



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*



# Impact Stories: Fostering Community Cohesion and Transforming Lives

Peace and Community Cohesion (PaCC) Project  
UNDP South Sudan, 2019



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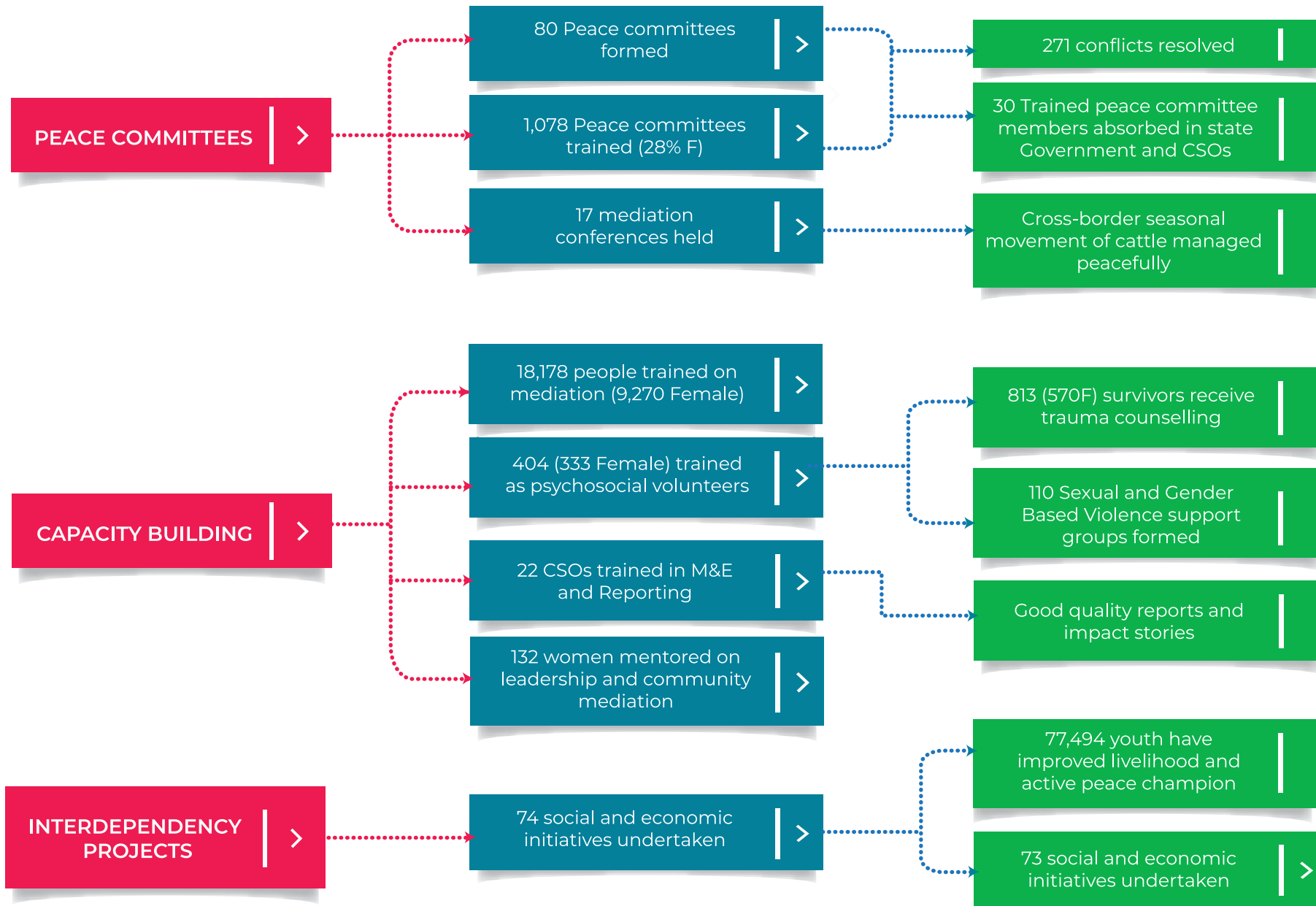
# Reducing Community Conflict And Fostering Social Cohesion and Reconciliation

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UNDP is working with local communities in South Sudan to improve social cohesion and foster reconciliation through creating and sustaining structures for preventing and resolving local conflicts. UNDP's Peace and Community Cohesion (PaCC) project focuses on five conflict cluster locations, with field coordination presence in Aweil, Bentiu, Bor, Rumbek, and Torit. Our peacebuilding work focuses on the interconnectedness of conflict actors, causes and issues, and uses a community-led approach to address differences and equip communities with the tools to resolve conflicts, boost local security, and protect life, business, and property. In each location, community members form local peace committees and receive training in transformational leadership, conflict management, and prevention of gender-based violence. Once formed, local peace committees engage in peace dialogues, conferences and consultations, as well as economic empowerment initiatives and ad-hoc mediation as issues arise in their communities.

