

**QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER**

**Oct - Dec 2023
ISSUE NO. 7**

#Musharaka4Tanmiya

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Message from the Representative



Dr. Ademola Olajide

Dear esteemed readers and partners,

It is another exciting moment as we come to the end of 2023 – reflecting on our collective achievements and renewing commitments for collective implementation of the UNFPA 4th Country Programme of assistance to the Government of South Sudan, in the years ahead, for the prosperity and well-being of the people of South Sudan.

In this quarter, we have engaged young people innovatively, engaged in high-level forums strengthened partnerships with donors and Government, and pursued joint initiatives with sister UN Agencies to advance Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for not only women and girls but for everyone to thrive. The 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence and other international days embedded, are another reminder that human rights are universal, and a violent-free environment is a desire for the people and the country's sustainable development.

Considering the challenges of both development and multiple humanitarian crises including the effects of the prolonged Sudan crisis, climate change particularly floods, and other shocks, the effects are being felt in households across the

nation which severely affect women and girls, robs them of their dignity, and make them vulnerable even after the crisis. These necessitate a robust approach to prevention and response to gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health rights and needs. UNFPA's life-saving interventions have brought smiles and hope to the affected populations, and we continue to engage with communities, men, and women, for better well-being and fulfillment of their rights.

The generous support of our Donors has enabled us to scale up interventions and to provide integrated sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence prevention and mitigation services in the country, improving the well-being of women, girls, and young people.

I commend the Government of South Sudan for its commitment and leadership towards ensuring accelerated reduction in preventable maternal death, end unmet need for family planning, and end gender-based violence and all harmful practices, including child marriage. I thank our Donors and all implementing partners, for the support and fruitful collaboration which has yielded commendable achievements thus far.

As we move to the new year, I call for continued support for the implementation of the Country Programme and 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan to uplift women and girls from suffering to dignity. We look forward to continued collaboration and partnership to deliver more and better in the years ahead for the women, girls, and young people of South Sudan, reaching the farthest to ensure no one is left behind.

I wish you a Happy festive season and a Healthy 2024.

Violence against women and girls must be punishable- Interior Minister Angelina Teny advocates.



Police women marching to nyakuron cultural center during the 16 days of activism launching event

“Violence against women and girls is not just a violation of rights, It is a crime!”. These were strong words that came from the Minister of Interior, Hon. Angelina Teny during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism in Juba, 29th November, Wednesday. Hon. Teny who represented the Minister of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare during the national event to commemorate 16 Days of Activism, called for reforms in South Sudan’s legal and law enforcement systems, stressing that reforms at the customary level are critical to prevent and respond to GBV.

About 1500 people, including school girls and boys, groups of persons with disability, women entrepreneurs, women and men in uniform, from the government, civil society, and students

including national and international organizations converged in Juba to mark the day under the theme, *“Act Now! Prevent and respond to violence against women and girls.”* The Acting Undersecretary at the Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare Mr. James Loro said, *“Violence against women and girls should have no space in our societies in South Sudan. Let us advocate and work towards a brighter future for our girls and a violence-free environment for everyone.”*

The national prevalence study on violence against women and men in South Sudan under the auspices of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, supported by UNFPA (under publication) suggests high levels of violence against women and men in South Sudan.



Minister of interior Hon. Angelina Teny addressing the gathering

As per the existing evidence, South Sudan ranks second in East Africa in terms of the prevalence of violence against women and girls, indicating substantial proportions of women (aged 15-64) in South Sudan experience GBV either in the form of physical, economic, emotional, or sexual violence in their lifetime.

“Actions to address gender-based violence is urgent. GBV is not only a violation of rights but a significant drag on sustainable socioeconomic development and peacebuilding efforts.”

Esther Piro, a 24-year-old woman with hearing impairment expressed happiness to the organizers for including people with disabilities during the day’s event saying that oftentimes they are left out. “Disability inclusion is key. Many a time we are left out, and we face all kinds of violence just like any other person, I feel happy today to be part of this programme; thanks to the organizers”,

exclaimed Esther through an interpreter. The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence is a campaign commemorated across the world in solidarity against gender-based violence and aims to raise awareness and motivate each and everyone to act against gender inequality and violence.

The 16 days of Activism start on the 25th of November with the International Day on Elimination of Violence Against Women and concludes with Human Rights Day on December 10, 2023.



UNFPA Country Representative, Dr. Ademola Olajide speaking during the event

UNFPA Country Representative, Dr. Ademola Olajide who spoke on behalf of the United Nations said,



Cross section of female participants listening to speeches

Health facility-based delivery saves the life of a 28-year-old transported in a wheelbarrow.



Nyalok Gatyiel resting with her baby at the facility after successful delivery

The Bentiu IDP camp has been a home to many South Sudanese who hail from Unity State since the onset of the 2013 war, the camp managed by the UN provides shelter as well as healthcare services to vulnerable groups.

28-year-old Nyalok Gatyiel is one out of the many women whom UNFPA through its partners like the International Rescue Committee are reaching out with Integrated Sexual Reproductive Health Services. In early September, Nyalok, a returnee affected by the Sudan crisis was rushed unconscious and, bleeding in a wheelbarrow in the middle of the night to the IRC-run health facility in the camp in sector 4 block 11, already a mother of six Nyalok was in unbearable pain, the duty midwife immediately received her and proceeded with her to the labor ward without a waste of time,, and she was bleeding. Upon investigations by the

midwife, she noticed the placenta did not come out, which was why she bled and was in deep pain, the midwife then quickly provided controlled cord traction for each contraction by guarding the uterus while providing controlled cord traction for one hour after the baby is born and identifies that the placenta is retained.

From 2:00 am up to 7:00 am Nyalok was able to give birth to a baby girl weighing 3. kg under the care of IRC a midwife, who ensured respectful care was accorded, this was when she breathed a sigh of relief; days later she was able to compose herself,

“I am thankful to the IRC midwife who cared for me, I do not think I would be able to be alive and see my baby, I was received and taken good care of, I appreciate IRC for helping to deliver services in the community,” she said.

