



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

SOUTH SUDAN DURABLE SOLUTIONS STRATEGY AND PLAN OF ACTION FOR REFUGEES, INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS, RETURNEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES



JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN • OCTOBER 2024





Women Peace Group supported with goats, to enhance their livelihoods, the community also received tractors to support community farming and cooperatives and enhance food security, Magwi Eastern Equatoria State.

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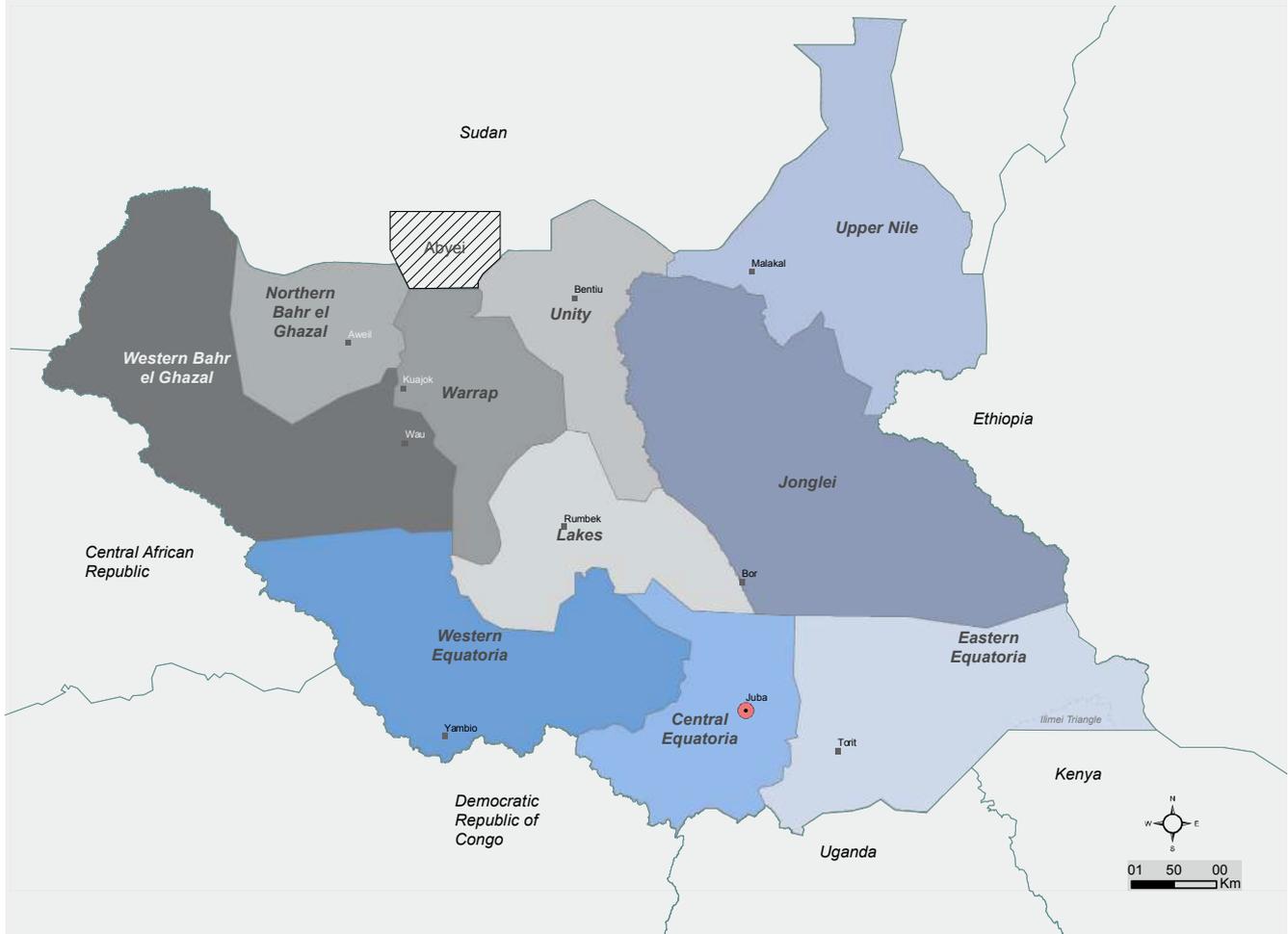
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South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees and Host Communities



Legend

- Country Capital
- State Capital

Administrative boundary

- State Boundary
- Undetermined Boundary
- International Boundary



The boundaries and names shown and designations used on this map does not imply official endorsement of or acceptance by the United Nations or UNHCR. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan and final status of Abyei area are not yet determined.

Forward



Hon. Albino Akol Atak, Minister of HADM

In March 2017, IGAD adopted the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action to address the protection and solutions needs of Somali refugees, returnees and IDPs. Reflecting the global commitments contained in the New York Declaration and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the Nairobi Declaration adopted innovative approaches, including a greater focus on quality of protection, resilience and better lives, while increasing efforts to find durable solutions. The commitments towards the Somali refugees were later broadened to cover other refugee and displaced groups in the region, including the Djibouti Declaration on Education and Kampala Declaration on Jobs and Livelihoods.

The IGAD Support Platform was announced during the first Global Refugee Forum in December 2019. It built from the Nairobi Declaration and aimed at helping to mobilize further support from States and other stakeholders in response to displacement situations in the region and supporting countries to operationalize their commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum. In October 2020, as a flagship activity of the IGAD Support Platform, the Solutions Initiative was launched by the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan, IGAD, EU and UNHCR. The Solutions

Initiative sought to galvanize international support towards the early recovery and longer-term peace building and resilience needs of over seven million internally displaced people, refugees and returnees as well as their host communities in the two countries.

The effort aligns with the aims of the IGAD Nairobi Declaration, an agreement by IGAD member States (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda) to pursue comprehensive regional approaches to deliver durable solutions for refugees while also maintaining protection and promoting self-reliance in countries of asylum.

The South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action aims to establish a framework to support South Sudanese refugees, returnees, IDPs and host communities to find sustainable durable solutions. This strategy is the overarching document which guides implementation of Durable Solutions in South Sudan at all levels of Government. It further guides implementation by Non-Governmental Organizations, International Organizations, United Nations, Peace and Development actors. The Strategy is anchored on and guided by the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the South Sudan (R-ARCSS), 2018, Chapter 3 on Humanitarian Assistance and Reconstruction and the road-map and The United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement. The Council of Ministers endorsed this strategy on 8 October 2023. Prior to this, the NTC-DS, humanitarian, peace and development actors validated the strategy in September 2021.

The ongoing implementation of the R-ARCSS, signed on 12 September 2018, is a significant milestone in the search for lasting peace. The R-ARCSS remains a unique opportunity and a major step for South Sudan to bring lasting peace to the country, rebuild the broken social fabrics, return South Sudan to peaceful co-existence, and address protracted displacement and humanitarian challenges in the country.

Despite multiple challenges, South Sudan has created an enabling environment for the protection of refugees through adoption of a National Law, the Refugee Act 2012, and Regulations on Refugees.

Most refugees in the country live in refugee camps alongside hosting communities. They have the right to work and access to land. South Sudan ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 protocol, the Kampala Convention and made commitments under the IGAD Nairobi Declaration and its Action Plan – a clear indication of the country’s commitment to international, regional, and national obligations for protecting and serving both refugees and displaced persons.

Peace is already being recorded by South Sudanese and is illustrated by the high number of spontaneous refugee returns. These have been increasing annually as follows based on statistics being recorded in December of each year: 270,220 in 2021; 151,256 in 2022; 532,734 in 2023 and 121,664 recorded as of March 2024¹. Between 16th April 2023 and 16th April 2024, 509,252² individuals had returned following the outbreak of conflict in Sudan although we recognize that they return under adverse conditions. By August 2024, this number had risen to over 600,000 South Sudanese.³ Insecurity in the country of asylum creates push factor as seen with returns from Gambella in Ethiopia, DRC and CAR. Initial returns recorded prior to 2023 were occasioned by improved security and conditions within South Sudan promoting refugees to return home. The country has experienced an increase in refugees hosted within its borders. The prevailing context makes this a timely strategy to support solutions to displacement in the country. The Government has made key strides in improving humanitarian access in all parts of the country, which demonstrates a great effort by the Government in line with the R-ARCSS.

It is worth noting that the South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities is the first of its kind in South Sudan. This is a government-led process and a clear demonstration of Government’s commitment to provide lasting solutions to protracted displacement in the country. The priority areas identified are informed by consultations with IDPs, refugees, returnees in the field through assessments, focus group discussions and key informant interviews. The Solutions Architecture identified in this strategy is an updated version of the previously existing solutions structure which comprised of

the National and State Task Forces on solutions. It ensures inclusivity at the National and State Level, leveraging on Government expertise, humanitarian footprint and the comparative advantage of institutions based on their mandates. This will foster accountability, clarity of roles and collaboration to support implementation of the strategy, ease resource mobilization and facilitate the development of further strategic and operational guidance developed based on prevailing contexts. The strategy ensures that Durable Solutions do not only focus on return, but also seeks to support reintegration and recovery by ensuring sustainable availability of basic services and access to livelihoods in areas of return and displacement. Ultimately, people will no longer have the protection and assistance needs that are linked to their displacement enabling them to enjoy their human rights.

The Ministry remains appreciative of: the IGAD support platform, UNHCR and other stakeholders including the World Bank, EU, GIZ for their technical contribution to this process. I also express my gratitude to the humanitarian, peace and development actors who provided technical contributions during the validation workshop of this strategy in September 2021.

Finally, I would like to give the Council of Ministers special acknowledgment for the approval of this strategy in 2023. Their endorsement is evidence of the Government’s commitment towards implementing solutions including but not limited to: reconstruction, repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation and reintegration of displaced South Sudanese, including those in Countries of Asylum.



Hon. Albino Akol Atak Mayom/ MP

The Minister,

Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster
Management,

Republic of South Sudan

Juba

Acknowledgments

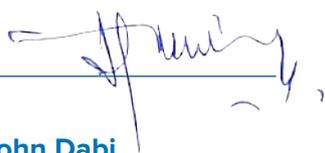
The process of developing the South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and the Plan of Action was an opportunity for Government Institutions to converge based on institutional mandates to address major challenges that affect the peace process not only in our country, South Sudan, but the entire region. This initiative will enhance sustainable peace and durable solutions for the people of South Sudan in the spirit of the R-ARCSS.

As Chair and Co-chair of the South Sudan National Technical Committee on Durable Solutions (NTC-DS), we are profoundly honored and grateful to the Secretariat and the entire members of the NTC-DS, who represented various Government Institutions, for their dedication and contributions to the development of the Strategy and Plan of Action.

We would also like to acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude the work and contributions of displaced persons who provided critical information through consultations which informed their priority needs.

Moreover, we would like to register our appreciation and vote of thanks for the technical and financial support provided by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); the technical, layout, editorial, logistical and financial support provided by UNHCR; and the cooperation and collaboration by the UNHCR Representatives Mr. Arafat Jamal and Ms Marie-Helene Verney and their entire team as well as the support extended by the World Bank. The Government of South Sudan remains appreciative of their contributions.

The RRC State Level Task Forces on Solutions and Governors made enormous contributions by avail-



Hon. John Dabi

Co-Chairperson of the National Technical
Committee on Durable Solutions (NTC-DS)
Commission of Refugees Affairs

ing their technical staff for the development of this initiative. They further supported the inclusion of refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities in national dialogues, ensuring that their needs and interests are voiced in the strategy.

The development of the Strategy and Plan of Action benefited from the constructive contributions of all those mentioned in finding lasting and sustainable solutions to protracted displacement of South Sudanese. Subsequently, we have developed a holistic strategy that seeks to enhance human capital, rebuild the broken social fabrics, attain the SDGs, and above all bring lasting peace to the country.

Given the complexity of the subject matter, synergy was adopted as the best mechanism to achieve this task. It was therefore prudent to invite institutional partners and stakeholders to the National Technical Committee on Durable Solutions (NTC-DS) comprising of various line ministries. We acknowledge and appreciate their invaluable support, guidance, and inputs without which, the development of Strategy and the Plan of Action would not have materialized.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the team of consultants led by Prof. Dr. Leben Nelson Moro and assisted by Dr. Sisto Otim and Mr. Paulino S. Paidan who worked closely with NTC –DS to develop this Strategy and Plan of Action document. In conclusion, we would like to affirm that this is not the end, but, rather, the beginning of a journey towards durable solutions in South Sudan.



Hon. Santino Bol Mouter

Co-Chairperson of the National Technical
Committee on Durable Solutions (NTC-DS)
Relief and Rehabilitation Commission

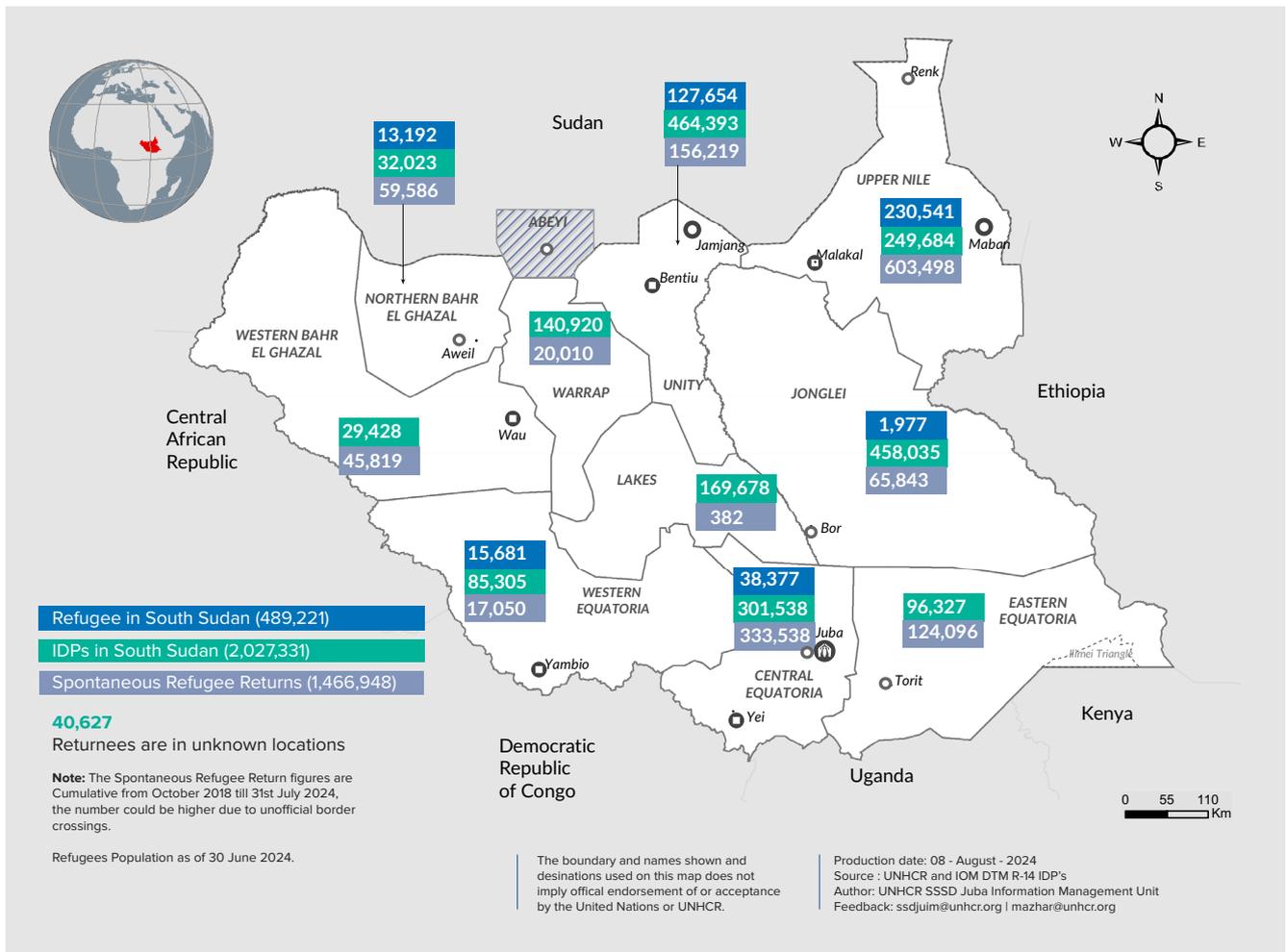
Acronyms & Abbreviations

AfDB	African Development Bank
AGD	Age, Gender and Diversity
AU	African Union
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
CRA	Commission for Refugee Affairs
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CTSAMVM	Ceasefire & Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring & Verification Mechanism
EAC	East Africa Community
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
GRF	Global Refugee Forum
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IASC?	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICGLR	International Conference for the Great Lakes Region
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INGOs	International Non Governmental Organisation
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JMEC	Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission
MHADM	Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management
MIS	Management Information System
NDSS	National Durable Solution Strategy

NFI	Non Food Items
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NTC - DS	National Technical Committee on Durable Solutions
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
POCs	Protection of Civilians Sites
R-ARCSS	Revitalized Agreement on Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
RRC	Relief and Rehabilitation Commission
RSS	Republic of South Sudan
RTGoNU	Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity
SADD	Sex and Age Disaggregated Data
SAGD	Sex, Age, Gender & Diversity
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
TNLA	Transitional National Legislative Assembly
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNSDCF	UN Strategic Development Cooperation Framework
UNPOL	United Nations Police
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality & Empowerment of Women
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank

Map Refugees, Returnees and IDPs Population Map

South Sudan
30 July 2024



Awulu Hafir - Jamjang refugee's camp, Ruweng Administrative Area. It supports refugees and host community to farm and provides water for cattle, contributing to peaceful co-existence.

Executive Summary

South Sudan and Sudan accounts for seven million displaced persons making them have the largest protracted displacement situation in Africa. The gradual return of peace in South Sudan, resulting from the implementation of the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and the efforts towards the 2020 Juba Peace Agreement in Sudan, notwithstanding the 2023 conflict, illustrate the efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and other partner organizations in supporting both countries to find sustainable solutions to the conditions of their uprooted populations.

During a meeting in early December 2020 in Khartoum, the governments of the two countries developed a road-map that highlighted steps to be taken towards short, medium, and sustainable solutions for the uprooted populations, including IDPs and refugees as well as returnees. A follow-up meeting in Juba in January 2021 agreed on the process to develop the durable solutions, strategies, and plans of action for each of the two countries.

In South Sudan, a National Technical Committee on Durable Solutions co-chaired by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) and Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) with the membership of key line ministries, was set up to supervise the process of developing the durable solutions strategy and plan of action for the country. The process involved reviewing documents, consultations with stakeholders in six of the country's ten states, in line with the road-map agreed upon by the two countries, and drawing lessons from previous returns. Moreover, it built on a National Framework for Return, Reintegration and Relocation of Displaced Persons that, was prepared by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission in 2019.

In carrying out its mandate, the NTC –DS and stakeholders took into account the fact that providing sustainable durable solutions for refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities entailed dealing with broader issues, particularly addressing the root causes of conflict and building solidarity among communities and displaced people with a critical consideration of the need of resource sharing.

The adoption of the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action by IGAD in March 2017 and the announcement of the IGAD Support Platform at the first Global Refugee Forum in December 2019, illustrates the goodwill of actors at the regional and international levels to support countries hosting large numbers of refugees, including Sudan and South Sudan. In addition, the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants calls upon all countries to address the root causes of large-scale refugee situations. Further, the Global Compact on Refugees agreed by the UN General Assembly in 2018 urges the international community to contribute resources and expertise to support countries of origin to deal with root causes and to enable conditions favorable for voluntary repatriation.

The Durable Solution Strategy and Plan of Action aim at guiding the government and stakeholders to tackle the challenges confronting displaced persons (women, girls, boys and men) as they return to their places of origin, settle into other places of their choice, integrate into communities or seek refuge in South Sudan. To ensure that this is effected, the following priority actions need to be undertaken:

- Create secure and safe environment for achieving durable solutions;
- Provide basic services to support and sustain durable solutions;
- Support integration of refugees, IDPs, returnees, and host communities and improve their livelihoods;
- Strengthen government institutional capacities and relations at all levels and
- Bolster Government ownership and capacity, partnership arrangements and coordination mechanisms for government to undertake effective interventions.

For these actions to be realized, the government will adopt and encourage a proactive and holistic approach which garners the meaningful participation of a broad and diverse range of stakeholders, as well as soliciting the required financial and in-kind resources.