Further, PaCC project also strengthens community relationships by identifying and strengthening cultural, social and economic connectors that make communities reliant on each other in times of peace and conflict.

In 2019, the PaCC project realized the following results:



# Community Cohesion

## ***Strengthening Social and Economic Relations Among the Dinka Malual and Misseriya Communities.***

**Location:** Aweil Town

**Conflict Issues:** Cross border seasonal migration of cattle and people

**Key partners:** UNMISS (CAD), FAO and South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission

Mr. Rahama Belai, aged 43 years comes from the Misseriya community, married with four children and living in Merram Town of Western Kordofan state, Sudan. Mr. Belai is involved in cross-border trade, transporting fuel from Merram to Warawar Town of Aweil East state in Northern Bahr el Ghazal region of South Sudan. Insecurity along the border between Sudan and South Sudan had prevented Mr. Belai from transporting fuel from Merram to Warawar Town. Lack of trade made it very difficult for Mr. Belai to meet his family's needs including feeding, clothing, health and education. The insecurity had further caused tension between Dinka Malual and the Misseriya Arab nomads who depended on Aweil East areas for pasture and water for their livestock especially during dry season.

To promote peaceful coexistence among the Dinka Malual and Misseriya communities for peaceful seasonal cattle migration/movement during the dry season, UNDP trained the Joint Border Peace Committee members in transformational leadership and conflict management. Further, with UNMISS, FAO, UNDP and SSPRC supported pre and post-migration dialogue conferences involving peace committee's that resulted in signing of migration agreements.

Through effective monitoring of the implementation of the migration conference resolutions by the Joint Border Peace Committee, incidence of violent conflicts like cattle theft and killing of people has been reduced thus enabling traders like Mr. Belai to earn a living through transporting fuel from Merram to Warawar for sale.

The local community in Warawar has increased access to fuel reducing cost and hardship. This increased access to fuel resulted in more youth engaging in transportation business using motorbikes to enhance their livelihoods (locally known as boda-boda). With very poor road conditions in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) region, most local travelers and traders use boda-boda to access destinations and markets.

**In Mr. Belai's own word:**

*"The current peace between the Dinka Malual and Misseriya is good because I am able to transport petrol all the way from Merram to Warawar for sale. I use the income from this business to support my family, and my children are happier now".*

**Another Misseriya trader in Warawar market, Mr. Feim Mahmoud added that...**

*"I transport food items like sugar and onions from Merram to Aweil East and the road is safer now than five years ago. If an incident occurs involving Dinka Malual and Misseriya Arab nomads or traders, the Joint Border Peace Committee handles it".*

**Michael Aluk, a Dinka Malual trader who runs a shop dealing with medicine has a similar view:**

*"The relative peace between the Misseriya and Dinka Malual has improved relations between the two communities. It gives me an opportunity to do barter trade, for instance, I exchange human medicine for soft drinks, motorcycle spares and petrol brought by the Misseriya traders from Sudan".*



## Building Bridges among Communities in Jonglei and Eastern Lakes

Location: Mingkaman, Eastern Lakes

Key partners: SMARD and Peace Committees from Awerial and Bor Centre



L-R Hon. Maker Thiong, governor of Jonglei and Hon. Mangar Buong, governor of Eastern Lakes signing the Mingkaman communique at Mingkaman, Eastern Lakes @UNDP. August 2019.



Women representatives signing the Mingkaman communique at Mingkaman, Eastern Lakes @UNDP. August 2019.

In February 2019, the communities of Ajuong of Jonglei state and Ador of Eastern Lakes state were involved in violent conflict over territorial disputes of Jorwac and Lietbuoi islands along river Nile's Sudd swamp that resulted in the death of two people and injuries of over 10 others, causing disruptions to transport and fishing activities amongst communities of Terekeka, Eastern Lakes, Jonglei and Fangak on River Nile.

