

# NEWSLETTER

## UNDP SOUTH SUDAN

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Titus Osundina, DRR – Programmes and Blessed Chirimuta, DRR - Operations lead the allied charge on ending gender-based violence in South Sudan during the 16-Days of activism against gender-based violence.

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN  
MINISTRY OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS

### 6<sup>th</sup> Governors' Forum

Covered under the leadership of His Excellency President Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit  
Hosted by Central Equatoria State Governor Honourable Emmanuel Adil Anthony

**Theme:**  
"Accelerating the Implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement in Accordance with the Roadmap 2022."

Freedom Hall, Juba

**The 6th Governors Forum -**  
Accelerating the implementation of Revitalized peace agreement in accordance with roadmap 2022

### HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2021/2022

Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives:

**HDR 2021/ 2022 - UNDP**  
South Sudan launches the Human Development Report 2021 - 2022



**UNDP Hands over two Trucks**  
to the National Prison Service efforts to decongest detention facilities

# THE 6TH GOVERNORS FORUM - ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REVITALIZED PEACE AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ROADMAP 2022

The Governor's Forum is an annual event organized since 2006 by the Office of the President with support from UNDP and other partners on policies that touch on the humanitarian, peace and development nexus. The Forum is the highest policy platform that brings together policy actors to South Sudan's capital Juba to deliberate on a wide range of policy issues around governance and democratic principles. One of the Forum's key objectives is to ensure institutions' functionality for effective and efficient transformation and accountability to the population, especially those living in rural areas.

The revival of the Governors' Forum in 2021 - the 5th Governors Forum - after eight years contributed to an advancement in the implementation of the peace agreement and will continue to accelerate the implementation of the Roadmap 2022 to deliver on the promises of 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement Matrix. This will be achieved through the re-unification of organized forces, a participatory permanent constitution-making process, organized return of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons "IDPs" to their places of origin, and elections at the end of the roadmap extension, amongst others.

Under the theme *"Accelerating the implementation of Revitalized peace agreement in accordance with roadmap 2022"*, the 6th Governors Forum encouraged the parties, stakeholders, and guarantors of the agreement to exert more efforts to implement the roadmap extension.

At the opening ceremony, President Salva Kiir urged the governors to deliberate on a peace path for the country.



H.E President Salva Kiir, UNDP Resident Representative Dr. Sam Doe and all the Governors and Administrators of the from the States and Administrators pose for a photo at the opening ceremony of the Governors Forum Photo: UNDP/Amos Agiro

"The discussions you will be holding in the next few days will certainly touch on the difficult topic of how to fast-track the implementation of the roadmap 2022. My hope is that your deliberations will be beneficial to the process of putting our country permanently on the path of peace," President Salva Kiir said.

In his remarks, the First Vice President, Dr. Riek Machar expressed his confidence in the progress made in the peace implementation.

"This year, we are holding this Forum when we have done great events and milestones in the implementation of the peace agreement; we have done phase one graduation of the unified security forces. We are confident the country will be secured once these forces are deployed," He said.

Speaking on behalf of the United Nations Family, Mr. Nicholas Haysom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, said;

"This process carries with it the added strength of the states moving together with the center, reinforced by the participation of civil society, of partners and the international community. We look forward to the full inclusion of women's voices in this important dialogue."

Among the key issues and challenges discussed at the Forum include the devastating floods in most parts of Greater Upper Nile and Greater Bahr El Ghazal regions, insecurity in the country, and inter-communal conflicts and cattle rustling, especially in Jonglei, Warrap, Eastern Equatoria, Unity State, Pibor and National Alliance Salvation (NAS) rebellion activities in Central Equatoria.



Dr. Sam Doe at the Governors Forum



# UNDP PARTNERS WITH FRANCE TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION (CVR) IN SOUTH SUDAN



L-R: General Ayuen Jongoor - DDRC Chairperson, Titus Osundina - UNDP DDR, Christian Bader - French Ambassador during the CVR signing ceremony. Photo: UNDP/ Amos Agiro

“We are glad to be on board this project with UNDP because they have expertise in DDR, as well as expertise in working with local communities, and that is where we want to be.”

Speaking on behalf of the DDRC, the Chair of the Commission General Ayuen Jongoor reiterated the importance of such interventions to South Sudan.