Kitchen garden - Jamjang, refugee camp.

Introduction

1.1 Background

The Republic of South Sudan (RSS) is the world's newest state. It is the 193rd Member State of the United Nations (UN) and the 54th Member State of the African Union (AU). Other regional bodies that RSS has affiliation with include the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the East African Community (EAC), and the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

South Sudan's independence came as a result of a popular referendum held in line with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) signed in 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya. The agreement recognizes the right of Southerners to self-determination. On 9 January 2011, 98.5 percent of South Sudanese overwhelmingly voted to secede from Sudan.

Despite the successful referendum and a widely shared hope for a peaceful transition, in December 2013, conflict erupted which eventually escalated into most parts of the country resulting in widespread displacement of South Sudanese within the country and across international borders. As of April 2024, over 2 million South Sudanese were internally displaced persons (IDPs)⁴. According to UNHCR, 2 million South Sudanese are refugees in neighboring countries, representing Africa's largest refugee crisis⁵.

Through the facilitation of IGAD and with the support of the international community, the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) was signed by the conflicting parties on 12 September 2018. The agreement was a major milestone in the search for peace. The R-ARCSS remains a unique opportunity and a major step for RSS to bring lasting peace, rebuild the broken social fabric, return South Sudan to peaceful co-existence, and address its widespread displacement and humanitarian challenges.

The transitional phase of the implementation of the R-ARCSS that ended in February 2020 saw the reconfiguration of the country's administrative structure from 32 States to 10 states. It also resulted in the signing of the agreement by the parties on

security arrangements and unification of forces with progress in transitional security arrangements and the formation of an inclusive Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGONU). Further milestones have been made during the transitional period, including the re-constitution of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA), formation of inclusive state and local governments and the ongoing reforms in the security sector through the assembling of forces in cantonment areas in a bid to build one professional national army. Other achievements include the amendment of security laws; dissemination of the Agreement in conjunction with partners to ensure that it is understood by citizens; reforms in the financial sector; formation of a national task-force on inclusion of refugees and IDPs in the implementation of the R-ARCSS; and the finalization of local administrative structures. The country has also commenced the process of drafting a new constitution.

The implementation of R-ARCSS has resulted in a marked reduction in conflicts across many parts of the country and peace is already being felt by citizens. Since October 2018, 1.43 million returnees have been recorded,⁶ a majority of which lacked any humanitarian support. They either trekked long distances to their areas of origin or mobilized funds to hire trucks to support their return movements. It is worth noting that, although these types of movements are not ideal, as they often occur in areas that have not been cleared by the government and humanitarians for return, IDPs and refugee returnees are well within their constitutional right of freedom of movement to return to these areas. For this reason, it is critical that authorized return movements are supported to a great extent possible, as this would offer alternative areas of return for IDPs who would wish to explore solutions for their displaced situation. The outbreak of conflict in Sudan on 15 April 2023, led to the return of over 600,000⁷ South Sudanese in adverse conditions as they sought safety. A majority of the returnees were located in states bordering Sudan. As a consequence, to improve the delivery of services in return locations remains vital to supporting resilience for this population.

Humanitarian agencies have been granted access to render needed services in all parts of the country, though lack of basic services and infrastructure (access roads) remains a challenge.

Several refugees, IDPs and returnees expressed their views and made their voice heard during the National Consultations Workshop held on 11 and 12 March 2021 in Juba as part of the process for implementation of the Solutions Strategy road-map. Most refugees continued to speak of a future back in South Sudan, while IDPs longed to return home. They highlight the need of paying attention to key critical issues before they can return home. Such issues include creation of an enabling environment in relation to security, rule of law, rights, shelter, and access to education, services and work.

Over the last few years, IGAD has developed a regional framework on displacement and solutions which increasingly serves as a useful point of reference for South Sudan. In March 2017, IGAD adopted the Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia.⁸ The declaration, which is accompanied by Plan of Action, aimed at addressing the protection and solution needs of Somali refugees, returnees and IDPs. Mirroring the global commitments contained in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the Nairobi Declaration adopted innovative approaches, including a greater focus on quality protection, resilience, and better lives, while increasing efforts to find durable solutions. The commitments towards the Somali refugees were later broadened to cover other refugee and displaced groups in the region. They include the Djibouti Declaration on Regional Conference on Refugee Education in IGAD Member States (Djibouti Declaration)⁹ and the Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods and Self-resilience for Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities in IGAD region.¹⁰ At the first Global Refugee Forum held in December 2019, the IGAD Support Platform was announced. The forum was intended to build on the Nairobi Declaration and mobilize further support to States and other stakeholders in responding to protracted displacement situations in the region, and support countries to operationalize their commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum.

The activation criteria of Support Platforms of the GCR is as follows:

- A large-scale and/or complex refugee situation where the response capacity of a host State is or is expected to be overwhelmed; or
- A protracted refugee situation where the host State(s) require(s) considerable additional support, and/or a major opportunity for a solution arises (e.g. large-scale voluntary repatriation to the country of origin or a comprehensive solution to responsibly end a specific situation) should be linked to why the solutions initiative was started.

South Sudan plays host to Sudanese refugees, IDPs and refugee returnees. Along with Sudan, the two countries collectively account for seven million uprooted people in the East Africa, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes regions. They both present a multi-layered mix of refugees, IDPs, IDP returnees, stateless persons, and persons at risk of statelessness. For South Sudan this strategy provides a unique opportunity to find lasting solutions for displaced persons. The regional approach is intended to support the implementation of durable solutions in both countries.

On 3 December 2020, the governments of the Republic of South Sudan and Sudan agreed on a road-map which outlined the steps towards short, medium, and sustainable solutions for the seven million displaced persons that include IDPs, refugees as well as returnees from the two countries. During a meeting held in Juba between 13 and 15 January 2021, participants from both countries agreed on the way forward, on the process of developing durable solutions and strategies for each county. The implementation of this strategy was government-led and will rely on the entire government support and an all-inclusive society approach.

1.2 Context

Displacement in South Sudan dates back to the pre-independence period. After the day of independence on 9 July 2011, South Sudan inherited refugees from Sudan, DR Congo and Central Africa Republic. Additionally, the Sudanese IDPs then in South Sudan became refugees after the nation

seceded from Sudan. Further, Sudan's decision to revoke citizenship from any individual qualifying for South Sudanese nationality left many individuals at risk of statelessness. Consequently, statelessness became a major concern in the country perpetuated by a lack of identity and nationality documents.¹¹

Protracted conflict in 2013 and 2016 caused widespread displacements within South Sudan and across borders. As of July 2024, 2 million South Sudan refugees were hosted in neighboring countries, mostly in Sudan (662,492), Kenya (181,963), Ethiopia (430,663) and Uganda (953,536). Sudan alone hosted 28.9 percent of the total refugee population. However, it is worth noting that since the outbreak of violence in Sudan in April 2023, 792,552 individuals have crossed into South Sudan seeking safety, of these 601,831 (75.9%) individuals are South Sudanese who have returned home to seek safety, while the remainder constitute of Sudan nationals 184,453 (23.4%) who have been granted prima facie refugee status and third country nationals.¹² Within its borders, South Sudan hosted 2 million IDPs, 76 percent of these were in host communities, while 24 percent were in IDP camps.¹³

Besides conflict, climate change has also contributed to displacement of persons as a result of heavy floods in many parts of the country. Between July and October 2021, 856,000 people had been affected by floods and 389,000 had been displaced.¹⁴ Locations such as Bentiu remained under floods in 2024, with more flooding expected from incoming rains, the highlands in Ethiopia and Lake Victoria. Other causes of displacement are inter-community violence and cattle raiding.

In addition to the protracted instability, severe food insecurity and a lack of access to basic infrastructure such as schools and hospitals remain a threat to the country's stability. The effects of pandemics as was witnessed with the COVID-19, slow growth in global economy, and reduced humanitarian funds are a testament that displaced persons are at a high risk of becoming destitute if resources are not available to meet their critical needs. Gender Based Violence (GBV) has also been associated with conflicts and women and children suffer the most. In South Sudan, only 20 percent of women and girls in the displaced population have access to GBV services, leaving the remaining 80 percent vulnerable to the risk of exacerbated consequences of GBV.¹⁵

The signing and implementation of the R-ARCSS were a source of motivation to overcome the challenges associated with conflicts and have resulted in many South Sudanese refugees and IDPs returning to their areas of origin. Although the present conditions may not be conducive for returns, areas that meet the minimum requirements of safety, security and availability of social services as outlined in the South Sudan Action Plan for Returns, Reintegration and Recover: Achieving Durable Solutions 2024 are receiving significant returns. Since October 2018, over 1.3 million spontaneous refugee returns have been recorded as of April 2024 and 1.43 million IDPs have returned home.¹⁶ More efforts are however needed to ensure that conditions are conducive for returns, that returnees are supported, and that the government continues to work closely with humanitarian and development actors to establish the necessary facilities that support returns.

This durable returns strategy and approach seeks to draw lessons from past returns, following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005. According to officials who took part in previous returns, the 2005 voluntary repatriation of refugees from Sudan and other neighboring countries to Southern Sudan was characterized by numerous shortfalls. The repatriation was reportedly not entirely sustainable or successful. Many returnees were stranded along the return routes for months, became frustrated and were deserted in transit centers. Some people opted to return to countries of asylum due to a lack of basic services in areas of return. Women and girls also spoke about how they experienced sexual and gender-based violence during and after their return. They also faced difficulties in accessing housing, land and property. Additionally, extreme scarcity of resources was also observed.

1.3 Strategy and Plan of Action Development

As mentioned earlier, this is a government-led process which adopts a whole of society and whole of government approach thus ensuring it is holistic. The South Sudan road-map presented at the inception workshop in Khartoum as part of the Sudan-South Sudan initiative focuses on conducting comprehensive needs assessment at the national and field levels, to identify challenges, needs, and opportunities within protracted displacement situations in South Sudan

and to inform the drafting of a Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action.

The process of developing the Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action involved reviewing reports, strategies, legal and policy frameworks and other relevant literature, and consultations with diverse stakeholders, including government officials, aid organizations, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academicians, religious leaders, refugees in Kenya, Uganda and Sudan, and IDPs, returnees and local communities in six of the ten states in the country. The process was also guided by the road-map agreed upon by the two countries and

IGAD. Moreover, it was informed by lessons learnt from both current and previous returns.

A National Technical Committee (NTC-DS) was set up to supervise and provide oversight functions to the implementation of the South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Action, as well as Government documents or action plans. The committee is co-chaired by the Commission of Refugee Affairs and Relief and Rehabilitation Commission.

Its current constituent members are drawn from the below mentioned line ministries and government institutions as well as international humanitarian organizations and development partners.

National Technical Committee on Durable solutions (NTC-DS)	
Office of the President special programs	Ministry of Health
Office of the Vice President	Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology
Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC)	Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management
Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA)	Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Environment and Forestry	Ministry of Labour
Ministry of Finance and Planning	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	Ministry of Roads and Bridges
Ministry of General Education and Instruction	Ministry of Youth and Sport
Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation

The roles and responsibilities of the NTC-DS identified during the development of the strategy and the plan of action included visiting areas in states not only to collect information but also to assess the environment, security situation and available

services. Moreover, the NTC-DS worked closely with consultants recruited by IGAD and the UNHCR to support the development of the Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action.

1.3.1 National Consultations Workshop

A National Consultations Workshop organized by the NTC - DS in Juba between 11 and 12 March 2021 had the following objectives:

- i. Introduce the initiative to a broad and diverse number of stakeholders in South Sudan, both at the national and sub-national level;
- ii. Solicit views and recommendations from stakeholders on durable solutions for refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities;
- iii. Highlight the key milestones for the development of the Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action; and
- iv. Share lessons learnt from past returns on critical issues, challenges, and opportunities to inform the development of the Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action.

The workshop was attended by participants from key ministries and UN agencies as well as state officials, refugees, IDPs, returnees and members of host communities. Due to the situation occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, many participants including refugees, IDPs and returnees participated in the meeting virtually. The participants reflected on lessons learnt from past returns and identified the following shortcomings:

- **Absence of a strategy, a costed action plan for its implementation, and an inclusive platform to support implementation of returns**
- **Insecurity in some places of return e.g. the risk of SGBV**
- **Inadequate choices of basic services in places of return**
- **Inadequate preparations by stakeholders to receive returnees**
- **Inadequate start-up packages provided for short periods of time (three months)**
- **Unclear roles and responsibilities of partner agencies, and**
- **Weak coordination and monitoring mechanisms.**

To avoid the above or similar shortfalls, the lessons learnt were taken into account and addressed during the development of the Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action. Thus, adequate planning and preparations at all levels ahead of the arrival of returnees, and inclusive and effective coordination that integrates gender considerations are critical for the success and sustainability of durable solutions.

1.3.2 State-level Assessments

Subsequently, the NTC - DS organized sub-national consultations in six of the ten states in the country namely Central Equatoria State, Eastern Equatoria State, Western Equatoria State, Western Bahr el Ghazal State, Unity State, and Upper Nile State. The sub-national consultations helped to create awareness about the development of the Strategy and Plan of Action. Moreover, the assessment was undertaken with the objective of gathering most of the reliable information on needs, opportunities and challenges for developing the Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action.

The six assessment teams were led by senior members of the NTC-DS. Each team comprised a leader, member and rapporteur (or consultant), who carried out needs assessments in the different locations. They succeeded in gathering substantial information using a tool developed in a participatory manner. After completing the fieldwork, the teams presented their reports at a workshop held on 12 April 2021 at Regency Hotel. The consultants used the information to develop the Strategy and Plan of Action.

The outcomes of the consultations revealed notable progress to support the implementation of the Durable Solutions Strategy. Strong political will and commitment to peace, existence of functional national and state governments, legal structures to enforce justice and rule of law, and good relations among host communities, refugees and IDPs were positive attributes that required to be strengthened. In Tambura, Western Equatoria State, refugees expressed willingness to integrate among the host population, noting that the Refugee Act of 2012 provides for naturalization, while refugees in Ajoung Thok, Unity State, and Makpandu settlement, Western Equatoria State, showed little intention to return until comprehensive peace is achieved in their respective countries.

Some concerns were also noted during the assessments. These included insecurity, inter-communal violence and revenge clashes, unregulated cross border grazing which could be a source of conflict, cattle grazing on agricultural lands which may lead to food insecurity and the presence of unexploded ordinance. Law enforcement agencies were also identified as being in need of additional capacity building to handle spontaneous returnees who may not have appropriate documentation. Despite the host communities expressing willingness to assist returnees, they lacked enough resources to support them. Furthermore, public resources such as: WASH, healthcare, education and infrastructure were constrained. The 50 percent food ration cuts in the General Food Distribution created anxiety among the engaged displaced persons. The conditions of roads and bridges were identified as requiring significant improvements due to the difficulties posed to returnees and asylum seekers as they accessed areas and the challenges in accessing markets. The engaged IDPs and refugees also called for alternative and sustainable sources of energy and investment in value addition for fruits and cereals harvested.

Across the board, the engaged IDPs, refugees, returnees and state officials acknowledged that silencing of guns had significantly improved the perception on security and safety. Suggestions were made for Western and Eastern Equatoria and Western Bar

Ghazal to be considered as pilot areas for return. It was noted that some return areas were accessible by either road, water or air. This proposal was further supported by the good relations between refugees and host communities. IDPs and refugees made requests that mirrored the key priorities identified at the National Consultations, particularly those that included restitution and illegal occupation of houses, land and property, and employment and livelihood opportunities for the youth. Despite the challenges, IDPs continued to express interest to return to their areas of origin and rebuild their lives, while host communities expressed willingness to host and co-exist with IDPs.

1.3.3 Desk review

Reports produced by humanitarian, development and peace building partners dealing with refugees, IDPs and returnees, previous data resulting from profiling, surveys and population tracking, and other documents were considered by the consultants. This exercise yielded a wealth of information touching on IDPs' intentions to return, spontaneous returns, the security situation, provision of basic services and experiences of assisted voluntary returns that followed the end of the first Sudanese civil war (1955-1972) and second Sudanese civil war (1983-2005). This information was used in drafting the Durable Solution Strategy and Plan of Action.



A renovated Relief and Rehabilitation Commission office in Torit, Eastern Equatoria.

Objectives

2.1 Overarching Objective

This Durable Solutions Strategy and Action Plan is intended to guide Government, humanitarian and development organizations as well as other stakeholders in addressing the concerns expressed, and the challenges and hurdles faced by displaced persons as they seek to return to their areas of origin and settle into alternative locations, or integrate into the society to which they were displaced.

2.2 Strategic Objectives

The strategic objectives of the Durable Solutions Strategy seek to ensure displaced persons are able to rebuild their lives and sustain their lives with dignity. It will cover aspects such as:

- **Security and safety of refugees, IDPs, returnees, stateless and host communities;**
- **Provision of basic services such as food, clean drinking water, shelters, passable roads, and primary and secondary education to sustain voluntary return;**
- **Health Care and justice services that will specifically look to address survivors of SGBV and torture, including domestic violence, child abduction and forced marriage;**
- **Promoting peace building, reconciliation and healing among the communities; whilst enhancing justice responses and psychosocial services to improve recovery, empowerment, dignity and resilience;**
- **Creation of livelihood opportunities for refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities and**
- **Environmental protection to strengthen household and local economies; and mobilization of resources.**
- **Enhance government institutional capacities and relations; and strengthening partnerships, coordination of services, and information flow for optimum delivery and sustainability of durable solutions.**



Tree Nursery in Yei, Central Equatoria State.

The above will be conducted while integrating gender considerations into planning and response and systematically consider the meaningful participation of female and male refugees, IDPs and returnees (including a diverse representation of refugee profiled-persons with disabilities, adolescents, youth, and elderly individuals) in key decision-making processes that affect them. The specific strategic objectives which are outlined in the results-based framework of this documents are:

- **Creation of secure and safe environment for achieving durable solutions;**
- **Provision of basic services to support and sustain durable solutions;**
- **Supporting the integration of refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities including livelihoods;**
- **Strengthening government institutional capacities and relations; and**
- **Bolstering Government ownership and capacity, partnership arrangements and coordination mechanisms for government to undertake effective interventions.**

Rationale for Strategy and Plan of Action Development

Resolving internal displacement requires strong government leadership and a coordinated response. The signing of the R-ARCSS in 2018 provided unique opportunities for South Sudan to fully implement commitments for the voluntary, safe, and sustainable return of their people to their places of origin or choice.

Chapter 3 of the R-ARCSS calls on the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) to create an enabling environment for safe and dignified return of the South Sudanese who fled hostility in their original home areas or places of habitual residence and ended in other parts of the country or other countries. Enabling protection environment means:

- **Protecting and providing secure access to the civilian population in need of humanitarian assistance;**
- **Providing physical, legal, and psychosocial protection to refugees and IDPs to return in safety and dignity, including the re-unification of the families separated during the conflict;**
- **Granting rights to citizenship, civil registration, and issuance of appropriate identification documents to refugees and IDPs; and**
- **Allowing refugees and IDPs to return to their places of origin or live in areas of their choice.**

The above commitments which are stipulated in the R-ARCSS, are well-articulated and echoed in many legal and policy frameworks including chapter VI of the South Sudan Refugee Act 2012, sections 41 and 42.

The R-ARCSS also recognizes that providing sustainable durable solutions to refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities entails dealing with broader issues, including the root causes of conflict, and requires solidarity with other countries especially in terms of resource sharing, which is already happening but needs to be bolstered.

In addition, a shift on focus from an emergency humanitarian response to an emphasis on durable solutions is being operationalized through the Government-led 'National Framework for Return, Reintegration and Relocation of Displaced Persons. Achieving Durable Solutions in South Sudan' ('National Framework') that was adopted in September 2019 and a subsequent 2020 version of the updated South Sudan Action Plan for Returns, Reintegration and Recover: Achieving Durable Solutions 2024 support the operationalization of the National Framework. It is currently supporting durable solutions in areas where pockets of security have been established. These two documents will further complement the implementation of this strategy by Government and stakeholders.

The adoption of the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action by IGAD in March 2017 and the announcement of the IGAD Support Platform at the first Global Refugee Forum in December 2019 demonstrated the will of regional and international actors to cooperate with countries hosting large numbers of refugees, including Sudan and South Sudan.

