**United Nations Development Programme
South Sudan**

Study on the Traditional and Changing Role of Gender and Women in Peacebuilding in South Sudan

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Executive Summary

This report is the result of a short-term study on the traditional and changing roles of gender and women in peace-building. The study involved field research in five locations (Aweil, Bentiu, Bor, Rumbek and Torit). The purpose of the study is to research how the traditional and changing roles of women/girls and men/boys, conflict dynamics in South Sudan and to recommend to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), potential partners, on possible further peace initiatives.[1] This study contributes to UNDP's work with women, with regard to resolving peace and security issues in the region. The study offers critical analysis in understanding of the unique potential contribution of South Sudanese women in national reconciliation and peace building. The study aims to enable the government of South Sudan and international donors to more effectively mainstream gender initiatives into their policies, programs and future activities.

The study focused on two objectives:
- Assessing the extent to which gender norms and values have changed following the December 2013 and July 2016 conflicts.
- Assessing the extent of gender-based violence (GBV) in the selected conflict clusters. This includes:
    - Mapping gender-based violence.
    - Documenting existing trends toward gender equality.
    - Assessing successful women's empowerment interventions.
    - Suggesting strategies to address GBV and to promote peaceful co-existence.[2]

One of the study hypotheses was that there are complex systems of values, individual beliefs, social expectations, reinforcements and punishments in South Sudan that support violent practices. Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and gender-based violence within the family, between couples and within the communities seems to have become the social norm in many areas. South Sudanese communities have, historically, not taken active measures to discourage this type of violence, particularly against women.

The other study hypothesis is that South Sudanese women experience crises in unique ways. Each woman or community group would therefore develop different coping mechanisms, strategies and capacities that can positively shape their own security and contribute to their communities.

Using qualitative research methods, the study draws on 10 focus group discussions (FGDs) with men and women from different socio-economic backgrounds, a range of settings and different age groups. In addition,

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[1] United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Terms of Reference (ToR), Study the traditional and changing role of gender and women in peace-building in South Sudan, 2018.
[2] Ibid.

researchers conducted 28 in-depth key informant interviews (KII) with community leaders and service providers to explore the understanding of and the attitudes towards gender roles among local regional and national leadership.

Key findings that emerged from the study include:

Although traditional gender roles are still very much in evidence, shifts in power between men and women are, in fact, occurring. Women are become a driving force for socio-economic development within these conflict clusters, particularly after the 2013 and 2016 conflicts. It is worth noting that socio-economic empowerment of women in the conflict clusters has brought tangible changes in community perceptions towards the permissible roles of women.

Women's paid and unpaid work seems generally to weigh more heavily in wartime. While women's domestic burdens tend to increase during conflict, their opportunity to engage in paid work outside the household rises as well. It is worth noting that the socio-economic empowerment of women in the target locations has brought with it, tangible, albeit limited changes in community perceptions towards women. Most specifically, the conflict driven empowerment of women has redefined new roles and responsibilities that women now assume. Women under the pressure of widespread conflicts become providers, decision makers and peace builders, potentially contributing to building a lasting peace and restoring- reconciliation.

Conflict offered many women the opportunity to enter informally into the peace process. Many women and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the conflict clusters were, of necessity, compelled to assume the role and task of public institutions such as economic development, and psycho-social counseling. CSOs undertook relief work, channeled international assistance to recipients, and lobbied to incorporate rights and specific provisions into the development of peace accords. Women, participating in these efforts were instrumental in encouraging their fellow women to participate in elections, something many had previously been reluctant to do.

The study also found that training and capacity building activities for both peace-building and combating gender-based violence are not institutionalized. As a result, actionable outcomes are negligible. The findings also revealed that what resources there are tend to be unevenly distributed within the conflict areas. There is, for instance, an over-saturation of training in the larger towns while training is not being cascaded to rural towns and villages to those who need it most. In addition, most capacity building activities appear to have had limited effect, largely because these programs appear to the community to be one-off projects lacking follow-through. As such, community members lack enthusiasm for these programs and they only reach a modest number of individuals and offer nothing beyond the often-abbreviated life of the projects.

Summary of Recommendations

Capitalize on existing support from local and international partners: The study suggests that international, regional and local governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) continue to build on the international community's work and leverage previous and existing partnerships developed over the course of the regional peace process. New and existing programs should adopt a pragmatic approach to strengthening the Transitional Government of National Unitys (TGoNu) ability to collect and analyze WPS data, setting clearly delineated goals starting in areas with existing support already in place.

Broaden the scope of women in peace-building: This study underlines the importance of broadening and deepening the scope of inclusion of women in the peace-building process to ensure that all groups, ages and genders are included. In particular, this approach will require engagement with men of all ages to encourage changes in attitude toward women's roles and in role modeling positive masculinities. Failure to do so may contribute to an increase in post-conflict identity politics and a return to structured traditional norms post conflict.

Adopt Community Centered engagement approaches: Community based approaches should be realized in reconstructing and mobilizing the support of men and the community as a whole to support women's' participation in peace-building. Engagement will necessitate investing in training community leaders and facilitators and putting in place protocols to ensure a strong monitoring and evaluation process as efforts to promote inclusion move forward.

Build on practices of UNDP and other partners to reinforce economic interdependencies and indirectly provide women and youth with alternative livelihood opportunities. Efforts to instigate positive

behavioral change through dialogue and reconciliation should be expanded within the region. With increasing reports of undocumented sexual violence against women and girls throughout the conflict, there is need to take into consideration the needs and priorities of South Sudan's most vulnerable groups. The study recommends that the UNDP commission a baseline situation report to prepare the ground for documenting the community's experience with relation to the UNDP interventions . The study also recommend assessing the impact that UNDP interventions have on women and men in conflict areas and exploiting their potential as change agents.[3]

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[3] UNDP Terms of Reference, Study the traditional and changing role of gender and women in peace-building in South Sudan, 2018.

Acronyms

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
EVAW	Elimination of Violence against Women
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
GDI	Gender Development Index
GII	Gender Inequality Index
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HLRF	High Level Revitalization Forum
KII	Key Informant Interviews
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PaCC	UNDP's Peace and Community Cohesion project
PoC	Protection of Civilians
R-ARCSS	Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
TGoNU	Transitional Government of National Unity
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission of Refugees
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution

I. Introduction

Statement of the Problem:

While South Sudan may be the world's newest nation, the conflicts in December 2013 and July 2016 have made a profound impact on the country's population and economy. Although South Sudan is rich in oil, the country is considered one of the least developed in the world. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) *Briefing note for countries on the 2018 Statistical Update[4]* , South Sudan's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2017 was 0.388. This put the country in the low human development category—positioning it at 187 out of 189 countries and territories. Between 2010 and 2017, South Sudan's HDI value decreased from 0.413 to 0.388, a decrease of 6.1 percent. The female HDI value for South Sudan is 0.348 in contrast with 0.422 for males, resulting in a Gender Development Index (GDI)[5] value of 0.826, placing it into Group 5. In comparison, GDI values for Benin and Lesotho are 0.875 and 1.004 respectively.[6]

Significance of the Problem:

UNDP's *End line Study on Peace, Security and Sexual and Gender Based Violence* (SGBV) *in South Sudan[7]* addresses factors contributing to prevalence of SGBV and states that a majority 17 percent indicated poverty, and a further 16.1 percent mentioned social breakdown due to conflict while 14.8 percent blamed the vice on illiteracy. The report also indicates that other drivers of SGBV included cultural factors (11.8%), early marriages (10.8%) and natural disasters (2.1%).[8]

Further, UNDP's report indicates that according to 58.5 percent of the respondents consulted, SGBV is a major problem in South Sudan. Leading causes reported include outdated cultural norms, early, and forced marriages. The stigma and trauma associated with the SGBV incidences discourage individuals from reporting the cases. In some of the communities, victims of SGBV are ostracized and are not married off to prospective suitors by their families.[9]

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[4] United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Indices and Indicators: 2018 Statistical Update Briefing note for countries on the 2018 Statistical Update.

[5] The Gender Inequality Index (GII) which reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions – reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity has not been calculated for South Sudan due to a lack of relevant data.

[6] Ibid.

[7] UNDP, End line Study on Peace, Security and Sexual and Gender Based Violence in South Sudan Final Report, 2017.

[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid.

Purpose:

This study is commissioned through UNDP's Peace and Community Cohesion project (PaCC) which contributes to the reduction and mitigation of community level conflicts and insecurity by investing in initiatives that address key drivers of conflict and insecurity. Using UNDPs community security and social cohesion approach, the project is empowering communities to identify – in an inclusive and participatory manner – the drivers of conflict in their communities.

This study examines the norms and values of the community as well as to what extent women have contributed to the peace building and reconciliation processes in the targeted conflict clusters in South Sudan. Further, the study explores ways and means by which this contribution can be strengthened, particularly through interventions that also focus towards national unity.

Statement of Hypothesis:

Assumptions (Institutional Framework):

South Sudan's commitment to achieving gender equality is enshrined in Article 16 of the transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, which states that:

Women shall be accorded full and equal dignity of the person with men (1). Women shall have the right to equal pay for equal work and other related benefits with men (2) Women shall havethe right to participate equally with men in public life (3).[10]

Further, the South Sudanese Bill of Rights also affirms equality for women and the importance of the preservation of human rights. The National Gender Policy acknowledges progress that women have made, in contributing to South Sudan's struggle for independence, but also recognizes obstacles to achieving gender equality. Particularly, the National Gender Policy recognizes the challenges presented by high levels of SGBV, high levels of illiteracy among women, and pervasive patriarchal attitudes. These issues present barriers to women's access to employment, political participation and difficulty in obtaining equal access to justice. Furthermore, SGBV remains culturally tolerated and because it is tolerated, there is a corresponding lack of awareness among victims regarding what assistance is available in the event they are the victims of sexual and gender-based violence.[11]

The National Gender Policy provides an overall context for mainstreaming gender equality in all national development processes. It is a framework on which national and sector policies and programs are based specifically to address existing inequalities and to remedy historical imbalances.[12]

According to UNDP's *South Sudan: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy 2016 – 2017* report[13], the South Sudanese Bill of Rights also affirms

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[10] The Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, 2011.

[11] UNDP's South Sudan: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy 2016 – 2017.

[12] The Republic of South Sudan, National Gender Policy, 2013.

[13] UNDP, South Sudan: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy2016 – 2017

equality and the preservation of human rights. The National Gender Policy acknowledges progress that women have made, in contributing to South Sudan's struggle for independence. At the same time, it also recognizes that many obstacles exist to achieving gender equality. In particular, the National Gender Policy recognizes the challenges presented by high levels of gender-based violence, high levels of illiteracy among women, and pervasive patriarchal attitudes.

The central goal of the National Gender Policy is to serve as a framework in providing guidelines for mainstreaming principles of GEWE in the national development process. UNDP, as a key partner to the development agenda of South Sudan, is uniquely positioned to contribute to the implementation of the national gender policy. Particularly, UNDP South Sudan is able to contribute to the inter-agency effort to implement UN Security Resolutions 1325, 1888 and 188927 pertaining to protection of women from SGBV in conflict areas. [14]

UNSCR 1325 stresses the importance of increasing women's participation in the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict as well as all matters related to peace and security.   UNSCR 1325 builds on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the Beijing Platform for Action. UNSCR 1325 is also reinforced by six subsequent resolutions adopted by the Security Council: UNSCR 1820, UNSCR 1888, UNSCR 1889, UNSCR 1960, UNSCR 2106, and UNSCR 2122. Together they comprise the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda.

UNSCR 1325 is specifically referred to in the South Sudan National Action Plan. The objectives of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security and Related Resolutions are:

To provide protection for women and girls, including those with disabilities, against any form of sexual and gender-based violence and to restore respect for human rights, human dignity and equality in South Sudan.

To increase women's participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, the maintenance of peace and security, and to guarantee their participation in post-conflict peace building and state building processes.

To enable peace and security stakeholders in South Sudan to galvanize their efforts and to ensure the creation of synergy and long-term engagement for the improved implementation of gender-sensitive peace-and-security-focused initiatives at national and state levels.

To enhance the capacity of the key actors implementing the National Action Plan for data collection, analysis and quality reporting, and to promote increased public awareness of the principles underlined in UNSCR 1325 and the subsequent Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security.

To ensure the inclusion of women and girls' needs in the national budgetary priorities of the transitional assistance plans developed by the Government and all programmes funded by development partners, including in the negotiations of the New Compact Deal.[15] This key document guides the reconstruction and peace-building process in South Sudan. The NAP identifies and makes references to security; governance, rule of law and human rights recognizing that women are important contributors to stability within the country.

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[14] Ibid.

[15] Government of South Sudan, National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and Related Matters. 2015-2020.

Limitations and Challenges:

The study was conducted over a period of 40 days which could not allow intensive capturing of five years of conflict and change in a such a broad area of research as peace building, reconciliation, and gender-based violence which means that some details cannot be reflected in this study. The consultant identified the following constraints during the study:

- The relatively short time allocated to the study did not allow exhaustive exploration of issues related to peace-building and reconciliation. It was only possible to look at outstanding initiatives that are geographically scattered.

- There is no base line data on women in peace-building and conflict resolution initiatives within the target locations or specific GBV administrative data upon which to base the impact of women's interventions in the areas of study.

Ethical Considerations:

As a state party to the United Nations (UN) Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), South Sudan has obligations under international law to take necessary actions to prevent, protect against and respond to violence against women, whether perpetrated by private or public actors.

The consultant carefully evaluated the ethical concerns and presented mitigation measures related to the study to potential ethical risks. The issue of confidentiality was treated responsibly, so that all data obtained from the participants were classified and treated with utmost care.

Focus group participants were informed in writing about the voluntary nature of their participation, including the anonymity and confidentiality of the data obtained. Participants were provided with contact details for UNDP in case they needed further information or care resulting from their participation in the group discussion. A signed consent form was obtained from each participant. For participants who had difficulties with literacy, the content of the participation consent sheet was explained verbally. KIIs were also informed that information provided during the study was confidential and their names and organizations would not be incorporated into the report.

II. Research Design Methodology

Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the extent to which gender norms and values have changed following the December 2013 and July 2016 conflicts.
2. To assess the extent of gender-based violence (GBV) in the selected conflict clusters, map GBV, gender equality and women empowerment interventions and suggest strategies to address GBV and promote peaceful co-existence.[16]

Approach

Data was collected via the use of an interview form and questionnaires. The study also relied on secondary data such as academic papers, studies, evaluations and assessments that were provided by UNDP or through open source literature.

This study gathered qualitative information through focus group discussions, observation (during the focus group discussions) and in-depth interviews. The study used both primary and secondary data to collect information.

Focus group discussions

A qualitative research methodology was chosen to give context to the limited quantitative data regarding the role of women in peace-building and conflict resolution as well as prevalence of gender-based violence within the area of study. The research draws on 10 focus group discussions (FGDs) within the 5 conflict communities with men and women from different socio-economic backgrounds, a range of settings and different age groups.

The focus groups were structured to encapsulate representatives of each of these groups. There were a total of 134 men and women (79 women and 55 men) involved in the focus group discussions, with an average of 13.4 participants per group. The groups were consistent in terms of gender (groups of men and groups of women) to provide an opportunity for each to give open and honest comments and insight without fear of recrimination.

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[16] Ibid.

Different gender groups were chosen with the aim of gathering information from group interactions of participants when discussing the topics of the study. Gender groups were also chosen with the assumption that some participants, depending on age, gender and background, might be influenced by other participants during discussions. The consultant moderated the focus group discussions with interpretation provided as needed so that there was consistency on how the work was done.

All focus groups contained questions related to changing norms and values, the role of family, women's participation in peace-building as well as questions on sexual and gender based violence. Additionally, 28 in-depth interviews were conducted with key informants for both areas (peace-building and gender-based violence).

Table 1
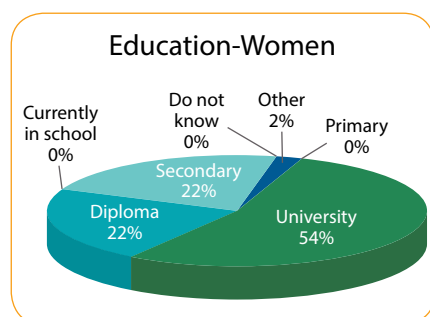
Table 2
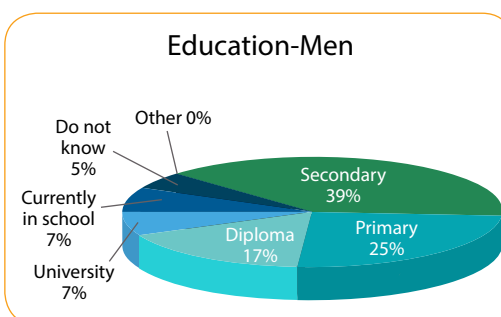
Table 1 reflects the highest level of education attained by women who participated in the focus group discussion with secondary having the highest percentage at 47% with University at 7%.

Table 2 reflects the highest level of education attained by men who participated in the focus group discussion with University listed as the highest level achieved at 54%.

As shown, women are significantly under-represented in higher educational attainment. The disparity of education between men and women, while not surprising, is substantial. Low levels of literacy among women are direct impediments to inclusion in the work force, and to achieving positions of influence in government. Limited education further impedes women in striving for equality within society.

Table 3 reflects the types of employment in which women from the focus group discussions (FGDs) were engaged. While women may have a lower level of education, they are still fairly represented within the government sector though their levels of influence remain limited.

Table 4 represents the type of employment in which men that participated in the FGDs are engaged. For both men and women, the majority were employed within the government. Nineteen percent of women indicated that they were employed in business as opposed to only 2% of men.