A dialogue organized in August 2019 in Mingkaman by the two states' governments of Jonglei and Eastern Lakes in collaboration with UNDP brought together over 160 members of the community representing: the county governments, the local administration, chiefs, religious actors, advisors to Governors' offices, ministers, members of parliament, Commissioners, youth representatives, women representatives and the traders along the swamp. The delegates discussed the root causes and drivers of the conflict as well as possible solutions for resolving the conflict and for ensuring peaceful coexistence among the communities. While the conflicts have not been fully resolved, it is being managed through the implementation of the resolutions agreed upon.

### **Hon. Ustaz Maker Thiong Maal, Governor of Jonglei State noted that:**

*"We, the people of Jonglei and Eastern Lakes are one people even though sudd becomes a physical barrier that divides us, which we overcame through building bridge of intermarriages that binds us together. As one people, we will always have differences. How to manage these differences is important. Through this dialogue, I hope our communities shall learn to use nonviolence means of resolving future differences so that our unity and social cohesion is not threatened. . ."*

### **Amuou Bol Bul highlighted the role of women noting that...**

*"We the mothers of the children who are killed in senseless conflict feel the pain, and we are always happy for such forums that promote peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution through nonviolence means. Please men! let this peace hold."*



# Empowering Women



## Mama Mariam John Starts a Food Kiosk in Pibor

Location: Pibor

Issue: Women Empowerment

Key partners: Upper Nile Youth Mobilization and Development Agency

To support women quest for peaceful communities, UNDP trained women in conflict management and women empowerment. The women noted that lack of economic means is a major handicap for participation. UNYMDA with support from UNDP distributed livelihood start-up kits to two women groups in Pibor County of Boma State to enable them start small scale businesses after they went through intensive training on small scale business management. Mama Mariam John, 53 years widow, was one of the beneficiaries who started a food.

*"Life was very bad before getting this support, because I did not have any one to help me in supporting the family since my husband was killed during the 2014 conflict. Before the support, it was a very hard for me, because I used to get supplies I needed for the restaurant on credit from the traders in Pibor market. sometimes they would refuse to give me on credit or give me less quantities than I needed because of using credit. Often times, I worked the whole day just to repay the credit in the evening with little or no profit.. But now what was given to me by UNYMPDA has acted as my capital for the business. . ."*

**Mariam's restaurant prepares local food such as meat, bamia, Kudra, with bread, Kisra and rice.**

**When asked how her life has changed since the training, Mariam smiles and says;**

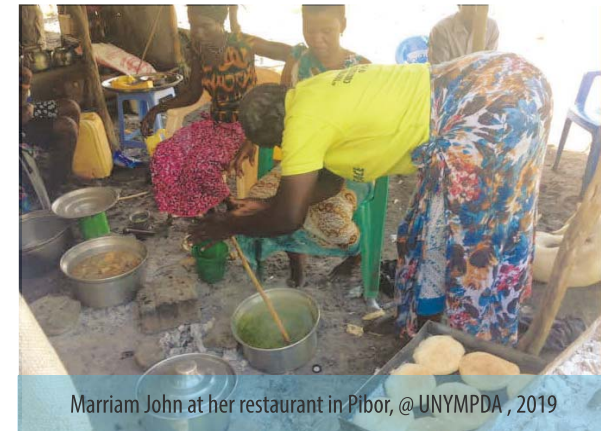
*"...My family can now have two meals a day, I am able to afford treatment for the children when they suffer from malaria, we are able to pay school fees and buy books and pens. I can afford sugar for tea in the family because of the profit from the business. I have also been able to do some small savings. I also feel like I am human. I can speak in front of people. Being able to provide for my family has given me confidence in my life. I can talk about peace since I am now respected. I am treated like a human being.*



Atong Kuol (left) and Nyingong Aher (right) preparing peanut butter in Maper Market.



Mrs. Regina Achok selling her peanut butter, RACBO-SS @2019



Marriam John at her restaurant in Pibor, @ UNYMPDA , 2019

## Social Cohesion through Peanut Butter production

Location: Aweil

Issue: Value Addition

Key partners: RACBO

The Communities of Maper and Nyalath Payams in Aweil State, Northern Bahr el Ghazal region of South Sudan have had local disputes over access to resource rich areas of Nyalath which provide natural resources such as grass and poles for constructing houses and farmland for cultivation. This dispute has strained the relations between the two communities. With the support of UNDP through RACBO, the women of these locations started women groups to promote social cohesion. The women groups requested UNDP to support value addition of basic farm products to generate income.