“This project is very important milestone for sustainable peace in South Sudan in the sense that it engages the whole community; that is the women associated with armed forces and groups (WAAFAG), armed youth and youth at risk and ex-combatants in trying to find solutions.”

During the pilot, UNDP will support national and state-level actors to foster peaceful co-existence in targeted areas, emphasizing socioeconomic re-integration, productivity, self-reliance, vocational training, inclusive economic activities, and micro-grant schemes targeting 250 former combatants and 250 community members.

The project implementation will be led by the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Commission (DDRC) with technical support from the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Other relevant government counterparts, the Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control (BCSSAC), and partners, including civil society organizations, will also be engaged in its implementation.

The project will be piloted in the three counties of Western Bahr El-Ghazal State.

In partnership with France, the United Nations Development Programme is collaborating with the South Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (DDRC) to pilot a 15-month CVR approach programme in the country - from October 2022 to December 2023. The pilot project aims to integrate former combatants, women associated with armed forces and groups (WAAFAG), armed youth and youth at risk to contribute to the productive and peaceful co-existence of conflict-affected communities in Western Bahr El Ghazal State. The project will also cover some counties of Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Warrap, where ex-combatants are returning.

Through the Community Violence Reduction (CVR) intervention approach, the project seeks to promote the rule of law, community security, social cohesion, and reconciliation; and integrate opportunities for livelihoods – agriculture, farming, and skills training

for self-employment – among beneficiaries (former combatants, WAAFAG, armed youth, youth at risk as well communities of return). The project will also mobilize beneficiaries into cooperative associations and promote access to business start-up kits and financial services, especially through cooperative savings and loan frameworks.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Mr. Titus Osundina reassured UNDP’s commitment and support to the project.

“UNDP will work closely with other partners, local authorities, and communities to ensure the actualization of the project. We look forward to learning valuable lessons which will be applied in scaling up the project to other parts of the country.”

Delivering his remarks, French Ambassador to South Sudan, Christian Bader said,



# UNDP SOUTH SUDAN LAUNCHES THE 2021/2022 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT



The First Undersecretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning Hon. Ocum Genes Karlo, and UNDP Resident Representative in South Sudan, Dr. Sam Doe unveiling the HDR report 2021/2022 during the official launch at Palm Africa Hotel in Juba. Photo: UNDP/ Amos Agiro

On September 15, UNDP in partnership with the Government of South Sudan launched the 2021/2022 Human Development Report. The report themed 'Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World' was officially launched by the First Undersecretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning Hon. Ocum Genes Karlo.

Speaking during the launch, Hon. Karlo said the report points out how uncertainties and disasters have negatively affected human development.

"To confront the challenges we face today, as a government, we need to work with all stakeholders to address the multifaceted problems and their impacts on the economies and people's livelihoods," he said.

Hon. Karlo further pointed out that there is need for well-structured development plans, policies, and continuous policy dialogues to minimize uncertainties.

"Peace is critical for the implementation of any plan or policy...We are glad that the Government and all partners have taken steps to consolidate peace and stabilize the economy as envisioned in the Revised National Development Strategy. No credible institution, policy, or policy response can be implemented during war," said Hon. Karlo.

Speaking earlier, the UNDP Resident Representative Dr. Samuel Doe said South Sudan has already witnessed floods, desert locust attacks, climate change, COVID-19, political and inter-communal conflicts, endangering the lives of the most vulnerable people at unprecedented speed and scale. "The focus of the United Nations Development Programme 2021/2022 Human Development Report is therefore relevant for South Sudan."

The UNDP Resident Representative further said that there is need for concerted efforts from all stakeholders to work together in finding solutions to the factors that exacerbate uncertainties.

He said what is critical now is to make peace work so that the Government and the people of South Sudan have a united voice to respond to these emerging challenges and threats. "If there is any time that we need to put aside differences for the well-being of the people and the development of South Sudan, it is now," said Dr. Samuel Doe.

The event, which was attended by officials from Government, UN agencies, the academia, Civil Society Organizations, Members of Parliament, the Private Sector, Development partners as well as the media saw delegates discuss different issues highlighted in the report and possible ways of how they can be addressed.

The Human Development Report is an annual report published by UNDP. The report is published as independent and analytically and empirically grounded discussions of major development issues, trends, and policies. First launched in 1990, the 2021/2022 report is the 32nd of its kind.



