

United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund for
Reconciliation, Stabilization and Resilience in South Sudan

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



UNITED NATIONS
MULTI-PARTNER
TRUST FUND

Reconciliation Stabilization Resilience

CONTRIBUTORS



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RSRTF - CES ABP CONSORTIUM PROJECT

LOCALLY DRIVEN
SOLUTIONS FOR
COHESION AND
EARLY RECOVERY
COUNTRY'S
BREAKFAST

FCA Finn Church Aid

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABP	area-based programme
CSO(s)	civil society organization(s)
GPAA	Greater Pibor Administrative Area
JSMC	Joint Special Mobile Court
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
PCRC(s)	police community relations committee(s)
R-ARCSS	Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
R-MBA	Revitalized Marial Bai Agreement
RSRTF	Reconciliation, Stabilization and Resilience Trust Fund
SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
SGW	Small Grants Window
TGW	Thematic Grants Window
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
VSF	Vétérinaires Sans Frontières

Note: All dollar amounts in this report are in United States dollars.



79

conflict management and reconciliation interventions

carried out to de-escalate and address tensions over abductions, cattle restitution, blood compensation and other critical issues involving shuttle diplomacy and mediation dialogues

4

civil-military dialogues held in affected communities

104

community-based protection and dispute resolution mechanisms established and supported

119

youths in cattle camps trained in **non-violent conflict resolution** and mitigation

280

at-risk youths (201 male, 79 female), including ex-combatants and women associated with **armed groups**, provided with vocational skills training

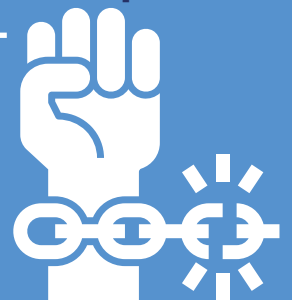
1,310

(535 male, 775 female) faith-based leaders, primary school teachers, workers, local chiefs and community mobilizers, youths and women **trained in grassroots conflict mediation, prevention of abductions and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), positive masculinity and women leadership**



78

abducted persons (22 women, 56 children) **released** and reunited with their families



805



justice actors (548 male, 257 female) provided with **technical training**, including police, civil defence, national security, army and community members, land committee members, prison officers, paralegals, chiefs, court clerks and protection monitors, administrators, women, youths and civil society organization (CSO) representatives

31



community assets built or enhanced:

- 2 women- and girl-friendly spaces, 3 police posts, 1 auction yard, 1 milk bar, 3 boreholes and 6 dykes constructed
 - 1 technical and vocational centre, 1 prison, 1 police post and 6 school facilities rehabilitated
 - 2 youth and 1 vocational centres, 1 women's one-stop centre and 2 local markets equipped
-

34.35 km
of **community access roads**
and

26 km
of **drainage channel constructed** and

2,592 ha
of **crop farms and vegetable gardens cultivated**

1,070

adults equipped with **functional literacy**



2,032

children supported to return to and stay in formal **primary and secondary education**



RSRTF 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 was a year in which programme results, evaluation and reflection served to reinforce recognition of the critical contribution of the Reconciliation, Stabilization and Resilience Trust Fund (RSRTF, or Fund) to violence reduction and peacebuilding in South Sudan. In light of the increasing scale, scope and complexity of civilian need and conflict dynamics across the country, the area-based programme (ABP) results demonstrate how the Fund is providing an innovative, holistic and coherent approach to address drivers of violence and promote social cohesion in areas experiencing the highest levels of conflict and fragility in South Sudan.

By the close of the year, cumulative voluntary commitments to the South Sudan Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) for Reconciliation, Stabilization and Resilience surpassed the \$100 million mark with the conclusion in December 2022 of a three-year contribution agreement with the European Commission. Total funds deposited in 2022 amounted to \$17,631,049 with project transfers of \$14,279,747. The bulk of 2022 expenditure went to establishing the Fund's fifth ABP, targeting fault lines between communities in the three counties of Greater Tonj, namely, Tonj North, Tonj East and Tonj South.

Since the establishment of the Fund in 2019, the continuing violence in Tonj has prompted consideration of the area for RSRTF programming. However, in the face of multiple and seemingly unassailable challenges, no programme was deemed viable. The major conflict drivers, whether resource competition over grazing land and water points, land disputes, inadequate economic and livelihood opportunities or deep social fragmentation, are closely intertwined with national-level political dynamics and further exacerbated by proliferation of small arms and intentional instrumentalization of local fault lines.

In the absence of effective rule of law and justice mechanisms, unresolved historical grievances breed vicious cycles of revenge attacks and cattle raids, resulting in

widespread displacement, loss of life, destruction of infrastructure and mobility restrictions severely impacting livelihood systems. Between 2021 and 2022 the need for intervention became increasingly urgent. Largely driven by conflict-related displacement and compounded by flooding, all three counties were classified as experiencing Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Phase 4 emergency levels of food insecurity with at least 5 percent of the population under Phase 5 catastrophe level of food insecurity. Meanwhile a greater degree of organization in the nature of the conflict resulted in diversion of humanitarian aid and targeting of strategic infrastructure by armed rural youth groups.

At the start of 2022, locally led efforts to broker peace between conflicting communities kindled an appetite for reconciliation and created opportunities to engage in more sustained approaches to peacebuilding. The ABP which launched in August is designed to capitalize on these local initiatives, to prevent further violence and restore sufficient security in order to rebuild trust and confidence between communities and with local authorities and institutions.

In 2022, the Fund also commissioned two independent evaluations, the first to assess the impact and continuing relevance of the Thematic Grants Window (TGW) (see page 58) and the second an independent end-

As a result of successive RSRTF-supported civil-military engagements, notable reductions in local violence have been seen in Yei, Morobo and Kajo-Keji with significant improvements for mobility of communities and economic activities.

of-programme evaluation for Phase I of the Jonglei/Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) ABP. Acknowledging the methodological challenges in determining causal connections between programme activities and any reduction in violence, the evaluation presented considerable evidence that the RSRTF Jonglei/GPAA intervention appeared to have had significant impact and had helped contain the worst of the violence, despite the deterioration in security over the life of the programme.

As this report conveys, across the country the RSRTF ABPs have been largely successful in meeting their stated objectives, which is no small feat given the complexity of the environment and the day-to-day challenges encountered by partners (see page 55).

Anecdotal evidence from interviews and focus group discussions point towards successful interventions by RSRTF programme partners in reducing armed mobilization and retaliation attacks. There were interludes of peace and stability in locations where interventions were implemented, even in Jonglei and the GPAA, and, because of persistent mediation and

peace messaging, key influencers exhibited tremendous forbearance and resistance to mass mobilization for intercommunal violence. In both Jonglei and Central Equatoria State, key informants indicate that RSRTF peace campaigns and social cohesion programming, including important efforts by women and youth, has helped ensure that political and military leaders are less able to secure the support of their communities when trying to incite violence. As a result of successive RSRTF-supported civil-military engagements, notable reductions in local violence have been seen in Yei, Morobo and Kajo-Keji with significant improvements for mobility of communities and economic activities. RSRTF efforts to capacitate local peace structures, such as the Revitalized Marial Bai Agreement (R-MBA) committees in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap, have enabled community representatives to play a role in rapidly responding to and de-escalating tensions, thus preventing the snowballing of small incidents into large-scale intercommunal violence. With all ABPs strengthening the integration of gender- and youth-focused actions, women and youth are increasingly recognized as key programme actors capable of convincing armed youth to desist from raids, abductions and gender-based violence. In Koch, Central Equatoria State, and several hotspot areas of Akobo and GPAA, silencing of guns and the productive engagement of youth suggest that changes in the mindsets of the youth may be taking place. Important efforts have been made by all ABPs to make these community structures and engagement mechanisms more sustainable and to link them with formal and traditional institutions of public authority. RSRTF activities appear to have made a positive contribution in increasing political space, building trust among communities and political parties, and raising awareness about the roles and responsibilities of newly formed authorities. Improved stability, restoration of facilities and access to services in Koch and Central Equatoria State have also contributed to enabling conditions for the return of internally displaced people to their villages.



Four years after the establishment of the Fund, the RSRTF programmes offer important lessons on how to operationalize such concepts as ‘One UN’, ‘New Ways of Working’, and the ‘Humanitarian Development Peacebuilding Nexus’. Getting organizations to look beyond their institutional mandates to work together towards a common objective remains a formidable challenge, yet the RSRTF area reference group model has proved its relevance as a tool for increasing coherence among implementing partners in a particular region, as well as succeeding in integrating non-implementing partners for information-sharing, joint planning and even coordination lead roles. The strength of the area reference groups has also enabled the RSRTF to implement the adaptive and agile programming mechanisms required to adjust to changing dynamics and ensure responsiveness to emerging risks and opportunities. The RSRTF area reference groups have fostered innovative monitoring and evaluation practices and real-time management and coordination tools that inform responsive decision-making, maximize flexible spending mechanisms and enable essential pivots in programming as it is under way.

Together with recognition of the relevance and impact of the RSRTF approach, the evaluations of 2022 have offered valuable lessons and recommendations to continue evolving and strengthening the Fund and its ABPs.

Despite the collaborative intent of the area reference group structure, some organizations continue to retreat into their siloes, and logical connections among some strands or pillars of ABP actions are still lacking. Community engagement and communications across the consortiums as a whole must be consistent. Existing time frames are ambitious for such complex undertakings and human resources have been insufficient, especially for project management and coordination. Geographic targeting must be ambitious and strategic to result in violence reduction and the RSRTF must retain strategic focus. The RSRTF is not intended to be the funding tool to address all the vast challenges inherent in the fragile regions it operates, and nor is it possible for it to be so. While the RSRTF seeks to maximize impact through initiatives that bridge peacekeeping; security; humanitarian and long-term recovery; and development efforts, it must continue to work ‘across’ the nexus in a strategic manner, focusing on the drivers of conflict to directly reinforce peacebuilding efforts.

Moving forward, the RSRTF will look to ensure more effective partnership-building with development-oriented projects, utilizing the area reference groups to build synergies between the ABPs and actions with more indirect contributions to violence reduction and peacebuilding, ensuring that in all our efforts we remain ‘United for Peace’.

RSRTF AT A GLANCE

Table 1: Financial overview (\$)

CONTRIBUTOR	CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2022		CUMULATIVE	
	COMMITMENTS	DEPOSITS	COMMITMENTS	DEPOSITS
Canada	2,574,812	2,574,812	3,961,769	3,961,769
Republic of Korea	-	-	2,200,000	2,200,000
Germany	-	-	18,215,659	18,215,659
Sweden	4,594,490	4,594,490	18,221,074	18,221,074
Norway	6,116,323	6,116,323	25,181,170	25,181,170
The Netherlands	3,258,428	3,258,428	10,000,000	10,000,000
Switzerland	1,086,996	1,086,996	1,086,996	1,086,996
TOTAL	17,631,049	17,631,049	78,866,668	78,866,668

Table 2: Use of funds (\$)

	UP TO 2019	UP TO 2020	UP TO 2021	UP TO 2022
Transferred to participating organizations	11,211,362	12,211,362	44,250,543	57,175,052
Administrative agent fee	200,939	394,016	612,356	788,667
Direct cost	517,923	921,413	1,518,678	2,873,916
Bank charges	268	677	1,046	1,431

Table 3: Division of total Fund allocations across pillars

RSRTF PILLARS	ALLOCATIONS IN \$	
	2022	2019-2022
Reconciliation	6,052,919	12,432,779
Stabilization	4,785,209	10,418,031
Resilience	6,135,118	19,701,646
TOTAL	16,973,246	42,552,456

Note: The table only reflects the planned budget utilization per pillar up to 2022 as per the originally approved programme documents. It does not include planned budget utilization per pillar under approved grants beyond 2022.

Table 4: RSRTF allocations breakdown per outcome

RSRTF OUTCOMES	ALLOCATIONS IN \$	
	2022	2019-2022
OUTCOME 1: REDUCED VIOLENCE Individuals, particularly children and women, are facing less violence at the community and local levels.	2,785,000	5,030,477
OUTCOME 2: INTERCOMMUNAL CONFLICT MANAGEMENT Communities have effective mechanisms in place that meaningfully include women and youth to resolve conflicts peacefully.	3,267,919	7,402,302
OUTCOME 3: ACCOUNTABILITY AND RULE OF LAW A strong and integrated justice chain offers lawful redress for victims, and trust exists between citizens and state security apparatus, and justice and law enforcement institutions.	2,575,834	6,134,310
OUTCOME 4: CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND GOVERNANCE Government is accountable, transparent and responsive, and citizens, including women, youth and disadvantaged groups, exercise their rights to meaningfully participate in public debate and civic engagement.	2,209,375	4,283,721
OUTCOME 5: HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT Individuals, youth in particular, are empowered and incentivized to shift from violence and criminality as a means of economic survival to productive participation in socioeconomic processes.	3,932,899	9,889,714
OUTCOME 6: PEACE DIVIDENDS Reconciled communities enjoy socioeconomic improvements that increase interdependency, social cohesion and self-reliance and mitigate catalysts of violent resource-based competition.	2,202,219	9,811,932
TOTAL	16,973,246	42,552,456

Note: The table only reflects the planned budget utilization per outcome up to 2022 as per the original approved programme documents. It does not include estimated costs per outcome beyond 2022.

Figure 1: Breakdown of allocations by type of participating organization

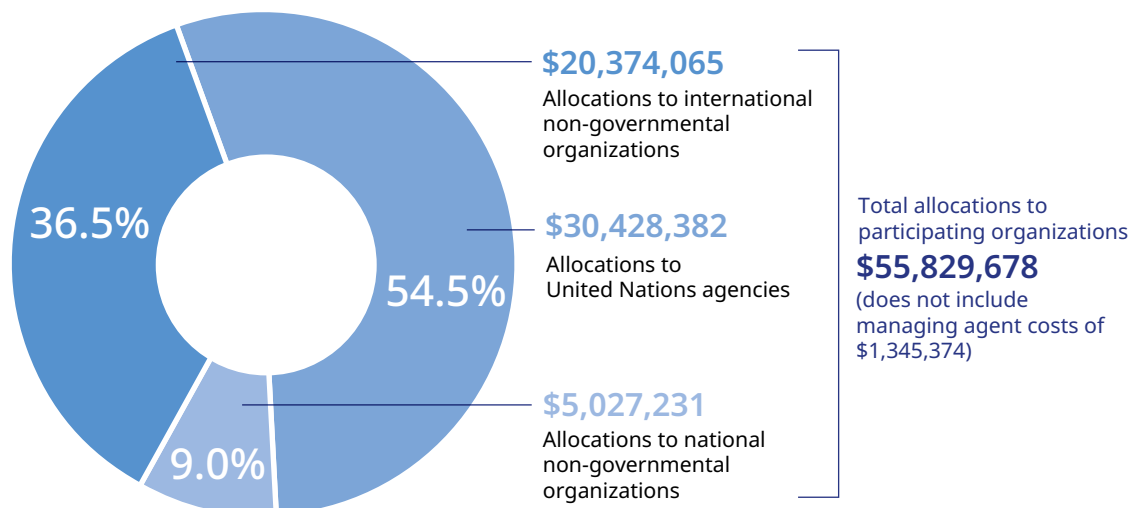
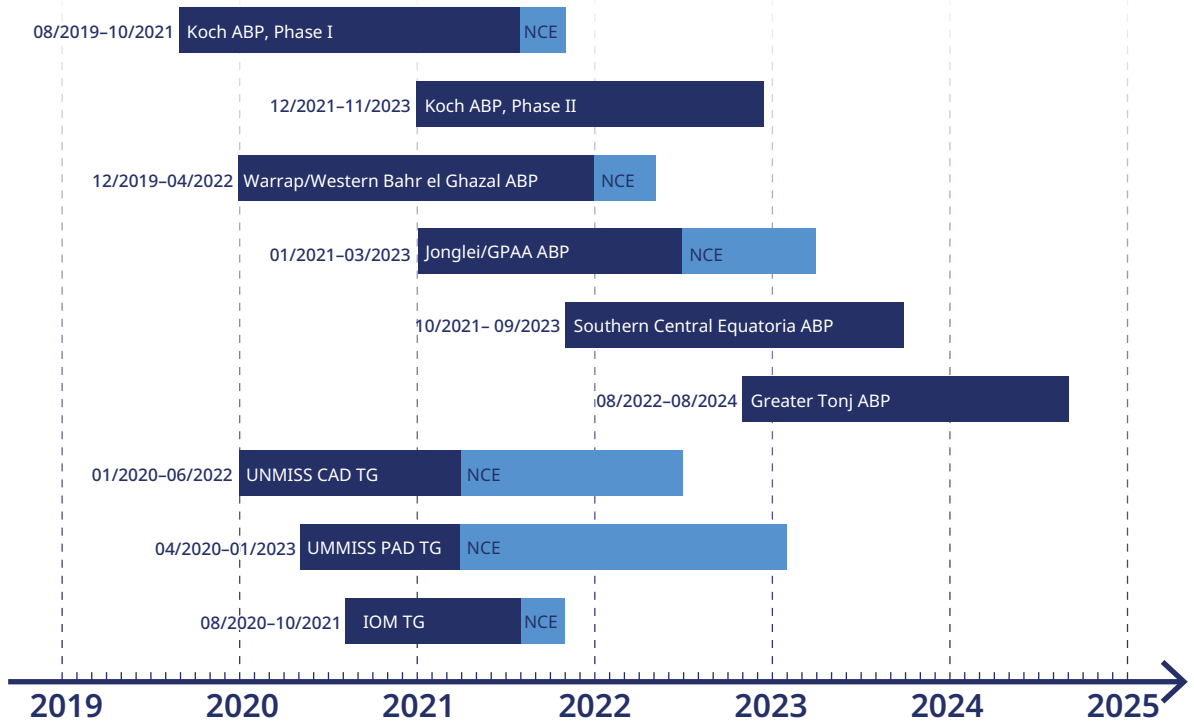


Figure 2: Timeline of RSRTF projects (NCE: no-cost extension; TG: thematic grant)



ABOUT THE FUND

The South Sudan RSRTF pioneers an innovative whole-of-system approach, financing integrated programmes that together lessen the destructive drivers of conflict and create more stable conditions in which development and resilience objectives may be realized.