Table 3 Women's Employment

Type of Employment-Women

Medical 2%
Home Worker 2%
Business 3%
Labor 1%
Other 1%
Government 49%
NGO 41%

Table 4 Men's Employment

Type of Employment-Men

Medical 1%
Other 1%
Labor 1%
Home Worker 29%
Government 35%
Business 19%
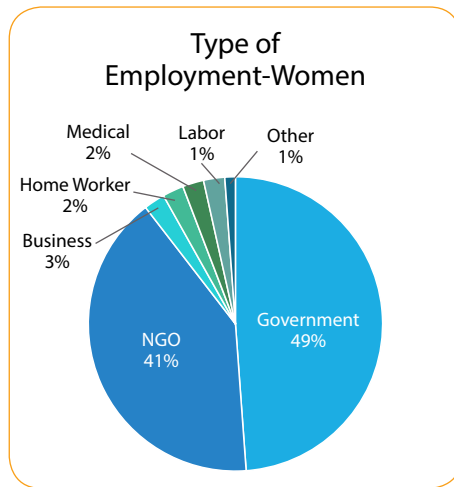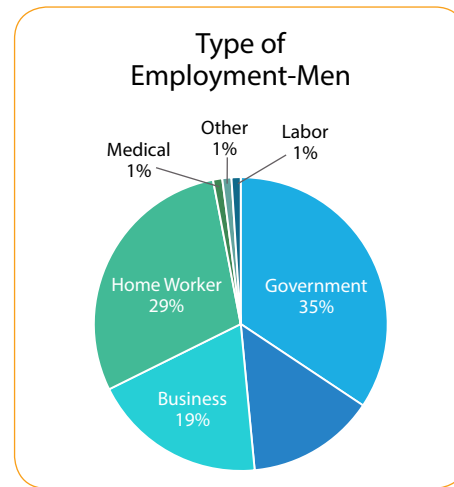
In-depth interviews

A total of 28 in-depth interviews were conducted with community members, religious leaders, government workers, and civil society organization representatives to add more depth and richness to an understanding of women in peace-building and the extent of gender-based violence within the communities. Key informant interviews were also conducted with staff members of selected international organizations as well as implementing partners both in the study area and Juba. When appropriate, the open-ended interviews extended the discussion into other cross-cutting gender equality issues such as promoting women and girls leadership; economic development; creating public private partnerships; constructively engaging men and boys and addressing sector-specific needs of youth and other vulnerable populations.

Data analysis

The primary aim of analysis of the data gathered in the focus group discussions was to identify common themes and relationships among ideas and concepts across groups sharing the features of settlement type, gender, age cohort or tribal background. The consultant also reviewed notes and responses after each focus group to make sure all relevant topics, hypotheses, and themes observed during focus group discussions were exploited at length. The consultant investigated whether there were points that were over-explored or discussions that had reached saturation point. All focus group discussions were transcribed and summarized. Data was triangulated and synthesized from multiple, diverse sources of evidence, including stakeholder input, to understand the complex nature of peace-building, conflict resolution and gender-based violence in the conflict clusters.

III. Findings

Overview

Within the conflict clusters, South Sudanese have strong religious ties and involvement with religious groups. This religious culture has a strong influence on the development and leadership of communities. This study found that faith (predominantly Christianity) and involvement in religious communities was an important coping strategy across the study locations. In fact, religious leaders and their organizations in each location were an important social and cultural institution and active in conflict related response and resolution. Churches were found to play an important role in community life and often used as centers for dialogue in times of conflict.

Due to the limited availability of government structures in most locations, community members rely on traditional chiefs to play a significant role in conflict management and dispute resolution. The role of family systems and support resources as a strategy for coping with conflict was also identified.

According to feedback received from the targeted communities, the intimate, family and social relations, including intra/intergenerational and gender relations, shape individuals' ability to make most decisions. A wide range of influences shape both behavior and opportunities, with consequences for self-growth, decision-making and choices of actions). They point out that these influences are transmitted through community-level institutions. For instance, the meaning and value given to what constitutes sexual health, reproductive health, satisfaction, distress, motherhood and fatherhood is always strongly influenced by dominant cultural norms. Similarly, social norms within the conflict clusters also create powerful ideals of manhood, womanhood, masculinity and femininity. They define what sexual behavior is appropriate for men and for women, at various stages of life.

Changes in family roles are evident when comparing current family dynamics with the past. According to discussions undertaken for the study, most women report having more freedom today to voice their opinions and decide on important matters in life such as education, and employment. However, they advise that this is not the case for women residing outside of the larger towns, where capacity development and empowerment initiatives have yet to reach. Moreover, across all groups, women showed high sensitivity to cultural norms related to participating in property and inheritance rights. There were conflicting views regarding property rights not only between the genders, but also among women. Most men were firmly against women inheriting familial or marital property. Men tend to consider, that by seeking to claim their property rights, women are showing a lack of respect for their families. Women risk losing communication with and support from their families. Some study respondents agreed that significant conflict arises when a woman is unable to choose her future once her husband is deceased.

Some of the outstanding challenges to women's participation in peace-building are linked to women's subordinate position to men, the South Sudanese society, the negative consequences of the conflicts, or the weak institutional capacity to coordinate and harmonize different peace building initiatives. It had been observed that high rates of illiteracy and lack of education undermine women's confidence and capacity to effectively participate in community and national programs.

Across the conflict cluster areas, there are living testimonies to women successfully assuming a role in peace and reconciliation in the area of security, justice, socioeconomic initiatives, decision-making organs, gender-based violence and good governance. The research found, however, that the existence of gendered perceptions about the capacity and potential of women in society remains a major barrier to women assuming leadership roles in peace building and reconciliation. Although tangible improvements in terms of women's empowerment in South Sudan have been slowly evolving, their participation in the various domains of national development is still low. Among women, limited experience and capacity, access to platforms that provide an opportunity to engage and overcome negative attitudes towards women in politics and decision-making.

Feedback from the target communities revealed that women appear to be willing to take risks in that they will create or accept employment of any type in order to support themselves and their families. By contrast, male attendees stated that gathering and selling fruits and vegetables, or firewood was not a man's task, therefore they would not consider it as an employment option even if it meant that selling these items would offer them the opportunity to provide for their family. Men for the most part, did not support women working outside of the home or in traditionally masculine jobs. They expressed concern that women, once they begin earning an income will find another husband, participate in an extra-marital affair, or divorce him.

The women of South Sudan are actively participating in the ongoing peace talks both as direct representatives of the two sides of the conflict, and as representatives of neutral civil society organizations advocating for the concerns and interest of all the women of South Sudan and the South Sudanese population as a whole. The women have expressed, through various forums, their strong desire to find ways to end hostilities and to promote nation building.[17] Women's contribution to peace building and reconciliation however, is still hampered by external constraints such as abject poverty, gender-based violence, poor organizational capacity among women and the limitations of women's initiatives.

The longevity of the crisis in South Sudan creates ongoing disruption to nutrition, education, or knowledge building around important issues such as GBV, human rights, sexual and reproductive health, which can have life-long effects. In addition, the longevity of the crisis increases their vulnerabilities in unique ways. For instance, protracted economic insecurity can make women and girls especially vulnerable to sexual assault, sexual exploitation and domestic abuse. The layering of multiple crises requires an understanding of the exacerbating and intersectional effects that uniquely impact women and girls. For instance, there are clear connections between food insecurity, child marriage, forced marriage and disruptions to the right to education.[18]

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[17] http://africa.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/eastern-and-southern-africa/south-sudan
[18] UNFPA, "Adolescent Girls in Disaster & Conflict." 2016

During times of conflict in South Sudan, rape and other forms of sexual violence are common. Although most international attention is focused on rape, women and young girls in conflict areas – such as Bentiu, for example - risk daily physical attacks of all kinds when they leave the Protection of Civilian (PoC) camps to collect essential supplies like firewood. In other locations, women have also experienced a significant increase in violence to include sexual assaults and harassment because of breakdowns in security. The report concludes that gender-based violence in South Sudan is influenced by strong social norms, social expectations and factors that encourage violent practices against women and children.

Information provided by participants and key informants reaffirmed the findings of Care Internationals' report *The Girl has No Rights: GBV in South Sudan* which states; "An additional barrier is the shame and stigma associated with being a survivor and the high levels of acceptance of GBV that exists in many communities. Qualitative data from the survey's interviews and focus groups revealed that gender-based violence was widely regarded as a women's issue. Many survivors of violence suffer in silence due to social norms that promote family unity or family fears that reporting will harm a girl's chances of "winning a husband." A girl's prospects in marriage are often seen as an important economic asset by her family, particularly in rural areas."[19]

While there are progressive and comprehensive legal frameworks, both at national and international levels that have been created pertaining to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV); on prevention, provision of care, prosecution of offenders, addressing domestic violence, human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), child protection and more, efforts to implement this legislation have not always kept pace and severe gaps and challenges appear to remain.

Overall, there is an expectation among those within the target locations that once there is a return to peace, and South Sudanese society transitions from a militaristic male-dominated society to a society focused on nation building, progress will occur more rapidly. Types of anticipated progress identified included:

- Improving access to knowledge and services,
- Opening up opportunities for women,
- Creating spaces for the renegotiation and reconfiguration of socio-political relations,
- Reduction or elimination of violence, and
- Emboldening men and women to challenge the hegemonic order.

Community-based participation is the key to successful program interventions, as it draws on those best informed about what is needed and what will work. It also addresses the vital issue of cultural understanding by involving both men and women from the community to explain their needs and capacities. Local men and women within the study locations must be identified to participate in program design and implementation. Those lacking experience in these areas can be guided through the process and taught management and monitoring techniques. Strong community participation will make the difference between success and failure.

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[19] Care International, The Girl has No Rights GBV in South Sudan, 2014.

Assessing Changes in Gender Norms

Assessing the extent to which gender norms and values have changed since the December 2013 and July 2016 conflicts.

Since 2013, South Sudan has faced a situation of extreme insecurity leading many parts of the country to experience an intensified complex emergency. The imperative for sustained emergency humanitarian relief is a function of the type of conflict experienced in South Sudan. While the insecurity is a result of a political crisis, related to socioeconomic stress, this manifests on the ground as an assault on the social systems and networks that determine access to political power. When violence in a civil war manifests as a complex emergency, it is indicative of the predatory nature of that conflict in which the destruction of communities is both a goal and means of fighting. Across the Greater Upper Nile, communities have been practicing advanced means of coping including, diversifying income, splitting families, depending on extended relations of kinship, moving cattle to other areas, keeping smaller herds and engaging in cross border trade.[20]

An important gender-role change that has occurred within South Sudan and in particular in the study locations, is that the conflict has increased the opportunity for women to enter informal peace processes. Many individual women and women's civil society organizations (CSOs) in South Sudan have assumed the roles and tasks of public institutions, undertaken relief work, channeled international assistance to recipients, lobbied to incorporate rights and specific provisions in peace accords, and encouraged women to participate in elections. The key development challenge is to support these women and women's CSOs (also men and men's CSOs). They can form the foundation for a strong and more inclusive civil and political post-conflict society, which is essential to effective, sustainable, and more inclusive reconstruction and development efforts.

Most of those interviewed for this study expressed a strong belief that in the last five years South Sudanese have made extensive progress in the area of peace building and reconciliation yet, there is much more to be done. They also believe that women's contribution to the peace building process is proportionately much higher, particularly at the grassroots level than that of men. For example, women are the first to organize into groups to discuss and initiate action to resolve conflict.

An overview of key findings revealed that peace-building in South Sudan offers an opportunity for promoting gender equity, advancing the position of women in society, and increasing their participation in leadership and in all processes of attaining peace. South Sudanese women have a wealth of knowledge, information, and skills that are useful to these initiatives and there is need for those skills to be enhanced and promoted. In addition, the women of South Sudan have constitutional and international rights that obligate them to fully participate in every aspect of public life. The study revealed some of the cultural norms and values identified as undergoing changes.

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[20] South Sudan Humanitarian Project, Pastoralism, Conflict and Recovery in South Sudan, 2016.

Cultural Norm/Value

Changes

Men are decision makers

Due to the incremental changes in roles, women are beginning to undertake a more substantial position within the family. During conflict, there was a noted a shift in power dynamics as there is an increase in the number of female-headed households due to the death and disappearance of men taken by the conflict. Women are, for the most part, decision-makers within the home during this time. Upon a man's return from fighting, some, although not all of the decision-making responsibilities, return to the men. As women have become more active within the labor market, community and conflict resolution processes, they have seen a shift to becoming more involved in decisions affecting their families.

In the wake of conflict, women are becoming more active in deciding about matters that concern them such as health, education and in some instances, property rights. While the South Sudanese Constitution explicitly recognizes a woman's right to own and inherit land and property, cultural and religious custom remains biased against women. This prevents women from having more access to land through inheritance and other means. With few exceptions, women's relationships with land tenure primarily depends upon their relationship to men.

Due to the incremental changes in roles, women are beginning to undertake a more substantial position within the family. During recent conflicts, there was a noted a shift in power dynamics due to an increase in female-headed households. Women are, for the most part, decision-makers within the home during this time. If the male head of household does return from fighting, some, although not all, of the decision-making responsibilities, return to the men. As women enter the labor market, they become more active in community and conflict resolution processes, and in decisions affecting their families.

Men are providers	Women have become increasingly involved in the labor market-both formally and informally due to the need to provide for their families. Some factors that drive the increase include the death, disappearance or migration of male workers. In many cases, income generating opportunities men relied on before the conflict (such as land, animals and other assets) may be no longer available. Women increasingly control businesses, which contribute, not just to the support of the immediate family, but also to the larger community as well. In the post-conflict economy, women have also accepted positions within formal government institutions. These changes may provide the opportunity for women to advance their rights in newly-established governments through policy change and constitutional revisions. While findings show that women predominantly perform household chores, their participation in income generating activities to support their families continues to slowly increase. One concern, however, has been the study finding that in homes where the wife is earning cash income, husbands tend to reduce contributions towards family subsistence. The need to provide for families has driven more and more women into the labor market-both formally and informally.
Men are to be obeyed	As women become more self-sufficient, informed, confident and educated through international and national interventions and awareness raising, they articulate their needs and desires more publicly. Women are claiming active roles within their families and communities. Discussions within FGD's revealed that in some instances, particularly in families that are more educated, women are assuming an equal role in family matters. Within government positions, women are accepting roles in which they are supervisors or managers and increasingly responsible for management and leadership.
Abuse (S/GBV) against women is acceptable	With community outreach and awareness-raising, women are becoming more informed of their human rights. However, while there are slight increases in acceptability of increased womens rights in larger towns, the study found that those in rural areas were not seeing any notable changes, possibly due to lack of information and availability of services. Further, there is a lack of information being provided regarding legal frameworks and implementation at the local level on GBV and related issues such as the government's social protection policy, CEDAW, the national gender policy, South Sudan UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan on women, peace, and security and related resolutions.

Men are sole inheritors of property

Women's capacity to own property is among the main factors affecting their security. In South Sudan, which has little in the way of social security and assistance, an abandoned woman who is left without a home or property may become completely destitute. The Interim Constitution expressly states that women have the right to own property and to share in the estates of their deceased husbands. Custom differs on this point, however, focusing instead on ensuring that property remains within families. Although property is owned by a family, the man, as the head of the household holds it; an arrangement that is often confused with that of 'ownership'. According to the customary laws of many tribes, women cannot own property themselves, nor keep their own income. On leaving a family through divorce, a woman forfeits all of her belongings, which continues to be owned by the husband's family.

The threat of being left with nothing can thus serve as an enormous disincentive to divorce. Property also becomes an issue after the death of a spouse. The deceased's property remains within his family, dispersed among his male relatives. Widows thus find themselves dependent on their deceased husbands' families for support. While extremely limited, according to a few participants in the research, there have been some instances in which women are using the justice system to claim property and inheritance once their fathers have passed away. While feedback from FGDs did not reveal specifics, nor has documentation been provided or located, women did expressed an interest in the possibility of claiming property and inheritance rights. In some areas such as Rumbek, women are now able to obtain a plot of land from the local government if one is not provided by their husband.

Polygamy

Anecdotal evidence gathered from interviewees during FGDs indicate that polygamy is again on the rise. Polygamy alters social dynamics significantly, leading to conflict within the families. Where there are multiple wives, the women have little or no input in decision-making. These family conflicts pour over into the community and can negatively affect quality of life outside the home.

Within some tribes, such as the Dinka, polygamy is a source of pride and prestige - especially when the wives acquired have many children. Children are seen as security and manpower for the family. While the nation suffers from high levels of unemployment, some, especially cattle herding families, see polygamy as a cultural tradition to be followed. But financial gain provides a major motivating factor that impels families to marry off their daughters. Young girls in the culture are viewed as commodities, especially in hard economic times. Families gain financially by forcing their young daughters to marry. The attendant bride price or dowry is often substantial. Also, every daughter married off means there are fewer family members to feed, clothe and house and results in a consequential reduction in the family's cost of living.

South Sudanese custom dictates that marriage involves the payment of a bride price by a man and his family to the girl's family. Girls in this cultural economy are seen as a commodity, with the bride price becoming a central element of the household's economic plan. Bride price based income forms the foundation upon which the economic and social well-being of the male members of the girl's family often relies.

Traditionally, bride price was paid in domestic animals, such as cattle; however, due the shift to a cash economy as a result of the conflicts, the bride price is now also being paid in currency. For families in the conflict clusters, child marriage is a means of gaining cattle, money, and other gifts in exchange for female children. The transferring of wealth through the traditional payment of a bride price is embedded in local economic traditions.

