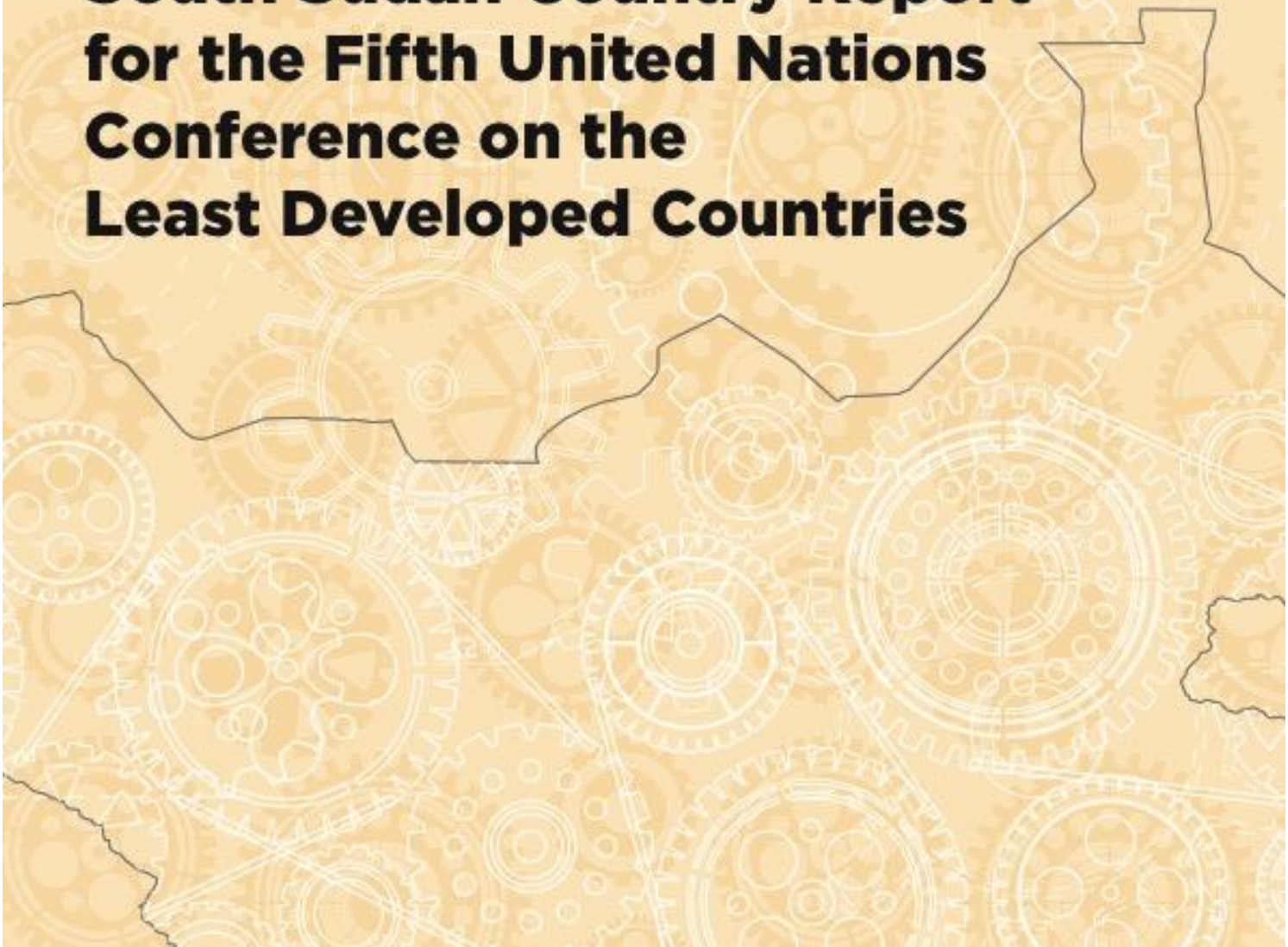
COUNTRY REPORT

November 2019
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South Sudan Country Report for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries



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Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Initiative
ARCISS	Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
AU	Africa Union
BOSS	Bank of South Sudan
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAMP	Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan
CPA Agreement	Comprehensive Peace
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
EAC	East African Community
EAMU	East African Monetary Union
EITI	Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative
FSI	Fragile State Index
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GESS	Girls' Education South Sudan
GGI	Gender Gap Index
GoSS	Government of South Sudan
HRH	Human Resources for Health
ICT	Information Communications Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IEA	International Energy Agency
IFF	Illicit Financial Flow
IGAD	Inter-governmental Authority for Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
IPoA	Istanbul Programme of Action
IT	Information Technology
JMEC	Joint Monitoring & Evaluation Committee
LAPSSET	Lamu Port-South Sudan – Ethiopia Transport
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LGB	Local Government Board
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security
MARF	Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries
MDVA	Ministry of Defense and Veterans' Affairs
MED	Ministry of Energy and Dams
MHEST	Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology
MICTPS	Ministry of Information, Communication Technology and Postal Service
MIS Systems	Management Information
MLHUD	Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development
MLPS&HRD	Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development
MoCA	Ministry of Cabinet Affairs
MoCYS	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
MoEF	Ministry of Environment & Forestry
MoFP	Ministry of Finance and Planning
MoGCSW	Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare
MoGEI	Ministry of General Education & Instruction
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJCA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
MoLV	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
MTCDS	Medium Term Capacity Development Strategy
MTIEACA	Ministry of Trade, Industry & East African Community Affairs

MWCT	Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism
MWRI	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
NAPA	National Adaptation Plan of Action
NDS	National Development Strategy
NTB	Non-tariff Barriers
OBS	Open Budget Survey
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OHRLLS	Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
PFMA	Public Financial Management & Accountability Act
R-ARCSS	Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPLA	Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army
SPLM	Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement
SSCCSE	Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation
SSDI	South Sudan Development Initiative
SSDP	South Sudan Development Plan
SSP	South Sudan Pound
STI	Science Technology and Innovation
TFTA	Tripartite Free Trade Area
TGoNU	Transitional Government of National Unity
TNLA	Transitional National Legislative Assembly
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Training
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNSCR	UN Security Council Resolution
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WG	Working Group

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The preparation of the country report by the GoSS is a follow-up to the Fourth UN Conference held in May 2011 on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Istanbul, Turkey. At the Conference, the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) was adopted. It is a Programme of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2011-2020 agreed by the international community to address the challenges faced by the LDCs, based on the fundamental tenets of mutual accountability and enhanced international cooperation. The goal of IPoA is to overcome the structural challenges faced by the LDCs in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the LDC category. The programme also recognizes that the LDCs represent an enormous potential for world economic growth, stability and prosperity.

The report reviews the status of the implementation of the IPoA at the national level and highlights among others, lessons learned, challenges faced (including new and emerging challenges) and initiatives needed to overcome them. It draws upon relevant publications and consultations with a cross-section of stakeholder in the country, including but not limited to public sector, private sector and UN system in South Sudan.

Emerging challenges resulting from detailed reviews and interactions with the stakeholders include continued internal and external threats to peace, security, and stability; the disputed oil-producing region of Abyei; institutional and human capacity weaknesses; a narrow economic base; and dilapidated infrastructure. Peace, security, and stability are the most pressing challenges for South Sudan. The territorial boundaries of Abyei remain contested and could re-ignite hostilities between affected people on both sides, with dire social, security, and economic consequences. Institutions and the human resource base remain weak, as the country is in tremendous need of massive financial and technical education services support at all levels. Heavy dependence on the oil sector is a source of economic fragility and vulnerability and underscores the urgent need for economic diversification. Decades of civil war destroyed the country's basic infrastructure and much of its productive capacities.

The report observes that establishing clear and intrinsic relationships between the IPoA priorities is important in understanding the synergy for their implementation effectiveness. Human capital and social development provide the nuclei for creating development energy to power the implementation of the IPoA priority areas. Human capital is about skills building which entails knowledge, intellectual capacity and health that people accumulate throughout their lives, enabling them to realize their potential as productive members of society. Thus, investing in people through nutrition, health care, quality education, jobs and skills helps develop human capital to add value to natural resources. These include, but not limited to, extractive sector optimization, infrastructure development, agriculture and food security, and value additions to expand trade and manufacturing possibilities. The postulation here is that human capital and social development are fired by structured and responsive health and educational systems which are hinged on strong institutional capacity.

