



# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

October - December

2024

## Table of contents

<b>Message from the UNFPA Officer in Charge.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Foster a culture of equality and violence-free for women and girls - 16 Days of Activism.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Norway commits additional 3.6 million USD for Obstetric Fistula management – restoring dignity of women and girls in South Sudan.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Achieving last mile assurance of condoms to truck drivers and Boda-boda riders, thanks to People of Hope (SSNeP+).....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Solar Light, Brighter Nights, Illuminating Hope, UNFPA hands over solar powered lanterns to women and girls in Juba IDP, thanks to Panasonic.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Empowering young South Sudanese to drive positive change in face of climate shocks.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Open House – showcasing the transformative outcomes of UNFPA programs to stakeholders .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Transforming Lives: Stories from the UNFPA Open House in South Sudan.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Launch of a resilience support project for fragile communities, thanks to KOICA.....</b>	<b>21</b>



## Message from UNFPA Officer in Charge



**Ms. Esperance Fundira - OIC**

Dear esteemed readers,

As 2024 comes to an end, it is my pleasure to share with you the final quarterly newsletter for the year (October to December). During this last quarter of the year 2024, UNFPA cast the spotlight on transforming the lives of women and girls; empowering young people; and providing assistance to those affected by humanitarian crises.

We are ending the year with renewed effort and commitment to improve women's health and dignity. It is worth noting that, the Government of Norway has committed 3.6 million dollars to support the UNFPA Fourth Country Programme with a significant portion of these funds earmarked for the Obstetric Fistula prevention and management programme in South Sudan, while the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has committed 4.5 million U.S dollars to provide life-saving and integrated Sexual and

Reproductive Health and Gender Based Violence services. To further strengthen our partnerships, UNFPA also hosted an open house event that brought together our donors, implementing partners, the general public and more importantly our beneficiaries. UNFPA is also working with the National Bureau of statistics in preparation for conducting Census.

UNFPA continues its quest to respond to those affected by crisis and other natural disasters in different parts of the country. A total of 326,017 people were reached with Integrated Gender Based Violence and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights services. UNFPA also procured 2,775 Dignity Kits; as part of GBV risk mitigation efforts to vulnerable women and girls, in addition to Supporting the GBV service mapping and updating of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and referral pathways in Rubkona, Pibor, and Aweil East to enhance GBV service provision.

As we look ahead to 2025 which comes with promise and hope for the people of South Sudan, I take this opportunity to thank the government, our partners and donors. UNFPA remains committed to deliver a South Sudan where a very pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. I also sincerely thank the UNFPA staff for their dedication in helping deliver this mandate.

## Foster a culture of equality and violence-free for women and girls - 16 Days of Activism



*Hon. Angelina Teny, Hon. Aya Benjamin Warille, Anita Kiki Ghebo, DSRSG/HC/RC and the UN family during the launch*

Women and girls comprise the highest percentage of reported gender-based violence (GBV) incidents in South Sudan. The Country's unique socio-political and cultural context creates significant challenges in addressing GBV. The ongoing conflicts coupled with severe flooding that leads to displacements, and economic decline worsen the already widespread violence against women and girls but also men and boys underscoring the need for context-specific approaches to tackle GBV. Negative social and cultural norms further complicate these issues. As a result, existing vulnerabilities have been intensified including intimate partner violence leaving deep physical and emotional scars on survivors, child marriage and forced marriage also remain prevalent, leaving women and girls disproportionately affected by various forms of GBV.

South Sudan's launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence aligned with the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE campaign, a global movement that galvanizes individuals, organizations, and governments to raise awareness, advocate for policy change, and share effective strategies to end gender-based violence (GBV). The national campaign presented an opportunity for all partners to reflect on the alarming GBV situation in the country and call upon everyone to stand in solidarity with survivors, advocate, and renew commitment to ending this pervasive human rights violation which is deeply rooted in South Sudan.

Gracing the launch, Minister of Interior Angelina Teny called for incorporation and implementation of the bill of rights and other legal frameworks protecting the rights of women and girls to address gender-based violence in the country.