The cultural tradition of the "bride price" plays a critical role in determining the position of girls and women as it tends to justify abuse and lowers bargaining power of women within marriage. Overwhelmingly, interviewees viewed the bride price as beneficial for families. There is, however, a quite vocal minority, most of whom are educated, have greater access to the internet and enjoy more opportunities to engage with others from outside the country. This minority of interviewees see a need for changes in this practice, if women and girls are to achieve equality.

Divorce in most forms of customary law, requires the return of bride price to the husband's family. That act renders a couple divorced. The need to return the bride price can create a number of difficulties. At the start of a marriage, the bride price is distributed among a bride's family and her various relatives. Repayment can cause logistical problems and friction within families, prompting them to push for reconciliation at any cost even in cases where the wife is being abused.

In addition, when a woman's husband dies in South Sudan, any property owned goes back to the man's family. It is up to them to decide if they want to support his widow and the children. The termination of the bride price may lead to disruption of traditional family and community traditions and may undermine to some extent the sense of obligation that the younger generation feels to extended families in the payment of traditional gifts, contributions and offerings. Changing expectations and priorities, for example, in relation to the roles and status of women and the need to conserve funding for the education of children, may lessen the motivation to pay the bride price.

The practice of child marriage negatively shapes the experiences, status, and security of South Sudanese women and girls. It violates their right to health, to education, to physical integrity, and to marry with free consent. Child marriages, by their nature, limit the progress and capacity of women to participate in all spheres of life.

Feedback from the target group also indicated that women from educated households tend to have more freedom of choice in marriage, as are women educated in other countries. This freedom may allow them the ability to choose their own spouse who may or may not be of South Sudanese descent.

Challenges to the Process

Several important key findings emerged during the study. Evidence shows that traditional gender roles are still very much the norm, yet shifts in the balance of power between women and men are occurring. Women have become a driving force in the socio-economic development of the conflict cluster areas particularly after the 2013 and 2016 conflicts. It is worth noting that socio-economic empowerment of women in the target locations, has brought tangible, albeit limited changes in community perceptions towards women. Most specifically it has redefined the roles and responsibilities that women now assume. In recent years, women have become providers, decision-makers and peace-builders. This expanding role positions women to potentially contribute to building lasting peace and reconciliation. While women are still under-represented in political parties, government offices and social spheres outside the family, especially within smaller communities, their efforts are not going unnoticed.

The study identified the following challenges to the process of encouraging gender role changes in the South Sudanese culture:

Behavior is based on community beliefs: The community and its members are one of the major influences through which beliefs and social expectations are enforced. This is also one of the significant impediments to gender equality and the empowerment of women in non-traditional roles. For example, if a young girl should wish to learn a trade, the community will only support this decision if she is the sole child in a family.

Women have limited entry into the peace process: Many individual women and women's civil society organizations (CSOs) in the study area have assumed the roles and tasks of public institutions, undertaking relief work, channeling international assistance to recipients, lobbying to incorporate rights and specific provisions in peace accords, and encouraging women to participate in elections. Many women, active in peace-building, reported that they continue to face difficulties conducting their work, given the limitations of traditional society on women taking on public roles. They note that while some chiefs and religious leaders have accepted the involvement of women in reconciliation work and have recognized the importance of giving women a voice, others argue that the involvement of women contradicts traditional values and norms.

A shift in gender roles may require generational change: Women interviewed were also realistic, that challenges to increased women's participation beyond traditional roles might require generational change. They argue that while women are gradually claiming some of the rights they are due; that the population as a whole may only embrace change as more people become educated. Already, a growing number are beginning to recognize the importance of gender equality. Younger men, especially those with higher levels of education, are starting to respect women's right to participate in public life. Additionally, feedback from a number of women attending the FGDs indicated that being able to earn an income has increased their belief in their self-worth, has made them more confident in their daily activities, and has increased their own interest in becoming more engaged in issues effecting their lives and community.

Women are becoming self-sufficient but not without consequences: Women within the targeted locations indicated that in some instances, they have become the new household head and the main breadwinner. At the same time, displacement and post-conflict unemployment has undermined the male's sense of identity as provider. This, in turn, has translated in many instances to anti-social behavior and violence directed at women.

Limited awareness of GBV and its impact on society: There is a need to increase the understanding of and responses to gender-based violence against women and girls as well as among men and boys, justice and referral service providers, and policymakers as well as in programs charged with intervening to prevent GBV.

Training and capacity building is lacking: Institutions for both peace-building and combating gender violence lack training, resources and clear actionable outcomes measures. Training is over-saturated larger towns, while the same training is not being cascaded to rural areas and villages where it is most needed. What does efforts do occur outside of urban centers appears to locals to be merely one-off projects and therefore, hardly worth the investment in time and energy. As a result such programs only reach a modest number of individuals.

Intervention services are limited or non-existent in most locations: With the exception of the Protection of Civilians site in Bentiu, services for survivors of gender-based violence are nascent. In Rumbek, there is only one international non-governmental organization (INGO) providing counseling services. In other locations, services vary widely, depending upon donor funding.

Pre-conflict Roles in Peace-building

South Sudanese women faced cultural, political, economic and social barriers that have hindered their progress and/or excluded them from effective participation on national issues. For instance, prior to the conflicts, the social norm was that a man married a woman to bear children or to replace dead family members. Group discussions also showed that male children were being raised for military service, as raiders, and for community protection. Female children were seen as a source of wealth through the bride price. There was social pressure on women to bear children. Failure to bear children incurred social disapproval, even ostracism. Much of these attitudes are still common today.

Despite this entrenched social exclusion, South Sudanese women have consistently played an instrumental role in propagating peace in Sudan's civil wars. This is because, cultural moiré's to the contrary, we found that many women see themselves as key stakeholders with unique information, experiences and skills to contribute to ending these conflicts.

Apart from changing traditional gender roles in South Sudan, the conflicts, as we have seen, have increased women's workloads. The number of single

parent households headed by women grew dramatically during the conflicts. Traditional support systems broke down and, of necessity, new social norms emerged under which men would no longer take up traditional roles, even when they were available. Extraordinary demands and workloads have, negatively affected women's health and reduced the chance of girls receiving an education. Women who remained inside the conflict clusters of South Sudan during the conflicts were sometimes forced to provide food for the warring factions and often become the sole caretakers of children, the sick and elderly. When they have escaped from the fighting, women have become internally displaced forced to live as refugees away from their homes.

Family values, norms, roles and responsibilities

The values by which individuals or communities govern their lives are very important to the sustenance of life, both for the individual and for the society. Values guide behavior and they help solve common human survival issues. It therefore means that values help determine why someone, or a group of people do what they do and why they make the choices they do.

Norms are mostly perceived to be constraining behaviors. Norms refer to behavior, to actions over which people have control, and which are supported by shared expectations about what should and should not be done in different types of social situations. Norms however cannot be identified with observable behavior, nor can they be equated with normative beliefs, as normative beliefs may or may not result in appropriate action.

A Consensus on Gender Roles: The study identified a strong consensus among respondents about gender roles and responsibilities within the families of South Sudan. The father (male) is perceived as the main decision-maker, the head of the household, and income provider whereas the mother is primarily responsible for taking care of children, preparing food, and doing household chores. There is a lack of willingness and/or capacity from both men and women to negotiate roles within the family. Feminine and masculine gender identities are constructed, communicated and fostered in family settings and they are further nurtured in schools and in society in general. In fact, the social norm is that if a woman does not bear children, then she is considered not worth keeping. Further, men are also normatively expected to have multiple children. Those who do not continue to father children run the risk of being labeled as infertile and subjected to ridicule by their community. They also risk their wives leaving them for other men.

Dissatisfaction with the status of women: A majority of the women's groups within the FGDs expressed their dissatisfaction with the current status of women in the family and society but during the study these women, although dissatisfied, for the most part, avoided challenging these norms and principles. For instance, when discussing domestic abuse, women within an FGD stated that at times wives need to have their behavior "corrected", hence the need for the husband to correct that behavior by slapping or hitting the wife. When challenged and asked by a show, of hands, how many women among the FGD thought they «needed» their behavior corrected, none of the women did so.

Education for women and girls: Perhaps the most pervasive response from FGD participants and interviewees was that there is a need to increase access to education for women and girls. Exclusion of women from peace forums has been common since most of the women affected by the conflicts are illiterate and tend to remain on the periphery of decision-making processes. Moreover, women in the rural areas are far less educated compared to those in the urban areas and lack awareness of what is really happening in the country. This lack of awareness is exacerbated by the male regard for women as property.

The impact of gender role shift: Regarding gender-specific differences and gender role changes in relation to work during and post-conflict, both FGD's and KII's revealed that many women have taken on tasks that their husbands or other male relatives had done previously. The women, in some instances, have become the new household head and the main breadwinner. Women attending the FGDs indicated that by earning an income, they feel more confident, self- assured and involved within the community. For men, the changed circumstances had the opposite effect with resultant incidences of violence.

A practical response to post conflict realities: In the area of study within South Sudan, income-generating activities in larger areas for the most part are dominated by women and women's groups with the support from donors. In an era where South Sudan as a country is trying to rebuild herself in the aftermath of conflicts that left the entire country destroyed, women are affected equally with men. In this study, it would seem an insurmountable task to make an inventory of all the income generating activities that women are currently involved in, simply because it is beyond the scope of this study. However, it is important to note that most respondents were of the view that peace-building and reconciliation efforts should be practical and beneficial to the society and not theoretical or ideological.

Challenging the patriarchy: The findings show that some men and women within the study area, particularly those that have a higher education, are challenging patriarchal social expectations; questioning and testing the boundaries set by existing social norms. In the process. These changing attitudes are opening windows of opportunity for redefining normality in South Sudanese society. In addition, while primarily taking place in the larger towns, the descriptive social norm of women only bearing children and working at home is under pressure from two areas:

      1. That women must take care of the family

      2. The economic realities.

Unlike pre-conflict life, when providing food and shelter was the sole responsibility of a man, some families within the study area are recognizing that they can only bear the cost of providing for their families, if women are included in the work force.

The persistence of poverty: Another challenge identified during the study is linked to the persistence of poverty in rural areas with women as the main victims. This is compounded by the high incidence of female-headed households, scarcity of resources, and the inability to address basic needs that frustrate women's efforts to contribute towards peace and reconciliation.

Socio-economic empowerment: Gender equality and women's empowerment programs in the areas studied, supported primarily by internation al organizations, include entrepreneurship and leadership training, literacy courses and awareness of women's rights. While a majority of women involved, are from larger towns, rural areas do not have access to these services. It is worth noting that socio-economic empowerment of women in post conflict South Sudan, has brought tangible changes in community perceptions towards women. Most specifically, it has redefined new roles and responsibilities that women now assume, contributing to building lasting peace and restoration.

The FGDs also revealed that much of the international donor support, as well as government policy, tends to focus on women's access to employment and income. While economic empowerment programs are currently being offered, they are primarily focused on traditional roles of women as farmers, tailors and tea servers in the local markets. Although employment opportunities are limited within the locations, only Bentiu has conducted a labor market survey to determine the market characteristics that will eventually impact vocation skills.

Risk factors to post-conflict males: There is little discussion and few policy recommendations on the particular problems faced by young and adult males post-conflict. Due to displacement or a lack of post conflict employment opportunities, men are often unable to access employment or stable income sources. For this reason, It is clear that the burden of displacement and conflict tends to fall disproportionately on women. The displacement and unemployment caused by conflict also represents a radical dislocation for men and their sense of identity. Above all, male identity within South Sudanese society is tied up with being the family breadwinner, responsible head of family, and financial provider for the family. Unemployment undermines a key foundation of the male identity and male perception of self-worth. When male identity and social roles are undermined, men tend to assert their masculinity through violence, alcohol or drug abuse, and other negative behaviors. Respondents advised us that, for unemployed and out of school young men, joining local gangs appear to offer the status, identity, sense of belonging, and remuneration that are unavailable in a PoC site or in their economically weakened communities.

Women's Role

The study found that within the conflict clusters, South Sudanese women's experience in conflict is multi-faceted: it means separation, loss of relatives, physical and economic insecurity, an increased risk of sexual violence, wounding, detention, deprivation and even death. Within these conflicts, women suffer in ways specific to women. However, different women will have different needs, vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms.

Women's participation in violence and criminal activities: During and after conflict periods, however, all South Sudanese women are not passive and not necessarily "victims". It has been revealed that some women incite men to participate in cattle rustling and criminal activities. Conversely, within the study area, women are also engaged as politicians, leaders of NGOs and active campaigners for peace. While overall, women are considered mediators and peace-builders, there are some instances in which women are also the catalyst for inciting violence and promoting conflict. Respondents interviewed in both the FGDs and KIIs advised that some women, albeit few, have been known to provoke their husbands into cattle stealing by informing the husbands that they are not "men" if they aren't not involved in this illegal and dangerous offense.

Women's culture-based role in peace-building: A large majority of the respondents from all walks of life, irrespective of age, class, and gender and social status, indicated that women have played a very large role in peace building and reconciliation. In the focus groups, 96% of all women indicated that they are involved in peace-building within their communities. Women play important roles in the process of peace building, first as activists and advocates for peace, women wage conflict nonviolently by pursuing democracy and human rights. They attribute this to several factors but the primary one is that of South Sudanese culture. Respondents indicated that in the South Sudanese traditional society, a woman is more of a natural peacemaker. They also advise that women make a difference, in part because they adopt a more inclusive approach toward security; one that addresses key social and economic issues that would otherwise be ignored. This was echoed by a large portion of the respondents who cited different but complementary reasons pointing to the role of women as life nurturers and givers and as mediators between different families.

The women of South Sudan are actively participating in the ongoing peace talks both as direct representatives of the two sides of the conflict, and as representative of neutral civil society organizations advocating for the concerns and interest of all the women of South Sudan and the South Sudanese population as a whole. The women have expressed, through various forums, their strong desire to find ways of ending hostilities and to focus national attention on social cohesion and nation building.[21]

The Revitalized Agreement: According to a UN press release during the UN Security Councils meeting on South Sudan, the Executive Director of UN-Women underscored that the signing of the Revitalized Agreement with its requirement of 35% women in the composition of important transitional and Governmental structures, raised hope. Nonetheless, despite guarantees, she pointed out that so far only three women have been included in key transitional bodies. The director stressed that, "Women must play leadership roles from the beginning to ensure that institutions are reconstituted in a gender-sensitive way that focuses on protection of civilians from all forms of violence."[22]

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[21] http://africa.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/eastern-and-southern-africa/south-sudan

[22] https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13585.doc.htm

UNDP's Peace and Community Cohesion Project Progress Report[23] advises that some success of note has been through advocacy of the Women's Coalition, where the number of women's representation in all levels of Government was increased from 25% in the constitution to 35% through the Declaration of Principles in the second meeting of the High-Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF) and its inclusion in the revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). In addition, through joint advocacy provided by the PaCC project, women's participation in the dialogue process has increased significantly both at the leadership level and at grassroots participation. At the leadership level, participation by women increased from zero to 33%. At the local consultations, 25% of the more than 4,760 participants are women.[24]

The role of South Sudanese women in peace-building varies by region and they are uniquely impacted by protracted crisis. For example, women in Torit were more engaged in community dialogue and in government, whereas in Aweil, women provide more passive contributions by praying and singing songs for peace. In Rumbek women have been able to harness cultural values to help promote an atmosphere of reconciliation and foster mutual respect in communities torn apart by conflict.

Women contribute prominently to peace-building through civil society and have been extensively involved in the peace process. In the revitalized peace agreement, the Women's Coalition, which is supported by UNDP, were signatories to the agreement. In 2015. Women's Block were also signatory to the peace agreement. Two pressing issues for women's peace activists are (1) the return of refugees and the internally displaced, and (2) increasing women's capacity to enter the democratization processes recently set in motion.

The Impact of Culture

More than 50% of the respondents interviewed expressed the concern that within the South Sudanese culture there are certain tendencies or traits that are not conducive to interpersonal communication and free and open debate particularly in an open forum. Many women indicated that it was not in normal course to have public discussions with men. Men also reiterated this statement, indicating that men are considered the problem-solvers for the family and community. There is a strong belief that men should provide solutions. However, women interviewees stated that they are better communicators than men but tend to be constrained by the skewed power relations with men and their lack of access to information.

According to forum discussions, South Sudanese women have been tangentially recognized for their significant contributions to brokering peace informally and for helping to create an atmosphere of reconciliation. While their efforts should be recognized and applauded, their roles have remained relatively limited within the larger peace and reconciliation dialogue processes.

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[23] UNDP's Peace and Community Cohesion Project Progress Report, 2018.
[24] Ibid.

The culture's role in promoting peace: Throughout the research it was found that South Sudanese culture was the bedrock of fundamental values that promoted peaceful coexistence among South Sudanese both at family and community levels. Many respondents interviewed echoed the view that the gradual degeneration of South Sudanese cultural values resulted in the breakdown of social cohesion and solidarity among different communities.

The constraint of cultural norms and values however is not going unchallenged within the area of study. Both men and women, young and old, are questioning the appropriateness and the continued feasibility, particularly economic feasibility, of the current social order. Previously, children were seen as extra hands to till the land and provide assistance to household chores, and the responsibility of the parents was to provide food and shelter. Younger men and women, through education, recognize the changing economic realities. They have begun to appreciate the responsibility and importance of investing in children's education and also, that one should have only as many children as one can afford to educate.

Women's approach to conflicts differs from men's: As the examples in this study detail, women's relationships to traditional customs and beliefs is more complex than it may seem. While on one level, traditional customs and beliefs do pose barriers to women's ability to fully participate in public life, including in peace-building. The literature surveyed and those interviewed in this study uncovered a number of ways in which women were able to harness some aspects of traditional roles to their advantage. For instance, South Sudanese women can use culturally embedded power given to elders and mothers to gain respect in communities and allow their voices to be heard. Similarly, women were able to use traditional precedents for women's roles as peacemakers to show that their activities were in fact culturally appropriate as they draw on, rather than overstep, traditional roles granted to women.