For South Sudan to compete in the global economy, the government will put emphasis on the development of highly qualified yet flexible human resources. The standards of technically qualified personnel and professionals will need to be raised to regional and international levels especially as the EAC continues to gain traction, albeit slowly. South Sudan's pool of technically qualified personnel and professionals will need to be matched with skills demand in specific sectors, not deployed to the wrong industries or government departments. At the same time, there is an emerging gap of technically qualified personnel and professionals in areas such as engineering in oil industry, science and technology and research. As a consequence, with the expected rejuvenation and growth of the economy that is expected to result from sustained peace and security, human resources will start to show up as a huge constraint.

The main focus at the country level is how to stimulate economic growth beyond the domination of the oil sector through diversification, generation of higher value addition by moving up the value chains in productive activities, and enhancement of linkages between sectors in the economy. To realize this objective, the National Development Strategy has emphasized the need to identify and produce corresponding skills that are necessary to actualize the value chain processes.

The long-term goal is to engage and develop the private sector, especially the SMEs into viable business entities that not only create employment but also contribute sustainably to value addition, income generation and export growth in the country. The challenges impacting on the industry sector include inadequate skills required for value chain processes, poor business environments, limited technologies and low enterprise level productivity. The starting point is to focus on building the skills set that are matched with the skills required by the industries in the country.

Mainstreaming of the Istanbul Programme of Action into South Sudan national planning frameworks has gained traction. This is demonstrated by the intentional reflection of IPoA priorities into the National Development Strategy (2018 – 2021) and reflections in the country's goals of Vision 2040. The objectives of mainstreaming are to create awareness, localization and ownership of IPoA in order to catalyze and sustain a momentum for change and transformation.

2. INTRODUCTION

Country Context

The economic goals of the GoSS aim at facilitating diversified private sector-led economic growth and sustainable development to improve livelihoods and reduce poverty. These goals remain a challenge as inflation is rampant and the exchange rate has declined sharply. The total economy shrank considerably from 2012. Measured in USD at the official exchange rate, the non-oil sector GDP per capita was reduced by 35 per cent. Gross National Income per capita in USD which captures the combined international spending power of South Sudanese Government and residents, fell by 74 percent. In part, this is the result of factors outside economic policy. The conflict has had and is still having a devastating effect on people's life. More than a third of the population has fled from their homes to escape violence. Half of the population is food insecure and 15% is on the brink of famine.

The armed conflict has also led to declining oil and food production. Developments in the international oil market contributed to the strong downturn from 2014/15. Without accumulated reserves of oil revenues to insulate the non-oil economy from volatile movements in the oil price, its steep fall forced sharp cuts in government expenditures. This has resulted in declining living standards for the population. While negative impacts from the extreme swings in the oil price experienced could not be avoided, they could have been substantially reduced if a better system for managing oil revenues had been in place.

Economic Growth Performance and Drivers

South Sudan's economy is in recession worsened by insecurity, lower foreign exchange reserves, high inflation, and domestic currency depreciation (*AfDB Report 2019*). Real GDP was expected to further contract, although at a reduced rate of 3.4% in 2018, from 6.3% in 2017, due to a slight recovery in global oil prices. The country's overdependence on crude oil production and exports makes it highly vulnerable to external market shocks.

The oil sector remains the key supply-side driver of economic growth, accounting for over 70% of GDP in 2017, followed by agriculture (10%), manufacturing (7%) and services (6.1%). On the demand side, public consumption was high in 2017 and remained so in 2018, led by a 1% increase in government's spending on security and defense operations. Private consumption is expected to decline over the medium to long term period as higher personal taxes reduce disposable income. The economic outlook for 2019 and 2020 remains bleak as GDP growth is projected to contract by a further 2.6% and 2.5%, respectively. Nonetheless, growth prospects could be boosted by recent developments in the oil sector with the signing of the revitalized peace agreement. Table 1 shows selected economic indicators over the last five years.

Table 1: Economic Indicators

	GNI (US$)	Multidimensional poverty index (%)	Poverty gap index (%)	Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (%)	Net ODA received (% of GNI)
Year	2014	2010	2012	2009	2013
Value	2,332	89.3	24	50.6	13.4

Source: UNDP 2015: South Sudan National Human Development Report 2015; GoSS 2009: National Baseline Household Survey (NBHS) 2009; and UNDP 2013: Millennium Development Goals Report 2012

The socio-economic context in South Sudan remains challenging. Several years of conflict have destroyed people's livelihoods and forced estimated 4.2 million people to flee their homes. Extreme levels of food insecurity persist across the country, with an estimated 7 million people requiring humanitarian assistance in 2019. The economy faces several challenges, with macroeconomic indicators declining rapidly (contracting output, hyperinflation, fiscal deficit, parallel exchange rate). Poverty rates are estimated above 70 percent

There are reports of stock losses from agriculture due to floods and other emergencies. High price inflation puts pressure on living standards. In the process, development partners shifted resources from development to relief and humanitarian support due to the crisis. Trade is gradually picking up with the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). Social mobility is gradually improving as people begin to return home. Access to health and education services are also beginning to gradually improve.

Signing of R-ARCSS created optimism for peace. Oil production is projected to increase gradually to pre-conflict levels, which will increase the real GDP growth to about 8.1 percent in 2019/2020. Government is making effort to diversify the economy away from reliance on oil. The National Revenue Authority has been established to enhance non-oil revenue mobilization. National Development Strategy has been formulated as an instrument to guide the recovery and development process of the country and keep transformation in the expected trajectory. A Public Investment Program has been developed to guide investment in national priority areas.

Challenges

Key challenges include continued internal and external threats to peace, security, and stability; the disputed oil-producing region of Abyei; institutional and human capacity weaknesses; a narrow economic base; and dilapidated infrastructure. Peace, security, and stability are the most pressing challenges for South Sudan. As earlier indicated, the territorial boundaries of Abyei remain contested and could reignite hostilities between affected people on both sides, with dire social, security, and economic consequences. Institutions and the human resource base remain weak, as the country is in tremendous need of massive financial and technical education services support at all levels. Heavy dependence on the oil sector is a source of economic fragility and vulnerability and underscores the urgent need for economic diversification. And decades of civil war destroyed the country's basic infrastructure and much of its productive capacities.

Resource Base

South Sudan is endowed with abundant natural resources, including a large amount of fertile rain-fed agricultural land that is potentially irrigable, aquatic and forest resources, and mineral resources, including oil. It also has several potential hydropower sites on the White Nile River that could provide up to 3,000 MW, suiting the country's energy and security needs. Regional integration can act as a major driver for economic development, particularly in the form of investment and imports from neighboring countries and regional blocs and as a market to support economic diversification. The tourism industry has great potential to ensure inclusive growth but lacks investment in infrastructure, human capital, and adequate policy reforms.

The country's other resources include: oil, teak, gum Arabic, and natural mahogany. It is believed that there are sizable unexploited mineral resources, including gold. A large portion - 90% - of the country's land area is deemed suitable for agriculture. Crops include: pineapple, groundnuts, sorghum, millet, wheat, cotton, sweet potatoes, mangoes, pawpaw, sugarcane, cassava and sesame. Less than 5% of arable land is currently cultivated. A considerable proportion of the population is engaged in cattle herding. There are also large and unexploited

reserves of fish (AfDB, 2012) and nearly 30% of the land area are covered with forest, providing potential for the production and export of forest products.

Implementation of IPoA

The country has limited reliable basic economic and social statistics, reflecting a legacy of decades of civil war and the challenges it has posed to collection of data. Consequently, the assessment of the implementation of IPoA priorities is a challenge. It can thus be observed that the results remain broad, as some of the trend indicators are not sufficiently specific to the IPoA priorities. This report is an attempt to review the status of the implementation of the IPoA at the national level and to highlight among others, lessons learned, challenges faced (including new and emerging challenges) and initiatives needed to overcome them. The content of the report is informed by existing publications from different stakeholders and sources provided by the Working Group formed to spearhead the preparation of the Country Report. It also draws on consultations with a cross-section of stakeholders in the country, including but not limited to public sector, private sector and UN system.

