



## **SOUTH SUDAN ANNUAL REPORT | 2022**

DELIVERING ON THE  
TRANSFORMATIVE  
RESULTS





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# Message from the Representative



South Sudan is tipping towards enduring peace, tangible progress, and inclusive prosperity. Our shared conviction is the eminent unveiling of a nation whose enormous potential and rebirth affirms the vision and aspirations of her people in their collective and conscientious patriotism.

To realize healthy, empowered, and resilient communities, UNFPA enriched the architecture for disaster risk management in South Sudan through integration of life-saving reproductive health and protection innovations across the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus.

We are grateful to the Government of South Sudan, donors, our partners, and stakeholders for the collaboration that delivered tremendous results over the last four years when we rolled out the Government of South Sudan/ UNFPA 3rd Country Programme (2019-2022).

Together, we pushed back against unprecedented challenges including the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact of global mega trends like climate change and achieved milestones in cushioning communities against preventable maternal deaths, the unmet need for family planning and all forms of gender-based violence. Our joint interventions have brought back hope and smiles to those we are privileged to serve. These results have given us the necessary validation

and inspiration to commence the Government of South Sudan / UNFPA 4th Country Programme which resonates with the Revised National Development Strategy (R-NDS) 2021- 2024 which aims to catalyze the progressive transition from humanitarian to sustainable development priorities including enhanced programme delivery through localization partnerships with national actors.

Building on the secure foundation, we will now strive towards achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health and realization of reproductive rights and accelerated implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and thereby contribute towards the achievement of the national priorities and the 2030 Agenda.

We look forward to continued collaboration and partnerships to deliver more and better results in the years ahead for the women, the girls, and the young people in South Sudan. We will ensure inclusivity to reach everyone and ensure no one is left behind. Our pledge is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

**Dr. Ademola Olajide,**  
**UNFPA Representative**



# Country Context



**13  
Million**

Total population of South Sudan (2023). The average annual population growth rate is 3.4%. Average household size is 5.



**73%**

Of the total population is aged below 35 years



**Humanitarian**

social, political, economic and climate-related crises and COVID 19

Sexual and reproductive health remains among key development priorities for South Sudan.

**29.7%**

Of married women would like to use family planning, but are unable to access it

**1,150**

Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births

**52%**

High GBV and child marriage

**2.5%**

HIV prevalence





1 TOWARDS **ACCELERATED**  
REDUCTION IN PREVENTABLE  
MATERNAL DEATHS



Improving maternal health continues to be a priority of the Government of South Sudan (GOSS) and one of key commitments made at the ICPD@25 Nairobi Summit. One of the key interventions supported during the year was the launch of the revised Comprehensive Reproductive Health Policy and the investment case for ending preventable maternal deaths, and endorsing the GOSS commitments to prioritize sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Initiatives included strengthening the training and deployment of human resources for maternal health including midwives and nurses, treatment and management of obstetric fistula, supporting capacity building of the South Sudan Nurses and Midwives Association and the Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists to play key roles in advocacy and strengthening quality of care, supporting the strengthening of the Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) system in the country, ensuring reproductive health commodity security by providing essential maternal health commodities and essential medicines, and strengthening the supply chain to ensure delivery to the last mile.

UNFPA also plays a critical role in the enabling environment of reproductive health with support provided for strengthening SRH strategies and legal frameworks.

UNFPA is also implementing social and behaviour change communication and demand generation initiatives to increase uptake of maternal health services.

- Twenty national tutors from HSIs across the country were admitted and commenced their training in health personnel education at the College of Physicians and Surgeons
- Maternal health integrated in UPR (Action Plan) with 38% of the recommendations from the States being related to ICPD commitments.

### Key achievements 2022

102



midwives graduated from Maridi and Yambio Health Science Institutes with UNFPA

400,006



people were provided with SRH services in the targeted health facilities (non-humanitarian)

245



health workers participated in the Continuous professional development program

48



health workers were trained from state level health facilities on MPDSR.

180



Obstetric Fistula patients received surgical repair and treatment



## Celebrating Obstetric Fistula Heroine in Juba

Soft-spoken, compassionate, and cheerful. Hayat Peter is one of the nurses who is contributing to ending obstetric fistula in Juba/South Sudan. A registered nurse by profession for the last 22 years, she has helped many patients. However, assisting fistula patients to regain their dignity is one of the biggest moments in her career, according to Hayat.