In light of the above, the NGO's interviewed for this study noted that culture also influences the way that women are able to take on leadership roles and to approach a conflict. These methods may differ from those employed by men, but are no less effective. For example, an NGO worker in Torit explained that it is not normally appropriate to confront people standing up and speaking directly as a man would likely do. Instead of trying to be a policewoman or other enforcement figure, a woman should present herself in a motherly way, as this commands immediate respect and grants her near universal authority. However, female NGO workers note that for this to be effective, it is important to ensure that those in the community see you as a role model in your own life as well. Thus, for women in positions of leadership, personal image is very important – in order to be respected as 'mothers' of a community or even of the nation, they must also be seen as role model mothers in their own families and private lives as well.

Sustainable peace: In order to attain sustainable peace and reconciliation, it is imperative to strengthen the linkages and interactions between the leadership at different levels and the community. Each must contribute to the other and draw on the values of peace that are embedded with the South Sudanese culture. The leadership must also draw inspiration from the cultural values that enhance peace. The role of South Sudanese culture is so strong in rebuilding peace that reviving the positive cultural values from other societies is extremely important and urgent. It was found that culture is a very critical element in the peace-building process.

Women's Groups

Grassroots women's organizations in the study area largely remain under-funded and under-resourced. In terms of funding, women's organizations must often rely on support from government ministries, international NGOs or international donors. However, such funding is often tied to meeting certain mandates and objectives set by the funding organization, which may have limited relation to the needs on the ground. In addition, many of these funding packages are time-limited, and once they end, most organizations have to severely cut back on the scope of their work if not disband altogether. Women NGO workers also noted that there is a particular need for capacity building in the area of providing psychosocial support and trauma counseling. While they explained how they were able to draw on prior work experiences or, in some cases, previous training, most felt that this was an area of capacity development that would greatly benefit their work.

Difficulties prompt women to increase participation: In an interview with one women's group member, it was noted that a common experience for women and families during the conflict was food shortage due to disruptions in supply caused by the conflict. When times became desperate, women took it upon themselves to travel extensive distances to reach markets, often at great peril.

Many women active in peace-building within the conflict clusters reported that they continue to face difficulties conducting their work given the limitations of traditional society on women taking on public roles. They note that while some chiefs and religious leaders have accepted the involvement of women in reconciliation work and have recognized the importance of giving women a voice, others argue that the involvement of women contradicts traditional values and norms.

Generational shift in attitudes: Women also note however, that challenges to increasing women's participation that arise out of traditional roles could also be beginning to shift through generational change. They argue that gradually, women are increasingly beginning to claim some of their due rights. They explain that as the population becomes more educated, a growing number are beginning to recognize the importance of gender equality, with younger men starting to respect women's right to participate in public life.

Class divide challenges communication: An NGO worker in Bor mentioned that prior to and during the conflicts, she felt that women were quick to find ways to connect with each other and that women of different educational levels and backgrounds cooperated effectively. She now observes women's experiences and backgrounds diverge, with some women actually looking down on other women who step out of traditional roles and assume leadership positions in society. Rather than encouraging each other, this contributes to mistrust and a class divide, which she believes to be one of the reasons women struggle to gain seats in Parliament and local government. To overcome this barrier, she felt that educated women need to be able to reach out and communicate more effectively with rural women in order to engage with them, create mutual trust, and forge a bond that can overcome class divides to allow women to work together to rebuild their communities.

Initiatives need to be supported: Within the study area, women have come together or acted individually to initiate activities that are either channels of peace and reconciliation or that contribute directly to the process of reconciling different sections of the South Sudanese society. Most of these initiatives are started by women themselves who are handicapped in many areas. For these initiatives to grow and become sustainable, they need to be well nurtured, supported, coordinated and replicated. Respondents from both the community and policy-making levels concurred however, that there is very little contact between institutions such as the national government, international donors, various government ministries, and leaders in general. This problem is compounded further by the lack of a clear policy on unity and reconciliation which defines the role of different actors and which prioritizes actions required to address the needs of different interest groups.

Literacy challenges: Despite the substantial contribution women have made towards peace and reconciliation in the last few years, they still face a host of challenges that hinder their full contribution to the promotion of peace and reconciliation. According to participants and interviewees, some of the outstanding challenges are linked to women's subordinate position in the South Sudanese society and the negative consequences of the weak institutional capacity to coordinate and harmonize different peace building initiatives. It had been observed during the FGDs that high rates of illiteracy and lack of education undermine women's confidence and capacity, which would in turn effect their ability to effectively participate in community and national programs. It is important to note that during focus group discussions, all of the men were able to read documents in the local language, as well as reading, speaking and comprehending English. Conversely, approximately half of the women who attended were not able to sign their own name on a document, were unable to read in the local language or speak in English. This is linked again to the historical gender-related imbalances in the previous and current education systems.

Male support: The women interviewed for this study mentioned the importance of having men in their lives who support them and appreciate the work that they are doing. Whether they be husbands, brothers, fathers or chiefs and religious leaders, men can provide a level of moral support that will only help to strengthen the impact women can make in peace-building and reconciliation work, and further legitimize the participation of women in public life.

Generally speaking, this study found that women seem to be less divided along tribal lines and more willing to cooperate to work for peace in their communities. This has been attributed to a strong bond of womanhood and shared duty as mothers that can transcend ethnic divides. A female participant in a FGD noted that while men simply wanted to win, women "just wanted peace", and as such, were more inclined to cooperate. A challenge for South Sudanese women today, as for any large and diverse social movement or group, is to ensure that internal differences do not compromise the effectiveness of efforts directed toward shared goals. A particular challenge is to find ways to include women from rural and remote areas in peace-building programs by linking them with existing networks and activities.

Initiatives and Actions Needed

While there has been agreement to increase women's representation within the government from 25% to 35%, on the state and local levels, women have not been able to achieve any significant level of representation at the present. In addition, once a peace process is over, women often return to more traditional activities, losing their gains and public presence. These losses make it very difficult for women to return to the public stage later when resolution begins.

Some key issue, emphasized by all groups in all locations was the need for increased literacy among women and girls, awareness raising, capacity building and mobilization related to peace-building, conflict resolution and combating sexual and gender-based violence outside of the larger towns. Young girls are not provided the opportunity to attend to their studies as after school, they are tasked with assisting adult females in household chores. Boys, however, according to those interviewed, are given ample time in which to complete schoolwork.

Uneven capacity development: Approximately 90% of those participating in the FGD's as well as key informant interviews stated that there was an oversaturation of capacity development being provided to larger towns with limited, to no training and development within villages and rural communities. Respondents did acknowledge that the challenge arises due to the current security situation and lack of access to those areas. Further, those that have attended training programs stated that they do not include any actionable outcomes, Training is not institutionalized, and there has not been any evaluation as to the impact of the training and capacity development provided.

During discussions, women indicated that they lack the capacity to mobilize on important issues. While they have come together to form groups, they have lacked the capacity to brand and deliver their messages. This was more pronounced within the PoC Bentiu site where women did not discuss mobilization but were more focused on how to procure objects such as desks and chairs along with physical structures.

Lack of access to funds and physical support: Discussions further revealed that most of the time women's groups lack the means to back up their actions. In some instances, they are unable to access the media to enhance their peace campaign because they do not have a budget for marketing, public relations and grass roots communication activities. Further, they are not part of main fund raising channels and networks. Oftentimes, they work on a voluntary basis at the grassroots levels, pooling their own resources together to get an office, desk, and mobile telephone.

As there has been little research on approaches that can encourage alternative versions of male identity and thus reduce negative gender impacts as countries transition out of conflict further studies may be needed. However, currently most programmatic assistance is targeted towards the development of economic opportunities for women. Both men and women agreed that programs that included capacity building for men in terms of economic development were needed.

Successes

Women within the targeted conflict clusters in South Sudan from all walks of life have been instrumental in taking on the burden of caring and providing for orphans and vulnerable children, the sick and handicapped. Women have undertaken reconciliation and peace efforts within the families and communities. Most of these activities are unrecorded and not so publicly recognized. Women throughout the study area have been heavily involved in providing mutual support at the family and community level. Formally and informally, women have begun mutual support associations to provide resources for household well-being, shelter, healthcare for widows and others affected by the conflicts.

UNDP has been training all CSO counterparts after they receive grants. UNDP has prepared an internal control framework manual to build capacities of the CSOs and has engaged an International NGO every year to mentor and coach the CSOs.

In all of the locations within the study, women were writing and singing songs as a way to promote peace. Further, they advise that the women's centers are safe spaces for them to discuss issues, share information and resolve conflict.

In many discussions, women indicated that they went out of their way to forgive their enemies as one step toward reconciliation. This is a good model that can be emulated in other places and also serve as a lesson to men. The challenge that remains is to make this widely known. Reconciliation works best where people share common activity or resource and reconciliation takes place nationally. It takes place through mutual support and in line with people's common cultural realities.

Assessing GBV in conflict clusters

Assessing the extent of GBV in selected conflict clusters.
According to a study conducted by George Washington University Global Women's Institute (GWI) in partnership with the International Rescue Committee titled *No Safe Place: A Lifetime of Violence for Conflict-Affected Women and Girls in South Sudan, abuse within the home committed by husbands or partners was the most common form of violence.* The GWU study included interviews with more than 2,200 women and is the first large-scale project with data about the prevalence of violence against women and girls in South Sudan. More than half of the women who ever had an intimate partner reported domestic violence, whether physical or sexual. In Rumbek, a rural town more than 200 miles from the capital of Juba, 73 percent of women reported intimate partner violence.[25]

The following table extracted from UNDPs *End Line Study on Peace, Security and Sexual and Gender Based Violence in South Sudan Final Report* provides information regarding the prevalence of sexual and gender based violence within regions of South Sudan.

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[25] George Washington University Global Women's Institute, International Rescue Committee, No Safe Place: A Lifetime of Violence for Conflict-Affected Women and Girls in South Sudan, 2016.

Table 5

Region	SGBV Situation							Total
	Non-existent	Un-common	Common	Prevalent	Crisis level	Dont know	No response	
Warrap	110	243	47	6	22	7	8	443
Eastern Equatoria	5	169	135	9	18	3	6	345
Western Equatoria	7	74	174	7	16	1	2	281
Jonglol	21	190	123	4	11	9	16	374
Central Equatoria	15	200	105	35	41	21	9	486
Upper Nile	2	11	139	52	13	7	1	225
Lakes	33	149	71	26	68	1	9	357
Total	193	1036	854	139	189	49	51	2511

[26]

Women and girls who live in Juba Protection of Civilian sites, which are located on United Nations bases, are the most vulnerable to this type of assault. Almost a quarter of women who experienced this violence reported that they experienced multiple incidents. One woman living in the Bentiu PoC site reported when women go out at night, men wait for them with weapons and surround them, according to the report.[27]

Information gathered from FGD's and KII's supported the information from the GWI research and reinforced the need for sensitization and awareness-raising at the community level. The following were listed as the most prevalent forms of GBV within the study area:

- Economic Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Child Marriage
- Rape (both sexual assault and child sexual assault).

Male/Female perceptions of the prevalence of gender-based violence: While a large portion of the respondents (both men and women) participating in the FGDs, when asked if GBV has increased, decreased, or stayed the same in their area, revealed a divide in percentages with 45% of women indicting "increased" and 45% of men indicating "decreased". Subsequent discussions revealed that most cases of sexual assaults and gender violence go unreported. In Bor, men participating in the

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26 UNDP, End line Study on Peace, Security and Sexual and Gender Based Violence in South Sudan Final Report, 2017.
27 Ibid.

focus group discussion initially stated that sexual assaults did not occur in their community, at all. When provided information that was relayed from the female participants that not only was it occurring but it was happening on a daily basis, the men appeared stunned. To their credit, they did request information on steps to decrease sexual assaults and how they could participate in ensuring the safety of women within the community.

Impact of early marriage: Further discussions also reinforced Care's[28] findings in that in arranging marriages for their daughters, a central consideration for families was the value of the "bride price" offered by the husband or his family. The practice of considering bride price offers, called "booking", can happen when a girl is as young as five years old with marriages potentially initiated as early as the girl's first menstrual cycle. Key informants cited cases of girls who ran away from home because they had been raped or were facing early marriage. In Jonglei, a number of informants cited cases of girls committing suicide due to constant abuse or because they saw no other option to avoid early marriage.[29] This was further supported by focus group discussions where participants indicated that in one community, Torit, 7 girls had committed suicide within the past few years in order to avoid early marriage.

General perceptions

Discussions revealed that violent behavior is incentivized by masculine social norms – general perceptions of what it means to be a man, what men do or what they should do in certain circumstances. Men who use violence are regarded as real men, powerful and in control. There is a strong pressure on men to align their behavior with society's expectations. Not acting violently, when spouses or partners fail to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, is sanctioned with lack of respect, and being perceived as "less of a man". Concurrently, the research revealed the power relations between men and women, with women having little decision-making power in the family. Women's lack of power in the relationship negatively affects their capacity to (re)negotiate this dynamic.

Most of those interviewed, as well as participants in focus group discussions believed that domestic violence was caused by excessive drinking and lack of employment as opposed to the true cause, being power and control. The consensus also shared among participants and interviewees was that child sexual assault was also due to alcohol abuse instead of pedophilia or other sexual deviancy being the issue. The findings revealed that while there are some cases of sexual assault (both adult and child) referred to the police, law enforcement does not have the capacity or resources to investigate the allegations.

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28 Ibid.
29 Ibid.

Key Components

Based on discussions, it appears that the main factors that influence victims to stay in violent relationships are financial dependence on the husband or partner, the responsibility and social expectations of keeping the family together, the fear that the perpetrator will harm the victim's family, and the prioritization of maintaining the honor of the family. Service providers at community level confirm that many perpetrators are recidivists and that violent practices continue with increasing severity.

Socio-economic factors: In addition to considerations of safety, several socioeconomic factors may influence women's decisions to remain in abusive relationships. With an overall unemployment rate of 89.5%[30] in South Sudan, women's economic dependency significantly hinders their life choices. An article from the Sudan Tribune titled, *S. Sudan launches campaign to reduce high illiteracy rates* indicates that despite disparities in economic opportunities, gender gaps in human capital are evident as well. South Sudan, according to its 2009 Household Survey report, has one of the highest illiteracy rates in the world. Only 27 percent of those aged 15 and above are said to be literate. An estimated 80 percent of people in South Sudan are unable to read and write, according the South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics. Women in South Sudan, are the worst effected with just 19 percent of South Sudanese women aged 15 and above reportedly literate.[31]

Lack of awareness of legal recourse: Research participants demonstrated limited awareness of the legal framework related to domestic violence. Apart from those with a legal background, FGD participants either could not name any legal or normative act or did not know the extent of legislation prohibiting sexual and gender based violence. Participants also exhibited a lack of trust in institutions (courts, prosecution, police) and in the institutions' ability and willingness to address GBV cases fairly and sensitively. Another factor that influences the decision not to report is that community members state that police will not get involved as they (police) believe it is a matter left to the family to resolve. One local official stated that some women are kidnapped by local youth if they have changed their mind about marrying a particular man. According to the official, since the women do not yell out or cry, she is "agreeing" to be kidnapped and forced to marry.

Social Reinforcements

The difficult economic situation and the vulnerability of South Sudanese women, a patriarchal society, lower levels of education, the huge disparity in terms of responsibilities based on gender roles, and a historical context of gender inequality and discrimination, impacts the complexity of the situation. Gender stereotypes are dominant in almost all classes and social groups. Historically within South Sudanese society, the role of women in the family is connected with reproductive ability, and women are placed in a passive position for most family and community decisions. Women are

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[30] https://www.vadfoundation.org/southsudanemploymentinitiative/

[31] Sudan Tribune, S. Sudan launches campaign to reduce high illiteracy rates, 2012.

trusted with attending to the needs of children, while being engaged in the limited support of their education, and also with completing chores around the house. On the other hand, men are the uncontested family leaders, being fully responsible for the provision of income and the financial stability of the family. Men also have almost exclusive access to inherited wealth making women dependent and with no control over essential resources.

A breakdown in the rule of law has meant that violence is committed with impunity and often without consequence for the perpetrators. The culture of shame, around rape in particular, is so severe that many women fear reporting the crime could lead to further repercussions, such as being forced to marry their rapist.[32]

Cultural Taboos

Women's groups and female participants noted that strong cultural taboos against women speaking out – for instance, regarding sexual and gender-based violence– remain a barrier to providing justice and redress for victims, as well as psychosocial support and healing. In addition to the cultural stigma, many women also choose to remain silent because they know that speaking out could set into motion a cycle of retribution leading to more acts of violence. Women also feel that there is nothing to gain from speaking out about such experiences. Instead, they would only be reliving a traumatic experience publicly. FGD's and other forums such as those held to gather input for the women's submission for this study were praised for providing a safe space in which women could feel free to have their stories heard, allowing them to begin to move towards healing.

Women continue to be the bearers of violence and abuse at the community levels. It was revealed that when collecting firewood, women are the target of sexual assault and for the most part, accept this as necessary in order to provide for their families and prevent men from being killed. During the FGD's when the question of "What can be done to reduce sexual assaults within the community?" was posed, the common response from male participants led with "Women need to…." Male responses focused on the need for women to change a behavior or an action and at no point did any of the male FGD participants provide a recommendation that included themselves as part of the solution.