The laws of South Sudan provide for the protection of women and girls against discrimination, forced marriage and gender-based violence. The Transitional constitution stipulates that women shall be accorded full and equal dignity however these legal provisions are often misinterpreted or ignored.

*“If we are to make a difference in this activism, I would urge that we look into a whole legal sector and see gaps. Our constitution is very advanced because it adopted the bill of rights, we cannot get more comprehensive than the bill of rights”* Hon. Angelina said.

To achieve safer environment in South Sudan especially homes that are free of violence and promote gender equality, it requires the engagement of government, support from international organizations, civil society, communities including duty bearers, and individuals themselves.

*“The UN is committed to advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls in South Sudan. Multisectoral coordination is vital for effective GBV prevention and response, collective efforts and making practical commitment is essential for building a more peaceful country for all.”* said Anita Kiki Ghebo, DSRSG/HC/RC. Kiki also noted that the current funding level for GBV interventions in a humanitarian setting is only 41% of the required amount for 2024, a significant decrease



Minister, of Interior HoAngelina Teny Speaking during the event

from the 61% coverage in 2023. She called on donors to enhance their collaboration and allocate more funding for GBV interventions.

In her remarks, Aciro Lucy, the chairperson of the Women Led Organizations said, *“We cannot stand by while women and girls rights are violated, and their potential denied within homes and communities where we expect protection”*. She called up on government to enact laws, men and boys to actively confront harmful behaviors and become agents of change. Aciro added that community engagement involving traditional leaders and women’s groups, particularly through women-led organizations and civil society groups, is vital for reshaping perceptions and fostering a culture of respect and equality.

*“Our national theme emphasizes that ending gender-based violence requires a collective effort. It requires us to challenge harmful social norms, to empower women and girls, and to provide comprehensive support to survivors.”* said Hon. Aya Benjamin Warille, Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare.

All speakers encourage stakeholders that beyond the 16 Days of Activism, uniting to build a future - a South Sudan where all women, girls, boys and men can live free from violence and thrive.



16-days of activism in pictures



## Norway commits additional 3.6 million USD for Obstetric Fistula management – restoring dignity of women and girls in South Sudan



*H.E Roar Haugsdal, the Norwegian Ambassador to South Sudan and Ms. Esperance Fundira - OIC after the signing*

The Norwegian Embassy in Juba signed a contribution of an additional funding of approximately 3.6 million USD to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to support Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) initiatives in South Sudan. Of this, the big portion of this funding is earmarked to addressing obstetric fistula, a devastating yet preventable condition.

South Sudan faces an alarming backlog of an estimated 60,000 cases of obstetric fistula requiring surgical intervention, with fewer than 1,000 individuals having received treatment. This additional funding will be a lifeline for countless women and girls, enabling them to regain their health, dignity, and independence.

*“Through this additional funding we support the acceleration of efforts to ensure that women receive care with dignity to eliminate obstetric fistula in South Sudan,”* said H.E Roar Haugsdal, the

Norwegian Ambassador to South Sudan. “Sexual and reproductive health and rights are a cornerstone of Norway’s global development priorities.”

In South Sudan, the Embassy’s support to the UNFPA Country Programme includes not only treatment for obstetric fistula but also preventive measures such as addressing child marriage and teenage pregnancy, awareness raising, treatment and after care, improving access to contraceptives, and revitalizing the National Taskforce on Fistula Management.



*Fistula survivor waiting to undergo an operation*

“UNFPA appreciate this funding which is timely to end the suffering of women and girls with obstetric fistula, restore their dignity, transform their lives and that of communities. Norway’s funding globally and in country towards SRHR initiatives highlights its long-standing commitment to this critical issue which is core to UNFPA mandate.” said Ms. Esperance Fundira, UNFPA Officer in Charge.

UNFPA in South Sudan and Norway have a long-standing partnership with financial support to

all outputs of the country program of support to the Government of South Sudan. This initiative underscores the Embassy’s focus on protecting women and girls in fragile contexts where South Sudan is one of the countries affected by multiple climate shocks, prolonged conflicts, harmful social norms and with inadequate health infrastructure.

