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SOUTH SUDAN

Annual Report 2024



South Sudan Annual Report 2024
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Abbreviations and acronyms

\$	United States dollar
ART	antiretroviral therapy
eLMIS	Electronic Logistic Management Information System
GBV	gender-based violence
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
MSEs	micro and small enterprises
NCOC	National Coordination and Operations Centre
PCRCs	police and community relationship committees



Dr. Abchir greets youth at an International Youth Day event

R-ARCSS	Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TB	tuberculosis
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women





Foreword

In 2024, South Sudan demonstrated remarkable resilience and collaboration in its journey towards peace, development and sustainability. Despite the challenges of armed conflicts (regional and internal) and natural disasters, the nation's resilience shone through as it worked hard to overcome difficulties and create a brighter future.

This annual report highlights the achievements, challenges and lessons learned during this transformative year. It showcases the combined efforts of the Government of South Sudan, the country's resilient people, the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP's) dedicated partners, whose support has been crucial for the progress we have achieved thus far, and the entire UN Family. To you all, our most sincere appreciation.

Throughout 2024, South Sudan made significant strides in key areas, such as developing a framework for transitional justice, supporting judicial reforms and legislative review and creating a conducive environment to hold the inaugural elections that are now slated for December 2026. These efforts, undertaken amid multifaceted uncertainties and communal tensions, present an opportunity that holds the promise of positive change with strong resolve and a prosperous future.

UNDP remains a steadfast partner in South Sudan's development journey, collaborating closely with our partners, the government, donors and other stakeholders.

Our initiatives, aligned with our Country Programme, are driven by adaptability, innovation and a commitment to good governance, sustainable livelihoods, economic stability, social cohesion and climate resilience. By strengthening governance institutions and promoting peace and social cohesion, we focus on enhancing economic resilience and building local capacities. Our efforts encompass strengthening health systems, advancing gender equality, supporting infrastructure development and fostering sustainable livelihoods to address immediate needs amid the ongoing crisis. Together, we envision a peaceful, empowered and self-reliant South Sudan, paving the way for long-term stability and growth.

The achievements of 2024 were made possible by the unsung heroes of the UNDP South Sudan team. Their dedication, passion and professionalism have illuminated our path forward, ensuring that every corner of South Sudan benefits from our mission.

As we look to the future, this annual report stands as a testament to our shared commitment and determination in building a prosperous South Sudan.

Dr. Mohamed Abchir Auuale

UNDP Resident Representative, South Sudan

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South Sudan country context

As the world's youngest nation, South Sudan continues to navigate complex political, humanitarian and development challenges. Since gaining independence in 2011, the country has experienced protracted conflict, with civil war outbreaks in 2013 and 2016 significantly affecting its socioeconomic framework. The 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) and the formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity in February 2020 represent crucial steps towards peace, providing a framework for power-sharing, security arrangements and comprehensive reforms. Despite encouraging reforms to support long-term stability and development outcomes, challenges persist, including intermittent subnational conflict and ongoing political tensions. In 2024, the R-ARCSS was extended by two years to February 2027, allowing the government additional time to achieve key milestones of the peace agreement.

A substantial portion of the population depends on humanitarian aid, necessitating strengthened resilience and recovery efforts.

On the humanitarian front, South Sudan faces one of the most severe crises globally, with millions in need of assistance due to the civil war in Sudan, intercommunal conflict-driven displacement, food insecurity and widespread poverty. Natural disasters, including floods and droughts, further exacerbate these challenges, displacing communities and disrupting livelihoods. A substantial portion of the population depends on humanitarian aid, necessitating strengthened resilience and recovery efforts.

Moreover, South Sudan's economic crisis deepened in 2024. The disruption of an oil pipeline running through conflict-affected Sudan has had significant socioeconomic, fiscal and humanitarian consequences, reducing oil production to one third of previous levels. The economic downturn led to the significant depreciation of the South Sudanese pound between January and September 2024, diminishing household purchasing power and exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

Development challenges remain daunting, characterized by infrastructural deficits, inadequate access to essential services and high youth unemployment. Efforts to establish sustainable peace and development are hindered by governance issues, weak institutions and economic instability.

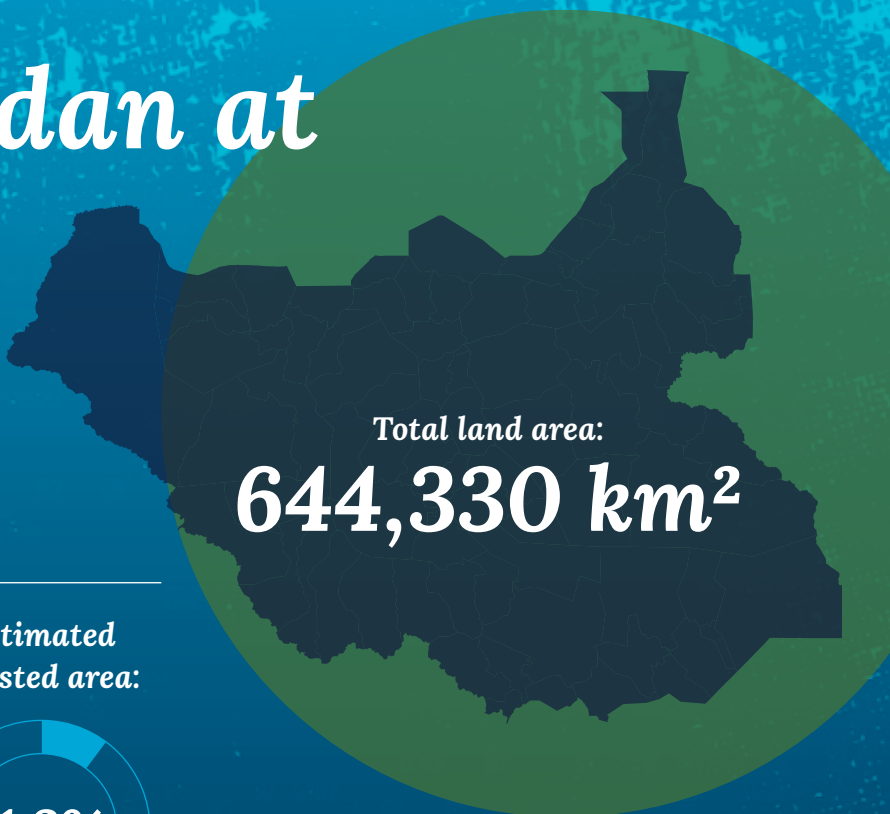
Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts to support the implementation of the peace agreement, strengthen service delivery institutions and promote inclusive governance. Enhancing public financial management systems, diversifying the economy and empowering communities are critical steps towards building resilience against future shocks and establishing the foundation for diversified, inclusive and sustainable growth.

South Sudan at a glance

Estimated wetland area:

57,000 km²

(largest wetland in Africa)



Total land area:

644,330 km²

Estimated arable land area:



Estimated forested area:



Estimated population: **12.4 million**
(approx. 74% youths)



Labour force:

5,091,342



Gross domestic product:

\$3.72 billion



Human Development Index:

0.388

UNDP in South Sudan: 2024 overview

The UNDP operates throughout South Sudan with a presence in all 10 states and three administrative areas. In partnership with the broader United Nations system, we support the Government and people of South Sudan in implementing the structural reforms that are essential for building and maintaining peace, addressing social and economic challenges, and enhancing resilience to future shocks.

In 2024, in alignment with South Sudan's Vision 2040, UNDP contributed to humanitarian, peace and development goals by:

- Supporting constitution-making, electoral processes and parliamentary strengthening to foster inclusion, transparency and accountability;
- Building capacity within national and state governments to incorporate peacebuilding, livelihoods and social security initiatives into development plans and budgets;
- Ensuring access to basic services for all South Sudanese, especially the most vulnerable;
- Utilizing innovative, evidence-based solutions to analyse progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Strengthening institutional capacities at national and subnational levels to promote inclusive local economic development and improve service delivery, including efforts to combat tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS and related illnesses;
- Supporting the delivery of inclusive basic services to support stabilization and durable solutions to political, social and economic challenges;
- Enhancing the capacity and functions of rule-of-law institutions and national human rights bodies;
- Supporting gender-responsive approaches to crises, climate adaptation and risk management;
- Bolstering reconciliation, reintegration, peaceful conflict management and prevention efforts at all levels;
- Empowering youths nationwide to accelerate progress towards sustainable development; and
- Empowering government officials at national, state and local levels with knowledge of public finance management to develop productive capacities and sustainable livelihoods.

