



THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION (1995) - 25 YEARS ON

SOUTH SUDAN REPORT

REVIEW AND APPRAISAL

JUNE 2019

"To be truly transformative, the Post 2015 development agenda must prioritize gender equality and women's empowerment. The world will never realize 100 percent of its goals if 50 percent of its people cannot realize their full potential." - Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General (1 Jan 2012 - 31 Dec. 2016)."

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List of Abbreviations

AID	Acquire Immune Syndrome
AU	African Union
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women
CPA	Comprehensive peace Agreement
DDR	Demobilization, Disarmament
HIV	Human Immune Syndrome
JAM	Joint Assistance Mission
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority o Development
MGCSW	Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare
NAP	National Action Plan
NAPA	National Action Programme of Adaptation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NGP	National Gender Policy
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SPLM	South Sudan Liberation Movement
TCSS	Transitional Constitution of South Sudan
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
SPLA	South Sudan Liberation Army
SSDP	South Sudan Development Plan
SSPS	South Sudan National Police

MAP OF SOUTH SUDAN BY STATE



Source: World Maps 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a review and appraisal report of South Sudan's implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA+25) covering five years (2014-2019). It builds on the previous one of BPfA+20 which covered the period 2009-2013. The review considered the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan, National Development Plan 2011- 2016, International and national Policy and legal frameworks and Vision 2040 which is founded on seven pillars: educated and informed nation; prosperous, productive and innovative nation; free, just and peaceful nation; democratic and accountable nation; safe and secure nation; united and proud nation; and compassionate and tolerant nation. Its values are "Freedom, Equality, Justice, Peace and Prosperity for All." South Sudan these core values into practice by fighting gender inequality through its public policy and programme initiatives.

The report, prepared using the UN Women Guidance note for comprehensive national-level reviews, has four sections. The **first section** highlights the priorities, achievements, challenges and setbacks in the implementation of the BPfA for the period under review.

Section two explores the measures taken by South Sudan towards gender equality in the 12 critical areas of concern, namely: women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and the media, women and the environment and the girl child.

Section three focuses the national gender machinery and its strategic plan for implementation and realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women in South Sudan, including the formal mechanisms for the participation of stakeholders.

Section four documents the progress made on the availability of gender data and statistics in line with Vision 2040 and Sustainable Development Goals.

The report concludes with some lessons learned linked to priorities, achievements and challenges in accelerating gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in South Sudan.

1.0 Section One: Priorities, achievements, challenges and setbacks

1. What have been the most important achievements, challenges and set-backs in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years?

In answering this question, please explain why your country considers these important, how it has addressed them, the challenges encountered and the factors that have enabled progress or led to set-backs in each case.

At independence, the Government of Republic of South Sudan developed the South Sudan Development Plan (2011–2016), focusing on governance, economic development, social and human development, and conflict prevention and security. The priorities discussed in this section also reflect the spirit of the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan (TCSS) and South Sudan Vision 2040. Under these legal and policy development frameworks, the Government of South Sudan recognize the gender biases that create differential participation and benefits for women, men, boys, girls and persons with disabilities and have identified specific strategies and programmes to address the inequalities thereto. Another key priority of South Sudan Development Strategy is improved social welfare by expanding the population's access to basic education, health, water and sanitation services that are coordinated, regulated and provided by local institutions. These are some of the priorities considered as milestones by the Government to realize gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

(i) Women Participation and Political Representation

In the words of Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General (2012 - 31 Dec 2016), “to be truly transformative, the Post 2015 development agenda must prioritize gender equality and women’s empowerment. The world will never realize 100 percent of its goals if 50 percent of its people cannot realize their full potential.”

True to the above statement, South Sudan signed a Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the country between President Salva Mayardit Kiir and Opposition Leader Riek Machar in September 2018- in which the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) was integrally involved. The Agreement provides for permanent adherence to the cease-fire and creation of structures that meet the Agreement’s guarantee of 35 per cent women’s representation across the Executive arm, the Council of Ministers and the pre-transitional institutions. The allocation of a 35 % affirmative action for women’s representation at all levels of government raised hope and symbolizes the significance of gender perspectives in governance and democratic principles and transformations. Women’s representation in decision making will contribute to gender responsive policy legislation and programs that underscore gender equality and empowerment of women in South Sudan.

The idea about 35% women representation was first publicly declared in 2013 by President Salva Kiir and reiterated by Vice President Wani Igga in his September 2013 statement to the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York, that “the SPLM as a ruling party would raise women’s political participation from 25% in the current constitution to a minimum of 35% in the proposed permanent constitution.” These developments represent major breakthroughs, if

implemented, for women's participations in politics and other public affairs. The 25% Affirmative Action was first incorporated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA, 2005) and applied in South Sudan's first political elections in 2010, including nominations to Political Party lists.

Food Security, Nutrition and Gender:

Agriculture constitutes 80 percent of the people's livelihoods in South Sudan and contributes 36 percent of the country's non-oil gross domestic production. This means it is a critical factor for creation of employment, ensuring a healthy nation that is food sufficient and uplifting the living standards of its people. The food security situation in South Sudan has been deteriorating since 2013 as a result of war and ongoing crises. Violent conflicts have progressively destabilized the southern regions since 2016. As the main areas of agricultural production are in these regions, food security in the country has completely collapsed. South Sudan now faces an economic crisis, food insecurity, HIV/AIDS, environmental degradation and increasing urbanization. Estimates by United Nations¹, indicate that the number of people suffering from severe malnutrition was 5.5 million in 2017. This corresponds to 47 per cent of the total population.

In South Sudan, women are responsible for production of 60 to 80 percent of the food. Yet, they are regarded as home producers or assistants on the farm, and not as farmers and economic agents on their own merit. Therefore, empowering women farmers is vital to lifting rural communities out of poverty, noting that when they get opportunity to manage household finances, women are more likely than men to spend on their family's nutritional needs, healthcare, and school fees for children. Over the last five years, the people of South Sudan have benefited from Government partnership with development partners to support food security programmes in the country. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is supporting a two-year project on food security and agricultural development (2017-2019) towards the direct improvement of the nutritional status of target groups; and the resumption and expansion of agricultural production. The project raises awareness of nutrition, health and hygiene issues among parents and guardians looking after children. On its part, the World Food Programme has continuously focused on the humanitarian response to food insecurity in the country.

Education and Gender Equality

According to Global Partnership for Education (GPE)², Peace is on the horizon in South Sudan, and quality education is the key to building a stable future. South Sudan's education system is characterized as a low investment, low capacity, but high demand system. The state building and peace building efforts of the national plans put high demand on the education system to expand fast, reduce inequity, and provide appropriate teaching. But public expenditure its expenditure is one of the world's lowest for education. South Sudan joined the Global Partnership for

¹ World Food Programme and UNDP, 2017

² The Global Partnership for Education is the only global fund solely dedicated to education in developing countries. GPE is a multi-stakeholder partnership and funding platform that aims to strengthen education systems in developing countries in order to dramatically increase the number of children who are in school and learning.

Education in 2012 and received a US\$36.1 million grant from the GPE for the period 2013 to 2016. The Global Partnership for Education Program is a major supporter of girls' education and has integrated methods to promote special support to girls in all its program activities. This support includes measures to eliminate gender based violence and foster a gender sensitive environment in the classroom.

USAID Gender Assessment/South Sudan (2015) notes that South Sudanese consistently identify education as the most cherished of the various peace dividends, which follow from the end of conflict. However, despite the Government's focus on education as part of the transformation process, and the expressed desire for education on the part of many South Sudanese, the education sector remains highly challenged and in need of enormous resources and expertise to come close to meeting the government's objective to increase enrolment to 55 percent by 2017. Taking into account these staggering statistics, it is unsurprising that literacy rates are remarkably lower for girls, 40% compared to 60% for boys in 2018.

South Sudan has eight public Universities, with Juba University³ being the largest having a student enrollment of 10,000-14,999 students. It is a coeducational higher education institution. University of Juba (JU) offers courses and programs leading to higher education degrees such as pre-bachelor degrees (i.e. certificates, diplomas, and associate or foundation degrees), bachelor degrees, master degrees, doctorate degrees in several areas of study. Majority of the student population are male, going by the primary and secondary school enrollment rates cited above.

Health and Gender Equality

South Sudan has some of the worst health indicators in the world. Child mortality and morbidity rates are high, child malnutrition is severe, maternal mortality is among the highest in the world and endemic diseases present a heavy burden to the already stretched health care system. With a score of 0.30, the country also ranked 156th out of 157 countries globally, in the 2018 Human Capital Index (HCI)⁴. According to Sahr Kpundeh, World Bank Country Manager for South Sudan, years of conflict have eroded the already scarce physical and social infrastructure, leaving millions of South Sudanese without proper access to vital health services. The country's low health indicators highlight the importance and urgency of investing in health and overall human development outcomes in the country.

The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare noted that health care is one of women's priorities besides education and economic empowerment. This is because many women in South Sudan believe that if their health, education and economic needs are met they will be able to improve their living standard. The choice of health as the women's priority cannot be

³ Other Public Universities include John Garang Memorial University of Science and Technology; University of Torit; University of Western Equatoria; University of Western Equatoria; Rumbek University; University of Northern Bahr El-Ghazal; University of Bahr El-Ghazal and Upper Nile University.

overemphasized because, as patients and health workers, they face many health issues. An intersection of economic hardships, work overload and gender has far-reaching consequences on women's health in South Sudan as they face psychological, financial and social problems. The following public hospitals are operating in South Sudan: Juba Teaching Hospital; Malakal Teaching Hospital; Aweil and Bentiu Civil Hospitals. In the South Sudan Ministry of Health Sector Development 2012-2016 Plan, there were 189 physicians in the country with one doctor for 39,088 persons. Central Equatoria had 51% of the physicians while Western Equatoria and Jonglei did not have any.

1.1 Achievements, Challenges and Setbacks

During the reporting period, South Sudan made the following achievements and encountered challenges and setbacks on the road to realize gender equality and empowerment of women:

1.1.1 Achievements

(a) Progress on Policy and Legislation

South Sudan has recorded various achievements since the last reporting of the BPfA+20. The signing of a Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in September 2018 becomes the most recent legal framework guaranteeing 35 per cent women's representation across the Executive arm, the Council of Ministers and the pre-transitional institutions. Other policies and legislation that have been developed/ enacted to promote and monitor equality and non-discrimination include: National Gender Policy and Strategic Plan; National Health Policy (2016-2026); National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security; National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) to Climate Change (2016); the legal frameworks on Transitional Constitution of South Sudan, 2011 on Equality before the Law; Local Government Act, 2009 on Rights of Women; Penal Code, 2008 on Rape and Sexual Violence; and Child Act, 2008. The policies that are still in draft form include the National Land Policy (2019).

The Government of South Sudan developed the National Action Plan for implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the Standard Operating Procedures for Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in 2014. The document sets clear systems, roles and responsibilities for all institutions involved in the prevention, protection and response to GBV in South Sudan. The government also developed a National Health Policy (2016-2026) whose health service programming is gender sensitive. In the policy, deliberate effort was made to protect the rights to healthcare of women, children, the elderly, people with special needs – the physically and mentally challenged, refugees and IDPs and all in transit populations, minority groups and the poor.

In the area of improving policy environment for an effective national response to the HIV epidemic, the national HIV/AIDS policy was finalized in 2016 pending cabinet approval; the National HIV prevention strategy that is inclusive of a programme on key populations (e.g. sex workers and gays) was also finalized in the same year; revision of HIV testing services (HTS) guidelines among others. The Agenda for Accelerated Country Action for Women, girls, gender

equality and HIV plan was also developed and disseminated. The Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health strategy was finalized and is being implemented.

On International human rights instruments, South Sudan's National Legislative Assembly ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in September 2014. The implementation of CEDAW was to address issues of customary law involving women's rights to inherit and own productive assets, lack of voice and decision making in family and community matters, denial of the right of choice to found a family especially in rural settings⁵.

South Sudan also ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa in October 2017 and made several reservations – discouraged polygamous marriages (article 6) and on reproductive rights - family planning and abortion (article 14). The country domesticated⁶ the following human rights instruments to support gender equality and women empowerment: Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols; African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; The African Convention for Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

(b) Institutional Development

One of the key milestones that the Government South Sudan has realized in line with the BPfA is its commitment to strengthened institutions charged with the responsibility of promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. With the development of the National Gender Policy of the Republic of South Sudan in 2012, the Government recognized the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW) as the National Gender Machinery with the mandate to promote gender equality, social justice, and safe guard the rights and welfare of women, children, persons with disability and other vulnerable groups. The scope and mandate of the Ministry covers gender and women's empowerment, child and social welfare functions and to ensure gender mainstreaming throughout all other Ministries and as part of the monitoring and evaluation of impact of both gender specific laws and policies. Other government institutions that reinforce the work of the National Gender Machinery are South Sudan Human Rights Commission (SSHRC); South Sudan AIDS Commission (SSAC)⁷; and Anti-Corruption

⁵ Amnesty International, 2017.

⁶ In a letter of 31 October 2013 to the President of the UN General Assembly, South Sudan pledged to support its candidacy for election to the Human Rights Council for the term 2014-2016. The letter indicated that the Council of Ministers of South Sudan had acceded to a package of treaties and submitted them to the legislative assembly for adoption: ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, CERD, CRC, CAT and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. The letter stressed the limited list of instruments to which South Sudan is a party indicates the young age of the country and its limited capacity is not indicative of "a lack of will to adhere to international standards

⁷ South Sudan AIDS Commission (SSAC) produced the Country Progress Report on Global AIDS Response (GARPR, 2017) that was enriched by the voices of key populations (e.g. sex workers, gay persons) who continue to have difficulty having their needs for HIV prevention, treatment and care both recognized and addressed.