By prioritizing their health and rights, UNFPA and Norway partnership aims to empower survivors with a second chance at a dignified life and contribute to sustainable development in South Sudan.



*Doctors ready for a theater session*



## Achieving last mile assurance of condoms to truck drivers and Boda-boda riders, thanks to People of Hope (SSNeP+)



Aber Lillian pose for a picture at South Sudan Network of People Living with HIV(SSNeP+) office building in Torit

Torit, Eastern Equatoria State, Meet 36 –year Aber Lillian, born HIV Positive, Aber is full of life and passion for her work, thanks to, South Sudan Network of People Living with HIV(SSNeP+) who spotted her courage to go extra mile on awareness raising on HIV prevention and treatment.

On a hot afternoon in Torit town, of Eastern Equatoria, the soft speaking Aber details her passion to engage truck drivers and commercial motor bike riders commonly called boda-bodas at the Narus petrol station and Ibalang check point an exit point out of Torit town.

Aber notes that engaging the truck drivers did not come easy, stressing that the beginning was an uphill task but thanks to her and team members' persistent effort on awareness raising, *“it was difficult to persuade them, whatever we said would tantamount to an insult, but here we are, the boda-boda riders now even call me miss condomize,*

*every time they see me, they know I am delivering to them condoms, can you imagine I get called at night to place requests for condoms? This therefore tells you that the level of acceptance for condom use has picked up,”* she notes

She notes that condom use and acceptance is high among the young populace, as opposed to older men whom she said detest using condoms, arguing that they are married and therefore no need to use condoms, she further notes that gender stereotypes is still rife among the community that women still do not have the power to negotiate for condom use, something she said SSNeP+, National Empowerment of Positive Women United (NEPWU) and partners are striving to address. People of Hope, is an association of people living with HIV under South Sudan Network of People Living with HIV, SSNeP+

In the spirit on Leaving No One Behind and being inclusive in HIV prevention and treatment, a number of challenges are encountered when trying to reach highly mobile populations such as truck drivers, boda boda riders and female sex workers. Last miles strategies to overcome challenges such as geographical dispersion where truck drivers traverse vast distances often in remote areas need to be employed. To ensure effective distribution of condoms, post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits and provision of counseling services, SSNeP+ and NEPWU are leveraging outreach programs, collaborate with truck stop owners such as Narus Petrol station and boda-boda stages. The interventions have resulted in increased awareness to promote safer sex practices to reduce the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections

*“This outreach strategy monthly, enables us to distribute 720,000 condoms to different clients, including truck drivers, female sex workers and boda-boda riders, at times we even get stock-outs”,* says, Odong Joseph Karmilo, SSNeP+ coordinator in the State.

HIV prevalence in Eastern Equatoria State stands at 1.6% UNFPA South Sudan, as part of The Global Fund sub-recipient Cycle 7, through its funding to partners like, SSNeP+ NEPWU and the South Sudan Aids Commission (SSAC) are implementing activities focusing on key populations, particularly female sex workers (FSWs) and other vulnerable populations, this partnerships also strengthen integrated Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights service delivery including youth friendly services at Torit State Hospital.



Aber Lillian speaking to UNFPA



## Solar Light, Brighter Nights, Illuminating Hope, UNFPA hands over solar powered lanterns to women and girls in Juba IDP, thanks to Panasonic



Dr. Hussein Hassan, UNFPA emergency coordinator hands over solar lantern to a beneficiary at Juba (IDP) Camp

In a bid to empower vulnerable women and girls, UNFPA South Sudan has distributed solar lamps to displaced women and girls at Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in Juba, thanks to the generous, in-kind donation from Panasonic, a leading Japanese electronics company, making its first ever donation to South Sudan.

The initiative targeting vulnerable women and girls in displaced communities, aims to address critical needs for safety, education, and economic empowerment, enable the school going girls to study and complete assignments as part of education in emergencies programs as well as allowing women to safely market and produce goods through income-generating activities.

