Beyond conflict
Building a strong future for South Sudan
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The world’s newest nation, South Sudan had only just begun to form its national identity when the 2013 conflict plunged the country into social, political and economic turmoil. Since then, the fragile gains made in the early years of statehood have rapidly eroded, as thousands of people have lost their lives, and many others have lost livelihoods and access to their most basic needs. Yet even in the face of such dire circumstances, the people of South Sudan have never lost hope.

Today, the nation stands at a critical turning point. The Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict, signed in August 2015, provides South Sudan with a roadmap for ending the violence and a framework for sustainable recovery. The Government of South Sudan has committed to using the Agreement as an opportunity – not only to rebuild the young nation, but also to initiate the comprehensive institutional reform that will be essential to lasting prosperity.

As a long-time partner in South Sudan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is eager to see the nation through this process of peacebuilding and recovery. We at UNDP have been humbled by the strength, spirit and tenacity of the South Sudanese people in the face of immeasurable challenges, and are inspired by the promise of a peaceful and resilient South Sudan moving forward. We believe that a better future is not only possible for the people of this nation, but inevitable.

In close collaboration with the United Nations system, UNDP is working in partnership with the Government, civil society and communities to help the people of South Sudan secure a better nation for themselves and for the next generations. This requires building the resilience of communities and reinvigorating local economies so everyone has a decent chance at prosperity. It means looking beyond the present conflict and fostering the social, political and economic conditions that are essential to long-lasting peace, security and stability.

This advocacy brochure showcases the bold and innovative work being carried out in South Sudan through the stories, images and voices of the South Sudanese people who are leading this national project. Together, we are overcoming the challenges of today by pursuing a durable, transformative and more inclusive tomorrow.

Eugene Owusu,
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General,
United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator,
UNDP Resident Representative in South Sudan
Juba, December 2016
South Sudan in brief

South Sudan gained independence in 2011, following five decades of civil war between the northern and southern regions of Sudan. In January 2005, the leaders of the north and the south signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, granting partial autonomy to southerners and establishing a new interim constitution. In 2011, South Sudan officially became an independent state.

Even after enduring decades of civil war, South Sudan made notable progress towards key Millennium Development Goal targets in the years leading up to independence. Between 2006 and 2011, improvements were recorded in the prevalence of severely undernourished children (Goal 1), enrolment and literacy (Goal 2), the share of parliamentary seats held by women (Goal 3), child mortality (Goal 4), maternal health (Goal 5) and combatting disease (Goal 6). Many of these gains were reversed following the outbreak of conflict in 2013 and the enduring humanitarian crisis. Poverty levels have risen dramatically in just a few years, with nearly 59% of the population living in poverty in 2015, compared with 45% in 2011. Decades of war have led to high mortality rates, low literacy rates and low income levels. In 2015, South Sudan ranked 169 out of 188 countries on the Human Development Index.
# South Sudan in numbers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total population (millions)</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population, urban (%)</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population in multidimensional poverty (%)</td>
<td>89.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Development Index ranking</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross domestic product per capita (2011 PPPS)</td>
<td>1,964.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (years)</td>
<td>55.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)</td>
<td>789⁹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult HIV prevalence rate (%)</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public health expenditure (% of GDP)</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate (%)</td>
<td>27¹⁰</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of seats in legislative assembly (% held by women)</td>
<td>34¹¹</td>
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Home to 11 million people⁴, South Sudan covers a land area of 640,000 square kilometres in north-eastern Africa. The nation is landlocked and shares borders with the Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic.

The topography of South Sudan is largely open plains, marked by hilly regions and thick vegetation. The climate is equatorial, with high humidity and plenty of rainfall.

In some northern regions, the warm desert climate means water can become more scarce. South Sudan holds numerous natural resources, including oil, gold, silver, iron ore and copper, as well as large fertile lands that have produced cassava, groundnuts, sweet potato, sorghum, maize, rice finger millet, cowpea and beans. The Nile River is a major natural feature, traversing some of the country’s regional centres and facilitating trade, administration and urbanization in rural areas.⁵

The crisis has precipitated devastating socioeconomic losses. Oil production, traditionally accounting for 60% of gross domestic product and 98% of government revenue, fell by 42% due to the conflict.⁶ A floating currency regime was adopted in December 2015, devaluing the South Sudanese pound to one-sixth of its previous fixed rate.⁷ Extremely limited national capacity to finance and deliver services – including health, water, sanitation and justice – has left large portions of the population without essential social support.
UNDP has been an active partner in South Sudan for more than 30 years. With the formation of the independent republic of South Sudan in July 2011, UNDP officially established its South Sudan Country Office. Today, UNDP staff are working across the country to help the nation achieve its development objectives and improve the lives of the poorest men and women.