Some women stated that they are reluctant to testify and participate in court proceedings because according to them they do not see any value being derived from these courts. A similar perception is equally found among some survivors of sexual assault because they don't expect the courts to address the critical issue of compensation for the victims or would require a bribe to adjudicate a case. They also advise that male relatives may create an obstacle to women speaking the truth during court proceedings for fear of being chastised, harassed or beaten because of their total dependence on men for economic survival.

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[32] Ibid.

Insecurity and Gender Based Violence

Both groups of FGD's as well as KII's believed that the issues found in South Sudan were unique to the country. Issues such as girls being used as compensation, domestic violence and violence due to cattle rustling were noted as being exclusive to the country. When respondents were advised that other countries within the region as well as across the globe are currently working on combating similar issues, such as in Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Cambodia and Afghanistan, individuals expressed interest in learning more about lessons learned and best practices.

Elevated levels of post-conflict violence: Widespread stress and trauma stemming from violence experienced during the conflicts continues to be a problem for a number of South Sudanese women. While limited data makes pre- and post-conflict comparisons difficult, in South Sudan, recent research into sexual and gender based violence suggests a persistent pattern of disturbing levels of violence against women throughout the country.

According to those interviewed for this report, alcohol abuse is a major contributor to GBV in South Sudan as is the lack of suitable employment. Many fights, homicides and rapes occur under the influence of alcohol, which is a powerful catalyst for interpersonal and sexual violence, and high-risk sexual behavior. Victims' of violence often abuse alcohol and other drugs in order to deal with the trauma they have experienced. However, their drinking makes it harder for them to escape from further violence in their lives. Additionally, children are often left extremely vulnerable because of their parents' drinking problem.

Reluctance to report GBV: NGO's interviewed indicated that most GBV survivors do not request to be referred to the police and many incidents of sexual violence are not presented for medical treatment and are settled outside the formal legal system. According to NGO's, survivors report fearing secondary victimization by poorly trained police officers, health care providers, prosecutors and judges who may force them to give their statement multiple times, often in open areas in police stations, and to commute between disparate services during a time of heightened emotional distress. NGO's also stated that victims who do approach the police or other local authorities are unlikely to receive much assistance. Because of prevailing attitudes that domestic violence is a family matter, to be resolved within the family, authorities are often reluctant to intervene. Finally, there is widespread distrust of the criminal justice system. In most locations, there is not a functioning criminal justice sector, so even if victims were inclined to report the assault, there is no one to report it to.

Research participants demonstrated limited awareness of the legal framework related to domestic violence. Apart from those with a legal background, FGD participants either could not name any legal or normative act or did not know that there is legislation prohibiting violence against women. Participants also exhibited a lack of trust in institutions (courts, prosecution, and police) and in these institutions' ability and willingness to address GBV cases fairly and sensitively. A large majority of those interviewed indicated that traditional justice was the primary way in which allegations of domestic violence and sexual assault were resolved.

While interviewing an international aid worker during the KII's for this study regarding PoC Bentiu, the aid worker stated that her organization has worked to decrease cases of SGBV at that site and now there are only two reported cases per month. With a population exceeding 100,000 within the camp, and within confined quarters, it would be unlikely that this number would be an accurate reflection of incidents of SGBV.

Negative attitudes about gender equality: The acceptance of violence against women, was found in all sites of the study. Long-standing discriminatory practices, such as forced and/or early marriage, polygamy and bride price—the custom of paying the bride's family, often in the form of cows, to marry a girl—have created an environment where violence against women and girls is common and accepted.[33]

Because of conflict in the region, many men have lost their cows. Men will rape or abduct women to take as wives because they cannot afford to pay for one. Many families will also marry off daughters at ages 14 or 15 in exchange for cows to regain the wealth lost during conflict.[34]

This ties cattle-raiding to economic stability. At the center of this issue is the concept of the daughter as an economic commodity, with dowry being the central strategy upon which the household economic plan is constructed. Because bride wealth is the foundation upon which the economic and social well-being of the male members of the girl's family relies,[35] girls are vulnerable to violence. when they are used for compensation. When one family suffers at the hands of another, the latter will "trade" a girl child to the other in order to compensate for the loss to the offended family.

Available Interventions

The forms of service provision most commonly reported were advice and advocacy (including legal (through paralegals) and counseling services. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) coordinates GBV clusters as well as safe spaces for women and girls especially in POC sites. The GBV clusters have UN and NGO and CSO agencies as members. Less commonly identified were vocational/education training and women's centers. None of the stakeholders interviewed made claims to having sufficient services, which is not unsurprising considering that the majority of provision is concentrated in Juba.

Rape crisis centers, per se, were not identified in South Sudan, although a few organizations provide services to assist survivors. This data highlights the relative lack of sexual and domestic violence services and the importance of remedying this if due diligence requirements are to be met.

Lack of information: Just knowing a type of service is present tells us little about the extent of provision, and therefore what proportion of women and children have access. Data on the numbers of services that were

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[33] Ibid.
[34] Ibid.
[35] Acord International, Conflict and Gender Study – South Sudan Addressing Root Causes Programme, January 2018.

identified in the study area is limited and continuously changing and the forms of violence they address are oftentimes, developed based on donor priorities. This demonstrates the huge variation, within some conflict cluster locations having absolute minimums in terms of assistance. Other locations such as Juba, have a more intricate network of providers. Coordination mechanisms are also a challenge as many of the local organizations, including government officials were unable to provide the names of specific organizations operating at local levels. Some of the government authorities stated that it was the responsibility of the district officials to know the service providers in their areas.

According to some interviewees, inequities can be even more marked at the local and village level, where local governments can differ markedly in the priority allocated to violence against women. Only a few service providers in the rural areas provide legal and counseling services designed to meet the needs of women, those living with HIV/AIDs and/ or disabled women. NGO's working in these fields indicated that many women infected after being sexually assaulted are not coming forward to receive counseling or needed medical treatment due to fear of stigmatization. Furthermore, medical staff at most facilities are male and have only limited understanding of the proper methods of performing sexual assault examinations.

Limited capacity: NGO workers from various organizations noted that their own capacity is extremely limited, even if they wanted to offer services integrated across all forms of violence against women. NGOs and donors are not engaging at the community and village levels. Other respondents referred to the reluctance (or even at times outright opposition) of the local government to accept what aid workers consider as basic human rights. Gendered analysis of violence, now championed by the United Nations, demonstrates that local governments by and large label domestic violence as a "family" matter or demand that women should remain silent about violence in order to keep the family unit together. For some, this has translated into an inhospitable context for women's NGOs. Even when they do attempt to include local authorities in their outreach efforts, they are either ignored or the violence is excused due to alcohol abuse or economic difficulties.

While there are some international organizations advocating for "gender desks" at police posts, the lack of justice sector organizations, has rendered these efforts far from successful. Coupled with limited capacity and in some instances, female officers that are unable to read and write, the current situation makes it unclear as to how gender desk officers would be able to do more than act as a referral to available support services.

The outcome of these interviews shows that there is an uneven spread of services within the study area of South Sudan and across all forms of violence against women. The availability of services in terms of their numbers and geographical distribution remains a major problem.

Issues identified during FGDs and KII's:
- **Lack of Support:** Lack of large-scale, consistent and comprehensive funding sufficient for scaling; short funding cycles. Lack of a coordinated response particularly in addressing SGBV at the local and village levels.

- **Insufficient Intervention Design**: Intervention services are disjointed and not available in most locations. This is particularly true in the rural areas where basic counseling services are not available.

- **Weak Institutional Capacity**: Weak rule of law institutions and lack of administrative policies and capacity prevent access to justice. Limited institutionalizing of support and capacity building activities coupled with the lack of strong CSO support prevent a formal process for reporting and interventions from being achieved.

Overarching trends and patterns

Public institutional reforms are urgently required, with an emphasis on the effective delivery of a national legislative agenda. These challenges are compounded by limited capacities in the security and rule of law sectors, slow progress in national reconciliation and limited progress in implementing critical government reforms. Relations between the executive branch of government and society have improved, but remain strained. In the absence of meaningful national reconciliation, public confidence in justice and security institutions, whose presence remains limited outside of Juba, remains poor.

In addition, discussions and interviews revealed that land disputes, corruption, boundary disputes and concession related tensions continue to be the main triggers of violence. The lives of many women are particularly insecure due to societal inequalities and sexual and gender-based violence. Concern for women's safety further weakens social cohesion in many communities.

Lack of data gathering related to violence against women: While the South Sudan NAP on UNSCR 1325 indicates under Strategic Goal 3, the government's intention to strengthen efforts to prevent and protect women and girls against any form of violence, to promote the prosecution of SGBV perpetrators and to increase support to survivors of sexual and gender based violence in all parts of South Sudan[36], the Ministry of the Interior's "strategic" action has, for the most part, been largely "to improve record keeping in justice sector institutions." The government has focused on statistical analysis, ostensibly in order to have the information needed for analysis of crime, the disposition of court cases and records of the number of people in prison facilities awaiting trial or sentencing[37]. Performance indicators relative to Strategic Goal 3 are based on the number of training sessions, which focus primarily on record keeping. Research, data collection and analysis are critical to effective advocacy efforts and resource mobilization, program development, policy implementation and monitoring of intervention.

There remains a significant need for capacity development in data analysis particularly for the criminal justice sector, including where to allocate assets and how to budget for criminal justice responses.

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[36] Republic of South Sudan South Sudan National Action Plan 2015-2020 on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and Related Resolutions.
[37] Ibid.

Additionally, there is no expectation that data gathered will be disaggregated based on sex or any other variable, which is necessary to determine trends and patterns in gender-based violence.

According to discussions with international and national stakeholders, the Ministry of Gender gathers statistics on cases of violence against women and children. However, that information is not shared at the local level and in fact, employees of the Ministry of Gender were not even aware of this effort. Based on conversations conducted as part of this study, it appears that data is provided primarily by national and international NGOs. While the Ministry of Gender may collect and publish limited available data, it does appear that data gathering is due more to the influence of international partners rather than being originated by the government to be utilized to formulate government gender policies.

Monitoring the impact of GBV reduction efforts:

Monitoring the impact of its Women, Peace and Security objectives and activities should be a priority for the South Sudanese government. Donors continue to urge the government to develop and publish indicators that are based on outcomes to support the measurement of progress against its own objectives. The 'high-level indicators' vary widely in their appropriateness for outcomes and measurability. For example, "Reports of cases successfully handled"[38] related to GBV does not indicate the quality of the investigation and "number of SGBV perpetrators prosecuted"[39]. In the end, this may not be the most appropriate indicator in a country with a high degree of corruption and lack of capacity. As South Sudan is in its' initial stages of development, it would be arduous to suggest additional indicators for the NAP at this time. UNDP and international donors may want to support general clarification of M&E terms (i.e. outcomes, objectives, outputs and indicators) as the NAP is reviewed and plans emerge for the post-2020 NAP, and a clearer articulation of the government's specific Women, Peace and Security objectives.

According to those interviewed, there is a lack of inclusion at the community level as to actions agreed upon at the national level. In addition, local community members, particularly in villages, are not being included in discussions affecting their locations and do not receive information regarding WPS or sexual and gender based violence.

Within the FGDs and KIIs, almost every response to questions posed regarding community solutions indicated a need for additional funding and external interventions. This was even more acute within the Protection of Civilians (PoCs) sites.

Lastly, a large majority of those involved in the study believe that once peace is achieved, most of the problems affecting their communities will be resolved. Local community members assume that when peace is fully realized, many will be provided with employment opportunities and GBV and other issues effecting communities will be eliminated.

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38 Ibid.
39 Ibid.

IV. Recommendations

There is a need to overcome the obstacles that hinder women from participating in peace-building and the post-conflict resolution process. Women need to understand how to take advantage of the transformative experiences of conflict and the resulting weakened patriarchal order to build up a strong women's movement before it is too late -- before traditions that oppress women return to take over the space that had opened momentarily. Women need to have the tools to build up a strong movement before conflict starts and to sustain it through the conflict and after the ceasefire.

The international community must also continue to facilitate the involvement of local women in peace negotiations. The community should also help to promote more gender awareness, and to review the content of laws that perpetuate discrimination against women. Despite the groundbreaking contributions made by women's groups, gender equity mechanisms created during peace negotiations still remain weak. Local efforts to promote constitutional and judicial reforms, increase election participation, and improve access to and control over economic resources, education, and training for women should be encouraged.

Peace operations in South Sudan need to support women's groups and local initiatives in building their own capacities. By seeing women as untapped resources and as dynamic elements of post-conflict societies, peace initiatives in South Sudan can provide information about the concerns that women have, thus empowering women as major and serious actors who should be included in conflict resolution and peace building.

Based on the results of this study, a strategic framework has been developed with input from UNDP and other stakeholders. The strategic framework, included within this report as Annex III, incorporates recommendations and programmatic options for UN organizations and partners.

Lastly, there is a need to provide accurate information regarding root causes of domestic, gender-based violence and sexual assault (adult and child). Many still appear to believe that it is a result of excessive alcohol abuse and/or lack of suitable employment alone. While some of the below recommendations may have been proposed in other assessments and studies, they are restated within this report as the research revealed that many have not been implemented or if they have, they are in need of further development.

RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTER
Programmatic-Cross Cutting	
Adopt Community Centered engagement approaches: Community based approaches should be realized in reconstruction and mobilizing the support of men and the community as a whole to support women's' participation in peacebuilding. Further investment in training community leaders and gender facilitators is needed to provide local ownership and to ensure a strong monitoring and evaluation process.	UN, TGoNU, partners
Establish a national (or local) initiative that will train men and women in a training of trainers (ToT) format: In order to strengthen the knowledge and analytical skills related to issues of peace building, conflict and reconciliation and to combat GBV, the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNu) and partners should establish a national (or local) initiative that will train men and women in a training of trainers (ToT) format. The training, conducted in different categories, will in turn impart the knowledge they acquire to those living in rural areas. The ToT should include; understanding the learning environment, principles of adult learning, development of goals and objectives, developing a course outline, lesson plan development, facilitation and listening skills, as well as course evaluation. Trainees should include women, and some men, especially those involved in peace education initiatives on a voluntary basis. To ensure local ownership, the trainees should also develop their own curriculum that is representative and applicable to their unique needs.	
Review/develop the curriculum for ToT: Engage men and women in equal numbers in the GBVs programs Content may contain Training of Trainers courses such as: • Transformative leadership • Effective communication • Post-conflict life skills development • S/GBV sensitization and gender equality • Decision making	
• Facilitation/Moderation (for things like community meetings) • South Sudanese Constitution • International humanitarian law • Genocide • Crimes Against Humanity • War Crimes • Other serious crimes under international law and relevant laws of the Republic of South Sudan • Para-legal studies • Human Rights issues • Financial Literacy	

*(Left vertical label spanning rows: **Short Term**)*

RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTER
Short Term - Gender responsive Peace proces. - Effective advocacy and lobbies. - Gender responsive planning, programming and M&E and reporting as outcome with impact. - Effective coordination skills. - Analytical skills for peace negotiation. - Effective and concrete plan of action for common charter of demands for peace negotiation. - Strengthen the capacity of individual women and women's CSOs to bridge the gap between informal and formal peace processes. Additionally, while many have general knowledge of issues, some have a limited understanding of S/GBV issues. - Support organizational strengthening through funding of core activities, not just short term projects. - Obtain funding for follow up training/workshops to determine the implementation. - Obtain funding for backstopping support to learners who will be training their communities. - Document challenges, case stories and lessons learnt for future as evidence based and information sharing. - Strengthen the capacity of NGO's within the study area to bridge the gap between informal and formal peace processes. Additionally, while they have general knowledge of issues, some have a limited understanding of GBV. There is also an urgent need to increase their ability to provide much needed services to victims. - Support organizational strengthening through funding of core activities, not just short term projects. - Funding for follow up training/workshop to determine the implementation. - Funding for backstopping support to learners who will be training their communities. - Documentation of challenges, case stories and lessons learned for future as evidence based and information sharing.	

	RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTER
Short Term	• Strengthen the capacity of individual women and women's CSOs to bridge the gap between informal and formal peace processes. Additionally, while many have general knowledge of issues, some have a limited understanding of S/GBV issues. • Support organizational strengthening through funding of core activities, not just short term projects. • Obtain funding for follow up training/workshops to determine the implementation. • Obtain funding for backstopping support to learners who will be training their communities. • Document challenges, case stories and lessons learnt for future as evidence based and information sharing. • Strengthen the capacity of NGO's within the study area to bridge the gap between informal and formal peace processes. Additionally, while they have general knowledge of issues, some have a limited understanding of GBV. There is also an urgent need to increase their ability to provide much needed services to victims. • Support organizational strengthening through funding of core activities, not just short term projects. • Funding for follow up training/workshop to determine the implementation. • Training on mobilization and public engagement; • Work with NGOs to develop branding and outreach messaging; • Providing training on psychosocial counseling and trauma healing with access to specialized services and legal support; • Increase the number of trained paralegals.	UN, Partners
	• Training and other strategies for creating statistical systems: Training programs provide the knowledge and skills necessary for the efficient performance of the required functions. Through a better understanding by staff of what is expected, errors are reduced and morale is improved. Periodic training and retraining also provide opportunities for the staff to provide feedback on problems and possible alternative procedures and solutions.	UN

	RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTER
Short Term	• **Consider Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):** ADR community structures should be deployed as a means to bolster the justice system by providing independent, transparent means of solving minor disputes and also by alleviating some of the courts' heavy caseload. • **Develop local resources in rural areas:** In areas without access to justice, villagers almost always search for a local solution first. Those residing in villages naturally have more confidence in local authorities (village chiefs and community leaders) than they have in the police or in the courts, which are considered costly and more difficult to access.	UN, TGoNu
	• **Identify men and boys as champions of change:** There should be an effort made to engage men and boys as partners in promoting inclusive participation in the conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and gender equality. Men and boys can become agents and activists for change and to challenge and explore alternative masculinities based on justice and human rights.	UN, TGoNu, Partners
	PEACEBUILDING	
	Scale up programmatic resources: Scale up programs that encourage and train men and women at the local level in informal peace processes to make the shift toward formal processes and involving individual women and women's CSOs actively in post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction.	UN
	Mobilize existing leadership: Given the critical role of the leadership in facilitating the reconciliation process, UNDP and its' partners should mobilize civil, religious and intellectual leaders to spearhead reconciliation initiatives at community (towns and villages) levels.	UN, TGoNu, Partners
	Reco**rd women's history in the pursuit of peace:** During this study, and through discussions, it was discovered that South Sudanese women have always distinguished themselves in fostering peace and consolidating social harmony. But the sad fact is that women's achievements in this sphere have never been recorded. So, it is important for South Sudanese women's history to be written down and stored digitally in an electronic library. These histories would present women in their true light, as indefatigable and undaunted facilitators of peace. Areas to be included would be: • Key women leaders who participated during the peace process. • Key platform established and provide strategic and financial support during peace process. • Key entities/organizations that provided technical and financial support to women leaders.	UN, TGoNu, Partners

	RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTER
	GENDER BASED VIOLENCE	
Short Term	**Enhance community-policing efforts:** Peace and security as well as combating GBV are a perfect marriage with community policing. A train the trainer approach for hosting community meetings is needed. One off trainings are not being institutionalized nor replicated outside of the larger towns. Community members must work together, host community meetings and resolve both civil and criminal issues. Meetings should be held quarterly, or more frequently as needed. In addition, actionable recommendations need to be implemented and monitored, including: • Capacity Strengthening of Community Policing. • Establishing community-based protection watch groups need to be established, equipped, self-sustained and mainstreamed within existing peace structures. • Establishing GBV one stop center and women's empowerment centers to provide multi-sectoral services through case management mechanisms for GBV/VAWG. • Establishing coordination platforms to influence youth and young women to participate in the humanitarian – development and peace nexuses efforts. • Providing a platform sponsored by UNDP and partners, which would encourage and organize experience-sharing sessions where, within the five locations, South Sudanese, youth and elderly from diverse backgrounds can be encouraged to talk openly and in a free atmosphere about their experiences related to the conflict. This will add value to the current approach of sensitization through historical facts of the country. This approach is compared to the open debate or dialogue, which is used as strategy to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic.[1]	UN
	• Justice System Personnel should be trained in all aspects of violence against women.	UN

	RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTER
Short Term	**Broadening the scope of gender in peacebuilding:** This study underlines the importance of broadening and deepening the scope of gender in peacebuilding to ensure that all groups of the political spectrum, people with special needs, various ages and genders are included. UNDP has been training all CSO counterparts after they receive grants, have prepared an internal control framework manual to build capacities of the CSOs and engages an International NGO every year to mentor and coach the CSOs. While some of the CSOs interviewed indicated that training had been provided for the development of the para-legal field with some success noted in terms of legal assistance for victims, a substantial increase is needed. The training of Peace Committee representatives has also shown signs of success as community members appeal to committee representatives for assistance in resolution of local conflict. While a majority of peacebuilding programs are primarily geared toward women and their participation, it also requires the engagement of men and boys. It particularly requires engagement within each of the 5 locations with men of all ages on positive masculinities. Failure to do so may contribute to an increase in post-conflict identity politics and a return to structured and harmful traditional norms. Local conflict prevention and resolution by local actors-strengthen local peace committees by providing workshops and training on conflict mediation methodology. Additional training and workshops to address combating GBV may include: • Reducing sexual objectification of women. • Dispelling sexual violence myths. • Rape in Marriage. • Sexual Harassment. • Harmful traditional practices. • Gender responsive peace committee structures to include people with special needs, excluded groups and a balance of men and women. • Including men and boys in local committees to develop locally owned plans of action for combating gender stereotypes, conflict resolution, mediation and accountability of men in peace building. • Expand local women's initiatives to enhance inclusive community dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution. • Enable provinces and districts to organize annual cultural festivals in music, drama, poetry and dance, centering on the values of peace and reconciliation; encouraging women to participate in such events while highlighting opportunities and challenges in promoting lasting peace and reconciliation from the community's point of view.	UN, TGoNu Partners
	Strengthen the education of young people in the values of peace and peaceful coexistence: It could be said that the current crisis has laid bare the vulnerability of this group in the population of South Sudan. Various forms of incitement lead young people to indulge in looting, killing and other forms of violence.	TGoNu Partners

	RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTER
Short Term	**Identify economic opportunities:** The TGoNu and partners should encourage both men and women to identify economic opportunities aiming to alleviate poverty that is widespread among women and the society in general. As there currently is a lack of support for economic development aimed at men, by supporting both, the government will be able to contribute towards the achievements of lasting peace and reconciliation.	TGoNu, Partners
	Create a coordination mechanism: A coordination mechanism should be put in place to monitor reconciliation initiatives at the community level. A local designee, or organization should make an inventory of the numerous best practices of women with reconciliation initiatives that have not been highlighted in this study with the view of disseminating them within and outside the communities at the same time a system of supporting and motivating best performing women individuals and organizations that have contributed to peace and reconciliation processes and reward them and use their experiences to motivate and educate others because women's contribution to unity and reconciliation remains less visible and recognizable.	TGoNu, Partners
	Gender sensitization: Local authorities should be sensitized on gender as a tool of development. Donors and government officials should facilitate these authorities to access resources and tools to enable them to identify women as agents of peace and reconciliation in communities and building on experience they already have.	UN, TGoNu, Partners
	Identify expert resources: Identify a pool of gender experts (women and men) with knowledge and understanding of women, peace and security and employ them as gender advisers within government departments and/or consultants to national and local government authorities.	TGoNu, Partners
	Capitalize on existing support from local and international partners: Continue to build on the international community's work to strengthen the TGoNuand and local government. Adopt a pragmatic approach to strengthen the TGoNu's ability to collect and analyze WPS data setting clearly delineated goals starting in areas with existing support.	UN, TGoNu, Partners

RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTER
Programmatic-Cross Cutting	
Invest in M&E systems: Well-aligned investments in South Sudan's data systems for WPS, harmonized regular surveys, facility and administrative data reporting systems and strengthening of institutional capacity for measurement of results. The nascent amount of data collection systems and the disjointed efforts in data analysis and use further compound the country's situation and increase its reporting burden. Quality control is essential, but there have been no active investments designed to address the problem. While full integration may not always be the best option, South Sudan could benefit much more with better alignment and greater efficiency of these investments. **Seminars and workshops:** Seminars and workshops for personnel from within the data collection and analysis systems should be scheduled periodically to enable an exchange of views on problems encountered in WPS statistics operations. **Data personnel participation:** Participation at the meetings should be as wide as possible and should include personnel involved in data processing, data retrieval and archiving and persons from outside the systems to promote the introduction of fresh ideas and approaches.	TGoNu, Partners
Increase the visibility and exposure of women's organizations within the study areas: Many initiatives go unnoticed. Women's organizations require support to gain attention from society in general and from participants in formal peace processes in particular. Support would be important to set up or strengthen among networks of women's organizations and gender platforms to advocate gender equality, exchange information and experiences, and mobilize women.	UN, TGoNu, Partners
Research: Conducting research on male identity and reducing negative gender impacts.	UN, Partners
PEACEBUILDING	
Post Conflict Livelihoods Training: Sensitization and training to women and their families about savings plans and joint decision making regarding income coupled with decision making for life after PoCs.	UN, Partners
Market Survey: Conduct market survey in the study areas locations to determine appropriate vocational training programs for women's empowerment.	UN, TGoNu

Short Term

	RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTER
Short Term	**Recruit Leaders:** Train and recruit women and men to stand as candidates for formal political office in village councils, provincial legislatures, and at the national level. An option may be to focus on women who have had little political experience or training but have gained some political experience during and post conflict.	TGoNu, local authorities
	GENDER BASED VIOLENCE	
	Systematize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of SGBV cases by the law enforcement institutions. • Increase capacity of law enforcement and prosecutors to investigate and prosecute SGBV cases. • Increase awareness among justice sector actors of the legal provisions related to gender equality and sexual and gender based violence and applicable Penal Code provisions.	TGoNu, UN, Partners
	Strengthen healthcare system involvement: Strengthen the involvement of the healthcare sector in general referral and information sharing network for cases of GBV.	TGoNu, UN, Partners
	Establish referral protocol: Establishment of referral processes and protocols for service providers of GBV within the study areas.	TGoNu, UN, Partners
	POLICY	
	Develop strategy for post-conflict life: Life skills training is needed for both men and women to empower conflict survivors to develop greater self-sufficiency. Training should address conflict resolution, resolution of issues at community level, and dependency on government and international donors for solutions.	TGoNu, UN, Partners
	Address lack of supports: Lack of support and clear follow up should be addressed by establishing a strong monitoring and evaluation system that will permit the tracking of performance indicators and outcomes and enable the Transitional Government of National Unity and partners to realize the extent to which peace and reconciliation is being achieved and the persistent constraints that require special attention.	TGoNu, UN, Partners
	Community approach: Community-driven reconstruction approaches can provide a unique opportunity to engage local women and men in kick-starting the local reconstruction process and helping to bridge the divide between crisis and development. International agencies can also assist in restructuring, professionalizing, and providing longer-term support to women's CSOs.	TGoNu, UN, Partners

	RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTER
Short Term	**Collaboration at the leadership level:** Women in leadership positions such as cabinet ministers, parliamentarians, private sector operators, civil society leaders, researchers and others should be encouraged and facilitated to work together. Collaboration between female leaders should take place in different forums to help forge close working relationships between leaders and rural women, especially in the area of peace -building and reconciliation.	TGoNu, UN, Partners
	Women's Councils: The TGoNu, and partners should put in place a system of working with women councils, women NGOs and other CBOs to disseminate the message of reconciliation to the community in a practical approach such as functional adult literacy and other integrated community development initiatives.	TGoNu, UN, Partners
	Awareness and Information Awareness Campaigns: Support the / Transitional Government of National Unity through awareness-raising and information campaigns, particularly at the local levels, to ratify, respect, and implement relevant international standards. **Gender-sensitive legislation:** Develop and enforce gender-sensitive legislation at the national level, informing and training women and men on their rights, and encouraging the judiciary to enforce gender-sensitive laws.	TGoNu, UN, Partners
	Prosecute crimes against women: With regard to judicial mechanisms, encourage the criminal justice sector to acknowledge, condemn, and prosecute all crimes committed by women and men against women and men in conflict, and post-conflict situations.	TGoNu, UN, Partners

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Annex I Demographics

Demographics													
Age						**Education**							
	18-24	25--29	30-39	40-49	50+	Do not know	Primary	Secondary	Diploma	University	Currently in School	Other	Do not know
Male	4	15	22	9	5	0	0	12	12	29	0	1	0
Female	12	11	25	20	11	0	19	30	13	6	6	0	4

	Male	Female
Type of Employment		
Government	23	27
NGO	19	11
Business	3	15
Home Worker	1	23
Medical	1	1
Labor	1	1
Other	6	1
None	3	7
Years of Employment		
Less than 1 year	8	8
1 year but less than 5 years	19	17
5-10 years	8	17
More than 10 years	14	28
Marital Status		
Single	10	11
Married	44	45
Widowed	0	19
Divorced	0	3
Other	0	0

Annex II Literature Review

Overview

Throughout South Sudan's history, women have been part of both peace-building and war-making. Yet when it comes to formal negotiation processes and to decision-making processes, they have been largely ignored. This section of the report aims to provide an overview of a small sample of existing literature on women and peace-building in order to evaluate the importance of including women in peace processes within South Sudan. In most cases, women have been excluded from most decision-making processes. This discriminatory tendency started to be reversed in 1949, with "The Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War" the "first modern-day international instrument to establish protections against rape for women".[40] However, discrimination, rape, and lack of protection continued.

Because of this, women's groups and civil society continued to push to put an end to discrimination. As a result, the Convention for Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Convention) was created in 1976. The convention advocated for the need to end discrimination towards women. The CEDAW was a major legal step towards ending discrimination against women. Discrimination tendencies persisted and women groups and civil society continued to advocate for their rights. This led the international community to establish the Beijing Platform for Action (BPA) in 1996. The BPA identified strategic priorities and created necessary actions and strategies to move forward when it came to women's discrimination.

Yet, women continued to be segregated from participation in the peace process. This was especially evident when it came to peace processes in nations with strong patriarchal cultures, where women are almost completely ignored. Attempting to fill this gap the United Nations Security Council established Resolution 1325 in the year 2000 (United Nations Security Council 2000). Resolution 1325 was very significant because it recognized the importance of including women in peace-building processes and all decision-making processes. "The inclusion of women is rooted in the premise that their presence, participation and perspectives will improve the chances of attaining viable and sustainable peace. It is also based on the knowledge that if half the population faces discrimination and violence there can be no peace".[41] Since the creation of Resolution 1325 many analysts and organizations have agreed on the importance of including a gender perspective when it comes to peace-building, and especially of including women in all levels of peace-building processes.[42]

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[40] Theydon Kimberly, Phenicie Kelly, and Murray Elizabeth, Gender, Conflict, and Peace-building: State of the Field and Lessons Learned from USIP Grant making, 2011.

[41] GAPS, UNSCR 1325: The Participation Promise, 2010.

[42] Ibid.

A great challenge facing the world today is the growing violence against women and girls in armed conflict. In today's conflict, they are not only the victims of hardship, displacement and warfare, they are directly targeted with rape, forced pregnancies, and assault as deliberate instruments of war. Women are deeply affected by conflicts, which they have had no role in creating.

Armed conflict and its aftermath affect women's lives in ways that differ from the impact on men. Men in communities under attack tend to abandon public spaces to avoid being conscripted, attacked, or taken hostage. This increases the burden placed on women to hold communities together in the absence of men at war. On the other hand, women as symbols of community and/or ethnic identity may become the targets of extensive sexual violence. Conflict in some places has highlighted the use of rape as a tool of warfare. In Rwanda, women were raped as a means of ethnic cleansing, serving not only to terrorize individual victims but also to inflict collective terror on an ethnic group.

According to the *Conflict and Gender Study – South Sudan*, South Sudan experts have pointed to the progressive socialization or normalization of violence over the past decades." It has further been long noted that this propensity for micro-level violence is 'exacerbated by an abundance of small arms. Today the extent to which extreme levels of violence are accepted as normal within the communities visited during this study striking. Countless respondents noted that this violence has long been there and that they fully expect that it will continue long into the future."[43]

Selected lessons from past local peace-building literature in South Sudan include:

- Local peace-building is no substitute for a national peace agreement, but the stability of a national process depends on addressing local disputes.
- Indigenous traditions are key in the power of local processes to transform conflict, but these are poorly understood.
- Peace is a process – activity focused on isolated 'peace meetings' can undermine the potential of local peace-building.
- Theories of change were not based on evidence from within South Sudan but tended to be cut and pasted from elsewhere.
- Resources were not allocated according to local realities but for ease or speed.
- Funding mechanisms were not sufficiently flexible to respond to changes in political or security dynamics.[44]

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[43] Dr. Catherine Huser, Conflict and Gender Study-South Sudan, 20158.
[44] Christian Aid, In it for the long haul? Lessons on peace-building in South Sudan, 2018.

Women and their roles in conflict

Throughout history women have been seen as passive actors in war and peace. Either they have nothing to do with war or they are victims of it. This idea is embedded in most societies, as could be seen in a conference held in the Wilson Center in January 2013.[45] The Wilson Center is not the only organization or person to believe this. According to research that has been undertaken by the Institute of Collaborative Learning Projects "Many people assume that since women bear children and are their primary caregivers, they are predisposed to be peaceful and reject violence. In reality, neither sex nor gender roles are predictors of peacefulness".[46]

International Alert also confirms this belief: "Globally, men do predominate not only as actors in war but also as perpetrators of violence, practitioners of extreme physical feats, and decision-makers in institutions that underpin violence. Women (with some exceptions) are less commonly engaged directly in combat or violence, yet they support violence in many indirect ways, e.g. by providing services to fighters, through the way they educate their children, and by encouraging men to engage in violence. As such they may be key players in the creation of "murderous ideologies." A review of data from different parts of the world and different historical periods shows that both men and women can be both victims and perpetrators of violence, and both men and women can exert extraordinary efforts, overcoming fearful odds, for peace".[47]

According to the United States Institute for Peace, throughout the last century women have become more and more directly involved in armed conflict: "Over the past century, the nature of armed conflicts has changed. In particular, wars are no longer primarily interstate conflicts arising out of national interests. This reconfiguration has been accompanied by the increased awareness that women are no longer—if they ever were— simply civilians standing on the sidelines or camp followers trudging along (or lying beneath) the soldiers. As Charlotte Lindsey observed, "The assumption that women are vulnerable overlooks the fact that women are more and more frequently taking up arms". [48]

Women therefore do have a lot to do with war. They can be victims, perpetrators, war-resisters, supporters of violence, and peacemakers. Sometimes these roles overlap and women end up playing all roles at the same time. Women account for more than 50% of the world's population and a successful peace process cannot ignore more than half of the population. In order to gain more clarity of women and their roles in war, each of these roles will be analyzed separately.