# HARNESSING SOLAR ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH SUDAN



UNDP contractors pose for a photo during installation of Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels at the National Public Health Laboratory in Juba. Photo: UNDP/Amos Agiro

With an acute shortage of power supply, South Sudan is one of the world's least electrified countries. Solar power can turn this around by providing solutions and opportunities to drive the young nation toward sustainability. Renewable energy costs have dropped significantly in recent years; solar power has the potential to unlock numerous near-term and longer-term benefits in crucial sectors like public service, education, and health care in South Sudan. UNDP's solar power project seeks to leverage the advantages that solar energy brings to the energy sector in South Sudan to drive sustainable development.

South Sudan's domestic and industrial reliance on fossil fuel-run generators and firewood for energy is not financially and environmentally sustainable.

Solar power can; a) help expand and diversify South Sudan's energy sector and contribute to a green pivot that will help soften the crippling dependence on firewood and fossil fuel; and b) unlock numerous near-term and longer-term benefits in crucial sectors like public service, education, and health care in South Sudan. UNDP's solar power project seeks to leverage the advantages that solar energy brings to the energy sector in South Sudan to drive sustainable development.

Currently, the solar systems project aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for 27 health facilities in South Sudan (18 Hospitals, including the main referral hospital of the country, 5 primary health centers, two laboratories, 1 warehouse and the ministry of health.)



Contractors installing solar panels at the public health laboratory - in Juba. Photo: UNDP/Amos Agiro



# WITH SUPPORT FROM SWEDEN, UNDP LAUNCHES A COMMUNITY TRAINING MANUAL ON TRAUMA AWARENESS AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR TRAUMA AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN SOUTH SUDAN.



From L-R; Prof. Barry Hart, Dr. Angelina Bazugba, Dr. Bena Mark, Titus Osundina – UNDP DRR-P, Mr. Tomas Brundin – Head of Embassy of Sweden in South Sudan, Hon. Phillip Pia – Undersecretary, Ministry of Peacebuilding and Joshua Kodjajga – UNICEF, during the launch of the Training Manual. Photo: UNDP/Amos Agiro

Historically and up to the present time, people in South Sudan have experienced high levels of violence, leading to tens of thousands of deaths and trauma-affected individuals. Millions of people have been internally displaced or are living in camps as refugees in foreign countries worldwide. While death and physical destruction caused by violence are immediately apparent, the psychological scars and trauma are less visible and often neglected; if not addressed, they can fuel further cycles of violence.

Evidence has shown that emotional suffering related to war occurs not only due to direct exposure to life-threatening situations and violence but also through indirect stressors, such as injury to or death of relatives or caregivers, economic hardships, geographic displacement, and continuous disruptions of daily living. To come out of such situations, it is salient to recognize and embrace the essential strategies of psychosocial support, trauma awareness and healing,

peacebuilding through dialogue, and forgiveness and reconciliation in South Sudan.

Breaking these cycles of violence and the psychological stress and trauma they cause requires applying trauma-informed and resilience-focused approaches to change. Their use within a peacebuilding framework increases the possibility of transformational change in South Sudan, allowing the nation to move towards a more just and sustainable peace; and where development provides a higher quality of life. When the health and well-being of people are enhanced, their ability to contribute to rebuilding their communities and society is greatly improved. The training manual seeks to achieve this by engaging South Sudanese in their context in a manner that respects their value system regarding 'wholeness' - the integrative relationships between people, God, ancestors, and nature.

## Purpose and Objective of the Manual

The training manual acts as a guide for Psychosocial Facilitators to conduct a five-day training for Community Volunteer Counselors. The emphasis is on psychosocial support, not clinical healing, which is the domain of professional psychiatrists and psychologists. The manual is also a resource from which other trainings, presentations, and interventions about trauma awareness, healing and resilience, peacebuilding and related topics can be developed.

The manual explains trauma awareness, resilience and peacebuilding and how they can help in the recovery and healing process of individuals and communities in South Sudan. It also highlights their critical role in restoring the dignity and hope of the South Sudanese people—and by extension, help prevent future conflicts.



