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**PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** SOUTH SUDAN

**TYPE OF REPORT: FINAL**

**YEAR of report:** 2021

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| **Project Title:** Protecting women and girls in South Sudan: Addressing GBV as a catalyst for peace.  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:** | |
| **If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:**  Country Trust Fund  Regional Trust Fund  **Name of Recipient Fund:** | **Type and name of recipient organizations:**  **(Convening Agency)**  **UN Women**  **UNDP**  **UNICEF** |
| **Date of first transfer:** 05/09/2019  **Project end date:** 22/08/2021  **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** Yes | |
| **Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:**  Gender promotion initiative  Youth promotion initiative  Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions  Cross-border or regional project | |
| **Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):**  **Recipient Organization Amount**  UNFPA$ 1,000,000  UNDP $ 500,000  UN Women $ 500,000  UNICEF $ 1,000,000  Total: $ 3,000,000  Approximate implementation rate as percentage of **TOTAL** project budget: 99%  \*ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE\*  **Gender-responsive Budgeting:**  Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: 100%  Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: 100% | |
| **Project Gender Marker: Gen Marker 3**  **Project Risk Marker:**  **Project PBF focus area:** | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: UNFPA  Project report approved by: RCO  Did PBF Secretariat review the report: No | |

**PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS**

Briefly outline the **status of the project** in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1500 character limit):

The UN joint project under this initiative, brought together 4 UN agencies to deliver on the prevention and response to GBV, recognizing that it is a part of the Revitalized Agreement for Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, National development strategy of South Sudan, the UNSCR 1325 and its National Action Plan and the UN Nations Peacebuilding plan, all advocating for and promoting Women, Peace and Security agenda; peacebuilding, Gender equality and respect for, and protection of, human rights and fundamental freedoms is at the core of the resolutions. The report marks the end of the project report.

During the project period, the project reached to 13,758 individuals (approximately 90% women and girls) through case management support and engagement with the duty-bearers and service providers, and 1,100,000 individuals through community outreach using radio, and physical outreach approach for prevention of and addressing GBV as catalyst for peace. There were several challenges faced during the implementation period, i.e. Covid-19 pandemic, the floods and inter-communal conflicts in Bor, Akobo and Aweil, and navigating bureaucratic hurdles in setting up the GBV response services which provided for an opportunity for the project partners to adapt strategies to continue services for GBV survivors in the project areas. As a result of these timely adaptations, the life-saving GBV services and community engagement were continued in the times when the risk of GBV and related inter-communal tensions increase even further.

As the end of the project demonstrates, following key achievements can be recounted under the overall tenure of the project –

* 87%, women’s perception of their inclusion and equality in society;
* 2 GBV One Stop Centers established and operational against a target of 2;
* 152, number of service providers with increased skills and other capacity in providing integrated response services against a target of 100;
* 54,980, number of People (SADD) which are aware of the existence and services of the One Stop Centre in the intervention areas against a target of 20,000;
* 5 advocacy issues raised by women through 5 peace huts initiatives on early marriage, wife inheritance, property ownership, girl–child education and revenge killings;
* 441 women and girls trained on facilitation skills on women participation in peace process against a target of 350;
* 33.7% of cases prosecuted to completion against a target of 5%;
* 85% of target population that views GBV as less acceptable after participating in the Community perception survey against a target of 75%;
* 20 community action groups addressing GBV, peacebuilding, social cohesion and social norms and negative cultural practices against a target of 16;
* 200 trained community action group members with increased knowledge on addressing negative social norms, & increasing women and girls’ engagement in peace building and social cohesion against a target of 200;
* 16 implemented community action plans addressing peace building, social cohesion and negative social and cultural norms and practices that contribute to GBV against a target of 16;
* 173,400 number of people (women, men, girls and boys) reached through weekly and monthly community dialogues and awareness raising on social norms, peace building, reconciliation, stigma reduction and GBV prevention and response against a target of 30,000.

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| **Output** | **Lead Agency** | **Collaborating partners** | **Beneficiaries reached till August 2021** |
| Output 1 | UNFPA | * UN Joint programme agencies * Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare * Smile Again Africa Development Organization * ADAFIN * Nile Hope | GBV survivors: 2126 (including auxillary services helpdesk)  GBV service providers: 485  GBV duty bearers: 80  Community Action Groups: 15  Community outreach: 54,980 (radio shows and home outreach) |
| Output 2 | UN Women | * UN Joint programme agencies * UNMISS * American Refugee Committee (ARC) * Steward Women * INTERSOS | Women including GBV survivors: 4192; girls: 602; men including local authority, community leaders: 1,731; boys: 388 |
| Output 3 | UNDP | * UN Joint programme agencies * Action for Children Development Foundation –South Sudan (ACDF) * Humanitarian Aid for Change and Transformation (HACT) * Humanitarian and Development Consortium (HDC) * Upper Nile Youth Mobilization for Peace and Development Agency (UNYMPD) | Survivors: 1078 ( 798 women, 280men)  Service providers and duty bearers trained: 62 (33 female)  Community members reached with messages of human rights and GBV |
| Output 4 | UNICEF | * UN Joint programme agencies * American Refugee Committee (ARC) * African Initiative for Rural Development (AIRD) * CARE International South Sudan | GBV response and prevention messages: 6,330 people (2,689 women, 1,917 adolescent girls, 996 men, 728 adolescent boys)  Distribution of dignity kits: 140  Community discussion leaders trained: 67 (24 women, adolescent girls, 29 men, 4 adolescent boys) as champions for 21 community discussion groups in Aweil, Bor and Twic East. Through this, 743 participants (329 women, 119 adolescent girls, 217 men, 78 adolescent boys) actively engaged; of which 85% registered positive change in personal beliefs and attitudes.  Community mobilization: 804,062[[1]](#endnote-1) people were reached |