Commission; Public Grievances Chamber; Fiscal, Financial Allocation and Monitoring Commission; Relief and Rehabilitation Commission; De-Mining Authority; Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration; Peace Commission; HIV/AIDS Commission; National Bureau of Statistics; Civil Service Commission; Land Commission; War Disabled, Widows and Orphans Commission; War Veterans Commission; Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control; South Sudan High Elections Committee; and South Sudan Law Reform (Review) Commission. Gender Sector Working Groups work on various themes such as Gender Based Violence, Humanitarian Action and Response; and non-state actors such as South Sudan Law Society and Women's Rights Organizations (Voice for Change, SSWEN) prioritize interventions on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

1.1.2 Challenges

Incomplete and Non-implementation of National Policies and Legal Frameworks

During the reporting period, the 25 percent affirmative action to women (now increased to 35 percent) ensured women's political participation, however it does not avail them with the same power to make decisions on issues of national importance as their male counterparts. For example, since the establishment of South Sudan National Legislative Assembly, for example, none of the women Members of Parliament (MPs) has been supported to sponsor a single bill that deals specifically with women's concerns and interests. There is also inadequate political will as not a single woman has been appointed to lead key Ministries such as the Interior, Finance or Defense since South Sudan became independent in July 2011. Instead, women are assigned service-oriented political positions and institutions that reflect their stereotypical domestic roles of caring and nurturing such as Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare or Members or Deputy Chair of similar Committees in Parliament. This creates a valid argument that the affirmative action for women's representation (whether 25% or 35%) to substantively address gender inequality and women's empowerment is a fantasy.

Another huge challenge encountered by South Sudanese legislators, both women and men, is that of policy implementation. Many policies passed by the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) and signed by the President are not implemented. For instance, since the development of the National Gender Policy in June 2012, it took the National Gender Machinery (Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare) two years to effect implementation of the policy in 2014. Other reasons why policies and legal frameworks enacted are not implemented relate to:

- Inadequate knowledge of human rights instruments (CEDAW, UNSCR 1325, Child Act, the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan (TCSS, 2011) among rule of law practitioners and policymakers. This is exacerbated by patriarchal structures in South Sudan's ethnic communities and multiple sources of law – customary law, TCSS), pose a challenge on how the legal instruments should be applied in courts and other legal systems (UNMISS, 2014)⁸.
- Limited information on how the Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) are being implemented, a situation that is made worse by lack of a budget for that purpose. This has created impunity among perpetrators of GBV among other human rights violations.

⁸ United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, 2014

- After independence (2011), the Government and Opposition developed separate strategies for addressing humanitarian priorities, including developing frameworks for the return, resettlement and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The crisis situation limited the opportunities for implementing these strategies. Development of a 3-year national development strategy with which stakeholders are expected to align their actions started in June 2017 and is yet to be launched.

1.1.3 Setbacks to Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

- The protracted conflict between Salva Kiir supporters of South Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the opposition faction of Riek Machar resulting in killings and displacement of citizens. Even with the signing of the Revitalized Agreement and its requirement for women's involvement, there are continued clashes, targeting of civilians, human rights abuses, sexual and gender-based violence, food insecurity and impediments to humanitarian assistance –these undermine gender equality and empowerment of women.
- South Sudanese women often find themselves caught up in a “futile man's war” as they frequently become the victims of sexual assault, lost family members or have their livelihoods destroyed during armed conflict situations. This diverts their focus from productive work that could contribute to the country's GDP to concentrate on unpaid work of providing security of their children and the home in general.
- Agricultural production has been hampered by conflict, inadequate research facilities and poor infrastructure among others. The situation becomes dire when women and girls do not receive adequate education and training opportunities. Education has proven to be an important tool to increase agricultural productivity and reduce poverty and malnutrition. According to the WFP (2018), girls in South Sudan often have less access to basic education while women receive only five percent of agricultural extension services.
- Women's mobility may be constrained because they are tied to their homes and are the primary care takers of children. They may also lack access to transportation and roads. Furthermore, women may be confronted with risks to their safety, especially in conflict and post-conflict environments; violence against women is a serious problem in South Sudan.
- Households affected by HIV/AIDS have increased vulnerability to food insecurity. Illness due to HIV/AIDS impedes a family's capacity to grow food while their nutritional needs are even more critical. Additionally, burdens on women as caretakers are increased.
- Land is predominantly owned by men and transferred intergenerational to males. Therefore women may lack access to land, water rights and livestock. Even when women are able to access land, lack of ownership creates a disincentive to invest time and resources into sustainable farming practices, which in turn lowers production and results in less income and food for the household.

2 Which of the following have been the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country over the past five years through laws, policies and/or programmes? (please check relevant categories)

- ✓ Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice
Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls
- ✓ Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security
- ✓ Eliminating violence against women and girls
- ✓ Access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights
Political participation and representation
Right to work and rights at work (e.g. gender pay gap, occupational segregation, career progression)
Women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises
Unpaid care and domestic work / work-family conciliation (e.g. paid maternity or parental leave, care services)
Gender-responsive social protection (e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)
Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, energy, transport etc.)
Strengthening women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability
Gender-responsive budgeting
Digital and financial inclusion for women
Gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience building
- ✓ Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes
Other

Please provide brief reflections on how your country has addressed these priorities (3 – 5 pages).

South Sudan's priorities since 2014 to date

Over the last five years, the Government of South Sudan identified the following five priorities for accelerating achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls:

Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice

South Sudan has enacted various laws, policies and initiated programmes as well as ratified/signed international human rights instruments that address the issues of equality and non –discrimination under the law and access to justice. The Transitional Constitution of South Sudan is the supreme law of the land and provides for non-discrimination in the Bill of Rights through the following Acts: Local Government Act, 2009 on Rights of Women; Penal Code, 2008 on Rape and Sexual Violence; and Child Act, 2008. Others are National Gender Policy and Strategic Plan; National Health Policy (2016-2026); draft National Land Policy, National Health Policy (2016-2026), National AIDS policy and National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. South Sudan ratified and domesticated the following human rights instruments to monitor the implementation of gender equality and prevention of non-discrimination: the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols; African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; The African Convention for Protection

and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

Through the Bill of Rights, article 9(3) of the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan, states that “All rights and freedoms enshrined in international human rights treaties, covenants and instruments ratified or acceded to by the Republic of South Sudan shall be an integral part of this Bill.” This means that South Sudan has strong legislative framework on the rights of the child that has domesticated and incorporated the provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Children (UN CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). Section 14 of the TCSS is clear that “All persons are equal before the law and are entitled to the equal protection of the law *without discrimination* as to race, ethnic origin, colour, sex, language, religious creed, political opinion, birth, locality or social status. Article 16 on rights of women states in section states in section (1) women shall be accorded full and equal dignity of the person with men. (2) Women shall have the right to equal pay for equal work and other related benefits with men. (3) Women shall have the right to participate equally with men in public life and (5) women shall have the right to own property and share in the estates of their deceased husbands together with any surviving legal heir of the deceased.

The Bill of Rights of the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan (TCSS) provides for equality between women and men and the preservation of human, economic, social and cultural rights including: right to life, right to found a family (Article 15), right to personal liberty (Article 12), equality under the law (Article 14), rights of the child (Article 17), right to education (Article 29), rights to public health care (Article 31), rights to ethnic and cultural communities (Article 33) and the right to own property (Article 28); policy implementation and resource allocation. The Transitional Constitution requires that at least 35% of seats in the national parliament and all other institutions of governance at all levels allocated to women.

The Government of South Sudan in partnership with such Non-State Actors as South Sudan Law Society, South Sudan Women Lawyers Association (SSWLA) to give effect to article 20 of the TCSS which stated that “The right to litigation shall be guaranteed for all persons; no person shall be denied the right to resort to courts of law to redress grievances whether against government or any individual or organization.” In this regard, any accused person shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty.

Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security

According to the SUDD Institute, the shutdown of the oil, the major source of revenue in 2012, and the austerity measures that followed, many people in South Sudan turned to agriculture as a means of survival to sustain their lives and their families. Almost 80% of agricultural work is done by women in South Sudan, with many of them involved in both subsistent and commercial farming – planting of food and non-food crops. However, majority of the farmers, both women and men, face challenges of lack of modern agricultural tools, storage facilities and better roads linking centres of production with market places. Food insecurity is likely to persist due to limited access to humanitarian aid, influx of South Sudanese returnees that could put a strain on already

scarce resources, especially in the current year (2019). This situation emanates from the civil war that began tearing South Sudan apart since December 2013 causing lots of destruction, death and displacement. By August 2017, about 1.7 million people were internally displaced, while 2.5 million were refugees in neighboring countries. A collapsing economy, reduced crop production and dependence on imports seriously undermine people's ability to secure sufficient nutritious food all year round, putting millions of lives at risk. Famine was declared in two counties and hunger and malnutrition levels were at **historic high levels**. In January 2019, **6.17 million people did not know where their next meal would come from**. A UN food security analysis published in February 2019 indicates that **7 million or 60 percent of the population will be food insecure at the height of the lean season** which runs from May to July.

Women and girls suffer disproportionately from hunger and food insecurity. Cultural norms and decades of violence – including rape as a weapon of war – underpin deep gender inequalities. Men control most productive assets and positions of power. With 80 percent of the country's women illiterate, domestic violence and early marriage are commonplace. The World Food Programme (WFP), has been providing life-saving support to millions of people on all sides of the conflict and in virtually all areas of the country that are accessible since independence in 2011. With a view to turning food assistance into a tool for peace building and future development, WFP is engaging grassroots CSOs and empowering communities – with a special focus on women and girls – to foster increasing resilience and self-reliance.

Food and nutritional security continues to be a serious challenge to sustainable development especially in Sub-Saharan African countries where 78million of 200 million people in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania and South Sudan are classified as poor 2008 (approx. 40% population) and where poverty rates increased from 51.4% (1990) to 55.5% (2008). The globally accepted definition of "Food security" [is] a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life" (FAO, 2001).



Source: African Women Studies Centre (ASWC, 2014), University of Nairobi

Furthermore, provision of such services as schools, clean drinking water, and health facilities to farmers and communities emerging around farming areas is vital. The Ministry of Agriculture (renamed Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism, and Animal Resources, and Cooperative and Rural Development in August 2013), should train more Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs) to help train farmers on appropriate ways of farming, storing and marketing their products. Also the new agricultural technologies, such as farming tractors introduced in South Sudan should be gender-sensitive and should meet the needs of women as well.

Eliminating violence against women and girls

Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) is recognized globally as a serious violation of human rights. In South Sudan, both phases of the civil war were characterized by widespread forms of SGBV including rape as a weapon of war, abduction and forced sexual favours for survival. Both sides of the conflicting parties namely the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudan Armed Force (SAF) perpetuated the violations. These continued to have serious effects such as trauma, stigma, abandonment, death, isolation, HIV&AIDS, unwanted pregnancies, especially on women and girls.

The above finding concurs with findings of a joint study released on 29 November 2017 by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the George Washington University's (GW) Global Women's Institute (GWI) that reveals up to 65 percent of those interviewed in study sites in South Sudan had experienced either sexual or physical violence in their lifetime by an intimate partner or a non-partner, double the global average and among the highest levels of violence against women and girls in the world. The quantitative component of the study consisted of a population-based household survey administered to a representative sample of women aged 15-64 in three locations: Juba City, Rumbek Centre and Juba PoCs. Qualitative data, in the form of interviews and focus-group discussions, were also collected with community members, key stakeholders and survivors of VAWG in the three locations above plus Juba County and Bentiu PoC site. A total of 2,728 individuals were reached; 2,244 women and 481 men.

An earlier study conducted by CARE International entitled "The girl has no rights: gender-based violence in South Sudan" (2014), indicates there are few places in the world where it is more dangerous or disempowering to grow as female as a male in South Sudan. The vast majority of women and girls will survive at least one form of gender based violence – be it rape, sexual assault, physical assault, forced/early marriage, denial of resources, opportunities or services; or psychological/emotional abuse. In Jonglei, for instance, the study cited cases of girls committing suicide due to constant abuse or because they saw no other option to avoid early and forced marriage. Although GBV is rooted in discriminatory social norms and power inequalities between men and women it is often escalated in conflict situation.

As the conflict in South Sudan continued to escalate in 2014, GBV was became a widespread concern in South Sudan with far reaching, long-term effects which threatened to impact future generations such as children witnessing sexual violence, children being born of rape, or children's mothers disappearing or being murdered. In some instances, some families began to use gender

based violence such as early marriage as a coping strategy. Families often use early marriage to protect their girls in times of conflict and as a means of income generation in times of extreme poverty and food insecurity. This makes gender interventions more difficult.

The Government of South Sudan has enacted the following legal provisions to protect against sexual and gender based violence: Section 247 Penal Code, 2008 on rape and sexual violence states as follows “(1) Whoever has sexual intercourse or carnal intercourse with another person, against his or her will or without his or her consent, commits the offence of rape, and upon conviction, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen years and may also be liable to a fine. (2) A consent given by a man or woman below the age of eighteen years shall not be deemed to be consent within the meaning of subsection (1), above. Others legislations are section 274 which criminalize the kidnapping of persons and subjecting them to any form of harm including sexual abuse; Section 108 (5) Local Government Act, 2009; and Section 5 Child Act. Below is the South Sudan Legal frame-work for protection against sexual and gender based violence as outlined in TCSS, 2011, the penal Code 2008 and Child Act, 2009.