At the global level, substantial efforts have been directed to deal with broader issues, including root causes and sustainable peace, and enhancing solidarity with host countries and refugees. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants 2016 calls upon "All countries and relevant stakeholders to tackle the root causes of large-scale refugee situations." Moreover, the Global Compact on Refugees agreement by the UN General Assembly in 2018 points out that: "the international community as a whole will contribute resources and expertise to support countries of origin, upon their request, to address root causes, to remove obstacles to return, and to enable conditions favorable for voluntary repatriation." Evidently, the Global Compact "complements United Nations endeavors in the areas of prevention, peace, security, sustainable development, migration and peace building."

The 1951 Refugee Convention, 1969 OAU Refugee Convention, 2009 Kampala Convention, and Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement clearly stipulate

the durable solutions for refugees and IDPs. In the context of South Sudan, given situational dynamics, challenges and needs for each group of refugees and IDPs in a given location, each of the durable solution options including transitional solutions should be explored, discussed, and agreed upon by the relevant stakeholders such as the NTC-DS, UNHCR, and the receiving state task-forces prior to implementation. Further, domestication of the Kampala Convention through a national law will ensure that international standards for prevention, protection and resolving internal displacement are directly enforceable in the country. This calls for the **need to prioritize the enactment of the pending Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons Bill, 2024.**

3.1 Voluntary return in safety and dignity

The decision to return to one's place of origin or a place of one's choice, should be made voluntarily by refugees and IDPs. This requires the Government and partners to strengthen information sharing to enable refugees and IDPs to make informed choices. Their return may be spontaneous or assisted by government, humanitarian and development partners. In the case of spontaneous returns, the refugees or IDPs need to know if the situation at the place of return is conducive to sustain their return. For assisted returns, the receiving Government and other partners should conduct pre-return assessments to ensure that there is an enabling environment for sustainability. In all cases, the returnees need to be assisted with humanitarian support and services. Such assistance should include psychosocial support services and strengthening protection mechanisms for women and girls, particularly against SGBV and other vulnerable categories.

In the case of spontaneous returns, the returnees should be registered upon arrival, provided with adequate food rations, emergency shelter, blankets and warm clothing, water containers, cooking sets, cups and plates, and basic construction and agriculture hand tools as a start-up kit for livelihood.

For assisted returns, the receiving Government should ensure that the security situation on the ground is conducive for sustainable return, and that the return routes and feeder roads at the places of return or choice are passable. Dispute resolution

mechanisms need to be put in place to address tensions that may arise over competing claims on land, housing and property for all groups targeted in the strategy. Arable land and basic services should be available for livelihood activities. Humanitarian and development actors should be prepared to assist with logistics in addition to the basic life sustaining and livelihood needs that are mentioned in the above paragraph.

3.2 Integration into host community

Integration of IDPs and refugees into the host community should be done with full participation of displaced persons, the host community and the local government. There should be deliberate effort to also ensure the meaningful participation of women by promoting their role in decision making. There must be land and other livelihood opportunities to sustain integration. Priorities should be given to establishing mechanisms for the resolution of housing, land, and property issues in areas of return. The Ministry of Interior should be involved in legalization of the integration through the naturalization for refugees, and civil registration and documentation processes for all.

3.3 Resettlement

The option to relocate IDPs in other parts of South Sudan or resettle Refugees to a third country of asylum may be a durable solution in a situation where the refugee or IDP cannot integrate into the host community, or return to the country, or place of origin for fear of imminent persecution. There is need for tailored, case-by-case and location-specific approaches and solutions that focus on (re) integration rather than merely physical return.

3.4 Other local solutions

In addition to local integration, countries may opt to provide local solutions to facilitate the integration of displaced persons into the communities in which they are located. Indeed, the Global Compact on Refugees emphasizes the importance of countries opting to apply local solutions to integrate refugees economically, socially and cultural into local communities. Comparative analysis of the available

resources with the local population is perhaps the best way to move forward e.g. assessing the facilities available for the host communities that are needed to achieve the local integration of displaced populations and analysis on the benefits of integrating refugees in the South Sudan context.

It is important to take into account specific needs of different groups. A report by Oxfam International, Nile Hope, Titi Foundation, Danish Refugee Council, Norwegian Refugee Council and CARE, produced in September 2019,¹⁷ titled: “No Simple Solutions-Women, Displacement and Durable Solutions in South Sudan” suggests that more women are moving than men. This is in terms of temporary travel and attempts at more permanent movements. The experiences and the challenges faced by those who are

moving (women, girls, boys, and men) are unique to each group. For instance, the collected data suggests that over half of South Sudanese households coming back from the wider region could include at least one member who is pregnant or lactating, who may therefore be more vulnerable to malnutrition. Therefore, in suggesting pathways towards durable solutions, there is need to consider the local contexts by tailoring responses and actions to address the specific needs of women and girls in diverse situations as well as effective mainstreaming of gender considerations throughout the response. Both targeted actions and mainstreaming should acknowledge that refugee women and girls are not a homogeneous group and that their priorities, needs, and concerns vary. A rights-based approach requires acknowledging this diversity.



Soba Computer Centre- Jamjang refugee camp, Ruweng Administrative Area.

Target Populations

4.1 Refugees in South Sudan

South Sudan hosts over 489,221 refugees¹⁸ from several countries 95 percent of whom originate from Sudan. Many of the refugees live in settlements camps close to the country's border with Sudan. Field assessments conducted in the drafting of this strategy established that in Maban County, 300 refugees had expressed an intention to return to Sudan. Refugees are located along the South Sudan border with the Central African Republic and with the Democratic Republic of Congo, many of them live in protracted refugee situations and have acquired cultural affinity, familiarity, ethnic and linguistic similarities with the local South Sudanese and can be considered for naturalization.

4.2 South Sudan Refugees

As of July 2024, 2 million South Sudan refugees were hosted in neighboring countries, mostly in Sudan (662,492), Kenya (181,963), Ethiopia (430,663) and Uganda (953,536). Sudan alone hosted 28.9 percent of the total refugee population. However, its worth noting that since the outbreak of violence in Sudan in April 2023, 792,552 individuals have crossed into South Sudan seeking safety, of these 601,831 (75.9%) individuals are South Sudanese who have returned home to seek safety, while the remainder constitute of Sudan nationals 184,453 (23.4%) who have been granted prima facie refugee status and third country nationals. Since the signing of the R-ARCSS in Dec 2018, 1.4 million spontaneous refugee returnees have been recorded in South Sudan. Popular reasons for leaving countries of asylum include: Insecurity in country of asylum, Food security (including reduction of a food ration) and Lack of employment and livelihoods opportunities. Key reasons for returning to South Sudan include: Reuniting with family members, Assess land/property/housing, Improvement of security situation in South Sudan. The figures are indicative of a preference for South Sudanese refugees to return home.¹⁹

4.3 Internally Displaced Persons

There were over 2 million²⁰ internally displaced South Sudanese as of 30 April 2024. Some 180,000 are hosted in the six United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)-controlled Protection of Civilian Sites (PoCs), which were transformed into displacement camps and placed under the protection of the national government in September 2020. The number of IDPs who have expressed willingness to leave the displacement sites has increased following the signing of the R-ARCSS as is evidenced by UNHCR perception surveys. For example, a survey conducted in Protection of civilian Site 1 in Juba in October 2018 indicated that only 38 percent²¹ of those surveyed intended to leave the site with the places of origin contributing 75 percent of their preference. A survey done in December 2019 in the same place indicated that those willing to leave had risen to 52 percent. However, 68 percent of them said safety in their destinations was a precondition for eventual return.

In Wau, the capital of Western Bahr el Ghazal State, a survey conducted by UNHCR in March 2020 showed that 41 percent of IDPs intended to leave the sites of which 84 percent of them chose their places of origin as the preferred destinations. When the assessment team visited Wau, it found that many IDPs camps and churches were already departing. Consequently, the IDP population in Naivasha IDP Camp had reduced from 39,000 in the mid of 2020 to 9,000 at the beginning of 2021. Similar trends were observed in Masana IDP camps, with the IDP population reducing from 14,000 in the mid 2020 to 10,000 at the beginning of 2021. However, the team identified many challenges faced by the spontaneous returnees, that included lack of support and limited access to basic services like water, food, shelters, healthcare, and education. Thus, to promote voluntary return process, the government and the partners should consider mobilizing resources to meet the needs of spontaneous returnees.

Despite these challenges, the assessment team strongly felt that the environment was conducive enough for people to be assisted to leave the dis-

placement sites. This contention was premised on the existence of some basic services in many areas of return, particularly Wau and the surrounding areas. Additionally, the existence of conducive security environment in some locations had a positive contribution.

4.4 Returnees

The implementation of the R-ARCSS has prompted some South Sudanese to return from camps and other places of refuge in asylum countries or from displacement sites within the country to their original villages or places of their choice. However, the sustainability of returns varies from place to place.

In some locations, the returnees have been re-establishing themselves after years in other countries or other places within the country. For example, the field assessment team that went to Wau concluded that its environment was conducive for sustained returns. Reportedly, many refugees from Sudan have been returning to Raga, one of the major towns in the state. Further, 60 percent of IDPs from Naivasha IDP Camp have returned to their original places within the state.

The converse has been observed in other places. For instance, in Maban County, local youth engaged in clashes in December 2020, forcing some local people to flee into settlements hosting Sudanese refugees for safety. The assessment team that went to the County learned that some returnees from Sudan and Ethiopia were compelled to return to these countries to seek refuge. The conclusion drawn was that the situation had created challenges for safe and dignified return at that time. In Yei County of Central Equatoria State, there was fighting between armed groups, displaced people and returnees.

4.5 Host Communities

The strong social networks in South Sudan, communities play a significant role in assisting vulnerable people including refugees, IDPs and returnees. This is particularly the case when the socio-economic conditions of communities is good. However, because of protracted conflicts, many communities are vulnerable and also need support. Some members of the local community in Maban County fled into refugee settlements for safety. Sometimes, the situation of refugees and IDPs can become better

than that of nearby local communities because of the assistance provided to them. It is recommended that both the government and aid organizations to be mindful of this and strive to provide support in a conflict-sensitive manner by taking into consideration some allocation to assist host communities



Returnee women in Raja at group work in Malakal during the permanent constitution making and electoral process consultations.

4.6 Stateless Persons

Although South Sudan has had a Nationality Act and Nationality Regulations in place since it took its independence from Sudan in 2011, the risk of statelessness in South Sudan persists due to laws determining access to South Sudanese nationality, lack of funding, the capacity for a civil registry system, and continued displacement. Additionally, this is aggravated by factors such as historical migration flows that include nomadic populations, and undetermined status of nationality for people living in border and disputed areas. Furthermore, when persons are outside the country for a long time due to civil war, they undergo challenges in establishing their links which puts them at a risk of statelessness.

Every person has a right to nationality which guarantees the benefit of being shielded from different challenges, access to response that may be necessary to save lives and preserve human dignity and the ability to fully participate in communities and societies. The global challenges, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the high cost of living among

others that South Sudan has experienced over time impact the processes that confer right to nationality to her citizens. As in many countries, without nationality documentation, individuals are not able to exercise their rights, including the right to employment and the right to move freely. Without a nationality, democracy, peace, development and security are at stake. Stateless people cannot vote, stand for or participate in elections. Statelessness suppresses their voices and renders their opinions obsolete. Difficulties accessing public good such as healthcare, education, and financial services e.g. opening bank accounts or accessing loans for business. Globally, stateless people are vulnerable to extortion, detention or expulsion and are unable to enjoy freedom of movement. They suffer exclusion, persecution, and discrimination because they lack essential documentation such as nationality

documents. Moreover, statelessness is a waste of individual potential, human capital, and development opportunities. Disputes surrounding the acquisition of nationality hamper peace-building efforts.

Although the South Sudan Government is yet to accede or ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the Government recognizes that the rights of this population group should be protected. The Republic of South Sudan made five pledges under the campaign to address statelessness at the High-Level Segment and Global Refugee Forum out of which one has been fulfilled. It is working actively on completing the other four. In 2020, the Government of South Sudan fulfilled their pledge to:



Four Classrooms block Primary school constructed in high return area, Yei, Central Equatoria State.

A

Adopt a national action plan to eradicate statelessness in South Sudan

B

Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness

C

Reform the nationality law in place to introduce safeguards to grant nationality to children born on the territory of South Sudan who would otherwise be stateless

D

Ensure birth registration procedures for all the children born in the territory of South Sudan are effected and

E

Ensure that particular groups at risk of statelessness are able to access nationality documentation services.

Durable Solutions Achievement Benchmarks

To assist in achievement of durable solutions, the eight below listed benchmarks identified in relevant international standards were accepted by South Sudan:

1. Safety and security sustained by Government, including protection from threats of renewed displacement, attacks or punitive actions targeted at IDPs refugees, returnees and host communities

2. Adequate standard of living including basic access to essential food, portable water, basic shelter and housing, essential medical services including post-sexual assault care and other reproductive healthcare, sanitation, and primary school education at a minimum. Within this context, adequate means that services must be available taking into account resources that are allocated to the host community, accessible as they must be granted without discrimination, acceptable as being culturally appropriate, and flexible to the changing needs of IDPs, refugees, returnees and host communities. National Government are responsible for ensuring these core needs are met.

3. Access to livelihoods including employment and freedom to fulfill their core socio-economic needs matching those of the residents. Additionally, IDPs, refugees, returnees and host communities should be supported to gain employment or engage in economic activity without legal and administrative obstacles. They should be economically empowered by increasing support for market-based, protective, gender-sensitive and graduated livelihood interventions, as well as linkages to financial services with deliberate inclusion of refugee women and girls.

4. Access to housing, land and property should be timely and apply to all displaced persons including men, women, children, orphans, (who stand to inherit from deceased family members) and indigenous people who may have ownership, tenancy rights or other access entitlements to their housing, land and property, irrespective of whether they have formal and customary rights titles on the basis of mere uncontested use or occupation.

5. Access to documentation necessary to access public services, reclaim property and possessions, vote or pursue other purposes linked to durable

solutions. Lost documents deny displaced populations the ability to enjoy and exercise their legal rights. Lost documents include but are not limited to passports, personal identification documents, birth certificates, marriage certificates, voter identification cards, title deeds, school records, professional or academic certificates and social security cards need to facilitate the issuance of new documents or the replacement of documents lost in the course of displacement, without imposing unreasonable conditions, such as requiring the return to one's area of habitual residence in order to obtain documents. Women and men have equal rights to obtain documents. Further, women have the right to possess documents issued in their own names. Separated and unaccompanied children also need to be provided with their own documents.

6. Family reunification and reintegration should be a priority and IDPs refugees, returnees and host communities must have the freedom to reunite with families and seek durable solutions together. Where control over territory is divided, national authorities should coordinate with humanitarian actors and other stakeholders to allow for family reunification despite closed boundary lines.

7. Participation in public affairs including the ability to exercise the right to participate in public affairs at all levels on the same basis as the resident population and without discrimination owing to their displacement. This includes the right to associate freely and participate equally in community affairs, to vote and to stand for election, as well as the right to work in all sectors of public service. Women and men have equal and equitable rights to vote and stand for election as well as participate in all community affairs.

8. Effective Government Policy and regulatory frameworks provide an enabling environment for non-discriminatory access to effective remedies and access to justice, where appropriate, access to existing transitional-justice mechanisms, reparations and information on the causes of violations.

Policy and Legal Frameworks

6.1 National laws and Policy framework

South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission Act, 2016

The Act established an independent commission known as the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission which is responsible for humanitarian work in South Sudan. Under the Act, the Minister of the Rehabilitation and Relief Commission shall be responsible for policy making and oversight of the Commission and may delegate any functions to the Chairperson of the RRC. The power and functions of the Commission include:

1. Promoting awareness at grassroots level and in-depth rooting the correct concept of voluntary humanitarian work in coordination with relevant government institutions.
2. Register and license Non-Government Organizations
3. Direct deployment of Non-Governmental organizations to areas of need in South Sudan
4. In consultation with the Minister, coordinate relief, repatriation, rehabilitation, resettlement and reintegration of internally displaced persons and returnees.
5. Train on the management of disasters at all level in coordination with relevant government institutions
6. Mobilize resources, formulate and develop comprehensive measures to address disasters.
7. In conduction with the Ministry identify needs, initiate project and determine targets for Humanitarian intervention
8. Establish strategy storage facilities for prepositioning to stock supplies for emergency intervention
9. In consultation with the Ministry, coordinate with relevant government institutions, National and inter National partners in the event of disasters and facilitate entrance to conduct humanitarian work
10. In coordination with relevant government institutions mobilize resources from internal and external partners for reconstruction of affected areas and the resettlement of the displaced persons.
11. Coordinate monitor and evaluate humanitarian programs undertaken by Non-Governmental Organization in South Sudan
12. Conduct preliminary inquiry with any Non-Governmental Organizations suspected of contravention

Preform any other function delegated to it by law or by the Government

Refugee law, 2012

The law establishes a Commission of Refugee Affairs as Public Office responsible for all administrative matters concerning refugees in South Sudan and shall, in that capacity, coordinate inter-ministerial and non-Governmental activities and programmes relating to refugees with the following functions.

1. Be the secretariat of the Eligibility Committee;
2. Advise the Government and the Eligibility Committee on policy and other matters relating to refugees;
3. Advise the Government on international and regional conventions and government obligations relating to refugees;
4. Protect refugees and coordinate the provision of services for their welfare;
5. Identify and initiate projects for refugees and refugee affected areas;
6. Advise and work in liaison with the office of UNHCR and other organizations on refugee programmes and their implementations;
7. Implement national and regional development plans relating to refugees, in line with current international refugees practices;
8. Promote and participate in inter state and regional initiatives for voluntary repatriation of refugees returning to their countries of origin or habitual residence;

9. Promote South Sudan's regional and international cooperation on refugee matters with other countries and international organizations;
10. Obtain country-of-origin information relating to asylum seekers and refugee matters;
11. Be the custodian of government properties in refugees settlements;
12. Issue identity cards and recommendations for travel documents to refugees; and
13. Ensure maintenance of law and order in refugee settlements.

The Refugee Act, 2012 grants refugees the right to seek employment and the right to basic health services and primary education as is the case with the nationals. The Act contains provisions of naturalization and repatriation of refugees (Art 12, 41-42). It states that the CRA shall promote and participate in interstate and regional initiatives for voluntary repatriation of refugees, and notes that refugees are permitted to seek South Sudanese nationality through naturalization process pursuant to the 2011 Nationality Act which allows "aliens" to apply for citizenship after 10 years of continuous residence, and 5 years in the case of marriage to a South Sudanese national. Directorate of Civil Registry, Nationality, Passports and Immigration stated in reference to the 2011 Nationality Act that refugees can largely apply for naturalization by 2021 after fulfilling the continuous residency requirement.

Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) 2018

Chapter 3 of the R-ARCSS calls on the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) to create an enabling environment for safe and dignified return of the South Sudanese who fled hostility in their original home areas or places of habitual residence and ended in other parts of the country or other countries. Under the R-ARCSS enabling protection environment means:

1. Protecting and providing secure access to the civilians in need of humanitarian assistance;
2. Providing physical, legal, and psychosocial protection to refugees and IDPs to return in safety and dignity, including the re-unification of the families separated during the conflict;
3. Granting rights to citizenship, civil registration, and issuance of appropriate identification documents to refugees and IDPs; and

4. Allowing refugees and IDPs to return to their places of origin or live in areas of their choice.

National Framework for Return, Reintegration and Relocation of Displaced Person: Achieving Durable Solutions in South Sudan, July 2019

The framework for Return, Relocation and Reintegration of IDPs is a tool for addressing internal displacement and resolving IDPs situation. This framework can also strengthen coordination within national and international partners on IDPs issues and efforts to enhance their plight. The framework highlights the Government's commitment to:

- **Secure access to civilian populations in need of emergency humanitarian assistance and protection;**
- **Create a safe and secure environment by establishing the rule of law to achieve durable solutions, inclusion, return, reintegration and relocation;**
- **Implement relief and development programs in line with internally accepted human rights and humanitarian principles and standards;**
- **Provide special consideration to conflict affected persons including; children, women, widows, persons with disabilities etc. In the provision of public service like access to health and education services. In addition, granting the host communities the same protection and humanitarian assistance;**
- **Foster dialogue and reconciliation not only at the political level but also in community level.**
- **Implement early recover and stabilization interventions especially in communities where individuals are returning or being relocated by: restoring the capacity of local governments, rule of law institutions and creating sustainable value chains.**

The framework seeks to comprehensively address and resolve internal displacement by assisting and protecting IDPs and host communities; and finding safe and lasting solutions for IDPs including offering support to their return and reconstruction of conflict affected areas. The framework will also enhance lives of the vulnerable people and contribute to stability and peace in the country.