Overall, the One Stop Centres set up by UNFPA in Aweil and Akobo in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Gender, Child and social Welfare provided immediate, urgent and confidential medical, psychosocial and legal services to total 788 survivors of GBV. Total 488 service providers and duty bearers were trained on provision of multi-sectoral GBV services, GBV concepts, guiding principles and referrals, and referral pathways were updated. Total 15 Community Action Groups, each group comprising of about 15 active community members are established to coordinate and act as community level support system for the survivors and to ensure the sustainability of the project.

To promote women’s participation in peace initiatives, in Aweil, the Women empowerment Centre (WEC) in Bor and Akobo provided support to 2763 women survivors and 940 men including local authority and community leaders were reached to strengthen women’s groups participation in local peace processes and increase civic engagement on GBV prevention and response. Community neighbourhood watch groups were established in Bor and Akobo to provide tracking, referrals and reporting on violence against women, group/family counselling, prevention of and ongoing discussions on ending violence against women and girls. In Akobo, women have received support for business training on embroidery, knitting, hair dressing and bed sheet decoration.

Addressing the access to justice, UNDP worked with partners to provide legal representation for the survivors of GBV and legal awareness across communities while continuing counselling and referral services for GBV survivors to institutions that provide psychosocial support in Bor and Aweil. During the project period 2459 survivors, received counselling and legal assistance through the help desks at the police stations. This was made possible through two new Justice and Confidence Centres (JCCs) established and renovation of four pre-existing JCCs in Aweil and Bor. The JCC served as central operating units employing various approaches, i.e. (i) establishment of four auxiliary help desks operating at police stations; (ii) recruitment, training and deploying forty-four community volunteers; and (iii) strengthening the linkage between community volunteers and Special Police Units, Women and Girls’ Friendly Spaces and other relevant government institutions.

These approaches ensured speedy and timely reporting, investigation and processing of GBV cases for prosecution and referral to relevant services for their recovery including medical, psychosocial and counselling support. Additionally, UNDP built the capacity of justice actors such as judges, investigators, prosecutors and social workers and customary chiefs was undertaken to empower them to conduct fair investigation, prosecution and prevention of GBV related cases.

During the project duration, September 2019 to August 2021, UNICEF reached 6,330 people (2,689 women, 1,917 adolescent girls, 996 men, 728 adolescent boys) through GBV prevention and response and social norms transformation messages. 67 Community Discussion Leaders (24 women, adolescent girls, 29 men, 4 adolescent boys) were trained to as champions for change to lead 21 community discussion groups in Aweil, Bor and Twic East. Through the community discussions, 743 participants (329 women, 119 adolescent girls, 217 men, 78 adolescent boys) were actively engaged; out of which 85% registered positive change in their personal beliefs and attitudes against gender-based violence through the longitudinal belief assessment conducted. 25 Action plans were launched and implemented by the various groups, the actions include advocacy to community leaders on child marriage, radio talk shows and awareness raising at community level. Through the actions 804,062[[2]](#endnote-2) people were reached by door-to-door campaigns, radio talk shows, drama and music shows, church events, public rallies and community meetings.

**FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION:**

The project witnessed a steady increase in the number of GBV survivors accessing the GBV response services across all the entry points, i.e. One Stop Centres, Justice and Confidence Centres and Women’s Empowerment Centres and Community Action Groups. This is an early indicator of the positive impact of the project. Behaviour change has been observed in administration of justice by the traditional leaders as they are referring GBV cases to the Justice and Confidence Centres as opposed to making rulings as had previously been the case. This is attributed to their understanding that GBV is a crime and should be prosecuted in a court of law. The shift in mind set by the communities and traditional leaders where GBV is seen as a crime is seen progress in achieving project objectives.

During the period, all the GBV response services sustained support systems for the survivors of GBV, 29 Community Discussion groups, and 15 Community Action Groups were formed in several locations of Jonglei and Northern Bahr Ghazal States have gone through training and capacity building to talk about their values, visions and how sexual violence inhibits the community from realizing these values and vision for peace. Out of the 725 participants involved in community discussion groups, 85% had registered positive beliefs by the end of the discussion cycles. 5% were not sure and 10% still registered negative beliefs. This shows the positive impact of community dialogue and the communities’ readiness to take collective actions.

**Human Impact Stories:**

1. **Akoi changing social norms of masculinity:**

Meet Akoi a father of 5 daughters living in Panyagor; he says he is not ashamed to be a father of only daughters “whether it is a girl or a boy, they both have the same value”. Akoi is outside the family kitchen and is splitting firewood and boiling a pot of beans as he talks to us. What he is doing is commonly considered as a woman’s role in Panyagor. “Men should help with these chores, cooking or splitting firewood does not make you a woman, you will still maintain your status as a man”, he says as he pauses to wipe sweat from his forehead.

Akoi is one of the participants of the Communities Care, social norms change group discussions. He is part of the mixed group. “I was not always like this, being part of the discussions has helped me to see the world at the point of view of other people, like my wife. And not just from my point of view”. While Akol’s wife runs a business, he helps out at home during his free time. “We in the group are making people aware of discrimination in the community, it would not be fair for my wife to come back from her business and start cooking while I am just sitting here because I am a man” he says.