The support was channeled through the Maper and Nyalath Women group composed of 30 women aged between 28 to 45 years who are producing peanut butter and selling in Maper and Nyalath Markets. The women regularly meet to discuss community issues and to strengthen relations, further sowing seeds of better relations amongst the two communities in Maper and Nyalath.

*"...We used not to work together, now the women of Nyalath and Maper are able to treat and feed their children using income from producing and selling peanut butter", Anqueth Akot the Chair of the group observed."*

**The Deputy Chairperson of the group, Ayak Atak who lives in Maper Payam also added :**

*"We did not know each other, we were not organized and could not visit each other but now, group members from Nyalath and Maper communities are interacting better- our men are learning from us on how to live together".*

**The groups has now started table banking scheme. Mrs Atak, explains:**

*"Each group member contributes SSP 1,000 every month and we have raised SSP 200,000, within a period of six months (May – Oct 2019), we have saved SSP 100,000 and shared SSP 100,000 among the 30 members of the group and the women have used this money to support their families".*

**These funds have been used to help members as start up capital as explained by Nyingong Aher, a group member, aged 30 years and a mother of 3 children added:**

*"I received SSP 5,000 and some groundnuts from our group savings that enabled me run a tea making business as an additional source of income. Now I generate a daily income of SSP 1,400 which I use for feeding, clothing, and footing medical bills of my children".*

## Mama Rebecca Income Generation in Bor

Location: Bor  
Issue: Women Empowerment  
Key partners:

Mrs. Rebecca Ajak Ayiik who is 55 years runs one of the best upcoming restaurants in Bor Town, Jonglei state. She comes from Twic North of Wernyol County of Jonglei state. She is married with 6 children. Before establishing her business, she was a housewife, with family income dependent on the male members of the household – elder sons and husband.

*“The income was too little to cater for all the households needs and education for my younger children. Some basic needs became a luxury as I sometimes go for years without buying myself new clothes” Mrs. Ajak explained.*

Rebecca was nominated as a peace committee member and underwent the transformational leadership, peace and conflict management training for Bor Centre peace committee. During the training Rebeca learnt from the facilitators that it is difficult to be a transformational leader without economic independence. She learned basic entrepreneurship skills that motivated her to start a small business.

Rebecca is running a successful business that employs 15 staff. With her new income, she is empowered to make decision she could not make before as a housewife. She supports the education of her last three children: one in university of Juba, another in university in Egypt and the last one who is still in high school in Juba. She is also helping other women to start something for themselves.

*“I have mentored three women: Akuotdit, Ayendit and Yar to become entrepreneurs. These women were my staff 9 months ago when I newly established my business. They worked closely with me and quickly learnt the skill on financial management, and through their little wages, each of them started up their little business. The spirit of sharing knowledge as we learn from NGOs and partners like UNDP is what I am implementing.” Mrs Ajak explained with a smile.*





## **The Collective Strength – Women Group Peanut Butter Production in Marial-baai**

**Location:** Marial- Baai, Aweil West County

**Issue:** Women Empowerment

**Key partners:** RACBO

Regina Achok John, aged 38 years, like many other women in her community was a subsistence farmer who cultivated mostly sorghum and vegetable seeds particularly okra and pumpkin which she used only for her household consumption and saved other seeds/crops for the future planting. What Regina cultivated was insufficient to meet the needs of her family of 10, for instance, medical costs and school fees for her children.

The business start-up capitals to women's group in Marial-baai provided by RACBO with support from UNDP's Peace and Community Cohesion (PaCC) was timely. Regina is a beneficiary and serves as the Secretary General for Peanut Butter Production Women Group in Marial-baai of Aweil West County. Her group was provided with 2 groundnut millers with their 2 generators, 2 sacks of unshelled groundnuts, 8 liters of engine oil, 1 jerrican of diesel oil, and 2 ruled counter books for business records and a briefing training on basic business skills.

Regina explains that...

*““ Since the time I started working in the market as a peanut butter production women group's member, my life and my family's life have now improved. The lives of the group members have also improved. For instance, we can now support our families in term of treatment and children's school fees...”*

Regina recommended that more support to women in Marial-baai County of Aweil West should be considered, because countless number of women are loitering around, and they can help their households when they get business start-up capitals like the group that Regina is member.