Through these efforts, we continue to support South Sudan's journey towards peace, stability and sustainable growth.

Focus areas



UNDP field presence



2024 programmatic results in numbers



200,923 individuals

benefited from radio use in community peace sensitization and psychosocial support



8,933

individuals, including 5,005 women, directly benefited from social cohesion initiatives



17,147

disadvantaged individuals gained access to justice and legal aid services



259 police and community relationship committees (PCRCs)

were operationalized and approximately 6,414 individuals, including 3,687 women, actively participated in PCRC meetings



8.1 million people benefited from UNDP's leveraging of community-based radio broadcasts, outreach initiatives and dialogues to highlight information about the constitution-making process



30,162 youths were trained in 22 vocational trades in 8 states



UNDP built the capacity of

810 government officials

(106 women, 704 men) in revenue generation, budget planning and legislative oversight



75,873 people (64% women) living with HIV accessed antiretroviral therapy (ART) services



Over **1,000 oxygen cylinders** were supplied to health facilities; these were instrumental in saving lives and improving patient care



TB treatment coverage increased to **103%** in 2024 from **96%** in 2023



Solar power systems and backup generators were installed in **10 health facilities**



42 GeneXpert machines

were installed in health facilities across the country and as a result, TB notifications rose to 26,686 in 2024



556 micro and small enterprises

(MSEs) and cooperatives across 5 states were linked to financing through seed funding, receiving a total of 2 billion South Sudanese pounds in loans

UNDP *development offer*



Transforming South Sudan: UNDP's strategic approach to development and peacebuilding

As South Sudan continues to confront and endure complex and ongoing challenges, UNDP remains dedicated to supporting the government and its people in transitioning from humanitarian aid towards sustainable development, with a focus on statebuilding and peacebuilding. Our efforts are guided by two primary strategic pillars:



*Inclusive governance and
sustainable peace*



*Sustainable environment,
economic empowerment,
and resilience*

To realize these objectives, UNDP is implementing initiatives that aim to:



Advocate for **transparent, accountable
and inclusive governance**



Promote **sustainable economic growth
and diversification**



Strengthen **health systems and
social protection mechanisms**



Enhance the **empowerment of women
and youth for long-term development**

Detailed insights into each of these areas are provided in the sections that follow.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Outcome 1: Democratic governance

H.E. the President General Salva Kiir Mayardit delivering opening remarks at the 8th Governors' Forum

Strengthening peace infrastructure to foster social cohesion

In 2024, UNDP played a pivotal role in advancing peacebuilding in South Sudan by bolstering social cohesion and mitigating community violence through comprehensive, multilevel strategies. The organization supported the development of crucial peacebuilding policies and frameworks, including the Women's Empowerment Bill, Gender Equality Fund, Gender Authority Bill and Northern Bahr el Ghazal Cattle Migration Policy. These documents will serve as a strategic reference, informing future policy development by government institutions with the support of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) during the two-year extension transition period. In collaboration with the Ministry of Peacebuilding, we also facilitated monthly peace coordination forums at national and state levels, uniting government representatives, civil society organizations, UNCT and the donor community to enhance collaboration and maximize the impact of peace initiatives.

At the subnational level, 586 conflict incidents were reported to the 169 UNDP-supported peace committees. Through their collaboration with the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission, 70 percent of these conflicts were successfully resolved through dialogue, mediation and compensation, using transparent processes. The committees play a crucial role in preventing and mediating conflicts at grassroots level, addressing key triggers like intercommunal violence, resource disputes and youth gang conflicts.

UNDP reached a total of 8,933 individuals (including 5,005 women), who directly benefited from social cohesion initiatives. In addition, 200,923 individuals benefited from community radio peace sensitization broadcasts and support from psychosocial community volunteers trained by the organization. These initiatives facilitated peaceful cattle migration by reducing deadly conflicts over pasture and assisted various social and cultural initiatives to strengthen community cohesion, provide socioeconomic and livelihood support and present psychosocial and trauma healing trainings. Furthermore, government and community peacebuilding infrastructure was fortified to sustain peace initiatives.

UNDP played a key role in bridging intergenerational divides in South Sudan by facilitating structured dialogues that engaged 339 participants (including 123 women) from various locations. These dialogues involved youths, elders and government officials, providing inclusive spaces for exchanging perspectives and addressing intergenerational concerns. To enhance youth leadership, we expanded youth-led structures and prioritized youth-led peace dialogues, engaging 150 youths (including 70 women) in transformational leadership. These initiatives created safe spaces for discussion and conflict resolution, strengthening youths' agency in peacebuilding and reinforcing the role of youths as key actors in sustaining peace at community level. Through these efforts, we continue to empower youths, fostering social cohesion and sustainable development in South Sudan.

Through their collaboration with the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission, 70 percent of these conflicts were successfully resolved through dialogue, mediation and compensation, using transparent processes.

A total of 522 youths, including 144 young girls, participated in intergenerational activities and leadership and mediation capacity-building. These efforts help empower youths to collaboratively address conflicts and contribute to community resilience for more inclusive and sustainable peace processes in South Sudan.

UNDP advanced women empowerment initiatives by equipping 419 individuals (including 325 women) with knowledge of women’s priorities in political participation during the extended transitional period and amplifying women’s voices in lobbying and advocacy efforts. These activities contribute to ensuring women’s inclusion in governance and decision-making processes, reinforcing their role as key actors in shaping South Sudan’s political future.

We also made significant strides in community reintegration. In collaboration with the Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control and the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, UNDP’s reintegration efforts targeted 1,100 individuals, including ex-combatants, women associated with armed groups, armed youths and at-risk youths, providing them with vocational training and start-up kits to promote economic reintegration and disengagement from violence.

Championing justice, safety and rights for all

In 2024, UNDP reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing access to justice and strengthening rule-of-law institutions in South Sudan, contributing significantly to the country’s overarching peacebuilding and sustainable development efforts. Through strategic collaboration with local communities and the police, community policing policies were implemented successfully, operationalizing 259 PCRCs, 38 of



Women from the security sector celebrate during Women in Uniform Day

which are women-led. This initiative has fostered a heightened sense of security at community level. Approximately 6,414 individuals, including 3,687 women, actively participated in PCRC meetings, where crime reduction was addressed and security enhancement strategies were established.

Through UNDP support, 17,147 disadvantaged individuals, comprising 4,183 women and 12,964 men, accessed justice through various mechanisms such as the specialized gender-based violence (GBV) courts, county and high courts, and police special protection units. Efforts to facilitate early release from pretrial detention were also implemented via bail and bond options.

Legal aid services reached 8,022 individuals, with women making up 53 percent of beneficiaries. This increase in legal assistance has empowered more women to seek advice on pressing issues such as divorce, property rights and GBV, areas that were previously stigmatized culturally.

To bolster the capacity of vulnerable groups to engage in the transitional justice process, UNDP's Access to Justice, Security and Human Rights Strengthening Programme established 45 new victim support groups, consisting of 2,326 survivors/victims of prior conflicts across 10 states and three administrative areas. This brings the total number of victim support groups to 127, with 6,424 victims (2,146 women, 4,278 men) prepared to participate in transitional justice initiatives. Our continual advocacy has led to the passage of the Commission on Truth, Reconciliation and Healing Bill and the Compensation and Reparations Authority Bill by the Transitional National Legislature in South Sudan. The bills are now awaiting presidential assent.

Additionally, more than 8.1 million individuals (40 percent women) received essential information on the constitution-making process, transitional justice, legal rights and crime prevention through a range of outreach efforts, including in-person engagement and radio broadcasts, ensuring broad coverage and accessibility.