RSRTF programmes serve as a short-term security and stability measure. The Fund channels investments to hotspots with a catalytic and preparatory purpose to reduce and mitigate immediate contextual risks, creating the space and opportunities for broader engagement on actions that consolidate peace and contribute to the achievement of development goals.

Recognizing the potential impact of more risk-tolerant programming, the RSRTF targets conflict hotspots where volatile political and security dynamics and extreme hardship amplify both instability and humanitarian need. Often drawing on United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) peacekeeping capabilities to secure programme locations, the area-based approach concentrates resources and combines the diverse capacities

of partners to deliver shorter-term security and stability measures that break the cycle of violence.

The RSRTF embodies the vision of the United Nations' reform process to realise more cohesive approaches for United Nations entities across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding spheres, working together to capitalize on their respective comparative advantages towards achieving collective outcomes.

The RSRTF area-based approach is intended to promote programming modalities that strengthen local ownership of peacebuilding, reinforce local community-based initiatives and build the capacity of local structures and institutions. Within the unique circumstances of each location, the Fund's goal is to help

RECONCILIATION

Rebuilding trust and confidence, strengthening social cohesion and promoting peaceful coexistence through gender- and age-sensitive communal conflict management, prevention, mitigation and reconciliation.

STABILIZATION

Restoring security, reinforcing the rule of law and equitable access to justice, and improving relations between communities and local and national government representatives.

RESILIENCE

Investing in sustainable livelihoods and joint commercial opportunities among reconciled communities to increase community interdependency, productively engaging at-risk youth and realizing 'peace dividends'.

To date, the Fund has allocated \$60 million to five area-based and three small grant thematic programmes.

communities reconcile and end violence, to bring stability to where they live and generate tangible peace dividends that shift incentives and raise the cost of resorting to violence. To enhance the ownership and sustainability of actions, wherever possible, the Fund works through local peace

initiatives and with community-led reconciliation processes as the entry point.

While the RSRTF model is highly flexible, enabling an adaptive approach to each local context, the framework of complementary reconciliation, stabilization and resilience actions compels the development of comprehensive programmes able to tackle multi-layered conflict drivers. The emphasis on fostering collaboration among United Nations agencies, UNMISS and non-governmental organizations is designed to overcome fragmentation and bridge silos.

To date, the Fund has allocated \$60 million to five area-based and three small grant thematic programmes. These programmes target select counties in Unity, Warrap, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Central Equatoria and Jonglei states, as well as the GPAA.



EXAMPLES OF RSRTF ACTIONS

RECONCILIATION

- Build on peace and reconciliation initiatives (Marial Bai Agreement, Pieri Agreement).
- Strengthen the inclusiveness of conflict mitigation and prevention mechanisms.
- Enhance inter- and intra-community dialogue and community peace and reconciliation forums and exchanges.
- Leverage political influence and engagement to resolve conflicts and reduce tensions.
- Strengthen existing community social structures to mitigate harmful cultural norms that may fuel violence.
- Trace abductees and support family reunification.
- Reintegrate ex-combatants and women associated with armed groups into their societies.
- Provide mental health and psychosocial support to survivors of violence.
- Provide support to survivors of gender-based violence in the form of women- and girl-friendly spaces.
- Use media and radio to promote peace and healing, as well as peace education in schools.

STABILIZATION

- Increase access to effective informal and formal justice mechanisms and increase service delivery.
- Strengthen the capacity of the justice system on investigation, prosecution, case management, human rights standards, gender and anti-corruption principles.
- Enhance community-oriented policing and strengthen local police community relations committees (PCRCs).
- Build local civic capacities for unarmed community security and protection.
- Improve capacity and access to mechanisms for resolution of housing, land and property disputes.
- Facilitate political dialogue and support the national peace process.
- Promote political and civic empowerment to participate in political, peace and security processes.
- Create conditions for responsive, accountable, transparent and people-centred governance and service delivery.
- Promote space for social mobilization and free expression, media diversity and pluralism.

RESILIENCE

- Support communities to exercise non-violent power and agency through collective identification and prioritization of projects that can help mitigate violence.
- Create, restore and manage community assets through labour-intensive cash-for-work-type opportunities.
- Establish mutually beneficial resources that enhance cohesion and interdependency between communities.
- Support the development of alternative livelihoods (e.g., agricultural inputs, training, employment, community saving schemes).
- Integrate climate change adaptation and environmental protection programming.
- Increase access to secondary education and functional adult literacy programmes.

In 2022, the South Sudanese endured another year of political uncertainty and chronic underdevelopment, coupled with a deepening economic crisis and severe weather conditions. Persistent shortfalls in both the capacity and will of national institutions and authorities to intervene allowed both perennial and novel conflict drivers to undermine security throughout the country with devastating impact for the civilian population, which also faced dire humanitarian conditions.

In August, Parties to the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) determined that the country's post-war transitional government would remain in power two years beyond an agreed deadline, postponing elections until late 2024. The slow implementation of the R-ARCSS has resulted in significant delays and missing of Roadmap deadlines, and remains a trigger for violence

in an increasingly volatile environment of politically affiliated armed groups.

Stalled progress in the unification and deployment of forces prevented any tangible improvement in the security situation. Furthermore, a lack of political will to provide robust law enforcement in certain areas provoked youths to take matters into their own hands. This particularly impacted RSRTF programme areas, for example in Jonglei and the GPAA, the Greater Tonj area of Warrap, as well as Central Equatoria State (Kajo Keji).

In 2022, UNMISS documented at least 3,469 civilians affected by violence and subjected to killing, injury, abduction, and conflict-related sexual violence. This represents an increase of two percent as compared with 2021 when 3,414 victims were recorded. Localised ethnic and intercommunal violence continued unabated throughout 2022 and the vast majority of civilian casualties in the country were attributed to intercommunal violence and community-based militias.

Competition over limited resources, lack of economic interdependence, and insecurity within states and counties have generated growing fragmentation of a common sense of identity as communities at the local level find themselves increasingly self-reliant. In the absence of any rule of law, erosion of relations and social capital between neighbouring communities has led to escalating violence as communities seek to

The slow implementation of the R-ARCSS has resulted in significant delays and missing of Roadmap deadlines, and remains a trigger for violence in an increasingly volatile environment of politically affiliated armed groups.

resolve intercommunal disputes on their own through armed retaliation. As a result, both the frequency and magnitude of presumably low-scale intercommunal instances of violence have increased.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, during the first half of 2022, intercommunal violence was the primary source of violence affecting civilians, accounting for more than 60 percent of civilian casualties. Persistent attacks on civilians by armed cattle keepers, cattle raids and revenge attacks resulted in several

killings, displacement of at least 257,000 people and increased incidents of sexual violence, abductions, and looting/destruction of property.

Looking ahead, this subnational communal conflict environment will likely persist, in particular in the run-up to elections, due to political dynamics and the slow progress of the peace process, competition for resources, proliferation of small arms, and weak rule of law resulting in deaths, human rights violations, displacements, and increased humanitarian needs.

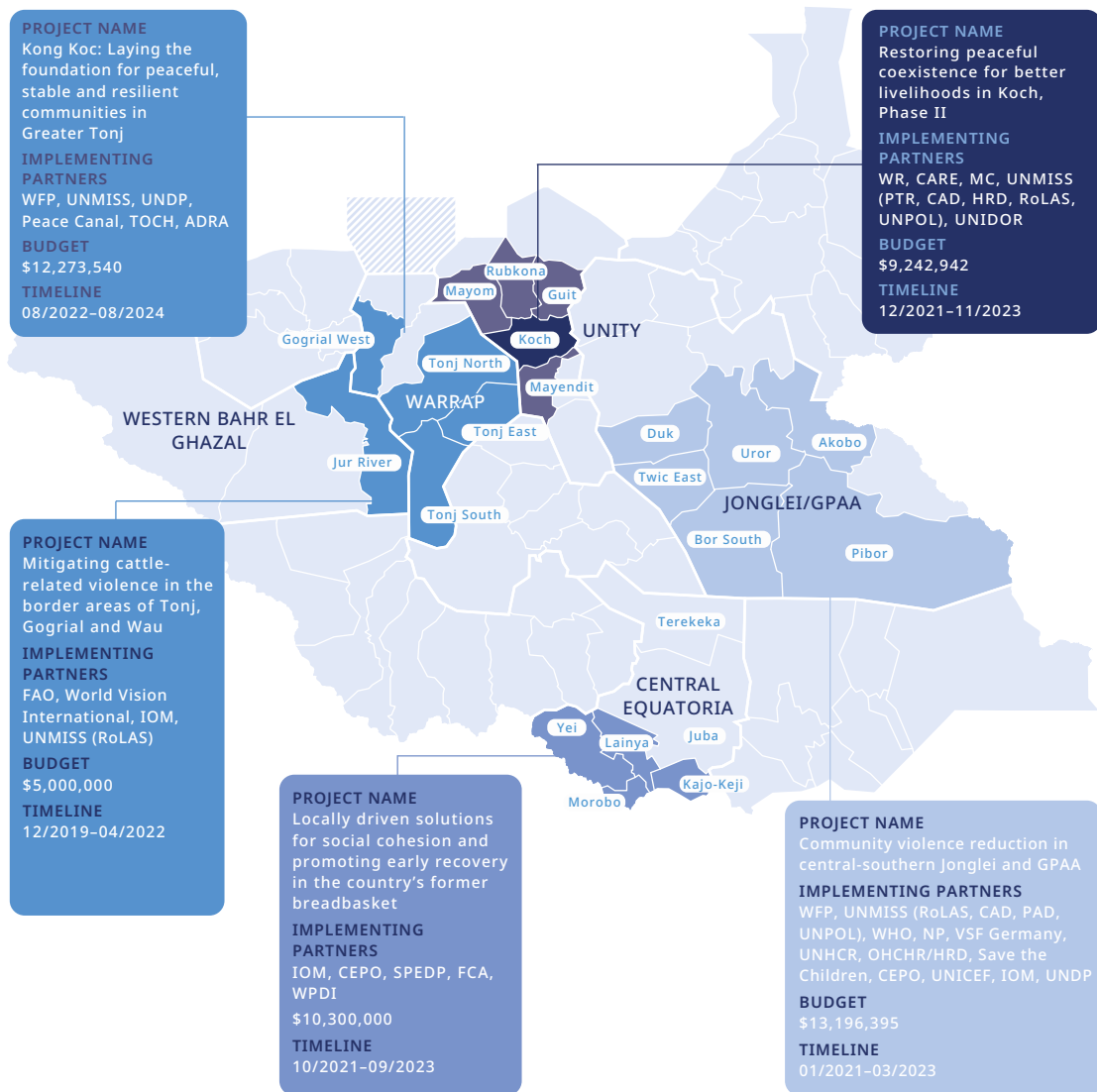


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COVERAGE AND PROGRAMMES

Figure 3: Active projects in 2022: Area-based programmes



Key: ADRA = Adventist Development and Relief Agency; CAD = Civil Affairs Division; FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization; CEPO = Community Empowerment for Progress Organization; FCA = Finn Church Aid; HRD = Human Rights Division; IOM = International Organization for Migration; MC = Mercy Corps; NP = Nonviolent Peaceforce; OHCHR = Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; PAD = Political Affairs Division; PTR = Protection, Transition and Reintegration; RoLAS = Rule of Law Advisory Section; SPEDP = Support for Peace and Education Development Programme; TOCH = The Organization for Children's Harmony; UNDP = United Nations Development Programme; UNHCR = United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF = United Nations Children's Fund; UNIDOR = Universal Intervention and Development Organization; UNMISS = United Nations Mission in South Sudan; UNPOL = United Nations Police; VSF Germany = Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany; WFP = World Food Programme; WHO = World Health Organization; WPDI = Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative; WR = World Relief

Table 5: Active projects in 2022: Area-based programmes (\$)

STATE	COUNTY	PROJECT NAME	IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	BUDGET	TIMELINE
Unity	Koch	Restoring peaceful coexistence for better livelihoods in Koch, Phase II	WR, CARE, MC, UNMISS (PTR, CAD, HRD, RoLAS, UNPOL), UNIDOR	9,242,942	12/2021–11/2023
Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jur River	Mitigating cattle-related violence in the border areas of Tonj, Gogrial and Wau	FAO, World Vision International, IOM, UNMISS (RoLAS)	5,000,000	12/2019–04/2022
Warrap	Gogrial West, Tonj North, Tonj South				
Jonglei	Bor South, Twic East, Duk, Urur, Akobo	Community violence reduction in central-southern Jonglei and GPAA	WFP, UNMISS (RoLAS, CAD, PAD, UNPOL), WHO, NP, VSF Germany, UNHCR, OHCHR/HRD, Save the Children International, CEPO, UNICEF, IOM, UNDP	13,196,395	01/2021–03/2023
GPAA	Pibor				
Central Equatoria	Yei, Kajo-Keji, Morobo, Lainya	Locally driven solutions for social cohesion and promoting early recovery in the country's former breadbasket	IOM, CEPO, SPEDP, FCA, WPDI	10,300,000	10/2021–09/2023
Warrap	Tonj South, Tonj North, Tonj East	Kong Koc: Laying the foundation for peaceful, stable and resilient communities in Greater Tonj	WFP, UNMISS, UNDP, Peace Canal, TOCH, ADRA	12,273,540	08/2022–08/2024

Note: See Figure 3 key for acronyms

Table 6: Active projects in 2022: Small grants/thematic programmes in South Sudan (\$)

THEME:	NAME	IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	BUDGET	TIMELINE
Stabilization/governance	Empowering the grassroots: Linking national and subnational processes	UNMISS CAD	629,802	01/2020–06/2022
Stabilization/governance	Targeted support to peace implementation: Enhancing political and civic space	UNMISS PAD	565,533	04/2020–01/2023

Note: See Figure 3 key for acronyms

THE AREA-BASED PROGRAMMES

Locally driven solutions for social cohesion and promoting early recovery in the country's former breadbasket


LEAD AGENCY
International Organization for Migration

PARTNERS
Finn Church Aid; Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative; Community Empowerment for Progress Organization; and Support for Peace and Education Development Programme

TIME FRAME
10 October 2021–30 September 2023

LOCATION
Yei, Lainya, Morobo and Kajo-Keji counties in Central Equatoria State

BUDGET
\$10,300,000



The map shows the outline of Central Equatoria State, with four counties highlighted in a darker blue and labeled with white boxes: Yei (west), Lainya (southwest), Morobo (south), and Kajo-Keji (southeast). The text 'CENTRAL EQUATORIA' is written in large blue letters to the left of the map.