## Woman Breadwinner in Panyagor Can Now Support Her Family

**Location:** Panyangor, Twich East  
**Issue:** Women Empowerment  
**Key partners:** UNMPDA

Ayen Deng is a widow, 30 years old, supporting a family of 8 in Panyagor town, Twic East County, Jonglei State. She explains,

*"...As a widow, the situation I was in was so bad, I depended a lot on farming, getting money was hard and even feeding and buying things like salt and sugar was difficult. I would only get money sometimes during the harvest period, which is once a year."*

Things have changed for Ayen, she now runs a tea cafeteria. She has benefited from maize, sugar, small plastic tables and chairs with value of 15,000 SSP given to her by UNYMPDA with support from UNDP. This support was accompanied by business management training.

*"..before I opened my business, my income was zero but now I get an average profit of 15,000 SSP in a week and my capital has increase to 90,000 SSP.... I am now able to manage my business, pay rent for my tea place, build a house with local materials at my home, pay school fees of my children and take care of their treatments."*

## Women at the Heart of Social Economic Interdependency

**Location:** Mingakaman  
**Issue:** Women Empowerment  
**Key partners:** SMARD

The 2013 conflict took the lives of husbands of some women in Awerial and these women became sole bread winners for their families. These widows are left with school going children and have no source of income to raise school fees for their children and to also meet their families' basic needs.

Realizing that post conflict reconstruction efforts are sustainable when women are included, SMARD in collaboration with UNDP supported the formation of four women tailoring groups in 2019, of sixty (60) widows and survivors of GBV in Awerial, Yirol West, Yirol East and Tali counties (15 women per group).

Today in Awerial, the lives of women tailoring groups have changed greatly. They now make more income ranging from 20,000 SSP to 25,000 SSP monthly per woman tailor. As a result, they contribute to the group saving box, 1,000 SSP per person monthly. This has also enabled them to maintain their tailoring machines and to buy big of rolls of cattle camp clothes for sewing and for sale as well as buy more machines for members of the group who do not have them.

Because of this empowerment, the women are now able to make clothes for themselves, for their children and for the relatives. They are also able to buy basic needs like food, soap, medicines and water for their families as well as pay their children's school fees.



Amour Mangar, a beneficiary of the support explains that...."Our lives as Awerial women tailoring group has changed completely because we provide for our own needs and our children's needs such as cloth, shoes, food, medicine and soap. Stress levels have reduced greatly."



# Re-integrating ex-combatant youth

## *Jervas John, I am not Ex-Combatant , I am Carpenter!*

Location: Masia, Yambio

Issue: Re-integration

Key partners: RDAA

Jervas John, a 23 years old male carpentry trainee from Tiindoka area is a father of 3 children. He is an ex-combatant, and one of the selected trainees who are undergoing advanced carpentry training at St. Joseph Carpentry and Joinery Workshop, a project by RDAA with support from UNDP.

After undergoing the training, Jervas and other members of the Asanza Carpentry youth group established their own carpentry workshop, although they continue undergoing their training at St. Joseph Carpentry and Joinery Workshop. The group now has customers who give them contracts for making item like doors, windows, office chairs and tables among others. Now Jervas' life and that of the group has significantly improved, he is self-employed.

**He explains;** *"Don't call me an ex-combatant, I am a carpenter... I cannot be tempted or deceived by any person to join any criminal group anymore, because I am now economically settled and stable. My living condition has improved and I am able to provide basic needs for my families."*

**He further explains that;** *"...Such opportunities in the community has enlightened and changed the mind-set of the people, about those who were in the bush or those who joined rebel groups and have come back and settled in the communities. Because they are engaged in ordinary work, nobody is suspicious of them any longer. This has contributed to reintegration of the ex-combatants as well as peaceful coexistence in Yambio County.."*



# Changing the Narrative – from War to Peace- through Creative Arts



## Youth and Positive Imagery in Bentiu

**Location:** Bentiu and Rubkona

**Issue:** Changing the Narrative

Bentiu is one of the towns most affected by the war in South Sudan and the Rubkona Protection of Civilians (POC) site was home to more than a 100,000 displaced people. The peace champions/ peace committee members in Bentiu and Rubkona were trained by UNDP on videomaking and photography to enable them to document the positive narratives of everyday lives of people of Bentiu beyond conflict.