*“By bringing light into the hands of women and girls, we are dismantling barriers to equality and*

*opportunity, every lantern is a step closer to a world where no woman has to fear the dark”* said Dr. Hussein Hassan, UNFPA emergency coordinator. The lanterns will also enhance protection for women and girls against gender-based violence (GBV).

*“These solar lanterns will help us go about our house chores as I don’t have to pay for charging, I am happy to UNFPA for having being thoughtful about us”,* said 31-year old Nyajuok kur, a beneficiary of the lantern.

Kur further said the lanterns will help her two primary-five and four school girls to study at night something they had not been able to do due to lack of electricity.

*“Before, my children normally read at daytime that’s how they study but for now, I am going to tell,*

*them to read at night as well, because the solar light is there”* said excited Kur

Nyajuok, who is physically challenged, has lived in the Juba IDP camp for eleven years following the 2013 conflict.

The Juba IDP camp chairperson, Elijah Hon, expressed gratitude to UNFPA for the kind gesture, saying the lanterns will go a long way to improving the lives of women and girls in the camp, he further said that the through funding to International

Medical Corps, the Reproductive Health Clinic in the camp is averting maternal deaths as it is the only facility the IDPs rely on.

Juba IDP camp received 70 solar lanterns, courtesy of Panasonic and the government of Japan.

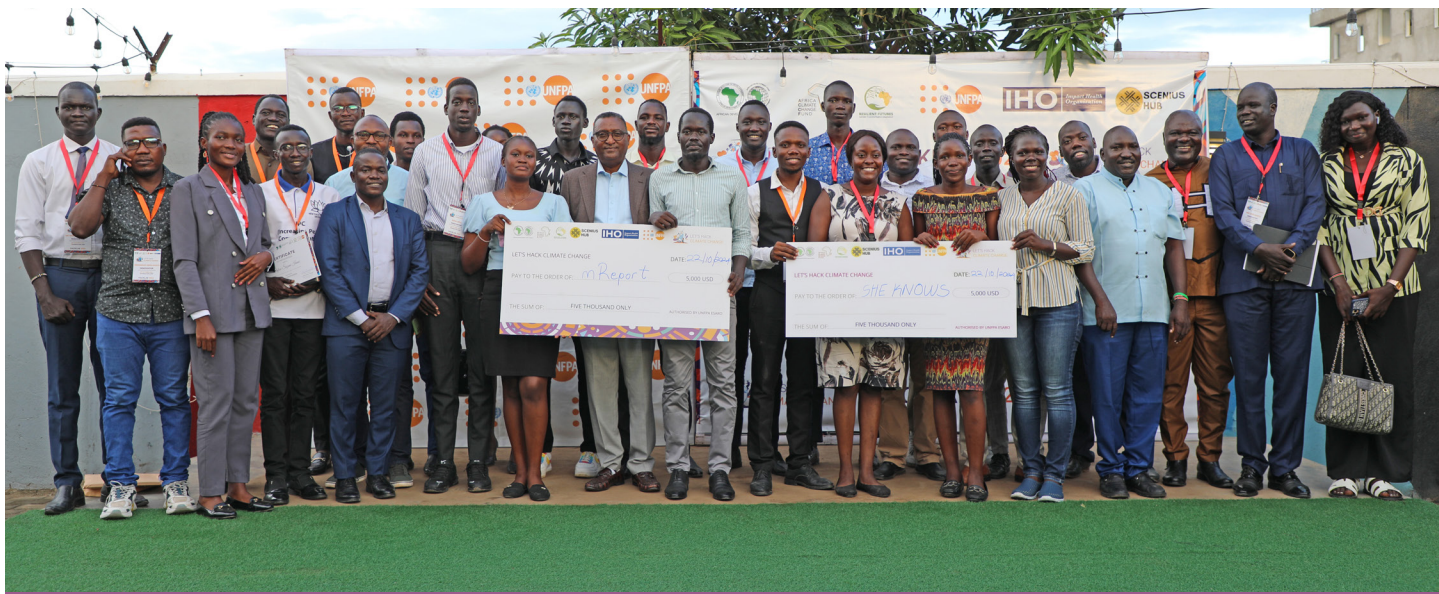
A total of 510 solar lanterns are being distributed in Juba and extended to other locations, including Bentiu, Renk, Baidit, Maban and Malakal.