The 42-year-old is a mother of nine children, seven of which are adopted. Her husband died in 2007 while on duty as a police officer in Yambio State. Ever since she had to take care of her family as a single mother. Apart from being a mother, her other life-long dream was to help women suffering from Obstetric fistula. Hayat works at the gynecological section of Juba Teaching Hospital, the country's only referral hospital, and she is one of the 23 nurses trained to support fistula patients and offer obstetric care. "I am happy that I was trained to help women suffering from Fistula, I have supported over 200 fistula surgeries, I am proud of that," she confirms. The horrible ordeal fistula patients go through leads to dejection/abandonment by family and community members, but for Hayat, she provides hope and care to them; "I do not feel they are dirty, I talk to them, we laugh, hold hands, and hug, I burn an aromatic incense around the women which produces a scented smoke that makes them feel comfortable and happy," she explains.

During her 22-years nursing career, Hayat says most fistula patients are between 13-15 years something she attributes to early pregnancy and inadequate access to health facilities.

"It is important to sensitize and educate young girls as well as communities not to expose them to sexual abuse, child marriage, and early pregnancies because their bodies are not developed enough to handle pregnancy," says Hayat

Her highest moments are when the survivors she serves call to express gratitude from the farthest parts of South Sudan, "Fistula survivors still call me to appreciate the free surgery that transformed their lives and this is not just once, it is rewarding and makes me proud," she adds with beaming smile.

To meet the ever-growing need for services for Fistula patients, UNFPA with partners mentors and trains health workers and sets up fistula repair teams from various states of South Sudan. These teams include fistula surgeons, medical officers, operating theatre nurses, midwives, ward nurses, and anesthetists in obstetric fistula surgery and care for fistula patients. Obstetric fistula is preventable but also surgically curable once it occurs.





# 2 TOWARDS **ACCELERATED** REDUCTION IN THE UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING

A Guide to Family Planning For Community Health Workers and their Clients 48

## IMPLANTS:

### WHO CANNOT USE IMPLANTS?

Women who cannot use implants include women who:



Acute deep venous thrombosis, Pre-Eclampsia



Has serious liver disease OR gall bladder disease



Unexplained vaginal bleeding



History of Breast Cancer



Certain cases of systemic lupus

The UNFPA programme in South Sudan is targeting to increase the modern contraceptive prevalence rate (for women aged 15-49 years) from 6% to 10% by 2025. In 2022, the South Sudan mCPR was projected to have increased to 4.7 from 4.4 in 2021. 99,000 women were projected to be using modern contraceptives.

### Key Interventions

- Installed an electronic Warehouse Management System (mSupply) in Central Medical Store that is interlinked with other subsidiary warehouses improve the management of contraceptives at the Central Warehouse and improve visibility up to the regional warehouses.
- Capacity building of 65 supply chain managers on management and monitoring of RH supplies and quantification of RH commodities to strengthen sub-national and SDP level monitoring of RH commodities to avoid stock-outs and overstocks at SDPs.
- Secured Government policy and governance commitment through the signing and launching of the RH Policy, FP Costed Implementation Plan, FP2030 commitments.
- Shift towards innovative community-based approaches for advocacy, demand generation and service provision through community-based agents including midwives that saw 121,682 women provided with FP services.
- 500 state level leaders were reached during FP dialogues to ensure they are supported to become agents of change.

### Key achievements 2022



**30,000**

unintended pregnancies were prevented.



**7,400**

unsafe abortions were averted



**280**

maternal deaths were averted



**100%**

procured and delivered all FP and MH commodities committed in the 2022 national supply plan



**169,319**

couple Years of Protection were attained with commodities procured.



**121,682**

Individuals / Couples provided with FP services



## How the use of modern contraceptives has empowered Ayen and her family

As you walk in the Suk Jow Market in Wau, you note a hype of activities with a lot of merchandise being traded. One can't help noticing the stand that has garments displayed with a couple of women behind busy working with the tailoring machines.

Ayen Abraham aged 34 a mother of five is busy on one of the machines and warmly shares her story on use of contraceptives as the other women listen.