South Sudan Legal Framework

Section	Offence/Provision	Punishment
Law: Penal Code Act		
247	Rape	Imprisonment for a term not exceeding 14 years
223	Assault	Imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or with a fine or with both
225	Assault or Criminal Force Without Provocation	Imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or with a fine or with both
249	Acts of Gross Indecency	Imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen years or with a fine or with both
250	Word, Gesture or Act Intended to Insult the Modesty of a Woman	Imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or with a fine or with both
251	Public Indecency	Imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months with a fine or with both
255	Coercing or Inducing Persons for Purpose of Engaging in Sexual Conduct	Imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or with a fine or with both
256	Detaining a Person for Purpose of Engaging in Unlawful Sexual Conduct	Imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or with a fine or with both
9	Discrimination against a Child	Imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or with a fine or with both
57	Cruelty to Children	Imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or with a fine or with both

Source: Human Rights Initiative (HRI): Legal Provisions Relating to Gender Equality & Sexual & Gender Based Violence in South Sudan, August 2017

Access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

The Transitional Constitution of South Sudan states that 'All levels of government shall promote public health, establish, rehabilitate and develop basic medical and diagnostic institutions and provide free primary health care and emergency services for all citizens.' (Article 31, TCSS). In most African countries, women and girls bear the greatest burden of disease. Through the Ministry of Health, the Government meets its healthcare obligations and has put in place the legislative, policy and programmatic frameworks to support this constitutional requirement.

National Health Policy of South Sudan (NHPSS) 2016 – 2026

It focuses on realization of fundamental human rights as outlined in the TCSS, strengthening of the national health system as a prerequisite for health sector reforms; health policies, institutional structures, capacities and better health service delivery. The policy has three objectives, namely: to strengthen health service organization and infrastructure development for effective and equitable delivery of the Basic Package of Health and Nutrition Services, and Universal Health Coverage; to strengthen leadership and management of the health system and increase health system resources for improved health sector performance; and to strengthen partnerships for healthcare delivery and health systems development.

National HIV/AIDS Policy

South Sudan is committed to addressing HIV & AIDS and to address the gendered factors that make women and girls vulnerable to HIV infection. In 2007, a National HIV/AIDS Policy was developed to provide an enabling policy and legislative environment that supports and strengthens the HIV response in South Sudan. In addition, the First Vice President endorsed the launch of the Government of South Sudan Policy and National Strategic Framework Planning processes in June 2007. This directive resulted into the first National HIV Strategic Framework (2008-2012) which guided all HIV interventions during that period. Since then another National Strategic Plan was developed (2013 -2017).

South Sudan AIDS Commission (2006)

It was created by a Presidential Decree number 55/2006 mandated to coordinate the national HIV response as well as creation of 10 State AIDS Commissions; State HIV Action Plans. The laws enacted to support the response to HIV are: the TCSS, Child Act (2008); the Land Act (2009), which addresses women and property rights; and the Penal Code, 2008. All these laws and policies are not only meant to protect the rights of people living with HIV, but also to commit the Government of South Sudan to provide required HIV services.

At the programmatic level, HIV interventions have focused on: prevention of new HIV infections; treatment, care, support and socio-economic impact mitigation; cross cutting issues such as gender, humanitarian contexts; and health systems strengthening for delivery of HIV services. During the reporting period, the National Strategic Plan (2013-2017) was the lead strategic document guiding all investments within the HIV response. The document also defines and prioritizes key populations at higher risk of HIV infection, geographic locations with higher HIV prevalence and vulnerable groups.

Negative Social Norms and Gender Stereotypes: Actions to prevent cultural sustaining harmful cultural practices:

Social and cultural norms are rules or expectations of behavior and thoughts based on shared beliefs within a specific cultural or social group. While often unspoken, norms offer social standards for appropriate and inappropriate behavior that governs what is (and is not) acceptable in interactions among people (WHO, 2009). Social and cultural norms are influential over individual behavior in a broad variety of contexts, including violence and its prevention, because norms can create an environment that can foster or mitigate violence and its effects.

Social scientists and community of practitioners believe that the social and cultural norms that lead to the tolerance of violence of any form are a result of socialization from a very early age, through witnessing violence in the family, in the media, or in other settings (Lansford and Dodge, 2008; WHO, 2015). Witnessing violence in childhood creates norms that can lead to the acceptance or perpetration of a multitude of violent behaviors or acts, but it also may provide a potent point of intervention for violence prevention efforts. Examples of social and cultural norms in South Sudan include acceptance of gender based violence and forced early marriages.

The Government of South Sudan intervenes in social and cultural norms as captured in the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan and relate to the legal provisions discussed in the previous topic: the Child Act, 2008; (Article 14), rights of the child (Article 17), right to education (Article 29), rights to public health care (Article 31), rights to ethnic and cultural communities (Article 33) and the right to own property (Article 28). In the last five years, the Government of South Sudan partnered with Non-State Actors Sudan such as Voice for Change, UNICEF to implement a three- year project on Social Norms and Community-Based Healthcare (SNCBC) in Yei and Bor counties. The project used two approaches, namely action research and training. Other efforts to address social norms must include reconciliation and negotiation between the constitution's "Bill of Rights" and the customary law systems that promote these social norms in South Sudan by all stakeholders – women, men, traditional authorities, community elders, policy makers and civil society organizations – to develop a common ground that would be acceptable to all. Such an endeavor could only be possible through development of research-based policies and programs.

3 Over the past five years, have you taken specific measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination? (please check relevant categories)

Women living in remote and rural areas

Indigenous women

Racial, ethnic or religious minority women

✓ Women living with disabilities

Women living with HIV/AIDS

Women with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities

Younger women

✓ Older women

Migrant women

Refugee and internally displaced women

✓ Women in humanitarian settings

Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses (2 pages max.).

Older women

Article 30 of the TCSS on the ' Rights of Persons with Special Needs and the Elderly' states that :
1. All levels of government shall guarantee to persons with special needs participation in society and the enjoyment of rights and freedoms set out in this Constitution, especially access to public utilities, suitable education and employment. 2. The elderly and persons with special needs shall have the right to respect of their dignity. They shall be provided with the necessary care and medical services as shall be regulated by law.

The Government of South Sudan provides an enabling for Non-State actors such as Helpage global network and South Sudan Older People's Organization to contribute to reduced vulnerable people's hunger, build their long-term resilience and help them claim their human rights. They protect older people who are displaced within South Sudan by improving their nutrition and access to food. This is done through distribution of cash vouchers to vulnerable older women for them to spend on what they need most, including food. Kitchen gardening groups are trained and given seeds to grow vegetables, which helps to improve nutrition and gives households the opportunity to earn an income selling surpluses. GOAL is helping in setting up village loan and saving associations, which farmers can use to get cash to support their agricultural production.

Women living with disabilities

Disability is stigmatized in South Sudan and as a result children and adults with disabilities are hidden and isolated. Such negative attitudes contribute to discrimination against people with disabilities in the country. This often makes them not easily accessible to social safety nets and food security schemes for persons with disabilities.

South Sudan Government is committed to improving the lives of women and girls with disabilities including their families and cares, through its disability reform agenda. The South Sudan National Disability and Inclusion Policy 2013 is the country's overarching framework for improving the lives of people with disability, including women and girls. The Strategy seeks to ensure greater collaboration and coordination by all stakeholders, industry and communities. The policy is based on five guiding principles: non-discrimination and human right based approach, affirmative action, diversity and inclusiveness, disability mainstreaming and participation. Its overall goal is to address and respond to multiple vulnerabilities faced by PWDs and promote and protect their rights and dignity in an inclusive manner. One of the priority policy areas

covered by the policy is to ensure that people with disability have their rights promoted, upheld and protected. The policy acknowledges that men and women with disability face different challenges by reason of their sex and experience.

Women in humanitarian settings

Various studies conducted on gender based violence in South Sudan (UNICEF, 20114; UNFPA, 2009; World Bank, 2015) have indicated that women, children and girls are increasingly targeted and subjected to various forms of violence and abuse ranging from arbitrary killings, torture and sexual violence such as rape and defilement, domestic violence and trafficking. Protracted conflicts have shattered many traditional norms, changing the roles traditional roles of women and militarized the conflict. This made women become not only “collateral” damage” but as legitimate targets, both for sexual and other types of violence (Hutchinson, 2016).

The Gender Machinery in South Sudan is monitoring the implementation of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security as well as the Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) on gender based violence (GBV) among other human rights violations. The challenge is inadequate budgets to effect the implementation.

4 Has the increasing number of humanitarian crises—caused by conflict, extreme weather or other events—affected the implementation of the BPfA in your country?

YES/NO

If YES, please give concrete examples of the effects of humanitarian crises on progress for women and girls in your country and of measures taken to prevent and respond to humanitarian crises in a gender-responsive manner (1 page max.).

Yes.

Women are intricately linked to and are part of many of the drivers and manifestations of communal conflict in South Sudan. Not only are women and children more likely to be victims of violence, but issues closely related to women are among the most prominent drivers of inter-communal violence in the country today, such as cattle raiding to pay for high dowries, land disputes around inheritance laws that prohibit the passage of land to women, and tensions surrounding marriage. Despite this, women remain under-represented and removed from peace building efforts and peace processes at the community level, and this lack of engagement demonstrates a clear failure to recognize their roles in contributing to violence and peace.

The current conflict has made South Sudan a truly dangerous place to be a woman or a girl. According to UNDP and IOM (2018), more than half of young women aged 15-24 years have experienced some form of gender-based violence. Most women in South Sudan are affected as they are often harassed in many different ways - touched, beaten, sexually abused. The report indicates that 475,000 women and girls are at risk, which is why UNDP is working in partnership with the Government of South Sudan, the Global Fund and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to address gender-based violence as part of mental health and psychosocial

support programmes, particularly for women displaced by the three-year conflict. This is particularly important as violence can affect women's physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health, and may increase vulnerability to HIV. These and other factors pose a challenge to the participation and representation of women in gainful activities such as leadership and entrepreneurship that could contribute to their empowerment and enable them claim their space in the public sphere.

5 Which of the following does your country consider to be the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country for the coming five years through laws, policies and programmes? (please check relevant categories)

Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice

Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls

✓ Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security

✓ Eliminating violence against women and girls

Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

✓ Political participation and representation

Right to work and rights at work (e.g. gender pay gap, occupational segregation, career progression)

Women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises

Unpaid care and domestic work / work-family conciliation (e.g. paid maternity or parental leave, care services)

Gender-responsive social protection (e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)

Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, transport, communication, etc.)

Strengthening women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability

✓ Gender-responsive budgeting

Digital and financial inclusion for women

Gender-responsive disaster risk prevention, reduction and resilience building

✓ Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes

Other

Please provide brief reflections on how you plan to address these priorities (3 – 5 pages).

Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security

Women are the primary breadwinners for most homes in South Sudan, as 58% of households are headed by women⁹. Economic spaces such as markets are critical areas to engage women. However, as inter-tribal relationships deteriorate, women often retreat from engaging in trade and other economic activities with groups other than their own, reducing opportunities for constructive inter-group collaboration and exchange. There is a strong correlation between the number of interactions between tribes and levels of inter-communal trust. The more often those

⁹ Gaby Rojas Pérez, "Conflict in South Sudan: How Does It Affect Women?" Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust, (6 May 2014).

communities interact, the more likely there will be higher trust between groups. Economic and livelihood interventions can be a unifying force. RABITA is a group of women community members in Gudele Bloc 4, Joppa, and Kabo near Juba town, who provide training to women from different tribal groups on farming and gardening and on women-specific issues related to health and hygiene. In another example, women's local "federations" that were established during South Sudan's independence movement and comprised women and young girls across tribal lines later went on to conduct activities that directly benefited women, including building women's centres, education support, self-help groups, agriculture and craft initiatives, and employment placements at local hotels and restaurants. Such models can empower women to come together and build relationships across dividing lines, focused on shared interests.

The Government of South Sudan should partner with private sector to strengthen the capacity of women and girls in entrepreneurial skills with the objective of introducing them to new ways of doing non-labour intensive enterprises such as green -houses. This model will incorporate opportunities for starting savings and credit facilities and women's cooperatives.

Eliminating violence against women and girls

In Section 247 of the Penal Code it is stated that "Sexual intercourse by a married couple is not rape, within the meaning of this section." The laws of South Sudan prohibit rape and other sexual based violence. Rape is prohibited by law. This means that a person should not have sexual intercourse with another without his or her consent. Persons under the age of 18 years are presumed not to be capable of giving consent to sex. This means that having sexual intercourse with a person under the age of 18 years amounts to an offence, since the person is not capable in law of giving consent. However, subsection 3 means that sexual intercourse between a man and his wife will not amount to rape even where there is lack of consent or one of the spouses is below the age of 18 years. This is inconsistent with the provisions of the Transitional Constitution, the Child Act and Local Government Act, which protect children from under aged sex, harmful traditional practices and early and forced marriage. Since these legislations came into effect after the Penal Code, they must be deemed as overriding section 247 of the Penal Code. While the Child Act and the Penal Code were passed in the same year, the Child Act came into effect after the Penal Code. Further, the Transitional Constitution is the supreme law of the land and any legislation or law (past, present or future) that is inconsistent with the Constitution is void and of no effect.

Recent years have shown an increased awareness that violence against women is not only physical violence since stalking and psychological violence can be equally invasive and degrading. Regardless of how or against whom violence takes place, targeted action is necessary to create an equal and respectful society in which everyone feels secure both inside and outside their homes. Consequently, the Government of South Sudan will develop new measures and to generate new knowledge in order to prevent violence against women.

Political participation and representation

The presence of substantial number of women in parliament and other government institutions have ushered in changes in the culture of government institutions towards women's role in politics and public affairs. Women are now better able to articulate issues and are deemed to be more effective in applying regulations than men. With the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the country between President Salva Mayardit Kiir and Opposition Leader Riek Machar in September 2018 and which substantively guaranteed 35 per cent women's representation across the Executive arm, the Council of Ministers and the pre-transitional institutions, South Sudanese women leaders have more doors open for them to contribute to nation building.

Moving forward, the Government of South Sudan should encourage women leaders to expand their educational and professional prowess through mentorship programmes to prepare them for leadership. A key area to be grounded in is the language of parliamentary expression now that the official language of South Sudan is English. The case for the lingua franca is urgent because the legal documents of South Sudan are written in English.