South Sudan Action Plan on Return, Reintegration and Recovery: Achieving Durable Solutions 2024

The South Sudan Action Plan on Return, Reintegration and Recovery: Achieving Durable Solutions 2024, also known as the *South Sudan Action Plan on Returns* was drafted to operationalize the National Framework on Returns in order to create conditions for safe, dignified and voluntary returns. The plan aimed to improve effective and efficient collective response to meet the needs of the returning displaced populations and promote their integration and recovery. The Action plan incorporates a whole of society and whole of Government approach to implement the following key strategic objectives:

1. Restore conducive environment for IDPs and refugees to return to places of origin/ preferred areas
2. Strengthen governance at National and Sub National levels.
3. Promote peace building, social cohesion, reconciliation and healing
4. Restore basic services, and promote recovery and resilience
5. Enhance data collection and information management for joint analysis conditions
6. Rebuild and develop the economy.

The 2020 version of the Action Plan on Returns was updated under the leadership of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) through a Government led interagency committee comprising of RRC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IOM, NGO Forum, UNHCR, UNDP and UNMISS. The updated document is being aligned to this Durable Solutions Strategy to support the operationalisation of this strategy.

The draft Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons Act, 2024

The draft Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons Act, 2024 (also known as the “IDP Bill”, pending its adoption) seeks to domesticate the Kampala Convention. The Bill covers displacement due to all causes (armed conflict and violence, human

rights violations, disasters and the adverse effects of climate change) and in all its phases: prevention, protection and assistance during displacement as well as durable solutions. With regards to durable solutions, the bill highlights the importance of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, focusing on housing, land and property as well as access to justice, integrating the Framework for Return, Reintegration and Relocation of Displaced Persons. Continued advocacy with the Ministry of Justice and other relevant stakeholders e.g. Speaker of Parliament is required to expedite the review of the bill to facilitate the first reading by parliament and eventually Presidential Assent.

6.2 The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

IDPs are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, as a result of or to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. The developed Guiding Principles address the specific needs of IDPs and identify the rights and guarantees relevant to their protection and assistance during displacement, return or resettlement and reintegration. The Principles are not a legally binding treaty, but they are based on provisions of international law which are binding. Since their adoption by the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1998, it can be said they have acquired moral authority.

The principles reaffirm that national Government have the primary responsibility to ensure that IDPs’ basic rights to food, water, shelter, dignity and safety are met in addition to facilitating their access to all other rights. The national Government should accept the assistance of the international community where they do not have the capacity to provide assistance and protection to IDPs. IDPs have also the right to seek asylum in another country.

The 30 Guiding Principles are structured around the phases of displacement as follows:



PRINCIPLES 1 TO 4

State that IDPs are entitled to enjoy without discrimination, the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic law as other persons in their country. The principles establish that IDPs must not be discriminated against simply because of their displacement, or because of their race, sex, language, religion, social origin or other similar factors.



PRINCIPLES 5 TO 9

Address protection against displacement.



PRINCIPLES 10 TO 23

Pay attention to protection during displacement.



PRINCIPLES 24 TO 27

Provide the framework for humanitarian assistance.



PRINCIPLES 28 TO 30

Focus on protection during return, local integration in the locations where the persons have been displaced and resettlement in another part of the country.

6.3 United Nations Secretary General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, June 2022

The Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, calls for an urgent need for a renewed social contract between governments and their citizens and residents – including those who are displaced – to

restore trust and ensure that rights and needs are met. It calls for stronger international solidarity to address global challenges, including internal displacement. The world commitment to ‘*Leave No One Behind*’ in achieving the SDGs, implies this promise cannot be delivered if millions of people remain uprooted from their homes with no end in sight to their displacement.

The agenda builds on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the report of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. The Agenda calls for:



Help to find a durable solution to their internal displacement



Prevent new internal displacement crises from happening



Ensure those facing displacement receive effective protection and assistance. Actors are therefore called to work towards prevention, response and solutions simultaneously.

The Action Agenda is guided by the following considerations:



IDPs are residents of their countries and States have the primary responsibility of protecting them and responding to their needs.



Recognition is given to the rights and agency of IDPs and host communities, to ensure their active and informed participation in decision making.



Whole of society approach including involvement of civil society, national human rights institutions and the private sector.



Whole of displacement approach also recognizes the rights and needs of refugees, returnees and host communities.



No one should be left behind in attaining peace and prosperity.



IDPs are also settling in urban areas.



The process of data collection and analysis should entrench trust on actions taken.

The Agenda recognizes the role of Government and local authorities in leading, coordinating and facilitating the action agenda implementation, which will inform the implementation of this strategy given its significant areas of convergence.

6.4 IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons

The Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons aims to provide clarity on the concept of a durable solution and provides general guidance on how to achieve it. The Framework provides guidance for achieving durable solutions following internal displacement in the context of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, and natural or human-made disasters.

The Framework is designed to assist those in the field in determining whether a durable solution to internal displacement has been found, depending on the context of the local environment. The purpose of the Framework is: to foster a better understanding of the concept of durable solutions for the internally displaced; to provide general guidance on the process and conditions necessary for achieving a durable solution; and to assist in determining the extent to which a durable solution has been achieved.

The Framework primarily aims to help international and non-governmental actors to better assist

Governments dealing with humanitarian and development challenges resulting from internal displacement. The Framework may also be useful for Governments of countries affected by internal displacement, who have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to IDPs, as well as to other stakeholders namely donors and IDPs.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework (IASC) for IDPS has 8 Criteria:



Safety and security.



Adequate standard of living - at a minimum access to adequate food, water, housing, health care and basic education.



Access to livelihoods.



Access to effective mechanisms that restore their housing land and property.



Family reunification.



Access to documentation to and replacement of personal and other documentation.



Participation in public affairs.



Access to effective remedies and justice.

6.5 2009 Kampala Convention

The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa or the 2009 Kampala Convention, which came into force in 2012, is legally binding for African governments that have ratified it and obligates them to protect the rights of people who are forced to flee their homes by armed conflict, violence, human rights violations and natural disasters. It draws much of its inspiration from the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The key principles that govern the durable solutions include: voluntariness, safety, dignity, and non-discrimination; national responsibility to create conditions enabling - and means to provide for - durable solutions, and to facilitate the reintegration of returned or resettled IDPs; international responsibility to support and assist durable solutions; the need for a collective and coordinated approach to support durable solutions; mainstreaming age, gender, and diversity into durable solutions, planning, and programming.

6.6 2006 Great Lakes Protocols on the Protection and Assistance to IDPs and on the Property Rights of Returning Persons

The Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region serves as a legal framework and an agenda of the ICGLR with the aim of creating the conditions for security, stability, and development between the member states. It was adopted by the heads of states and governments of the ICGLR member states (South Sudan being one of them) in Nairobi in December 2006 and entered into force in 2008. The Pact includes 10 Protocols, which are legally binding for all the ICGLR Member States, two of which are particularly relevant to situations of internal displacement and durable solutions: The Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons. The 2006 Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to IDPs was the first legally-binding instrument ever developed on the protection of IDPs and it paved way for the development of the 2009 Kampala Convention, that required member states to incorporate the Guiding Principles into their national legislation.

6.7 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention

South Sudan is a party to both the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. These instruments help protect refugees who are among the most vulnerable people in the world. They clarify the rights of refugees and the obligations of states that are party to one or both of these instruments. Protecting refugees is primarily the responsibility of the host country. States are responsible for protecting the fundamental human rights of their citizens. When they are unable or unwilling to do so, often for political reasons or based on discrimination, individuals may suffer such serious violations of their human rights that they have to leave their homes, their families and their communities to find sanctuary in another country. Since, by definition, refugees are not protected by their own governments, the international community steps in to ensure that they are safe and protected.

The cornerstone of the 1951 Convention is the principle of *non-refoulement* contained in Article 33. According to this principle, a refugee should not be returned to a country where he or she faces serious threats to his or her life or freedom. Other rights contained in the 1951 Convention include: The right not to be expelled, except under certain strictly defined conditions (Article 32); the right not to be punished for illegal entry into the territory of a contracting State (Article 31); the right to work (Articles 17 to 19); the right to housing (Article 21); the right to education (Article 22); the right to public relief and assistance (Article 23); the right to freedom of religion (Article 4); the right to access the courts (Article 16); the right to freedom of movement within the territory (Article 26); and the right to be issued with identity and travel documents (Articles 27 and 28).

South Sudan has ratified the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa on 4 April 2013. The Convention expands the definition of refugee, provides for right to asylum and protection from refoulement, provides framework for voluntary repatriation and incorporates strong provision on regional responsibility and burden sharing.

6.8 The Global Compact on Refugees

“The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), affirmed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2019, put in place a new comprehensive refugee response model. It envisions more predictable and sustainable support to:



Ease pressures on countries hosting refugees.



Enhance opportunities for refugees to become self-reliant.



Expand refugees’ access to third-country solutions such as resettlement and other pathways.



Support conditions in refugees’ countries of origin for return safety and dignity.



This approach embraces a whole of society approach to refugee response, creating opportunities for refugees to become resilient.

The GCR sets out arrangements to ensure that both refugees and their host communities benefit from this support. A central arrangement is the Global Refugee Forum where States and other actors come together every four years to share good practices and offer financial support, technical expertise, and develop policy changes to help reach the goals of the Global Compact. These contributions are key to transforming the aspirations of the compact into positive changes in the lives of refugees.

The first Global Refugee Forum took place in December 2019 and was a true milestone in building solidarity with the world’s refugees and the countries and communities that host them. In December 2019, the IGAD Support Platform was launched to sustain the momentum and galvanize additional support for the implementation of the Nairobi declaration and its subsequent thematic declarations and plans of action on education, health, and livelihood and self-reliance.

The government of the Republic of South Sudan in 2019 made five (5) pledges to enhance services to refugees and host communities in the country and foster conditions for returns. Such commitments were geared towards offering solutions in the areas of education, jobs and livelihoods, environment and statelessness. In preparation for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF), the government of South Sudan completed a stocktaking exercise of its previous commitments, achievements, and challenges.



Soba Secondary school -IT Centre, Ajoung Thok Refugee Camp.

Thematic Area	Pledges	Responsible Ministry
Solutions & Peace-building	Creating enabling conditions for sustainable returns of South Sudanese, enhancing peacebuilding, and provision of basic services through inclusive re/integration and participation of refugees, returnees, IDPs, and host communities, removing access to justice barriers for women and other vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM) • Ministry of Peace Building (MoPB) • Ministry of Land Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) • Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) • Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC)
Education	Increase access to inclusive quality education for refugees and host communities, enhance access to tertiary education, and reduce the out-of-school children rate by 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) • The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MoHEST)
Jobs and Livelihoods	Expand economic opportunities and equitable economic development in refugee-hosting areas through refugee-friendly policies and empowerment/social protection schemes by 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agric and Food Security (MAFS) • Ministry of Land (MoL)
Energy & Climate	Enable access to sustainable and green energy solutions for refugees and host communities and strengthen the climate resilience of refugees' host communities, and other displaced persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) • Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM) • Ministry of Water Resources & Irrigation (MWRI)
Statelessness	Adopt into its national laws, policies, and operational practices, all international standards relevant to the prevention of statelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of interior (MoI) The Directorate of Nationality, Passport and Immigration's (DNPI's) • Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA)
Protection capacity	Strengthen the capacity of South Sudan's National Asylum Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of interior (MoI) The Directorate of Nationality, Passport and Immigration's (DNPI's) • The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) • Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA)

In view of the Global Refugee Forum in December 2023, the government further strengthened its pledges in existing and new areas. The processes were led by the National Technical Committee on Durable Solutions (NTC-DS), an entity in charge of Durable Solutions and GRF coordination in the country, co-led by the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) and Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) both in charge of Refugees and Stateless, and Returnees and IDPs respectively with support from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

The GRF pledges are in line with the country's vision, commitment, and strategic focus to include refugees and other forcibly displaced populations and stateless persons in national systems, planning, and services through participatory and area-based approaches. These pledges are drawn from and embedded in the overarching frameworks of the Government such as:

- The Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCISS): addressing root causes of displacement is an integral part of Chapter III, and other provisions of Chapter IV, V, VI covers the need for

inclusive participation and engagement of the displaced population as well as inclusion in economic planning.

- Revised National Development Strategy (R-NDS) 2021 - 2024: The country's strategic document which sets the goals and objectives to achieve the R-ARCISS with an overall aim of consolidating peace and stabilizing the economy through key development and peace building milestones.
- National Durable Solution Strategy (NDSS) 2024 (this Strategy): The main strategy approved by the government in October 2023 alongside the R-NDS will cater for the specific challenges of the displaced population. It advances Chapter III, GRF Pledges and SDGs.
- Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons Bill 2024, currently under review by Ministry of Justice before it is presented to Cabinet. It domesticates the Kampala Convention.
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The country is advancing the 2030 Agenda through "R-NDS, NDSS, UNSDCF, and GRF Pledges."

Incorporating the principles of GCR in the national development framework helps in the inclusive policies and refugee inclusion programming to provide protection and find solutions to the displacement situation and help refugees in restoring their livelihoods and contribute to the socio-economic development.

6.9 The 1954 and the 1961 Conventions on Statelessness

South Sudan committed in 2019 at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness to accede the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

The international conventions on statelessness are the primary tools required to eradicate statelessness upon the territory of a State and among its children, and its migrant, diaspora, minority and cross-border populations. The 1961 Convention is of particular utility in ensuring that minimal safeguards for the avoidance of statelessness are enacted in domestic national legislation. It enables States to address gaps resulting from different approaches to the conferral of nationality worldwide, and to guarantee that no girl, boy, man or woman is deprived

of the fundamental rights to a nationality. It is the leading international instrument that sets standards for the conferral and withdrawal of citizenship in a way that ensures no one is exposed to statelessness. Underlying the 1961 Convention is the notion that while states maintain the right to elaborate the content of their nationality laws, they must do so in compliance with international norms relating to nationality, including the principle that statelessness should be avoided, and that of gender equality. It seeks to balance the rights of individuals with the interests of states by setting out general rules for the prevention of statelessness. These legal provisions enable states to avoid statelessness among children found or born on their territory of a state who do not otherwise obtain a nationality on the basis of parentage or birthplace. They also guard against statelessness in later life, when citizens change nationality or when their nationality is removed.

Meanwhile, the 1954 Convention provides practical solutions for states to address the particular needs of stateless persons that guarantee their protection, security and dignity until their situation can be resolved. It provides important minimum standards for stateless persons with regards to freedom of religion and movement, education, employment, housing, association, and access to civil status documentation, including birth registration. Because protection as a stateless person is not a substitute for possession of a nationality, the Convention requires that States facilitate, as far as possible, the assimilation and naturalization of stateless persons originating from outside their borders. This remains the smallest group of stateless persons in Africa today: indeed, the situation of the majority can be resolved by adopting the legal standards for prevention and reduction of statelessness among their population as laid out in the 1961 Convention. As with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1954 Convention explicitly excludes individuals from its protection when there are serious reasons for considering that they have committed a crime against peace, a war crime, a crime against humanity, or a serious non-political crime abroad.

In September 2020, the Governance Cluster chaired by the First Vice President under the cabinet of South Sudan recommended the Cabinet's final approval to accede to the Conventions, following which a parliamentary procedure for accession is expected to commence. The bill of accession for the conventions has gone back to the Ministry of Justice for comments.

Key Principles and Approaches

7.1 Development Oriented

This strategy will be implemented based on an approach that brings together humanitarian, peace and development actors under overall coordination leadership of the government. To facilitate triple nexus approach activities will be informed by and aimed to implement objectives of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals and The Africa We Want for Agenda 2063.

7.2 Area-based Approaches

The diversity of South Sudan requires a contextualized response in the application of durable solutions and therefore calls for a whole of community approach. From the onset, the different elements that impact the way in which durable solutions are implemented must be taken into consideration. The ultimate goal will be to mitigate the protection risks, and vulnerabilities of all affected communities while facilitating sustainable solutions including reintegration of male and female refugees, returnees, and IDPs.

Area-based approaches include interventions that pay deliberate attention to peaceful co-existence with host communities, access to justice, quick impact projects to support infrastructure, restitution of houses and land, and policies that address concerns which ensure conditions in return locations remain sustainable for implemented solutions. Area-based approaches should be inclusive of all population groups including host communities. This should coincide with integrated programming to ensure programmes benefit all population groups. Ultimately this will support solutions, and advance localization and national ownership.

The Pockets of Hope initiative is solution-oriented, area-based and status-blind initiative that is community driven. It targets areas with refugee and

high returns through an investment in medium to long-term interventions meant to build resilience and government ownership and responsibility. The priorities and approaches of the Pockets of Hope will be grounded in the Global Compact for Refugees, the Government of South Sudan's Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action, the South Sudan Action Plan on Return and Reintegration and Recovery: Achieving Durable Solutions 2024 and its updated review. Complementarity will be ensured with ongoing or planned humanitarian and development action, especially under the annual Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), UN Strategic Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the National (and County) Development Strategy as well as the UNMISS led peace efforts and its strategy for South Sudan.

7.3 Accountability to Affected Persons AAP

This approach is focused on ensuring people are at the center of interventions designed to assist them, and founded on a strong orientation towards the accountability of affected people and commitment to women and girls. To support it, the Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) approach is mainstreamed into interventions; ensuring persons of concern can enjoy their rights on an equal footing and participate meaningfully in the decisions that affect their lives, families, and communities. It involves leveraging on the rich range of experiences, capacities, and aspirations of refugees, displaced and stateless women, men, girls, and boys. This is exercised through regular consultations and remaining accountable to the people by listening and responding to their needs, perspectives, and priorities while remaining committed to gender equality and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. The embraced approach comprises the following entry points:

A

Participation and inclusion:



Women, men, boys and girls of diverse backgrounds are engaged meaningfully through consultations touching on protection, their required assistance, and possible solutions. This is done through community assessments which provide an avenue for displaced persons to share their views on inclusion into durable solutions interventions.

B

Communication and Transparency:



Ensures women, men, girls, and boys of diverse backgrounds will have access to timely, accurate, and relevant information on interventions in their respective locations. This seeks to ensure that displaced persons are kept informed of implemented activities through sharing feedback on the outcome of consultations and assessments, as well as decisions taken to ensure the feedback and communication loop is complete. Efforts will be made to share information in languages and formats that facilitate access to information for displaced persons.

C

Feedback and response:



Formal and information feedback from displaced persons gathered through assessments and monitoring activities, will be systematically collected and responded to or used for appropriate corrective action. Communities are consulted to identify the preferred appropriate and accessible response systems for handling complaints and feedback.

D

Stakeholders learning and adaptation:



On an annual basis the information collected from displaced persons through assessments and monitoring will be used to guide interventions, planning, priority setting, course corrections, and evaluation. In this case all the outcomes of the previous assessments will be used to support decision making.

7.4 Rights-based Approaches

Rights-based approaches are based on the imperative to protect and respect the rights of displaced persons and to provide an opportunity to reconcile their interests with those of the state when implementing durable solutions. Non-discrimination, empowerment, participation, inclusion, and accountability are inherent to these approaches.

Efforts must be made to ensure beneficiaries are treated equally and issues linked to age, gender, and diversity are included in the implementation. The specific needs of women, children, the disabled, the elderly, and all those who are disproportionately affected by displacement must be considered. This supports sustainable outcomes by striving to analyze, eliminate and address inequalities, creating potential benefits for all population groups in a society, promoting equality and rights for the most vulnerable in society and increasing social inclusion and enhanced capabilities for all. A rights-based approach includes: people-centered, sensitive, humane, dignified, gender-responsive and prompt reception for all persons; measures to address the specific needs of all people in vulnerable situations; respect for the principle of non-refoulement; means to combat exploitation, abuse and discrimination; and promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, among others.

7.5 Primary National Responsibility

The government of South Sudan has the primary role and responsibility of coordinating protection and solution programs for refugees, IDPs, returnees and host community. Humanitarian, development, and peace building partners are expected to work closely in support of a broader implementation framework which includes Government and community-based institutions.