To ensure inclusivity, UNDP also supported three vocational centres under the Prison-Based Vocational Training Programme, providing 12 sets of skills to inmates and selected prison officers. This initiative equipped 1,242 inmates (189 women, 1,053 men) with essential skills for rehabilitation, livelihood generation and successful social reintegration into their communities.

UNDP supported the validation of the final report of the Judicial Reform Committee's nationwide consultation process, which took place in November 2024. The report, containing wide-ranging recommendations for judicial reforms, captures the aspirations of the people of South Sudan. The recommendations will be critical for informing the text and spirit of the permanent Constitution of South Sudan.

Through these comprehensive efforts, we are making significant strides in promoting justice, safety and the rights of all South Sudanese.

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Support for core government functions

In 2024, UNDP continued its support for South Sudan's pathway to sustainable peace, development and improved governance for the well-being of its citizens. This support targeted specific institutions and structures essential for implementing the R-ARCSS during the transition period. This period has been marked by political delays and transitions, highlighting the need to address existing gaps while promoting consensus-building and dialogue among the principals of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity. Our support aims to encourage accountable governance, enhance knowledge and develop organizational skills.

UNDP enhanced the parliamentary system through the design of a training curriculum for state legislators, resulting in the training of 78 members of parliament and 42 parliamentary staff. This was the first training programme for state legislative assemblies since independence in 2011. Additionally, with UNDP's assistance, the Strategic Plan for the Council of States (2011–2015) was revised, and a new plan for 2025–2028 was launched in the presence of the deputy speaker and 35 members of the Council of States. The Council was also equipped with information and communication technology tools that improved monitoring and governance processes in the various states and administrative areas and facilitated coordination between the national and state parliaments.

In partnership with the Office of the President and with support from the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), UNDP organized the Eighth Governors' Forum under the theme 'Forging Sustainable Peace: Committed Action in the Extended R-ARCSS Transition', which was chaired by the President of South Sudan. The forum brought vice presidents, state governors, national ministers, legislative leaders, representatives from civil society organizations, development partners, United Nations agencies, the diplomatic community and other delegates to Juba to debate critical issues such as judicial reforms, constitution-making, electoral timetables, security sector reforms and the R-ARCSS transition, as well as the humanitarian challenges facing South Sudan.

In accordance with this act, we provided capacity development to 48 local government administrators (including 15 women), who were trained in Lakes State.

The Local Government Act, 2009 outlines responsibilities for coordinating human resources capacity, service delivery and budgeting and planning procedures in the counties. In accordance with this act, we provided capacity development to 48 local government administrators (including 15 women), who were trained in Lakes State. This initiative was informed by the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (amended 2011) and other legislation regarding decentralization, along with relevant regulations and guidelines. Also in line with developing capacity and service delivery, a community multipurpose training centre, fully equipped with a borehole, a solar system and furniture, funded by the Government of Japan, was handed over on 31 August 2024 by the Governor of Eastern Equatoria State, the Japanese Ambassador and the UNDP Resident Representative.



UNDP Resident Representative, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General: Political Affairs and Minister for Justice at the Federalism and Power-Sharing workshop

Enhancing economic governance and administration

In 2024, UNDP played a crucial role in strengthening the capacity of South Sudan's transitional government institutions. Key efforts included supporting the National Constitutional Amendment Committee in reviewing and amending important economic sector laws, such as the Investment Promotion Act, 2009; Mining Act, 2012; Pensions Fund Act, 2012; Telecommunications and Postal Services Act, 2010; and Transport Act, 2008. This brought the number of laws reviewed and amended by the committee to a total of 24 by the end of its mandate in May 2024.

We also assisted the Ministry of Interior's National Taskforce on Counter Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, contributing to the successful ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocols, which were lodged with the United Nations in September 2024. Support was also provided to the Ministry of Public Service and Human Resource Development in conducting an assessment of and verifying unpaid pension contributions for the 2022/23 fiscal year.

Additionally, UNDP deployed national special skills analysts at the Public Financial Management Secretariat who coached and mentored 84 change agents, who in turn aided the Budget Working Group in preparing the national fiscal budget for 2024/25. The exercise culminated in a draft budget of 1,335 trillion United States dollars (\$). Efforts also focused on capacity-building among senior government officials.

Overall, 243 officers (193 men, 50 women) received comprehensive training in public financial management governance, resource mobilization, cash management, budget preparation, budget execution and planning for the upcoming fiscal years, enhancing the operational efficiency of national government institutions.

Building foundations for a democratic South Sudan

In 2024, UNDP, through its Electoral Support Project, played a key role in advancing South Sudan's democratic transition by fostering an environment for inclusive, credible and peaceful elections. Within the framework of the United Nations Integrated Electoral Assistance Team, through collaboration with UNMISS, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), we reinforced the capacities of the National Elections Commission and Political Parties Council. This included capacity-building for electoral administration, voter education and media engagement, and implementing an advanced electronic registration system for political parties to enhance transparency.

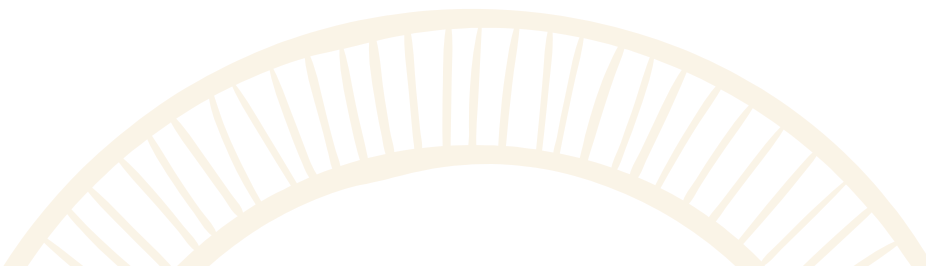
In recognition of the transformative power of elections in shaping South Sudan's future and the importance of leaving no one behind, we implemented a comprehensive civic and voter education strategy, which aimed to empower citizens, promote informed participation and ensure that the electoral process remains accessible to all. In addition, in partnership with the United Nations Police, we worked closely with the National Elections Commission and the National Police Service to strengthen institutional readiness for election security, established the Elections Security Committee and developed an integrated security plan to prevent electoral violence.

In collaboration with UNESCO and the Union of Journalists of South Sudan, UNDP contributed to strengthening the role of the media by equipping journalists with essential skills in professional, impartial and conflict-sensitive election reporting.

In collaboration with UNESCO and the Union of Journalists of South Sudan, UNDP contributed to strengthening the role of the media by equipping journalists with essential skills in professional, impartial and conflict-sensitive election reporting. These efforts played a vital role in enhancing transparency and encouraging informed public discourse.

UNDP actively promoted inclusive participation in political and electoral processes, focusing on women and vulnerable groups. Through the United Nations Integrated Electoral Assistance Team, UNDP provided targeted support to national counterparts, including establishing the Women's Political Participation Working Group. This strategic platform is designed to promote gender equality and amplify the voices of women within South Sudan's democratic space.

Through these multidimensional efforts, the Electoral Support Project not only reinforced institutional capacities but also upheld the aspirations of South Sudanese citizens to participate meaningfully and peacefully in shaping their country's governance and future.



Outcome 2: Economic and livelihood support

8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



A beneficiary of vocational training for strengthened livelihoods

Fuelling South Sudan's economic and social transformation

In 2024, UNDP reinforced its support for macroeconomic policy development in collaboration with the Government of South Sudan, focusing on enhancing accountability mechanisms, integrating the R-ARCSS into the Revitalized National Development Strategy, and supporting the implementation and monitoring of the National Development Strategy.

To strengthen economic governance, economic governance analysts were deployed across all 10 states and three administrative areas, providing critical support to state budget committees, revenue authorities and legislative assemblies. In partnership with the Ministry of Finance and Planning, this initiative facilitated knowledge-sharing, offered technical assistance in public financial management and created coordination platforms to bolster governance structures. Insights from the economic governance analysts contributed to the UNDP publication, *South Sudan: Assessing and Strengthening Local Governance for Inclusive Development*, which emphasizes the importance of effective economic governance practices in the states.