"I have been married for 10 years now. When I just got married that is before I came to know about family planning, I used to conceive so frequently that I did not have time to do any work to earn something for the family. After the birth of my third child, my husband and I decided that I should go to Wau Teaching Hospital for family planning services. This is against our tradition, but we had no choice than doing it," she said.

Ayen shared the benefits she has experienced using family planning.

***"I have a friend whom we got married in the same year and now she has 7 kids. For me, my last born is now almost four years old and enrolled in Pre-School. She added that the decision by the family to use modern contraceptives has paid off the family."***

"My husband is a private police officer in South Sudan police service in Wau earning less than 2500 South Sudanese pound per month (which is less than 5 USD per month) and is not even enough to provide one meal in a day and send our kids to school.

However, since I started using modern contraceptive methods my life has changed."

"I was able to enroll in a tailoring course which I finished in 2019 and now I am working in Suk Jow market as a tailor and every day I can manage to earn 10,000 to 15,000 thousand South Sudanese Pounds (equivalent to 23 USD) on a good market day. This has really improved our life in the family."

***"My message to the other women out there is that the modern contraceptive methods are safe and can help empower women."***

***Ayen Abraham aged 34  
Mother of five***



A photograph of two young women standing outdoors. The woman on the left is wearing a light blue patterned top and a white face mask, with her arms crossed. The woman on the right is wearing a brown top and a white face mask, smiling broadly. They are standing in front of a white wall and some greenery.

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TOWARDS **ACCELERATED**  
REDUCTION IN GENDER-BASED  
VIOLENCE AND CHILD MARRIAGE



# Realizing equality and inclusion for all

UNFPA continues to deepen the gender equality and addressing harmful practices such as child marriage through addressing the root causes of inequality by working with various stakeholders such as government, civil society, communities, traditional leaders such as paramount chiefs and religious leaders, young men and boys. As the lead for addressing GBV and harmful practices UNFPA promotes localization through capacity building support to the national women-led and gender equality and social inclusion focused organizations. UNFPA also supports the government through supporting policy and legal frameworks designing, monitoring and their implementation.



## 5265

survivors of gender-based violence received integrated medical, psycho-social and legal services through the One Stop Centers



## 177

survivors received safety through shelter in Wau.



A safe house established in Juba 2500 households were sensitized on positive masculinity through the Champions of Engaging Men in Accountable Practices (EMAP) for gender equality



## 1127

service providers were trained on gender responsive case management and gender equality



## 1617

duty bearers (lawyers, police, judges, social workers) were trained on GBV response and prevention



National Men's Engagement Strategy was designed to support the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare



United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was acceded by the Government of South Sudan where the Networks of persons with disabilities led the advocacy and lobbying for accession.



## 589,000

more community members were sensitized on GBV prevention through mass media and community engagement

"Her Story, Our Story!"

## Child Marriage, a chronic cultural practice that traditional Chiefs vow to end

Different chiefs converged to discuss on the implementation of the strategic national action plan on ending child marriage and to commit their individual responsibility to see child marriage end starting with their communities.

The traditional Chiefs conference was part of the initiatives to end Child marriage by engaging the duty bearers and men to change the negative social norms and cultural practices that are harmful. The gathering offered an opportunity for learning and sharing among the chiefs and commitments to support the rights of women and girls through ending child marriage and supporting girls to fulfill their full potential.

"I appreciate the support and effort in putting this conference and gathering traditional Chiefs together with other stakeholders because only with the commitment by all stakeholders can we end child marriage in South Sudan. Our girls and daughters are suffering in various communities and we are all seeing this happen yet we should protect and support them. We ALL have a role to play in Ending Child marriage" Minister Hon. Aya Benjamin Warille urges the Chiefs.

The National champion to end child marriage, Hon. George Echom noted that the effects of child marriage and early childbearing are enormous which included dangers of fistula, vicious cycle of poverty, increased percentage of illiterate citizens as girls are married off without attending school. He challenged the Chiefs, Civil Society Organizations, and the Government to swiftly act.

"We have denied access to education to our women and girls, without bringing women on board, we won't go forward, and for us to make huge strides, we need to take girls to school, we also need to break the negative norms and attributes of our cultures which have become enemies to our prosperity" Hon Ochom noted.