**2. Court representation in forced abortion case yields positive judgement**

Yaar Kuol (identity withheld), a 16 years old girl, was brought to HDC by her mother who had attended the HDC SGBV awareness campaign and learned about the legal aid services provided at the Justice and Confidence Centre. She registered a case of forced abortion on her daughter by her daughters’ boyfriend, who refused to take responsibility of the pregnancy and abandoned her after the termination of pregnancy. Yaar Kuol was immediately provided psychosocial support, and referred for medical services which was followed by legal advice. With her consent, the pro-bono lawyer registered a court case. HDC facilitated transportation ensuring that she attend court sessions and had legal representation. During the court proceeding, the court suggested for another medical check up to confirm the termination of pregnancy. The court ruling charged the boy for intentionally and forcefully aiding abortion and charged to pay thirty (30) head of cattle for aiding abortion and dowry for the girl (when she turns 18) according to the Dinka culture. During a follow up visit after the closure of the case, the survivor and the family appreciated HDC for the support through the JCC for facilitating access to justice.

**3. Legal justice for a survivor of GBV in a divorce case**

Twenty-two-year-old Abuk\* (identity withheld) was referred to HACT through the State Ministry of Gender. She lives in Aweil and had been forced to marry a prominent politician working in Juba. Following payment of dowry and the traditional wedding, she relocated to Juba where she lived with her co-wife and husband. Abuk reported that while living in Juba, the husband and co-wife started mistreating her and it escalated to physical assault. She escaped back to Aweil to parents’ house and opened a case against the husband about the mistreatment. The husband was summoned to court, but he failed to honour the summons. In a bizarre event, shortly after filing her case, Abuk was abducted and tied to a tree in the forest where her mother found her after three days, she did not know who her abductors were and therefore this was not pursued. She proceeded with her case against her husband in Aweil High court and requested the court to grant her divorce through her lawyer. Following court proceedings, the judge ruled in her favour granting her divorce and instructing the now ex-husband to handle the return of dowry with Abuk’s father as the divorce was finalized. When HACT visited Abuk at her parent’s house, she expressed her gratitude for the legal aid she had received as she was living happily as a free woman. This case also charts a positive path as in the past, women could not file for divorce and such cases were referred for mediation even if woman was seeking divorce.

**4. The hotline became a lifeline: *COVID-19 made it difficult for GBV survivors to seek help, a hotline became the solution***

*Aweil, South Sudan* - The black mobile phone starts chiming again. Before, the hotline would receive only two to four calls a week, now they receive two to three per day. The digital high-pitch sound stops.

“Many people don’t have money to call, so this is the sign that we should call them back,” Laura Abuk Ajang says. She is a case worker at the women friendly centre in Aweil which is also operating the hotline for gender-based violence (GBV).

“Before, the women would come to the centre to seek guidance, get counselling and for referrals, but COVID-19 changed that,” Laura explains.

When a semi-lockdown was introduced in South Sudan, it became more difficult for GBV survivors to seek help as there was no means of transport to get to the centre. Later, when public transport was allowed the prices had gone through the roof. If you got to the centre, the number of people who could be there at the same time was limited due to the COVID-19 regulations.

American Refugee Committee (ARC) which is operating the hotline with support from UNICEF, printed the hotline number and distributed it in public places such as Primary Health Care centres, nutrition centres, churches and mosques, for more women to be aware. The hotline became the lifeline for many women.

“Since the beginning of the pandemic, the number of emotional abuse cases have risen every day and it has continued to rise,” says Lual Deng. He is the Senior GBV Project Officer for ARC and explains that the spike comes as a result of many men being laid off from work due to covid-19 and they take their frustration out on their wives.

Most of the abuse happens at night and the hotline is open 24 hours, but most of the calls are received during the day. “They call after an incident or when an unbearable situation has prevailed too long. They call when they are alone, when they have no support or when they have worked up the courage. The cases vary from emotional violence to beatings and rape. We try to be as near to the survivor as we can, even if we are far in reality,” Laura says.

Laura says she likes her job, but it is challenging not to be able to help all the women in need. “Some areas outside Aweil have poor network and they can’t call, and they can’t come.”

<https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/stories/hotline-became-lifeline>

**5. Community dialogues on GBV issues in Bor leads to increase reporting of GBV**

Following the training facilitated by UN Women, the office of Special Protection Unit in Bor headed by Mr. Joseph said “after training, the reporting of GBV cases at the SPU is on the rise by the community leaders. With the actions of some of the participants in the seminar on the legal and human right of women and girls already, it is fair to say, the activity improved the capacity of local authority to manage GBV survivors.”

**6. Access to justice and released from prison through intervention in prison**

Awut, 34 years old married woman and mother of five (5) children and a resident of Hai Fanjak residential area in the outskirts of Bor town. She was imprisoned for 14 months following sentencing on charges of adultery. When UNYMPDA conducted the prison visitation and they picked her case and successfully mediated for her release with stipulations to pay a fine of 23 heads of cattle: 10 goats and 300,000SSP to the husband.