To stabilize the economy and enhance non-oil revenue mobilization, UNDP built the capacity of 810 government officials (106 women, 704 men) in revenue generation, budget planning and legislative oversight. Additionally, a study visit to Rwanda and Uganda was organized for 11 senior officials (4 women, 7 men) from the National Bureau of Statistics, allowing them to learn about regional best practices in policymaking, data analysis and gender mainstreaming, thereby fostering greater gender awareness at government level. A study tour for Ministry of Finance and Planning committee members to Kenya and Uganda focused on budget appropriation, external audit reviews and gender-responsive, SDG-aligned budgeting. This initiative included training for 44 parliamentary committee members (10 women, 34 men) on financial oversight, fund management and addressing salary delays.

UNDP also provided a policy advisor to support the National Bureau of Statistics, thus contributing to the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics in the country. Our efforts to enhance National Bureau of Statistics capacity included refurbishing training facilities with furniture, information and communication technology equipment and Stata software for statistical training.

In a significant milestone, UNDP supported the government in the preparation of South Sudan's inaugural Voluntary National Review on the country's commitment to advancing the SDGs, which was presented at the 2024 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, reinforcing the nation's commitment to global development goals.

To strengthen capacity in academia, information and communication technology resources were distributed to five public universities, and workshops were conducted for 180 students and staff.

In a bid to encourage investment, UNDP developed and institutionalized a public investment programme at national and state levels. A comprehensive evaluation of investment opportunities was conducted across all 10 states and three administrative areas. The findings were validated in the first quarter of 2024 and presented to the Cabinet in April, and are pending parliamentary adoption. Additionally, a national investment plan was developed to guide future investment initiatives.

Combating climate change effects

UNDP contributed to the development of the Environment Policy, Forestry Policy and Carbon Market Framework, which are designed to safeguard the environment from human-induced changes. These policies aim to promote sustainability, resilience and adaptation, strengthening biodiversity conservation and encouraging sustainable land and water management practices. We also enhanced the technical skills of 33 individuals in South Sudan to aid in adaptation reporting through the Biennial Transparency Report. This initiative contributes to a shared knowledge base, good practices and lessons learned while sharing insights on climate impacts and adaptation efforts. Additionally, we are assisting in establishing 10 automated weather stations. These stations will collect and analyse hydrometeorological data to predict climate change effects, provide timely weather information, produce early warnings for floods and droughts and reduce community vulnerabilities to climate-induced disasters like droughts and floods.

As South Sudan continues to face significant climate shocks, such as flooding and heatwaves, UNDP is working closely with the government to advance the country's Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans for climate mitigation and adaptation. South Sudan is in urgent need of climate financing to support its ongoing efforts. We invested in the COP29 negotiations and facilitated the recent high-level visit of the Green Climate Fund's executive director in a joint commitment to catalysing the necessary climate finance.



Flood victims in Bentiu, Unity State

Empowering youths and women for economic success

UNDP has invested greatly in vocational skills training for youths and women in eight states to increase employability and entrepreneurship. Through this initiative, 30,162 youths have been trained in 22 vocational trades, with 23,903 currently earning an income as a result of the training. Furthermore, 2,399 MSEs have been supported, creating 4,491 jobs for other youths and women. Given the significant unmet demand for access to financial services, we are implementing a first-of-its-kind financing facility, giving women and youths interest-free loans. This is improving livelihoods and driving private sector growth. So far, over 2 billion South Sudanese pounds have been disbursed to 556 MSEs across five states, with 3,959 jobs created by youth-led businesses. UNDP fostered innovation by launching the largest digital market platform in South Sudan, with 2,600 MSEs already registered, expanding e-commerce capabilities and trade. We also operate six Innovation Hubs that empower youths by providing business development services, job placement, career counselling, entrepreneurship training and continuous learning opportunities for youths.

Boosting trade and policies for a prosperous South Sudan

UNDP supported the Ministry of Trade and Industry in developing the South Sudan Competition Bill to encourage competition in the economy by prohibiting anti-competitive trade practices, regulating monopolies and concentrations of economic power, protecting consumer welfare, strengthening the efficiency of production and distribution of goods and services, securing the best possible conditions for freedom of trade, expanding the base of entrepreneurship, and providing for matters connected with or incidental to the aforementioned points.

UNDP supported the development of a trade policy framework, facilitated South Sudan's accession to the East African Community, and assisted the country with seeking membership of the World Trade Organization.

UNDP supported the development of a trade policy framework, facilitated South Sudan's accession to the East African Community and assisted the country with seeking membership of the World Trade Organization, a process that is currently under way. A report on trade for peace and resilience in South Sudan was developed; the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study Update Report, including key pro-poor trade strategies, was produced; a final assessment report on the status of implementation of the East African Customs Union and Common Market protocols was developed; and a scoping study on automation of South Sudan's customs procedures was developed. We also enhanced the capacity of 2,115 individuals (including 968 women) in respect of digital trade and e-commerce opportunities. The initiative also focused on providing linkages for domestic and cross-border e-commerce, with the aim of harnessing opportunities created by the African Continental Free Trade Area for the sale of goods and services, offering tremendous growth opportunities for businesses in South Sudan. UNDP developed and operationalized a portal to provide real-time access to trade-related data,

such as information on exports, imports, customs duties and rules and regulations; make trade procedures more transparent and clearer; and ensure compliance with commitments under the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Driving lasting solutions for South Sudan

UNDP supported the development of South Sudan's National Action Plan, aimed at creating conducive conditions for the return and (re)integration of displacement-affected people and for host communities by ensuring security and safety, providing essential services, building government capacities and enabling ownership. We established the South Sudan National Coordination and Operations Centre (NCOC), which acts as a central facility for the coordination of emergency and crisis response and recovery action, serves as a repository of disaster information, disseminates early warning information and establishes mechanisms for the effective coordination of emergency response action. The aim is to safeguard the lives and properties of the population during natural disasters and conflict emergencies through organizational, planning and training activities designed to enhance the country's preparedness and response capabilities. The centre is staffed with employees of line ministries and institutions with various skills to handle national disaster emergencies. UNDP supported disaster risk management initiatives to create durable solutions for people affected by displacement through the creation of sustainable livelihoods and rehabilitating or building community infrastructure and shelters for households in areas of return. UNDP rehabilitated a total of eight community production structures. The scheme created employment for 2,000 individuals and provided immediate income for vulnerable populations, improved livelihoods through asset creation, empowered individuals, particularly women, by giving them the means to contribute to their households, and fostered social cohesion. We also collaborated with the government and United Nations agencies to develop the South Sudan Action Plan on Return, Reintegration and Recovery (2024–2028) to enable coordinated efforts for safe, dignified and voluntary returns, local integration and recovery of the displaced.

Through the NCOC, UNDP has developed the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), a portal to host displacement data and other important information. The development of the portal has resulted in meaningful collaboration and synergy for development and humanitarian partners. UNDP, the International Organization for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs are among the partners that make Data for Solutions available and easily accessible to national and local stakeholders. The RRC portal features data on the biometric registration of displaced populations and target beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance, as well as information on humanitarian and durable solution initiatives. The Displacement Tracking Matrix database, generated by the International Organization for Migration and other humanitarian and development partners, will be mirrored in the portal and utilized in the analysis and coordination of durable solution projects. Four women and 11 men from RRC and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs have been trained on portal and website management, and data collection, analysis and dissemination. To provide capacity for NCOC staff to gather data, 12 motorcycles were handed over to the RRC. The motorcycles link the NCOC with people in the field, ensuring swift collection of data, voice data and video for analysis, and providing a vital link and service to organizations on the ground in times of emergencies.

Outcome 3: Health and social protection



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Youth commemorate World AIDS Day

Advancing efforts to end AIDS and TB and strengthen health systems

2024 was a pivotal year for the UNDP–Global Fund Partnership in South Sudan. UNDP, working with the government through the Ministry of Health, the Country Coordinating Mechanism and partners, and funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, started implementing the Grant Cycle Seven grant, which is designed to consolidate gains and intensify efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and TB and strengthen health systems. We also continued with the implementation of the COVID-19 Response Mechanism grant, a key instrument for building resilient and sustainable health systems. The highlight of the year was commemorating 20 years of a fruitful partnership with the Global Fund in the country.