During the reporting period, the southern Central Equatoria region witnessed a noticeable reduction of overall insecurity. This improvement is highlighted by indicators such as the return of communities, some resurgence of economic activities and the productive engagement of youth. Partner reporting from the past year highlights the contribution of the ABP to this increased stability. To some extent, the general improvement of the security context can be attributed to the consortium's efforts, notably interventions that have improved relations between politically divided communities, as well as between returnees and host communities. Through engagement of civil-military and consortium members, reduction of local violence has been seen in

Yei, Morobo and Kajo-Keji. General mobility has also improved. For the first time in three years, the commissioner of Yei River County was able to travel to Tore Payam, and the commissioner of Morobo County visited Panyume Payam for the first time since 2017.

The ABP peacebuilding activities have centred around bringing people together to discuss peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution using dialogue rather than violence. The consortium team involved, where possible, high-level decision-makers and community leaders, as well as women, youth and elderly people.

Among the most impactful interventions for peacebuilding have been the three civil-military dialogue meetings in Mundu Boma,

2022 highlights:

14 **community-based peace and security mechanisms** established and strengthened: 4 PCRCs and 10 community-based protection committees

881 (535 male, 346 female) faith-based leaders, primary school teachers, workers, local chiefs, community mobilizers, youth and women were **trained in grassroots conflict mediation, positive masculinity and women leadership**



139 **staff** (92 male, 47 female) of the police, civil defence, national security and army services **trained** in thematic topics such as crime prevention, security management, gender, human rights and trafficking in persons, community-based policing and facilitation



23 **radio talk shows** held on humanitarian law, human rights and gender-based violence



2 **women- and girl-friendly spaces** constructed in Morobo and Kajo-Keji as well as **1 technical and vocational training centre** in Yei rehabilitated



175 **youths** (119 male, 56 female) provided with **vocational training**

537 **people** (313 male, 224 female) **trained in business** and entrepreneurship and 100 **farmers** provided with off-season vegetable production and field-crop support

4,000 households comprising **5,702 people** (2,901 male, 2,801 female) supported with agricultural inputs

Kupera Payam, Lainya County and Panyume Payam, Morobo County. Two hundred and seventy eight participants (249 male, 29 female) attended these dialogues, including traditional chiefs, community elders, religious leaders, women, youth and security personnel from the South Sudan People's Defence Forces. The sessions were aimed at strengthening trust among the different actors, namely law enforcement actors (police and army) and communities, and reducing tensions while promoting peace. In addition, the ABP organized 16 advocacy and consultative meetings, which were attended by 259 people (183 male, 76 female), including military leaders, religious leaders, local government officials and community leaders, among others.

In coordination with the UNMISS Civil Affairs Division, the consortium members have maintained robust coordination with different government counterparts, including at the Ministry of Peacebuilding, Ministry of Youth and Ministry of Defence at the national level, as well as at the state and local levels. Government consultation, feedback and input have been crucial to ensure linkages to national processes, participation at key milestone events such as the project launch, multi-stakeholder validation workshops, presentation of findings and progress updates. In subsequent reporting periods, it is envisaged that the Ministry of Peacebuilding will convene ABP government counterparts in accordance with its mandate for coordinating peacebuilding interventions with relevant government entities.

In working to build local capacities for peace, the project undertook mapping of local peace structures, their capacity needs and any programmatic linkages between (or among) the local peace structures and (i) the state; (ii) national peace structures/ processes; and (iii) programmatically with the ABP. The mapping was also used to gather information regarding the security situation and how it was perceived by communities. The latter indicated a number of common causes of conflict faced by community

An important achievement during the reporting period was the adaptation of a training manual for women's leadership and peacebuilding. This guide was used to train 27 women leaders from Kajo-Keji to strengthen their capacity to effectively participate in dispute resolution.

members, including displacement (cited by 51.8 percent), SGBV (48.6 percent), looting of households (43 percent), armed conflicts (28.5 percent), attacks by thieves (24.2 percent) and cattle raiding (21.5 percent). Among the respondents, 64.6 percent agreed that peace structures play a key role in improving community livelihoods.

An important achievement during the reporting period was the adaptation of a training manual for women's leadership and peacebuilding. This guide was used to train 27 women leaders from Kajo-Keji to strengthen their capacity to effectively participate in dispute resolution. The training allowed women to strengthen their capacity in leadership and build their confidence in consideration of the situations of vulnerability that they can face and the social norms that limit their civic engagement.

SNAPSHOT OF CIVIL-MILITARY CONSULTATIVE DIALOGUE HELD IN MUKAYA PAYAM, LAINYA COUNTY

CIVILIANS IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING ISSUES THAT CREATE TENSIONS WITH MILITARY ACTORS:

- Looting of civilian properties by some members of the army deployed in Mukaya Payam.
- Beating of youths by soldiers because they are suspected by soldiers of being rebels.
- Killing of civilians by military personnel in Mukaya Payam leads to the entire population being fearful of returning.
- Harassment of civilians, especially on the roads linking villages and the internally displaced person site, makes it difficult whenever civilians try to return to their villages.
- Threatening of civilians by soldiers.
- Logging by some important military personnel without legal documents from the authorities.
- Lack of trust between civilians and the military is because any person who travels to villages within the payam is considered a rebel.
- Too much alcohol and other drugs lead to random shooting by soldiers, creating fear in internally displaced people who want to return.

THE INITIAL VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE WERE THAT THE FOLLOWING PERCEPTIONS CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE MILITARY:

- All youths in Mukaya are rebels. This makes the military distrustful of the youth in Mukaya Payam.
- All chiefs and church leaders have military rank of major in rebel army.
- The military does not report sensitive security issues, especially kidnapping by rebel chiefs and civilians.

THE KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED WERE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

- The county authorities, in conjunction with the state Ministry of Local Government and Law Enforcement, would deploy a payam director and boma administrators.
- Logging should be stopped immediately by both civilians and the military.
- All boma chiefs and head chiefs must return to their respective bomas to create a relationship with the military.
- Perpetrators of human rights violations should be held accountable for the acts committed and should be punished by law.
- Civilians should be allowed to move freely to their villages without intimidation.
- Timely communication should be channelled to the right authorities for intervention.
- Soldiers should be allowed to take leave to visit their families to reduce the incidence of rape.
- Food should be supplied in time to military barracks and military salaries should be paid on time.



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With the support of UNMISS and United Nations Police, the ABP continued efforts to promote community-driven solutions to strengthen the rule of law. In May, a security mapping exercise was conducted with the aim of understanding the relationship between the community and police, as well as challenges encountered by both police and the community in maintaining peace and security. Priority payams have since been identified to establish PCRCs, which included Yei (Yei County), Gulumbi (Morobo County), Lainya (Lainya County) and Lire (Kajo-Keji County). In the meantime, partners have been working with the Community Policing Directorate of the South Sudan National Police Service to facilitate training of trainers and awareness-raising about the community policing approach. Overall, responses from community members were positive. They welcomed the idea of establishing the PCRCs, and community leaders were confident that community policing would become a catalyst for community safety that is shaped by trust and lawfulness.

The flagship initiative of the Central Equatoria State ABP is perhaps the customary law review

exercise. Customary authorities in South Sudan are widely recognized as one of the few service-providing institutions that span the country and reach even the most remote locations and population groups. Customary authorities can (i) help prevent conflict; (ii) support social cohesion between different groups and communities and within them; (iii) protect women and girls and vulnerable groups from harmful and illegal practices and traditions; and (iv) ensure inclusion of women and youth in decision-making.

One of the main challenges related to customary law is the inconsistency in collective understanding of what laws, traditions and practices exist. There is little to no documentation, and chiefs and influential community members may abuse the uncertainty to their advantage. In working to rebuild customary authority and address the erosion of customary law, the ABP has initiated an extensive county-level community-driven process to review and document validated customary laws, which will eventually be compiled at the state level,

CUSTOMARY LAW REVIEW: YEI

Yei, a small town in the Central Equatoria region of South Sudan, was once a lively and bustling urban centre, but this changed when the second civil war erupted in 2016 forcing many people to flee from their homes and causing traditions to be lost. Due to relative calm and stability, people have returned and displaced people from other areas have arrived. And now, it's time to make amends. The International Organization for Migration brought together over 150 community members – the youth, elderly and women – to review, confirm and document the customary law.

For more information, watch the video at <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4RSdsKkGLI>>.

presented to the state legislature for adoption and processed for a warrant of establishment by the chief justice.

The review process has enabled communities to consider harmful customs and discuss possible contradictions with national legislation, including the bill of rights and the South Sudan Constitution, and to agree on their shared customs, norms and traditions. The participation of women and youth in the review of customary law and traditional practices during the first quarter of the year was the first of its kind. Participants shared that they had never been involved in such a sector, even though many of the issues directly affect them. Women actively identified negative practices and customs that removed them from decision-making spaces, especially on issues of marriage, divorce, inheritance and property rights. The programme has demonstrated real success in overturning customary laws that typically reinforced gender-based inequalities. For example, review processes have eliminated laws prohibiting women from inheriting land from their deceased husbands, included women as members of customary courts for the first time ever, harmonized rules on return of dowry for marriage and placed men and women in equal positions regarding consideration of guardianship of children in cases of divorce.

In the Kajo-Keji customary law review and documentation workshop, some sessions were broadcast live. This ensured the increased mobilization and reach of the targeted

Kuku community, especially its women, who demanded more representatives to join the workshop. A radio talk show organized on Hope FM towards the end of the workshop included women participants who debated and advocated strongly against oppressive customary laws and traditional cultural practices, and callers to the show presented their views and shared their experiences related to these topics. Overall, this activity has contributed to an improvement in the political engagement of communities, supported dialogue and communication among members of different sectors and strengthened their commitment to and space in political life in their country. Through this activity, the project contributed to placing women, youth and people with disabilities at the forefront of decision-making processes and promoted a safe community environment.

The positive peace outcomes experienced in the ABP target locations have also contributed to improved economic opportunities, evidenced in the reopening of markets and renovation of infrastructure and shops in Kajo-Keji, Lainya and Yei. In an area once known as the breadbasket of the country, the ABP ensures strong linkages between its social cohesion interventions and resilience activities, helping people understand the importance of peace for improved livelihoods.

The actions under the resilience pillar are targeted to reinforce conflict prevention by alleviating pressure on scarce resources and reviving agricultural production, ensuring positive options for the rural poor that raise the



opportunity cost of joining armed groups and making this a less viable option for them.

During the reporting period, 100 farmers (33 male, 67 female) in Lire and Liwolo payams were mobilized, registered and supported for off-season vegetable production and field-crop support with agricultural tools and seeds, including cash-for-work, with 55 feddans of land (five for vegetables and 50 for field crops) cleared for tractor ploughing. Agriculture inputs provided to support the targeted beneficiaries included farm tools (100 hoes, 100 sickles, 25 axes, 50 watering cans, six treadle pumps and two water pumps [generators for irrigation]), as well as assorted vegetable seeds. As a complementary activity, 4,000 households comprising 5,702 people (2,901 male, 2,801 female) in Kajo-Keji were mobilized and registered as crop-producing cooperatives. They received agricultural support that included tools (hoes), crop seeds (groundnuts) and vegetable seeds (tomatoes, onions and cabbage). Of the households that were reached during the distribution, 230 were from host communities, 140 were internally displaced, 3,580 comprised returnees and 50 consisted of military personnel (prison and army) living with the targeted communities.

Seventy-five individuals (67 male, 8 female) completed a three-month training course in vocational skills (i.e., masonry and concrete practice, catering and hospitality management, hair and beauty, tailoring and carpentry/joinery) and were supported with toolkits to start small businesses. An additional 100 individuals (52 male, 48 female) are involved in similar vocational skills training and are set to graduate in 2023. In partnership with the consortium members, Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative trained 537 youth (313 male, 224 female) in business and entrepreneurship from March to December 2022. The training will support these individuals to generate income and hopefully deter violent behaviour that would affect peace in the communities.

The ABP has also made progress in planning with communities for the rehabilitation of prioritized public infrastructure. Selected projects include the rehabilitation of Gurujo Primary Health Care Unit in Kajo-Keji, Lasu Primary Health Care Centre in Yei, Kanyara Secondary School in Morobo and Kenyi Primary School in Lainya. These investments will help ensure communities see the dividends of peace in terms of restoration of facilities and access to services.

KOCH AREA BASED PROGRAMME

**RESTORING PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE
THROUGH
RECONCILIATION, STABILIZATION
AND RESILIENCE
FOR
BETTER LIVELIHOODS**



**UNITED NATIONS
MULTI-PARTNER
TRUST FUND**

Reconciliation Stabilization Resilience

**Funded by:
UN MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND
IN SOUTH SUDAN**



CARE



**MERCY
CORPS**



Restoring peaceful coexistence for better livelihoods in Koch County

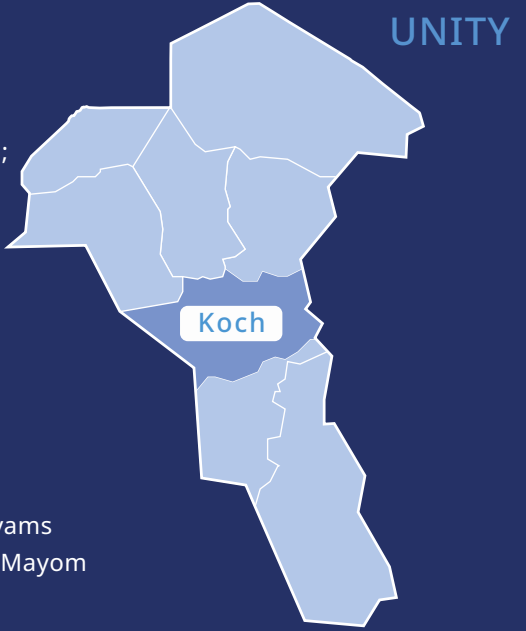
LEAD AGENCY
World Relief

PARTNERS
CARE, Mercy Corps, Danish Refugee Council (Phase I); UNMISS (Phase II); and Universal Intervention and Development Organization (Phase II)

TIME FRAME
Phase I: 4 September 2019–31 October 2021
Phase II: 2 December 2021–30 November 2023

LOCATION
Phase I: Seven payams in Koch County in Unity State
Phase II: Seven payams in Koch County and eight payams in hotspots of neighbouring counties Rubkona, Guit, Mayom and Mayendit in Unity State

BUDGET
\$14,684,719 (Phase I: \$5,441,777; Phase II: \$9,242,942)



The Koch ABP is the longest running RSRTF programme, having initially been launched in 2019. A second phase of programming was approved by the Fund Steering Committee in November 2021 to consolidate and expand promising stabilization gains achieved up to that point. This long-term commitment to the Koch community and peacebuilding in the area has allowed partners to invest the time and effort necessary to develop and strengthen the structures and behaviours needed to nurture long-term transformational change.

Partners report that the complementary reconciliation, stabilization and resilience initiatives have positively contributed to community stability, which saw a notable improvement in the second half of 2022. Between July and December 2022, Koch and its neighbouring counties witnessed a significant reduction in cattle raids and intercommunal violence and reported an upsurge in intercounty trading activities, as

well as an increasing number of people moving from the Bentiu camp for internally displaced persons and resettling in the programme areas. Partners highlight the significance of the UNMISS-led state-level peace conference and the intercounty peace dialogue between Koch, Mayendit and Leer, as well as a series of community-level peace dialogues and awareness-raising, in creating enabling conditions for the return of internally displaced people to their villages. According to the International Organization for Migration, 2,076 people (919 male, 1,157 female) had voluntarily returned to Koch by the end of 2022. This is attributed to improving stability in Koch and its neighbouring counties.