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45 Wilson Center, The Peace Process in Colombia, 2013.
46 Berwind-Dart Chloe, Issue Paper: Women, Gender and Peace-building: Do Contributions Add Up?, 2012.
47 El-Bushra, Judy, Gender in Peace-building, Taking Stock, International Alert, 2012.
48 Theydon Kimberly, Phenicie Kelly, and Murray Elizabeth, Gender, Conflict, and Peace-building: State of the Field and Lessons Learned from USIP Grant making. 2011.

Women as Perpetrators

When it comes to conflict, women as well as men can be perpetrators or supporters. Their roles in supporting conflict vary. According to Anderlini, "from Bogotá to Baghdad, women are on the front lines of providing services, heading households, caring for the sick and the elderly, and sustaining and ensuring the survival of their families".[49] Women also support war by helping to spread war propaganda, and by, for example encouraging revenge. Even more, women serve men, iron their clothing, cook for them, and perform many other sorts of services that allow warriors to fight. At times, they are warriors themselves. Many times they perform these activities by force, as they are abducted and obliged to be active members of conflict. Yet other times they willingly support the conflict.

Women as Victims

As victims, women's roles vary: Women can become victims by being forced to take a part in conflict. They can also lose their loved ones, or become direct victims of rape, landmines, or explosions among other forms of violence. Additionally, they can lose their land, their household support and be forced to shift their traditional roles in society "Too often women´s roles and positions in society are among the first to be circumscribed. Their employment, their freedom of movement, their dress, and legislation governing their citizenship, as well as a commensurate rise in sexual violence and parallel decline in prosecution of such crimes, are among the earliest indicators of increased social and political intolerance".[50]

Christian Aid's report on South Sudan further states that women have important interests in both war and peace. They also play decisive roles in conflict resolution and in conflict mobilization, within mass movements, as office holders and as informal influencers. As with any other category, peace-builders must go beyond simplistic views of gender and tick-box inclusion to understand, disaggregate and include the specific roles played by organized women's groups and influential female individuals.[51]

While survivors of GBV continue to face daunting obstacles to legal recourse, medical assistance, and social acceptance, prior to the conflict in the last quarter of 2013 some progress on this issue was in evidence. The Government of South Sudan launched a National Gender Policy in October 2013 and individual states were expected to take up the initiative. In November 2013, the legislature voted to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and health services provided by both state governments and non-governmental service providers were being offered throughout the country.[52]

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[49] Anderlini Sanam Naraghi, Women Building Peace: What they do, Why it Matters, 2012.
[50] Anderlini Sanam Naraghi, Women Building Peace: What they do, Why it Matters, 2012.
[51] Ibid.
[52] Ibid.

Successful Regional Projects

A brief overview of projects that have shown success, which are related to women and peace-building, are such that South Sudan can learn from them:

Huts for Peace: Huts for Peace is a community based initiative founded in Uganda, in response to the conflict caused by the Lord's Resistance Army. Women within the community combine limited resources, agree on the person who will be receiving the hut and work together to build the new home.[53]

Women's Peace Huts: This initiative was created in Liberia after the war as women did not have a place to meet and discuss issues affecting the community. The huts were funded by The United Nations. The peace huts are less about a community infrastructure – the physical buildings – but more about supporting and strengthening community dynamics and women's roles in fostering dialogue, mediation, development and seeking justice. [54]

Start Awareness Support Action (SASA!): SASA!, a community mobilization approach, was developed by Raising Voices in Uganda as a community mobilization intimate partner violence (IPV) prevention intervention to reduce overall prevalence of IPV, new onset of abuse (primary prevention) and continuation of prior abuse (secondary prevention). SASA! has been successfully implemented in over 20 countries and most recently was adapted to the situation in Haiti.[55]

MenEngage:[56] Developed by the Sonke Gender Justice (Sonke) which is a South African NGO working across Africa to engage men and boys in achieving gender equality and working specifically to address the intersection of masculinities, violence and HIV and AIDS. MenEngage members exchange ideas and carry out joint advocacy activities in such areas as:

- Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Increasing HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment
- Ending violence against women and girls
- Reducing forms of violence between men and boys
- Preventing child sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and trafficking
- Supporting men's positive involvement in maternal and child health, as fathers or caregivers
- Addressing macro-level policies that perpetuate gender inequalities[57]

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[53] https://www.worldpulse.com/en/community/users/agnes-igoye/posts/37080
[54] http://rightsriceliberia.com/program/conflict/peace-huts
[55] http://raisingvoices.org/sasa/
[56] http://menengage.org/regions/africa/
[57] Ibid.

Annex III Framework

Responding to the needs outlined in the research, the framework addresses a number of key issues relating to women in peace-building: The framework provides an integrated plan of action for implementation of key findings, targets and indicators and key programmatic interventions. The interventions will also contribute to the national reconciliation process and peaceful resolutions through the principles of human rights.

Integrated Plan of Action

Plan for the Study on the Traditional and Changing Role of Gender and Women in Peace-building in South Sudan

Goal: South Sudan's national peace-building efforts advance gender equality and address women's needs.

The objective of the recommendations is to ensure greater participation of women in peace-building and post-conflict planning and to increase the nation's capacity and coordination resources to combat gender violence.

The activities outlined below are assumed to be open to all five study area locations, Bor, Bentiu, Rumbek, Torit and Aweil unless otherwise indicated.

Outcome 1:

Government, local authorities, civil society and existing conflict resolution mechanisms at the community level are strengthened to work towards reconciliation. This outcome is intended to produce the following outputs.

Output 1. Women participate in meaningful policy dialogue

- Scale up programs that encourage and train men and women at the local level in informal peace processes to make the shift toward formal processes and local ownership.
- Involve individual women and women's CSOs actively in post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- Local authorities should be sensitized on gender as a tool of development. Training should be provided in a training of trainers (ToT) format and at a minimum, the ToT should include:

- o Understanding the learning environment
- o Principles of adult learning
  Development of goals and objectives
- o Developing a course outline
- o Lesson plan development,
- o Facilitation and listen skills and course evaluation

- Trainees should include women, and some men, especially those that have been involved in peace education initiatives on voluntary basis. To ensure local ownership, the trainees should also develop their own curriculum that is representative and applicable to the unique needs of their communities.[58]

- Support documentation, analysis, and cross-sharing of women's peacemaking strategies to capture best practices and facilitate the replication of these practices in different conflict-affected areas.

Areas to be included:

- o Key women leaders who participated during the peace process
- o Key platform established and providing strategic and financial support during peace process
- o Key entities/organizations providing technical and financial support to women leaders

- Support organizational strengthening through funding of core activities, not just short term projects.
  - o Funding for follow up training/workshop to determine the implementation
  - o Funding for backstopping support to learners who will be training their communities
  - o Documentation of challenges, case stories and lessons learned for future as evidence based learning and information sharing

- Strengthen the capacity of individual women and NGO's within the study area to bridge the gap between informal and formal peace processes. Additionally, while they have general knowledge of issues, some have a limited understanding of GBV. There is also an urgent

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[58] Additional courses should include: Designing Community Based Dialogue, Good governance, Media and Arts for Peace, Design, Monitoring and Evaluation for Projects/Programs in Fragile Environments, Post-conflict life skills development, Decision making, Facilitation/Moderation (for community meetings), South Sudanese Constitution, Gender Provisions of the Peace Process; such as 35% women's representation in all bodies and institutions established under the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) (Peace Process), International humanitarian law. Genocide. Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes , Other serious crimes under international law and relevant laws of the Republic of South Sudan, Para-legal studies, Human Rights issues, Financial Literacy, Gender responsive Peace process., Effective advocacy and lobbies. , Gender responsive planning, programming and M&E and reporting as outcome with impact. Effective coordination skills. , Analytical skills for Peace negotiation. , Effective and concrete plan of action for Common charted of demand for peace negotiation, Mobilization of National and Local Women CSOs and establishing Common Coordination Platform for Peace negotiation, Sustainable peace is not possible with women involvement – women as an agent of Peace, Positive Masculinities, Land and Property Rights

need to increase their ability to provide much needed services to victims. Strategies include: Supporting organizational strengthening through funding of core activities, not just short term projects.

- o Funding for follow up training/workshop to determine the implementation
- o Funding for backstopping support to learners who will be training their communities
- o Documentation of challenges, case stories and lessons learned for future as evidence based learning and information sharing
- o Training on mobilization and public engagement
- o Working with NGOs to develop branding and outreach messaging
- o Providing training on psychosocial counseling and trauma healing with access to specialized services and legal support;
- o Increasing the number of trained paralegals.
- o Training and other strategies for creating statistical data collection systems

- Training programs provide the knowledge and skills necessary for the efficient performance of the required functions. Through a better understanding by staff of what is expected, errors are reduced and morale is improved. Periodic training and retraining also provide opportunities for the staff to provide feedback on problems and possible alternative procedures and solutions. Continue training for Peace Committee Members and strengthening the capacity of individual women and women's CSOs to bridge the gap between informal and formal peace processes.

- Strengthen the education of young people in the values of peace and peaceful coexistence by including them in this process. Where appropriate, this support should be broadened to other civil society groups that are willing to take on WPS as part of their advocacy and lobbying efforts. To do this it will be necessary to:

  - o Create a coordination mechanism to monitor reconciliation initiatives at the community level and establish monitoring and evaluation systems.
  - o Support documentation, analysis, and cross-sharing of women's peacemaking strategies to capture best practices and facilitate the replication of these practices in different conflict-affected areas.
  - o Mobilize civil, religious and intellectual leaders to spearhead reconciliation initiatives at community (towns and villages) levels.

- Consider Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) community structures as a means to bolster the justice system by providing independent, transparent means of solving minor disputes and also by alleviating some of the courts' heavy caseload.

- Conduct research on male identify and reducing negative gender impacts. This product should include an analysis of the drivers of and obstacles to change.
- Build the capacity at the national level on the development and enforcement of gender-sensitive legislation and encourage the judiciary to enforce gender-sensitive laws.
- International organizations must provide regular feedback to South Sudan on UNSCR 1325-related processes. Where appropriate, this could include seminars and workshops or policy dialogues.
- Create operational structures at national and community levels to collect, analyze and disseminate sex-disaggregated data on WPS and sexual and gender-based violence. This will assist in forming policies and programs.
- Review and potentially revise core indicators of NAP. Review should be conducted to ensure that the NAP is in line with current international obligations.

Strengthen national M&E platforms

Limited data is collected and analyzed by the government and if appropriate, capacity building should be broadened to the local levels through capacity building.Output 2. Knowledge and capacity building

Output 2. Knowledge and capacity building

Building through tailored training and development in the study area locations.
- Training or workshops conducted on government operations, legal obligations, working with constituency, combating corruption and community mobilization. This training can assist in ensuring the participation of women within government positions.
- Support women's involvement through capacity development activities. Where appropriate, this support should be broadened to other civil society groups that are in need of development and training.
- Conduct a labor market survey in order to determine the labor needs of the local economy in order to impact programmatic design for women's empowerment programs.
- Host community meetings to develop locally owned post conflict strategies. This will help to sustain recommendations and encourage support for community-based resolutions.
- Monitor implementation of recommendations to ensure that agreed upon recommendations and actions are implemented and evaluated.

Outcome 2:

Capacity and coordination to combat Gender Based Violence is strengthened. The output for this outcome is improved responsiveness to the needs of GBV survivors in the study area locations through the following strategies:

- Provide training to service providers (special attention to the government) and community-based structure members (as potential entry points) on SGBV, referral pathways.[59]

- Conduct training on proper methods of investigations and prosecution of GBV offenses with the goal of connecting the criminal justice system in providing holistic responses to survivors.

- Enhance community policing efforts to share information and develop referral/assistance mechanisms.,

- If appropriate, implement violence against women response protocols and guidelines for law enforcement and conduct trainings to provide effective response.

- Provide training or workshops to police, prosecutors and judiciary on applicable laws.

- Organize workshops within the study areas to include all GBV service providers and create health service protocol.

- Organization of thematic training workshops on referral processes and protocols for service providers of GBV.

- Training of paralegals to support the work of lawyers, assist at police stations and at court and provide a range of primary justice services to the community.

- As part of the community policing initiative, host quarterly meetings or more frequently as needed and prepare actionable recommendations that should be implemented and monitored. This can complement the intervention under peace-building by enhancing coordination and cooperation at the local level.

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[59] Additional training and workshops to address combating GBV may include: Sexual objectification of women, Dispelling sexual violence myths, Rape in Marriage, Sexual Harassment, Harmful traditional practices and MenEngage.

Results Framework:

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
Government, local authorities, civil society and existing conflict resolution mechanisms at the community level are strengthened to work towards reconciliation	1. Women participate in meaningful policy dialogue	1. Skills of women and government regarding conflict resolution and female participation in the peace process improved	26%[1]	35%	Scale up programs which encourage and train men and women at the local level in informal peace processes to make the shift toward formal processes; and involving individual women and women's CSOs actively in post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction. Local authorities should be sensitized on gender as a tool of development.	• Focus Group Discussions • Field monitoring reports • Staff visits to the study locations • Activity reports from implementing partners • List of workshop/ training participants • Workshop/ training agenda	UNDP & Partners	X		
		2. Number of public meetings conducted and led by women	0	10	Support documentation, analysis, and cross-sharing of women's peacemaking strategies to capture best practices and facilitate the replication of these practices in different conflict-affected areas.	• Focus Group discussions and quantitative KAP survey (base line and end line)	Risk: Fiscal difficulties may reduce level of assistance and support	X		

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsibile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
		3. 2 communities selected & women leaders are documented, participation of at least 1 local government representative per location	0	2			Risk: Fiscal and security factors constrain involvement of implementing partners	X		
		4. Positive shift in attitude, knowledge and practice regarding conflict resolution skills, opinions on peaceful coexistence, perception of women's empowerment regarding participation in reconciliation and reconstruction	440[2] 3[3]	25% increase 6	Continued training for Peace Committee Members and strengthen the capacity of individual women and women's CSOs to bridge the gap between informal and formal peace processes. Strengthen the education of young people in the values of peace and peaceful coexistence by including them in this process.	• Focus Group Discussions • Field monitoring reports • Staff visits to the study locations • Activity reports from implementing partners	UNDP & Partners	X		

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
		5. Number of activities identified following public meetings	1[4]	20% increase	Create a coordination mechanism to monitor reconciliation initiatives at the community level and establish monitoring and evaluation systems.		Risk: Fiscal and capacity development factors constrain involvement of implementing partners. Lack of political will.	X		
		6. Number of developed plans created and implemented from public meetings	1[5]	20% increase	Mobilize civil, religious and intellectual leaders to spearhead reconciliation initiatives at community (towns and villages) levels	• Field monitoring reports, activity reports from implementing partners	UNDP & Partners	X		
		7. National initiative established	0	1	Establish a national initiative that will train men and women in different categories who will in turn impart the knowledge they acquire to those living in rural areas. Identify men and boys as champions of change:	• Project documents	TGoNu, UNDP & Partners			X

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
		8. Number of stakeholders trained (disaggregated by sex)	Data unavailable	25% increase	Provide training to locally engaged community action members on peacebuilding planning and engagement activities.	• Activity reports from implementing partners • List of workshop/training participants • Workshop/training agenda	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal and capacity development factors constrain involvement of implementing partners.	X		
		9. Perception of decreased tension and improved inter-community coexistence	33.3%[6]	40%	Consider Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) community structures as a means to bolster the justice system by providing independent, transparent means of solving minor disputes and also by alleviating some of the courts' heavy caseload.	• Focus Group discussions and quantitative KAP survey (base line and end line)	TGoNu, UNDP & Partners	X		

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
		10. Number of locations where research has been conducted	0	2	Conduct research on male identify and reducing negative gender impacts.	• Research is conducted	Risk: Fiscal and capacity factors constrain involvement of implementing partners. Possible resistance of TGoNu and local authorities.		X	
		11.Number of improvements in South Sudan's implementation of 1325 priorities in national strategies	Data not available	Ongoing	Build the capacity at the national level on the development and enforcement of gender-sensitive legislation and encourage the judiciary to enforce gender-sensitive laws. International organizations provide regular feedback to South Sudan on UNSCR 1325-related processes Creation of operational structures at national and community levels to collect, analyze and disseminate sex-disaggregated data on WPS and sexual and gender based violence. Review and potentially revise core indicators of NAP. Strengthen national M&E platforms through capacity building.	• Project reporting • Advisory group meeting minutes • Activity reports from implementing partners	TGoNU, UNDP Risk: May overlap and be duplication in initiatives supported by other development programs			X

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
	2. Knowledge and capacity building through tailored training and development in the study area locations	1. Number of women and men trained to stand as candidates for formal political office in village councils, provincial legislatures, and at the national level.	0	40	Training or workshops conducted on government operations, legal obligations, working with constituency, combating corruption and community mobilization.	•Activity reports from implementing partners •List of workshop/ training participants •Workshop/ training agenda	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal difficulties may reduce level of assistance and support		X	
		2. Number of women in the drafting of new legislation increases	No data avail-able	20% increase	Support women's involvement through capacity development activities.	•Focus Group Discussions •Field monitoring reports •Staff visits to the study locations	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal and capacity development factors constrain involvement of implementing partners			X
		3. Women's empowerment and job creation programs are expanded.	1	1	Conduct market survey	•Survey Conducted	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal difficulties may reduce level of assistance and support		X	
		4. Number of locations where strategy developed for post-conflict life-need life skills with a focus on women to promote self-sufficiency.	0	5	Host community meetings to develop locally owned strategies. Monitor implementation of recommendations	• Focus Group Discussions • Field monitoring reports • Staff visits to the study locations • Activity reports from implementing partners	TGoNu, UNDP & partners Risk: Fiscal difficulties may reduce level of assistance and support		X	