Lessons learned are that Health providers should encourage the importance of delivery in Health facilities in case of any complication. It can be managed very well, as home-based deliveries are risky.

“I am honored to have assisted Nyalok, as a trained midwife, it is my duty to provide support and care to mothers like Nyalok, Immediate, and effective professional care at the time of delivery makes a difference in saving the lives of both mother and the baby, I am glad she is safe with her baby, when duty calls, one has to respond and I responded ” Said, Anna chouch Dak, IRC midwife

The arrival of the new baby sparked joy as her mother-in-law joined in celebrations and thanked their hero-midwife Modong, Nayok’s mother-in-law also appreciated the midwife, for saving the life of her grandchild and daughter-in-law, Nyalok was given postnatal counseling and she was encouraged to always give birth at a health care center should she wish to have other babies in the future.



ARC midwife Anna Chouch Dak

UNFPA with funding from donors like Canada, Sweden, and Norway, through partners like IRC, has had significant interventions in healthcare systems in the hard-to-reach areas of South Sudan including responding to refugee and returnee needs.



Threatened but not deterred in the quest to end violence: a day in the life of GBV response officer, Athian



Naome Athiang Mayor responding to a call from case worker.

Naome Athiang Mayor is 32 years old and is the face of the International Rescue Committee (IRC). IRC is a UNFPA implementing partner to end Gender-Based Violence in Rumbek, Lakes State. Naome works as a GBV Response Officer at the organization's Family Protection Center. Her mobile phone doesn't rest, it buzzes with calls 27/4, responding to cases and coordinating referrals to ensure ending GBV in far and wide the vast territory of Lakes State.

Naome says all the efforts she and her team are putting in don't come on a silver platter. It is a game of hide and seek, and her life and that of the team are at risk, saying in most cases they end up being beaten and humiliated for nothing but the quest to protect women and girls in the hands of abusive

partners and harmful traditional cultures.

She recalls a harrowing ordeal early last year when the IRC offices were besieged simply because they had three survivors under their protection. They were surrounded by the parents of the survivors demanding their release. In their custody were three young girls, whom they rescued following a phone call from the survivors. Sensing danger, she quickly called the Special Protection Unit (SPU) of the South Sudan National Police Unit in Lakes State. The police responded by sending armed police to go and disperse the irate relatives.

"It was an unpleasant situation, but I am not going to surrender in my quest to help the women of South Sudan and see a South Sudan free of GBV. Our lives are in danger, but we shall pursue this course till the last minute." she says.

Mid-October, while in a donors meeting, the visibly disturbed Naome ends up canceling the meeting as she responds to an emergency. This was a referral from as far as Cueibet, about 52 kilometers away from the capital Rumbek. This particular case was rape, she quickly dispatches the driver.

“You see, this is how my day is punctuated, she says. I vividly recall how our vehicle was waylaid and put at gunpoint and a survivor was taken out. This occurred when we were on our way from picking up a survivor. When I questioned why they were taking the girl out, their response came with a threat, ‘Do you want to be dead or alive?’ Left with no option, we left the helpless girl, but still, we reported the matter to the Special Protection Unit-SPU and the State Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare” she reveals.

Threatened by gun-wielding GBV perpetrators thrice this year, she says the situation is tough and she doesn’t anticipate it getting any better, attributing it to consistent and sustained awareness. Naome says the community has woken up from



Naome with the UNFPA Deputy Representative Sarah Masale attending meeting under a tree in Rumbek

sleep and is beginning to claim their rights, as they are becoming more aware of GBV services IRC with funding from UNFPA are offering.

She points out another harrowing situation when a young South Sudanese-Australian girl’s case came to OSC, who had refused a forced marriage when she visited South Sudan last year. The girl in question Rose Aluel (not her real name) was to be married off to an old man who was prepared to pay hundreds of cows, but Aluel stood her ground and refused the marriage. Naome narrates, ‘on hearing about me, she ran up to our office IRC and handed herself to me. Naome through her network made use of the GBV subcluster and IOM to coordinate Aluel’s rescue and subsequent departure from Rumbek.’

“All these negotiations did not come easy. The young men from the cattle camp were everywhere looking for me until my husband got frightened. He asked me to leave the GBV response job, but I stood my ground and said, NO one will support the women of South Sudan wherever they are. I will go and pick them to give them support. Their cry is my cry. if I don’t stand with them No one will.”

The soft-spoken Naome says her phone is like a call center. She receives calls until she goes to bed Thanks to her supportive partner, she says women call on her and she then transfers the calls to the GBV hotline for Lakes State she says.



Naome Athiang Mayor sharing a light moment

‘This is how my daily life goes, but am now used to it, it comes with challenges’, says Naome.

“I conduct counseling on the phone. I refer cases on the phone. So I am used to it. I have no time, and because am committed to seeing a GBV-free South Sudan, because of the awareness on our toll-free hotline- 0922556262 women come forth to report. On a daily basis between three- to four women come to report GBV cases. Most of the clients who call are women and girls from different directions of Rumbek. Women come to thank us for having helped them out. When we get this heart-warming feedback, it gives me joy”. said Naome.

The South Sudan National Strategic Action Plan on elimination of Child Marriage (SNAP) aims to end child marriage by 2030.

Last year, the Lake state legislative Assembly passed customary laws to enable it to aggressively tackle child and forced marriages in its jurisdiction. The State Governor, Gen. Rin Tueny Mabor distributed the by-law to traditional chiefs to ensure no girl-child is married off early and forcefully.

UNFPA and partners such as IRC among others are implementing programmes across South Sudan to end child marriage, key among which is the annual chief’s conference which normally convenes in Juba to deliberate and take stock of progress made so far towards ending child marriage by 2030.