Dr. Angelina and Dr. Bena unveiling the psychosocial and trauma awareness manual. Photo: UNDP/ Amos Agiro



# TESTIMONIES OF BENEFICIARIES

## EQUIPPED TO RAISE AWARENESS ON TRAUMA

**James Juma, 30**  
**Teacher in Intersos School Sector IV, Malakal PoC**



30-year-old James Juma is a teacher at Intersos in Malakal. He says he has the responsibility to care for students in school that is why the training on Trauma Awareness and Psychosocial Support with support from UNDP through War Child Holland helped him to be able to identify the symptoms of trauma.

*“I was among the teachers in Malakal that participated in the training of Trauma Awareness and Psychosocial Support. In my line of work, many children have been traumatized, not only because of the aftermath of conflict but also their daily lives in congested PoC Camp,”* said James.

James says with limited amount of food, resources and even playgrounds, children are very vulnerable to trauma and many parents are stressed already with their living condition, and often display domestic violence behaviours in front of their children.

*“Through this training, I gained more knowledge on how to identify the symptoms of trauma and how to provide – at least psychosocial first aid. Thanks to UNDP, I am happy that I can understand my students better.”*

**Nyaluak Chol, 26**  
**Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sport, Upper Nile State.**

Nyaluak Chol, 26, is a government staff in the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sport in Upper Nile State. She is a mother of 2 sons. Being a mother, she found that trauma awareness and psychosocial support training is important.

*“This training will really help me to raise my children. By understanding the source and impact of trauma, I will be able to take measures to prevent or help me guide my children in the event they experience traumatizing events.”*

Nyaluak says the training also equipped her with knowledge on referral pathways and she is on alert to recommend them to any member of her community who experiences Gender Based Violence.



# UNDP SIGNS A \$9M GRANT TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE IN SOUTH SUDAN



Minister of Finance and Planning - Dier Tong Ngor, AfDB Country Director – Mr Themba Bhebhe, Head of FAO - Meshack Malo and UNDP DRR – Titus Osundina signing the grant. Photo: UNDP/ Sarah Abraham

As part of efforts to strengthen economic governance in South Sudan, UNDP has signed a four-year \$9million grant from the African Development Bank(AfDB).

The 'Institutional Support Project for Strengthening Economic Governance in South Sudan (STEG-SS), which will cover the period December 2022 to September 2026, will enable UNDP to support the Government and the people of South Sudan to achieve the development objectives articulated in the Revised National Development Strategy (RNDS) and the Revitalised agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan-RARCSS.

Speaking during ceremony, AfDB Country Director, Themba Bhebhe said the Bank is committed to contributing to the development of South Sudan and will continue to support different areas of development in the country.

Making his remarks after signing the grant; UNDP Deputy Resident Representative for Programmes -

Titus Osundina appreciated the great collaboration between UNDP, the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the AfDB.

'We appreciate the hybrid implementation arrangement for the \$9million Project. The project components implemented by UNDP in collaboration with the relevant institutions, amount to \$6million while the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the Ministry of Finance implements \$3million,' he said.

Mr. Osundina further said among others, the objective of STEG-SS is to strengthen capacity at all levels to provide evidence-based and inclusive policy making.

Speaking earlier, the Minister of Finance and Planning - Honourable Dier Tong Ngor thanked AfDB for the support to the Government and the people of South Sudan. He noted that the hybrid implementation arrangement, through which the PIU implements 25% of the grant, the Bank will empower people of South Sudan.

Through the STEG-SS Project, UNDP will work with key institutions at the national level, including the Ministry of Finance and Planning, National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Investment, and the Transitional National Legislative Assembly. At the state level, the geographical focus of the project is intended to build on earlier investments in PFM work in six states (Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei and Warrap), where UNDP supported PFM capacity building of State Legislative Assemblies, and State Revenue Authorities.

The project will initially focus on 3 state capitals: Juba/Central Equatoria, Wau/Western Bahr el Gazal and Malakal/Upper Nile, and depending on the specific activity (such as investment, data collection etc.), extend to states in the 3 sub-regions.





# UNDP SIGNS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF JUBA



UNDP Resident Representative, Dr. Samuel Doe exchanging Signed Memoranda with Juba University Vice Chancellor, Prof. John Akec. Photo: UNDP/ Sarah Abraham



The National Transformational Leadership Institute (NTLI) Director, Dr. Angelina Matijjo delivering remarks during the ceremony. Photo: UNDP/ Sarah Abraham



UNDP Peace and Community Cohesion program advisor, Ms Judy Wakahiu making a presentation during the ceremony. Photo: UNDP/ Sarah Abraham

The United Nations Development Programme has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Juba to develop a University Innovation Pod-UNIPOD. UNDP Resident Representative Dr. Samuel Doe and Vice Chancellor for the University of Juba Professor John Akech signed the MoU.