Gender responsive budgeting

Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) is becoming an increasingly popular tool to support progress towards gender equality across the world. It is particularly important given that national budgets tend to fail to consider the fact that men and women have different resources, roles and responsibilities, which perpetuate gender discrimination and inequality (Elson, 1998; Harcourt, 2009). GRB asks how public budgets impact upon or advance gender equality, and it involves a range of activities aimed at correcting the discriminatory gendered dimension of development policies (Budlender, 2009; Harcourt, 2009). The main objective of GRB activities is to facilitate a change in the government budget to improve the allocation of resources to women and other vulnerable groups. The highest priority sectors – such as roads, for example – are often considered to have limited gender relevance, yet in reality, access to roads and transport can be a key determinant in supporting women's economic empowerment.

In conflict and post-conflict contexts such as South Sudan, women suffer the effects of fighting disproportionately due to their disadvantaged situation, their distinctive social obligations and responsibilities as well as their exposure to gender-based violence and exploitation (UNDP, 2010: 5). Women are more likely to be excluded from the benefits of recovery, despite the significant role they play in state-building and peace-building efforts. As such, the objectives of GRB can be categorized into three main (and often interlinked) goals: to raise awareness and understanding of gender issues in budgets and policies; (2) to foster governments' accountability for their gender equality commitments; and (3) ultimately to change budgets and policies in the light of the assessments and accountability effected (Sharp, 2003). This is especially important in post-conflict contexts as national planning frameworks guide reconstruction and development efforts by prioritizing and funding policy objectives. If gender priorities are not recognized at the beginning of the planning process, it is unlikely that their importance will be recognized over time, resulting in fewer resources being allocated to programmes on women and girls. The Government of South

Sudan will engage development partners and Non-State actors to ensure they finance the felt needs of women and girls. Key areas where budgets should focus include health, vocation and tertiary skills training. GRB will ensure accountability at all

Changing Negative Social norms and Gender Stereotypes

One of the key efforts to be made by the Government of South Sudan to ensure gender equality is to break down and eliminate gender stereotypes and unconscious bias and practices based on socialization that one category of people is more superior to the other. Social and cultural structures often inhibit women and girls as well as men and boys from living a life in freedom, thus creating a negative impact on society since resources and talents are not utilized optimally.

The Government of South Sudan will continue the work to reduce gender stereotypes and biases in education and the labour market and to encourage fathers to take parental leave, whether on salaried jobs or self-employment to promote the proportion of women in management.

2.0 Section Two: Progress across the 12 critical areas of concern

This section covers progress across the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. To facilitate the analysis, the 12 critical areas of concern have been clustered into six overarching dimensions that highlight the alignment of the BPfA with the 2030 Agenda. This approach is aimed at facilitating reflections about the implementation of both frameworks in a mutually reinforcing manner to accelerate progress for all women and girls.

2.1 Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work

Critical areas of concern:

- A. Women and poverty
- F. Women and the economy
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

6 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment?

- ✓ Strengthened / enforced laws and workplace policies and practices that prohibit discrimination in the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the public and private sectors, and equal pay legislation

Introduced / strengthened gender-responsive active labour market policies (e.g. education and training, skills, subsidies)

- ✓ Taken measures to prevent sexual harassment, including in the workplace

- ☐ Strengthened land rights and tenure security
- ☐ Improved financial inclusion and access to credit, including for self-employed women
- ☐ Improved access to modern technologies (incl. climate-smart technologies), infrastructure and services (incl. agricultural extension)

- ☐ Supported the transition from informal to formal work, including legal and policy measures that benefit women in informal employment
- ☐ Devised mechanisms for women's equal participation in economic decision-making bodies (e.g. in ministries of trade and finance, central banks, national economic commissions)
- ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

Strengthened / enforced laws and workplace policies and practices that prohibit discrimination in the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the public and private sectors, and equal pay legislation

South Sudan has not ratified ILO Conventions 100, 156, 183 and 189. The Transitional Constitution mandates non-discrimination on the basis of sex in employment (Article 16.1). The Transitional Constitution recognizes women's right to equal pay for equal work (Article 16.2). The Labour Bill (2011) prohibits women from entering dangerous works or works that required a lot of physical efforts harm with health-damaging like heavy carrying works and the works performed under the ground or water as well as that exposure to toxic substances or cold or heat that exceeded reasonable limits, for women tolerance (Article 21). Women are not allowed to work between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. with the exception of employing women in administrative, professional, technical or other acts of social and health works (Article 22.1). Women do not require permission from their husbands or legal guardian to choose an occupation or register a business. As such a woman's marriage generally has no impact on her choice of occupation or profession (CEDAW, 2010: para. 583).

Women are granted eight weeks of full paid maternity leave (Labour Bill, 2011: Article 47.1). There is no paternity or paternal leave. A woman may not be dismissed during the period of pregnancy or during the delivery leave (Labour Bill, 2011: Article 47.2). The Constitution (2011) states that the government is responsible for the provision of maternity and child care and medical care for pregnant and lactating women (Article 16.4.c). In addition to the legal framework, South Sudan has adopted national strategies and programmes to empower women economically such as the National Gender Policy, Agriculture Strategy, National Cooperative Strategy and South Sudan Development Plan (Republic of South Sudan, 2014: 18). These strategies and programmes are implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperative and Rural Development, Ministry of Gender (Republic of South Sudan, 2014: 18).

In general, unemployment rates in South Sudan are very high, with only 12% of women and 11% of men of the population formally employed (OXFAM Canada, 2013; Republic of South Sudan, 2014: 18). Despite the legal framework, women earn lower wages than their male counterparts at all levels of income (OXFAM Canada, 2013: 1). Women's involvement in the private sector is very

limited, rather women engage in the underdeveloped and uncoordinated informal sector and in subsistence agriculture (National Gender Policy, 2012: 20, 21). Women's economic freedom is affected by decades of conflict and continuous instability, which contributed to high levels of illiteracy, inadequate resources, poor infrastructure and rampant insecurity (Republic of South Sudan, 2014: 18). They have unequal access to economic and productive assets such as land, skills and capacity. In addition, traditional and customary practices accord different capacities, roles and division of labour to women and men hinder full participation of women in economic empowerment initiatives (Republic of South Sudan, 2014: 18; National Gender Policy, 2012: 20, 21).

Taken measures to prevent sexual harassment, including in the workplace

The Penal Code (2008) identifies that "whoever uses his or her position of authority or advantage to (a) offer a benefit in exchange for sexual favours; (b) intimidate another person or threaten retaliation if such person refuses to engage in any type of sexual relations; (c) engage in any unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature with respect to another person, including, but not limited to inappropriate touching, commits the offence of sexual harassment" (Article 395.1). However act 2 of this Article 395 adds that whether a particular act constitutes sexual harassment is a matter of fact, which depends on the character and nature of the parties. Anyone who intentionally engages in sexual harassment can be imprisoned for up to three years (Article 396).

With one in every four women experiencing some form of gender-based violence on a daily basis in South Sudan, the United Nations Mission in the country has committed to work with communities across the country to combat the problem. Approximately 98 per cent of reported incidents of gender-based violence affect women and girls in the conflict-ridden country and there is no accountability for the perpetrator or enforcement of victims' rights to remedy and reparation. According to the Director of the National Transformational Leadership Institute at the University of Juba, Dr. Angelina Bazugba, gender-based violence could be physical, emotional or social, with lifelong consequences for those affected were including unwanted pregnancy and the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases and HIV.

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is facilitating the education of women in South Sudan and increase awareness about their rights and steps they can take to stay safe. For example, women were being actively encouraged to participate in community watch groups or take on leadership roles in the Protection of Civilian sites next to UN bases. The UN strategy is focused on putting victims' rights and dignity first and promoting greater transparency and accountability to end impunity as well as building and maintaining strong partnerships with civil society and other organizations to prevent and eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse.

7 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote work-family conciliation?

- ☐ Included unpaid care and domestic work in national statistics and accounting (e.g. time-use surveys, valuation exercises, satellite accounts)
- ☐ Expanded childcare services or made existing services more affordable

- ☐ Expanded support for frail elderly persons and others needing intense forms of care
- ☐ Introduced or strengthened maternity/paternity/parental leave or other types of family leave
- ☐ Invested in time- and labour-saving infrastructure, such as public transport, electricity, water and sanitation, to reduce the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women
- ☐ Promoted decent work for paid care workers, including migrant workers
- ☒ **Conducted campaigns or awareness raising activities to encourage the participation of men and boys in unpaid care and domestic work**
- ☐ Introduced legal changes regarding the division of marital assets or pension entitlements after divorce that acknowledge women's unpaid contribution to the family during marriage
- ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

Conducted campaigns or awareness raising activities to encourage the participation of men and boys in unpaid care and domestic work

South Sudan's legal framework does not contain specific articles or provisions regarding the responsibilities and rights in the household. The Child Act (2008) guarantees men and women the same rights to be legal guardians of their children in marriage (Article 40). Article 40.1 states that both parents have parental responsibility for the child and neither the father nor the mother of the child has a superior right or claim against the other in the exercise of such parental responsibility. Where a child's father and mother were not married to each other at the time of the child's birth, but have subsequently married each other, the above applies too. The article does not mention the responsibilities of both parents to children with regard to informal unions.

The government of South Sudan has not yet developed family laws or policies that clearly define women's rights within the household (OXFAM Canada, 2013: 7). The Constitution (2011) guarantees the rights of every citizen to freedom of movement and the liberty to choose his or her residence (Article 27.1). Gender roles and positions are clearly defined and strictly enforced in South Sudan. Cultural and traditional perceptions relegate women to the private sphere. In the private sphere women are assigned time-consuming household responsibilities (Ali, 2011: 5). Traditionally, women are not only expected to be subservient to their husbands but also to other men in their family. (Human Rights Watch, 2013: 39). Customary practices of the various ethnic communities in South Sudan attach great social and economic importance to dowry payment which is connected to a husband's rights over his wife. Once dowry is paid, women are generally considered the property of her husband and his family (Human Rights Watch, 2013).

The Government of South Sudan, through its Gender Machinery and in partnership with development partners and civil society organizations focusing gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in the country continues to create public awareness on issues

of gender in governance at all levels and roles sharing at family level. Although patriarchy is still entrenched in most communities in South Sudan, majority of the people are aware, with a few having started to embrace the message. During one of the gender training in Mapel (2016), a 75 – year old man asked why the trainers took long to come to save him from overworking his wife who had since died. This sentiment goes a long way to say that the old man was ready to advise others to embrace gender roles sharing in the family.

2.2 Poverty eradication, social protection and social services

Critical areas of concern:

- A. Women and poverty
- B. Education and training of women
- C. Women and health
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

Has your country introduced austerity/fiscal consolidation measures, such as cuts in public expenditure or public sector downsizing, over the past five years?

YES/NO

If YES, have assessments on their impact on women and men, respectively, been conducted?

- ☐ Yes, their impact on women/men was estimated before measures were put in place.
- ☐ Yes, the impact was assessed after measures were put in place.
- ☒ Yes, the impact on women/men has not been assessed.

If YES, please describe the findings (1-2 pages).

8 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls?

- ☐ Promoted poor women's access to decent work through active labour market policies (e.g. job training, skills, employment subsidies, etc.) and targeted measures
- ☐ Broadened access to land, housing, finance, technology and/or agricultural extension services
- ☐ Supported women's entrepreneurship and business development activities
- ☐ Introduced or strengthened social protection programmes for women and girls (e.g. cash transfers for women with children, public works/employment guarantee schemes for women of working-age, pensions for older women)
- ☐ Introduced/strengthened low-cost legal services for women living in poverty
- ☒ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

There have been no deliberate strategies strategically targeting to remove women and girls from poverty in South Sudan. Government planning is done broadly to involve men, women and children; therefore it is a challenge to evaluate poverty reduction among women and girls. Women and girls have used the strategies below to cope with poverty in South Sudan:

Forced early marriage

For poor families with little money even for food and basic necessities, marrying their daughters early is an economic coping strategy. Girls themselves may see marriage as a way out of poverty. Discriminatory gender norms, including traditions that mean that girls go to live with their husbands' families while boys remain with and financially support their parents, also contribute to perceptions that girls are economic burdens. Some families believe that giving their daughter away in marriage may give her a chance for a better life. Many girls who attend school are forced to leave as a result of marriage, pregnancy or family pressure. Although school administrators and teachers should play a critical role to monitor and encourage married girls to remain in school, formal or informal school policies expose them to stigma and while some teachers expel them from the education system. Inadequate water and sanitation facilities can force girls to stay away from school, especially once they begin menstruating (Oxfam, 2017).

Collecting firewood and changing gender roles

Since the start of the conflict in December 2013, collecting firewood has become one of the most widely used coping strategies to escape from poverty in Bor, Twic East County and Wau State. Firewood is used for cooking meals and sold to generate income for households. Women, girls, men and boys all fetch firewood for income. While men experience psychosocial problems, but they still leave the camps to look for income generating activities and to avoid idleness. This raised concerns among some men that women have become the main providers. Women involve in income-earning activities due to high levels of malnutrition. The burden is on the women, who have to engage in petty trade and collect firewood'. In Twic East County, women did not collect firewood for sale, but now they have to in order to combat poverty. In Twic East County, women, boys and men walked two hours to and from forests to fetch firewood.

Petty Trade

In Wau State, Akobo Counties and Bor PoC, women are involved in petty trade as a key coping mechanism. In Bor, women engage in small-scale/petty businesses such as selling vegetables and raw milk brought to them inside the camps by other traders, while men involve themselves in casual work such as clearing garbage and digging channels for rainwater and dirty water from the WASH facilities to flow easily. In Akobo Counties, women buy and rear goats and cows and grow vegetables in gardens prepared with support from Oxfam. However, they have little control

over the proceeds from these activities, which they surrender to their spouses or other male household members. In Wau State, women engaged in construction to earn money.