Siapai, a 9-year-old girl takes over as the Representative for the Day in celebration of the Day of the Girl



Genesis Siapai taking over from Dr.Demola Olajide as the Rep for the day

“Girls have hopes to fulfill, dreams to achieve. In their life’s journey as they grow, they will learn, lead, and thrive for the benefit of their families, the communities, and the country. UNFPA is committed to ensuring that all girls can grow up to reach their full potential and we are currently working with partners to empower girls to realize their dreams” said Dr Demola Olajide, UNFPA Representative handing over to Genesis Siapai as she took over roles of being the Representative for UNFPA South Sudan for the Day.

In her new capacity, Siapai paid a courtesy call to the Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, held a meeting with Hope Restoration, one of the Implementing Partners, and also interacted with fellow girls on sharing their aspirations and how to achieve their dreams.

During the Courtesy call, Hon. Aya Benjamin Warille appreciated the courage of Siapai for the

bravery to take on roles and advocate key issues affecting other girls in South Sudan.

“Achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment is integral to achieving the 17 goals of sustainable development. As we celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child, I am delighted that girls are breaking the boundaries and barriers posed by stereotypes and exclusion and those directed at the children with disabilities” said Hon. Aya Benjamin Warille, Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare.

Siapai requested the Minister of Gender for continued advocacy to ensure girls go to school and complete their education. South Sudan has signed a protocol to end child marriage by 2030 and with the remaining seven years, implementation of strategies should be prioritized.

Girls remain disproportionately affected by harmful practices such as early and forced child marriage and when resources are limited, the boy child is given priority over a girl.

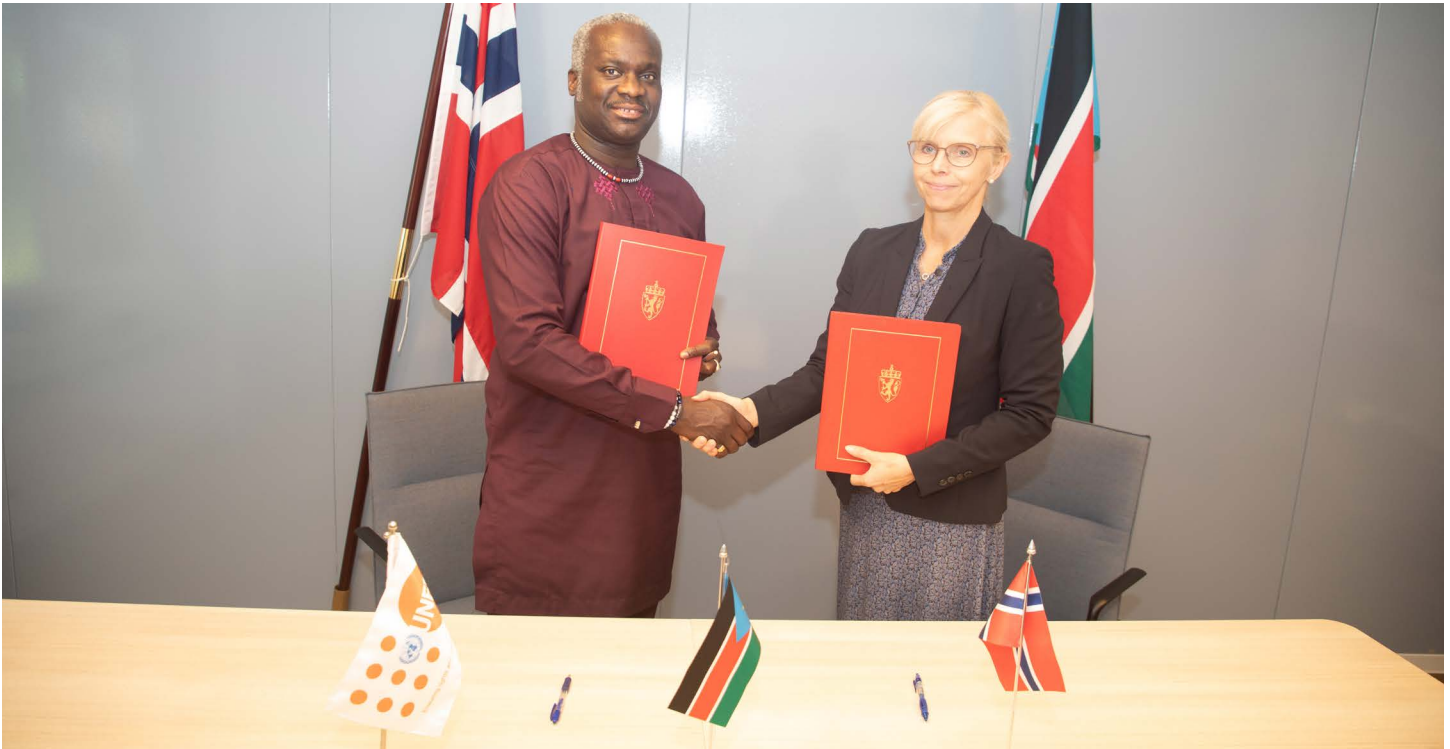
UNFPA services and programs provide access to adequate health services and information to enable young and adolescent girls to take control of their health. To end child marriage by 2030, the global community must address the challenges that girls face in their daily lives.



Rep of the day Genesis Siapai meeting with Hon. Aya Benjamin Warille, Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare.



Norway invests to improve the health and well-being of women, girls, and young people in the youngest nation – South Sudan



H.E Linken Lymann Berrymann and UNFPA Representative Dr. Ademola Olajide after the signing

In a significant advancement for the health and well-being of women, girls, and young people, the Ambassador for Norway to South Sudan, Her Excellency Linken Lymann Berrymann and UNFPA Representative Dr. Ademola Olajide signed a Grant Agreement of 15 million NOK to support the UNFPA Fourth Country Programme of Assistance to the Government of South Sudan (2023-2025).

Norway's commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of all individuals, particularly in their sexual and reproductive health and rights, has been the hallmark of their global and in country long-term partnership with UNFPA.

UNFPA Representative expressed appreciation to

the Government and people of Norway for the continuous support to UNFPA Country Programmes since 2018.