Supporting South Sudan's HIV/AIDS response

HIV/AIDS remains a major public health challenge in South Sudan with about 140,000 people, including 12,220 children and adolescents, living with the disease. In 2024, UNDP substantially contributed to improvements in coverage of HIV/AIDS care through supporting existing service delivery points, integrating TB and HIV/AIDS services with primary healthcare, and implementing a series of capacity-building interventions to improve the quality of services and monitoring at all levels of the healthcare hierarchy. Notably, 75,873 people living with HIV (64 percent women) accessed lifesaving ART services, increasing ART coverage to 53 percent in 2024 from 41 percent in 2023.

Through the procurement, storage and distribution of HIV and TB commodities, UNDP ensured that 245 hospitals and health facilities providing HIV and TB services had essential drugs, which helped to improve care, treatment adherence and health. Procurements worth \$19,273,795 were made, covering pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical items and legacy investments under the COVID-19 Response Mechanism grant. The procurement process adhered to international standards to ensure transparency, efficiency and timely delivery in support of the country's public health priorities.

In support of South Sudan's HIV/AIDS response strategy, which puts special focus on key populations, especially sex workers, who are highly vulnerable to new HIV infections, our collective interventions reached 26,921 sex workers with a defined package of HIV prevention services and had 13,166 sex workers tested for HIV. All those found to be HIV-positive were linked to ART. Additionally, a total of 39,648 people on ART had their viral load virologically suppressed to undetectable levels owing to treatment effectiveness.

To promote maternal and child health, 5,503 (90.39 percent) pregnant women living with HIV received antiretroviral medicine, thus reducing the risk of vertical transmission of HIV to their babies. Through UNDP support for the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission Programme, 2,669 HIV-exposed infants received a virological test for HIV within two months of birth to establish the likelihood of infection.

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Fighting TB

The UNDP–Global Fund Partnership with the government and people of South Sudan is at the forefront of efforts to eradicate TB, which in 2024 returned to being the world’s leading infectious disease killer after three years during which COVID-19 occupied this position.

Through the provision of testing and diagnostic tools such as TB microscopes, GeneXpert machines, TB LAM and digital x-ray machines, UNDP increased South Sudan’s testing capacity for TB, case notification, enrolment in treatment and treatment success. As a result, 26,656 TB cases were diagnosed and patients started on treatment, while 10,899 new and relapsed TB patients were tested using the World Health Organization’s recommended rapid diagnostic tests. Similarly, out of 26,686 new and relapsed TB patients, 24,595 were tested for HIV. Of these, 2,304 were HIV-positive and 2,233 were put on treatment.

As a result of these interventions, TB treatment coverage increased to 103 percent in 2024 from 96 percent in 2023, while 19,470 people were cured of TB out of the 22,926 cases registered in 2023, representing an 84.9 percent treatment success rate.

Building resilient and sustainable health systems

Through the Global Fund partnership with the Government of South Sudan, we continue to play a crucial role in building resilient and sustainable systems for health that are capable of preventing, preparing for and responding to health conditions and emergencies.

The solar energy installations have been instrumental in powering critical functions such as vaccine refrigeration, laboratory services, oxygen generation and nighttime emergency care, ensuring uninterrupted provision of health services and so improving the security of the health infrastructure.

Solarizing hospitals and health facilities

Key to building stronger and robust health systems is improving the reliability of electricity supply through the solarization of health facilities. In 2024, solar power systems and backup generators were installed in 10 health facilities, adding to the 19 other facilities already installed, significantly enhancing service delivery by ensuring 24-hour electricity. By harnessing renewable energy, these interventions reduce reliance on costly diesel fuel, lower operation costs and promote eco-friendly practices in the public health sector.

The solar energy installations have been instrumental in powering critical functions such as vaccine refrigeration, laboratory services, oxygen generation and nighttime emergency care, ensuring uninterrupted provision of health services and so improving the security of the health infrastructure.

Building on this momentum, the Ministry of Health, UNDP and its partners are planning to solarize nine additional

health facilities in 2025, focusing on critical institutions such as the Juba Military Hospital, Ministry of Health headquarters and Kapoeta County Hospital, where installations are ongoing. These investments will further reduce power-induced service interruptions and strengthen emergency response and management of diseases.

Training and deploying community health workers

Key to efforts to strengthen South Sudan's health systems is support for the operationalization of the Boma Health Initiative, a flagship government programme on community engagement. With UNDP support, a total of 2,500 boma health workers and 131 supervisors were trained and deployed to promote health, prevent disease and deliver primary healthcare. A total of 1,821 newly recruited boma health workers and supervisors were integrated into the web-based biometric incentive payment system, which has been developed to ensure timely and transparent payments and is being implemented by two of the Grant Cycle Seven subrecipients, Amref and Cordaid.

Strengthening supply chain management

UNDP strengthened the supply chain management system through the Electronic Logistic Management Information System (eLMIS), which was rolled out in nine health facilities, with over 100 more health facilities targeted in 2025. To this end, eLMIS training was conducted in seven state-level sessions, equipping 300 health personnel (229 men, 71 women) from 99 health facilities with the skills needed to manage digital supply chain data. Following the training, 144 tablets were deployed to support the roll-out and operationalization of the eLMIS platform. By December 2024, eLMIS had been deployed in 57 of the planned 64 facilities.

We also undertook comprehensive quantification and forecasting of HIV/AIDS and TB commodities for the period 2024–2026 to inform planning and minimize supply disruptions.

Saving lives through medical oxygen production

In 2020, South Sudan was among the countries that benefited from the Global Fund's COVID-19 Response Mechanism grant to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on programmes to fight AIDS, TB and malaria, and initiate urgent improvements in formal and community health systems. Part of this grant was used to establish two high-capacity oxygen plants, one at the Riverside Warehouse in Gumbo and the other at the Wau Warehouse, to increase oxygen production.

In 2024, these oxygen plants were fully operational, ensuring consistent production and distribution of over 1,000 oxygen cylinders to several health facilities. This was instrumental in saving lives and improving care for patients at all levels of the healthcare system and in managing health conditions that needed medical oxygen. Through the Global Fund partnership, the Ministry of Health covers the operational and maintenance costs of the above oxygen plants, including the third oxygen plant at Juba teaching hospital, which was donated by the World Health Organization and World Bank.



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



Break gender bias for
sustainable development

**Outcome 4:
Advancing gender equality
and women empowerment
in South Sudan**

A gender-equality activist promotes the challenging of gender bias in South Sudan

In 2024, guided by international human rights standards and principles and the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy 2022–2025, UNDP South Sudan played a pivotal role in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment through national and regional initiatives. The Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment Project and the mainstreaming elements in projects outlined in the current Country Programme Document underscore our commitment to these critical objectives. Gender-focused outcomes were promoted by strengthening internal gender mainstreaming capacity and strategic partnerships with key government institutions, including the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and Office of the Vice President: Gender and Youth, and UN Women.

Through its peace and community cohesion activities, UNDP facilitated the passage of the Women's Empowerment Bill – aimed at incorporating the 35 percent gender provision in the peace agreement – through the legislative process, and also organized study missions to Kenya and Ethiopia to assist in establishing a Gender Equality Fund and a Gender Equality Authority, ensuring compliance with the government's 35 percent affirmative action target for women's participation. In promoting access to justice, UNDP reached the most vulnerable populations, including women, youths, internally displaced individuals and survivors of GBV and other human rights abuses. Adopting a sector-wide approach across all 10 states and three administrative areas, we ensured these essential services were delivered to marginalized groups. As a result, 8,022 individuals, 53 percent of whom were women, received legal aid services for issues related to divorce, property rights and GBV. Community discussions were also initiated on gender-related topics such as early marriage and the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations, particularly women.