Sex for food

There is widespread prostitution among girls and women in protection camps in Juba. Testimonies offer evidence of this increasingly alarming trend as a coping mechanism to combat poverty: 'In the camp, we face problems of GBV, a growing number of abortions and prostitution. This is what needs to be addressed to overcome the negative impact of the conflict' (FGD, men, Juba). The difficult situation faced by women and girls is driving them to sell their bodies in exchange for money or food to any available male who is willing to provide them. The need for survival and access to food has increased cases of prostitution among women and girls.

9 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls?

- ✓ Introduced or strengthened social protection for unemployed women (e.g. unemployment benefits, public works programmes, social assistance)
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened conditional cash transfers
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened unconditional cash transfers
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened non-contributory social pensions
- ✓ Reformed contributory social protection schemes to strengthen women's access and benefit levels
- ✓ Improved access to the above for specific populations (e.g. women in informal employment, including domestic workers; migrant and refugee women; women in humanitarian settings)
- ✓ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

World Bank (Sept. 2018) notes that South Sudan has had the dual challenge of dealing with the legacy of over 50 years of conflict and continued instability, as well as huge development deficits and wide-ranging vulnerabilities. The more than five years of conflict in South Sudan has significantly eroded the country's development potentials, worsened humanitarian situations, and deepened vulnerabilities. The South Sudan National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF) was developed in 2011 by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) whose overall goal is to respond to and address the multiple vulnerabilities faced by South Sudanese citizens, with a particular focus on the poorest and most excluded sectors. However, government's capacity to design, implement and coordinate an effective social protection program in South Sudan remains limited.

According to the study carried out by World Bank on stocktaking of social protection programmes and strategies in South Sudan (2018), conflict induced shocks and stresses and

disproportionately impacted vulnerable groups such as women and children. In 2017, more than 70 percent of refugees were children, while nationwide over 276,343 children are likely to be affected by severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Before the conflict in July 2016, significant progress was made in improving most social indicators during that period. Primary education enrollment rose, and gender parity in education was close to being achieved. HIV prevalence declined, and evidence indicates that child mortality was beginning to fall sharply. Social protection recognizes the integral relationship between social inclusion, investment, employment, and poverty, linking it to the needs and opportunities inherent for South Sudan to realize universal social protection systems as captured in SDG 1.3. Thus, social protection is considered as a critical element of national development strategies to reduce poverty, and vulnerabilities, support inclusive and sustainable growth by raising household incomes, and foster productivity and human development.

National Social Protection Policy Framework

Following the outbreak of conflict in December 2013, and again in July 2016, much of the efforts by partners have shifted from development to humanitarian aid. Existing efforts to strengthen resilience and improve food security through social protection type interventions have focused on activities such as conditional and unconditional cash transfers (i.e. public works, cash-for-works), food for assets, microfinance, market support commodity vouchers, nutrition services for malnourished children, livelihoods opportunities and income generating activities, skills training, and improved agricultural inputs such as quality seeds and tools, among others. Nonetheless, direct food aid distribution seems to continue to constitute a major aspect of safety nets interventions under the humanitarian umbrella in the country, particularly in the most conflict-affected and difficult to access areas.

The National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF) was approved by the Transitional National Assembly in 2015 and launched in May 2016. The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare developed the Framework, with technical and financial support from the World Bank and UNICEF. The ultimate goal of the NSPPF is to enhance the capacity of the South Sudanese people to manage socioeconomic risk and volatility by increasing their resilience to shocks; help the poor and vulnerable avoid destitution by ensuring more equitable resource distribution; and improve access to opportunities generated by economic growth. It identifies the priority areas in social protection in South Sudan and serves as the overall guidance for all stakeholders on activities in the social protection sector. The Framework also mandates an annual allocation of 1 percent of the national budget to implement the priorities identified under the Policy Framework. These aim to protect lives, prevent destitution, promote welfare and transform lives. Other critical design factors necessary for effective implementation and coordination are also highlighted in the framework and include good governance, economic security, social equity, environmental sustainability and active citizen engagement.

The NSPPF prioritizes supporting the country's social protection systems by establishing necessary legal reforms, policies and processes to establish an enabling regulatory environment and delivery arrangements. It also advocates for raising awareness and enhanced learning in the

social protection sector through increased research and monitoring. The targeted groups are women, youth, and children, people with disability and elderly. Therefore, the National Social Protection Policy Framework has the potential to be an effective framework for poverty alleviation, equity promotion, resilience building and inclusive growth in South Sudan. It forms the baseline for social protection intervention by the Government and development partners. It is to be noted that previous and current social protection programmes in South Sudan have implemented on the premise of the country's changing contexts and have contributed to social protection directly, indirectly and in interactive ways, but have not always been guided by the NSPPF. For example, programs focused on food security, nutrition, livelihoods, resilience building and gradual expansion of capacity strengthening for most vulnerable people to durably escape from poverty was based on current humanitarian needs and considerations, rather than explicitly aligned with the priorities of the Policy Framework.

10 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve health outcomes for women and girls in your country?

- ☐ Promoted women's access to health services through expansion of universal health coverage or public health services
- ☐ Expanded specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental, maternal health and HIV services
- ☐ Undertaken gender-specific public awareness/health promotion campaigns
- ☐ Provided gender-responsiveness training for health service providers
- ☐ Strengthened comprehensive sexuality education in schools or through community programmes
- ☐ Provided refugee women and girls as well as women and girls in humanitarian settings with access to sexual and reproductive health services
- ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

\Undertaken gender-specific public awareness/health promotion campaign

The National Gender Machinery in South Sudan with funding support from development partners and in collaboration with CSOs create public awareness on various health programmes such as o HIV&AIDS among displaced communities, in various Payams and at county level. The community mobilizers begin with an hour-long presentation on HIV awareness and prevention. Then they encourage people to visit different stations, including one for pediatric consultations, a free drug dispensary and an HIV testing centre. Awareness seminars are done on vaccinations, contagious and communicable diseases such as cholera, tuberculosis, dysentery among others. The public is encouraged to go for regular check-up for preventive purposes.

Reproductive Health Services:

More women in South Sudan die during pregnancy and childbirth than in nearly every other country in the world. Yet the vast majority of maternal deaths can be averted with proper antenatal, delivery and postnatal care – services provided by midwives. While midwives play a critical role in South Sudan’s fight against maternal mortality, many expectant mothers do not for antenatal care and ultimately fall victim to maternal mortality. The Government of South Sudan deliberately encourages women to take reproductive health services such as family planning and to go for antenatal clinic to ensure safe pregnancies and planned families.

Well-child clinics:

The Government of South Sudan encourages and promotes safe motherhood among all women and girls of South Sudan. This requires that a woman regularly visits a hospital facility to ensure that her pregnancy is progressing well and that she would be expecting a healthy child. Engaging early with the hospital has benefits of detecting deformities or complications in time.

11 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls?

- ✓ Taken measures to increase girls’ access to, retention in and completion of education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development programmes
- ✓ Strengthened educational curricula to increase gender-responsiveness and eliminate bias, at all levels of education
- ✓ Provided gender equality and human rights training for teachers and other education professionals
- ✓ Promoted safe, harassment-free and inclusive educational environments for women and girls
- ✓ Increased access to skills and training in new and emerging fields, especially STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and digital fluency and literacy
- ✓ Ensured access to safe water and sanitation services and facilitated menstrual hygiene management especially in schools and other education/training settings
- ✓ Strengthened measures to prevent adolescent pregnancies and to enable adolescent girls to continue their education in the case of pregnancy and/or motherhood
- ✓ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

Taken measures to increase girls’ access to, retention in and completion of education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development programmes

The Government of South Sudan recognizes that equitable access to education is fundamental to reducing the impact of barriers caused by disadvantage and poverty. It is acknowledged that a child’s health, safety and wellbeing contribute to educational participation and attainment. Enrollment and retention of girls was stable before the onset of the crisis that started in 2013. But

by March 2019, there were more than two million children, or over 70 %, that were out of school in South Sudan, putting at risk their futures and that of the country. Some of the out- of- school children are living in pastoral communities, moving with their cattle and are not able to attend regular classes. The Government of South Sudan creates public awareness to school sponsors, teachers, parents /guardians to ensure right information about school completion.

Promote safe, harassment-free and inclusive educational environments for women and girls

Mandatory anti-bullying strategy for girls in primary and secondary schools and educational institutions	
Aim	To ensure girls finish their primary and secondary education without facing problems with bullying, sexual harassment and related issues.
Target population	Girls in primary and secondary education
Description	<p>From August 1st 2019, it should be mandatory for primary and secondary schools and educational institutions to have an anti-bullying policy/ strategy with action plans address cases of bullying and sexual harassment.</p> <p>The policy /strategy document may be used by students and parents to lodge a complaint to the Ministry of Education in South Sudan if the school does not have an anti-bullying strategy or Education Policy.</p>
Budget	US\$
Impact, evaluation results and lessons learnt	The initiative will be evaluated in 2020.
Link to further information	

2.4 Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

Critical areas of concern:

- D. Violence against women
- I. Human rights of women
- J. Women and the media
- L. The girl child

12 In the last five years, which forms of violence against women and girls, and in which specific contexts or settings, have you prioritized for action?

- ☐ Intimate partner violence/domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape
- ☐ Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in employment
- ☐ Violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (e.g. cyber violence, online stalking)
- ☐ Femicide/Feminicide
- ☐ Violence against women in politics
- ☐ Child, early and forced marriages
- ☐ Female genital mutilation
- ☐ Other harmful practices
- ☐ Trafficking in women and girls
- ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

The following forms of violence against women and girls have been prioritized for action:

Violence against Women in Politics

The Transitional Constitution of South Sudan (2011) provides for non-discrimination and equality of men and women in law and practice. It provides for women's political and electoral rights by providing that 25 percent affirmative action to increase historically marginalized groups into political and public decision making structures. This has expanded opportunities to increase women's visibility and participation in political leadership; however the 25% affirmative action has not been realized nearly a decade since South Sudan got its independence. In addition, women's political participation is hindered by historical and structural discriminatory practices, negative culture and patriarchy, limited access to financial resources and information, high illiteracy levels, greater family responsibilities, inadequate skills in politics, weak political commitments as well as a male dominated electoral environment and a general deprivation of rights. These continue to limit women from vying for elective positions thus marginalizing them in political leadership and decision making.

Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan signed on 12 September 2018.	
Aim	To ensure the Agreement's guarantee of 35 per cent women's representation across the Executive arm, the Council of Ministers and the pre-transitional institutions is implemented.
Target population	National Legislative Assembly, National Gender Machinery , All government, private sector and civil society organizations ; the public (men, women, boys and girls of South Sudan and other stakeholders living in South Sudan; women in colleges and universities, and high schools; development partners; private sector.
Description	<p>The capacity of current women leaders and those with potential to seek to seek elective, nominative and appointive positions to be trained ahead of the next General Election. The last general election in South Sudan was held in 2010 before the referendum led to cessation of South Sudan from Sudan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timetable set out in the 12 September 2018 Agreement is well behind where it should be, and many fundamental issues still need to be resolved- and includes the formation of a unified armed force and the constitution-making process. • The current "pre-transitional Government" phase of the peace process ended on 12 May so the revitalized transitional Government is scheduled to take over and the Vice-Presidents taken up their roles. • A peace that falters will generate frustration, anger and a possible return to violence," he warned. "We cannot allow that to happen." • There is no "plan B" alternative to implementing the Agreement, underlining the critical importance of a fully engaged IGAD, supported by the African Union in partnership with the United Nations.
Budget	US\$
Impact, evaluation results and lessons learnt	Too early to anticipate the results, given that the initiative needs resourcing and identification of mentors and relevant institutions to support this.

Link to further information	<i>UN Women Gender Machinery, Voice for Change, SSWEN, EVE; I will contact the South Sudan Women Lawyers Association, South Sudan Law Society and any CSOs focusing women leadership in South Sudan.</i>
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Child, Early and Forced Marriages

According to the Child Act (2008) "Every female child has a right to be protected from sexual abuse and exploitation and gender-based violence, including rape, incest, early and forced marriage, female circumcision and female genital mutilation" (Article 26.1). Further provisions state that every child has the right to be protected from early marriage, forced circumcision, scarification, tattooing, piercing, tooth removal or any other cultural rite, custom or traditional practice that is likely to negatively affect the child's life, health, welfare, dignity or physical, emotional, psychological, mental and intellectual development" (Article 23.1).

Despite the provisions on early marriage in the Transitional Constitution (2011) and the Child Act (2008), there is no strong legal framework to effectively prevent and address early and forced marriage (Human Rights Watch, 2013:50). There are no penalties for anyone engaging in or encouraging early or forced marriage which means that perpetrators are rarely brought to justice (Girls not Brides, 2017). Early marriage is deeply rooted in South Sudanese customary, religious traditions and patriarchal cultures. In most ethnic communities in South Sudan, girls are considered marriageable as soon as they reach puberty (Human Rights Watch, 2013: 48). Prolonged conflict, continuing instability, high levels of poverty, illiteracy and gender gaps in education are contributing factors for the widespread practice of early marriage in South Sudan. Due to the widespread practice of bride price, many families in South Sudan consider early marriage as a means of accessing cattle, money, and other gifts by transferring wealth through the traditional payment of dowries (Amnesty International, 2017:19; Girls not Brides 2017).

The forward looking 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development addresses the issue of child marriage under Goal 5, that aims to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" in all circumstances. Despite these international agreements and national frameworks, child marriage remains a prevalent practice in many developing countries including South Sudan, where 4 out of 10 girls are married before the age of 18. On November 2018, a father in South Sudan auctioned his daughter aged 16-17 years on the social media platform for that sought payment for her hand in marriage. She was bid on by five men, some of whom were reportedly high-ranking South Sudanese government officials for 500 cows, three cars and \$10,000 in exchange for his daughter.