“UNFPA is committed to provide stewardship and ensure accountability in the use of the resources from Norway to save and address the sexual and reproductive health needs for women and girls in South Sudan.” Said Dr. Demola Olajide

Her Excellency Ambassador underscored the significance of UNFPA's efforts in South Sudan, highlighting the intersection of gender equality and the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls as critical areas of focus – ensuring inclusivity and leaving no one behind as a key component.

“Norway is committed to these issues and recognize the partnership with UNFPA as a cornerstone in advancing these fundamental rights in South Sudan.” said Ambassador Linken Lymann Berrymann of Norway in South Sudan.

She emphasized that this partnership is not only testament to shared values but also a strategic

and value-driven effort towards realizing fundamental rights in South Sudan.

UNFPA remains committed to ending preventable maternal deaths, fulfilling the unmet need for family planning and ending Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and harmful practices globally and in South Sudan. This strengthened alliance with Norway marks a pivotal step in these ongoing efforts.



Group of women at the women and girls friends space.

Promoting peace, gender equality & menstrual hygiene in cattle camps



Young female herder in the cattle camp

The nomadic pastoralist community in Terekeka live purely pastoralist life where they value their livestock more than anything even their own lives which leaves women and young people particularly girls at risk of GBV and harmful practices. The women in cattle camps entirely do domestic work and children are tasked with cleaning the cow dung before livestock returns from grazing with no exposure to life beyond their home. Living in the cattle camps exposes women and girls too many challenges and limited access to important services such as health, education, security, among others.

UNFPA in the spirit of improving sexual reproductive health, promoting gender equality and menstrual hygiene is supporting pastoralists in cattle camps in Terekeka Country, launched a campaign with partners of Shabab Le Shabab to raise aware

ness of pastoralists in cattle camps. The area occasionally experiences conflicts among cattle keepers and is deeply rooted to cultural practices that leave women and girls with limited space to basics of human rights.

UNFPA support in peacebuilding initiatives with cattle camps with the objective to enhance menstrual health hygiene, prevention of gender-based violence, and mental health and community resilience.

“Peace is fundamental in delivering programs for the population and development. As we launch the cattle camp peace project, we all have collective responsibility in actively working to build, deepen, and maintain peace while ensuring both men and women thrive, and the potential of young people is fulfilled” said Dr. Ademola Olajide, UNFPA Representative.

Young girls are married at a very early age literally out of their consent because it is culture and with no dreams of a better future as their lives are shut down into the vicious circle of poverty. Access to education particularly girls in cattle camps is not in any one's dreams, menstrual hygiene is strongly attached to traditional practices of women being discriminated and isolated during their menstruation and with no sanitary pads.

In the cattle camps, using sanitary pads is considered to cause barrenness or infertility. With UNFPA support through local partners, a big shift of mindset of isolating young girls during their menstruation to acceptance to use re-usable local clothes to cover themselves during their menstruation period has been gradually achieved.

With no school around the community to keep the young people in school leaves the high percentage of the population of young people uneducated. No health centre within the community also leaves the community with no access to health services and mostly rely on traditional herbs. Child birth and

maternal health are not proper with no medical attendance which accounts to reasons for health-related issues among residents of Terekeka such as fistula and maternal deaths.

The observed needs of young people at the cattle camps include health services especially sexual reproductive health, mental health, and menstrual hygiene management, education and peace reconciliations. The needs of women and girls at the camp are complex and affected by culture. The cattle camps are a unique set-up that UNFPA identified to promote SRH to ensure the services and information reach those in the last mile.

“Behavior change and shift of the mindset doesn't happen in a day. UNFPA commits to continue to work and support communities beyond cattle camps across South Sudan to ensure that reproductive health services and information is accessible to communities for the women and girls to have a descent life” said Dr. Ademola Olajide, UNFPA Representative



UNFPA peer educator at Terekeka cattle camp

UNFPA facilitates two youth to the CSE Capacity-building training for East and Southern Africa Regional Johannesburg South Africa



Participants in a group photo during the CES workshop

Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) gives young people accurate, age-appropriate information about sexuality and their sexual and reproductive health, which is critical for their health and survival, in a bid to achieve the three transformative results, UNFPA facilitated training to develop the capacity of CSE facilitators, trainers and UNFPA focal points on CSE advocacy and implementation including the national adaptation of the ESA Regional Resource Package on CSE for out of school young people to ensure comprehensive, effective, accurate and quality CSE is provided to young people in out of school, community-based settings.



Shabab Le shabab's Abraham Pieng during the workshop

Under the stewardship of UNFPA's Adolescent and Youth focal point, Mary Marle, Abraham Pieng National Programs officer, from Shabab Le Shabab, and Manuela Madong from Amref represented South Sudan among 18 countries of the region participated in regional Comprehensive sexual education experienced facilitators capacity building training in Johannesburg organized UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office,

"I was thrilled to be part of the program in Johannesburg South Africa we shared experiences from different countries on CSE programs and interventions including multidisciplinary approaches for addressing social and cultural resistance to CSE programming I gained Skills, and knowledge and practiced both invisible and visible techniques and materials to strengthen our resilience towards engaging and empowering young people with the right hands' information to influence informed decision-making for health, education, well-being and drawing their future," Said Abraham Pieng

The plight of displaced women in camps



Nyandeng Duot together with other women making beads as part of an empowerment programme

Mother-of-four Nyandeng Duot, displaced from Sudan following the outbreak of Sudan conflict, often goes for long periods without food or clean, drinkable water in Protection of Civilian (PoC) site. A similar situation she shares with so many women in the PoC and also Bulukat Transit Site as they wait to be transported to their final destination.

She numbers among the many women who, made widows by the war, take on the burden of breadwinner for their families. Yet scarce resources and the uncertainty of how long they will have to live displaced from their homes exact a psychological toll.

As she described living conditions that are particularly difficult for women and girls, her tears fell. “Our safety and health are worrying as we take long, risky journeys in the bush outside the camp to collect firewood, which exposes us and our

daughters to rape. We do not know how long we are going to stay here,” she said.