7.6 Participation of Refugees, IDPs, Returnees and Host Communities

The implementation of this strategy not only should recognize the rights and freedoms of refugees, IDPs, returnees, and host community but also their agency. Displaced persons often develop their own response mechanisms, many of which are positive. Government and partners must design “community-based approach” which:

- Ensures that women, men, girls and boys of all ages and diverse backgrounds are regarded and engaged as active partners in the planning and management of durable solutions;
- Recognizes their resilience, capacities and resources; and
- Mobilizes and builds on the capacities of communities to enhance their own protection.



Instant Network School Center - Jamjang refugee camp.

Priority Actions

8.1 Ensure the security and safety of refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities

The security and safety of refugees, IDPs, returnees, and host communities will be ascertained by observance of Chapter 2, which focuses on Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements of the R-ARCSS. JMEC, CTSAMVM and other actors have a role to play in sustaining the ceasefire which is respected in most parts of the country. Sustaining the ceasefire will create conditions conducive for the sustainable return of refugees and IDPs to their villages therefore enabling returnees to live among local communities and avail themselves of local solutions. As the outcome of the National Consultations Workshop held in Juba highlighted, South Sudanese nationals fled into other countries or other parts of the country because of war and will only sustainably return when these root cause of their displacement is resolved.

Despite substantial improvements in the security of many areas, for which the government and the parties to the R-ARCSS deserve commendation, sporadic violent conflicts continue to persist in some parts of the countries. The main drivers of violence in the country throughout 2020 were armed conflict, inter-communal fighting, cattle raiding and revenge attacks involving armed youth. These have traditionally created significant security challenges in some areas. UNMISS noted that the majority of civilians were armed during inter-communal violence. One of the epicenters of communal violence was Jonglei State among youth from different ethnic groups.

In Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria States, pockets of insecurity were noted as present. During the consultations in the Central Equatoria State, the assessment team was briefed by the Governor and senior civil servants in line ministries on these pockets of insecurity which was also a feature by the media. In March 2021, for instance, the media reported a string of ambushes along roads that reportedly left approximately 30 persons dead. On Monday, 29 March, a convoy of the Governor of Eastern Equatoria State came under attack when returning to Torit, with the incident claiming the

lives of two people and left three injured. Several other acts of communal violence were reported in the same state.

The government of Central Equatoria State noted that armed groups were responsible for the persistent insecurity in the State thereby forcing civilians to flee into towns or return to refugee camps in Uganda. Armed groups not party to the R-ARCSS should be engaged by the Government for mediation to agree on a ceasefire thereby creating an enabling environment for peace.

Moreover, Central Equatoria State is grappling with the negative impacts of large movements of cattle from other states, especially Jonglei State resulting in violent incidents in some areas. During the consultations in the State, it was reported that youth from Kajokeji County had issued an ultimatum to the cattle keepers marauding in their areas to leave within 30 days. They accused the cattle keepers of destroying crops and scaring potential returnees from coming to their areas in the county.

In Upper Nile State, insecurity is still an issue. In December 2020, there were clashes involving youth and armed groups, forcing host community members to seek refuge in settlements hosting Sudanese refugees. As mentioned elsewhere, some returnees from Sudan and Ethiopia were re-displaced and had to flee into Sudan and Ethiopia again. The conflict is reportedly compounded by proliferation of arms, another root cause requiring urgent solution.

8.2 Provide basic services like food, clean drinking water, shelters, healthcare, passable roads, and primary and secondary education to sustain voluntary return

The war inflicted a catastrophic impact on infrastructure throughout the country. The problem of inadequate basic services is recognized in the R-ARCSS, which requires the RTGoNU to establish a reconstruction fund. Donors are also expected to contribute in the spirit of solidarity that is encouraged by the Global Compact.



Vegetable farmers in Jamjang selling their produce in the local market.

In 2019, floods devastated seven of the ten states, and worsened the infrastructure deficits in the country. There is an urgent need to construct and repair roads both highways and feeder roads, as proper road network is essential for movement of people including returnees. Moreover, schools, clinics, boreholes and other water points need to be provided to facilitate sustainable returns.

Despite humanitarian partners having made significant investments towards placing basic services in areas where they operate, the assessment team found Maban lacks an enabling environment for safe and dignified return of refugees and IDPs. While Maban may have enough services in its refugee camps for refugees and neighboring communities, as more returnees arrive in the area, the services may prove inadequate for the increased population.

In Wau, the team found that basic services are inadequate to meet the needs of the current population, including IDPs and refugees from other countries. To address this gap, rehabilitation of boreholes, health clinics, schools, feeder roads, and construction of new ones to meet increasing needs, is recommended. In terms of mobile telephone connectivity, Zain and MTN phone companies have networks in Wau

town, but this service is sometimes unreliable. In remote rural areas, there are no phone networks.

In Central Equatoria State, the assessment team that consulted with officials and others learned that basic services were absent in most areas, especially rural ones. For example, the official responsible for education lamented that schools were only found in Juba, Yei and Kajoikeji towns. Teachers and other professionals do not go to the rural areas partly because of insecurity.

Moreover, perception surveys conducted by UNHCR, indicate that most people who owned houses before displacement had lost ownership. The houses and other property were destroyed or plundered. For example, Malakal County was left in ruin after the conflict. People who return there are likely to settle on existing structures that belong to other people. When the owners return, conflicts are likely to ensue. The assessment team reported rampant property issues in Malakal town, which have been heavily contested by different ethnic groups. This is a matter that needs to be addressed by the government and partners so that sustained returns are made possible.

8.3 Promote Peace Building, Reconciliation and Healing among the Communities

The impact of armed conflict involving government forces and opposing armed groups has worsened due to the repercussions of inter-communal conflicts, prevalent in several parts of the country. Many deaths and displacement of civilians from their traditional areas and disruption of livelihoods are linked to inter-communal conflicts. These should be addressed mainly via concerted law enforcement, conflict resolution and peace building, among other measures.



IDPs in Malakal during a group work session on the sidelines of the permanent constitution making and electoral process consultations.

The government organized dialogues and adopted other conflict resolution measures to help bring an end to conflicts within the country. It initiated the National Dialogue at the end of 2016 though the resolutions have not been implemented. Moreover, it organized a successful peace conference to address the large-scale communal conflict in Jonglei State and Pibor Administrative Area in 2020 that involved large numbers of armed youth. The violence has since diminished, but it remains uncertain whether or not it will recur, since it is not the first time a conference has been held to deal with conflicts in that part of South Sudan.

Moreover, local organizations, especially faith-based ones, have been active in mediating local conflicts and advocating for peaceful relations. For example, the assessment team that visited Wau reported that inter-faith groups are engaged in strong peace advocacy which has helped to ease conflicts and enabled people to return to their original areas to visit or permanently settle. Likewise, faith-based groups in Western Equatoria State have conducted successful grassroots conflict resolution and peace building activities. Prominent bishops have led these activities resulting in a substantial reduction of violence, and enhanced confidence among former adversaries who now work together to restore lasting peace to the state.

Subsequently, a national task-force on the inclusion of refugees, IDPs and returnees in the implementation of the R-ARCSS was established in January 2020 to spearhead the development of a national framework on their inclusion in peace building and reconciliation.

8.4 Support to Groups, informal groups and cooperatives

The conflicts have also destroyed sources of livelihood. As a result, many returnees will need support to grow their own crops and acquire livestock so as to build their resilience. They are joining communities that are already vulnerable and reliant on or expecting humanitarian assistance. UN agencies have highlighted that 9 million ²² people will require life-saving humanitarian assistance in 2024 in South Sudan. Therefore, the arrival of people is likely compound the emergency situation, and could discourage people from returning to some areas. Some IDPs in or around Juba have said that they

need two years before leaving their displacement sites, during which the government and partners should put the necessary services in place in their original locations.

It is not certain this can be attained. Already, the support being provided by partners and government is not adequate to address the needs of people requiring support. For refugees and IDPs, pressing concerns about livelihoods include limited food rations, limited land in IDP camps or refugee camps, lack of tools, skills, and seeds.

In Wau, both IDPs and returnees, supplement food rations with proceeds from sales of forest products like firewood, charcoal, and petty trading activities such as tea shops, baking bread, pottery, and casual labour. Both IDPs and returnees are peasant farmers and petty traders who can easily grow crops, keep livestock, and engage in profitable petty trade activities. However, they are constrained by a lack of tools, seeds, limited arable lands, and inadequate capital for setting up businesses in IDP camps and in refugee settlements.

The environment in and around the camps has been considerably degraded and is in need of rehabilitation. Further, raising awareness of the importance and benefits of environmental conservation is also critical. Activities such as tree planting, using bricks for construction instead of wooden poles, using energy saving stoves instead of charcoal, and fishing responsibly should be encouraged and supported.

The situation in Upper Nile State is more or less similar to that of Western Bahr el Ghazal. The assessment team that visited Maban County and Malakal town found that food rations for refugees and IDPs were available but insufficient. Displaced people complemented the assistance that they received with sale of agricultural products, livestock products, forest products like firewood and charcoal, petty trade, and tea shops, as well as with wages from casual jobs and employment for those with relevant skills and/or prior work experience.

International organizations distribute seedlings to refugee households to plant in order to replenish the lost trees and rejuvenate the land. Energy saving stoves are also being provided to some households to reduce the amounts of firewood and charcoal being used by refugees, and furthermore, refugees are being supported and encouraged to lay and use cement bricks for construction of houses instead

of cutting down trees and using wooden poles for building 'tukuls'.

In Central Equatoria State, a major threat to returnees is the arrival of large herds of cattle keepers from Jonglei State, many of whom escape violence and floods in that part of South Sudan. The cattle keepers are heavily armed and therefore present a threat to peace. It is likely that their presence will lead to an upsurge of violence as was witnessed in Western Equatoria State after the CPA was concluded and also more recently in Magwi County of Eastern Equatoria State.

8.5 Enhance government institutional capacities and relations

Effective government institutions are required to facilitate returns and other durable solutions, and to address the issue of registration and the documentation of returnees as well as the issues of housing, land and property. Various assessment exercises have shown that state institutions are deficient and not prepared to deal with large-scale returns, although the national government institutions are relatively better prepared as compared to those in the sub-national states.

The main reasons behind the Institutions' low capacity are violence and displacement, economic downturn, and fragmentation of administrative units. In particular, some key civil servants died or were displaced while others abandoned government jobs because of low and irregularly paid salaries. In many ministries, the basic facilities such as offices, furniture and computers, are inadequate. For example, in Central Equatoria State, line ministries reportedly have limited capacity to deliver services due to a lack of money, facilities, and trained personnel. Moreover, senior officials complain about being "overwhelmed" by the domineering national institutions that do not stick to their roles.

In Maban County, the assessment team was told that the police force on the ground was inadequate, ill-trained and lacked basic equipment to effectively enforce the laws. Furthermore, the new political leadership had not been deployed to the County to take control of the administration and security.

Similarly, in Wau, a majority of police officers was still being trained. Nonetheless, the state administrative structures, including customary courts in rural areas, have been fully established and are functional. The structures need to be strengthened through technical, in-kind, and financial support.

8.6 Strengthen partnerships, coordination of services, and information flow for optimum delivery and sustainability of durable solutions

Poor communication and information flow undermines the effectiveness of solutions programs. National, state and local institutions should share information and also coordinate activities. Moreover, the governmental institutions should share information and coordinate activities with a myriad of UN agencies, NGOs, CSOs and other organizations supporting refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities.

A number of organizations were operating in various locations throughout South Sudan but coordination challenges with Government structures exist across the board. In Western Bar El Ghazal, it appears

that the UN and other international organizations coordinate well with their partners but government institutions seem to be actively involved in their regular coordination forums. In Central Equatoria, the same inadequacies were noted. For instance, during the assessment, a key observation noted by senior officials was limited coordination between the state actors and humanitarian organisations on ongoing spontaneous returns. Coordination of humanitarian interventions at the state level among RRC, CRA, line ministries and humanitarian activities is crucial and should be led by the RRC for IDPs and returnees and CRA for refugees. High turnover in Government line ministries and humanitarian organizations acerbates coordination challenges. There is need to enhance information sharing among line ministries.

In Western Bahr El Ghazal and Central Equatoria State, there was little evidence of involvement of government and the host communities. During the assessment, a key observation noted by senior officials was limited coordination between the state actors and humanitarian organisations on returns. For instance, there was no detailed information



Sara Gil runs a small cafe at the State Garden IDP site in Malakal, where she sells tea, coffee and snacks. Sara is one of the more than 600,000 people, mostly South Sudanese returnees, who have crossed the border into South Sudan to escape the conflict in Sudan. The small cafe supplements the assistance that Sara and other IDPs receive. Although her business is fairly new, Sara hopes to expand it in the near future.

Solutions Architecture: Monitoring and Coordination

Coordination Arrangements

The existing National Technical Committee on Durable Solutions (NTC-DS) and the State Task Force on Solutions (STFS) both led by Government will mobilize and coordinate partners (UN agencies, I/NGOs). The solutions architecture indicated below will be used to implement solutions both at the national and state level. For refugee areas, the existing Refugee Coordination Model, led by the Commissioner of Refugees Affairs (CRA), County Commissioner and UNHCR will be used. Both coordination mechanisms bring together line ministries, UN agencies, and I/NGOs partners

The area-based plans developed will be implemented through a multi-stakeholder approach with development (and peace) actors playing a crucial role in implementing key measures. The Local gov-

ernment, particularly County Commissioners and Line Ministries will play a leading role of ensuring complementarity and uptake of its responsibilities. Additionally, the comparative advantage of agencies and actors will be harnessed to deliver a well-coordinated, efficient and sustainable effort. In line with localisation commitments under the Global Compact for Refugees which represents the political will and ambition of the international community as a whole for strengthened cooperation and solidarity with refugees and affected host countries and Grand Bargain which emphasises strengthening local and national responders in humanitarian efforts, making actions more local, and supporting overhead costs including for refugees, returns and IDPs will play a key role.



New arrivals registering in Malakal after transiting from Renk.

Solutions Architecture

The South Sudan Solutions Architecture leverages on a whole of Government and Whole of Society Approach with Government taking the lead on solutions. It is designed to effectively implement durable solutions to forced displacement, prevent new displacement crises and ensure those in displacement receive effective protection assistance through the efforts of diverse stakeholders, considering institutional mandates of stakeholders, footprint and comparative advantage. Durable solutions will be achieved when persons affected by displacement can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement.

The architecture is made of the National Technical Committee on Durable Solutions (NTC-DS) and the STFS which work simultaneously. Both levels work towards prevention of displacement, response to displacement and solutions for displacement. The architecture serves all population groups as follows: IDPs, refugees, returnees and host communities. It seeks to leave no one behind and is aligned to the:

1. Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) 2018 Chapter III on humanitarian assistance and reconstruction,
2. South Sudan's Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees and Host Communities, 2024.

3. The 2022 United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.
4. South Sudan Revised National Development Strategy: Consolidate Peace and Stabilize the Economy 2021 - 2024;
5. South Sudan Vision 2040, 2013

Below are illustrations of the NTC-DS and STFS and their Terms of Reference.

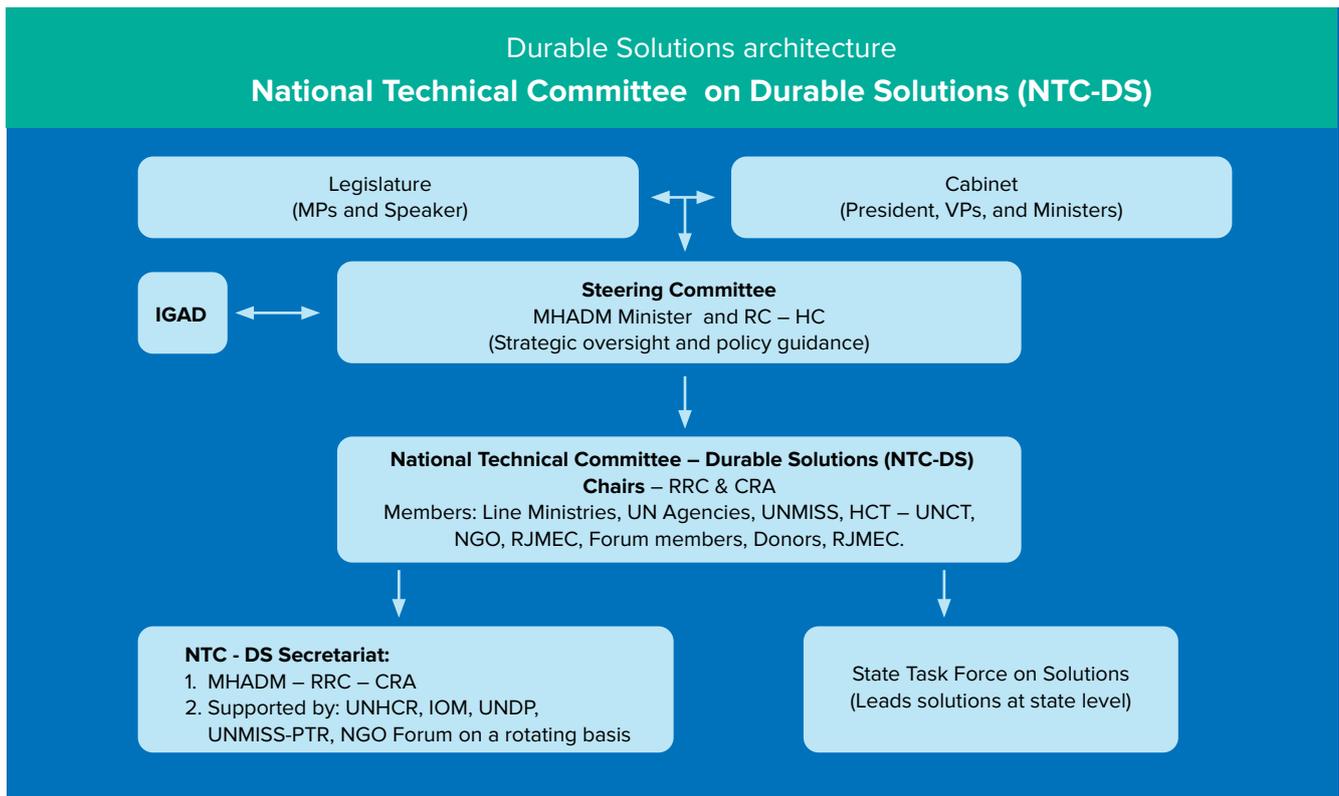
The National Technical Committee on Durable Solutions (NTC-DS)

The (NTC-DS) provides strategic guidance and direction on the solutions agenda. It convenes relevant parties to support implementation, makes recommendations based on data presented by its members and the STFS to ensure evidence-based decision making and coordinates collective action and resource mobilization towards solutions.

To support the state interventions on solutions, it provides tools to STFS which implements the South Sudan Action Plan on Return, Reintegration and Recovery: Achieving Durable Solutions 2024; and assists with advocacy and key messaging targeting relevant actors including donors, private sector, humanitarian, peace and development actors. The NTC-DS also oversees the adherence to the principles outlined in the results-based framework and action plan contained in the South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy 2024 and the South Sudan Action Plan on Return, Reintegration and Recovery: Achieving Durable Solutions 2024.



IDPs and host communities in Malakal during a group work session on the sidelines of the permanent constitution making and electoral process consultations.



The steering committee, which comprises the MHADM Minister and the RC-HC, provides strategic oversight and policy guidance with critical inputs from IGAD. IGAD's expertise is valued due to its experience in providing comprehensive regional approaches to deliver durable solutions and support to resource mobilization. The Legislature remains critical in approving proposed Bills that may be developed and Cabinet forms the entity that ensures endorsements. The Steering committee further supports strategic coordination among humanitarian, peace and development actors leveraging on collective action, competitive advantage resulting from individual mandates, organizations' footprints and expertise available within key line ministries and NTC-DS members. It ensures the decision of the NTC - DS also reflects the views and critical needs of the displaced persons.

The National Technical Committee on Durable Solutions (NTC-DS) which forms a critical part of the architecture is hosted by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management and Chaired by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) and the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA). It provides advice to the Steering Committee which comprises of the MHADM Minister and the RC-HC, and ensures decisions

taken by the Ministry are implemented and views of the STFS are considered.