Eida Osama Mayian, 21, a youth leader and trainee from the POC who benefited from the training on photography and videography expressed how she intends to use the skills....

*"According to my plan, I will shoot a video about the football and volleyball games which are bringing the youth together in a peaceful way. Peace is important to us."*

**Gai Manythot Garwich, 34, Member Youth Peace Committee from Bentiu Town also explains that.....**

*"After video training, we have learnt the new ways of sharing our stories and being open. This has built our confidence and team working skills."*

Youth are now promoting peace and reconciliation, transforming perceptions and even earning some income through short films and photography depicting the positive side of the life in the State. In November 2019 for instance, they earned SSP 30,000.



# Promoting Social Cohesion through Sports



## Wrestling for Peace

**Location:** Yirol

**Issue:** Social cohesion among cattle camp youth

**Key partners:** Solidarity Ministries Africa for Reconciliation and Development (SMARD)

There has been a lot of tension among the communities of greater Yirol due to the conflict between the Ciec and Atuot communities over grazing lands, river banks and cattle camps ownership rights. There has also been random revenge killings and cattle raiding amongst the Kuanydit and Kuanythi communities.

Wrestling as a traditional sport is one of the uniting factors in the communities of Awerial, Yirol West and Yirol East. Wrestling matches that normally attract a lot of people boost social interactions among the communities of Greater Lakes.

Solidarity Ministries Africa for Reconciliation and Development (SMARD) and UNDP organised a series of wrestling events to cement relations between the different cattle camp youth in Yirol, which culminated in the celebration of International Day of Peace through a grand wrestling event in Yirol. The celebrations were attended from all over Yirol counties, Tali and Bor. For many involved, Wrestling for Peace was more than just about winning and losing.

### **The Governor of Eastern Lakes State Mangar Buong emphasized that...**

*"Yirol is home of peace and we should always stick to peaceful means of resolving our social differences."*

### **Gabriel Modol, Awerial County wrestling committee member and lead referee of the competition also reiterated that...**

*"We are here for promoting peace and peaceful coexistence."*

*"This event is important as it brings people from Yirol and Awerial together, to meet and interact in a place that allows understanding. Now when [the spectators and wrestlers] return to their homes, they will remember the people they met here. ..."* **said Sibet Jenena, a Yirol wrestling manager.**

A series of wrestling events have since been conducted among the communities in Greater Yirol which have improved their social interactions because the wrestling events there is free movements across community borders.

## **Sports Bringing Youth from Bentiu Town, Rubkona and Bentiu POC Together**

*"Conflict has caused hard conditions including many dying due to revenge killings, pregnancy of young girls, loss of cultural norms and loss of properties. People have lost confidence among themselves and simple issues escalate in to violence, putting sub-clans against each other." Philip Moun, the State Sports Chairman in Northern Liech Bentiu explains.*

Mr. Moun lives in Bentiu Town close to the protection of civilian (POC) site under United Nation Mission in South Sudan (UN-MISS). The POC has hosted over 100,000 civilians displaced (Internally Displaced Persons - IDPs) from all former Unity State counties since the start of the conflict in 2014.

Phillip has been motivated by the activities of the youth in the POC and became engaged in a series of meetings with the youth leaders to discuss how both the youth in the camps and in those in Bentiu town can be engaged in sports for peace. Encouraged by the peace efforts of the youth, the Action for Conflict Resolution (ACR) with support from UNDP started supporting youth sports activities in 2018, as one way of strengthening social cohesion. The support provided in form of sports equipment has helped about 205 young men and 80 young women to sustain their teams and reconnect with each other after the conflict divided them.



*"During the conflict, brothers and sisters were put against each other, but football makes them play together. Sports is one of the tools we are using to reconnect the youth in Bentiu town with those in IDP camp. It keeps us busy and helps us forget our differences." says Phillip.*

**Phillip further explains that** *"...because of the intervention on youth engagement in sports for peace and meetings, the youth continues working together in rebuilding their social relations. Some players who come from POC now spend more time with the youth in Bentiu Town and Rubkona, unlike before, where the youth from POC would immediately go back to the camp after the sports."*

# Innovation and Community Media for Peace

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## Telling Peace and Development Stories through Information Technology

Location: Juba

Key partners: Go Girls ICT Initiative

Meet Emmanuela Khalil, Primary Eight pupil who sat for her Primary Leaving Examination in November 2019 and is looking forward to joining secondary school. Emmanuela has been a mentee with GoGirls ICT Initiative for the past two years, she joined the program in 2018 through her school, which focuses on giving opportunities to the most vulnerable. After 18 weeks of mentorship, Emmanuela and her classmate emerged the best group from her school with their idea of illustrating through technology, the importance of agriculture in boosting our economy. Both Emmanuela and her classmate received the school fees package for one year including scholastic materials and hygiene kits which enabled her to finish Primary Leaving Education in 2019. During the school follow up on her performance, Emmanuela was among the best five in her school.