Trend on Socio Economic Context over IPoA Period

As shown in table 2, due to data limitations, a detailed breakdown of GDP by sector or by sources of demand has not been made. On the supply side, the oil sector probably accounted for over half of GDP in 2014 (Mugisha and Nkamleu, 2015) and its vicissitudes cause large swings in the GDP growth rate as indicated in the table. Data for 2015 and 2016, suggest that the growth prospects in 2015 are not particularly encouraging. Real Non-Oil GDP growth (percent) was expected to expand by a fairly modest 1.2 per cent. This implies that, in the absence of major new resource finds or until the economy has diversified it will remain oil dominated. The overall fiscal balance is expected to remain negative, even with donor grants. The emphasis for economic diversification under the IPoA priorities provides a significant impetus to trigger sustained long-term growth. The socio-economic indicators in South Sudan over the implementation period of IPoA (2011-2020), generally shows oscillations and swings, making it difficult to establish a firm trend that is attributable to a particular initiative.

The table further indicates the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in South Sudan from 2014 to 2018 (*Statistica 2019 and FRED 2019*). In 2018, the estimated GDP per capita in South Sudan amounted to around US $ 235. Projections for 2024 indicate per capita level of US $ 261.9. Table 2 also shows the national debt of South Sudan from 2014 to 2017 in relation to gross domestic product (GDP). In 2017, the national debt of South Sudan amounted to approximately 65.2% of GDP. The declining per capita and oscillating national debt levels over the last 10 years depicts the challenges arising from multiple crises that minimize the development potential for the country. This provides a strong justification for the need to enhance implementation of the IPoA priorities in order to ensure sustained development in South Sudan.

Table 2: Indicators – South Sudan

Indicators	Units	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Annual Growth Rate[1]	%	0.4	-50.8	29.8	22.1	3.6	0.2	-0.1	3.3	….
Real GDP Growth	%	….	-52.4	29.3	2.9	-0.72	20.7	-16.7	-1.1	7.9
Real Non-Oil GDP Growth	%	…	-0.8	4.1	-17.5	1.2	-10.2	-6.8	-5.9	0.6
Inflation rate 2011–2020	%	0.0	45.1	0.0	1.7	52.8	379.8	187.9	106.4	91.1
Overall Fiscal Balance. Including Grant	% of GDP	4.6	-15.6	-5.2	-6.7	-15.0	-5.9	…	…	…
Overall Fiscal Balance. Excluding Grant	% of GDP	1,6	-22.0	-10.2	-8.6	-20.6	-11.9	…	…	…
Export of Goods and Services	% of GDP	71.9	9.8	27.7	44.7	26.3	45.1	…	…	…
Import of Good and Services	% of GDP	30.1	41.6	25.1	36.0	39.0	45.1	…	…	…
Trade Balance on Goods	% of GDP	48.8	-26.3	6.3	13.7	-2.0	12.0	…	…	…
Net Foreign Direct Investment	% of GDP	-0.4	-0.5	-3.8	-1.8	0.1	-0.9	…	…	…
External Current Account	% of GDP	…	18.2	-22.4	-0.5	-0.7	-13.9	…	…	…
Poverty Rate ($1.9 in 2011 PPP)	%	…	50.1		55.1	65.6	82.5	86.5	88.7	89.1
Unemployment Rate	%	13.0	12.7	12.9	12.8	12.8	12.6	12.8	12.7	….
Income Per capita	US $	1,653	1,041	1,337	1309	1051	241.5	234	235	202
Income Per capita[2]	PPP $[3]	4,015	1,880	2,394	2,334	2,883	2,014	1,893	1,825	1,732
National Debt	%	…	….	…	38.3	69.2	89.3	65.2	43.8	37.8
Government Debt and Budget Deficit/Surplus	% of GDP	5.9	-17.6	-4.3	-11.0	-24.2	-27.5	6.9	-1.7	1.7

Source: Adapted – National Bureau of Statistics-South Sudan; UNDP HDR, South Sudan 2015; IMF Regional Economic Outlook, Sub-Saharan Africa, April 2015; World Data Atlas; World Bank; Trading Economics.com; and Statistica 2019; FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/SSDNGDPRPCPPPT, November 25, 2019.; World Economic Outlook Database, October 2018

Awareness on IPoA

There is a need for investment in understanding of IPoA by all key stakeholders including the private sector, CSOs and Development partners. Statistics to establish the level of awareness of IPoA are rare, but we opine that the awareness is relatively low in South Sudan. A prerequisite for the effective implementation of the IPoA is building awareness across sectors and ensuring essential understanding of its essence at various levels. As illustrated in Annex 1, the IPoA linkages with Agenda 2063, the global SDGs and the Vision 2040 should be crystalized as these frameworks complement each other. It is imperative that going forward, concrete steps are taken to adopt and

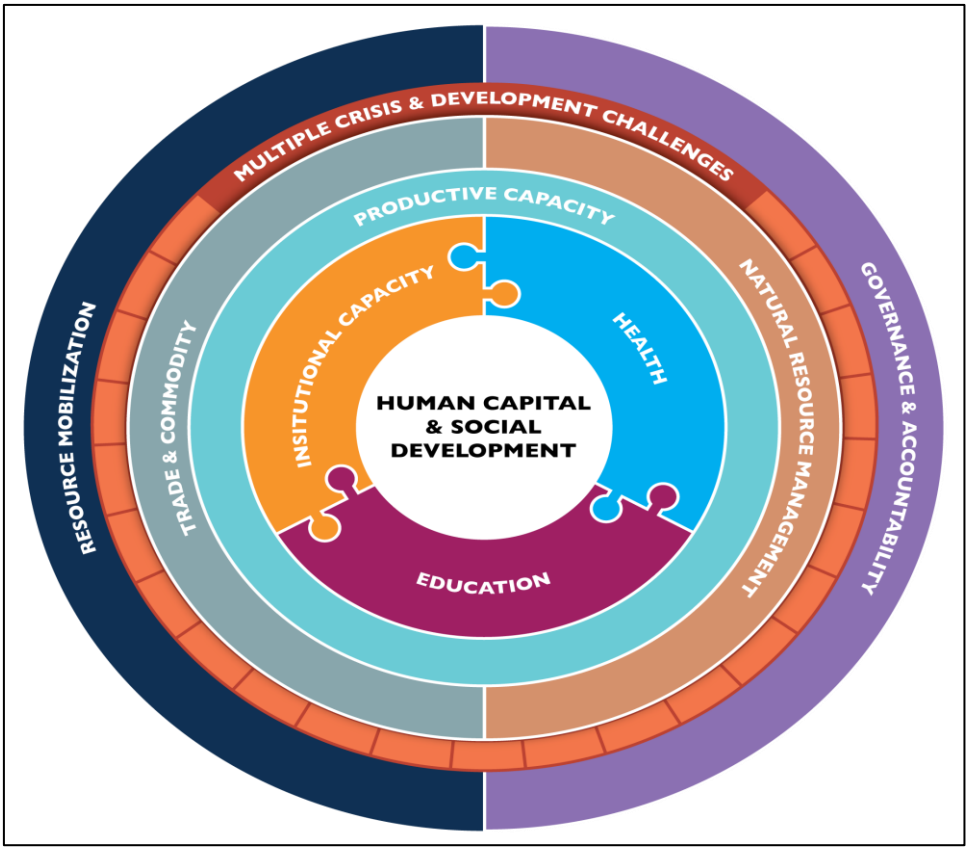
1 www.ssnbs.org; NBS Yearbook 2019
2 African Information Highway
3 PPP: Purchasing Power Parity

adapt IPoA priorities to national contexts by all stakeholders including donors, private sector, development partners to ensure a shared vision.