The 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict offers a roadmap for progress and presents new opportunities for peacebuilding and development in South Sudan. As part of the Agreement, the Transitional Government of National Unity will establish a new national development framework during the transitional period from 2016–2018.

The United Nations Interim Cooperation Framework 2016-2018 was developed to serve as the overarching strategic plan for the United Nations system during this transitional period. In line with the 2015 Agreement and the United Nations Interim Cooperation Framework, UNDP has structured its programme around two distinct but related pillars: 1) more resilient communities and reinvigorated local economies and 2) strengthening peace and governance.

**Recovery and Stabilization**
The overall objective of the inter-agency recovery and stabilization programme led by UNDP is to lay a firm ground for a fundamental transformation of South Sudan towards durable peace and stability on the one hand and sustainable development on the other in a step by step incremental manner. The programme seeks to address the root causes of the conflict and strike a new balance by bringing together the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors in an integrated manner.

In a time of unprecedented challenge and evolutionary transition, we must heal the wounds of the past, engage fully in the transformation of present conditions, and create a future of unparalleled dignity and beauty for all South Sudanese.

*James O’Dea, Author of Cultivating Peace: Becoming a 21st Century Peace Ambassador.*
### Pillar 1
More resilient communities and reinvigorated local economies

- Inclusive growth and trade capacity
- Food security and emergency flood response and recovery
- Strengthening health systems

### Pillar 2
Peace and governance strengthened

- Support to democracy and participation
- Community security and arms control
- Support to access to justice and rule of law
- Support to public administration
“We need not only ensure that we have a Government of National Unity; we also need to ensure that the boys and girls, women and children in Ezo, Wau, Pochalla, Melut, Yei, Kapoeta, Tonj and Aweil believe in simple dreams, at the centre of which is having the opportunity to live a life of dignity.”

Eugene Owusu, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative.
UNDP is working to build resilience and reinvigorate local economies to improve the overall development status of the population. Specific programme areas are aimed at fostering inclusive growth and trade capacity, supporting food security and emergency response, and strengthening health systems at all levels.

Even before the outbreak of violence, South Sudan was facing significant development challenges, including repeated economic crises, widespread food insecurity and the collapse of public services. The humanitarian crisis has only exacerbated these issues. Conflict and displacement have devastated livelihoods and local markets, heightening the vulnerability of people and communities. National institutions have weakened to the extent that basic social services are almost exclusively provided by humanitarian and development organizations.

I am happy because my people are being supported. My people are being educated. They can now sustain their own lives.

Jacob Reech Deng, a community leader within the IDP population benefiting from livelihoods training in Mingkaman.
UNDP in Action

UNDP is supporting the Government of South Sudan to promote inclusive economic growth by integrating trade into its national development strategies. Efforts are also underway to promote micro, small and medium enterprises, strengthen local markets, and support the development of rural value chains. This includes gender-sensitive sustainable livelihoods and skills training for internally displaced persons, host communities and conflict-affected people in rural and urban areas.

UNDP is implementing an entrepreneurship development programme for women and youth in the country.

Small businesses and livelihood training for internally displaced persons

UNDP is working with sister United Nations agencies to diversify livelihoods opportunities for rural men, women and youth to facilitate return and reintegration. Two UNDP-supported pilot projects are addressing the economic needs of nearly 600 direct beneficiaries and nearly 3,000 indirect beneficiaries, including through sustainable livelihood skills training, emergency employment and the provision of start-up kits to set up small businesses in and around two IDP camps in Juba and Mingkaman. In Juba, training has already benefitted 64 internally displaced persons (50 in pastry making and 14 in barbering) and has provided a sustainable income stream of US$2,000 for 47 women and 17 men.

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Inclusive growth and trade capacity

There is overwhelming support – originating, enduring and reinforced by the people of South Sudan – to work towards transforming this nation into a place where everyone has opportunity and stability needed to build their futures.

Jean-Luc Stalon, UNDP Deputy Country Director and Head of Programmes.

Facts:

- The production and export of oil comprises 98% of total government revenue.
- For 78% of households, subsistence-based agriculture and pastoralism are the main sources of livelihood.
- Only 12% of the population are paid employees.