The NTC-DS is mandated by the Government of South Sudan to provide the following services to aid implementation of the South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Action Plan for IDPs, Returnees, Refugees and host communities, 2024. This is further aligned to the NTC - DS responsibilities as indicated in the Report National Consultative Meeting on National Durable Solutions in South Sudan Juba, South Sudan held on 15-17 April 2024 Annexed. It is comprised of key line ministries and humanitarian actors, and the Revitalized Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) and ensures priority activities are identified and monitored as follows:

1. Develop annual plans based on the prevailing context to guide implementation.
2. Coordinate the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of Durable Solutions Strategy 2024 and South Sudan Action Plan on Return, Reintegration and Recovery: Achieving Durable Solutions 2024 with IGAD, UN partners, the relevant Government institutions including

the hosting state, local authorities, the beneficiaries, and other relevant stakeholders for optimum service delivery.

3. Develop, amend, and adjust operational policies as and when needed to suit prevailing circumstances for attainment of programme objectives.
4. Select appropriate qualified national consultants and relevant professionals to undertake comprehensive sector-specific capacity assessment in order to identify capacity gaps that should be addressed to enhance service delivery. Consultants will support the identification of methods and approaches to support implementation of priorities identified through consultations with displaced persons.
5. Support country wide advocacy on key issues though developing key messages and convening key actors when necessary and draw synergies from ongoing projects to avoid overlap.
6. Periodically, send missions to the field for on-site monitoring of implementation activities to assess quality as well as quantity of the services provided for compliance with the guiding principles, and report the findings to NTC-DS leadership for decision making.
7. Hold periodic and emergency meetings to address operational needs or emerging issues that deserve the attention and or action of NTC-DS leadership to facilitate preventive action and early warning.
8. Ensure compliance with Accountability to Affected People (AAP) in the implementation of Durable Solutions.
9. Prepare quarterly progress reports and submit to the Council of State, the Presidency, and other relevant stakeholders to update on the status of Action Plan implementation in the country.
10. Solicit and mobilize resources from potential national, regional, and international donors to support implementation.
11. Ensure compliance with the policy of inclusivity, transparency, and accountability in the implementation of the South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy 2024, implementation action plans and the implementation framework contained in the South Sudan Action Plan on Return, Reintegration and Recovery: Achieving Durable Solutions 2024.

NTC-DS Secretariat: In the context of the NTC-DS, the NTC-DS Secretariat is comprised of the MHADM, RRC, and CRA, it is part of the committee and plays a supportive to ensure the effective and efficient operations of the NTC-DS as follows:

1. Maintains a repository of tools to support implementation,
2. Maintains a task list to monitor implementation of critical activities identified by the NTC-DS.
3. Shares any critical concerns received from the STFS to the NTC-DS members and
4. Communicates and or provides feedback and guidance to the STFS following instruction from the NTC-DS
5. Provide reports, requests and queries from the STFS to the MHADM Under Secretary, Chair persons and Deputies, RRC, CRA office of the RC-HC to ensure information is cascaded to relevant stakeholders for action
6. Facilitates record-keeping of minutes, data, assessments, post distribution and post return reports.
7. Maintains an updated contact list of members
8. Solicits inputs form the RJMEC on matters of critical importance to the NTC-DS that requires action my members.
9. Leads in the organization and coordination of events on Durable Solutions.
10. Calls for meeting at least once a month, share agendas and sought agenda items for discussion by members.

State Task Force on Solutions (STFS)

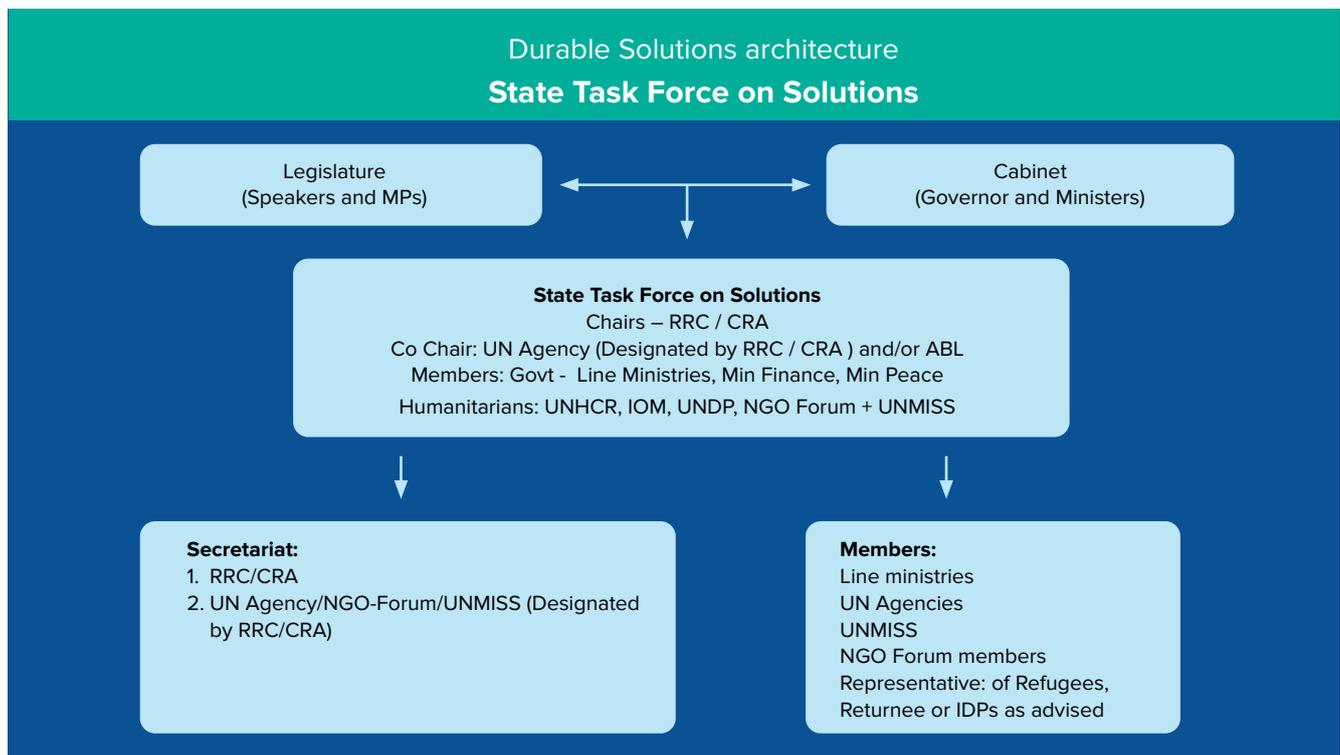
Activities and key reference documents

The State Task Forces on Solutions (STFS) are responsible for identifying and implementing durable solutions for IDPs, refugees, returnees and host communities at State Level. The responsibilities of the STFS delve beyond the return of displaced populations to their area of origin or choice; focusing more community empowerment, self-reliance and resilience.

Activities under the scope of the STFS include: (i) reintegration; (ii) local integration; and (iii) settlement elsewhere in the country. The activities are aligned to the following key documents in addition to the South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy for IDPs,

Refugees, Returnees and Host communities, 2024:

1. Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan 2018 (R-ARCSS);
2. The Secretary Generals Agenda on Internal Displacement, 2022;
3. South Sudan Revised National Development Strategy: Consolidate Peace and Stabilize the Economy 2021 - 2024;
4. South Sudan Action Plan on Return, Reintegration and Recovery: Achieving Durable Solutions 2024
5. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, 2010.



State solutions architecture and methodology

RRC and CRA will chair the STFS steering committees to identify key area based objectives and work with members to support solutions. Objectives identified will be guided by needs assessments, evidence and data collected and analyzed by the STFS members.

The STFS, through its diverse membership which will include: humanitarian, line ministries, peace and development actors; and will be Co-Chaired

by a UN Agency, selected by the RRC/CRA based on operational footprint and the comparative advantage in the context of the state/area.

The selected UN Agency will be called upon to support with resources or collective action where necessary to support the work of the STFS. In areas where the RC HC has appointed ABL leader, the ABL leader will assume the co-chair function.

The Co-Chair role of the STFS will be renewable annually at a maximum.

The Co-Chair role of the STFS will be renewable annually at a maximum.

The Area Based Leaders: These will be the representative of the RC HC at the state level. The incumbent will work jointly with the RRC/CRA to advance the joint objectives identified and support activities as follows:

- a. Support to undertake stakeholder consultations,
- b. Data collection, research and analysis;
- c. Support states to draft and finalize the area based solutions plans and roadmaps in consultation with the coordination mechanism.
- d. Producing public information material promoting and raising awareness of the SG Decision and Frameworks and STFS plans to support resource mobilization.
- e. Developing and providing training to stakeholders on durable solutions; and
- f. Integrating durable solutions into other strategic planning processes,

STFS KEY TASKS WILL INCLUDE:

Engagement with other arms of Government and the UN

1. STFS will engage the Legislature and Cabinet at state level and leverage on the political good will to implement solutions and ensure congruence of approaches.
2. Close collaboration with UNMISS in line with the peacekeeping missions annual mandate to ensure support for recovery, reintegration and transition activities is provided to the most vulnerable commutes guided by evidence based decision making and assessments.
3. Close collaboration with the United Nations Mine Action Service to ensure all locations of operation are free from UXOs.

Data collection

4. In cases of facilitated returns conduct due diligence through assessments in potential return areas to identify gaps in service delivery to ensure returns are informed, voluntary and dignified.

5. Similar assessments will also be conducted in locations identified for integration or settlement elsewhere in the country to establish critical needs and gaps in these locations; and most importantly understand the willingness of the host communities to contribute to solutions.
6. Identification of risks to solutions and approaches to address them.
7. Support in the development of methodologies and tools for intention surveys, security and context analysis, area of return assessments, as well as monitoring mechanisms.
8. Coordinate humanitarian assessments on areas of potential return, local integration, reintegration and recovery, to identify need and prioritize requiring collective action then share information with the NTC-DS.
9. Identify priority needs, and support assessment and response to address concerns impacting the sustainability of interventions, including livelihoods and Housing, Land and Property.

Communication with communities and accountability to affected people

10. Community engagement, inclusion and participation of affected communities to better understand their needs, gather information to design solutions roadmaps and advocate among donors through the NTC-DS. This includes host communities who accommodate and share their resources with displaced people.
11. Disseminate information on areas of return to enable informed decisions among affected persons
12. In areas where local integration is being implemented ensure communication with communities by sharing local implementation plans, identifying needs, priorities and determining the community capacity and willingness to contribute to integration plans.
13. Ensure preemptive early warning in areas of operation to avert humanitarian crises particularly for climate induced displacement / foreseen natural disasters.

Collective action

14. Mobilize collective action among members to address gaps in potential return areas, local integration, reintegration and recovery - e.g infrastructure support for road construction, renovation of damaged boreholes, well, schools and health facilities.

Development of contextualized state plans and roadmaps

15. Draft state level guidance documents related to contributing to the creation of an environment conducive for solutions and providing recommendations on advocacy needs and strategies, in accordance with South Sudan laws, the Kampala Convention, International laws and IASC guidelines on Durable Solutions.
16. Harmonize assistance, while recognizing diversity of needs based on context.

Working modalities

17. Provide advice to relevant state actors based on national level contextual analysis of potential protection concerns related to the movement of populations.
18. Coordinate interstate assessments and projects with STFS in other locations.
19. Map solutions initiatives to prioritize areas for strategic response that build on planned or ongoing response.
20. The STFS will meet at least once a month, and schedule ad hoc meetings as necessary all minutes will be minuted, shared with members and the NTC-DS.
21. The secretariat at state level: will minute meetings, track implementation of agreements, support in coordinating responses from the NTS-DS and disseminate information to the NTC-DS.



Returnee women in Raja at group during the permanent constitution making and electoral process consultations.

10 Result-based Framework and Plan of Action Durable Solutions Strategy

Overarching Objective		This Durable Solutions Strategy and Action Plan is intended to guide authorities including at the local level, humanitarian and development organizations as well as other stakeholders in addressing the concerns expressed, the challenges and hurdles faced by displaced persons as they seek to return to their areas of origin, settle into alternative locations, or re-integrate back into the society to which they were displaced.		
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: CREATE SECURE AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ACHIEVING DURABLE SOLUTIONS				
Outcomes	Short Term (0-1 year) – Coping	Medium Term (1-3 years) – Recovery	Long Term (3-5 years) – Transforming	
1.1 Improved Security and safety situation	<p>Capacity building and professionalization of law enforcement agencies in areas of return</p> <p>Ensure training is provided to both government officials and border management agencies to be able to conduct gender-responsive reception and admission exercises, ongoing needs assessments based on thorough gender analysis, and comprehensive programming to meet refugee women's and girls' needs.</p> <p>De-militarization of urban and rural areas</p> <p>Introduce community policing to augment the capacity of regular police to ensure safety and security</p> <p>Advocacy, cooperation and effective coordination in an enduring situation of voluntary and mass return and a growing level of media attention at the local/national level including military preparedness or their intervention in any security concern</p> <p>Clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance on main roads, living areas and cultivatable land in sites of return</p> <p>Engagement of law enforcement to review and reduce checkpoints to support freedom of movement</p> <p>Sensitization of law enforcement on the application of the law to reduce discriminatory or arbitrary restrictions that restrict freedom of movement</p> <p>Strengthen local level peace making and mediation process which also include the involvement and participation of male and female refugees, IDPs and returnees. Design and implement a national framework on inclusion of refugees, IDPs and returnees in mediation as agreed upon during the 2016 National Consultations</p> <p>Security patrol day and night within and around residential areas to deter and respond to crimes</p> <p>Enforcement of Presidential order on relocation of cattle to places of origin</p> <p>Continuously gather disaggregated data on return areas to ensure safe, dignified and voluntary returns</p> <p>Improve accountability to affected populations. This should include the establishment of a specific, transparent and representative body to monitor assisted movements, gender-sensitive mitigation measures to address anticipated risks and effective, gender-sensitive community feedback mechanisms.</p>	<p>Monitor and continuously regulate the capacities of law enforcement agencies to sufficiently respond to challenges of refugees and IDP returns</p> <p>To encourage "Go and See" and "Go and Inform" visits of security personnel on overall security situation/alert of IDPs, refugees and returnees to create right and appropriate security environment</p> <p>Disarming the civilians and armed groups</p> <p>Adoption of bi-laws if applicable to enforce existing laws e.g. to penalize cattle owners for destruction of crops.</p> <p>Plan dedicated activities and investment specifically designed to challenge harmful gender norms and to address and prevent sexual and gender-based violence.</p> <p>Regular increment and payment of salaries to security personnel</p> <p>Develop resource and capacitate community structures to address climate related disasters such as floods and famine and use early warning mechanism to support communities to become resilient to climatic shocks, for instance relocation of people to higher grounds before rains, tree planting, and storage of grains before drought, use of greenhouse farming, drilling of boreholes, etc.</p>	<p>Allocate and deploy professional human resources to refugees, IDPs and returnee sites</p> <p>Strengthen the accountability of actors and other relevant institutions to address serious human rights violations, impunity issues and effective mechanism on IDP and refugee protection</p> <p>Implement flooding and disasters risk reduction, prevention and infrastructure construction approaches</p> <p>Enact relevant laws and implement the same to penalize inter-communal violence, SGBV, cattle raiding, and revenge killings</p> <p>Encourage community settlement on highland areas to allow the lowland for grazing.</p> <p>Encourage commercial cattle rearing, a tool necessary to reduce insecurity caused as results of fighting for grazing land.</p>	

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: CREATE SECURE AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ACHIEVING DURABLE SOLUTIONS			
Outcomes	Short Term (0-1 year) – Coping	Medium Term (1-3 years) – Recovery	Long Term (3-5 years) – Transforming
1.2 Functional Civil Administration in the areas of return	Provide orientation to administrators on returnees, their potential challenges, rules of engagement. Identify, prioritize and address gaps in administration operating capacity Establish areas and levels of coordination	Provide technical and material assistance to enhance capacity for service delivery Renovate existing infrastructures to sustain service delivery	Build new infrastructure to support service delivery
1.3 Access to justice is accessible in areas of return and to IDP, refugee returnees as well as naturalized refugees.	Provide capacity building for the Ministry of Justice and affiliated government institutions including but not limited to judicial officials at the state level including magistrates Rehabilitate courts and judicial facilities where possible Establish mobile courts and dispatch them regularly to problematic areas Provide capacity and infrastructure support to alternative and traditional dispute resolution mechanisms Community engagement targeting access to justice and legal literacy campaign for vulnerable groups (women, children, the elderly and disabled) to ensure they are aware of their constitutional right of seek redress through courts	Institute time limits for the resolution of cases Create avenues for formal and informal justice mechanisms to co-exist and work together to resolve cases; including strengthening informal justice structures in addition to formal ones Increase the number of magistrates and judicial support staff at the state level Capacity building for IDPs and refugee returnees on the need to respect the rule of law and decisions of courts and traditional dispute resolution mechanism as well as information on laws of the land Provide free legal aid and access to gender-responsive and culturally/linguistically appropriate legal representation, counseling, and information, including interpretation and translation services	Build new courts in areas that are highly populated but lack infrastructure to support access to justice Automate court systems and ensure proper filling of court records to ease access
1.4 Peaceful co-existence and alternative dispute resolution mechanism embraced in host areas.	Conduct peace-building and reconciliation activities among the communities Develop inter-communal peaceful coexistence projects among the youth to foster bonds across communities and establish relationships	Develop a culture of dialogue to resolve disputes through the use of media, advocacy campaigns, endorsement and dissemination of the use of dialogue by community leaders, chiefs and elders	Ensure community leaders from different locations meet monthly to discuss any issues that may lead to conflict
Implementer: National Government, Local Authorities IGAD, and relevant International Organizations			