Conceptual Aspects

It is understood that establishing clear and intrinsic relationships between the IPoA priorities is important in understanding the synergy for their implementation effectiveness. Human capital and social development provide the nuclei for creating development energy to power the implementation of the IPoA priority areas. This is illustrated in figure 1. Human capital is about skills building to ensure enhanced productive capacity to manage, innovate and expand the development frontiers. Skills building entails knowledge, intellectual capacity and health that people accumulate throughout their lives, enabling them to realize their potential as productive members of society. Thus, investing in people through nutrition, health care, quality education, jobs and skills helps develop human capital to add value to natural resources. These include, but not limited to extractive sector optimisation, infrastructure development, agriculture and food security, and value additions to expand trade and manufacturing possibilities. The postulation is that human capital and social development are fired by structured and responsive health and educational systems, which are hinged on strong institutional capacity.

Fig 1: IPoA Priorities



Source: CreativeBox Concept – Own Design

Achieving effective implementation of IPoA priorities requires a country-wide coordination with clearly delineated development sectors and actors. The National Development Strategy (2018 – 2021) is emphatic on cross-sector coordination to achieve results. The role of major sectors such as agriculture, health, water and sanitation, industry and security among others, in the National Development Strategy (NDS) implementation framework is stressed. There is a need for support to these sectors from the national government by way of effective governance,

buttressed with sustained funding through resource mobilization and equivalent transparent utilization of public resources. Whereas a strong human capital can easily address the development challenges, addressing the multiple crises including localized community conflicts requires good governance and strong people-centered institutions, including in the security/judicial sector.

Sustaining implementation of IPoA priorities requires capacities not only in the public sector but also for the private sector and none-state entities. To harness the private sector, there is a need to ensure a competitive and cost-effective business environment, minimum risks to investments, and building on commitment for regional integration. Addressing the IPoA implementation challenges in South Sudan entails capacities to carry out planned initiatives to improve productive capabilities in order to address underdevelopment and poverty in the country.

After the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) period (2005-11) and gaining independence, it can be said that, poor governance, corruption/lack of transparency and accountability, patronage, lack of economic opportunities, among others stifled the country's development. This subsequently led to disgruntlement, poor social cohesion and mistrust among communities and political leaders and culminated into the 2013 political crisis at the national level. The causality between poverty, social cohesion and conflict and its impact on the livelihood of the communities in the country is highly complex.

Methodology

The Country Report preparation has used mixed methodological approach with much emphasis on the country-based evidence. The evidences are based on available data, reports and studies from different stakeholders including country strategic papers. The very nature of the report required an integrated, participatory, holistic and a multi-disciplinary systems approach. As such, the Country Report preparation included working and consulting closely with the relevant government ministries and departments, and stakeholders in the following aspects: drafting contents for Country Report; undertaking data collection and analysis (using mixed methodology with strong quantitative orientation) from the relevant stakeholders or institutions in the country; and validation of the findings.

Scope of the Report

The preparation of the country report is part of the follow-up to the implementation of IPoA. In its resolution 73/242. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), decided to convene the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2021, which had to be preceded by two regional preparatory meetings and two intergovernmental preparatory committee meetings. It is with this background that the South Sudan government is undertaking country-level preparations preceding the regional meetings in 2020 and Conference in 2021.

The Country Report highlights progress, obstacles, constraints, and actions in the implementation of IPoA and determination of priorities for the next 10-year Programme of Action. It has also identified best practices and lessons learnt; highlights factors external or internal that impacted progress in each of the priority areas; and reviewed progress towards graduation.

Structure of the Report

The report is structured as follows: Section 1 provides a synopsis; section 2 highlights the context of the country involvement in the implementation of IPoA; Section 3 highlights national planning process; Section 4 is an assessment of progress of IPoA implementation; Section 5 discusses governance at all levels; Section 6 provides progress towards graduation from LDC status; Section 7 illustrates inter-linkages between the various frameworks; and Section 8 provides insights for the next LDC agenda.

3. THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS

Mainstreaming of IPoA

In the wake of achieving statehood, South Sudan committed itself to an ambitious and detailed development plan- the South Sudan Development Plan (SSDP), (*GoRSS, SSDP, 2011*) outlining its overall development objectives. The country's major objectives were also set out in the Vision 2040 commitments of 2011 (*GoSS, 2011*). The Medium-Term Capacity Development Strategy for South Sudan (MTCDS) (*GoSS, 2011*) was also developed alongside the SSDP. Its objective being to ensure that the Government can effectively address critical institutional capacity needs required to implement the SSDP (*GoSS, 2011*). Initially, the SSDP was targeted over the three years 2011-2013; it was later extended to June 2016. The plan was underpinned by an overarching framework- the South Sudan Development Initiative (SSDI) which was initiated in 2012 and consisted of the forward-looking components, which were then brought together to formulate a costed and detailed action plan to extend to 2020 (*MoFEP, 2015*).

Mainstreaming the IPoA into national development planning processes in South Sudan has proceeded through incorporating them into key national strategic frameworks. The first was the formulation of a Vision 2040, which provides the direction, consistency and focus required to sustain structural transformation and responding to the national aspirations. Vision 2040 defines the type of country that South Sudanese would like to have by the year 2040. Its theme "Toward Freedom, Equality, Justice, Peace and Prosperity for All", is a channel for strategic thinking and policy-making through which all the people of South Sudan can unite, join hands together and contribute towards achieving the goal of building the nation.

The second step has been to formulate the National Development Strategy (NDS), which represents steps towards achieving the objective of the Vision 2040. The third step has been to use the annual government budget as the key-implementing vehicle at the medium-term for national development and sectoral plans and strategies that integrate the IPoA. The important aspects of the planning process are related to (i) synchronization of the development national development plan priorities and those of the IPoA and (ii) ensuring that the annual budget processes allocate resource for the implementation of IPoA related priorities.

Planning for Change

From review of existing documentation, it can be said that active steps are in progress to mainstream IPoA priorities into the South Sudan Planning processes. What is required is that the interventions focus on results that lead to real change on the livelihoods of the poorer population. Furthermore, the interventions need to be creative to explore new frontiers and start to add value to local resources and diversify production processes to expand differentiated product qualities. Innovative approaches through research need to explored, adopted and applied for transformation and development at all levels in the country including changing educational systems to respond to the emerging needs for now and the future.

4. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPOA: THE DECADE 2011-2020

4.1 Progress made against the Goals of overcoming Structural Challenges

Despite a rich resource base, the people of South Sudan are poor. Oil revenue, which constitutes 98 % of total government revenue, does not flow to the average residents. Though large tracts of fertile land could be used for agricultural production, and forestry could provide hardwood timber, Gum Arabic and honey, average incomes are still very low because production has remained stagnant, trade restricted and households unable to save and invest over the past half century.

At the beginning of the decade, average per capita consumption in Southern Sudan was 100 Sudanese Pounds (SDG) per person per month; while the average consumption of the poor was 39 SDG per person per month compared to 163 SDG per person per month for the non-poor. Average consumption in urban areas is 168 SDG per person per month compared to 88 SDG per person per month in rural areas. 51% of the population is below the poverty line. This varies greatly depending on place of residence, with 55% of the population in rural areas classified as poor, compared to 24% in urban areas. Northern Bahr El Ghazal has the highest rate of poverty at 76%, and Upper Nile the lowest, at 26%. The Gini coefficient for Southern Sudan is 46 (*Poverty in Southern Sudan: Estimates from NBHS - 2010)*

4.2 Progress towards Graduation: Strategies to achieve Graduation

Since the adoption of the IPoA in 2011, there have been efforts by the government of South Sudan to integrate the provisions of the IPoA into national policies and development frameworks. The government aligned its development strategies with the priority areas of IPoA. The alignment was particularly reflected in the South Sudan Development Plan 2011-2013 - Realizing freedom, equality, justice, peace and prosperity for all. Also, Vision 2040 aims for the kind of economic transformation required to either graduate from LDC status or attain higher-level country status.

Given the recurrence of crises, a clear timetable for graduating from the LDC category is not definitive. The Government of South Sudan plans to prepare an approach to the graduation from the LDC status by a specific period. The preparation of an approach for graduation from the LDC status is important as it would provide a trajectory on planning official development assistance flows and trade preferences, including through an exchange of views with already graduated countries (UN, 2016).