Dr. Doe welcomed the partnership, saying UNDP and partners hoped that by supporting universities with innovation, young people from the University of Juba would join the ranks of global innovators, saying that the world’s major innovative companies were founded by young people during their university years. ‘Young people, no matter their socio-economic status, tend to see themselves as relatively freer to take risks in their choices, more than at any time in their adult lives.’

The University of Juba Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Akech, concurred with the UNDP Resident Representative and said the university was looking forward to the full operationalization of the UNIPOD. ‘Such initiatives are a booster to the innovation aspirations of the university; we are thankful to UNDP, and we look forward to supporting our students.’ He said.

The Africa Timbuktoo University Innovation Pod, supported by UNDP, is a unique initiative located in a top technical public university with the objective of supporting youth innovation.

Through the initiative, UNDP is supporting more than six countries, including Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Gabon, Rwanda, Guinea, and Togo.



# UNDP SUPPORTS THE VALIDATION OF GENDER MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT STATE LEVEL



Minister for Gender - Benjamin Aya Warile and UNDP DRR – Titus Osundina with other participants during a validation workshop of a Gender Mapping and Assessment of Public Administration at state level. Photo: UNDP/ Sarah Abraham

As a positive step towards efforts on gender mainstreaming in various public institutions of South Sudan, UNDP supported the validation workshop of a Gender Mapping and Assessment of Public Administration at state level.

Speaking during the opening, Deputy Resident Representative Titus Osundina thanked the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and the National Transformational Leadership Institute for the partnership and for prioritizing such an important study.

‘I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Ministry of Gender for making it possible for South Sudan to be included among the countries that have conducted the study at the national and state levels and generated some data.’

Mr. Osundina said Gender equality in public administration not only gives women a voice at the table but also fuels greater societal impacts.

‘Evidence shows that when women are present in policymaking decisions, social equity issues around poverty, health care, education, and gender-based violence are more likely to be addressed, which are ultimate outcomes of the SDG initiative.’ He added.

UNDP introduced the Gender Equality in Public Administration (GEPA) initiative and its research tools in 2019 during the 2019 convention on the status of women (CSW63) side event.

The Initiative aims to establish a global tracking mechanism that will institutionalize the monitoring of the state of gender equality in the civil service – at both national and local level.

To realize gains of the peace agreement’ gender provisions, UNDP’s partnership also supports the implementation of the gender provision in the R-ARCSS.

Through the STEG-SS Project, UNDP will work with key institutions at the national level, including the Ministry of Finance and Planning, National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Investment, and the Transitional National Legislative Assembly. At the state level, the geographical focus of the project is intended to build on earlier investments in PFM work in six states (Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei and Warrap), where UNDP supported PFM capacity building of State Legislative Assemblies, and State Revenue Authorities.

The project will initially focus on 3 state capitals: Juba/Central Equatoria, Wau/Western Bahr el Gazal and Malakal/Upper Nile, and depending on the specific activity (such as investment, data collection etc.), extend to states in the 3 sub-regions.



# UNDP HANDS OVER TWO TRUCKS TO THE NATIONAL PRISON SERVICE IN EFFORTS TO DECONGEST DETENTION FACILITIES



UNDP Resident Representative Dr. Samuel Doe handing over Truck Keys to the Director General of National Prisons Service of South Sudan. Photo: UNDP/ Amos Agiro

In a bid to contribute to government’s efforts to decongest detention facilities, UNDP handed over two trucks to the National Prison Service in Wau and Juba Prisons.

Speaking during the hand-over ceremony in Juba, Resident Representative Samuel Doe said UNDP continues to champion concerted efforts to decongest the detention facilities including the support for the rehabilitation of inmates by imparting vocational skills to the inmates in Wau and Malakal Central Prisons.

*“More than 1,115 inmates have graduated with over 500 having been successfully reintegrated back to the*

*community after completing their sentence and involved in pro-social activities”* he said.

He also reiterated that UNDP is also keen to support the prisons service to observe the different international penal standards and requirements for the safe and humane treatment of inmates, containment being the primary responsibility to ensure the safety of the inmates and protect the community.