Costed Strategic National Action Plan (2017-2030) to End Child Marriage in South Sudan.	
Aim	To ensure enrollment, retention and completion of girls in primary and secondary schools in South Sudan.
Target population	National Gender Machinery, Ministry of Education, Men, women, boys and girls of South Sudan and other stakeholders living or working in South Sudan; parents/guardians, teachers in primary and high schools; development partners; private sector.
Description	The action plan includes legal reform and enforcement; ensuring access to quality education, and sexual and reproductive health information and services; and promoting girls' empowerment. Development partners are also enjoined to pool resources in whatever form to support the full implementation of the costed Strategic Plan.
Budget	US\$
Impact, evaluation results and lessons learnt	The initiative will be evaluated in 2021, two years after it kicks off. .
Link to further information	<i>UN Women Link), Ministry of Education, National Gender Machinery, Ministry of Interior and development partner, additional information will be provided</i>

13 What actions has your country prioritized in the last five years to address violence against women and girls?

- ☐ Introduced or strengthened violence against women laws, and their enforcement and implementation
- ☐ Introduced, updated or expanded national action plans on ending violence against women and girls
- ☐ Introduced or strengthened measures to increase women's access to justice (e.g. establishment of specialist courts, training for the judiciary and police, protection orders, redress and reparations, including for femicide cases)
- ☐ Introduced or strengthened services for survivors of violence (e.g. shelters, help lines, dedicated health services, legal, justice service, counselling, housing)
- ☐ Introduced or strengthened strategies to prevent violence against women and girls (e.g. in the education sector, in the media, community mobilization, work with men and boys)

- ☐ Monitoring and evaluation of impact, including evidence generation and data collection, including regarding particular groups of women and girls
- ☐ Introduced or strengthened measures for improving the understanding of causes and consequences of violence against women among those responsible for implementing measures on ending violence against women and girls
- ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

South Sudan has prioritized the following actions to address violence against women and girls.

Strengthened laws, policies and programmes

The Government of South Sudan has put in place relevant laws and policies geared towards addressing violence against women and girls. At national Level, the government has enacted GBV related Laws & Policies which include South Sudan Transitional Constitution (SSTC) 2011, Penal Code Act, 2008, the Child Act 2008, and The National Gender Policy. The Government is committed and has ratified international and regional GBV related instruments including:

- The Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for GBV Prevention, Protection and Response, 2014
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- The African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights
- United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols; and
- The Convention against Torture

Strengthened services for survivors of violence (e.g. shelters, help lines, dedicated health services, legal, justice service, counselling, housing)

Violence against women is epidemic in South Sudan. In November 2017, the Government of South Sudan with funding support from the governments of Canada and Sweden, opened the Family Protection Centre, to provide GBV survivor services integrated together under one roof, located in the Juba Teaching Hospital. The survivors receive the full range of care available, including clinical treatment for rape, psychological first aid, counseling, legal support and other services. The centre has helped to secure speedy prosecutions – a rarity in South Sudan – part of efforts to work with government partners to end impunity for sexual and gender-based violence.



Dr. Kanem meets with UNFPA South Sudan Representative Mary Otieno at Juba Teaching Hospital.

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The one-stop center model, with integrated medical, psychosocial, legal and support services for survivors, has proved successful at reaching those in need. By July 2018, barely 8 months after its opening, 366 women, girls, and even boys had visited the centre to receive advice and services. Social workers do outreach in the community, raising awareness about women's rights, the need to end gender-based violence, and the support services available. Three additional one-stop centres will be launched in Rumbek, Malualkon and Wau. The government intends to establish lifesaving interventions such as safe houses alongside one-stop centres.

Some concrete examples of actions taken include:

The Government of South Sudan developed the National Action Plan for implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace in 2014; developed a National Health Policy (2016-2026); and HIV&AIDS Policy – all which give effect to Prevention, Protection and Response to violence against women and girls and gender-based violence in general.

The Government of South Sudan developed the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention, Protection and Response in South Sudan. The SOPs are in line with the Republic of South Sudan Legal and policy frameworks, other international frameworks such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines for GBV Interventions in Humanitarian settings, UNHCR's Sexual and Gender-based Violence against Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons, and Guidelines for Prevention and Response (Geneva, UNHCR 2003). The document sets clear systems, roles and responsibilities for all institutions involved in the prevention, protection and response to GBV in South Sudan. Effort has been made to ensure standards and procedures are articulated for all forms of GBV.

14 What strategies has your country used in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls?

- ☐ **Public awareness raising and changing of attitudes and behaviours**
 - ☐ Work in primary and secondary education, including comprehensive sexuality education
- ☐ **Grassroots and community-level mobilization**
 - ☐ Shifting the representation of women and girls in the media
 - ☐ Working with men and boys
 - ☐ Perpetrator programmes
 - ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

Public awareness raising and changing of attitudes and behaviours

The government of South Sudan is working in partnership with various development partners and civil society organizations (CSOs) to implement a number of programmes geared towards prevention of violence against women and girls. This is done through creation of public awareness to influence change of attitudes and behaviors, at grassroots and community level mobilization targeting women, girls, men and boys. Some of the strategies used include establishing a National Gender Based Violence (GBV) Sector Working Group comprising State and Non-State actors who meet on a monthly and quarterly basis. This platform strengthens collaboration and partnership on addressing SGBV.

Grassroots and community-level mobilization

The Government of South Sudan, through its various Ministries, is partnering with UN agencies and CSOs to mobilize communities for purposes of creating public awareness on critical government information and messages. Through the Ministry of Health, for example, communities are mobilized to receive key health messages on vaccinations, breakdown of epidemics, prevention and curative services. The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social welfare champions the gender equality and empowerment of women and girls messages. Each government department has specific messages that link them with the community.

15 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (online sexual harassment, online stalking, and non-consensual sharing of intimate images)?

- ☐ Introduced or strengthened legislation and regulatory provisions
- ☐ Implemented awareness raising initiatives targeting the general public and young women and men in educational settings
- ☐ Worked with technology providers to set and adhere to good business practices

☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

None

There is no evidence of South Sudan having taken such an initiative.

16 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to address the portrayal of women and girls, discrimination and/or gender bias in the media?

- ☐ Enacted, strengthened and enforced legal reforms to combat discrimination and/or gender bias in the media
- ☐ Introduced binding regulation for the media, including for advertising
- ☐ Supported the media industry to develop voluntary codes of conduct
- ☐ Provided training to media professionals to encourage the creation and use of non-stereotypical, balanced and diverse images of women and girls in the media
- ☒ Promoted the participation and leadership of women in the media
- ☐ Established or strengthened consumer protection services to receive and review complaints about media content or gender-based discrimination/bias in the media
- ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

Promoted the participation and leadership of women in the media

The Government of South Sudan, through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Non-State Actors such as The Association of Media Women in South Sudan (AMWISS)¹⁰, focuses on enhancing the visibility of women in the society and promoting their participation in leadership and decision-making. The government recognizes that the media is a powerful tool for social change and agenda setting, which AMWISS uses to create public awareness around key issues affecting women to ensure public support and appreciation of women as leaders. These tools include radio, television, newsletters, magazines and social media. The training is designed to help the groups understand how media operates, know how to package themselves to attract media coverage and further understand how to engage with various media platforms to communicate their agenda to the public.

¹⁰ AMWISS focuses on building the capacity of journalists to understand women's issues, how the issues affect women and to positively package and widely disseminate information on women in a way that enables communities make informed choices and change negative attitudes towards women.

AMWISS recognizes the negative portrayal of women in the media that is characterized by social and cultural socialization of what society perceives women to be, and not what they are, and is in the forefront to address these concerns. Women are portrayed as people who have loose morals when they aspire to become leaders in any field and not capable of leading among others. The work of AMWISS is articulated in the **South Sudan National Women's Strategy for "Enhancing women's participation in various decision-making structures during and after the Transitional period"** that was launched in 2016. In this Strategy, AMWISS seeks to have independence of media houses, journalists and have women-owned media houses/enterprises; more female foreign services journalists joining the media sector; and have more women taking up managerial positions in the media sector and being deployed in foreign services.

The Association of Media Women in South Sudan (AMWISS) was part of the team that contributed to the development of the above Strategy which serves as a comprehensive blue print to aid the efforts of women and different institutions that seek to amplify the voices of women from different sectors. The strategy document serves as a tool for guiding women's efforts and that of partners who are willing to support women from different sectors to continuously work towards supporting other women and achieving gender equity and equality at different decision-making levels. The document covers the following sectors, namely Civil Society, Parliament (National and State Legislative Assemblies including Council of States) Media, Academia, Organized Forces (Police Service, Army, Prison Service, National Security and fire Brigade) the Private Sector (Entrepreneurs), Independent Commissions and the Executive (National and State levels), the Legal Sector, General Employments and Women in the Informal Sector. AMWISS operates under the Media Authority Act 2013 which established South Sudan Media Authority in 2016.

17 Has your country taken any action in the last five years specifically tailored to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination?

YES/NO

If YES, please list them and provide up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

2.5 Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions

Critical areas of concern:

- G. Women in power and decision-making
- H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
- I. Human rights of women
- J. Women and the media
- L. The girl child

Yes.

The government of South Sudan works in collaboration with various civil society organizations including women's rights, youth, widows' rights, disability rights, health and rights organizations whose mandate specifically addresses several concerns based on the inequalities experienced by groups of women that face the multiple forms of discrimination and violence. Through the national Gender Machinery, Ministry of Interior and other collaborating institutions, the government relevant legal and policy frameworks to ensure that the groups that experience multiple discrimination are not left behind in terms of participation, needs and concerns of marginalized groups, those in rural and remote areas, older women, the women with disabilities, younger women and girls.

2.6 Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions

Critical areas of concern:

- G. Women in power and decision-making
- H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
- I. Human rights of women
- J. Women and the media L. The girl child

18 What actions and measures has your country taken in the last five years to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making?

- ☐ Reformed constitution, laws and regulations that promote women's participation in politics, especially at decision-making level, including electoral system reform, adoption of temporary special measures, such as quotas, reserved seats, benchmarks and targets
- ☐ Implemented capacity building, skills development and other measures
- ☐ Encouraged the participation of minority and young women, including through sensitization and mentorship programmes
- ☐ Provided opportunities for mentorship, training in leadership, decision-making, public speaking, self-assertion, political campaigning
- ☐ Taken measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish violence against women in politics
- ☐ Data will be collected and analyzed data on women's political participation, including in appointed and elected positions, work on progress.
- ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses.

Women's participation in public life and decision making is an important measure of the status of women. Hence, in recent years, women's participation in politics and decision making has

received significant attention across the world. However, even with leading examples globally of how women's decision-making and leadership is transformative, women's political leadership remains seriously underrepresented in South Sudan.

The Transitional Constitution of South Sudan:

The Government of South Sudan continues to use the TCSS since its independence in 2011. And it is not known when there will be a more permanent Constitution. In 2015, the Agreement on Conflict Resolution in South Sudan 2015 (ACRISS) was signed between the Government of South Sudan and Opposition groups making it become a part of the Constitution because it established the Government of National Unity, which is (substantively) in place to date. ACRIS appears to have succeeded the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan as it suspended some provisions in the original Constitution; affected all levels of government; and the government tenure was fixed to be up in October 2018. The agreement provided that all laws conform to the Constitution and political decisions to conform to ACRIS.

Affirmative Action in South Sudan

One of the key areas for South Sudan has been in implementation of the Constitution and having laws and regulations that promote women's participation in politics, especially at decision-making level, and the adoption of temporary special measures, such as quotas, and reserved seats, for women. Some of the progressive aspects of the law have been met with resistance and negative gender norms in implementation thus becoming a challenge in realization of targets in participation of women in decision making and political leadership. The 25 percent of women representation of women across all sectors of the Executive, National Assembly is yet to realize this objective, albeit the increase to 35 percent representation that was included in the Revitalized Agreement signed in September 2018.

The Table 1 below represents the figures for elected and nominated women in different public offices:

Data is being collected with the support of the Gender Focal points and the technical committees

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE AND DECISION-MAKING

Table 1: elected and nominated woman in public offices

Position	Elected		Nominated Special Interest group		Total		% Representation		% Total
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
President	1	0	0	0	1	0	100%	0%	100%
National Assembly									
Governors									
Deputy Governors									
Speakers									
County Ministers									
??? add other categories									
add other categories									

Source: South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics 2018

Table 2: Women in Various Decision-Making Positions

Please import information as I had sent you this template earlier (same date as the one above)

Position	2014		Total	2019		Total
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Cabinet secretary						
Principal Secretary						
Supreme Court Judge						
Court of appeal Judge						
High court Judge						
Magistrate						
County Commissioners						
State Commissions						

Source:

Lessons learned, gaps and opportunities to improve the situation above:

In South Sudan, there is increased motivation among women to venture into politics; however, these women have to navigate various barriers emanating from the society, their opponents and the political system, leading to a Constitutional crisis. The Affirmative Action, whether 25% or 35% does not give the Sudanese people enough reason to vote for women? Moreover, none of the institutions responsible for implementing the Constitution¹¹ have practical solutions to counter

¹¹ Article 26(1) of the Constitution gives every South Sudanese citizen the right to take part in any level of government directly or through freely chosen representative, and to nominate himself or herself or be nominated for a public post or office in accordance with this Constitution and the law.

challenges they face. The burden remains to invest in capacity strengthening of women to enhance their engagements in leadership, governance and political processes; implement the law especially when it comes to discrimination and violence experienced by women during electoral and political processes; engage in continuous civic education and public education to address negative gender norms; and ensure gender responsive budgeting.

19 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase women's access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media, including through information and communication technologies (ICT)?