Mary Nyagai, another internally displaced person living at PoC, described being overburdened by the task of caring for children especially girls are being compelled to drop out of school as a result of rape, early and forced marriage, she said. In addition, they need food, education, and health services.

“Here in the camp, it is only women [who are] responsible for the children. Women go and fetch firewood to sell so that they survive, but that is increasingly difficult work because of the attacks. There is no one to stand with us,” she said.

Conflict has a devastating impact on women, girls and young people the world over – and a perfect example is the situation in South Sudan. Women in conflict situations face bleak prospects, with a

loss of access to health services and other basic needs, and are exposed to a higher risk of violence, especially sexual and gender-based violence.

Displaced women in the transit site and PoC endure tough conditions. Living in poor shelters in harsh climatic conditions, they often go without food and live in fear for their own safety –especially that of their daughters, who are particularly vulnerable. They also have limited access to much-needed reproductive health services, which can be life-saving.

UNFPA with support from various donors is supporting IDP camps, PoCs and Transit Sites with provision of reproductive health services, supplies, skills, and GBV prevention and response services through partners for women and girls, to ensure safe births and provide family planning, in addition to other regular services. However, collective response to address the plight of displaced women and girls in South Sudan, as they require adequate resources to meet their needs, including the right to live decently and free from violence.



group of women making beads at the women and girls centre

A child with a disability finds a safe home in the shelter.



Lt. James Taban of the special protection unit

“Actually after investigating where the mother this abandoned girl was I found out she was separated from her husband and left the house together with her disabled child. the reason why she decided to throw her child is because she wanted to get married to another man and she saw Liz as a threat to her new marriage” revealed Lt. James Taban

Social acceptance of children with disabilities still has a long way to go in Africa as the inclusion of disability in many African traditional norms including South Sudan is considered a curse and often associated with witchcraft.

Nine-year-old Liz Ajok, not her real name is just one out of the many children in South Sudan who have found themselves in an unfortunate predicament, she was abandoned in Juba Teaching Hospital by her biological mother due to her physical disability as she does not have limbs. Liz is the second-born child to her mother and has other two siblings. Facing extreme poverty, her parents prioritized feeding the other two children at her expense, she was dumped at the Juba Teaching Hospital and the mother vanished to an unknown destination.

One fateful day the duty nurse Alfred Tungu Lado a police on duty at the hospital at that time realized this abandoned child and then contacted Lieutenant James Taban of the Northern Police Division to notify him about Liz. Without wasting time Lt. Taban immediately rushed to the hospital and immediately advised Liz to be taken to Juba Safe House for care.

While at the safe house, the staff initially expressed discomfort as the facility was not equipped to meet Liz’s needs, but gradually all arrangements were made, physically looking disturbed Liz did not open up to the staff counsellors at the safe house due to the trauma she went through up after two weeks of continuous efforts to make Liz, gathered the courage to open up.

All she needed was ample time to get comfortable among her peers and the counselors and the resident matron at the safe house cultivated more time needed to bond with Liz, it was later discovered that Liz’s father.

had long separated from her elusive mother because of Liz's condition. Through social media outreach, the South Sudan Special Police Protection Unit also found out that Liz's father was not aware of the child's abandonment. as he is separated from his wife, through continuous engagement with the father, and she

was happy to go under the father's custody and she was reintegrated with the family.

The Juba Safe House was launched in February this year with funding from the United States Agency for International Development- USAID, to provide shelter and related services for Gender-Based Violence survivors.



Launch of the Juba safe house



From perpetrators of violence to Changemakers – How Boda Boda Riders in Torit are changing the narrative.



Cross section of boda boda riders in Torit

Torit-Eastern Equatoria, more than 70 percent of South Sudan's population is under the age of 30, but most South Sudanese youth lack education, skills, and work opportunities. South Sudan has the world's highest proportion of out-of-school children in the world, with 72 percent of primary-aged children out of school (UNICEF, 2017). Only 48 percent of South Sudan's youth are literate (World Bank, 2020).

Violence, natural disasters, and financial challenges prevent children and youth from completing their education driving them to engage in different activities such as commercial motorcycle riding commonly known as Boda Boda to earn a living and get an education; however this does not come easy, the trade has put many of their lives at high risks of theft/robberies, accidents among others and often times, they end up into drug abuse making them perpetrators of Gender Based violence against their passengers or their partners at home. To change the status quo, Men4Women

with support from UNFPA conducted a three-day training on gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS, and topics surrounding Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, and other Sexually Transmitted Infections at Torit Hotel targeting these commercial Boda Boda riders, a move that was lauded by the local communities and state authorities who referred to this group of youth as not only perpetrators of GBV but possible champions of a fight against it.

“Boda Boda men and boys are important for the economic growth of our communities, but some also have a bad reputation in the community as perpetrators of violence. This can be prevented if we continue to have such engagements with the Boda Boda men and boys. I commend Men4Women for taking this initiative and first of its kind in Torit specifically focusing on Boda Boda men to prevent and fight against GBV in the community” said Mustafa Albino, the mayor of Torit Municipality Having Boda Boda riders as allies in ending GBV will greatly contribute to gender equality, equity,

and the development and growth of this country. Within the different associations/platforms and existing structures, Boda Boda riders can be reached out to on messages of masculinity, peace, sexual reproductive health and rights, HIV/AIDs, substance abuse, and Gender-based Violence to become agents of change to create a positive change in the communities.

“Boda Boda riders have been known to impregnate school-going girls which leads to school dropout and child/forced marriage which is a GBV and a violation of the girl’s rights. I believe this training will increase their knowledge on how to report and prevent GBV”, said Santo Otong, acting Director General of the State Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare.



GBV facilitator from men for women



Cross section of boda boda riders session on GBV awareness

The Acting Director General also urged the Boda Boda Association to be part of the State Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare cluster meetings to share their achievements, progress, challenges, and way forward to ending GBV in the communities. From this training, the Boda-Boda riders have henceforth been invited to the state government’s coordination meetings focusing on response to and prevention of GBV., yet the two parties had earlier existed as adversaries, but are now coming together to discuss how they can support each other to address GBV.