In Mingkaman, 48 beneficiaries of UNDP livelihoods programmes have gained US$10,000 in income.
Supporting Mingkaman in transition

As the displacement crisis in South Sudan has continued to grow, the needs of displaced communities have evolved from primarily emergency-based aid, to longer-term livelihood solutions. In the Mingkaman community in Awerial County, the internally displaced persons arriving from Jonglei State are looking to recover the income generation activities they have lost after years of violence and dislocation.

Recognizing the importance of sustainable recovery, UNDP is providing displaced persons and host communities in Mingkaman with the livelihood equipment, supplies and training they need to rebuild their productive asset bases, develop new skills and improve their own standards of living. Farming, fishing and livestock communities are receiving inputs suited to their particular trades and unique circumstances.

“Before the crisis, you could catch as many fish as you wanted,” said one member of the 172-person fishing group in Mingkaman that received livelihoods skills training. Each member of the fishing group received five rolls of netting material and five boxes of fishing hooks, and new canoes. Other groups received dairy production supplies and training to increase harvesting yields.

“We know we can’t substitute what we have lost, but this equipment helps us help ourselves today. And our children are also better fed thanks to the fish we catch with our new equipment.” Fisherman in Mingkaman, beneficiary of UNDP programme for income generation activities among IDPs.

In Juba, 100 internally displaced persons (84 female) have gained entrepreneurship skills.
Building resilient communities in Mingkaman

Nestled next to the Nile River, the Mingkaman community stretches along flat, low-lying terrain in Awerial County – an area prone to seasonal flooding and high winds. The rainy season threatens the homes and livelihoods of residents each year.

In March 2016, the UNDP Food Security, Emergency Flood Response and Recovery project distributed a new set of tents, tarpaulins, and emergency protective equipment to the people living in the surrounding areas. In total, 400 temporary community-level evacuation shelters were deployed, 4,000 tarpaulins distributed, and 1,000 tents procured for pre-positioning in the event of floods.

“We are living in a flat plain and if a flood comes during the rainy season, our houses used to be totally destroyed. Thanks to the support we received, we can now make a dike around our houses or tents using this equipment,” said Jacob Reech Deng, a community leader within the displaced population in Mingkaman. “We are less vulnerable to floods.”

Environment

UNDP is supporting the government of South Sudan to access international assistance to help the communities to adapt to climate change shocks and build climate resilient agriculture and diversified livelihoods at scale.

Mary Abuk Anyieth received a panga, a spade, and a hoe as part of UNDP project’s equipment distribution. “I can now set up the plastic sheets that I received to protect my house during the rainy season,” said Mary. “This is the first year my family will be safe from the rain.”
Food security and emergency flood response and recovery

UNDP in Action
UNDP is strengthening national and local institutions, as well as communities, to respond to floods and food insecurity. This means providing internally displaced persons and host communities located in disaster-prone regions with the support they need to better cope with natural disasters related to floods and droughts and prevent additional loss of life and property. UNDP is also working closely with partners to help farmers and pastoralists address climate change and reduce conflicts over natural resources.

One in every three people is experiencing severe food insecurity\textsuperscript{14}
In line with the objectives of the South Sudan Health Sector Development Plan 2012-2016 and with funding from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNDP is working to increase South Sudan’s ability to deliver and manage health services, particularly HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria interventions. The project’s major objectives are to:

- Improve the skills of the work force at all levels of the health system
- Introduce state-of-the-art technology, equipment and supplies
- Strengthen the existing Health Information System to provide reliable health data
- Provide services related to strengthening health systems

Only 12 trained midwives, one anaesthetist and one obstetrician/gynaecologist are available for every 200,000 people. There are fewer than 15 pediatricians in South Sudan.15
Strengthening health systems: Key achievements

Working closely with the Government of South Sudan, the National Ministry of Health, as well as state ministries of health, UNDP is working to increase the country’s ability to deliver and manage existing health services. In 2015, the project registered a number of achievements:

- Five antenatal care clinics, three maternity wards and two state laboratories have been built, benefitting more than 239,000 mothers and contributing to the improvement of antenatal care coverage, from 34% to 53%.
- There are 87 TB and 24 antiretroviral treatment sites in South Sudan. UNDP provided all of them with drugs and diagnostic tests. This enabled 15,674 People Living with HIV and 10,613 TB cases to receive treatment. Forty one percent of the estimated 9,000 HIV+ pregnant women received antiretroviral prophylaxis to prevent mother to child transmission (up from 11% in 2014).
- More than 350 health workers received training that strengthened their capacities on TB, HIV, maternal health, drug management, record keeping and reporting, thereby raising service uptake and bringing the total number of health workers trained since 2012 to 2,325.
- 46 monitoring and evaluation staff (including nine women) improved their usage of the Health Management Information System and District Health Information Software in 2015, bringing the total to 155 M&E staff trained since 2012. As a result, the completeness of reporting at the county level has increased from 42% in 2012 to 84% in 2015.
UNDP is working to strengthen peace and governance in South Sudan to help the nation rebuild with greater legitimacy, inclusion, transparency, accountability and effectiveness. Specific programme areas are aimed at supporting democracy and participation, community security and arms control, access to justice and the rule of law and public administration.
Promoting women’s role in peacebuilding

The Women’s Grassroots Network (WGN) was created under the auspices of the National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation supported by UNDP. The WGN aims to raise women’s voice and promote a unified agenda for peace, healing and reconciliation. The WGN’s peacebuilding perspectives, including on the role of women at the grassroots level in the interim government, were presented to the IGAD-led peace talks in July 2014 in Addis Ababa.

In 2014, 246 women from the WGN participated in a peaceful march in the streets of Juba to demand peace as part of the NPPR’s Seven Days of Peace Activism. In addition, 30 women from Nuer and Dinka communities jointly developed an action plan to help restore peace between the two communities in Jonglei, as a result of the Dinka-Nuer Pastors’ Peace Initiative. The WGN also mobilized 15 female parliamentarians to build intra-gender bridges and promote a unified agenda for peace among elite women and those at the grassroots level.

Support to democracy and participation

UNDP in Action

UNDP is promoting democracy, political participation and civic engagement in South Sudan, particularly at the local level. The aim is to strengthen the government’s oversight and accountability architecture, and enhance the capacity of civil society and the media to exercise their voices and influence national discourse. UNDP is therefore encouraging democratic engagement, especially for women and youth; facilitating a political settlement in line with the peace agreement; and supporting accountability and anti-corruption initiatives.

One third of seats in the National Legislative Assembly are held by women.16

Women should be involved in the peace process. When a mother talks, everyone in the house, often everyone in the community, listens.

Hon. Jasmin Samuel Adakayi, Member of the National Legislative Assembly.

Civic education programmes have benefitted 5,312 people, including 2,077 women.
UNDP is supporting South Sudan to establish sustainable, accountable and transparent governance and involve civil society and the media in national discourse on development policy and governance processes. This includes:

Creating impartial space for dialogue and debate. Six public debates have been organized that address democratic governance issues. Attendees included politicians, diplomats, academics, development partners, civil society organizations and the general public. In addition, two policy briefs were published to inform public policy making on political governance issues.

Promoting community-level democratic governance awareness. UNDP collaborated with five civil society organizations to conduct 38 civic education outreach programmes in eight counties. These activities have reached more than 5,300 people (932 women).

Promoting dialogue on accountability. Twenty-seven radio talk shows have been held on conflict resolution, accountability, transparency and the participation of youth and women in community safety and peacebuilding in Central and Western Equatoria. The public has received a total of 294 text messages (SMS) promoting community voice and participation in governance issues.
Collaborative Leadership Dialogues

UNDP’s Community Security and Arms Control project works with the Women’s Caucus of the National Legislative Assembly to host dialogues and trainings to foster new ideas on how leaders can facilitate peace and conflict discussions.

“We need dialogue for our people,” said Hon. Jasmin Samuel Adakayi, Member of the Legislative Assembly and MP of her home state. “We need to bring communities together. Dialogue training teaches us the way to make this happen, the way to find common ground and the way to talk to one another. We as leaders realize we need to move forward together.”

In February 2016, leaders representing different sectors of South Sudan, including the Peace and Reconciliation Commission, Parliament, Ministry of Defence, Council of Churches and civil society organizations, met for the second Collaborative Leadership Dialogue to share diverse opinions on how to approach the peace and reconciliation process.

“We should stop identifying ourselves as from this-or-that tribe, we have to see ourselves as South Sudanese to build our nation,” said a civil society representative at the Dialogue. “We have to move away from tribal identity and identify ourselves as South Sudanese. We have to think about what we are here for and not where we come from.”

Workshops such as the Collaborative Leadership Dialogue provide an opportunity to continue the discussion on key issues in South Sudan and strategize future engagement to promote opportunities for further collaboration.
The consequences of war are severe. Disease, death and poverty are everywhere and are a clear result of war. The fighting has to stop.

Mar Nyagena, a community leader participating in a dialogue for IDPs in Mangateen.