**7. Securing custody of children and divorce for GBV survivor:**

Achol sought legal aid at HDC office to file for divorce following years of enduring domestic violence and failure of the husband to take financial responsibility for their children claiming he had not fathered them. She had tried family mediations during her 10 years of marriage, but the situation only changed temporarily. During community awareness conducted in Block 2, she learnt of the JCC services and approached them. The case was presented in court and was granted divorce and custody of her children. Following the ruling Achol expressed her gratitude noting that “I am free to live in peace. I have been providing for my family and will continue to do so in peace. HDC has given me hope.”

*“I am free to live in peace. I have been providing for my family and will continue to do so in peace. HDC has given me hope.” ~ Achol, a GBV survivor receiving services at JCC.*

**8. Young girl report Father to Special Protection Unit for trying to force her into marriage**

Aluel, a 17 years old, is a second youngest in the family with 7 children. In July 2020, a man with one wife approached her parents asking her hand in marriage, to which the parents consented. She however, wished to first finish he reducation and therefore ran away to a relative’s place to seek refuge. When the father found her, she was beaten up. On 21st October 2020, Aluel attended a neighbourhood assembly in Block 7 on the dangers of early and forced marriage organized by STEWARDWOMEN. During the session, she learned about forced marriage as a violation of the free and full consent of a person to choose whoever they desire to marry and hence is a violation of the constitutional right to marry. On the 22nd October 2020, she reported her father to the Special Protection Unit (SPU). After listening to our story, the Officer ordered the father to write a commitment letter that he will not force daughter into marriage, which he refused. The SPU Officer forwarded the case to the Public Prosecutor Attorney (PPA). At PPA’s Office, my father agreed that he will not force her into marriage. “If I had not attended the awareness session, I would still be homeless and my future would also be ruined”, said Aluel expressing her gratitude to StewardWomen.

“I grew up seeing how differently my parents treated us girls from the boys. My elder sister was forced in marriage in 2017 and right now she is suffering with doing casual labor of fetching water and cleaning fish to feed her two children. In July 2020, a man with one wife approached me and wanted to pay my bride price. I said to him, let me first finish my Senior Four and I will marry him but he did not listen. He then approached my parents to ask for my hand in marriage and my parents accepted. On 17th October 2020, my father said I should pack my belongings and go to my husband. I begged him to let me finish my education but he refused to listen to me and said, if he found me with any relative, he will kill me and the relative.” ~ Aluel sharing account of her fears in fighting against child marriage.

**9. A prominent businessman in Bor gets convicted for rape:**

Through efforts by StewardWomen, supported by UN Women and partners working to mitigate SGBV, on 11 March 2021, the High Court in Bor the capital of Jonglei state sentenced a 40-year-old prominent businessman for raping a 16-year-old girl. The Jonglei Civil Society network praised the decision of the High Court saying, “it sends a strong message to men who abuse women”. One of the challenges in addressing SGBV in South Sudan is the impunity of perpetrators, thus discouraging women and girls to report cases of SGBV to relevant authorities, and cases like these chart a positive precedent.

**PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME**

**Outcome 1: Increased empowerment of women in South Sudan by strengthening prevention mechanisms for GBV by transforming harmful social norms into positive behaviour that promotes gender equality.**

**Output 1: Increased access comprehensive GBV support services**

**Current status of the progress: Achieved**

**Progress summary:**

The two established One Stop Centre (OSC) in Aweil and Akobo continue to provide integrated medical, psycho-social and legal services for the survivors of gender based violence. These centres continue to serve as platform for coordination meetings and safe place for the survivors of GBV. During the project period, total 303 survivors were provided with integrated GBV services at the two OSC (131 in Akobo and 172 in Aweil). Total 27 (25 girls and 2 boys) survivors of child marriage were provided with temporary protection, legal and psychosocial support in Aweil; 2 referral pathways (Aweil and Akobo) updated in collaboration with other stakeholder such as health facilities, law enforcement agencies, courts and community action groups supporting GBV case reporting and referrals including counterpart agencies. Total 218 duty bearers built their capacity on legislations and policies governing GBV and child marriage in Akobo (25 women and 45 men); and, 54,980 community members were reached with GBV information including child marriage and available services. Social distancing as part of Covid19 prevention protocols continued as prevention measures.

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| OSC | **Total Cases** | **GBV Type** | | | | | |
|  |  | Physical violence | Sexual violence | Rape | Emotional violence | Child/force marriage | Denial of resources |
| Akobo | 131 | 33 | 21 | 14 | 26 | 28 | 9 |
| Aweil | 172 | 37 | 11 | 43 | 25 | 31 | 25 |
| **Total** | **303** | **70** | **32** | **57** | **51** | **59** | **34** |

Since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, gender based violence, particularly domestic violence against women and girls, teen-age pregnancies and other violations of women’s rights witnessed an upsurge in South Sudan and around the world. UNFPA led the Joint UN actions during 16 Days’ Activism in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President, MoGCSW, The Office of the Chief Justice, and Paramount Chiefs. South Sudan commemorated with the theme “Keep the Promise: Invest, Prevent and Respond to GBV” This national theme recognizes the need to ensure sustained funding and concrete actions to prevent and respond to GBV in South Sudan. The concept note of 16 Days’ Activism is attached as **Annex 1**. Preparations were done during the project period for the 16 days of Activism 2021 (concept note attached as **Annex 2**). The joint action resulted in high level outcomes such as the Chief Justice of South Sudan announcing to revitalise the GBV and Juvenile Court, which was fulfilled in December 2020. Using complementary resources, a national dialogue with the paramount chiefs and State has now been institutionalised for past three years.