He also cautioned men and Chiefs for marrying young girls whom he said end up becoming burdensome, "Chiefs, when u marry a child as a wife, you will have stress throughout your life, trust me, you will have a baby, not a wife, marrying children as wives is stressful, this must stop, and to move this country forward, we need to move away from harmful traditional practices" he added

This year's Conference was a follow-up event with traditional leaders and the State Ministries of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare to review the implementation of SNAP on ending child marriage, and in line with, The Palm Africa Declaration of 2019, 2020, and 2021 action plans. Different states resolved individually to end child marriage and other harmful traditional practices in their respective states.

"Child marriage is a contributing factor to why girls don't finish their education. We should allow girls to be girls and not make them brides. We remain committed to ending child marriage and ensuring girls attain their full potential" said Amb. Ms. Linken Berryman, of Norway.







4

STRATEGIC ***PARTNERSHIPS***

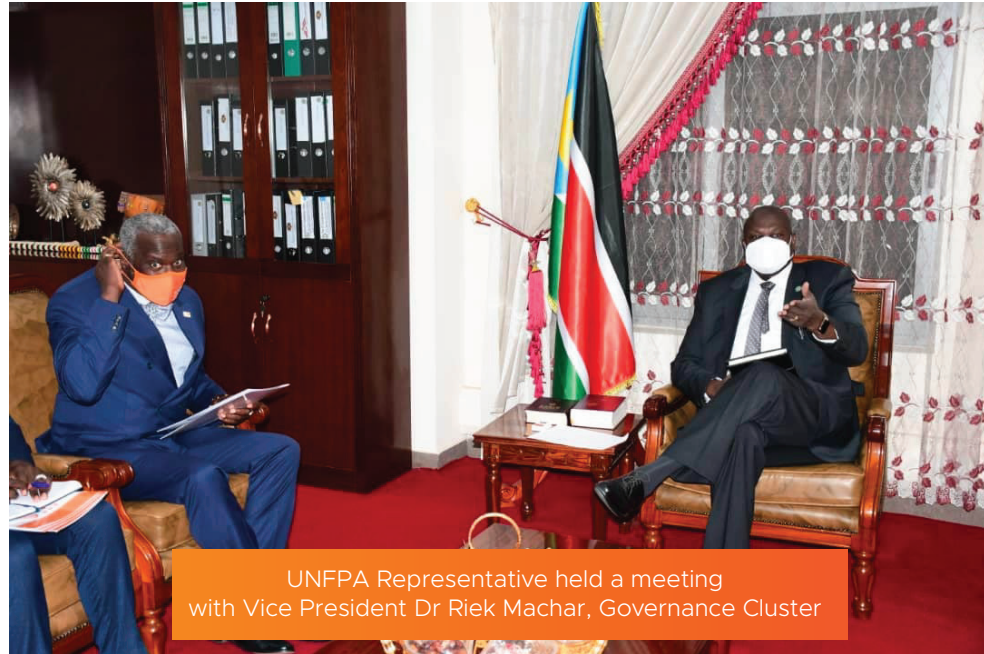


# Strategic partnerships

UNFPA Country Office held high level partnerships and advocacy meetings. Among these included meetings with three Vice Presidents of the Republic of South Sudan. This strengthened collaboration to implement programs that contribute to efforts to improve the well-being of women, girls, and young people for entire people to thrive in the country. Together with a wide range of partners, UNFPA works toward the goal of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.



UNFPA Representative held a meeting with Vice President Wani Igga, Economic Cluster



UNFPA Representative held a meeting with Vice President Dr Riek Machar, Governance Cluster



UNFPA Representative meeting with Vice President Rebecca Nyandeng



# Dignity in Humanitarian / Crisis

UNFPA continues to provide life-saving SRH and GBV interventions in South Sudan. These include provision of reproductive health medical supplies and delivery of clinical RH and sexual violence services. UNFPA undertakes training of healthcare professionals on the MISP for reproductive health and clinical management of rape.

UNFPA plays a pivotal role in the coordination of RH and GBV services to ensure robust partnerships and collaboration achieve timely, quality and comprehensive delivery of information and services. UNFPA delivers social protection interventions such as cash voucher assistance and Women and Girls Friendly Spaces to cushion survivors and those at risk from victimization.