Community security and arms control

UNDP in Action

UNDP is supporting communities to effectively reduce violence, improve community security and strengthen social cohesion by building government capacity to protect the rights and lives of the nation’s citizens during the process of state formation. Specific objectives include:

- Strengthening the capacity of the Bureau for Community Security and Arms Control;
- Integrating conflict sensitivity and community participation into early recovery and development programming;
- Strengthening the capacity of county governments in conflict-prone areas through infrastructure rehabilitation and the provision of equipment;
- Collaborating with key institutions, communities and civil society to promote reconciliation and social cohesion;
- Strengthening the capacity of the Commission for Peace and Reconciliation.
We need a new beginning, we need to enhance our unity in diversity and stop dividing ourselves. A participant in the Collaborative Leadership Dialogue Workshop.

Brokered peace among divided communities in Jonglei, Upper Nile and Eastern Equatoria through peace conferences and inter-communal dialogues after the 2013 crisis.

28% of respondents have confidence in peace, safety, and security according to a national survey on perceptions on peace, security and sexual and gender-based violence conducted in 2015.
Strengthening democratic engagement and community participation in IDP camps

“If there is peace, there is development and peaceful co-existence among the communities,” said Mary Nyagena, an internally displaced person, mother of eight and community leader, at a UNDP-supported community dialogue held at the Mangateen IDP camp in Juba.

Mary is originally from Unity State, located in northern South Sudan. She is of the Nuer tribe and has been living in the Mangateen IDP camp with her family since May 2015, after fleeing conflict that erupted in her community in Bentiu town in January 2014. As one of the 29 people living in the IDP camp who attended the community dialogue with the Hon. Nyuon Janguan Luoy, Member of Parliament from Unity State, Mary expressed her opinions on access to land for resettlement; the living conditions in the camp; and the urgent need for peace.

The series of community dialogues taking place in two Protection of Civilians sites and two IDP camps in Juba, are managed by the Integrated Development Organisation (IDO), with technical support from UNDP’s Community Security and Arms Control Project, and with generous funds from the Government of Sweden. Since October 2015, the community dialogues have been held with selected community leaders based on their different ethnic groups, age and gender.

“The immediate result that we expect to see from these community dialogues is that those directly affected by conflict, increase dialogue among themselves and are able to manage their conflicts peacefully,” said IDO Project Manager, Gai Makiew Gai. “It is hoped that they participate in the ongoing political, peace and state building processes and engage with key local and national stakeholders to ensure their voices are heard and their concerns addressed,” he stated.

In addition to the community discussions with politicians, the grants enable the IDO to conduct inter-generational and inter-communal peace dialogues; monthly issue-based peace forums; trainings for the peace committee, mobilizers and community leaders; and training for the camp crisis management committee.
Before Regina* was imprisoned at Juba Central Prison, she had an interest in tailoring and envied those who were able to make a living. When she saw that a tailoring course was being offered at the prison, she knew she wanted to be involved. “I know that the training would teach me skills that I can use in the future to support myself when I am released,” she said.

Regina is one of more than 200 prisoners, both male and female, receiving training through the UNDP-supported Vocational Training Workshop offered at the Juba Central Prison, which is offering inmates training in eight disciplines: carpentry, masonry, electrical, welding, vehicle mechanics, agriculture, hair dressing and tailoring. The programme is an innovative attempt to ensure sustainability and promote indigenous experience in South Sudan.

* name changed

Vocational training at Juba Central Prison

“By rehabilitating inmates, we’re securing the integration process when they are released back into general society,” said Brigadier General Anthony Oliver Legge, Director of Production and Vocational Rehabilitation. “Now when these inmates are discharged, they have acquired a certain knowledge, they have something tangible to offer to their communities.”

Launched in January 2016, courses are six months long and involve three hours of instruction and hands-on practice per day. Inmates are selected based on personal interest in one of the trades, and criteria such as duration of sentence and lower-risk convictions. After graduation, inmates will shift to production; and their earnings will be used to fund the programme and ensure its sustainability.

“An idle person is a hungry person, a hungry person is an angry person, and an angry person is a dangerous person,” said Sabuni Samuel, Program Supervisor. “Skills prevent inmates from coming back.”
We are a member of the international community and have an obligation to uphold human rights.

Hon. Paulino Wanawila, Minister of Justice, at the Universal Periodic Review for human rights workshop.