Built on the achievements, experiences and lessons of the previous phase, Phase II implementation has seen upscaling of interventions and targeted efforts to address key stabilization gaps. The programme has been expanded to include eight hotspot

2022 highlights:

21 peace dialogue, cattle restitution and other **reconciliation events facilitated** at state, county and community levels to de-escalate tensions and reduce violence

12
UNMISS
short- and long-
duration patrols
conducted

32 community-based **peace** and **security mechanisms** established and functional, including 19 peace committees, **9 community-based protection** networks and 4 PCRCs

139 people (43 men, 38 women, 45 boys, 13 girls) trained in the **community security** approach and action planning

7,805 women and girls received **psychosocial support**



14 schools established functional **peace clubs** and integrated peace education into school activities; **462 teachers** and **students** trained in peace education in schools



318 (244 male, 74 female) land committee members, local police and prison staff, paralegals, chiefs, court clerks and protection monitors, administrators, women and youths and CSO representatives **trained**

39 ex-combatants (21 male, 18 female) and **71** women associated with armed groups included in livelihood-training and social-cohesion activities

864
children and adults
supported with
formal and informal
education

120 at-risk youths (72 male, 48 female) received **vocational-skills training** (baking, tailoring, bicycle repair, weaving and knitting)



530 people (103 male, 427 female) received **small business management** and agricultural skills training

12 community assets built and equipped (6 dykes, 2 youth centres, 1 vocational centre, 1 women's one-stop centre and 2 local markets) engaging **1,250 community members** (581 male, 669 female) via cash-for-work

payams in neighbouring counties to enable preventative conflict mitigation and respond to cross-border skirmishes, which were identified during Phase I as a major source of violence. During 2022, three intercounty peace dialogues were conducted between Koch, Mayendit and Leer, attended by 473 participants (341 male, 132 female). The dialogues were held in the spirit of promoting implementation of the national peace process and the R-ARCSS.

The intercounty peace dialogues have also led the way for successful intercounty cattle restitution events. These events have proven to be overwhelmingly popular, with strong youth participation in promoting peaceful restitution of raided animals and providing a festival-type forum for enhancing peaceful coexistence and gradually transforming youth attitudes. The first occurrence took place when a group of youths in Mayendit County raided cattle from a neighbouring clan. Instead of undertaking a counter-raid, the affected community reported the matter to the local authority, who identified the culprits, organized a cattle restitution event and recovered the cattle peacefully. Cattle restitution events were also organized between the youth of Koch and Guit, as well as between Koch and Mayendit counties.

Phase II has seen UNMISS join the Koch consortium, and this has added a strategic advantage in terms of leveraging their political mandate and convening power to engage state- and county-level officials. The partners engaged political leaders at the county and state levels to restore stability and a safe working environment for humanitarian and peacebuilding actors in southern Unity State from June to October 2022, as well as ensuring that civilian protection remains a priority amid conflict. UNMISS also facilitated national-level engagement in Juba with the leadership of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in government and opposition on the security situation in southern Unity. At the state level, the partners engaged with the governor, deputy governor and Koch County commissioner to de-escalate tensions in the area and condemn the fighting in

Phase II has seen UNMISS join the Koch consortium, and this has added a strategic advantage in terms of leveraging their political mandate and convening power to engage state- and county-level officials.

Mirmir. In June 2022, the UNMISS Civil Affairs Division facilitated a county commissioners' forum attended by 45 participants (38 male, 7 female) in Bentiu, including seven county commissioners, state ministers, members of independent commissions, members of the legislative assembly, police, army, state security and local councils. The initiative served to improve cooperation and reduce tensions among political leaders and has had a discernible impact on improving stability. In the months since the forum, it has been observed that communities move freely between these counties, incidents of cattle raids have reduced and trade activities have seemingly improved.

The incorporation of UNMISS into the consortium brings with it a range of skills and expertise. In support of the programme, United Nations Police, together with ABP partners, have established four PCRCs with 76 members (53 male, 23 female) drawn from various community structures in Koch. This has contributed to increased community awareness on crime prevention and strengthened relationships between the police and community. Women and youth



have also been intentionally prioritized for membership in the PCRCs, ensuring they take a lead role in crime prevention and messaging on peaceful coexistence. Furthermore, as part of the programme's efforts to increase access to justice, 137 justice system actors (115 male, 22 female) have been trained, including local police, prison staff, paralegals, chiefs, court clerks and protection monitors.

Despite the absence of formal judicial courts, the capacity of county and payam local authorities and law-and-order sector actors has been strengthened through training and mentorship, as well as support to manage criminal cases. Three hundred and twenty-seven cases were recorded in 2022; 311 were resolved, 10 were referred from the payam

level and 6 were reported as being pending. The interventions of the ABP have enhanced capacity to report, arrest, investigate and prosecute offenders. The results have been seen in more efficient coordination, reporting and management of cases with improved documentation in the local courts, as well as better coordination between community protection networks and paralegals.

However, the ABP still struggles to achieve its stabilization objectives because of the challenges of the country's judicial capacity and infrastructure. The intent to ensure that cases of human rights violations are investigated, prosecuted and receive judgment in the formal justice system has been difficult to realize. The planned mobile court session

has had to be rescheduled to year two of the programme, despite partners identifying 38 serious cases, including murder and rape, from 2022. The postponement was a result of the absence of any proper police detention or prison facilities in which to detain suspects and those convicted. The UNMISS Human Rights Division, in collaboration with ABP partners, undertook two monitoring visits to the existing police detention and prison facility located in Koch Town. They found detainees being held in deplorable conditions and frequently able to abscond. The ABP partners have now revised initial project planning that foresaw construction and renovation of 12 separate temporary structures for the justice sector and instead will use available funds for the construction of the required detention facilities.

Ongoing improvements in the security context have given communities confidence and incentive to engage in productive activities. The ABP continues to implement activities that help deliver community dividends and demonstrate the economic advantages of sustained peace. In 2022, 580 individuals (255 male, 325 female) participated in six different community participatory planning exercises to identify community needs. Actions to mitigate floods were a major priority identified by communities. Through a cash-for-work scheme, six dykes were constructed in Gany, Kuachlual and Jaak payams, creating employment for 1,250 people (581 male, 669 female). These dykes will prevent further flooding of existing community assets, including the women's centre, youth skills centre and local airstrip. Two local markets were also supported with inputs to facilitate trading in perishable commodities and 72 local traders participated in meetings to foster linkages between traders in Koch market.

Village savings and loan association and self-help group activities continue to be an effective means to engage community members, and in 2022, 39 ex-combatants (21 male, 18 female), all youths, and 71 women associated with armed groups were integrated into savings and

Despite the absence of formal judicial courts, the capacity of county and payam local authorities and law-and-order sector actors has been strengthened through training and mentorship, as well as support to manage criminal cases.

loan association, self-help group and vocational skills initiatives. Some of the beneficiaries were equipped with skills to enable them to engage in gainful employment while others engaged in asset creation and savings mobilization. In 2022, \$6,917 was mobilized in savings, with members borrowing an average of \$150 at a rate of 10 percent.

The programme also continues to provide opportunities for learning in formal education at the renovated schools (primary and secondary schools; about 493 learners enrolled by the third quarter of 2022) and adult learning centres for second chance education (around 371 adults enrolled in the same period), which were constructed during Phase I of the ABP. In Phase II, the ABP also plans to provide mobile education for youth in cattle camps, which was identified as a priority from the Phase I evaluation; currently, the training of trainers on mobile education is under way.

Community violence reduction in central-southern Jonglei and GPAA

LEAD AGENCY

World Food Programme

PARTNERS

UNMISS Rule of Law Advisory Section; World Health Organization; Nonviolent Peaceforce; Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany; International Organization for Migration; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Police; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Save the Children International; Community Empowerment for Progress Organization; and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

TIME FRAME

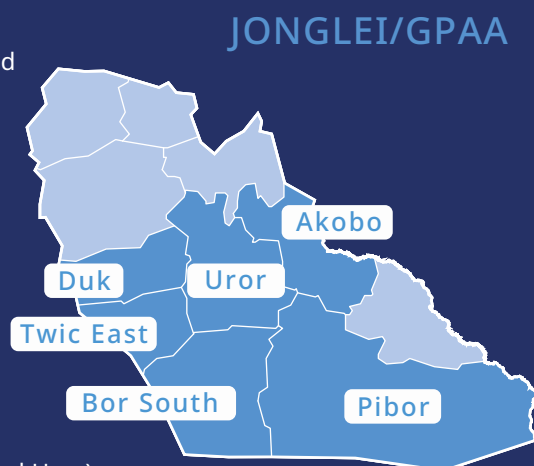
January 2021–31 March 2023

LOCATION

Jonglei State (Akobo, Bor South, Duk, Twic East and Uror) and GPAA (Pibor, Gumuruk and Lequangule)

BUDGET

\$13,196,395



During the two years the ABP has been running, a significant reduction in violence was seen in Jonglei and GPAA compared to previous years. Although December 2022 did see the mobilization of armed youths from Akobo, Duk, Nyirol and Uror to attack people in Gumuruk and

Nanaam, up until this point the efforts made by peacebuilding partners to de-escalate tensions and reduce mobilization of armed youth had been effective, resulting in meaningful improvements to community perceptions of safety and security across all target areas.

EXTENSION OF PHASE I AND PLANNING OF PHASE II

The RSRTF 2022 Programming Strategy endorsed by the Fund Steering Committee in January included a recommendation to plan for a second phase of programming in Jonglei and GPAA when the current grants expire.

The initial end date of Phase I was 30 June 2022. However, by May 2022, partners had not completed implementation of several planned activities. A six-month no-cost extension for partners with budget balances was requested and granted. During this time, the partners were expected to complete implementation of activities and submit a technical proposal for Phase II. Due to delays in the Phase II design process, another three-month cost extension was granted for World Food Programme and Nonviolent Peaceforce and a no-cost extension for the UNMISS Rule of Law Advisory Section, taking the close of Phase I to 31 March 2023.

2022 highlights:

29 high-level and community events held to **address intra- and inter-community hostilities, prevent abductions and facilitate the release** of women and children

37 **community-based protection and dispute-resolution mechanisms** established and strengthened, including 3 youth protection teams and 3 women protection teams

- **7 community early-warning and early-response mechanisms** and committees
- **24 PCRCs**



78 abducted persons (22 women, 56 children) **released** and **19 reunified** with their **families**

119 youths in cattle camps trained in **non-violent conflict resolution** and mitigation



429 **women and girls** trained to act as **change agents**, and prevent **abductions and SGBV**

347 **justice actors** (211 male, 136 female), including prosecutors, police, prison personnel, attorneys, paralegals and traditional leaders, **trained in serious crime investigation and prosecution**, relevant statutory laws, jurisdictions, referral mechanisms, human rights and fair trial principles



1,539 children (1,209 male, 330 female) supported to stay in or return to **secondary school**

594 adults (139 male, 455 female) completed functional **adult literacy classes**



11 **community assets** were constructed or improved: 3 police posts, 2 facilities at Bor Central Prison and Special Police Unit, and 6 schools

323 UNMISS short- and long-duration **patrols** were conducted

The initial progress was attributed in part to the investment of the ABP and area reference group in ongoing processes such as the Pieri Peace Agreement of March 2021, follow-up peace dialogues and shuttle diplomacy. The ABP Phase I implementation started on the back of the Pieri Conference in March 2021. This provided an anchor point for the programme to situate interventions in response to explicit intercommunal agreement.

During Phase I, ABP and area reference group partners made inroads into some of the areas that were deemed to be strategic in addressing the root causes of intercommunal violence in Jonglei and GPAA.

Under the ABP component delivered by UNMISS Human Rights Division, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Save the Children International and Community Empowerment for Progress Organization, a total of 180 abduction victims (51 women, 74 boys and 55 girls) were supported with release and reunification services. Seventy-eight of these victims were supported in 2022, greatly exceeding the initial target of 100 individuals. The return of women and children to their communities of origin by the ABP to be reunited with their families represented a tangible peace dividend to these communities. The successful return of the abductees also resulted in sustained dialogue between affected communities, including the 'exchange' of abductees between communities. The ABP activities further contributed to a significant reduction in the reported number of abduction cases amid improved peace and conflict dynamics. The rate of known cases of abduction prior to the start of the project in January 2021 fell by 97 percent (686 in 2020, 178 in 2021 and 21 as of the end of the project in September 2022) in Jonglei and GPAA.

Meanwhile, work continued in communities on local structures and processes centred around protection. Regular reconciliation activities such as local protection teams were able to develop and strengthen local structures, and rapid response at the intercommunal level mitigated attempts by spiritual leaders and

some factions of armed youth leadership to reactivate violence through mass mobilization. This work was facilitated primarily through the social cohesion (reconciliation) subgroup of the area reference group, which also drew on the presence of non-RSRTF active field partners (Peacebuilding Opportunities Fund and Peace Canal) and programmes (Shejeh Salam).

Nonviolent Peaceforce, in partnership with area reference group members and members of other projects under the RSRTF Jonglei and GPAA ABP, supported the strengthening of community mechanisms for resolving conflicts, which benefited 6,536 project participants. Among the community mechanisms established were three youth protection teams and three women protection teams in Akobo and Pibor, and seven community early warning and early response mechanisms and committees. Nonviolent Peaceforce, World Food Programme and Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany also supported joint missions and peace dialogues in Wuno, Kongor, Lekuangole, Pibor, Bor and Juba.

Through the RSRTF approach, the project benefited from the comparative advantage, expertise and capacity of UNDP, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Food Programme, UNMISS Rule of Law Advisory Section and Human Rights Division, United Nations Police and Nonviolent Peace Force, guaranteeing a holistic contribution to stabilization.

UNMISS Rule of Law Advisory Section worked with formal and informal justice actors and community representatives (with a particular focus on women and youth leaders) in Akobo, Pibor and Bor to enhance accountability and access to justice, strengthen linkages between the formal and informal justice systems and increase awareness of and compliance with national laws and international standards for human rights and fair trial. Among other events, the Rule of Law Advisory Section held rule of law and accountability conferences in multiple locations and built on the capacity of formal and informal justice actors through skills-building workshops in investigation, prosecution and



WHAT THE COMMUNITY WANTS: THE LAUNCH OF A WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN WALGAK

South Sudan's civil war has left weapons at the disposal of untrained individuals in most parts of the country, and Akobo is one of the counties with a high rate of intra-communal violence. In Walgak, the traders, who do not wear uniforms, protect the market. Because they cannot be differentiated from the traders, it is easy for intruders with weapons to enter the market. As a result, many lives have been lost in the market area, including those of humanitarian workers and students, who are unaware of the underlying dynamics with regard to security. In response to this situation, the youth, the local authority and women protection teams came up with the idea of designating a weapon-free zone in Walgak.

Nonviolent Peaceforce conducted several consultative meetings with different stakeholders in Walgak. The authorities lauded Nonviolent Peaceforce and the youth and women protection teams for their idea and supported it, identifying suitable spots for signposts.

Five weapon-free zone signposts were erected. This was followed by a launch event on 30 November 2022. The event was attended by representatives of the humanitarian agencies on the ground, the local authority, women protection teams, the Akobo West women's association, youth protection teams, members of the traders' union, spiritual leaders and chiefs.

The considerable turnout of community members and leadership for the event indicates their commitment to support the weapon-free zone initiative. The executive director of Akobo West stated that a weapon-free Walgak would be a solution to containing criminal acts in the town, particularly in the market. He urged everyone to cooperate with the police. He reiterated that it is everyone's responsibility to support the initiative and said that those who refuse to do so would be held accountable.

"This initiative is not only beneficial to the community but also helpful to humanitarians in this area because when there is peace, we can do our work without fear." – OXFAM Representative

"Nonviolent Peaceforce came here to bring peace and protect civilians. If something bad happens, it is not because they failed, and it is also not the community's fault, but it is part of the process. It is like walking; if you fall and hurt yourself accidentally, it is not your fault, and you do not stop; you stand and continue your journey. This is the same path as taking a journey to peace. Trust the process." – Tuak, Walgak Paramount Chief

The event was marked by commitment by the spiritual leaders, who gathered a day later for the ritual slaughtering of a cow to bless the innocent citizenry and condemn those who conspire to hurt others, as well as to mark an end to bloodshed through guns in Walgak.



customary court training. Additionally, the Rule of Law Advisory Section initiated a research project together with Bridge Network South Sudan to better understand perceptions of justice among Jonglei and GPAA communities. At the same time, UNDP and the Rule of Law Advisory Section sought to strengthen the capacity of justice and security sector actors to carry out their mandate through interventions like (i) capacity-building to enhance their professional and technical skills to improve on service delivery and accountability; (ii) strengthening of community governance structures and community security; and (iii) the establishment of PCRCs. According to the 2022 Jonglei State Crime report, the technical and logistical support to the South Sudan National Police Service enhanced crime response which resulted in a crime reduction rate of 27 percent (South Sudan National Police Service state crime reports, 2022).