Cross section of boda boda riders procession

The sour-sweet impact of the Sudan Crisis on Nyajuok Gai, a South Sudanese Returnee



A mother receiving medicines from the IMC pharmacy

Nyajuok Gai is a South Sudanese returnee who fled armed conflict in Sudan while heavily pregnant. Her husband was wounded in the conflict, and during her return, she lost contact with her husband. With the added stress of pregnancy, Nyajuok who fled to Khartoum in 2016 endured a difficult journey from Sudan to South Sudan in the company of her sister-in-law, spending several days without food as she fled with nothing at her hands. After passing through the Renk transit center in Upper Nile—where International Medical Corps provides emergency integrated health, nutrition, and gender-based violence (GBV) services to returnees and refugees—Nyajuok successfully made it to Juba and now lives in the Juba internally displaced persons (IDP) camp.

Having endured three miscarriages and a premature birth previously, she feared losing her current pregnancy, and her feelings were complicated by the uncertainty about the whereabouts of her

husband and lack of money to feed and cater for herself and her unborn child.

Nyajuok began attending a health promotion activity routinely organized by the International Medical Corps in the Juba IDP camp, where she benefited from the knowledge-sharing sessions and decided to enroll in an International Medical Corps-supported ANC clinic in the IDP camp.

international medical corps' assistance and how it helped

Nyajuok consistently attended the ANC clinic and received counseling on how to prevent miscarriage and healthy practices during pregnancy. She also received a clean delivery kit during her final trimester. She was happy to return to the International Medical Corps-supported health facility for delivery, and she delivered healthy twins. She developed post-partum hemorrhage, but this condition was successfully managed by an International Medical Corps midwife, who was highly trained.

“I am feeling happy for all of the donors who support International Medical Corps and all of the ambassadors of goodwill who save us in this hard time of our life by providing us with free healthcare services,” said Nyajuok.

Nyajuok currently survives on a small income, working as a bottle collector to feed her growing family, she has since never heard from her husband who is in Khartoum

Nothing for us without us, youth strategizes their participation in the peacebuilding process.



Cross section of youths during innovation workshop

South Sudan has a youthful population, with 70% under 30 years of age, and this constituency is often disproportionately affected by violence or conflict, either as perpetrators or victims of the same. The youth are also in many at times excluded from conversations and processes on peace and around peace.

In a bid to bring the youth on board the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) as well as to promote the institutionalization of youth participation in peacebuilding processes, the national ministry of peace building engaged Shabab-Le Shabab by facilitating young women and young men-led in designing of the costed National Strategy on Youth Peace and Security. The five-day workshop in Rumbek with the state stakeholders proposed an innovative, participatory, and institutionalized approach to meaningful engagement of young

women and young men in peacebuilding processes that encompass strategic partnerships and consultations with the youth and their organizations; capacity building of young women and young men on understanding UNSCR2250 to drive and engage in peace processes; advocacy for increased youth spaces in national and local peace structures.

The event brought together state officials, traditional chiefs, and youth unions uniting three counties of Agar East, Central, and North, and the association of Rumbek Central youth, and members of the organized force.

The experience brought together inclusive voices and views of youth and stakeholders towards innovative, participatory, and institutionalized approaches to meaningful engagement of youth, women, and men in peacebuilding processes in the state.

A Beacon of Hope - How Torit Youth Centre Empowers Young People



Mary Marley and the students from Torit Day Secondary School during the monitoring field visit

In the bustling community of Torit, South Sudan, where resources are scarce, but aspirations are plenty, the Torit Youth Center—located within the premises of Torit Hospital—is changing the lives of local students in remarkable ways. This haven has become a safe space for students from Torit Day Secondary School, where they access not just vital information but also practical services that impact their daily lives.

Take the case of Jane (not her real name), a 18-year-old student who found herself in an awkward and potentially distressing situation. her menstrual period began unexpectedly while she was at school. A situation that could be a simple inconvenience elsewhere can become a significant hurdle here due to lack of immediate access to menstrual hygiene products.

This is where the Torit Youth Centre stepped in. Having no budget allocation for such essentials,

the committed staff pooled their own money to purchase menstrual pads for students like Jane. However, it's not just about reacting to emergencies. The centre is proactive, providing an array of sessions and programs targeting adolescent health concerns. Students attend sessions that offer deep insights into teenage pregnancy and how to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV. The holistic approach also includes topics often considered taboo, like puberty, growing up, and gender-based violence.

“Understanding how to protect myself from STIs and unwanted pregnancies has been enlightening,” shares Mary, another 17-year-old student. “The centre has given us the tools to take control of our health. I would like to become a nurse when I am older,” she states. “Then I want to start my family with 4 children,” she asserts.

The Torit Youth Centre extends its services to include HIV counselling and testing, enabling students to understand their HIV status and educating them on living a healthy lifestyle irrespective of the outcome.

For staff like peer counsellor Sarah, the work is both a duty and a calling. “The Youth Centre is more than just a part of the hospital. It’s a lifeline for these students, equipping them with the knowledge and resources they need to forge brighter futures.”

Through collective efforts, the Torit Youth Centre is indeed changing the narrative, shattering taboos, and sowing seeds for a more educated and aware generation. Amidst the challenges that come with growing up in South Sudan, this sanctuary of empowerment is a beacon of hope, enabling students like Mary and Jane to navigate the complexities of youth with confidence and dignity. It is also changing the trajectory of the entire community.



The young people coming out for a meeting after an online session in Torit youth centre



UNFPA staffs together with the young people at the youth centre

The Youth Minister, Akech Geng challenges the youth to embrace peace and unity.



Hon. Joseph Akech Geng, speaking during the event

“The challenge to you the young people, is what is your contribution towards achieving peace and unity? but this calls for a change of attitude and to be tolerant such that we avoid violence “Those were the candid words from the soft-speaking minister of Youth and Sports, Hon. Joseph Akech Geng, at an event to mark 16 Days of Activism on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls was organized by South Sudan Boxing Federation.