*Displaced women and girls at Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) pose for a photo after the distribution*



## Empowering young South Sudanese to drive positive change in face of climate shocks



*UNFPA Programme Advisor Sexual Reproductive Health and Head of Integrated SRHR Unit Dr. Kidane abraha, Partners and a group of young innovators poses for pictures after the climate hacklab event*

South Sudan continues to grapple with constant climate shocks particularly extreme heat and floods every season which affects the health and well-being of the population particularly women and girls.

To respond to the climate challenges and how it affects reproductive health, with a focus on promoting talent, creativity, and collaboration, UNFPA provided a platform for young innovators to harness their potential, contribute to sustainable development goals, and represent South Sudan on a regional stage. The recognition and support offered to the young and visionary South Sudanese aimed to inspire future generations and drive positive change within the region.

The Climate HackLab journey started with submissions of ideas from youth where 41 entries were submitted and 16 were assessed, leading to 12 being selected for a three-week intensive

bootcamp mentorship session, out of these, Gaso Grace and Donnas Elia Dazanga emerged victorious from Young Positive South Sudan at Country level.



*Climate HackLab winners receives demi from Dr Kidane*

The duo, earned the opportunity after emerging as climate HackLab winners that aimed to address the impacts of climate change and enhance sexu-



al and reproductive health services in flood-affected areas *“Winning the Climate Change and SRHR Hackathon was a transformative experience for the entire mReport team. The challenge pushed us to innovate and think critically about how to address the compounded effects of climate change on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in South Sudan. I am proud of our team’s dedication and grateful for this recognition, which pushed us to continue our mission of equitable health care for all.”* Said, Grace Gaso, CoFounder & Malis Moses Nickson, Founder of mReport., one of the winners

UNFPA officials at Country and regional level highlighted the importance of providing a platform for the youth to showcase their talents and contribute to climate action at a regional level, underscoring the significance of empowering young people to drive positive change.

This event was made possible through partnership

with, Scenius Hub, a vibrant youth development spot in Juba, that offers a dynamic space, fosters an environment that cultivates entrepreneurship, and creativity, It’s Chief Executive Officer, Nelson Kwaje emphasized that, engagement on climate change and sexual and reproductive health and rights serves to raise awareness and promotes gender-responsive solutions among young innovators in South Sudan.

The successful lot seized an opportunity to showcase their innovative solutions and compete with other winners at the regional competition held at the Youth Connect Africa Summit in Kigali, where they competed with the youth from Kenya, Madagascar, and Mozambique.

The competition sought to foster innovative solutions developed by the youth to tackle critical issues related to climate change and community resilience.



UNFPA Deputy Rep. Ms. Sarah Morati Masale with the Climate Hacklab participants



## Open House – showcasing the transformative outcomes of UNFPA programs to stakeholders



Chairperson of South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics, Augustino Ting Mayai, and other guests listening to Men4Women's Euce Pikyiko during the event

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) South Sudan country office held an open house, showcasing achievements and the significant impact of its interventions to partners, donors and other stakeholders in maternal health, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, family planning, youth development, population, data, and humanitarian response. The open house exhibition aimed to foster collaboration and raise awareness among partners, donors, and stakeholders about critical issues that would promote sustainable development in South Sudan.

The Chairperson of South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics, Augustino Ting Mayai, commended the support provided by UNFPA.

*“The tremendous work of UNFPA has been crucial in ensuring dignity, safety and wellbeing of our women, girls and other vulnerable groups.*

*UNFPA’s dedication of resources to improve the country’s statistical system which will in turn enable the leadership to make informed policies, governance, planning and service delivery is commendable.”* said Mayai on at the Open House Mayai noted that the effect of conflict, climatic shocks and humanitarian crisis have deeply impacted communities, adding that UNFPA support is incredibly desired to provide critical humanitarian response to addressing the needs of adolescent and youth.

Sarah Masale, UNFPA’s Deputy Representative said the humanitarian interventions have made positive impacts on young women, adolescents and to the most vulnerable groups across the country.