However, in Phase I, the ABP faced challenges in strengthening formal and informal judiciary systems and linkages between the two. The implementation of stabilization activities was also negatively impacted by intra-communal conflict in Pibor and Walgak. Additionally, a high-level dialogue meeting on enhancing accountability and justice for Jonglei and GPAA

political leaders, among other actors, planned by the Rule of Law Advisory Section in Juba, was delayed due to the prevalence of tensions among the communities.

With regard to resilience, the World Food Programme engaged 1,200 youth and women (606 female, 594 male) in resilience-building activities, cultivating crop farms and vegetable gardens, and constructing community access roads and 26 kilometres of drainage channel in Akobo West and Pibor. Community access roads have enabled safe and secure movement of community members while they carry out their livelihood activities. In the face of flooding, 21 kilometres of road dykes have protected homes, livelihoods and the airstrip. This allowed flights to land and deliver commodities, and community members have been able to produce food crops and vegetables locally to supplement their dietary and nutrition needs. Through Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany's network of 120 community-based animal health workers, 16,771 head of cattle were vaccinated and 73,607 treated in Jonglei and GPAA. The exercise directly benefited 1,778 households. The World Health Organization trained 456 community health-care workers (296 female and 160 male), which exceeded the targeted number of 440

PCRC SUCCESS STORY: WOMEN CONTRIBUTING TO COMMUNITY SECURITY

Nyamai Reath, a 22-year-old female chairperson of the all-female PCRC, had this to say:

The training we received from UNDP on the role of community members in enhancing community security empowered us with knowledge and changed our attitude towards our roles and partnership with police.

Women have been empowered and improved their experience of safety, security and mobilizing youth to address security issues. [The programme has] empowered communities to articulate their security concerns through community security outreaches.

Personally, as a woman and youth, I lacked confidence to seek assistance from authorities and couldn't stand before an audience to address them, but with this programme my leadership skills have been enhanced. I am more confident to approach authorities and community members to address safety and security issues to find solutions.

The community security initiatives have helped us tackle a range of security problems, from gender-based violence and crime to a lack of trust between communities and security providers, and intra-ethnic tensions.

The community has a lot of trust in us and with the knowledge and skills acquired in March 2022, we managed to resolve a conflict between two youth groups fighting over a girl for marriage. In the past, such a situation would have escalated into a disastrous stand-off, leading to death of some members.



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participants, in Akobo and Pibor. A total of 2,484 participants (1,631 female, 853 male) accessed services (clinical and trauma consultations, and mental health and psychosocial support) in all eight health facilities supported with community violence reduction.

By providing improved access to secondary education for 1,539 people (330 female, 1,209 male), the project also contributed to South Sudan's education vision of having an informed and educated populace by 2040. In addition, the International Organization for Migration and United Nations Children's Fund, through the provision of functional adult literacy and secondary school education projects, have increased civic space by boosting participation of youth and women in leadership and decision-making processes and structures, mostly among Murle youth age-sets. This enhanced youth mobilization for community engagement on conflict.

By the end of December 2022, all partners had successfully completed planned implementation of activities, with the exception of some stabilization activities. Nevertheless, up to

the week before the mobilization incident of December 2022, intercommunal peace in Jonglei and GPAA remained strained due to the vicious cycle of persistent sporadic attacks from GPAA and threats of mobilization from Jonglei. This was worsened by the intersection of intra- and intercommunal violence, continued fragmentation and in-fighting among the leadership of the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition and the White Army, and climate-related displacement of civilians. Efforts to avert mobilization in 2022 were in the end unsuccessful due to the government's limited authority and ability to respond to violence, basic economic drivers among armed youth on both sides and the community's perception of inadequate delivery of peace dividends.

While the December 2022 outbreak of violence could be seen ultimately as an indication of failure, the current situation in Jonglei and GPAA, while mirroring some aspects of the 2020 mobilizations, is also different in key ways. Despite the escalation of violence and continued sporadic attacks, most of the programme participants and communities from both sides remain committed to pursuing social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. For instance, on 24 December 2022, Oxfam field staff in Walgak reported that programme participants who benefited from RSRTF-supported assets creation and members of women and youth protection teams did not support the mobilization and made efforts to dissuade the youth from mobilizing. Furthermore, the government and community leaders on both sides made appeals for urgent resumption of engagements to avert revenge attacks and the occurrence of future mobilization.

The December violence can be viewed as a failure of the Pieri Peace Agreement, but in another light, it has served to reinforce its legitimacy. The Lou Nuer ostensibly attacked not because Pieri failed, but because they characterized ongoing Murle attacks in central-southern Jonglei as violations of the agreement, which justified a retaliatory response. This is an important distinction and presents an opportunity for Phase II

Despite the escalation of violence and continued sporadic attacks, most of the programme participants and communities from both sides remain committed to pursuing social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

programming to build on the Pieri process and gains, while addressing the gaps that the outbreak of violence has highlighted.

Identified gaps to be addressed in Phase II:

- *Insufficient explicitly agreed details on responsibility and accountability.* Agreed accountability measures are minimal. There are no non-violent consequences for failure to implement even these accountability measures. Definitions of what accountability and for whom are also imprecise.
- *Under-delivery on community expectation of dividends.* The messaging on linkage between peace and dividends has been increasingly strong, but the tangible delivery of dividends weak. Community perception is that the dividends are not a sufficient disincentive to the use of violence to address ongoing sporadic violence.
- *Disruption of continuity in intercommunal in-person forums.* Progress and constructive engagement have been solid when in-person intercommunal meetings take place, but these have not happened for almost 12 months. Interim communication channels are not established systematically. The last 12 months have seen only ad hoc measures, reliant on proactive actors. Meanwhile, in the absence of direct exchanges, inflammatory narratives have more easily gained traction.

While positive progress was made in Jonglei and GPAA during the RSRTF ABP Phase I, inter- and intra-communal violence remains the primary threat to the stability gains achieved to date. The seasonal and cyclical recapitulation of intercommunal violence in Jonglei is linked to persistent cattle raiding and abduction of children and women by suspected armed youth from GPAA – often referred to as criminals by GPAA local authorities – followed by mobilization of central-southern Jonglei youth for revenge attacks on Pibor. This is exacerbated by the proliferation of small and light weapons. These factors remain the main threat to stability and peace in the region.

Keeping the Lou Nuer and Murle committed to the Pieri and subsequent peace agreements, bringing the Dinka Bor and Gawaar back to the peace process and engaging armed youth in deep, isolated interiors will be crucial to promoting and sustaining negative peace in the subregion. Building on Phase I gains and taking into account lessons learned from past interventions, ABP Phase II will continue to address the root causes of conflict, violence and marginalization to shift the incentives for violence through strengthened community structures, formal and informal justice systems and livelihood opportunities to facilitate a transition to a more stable future.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PHASE I INDEPENDENT EVALUATION

1. The ABP needs to focus in the areas where the Dinka Bor, Gawaar, Lou Nuer and Murle communities intersect; grievances are high; and violence is organized.
2. The ABP interventions need to be anchored to the Pieri Peace Agreement.
3. Women and youth are key to peace promotion and ongoing peace processes.
4. The recovery of abductees and prevention of abduction build confidence in the ABP and peace process.
5. Community assets and material support provide incentives for and tools to engage in positive livelihoods and peace promotion efforts.
6. A flexible funding mechanism, which was introduced towards the end of the community violence reduction project, is critical to responding to or averting crises.
7. To the greatest extent, community needs should be jointly assessed and interventions should be co-located for maximizing impact.

These findings have been incorporated into the design of Phase II of the ABP.



2/06/2020

01 - 2576
09

1 Year - 11 months
1 month - 15 days
15 days/year = 11 x 15 = 165
165 x 2 = 330

English

Kong Koc: Laying the foundation for peaceful, stable and resilient communities in Greater Tonj

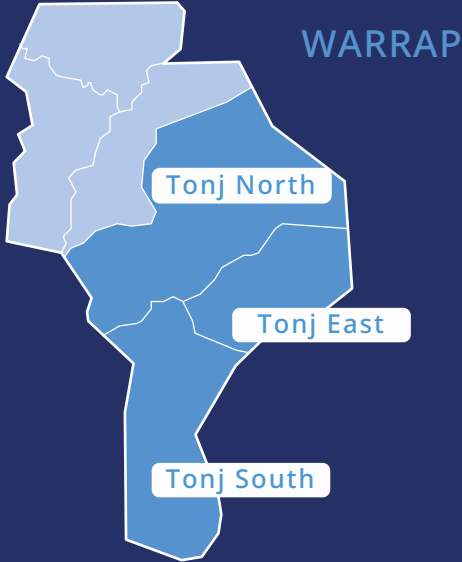
LEAD AGENCY
World Food Programme

PARTNERS
UNMISS; UNDP; Peace Canal; The Organization for Children's Harmony; and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency

TIME FRAME
15 August 2022–14 August 2024

LOCATION
Tonj North, Tonj South and Tonj East counties in Warrap State

BUDGET
\$12,273,540



The map shows the outline of Warrap State in South Sudan. Three counties are highlighted in a darker blue and labeled with white boxes: Tonj North (top), Tonj East (middle), and Tonj South (bottom). The rest of the state is shown in a lighter blue.

Launched in August 2022, the Kong Koc programme is the RSRTF's newest and fifth ABP. It is designed to tackle the multi-layered and complex dynamics that underpin ongoing violence in Tonj. The programme uses a phased approach to engage those directly responsible for violence and strengthen community structures and practices for conflict management, while creating simultaneous linkages with local governance structures. Contributions to peace are placed at the forefront of programme design, which is centred on two key questions: (i) Do the interventions support those communities or areas facing the highest levels of conflict? and (ii) How can any given activity or intervention disincentivize violence and/or incentivize peace?

The programme design maximizes the flexibility offered by the RSRTF framework and methodology, combining (i) effective reconciliation approaches on affected communities' own terms, focusing on relational foundations for peace; (ii) integration with material dividends (resilience) and

strengthening institutional frameworks (stabilization); and (iii) effective mitigation (rather than elimination) of persistent conflict issues. The adaptive peacebuilding approach is informed by careful consideration of past attempts to build peace in the area. Importantly, the ABP situates dialogue events as part of a systematic process that also envisages clear accountability mechanisms

The adaptive peacebuilding approach is informed by careful consideration of past attempts to build peace in the area.

2022 highlights:

30

UNMISS
long-duration
patrols
conducted

18

peace monitoring committees and reference groups

formed or restructured at payam and county levels, involving women's representatives, youth, cattle camp leaders, chiefs, subchiefs, non-governmental organizations, prison service, police service, local government and other peace partners

305

peace monitoring committee members

(182 male, 123 female) trained in early warning of conflict, conflict management and roles and responsibilities of community committees



3

ABP inception meetings were held in Tonj, Warrap and Paliang, attended by **206 representatives** (161 male, 45 female) of county, payam and boma authorities, chiefs, cattle camp leaders and women's groups



CSOs operating in Tonj North, South and East **mapped** to facilitate engagement between government and local communities



© WFP

and investments that deliver substantive peace dividends, livelihood activities and community assets to help disincentivize violence. The latter elements increase the likely sustainability of progress achieved in social relationships.

The project, which uses a phased approach, is geared towards making target populations active partners who own and oversee the peacebuilding process in Greater Tonj. By the end of December 2022, Phase 0, the preparation phase of the programme, had been completed. This was an important step in obtaining an authorizing environment and rebuilding community trust in the potential for a dialogue process, building on reflections of why efforts have failed in the past and ensuring an in-depth understanding of processes, outcomes and lessons from previous peace, stabilization and resilience interventions.

The project has so far contributed to creating an enabling environment that will lead to substantive contributions to improving peace and conflict dynamics in target communities. Three inception meetings were held in Tonj, Warrap and Paliang, attended by various levels of formal and informal county, payam and boma authorities, chiefs, cattle camp leaders and women representatives (161 male, 45 female), with the aim of introducing the project and raising awareness of planned Kong Koc interventions among communities. The reconciliation pillar formed/restructured 12 peace monitoring committees at payam level (105 male, 84 female), three county peace monitoring committees (51 male, 20 female) and three reference groups at county level (26 male, 19 female). The committees include representatives of women, youth, cattle camp leaders, chiefs, subchiefs and non-governmental organizations, as well as members of the prison service, police service, local government and other peace partners operating in the areas. Training of peace monitoring committees was conducted in the payams from 17 to 22 December 2022. The training was conducted to empower participants on early warning of conflict, conflict management and roles and

The project has so far contributed to creating an enabling environment that will lead to substantive contributions to improving peace and conflict dynamics in target communities.

responsibilities of peace monitoring committees in the community. At the same time, UNMISS peacekeepers have been coordinating with programme partners to reinforce the joint commitment to peacebuilding. UNMISS has also been patrolling conflict hotspots to curtail tensions between communities, deter violence and build confidence.

In preparation for developing the accountability components of the programme, Phase 0 focused on ensuring mutual understanding of the objectives, scope and feasibility of support between UNMISS and UNDP, which together led the analysis into the outcomes of the community peace conferences and community dialogues that have taken place since 2019. Initial mapping of justice actors in the area has been undertaken and the local organization Bridge Network South Sudan has been engaged to develop a research project on perceptions of justice, which will assist UNMISS and UNDP in understanding community perspectives of historical and current views of the justice system and community priorities. Further mapping took place to identify CSOs for planned engagements between government and local communities on issues of governance, rule of law, human rights and peacebuilding institutions. A further mapping



exercise was completed with government officials to ascertain capacities and inform the scope and type of good governance training to be carried out. In addition, the Radio Miraya transmitter in Tonj Town, Tonj South County, was rehabilitated so it can serve as a means to support open public debate, promote civic engagement and provide a platform for advocacy. Recruitment of an international security and law enforcement specialist and national rule of law specialist was also completed, and both specialists will deploy to Kuajok in January 2023.

To date, actions under the resilience pillar have been minimal, as decision-making related to activities to be implemented are yet to be determined with communities and project partners. The exact targeting will be done during the main dialogues and county dialogues foreseen for the engagement phase so that livelihoods and resilience interventions are perceived to be part and parcel of the

Kong Koc programme, specifically as dividends of participation in peace interventions.

In preparation, a resilience capital analysis survey was conducted in November 2022, with collaboration and inputs from various state and local government representatives and rural development cooperatives to take stock of existing assets and livelihoods in Greater Tonj. Partners also engaged with youth representatives from Greater Tonj in Juba to highlight how the project will support and engage youth on developing their livelihoods and provide them with agency in peace interventions. Since young men are often the perpetrators of violence (as well as its victims), their interest and participation will be critical for the success of the project and they will be targeted for participation in as many ways as possible, including in dialogues, community-based participatory processes, livelihoods interventions and stabilization interventions such as non-armed community policing.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE KONG KOC PROGRAMME

It was all about creating solid ground for peaceful relations when communities from the Greater Tonj area got together for a dialogue.

In the local language, *kong koc* means 'to wait', just as communities in Greater Tonj are doing. More specifically, they are waiting for peace and development after years of frustration caused by intercommunal violence and lack of resources.

Funded by the South Sudan RSRTF, the Kong Koc programme has started its engagement phase of activities, consisting of a number of dialogues to restore communities' faith and hope in peaceful coexistence.

With that objective, a three-day consultation for communities in Greater Thiet, located in Tonj South, was held to prioritize issues and recommendations from pre-dialogues, understand and review the communities' concepts of accountability and decide on a way forward.

"I'm happy that our partners approach us with initiative and enthusiasm. However, we must strengthen our institutions and empower young people and women. Conflicts have ended in our communities, but we still lack food and infrastructure," said William Deng Majok, Administrator in Thiet Payam. "We hope that the government and peace partners can help us develop agriculture and boost local business."