- ☐ Strengthened the provision of formal and technical vocational education and training (TVET) in media and ICTs, including in areas of management and leadership
- ☐ Taken measures to enhance access, affordability and use of ICTs for women and girls (e.g. free wifi hubs, community technology centres)
- ☐ Introduced regulations to advance equal pay, retention and career advancement of women within the media and ICT field
- ☐ Collaborated with employers in the media and ICT field to improve internal policies and hiring practices on a voluntary basis
- ☐ Provided support to women's media networks and organizations
- ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

South Sudan is one of the 5 Countries that have been implementing the UN Plan of Action on Safety of journalists and the issue of impunity. In 2015, 7 journalists were killed which greatly contributed to the country being ranked as second worst in Africa and 5th globally, on the Committee to Protect Journalists global impunity index. Reporters without Borders also ranked South Sudan as 125/180 countries on 2015 World Press Freedom Index, 6 positions down from the previous year. The Press Freedom Index reflects the degree of freedom that journalists, news organizations and the citizens enjoy in each country, and the efforts made by the authorities to respect and ensure respect for this freedom. South Sudan Media Authority was established in 2016 to intervene in some of the issues identified above; however the situation is yet to improve.

20 Do you track the proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?

YES/NO

If YES, what is the approximate proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women?

Please provide information on the specific areas in which these resources have been invested as well as reflections on achievements and challenges encountered in making budgets gender-responsive.

Gender-responsive budgeting:

Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) is increasingly used as an effective tool, both to hold government accountable to its commitment to gender equality and to achieve gender equality. The Government of South Sudan is yet to embrace budget reforms, which includes the public's participation in the budget making process to allow transparency and negotiations by the different stakeholders such as women, youth, children and persons with disability. This important process would enable tracking of budgetary allocations that target programmes that benefit women, and hence lead to their empowerment. Currently, some of the institutions in South Sudan deliberately disaggregate and allocate resources based on their mandate in relation to the felt needs of these target groups.

- 21 As a donor country, does your country track the proportion of official development assistance (ODA) that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?**

YES/NO

Not applicable

If YES, please provide further information on the methodology, the scope of tracking, past trends and current proportion of investments.

- 22 Does your country have a valid national strategy or action plan for gender equality?**

YES/NO

If YES, please list the name of the plan and the period it covers, its priorities, funding and alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the targets under SDG 5.

If YES, has the national action plan been costed and have sufficient resources been allocated to its achievement in the current budget?

Yes.

The National Gender Policy and Strategic Plan (2013) stipulate the Government's Department's strategic direction for the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women. It has eight (8) priority thematic areas, 13 objectives and several strategies/targets to guide stakeholders in program planning and implementation. These constitute the driving force behind the National Gender Policy Strategic Plan. They are: Gender and Governance Gender; Education and Capacity Development; Gender and Health; Gender & Food Security; Economic Empowerment; Sexual

and Gender Based Violence Gender; Peace and Security and Gender, Environment and Natural Resource Management.

24. Does your country have an action plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if a State party), or of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review or other United Nations human rights mechanisms that address gender inequality/discrimination against women?

YES/NO

If YES, please provide some highlights of the action plans and timeline for implementation.

No.

South Sudan National Legislative Assembly ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in September 2014. For countries to report on CEDAW, the relevant Ministry /department must develop a National Action Plan for implementation to highlight the actions required, persons responsible and implementation timelines.

23 Is there a national human rights institution in your country?

YES/ NO

If YES, does it have a specific mandate to focus on gender equality or discrimination based on sex/gender?

If YES, please provide up to three examples of how the NHRI has promoted gender equality. (2 pages max.)

Yes: The Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan

The Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan was established by the Human Rights Council in March 2016 to monitor and report on the human rights situation in the country and to make recommendations to improve it. This includes collecting and preserving evidence of – and clarifying responsibility for – alleged gross violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes, including sexual and gender-based violence and ethnic violence, with a view to ending impunity and providing accountability to gender equality and empowerment of women. Critical evidence collected by the Commission is being preserved in order to contribute towards a factual basis for transitional justice mechanisms and reconciliation.

The Commission is independent and is mandated to engage with the Government of South Sudan, international and regional mechanisms, including the United Nations, the UN Mission in South Sudan, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and civil

society, among others, so that it can provide support to national, regional and international efforts to promote accountability for human rights violations and abuses.

The Human Rights Commission and promotion of gender equality

Between January 2018 to 2019, seven cases of sexual exploitation and abuse involving 18 alleged UNMISS perpetrators were registered in the UN Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Database. These cases were swiftly investigated by the UN Peacekeeping mission in South Sudan which resulted in the repatriation of members of the Ghanaian Formed Police Unit who were implicated in sexual activity with women at the Protection of Civilians site in Wau. The Commission has however recommended that the current database, which only reflects incidents involving UN Peacekeepers, should be expanded to include staff of implementing partners.

The Commission is promoting the establishment of the Transitional Justice mechanisms, particularly the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, the Commission for Truth Reconciliation and Healing, and the Compensation and Reparation Authority, which were adopted in the 2015 Peace Agreement. The Revitalized Agreement signed in September 2018 has reaffirmed the need for these institutions, with a hope that the Revitalized Government, the African Union and Regional Governments will ensure that these bodies are set up and contribute to consolidation of peace in South Sudan.

2.7 Peaceful and inclusive societies

Critical areas of concern:

- E. Women and armed conflict
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

24 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to build and sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda?

- ☐ Adopted and/or implemented a National Action Plan on women, peace and security
- ☐ Integrated women, peace and security commitments into key national and inter-ministerial policy, planning and monitoring frameworks
- ☐ Used communication strategies, including social media, to increase awareness of the women, peace and security agenda
- ☐ Increased budgetary allocations for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda
- ☐ Taken steps to reduce excessive military expenditures and/or control the availability of armaments
- ☐ Re-allocated funds from military spending to social and economic development, including for gender equality and the empowerment of women
- ☐ Supported inclusive and gender-sensitive conflict analysis, early warning and prevention mechanisms
- ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses.

Adopted and implemented a National Action Plan on women, Peace and security:

Since the adoption of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2000, the Government of South Sudan has continued to implement provisions of the resolution including the supporting resolutions mainly: UNSCR 2122 (2013) and UNSCR 2242 (2015). The Government launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR1325 in 2015 for the period of five years, 2015-2020. The overall goal of the NAP is to strengthen the participation of women in peace and security efforts and facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for their leadership and political participation in conflict resolution and allow for more inclusive, just and sustainable peace, recovery and reconstruction processes, where a gender perspective is integrated into the design and implementation of all policies related to peace and security.

The NAP is anchored on the values of gender equality, inclusion and participation as enshrined in the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan. The Constitution mandates the substantive inclusion and active engagement of women in the public sphere and provides quotas for women's inclusion in decision-making positions. The Constitution links directly with Resolution 1325 pillars of participation, protection and prevention and recovery (development).

Women participation in decision making and the security sector:

The government, development partners and civil society organizations have undertaken research focusing women, peace and security. The findings have informed how the road to attainment of peace should be structured. In 2013, the Dutch development partners namely IKV Pax Christi and ICCO & Kerk in Actie and an implementing partner - Voice for Change -undertook a context assessment on women leadership in political decision making and the security sector in the framework of the 'Program UNSCR 1325 SOUTH SUDAN'. The study focused two pillars of participation of women in political decision making processes and in the security sector. The findings indicated that women were and are still underrepresented in this sector, especially in high decision making level. However there is a concentration of the women at the lowest level in the organized force.

Participation of women in peace structures and activities

The Government has put in place mechanisms to foster peace among conflicting communities through initiatives like Peace Committees and joint Cultural Festivals. Currently there are capacity building initiative on conflict transformation and peace building for peace committees in many counties which are prone to conflicts with the aim of preventing, rather than looking forward to managing the conflict or resolving the conflict: Bor, Yei and Maridi. A major concern has been the proportion of women that is included in the peace committees relative to the number of men, considering the effects of conflicts on women and children and vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities.

25 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase the leadership, representation and participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peace building, humanitarian action and crisis response, at decision-making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts, and in fragile or crisis settings?

- ☐ Promoted and supported women's meaningful participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements
- ☐ Promoted equal participation of women in humanitarian and crisis response activities at all levels, particularly at the decision-making level
- ☐ Integrated a gender perspective in the prevention and resolution of armed or other conflict
- ☐ Integrated a gender perspective in humanitarian action and crisis response
- ☐ Protected civil society spaces and women's human rights defenders
- ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

Participation of women at decision-making levels in peace and conflict issues

The Government of South Sudan has made effort, through policy and legislation, to incorporate women in key decision making position that could influence peace processes in south Sudan; however, non -implementation of these aspirations has undermined this commitment. The signing of the Agreement of the Resolution of Conflict of South Sudan (ARCRSS, 2015)¹², for example, mandated the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to nominate no fewer than 4 women from SPLM and not fewer than 3 women from SPLM-IO as Ministers and 2 women as Deputy Ministers but only women from the government side benefited. In the security pillar, the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangement (PCTSA), the Women's Bloc was guaranteed one representative as Member of the Ceasefire and the Transitional Security Arrangement Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM) Committee- this did not materialize. The one space that women had on the Strategic Defense and Security Review (SDSR) Board to table women's concerns remains silent. In the humanitarian assistance pillar, women were allocated 0% representation in decision making process. These, among other examples, indicate that South Sudan is yet to embrace women leadership, representation and participation in conflict prevention, resolution, peace building, humanitarian action and crisis response, at decision-

¹² SUDD Institute: The Role of South Sudan women in peace building in South Sudan (2015:6)

making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts and in fragile or crisis settings. The discussion below articulates some of the factors that contribute to alienation of women from leadership, participation and representation at decision making in peace conflict issues:

Political Will

The Government of South Sudan has the necessary policy and legal frameworks to substantially increase the participation of women in public affairs; however it lacks the political will to implement them. The Affirmative Action of 25 percent women representation is not fully implemented, while the National Gender Machinery does not have adequate resources and capacity to effectively carry out its mandate and contribute to realization of this objective. Even with the National Action Plan (NAP) for UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security, the participation of women in governance, security and economic development still requires government commitment to adequately fund the institutions concerned with promotion of gender equality and peace building.

Funding and Capacity of Women's Organizations

Available evidence points to the fact that the Government of South Sudan does not allocate funds to women's organizations. Those that have ventured into peace building and conflict transformation face funding constraints, moreover they have capacity gaps in terms of skills, and the security issues related to gender based violence notwithstanding. In the longer-term, undertaking voluntary work is not sustainable.

Militarization of the Government

In South Sudan, political appointments appear to follow background as one of the requirements. Using military background as a criterion for leadership recognition disadvantages women in political life, while militarizing states minimizes women's perspectives in decision-making. Furthermore, there are only a handful of women who are in the military with additional qualifications to enter into decision making positions- this discriminates the women from participation and contribution to the destiny of their country.

26 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to enhance judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or humanitarian action and crisis response?

- ☐ Implemented legal and policy reform to redress and prevent violations of the rights of women and girls
- ☐ Strengthened institutional capacities, including of the justice system and transitional justice mechanisms as applicable, during conflict and crisis response
- ☐ Strengthened capacity of security sector institutions on human rights and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse
- ☐ Increased access of conflict-affected, refugee or displaced women to violence prevention and protection services
- ☐ Taken measures to combat illicit arms trafficking

- ☐ Taken measures to combat the production, use of and trafficking in illicit drugs
- ☐ Taken measures to combat trafficking in women and children
- ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

The Judiciary and countering violence against women

Women and girls are protected from violence of all forms under the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan. Gender equality and elimination of discrimination and violations against the rights of women and girls is outlined in the policy and legal frameworks of the Government of South Sudan. The government also recognizes that the participation and influence of youth in all aspects of society are key to realizing the SDG's. The National Gender Policy and its Strategic Plan as well as the NAP for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 are evidence of this commitment. The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (with its mandate as the National gender Machinery) monitors and oversights and reports on these processes.

Despite the commitments above, the South Sudan judicial system is almost non-existent as the Executive and the military are known to exert influence over the Judiciary. Tens of thousands of women and girls have been subjected to sexual violence by government forces. Unfortunately, almost no one has been held to account. In December 2018, Legal Action Worldwide filed a case against the government at the Geneva-based Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on behalf of 30 women and girls. The complaint outlines brutality, including sexual slavery and torture and rape by army officers and the presidential guard during raids, and while victims fled between June 2016 to September 2017. When confronted with facts on the use of rape as a weapon of war, the government always denied reports of the rape of more than 150 women and girls in Bentiu region, despite confirmation by Médecins Sans Frontières that survivors sought treatment at its clinic. Instead, the government claimed their accusers and the CEDAW Committee of having ulterior motives against the peace process.

27 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child?

- ☐ Taken measures to combat negative social norms and practices and increased awareness of the needs and potential of girl children
- ☐ Strengthened girls' access to quality education, skills development and training
- ☐ Tackled disadvantages in health outcomes due to malnutrition, early childbearing (e.g. anemia) and exposure to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases
- ☐ Implemented policies and programmes to reduce and eradicate child, early and forced marriage
- ☐ Implemented policies and programmes to eliminate violence against girls, including physical and sexual violence and harmful practices

- ☐ Implemented policies and programmes to eradicate child labour and excessive levels of unpaid care and domestic work undertaken by girl children
- ☐ Promoted girls' awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life
- ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

There exist a number of policies, legislative reforms, plans and programs in Kenya targeting the girl-child. However, gender disparities still exist in the legal, social, economic realms, access to and control of resources, opportunities and benefits. In order to address discrimination against the girl –child the Government has ensured the following measures:

Legislative Framework:

South Sudan has a robust legislative framework on the rights of the child which domesticates and incorporates the provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Children (UN CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). Through the Child Act (2008), South Sudan fully integrated the Children's Convention into the domestic legislation and policy that is part of the TCSS and currently being implemented. Key rights of the child covered under the law include, but are not limited to, survival, protection, participation and development rights. The Child Act protects the Child from female genital mutilation and forced early marriages and other harmful practices, trafficking among others. Exposure to risks of these violations often makes the girl child lose confidence and self-esteem, and kills her potential to continue with education that would make her become a productive person in life. As a result, she is discriminated as a person who is synonymous with failure.