**Output 2: Strengthened women's groups participation in local peace processes in Bor, Akobo and Aweil and increase civic engagement on GBV Prevention and response**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On track**

**Progress summary:**

UN Women, through the partner Intersos in Akobo, supported the women attending the WGFS and members of the Akobo Women’s Association. As a result, as of December 2020, three women representatives are positioned in the traditional courts in Akobo and Lankien to ensure the consideration of protection issues. Key stakeholders’ training was conducted with at least 87% in support of the involvement of women in legislation, peace building and leadership as well taking responsibility of their contribution to the conflict and ensuring that they demonstrate best practices at the HH and Community level. Hygiene and social distancing as part of Covid 19 prevention protocols were put in place to avoid exposure and risk.

The number of beneficiaries accessing the WGFS was limited while awareness campaigns were delivered door to door and vocational skill training were practiced safely at home. The Community Mobilizers and Community Based Protection Networks conducted community mobilization activities to raise awareness on various Peace building and mobilized community members to join efforts to prevent and eliminate GBV and improve the participation of women and girls in leadership and peace building. Through complementary funding, men and boys were engaged as agents of change for shifting gender norms through regular workshops using the EMAP (Engaging Men in Accountable Practice) curriculum with the aim of achieving social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between IDPs and host community men and women. Two workshops on EMAP were conducted with (25 men and 15) women local authority, community elders, youth leaders. Selected groups of women with entrepreneurial interest participated in basic life skills activities such as knitting, bed sheet decoration, beadwork, fuel efficient stove making as well as business skills. Participation was allowed for all women at the WGFS with priority to the most vulnerable groups such as women with disabilities, widows and elderly ones can receive the intervention from home. Total 84 women (All<18 years, 20 widows, 16 single parents, 21 elderlies, 27 women with disability) were trained in livelihood skills. Confidential Peace Huts and Listening Centers within the established WGFS were maintained. Training of staff was conducted covering topics such as GBV case management, PSS communication and participation in Peace building activities to ensure community women’s knowledge and skills improved to participate actively in the community peace process. Following the project extension, 200 women aged between 18 and 59 years (women head of households, pregnant women, lactating mothers and survivors of SGBV) were trained on bread making and hairdressing. At the end of the training 80 women out of 200 were selected to receive a start-up kit in bread making and hairdressing. Moreover, women participated in other PSS activities provided at the WGFS in Bilkey Payam,

Case management responded to 31 cases since the start of the project. The cases include 11 Physical assault, 8 Denial of resource, 9 Force marriage, 1 Emotional abuse. All cases were referred to the appropriate assistance including medical, PSS, counselling and livelihood upon consent. Identification of survivors was done through voluntary reporting during house-to-house visits by case workers, community mobilizers, or community based protection network members as well as from those reporting during GBV awareness sessions and community dialogues. Total 9 cases were referred by other agencies such as ICRC. A services mapping was conducted and referral pathways were updated. Total 4 community dialogues sessions were conducted where 65 people (20 men, 5 boys, 34 women 6 girls) participated to discuss child marriage, physical abuse and access to resources in Akobo.

In Bor, through StewardWomen (STW), orientation seminar for 25 members (12 F, 13 M) support groups was conducted on reporting, documentation and the human rights of women and girls. The outcome of the orientation seminar, the participants formed a joint network of watch groups for joint actions. Since then, there is an increase in reporting of cases at the special protection unit. One of the chiefs of block 4 said that after the seminar the watch group of his block have improved the security in the neighbourhood. Two engagement meetings were conducted with support groups and caseworkers- one in Bor Town with 24 participants (F10&M14), and other in Bor South, with 25 participants (F16&M9) comprising of the youth, women, teachers, community activist and community leaders. In addition, STW provided legal aid assistant to 2 female GBV survivors in BOR High Court. 5 Female leaders and entrepreneurs benefited from learning exchange visits to Nimule. The exchange visit was an open exchange of ideas, knowledge and practices on women in entrepreneurs and expanding these.

Furthermore, 25 GBV survivors trained on enterprise and business management skills. A training on enterprise management and business skills for 25 identified GBV survivors was conducted comprising of 10 participants in Bor South and 15 participants in Bor Town. The training impacted knowledge to manage enterprises and business skills, and a startup kit was provided to all participants. The first session of neighbourhood assembly was conducted in Bor Town with 62 individuals (42 males, 20 females). The second session was conducted in Tregok IDP Camp in Bor South, with 31 individuals (22 female, 9 male). The purpose of these sessions was to enhance community understanding and to reduce anti-police sentiment by the community of especially Kolanyang in Bor South. Renovation of Jonglei State Women Association (JSWA) was successfully completed. The renovation of the JSWA building is aimed at maintaining the building in good and habitable condition for women groups. Land has been allocated to build 3 more Women empowerment centres to accommodate women groups that are too far from the Jonglei State Women Centre. These centres were all established and functional.