4.3 Productive Capacity

➢ Private Investment and Efforts to Stimulate Economic Diversification

Vision 2040 is emphatic that South Sudan will have a diversified economy driven by agriculture, industry, mining, tourism, and services to be a vibrant economy that is able to compete and attract investors. The government will have to take the lead by initiating and investing in agriculture to achieve food security. The diversification could have advanced the role of women in the mainstream of development and promoted partnership between local and foreign investors. This partnership will have empowered citizens, attracted investment and substantially increased resource ownership and management by citizens. Appropriate measures will have been taken to limit pollution that may result from rapid industrialization and promote sustainable environment.

➢ Investing in Transport and Transit Infrastructure

South Sudan has one of the lowest road densities in Africa. The country has a total road network of 17,000 km. Most roads are gravel roads which are impassable during the rainy season. The only trunk road that is paved is the 192 km road from Juba to Nimule, at the border with Uganda. There are 24 airports with only two having a paved runway. Juba international airport is the main gateway. However, it does not comply with the ICAO safety and security standards.

The White Nile is the country's largest waterway. Before the closing of the border with Sudan, barges used to navigate from Juba to Kosti, allowing the movement of food and other goods. With six riverine states having access to navigation along the Nile, river navigation supports job creation and revenues which have been partially destroyed by the closing of the border. During the rainy season, river transport is more feasible and easier to transport people, goods and livestock compared to roads in many areas. However, the key river ports of Juba, Mangalla, Bor, Adok, Shambe, Malakal and Renk are in poor condition and need to be rehabilitated or upgraded.

Investment in infrastructure has been promoted as an enabling environment for economic activities. These include focusing on energy; science, technology and innovation (STI); land reform; human resources development; security; and public sector reforms.

Successful transition to Vision 2040 calls for a considerable shift in the way the government deploys resources to acquire the necessary capacity and access to infrastructure services (transport, telecommunications, energy, water, sewerage and sanitation and meteorological services) by firms and citizens in their wealth-creation efforts. Extractive industry activities will need to be expanded to accommodate increased economic activities. GoSS is making efforts to enhance inter-country trade and improve the flow of goods and reduction in transaction costs as part of the regional integration.

South Sudan aims at using an integrated infrastructure approach that will have the target to connect centres of production to markets, thereby unlocking economic potential and increasing employment opportunities. Priority will be given to investments that promote regional integration through enhanced connectivity, notably cross-border linkages, transport corridors such as the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor project connecting Juba to Port of Lamu in Kenya. The GoSS aims to tap into the regional power pools in the Eastern and Southern Africa to boost its energy reliance for industrialization. The GoSS hopes to strike a balance between regional, national and county-level infrastructure investments. Investment in the infrastructure will be designed to maximize youth employment by making them labor-intensive during implementation, and by training the youth to undertake light construction and maintenance work upon completion.

The role of the railway network for South Sudan in the process of industrialization is to facilitate the transportation of industrial inputs and finished products. It is planned that the rail transport in South Sudan will be connected to the Kenya and Uganda Railway networks. The ultimate aim is to connect Juba to Lamu through LAPSSET railway system. It is also the determination of the GoSS to enhance connection of Juba to Kenyan Mombasa port through Gulu in Uganda. This will open up South Sudan to international trade as the problem of being landlocked will be resolved to a large extent (figure 2).

Fig. 2: Railway Network



➢ Reducing the Energy Challenge

The strategy of the energy and petroleum policy is to ensure sustainable, adequate, affordable, competitive, secure and reliable supply of energy to meet country needs at the least cost, while protecting and conserving the environment. NDS emphasizes the need for energy efficiency and conservation. The vision is to have a country endowed with affordable, reliable and renewable energy. Whereas there are no immediate statistics for South Sudan, according to the Africa Energy Outlook Report, 2014, more than 620 million people live without access to electricity and nearly 730 million people use hazardous, inefficient forms of cooking, a reliance which affects women and children severely and that those that have access to modern energy face very high prices for a supply that is both insufficient and unreliable.

➢ Implementing Institutional and Legal reforms

Significant improvements to the legal and regulatory framework for investment are needed to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in support of government quest for diversification. Within the framework of Vision 2040, the government strategy is to build a prosperous, productive and innovative nation. This is to be achieved by attracting investment through appropriate investment policies; and to promote research and development. A number of initiatives to improve the legal and regulatory framework for investment have been undertaken. They are starting to yield the results, as reflected in the country's international investment climate rankings. The recently released World Bank Doing Business 2018 report ranked South Sudan 66th out of 190 countries regarding the payment of corporate taxes.

➢ Infrastructure for Data Management and Dissemination

In order for the country to meet the many development challenges ahead, it is necessary to give priority attention to ensuring that government is capable of effectively tracking and monitoring the implementation and outcomes of

its priority policies and programmes. Having an effective capacity in statistics and in monitoring and evaluation are a critical input and a “lubricant” by which the government will be able to perform, as a developmental state and undertake necessary policy change and adaptation. Data collection and analysis should not be considered an afterthought, but rather a core function of governmental services (UNDP HDR 2015).

Building a data infrastructure that consists of data assets supported by people, processes, and technology is vital as the country’s population grows, and the economy and society becomes even more reliant on data. Data such as statistics, maps, and real-time readings will help to make informed and evidenced-based decisions. The lack of data and system information infrastructure is to be addressed as part of use of technology for transformation-building an effective communication platform for data and information. Thus, instead of encouraging more “data-sharing”, government focus will be on the development of a “data infrastructure”, maintained for the public good by institutions with clear responsibilities and lines of accountability. Within the framework of the National Bureau of Statistics, a platform will be established to promote alignment, coordination, harmonization in data infrastructure for informed decision-making. The platform will aim to facilitate access to strategic data, knowledge, and key findings, as well as best practices learned from the implementation process of the different frameworks including IPoA.

The planned efforts to develop data infrastructure to provide a reliable source of database for statistical needs and decision making in the country is informed by the demand for improved statistics to monitor the implementation and results of different frameworks such as IPOA, Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. Government will pursue a phased approach to develop the data infrastructure with proper costing to ensure effective implementation to improve the planning and decision-making processes.

➢ Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility

The investment in the mineral sector in South Sudan is intended to stimulate rural development and generate employment opportunities, increase food productivity, provide government institutions with new and sustainable sources of revenue, and help to diversify the economy. At times there is concern that a small transnational elite tend to benefit at the expense of the rural poor if the country's arable land is not used to benefit the local communities. This could create the potential for more food insecurity, instability, social unrest and conflict.

It is in this context that, as part of corporate social responsibility, government is pushing for players in the oil sector in South Sudan to play a catalytic role in the provision of basic public services to compensate the affected communities. The NDS stresses the need for public-private partnerships to finance projects which benefit the local communities. Such projects will include: (i) the development of a renewable power sources, (ii) the construction of roads and (iii) building and maintaining a transmission line. Oil sector can also provide basic public services such as healthcare, agriculture extension services, water supply, and education for local communities. This is premised on the good practice found in Lesotho- where some Corporate Social Responsibility activities had been implemented and yielded economic values in the tourism sector and agriculture including provision of support to farmers to improve production of wool and mohair (Lesotho National Report, 2015).

4.4 Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development

➢ Agriculture Contribution to Growth and Development

Poverty is endemic with at least 80% of the population defined as income-poor and living on an equivalent of less than US$1 per day and more than one third of the population lacks secure access to food. Poverty has many

dimensions[4], including low consumption levels, poor health and education outcomes and inadequate access to markets (RSS, 2016b). In 2015, the Human Development Index ranked South Sudan 181st out of 187 countries and territories in terms of its long-term progress in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living. Between 2010 and 2014, the Human Development Index value of South Sudan declined by an annual average of about 0.15 per cent (UNDP, 2015). By region, poverty is highest in Northern Bahr el Ghazal. Fifty-nine per cent of female-headed households are poor compared to 48.1 per cent of those headed by males.

Poverty levels decline significantly with higher levels of education; of households headed by an uneducated person, 55.4 per cent are below the poverty line compared to 26.4 per cent of those with some secondary education (RSS, 2016). However, South Sudan is a well-endowed and potentially rich country. The Nile River is its major natural feature. It traverses the country and flows through some of its regional centers, including the capital city, Juba. It facilitates trade, administration and urbanization in some rural areas. The country's large fertile lands have produced cassava, groundnuts, sweet potato, sorghum, sesame, maize, rice, finger millet, cowpea and beans.