Besides lacking resources, shaky rule of law was unanimously cited as the primary cause of conflict in the area.

"It's time to re-evaluate the laws we've always used to settle disputes. They are antiquated, they often ignore the rights of women, not least when it comes to criminal cases. For instance, we don't want convicted rapists to be released from jail after paying cows [as compensation to the survivor] but to be held fully accountable," said Aluel Akuol, a women's representative from Jak Payam.

Insufficient justice infrastructure remains another challenge for citizens wanting to report crimes.

"We lack both police stations and prisons. People are forced to travel long distances to report incidents, often on foot, which sometimes makes people desist," said Marco Manyang, a cattle camp leader in Wanh-alel, who also calls for more training of law enforcers. "The police are often unable to handle investigations and the perpetrators of crimes properly because they don't know how to do it. Soon after handing over cash or cattle, the criminals are at large again," he added.

According to Sabine Arnold, a legal adviser working with UNMISS, progress has been made.

"I'm happy you all have a firm grasp on how crimes should be reported, because that was not the case before. Please continue to identify challenges you are encountering when you try to adhere to the proper procedures, because we may be able to include and address these issues by means of the Kong Koc programme," she told participants.

Rose Anyang, Warrap State's Minister of Gender and Social Welfare urged neighbouring communities to maintain their currently peaceful relations. She also appealed to partners to invest more in the needs of women and young people.

"We need activities that can empower these groups, including support centres for survivors of gender-based violence and workshops on leadership and conflict prevention," the minister said.

The dialogue was supported by multiple partners, including UNMISS, UNDP, WFP, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Peace Canal and The Organization for Children's Harmony.

Originally published at <https://unmiss.unmissions.org>

KEY FINDINGS OF THE NOVEMBER 2022 RESILIENCE CAPITAL ANALYSIS SURVEY

- The respondents in Greater Tonj perceived access to basic services and critical infrastructure to be an impeding factor to adaptive capacity. Additionally, they felt that their resilience is further reduced by low livelihood diversity and income stability.
- The demand for a skilled labour force in Greater Tonj is growing, particularly in sectors such as construction, automotive mechanics and other mechanics-related fields. Nonetheless, the current labour force in the three counties does not have the required skills, competencies and attitudes to take advantage of these job opportunities.
- The lack of proper education infrastructure and equipment, such as schools and learning materials, coupled with low numbers of qualified teachers, has contributed to the low literacy levels in the community. Existing cultural norms were also identified to have greatly contributed to the low education levels among women and girls.
- Social capital has been greatly affected by the numerous incidents of tribal conflicts in the area. As such, there has been a notable deterioration of relations and trust among the different tribal groups, which has greatly shifted existing kinship networks and support in communities.
- Access to financial services, such as loans and savings, is limited in Greater Tonj. Weak financial inclusion has severely undermined the realization of economic opportunities in the area.
- Like most parts of South Sudan, Greater Tonj is well endowed with natural resources. Nonetheless, although these endowments are key factors for production and economic growth, there was a unified response by most respondents that these resources were the drivers of conflict in the area.
- Local government has limited capacity to regulate the sector, and this has had significant negative implications for forests and the general environment.
- In concluding, the report stated that interventions geared towards strengthening economic, human and social capital will likely be most effective in building overall resilience to conflict shock in Greater Tonj.

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Mitigating cattle-related violence in the border areas of Tonj, Gogrial and Wau

LEAD AGENCY

Food and Agriculture Organization

PARTNERS

International Organization for Migration; UNMISS Rule of Law Advisory Section; World Vision International; and The Organization for Children's Harmony

TIME FRAME

16 December 2019–30 April 2022

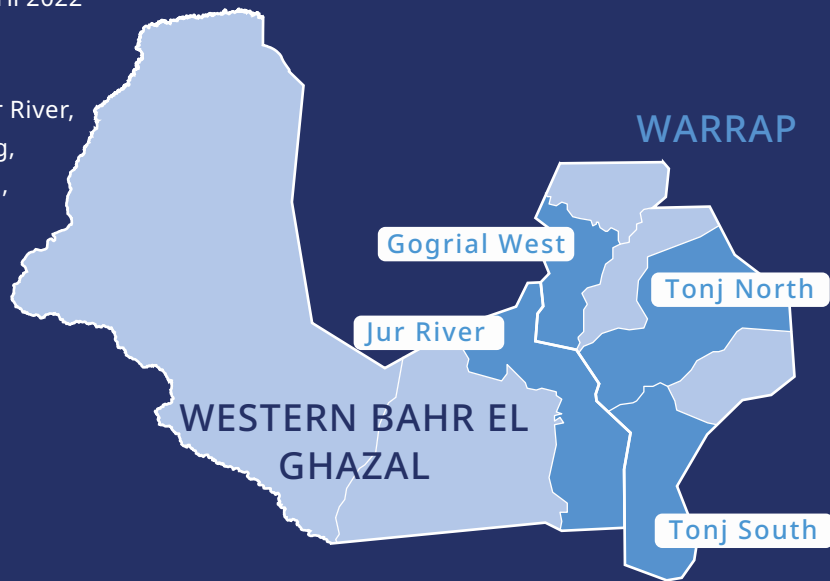
LOCATION

Western Bahr el Ghazal: Jur River, Alur, Kuajena, Rocrocdong, Marial Bai, Wal Bai, Mapel, Udici, Gette and Kangi counties.

Warrap: Alel, Gogrial West, Kuac North, Kuac South, Makuok, Manaloor, Pagol, Tonj South and Wath-Alel

BUDGET

\$5,000,000



The RSRTF-funded ABP, which was formed to mitigate cattle migration-related violence in the border areas of Western Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap states, concluded on 30 April 2022.

During the implementation, which began in January 2020, cattle migration-related violence markedly decreased. Very few violent incidents were recorded in Jur River during the 2021 and 2022 dry seasons. Notably, the interventions have strengthened capacity at the community level of peace committees, local chiefs and youth to enhance conflict management and peacebuilding.

The border area between Western Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap is a historically fragile

and contested area owing to the conflation of cattle-related conflict with the overarching political conflict of the country, as well as competition over increasingly scarce natural resources. Following a particular episode of fierce fighting between armed Dinka cattle herders from Warrap and Lou, and Fertit farmers and Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition elements in 2019, the RSRTF allocated \$5 million to a consortium led by the Food and Agriculture Organization to implement a 'whole-of-system' approach with reconciliation, stabilization and resilience components, anchored in the United Nations strategic plan to mitigate cattle raiding-related conflict in the country.

2022 highlights:

75
UNMISS
patrols
conducted

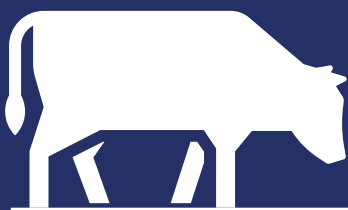
19 intra- and inter-community **disputes addressed** by programme-supported peace structures

7 **conflict management and reconciliation interventions** implemented at subnational level



18 **cases**, involving **22 defendants**, investigated, prosecuted and decided on by the Joint Special Mobile Court (JSMC), resulting in **12 convictions**, **6 acquittals** and **4 defendants** having their cases dismissed, discharged or stayed

22 **defendants** (21 male, 1 female) received **legal aid**



46 **members** (41 male, 5 female) **trained** in hide and skin processing

5 livelihood groups from Tonj North, Tonj South and Gogrial West counties **trained**

5 community assets constructed (1 auction yard, 1 milk bar and 3 boreholes)

1 new community-based water management committee established – in addition to 4 existing committees – and all members **trained**



3 pasture management committees established and functional in Tonj South, Tonj North and Gogrial West counties

Aligned to the RSRTF objective of supporting and reinforcing locally led peace initiatives, the programme adopted the R-MBA as a foundation around which to focus interventions. These included strengthening the Marial Bai Agreement peace structures, including the committees (intrastate coordination committees, dispute resolution committees and monitoring committee), chiefs, payam administrators, youth leaders and local peace actors. In collaboration with R-MBA committees, local authorities and peace partners in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap, the ABP carried out 96 interventions geared to promote and consolidate intercommunal reconciliation, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. The capacitated local structures, including the R-MBA committees, played an instrumental role in rapidly responding to and de-escalating community tensions, thus preventing the snowballing of small incidents into large-scale intercommunal violence. Mobile peace responses were deployed to sensitize local communities on salient provisions of

A major success of the ABP has resulted from the partners' efforts to respond to communities' repeated calls for accountability and the introduction of a viable justice mechanism as an alternative to resolving disputes through the pursuit of vengeance.

the R-MBA, monitor seasonal movements of cattle and de-escalate and resolve tensions and emerging conflicts between farmers and cattle herders in hotspots. The ABP successfully helped resolve 101 incidents of conflict in the community (90 percent of the target). The response agility, mobilizing power and presence of this mobile peace response was seen by both communities and partners as a critical contributor to the significant reduction of violence witnessed during the 2021 and 2022 cattle migration seasons. In addition, sports and cultural interventions provided spaces for youth to form mutual bonds, develop cordial relationships and connect across traditional divides, facilitating enhanced social cohesion. These platforms also contributed to wide dissemination of and sensitizing of communities on the R-MBA and other resolutions, strengthening adherence to and compliance with agreements regulating the interaction of communities during the cattle migration season.

A major success of the ABP has resulted from the partners' efforts to respond to communities' repeated calls for accountability and the introduction of a viable justice mechanism as an alternative to resolving disputes through the pursuit of vengeance. The establishment of and support for the deployment of the JSMC in remote and hard-to-reach areas allowed people to report serious crimes where there was no access to the regular judicial system. Local communities reported that the JSMC provided hope to people that their grievances would be addressed and peace would return to their communities.

From May to July 2021, the JSMC was deployed for the first time to Mapel and Rocrocdong, where it investigated 68 cases, issued 65 arrest warrants for 94 suspects and completed six trials, which resulted in four convictions and two acquittals. From 24 January to 11 March 2022, the JSMC was deployed for the second time to Gette, Kuanjena, Makuok, Tonj North, Tonj South and Western Bahr el Ghazal. During this deployment, the JSMC conducted

In all locations where the JSMC was deployed, local communities attributed enhanced peace and stability to its presence and requested that it stay for longer periods to hear more cases.

35 investigations involving 66 accused, and tried 22 defendants in 18 cases. As a result of these cases, 12 defendants were convicted and six were acquitted. The cases for another four defendants were either discharged or dismissed. Overall, the two JSMC deployments and case assessment missions carried out during this project resulted in the collection of 1,400 complaints containing allegations of almost 2,200 crimes. A total of 103 investigations and 24 cases were decided, which involved 28 defendants, of whom 16 were convicted and eight acquitted. In all locations where the JSMC was deployed, local communities attributed enhanced peace and stability to its presence and requested that it stay for longer periods to hear more cases. In general, the presence of the JSMC in affected communities was credited with deterring crimes such as rape and other forms of SGBV, murder, robbery and looting, which were prevalent at the start of the project. It also helped build understanding and trust in the formal justice system and increased access to justice. Responses from victims of violent incidents indicated an increase of 13 percent in the number of incidents reported to the police, as well as a 9 percent increase in the number of incidents reported to chiefs.

The JSMC's success can be attributed to the partners' positive engagement with state and local authorities, such as boma administrators, local chiefs, payam administrators and local police, who were actively engaged and worked directly with the court to complete investigations, arrests and trials.

The resilience pillar of the ABP sought to limit competition and related conflict over major perennial water sources and reduce livestock movement into neighbouring farmers' and other pastoralist community areas through rehabilitation and construction of water infrastructure along approved migration routes. Three boreholes were constructed and are functional in Gogrial West (Kuach South) and Tonj North (Man-Aloor and Pagol payams). However, as there are multiple migratory routes, more water points for both pastoralists and farmers in Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal would be beneficial to increase project impact and efficacy.

Further initiatives under the resilience pillar were effective in addressing overgrazing which, in turn, can help prevent longer-term land and environmental degradation, as well as facilitate peace through improving interdependencies, economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods between communities.

A total of nine community-based pasture management groups (six for common grazing land and three pasture management committees) were established to serve as a platform for pasture management and the promotion of participatory rangeland management systems, including community dialogues, participatory range resource mapping and rangeland restoration. The community-based resource management groups engage in fodder production and have established community-owned dry-season grazing reserves. The rangeland users have adopted sustainable water and pasture management practices, like rotational grazing, fencing off water points and controlling the number of animals using water points at any one time by allowing them access in shifts.

The rehabilitation of a 48-kilometre road linking Western Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap states through Kuajena and Pagol payams under the ABP further contributed to strengthening socioeconomic interdependencies between cattle herders and farmers by facilitating access to markets and deepening social cohesion. In addition, the initiative contributed to improving security in the border area, spurring the two state governments to address the safety and security of citizens during the cattle migration season through the first ever joint police patrol team and traffic police posts along the new road.

The Wau–Warrap ABP faced many challenges in its initial inception that are not uncommon to large joint programming initiatives. Lack of coordination and effective collaboration among key partners and stakeholders resulted in patchy implementation between the pillars of the programme, and the somewhat disjointed nature of the activities undermined the RSRTF approach of bridging silos to achieve synergistic effects. The partners worked hard to overcome these challenges, and the decision in April 2021 to limit and concentrate efforts within agreed priority counties was fundamental to the eventual successes reported.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE JSMC RESUMING WORK ON CASES RELATED TO CROSS-BORDER CATTLE MIGRATION

Cattle raids and conflicts between cattle herders and farmers along the border dividing the states of Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal are common during the seasonal migration of the animals as they search for pasture and water. A JSMC has been set up to handle such disputes in the Warbet and Pagol areas.

“The [first] deployment of the court [in 2021] has definitely improved the security situation. Kuajena and Pagol payams have not engaged in conflict for a long time, which has made previously displaced people return home,” said Ariath Nhial, Paramount Chief of Pagol Payam, as the new incarnation of this dispensary of justice was inaugurated.

The mobile court resumed operations in Warbet following the end of the annual cattle migration between the two states. It will investigate cross-border incidents that have taken place from 2020 onwards during the seasonal cattle movement.

“As members of the community, we strongly support the court to bring criminals to justice,” said Alek Arik Alek, a female representative from Pagor. “The big turnout at the launch demonstrates the cooperation and unity between the people of Pagor and Warbet,” she added.

UNMISS and the International Organization for Migration support the mobile court logistically and with technical skills to facilitate its operation.

Speaking on behalf of UNMISS, Anastasie Mukangarambe, head of the mission’s field office in Kuajok, urged the state governments to extend their cooperation to the court.

“For sustainability, we believe that it is essential that the two state governments find ways to continue executing cases arising from seasonal migrations by making the best possible use of existing internal mechanisms,” she said.

The JSMC stayed in Warbet until the end of February and was deployed to Raja County in early March.

Originally published on <https://unmiss.unmissions.org>



SNAPSHOT OF KEY CHALLENGES REPORTED BY PARTNERS DURING 2022

- Challenges encountered included an unpredictable security situation that posed threats to humanitarian workers, limiting access to field locations; increased floods that displaced communities; limited access to project sites; inhibited transportation of project supplies; and late recruitment of project staff by most implementing partners, which affected the timing and implementation of planned activities.
- In Phase I of the RSRTF Jonglei–GPAA ABP, conflict dynamics increased the scale, scope and complexity of the needs of the population.
- The proliferation of small arms following decades of armed conflict has reduced the power of local authorities.
- Armed cattle herders from Bor and Terekeka continue to graze their livestock in the crop gardens of returnee agricultural communities in Lainya and Kajo-Keji. Even though cattle herders are not part of the project activities' scope, this issue is intertwined with the project's focus and has become part of the consortium's advocacy work at the political and local levels due to its major impact on the life of beneficiaries.
- Pervasive illegal logging also poses a significant obstacle to the implementation of the project as associated difficulties require action by law enforcement agencies, which is beyond the Fund consortium's mandate.
- Partners face major challenges in accessing some of the locations targeted by the project due to insecurity. A security incident in Kajo-Keji also led to delays in the implementation of the project activities due to the resulting tension and widespread fear in the targeted communities.
- The rainy season made some locations difficult to reach, with poor road conditions and overgrown vegetation making navigation to some of the far-flung areas challenging. Partners noted that road access – especially to Kajo-Keji, Lainya and Morobo counties – still poses challenges to the delivery of materials for project implementation.
- The planned civil–military dialogue for Liwolo Payam in Kajo-Keji County in August 2022 had to be postponed due to flooded streams in the area. While occasional air transportation of materials has been adopted as an alternative to road transport, the cost is significantly . For this reason air freight is limited to Yei and Kajo-Keji counties.
- There were delays in food deliveries in both Akobo West and Pibor as a result of flooded roads during the rainy season and the first quarter of the year, and subsequent repeated attacks on convoy movements between Bor and Gadiang and between Gadiang and Yuai.
- The situation was exacerbated by dry spells followed by heavy rains, which overwhelmed the lowlands and destroyed crop plantations. Even though some crops did survive this period of flooding, those that remained were completely devoured by birds. These unfortunate and devastating environmental conditions meant that previous work done to build livelihood resilience within communities was to no avail.