Renovations of JSWA Women’s Empowerment Centre

In Aweil, the WEC continued to attract many women in the area and surrounding villages for economic empowerment activities and case management support services. Both case management and economic empowerment activities like bed sheet sewing, beads making, chair sets, and local tray/craft making continued without disruption. In an effort of ensuring reach out, ARC/Alight has a hotline number in the Women Empowerment Centre (WEC) for the reporting and management of cases of GBV. The hotline has helped reaching out to girls and women in the remote areas. The cumulative number of cases received at the WEC was 61 (44women, 17girls). The survivors received PSS services and referred to other partners for legal aid services provided by ADAFIN, health services and child protection services provided at WEC by ARC/Alight. A total of 370 (303 women, 67 girls) were successfully recruited in a 3-month economic empowerment skills building and graduated after completion. . Sessions on COVID-19 preventive measures were also conducted with the girls and women at the centre, covering awareness on social distancing, hand washing and other preventive measure. A total of 288 individuals (216 women, 72 girls) identified by women leaders and watch group were supported with hygiene materials including underwear, sandals, pads, body lotions and soaps.

The state level 16 Days of activism was launched in 8 areas of War Chum, Waar Akual, Maper Chuei, Zizirah, Makazin and Rum Tiit. The total number reached in the community awareness and 16 Days of Activism was 3,123 (1,724W, 792M, 320G, 287B). Furthermore, an increase in the cases of Child, Early and Forced Marriages (CEFM) was noticed. Total 5 serious cases of child marriage were received by the MoGCSW in January alone. The looming hunger in the state has created fear that the food insecurity will negatively affect the situation of girls and women and there will a rise in some forms of GBV against women and girls (CEFM, sexual exploitation, children involved in labour and beggary etc.).

**Output 3: Increased access of GBV survivors to justice mechanisms**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On track**

**Progress summary:**

Under output 3, UNDP partnered with four Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to establish two Justice and Confidence Centres (JCCs) and revamp four previously existing ones. The CSOs provide legal aid which encompassed legal representation and legal awareness while simultaneously providing counselling and referral services for GBV survivors to institutions that provide psychosocial support. The partner CSOs are Action for Children Development Foundation –South Sudan (ACDF) and Humanitarian Aid for Change and Transformation (HACT) implementing in Aweil whileHumanitarian and Development Consortium (HDC) andUpper Nile Youth Mobilization for Peace and Development Agency (UNYMPD) are implementing in Bor. The CSOs employed various approaches to ensure wide accessibility for SGBV survivors including: establishing four auxiliary help desks situated at two police stations, recruiting, training and deploying forty four community volunteers, strengthening their links with Special Police Units, Women and Girls’ Friendly Spaces and other relevant government institutions. The mentioned approaches ensured increased accessibility for SGBV survivors to receive speedy and timely reporting, investigation, and processing of SGBV cases for prosecution and referral to relevant services for their recovery including medical, psychosocial and counselling support. Additionally, UNDP provided capacity building of justice actors who included judges, investigators, prosecutors and social workers and customary chiefs was undertaken to empower them to conduct fair investigation, prosecution and prevention of GBV related cases.

The table below provides a summary of the GBV cases registered by the four CSO providing legal aid in Bor and Aweil.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Aweil** | | **Bor** | | **Grand total**  **(Bor & Aweil)** | |
| **Total** | **Female** | **Total** | **Female** |
| Cases reported at Justice and Confidence | 587 | 420 | 491 | 381 | 1078 | 801 |
| GBV Cases referred to statutory courts | 70 | 61 | 86 | 65 | 156 | 126 |
| GBV cases that have received judgement in statutory courts | 30 | 22 | 21 | 17 | 51 | 43 |

One thousand and seventy eight people of which 74 percent were female gained access to justice and legal aid services at the 6 Justice and Confidence Centers: The four CSOs partners continued providing legal aid services through continued support to established auxiliary help desks situated at police stations, mobile legal clinics, engagement with community volunteers, strengthened their links with Specialised Police Units, Women and Girls’ Friendly Spaces and other relevant government institutions ensuring that vulnerable groups could report their cases easily and receive speedy and timely investigation and processing of cases. All the survivors were provided with counselling and referred to other institutions for other specialized services. One hundred and fifty-six of which 126 were female cases were referred to court and 51 (43 female) have so far received judgement which is 32.7 percent of the total referred cases.

The CSO partners also reached 795,205 people of which 52.9 percent were female through outreaches and radio campaigns with messages on rights of women and girls, SGBV, early and forced marriages, and Human Rights. The CSOs also informed their audiences about the legal consequences of perpetrators of GBV while also outlining the available services for survivors at the JCCs and help desks. This was further supported through facilitation of three community dialogues to increase awareness on SGBV amongst community members who included local opinion leaders/influencers, gender champions, youth, women, the clergy, the police and prisons officials.

Total 40 (11 F) investigators, social workers, chiefs, prosecutors, and judges received training on investigation, prosecution, prevention, response, and adjudication of SGBV and related offences. Similarly, twenty-two (22) women were trained as community paralegals through a participatory approach combining presentations, focused group discussions, case studies, group work, questions-and-answer sessions were used to impart knowledge among the participants. The training was based on a manual for paralegal trainings that had been developed with UNDP support. The paralegals were equipped with basic legal knowledge drawn from the laws and the criminal justice system of South Sudan, introduction to human rights, understanding their roles and responsibilities, introduction to non-judicial alternatives to problem-solving and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

At the national level, the capacity of Women and Children’s Unit in Directorate of Public Prosecutions to provide support for GBV survivors was strengthened through provision of ICT equipment and office supplies. UNDP also supported the development of a GBV training manual has also been produced as an SOP in handling GBV cases and a paralegal training manual which was used for the paralegal training.