The UNDP Resident Representative then commended the National Prisons Service for the diligent supervision to ensure that the support provided is fully utilized to achieve the intended objectives.

“It is my full belief, that the trucks will be utilized correctly and innovatively to support the service”



# UNDP, GOVERNMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS **COMMEMORATE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**



Titus Osundina – UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Head of UNMISS - Political Affairs, Heads of other UN Agencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Development Partners and Ministers from the National Government observing a moment of silence during the International Peace Day in Juba. Photo: UNDP/ Nomsa Taulo

On September 21, UNDP joined the Government of South Sudan and other development partners in commemorating the International Day of Peace.

Celebrated under a customized theme: End Ethnic Discrimination, Build Peace in Diversity, the provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to reflect on the importance of the day to the people of South Sudan.

Speaking during the commemoration, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Titus Osundina said the International Day of Peace provides a chance for all stakeholders to reflect on the role each plays in order to sustain peace.

‘In a world where compassion and empathy prevail over hatred and suspicion, we all have a role to play to sustain peace. This day reminds us that the peace we enjoy today, came out of hard work, commitment, and dedication from everyone.’

*“End Ethnic Discrimination, Build Peace in Diversity.”*



Traditional dancers from various ethnic communities performing at the peace day event. Photo: UNDP/ Nomsa Taulo

The Deputy Resident Representative urged all delegates to commit to work for peaceful co-existence, justice and tolerance as envisioned in the roadmap towards full implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan. ‘Let us use today as an opportunity to reflect on the tasks ahead and reiterate our commitment to peace in South Sudan’, he said.

Lastly, the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative reiterated the agency’s commitment to partnerships with the Government of South Sudan, local communities, and institutions, for sustaining peace and contributing to development of this country. The celebrations to mark the day were spiced up by poems, traditional dances, music as well as speeches.



# TRADITIONAL LEADERS URGED TO BE AMBASSADORS OF PEACE



Traditional leaders having plenary discussions during the Greater Equatoria Leadership Conference. Photo: UNDP

Traditional leaders command a lot of respect and influence that can be used to engender positive behavioral changes in their respective communities. Their power and influence can be applied to foster peacebuilding and amicable resolution of conflicts.

This observation was made during a recent conference of traditional leaders in the greater Equatorial region of South Sudan. An initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan - Civil Affairs Division (UNMISS-CAD), the two-day conference was attended by 50 (14 females) traditional leaders.

Under the theme, “Empowering Local Peace Infrastructure to Address Local Disputes and Communal Conflicts,” the conference took place between September 6-7th, 2022 in Torit Town, Eastern Equatoria State (EES).

## Together for peace

Speaking during the conference, Hon. Peter Lokeng Lotoney, the EES Minister of Local Government who represented

the EES Governor underscored the role of traditional leaders in promoting peace. He said, “No peace, no development, no movement of people and no cultivation. Chiefs should be ambassadors of peace, so, let us focus on peace and make it a reality.”

The minister pledged government commitment to maintain peace, “The EES Government will do all it can to maintain peace, implement conference resolutions and ensure that they are reflected in the national conference in Juba to bring sustainable peace in South Sudan.”

Similarly, Hon. Isaac Moro, the Central Equatoria State (CES) Minister of Local Government, described the conference as a game changer saying, “it will generate solutions to problems interfering with court decisions, customary and statutory laws, murder cases and marriage, among others.”

He also justified the focus on chiefs saying, “chiefs speak the truth, they don’t have conflict of interest like us politicians. Chiefs cannot be

intimidated, and we believe strongly that you can be the agents of peace within our communities.”

The assumption in this call is that traditional leaders have the best interests of the people at heart and have been instrumental in peace processes in different parts of the world.

The conference enhanced the understanding of role of the traditional authority as mandated in the Local Government Act (2009), to resolve inter-tribal disputes, apply customary and traditional resolution mechanisms, foster peacebuilding, facilitate mediation and other conciliatory approaches.