## Key achievements 2022



1,352

healthcare and social workers trained to provide SRH and GBV services in humanitarian settings.



359,768

people reached with integrated sexual reproductive health services in displacement settings.



30,902

individuals reached with the messages on prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and SEA reporting mechanisms



2,500

Women and Girls supported with cash assistance



27,611

dignity kits have been procured and distributed




18


Women and Girls Friendly Spaces supported


# Population Data and Evidence

Ensuring availability of up-to-date reliable population data remains a foundation for UNFPA programming. Information and data on population are critical for good governance, policy formulation, development planning, and making decisions on social welfare programmes. UNFPA provided technical and financial support to strengthen the systems that resulted into production of various pieces of evidence and policies including:

## Key achievements 2022

- 

The South Sudan 2022 Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevalence survey was conducted to meet the critical gap of evidence in South Sudan
- 

The Population Estimates Survey (PES) conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics supported by UNFPA that produced the Modelled Population Estimates
- 

Development. Approval and launch of key policy documents including the Reproductive Health Policy, the Costed Investment Cases for the Transformative Results (End Preventable Maternal Deaths, End Unmet Need for family Planning, End GBV and Child Marriage), and the Costed Implementation Plan for Family Planning

In addition to production of different pieces of evidence and policies, capacity of 100 staff from National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Government Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDA), UN agencies, Universities was enhanced through training in contemporary methods of data collection, analyses and reporting.

UNFPA continued to promote national efforts to advocate for prioritizing ICPD and population issues at all levels through:

- Strengthening the advocacy capacity of the South Sudan Parliamentary Network on Population and Development. About 300 members of the Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly were oriented on Population and Development and the GBV/SRH bills that need parliamentary consideration. Through parliamentary outreach to states, a total of 500 state level leaders and about 20,000 people were reached with messages on family planning and GBV/child marriage.
- Support to the National Ministry of Finance and Planning to establish a population unit that will coordinate the national population program, spearhead the integration of ICPD/population issues in national and sector plans and monitor the implementation of the Voluntary ICPD@25 National Commitments.





# Young People

UNFPA country office supports the provision of adolescent and youth-friendly services and strengthening youth leadership and participation. UNFPA engaged young people through sports: Football, Boxing, and Rugby as shift norms towards ending child marriage, promote gender equality and positive masculinity. The interventions targeted young people in development and humanitarian settings.

The country office is also supporting the provision of integrated SRH/HIV and CSE services to adolescent and young people in secondary schools. 41, 211 young people were reached with information and 16, 708 with services.

## Key achievements 2022

**10,451**  
Stakeholders (line ministries, cultural & religious leaders, and young people) were sensitized on CSE

**20**  
Sanitary pad dispensers were installed in both Primary and Secondary

**2,089**  
young women and girls trained on local production of reusable Pads including girls living with disabilities and girls in the cattle camp

**644,853**  
young people out of schools were reached with SRH information

- 7,743 Stakeholders were sensitized on the Eastern Southern Africa commitment on Comprehensive sexuality education and EUP in the 10 locations
- 74 secondary schools and 3 universities are reached with comprehensive sexuality education, 50 teachers trained on CSE and 53,069 young people in schools reached with CSE information in secondary schools and universities.
- 836 policy makers (DGs, Directors from State Ministries, University lecturers) and young people were reached with Youth, Peace and Security Messages through intergenerational dialogues, awareness sessions and stakeholders' consultations in Juba, Torit, Yambio and Pibor
- 10 Functional harmonized multisectoral youth partners coordination mechanisms in 7 States and at national level.



Men4Women





## The power of female sports in norms shifting: UNFPA collaboration with the Bright Starlets, the National Women's Football team

Women's participation in sports has a long history. It is a history marked by division and discrimination but also one filled with major accomplishments by female athletes and important advances for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Increased involvement of women and girls can promote positive development in sports by providing alternative norms, values, attitudes, knowledge, capabilities, and experiences. The contributions of women, particularly in leadership positions, can bring diversity and alternative approaches and expand the talent base in areas such as management, coaching, and sports journalism.

Women in sports leadership can shape attitudes toward women's capabilities as leaders and decision-makers, especially in traditionally male domains. Women's involvement in sports can make a significant contribution to public life and community development.

