



AGENCY FOR
PEACEBUILDING

Final Evaluation Report

*Project “Strengthening Young Women’s Participation in Local and National
Peace Processes in South Sudan”*

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Presentation's plan

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Background information – Peace in South Sudan

- After ten years since its independence, South Sudan has continued to suffer the brunt of violent conflicts that have lasted until today.
- The 2018 *Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS)* has offered a political resolution to the conflict, but the Agreement is far from being fully implemented.
- Women, and young women in particular, play a central role because they are not only more likely to be victims of violence but are also connected to the mentioned drivers of inter-communal conflict.



Background information - Project

- **Partners:** Search for Common Ground (Search) South Sudan, in partnership with Ana-Taban, Crown the Woman (CTW), National Women's Empowerment & Rehabilitation Organization (NWERO), Catholic Radio Network (CRN), and Eye Radio
- **Funder:** UN Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF).
- **Dates:** January 2020-September 2021
- **Main Objective:** The project was aimed to equip and empower young South Sudanese women with knowledge, skills and opportunities to contribute to the peace process at the local and national level, reinforce their collective power, and challenge the social stereotypes and barriers that hinder their equal participation.



Methodology

- This final evaluation was carried out by the **Agency for Peacebuilding (AP)** with the support of *Search's* South Sudan team.
- This study used a **mixed approach** that combined qualitative and quantitative data collection methods.
- **Quantitative tools** included two surveys: one that targeted randomly selected beneficiaries in intervention areas (283 respondents overall); the other that targeted project participants (69 respondents).
- The **qualitative tools** consisted of desk review (approximately 40 documents), 32 key informative interviews and 16 focus group discussions.



Findings – Effectiveness

- The project's expected results have been achieved against almost all the ambitious indicators.
- The project's most positive results are represented by activities related to strengthening the ability of young women leaders and groups to collaboratively lead local and national-level peace efforts and young women-led mediation and peacebuilding initiatives.
- The increase in confidence experienced by participants attending training and mentorship activities is very clear and the follow-up local peacebuilding activities show increased self-confidence, knowledge and skills.
- The main challenges were represented by transforming attitudes and behaviors about women and youth (and young women in particular) and their role in peace and security, especially on a large scale and at the national level.



Findings – Impact

- The project achieved several intended changes, mainly at the local level, while achieving changes at the national level was more challenging.
- Some stories of change, partially reported in this document, deserve close attention and are to be shared in future activities.
- The collaboration between young and older women is improved only in some locations and needs more nuanced and specific attention in the future.



Findings – Efficiency

- The collaboration between project partners worked very well and involved new local organizations and informal groups.
- The project was not fully able to create adequate advocacy platform(s). This was due to external conditions – especially due to COVID-19 limitations – but also because advocacy at the national level needs more specific attention and programming in the complex South Sudanese political landscape.
- Due to the fact that achieving advocacy objectives needs several follow-up activities, the project could be considered as a first step that needs several others to have an impact at the national level.



Findings – Sustainability

- While acquired skills and knowledge will last beyond the project itself, a large part of the project participants foresee challenges to implement those skills.
- Some participants were involved in a single activity, sometimes lasting just one day, without specific follow-up activities.
- While financial resource constraints appear to limit the overall sustainability of interventions beyond the lifespan of the project, the interventions were implemented in a context of massive needs and extreme economic vulnerabilities experienced by young women.



Recommendations (I):

Target men specifically (young, but also fathers, local chiefs, etc.) to transform social attitudes and behaviors about young women.

Involve traditional authorities to understand the project's aspirations and objective of ensuring that women are also participating in the affairs of their country.

Capitalize the work done in this project with specific advocacy activities at the national level.

Consider translating some radio shows into the major native languages.

Dedicate more attention to strengthening the local partners at the state levels with the needed capacity on peacebuilding initiatives so they would continue to engage and create awareness on the local community members.



Recommendations (II)

Consider engaging people with special needs, so they equally participate in different peace initiatives in their respective communities and/or at the national level.

Reconsider the validity and modality of listener groups.

Continue to reflect and connect GBV, early marriages and domestic violence to a broader picture of women exclusion and broader conflicts.

Dedicate more specific attention to local cultural norms shaped under patriarchy that impede women participation in peacebuilding.



Recommendations (III)

Help women groups to develop their small economic activities so they can continue to finance their peacebuilding.

Avoid one-off activities and plan continuous engagement of youth women and other target groups.

Conduct specific analysis to inform future actions on intergenerational dialogue among women.

Target networking and/or coordination between CSOs as a direct objective with specific resources.