Support to access to justice and the rule of law

UNDP in Action
UNDP is working to promote access to justice and strengthen rule of law institutions through institutional and community level interventions. The sector-wide, holistic approach is designed to increase the availability, adaptability, and acceptability of justice services in South Sudan.

Facts:

110 judges administer justice across South Sudan

80% of South Sudanese use customary rather than formal justice mechanisms
If women are part of the police, they can bring their qualities to this work. They can help with the accountability of the police. Cadet attending training at the Rajaf Police female training centre. UNDP constructed new facilities in late 2015, including lecture halls, dormitory blocks and a dining hall, to facilitate training for female cadets.

UNDP supported the establishment of the Emergency Call Centre (777) managed by the police, training of the officers, equipment and provision and provision of emergency vehicles in an effort to help curve criminality and assist the police forces to answer promptly to acts of criminality and violence in Juba. The Call Centre has responded to a total of 14,911 calls, including 575 related to sexual and gender-based violence, 1,376 related to traffic violations and 2,173 medical emergencies. UNDP is supporting the establishment of an additional Emergency Call Centre in Wau.
Enabling access to justice and the rule of law

Decades of instability in southern Sudan devastated the delivery capacity of local law enforcement and justice institutions, leaving individuals and communities with extremely limited legal resources. Basic instruments of coordination, accountability and transparency were also shattered.

Over the past five years, UNDP has responded to this situation by bringing together citizens with representatives of rule of law institutions, members of the broader rule of law community, traditional leaders, community-based organizations and women’s organizations. Already, nearly 1,000 people (31 female) have attended 34 forums conducted in five states. The effort has also enhanced police and social worker knowledge on sexual and gender based violence. A total of 144 (45% female) social workers and police personnel were trained in four states on survivor-centred approaches to investigation, sensitization, and coordination.

UNDP is also working to improve access to justice for the most vulnerable by engaging civil society organizations to organize legal aid and public legal awareness initiatives. In total, 145 people (61 women) have received legal aid services through the programme, including 33 cases (25 female) were referred to the statutory courts for trial. In addition, 161 people (67 female) in seven states received legal advice, counselling, referrals, mediation services and court monitoring through UNDP-supported Justice and Confidence Centres run by civil society organizations.

In partnership with the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) and a group of 45 lawyers, UNDP has supported the provision of pro-bono legal aid to combat the overwhelming number of prisoners awaiting trial and prisoners with questionable charges and to monitoring the human rights of the prison population. In 2016, with UNDP support, FHRI has already taken on 100 legal aid cases.
Building South Sudanese capacities through professional exchange

Dr. Dagim Leykun is a general surgeon from Ethiopia. He arrived in Juba determined to help South Sudanese doctors improve their performance.

“I volunteer because civil services here are struggling. They don’t have trained specialists in health. When you are in the medical field, you want to help. There is a huge demand for health service in Africa and as an African I want to help my people,” he explained. The professionals, which include eleven Ethiopians and one Ugandan, arrived together with similar objectives.

The group was the second batch of Civil Service Support Officers (CSSOs) of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) joint programme with the Government of South Sudan, which aims to bring professionals from Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia to South Sudan for capacity building and skills transfer in areas such as health, child protection, aviation, agriculture, audit and management.

The South Sudan/IGAD Regional Initiative, convened by donors during the 2010 Oslo Accord to support South Sudan after independence, has already deployed 199 officials, to 22 national and state institutions across South Sudan during its first phase. The second phase started last August, and saw 90 CSSOs deployed to 15 national, 27 state and 3 county institutions.
Support to Public Administration

**UNDP in Action**
As part of its efforts to strengthen peace and governance in South Sudan, UNDP is supporting capacity development at all levels and across multiple sectors, covering legal, regulatory, institutional, labour, work procedures, operational arrangements and skills development.

“I have been working for 13 years in child protection. I heard that this country has faced conflict. In that kind of situation, children are the most affected, so I have come to share my skills and expertise to support the country in putting polices in place that can assist the children who are the ones suffering the most.
Child Protection Officer Twesigane Maureen, a Ugandan national.

**countries in the south need to support countries from the south. We have to help each other because as neighbours, Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya also benefit from South Sudan’s development and we can all learn from each other. I am glad that we are joining our voices to address the issues of the region.**
Alex Kwitonda Bigira, Uganda Embassy Representative.
Endnotes

4 The World Bank, 2015.
7 United Nations Development Programme, ‘Draft country programme document for South Sudan (July 2016-December 2017)’.
12 From UNESCO country programming document unless otherwise noted.
14 Ibid.
15 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview – South Sudan.

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