcohol, and local market vendors who supply yeast, among others.

## GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment is an integral part of UNDP's development mandate. We recognize gender equality as a human rights issue and a driver of inclusive development. To this end, we treat gender considerations as integral to programme design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. All our programmes have a component of reaching women and vulnerable groups. We are supporting the Government of South Sudan to implement the 35 percent gender provisions in the R-ARCSS. To this end, we supported the draft Gender Equality Affirmative Action Bill.

The Country Office is also participating in the 2021–2023 Gender Equality Seal certification, an innovative tool that promotes an organizational culture of equality, builds staff capacities and supports transformational gender equality results in UNDP.

We supported a national consultation on women in trade which enabled the collection of views of South Sudanese women for the development of a consolidated report to be used for the development of the Women in Trade Protocol of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

UNDP, in partnership with the National Transformational Leadership Institute of the University of Juba, assisted the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare to conduct gender mapping and assessment of public administration at the national level. This process generated a comprehensive overview of the status of gender equality and the positions of women in the public sector; assessed the gaps and barriers to gender equality in public institutions and women's role in decision-making; and provided strategic recommendations and entry points for further policy and programmatic action.

Our latest approach to fostering gender equality is the Gender Equality Strategy, which provides a road map for elevating and integrating gender equality into all aspects of the Country Office's work on poverty reduction, resilience and peace. The strategy prioritizes four key areas for action:

**1** REMOVING STRUCTURAL BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, INCLUDING WOMEN'S DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN OF UNPAID CARE WORK;

**2** PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE;

**3** PROMOTING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN ALL FORMS OF DECISION-MAKING; AND

**4** STRENGTHENING GENDER-RESPONSIVE STRATEGIES IN CRISIS (CONFLICT AND DISASTER) PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY.



*Sara Beysolow Nyanti, Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, and United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator*

## **SUPPORTING THE UNITED NATIONS TO DELIVER AS ONE**

UNDP continued to provide leadership for the delivery of common results through co-chairing the Programme Management Team, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group and Operations Management Team and provided leadership in various United Nations technical working groups. We continued to play an integrator role by updating the Senior Management Group of the United Nations, the United Nations Country Team, project management teams and other United Nations technical working groups regularly on emerging economic issues and context to help the United Nations leadership to respond from an informed perspective.

In our co-chairing capacity, we supported the planning and coordinating of the implementation and reporting on the United Nations Cooperation Framework. We also continued to support the Resident Coordinator as the co-chair of the Partnership for Resilience and Recovery Initiative in collaboration with donors and United Nations agencies, targeting five states. In addition to its global role as the administrative agent for pooled funds, UNDP is also one of the two United Nations Country Team representatives on the steering committee of the Resilience Trust Fund and the Trust Fund's managing agent, supporting non-governmental and civil society organizations to implement programme activities. We implemented a number of joint programmes with other United Nations agencies to deliver common results such as Breaking the Cycle of Violence, Justice and Accountability Mechanisms for the Transformation of Violent Conflict, Protecting Women and Girls in South Sudan, and Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform.



*Empowering youth through skills development*

# HOW WE WORKED TO DELIVER RESULTS

We have learned many lessons along the way that we will use to improve our programme design, delivery mechanisms and stakeholder engagement.

- 1** While COVID-19 containment measures disrupted the economy and programme implementation, they offered vital entry points for innovations, digitalization and business development, especially relating to COVID-19 response and management.
- 2** Women are primary victims of conflicts but they are also strong champions and advocates for peace and resolution of conflicts. Our work that positioned women's groups as champions in conflict prevention, resolution, management and transformation met with tremendous success and led to an increase in the number of abducted children returning from captivity.
- 3** Effective programme design and implementation is driven by data. The country still faces lack of reliable, credible and timely data to inform programme design, implementation and reporting. UNDP strengthened the institutional capacities of the National Bureau of Statistics through provision of tools and equipment to support data collection, analysis and dissemination of official economic, social and demographic statistics.
- 4** Close monitoring and continuous engagement are key strategic interventions that help to fast-track implementation, resource utilization and management.
- 5** Integration of gender and diversity in interventions has great benefits and helps advance UNDP's commitment of 'leaving no one behind' and to 'endeavour to reach the farthest behind first', the overarching goals of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs.
- 6** Regular and timely coordination with relevant actors (including senior government officials) is essential to address disruptions and bottlenecks and fast-track programme delivery.
- 7** In all programme interventions, it is important to put emphasis on engaging with challenges and opportunities in flexible ways, building relationships with new and unusual partners and exploring new approaches to development.

# LOOKING FORWARD 2022

We go into 2022 with determination and resolve to consolidate and expand development gains, deepen collaborations and partnerships with the government and people of South Sudan and other partners to achieve lasting peace and address the legacies of conflict. We will also be finalizing our new country programme document, which embodies our new development offer with support for the country's transition from humanitarian assistance to a development trajectory at the centre.

## OUR PRIORITIES IN 2022 INCLUDE:

### ➤ VALIDATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOUTH SUDAN STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION THROUGH:

- Working with government counterparts to reduce the number of small arms and light weapons in the hands of civilians;
- Reintegration of former combatants;
- Strengthening community cohesion;
- Scaling up trauma awareness and psychosocial support; and
- Working with peace committees, local leaders and traditional authorities on conflict early warning and prevention.

### ➤ STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES FOR ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT WITH A FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY THROUGH:

- Continued strengthening of states' capacities in PFM to generate and manage non-oil revenue and improve accountability. Several studies will also be undertaken to generate evidence to inform policy formulation and decision-making.
- Strengthening national and subnational capacity of PFM institutions.



➤ **EXPANSION OF INTEGRATED HIV/TB SERVICES TO MORE HEALTH FACILITIES BY:**

- Scaling up of the one database, one monitoring system and one leadership platform;
- Expanding partnerships with private hospitals for better HIV/TB services; and
- Supporting the Ministry of Health to coordinate stakeholders at national, state and county levels to bring tangible results by expanding HIV/TB services.

➤ **SUPPORTING THE CONSTITUTION-MAKING PROCESS THROUGH:**

- Security sector reforms;
- Strengthening security and justice institutions, the South Sudan Human Rights Commission and civil society organizations; and
- Establishing transitional justice mechanisms to effectively address the legacies of human rights violations and root causes of conflict.

➤ **FORMULATING SUPPORT PROGRAMMES FOR ELECTIONS, PARLIAMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ESTABLISHING AT LEAST TWO FIELD OFFICES.**

➤ **ROLLING OUT THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE SCHEME TO SUPPORT EMPOWERMENT AND NATION-BUILDING.**

➤ **ELEVATING WOMEN'S TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP.**

➤ **DEEPENING UNDP'S FOOTPRINT ACROSS SOUTH SUDAN AND INCREASING OUR FIELD PRESENCE.**





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