Emmanuela lives with her grandmother who constantly visited the University of Juba, STEM and Vocational center to see what Emmanuela Khalil was learning.

*"From the time when Emmanuela was five years old, I have single handedly taken care of her and her younger brother till today. Emmanuel performs well in class and she needs support to keep her in school. I don't want her to give up on her education, I will do anything within my power to protect her and that's why I call her mentors to find out if she is attending the program and I also visit to see it for myself." **Grandma Christine explains.***

**Meeting with Christine Kasiano Mungu, Emmanuela's grandmother who advocates for girl child education .**

## Listeners' Clubs - A Woman's View on Everyday Peace and Social Cohesion

Location: Torit

Key partners: Community Media Network of South Sudan (COMNETSS)

*"I am Angelina Ayaa, a resident of Mairo residential area, Torit. I came from a very conservative community. In my community women are not allowed to talk about community issues.*

*Through the CoMNeTSS project supported by UNDP, I have been enlightened that my voice as a woman is the same as man's voice and needs to be heard. I have always thought that speaking in public and leadership is a preserve of men and that our male counterparts have the monopoly of choosing leaders and talking in public. I am even surprised that today most of our chosen leaders in the listeners' club are women', a group that further enlightens citizens on the social cohesion and wellbeing of the society.*

*I want my children, brothers, sisters and husband to live in a peaceful society. This can only happen when we join hands together as one people. I would gain comfort and peace of mind when my children are going to school regularly, when we are allowed to cultivate our gardens without fear and when the country is developing peacefully."*

# Community Interdependency

## Youth Peace Center Unites Young People

Location: Bentiu

Key partners: Northern Liech Youth Union

Tensions between the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the Protection of Civilians (POC) sites and host communities in Bentiu and Rubkona towns have kept many IDPs from returning. UNDP brought youth of both locations together and engaged them in innovative youth integration activities. In just a year, interaction through sports and cultural activities have built bridges and trust between the youth in the POC and outside the POC, transforming them into active peacebuilders. In May 2019, UNDP completed the construction of a youth peace center to solidify the positive relations. The center provides a source of income for the youth running it. It is also a neutral space to foster engagement and exchange between the youth of Rubkona county.

*"The center has given us (youth) identity, we did not know what our role was? where to sit? what to do? Now this place (youth center) is our symbol of unity".* **Mr. Riak Yoanise, 29, Secretary, Youth Union.**

*"The youth in Bentiu and the youth in Rubkona should continue to work together in the management of the new center, for the betterment of our area and unity"* **Mr. Matob Ruai-Wang, Chairman, Youth Union.**





# Transforming Lives



## Escaping Attempted Rape and Early Marriage

**Location:** Korok East Payam, Aweil North

**Key partners:** RACBO

Mary (Not her real name), an 18 years old primary school student from Mangok Kuach Ngor Payam of Aweil East County, moved to Korok East Payam of Aweil North County in 2016 to support her elder sister with the household work even as she went to school. Mary goes to Korok East Primary School and is now in class seven (7).

Mary was in relationship with a 23 years old young man from Korok East since 2017. The two used to go out during night drum (also referred to as night dancing) and on 18th May 2019, her boyfriend wanted to have sex with her and she refused. However, the boyfriend insisted ..... *"I am not joking with you, I really need to have sex with you today and if you do not agree, I will use force to get it done..."* Mary still did not agree.

The boyfriend tried to force himself on Mary, threatening her with a knife and touching her private parts. Mary started crying and shouting until her voice was heard by people who were seated nearby, who then rushed in to rescue. The two of them were taken to the head of night drum in the area for protection and further investigation. The following morning, their parents were informed about this incident and Mary's close relative (boys) wanted to take revenge by raping a sister of Mary's boyfriend, but they were stopped by the community members.

The area chiefs, the head of night drum as well as parents of Mary and her boyfriend came to the conclusion that Mary should get married to the boyfriend, but Mary was not interested in getting married at an early stage.