*“This exhibition tells stories of women and men whose lives have been impacted by interventions we have supported, stories of resilience, hopes,*

*and progress in some of the most challenging context. There is still much more to be done to protect and promote women and girls' rights and attain development aspirations of South Sudan."*

said Sarah Masale

Michael Rymek, Head of Cooperation at the Embassy of Canada in South Sudan, said that they will continue supporting improvement of the quality and accessibility of health services for the most vulnerable with particular focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Canada partnered over a decade ago with UNFPA in South Sudan to support positive health outcomes for women and girls, their families, their communities and especially in strengthening midwifery services, said Rymek.

Christine Fossen, the UN Police Commissioner said they are working to protect the voiceless,

children and women, adding that they are also working to support everyone to have their rights in place. She underscored the importance of protecting and acknowledged UNFPA's efforts in humanitarian and development settings that has been transformative in hard-hit communities.

UNFPA tireless efforts have brought hopes to so many especially the most vulnerable ones, ensuring that women and girls are empowered to make decisions about their body and about their future.

As South Sudan continues to navigate its challenges, UNFPA remains dedicated to empowering women and girls, significantly improving maternal health services, and promoting gender equality through its strategic interventions. The open house event was a step forward in rallying support and collaboration to advance these crucial initiatives in the nation.



*Franics Tukwasibwe, M&E specialist taking guests through the UNFPA programes*



## Transforming Lives: Stories from the UNFPA Open House in South Sudan



*Government officials, Donors representative, Implementing Partners, Beneficiaries and UNFPA staff pose for a picture*

The recent UNFPA Open House in South Sudan was a powerful reminder of how partnerships, commitment, and compassion can transform lives. Held to showcase the life-saving and empowering work of UNFPA, the event brought together government officials, donors, implementing partners, and beneficiaries. Through heartfelt stories from beneficiaries and an interactive exhibition hosted by UNFPA staff and partners, the Open House highlighted the progress being made in addressing discriminatory norms, improving maternal health, empowering youth, strengthening data systems, and responding to humanitarian crises. The Open House was a celebration of progress and a call to action. Guests left inspired by the personal stories of transformation that

brought UNFPA's work to life that were shared by beneficiaries of the programme:

### **Inclusion for People with Disabilities**

Margret (not her real name), a young person with a disability shared her experience, emphasizing how access to health services has changed her life. "With the right support, we can thrive and contribute to our communities," she said. At the exhibition, a dedicated space showcased UNFPA's efforts to ensure inclusivity, highlighting services tailored for individuals with disabilities. Displays on accessible reproductive health information and services underscored the importance of leaving no one behind

### Breaking Barriers for Women Living with HIV

The Chairperson of the National Empowerment of Women United (NEPWU) shared a moving testimony of women and girls living with HIV and members of marginalized communities, including sex workers, who have found hope and strength through targeted programmes. “Through the support of UNFPA and donors, we have empowered women living with HIV who once lived in fear of stigma, to reclaim their dignity and lead change in their communities,” said Evelyn Letio. These efforts by NEPWU reminds us that empowerment is not just about services but restoring dignity and human rights to the most vulnerable among us.

### Midwives: The Heart of Maternal Health

One of the most inspiring moments came from Aber Evaline, a midwife from Juba Teaching Hospital. She shared the remarkable progress South Sudan has made in maternal health, growing from just eight professional midwives in 2011 at independence to over 3,000 today. “With this growth, we are saving lives,” Evaline declared passionately. The exhibit by the South Sudan Nurses and Midwives Association showcased the work of midwives and highlighted how skilled birth attendants such as midwives are preventing maternal deaths in even the most remote communities. It was a poignant reminder that investing in midwives is an investment in the future of women and girls.

### Empowering Adolescents to Dream Big

Cecilia, a 13-year-old school girl stood up, her words embodying hope and determination. “When girls stay in school, they build brighter futures for

themselves and their communities,” she said. Her story illustrated how UNFPA programmes are helping young girls resist early marriage, stay in school, and learn vital information about their health. At the exhibition, interactive displays on adolescent health and education provided further insight into how UNFPA empowers youth to reach their full potential including addressing issues of menstrual hygiene management.

