Partnership for Recovery and Resilience

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



# What is the Partnership for Recovery and Resilience?

The Partnership for Recovery and Resilience is an inclusive group of committed donors, NGOs and UN entities working together to sustainably reduce vulnerability and increase resilience of people, communities and institutions in South Sudan. Tackling this challenge, the Partnership is seeking to:

* Increase the strategic political and financial commitment to recovery and resilience.
* Secure the commitment of local leaders and resilience champions to create the enabling environment for recovery and resilience efforts to be successful.
* Reduce vulnerability[[1]](#footnote-1) in Partnership Areas where local leaders, stakeholders and technical partners are ready to work together across sectors and interest groups to shape and implement a common agenda for recovery and resilience,
* Establish platforms at the local and national level to facilitate coordination and innovations that increase the effectiveness and efficiency of partners to build resilience.
* Strengthen the data, analysis, evidence, learning, and information systems for both planning and mutual accountability.

The Partnership is about leading and securing change that enables people, communities and institutions in South Sudan to thrive.

# Why is the Partnership Needed?

Stopping and reducing the growing trend of vulnerability is not possible through humanitarian and emergency assistance alone. The Partnership is grounded in the belief that by bringing peace building, humanitarian and development assistance together to tackle the complex set of shocks, that the coping and adaptive capacity of people, communities and institutions can be protected and increased.

While conflict and economic collapse have largely driven the countries dramatic increase in food insecurity, health risks, and exposure to increasing climate variability, and a lack of access to information and services, contribute significantly to the erosion of household and community resilience and associated vulnerability to hunger.

# What Needs to Change for the Partnership to Succeed?

Changing the trend of growing vulnerability and declining coping capacity requires multiple changes of donors, NGOs and UN entities operating at national and local levels. This includes:

* Strategic shifts in the policies, strategies and programs to facilitate collective action and collective commitment of the development community.
* Strategic integration of individual activities and technical actions to protect and improve coping and adaptive capacity of people, communities and institutions.
* Commitment of local leaders to create the enabling environment for change to occur.
* Improving the data, measurement, analysis and evidence to support planning and accountability for resilience and vulnerability.
* Strategic commitment to learning and innovation.

To secure the impact being sought, strategies, cooperation frameworks and programs need to change. Leaders in South Sudan and the global community, especially in donor agency capitals, need to be brought on board as champions to help the shift or pivot from meeting needs to reducing needs. Funding levels and mechanisms need to support and enable technical partners to work together to focus on building resilience that protects coping capacity, and helps people, communities and institutions absorb and adapt to shock. Expanding the political and financial space to focus on resilience is necessary but it is not sufficient to translate the Partnership’s ambition into reality.

Fundamentally, area based programming at the field level needs to pivot to ensure actions are coherent across partners in enabling citizens, communities and households to absorb shock, adapt to shock and sustainably improve their well-being. Bottom line – actions taken by technical partners need to be able to show real contributions to changing the vulnerability and resilience of people, communities and institutions.

Sustainable improvements in the lives and livelihoods of people, communities and institutions will ultimately rest on the shoulders of the leaders and champions for change at the local level that have the will to make reforms needed for recovery and resilience. Securing commitment from inclusive groups of leaders that include traditional authorities, faith based leaders, women’s groups, youth groups, civil society, business groups, government, etc… is an essential step in building resilience and enabling recovery to take place. It is an essential step in building social cohesion.

Changing what we do, how it is done, and what we expect to achieve is not a small task. These changes demand evidence, learning, innovation, analysis and change in the support systems and services for resilience and recovery.

# How will the Partnership for Recovery and Resilience Advance Common Agendas and Secure Collective Outcomes?

The Partnership is an inclusive effort. It is not a project or institution. The Partnership will advance a set of principles to guide its efforts at the national and local levels. Key principles and concepts include:

* Advance **collective engagement, action and outcomes** across peace building, humanitarian and development actors and efforts. The Partnership is promoting inclusiveness across the coordination and implementation efforts.
* Put **community and people at the center** of Partnership efforts to improve resilience and reduce vulnerability.
* A core building block of the Partnership is **local commitment and inclusive ownership** of the shared agenda that reflects the voice of all stakeholders, who jointly practice **evidence-based decision making.**
* **Strategic integration** (colocation, collaboration, coordination, commitment) of sectoral and cross cutting programs to protect and improve coping capacity of people, communities and institutions.
* **Mutual accountability** built on mutual trust and respect, of all partners and stakeholders in meeting their individual and collective commitments.

# Where does the Partnership Work?

The Partnership for Recovery and Resilience is promoting the need for technical actors and local stakeholders / leaders from all sectors operating across South Sudan to recognize the importance of recovery and resilience as a strategic priority at this point in the country’s development.

To advance geographic based programming to tackle vulnerability and resilience, the Partnership is focusing on a handful of geographic areas located across South Sudan where local leaders, stakeholders and technical partners are ready to work together across sectors and interest groups to shape and implement a common agenda for recovery and resilience.

All areas in South Sudan are encouraged to advance the key principles of the partnership, including establishing a solid baseline to track progress and impact, and evidence to inform the identification of priorities.

In each of the ten legacy states, areas were reviewed across six criteria: Need, Diversity, Risk & Conflict, Potential, Footprint and Capacity of local administration. Seven areas have been identified as Candidate Partnership Areas, as initial areas to test and implement strategic integration (colocation, collaboration, coordination and commitment). The initial areas are not exclusive, but rather are a starting point. The Partnership does not shy away from conflict but recognizes conflict as a factor of vulnerability. It is focusing on areas where conflict, although present, does not present an overwhelming risk to the investments, and can likely be positively impacted through the investments.

The seven Candidate Partnership Areas, where joint area based planning and implementation will be initially advanced include: Yambio, Aweil, Wau, Torit, Rumbek, Bor and Yei. The Partnership is focused on rural landscapes in each of these Partnership Areas.

These areas do not encompass all of the areas where donors, UN agencies and NGOs offer support to build resilience and address vulnerability. The Partnership recognizes the importance of all of these efforts. It also realizes that individual activities operating in isolation are not sufficient to reduce vulnerability at scale.

# Is the Partnership a One Year Operation?

Coping capacity and vulnerability will not be stopped or changed in a single year. The Partnership for Recovery and Resilience is proposing a three year plan, as a starting point, to systemically address the declining coping capacity. A three year transitional plan will provide the opportunity to:

* Enable donors and partners to align, plan and coordinate efforts to achieve meaningful change.
* Assess and test the innovative models and approaches being proposed.
* Monitor the commitment of the leaders of South Sudan to create the conditions for peace
* Increase the knowledge base and evidence to support programming in South Sudan.

1. The ambition is to reduce vulnerability by at least one IPC phase classification within two years in each of the Partnership Areas and increase resilience of target beneficiaries by 50%. Vulnerability is measured by the IPC analysis that has five phases. Resilience is measured by RIMA Plus. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)