With UNDP support, the Government hosted the Annual Gender Equality Forum, bringing together 40 ministry staff to monitor South Sudan's commitments to women, peace and security. Intergenerational dialogues engaged 595 youths and elders, while 150 youths participated in youth-led peace discussions, improving collaboration with traditional structures and fostering social cohesion. Additionally, 3,108 youths (including 1,840 women) participated in sports-for-peace initiatives, helping to restore the social fabric of their communities.

UNDP empowered 456 women through the establishment of MSEs and supported 3,951 women in securing jobs and improving their livelihoods. Efforts to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission were strengthened, with national prevention coverage reaching 45 percent of pregnant women. A gender-sensitive HIV assessment was conducted to guide future programming, and the establishment of comprehensive GBV support centres further solidified our commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in South Sudan.

UNDP's Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment Project empowered women-led organizations by training 30 women and 5 men in organizational management, reporting, budgeting and resource mobilization. To promote diversity, partnership and inclusion, we supported the Jonglei Women with Disabilities Association's launch and two South Sudanese women leaders' participation in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 68), the United Nation's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment. Partnerships with national gender structures were strengthened, leading to improved public administration data, published in November 2024. To improve coordination and efficiency, stationery was provided to three Gender, Child and Social Welfare state ministries following the development of their strategic plans.

Cross-cutting areas

Driving innovation for a sustainable South Sudan

In 2024, UNDP continued to champion innovation and technology to drive sustainable development in South Sudan. Below are the key initiatives supported by UNDP South Sudan's Accelerator Lab:

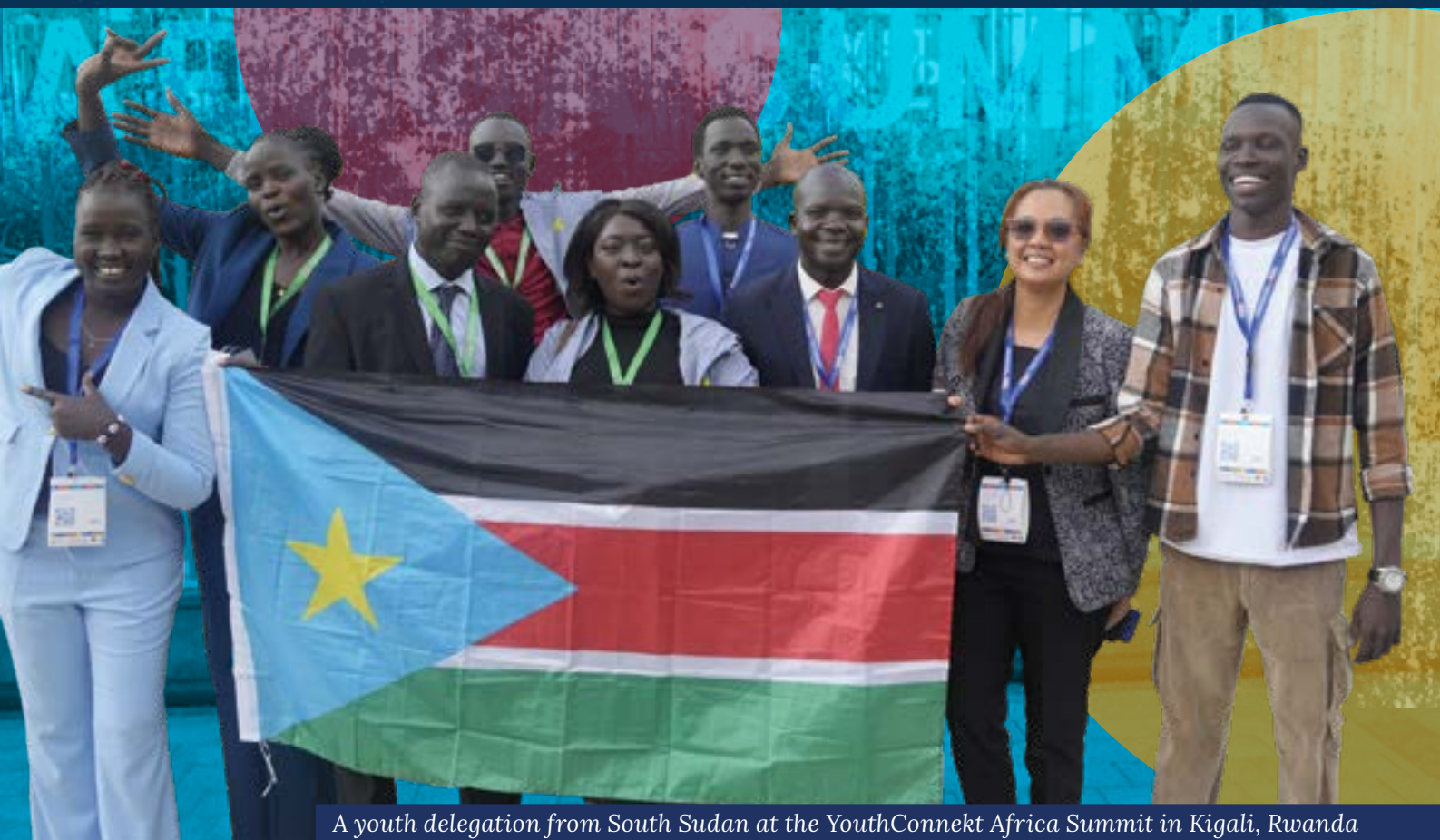
- *Innovating governance and strategic foresight in shaping public policy in South Sudan:* In 2024, Accelerator Lab South Sudan, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Service and Human Resource Development, developed an experimentation model on foresight and anticipatory policy design in public service. Fostering strategic foresight and innovative policymaking is critical for public service innovation. The insights of the model emphasize the necessity of continual learning, experimentation and cooperation in developing a resilient, inclusive and future-proof governance framework. This activity aligns closely with UNDP's strategic goals of fostering resilience, inclusivity and sustainable development, as articulated in its 2022–2025 Strategic Plan, which emphasizes anticipatory governance, structural transformation and inclusive decision-making to address multidimensional risks.
- *Digital ambulatory app (Hec Bai):* The UNDP South Sudan Accelerator Lab collaborated with the University of Juba to develop and pilot a digital app named Hec Bai. This app aims to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity by increasing access to emergency obstetric care for pregnant women. An ambulance is the first thing that comes to mind in times of medical distress. In South Sudan, a few ambulances are available in private and public hospitals, but awareness of how these services can be used to save maternal and newborn lives is limited. The creation of an online marketplace for ambulance services is an innovative approach to addressing barriers in the demand and supply of health systems that affect maternal and newborn healthcare, and is a solution to reducing mortality rates. The app is currently in a prototype phase awaiting testing and scaling.
- *Research on digital mobile wallets as a catalyst for financial inclusion of underserved communities in South Sudan:* The Accelerator Lab conducted research on how digital mobile wallets can economically empower rural and other underserved communities. Mobile money adoption was highlighted as a tool to drive financial inclusion, enabling faster financial transactions, reducing theft risks and providing access to financial services in a country where less than 10 percent of the adult population held a bank account in 2017.

These initiatives reflect our focus on innovation and digital solutions to address development challenges in South Sudan.

National Youth Empowerment Initiative

The National Youth Empowerment Initiative Framework document, which defines youth engagement in the context of national integration and cohesion and the promotion of unity among different ethnic groups, all of which play a role in contributing to inclusive national development and a shared prosperity, was finalized and tabled for final ministerial review and approval. An Intercontinental Youth Summit was held in South Sudan involving youth representatives from more than 10 African countries to discuss and find solutions for the challenges faced by youths and to facilitate their engagement with decision makers at national and continental levels.

South Sudan participated in the 2024 International YouthConnekt Africa Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, themed 'Jobs for Youth Through Innovative Skilling'. UNDP supported 10 youth delegates, including youths in technology and business, as well as government officials from the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Office of the Vice President: Gender and Youth. This engagement was complemented by the launch of the Women and Youth Leadership Programme, a premier leadership development initiative for men and women with undergraduate and advanced degrees. The programme supports youths and young women in their fields of study and career goals and provides them with opportunities to enhance their technical and leadership skills through workplace immersion. It aims to leverage the capacities of educated South Sudanese youths to develop productive engagement and leadership, ultimately benefiting the wider society.