The event under the theme “Empowering youth for peacebuilding through sports.

Hon. Geng emphasized that the message of peace brings development, inclusion, and diversity. And that the youth, must reinvent the society to achieve peace, unity, and the end of GBV acknowledging that different ideas may differ, but the destiny is one, to have a peaceful South Sudan.

Teresa Athian Abdelbagi Akol, the President of the South Sudan Boxing Federation said that young girls are participating in boxing to break free from the traditional gender stereotypes.

“The 16 days of activism that we are celebrating today, is not just today, and it is something that we are about to stop, we have to advocate, and we have to raise awareness about the plight of our young girls and women, we are talking about gender-based violence against women, what men can do women can do even better,” said Akol.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is supporting amateur and professional boxers in the fight to end discrimination and violence against women and girls in the country.



UNFPA leadership and aspiring young female boxers

“We want to be able to work with the boxing federation and football association to show that what men can do women can do and even do better, We want to begin to challenge social norms that relegate women and girls to the back end of society, we want to create for them a platform where they can prosper where they can become not only champions in their games but also champions of gender equality,” said UNFPA Country Representative Dr. Ademola Olajide

The boxing tournament to mark 16 Days of Activism on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls was organized by the South Sudan Boxing Federation. Hon. Joseph Geng Akech, said as a ministry they are striving to create inclusivity of boys and



Dr. Ademola Olajide addressing the gathering

girls in their programmes adding that an inclusive society promotes peaceful co-existence.

“Unity cannot come if we do not see ourselves in it together, we will have to strive to create inclusivity of girls and boys of different ethnic groups, of different ideas. Once we are inclusive then we may have peace,” said Akech.

According to the International Boxing Association (IBA), the boxing sport for women is growing in popularity with the number of registered female boxers in recent years significantly increasing across the world.



Best punch forward-SSBXF president Mdm.Teresa Athian Abdelbagi Akol with the bright starlet

Hope and Healing: UNFPA and Development Partners visit RH Clinics serving internal displaced people in Juba camp



Donors interacting with IMC's Dr. Fiseha at IDP 3 RHC clinic in Juba

Amidst the ongoing struggles in South Sudan, a ray of hope shines through the efforts of the reproductive health (RH) clinics in the internally displaced persons (IDP) sites 1 and 3 in Juba. Established in December 2013, following the first internal conflict erupting just two years after South Sudan's independence, these clinics have been a beacon of hope and support for many. A recent field visit by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and donors from Canada, Sweden, and Norway brought into focus the remarkable progress and challenges faced in providing vital reproductive health services to the internally displaced, returnees from Sudan, and host communities.

The RH clinics, managed by the International Medical Corps (IMC) as UNFPA's Implementing Partner, offer comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services around the clock.

These include skilled attendance at birth, family planning, management of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, antenatal and post-natal care, immunization programs, and youth-friendly services. They stand as the only facilities providing these essential services in the community.

During the visit, the mission team, including UNFPA Deputy Representative Ms. Sarah Masale, engaged directly with service providers and clients. "The dedication and resilience of the staff here are truly inspiring," Ms. Masale remarked. "They are not just service providers; they are pillars of strength for this community."

The medical doctor in charge of the RH clinic at IDP site 1 highlighted a significant increase in service uptake.

“We see an average of 5-8 deliveries per day and about 100 women for antenatal care per month, many of them young mothers between 17 and 20 years old,” they reported. This increase caseload reflects the growing needs of the community, especially among young women.

The IMC Programme Director shared ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Health to integrate the health facility staff into the national healthcare system for sustainable service provision. “While the challenges are daunting, especially with budget constraints, we remain committed to finding long-term solutions to ensure that these services are sustained for women in the communities” the Director stated.

The donors expressed their appreciation for the visit, recognizing the critical nature of these services. “Seeing firsthand the impact of these clinics reinforces our commitment to supporting the health and well-being of women and girls in South Sudan,” a donor representative commented.

This visit not only highlighted the essential services provided by the RH clinics but also underscored the urgent need for sustained support and collaboration among international partners, local organizations, and government bodies. As South Sudan continues to navigate through its complex challenges, the resilience and hope embodied by these clinics serve as a testament to what can be achieved through collective effort and dedication.



A mother being attended to at IDP 3 RHC clinic in Juba

Bridging Boundaries: Canada, UNFPA, and partners collaborating and committing to strengthen maternal health services in South Sudan

In the heart of South Sudan, amidst the bustling streets of Juba, the Embassy of Canada became a hub of solidarity and shared vision as the Ambassador of Canada to South Sudan, His Excellency Ally Khan, hosted a significant luncheon meeting. This event was a symbol of deepening ties between Canada and South Sudan in the realm of maternal health and midwifery. This gathering included members of the Canadian Association of Midwives, the South Sudan Nurses, and Midwives Association (SSNAMA), and representatives from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The luncheon served as a platform for exchange, learning, and mutual support.

The President and Executive Director of SSNAMA took the opportunity to update His Excellency on the substantial work and activities being undertaken in South Sudan. They spoke passionately about their engagement with young people and highlighted their fruitful collaboration with the Canadian Association of Midwives. This partnership has been instrumental in building the capacity of nurses



UNFPA, Canada and partners

and midwives for respectful maternity care and has spearheaded several institutional strengthening initiatives for the association in strategic planning, leadership, and advocacy.

However, the dialogue was not limited to achievements. The association candidly discussed the ongoing challenges facing nurses and midwives in South Sudan, particularly the harassment encountered by some of its members while providing some health services such as family planning. This underscored the need for sustained advocacy and awareness-raising on reproductive health issues, particularly family planning.

“SSNAMA is committed to continuing its advocacy and awareness efforts for women and girls across South Sudan to access reproductive health services including family planning services at all levels” stated the Executive Director of SSNAMA, Agnes Juan.