In March 2017, the Government of South Sudan approved the Comprehensive Agricultural Development Master Plan (CAMP). Together with the Irrigation Development Master Plan (IDMP), CAMP constitutes the first national agricultural development plans and a comprehensive set of technical documents to guide development in South Sudan for 25 years, from 2015 to 2040. CAMP is an investment plan covering 5 subsectors, including crops, livestock, fishery, forestry and institutional development for effective and efficient agricultural development by all stakeholders engaged in agricultural development in South Sudan.

CAMP was developed to align with national development policies and objectives, including Vision 2040 and the National Development Strategy (NDS), as well with the policies and strategies of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAF), the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF), the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF), and the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI). CAMP is also aligned with the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) to achieve continental and regional development objectives.

Overall, the CAMP/IDMP investment Plan consists of over 110 subsector ongoing and pipeline projects necessary for agricultural development, over the period of 2015-2040. Each project is described in a project profile format with clear identification of ownership, justification, component descriptions, necessary activities, location, expected impacts, human resource requirements and costing to guide decision-makers in identifying how to address the various impediments to development. The investment plan also comprises a resource mobilization process, which is fully conducted in line with the annual planning and budgeting process of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan.

Within the framework of the CAMP, the transformation of agriculture will accelerate the implementation of the IPoA priorities and the SDGs in South Sudan in multiple ways and with tangible ripple effects, especially ending poverty (SDG1), fighting hunger and malnutrition (SDG2), improving health (SDG3) and education (SDG4) increasing decent work, employment opportunities and economic growth (SDG8), reducing inequality (SDG10), promoting peace and the settlement of people in stable societies (SDG16).

This is achievable through the allocation of a minimum of 10 percent of the Government budget to agriculture and the achievement of a 6 percent annual growth in Agriculture GDP. This will have to be accompanied with policies

[4] The national poverty line is defined as 73 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) per person per month and reports that 50.6 per cent of the population lives below this threshold. Poverty in urban areas is considerably lower than in rural ones: 24.4 per cent of the population compared to 55.4 per cent, respectively (Table 3) (RSS, 2016b).

to increase productivity, value addition to agriculture production and to target investment in agriculture industries and exportable agriculture goods, to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

Agriculture has a significant potential for growth, value addition and structural transformation but suffers from low productivity due to inadequacy in appropriate skills set, lack of rural infrastructure, notably rural roads and irrigation, low absorption of modern technology, inappropriate legal and regulatory frameworks, absence of a coherent land policy, and a domestic market ill-equipped to take advantage of export markets. To respond to these challenges, the GoSS plans to address the issue of inadequacy of appropriate skills and agricultural inputs including livestock husbandry. The government further plans to promote irrigation facilities for individual farmers to use simple water-lifting techniques like hand pumps. Other low-technology methods such as storage ponds and drains in floodplains will also be encouraged to irrigate small plots of crops and vegetable gardens (Fernando & Garvey, 2013).

➢ Food Security in the country

Based on the September 2018 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC[5]) analysis[6] (*FAO 2019*), it was expected that 6.1 million people (59% of the total population) faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity at the peak of the lean season (July – August), of whom 47,000 were in Catastrophe (IPC phase 5) and 1.7 million were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Food security improved slightly with the harvest in September 2018 relative to July and August, and further improvements were expected in the post-harvest period between October and December 2018 when the number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)[7] or worse was most likely to reduce to 4.4 million (43% of the total population), with 26,000 in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). However, un-anticipated earlier than normal start of the lean season resulted in an estimated 5.2 million (49% of the total population) people in crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity between January and March 2019, with 36,000 in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).

Decreased armed conflict and people's improved access to livelihoods and markets are some of the reasons why the food security situation improved. With improved security, some internally displaced persons and refugee returnees have returned to their homes to cultivate their land and increase their own food production. According to FAO, South Sudan's cereal production has increased by 150,000 metric tons in the last year, attributed to the improved security in most parts of the country. A more stable political environment has also allowed for improved delivery of humanitarian assistance to previously hard to reach areas.

However, in the post-harvest period of January to April 2020, the food security situation will deteriorate again as households begin depleting their supply of food as they enter the lean season, when there is not enough food for them to eat. Some 5.50 million people - 4 7% of the population - were projected to be exposed to severe food insecurity in the January to April 2020 projection period. Thus, despite slight improvements in food security, the number of acutely malnourished children was estimated to reach 1.3 million. This is the highest number recorded since independence.

Relatedly, conflict has exacerbated the food insecurity situation in the country by limiting access to agricultural land, wild foods and markets; hindering the transportation and supply of needed food commodities; displacing populations, curtailing productive activities and disrupting livelihoods. Data compiled by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) has revealed trends and areas most affected by conflicts since July 2011.

[5] The IPC is a multi-agency initiative globally led by ten partners, including FAO, DG DEVCO and DG ECHO.

[6] Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, The Republic Of South Sudan, Sept 2018 – March 2019

[7] South Sudan: IPC Acute Food Security Snapshot August 2019 – April 2020

Additionally, data on aid workers affected by conflicts from the Aid Workers Security Database has shown that where attacks on humanitarian responders have occurred, this has hindered assistance to needy populations.

➢ Measures to improve Food and Malnutrition

Although the percentage of malnourished children under five (measured by weight) dropped from 32.5 in 2008 to 27.6 in 2014 (UN-OHRLLS, 2016), in 2017, as conflict continued to ravage the country, acute malnutrition had become a major, unprecedented public health emergency. The country faced the worst famine since fighting erupted in 2013 (FAO, 2017), with one in three children acutely malnourished in the southern part of Unity State in early 2017 (IPC, 2017). The agriculture sector has been a victim of chronic insecurity, poor infrastructure and lack of investment to such an extent that South Sudan is now a net importer of food, importing 50 % of its needs from Kenya and Uganda. The annual cost of total food imports is estimated at between US$200 and $300 million (AfDB, 2013). Food shortages are common and although the country aims to attract investors to develop commercial farming, the security situation is a barrier.

In 2019, approximately 860,000 children under five are estimated to be acutely malnourished including 259,000 severe acute malnutrition (SAM), of whom 220,700 (85 per cent) are targeted for treatment. Global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence stands at 11.6 per cent and stunting at 17.9 per cent.[8] Acute malnutrition has been falling since 2010, with GAM falling from 23 per cent in 2010 to 13 per cent in 2018. In 2018, GAM prevalence exceeded the WHO emergency threshold in four states: Unity (17 per cent), Jonglei (19 per cent), Upper Nile (16 per cent) and Warrap (15 per cent).[9]

The prevalence of GAM across South Sudan remains extremely concerning. Of 30 SMART surveys conducted in the first half of 2018, 7 (23 per cent) recorded a GAM between 10 per cent and 14.9 per cent, indicative of Crisis (IPC Phase 3), and 19 (63 per cent) recorded a GAM between 15 per cent and 29.9 per cent, indicative of Emergency (IPC Phase 4).[10]

➢ Focus on Rural Economy in South Sudan

With almost 80% of the South Sudan population defined as income-poor and live in rural areas, the rural communities play an important role in the economic development of the country. In this regard, the Vision 2040 emphasizes the need to revitalize the agricultural and rural development sectors, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

The initiatives during the period of the Vision 2040, energized by NDS, will be to promote actions to better address the needs of rural communities through, inter alia, enhancing access by agricultural producers, in particular small producers, women, indigenous peoples and people living in vulnerable situations, to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including for efficient irrigation, reuse of treated wastewater and water harvesting and storage. The importance of empowerment of rural women as critical agents for enhancing agricultural and rural development and food security and nutrition is stressed.

Sustainable agricultural production and productivity in the country is being promoted. This include through opening space for trade in agricultural commodities and ensuring improved functioning of cross-border trading and

[8] FAO, UNICEF and WFP, *Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring Survey December 2018*, July 2019
[9] FAO, UNICEF and WFP, *Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring Survey December 2018*, July 2019
[10] FewsNet

strengthening regional cooperation, by increasing public and private investment in sustainable agriculture, land management and rural development.