### A Nation’s Health Workforce Transformed

The progress in transforming the health sector was another highlight. Dr. Isydoro, Vice President of the Association of Gynecologists and Obstetricians of South Sudan (AGOSS) and the first female South Sudanese Obstetrician, recounted the strides made since independence in 2011. “From a handful of obstetricians and gynecologists to a growing number today, we’ve achieved what once seemed impossible,” she stated. This growth, supported by UNFPA and partners, has brought life-saving care closer to women facing complications in pregnancy and childbirth. She emphasized that these advances are paving the way for a healthier future for South Sudanese women and girls.

Hope and Resilience: GBV Survivor speaks out  
 “When I escaped the violence at home, I had nowhere to go and no one to turn to,” says Amina (not her real name), a 26-year-old survivor of gender-based violence (GBV). “I feared for my life every day until I found refuge at the UNFPA-supported safe shelter. “The shelter became my life-line—it gave me not just a roof over my head but



also counseling, medical care, and emotional support to heal from my trauma.” Her testimony reflected the important work of the safe shelter in treating survivors of GBV with dignity and compassion, helping them regain their strength and confidence.

The UNFPA Open House event underscored the critical importance of partnerships in tackling gender and social inequalities, empowering youth, and addressing maternal health challenges. The words of one participant captured the essence of

the event: “This is not just about services; it’s about dignity, hope, and a better future for everyone.” Each story shared was a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the transformative power of community-driven initiatives. As the event concluded, the message was clear: together, through the collective efforts of UNFPA, donors, and partners, we can create a world where dignity, health, and opportunity are within reach for everyone and we can move South Sudan towards a brighter and more equitable tomorrow.



*UNFPA South Sudan family in a group photo after the Open House event*





Open house event in pictures



## Launch of a resilience support project for fragile communities, thanks to KOICA



From L-R Hon. Majur Babou, Hon Aya Benjamin Warille, Hon. Angelina Teny, and Ms. Esperance Fundira OIC UNFPA during the launch

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Health launched a project aimed at saving lives and fostering resilience among flood hit communities in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states.

The project worth 4.5 million U.S dollars by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), will provide life-saving and integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health and Gender Based Violence services in humanitarian settings.

Esperance Fundira, UNFPA Officer in Charge said, *“Access to reproductive health services for many women and girls remain challenging in most areas of South Sudan, putting their lives at high risk. The generous funding will scale-up the health and protection services for the well-being of women and girls for everyone to thrive.”*

Ms. Fundira said the majority of South Sudan’s population has limited access to fundamental social services, stressing that the project will help in responding to the needs and improving the well-being of women and girls affected by severe insecurity and climate shocks.

During the launch, Hon. Majur Babou, the Chairperson of the South Sudan Network for Population and Development explained how the parliamentarians are working together putting aside their political differences with an aim to empower women.

*“We can not afford to leave women behind in this era. Women are a huge potential for development and leaving them out of decision making is leaving out a big percentage of the population’s contribution”* Hon. Majur emphasized.

Hon. Majur also said that socio-cultural beliefs and norms pose additional barriers to access of sexual

and reproductive health services, but the parliamentarians have taken health and protection of women and girls as a serious matter for peace.

Officials at the launch acknowledged that conflict-related sexual violence, Gender Based Violence, and child protection issues remain prevalent among various groups including refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and individuals with disabilities who are always left behind in services

Flooding in South Sudan has displaced more than 379,000 people according to the United Nations

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). Therefore, the three geographical locations of Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile states remain strategic for UNFPA South Sudan's programmatic interventions – ensuring equitable access to critical SRH services, GBV protection and response services for populations affected.

The KOICA-UNFPA partnership will be implemented for the period of three years from 2024 to 2026 to increase the availability of quality lifesaving, integrated SRH and GBV services in protracted crisis.







[southsudan.unfpa.org](https://southsudan.unfpa.org)



UNFPA South Sudan



UNFPASouthsudan



**SOUTH SUDAN**