A youth delegation from South Sudan at the YouthConnekt Africa Summit in Kigali, Rwanda

UNCT collaboration to drive sustainable development



A call to unite to end GBV in South Sudan: An activist at a peaceful march organized by the UNCT in partnership with the government

In 2024, UNDP continued to leverage synergies with sister United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as UNMISS, to advance development goals aligned with the UNCT's strategy. This collaborative approach aims to implement projects that provide viable alternatives to violence in a nation facing poor development indicators, significant government capacity gaps and a history of conflict.

Collaboration with UN Agencies in 2024

- *Electoral assistance:* In 2024, UNDP collaborated with UNMISS, UN Women and UNESCO to support the National Elections Commission in mobilizing resources for general elections. We worked with the United Nations Police and the South Sudan National Police Service to create an integrated election security plan, ensuring a safe electoral environment. We also partnered with UNESCO and the Union of Journalists of South Sudan to train journalists in professional election reporting, promoting transparency and engaging with the public.
- *Gender equality and women's empowerment:* In 2024, UNDP collaborated with UN Women to promote gender-focused legislation, including the Women's Empowerment Bill, and organized study missions to Kenya and Ethiopia to establish a Gender Equality Fund. We also partnered with UN Women, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund on the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund project 'Protecting Women and Girls in South Sudan: Addressing GBV as Catalyst for Peace', and worked with UN Women and UNMISS to support the Gender Mainstreaming in the Security Sector initiative.
- *Peacebuilding and governance:* In 2024, UNDP focused on peacebuilding and governance by engaging in high-level coordination and advocacy for electoral and constitution-making processes through the Trilateral Taskforce, involving UNMISS, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and, in an observation role, the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission. We also co-chaired UNCT Results Groups 1 and 2, as well as various technical working groups.
- *Emergency response:* UNDP collaborated with other United Nations agencies on flood response initiatives and participated in thematic groups addressing the rule of law, access to justice, economic governance and peacebuilding.
- *Voluntary National Review:* UNDP and the United Nations Resident Coordination Office supported South Sudan in launching its first Voluntary National Review on the SDGs.
- *Inter-agency gender theme group:* As co-chair of the Inter-agency Gender Theme Group, UNDP actively contributed to implementing the UNCT System-Wide Action Plan Gender Equality Scorecard in 2024.
- *Economic crisis response:* UNDP led a joint analysis of the economic crisis in collaboration with international financial institutions and United Nations entities.

This collaboration highlights UNDP's proactive engagement with other United Nations agencies to support South Sudan's development objectives.

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Partnerships and resource mobilization

The Japanese Ambassador, Eastern Equatoria Governor and UNDP Representative inaugurating a community centre in Magwi, Eastern Equatoria State



In 2024, UNDP continued to strengthen its partnerships with national and state governments, supporting key aspects of the peace agreement, institution-building, democratic transition efforts and recovery programmes focused on youths and women. Leveraging its role as a trusted and neutral development partner, UNDP led collaborative efforts among development partners to facilitate South Sudan’s transition from humanitarian assistance to sustainable development, with a focus on state-building and peacebuilding.

We are grateful to our long-standing partners for their continued contributions, trust and partnership, which have been strengthened during 2024. Their contributions have been crucial in advancing the sustainable development agenda in South Sudan.

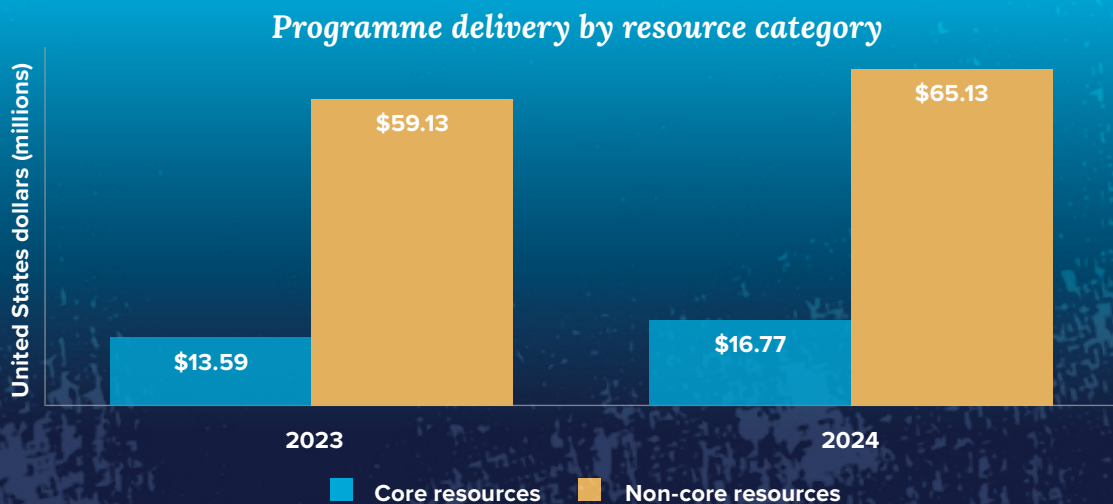
UNDP also developed new collaborative relationships. A new partnership was forged with the International Fund for Agricultural Development through a signed agreement to support the Rural Enterprises for Agricultural Development initiative in South Sudan. We also developed a new partnership with the India, Brazil and South Africa Fund (South–South cooperation) through two projects: a regional project called ‘Scaling Solar Applications for Agricultural Use’ and a local project called ‘Empowering Women and Youth to Drive Sustainable Agriculture in South Sudan’. After a two-year hiatus, we also reestablished our partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency through a regional project called ‘Peacebuilding and Prevention of Violent Extremism in East Africa’.

Resource performance in 2024

In 2024, successful resource mobilization efforts raised **\$78.88 million**. The overall Country Office delivery was **\$81.90 million** (120 percent), surpassing the target of **\$68.09 million** due to close collaboration with our partners.

The graph below is a summary of the Country Office performance in 2024.

UNDP’s partnerships and resource mobilization efforts in 2024 reflect its commitment to supporting South Sudan’s development goals through strategic collaboration and effective fundraising.



Resources mobilized



Budget:
\$68.29 million



Expenditure:
\$81.90 million



Delivery:
120%



Minister for Labour, UNDP Resident Representative and Head of Cooperation, Kingdom of the Netherlands, attend a graduation ceremony at a vocational training centre

Human interest story

Empowering lives, restoring dignity: A journey of reconciliation and healing at Mangateen Camp

In the heart of the Mangateen Internally Displaced Persons' Camp, situated on the outskirts of Juba, a transformative project is inspiring hope and resilience among 33 women who have faced the harsh realities of communal conflict. Once displaced to Mangateen Camp after fleeing violence during the 2016 war and consequent tribal conflict at the UNMISS Protection of Civilian Camp in Juba, these women are now on a path to reclaiming their dignity through an innovative survivors' support group initiative. Made possible with support from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and implemented by UNDP and Vision for Humanity, this project is making significant strides in transforming lives.

The programme's approach is holistic, with a focus on equipping the women with not only livelihood and vocational skills, but also with psychosocial support and trauma healing therapy. These therapeutic efforts are crucial, as they encourage women to heal from past traumas and develop the confidence and self-esteem they need to build their futures. In turn, the participants extend their newfound knowledge to other members of the Mangateen Camp, creating a ripple effect of healing and reconciliation.

The women have also gained valuable insights into transitional justice and basic human rights, which has greatly empowered them to advocate for their community within the framework of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing and the Compensation and Reparation Authority. By enhancing their understanding of these essential components, which are outlined in Chapter 5 of the Peace Agreement, the project strengthens not only the survivors' group but the entire community's capacity for justice and reconciliation.

Before I joined the programme, I didn't have confidence, and I felt discriminated against in the community. Through the programme, I feel appreciated through my abilities and not my disability. I have built my self-esteem. Many people come to me for advice and consultation.