During the period of Vision 2040, key areas for investment opportunities in rural economies include promoting sustainable agricultural practices; rural infrastructure, storage capacities and related technologies, research and development on sustainable agricultural technologies, developing strong agricultural cooperatives and value chains; rural industrialization and extension services, and strengthening urban-rural linkages. The interventions would also focus on the need to significantly reduce post-harvest and other food losses and waste throughout the food supply chain. It will also focus on harnessing the agricultural resources (crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) to improve food security and eradicates hunger, while conserving land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters.

As part of community engagement, the GoSS in collaboration with UN agencies and INGOs has focused in strengthening national and local institutions, as well as communities, to respond to floods and food insecurity. This means providing internally displaced persons and host communities located in disaster-prone regions with the support they need to better cope with natural disasters related to floods and droughts and prevent additional loss of life and property. The government is also working closely with partners to help farmers and pastoralists address climate change and reduce conflicts over natural resources.

Initiatives to promote small businesses and elevate livelihood of internally displaced persons through training are planned in partnership with United Nations agencies. The government has made efforts to diversify livelihoods opportunities for rural men, women and youth to facilitate return and reintegration. Two specific initiatives promoted by the government and supported by UNDP have addressed the economic needs of 3,000 indirect beneficiaries, including through sustainable livelihood skills training, emergency employment and the provision of start-up kits to set up small businesses in and around two IDP camps in Juba and Mingkaman. In Juba, training benefitted 64 internally displaced persons (50 in pastry making and 14 in barbering) and provided a sustainable income stream of US$2,000 for 47 women and 17 men.

➢ Promoting Commercial Investment in Agriculture

As a direct consequence of decades of war and abject neglect, there has been near complete depletion of the country's technical, institutional, financial, man-made and social capital, which has, in effect, circumscribed the country's ability to engineer and sustain development and growth without direct foreign assistance, particularly, foreign direct investment. The lack of financial and technical resources required for the country to achieve its development objectives is clearly evident in the agriculture sector[11].

Notwithstanding its natural land and water resource endowments, the agriculture sector is producing at substantially below capacity with yields that are far below those of less endowed neighboring countries. If the country is to achieve an export-led agricultural transformation and growth, it must attract high impact foreign direct investment and link it to the country's smallholder farmers and farmer cooperatives. Further, given the importance of cereals in the food basket of the population, the cereals industry should be at the center of efforts to strengthen the traditional sector and lay the foundations for a competitive performance in export markets.

➢ Innovation and Agro-Business

Through Vision 2040 and NDS, government is promoting the development of agribusiness and entrepreneurship in agriculture. It aims to undertake feasibility studies to build partnership between the private and public sectors;

[11] South Sudan Infrastructure Action Plan – Chapter : Development of Agriculture in South Sudan

and assess the benefits and potential for developing local economy along agricultural value chains. GoSS will also pursue agricultural value chain for selected strategic agricultural commodities as defined at the Abuja Summit on Food Security[12] of 7th of December 2006, in Abuja, Nigeria.

These initiatives will enhance public-private partnerships and provide concrete proposals and joint partnerships needed to catalyze agro-industry and agribusiness development to harness South Sudan's regional trade potential. The involvement of small farmers will be promoted as a country strategy to harness rural community agri-businesses and to facilitate market access. Trainings are to be organized on building capacity of farmers to identify and evaluate market opportunities, and to address storage capacity and food loss issues.

➢ Strategies to combat Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture

The Government of the Republic of South Sudan has already prioritized climate change and identified measures needed to address climate change impacts now and in the future. It is supporting climate change adaptation at different policy levels and at institutional and community levels (Karani & Owino, 2017). At the national level, the most significant adaptation goals are set out in the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) for South Sudan. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), NAPAs provide "a process for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to identify priority activities that respond to their urgent and immediate needs to adapt to climate change - those for which further delay would increase vulnerability and/or costs at a later stage" (UNFCCC, 2014). South Sudan's NAPA specifies five priority activities (referred to as Priority Adaptation Projects) for effective climate change adaptation across the five identified priority thematic areas, namely: i) Environment; ii) Water Resources; iii) Agriculture; iv) Disaster Risk Reduction; and v) Policy and Institutional Framework (RSS; UNEP; GEF, 2016).

4. 5 Trade

➢ Simplification and Harmonization of Customs and Transit Procedures

South Sudan joined East African Community (EAC) in 2016. EAC Customs Union was established in 2005. Within this framework, the EAC Partner States have agreed to harness their joint economic potential by eliminating barriers to intra-EAC trade and investment through implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol (CMP) on the establishment of the common market. The CMP aims to further deepen the EAC integration with a view to increasing its economic potential and realizing much-needed improvements in the investment climate.

The East African Community Partner States have over the years, established closer economic links through a Free Trade Area, a Customs Union, and a Common Market. These efforts have led to a deeper regional integration and trade within the EAC and within the individual Partners States like South Sudan. It has also contributed to East Africa's overall fast growth. Given the progress with intra-regional trade, the objective of the EAC Partner States is the establishment of the East African Monetary Union (EAMU), with the circulation of the single currency in 2021. The establishment of the EAMU has gained momentum with the signing of the EAMU Protocol in November 2013. Successful implementation of the proposed Monetary Union will yield several economic and social benefits including promotion of trade through the enhancement of the payments system for goods and services in the region; creation of a larger regional market and broadening of business and trade-related income earning opportunities for

[12] AU Resolution of the Abuja Food Security Summit, Abuja, Nigeria, 4-7 December 2006

the sub-region; and the promotion of competitiveness and efficiency in production leading to increased Gross Domestic Product (GDP)[13].

Some of the initiatives aimed at enhancing trade include: Export Promotion and Market development through activities such as trade missions, market research and facilitating the participation of the private sector in trade shows and exhibitions; and enhancing Trade Facilitation through the creation of One Stop Border Posts. On the LAPPSET rail route, the potential One-stop border post is planned at Nakodok Border with Kenya and South Sudan (*Brief On LAPSSET Corridor Project, July, 2016*). A similar facility is underway between Uganda and South Sudan at Nimule border point. The introduction of an automated system for customs data and one-stop border posts will substantially cut the border crossing time. The aim is to reduce the time taken to clear goods at border posts and facilitate trade. Due to these initiatives, as well as improved productive capacities, it is expected that there will be a steady growth in Non-Traditional Exports (NTEs), both in absolute terms and relative to total exports.

➢ Expanding Regional Cooperation and Capacity for Trade

Several initiatives to boost intra-regional trade have been undertaken. For example, in June 2015, a Free Trade Area among the Member/Partner States of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was established. About a third of the LDCs are Members of this Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA). The GoSS being a partner state of EAC will greatly benefit from these tripartite agreements.

According to the Brookings Institute (2015), available data show that merchandise exports among the members of this new FTA have steadily increased from $2.3 billion to $36 billion between 1994 and 2014. Over that period, the share of intra-regional trade in total exports increased from 7% to 25%. While these shares are low relative to European (70%) or Asian (50%) standards, the trend clearly suggests that trade among the Tripartite members grew faster than their trade with the rest of the world. TFTA could accelerate this trend by further stimulating intra-regional trade. When fully implemented, the TFTA will create a large market with 626 million customers (about 8% of the world's population) with a rapidly emerging middle class. The regional integration will further be enhanced through promotion of culture and sports in the country and participating in the regional cultural events.

➢ Constraints and Barriers preventing Integration in Global Value Chain

The EAC Partner States including South Sudan, have established free trade on goods among themselves, and a Common External Tariff (CET) applying to goods imported from the rest of the world. Partner States have been implementing the EAC CET across the board. The introduction of CET within the implementation framework of Customs Union (CU) has reduced tariffs among the Partner States. This provides good environment for cross-border trade.