- Stabilization and resilience agendas were heavily affected by the difficulty in integrating these with reconciliation activities that were consistently unpredictable due to the context. Resilience activities went forward positively on their own terms, but were less integrated than envisaged because of the seasonal timelines they were beholden to, such as crop production during the rainy season and community infrastructure development (e.g., building access roads) during the dry season. Overall, the approach had at times unsatisfactory geographic and strategic coherence.
- Politically, the situation changed during the reporting period with various commissioners being replaced. Starting afresh with new administrations created challenges with regard to the implementation and monitoring of peace agreements that had been instituted by previous commissioners.
- International sanctions of Russian-registered companies, including those with specialized aircraft for air drops of food, caused enormous challenges in the World Food Programme's logistics operations in Jonglei and GPAA, where air transport at times is the only means to get food to the most remote and vulnerable communities. This has affected food deliveries to programme participants.
- Poor mobile networks at some remote locations make it difficult to mobilize effectively, causing many delays. In



response, partners have begun to depend more on radio stations for mobilization in areas with no network.

- Some critical planned activities did not occur because of bureaucratic requirements, including specific approvals from different leaders, such as for the civil–military dialogues. More than one approval is demanded in some locations from the government and the National Salvation Front, and as parties did not issue approvals timeously, some activities had to be postponed.
- The main challenges posed to the JSMC were the lack of execution of arrest warrants by state authorities and initial resistance from local communities, who did not fully understand the purpose or scope of the court.
- Due to insecurity and floods in Tonj North, the Greater Tonj ABP was not able to deploy staff and partners.
- The main challenges that the consortium team encountered in the implementation of activities was the security situation in some areas, the rainy season and rising prices due to the war in Ukraine.
- Internally displaced people from Gumuruk occupied Pibor Girls’ Primary School in early January 2022 for fear of revenge attacks. Displacement of communities and youth mobilization also affected school attendance.
- Jonglei State experienced compounded shocks across most counties, including unprecedented floods that have displaced people, restricted mobility and disrupted markets and delivery of humanitarian assistance to the flood-affected population.
- Access to northern Jonglei and GPAA was affected by various incidents: (i) disgruntled youth blocked the Bor–Pibor road, delaying the prepositioning of humanitarian supplies for Pibor; (ii) a World Food Programme-led force-protected convoy to northern Jonglei was

ambushed in February 2022, supplies were looted and one United Nations peacekeeper was injured; and (iii) due to funding constraints, logistics cluster air assets were reduced, and resulting access constraints delayed the delivery of construction materials to Pibor and Akobo, affecting the timeline for school construction and renovation project activities.

- Project location accessibility outside Pibor Town (e.g., Lekuangole, Gumuruk and Verteth) was a critical challenge due to insecurity-related incidents and flooding. The International Organization for Migration attempted accessing distant project locations using boats, but some locations, such as Gumuruk and Lekuangole, were not accessible for a long period, either by boat or road. GPAA’s Ministry of Health provided a boat for humanitarian partners to hire. However, the hiring prices were very high, ranging from \$500 to \$700 per boat.
- Hostility to humanitarian agencies was evident. In Pibor, the United Nations Department of Safety and Security reported an increased level of threats against humanitarian workers in 2022 compared to previous years. Several humanitarian agencies reported intrusions and robberies in their compounds or during programmatic missions.
- There were challenges in the sequencing of interventions and in information-sharing as the different partnerships under the ABP reported directly to the Secretariat. Tremendous efforts were made to promote the unified coordination of all ABP projects, as a consolidated ABP strengthens accountability and coordination. Although challenges still exist, the area reference group has emerged as a platform that generally can resolve and contain major coordination issues.

THEMATIC GRANTS WINDOW

The RSRTF initiated the TGW, initially termed the Small Grants Window, or SGW) in January 2020 as a mechanism for nimbler application of funding within a shorter implementation time frame to react to windows of opportunity and deliver quick impact, as well as strengthen existing ABPs through allocation of funds for thematic gaps and priorities. After the establishment of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity in February 2020, the RSRTF reframed the SGW as a 'Peace and Governance Thematic Grants Window' that more explicitly targeted the national peace process. The objective of the Peace and Governance TGW was to foster a conducive peacebuilding environment more broadly in South Sudan through engagement on political and policy processes that support implementation of the national peace process, as the ultimate precondition for peace and stability.

RSRTF THEMATIC GRANTS AWARDED TO DATE

1. UNMISS Civil Affairs Division

Empowering the grassroots: Linking the national and subnational processes. The project ran from 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2022 with a total budget of \$629,802. Its main aims were “to empower grassroots stakeholders and opinion leaders across South Sudan and broaden their space for engagement by providing a platform to enhance grassroots participation in national peace implementation, bridge subnational and national processes, facilitate dialogue between local constituencies and their national leaders and influence national policy on sustainable peace themes”.

2. UNMISS Political Affairs Division

Targeted support to peace implementation: Enhancing political and civic space. The project ran from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2021 (\$565,533 budget).^{*} Its main aim was “to increase political understanding and dialogue amongst a multi-tiered audience in order to increase inclusive civic and political participation in the implementation of the peace agreement and in the political landscape, laying the foundation to support a credible election process during the transitional period”.

3. International Organization for Migration

Promoting peace and solidarity in the face of COVID-19 in Juba, Bentiu and Wau. This project ran from 1 August 2020 to 31 October 2021. Using the TGW modality and reflecting the Fund’s ability to quickly react to changes in an evolving context, the steering committee acted decisively to respond to the COVID-19 context, allocating funds in support of the International Organization for Migration project, which aimed to enhance citizen participation in COVID-19-related governance processes and promote peaceful coexistence and social cohesion, while combating stigmatization and engendering the cooperation needed to limit and respond effectively to the spread of the disease.

^{*} Implementation of activities was completed on 31 December 2021. Grant extension to January 2023 was for administration only.



The ‘first generation’ of thematic projects ended in the first quarter of 2022. With differing opinions among RSRTF Steering Committee members on what should be done with the TGW moving forward, particularly regarding the RSRTF’s role in relation to national programmes that are detached from the area-based programming approach, the RSRTF launched an independent evaluation to determine the extent to which its approach to thematic funding is helping the Fund achieve its goals and to what extent the R-MBA and UNMISS Political Affairs Division grants had achieved their objectives.

Specifically, the evaluation sought to provide guidance and recommendations to the Steering Committee on the future application of the TGW in consideration of the group’s relevance as it relates to the RSRTF’s focus on funding comprehensive ABPs. An earlier independent evaluation, the 2021 Fund-level, early-stage evaluation, already underscored the need to critically reflect on the Fund’s approach to thematic funding.

It found that:

“[g]iven the scale of the task and the many difficulties that confront the peace process, it is difficult to envision investments such as those provided by the SGW [TGW] having substantial impact on the political space in South Sudan. In this sense, there may be a mismatch between what these projects sought to achieve and what was realistic through the smaller funding envelopes and shorter time frames of the SGW [TGW]. Moving forward, the RSRTF might consider ways of leveraging investments through the SGW [TGW] in a more strategic manner”.

In addition, the evaluators noted that:

“small-scale interventions are likely to be without any sustainable effect towards the very ambitious goal of the SGW [TGW], which is to support a conducive political environment at the national level and to link ABP activities with peacebuilding at the national level. These aims are probably beyond the scope of what the SGW [TGW] can reasonably achieve. Instead, the usefulness of the SGW [TGW] could be the support of complementary activities to ABP that focus on the state and county levels”.

The RSRTF and implementing partners should seek out commitments from government institutions at all levels to provide more tangible support to selected activities.

The TGW independent evaluation was launched in April 2022. The evaluation team employed a mixed methods approach that included a document review, key informant interviews, focus group discussions and a field visit to Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal State. The team spoke to 63 people for this evaluation, 47 men and 16 women, over an 11-week period between May and July 2022. The final report was submitted to the Steering Committee in November 2022 with the following key recommendations:

- There are currently no other comparable funding mechanisms available to support the type of work that R-MBA and UNMISS Political Affairs Division did in the TGW projects. Nonetheless, the RSRTF should readjust the TGW to align more closely with the RSRTF terms of reference (as amended). This could be done by framing the TGW as an instrument that seeks to bridge national and subnational peacebuilding processes as they relate to specific ABPs. Such an approach might involve, for example, mediation between the local and national levels in relation to a specific

political problem that has arisen in an ABP implementation area.

- RSRTF TGW projects should focus on quick, measurable impact that is commensurate with the invested funds. Projects should have clear targets that reinforce ongoing ABPs. Projects should also apply the pathway of agency integration as it is followed in ABP.
- The RSRTF Secretariat and implementing partners should invest in stronger project designs for TGW projects from the outset. While TGW projects are conceived as quick and opportunistic interventions that seek to capitalize on emerging opportunities, they still require strong project designs that account for longer-term considerations. A stronger design could also mitigate the constant revision of project activities to address new political developments.
- The RSRTF should open the TGW to a more diverse set of actors, particularly South Sudanese organizations that are already active in the thematic areas that are being addressed. This could also help to build on the relationships and networks that were established in the first generation of TGW projects. Awards to entities other than UNMISS should take into consideration the role that UNMISS might play in project activities, including consulting on projection design phases and ensuring budget allocations that enable UNMISS support when needed.
- The RSRTF and implementing partners should seek out commitments from government institutions at all levels to provide more tangible support to selected activities. In addition to in-kind or financial support, the RSRTF could try to adopt a phased approach in which it focuses on government institutions with the capacity to deliver and gradually creates space for those institutions to take the lead in implementing the plans that emerge from engagements.

CROSS-PARTNER LEARNING

In June, the RSRTF hosted its second annual learning event. In total, around 65 partner representatives participated, including representatives of each of the Fund's four ABPs in addition to RSRTF Steering Committee members, donors, local community members and strategic stakeholders such as the undersecretary for peacebuilding from the South Sudan Ministry of Peacebuilding, three UNMISS heads of field offices and a representative of UNMISS Force (Sector Unity), as well as partners from Peace Canal, the United Kingdom Peacebuilding Opportunities Fund, the Shejeh Salam project (funded by the United States Agency for International Development) and World Bank.

Throughout the two-day workshop, representatives of each of the four ABPs presented their programmes' key achievements and challenges. The RSRTF's partners welcomed the opportunity to get together and exchange lessons learned from the past few years of implementing their violence reduction programmes.

Key themes that emerged during the discussions centred on (i) early signs of stability gains in RSRTF target locations; (ii) the Fund's approach to the 'triple nexus' (humanitarian, development and peacebuilding activities), coherence and coordination; (iii) the importance of political engagement; and (iv) localization, sustainability and exit strategies.





Early signs of stability gains in RSRTF target locations

Representatives of each RSRTF programme presented their approach and how they are working to reduce conflict in their respective areas. Partners shared encouraging early signs of stability gains, for example, in the Western Bahr el Ghazal-Warrap border area, Jonglei and GPAA, where violence has reportedly decreased, coinciding with implementation of the ABPs.

Coordination and coherence

Enhancing coherence between humanitarian, development and peace actors' initiatives is at the heart of the RSRTF's approach. As the Fund's partners are pioneering different ways of linking and integrating reconciliation, stabilization and reconciliation activities, partners used the event as an opportunity to learn from their

counterparts about the different governance and coordination structures each has put in place. As standard, all RSRTF programmes are built around area reference groups, which ensure coordination and coherence between ABP consortia and other non-RSRTF grant recipient actors in the area.

The ABPs all reported that regular information exchange has enabled partners to deconflict and layer activities and maximize opportunities to create synergies. In Pibor, for example, Nonviolent Peaceforce was able to leverage Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) Germany's access to cattle camps to deliver peacebuilding training. Because of the pastoral livelihood support VSF Germany provides, it enjoys a unique relationship with cattle camps, including with armed cattle herders. Nonviolent Peaceforce could build on the existing trust between cattle herders and VSF Germany to introduce peacebuilding activities. During the learning workshop, partners also shared a range of challenges the area reference groups are facing, including challenges in joint planning and difficulties in (i) ensuring coherence across multiple consortia and a vast geographic area; and (ii) speaking about contributions to peace with one consortium voice.

Partners also shared a range of good practices adopted, including the following:

- *Leveraging comparative advantages:* United Nations, non-United Nations, national and international partners have different strengths and weaknesses. The RSRTF's ABPs work to build on these comparative strengths to maximize results for violence reduction.
- *Drawing on the peacekeeping capabilities of UNMISS:* Given its mandate, size, presence and resources, UNMISS has a significant comparative advantage in the country compared to other international partners. The RSRTF's hybrid structure as a joint UNMISS and United Nations Country Team initiative enables the Fund's ABPs to capitalize on these resources while at the same time fostering greater coherence between UNMISS's and wider partners' actions.

- *Dedicating sufficient resources to consortium management and coordination:* One of the main lessons learned by the Fund and its partners is that ABP coordination requires dedicated human resource capacity for effective ABP leadership, coordination, communication and management support, as well as for coordination of monitoring, evaluation and learning activities across the consortium.
- *Ensuring consortium-wide monitoring, evaluation and learning:* Establishing a consortium-wide monitoring, evaluation and learning working group can help streamline data collection and analysis.
- *Catalysing internal and wider coordination and coherence:* The Fund's emphasis on enhancing coherence has encouraged implementing partners to overcome institutional silos, including internally, where different units may be responsible for different workstreams under one ABP. Area reference groups have also been instrumental in establishing effective area-based coordination, bringing together multiple parallel initiatives to enhance coherence and complementarity.
- *Localizing coordination efforts:* As one Koch ABP representative put it, "Coordination needs to happen where the rubber meets the road – among the frontline teams."
- *Committing to continued learning and adaptation:* Soliciting feedback from area reference group members and adapting coordination mechanisms over time are necessary preconditions for a functioning triple nexus.
- *Providing unearmarked funding:* Workshop participants highlighted that it is essential to have flexible unearmarked funding to be adaptive to changing dynamics but also to achieve coherence across the triple nexus, allowing for organizations to adjust actions and focus according to the gaps and priorities identified in consultation and consideration of all actors' capacities and resources.

The 'primacy of politics' and importance of political engagement

Workshop discussions highlighted the need to engage political actors at all levels who have influence over conflict parties to foster the political will required to negotiate an end to violence. Participants stressed the critical role of UNMISS leadership and heads of field offices, as well as of the political and civil affairs components, who have the mandate and expertise to engage political actors from local to national levels.

Localization, sustainability and exit strategies

Workshop participants discussed what localization means to them, shared examples of successful localization from their ABPs and reflected on associated challenges and risks. Examples included the Western Bahr el Ghazal-Warrap ABP's support to Marial Bai peace committees and the Jonglei-GPAA ABP's community-based participatory planning process. Workshop participants identified several contextual, institutional and systemic challenges, including the unstable political situation, local authorities' implication in human rights abuses, elite control of non-governmental organizations,

Workshop discussions highlighted the need to engage political actors at all levels who have influence over conflict parties to foster the political will required to negotiate an end to violence.



youth unemployment protests and limited government spending on public services. Institutional challenges raised included limited state institutional capacity and responsiveness, as well as a perceived or actual lack of robust financial and project management capacities among community-based and national implementing partners. Participants also highlighted systemic issues, including hurdles South Sudanese entities are facing in accessing international funds, the project-based nature of external funding, the unintended consequences of subcontracting to national organizations and the challenge of ensuring responsible exits and transitions.