## Addressing conflict triggers

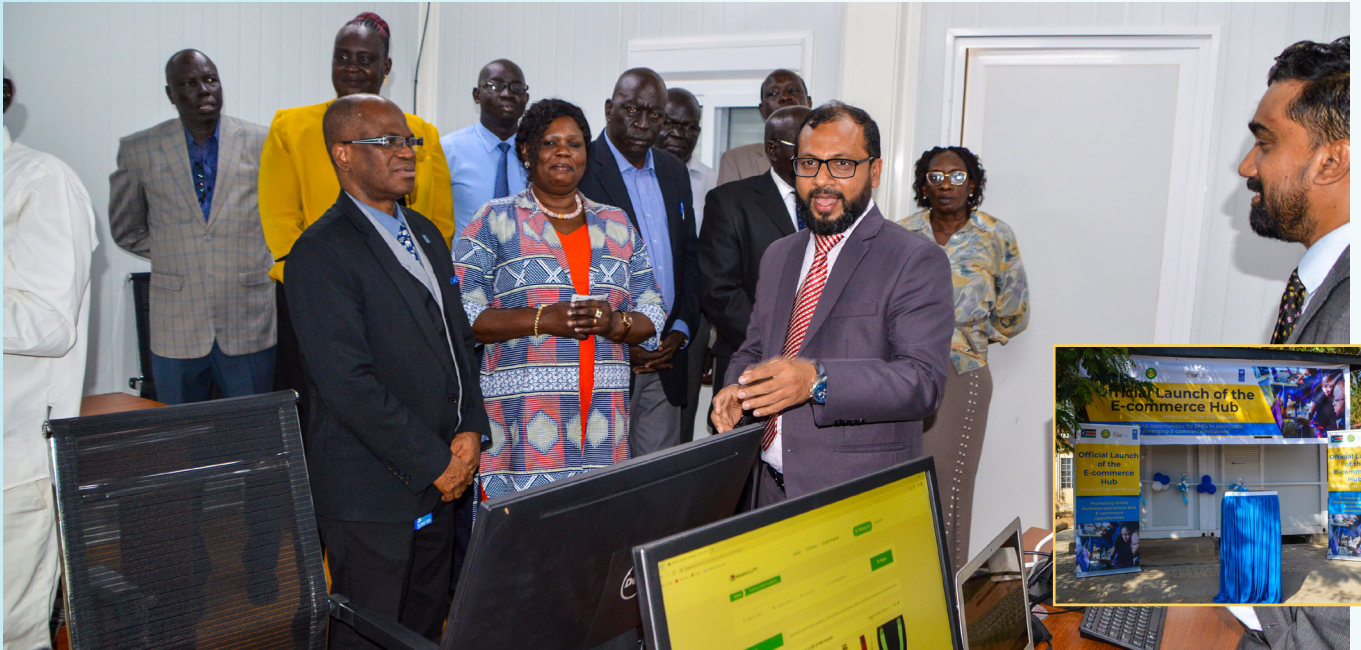
During the conference, traditional leaders discussed conflict triggers, shared experiences on peaceful resolution of conflicts and reflected on mechanisms to resolve disputes pertaining to land, illegal mining, illegal logging, insecurity, cattle raiding and cattle migration. Others were ending vices such as child abuse and early/forced marriage fuelled by the desire for monetary gains.

“I believe that the grassroots have solutions, and we need to enhance their capacity and support them to maintain peace in society,” said Hon. James Morris, the Western Equatoria State Minister of Local Government.

The participants urged the national government to resolve border disputes, promote peace through disarmament/ removal of guns from civilians, end cattle rustling, child abduction and improve coordination between peace committees and customary courts.



# UNDP SOUTH SUDAN AND MINISTRY OF TRADE & INDUSTRY LAUNCH NEW E-COMMERCE HUB



Titus Osundina – UNDP Deputy Res Rep, Hon Mary Akech Milla - 1st Undersecretary in Ministry of Trade and Industry and other other Stakeholders undergoing a demonstration at the newly launched E-commerce Hub. Photo: UNDP/ Amos Agiro

The Ministry of Trade and Industry of South Sudan (MTI) in partnership with United Nations Development Programme has officially opened the E-commerce Hub located at the MTI compound in Juba. The establishment of this Hub is part of the “E-Commerce for a South Sudan Project”, which is supported by the MTI, the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), Embassy of the Netherlands, and the African Development Bank (AFDB). This project supports the implementation of Revised National Development Strategy 2021-2024, which commits to creating employment opportunities through the development of the digital economy.