To the aid of Mary, the Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Psychosocial Support (PSS) group members formed by RACBO in partnership with UNDP with support from the Government of Sweden heard about the incident and intervened. The SGBV & PSS group first asked for Mary's consent to allow provision of counselling services. The SGBV & PSS group also took the incident to the court as per Mary's decision, she did not want to get married. In court, the case was ruled that the boyfriend be arrested for 6 months and fined 5,000 SSP for attempted rape and use of force, to be paid after 6 months period when he gets released.

With counselling services from SGBV & PSS group members in the area, Mary is now staying with her family and has gone back to Korok East Primary School.

**She expresses appreciation saying that...** *"without the SGBV & PSS group in the area, I could have been forced to get married when young to that boyfriend whom I had less interest in getting married to."*

Mary also pointed out that, *"...ending violence against women and girls in my community is not an easy task because our culture that believes in taking women and girls as properties of men."*



## Masia Group: Tailors' Transformation from Unemployment

Location: Masia, Yambio

Key partners: RDAA

As a result of the conflict, development in Masia area was interrupted resulting to women, youth and ex-combatants in Masia area facing lack of employment and idleness making many women vulnerable to domestic abuse by their husbands, getting into prostitution in the town.

RDAA with funding from UNDP has been supporting these vulnerable youth, women and ex-combatants in Masia with livelihood interventions like tailoring and carpentry since January 2017. The 2019 scaled up project continued to strengthen the old and start new groups for self-reliance and to create peace and social cohesion by giving these people vocational skills with start-up kits to better their lives and those of their families.

### "Teresa Ali testified that "...

*I was unemployed and very stressed because of my children's school fees. But since I joined the Masia self-help group, we were given our initial capital and I don't regret joining the group because my life has changed for better. We have gotten more customers, we have made bed sheets and kitenge dresses and sold all of them. I am paying for my two children to go to school and my stress is gone now. I even buy food at home for my children. I know how to make clothes and mend them as well."*

Compared to where they started, Masia group started with initial start-up kit of 69,000 SSP from RDAA, they now boast of 180,000 SSP ( 73,000 SSP already in their group bank account) in just the last two quarters of 2019. They have bought 2 new sewing machines to enlarge their business and one bicycle to ease transportation of their products to Yambio town.



## Moses uses Personal Life Experience in Dingding, Rubkona to Transform Lives

**Location:** Dingiding Rubkona

**Key partners:** Hope Restoration South Sudan (HRSS)

Mr. Moses Mut Geil, 39 years old now, fled Sudan in 1999 to pursue a dignified life in a peaceful environment. As a refugee, he lived in a community house in Khartoum, obtained further education and waited for a peaceful South Sudan. In 2007, Moses' father forced a marriage on him to draw him back from Khartoum. The girl was also forced to marry Moses without her consent. After paying the dowry for the girl, the father decided to send Moses' wife to Khartoum with Moses brother. Moses rejected the wife, however, intervention from his colleagues made Moses to accept her. Moses remained unhappy, started beating his wife every day. Later on, Moses came back to Dingding, Rubkona County, Bentiu in 2011, but the relation between them remain bad.

In July 2019, Hope Restoration South Sudan (HRSS) with the support of UNDP delivered a training on Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution, Gender Based Violence (GBV) which changed Moses' life. During training challenges of GBV, early and forced marriages were discussed, which highlighted that child and non-consensual marriages are a big challenge in South Sudan. Being part of the trainees, Moses used this platform to narrate his story.



After completing the training in July 2019, Moses explained that, *"...His life has changed completely because of the training and awareness provided. ...."*

Although at the beginning it was not his choice to marry his wife, but because of the training, he realized that the right of any person whether men or women are equal. *"Therefore, I am nice to my wife", He says.*

**In October 2019, when HRSS visited DingDing and met Moses` and his wife Nyakuoth Chuol, she said, "I am very delighted that my husband is a changed man, my life was hell since we start living together, but now life is different, we are happy, and our children are happy too".**

# INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE TO CONSOLIDATE PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

Theme :  
**Strengthening Community  
Relations and Cohesion  
Through Dialogue**

*Implemented by*  
Institute of Peace,  
Development and Security Studies (IPDSS)  
University of Juba

*In Collaboration with*  
University of Bahr el Ghazal, Dr. John Garang Memorial  
University of Science and Technology and  
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