

SOUTHERN CENTRAL EQUATORIA ABP

HIGHLIGHTS



***The civilians feared the soldiers
and the soldiers viewed civilians
as enemier or collaborators with
rebels***

A reverend on impact of civil-military dialogues

In 2025, the RSRTF program served as a lifeline for communities in Southern Central Equatoria, helping them navigate challenges like insecurity, displacement, and slow recovery. Over the first two quarters, the program made significant strides in reconciliation, stabilization, and resilience despite hyperinflation and armed clashes.

RECONCILIATION efforts brought together farmers and pastoralists from different counties. These initiatives included high-level cattle migration conferences and 10 grassroots dialogues. As one farmer in Yei noted, these efforts allowed them to “sit at the same table” rather than meet in conflict. More than 2,300 people received psychoeducation and trauma-healing sessions, helping to reduce the “invisible wounds of violence”. These inclusive approaches built trust and local ownership, shifting reconciliation from elite events to community-driven processes.

STABILIZATION efforts reinforced peace initiatives. In the first quarter, 75 participants were trained in community policing, which strengthened ties between the police and civilians. Legal frameworks, such as pathways for Housing, Land, and Property referrals, were also finalized by the second quarter, providing returnees with a foundation for reclaiming their land. One widow in Lainya shared that she now has “papers proving it is mine again” after years of feeling her land was lost.

RESILIENCE programming offered communities tangible alternatives to violence. In the first two quarters, 375 youth enrolled in TVET centers, and 225 graduates received start-up kits. Savings groups expanded from 42 to 78, mobilizing over 32 million SSP and 103 million UGX. Women, who make up most of the members, reported new confidence in household decision-making. Additionally, Enterprise Development Fund support allowed 23 Small and Medium Enterprises and five agro-input providers to expand their businesses and employ youth.



***Before, I felt powerless. Now with
my savings group, I can make
decisions for my household***

A woman participant on the impact of
expanding VSLA groups

Priorities for the Remaining Quarters of 2025

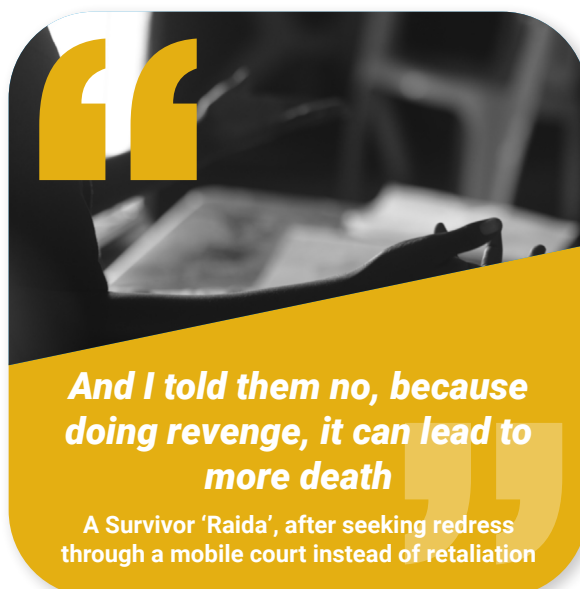
- Southern Central Equatoria ABP: The programme will focus on completing all outstanding activities, formally handing over completed infrastructure to the respective communities and local authorities, and preparing for the endline evaluation. The ABP is scheduled to close by December 2025.
- Jonglei GPAA: Key priorities include finalizing the remaining activities, transferring mechanisms and infrastructure to both communities and local authorities, and carrying out the endline evaluation. The ABP will be closed by December 2025.
- Southern Unity and Greater Tonj ABPs: Implementation of planned activities will continue in line with the programme’s work plan.
- Fund Secretariat: The Secretariat will lead the endline evaluations for Jonglei GPAA and Southern Central Equatoria, facilitate the RSRTF 2025 Annual Cross-Partners Learning Workshop, organize donor field visits, and undertake other required programme management actions

JONGLEI/GPAA ABP

HIGHLIGHTS

In the first half of 2025, the RSRTF Area-Based Programme (ABP) in Jonglei State and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) helped communities move from a history of abductions, revenge raids, and grievances toward a story of slow, steady transformation.