Elizabeth Nyagai, survivor support group member



Though still new, the project has already achieved remarkable outcomes. The women, once marginalized and hopeless, have gained newfound respect and stature within their community. Their handcrafted goods, ranging from baskets to personal care products like shampoo, soaps and moisturizers, are highly sought after, creating an accessible and affordable economy in the camp. This sustainable economic ecosystem not only provides the women with a means of livelihood but also enhances the overall well-being of Mangateen residents.

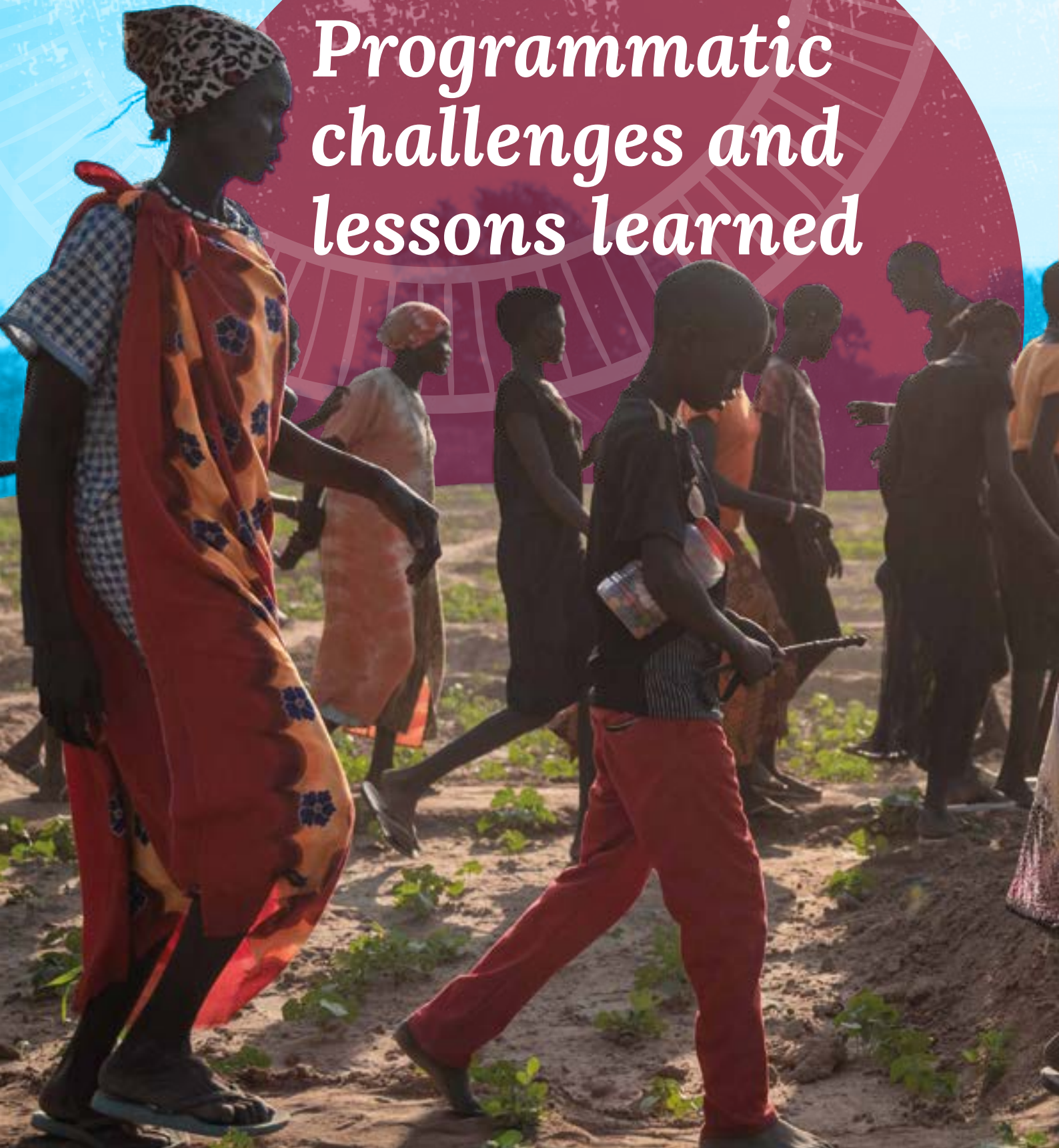
Key outcomes of the project include empowering survivors through livelihood skills as a form of alternative reparations for self-resilience and conducting community outreach and advocacy on transitional justice mechanisms. These efforts facilitate an understanding of crucial peacebuilding components, fostering a community prepared for long-term prosperity through reconciliation and healing.

The achievements of the women at the Mangateen Camp underscore the vital importance of initiatives that integrate reconciliation, healing and livelihood empowerment. This project is a testament to the power of community-driven change and the potential for building a peaceful and prosperous future in South Sudan.



Elizabeth Nyagai shows other survivor support group members how to make liquid soap

Programmatic challenges and lessons learned



A community member marches ahead during a social cohesion activity, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State

South Sudan faces ongoing conflicts and natural disasters that severely impact its economy and livelihoods, straining its already weak institutional capacity to respond to crises. The global stagnation of development assistance for countries with prolonged emergencies, such as South Sudan, threatens sustainable development efforts. Relief should complement, not replace, long-term development progress in such crisis settings.

A major challenge is the worldwide reduction in humanitarian aid, which heavily impacts South Sudan's reliance on assistance, necessitating innovation and new thinking by development partners.

The postponement of elections to December 2026 and the extension of South Sudan's transitional period to February 2027 affected planned programmatic interventions. This extension also impacts resource mobilization efforts, given concerns among the donor community.

The current economic crisis, political stalemates and subnational conflicts have resulted in declining development financing and a reversal of previously achieved development gains in South Sudan. The ongoing crises require innovative strategies to address both immediate and long-term needs. Achieving a new political consensus is essential to overcoming these challenges and laying the foundation for sustainable peace and development.

Sustained public action and strong international support are essential. Partnerships should embrace new ways of working during protracted crises, emphasizing solidarity to address internal conflicts and effectively plan and execute programmes.

Investing in food security and service delivery is crucial for transforming lives and sustaining peace in South Sudan. Enhancing economic governance is critical to achieving the goals outlined in the R-ARCSS and the Revitalized National Development Strategy, with home-grown solutions playing a vital role in fostering prosperity and sustainability.

A major challenge is the worldwide reduction in humanitarian aid, which heavily impacts South Sudan's reliance on assistance, necessitating innovation and new thinking by development partners.



The way forward



A woman rides a motorcycle in Yambio, an activity typically associated with men in South Sudan

To advance South Sudan's future, collaboration and innovation are essential. By embracing new methods and fostering unity among all stakeholders, the country can overcome current challenges and achieve lasting political and socioeconomic stability.

Moving beyond crises and aid dependency requires a comprehensive approach, with all actors and sectors working together. Coordinating development and relief efforts is crucial for breaking the cycle of emergencies, ensuring that interventions lead to lasting change rather than temporary fixes.

International aid efforts must be unified, with the international community, aid agencies and the government sharing responsibility to steer South Sudan away from conflict and poverty. By linking humanitarian aid with sustainable development, the nation can move towards self-reliance and resilience and, ultimately, peace.

Strengthening local leadership, empowering youths and women, improving infrastructure and building a strong economic framework are key to sustainable development. By integrating peace, humanitarian efforts and development (a triple nexus approach), South Sudan can build resilience and reduce risks. Embracing home-grown solutions is vital for achieving true sustainability and fostering prosperity.

As we learn and plan, the path to South Sudan's transformation is becoming clearer. Reconstructing society, with justice, peace and social cohesion at its core, requires dedication and vision. By aligning humanitarian aid with long-term development, South Sudan can gradually build a foundation for lasting prosperity.

As we look to the future, our determination to create a better tomorrow remains strong. Let us advance with purpose, using innovation, collaboration and foresight to shape a brighter future for all in South Sudan.

Strengthening local leadership, empowering youths and women, improving infrastructure and building a strong economic framework are key to sustainable development.



2024 in pictures











We extend our sincere gratitude to all our partners and donors for their unwavering support and commitment.



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