**Output 4: Communities in Bor and Aweil transform harmful social norms that contribute to GBV into positive norms that promote gender equality**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Achieved**

**Progress summary:**

UNICEF through its partners strengthened GBV prevention through social norms transformation; including on child and forced marriage, sexual violence in the community, gender disparities and inclusion of women in decision making. 29 community discussion groups were formed through which 743 (329 women, 119 adolescent girls, 217 men, 78 adolescent boys) people participated in discussions and became champions for change by creating preventive actions that they implemented throughout their communities. These champions supported strengthening of community based GBV prevention and response mechanisms; service providers also received capacity for survivor centered response.

Cumulatively, UNICEF reached 6,330 people (2,689 women, 1,917 adolescent girls, 996 men, 728 adolescent boys) with GBV prevention, response, and risk mitigation messages. Through the WGFS, 3,526 women and girls received response services including psychological first aid, group and individual PSS, case management and referrals to other specialized services. Through these safe spaces, 1,180 women and girls had their skills improved or developed on tailoring, bead making, pottery and other relevant skills to improve their livelihoods and wellbeing. In addition, 500 women and girls of reproductive age were engaged in menstrual hygiene capacity building where dignity kits were distributed to them.

Community Discussion groups were key avenues for COVID 19 awareness messaging in their communities, especially at the time of government-imposed lockdowns. They received training through UNICEF C4D section and supplemented community awareness and countered misinformation at community level. UNICEF provided guidelines to its partners through which they put in place measures to ensure no interruption of GBV prevention and response services specifically to WGFS and community discussions.

**Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and Responsiveness assurance:**

The project ensured that women and girls empowerment through provision of critical integrated response services. To reduce their vulnerability, women and girls also received skills training and start up kits. Through the Community Discussions, women and youth had a chance to take leadership roles as discussion leaders to facilitate groups including mixed groups. The capacity building of women and youth through the Community discussion leader training equipped them with facilitation and peacebuilding skills; with these women and youth are closer to opens up the community to the idea of women and youth being part of community decision making systems.

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)  The agencies came together to design the project through a joint scoping missions, continued the partnership through the Technical Working Group meetings conducted every month, led by UNFPA, and conducted an End of the Prject evaluation. A workshop was also organized to plan the future of the project once this project comes to an end. Based on this, a UN-wide joint programme on prevention of and addressing GBV is being designed as one of the flagship programmes of United Nations in South Sudan.  The following programme monitoring visits were conducted by respective agencies individually:  Total 4 Technical Working Group meetings and one workshop were conducted under the convenorship of UNFPA to regularly monitor the progress of the project.  Output 1:   * Two partners’ workshops were conducted to monitor the progress where the PBF project partners also participated * A field mission was conducted by Field Hub Coordinator to Bor   Output 2:   * Participated in the technical working group meetings.   Output 3:   * Participated in the technical working group meetings. * UNDP field staff in the areas of implementation hold regular monitoring meetings with the implementing partners to assess their progress. * Regular team debrief through a weekly virtual meeting.   Output 4:   * UNICEF undertook a monitoring visit in November to Bor and Aweil to support the implementing partner as well as provide technical oversight in implementation.   Remote/online support include weekly activity reports to update on activity progress and gaps continued during the report period. | Do outcome indicators have baselines? No. Due to the Covid-19, the baseline survey tools and ToRs were designed but could not be rolled out. However, extensive end of the project evaluation was carried out.  Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? Yes (draft report attached) | Evaluation budget (response required): $60,000  If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500 character limit)*: Evaluation draft report attached as Annex 3. |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project. (please only report on NEW funding since last reporting cycle) | SDC: $586,000 (UNFPA)  ECHO: 100,000 (UNICEF)  OFDA: 100,000 (UNICEF) |
| **Other:** Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(1500 character limit)* | The project had to modify the implementation plan to comply with the Government issued COVID-19 guidelines. |

**PART IV: COVID-19**

*Please respond to these questions if the project underwent any monetary or non-monetary adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (please only report on NEW expenditure since last reporting cycle)*

1. Monetary adjustments: Please indicate the total amount in USD of adjustments due to COVID-19: N/A
2. Non-monetary adjustments: Please indicate any adjustments to the project which did not have any financial implications:

As shared earlier through the RCO, adjustments were made in the implementation approach to adhere to Government issued guidelines regarding COVID-19 preventative measures. In this regard, trainings that would be conducted in one hall saw participants being split into two groups and facilitation conducted separately. Additionally, the training facilitators ensured to echo the message of COVID-19 urging participants to adhere to guidelines as well as take protective and preventative actions.

1. Please select all categories which describe the adjustments made to the project (*and include details in general sections of this report*):

Reinforce crisis management capacities and communications

Ensure inclusive and equitable response and recovery

Strengthen inter-community social cohesion and border management

Counter hate speech and stigmatization and address trauma

Support the SG’s call for a global ceasefire

Other (please describe):

If relevant, please share a COVID-19 success story of this project (*i.e. how adjustments of this project made a difference and contributed to a positive response to the pandemic/prevented tensions or violence related to the pandemic etc.*)