Workshop recommendations included the need to:

- Maintain the RSRTF's focus on supporting violence reduction in conflict hotspots for as long as required.
- Reinforce the triple nexus and build on good practices developed to date.
- Continue reflecting on the implications of the 'primacy of politics'.
- Involve more government actors in learning activities.
- Continue innovating.
- Keep prioritizing evaluations and increasingly look at longer-term impact.

Recommendations specifically on advancing localization included the need to:

- Contribute to system-wide efforts to develop a new localization approach in South Sudan.
- Continue increasing the number of South Sudanese implementing partners.
- Include community members in programme design.
- Facilitate more discussions on exit strategies and sustainability.
- Establish step-by-step plans for capacity-building from the onset.
- Co-resource activities with South Sudanese stakeholders to increase ownership.
- Be accountable to local communities and authorities.
- Make monitoring, evaluation and learning activities more participatory.
- Manage risks.
- Review recruitment policies.

Ninety-seven percent of participants stated that the workshop was very useful to them. One participant appreciated the "great platform for learning and sharing", while another commented that "the RSRTF community of practice is big and competent" and that "there is a lot to learn from each other".

The RSRTF donors' strong representation at the workshop was highly appreciated by the Secretariat and the Fund's implementing partners and provided a clear signal of a willingness and commitment to constructive engagement to further refine and enhance the results of the Fund.

FUND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Introduction

This consolidated annual financial report of the South Sudan RSRTF was prepared by the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office in fulfilment of its obligations as administrative agent, as per the terms of reference, the memorandum of understanding signed between the MPTF Office and the participating organizations, and the standard administrative arrangement signed with contributors.

It covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2022 and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the South Sudan RSRTF. All information given in this section may be viewed on the MPTF Office Gateway (<https://mptf.undp.org/fund/ssr00>).

The MPTF Office, as administrative agent, is responsible for concluding a memorandum of understanding with participating organizations and standard administrative arrangements with contributors. It receives, administers and manages contributions, and disburses these funds to the participating organizations. The administrative agent prepares and submits annual consolidated financial reports, as well as regular financial statements, for transmission to stakeholders.

This section presents financial data and analysis of the South Sudan RSRTF using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December 2022.

Source and uses of funds

As of 31 December 2022, seven contributors deposited \$78,866,668 and \$570,806 was earned in interest. The cumulative value of these funds was \$79,437,475. Of this amount, \$60,048,968 has been net funded to nine participating organizations, of which \$30,789,965 has been reported as expenditure. The administrative agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1 percent on deposits

and amounts to \$788,667. Table 7 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses and balance of the South Sudan RSRTF as of 31 December 2022.

Partner contributions

Table 8 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this fund as of 31 December 2022. The South Sudan RSRTF is currently being financed by seven contributors. Table 8 includes financial commitments made by these contributors through signed standard administrative agreements with an anticipated deposit date as per the schedule of payments by 31 December 2022, and deposits received by the same date. It does not include commitments that were made to the Fund beyond 2022.

Interest earned

Interest income is earned in two ways: (i) on the balance of funds held by the administrative agent (Fund earned interest); and (ii) on the balance of funds held by the participating organizations (agency earned interest) where their financial regulations and rules allow return of interest to the administrative agent. As of 31 December 2022, Fund earned interest amounted to \$570,806; no interest was received from participating organizations in 2022 (see Table 9).

Transfer of funds

Allocations to participating organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the administrative agent. As of 31 December 2022, the administrative agent has transferred \$57,175,052 to eight participating organizations (see Table 10).

Table 10 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the participating organizations.

Table 7: Financial overview, as of 31 December 2022 (\$)

	ANNUAL 2021	ANNUAL 2022	CUMULATIVE
SOURCE OF FUNDS			
Contributions from donors	21,833,989	17,631,049	78,866,668
Sub-total contributions	21,833,989	17,631,049	78,866,668
Fund interest and investment income earned	58,757	174,323	570,806
TOTAL: SOURCE OF FUNDS	21,892,746	17,805,372	79,437,475
USE OF FUNDS			
Transfers to participating organizations	32,039,181	12,924,509	57,175,052
Net funded amount	32,039,181	12,924,509	57,175,052
Administrative agent fees	218,340	176,310	788,667
Direct costs	597,265	1,355,238	2,873,916
Bank charges	369	385	1,431
TOTAL: USE OF FUNDS	32,855,154	14,456,443	60,839,066
Change in Fund cash balance with administrative agent	(10,962,408)	3,348,929	18,598,409
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	26,211,888	15,249,480	–
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	15,249,480	18,598,409	18,598,409
Net funded amount (includes direct cost)	32,636,446	14,279,747	60,048,968
Participating organizations' expenditure (includes direct cost)	13,313,781	11,271,558	30,789,965
BALANCE OF FUNDS WITH PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS	19,322,665	3,008,189	29,259,003

Table 8: Contributions, as of 31 December 2022 (\$)

CONTRIBUTORS	TOTAL COMMITMENTS	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31 DEC 2021	CURRENT YEAR JAN–DEC 2022	TOTAL DEPOSITS
Government of Canada (formerly Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade)	3,961,769	1,386,957	2,574,812	3,961,769
Government of Germany	18,215,659	18,215,659	–	18,215,659
Korea International Cooperation Agency	2,200,000	2,200,000	–	2,200,000
Government of Netherlands	10,000,000	6,741,572	3,258,428	10,000,000
Government of Norway	25,181,170	19,064,847	6,116,323	25,181,170
Swedish International Development Cooperation	18,221,074	13,626,584	4,594,490	18,221,074
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	1,086,996	–	1,086,996	1,086,996
TOTAL	78,866,668	61,235,619	17,631,049	78,866,668

Table 9: Sources of interest and investment income, as of 31 December 2022 (\$)

INTEREST EARNED	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31 DEC 2021	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC 2022	TOTAL
ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT			
Fund interest and investment income earned	396,484	174,323	570,806
TOTAL: FUND INTEREST EARNED	396,484	174,323	570,806
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION			
Total: Agency interest earned	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	396,484	174,323	570,806

Table 10: Transfer, refund and net funded amount by participating organization, as of 31 December 2022 (\$)

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	PRIOR YEARS CUMULATIVE AS OF 31 DEC 2021			CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC 2022			TOTAL		
	TRANSFERS	RE-FUNDS	NET FUNDED	TRANSFERS	RE-FUNDS	NET FUNDED	TRANSFERS	RE-FUNDS	NET FUNDED
FAO	3,500,000	-	3,500,000	-	-	-	3,500,000	-	3,500,000
IOM	13,102,000	-	13,102,000	-	-	-	13,102,000	-	13,102,000
NGOs/UNDP*	5,581,560	-	5,581,560	-	-	-	5,581,560	-	5,581,560
UNDP	9,616,255	-	9,616,255	7,977,922	-	7,977,922	17,594,177	-	17,594,177
UNHCR	1,569,284	-	1,569,284	-	-	-	1,569,284	-	1,569,284
UNICEF	898,000	-	898,000	-	-	-	898,000	-	898,000
UNMISS	3,065,631	-	3,065,631	65,533	-	65,533	3,131,164	-	3,131,164
WFP	6,220,148	-	6,220,148	4,881,054	-	4,881,054	11,101,202	-	11,101,202
WHO	697,665	-	697,665	-	-	-	697,665	-	697,665
GRAND TOTAL	44,250,543	-	44,250,543	12,924,509	-	12,924,509	57,175,052	-	57,175,052

* Allocations to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are transferred to UNDP, which acts as the managing agent.

Note: See Figure 3 key for acronyms

Expenditure and financial delivery rates

All final expenditures reported are submitted as certified financial information by the headquarters of the participating organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Joint programme/project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each participating organization, and are reported to the administrative agent as per the agreed-upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The expenditures are reported via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool.

Expenditure reported by participating organizations:

In 2022, \$12,924,509 was net funded to participating organizations, and \$10,600,347 was reported in expenditure. As shown in Table 11a, the cumulative net funded amount is \$57,175,052 and cumulative expenditures reported by the participating organizations amount to \$28,843,258. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of 50.45 percent.

Expenditure reported by category: Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each participating organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency

Table 11a: Net funded amount and reported expenditures by participating organization, as of 31 December 2022 (\$)

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE			DELIVERY RATE (%)
			PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31 DEC 2021	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC 2022	CUMULATIVE	
FAO	3,500,000	3,500,000	2,772,057	124,752	2,896,808	82.77
IOM	13,102,000	13,102,000	2,498,951	1,798,495	4,297,446	32.80
NGOs/UNDP*	5,581,560	5,581,560	5,441,777	16	5,441,793	97.50
UNDP	17,594,177	17,594,177	373,073	4,323,771	4,696,844	26.70
UNHCR	1,569,284	1,569,284	829,794	739,490	1,569,284	100.00
UNICEF	898,000	898,000	322,956	522,015	844,970	94.09
UNMISS	3,131,164	3,131,164	1,320,559	558,729	1,879,288	60.02
WFP	11,101,202	11,101,202	4,245,057	2,454,027	6,699,084	60.35
WHO	697,665	697,665	438,688	79,052	517,739	74.21
GRAND TOTAL	57,175,052	57,175,052	18,242,910	10,600,347	28,843,258	50.45

* Allocations to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are transferred to UNDP, which acts as the managing agent.

Note: See Figure 3 key for acronyms

Table 11b: Expenditure by United Nations Development Group budget category, as of 31 December 2022 (\$)

CATEGORY	EXPENDITURES			PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROGRAMME COST
	PRIOR YEARS CUMULATIVE AS OF 31 DEC 2021	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC 2022	TOTAL	
Staff and personnel cost	2,543,037	1,484,744	4,027,781	14.92
Supplies, commodities and materials	2,494,952	1,087,090	3,582,042	13.27
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	134,196	508,418	642,614	2.38
Contractual services expenses	5,080,037	3,341,854	8,421,890	31.21
Travel	553,417	566,205	1,119,622	4.15
Transfers and grants	4,787,757	2,558,184	7,345,941	27.22
General operating costs	1,474,133	374,390	1,848,524	6.85
Programme costs total	17,067,528	9,920,885	26,988,413	100.00
Indirect support costs total*	1,175,382	679,462	1,854,844	6.87
GRAND TOTAL	18,242,910	10,600,347	28,843,258	-

* Indirect support costs charged by participating organizations, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted up front or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7 percent agreed upon for ongoing projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7 percent.

harmonized reporting. In 2006, the United Nations Development Group established six categories against which United Nations entities must report inter-agency project expenditures. Effective from 1 January 2012, the United Nations Chief Executives Board modified these categories as a result of International Public Sector Accounting Standards adoption to comprise eight categories.

Cost recovery

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the terms of reference, the memorandum of understanding concluded between the administrative agent and participating organizations, and the standard administrative arrangements concluded between the administrative agent and contributors, based on rates approved by the United Nations Development Group.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2022, were as follows:

- *The administrative agent fee:* 1 percent is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period, \$176,310 was deducted in administrative agent fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2022, \$788,667 has been charged in administrative agent fees.
- *Indirect costs of participating organizations:* Participating organizations may charge 7 percent indirect costs. In the current reporting period, \$679,462 was deducted in indirect costs by participating organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to \$1,854,844 as of 31 December 2022.

Accountability and transparency

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring

and reporting to the United Nations system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (<https://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has set standards in providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information that includes contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by participating organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge-sharing and management among United Nations organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to United Nations coherence and development effectiveness.

Direct costs

The Fund governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a participating organization to cover costs associated with Fund coordination, covering overall coordination and fund-level reviews and evaluations. These allocations are referred to as 'direct costs'. In the reporting period, direct costs charged to the fund amounted to \$1,355,238. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2022, \$2,873,916 has been charged as direct costs (see Table 12).

Table 12: Direct costs (\$)

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	CURRENT YEAR NET FUNDED AMOUNT	CURRENT YEAR EXPENDITURE	TOTAL NET FUNDED AMOUNT	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
UNDP	1,355,238	671,211	2,873,916	1,946,707
TOTAL	1,355,238	671,211	2,873,916	1,946,707

Expenditure by project grouped by theme/outcome

This section displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and financial delivery rates by theme/outcome by project/joint programme and participating organization.

Table 13: Expenditure by project within theme/outcome (\$)

THEME/OUTCOME/PROJECT NO. AND PROJECT TITLE	PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	PROJECT STATUS	TOTAL APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE (%)	
RECONCILIATION							
00125498	Reducing violence and intercommunal conflict	UNHCR	Ongoing	1,569,284	1,569,284	1,569,284	100.00
RECONCILIATION: TOTAL			1,569,284	1,569,284	1,569,284	100.00	
RESILIENCE							
00125496	Providing access to quality learning through secondary school education and functional adult literacy in Jonglei and GPAA	IOM	Ongoing	802,000	802,000	-	-
00125496	Providing access to quality learning through secondary school education and functional adult literacy in Jonglei and GPAA	UNICEF	Ongoing	898,000	898,000	844,970	94.09
RESILIENCE: TOTAL			1,700,000	1,700,000	844,970	49.70	
RECONCILIATION, STABILIZATION, RESILIENCE							
00117636	Restoring peaceful coexistence for better livelihoods in Koch	NGOs/ UNDP*	Ongoing	5,581,560	5,581,560	5,441,793	97.50
00119273	Mitigating cattle-related violence in the border areas of Tonj, Gogrial and Wau	FAO	Ongoing	3,500,000	3,500,000	2,896,808	82.77
00119273	Mitigating cattle-related violence in the border areas of Tonj, Gogrial and Wau	IOM	Ongoing	1,500,000	1,500,000	-	-
00125495	Community violence reduction in central-southern Jonglei and GPAA	UNMISS	Ongoing	1,111,911	1,111,911	517,415	46.53
00125495	Community violence reduction in central-southern Jonglei and GPAA	WFP	Ongoing	6,805,584	6,805,584	6,699,084	98.44

* Allocations to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are transferred to UNDP, which acts as the managing agent.

THEME/OUTCOME/PROJECT NO. AND PROJECT TITLE	PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	PROJECT STATUS	TOTAL APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE (%)	
00125495	Community violence reduction in central-southern Jonglei and GPAA	WHO	Ongoing	697,665	697,665	517,739	74.21
00128842	Locally driven solutions for social cohesion and promoting early recovery in the country's former breadbasket	IOM	Ongoing	10,300,000	10,300,000	3,797,446	36.87
00129524	Restoring peaceful coexistence for better livelihoods in Koch County Phase II	UNDP	Ongoing	8,419,024	8,419,024	3,376,599	40.11
00129524	Restoring peaceful coexistence for better livelihoods in Koch County Phase II	UNMISS	Ongoing	823,918	823,918	278,944	33.86
00132894	Laying the foundation for peaceful, stable and resilient communities in Greater Tonj	UNDP	Ongoing	7,977,922	7,977,922	399,323	5.01
00132894	Laying the foundation for peaceful, stable and resilient communities in Greater Tonj	WFP	Ongoing	4,295,618	4,295,618	-	-
RECONCILIATION, STABILIZATION, RESILIENCE: TOTAL			51,013,202	51,013,202	23,925,151	46.90	
STABILIZATION							
00119364	Empowering the grassroots: Linking the national and subnational processes	UNMISS	Ongoing	629,802	629,802	549,594	87.26
00120689	Targeted support to peace implementation: Enhancing political and civic space	UNMISS	Ongoing	565,533	565,533	533,336	94.31
00123084	Promoting peace and solidarity in the face of COVID-19 in Juba, Bentiu and Wau	IOM	Ongoing	500,000	500,000	500,000	100.00
00125497	Community security for the most vulnerable groups in Jonglei State and GPAA	UNDP	Ongoing	1,197,231	1,197,231	920,922	76.92
STABILIZATION: TOTAL			2,892,566	2,892,566	2,503,852	86.56	
GRAND TOTAL			57,175,052	57,175,052	28,843,258	50.45	

Note: See Figure 3 key for acronyms



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