The UNFPA Representative, expressed appreciation for Canada's support, which has been instrumental in enhancing midwifery and maternal health services in South Sudan. He highlighted the remarkable progress made, especially in the training of midwives across the country, a number that has impressively grown from just 8 at the time of independence to over 2,500 professional midwives today. Additionally, he briefed the Ambassador on UNFPA's efforts in engaging with youth and in addressing the social and cultural norms that affect the utilization of sexual and reproductive health services in the country.

“UNFPA will continue its transformative actions to address the negative gender and social norms impacting on availability and use of reproductive health services in the country, using innovative activities and working with youth and sports associations such as the football and boxing federations to create awareness on reproductive health and promote gender equality.” Said UNFPA Representative Dr. Demola Olajide.

Following the Luncheon, the UNFPA Representative and HE Ambassador Ally-Khan held a one-to-one meeting, where discussions focused on areas requiring continued advocacy and support.

Ambassador Khan, affirming his commitment to the cause, expressed his eagerness to accompany UNFPA on field visits to project sites, further strengthening the partnership between Canada and UNFPA. The Head of Cooperation and the Second Secretary at the Embassy of Canada also joined the Ambassador for the meetings.

This meeting at the Canadian Embassy in South Sudan was more than just a diplomatic gathering; it was a powerful convergence of ideas, challenges, and commitments towards a common goal. It symbolized a beacon of hope and solidarity in the ongoing journey to improve maternal health services in South Sudan.



A mother with her newborn at a clinic

MAJOR EVENTS 2023



DONOR'S ROUND TABLE



THE TUKUL TALKS



LOST IN LOVE



CULTURAL FESTIVAL



MEN'S CONFERENCE



**RUJAL BI AKDER
MENIS COOKING CHALLENGE**



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



SWOP LAUNCH



SSWEEP LAUNCH

Thank you for your feedback



Gertrude Okenykene

Wow thank you UNFPA for the great support in transforming the lives of our vulnerable population in South Sudan. Social norms transformation is a long term strategy. But with the support through grassroots organisations...together we can change the world.



African talented youths

This is very great jobs from [UNFPA South Sudan](#) and united nations general For Their powerful support to women and girls across the global ❤️❤️❤️

Many more thanks
To all UN agency in south Sudan



Kevina the mummy girl

Am supper proud of [UNFPA South Sudan](#) 🇸🇩 ❤️ 🇺🇸 🇯🇲 ❤️



University of Juba. SNRES, Department of Geology and Mining
The End Of Gender Based Violence 🍷❤️



Mayuak Dol Wiyual Met

Awesome. Feeling great. Ademola olajide to our proactive leadership. Thanks to Plan for relieving the plights of those in distress. Blessings, you always come through for the most in need.



Maggie Na Joseph

Very creative and informative infographic video. Well-done [UNFPA South Sudan](#) 🙌🙌🙌

last Tue Like Reply 🗨️ 1



South Sudan nurses and midwives association. - Ssnama
Thanks so much [UNFPA South Sudan](#) for your continued support in the Country.



Wani Robert Theophilus

Well deserved award indeed... if all other UN Agencies engages Youth same way as UNFPA does, then we shall have promising future indeed



Able Disabled - ABD SouthSudan

Together for a society that will uphold all Human Rights with no prejudice



African talented youths

Very much appreciations to [UNFPA South Sudan](#) for the most support of vulnerable ❤️



Top fan
Brenda Alinda

I know the standard of living is not good but with the intervention of UNFPA and other Stakeholders, things will be fine.

on Wed Like Reply



William Baramu Jr.

Thank you UNFPA for always being there for the children, youths and the vulnerable people of south Sudan



South Sudan nurses and midwives association. - Ssnama
Thanks so much [UNFPA South Sudan](#) for your continued support in the Country.

on Tue Like Reply 🗨️ 1



Taban Dagama

I'm impressed with the health education. I'm a year 2 midwifery student- Juba.



South Sudan Youth Constitutional Working Group - SSYCW
God bless [UNFPA South Sudan](#)



ACRA South Sudan

"investing in women means investing in the people who invest in everyone else"
We are honoured to channel our efforts to see a safe and enabling environment for women and girls in #SouthSudan

[UNFPA South Sudan](#)



Top fan

John Deng De'Mam

I am very proud of the work AfriYan and UNFPA are doing!



Kevina the mummy girl

[UNFPA South Sudan](#) fixing South Sudan

2 mos Like Reply 🗨️ 1

Thank you to our Donors for continued contribution to UNFPA to implement the Country Program of support to the Government and people of South Sudan especially the wellbeing of women, girls and young people.

The funding enables us to scaleup Sexual & Reproductive Health services which encompasses crucial issues as health, rights, gender equity and equality, humanitarian, development context and peace nexus.

AREAS OF COLLOBRATION WITH UNFPA



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

AREAS OF COLLOBRATION WITH UNFPA



Provision of lifesaving SRH and GBV services in emergencies

AREAS OF COLLOBRATION WITH UNFPA



Country programme support (all outputs of the country programme)

AREAS OF COLLOBRATION WITH UNFPA



For GBV prevention and response

AREAS OF COLLOBRATION WITH UNFPA



Country programme support (all outputs of the country programme)

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Provision of lifesaving SRH and GBV services.

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Provision of lifesaving SRH and GBV services in emergencies

AREAS OF COLLOBRATION WITH UNFPA



For GBV prevention and response

AREAS OF COLLOBRATION WITH UNFPA



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

AREAS OF COLLOBRATION WITH UNFPA



Advocacy initiatives for the anti-GBV Bill

AREAS OF COLLOBRATION WITH UNFPA



Provision of lifesaving SRH and GBV services in emergencies

AREAS OF COLLOBRATION WITH UNFPA



To PSEA victims' assistance

AREAS OF COLLOBRATION WITH UNFPA



Youth and Peacebuilding

AREAS OF COLLOBRATION WITH UNFPA



Joint program on SRH and GBV in Abyei



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