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: PROVIDE BASIC SERVICES TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN DURABLE SOLUTIONS			
Outcomes	Short Term (0-1 year) – Coping	Medium Term (1-3 years) – Recovery	Long Term (3-5 years) – Transforming
<p>2.1 Basic services are available in places of return for returnees and others</p>	<p>Support cash-based programming for basic needs and protections using tailored, targeted approaches that reach all those in need, including the most marginalized and vulnerable, such as older women and women with disabilities.</p> <p>Provide WASH services through drilling boreholes in areas where water is not available. Mobilize communities to dig pit latrines</p> <p>Provide access to sanitary materials, including necessary hygiene products, to enable women and girls to fully participate in all activities</p> <p>Acquire ambulances</p> <p>Build functional health facilities with infrastructure, staff capacity, medicines and medical supplies with a link to secondary and tertiary care referral system.</p> <p>Provide access to comprehensive health care services that meet women's and girls' needs, especially sexual and reproductive health care services, adolescent-friendly services for girls are fundamental</p> <p>Provision of psychosocial and mental health services-trauma counseling, legal advice, safe spaces, and comprehensive health care. Consider culturally and linguistically appropriate ways to deliver these services without stigma</p> <p>Establish respectful, safe, confidential, and nondiscriminatory GBV response services and functioning referral pathways that are applicable and accessible for refugees and host-country nationals.</p> <p>Provision of malaria prevention services focusing on the most vulnerable groups such as expectant women, lactating mothers, and children below the age of 5 years.</p> <p>Provide ante-natal services</p> <p>Implement routine vaccination for children in the area of return</p> <p>Dispatch regular mobile clinics and provision of ambulances to remote locations.</p> <p>Put in place mechanism for preventative, curative and rehabilitative nutrition services and integrating them into the primary health care</p> <p>Provide returnees with food for 3 to 6 months upon return</p>	<p>Rebuild, rehabilitate and renovate infrastructure with the support of the local communities for instance in rehabilitating feeder roads.</p> <p>Review existing policies and programs</p> <p>Rehabilitate feeder roads to facilitate access to referral, hospitals, dispensaries, clinics and schools</p> <p>Electrification to include urban areas, markets and rural areas</p> <p>Rebuild infrastructure to facilitate secondary education</p> <p>Construct permanent learning structures</p>	<p>Construct roads, hospitals, dispensaries, clinics and schools</p> <p>Rural electrification of homes</p> <p>Provide water, power and telecommunication equipment in schools</p> <p>Further development and expansion of communication and mobile networks in the country</p>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: PROVIDE BASIC SERVICES TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN DURABLE SOLUTIONS			
Outcomes	Short Term (0-1 year) – Coping	Medium Term (1-3 years) – Recovery	Long Term (3-5 years) – Transforming
Basic services are available in places of return for returnees and others	<p>Provide temporary and semi-permanent learning spaces as well as renovate existing structures. Ensure that the education is accessible, safe and inclusive for refugee women and girls at all levels.</p> <p>Provide training to returnee teachers, as well as catch up, accelerated and remedial programs for learners</p> <p>Promote access by returnees to existing education facilities</p> <p>Print and distribute textbooks</p> <p>Provide desks and chairs</p> <p>Provide meals to retain learners in education</p> <p>Provide special language programs for returnees</p> <p>Quick impact projects (not targeting individual but benefiting communities) e.g. solar lighting for public areas, fixing bridges, rehabilitation of hospitals, schools, drilling boreholes</p> <p>Support local communities with tools, seeds and fishing kits to address food security</p>		
2.2 Promote access to land, housing and property and resolve any disputes.	<p>Enact laws, policies and administrative decision to promote access to houses, land and property</p> <p>Temporarily establish and dispatch mobile courts to resolve disputes over land, houses and property. In situations where access to formal courts is limited, establish alternative mechanisms to resolve conflicts</p> <p>Capacity enhancement and resource allocation for community leaders/chiefs in alternative dispute resolution mechanism on Housing, Land and Property</p> <p>Develop messaging to ensure that both males and female IDP and refugee returnees know their rights with respect to have access to land, houses, and property</p> <p>Promote provision of shelter and housing for refugees, returnees and IDPs</p> <p>All service providers need to recognize that being a refugee presents persistent risks, challenges, and vulnerabilities for women and girls and therefore should anticipate and be prepared to address refugee women's and girls' needs.</p>	<p>Registration of land, houses, and property</p> <p>Issuance of land, house, and property ownership certificates</p> <p>Amend/establish and enforce law of succession and inheritance to ensure women and orphans are not disenfranchised from House, Land and Property. Ensure that succession and inheritance laws apply equally to men and women</p> <p>Amend law to ensure that nationalized citizens have rights as citizens to own land</p>	<p>Develop affordable public housing</p> <p>Compensation for lost houses, land, and property or provision of alternatives. Alternatives should only be a last resort.</p>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: PROVIDE BASIC SERVICES TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN DURABLE SOLUTIONS			
Outcomes	Short Term (0-1 year) – Coping	Medium Term (1-3 years) – Recovery	Long Term (3-5 years) – Transforming
<p>2.3 Returnees and refugees and naturalized refugees to access identity documents.</p>	<p>Ensure there is access to information and communication with refugees. Provide multiple avenues of communication with refugees to take into account restrictions on females' movement, illiteracy, disability, and other factors.</p> <p>Inclusion of both males and females displaced persons in national census</p> <p>Inclusion of IDPs and refugee returnees in national population and civil registers.</p> <p>Issuance of civil documentation, including identity documents, to IDPs and refugees and IDP returnees.</p> <p>Removal of administrative procedures that place unnecessary administrative hurdles and cost for displaced persons, such as returning to place of origin.</p> <p>Creation of facilities (e.g. one-stop shop, mobile teams) in three to five key states to bolster civil registration capacity, including issuance of identification documents.</p> <p>Design and implement naturalization plan for qualified and interested refugees, including the issuance of a presidential order for the naturalization of refugees in protracted situations in South Sudan.</p> <p>Dissemination of key messages on identity document issuance for returnees and refugees in protracted situations to be naturalized</p>	<p>Expansion of civil registration facilities (e.g. one-stop shop, mobile teams) to every state</p>	<p>Expansion of civil registration facilities to include passports, personal identification documents, birth certificates, marriage certificates, voter identification cards, title deeds, and other relevant documentation. Automate the issuance of documentation to enhance the access of identification and other documents by displaced persons</p> <p>Modern national population and civil registry system, including digital access via phone or SMS, and digital identities for nationals and refugees.</p>
<p>Implementer: National Government, State Governments, Local administrators, partners operating in the area, and UNHCR</p>			

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: SUPPORT INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES, IDPS, RETURNEEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES INCLUDING LIVELIHOODS			
Outcomes	Short Term (0-1 year) – Coping	Medium Term (1-3 years) – Recovery	Long Term (3-5 years) – Transforming
3.1 Reduced dependency on food ration and other hand-outs. Improved employment and other income-generating activities Improved access to social capital	Advocate and engage with host communities to support the integration of displaced populations. Increase resources in areas of return to support integration Support employment and vocational training opportunities for youth returnees, naturalized refugees and the host community. Provide prompt access to safe and appropriate labor market opportunities for all refugees to promote integration, refugee self-reliance, and women's economic empowerment, and to contribute to host economies. Develop and fund livelihood projects that benefit individuals and the society at large such as farming and fishing techniques, brick making, tailoring and catering while ensuring projects benefit host communities Distribute agricultural seeds, tools, and other inputs Promote access to land by refugees in South Sudan to help them achieve self-sufficiency	Review laws, policies and identify gaps to ensure protection and reintegration of IDPs and refugee returnees Provide livelihood grants for the most vulnerable. Provide training on micro-businesses, and offer micro-financing loans and capital assets like sewing machines, cereal grinding mills, motorcycles, brick-making machines, etc. Provide training on small-scale income generating activities, protection of forests and the environment Provide community centers Provide training on primary cooperative agriculture enterprise	Encourage target populations to join Sacco's, cooperatives and open accounts to banks to save for future business investments/expansion
3.2 Return package of refugee and IDP returnees implemented	Engage humanitarian and development actors to determine an appropriate return package for IDP and refugee returnees Provide returnees on arrival at the place of return with start-up food ration or cash assistance for minimum of three to six months. Provide non-food items to returnees, including kitchen sets, mosquito sets and lanterns Provide tailored support to the vulnerable returnees	Monitoring the impact of return packages on the sustainability of return Making adjustments to the return packages and support where necessary	
3.3 Local integration for IDPs and refugees	Pursue community engagement with host communities and leaders to encourage acceptance of IDPs and returnees Facilitate access to land and livelihood opportunities for refugees and IDPs		
Implementer: MHADM, line ministries, relevant UN agencies, and other partners working in the place of return			

Strategic Objective 4: STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES AND RELATIONS			
Outcomes	Short Term (0-1 year) – Coping	Medium Term (1-3 years) – Recovery	Long Term (3-5 years) – Transforming
4.1 Promotion of Institutional capacities of governments	<p>Make deliberate attempts to ensure that communication between state and national levels as well as between units in offices is effective</p> <p>Identify gaps and unmet needs in government operating capacity and address them</p> <p>Ensure adequate resources are allocated at the state level for implementation</p> <p>Identify and prioritize long term needs and financial support</p>	<p>Identify training needs and provide technical support in terms of short term training or workshops</p> <p>Identify and prioritize long-term needs and financial support</p>	
Implementer: MHADM, RRC and CRA			
Strategic Objective 5: BOLSTER GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP, PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS			
Outcomes	Short Term (0-1 year) – Coping	Medium Term (1-3 years) – Recovery	Long Term (3-5 years) – Transforming
5.1 Partnership for implementation of durable solutions strategy and Action Plan effectively functioning	<p>Clarify leadership role in coordination among government institutions</p> <p>Create a working group on Durable Solutions to monitor implementation and coordinate in-kind support to partners and ensure no states are neglected.</p> <p>Update regularly a tracker to monitor implementation and to take corrective action</p> <p>Respond promptly to intervention or remedial actions recommended in the reports</p>	<p>Review coordination arrangements semi-annually by NTC and promptly implement any thereto recommendations</p> <p>Enforce and realize government capacity both at the national and local level to coordinate solutions initiatives</p>	<p>Establishment of NGO database indicating fields of expertise, sector and geographic areas of operation in the country</p>
Implementer: MHADM, RRC			

11 Tasks and Roles of Key Partners in the implementation of the Plan of Action

S/N	GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	TASKS AND ROLES	TIMELINE	SUPPORTING PARTNERS
11.1	Ministry of Humanitarian and Disaster Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make policies to guide and regulate the implementation and coordination of the durable solutions strategy and plan of action • Lead the government resources mobilization campaign to raise funds for implementation of durable solutions strategy and plan of action • Institutional capacity building and awareness creation among IDPs • Facilitate the local integration process (durable solution) for eligible refugees as per the Immigration Act 	Pre-voluntary return of refugees and IDPs	IGAD EU WB Partners (NGO/INGO/CSO) Local Authorities UNHCR UN Women Ministry of Interior
11.2	Relief and Rehabilitation and Commission of Refugee Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the Tripartite agreements for the return of refugees • Lead the implementation of Durable Solutions strategies and Action Plans • Working with partners to continuously gather data on return areas to ensure safe, dignified and voluntary returns for IDPs and Refugees • Conduct a timely thorough gender analysis in relation to refugee arrivals. • Coordinate the planning and implementation of the durable solution strategies and plans of action at all stages • Monitor and evaluate the plan of action activities for compliance with the guiding principles and laws • Register refugees and IDPs for voluntary return 	Before and throughout the implementation stages	UNHCR
11.3	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign Tripartite Agreements with UNHCR and the South Sudanese refugee hosting countries on behalf of the government of South Sudan for voluntary return of South Sudanese refugees 	Before the return of refugees	UNHCR
11.4	Ministry of Roads and Bridges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect the return routes, bridges, and feeder roads in the places of return to confirm usability and safety • Repair the return routes, bridges, and feeder roads as and where needed to facilitate easy passage • Construct the feeder roads in places of return as needed 	Pre-departure	UNMISS UNDP UNOPS Partners (I/NGO,CSO)
11.5	Ministry of Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport returnees to their places of return or choice • Transport the NFIs and food stuffs to places of return as and when needed • Establish police stations and provide mobile courts in the areas of return 	Mainly at early stages of the return	WFP/UNHAS UNMISS UNHCR IOM Local contractors Partners (I/NGO, CSO) Local authorities

S/N	GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	TASKS AND ROLES	TIMELINE	SUPPORTING PARTNERS
11.6	Ministry of Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide police escorts to returnees • Provide technical, material, and financial support to security personnel 	Mainly at early stages of the return	UNDP UNMISS OCHA UNOPS UNPOL Partners (I/NGO, CSO) Local authorities
11.7	Ministry of Local Government at State Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station Police forces in areas of return to maintain rule of law and order • Conduct security patrol in areas of return to deter and promptly respond to crimes • Deploy Police to spots that are prone to insecurity or crime to maintain safety and security • Reinforce implementation of the Land Act as and when needed to uphold justice • Ensure physical, property, and legal protection of returnees • Provide technical, material, and financial support to Government and traditional court systems • Organize peace education and reconciliation workshops and seminars in the communities 	Throughout the return stages	UNDP UNMISS UNPOL Partners (I/NGO, CSO) Local authorities
11.8	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey and map lands for returnees in places of return • Demarcate and allocate sufficient arable lands to returnees for livelihood activities • Enlighten the returnees and partners on relevant Land Act and policies 	Throughout the return stages	UNHCR FAO NRC IOM UN-HABITAT UNMISS UNWOMEN
11.9	Ministry of Water, Resources & Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspect the water quality at the places of return for human consumption • Identify areas that need additional water points to meet the demand • Repair the broken water points • Construct additional water points as and where needed 	Throughout the return stages	UNICEF Partners (I/NGO, CSO) Local authorities
11.10	Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide medicines and medical supplies • Inspect local health facilities to assess compliance with applicable policies and laws • Renovate or extend existing health facilities • Construct additional health facilities to meet the growing needs • Deploy appropriate medical personnel • Upgrade the health facilities and deploy medical personnel as needed to meet the need • Provide preventive health education and services to returnees • Administer vaccines to eligible members of returnees' families 	Throughout the return stages	UNCEF UNFPA UNWOMEN Partners (I/NGO, CSO)

S/N	GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	TASKS AND ROLES	TIMELINE	SUPPORTING PARTNERS
11.11	Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical and material support for horticulture, agriculture, livestock, and fishery to support livelihood and socioeconomic status • Inspect and provide technical guidance to farmers on agro, livestock, and modern poultry practices • Provide improved seed varieties to returnees • Provide three to six months' food ration to returnee households • Provide agriculture hand implements to eligible returnees • Enlightenment on process and benefits of forming cooperative societies • Provide training on cooperatives and other income generating activities • Help returnees start informal and formal businesses • Advocacy through potential partners including Oxfam, Don Bosco and others to provide trainings to returnees in vocational and other income generating activities 	Throughout the return stages	FAO WFP UNDP WB UNMAS AfDB UN Women UNMAS UNMISS Partners (I/NGO, CSO) Local authorities
11.12	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide awareness and guidance on environmental benefits, protection, and the relevant laws and policies • Provide technical and material support for protecting the environment • Manage solid wastes in areas of return • Sensitization of returnees and host communities about the environment and sustainable use of forestry products • Application/adoption of mitigation strategies to prevent erosion i.e. water management, wood logging, afforestation etc. 	Throughout the return stages	FAO UNDP UNMISS UNOPS UNEP UNMAS Partners (I/NGO, CSO) Local authorities
11.13	Ministry of General Education and Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate existing education facilities and/or construct new ones • Employ, train, and deploy qualified teachers to schools • Provide opportunities for secondary and tertiary education • Provide syllabuses, text books, exercise books, and other educational materials • Procure, maintain, and replace worn-out school equipment • Develop and disseminate educational policies to schools • Prepare and administer examinations to finalist students 	Throughout the return stages	UNICEF Partners (I/NGO, CSO) Local authorities
11.14	Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support women participation in post-conflict reconstructions, relief and rehabilitation • Provide human rights awareness, psycho-social counseling, and advocacy • Ensure security for women, girls and children • Construct safe centers for women, girls and children in all areas of return to ensure their security and safety during reintegration • Provide training in skills development to women, men, girls and boys for economic sustainability • Procure and provide training tools and materials for trainees to start businesses • Collaborate with MA & FS in supporting returnees in vegetable growing by providing seeds • Ministry of Environment to provide support for tree planting programs in the areas of return for families 	During and after return and continues until recovered	UNICEF UN Women UNFPA Partners (I/NGO, CSO) Local authorities

S/N	GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	TASKS AND ROLES	TIMELINE	SUPPORTING PARTNERS
11.15	Ministry of Finance and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Release the funds needed for successfully implementation of the durable solutions strategy and plan of action 	Throughout the return stages	UNDP WB AfDB Partners (I/NGO, CSO) Local authorities
11.16	Ministry of Labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of youth employment and employability programs in the areas of return Skill development in the area of writing, brick making, automobile maintenance etc. Establishment of public employment services or centers in the ten States of South Sudan Establishment of a labour market information system Skills assessment in the areas of return 	Throughout the return stages	ILO UNWOMEN UNDP UNIDO Partners (I/NGO, CSO) Local authorities
11.17	Ministry of Peace Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage the host communities to be receptive and welcoming to the returnees and share the available resources Develop policies on peace-building and social cohesion Strengthen the peace-building architecture in candidate areas to include the traditional leadership authorities, the women and youth groups Disseminate the R-ARCSS and subsequently the road-map for the ownership by the community Engage the host communities and establish the peace committees Promote the spirit of dialogue as the best means of solving conflict 	Throughout the return stages	Government UN Agencies Partners (I/NGOs, CSOs) Local authorities
11.18	IDPs, Refugees, Returnees and Host communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work as volunteers or paid workers on various projects at places of return Forgive and forget the past Have open mind and willingness to learn new ideas Be confident and determined to succeed in spite of challenges and obstacles Seize and utilize available opportunities for long term benefit Work hard and be smart Cooperate and always have positive attitude 	Throughout the return stages	Government UN Agencies Partners (I/NGO, CSO) Local authorities

END NOTES

Source: South Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024

Annex

REPORT

National Consultative Meeting on National Durable Solutions in South Sudan

Juba, South Sudan

Date: 15th - 17th April, 2024

1. Introduction

South Sudan has faced protracted displacement and forced migration crises since its independence in 2011. Violent conflicts, inter-communal clashes, and natural disasters have resulted in the internal displacement of over 2 million people and the flight of over 2.3 million refugees to neighboring countries. Addressing the needs of these displaced populations and supporting their transition to durable solutions has been a critical challenge for the Government of South Sudan and its partners.

In recognition of this, the Government of South Sudan, in collaboration with Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), convened the National Consultative Meeting on National Durable Solutions in South Sudan with the National Technical Committee (NTC). The meeting took place in Juba, South Sudan from 15-17 April 2023 and was attended by representatives of the ministries that make up the committee, partners and refugee representatives.

To establish an institutional framework for durable solutions, the meeting aimed to map out all institutions relevant to durable solutions at both the national and local levels. Furthermore, the meeting sought to facilitate consultations with key stakeholders and actors in order to promote buy-in and establish an institutional structure for

the Durable Solutions Platform. Additionally, the meeting worked to promote a shared understanding and commitment towards the establishment of the Durable Solutions Platform through constructive discussions and information sharing.

2. Meeting Outcomes

2.1. Architecture of the DS Platform

The national consultative meeting carefully considered the feedback provided by the participants regarding the structure and name of the DS Platform. It was noted that the current name and structure have already been approved by the cabinet, and any changes would require additional procedural steps and approvals. Besides, the national Task Committee currently performs the expected roles and responsibilities of DS functions.

Given the time and resources that would be needed to go through the process of changing the name again, the meeting participants recommended maintaining the existing name and structure. Altering the approved framework at this stage could potentially delay the implementation and progress of the initiative, which is crucial for delivering the intended outcomes in a timely manner. Therefore, the meeting unanimously agreed to name the DS platform as National Technical Committee on Durable Solutions (NTC-DS) which will be under the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management and co-chaired by RRC and CRA.

2.1. Functions of the DS Platform

In close alignment with the regional durable solutions strategy and the national durable solutions strategy of South Sudan, the National Technical Committee on Durable Solutions (NTC-DS) shall have the following key functions:

- **Coordination of Durable Solution Programmes:** The platform will serve as a centralized hub for coordinating the various durable solutions programmes and initiatives across South Sudan. This will help ensure coherence, synergy, and optimal utilization of resources.

- **Planning and Oversight Role:** The platform will be responsible for providing strategic planning and oversight for the durable solutions efforts in the country. This includes setting priorities, developing comprehensive plans, and monitoring the implementation of activities.
- **Resource Mobilization:** The platform will undertake resource mobilization efforts to secure the necessary funding, technical expertise, and other resources required to support the implementation of durable solutions.
- **Progress Reporting:** The platform will regularly monitor and report on the progress made in achieving durable solutions for displaced populations across South Sudan.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The platform will establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track the impact and effectiveness of durable solutions programmes and initiatives.
- **Advocacy on Policy and Other Issues:** The platform will advocate for policy changes and other critical issues that can facilitate the achievement of durable solutions for displaced populations.
- **Documentation of Best Practices:** The platform will document and disseminate best practices, strategies, and lessons learned on durable solutions to inform and enhance future programming.
- **Ensuring Effective Accountability:** The platform will put in place mechanisms to ensure accountability and transparency in the implementation of durable solutions programmes and activities.
- **Strengthening Institutional Capacities:** The platform will work to strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions at all levels to effectively contribute to the realization of durable solutions.
- **Data Management and Integration:** The platform will establish a comprehensive data management system to collect, analyze, and integrate data on durable solutions, supporting evidence-based decision-making.
- **Establishing a Complaints Unit:** The platform will set up a dedicated unit to address grievances, feedback, and other challenges faced by displaced populations and stakeholders in the context of durable solutions.

2.1. Institutional Capacity, Resources, and Support Needed by NTC-DS

The meeting concluded that establishing the NTC-DS platform requires a comprehensive approach that addresses institutional, resource, and support-related considerations. Sustained commitment and coordination among all stakeholders will be crucial for the platform's success in achieving durable solutions for displaced populations in South Sudan. Careful planning, coordination, and sustained commitment from all stakeholders would be crucial for the platform's success in achieving durable solutions for displaced populations.

2.1.1. Institutional Capacity

The platform would require a strong institutional framework and governance structure to coordinate the different stakeholders involved in durable solutions for displaced populations in South Sudan. Consequently, this could involve establishing a dedicated government agency or inter-ministerial coordination mechanism to oversee the platform's operations and decision-making.

Furthermore, the platform would also need to have representation from key government ministries (e.g., Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Reconstruction and Development), UN agencies, local and international NGOs, and the affected communities themselves. Additionally, capacity-building efforts would be needed to ensure participating institutions have the necessary expertise, processes, and systems in place to effectively implement durable solutions.

2.1.2. Resource Requirements

Adequate and sustained funding would be critical to support the platform's activities. This includes assessments of displacement situations and durable solutions needs, designing and implementing durable solutions programs (e.g., support for voluntary returns, local integration, resettlement), monitoring and evaluation of durable solutions outcomes, as well as the operational costs for the platform's coordination and management.