**PART V: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

*Using the* ***Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments****- provide an update on the achievement of* ***key indicators*** *at both the outcome and output level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight). Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation.* Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (300 characters max per entry)

|  | **Performance Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Current indicator progress** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Outcome 1  Increased empowerment of women in South Sudan by strengthening prevention mechanisms for GBV by transforming harmful social norms into positive behaviour that promotes gender equality. | Indicator 1.1  % increase in women and girls’ participation in local peace and justice activities | No data | 40% |  | There were no community perception reports to verify this outcome indicator both at baseline and end-line. This made it difficult to determine the % of women who engage in established local action groups and remain in the Programme to support the overall outcomes related to GBV prevention decision making, and participation in social cohesion, civic life, peacebuilding and justice services |
| Indicator 1.2  Women’s perception of their inclusion and equality in society | No data | No data | 87% | There were no women’s perception surveys in target and non-target areas (control group surveys) for comparison with the end-line result. A baseline survey was supposed to be undertaken at the project inception. The target at the end of the project wasn’t set. |
| Indicator 1.3  proportion of women and girls who feel confident to report GBV and know where to access relevant services in case they become victim of GBV | No data | 40% |  | The project was supposed to measure this indicator through regular perception surveys and by collecting feedback from women on improvement in access to local justice and peace mechanism and integrated GBV services with an expected 40% improvement of perception. The improvement couldn’t be determined at the end-line. |
| Output 1.1  Increased access to comprehensive GBV support services in Bor and Aweil | Indicator 1.1.1  Number of GBV survivors accessing and using the integrated GBV services in One stop centre (SADD | 0 | 1000 | 2,126[[3]](#footnote-1) | Target achieved. |
| Indicator 1.1.2  Number of GBV One Stop centres established and operational | 0 | 2 | 2 | Target achieved |
| Indicator 1.1.3: Number of service providers (disaggregated by sex and profession) with increased skills and other capacity in providing integrated response services | 0 | 100 | 152 duty bears and service providers  (68F/84M) | Target surpassed by 52 service providers who were trained on legislations and policies governing GBV investigation, prevention, prosecution and case management, PSS and referrals |
| Indicator 1.1.4: Number of People (SADD) which are aware of the existence and services of the One stop centre in the intervention areas | 0 | 20,000 | 54,980 | Target achieved. Community awareness conducted through radio talk shows and road shows through microphone rallies. These new strategies also create an opportunity to sensitize the communities and create awareness on COVID-19 and how best the community could keep their families and friends safe from COVID- 19. |
| Output 2    Strengthened women’s groups participation in local peace processes in Bor and Aweil and increase civic engagement on GBV Prevention and response | Number of advocacy issues raised by women through peace huts initiatives. | 0 | 5 | 5 | Target achieved through establishment of the peace huts where the following 5 advocacy issues were raised - early marriage, wife inheritance, property ownership, girl–child education and revenge killings |
| Number of women’s peace huts/ women centres functional | 4 | 5 (minimum) | 5 women’s peace huts were established in Aweil and Bor | Target achieved. 3 more women’s peace huts/women centres were established in Bor but late in the project. |
| Number of community members reached on GBV response and importance of women participation (SADD). | 0 | 5,000 (60% women and girls) | 2,080  (64.1% women and girls) | Target not reached[[4]](#footnote-2) though the percentage of women and girls surpassed. |
| # of women trained on facilitation skills on women participation in peace | 0 | 350 | 441 Women including 22 girls | Target achieved |
| Output 1.3  Increased access of GBV survivors to justice mechanisms | Indicator 1.3.1  Output Indicator 3.1  Existence of functional mobile court system to adjudicate GBV cases | No | Yes | Yes | The mobile court teams continue to be engaged to prioritize adjudication of GBV cases. |
| Indicator 1.3.2  % of cases prosecuted to completion | 0 | 5% | 32.7% (51 cases with 43f /8m) | Target surpassed with sensitization of formal and informal justice actors and communities on SGBV resulting in an increase in the number of SGBV cases reported and subsequently the numbers prosecuted. |
|  | Indicator 1.3.3  Number of community-based paralegals with skills to support dispensation of justice for survivors (SADD) | 0 | 20 per state[[5]](#footnote-3) (min 25% men) | 22 trained  (100% women) | Target achieved but with non-achievement of gender parity. |
| Output 1.4  Communities in Bor and Aweil transform harmful social norms that contribute to GBV into positive norms that promote gender equality | Indicator 4.1  % of target population that views GBV as less acceptable after participating in the perception survey | **0** | **75%** | **85%** | Target Achieved |
| Indicator 4.2  # of community action groups addressing GBV, peacebuilding, social cohesion, social norms, and negative cultural practices | **5** | **16** | **29** | Target Achieved |
| Indicator 4.3  # of trained community action group members with increased knowledge on addressing negative social norms and increasing women and girl’s engagement in peace building and social cohesion | **0** | **200** | **743** | Target Achieved |
| Indicator 4.4  # of people (women, men, girls and boys) reached through weekly and monthly community dialogues and awareness raising on social norms, peace building, reconciliation, stigma reduction and GBV prevention and response | **7900** | **30000** | **173,400** | **Target Achieved** |

1. Estimates from radio talk shows included in all the locations (Aweil, Bor, Twic East); these estimates were provided by the radio stations as per data on their audience. The numbers reached through big public events are also estimates. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Estimates from radio talk shows included in all the locations (Aweil, Bor, Twic East); these estimates were provided by the radio stations as per data on their audience. The numbers reached through big public events are also estimates. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Including the 4 auxiliary help desks [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
4. COVID-19 restrictions such as social distancing and flooding in Bor and Akobo contributed to decreased number of women and girls reached. Despite this, the no cost extension allowed to rectify this. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
5. Due to budgetary constraints, the Technical Working Group adjusted the target to 10 women per State. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)