Public awareness to protect the rights of the girl-child

The Government of South Sudan, through the National gender Machinery, and in collaboration with other stakeholders has been creating created public awareness on the Child Act and related legislation (health, education) to ensure that the rights of the child are protected. Some of the violations which the girl child is exposed to and interfere with her overall growth and development include female genital mutilation, forced early marriages, ritual killings. With support from Women's Right Organizations (WROs) such as Federation of Women Lawyers Association of South Sudan, Voice for Change (VFC), EVE Organization, there is increased public awareness about the impacts and implications of violations of violations against women and the girls child. This has started bearing dividends as there is increased number of girls enrolling in schools and completing primary education, the effects of the protracted conflict notwithstanding. A jointly funded program by the Global Partnership for Education and USAID promotes girls' education in the country to ensure that girls as well as boys have access to a quality education. The goal is to strengthen South Sudanese education system in terms of equity and equality for all children.

2.7 Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation

Critical areas of concern:

- I. Human rights of women
- K. Women and the environment
- L. The girl child

28 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies?

- ☐ Supported women's participation and leadership in environmental and natural resource management and governance
- ☐ Strengthened evidence and/or raised awareness about gender-specific environmental and health hazards (e.g. consumer products, technologies, industrial pollution)
- ☐ Increased women's access to and control over land, water, energy, and other natural resources
- ☐ Promoted the education of women and girls in science, engineering, technology and other disciplines relating to the natural environment
- ☐ Enhanced women's access to sustainable time- and labour-saving infrastructure (e.g. access to clean water and energy) and climate-smart agricultural technology
- ☐ Taken measures to protect and preserve the knowledge and practices of women in indigenous and local communities related to traditional medicines, biodiversity and conservation techniques
- ☐ Taken steps to ensure that women benefit equally from decent jobs in the green economy
- ☐ Monitored and evaluated the impact of environmental policies and sustainable infrastructure projects on women and girls
- ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

The Government of South Sudan has undertaken the following actions:

- Promoted access of women in situations of disaster to services such as relief food and other basic commodities and health services, through partnerships from UN agencies. World Food Programme has been providing protection and relief services in South Sudan before its independence from Sudan and continues to do so.
- Supported women's participation and leadership, including those affected by disasters, in disaster risk reduction and those implementing programmes and projects.
- The Government of South Sudan launched the first ever State of the Environment and Outlook Report in July 2017. The UN South Sudan Office, in collaboration with the national

Ministry of Environment and Forestry, held an Inception Workshop with stakeholders on 30th Nov 2016 in Juba to inform prepare for the Report.

29 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation?

- ☐ Supported women's participation and leadership, including those affected by disasters, in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation policies, programmes and projects
- ☐ Strengthened the evidence base and raised awareness about the disproportionate vulnerability of women and girls to the impact of environmental degradation and disasters
- ☐ Promoted access of women in situations of disaster to services such as relief payments, disaster insurance and compensation
- ☐ Introduced or strengthened and implemented gender-responsive laws and policies related to disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation (e.g. disaster laws addressing vulnerability of women in disaster)

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, target population, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

The government of South Sudan has taken a number of measures to support women's participation and leadership in environmental and natural resource management and governance; raised awareness about gender-specific environmental and health hazards. Regarding women and poverty, women and the economy, South Sudan has taken measures to ensure increased women's access to and control over land through development of the National Land Policy (draft), which is an important step in participation in decision-making on the environment with regard to agricultural productivity and food security.

WASH

WASH and gender equality are represented in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6 and 5, respectively and contributes to the achievement of other sectoral goals across the development agenda. The provision of water supply, sanitation and wastewater services generates substantial benefits for public health, the economy and the environment. Ensuring that women and girls have an equal role in design, management and monitoring of the WASH ecosystem can be a strategic gender-mainstreaming practice that empowers women and girls.

Water and Sanitation

The Constitution of South Sudan (2011) recognizes that access to safe and sufficient water is a basic human right. The WASH Sector mandate is to provide water, sanitation and environmental services to alleviate poverty and raising standards for low-income population.

3.0 Section Three: National institutions and processes

30 What is your country's current national machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women? Please name it and describe its location within Government.

National Gender Machinery and location in Government

The Directorate of Gender is recognized by the Government of South Sudan to be the National Gender Machinery. Housed under the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, it is charged with the mandate of monitoring the implementation of gender specific outcomes in government. The Ministry is headed by a Minister while the Department is led by a Director General. The Department is fully fledged and its functions were prescribed during the establishment of the Ministry in 2011. Under this structure, Gender Focal Points are identified in various ministries and their capacity strengthened to implement gender work therein.

The Directorate is expected to work closely with institutional Commissions established by the Government of South Sudan. They include those whose mandate covers promotion of human rights and gender equality: Human Rights Commission of South Sudan, HIV&AIDS Commission; Lands Commission; Peace Commission; South Sudan Law (Review) Commission.

31 Is the head of the national machinery a member of the institutional process for SDG implementation (e.g. inter-ministerial coordinating office, commission or committees)?

YES/NO

Will provide more information on the national process for SDG implementation in South Sudan

If YES, please provide further information

Building on lessons learned in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 2000-2015, south Sudan is well positioned to engage in the domestication of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Are there formal mechanisms in place for different stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

YES/NO

If YES,

- a) Which of the following stakeholders participate formally in national coordination mechanisms established to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

✓ **Beijing Declaration and PfA**

- ✓ Civil society organizations
- ✓ Women's rights organizations
- ✓ Academia and think tanks
- ✓ Faith-based organizations
- ✓ Parliaments/parliamentary committees
- ✓ Private sector
- ✓ United Nations system
- ✓ Other actors, please specify.....

✓ **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

- ✓ Civil society organizations
- ✓ Women's rights organizations
- ✓ Academia and think tanks
- ✓ Faith-based organizations
- ✓ Parliaments/parliamentary committees
- ✓ Private sector
- ✓ United Nations system
- Other actors, please specify.....

b) Do you have mechanisms in place to ensure that women and girls from marginalized groups can participate and that their concerns are reflected in these processes?

YES/NO

Please provide further details about the mechanisms used. (2 pages max.)

The Government of South Sudan works through strategic partners and other stakeholders in the implementation of the BPfA. Women and girls participate and their concerns are reflected in these processes through their representatives at different level for example civil society organizations and women's organizations working with them, faith Based organizations, academia, experts in women and girls issues, private Sector, youth-led organizations, special groups e.g. persons with disabilities as well as development partners including UN agencies.

c) Please describe how stakeholders have contributed to the preparation of the present national report.

The process of developing the report was participatory and inclusive. A Government-led National Multi-Sectoral Steering Committee of State and Non-state actors and spearheaded by the Directorate of Gender was formally appointed to oversee the process. The questionnaire in the Guidance Note was circulated to stakeholders whose feedback was used to compile this report. The report builds on the BPfA+20 that South Sudan prepared in 2014. This collaborative effort demonstrates the strong partnerships and good will that government, private sector and CSOs have in implementation and reporting on progress of the BPfA and related frameworks.

32 Is gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls included as a key priority in the national plan/strategy for SDG implementation?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ There is no national plan/strategy for SDG implementation

Please explain.

The government of South Sudan recognizes the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment as drivers in combating poverty, hunger and disease and to spur development and realization of the other SDGs in the country. Gender equality and empowerment of women is a priority in South Sudan's agenda to implement, monitor and report on the SDGs. This is enshrined in its Vision 2040 whose objectives are in line with the SDGs.

4.0 Section Four: Data and statistics

33 **What are the top three areas in which your country has made most progress over the past five years when it comes to gender statistics at the national level?**

- ☐ Promulgated laws, regulations, or statistical programme/strategy setting out the development of gender statistics
- ☐ Established an inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender statistics (e.g., technical working group, inter-agency committee)
- ☐ **Used more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects**
- ☐ Re-processed existing data (e.g., censuses and surveys) to produce more disaggregated and/or new gender statistics
- ☐ Conducted new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)
- ☐ Improved administrative-based or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps
- ☐ **Produced knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers)**
- ☐ Developed a centralized web-based database and/or dashboard on gender statistics
- ☐ Engaged in capacity building to strengthen the use of gender statistics (e.g., trainings, statistical appreciation seminars)
- ☐ Other

Please provide details of up to three concrete examples of measures taken, including aims and scope of measures taken, budget, impact evaluations, lesson learnt, and links to further information. Please also provide information about actions for specific groups of women and girls, such as those listed in question 3. Where relevant and possible, please provide data to support your responses. (2 pages max.)

Gender-sensitive data in formulation of policy and implementation of programmes

The Government of South Sudan has, through various Ministries, conducted research whose findings have guided the formulation of policies and implementation of programmes and projects. The Comprehensive Country Gender Assessment conducted in April 2012, for example, evaluated the socio-economic and legal environment in South Sudan and highlighted existing barriers that hinder women's empowerment and laid basis for an evidence-based strategy for gender mainstreaming. The assessment proposed concrete recommendations and possible strategies for gender mainstreaming that guided the development of the National Gender Policy for the Republic of South Sudan (June 2012). In 2013, a Gender Strategic Plan was developed to

guide implementation of the National Gender Policy. In a similar way, data was derived from multiple sources (trainings, research and evaluations, South Sudan Bureau of Statistics, World Bank and the United Nations to guide the development of the National Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security; HIV&AIDS Policy; National Health Policy and Education Policy among others. Resulting from these policies, various stakeholders run programmes that respond to the issues identified.

Knowledge products on gender statistics (user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers)

The South Sudan General Education Strategic Plan, 2017-2022 is a vital document that encourages team work to avail an opportunity to every South Sudanese citizen to exercise their right to education as stipulated in the Constitution, 2011 (Amended 2016). The objectives are to build an educated and informed nation; and to help the country transit from an oil dependent economy to a knowledge-based economy and achieve prosperity for all. The Strategic Plan was developed against the backdrop that education in South Sudan was irregular, particularly because of the long standing civil war.

Some of the South Sudanese who were educated both in South Sudan and outside the country have come back to contribute to nation building. Their contribution is varied – ranging from agricultural production, teaching in colleges and Universities, working in research institutions. Notable knowledge products include user friendly reports that are produced by such organizations as the SUDD Institute¹³; Human Rights Institute¹⁴; Search for Common Ground; Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC) among other knowledge products. These publications have simplified information that can be understood without strain – most importantly, the information is well researched and keeps one wanting to read more.

34 Out of the following which are your country's top three priorities for strengthening national gender statistics over the next five years?

- ☐ Design of laws, regulations, or statistical programme/strategy promoting the development of gender statistics
- ☐ Establishment of an inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender statistics (e.g., technical working group, inter-agency committee)
- ☐ Use more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects

¹³ The Sudd Institute is an independent research organization that conducts and facilitates policy relevant research and training to inform public policy and practice, to create opportunities for discussion and debate, and to improve analytical capacity in South Sudan. The Sudd Institute's intention is to significantly improve the quality, impact, and accountability of local, national, and international policy- and decision-making in South Sudan in order to promote a more peaceful, just and prosperous society.

¹⁴ Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC) aims to generate a stronger evidence base on how people in conflict-affected situations (CAS) make a living, access basic services like health care, education and water, and perceive and engage with governance at local and national levels.

- ☐ Re-processing of existing data (e.g., censuses and surveys) to produce more disaggregated and/or new gender statistics

This question for the Directorate of Gender /relevant stakeholders to answer

- ☐ Conduct of new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)
- ☐ Greater utilization and/or improvement of administrative-based or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps
- ☐ Production of knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers)
- ☐ Development of a centralized web-based database and/or dashboard on gender statistics
- ☐ Institutionalization of users-producers' dialogues mechanisms
- ☐ Statistical capacity building of users to increase statistical appreciation on and use of gender statistics (e.g., trainings, statistical appreciation seminars)
- ☐ Other

Please provide a brief explanation and examples of your plans (2 pages max.).

35 Have you defined a national set of indicators for monitoring progress on the SDGs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If YES, how many indicators does it include and how many of those are gender-specific¹⁵?

If YES, how many of the gender-specific indicators are additional country indicators – Ministry of Gender to provide statistics (i.e., not part of the global SDG monitoring and indicator framework)?

Please provide the indicators in an annex

If NO, how many global gender-specific SDG indicators (list provided in Annex 1) are available in your country?

Please provide the indicators in an annex

Will liaise with Gender Directorate to give me this information to this question

36 Has data collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and on gender-specific indicators under other SDGs begun? –

¹⁵ The term 'gender-specific indicators' is used to refer to indicators that explicitly call for disaggregation by sex and/or refer to gender equality as the underlying objective. For example, SDG indicator 5.c.1 captures the percentage of countries with systems to track public allocations that are directed towards policies and programmes that promote gender equality—the underlying objective is the promotion of gender equality. The term is also used for indicators where women and girls are specified within the indicator as the targeted population (see UN Women. 2018. *Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. New York).

☐ Yes

☐ No

Good question for the Gender Machinery *****

If YES, please describe which indicators have been prioritized

If NO, explain the main challenges for collecting and compiling data on these indicators

37 Which of the following disaggregations¹⁶ is routinely provided by major surveys in your country?

- ✓ Geographic location
- ✓ Income
- ✓ sex
- ✓ Age
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Marital status
- ✓ Race/ethnicity
- ✓ Migratory status
- ✓ Disability
- ✓ Other characteristics relevant in national contexts

* * *

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*****This is a work on progress more information will be add will be added including data on the 12 critical areas of concern no indicated here.