***“The participation of women and girls in sports challenges gender stereotypes and discrimination and can therefore be a vehicle to promote gender equality. Football cuts across tribes and borders which accelerate peace and unity, and the empowerment of women and girls for the benefit of communities” said Grace Soga, a female athlete.***

Particularly in traditionally masculine fields, women in sport leadership can influence opinions around leadership, decision-making ability, can significantly improve society and their communities.

UNFPA South Sudan is partnering with Starlets for Change Organization to harness the power of Sports to improve menstrual hygiene management, promote gender equality, prevent Gender Based Violence (GBV), and end child marriage.

***“Exploring the intersection of football and reproductive health in South Sudan reveals not just the current knowledge, attitudes, and practices of adolescents and young people, but also the potential to empower and educate through sports.”***  
– Stella Bosire, SRH consultant

UNFPA conducted a focus group discussion with sportswomen, adolescent boys, and girls from various schools in Juba to understand their sexual and reproductive health needs. The engagement offered a platform for young girls to share their experiences on menstrual health management, access to reproductive health services, and understanding of gender-based violence, including the dangers of forced and child marriage.

The discussions will inform the development of a handbook/training manual which will be used in a yearlong cascade training by youth-led networks and adolescent reproductive health.

To improve menstrual health management during sports time at the stadium, UNFPA is further supporting the installation of a self-care facility for female footballers and support the team with training equipment for their talents to grow and become change makers in their communities.





# HIV/AIDS

## Key achievements 2022



**900,708**

young people reached with HIV prevention information during CONDOMIZE!



**2,000,000**

male and female condoms distributed



**130**

condom dispensers in 130 sites in Juba and Torit



**3,763**

Female Sex Workers with integrated HIV, GBV and SRHR services in fourteen locations.



**8,565**

Female Sex Workers were tested for HIV and Received their results in 2022



**14,838**

other vulnerable populations in IDPs and refugee camps were tested for HIV and received their results in 2022

- UNFPA Supported behaviour change and community-empowerment initiatives including working with key and vulnerable populations to provide integrated SRH and HIV information and services, ensuring linkages with the formal health system.
- Work with Government to ensure that enabling policies and strategies are in place for STI/ HIV prevention and response including the condom programming strategy.
- Using innovation to ensure integration of SRH and HIV at all levels including training of health workers, comprehensive sexuality education programmes, and condomize campaign and several youth and sports initiatives.
- UNFPA supported institutional strengthening and capacity development of networks of youth, women and people living with HIV to enhance the HIV prevention response at community level.

UNFPA South Sudan extends appreciation to the donors listed below, who contributed to the overall resource envelope for UNFPA's 3<sup>rd</sup> Country Programme (2019-2021) of support to the Government of The Republic of South Sudan.



In partnership with  
**Canada**

**AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA**

- Strengthening human resources for sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence.



**THE GLOBAL FUND**

**AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA**

- For HIV prevention and response among young people and key populations and for the gender response to covid19 pandemic



From  
the People of Japan

**AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA**

- For provision of lifesaving SRH and GBV services in emergencies and for midwifery strengthening initiatives



Sweden  
**Sverige**

**AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA**

- Country programme support (all outputs of the country programme)



European Union  
Civil Protection and  
Humanitarian Aid

**AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA**

- For provision of lifesaving SRH and GBV services in emergencies



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA**

- For GBV prevention and response



**AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA**

- Country programme support (all outputs of the country programme)



**SSHf** South Sudan  
Humanitarian  
Fund

**AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA**

- For provision of lifesaving SRH and GBV services in emergencies



**UKaid**  
FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD

**AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA**

- Advocacy initiatives for the anti-GBV Bill



United Nations  
**CERF**

**AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA**

- For provision of lifesaving SRH and GBV services in emergencies



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

**AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA**

- For GBV prevention and response



**ZERO TOLERANCE  
FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION  
AND ABUSE**  
Stop, prevent, protect

**AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH UNFPA**

- To PSEA victims' assistance







DELIVERING A WORLD WHERE  
EVERY PREGNANCY IS WANTED  
EVERY CHILDBIRTH IS SAFE AND  
EVERY YOUNG PERSON'S  
POTENTIAL IS FULFILLED

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