RECONCILIATION Over 3,500 people, including youth, elders, women, and chiefs, participated in 15 inter- and intra-communal dialogues. An elder from Gawaar expressed the community's weariness of conflict, stating, "We are tired of burying our children. We must now protect what remains". These dialogues led to tangible results, including the reunification of 29 abductees with their families. Armed youth in Ayod and Wuno also agreed to stop raids and open roads for trade.



STABILIZATION The ABP made justice, which had long been elusive, more visible. A mobile court supported by RSRTF and UNMISS delivered 55 case verdicts. One survivor, "Raida," chose legal redress over revenge, stating, "Doing revenge can lead to more death. I chose justice". This and similar cases signaled a shift from fear to faith in formal systems. More than 511 justice actors were trained, and 366 individuals received legal aid, many for the first time.

RESILIENCE The program helped transition youth from violence to farming, with over 1,392 young people making the shift and gaining income and respect. In Bor, a young man shared, "Peace brings food. Food brings respect". The restoration of key infrastructure, such as a rehabilitated airstrip and a new reservoir in Bichbich and Ayod, provided vital lifelines for communities. Additionally, more than 5,500 people benefited from cash-for-work initiatives, which gave them both income and dignity.

KONG KOC ABP

HIGHLIGHTS

In Greater Tonj, the RSRTF Area-Based Programme (ABP) is helping communities move beyond cycles of revenge and insecurity. Through mobile courts and radio broadcasts, communities are starting to rebuild trust in each other and in institutions.

RECONCILIATION Dialogue and justice are increasingly replacing retaliation. A Greater Tonj Peace Conference brought together 160 participants, from MPs to cattle-camp leaders, to revisit the 2023 peace agreement. The conference reaffirmed that peace is possible despite challenges such as small arms and weak institutions. Community radio has become a daily "bridge of trust," sharing messages on justice, health, and coexistence. One farmer shared that he was able to get his stolen cattle back through the broadcasts, which gave him "faith that reconciliation is working".





I was just staying in Wanh-alel doing nothing. One day, our chief came and told me I was selected to go for training. I was surprised

A TVET graduate reminiscing of the past

STABILIZATION Stability is growing where justice is visible. In early 2025, the High Court in Tonj heard 59 cases, delivering convictions and verdicts that reduced unlawful detentions and built confidence in the system. The completion of the Manalor Police and Tonj East Central Prison also signaled a more responsive state. As one chief said, "For the first time, we see the law working for us, not against us."

RESILIENCE The Kong Koc ABP partners mainly focused on the preparation for phase II programming during this period, as the Phase I resilience programme had already ended at the beginning of the year.

SOUTHERN UNITY ABP

HIGHLIGHTS

In Southern Unity, communities have not only endured intense hardship but have also taken bold steps toward recovery. The RSRTF-supported Area-Based Programme (ABP) has shown that even in hard-to-reach, fragile areas, healing and resilience can take root when communities lead the way.

RECONCILIATION efforts, including 58 UNMISS patrols, 17 dialogue sessions, and a landmark peace conference, helped to resolve long-standing tensions and reduce harmful practices like cattle raiding. One elder in Panyijiar noted that the RSRTF "reminded us that we still have the power to come together and protect our land".



Even in hard times, we learn that healing is possible when we walk together

A Youth participant, after trauma-informed dialogues



RSRTF reminded us that we still had the power to come together and protect our land

A member of the community-led flood resilience initiative, from Leer's Bow Payam

STABILIZATION The justice landscape in Southern Unity is evolving. A region once neglected by formal legal systems has seen 57 cases investigated and 28 convictions secured. Over 22,000 people have engaged with outreach and awareness activities on the rule of law, and more than 110 local actors were trained in justice delivery. As a mother at a legal awareness session remarked, "For the first time, we feel someone will respond when we cry for help".

RESILIENCE Through 17 VSLAs with 435 members, business training for 145 youth, and demo farms reaching 70 participants, communities began to diversify livelihoods and reduce harmful coping mechanisms. A market shade in Mayendit and ongoing dyke consultations added local economic stimulus. Additionally, 23 individuals were trained in flood mitigation and land reclamation, preparing communities for seasonal shocks.

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

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