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
Capacity and coordination to combat Gender Based Violence is strengthened	1.Improved responsiveness to the needs of GBV survivors in the study area locations	1. Number of stakeholders trained (disaggregated by sex)	Data not available	25% increase	Provide training to services providers (special attention to Govt.) and community based structure members (as possible entry points) on SGBV, referral pathways.	• Activity reports from implementing partners • List of workshop/ training participants • Workshop/ training agenda	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal and capacity development factors constrain involvement of implementing partners.	X		
		2. Increased capacity of law enforcement and prosecutors to investigate and prosecute GBV cases.	Data not available	20%	Conduct training on proper methods of investigations and prosecution of GBV offenses. Enhance community policing efforts to share information and develop referral/assistance mechanisms.	• Focus Group Discussions • Field monitoring reports • Staff visits to the study locations • Activity reports from partners • Pre and Post Testing and Evaluations	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal and capacity development factors constrain involvement of implementing partners	X		
		3. Increased number of GBV cases referred to police and prosecution	Data not available	20% increase	Implement violence against women response protocols and guidelines for law enforcement and conduct trainings to provide effective response	• Protocols are drafted, revised and implemented.	UNDP & Partners Risk: Possible resistance to collaborate due to the lack of resources	X		

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
		4. Increased awareness among justice sector actors of the legal provisions related to gender equality and sexual and gender based violence and applicable Penal Code provisions.	Data not avail-able	20% increase	Provide training or workshops to police, prosecutors and judiciary on applicable laws and methods of enforcement.	• Activity reports from implementing partners • List of workshop/ training participants • Workshop/ training agenda • Pre and Post Testing and Evaluations	UNDP & Partners Risk: Possible overlap of projects and initiatives	X		
		5. Number of healthcare facilities in study area that have an increased role in general referral and information sharing networks for cases of GBV.	0	20% of facilities within the study area	Organize workshops within the study areas to include all GBV service providers and create health service protocol.	• Health Service protocol established and implemented. • Field monitoring reports • Activity reports from implementing partners	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal and capacity development factors constrain involvement of implementing partner	X		

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsibile party & risks	S	M	L
		6. Increased capacity of service providers to assist victims of GBV.	Data not available	5 locations	Organization of thematic training workshops on referral processes and protocols for service providers of GBV. Training of paralegals to support the work of lawyers, assist at police stations and at court and provide a range of primary justice services to the community.	• Referral pathways established and implemented • Staff visits to the study locations • Activity reports from implementing partners	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal and capacity development factors constrain involvement of implementing partner	X		
		7. Number of training workshops								
		8. Number of feedback evaluations received by participants	0	1 per government service provider for each location						
		9. Number of Protocols and referral process established								X
		10. Number of local meetings held with actionable recommendations	0	5	As part of the community policing initiative, host quarterly meetings or more frequently as needed and prepare actionable recommendations which should be implemented and monitored.	• Focus Group Discussions • Field monitoring reports • Staff visits to the study locations • Activity reports from implementing partners	UNDP, local authorities & Partners Risk: Lack of political will at local level.	X		

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-Line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
Government, local authorities, civil society and existing conflict resolution mechanisms at the community level are strengthened to work towards reconciliation	1. Women participate in meaningful policy dialogue	1. Skills of women and government regarding conflict resolution and female participation in the peace process improved	26%1	35%	Scale up programs which encourage and train men and women at the local level in informal peace processes to make the shift toward formal processes; and involving individual women and women's CSOs actively in post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction. Local authorities should be sensitized on gender as a tool of development.	• Focus Group Discussions • Field monitoring reports • Staff visits to the study locations • Activity reports from implementing partners • List of workshop/ training participants • Workshop/ training agenda	UNDP & Partners	X		

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-Line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	S	M	L
		2. Number of public meetings conducted and led by women	0	10	Support documentation, analysis, and cross-sharing of women's peacemaking strategies to capture best practices and facilitate the replication of these practices in different conflict-affected areas.	• Focus Group discussions and quantitative KAP survey (base line and end line)	Risk: Fiscal difficulties may reduce level of assistance and support	X		
		3. 2 communities selected & women leaders are documented, participation of at least 1 local government representative per location	0	2			Risk: Fiscal and security factors constrain involvement of implementing partners	X		
		4. Positive shift in attitude, knowledge and practice regarding conflict resolution skills, opinions on peaceful coexistence, perception of women's empowerment regarding participation in reconciliation and reconstruction	4402 33	25% increase 6	Continued training for Peace Committee Members and strengthen the capacity of individual women and women's CSOs to bridge the gap between informal and formal peace processes. Strengthen the education of young people in the values of peace and peaceful coexistence by including them in this process.	• Focus Group Discussions • Field monitoring reports • Staff visits to the study locations • Activity reports from implementing partners	UNDP & Partners	X		

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-Line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
		5. Number of activities identified following public meetings	14	20% increase	Create a coordination mechanism to monitor reconciliation initiatives at the community level and establish monitoring and evaluation systems.		Risk: Fiscal and capacity development factors constrain involvement of implementing partners. Lack of political will.	X		
		6. Number of developed plans created and implemented from public meetings	15	20% increase	Mobilize civil, religious and intellectual leaders to spearhead reconciliation initiatives at community (towns and villages) levels	• Field monitoring reports, activity reports from implementing partners	UNDP & Partners	X		
		7. National initiative established	0	1	Establish a national initiative that will train men and women in different categories who will in turn impart the knowledge they acquire to those living in rural areas. Identify men and boys as champions of change:	• Project documents	TGoNu, UNDP & Partners			X

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-Line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
		8. Number of stakeholders trained (disaggregated by sex)	Data unavailable	25% increase	Provide training to locally engaged community action members on peacebuilding planning and engagement activities.	• Activity reports from implementing partners • List of workshop/ training participants • Workshop/ training agenda	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal and capacity development factors constrain involvement of implementing partners.	X		
		9. Perception of decreased tension and improved inter-community coexistence	33.3%6	40%	Consider Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) community structures as a means to bolster the justice system by providing independent, transparent means of solving minor disputes and also by alleviating some of the courts' heavy caseload.	• Focus Group discussions and quantitative KAP survey (base line and end line)	TGoNu, UNDP & Partners	X		
		10. Number of locations where research has been conducted	0	2	Conduct research on male identify and reducing negative gender impacts.	• Research is conducted	Risk: Fiscal and capacity factors constrain involvement of implementing partners. Possible resistance of TGoNu and local authorities.		X	

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-Line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
		11. Number of improvements in South Sudan's implementation of 1325 priorities in national strategies	Data not available	Ongoing	Build the capacity at the national level on the development and enforcement of gender-sensitive legislation and encourage the judiciary to enforce gender-sensitive laws. International organizations provide regular feedback to South Sudan on UNSCR 1325-related processes Creation of operational structures at national and community levels to collect, analyze and disseminate sex-disaggregated data on WPS and sexual and gender based violence. Review and potentially revise core indicators of NAP. Strengthen national M&E platforms through capacity building.	• Project reporting • Advisory group meeting minutes • Activity reports from implementing partners	TGoNu, UNDP & Partners Risk: May overlap and be duplication in initiatives supported by other development programs			X
	2. Knowledge and capacity building through tailored training and development in the study area locations	1. Number of women and men trained to stand as candidates for formal political office in village councils, provincial legislatures, and at the national level.	0	40	Training or workshops conducted on government operations, legal obligations, working with constituency, combating corruption and community mobilization.	• Activity reports from implementing partners • List of workshop/ training participants • Workshop/ training agenda	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal difficulties may reduce level of assistance and support		X	

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-Line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
		2 Number of women in the drafting of new legislation increases	No data avail-able	20% increase	Support women's involvement through capacity development activities.	• Focus Group Discussions • Field monitoring reports • Staff visits to the study locations	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal and capacity development factors constrain involvement of implementing partners			X
		3. Women's empowerment and job creation programs are expanded.	1	1	Conduct market survey	• Survey Conducted	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal difficulties may reduce level of assistance and support		X	
		4. Number of locations where strategy developed for post-conflict life-need life skills with a focus on women to promote self-sufficiency.	0	5	Host community meetings to develop locally owned strategies. Monitor implementation of recommendations	• Focus Group Discussions • Field monitoring reports • Staff visits to the study locations • Activity reports from implementing partners	TGoNu, UNDP & partners Risk: Fiscal difficulties may reduce level of assistance and support		X	

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-Line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
Capacity and coordination to combat Gender Based Violence is strengthened	1. Improved responsiveness to the needs of GBV survivors in the study area locations	1. Number of stakeholders trained (disaggregated by sex)	Data not available	25% increase	Provide training to services providers (special attention to Govt.) and community based structure members (as possible entry points) on SGBV, referral pathways.	• Activity reports from implementing partners • List of workshop/ training participants • Workshop/ training agenda	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal and capacity development factors constrain involvement of implementing partners.	X		
		2. Increased capacity of law enforcement and prosecutors to investigate and prosecute GBV cases.	Data not available	20%	Conduct training on proper methods of investigations and prosecution of GBV offenses. Enhance community policing efforts to share information and develop referral/assistance mechanisms.	• Focus Group Discussions • Field monitoring reports • Staff visits to the study locations • Activity reports from partners • Pre and Post Testing and Evaluations	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal and capacity development factors constrain involvement of implementing partners	X		
		3. Increased number of GBV cases referred to police and prosecution	Data not available	20% increase	Implement violence against women response protocols and guidelines for law enforcement and conduct trainings to provide effective response	• Protocols are drafted, revised and implemented.	UNDP & Partners Risk: Possible resistance to collaborate due to the lack of resources	X		

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-Line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
		4. Increased awareness among justice sector actors of the legal provisions related to gender equality and sexual and gender based violence and applicable Penal Code provisions.	Data not avail-able	20% increase	Provide training or workshops to police, prosecutors and judiciary on applicable laws and methods of enforcement.	• Activity reports from implementing partners • List of workshop/training participants • Workshop/training agenda • Pre and Post Testing and Evaluations	UNDP & Partners Risk: Possible overlap of projects and initiatives	X		
		5. Number of healthcare facilities in study area that have an increased role in general referral and information sharing networks for cases of GBV.	0	20% of facilities within the study area	Organize workshops within the study areas to include all GBV service providers and create health service protocol.	• Health Service protocol established and implemented. • Field monitoring reports • Activity reports from implementing partners	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal and capacity development factors constrain involvement of implementing partner	X		
		6. Increased capacity of service providers to assist victims of GBV.	Data not available	5 locations	Organization of thematic training workshops on referral processes and protocols for service providers of GBV. Training of paralegals to support the work of lawyers, assist at police stations and at court and provide a range of primary justice services to the community.	• Referral pathways established and implemented • Staff visits to the study locations • Activity reports from implementing partners	UNDP & Partners Risk: Fiscal and capacity development factors constrain involvement of implementing partner	X		
		7. Number of training workshops								
		8. Number of feedback evaluations received by participants	0	1 per government service provider for each location						
		9. Number of Protocols and referral process established								X

Expected outcome	Output	Indicators	Base-Line	Target	Interventions	Data collection	Responsbile party & risks	Time frame short, medium, long term		
								S	M	L
		10. Number of local meetings held with actionable recommendations	0	5	As part of the community policing initiative, host quarterly meetings or more frequently as needed and prepare actionable recommendations which should be implemented and monitored.	• Focus Group Discussions • Field monitoring reports • Staff visits to the study locations • Activity reports from implementing partners	UNDP, local authorities & Partners Risk: Lack of political will at local level.	X		

Annex IV Interview Consent Form

Study the traditional and changing role of gender and women in peace-building in South Sudan

Consent to take part in research

I……………………………………… voluntarily agree to participate in this research study.

I understand that even if I agree to participate now, I can withdraw at any time during the interviews or refuse to answer any question without any consequences of any kind.

I understand that I can withdraw permission to use data from my interview within one week after the interview, in which case the material will be deleted.

I have had the purpose and nature of the study explained to me and I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study.

I understand that participation involves focus group discussions and key informant interviews

I understand that I will not benefit directly from participating in this research.

I understand that all information I provide for this study will be treated confidentially.

I understand that in any report on the results of this research my identity will remain anonymous. This will be done by changing my name and disguising any details of my interview which may reveal my identity or the identity of people I speak about.

I understand that disguised extracts from my interview may be quoted in the report on the study for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

I understand that if I inform the researcher that I or someone else is at risk of harm they may have to report this to the relevant authorities - they will discuss this with me first but may be required to report with or without my permission.

I understand that signed consent forms will be retained by UNDP until the study is finalized.

I understand that I am free to contact any of the people involved in the research to seek further clarification and information.

Signature of research participant -- ----------------

Signature of participant Date

I believe the participant is giving informed consent to participate in this study

-------------- Signature of researcher   Date

Annex V Focus Interview Discussion Questions

Focus Group Discussions (2 Hours)

Introduction: Introduce yourself and explain the ground rules. Describe the nature and extent of confidentiality and anonymity. Your participation is voluntarily and anonymous.

Guidelines:
- Everybody has the right to express their opinion freely, even when it doesn't fit with the responses from other participants.
- There is no right or wrong answer; everybody is entitled to his or her own perspective.
- Please wait for your turn to speak.
- Treat others with respect.

General information – 10 min.
- Please introduce yourselves;
  - o Name (First name only-Participants have option to decline providing their name)

Family composition – 15 min.
- What are the roles of the family members?
  - o What is the typical role of a husband? A wife? Parents and/or in-laws?
  - o How about roles and responsibilities of children? What is the difference between male children and female children?
- What families in your community do not obey these roles – is there any specific profile of people or families that do not follow these norms?
- Since 2013, what are the major differences that you have encountered in the way families function, including family dynamics and the roles and responsibilities of each family member?
- What were the norms (usual behavior) and what was (in) appropriate for each to do?
  - o What position in the family has been transformed the most?
- To what extent are women free to decide about matters that concern them, such as whom to marry, their education path, the upbringing of children, health, inheritance, etc.?

- Thinking about the use of violence/ abuse: do you think violence is more or less prevalent now than it used to be? Is it more prevalent in public settings or private settings?

Attitudes towards violence – 45 minutes

Please use the blank sheets in front of you for the following exercise. We will help you write down any of your thoughts/opinions in case you need assistance.

Extent and characteristics of violence

- How often do people use violence in everyday life?
  - How about in your community? How about in our country?
  - How is the manifestation of violence different in public and private settings?
  - Are violent acts that may occur in private settings unacceptable in public settings, or vice versa? (Possible prompts: arguments/beatings/ scolding of partner/children occur only in private settings?)
  - What type of violence are occurring within the community?
- Why do people use violence? (Possible prompt: do not know how to act differently, to exercise power, are not good with words, cannot express themselves?)
  - What is the profile (socio-economic status, employment status, alcohol abuse, etc.) of people who use violence (perpetrator) in their relationships with others?
- What is the profile (socio-economic status, etc.) of people who are victims of violence (the injured party)?
- How often are wives/women/girls abused in your community?
  - By whom/ How? In what circumstances?
- How do women/men (other members of the family) usually respond to abuse/ violence? Do they deal with it silently, become depressed, take it out on children or others who are inferior to them, in substance abuse, etc.
- Do people feel comfortable talking about violence? Why? With whom?
- If boys/men abuse their partners, why do they do it? Who did they learn it from?
  - In what situations does violence/abuse occur?
- When is the last time you witnessed a violent act? Can you describe the situation?
  - How did you react? How did you feel?
  - How did others react?
  - What is the right thing to do in these situations?

- o Were you able to do what you thought was right to do?
- o What were obstacles that stopped you from doing what you wanted to do?
- Under what circumstances is the use of violence justifiable? Describe a scenario.
  - o In case participants hesitate to describe a scenario, prompt with pre-prepared situations: What if a partner hits/slaps/scolds/is aggressive toward his wife/other female member of the family in public? Is violence against women/girls supported or encouraged? By whom?
  - o What do other family members think about violence against women/ girls?
  - o Is justification of the use of violence dependent on whether it happens in private or public settings?
- What if a man does not respond in the manner that is expected from him?
- What if he does not beat his wife in circumstances when other men would react that way?
  - o How will he be perceived? What will others think of him/say about him?
  - o What if someone close/friend reacts against the violence/abuse? How would this reaction be considered by the perpetrator?

Response to violence
- How is people's response different to violence when it happens in private or public settings?
  - o Do people have more/less tolerance about violent acts in public or private settings?
- Is the use of violence illegal? Do you know if there is a law that prohibits domestic violence? If yes, do you know what the penal sanctions are for domestic violence?
- What could be done to prevent sexual violence from occurring in this community?
- What are some things that you could do?

Peace-building-45 minutes
- Are women within your community engaged in the peace-building process?
  - o If so, in what way(s)?
  - o At what level(s)? (community, regional, national, etc.)
  - o Number engaged?
  - o If not, what are the obstacles for engagement? By whom?

- What are some of the institutions/outlets where women can engage in the peace-building process? (I.e. church, government, community meetings, etc.).
- Are women included in positions of leadership or decision-making within the community?
    - o If so, in what way? Further-how can this be expanded.
    - o If not, what are the challenges? Further-what steps needed to be taken to include women in these roles?
- What is the role of women in conflict resolution?
    - o Has this changed within the past 5 years?
    - o What can be done to include more women in CR responses?
- What activities do women typically undertake in the peace-building process? (I.e. public hearings, negotiation (informal & formal), awareness raising, peace monitors, maintaining order, holding government positions, etc.).
- Has formal training been received for conflict resolution or other areas?
    - o If so, how long and what topics were included?
    - o Who provided the training?
- What steps should be undertaken by women to enhance their roles in contributing to the peace process?
    - o At local level
    - o At regional level
    - o At national level
- How is conflict resolved within the community?
    - o By whom?
    - o Has this changed over the past 5 years?
- If so, how?

Thank you for your participation.

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