Moreover, the platform would likely require a mix of funding sources, including government budgets, international donor contributions, and private sector engagement. Additionally, in-kind contributions, such as technical expertise, logis-

tics support, and data/information sharing, would also be important resources.

2.1.3. Support Needed

Political will and commitment from the Government of South Sudan to prioritize durable solutions for displaced populations will be essential. Furthermore, strong partnerships and coordination between the government, UN agencies, NGOs, and local communities will be needed to ensure a collaborative and comprehensive approach.

In addition, capacity development support for participating institutions, including training, systems strengthening, and knowledge-sharing, will help build the platform's effectiveness. Moreover, ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and learning mechanisms would be necessary to adaptively manage the platform and ensure it remains responsive to the evolving needs of displaced populations.

Finally, advocacy and awareness-raising efforts targeting policymakers, donors, and the public could help generate support and resources for the platform's work.



PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

3. Mapping out of Institutions Relevant to Durable Solutions

No	Actor/Institution	Type (Donor, government, LNGO, INGO, UN, Private Sector, Academia, etc)	Role in Durable Solution	Level of Relevance/Engagement (High, Medium, Low)
Government				
	Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM)	Government	Coordinating and hosting the durable solution programmes	High
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAI-C)	Government	Coordination	Medium
	Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MOGEI)	Government	Implementing education programmes	High
	Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF)	Government	Mitigation of environmental and climatic shocks	High
	Ministry of Agriculture and MAFS	Government	Promoting Livelihoods and food security	High
	Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC)	Government	Ensuring dignified returns and reintegration (6Rs – Return, Reintegration, Relief, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction)	High
	Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MoHEST)	Government	Promoting access to tertiary learning	Medium
	South Sudan Human Rights Commission (SSHRC)	Government	Ensuring access to bill of rights	High
	Ministry of Interior (MoI)	Government	Ensure safety and security	High
	Ministry of Health (MoH)	Government	Promote health and well-being	High
	Local Government Board, State Ministry of Local Government (LGB/SMOLG)	Government	Enforcement of rule of law and compliance	High
	City/Municipal/Town Councils	Government	Enforcement of rule of law and compliance	High
	South Sudan National Bureau of Standards (SSNBS)	Government	Custodian of national data and statistics Ensuring safety and consumer protection	High
	Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS)	Government	Promote wellbeing and socio-economic youth empowerment	Medium
	Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MoGCSW)	Government	Promote gender equality	High
	Ministry of Peace Building (MoPB)	Government	Promoting harmonious co-existence	High
	Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP)	Government	Allocation and management of financial resources	High
	Ministry of Labour (MoL)	Government	Job creation and skills development	High
	Legislature	Government	Legislation, Policy making and oversight of the executive	High

No	Actor/Institution	Type (Donor, government, LNGO, INGO, UN, Private Sector, Academia, etc)	Role in Durable Solution	Level of Relevance/Engagement (High, Medium, Low)
	Judiciary	Government	Adjudication and management of legal issues	High
	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI)	Government	Ensuring access to safe and clean water	High
	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA)	Government	Legal administration	High
	Presidency	Government	Policy guidance	High
	Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI)	Government	Promote SMEs development	High
	Ministry of Housing, Land and Urban Development (MoHLUD)	Government	Promoting access to land, housing and utilities	High
Regional Organizations				
	IGAD	Inter-Governmental	Provision of platform for resource mobilization and technical support	High
	EAC	Inter-Governmental	Resource mobilization and technical support	High
	AU	Regional block	Advisory and technical solution to displacement, informing donor	Medium
UN Agencies				
	UNHCR	UN	Ensuring protection and inclusion of forcibly displaced population to access services	High
	UNDP	UN	Resilience and recovery Technical and Financial Support	High
	FAO	UN	Livelihoods and Food security	High
	UNICEF	UN	Education and Health	High
	UNEP	UN	Mitigation of environmental and climatic shocks	High
	UN-Women	UN	Gender Equity	High
	IOM	UN	Ensures, safe, orderly and Sustainable migration	High
	WFP	UN	Provision of food and NFIs	High
	UNHABITAT	UN	Promoting safe settlement and adequate housing	Medium
	UNESCO	UN	Supporting Education and cultural heritage	High
	UNFPA	UN	Ensuring access to safe and dignified reproductive health and gender equality	High
	UNMISS	UN	Peace building, harmonious coexistence and development	High
Multi-lateral Development Organizations/IFIs				
	WB	Multi-lateral institutions	Financing and Technical support	High

No	Actor/Institution	Type (Donor, government, LNGO, INGO, UN, Private Sector, Academia, etc)	Role in Durable Solution	Level of Relevance/Engagement (High, Medium, Low)
	AFDB	Multi-lateral institutions	Financing and Technical support	High
Private Sector				
	Chamber of Commerce	Private Sector	Support business entities	Medium
Donors				
	JICA	Donor	Funding, Advocacy and Technical support	High
	EU	Donor	Funding, Advocacy and Technical support	High
	ECHO	Donor	Technical and Financial Support	High
	IFAD	Donor	Technical and Financial Support	High
	African Risk Capacity (ARC)	Donor	Technical and Financial Support	High
	CANADA	Donor	Support policy, advocacy and provision of funding for implementing durable solution plan	High
	GIZ	Donor	Support policy, advocacy and provision of funding for implementing durable solution plan	High
	USAID	Donor	Support policy, advocacy and provision of funding for implementing durable solution plan	High
LNGOs				
	LNGO Consortium	NGOs	Implementation of programmes and advocacy	High
INGOs				
	NRC	INGO	Provision of Durable Solution services	High
	DRC	INGO	Provision of Durable Solution services	High
	OXFAM	INGO	Technical and Financial Support	Medium
	World Vision	INGO	Technical and Financial Support	Medium
	Concern Worldwide	INGO	Technical and Financial Support	Medium
	MSF	INGO	Technical and Financial Support	Medium
	Action Against Hunger	INGO	Technical and Financial Support	Medium
	Windle trust	INGO	Technical and Financial Support	Medium
	Save The Children	INGO	Technical and Financial Support	Medium

No	Actor/Institution	Type (Donor, government, LNGO, INGO, UN, Private Sector, Academia, etc)	Role in Durable Solution	Level of Relevance/Engagement (High, Medium, Low)
	Caritas International	INGO	Technical and Financial Support	Medium
Societies				
	REDCROSS societies	Societies	Evacuation and provision of emergency support	High
Refugee-Led Organizations				
	Rediscovering Humanity and Health RHH	Refugee lead Organizations	Technical Support	Medium
	Youth Association for Peace and Development	Refugee lead Organizations	Technical Support	Medium
	South Sudan Together for Peace	Refugee lead Organization	Technical Support	Medium
Academia				
	Forum of Universities	Academia	Support in research and dissemination of findings	High

ATTENDANCE SHEET: IGAD National Validation Workshop on South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy held in Juba on 27 – 28 July 2021



27/07/2021

ATTENDANCE SHEET
National Validation Workshop South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees, IDPs and Host Communities Held on 27th and 28th July 2021.

S/No	Name	Organization/ Company	Signature
1	Joseph majner Ako E	Mahad IDP camp	[Signature]
2	LORUM BANTIM	Bow Bosco IDP	[Signature]
3	Emma Tuek	UNICEF	[Signature]
4	David Taglal	IDP camp 1	[Signature]
5	Nyayima Gafal	IDP camp 3	[Signature]
6	Alfred K. Youngs	O.V.P.	[Signature]
7	Mohamed MECHMACHE	EU/DG ECHO	[Signature]
8	Jacob Apollo	IGAD	[Signature]
9	Philip Budo	NDS citizen newspaper	[Signature]
10	Betty Lolisha Magayo	CRA	[Signature]



27/07/2021

ATTENDANCE SHEET
National Validation Workshop South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees, IDPs and Host Communities Held on 27th and 28th July 2021.

S/No	Name	Organization/ Company	Signature
1	Jamie Walter	GIER Embassy	[Signature]
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3	JACKSON WANI	SSBC	[Signature]
4	Ernesto Gonzalez	WFP	[Signature]
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6	SAMMONT LADD	RRC/REIS	[Signature]
7	Moussa Djama Haruki	ZGAD	[Signature]
8	Alimed Hissen	IGAD	[Signature]
9	Sophia Glazunova	UNHCR	[Signature]
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27/07/2021

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S/No	Name	Organization/ Company
1	Dr. Rowat Joshua	MHADRM
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3	Jawab Apalli	ICAD
4	Samuel MABOKI	MHADRM
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6	Lucas William Ngur	RRC
7	Alinea Karl Longera	UN WOMEN
8	Elizabeth Awate	UN Women
9	Gatwech Peter	MHADRM
10	MARIA KIANI	UNICEF

Signature



27/07/2021

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3	Mohamed Aly	UNHCR
4	Muhsin Kemal Akbulut	Turkish Embassy
5	MD MEZGANUR RAHMAN	FAO
6	Geraud Pouome	FAO
7	Sophie MARSAC	ICRC
8	Lagu James 'S	MOJ
9	Leben Nelson Man	Univ of Tulra
10	Awan Achien	The Dawn Newspaper

Signature

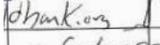
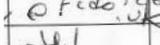
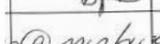
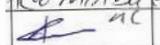


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ATTENDANCE SHEET

National Validation Workshop South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees, IDPs and Host Communities Held on 27th and 28th July 2021.

S/No	Name	Organization/ Company	Signature
1	Andrew Mide	ICM	
2	Mashood Issaka	AU	
3	HUSAM ABUDAGGA	WORLD Bank	
4	Shaun Edgelay	BRITISH EMBASSY	
5	Simon Francis	King Media	
6	Betty Scopas	MHADM	
7	Zoal Thoane Puck	IBP	
8	MARCELO DENISSE	netherlands emba	
9	Inare Wolderstoven	Dutch embassy	
10	NYAMUCH WAL CHAMCHIT	-	

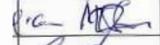


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S/No	Name	Organization/ Company	Signature
1	Amb-Balardo Mary	MFA+IC	
2	Mark Leting Theng	NTC	
3	DR. SISFO OTIM OTIM	IGAD	
4	Malual Deng	CRA	
5	Arojat JAMA	UNHCR/RC/H	
6	Paelelu Paide	Consultant	
7	Ngina Wonga	NTC	
8	Glenn Nyaki	UNITA	
9	Jimmy Gama	MFA+IC	
10	Rahab Balde	IGAD	

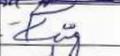
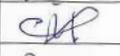
Held in Crown Hotel Juba



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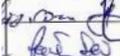
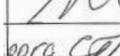
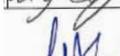
S/No	Name	Organization/ Company	Signature
1	Emmanuel Munde	M D N	
2	Samuel Musoke	Mhadm	
3	Richard Kust	Mhadm	
4	William Deng Deng	RRC Staff	
5	Teresa Diring	IGAD	
6	James Makgi	IGAD	
7	MAWIR NYOR LUAK	RRC	
8	JOSEPH JOHN	C.R.A	
9	COSMAS SADIK		
10	KWANT KAI		



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S/No	Name	Organization/ Company	Signature
1	Ombot Okony Olok	MOGEL	
2	Hon. Santino Bel Hwata	RRC	
3	Peter Komde Le-Sevens	GIZ	
4	CPSEPT majoor A Kot	IDP Secretary General	
5	Makuar Ador M. Deng	MWRT	
6	John Taban Kiani	SSBC	
7	JACKSON KANI	SSBC	
8	COSMAS SADIK		
9	Mama Kiani	UNITUK	
10	Sophia Glazunova	UNHCR	
11	Gatwech Peter	MHADM	
12	NYALINY PAL	SSBC	
13	Nymurh Makchoudak	SSB	



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1	Hon Santimi Belkender	RRC	[Signature]
2	Joseph master Akot	IDP Secretary General	[Signature]
3	John Taban Wani	SSBC	[Signature]
4	JACKSON WANI	SSBC	[Signature]
5	NYANG THILLOT	Immigration	[Signature]
6	Nyambach walekandak	SSBC	[Signature]
7	Peter Komuch Co-services	GIZ	[Signature]
8	Ometokony dok	M OGET	[Signature]
9	Mahmed Dem	CBA	[Signature]
10	Dong Akoon yai	RRC	[Signature]



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S/No	Name	Organization/ Company
1	Jima Francis	King Media
2	Glenn Oyaki	UNITA
3	Wangku Ayika	UNITA
4	John Taban Wani	SSBC
5	JACKSON WANI	SSBC
6	JOSEPH JOHN	C.R.A
7	Sophie MARSAC	ICRC
8	NYANG THIKIOT	Immigration
9	Teresa Dring	IGAD
10	James Malhot	M H D

Signature



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S/No	Name	Organization/ Company
1	Dr. S/S/O DING OYOKA	NTC
2	Homb-Babado Mary	NTC
3	Afred K Yangga	D.V.P.
4	Emmanuel Anule	M.D.N
5	Betty Leisha Masaya	CRIA
6	Abel Rullo	IGAD
7	Fiona Vilongu	NTC
8	Jimmy GAMA HAGANI	NTC
9	Leban Nelson Mwo	Univ. of Juba
10	Emma Tuck	UNICEF

Signature

Endnotes

- 1 UNHCR South Sudan spontaneous refugee returns overview available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-unhcr-overview-spontaneous-refugee-returns-march-2024>
- 2 RRC, UNHCR, IOM inflows from Sudan dashboard August 2024
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- 3 Source RRC, UNHCR, IOM inflows from Sudan dashboard August 2024.
- 4 Refugees, Returnees and IDPs Population Map, UNHCR July 2024
<https://dtm.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-mobility-tracking-round-14-initial-data-release>
- 5 UNHCR Dashboard on Regional overview of South Sudanese Refugees in the neighbouring Countries accessible at: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/dataviz/62?sv=47&geo=0>
- 6 Reference, July 2024 RRC, UNHCR South Sudan Overview of Spontaneous Refugee Returns
- 7 RRC, UNHCR, IOM inflows from Sudan dashboard August 2024
<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiZTMwNTIjNWYtYmVhYi00ZGI2LTgwYzAtN2UyNDZmZTRINjBkli-widCl6lE1ODgyNjJkLTlzZmltNDNiNC1iZDZILWJjZTQ5YzhINjE4NiIsImMiOjh9&pageName=ReportSection-95859b8850a76994e6fb>
- 8 The Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia, <https://igad.int/communique-special-summit-of-the-igad-assembly-of-heads-of-state-and-government-on-durable-solutions-for-somali-refugees/>
- 9 Djibouti Declaration on Regional Conference on Refugee Education in IGAD Member States, <https://igad.int/download/djibouti-declaration-on-refugee-education-in-igad-member-states/>
- 10 Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods and Self-resilience for Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities in IGAD region, <https://igad.int/kampala-declaration-on-jobs-livelihoods-and-self-reliance/As>
- 11 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2017) A study of Statelessness in South Sudan , Available at :<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/63857>
- 12 RRC, UNHCR, IOM - Daily arrivals from Sudan Dashboard
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UNHCR Regional overview of South Sudan situation refugee population July 2024
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- 13 UNHCR Overview of the IDP population per county
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- 14 Impact of climate change on displacement
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- 16 <https://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/IDP%20Initiative%20Update%20March%202021.pdf>
- 17 “No Simple Solutions- Women, Displacement and Durable Solutions in South Sudan” From <https://oxfam-library.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620857/bp-no-simple-solutions-women-displacement-south-sudan-030919-en.pdf;jsessionid=31A521F8F101B20D5B4C5A60D16A89C?sequence=1>
- 18 Refugees and asylum seekers hosted in South Sudan accessible at <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/ssd>
- 19 RRC, UNHCR, IOM - Daily arrivals from Sudan Dashboard
<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiZTMwNTIjNWYtYmVhYi00ZGI2LTgwYzAtN2UyNDZmZTRINjBkli-widCl6lE1ODgyNjJkLTlzZmltNDNiNC1iZDZILWJjZTQ5YzhINjE4NiIsImMiOjh9&pageName=ReportSection-95859b8850a76994e6fb>

July 2024 Regional overview of South Sudan situation refugee population

<https://data.unhcr.org/en/dataviz/62?sv=5&geo=0>

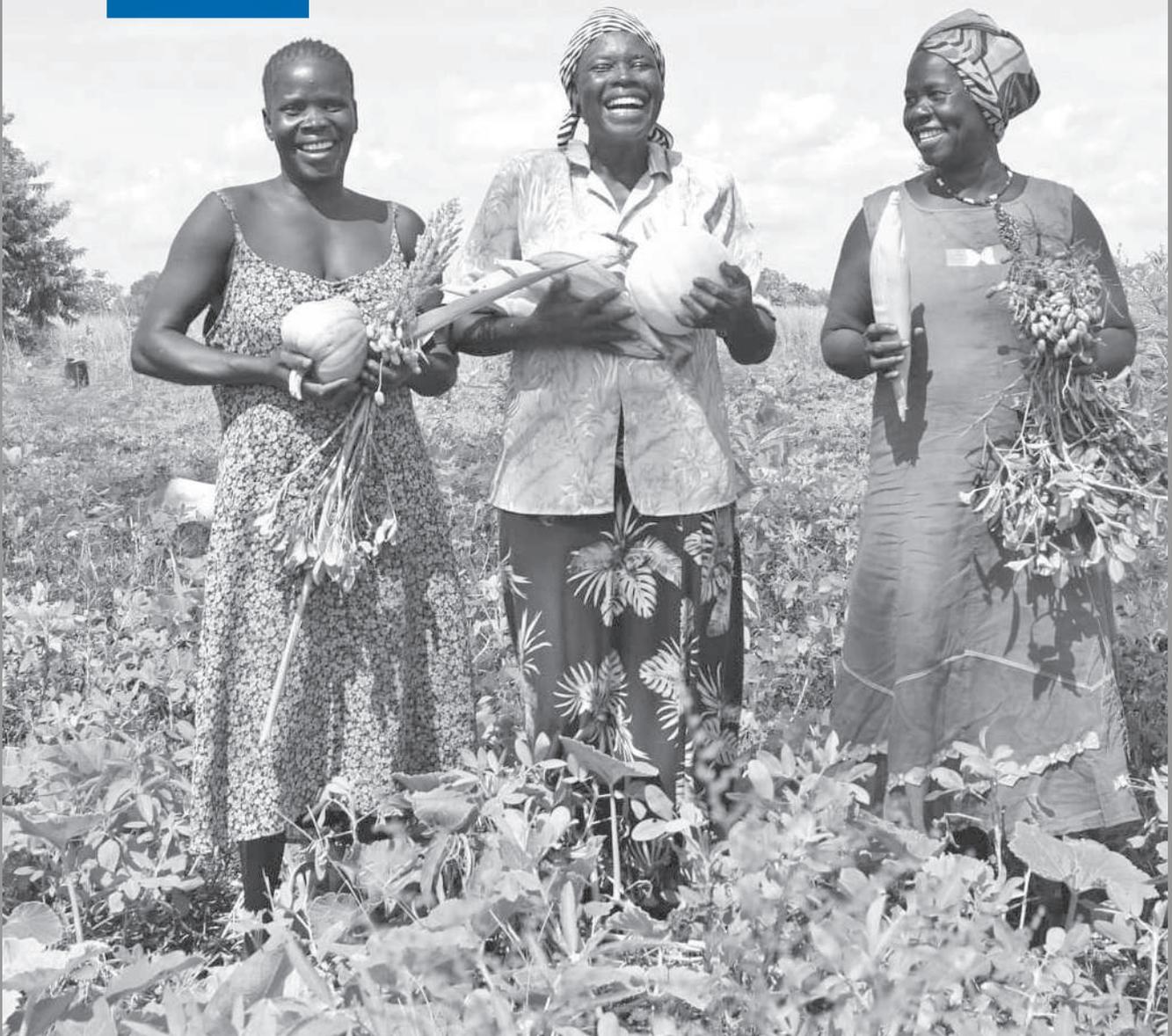
June 2024 RRC UNHCR Overview of Spontaneous Refugee Returns Dashboard

20 South Sudan IOM -DTM – IDPs (Round 14) accessible at, <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-mobility-tracking-round-14-initial-data-release>

21 [UNHCR Juba POC 1 2018 intention survey dashboard can be accessed at: https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/69324](https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/69324)

22 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024, available at <https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/115>

It is worth noting that the **South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities** is the first of its kind in South Sudan



Returnee Women in Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State harvesting their agricultural produce.



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