“E-commerce has the potential to enable our country to create opportunities for micro, small, and medium size businesses (MSMEs) led by women and youth who want to participate in emerging markets like the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) for traditionally offline goods that can now be sold online. E-commerce can promote entrepreneurship, contribute to inclusive private sector development, and create jobs.

It will play a central role in connecting our producers to regional and global value chains. This is a proud and historic day.” - **Hon. Kuol Athian Mawien, Minister for Trade and Industry**

In partnership, MTI, UNDP and EIF established a facility fully equipped with computers and communication devices, internet access, and business development support services. A key feature of the E-commerce Hubs is South Sudan's first ever online marketplace platform - the dukaanye - which provides established businesses an online space to promote and sell their products.

UNDP, MTI and BixEx will be offering women and youth who are engaged in MSMEs training in digital marketing, basic ICT skills related to E-commerce, online store management, online sales, social media marketing, data analytics, and the creation of digital content.

As a crucial component of the project, in partnership with MTI, EIF, AFDB, and the Embassy of the Netherlands, UNDP will

expand the E-commerce Hub activities in five states through active Innovation Hubs (I-Hubs). The Hub activities will provide exciting opportunities for those at the community level to access national and regional markets, such as the East Africa Community (EAC) and AfCFTA.

“South Sudan as a landlocked country, stands to benefit most from e-commerce since her geography creates higher trade barriers.”



# UNDP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OFFICE OF THE VP – GENDER AND YOUTH CLUSTER LAUNCH JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES FAIR, 2022



Vice President Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior purchasing products from a vendor at the Jobs and Opportunities fair. Photo: UNDP/ Amos Agiro

*“ The Job Fair provided a platform for the exchange of information between job seekers and potential employers in one single place, which benefitted both sides by significantly reducing the cost for both job search and recruitment. ”*

South Sudan is seriously challenged by the youth bulge. Youth destitution and lack of empowerment, especially the widespread absence of productive capacities and income generation opportunities are among the principal factors sustaining the ongoing conflict in South Sudan. Many job seekers lack reliable information about where they can find vacancies and what is needed to secure a job. Many are often unaware of their interests and strengths, and how to present these to potential employers. At the same time, some employers struggle to find the right candidates, while other employers are confronted with too many applicants that do not fit the job requirements. Small companies struggle to find applicants because they don't have the means to network or know how to advertise their vacancies effectively.

Against this backdrop, as part of the Youth Employment and Empowerment Programme supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the

Kingdom of Netherlands, UNDP in partnership with the Office of Vice President-Gender and Youth Gender Cluster, Smile Again Africa Development Organization (SAADO), Vocational Skills Development Organization (VOSDO), BizEx and BEATec organized the first ever Job and Opportunities Fair in Juba at the Multi-service Training Center (MTC). The Job Fair provided a platform for the exchange of information between job seekers and potential employers in one single place, which benefitted both sides by significantly reducing the cost for both job search and recruitment.

On August 12, 2022 a total of 1,335 people attended the 2022 Job and Opportunities Fair in Juba. Over half of these were youth eagerly seeking jobs. There were many activities and opportunities for learning during the fair including information about available jobs, training in business and entrepreneurship skills, CV writing, and career and peer job-search counseling.

Over seven hundred (755) job opportunities (from the private sector, NGOs, UN-Agencies) were posted on a notice board for youth and women to explore. The training sessions on CV writing and one-on-one career counseling were delivered to 227 youth to assist them in choosing the right job and putting forward a good application. For those wanting to start their own business, there was a training session offered to 223 youth covering a range of topics from generating business ideas to how to establish and operate a business in South Sudan.

*The 2022 Job and Opportunities Fair was a great success and a model that can be replicated in future projects.*



## QUOTE

The Governors' Forum is an important platform for effective governance in all federal states. It contributes to vertical interactions between the national and state governments as well as horizontal interactions amongst the Governors and Administrators to ensure inclusivity and coherence in governance.

**Dr. Sam Doe**

*Delivering remarks during the 6th Governors Forum in Juba*

## COMING SOON

### International Conference on Women's Transformational Leadership

**When:** 12 - 15 February, 2023;

**Where:** Radisson Blu Hotel, Juba

### 3rd Made in South Sudan Exhibition

Together promoting South Sudan business and industrial development.

**When:** 14 - 19 February, 2023

**Where:** Nyakuron Cultural Center, Juba

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