Free movement of goods in the region is inhibited by non-tariff barriers (NTBs), thereby slowing down the integration process. The EAC has made efforts to identify NTBs with a view to having them removed. Partner States have resolved some of the NTBs which were identified as barriers to regional integration (CM Scorecard 2014). Identification and elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers in the EAC is based on an online monitoring and tracking system. In order to remove restrictions that make trade in the Community difficult or costly, Partner States assented to the EAC Elimination of NTBs Act, 2017. A gap analysis on the implementation of the Act was undertaken and regulations to operationalize the Act were developed. Further evidence reflecting efforts by EAC Partner States to

[13] Justine Nannyonjo & Wilson Asiimwe, 2014. "The Impact of East African Community Macroeconomic Convergence Criteria on the Ugandan economy: A Dynamic General Equilibrium Analysis," EcoMod2014 7143, EcoMod.

eliminate NTBs was the evolution of other mechanisms spotlighted by the development of a Time-Bound Program for the Elimination of Identified NTBs (*EAC Secretariat, 2009*).

It is apparent that the interventions pursued by Partner States to eliminate NTBs have borne fruits. In EAC, the average time it took to resolve NTBs (between the 2014 and 2016 CM Scorecards) declined from 24 to eight months. South Sudan, being a new entrant to the Community will explore all means to harness opportunities within these frameworks.

4.6 Commodities

➢ Investing in Value Addition to enhance Productivity

Although South Sudan has vast and largely untapped natural resources beyond its oil enclaves, the economy is notably under-developed by African standards. Filling the middle void is fundamental, but this needs to be implemented by significantly boosting exports and diversifying trade, thereby reducing the role of the oil sector in the overall economy. Currently, the business environment in South Sudan is unfavorable to trade. South Sudan ranks third lowest in ease of trading in the world (just above Afghanistan and the Central African Republic), when it comes to trading across borders. On average, it takes entrepreneurs in South Sudan 12 documents, 130 days, and US$ 9,285 to import a standard container of goods; and ten documents, 55 days, and US$ 5,335 to export one. (World Bank, 2015)

South Sudan has potentially many advantages for international trade, given its status as a least developed country. As such, the country benefits from duty-and quota-free (DFQF) access to most developed country markets. These include such opportunities as the European Union (EU) Everything but Arms (EBA) provision that allows South Sudan's exports (except arms and ammunitions) DFQF access to the EU market; and the US African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) provides preferential access for some of South Sudan's exports to the US.

To optimize from these advantages, the government is addressing the pervasive problem of the excessive taxation at legal tax checkpoints and extortion at illegal roadblocks, both of which add extra costs to transport and impede trade. Lack of competition, weak enforcement of laws and absence of appropriate regulations mean that importers are easily able to pass on the cost of multiple taxes to consumers in the form of higher prices. Another issue to address relate to the overvalued exchange rate which can damage trade competitiveness, while the dual exchange rate can introduce massive distortions. These factors made South Sudanese exports relatively expensive and imports very cheap for the influential few with access to foreign exchange at the official exchange rate.

➢ Developments in the Oil Sector

Oil is currently the backbone of South Sudan's economy. Available data indicate that oil alone accounts for 98% of the government budget and in the recent past, contributed between 60% and 80% to GDP (NBS, 2012). In 2011, the petroleum sector accounted for 61.3% of GDP, but that proportion declined to 7.4% in 2012 and 14.7% in 2013. The massive decrease in the share of petroleum in GDP in 2012 was due to the shutdown of oil production, which led to a decline in production in that year and a decline of about 47% in GDP (NBS, 2012). In June 2014, oil prices dipped from $112 to $30 per barrel. South Sudan currently produces 130,000 barrels of crude oil per day, down from 350,000 per day before the war (Houreld, 2017). In the foreseeable future, oil will remain a strong driver of investments in the economy. However, it is not a renewable resource and already declining crude oil reserves point to an urgent need for government investment in other revenue earning sectors (*World Bank, 2016*).

Aligning government spending to the level of oil revenues increases the risk of instability. The economy tends to overheat, creating inflationary pressures when the oil price is high, while the Government has to resort to budget

tightening exacerbating economic downturns when the price is low. As oil revenues started to decline markedly from 2014/15 onwards, the Government had to resort to increasingly larger spending cuts. Calculated in current USD terms, net revenues declined by almost 80% from 2013/2014 to 2015/2016, and there were further substantial reductions in the following years.

Additionally, the spending of most revenues on current expenditures puts the economy on an unsustainable path. Oil revenues will inevitably decline and eventually disappear as the oil reservoirs are depleted. According to present estimates, daily production will decline to less than 50 000 barrels per day in the 2030s, and virtually disappear in the 2040s. If most oil revenues have been used for financing current expenditures, national income will decline when the oil reservoirs are emptied, and oil production will not have any lasting impact on development.

Introducing a system for effectively managing oil revenues is challenging, but the rewards are high. Both developing and developed oil rich countries have experienced significant instability. It is challenging to develop effective management systems for oil revenues that promote stability, growth and diversification. It took Norway 20 years of periodic instability and one deep crisis before they got a well-functioning management.

➢ Economic Diversification in South Sudan

NDS emphasizes the importance of diversification of the South Sudanese economy in view of its over dependence on oil sector. The goal of the economic diversification, which is in line with other policies and strategies of the country is to diversify the economic and oil export base of the country into sectors that will continue to grow long after oil is exhausted. The objectives of the economic diversification strategy are to develop business linkages; export promotion; investment and finance; technology development; research and development; and entrepreneurship development in all sectors including agriculture as emphasized in the comprehensive agriculture master plan. The government will push to formulate a comprehensive economic diversification strategy that takes into account all the economic sectors.

Even for the oil sector, efforts will be made to explore alternatives and possibilities for viable large-scale investment opportunities that would promote beneficiations, value additions, harnessing technology and expanding incentives for the oil product demand from the regional market. The government will explore possibilities for integrated oil based industrialization with all its forward and backward linkages buttressed with its high potential for employment creation and changing manufacturing and export possibilities for the region. This has potential to provide income through employment of women and youth in the sector.

➢ Building non-oil Production

Since the inception of the Government of South Sudan following the CPA, oil revenue has accounted for about 95% of public expenditure. The need to expand and diversify the non-oil revenue base can hardly be emphasized, particularly since there is huge potential from other sources, such as agriculture and animal resources, mining, industry, trade, and tourism.

Relying on oil revenues alone to generate growth is unlikely to be a broad-based growth strategy as extractive industries tend to be highly capital intensive and do not create many jobs. Moreover, the jobs that are created tend to be specific to certain locations. As a result, the benefits of oil-led growth are likely to be concentrated among just a few individuals and firms. To encourage the development of non-oil production, it is important to ensure the economy is attractive to private investors. As well as maintaining a stable macro-economy, it must also be borne in mind that excessively high or unpredictable levels of taxation can harm growth by discouraging production and foreign direct investment. The system of taxation and non-oil revenue collection must be predictable, transparent

and efficient. Thus, government is striving to create peace and security, rule of law, macroeconomic stability, basic infrastructure and effective tax administration to revamp the economy.

➢ Transparency and Accountability

Steps to increase transparency and accountability in oil, fiscal, and central bank operations can build confidence and provide positive incentives for the economy. There is a continuing need to publish regularly, detailed and comprehensive data on oil production, sales, costs, and revenues from oil, in addition to receipts from bonuses from sales of mining rights. There is also need to conduct competitive bidding for new oil and mining exploration and sharing arrangements and disclose the content of contracts. The management of oil energy sector could benefit from expertise and oversight from partnerships such as the voluntary Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). The EITI imposes reporting requirements on all revenues, production volumes, licences and government transfers. South Sudan has committed to become an EITI candidate, but has yet to attain membership.

In 2017, for the first time, South Sudan participated in the Open Budget Survey (OBS), which were disseminated in 2018 to national partners by the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP). Launched in 2006, the Open Budget Survey (OBS) is the world's only independent, comparative assessment of public budget transparency, oversight and public participation. South Sudan's score in the three key OBS areas was very low: out of 100, the transparency index scored 5, public participation 2, and budget oversight[14]. To address these challenges, MoFP has been supporting budget transparency initiatives including production of Budget Briefs and Citizens' Budgets, which present key public finance information to a general audience and used in series of public awareness raising activities on budgetary processes in the country. These are also regularly uploaded to the Ministry of Finance website for the general public.

➢ Measures to prevent Illicit Financial Flow

The Report of the High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows[15] (IFF) from Africa pointed out that substantial amount of resource is lost from those countries that have commercial dealing in the extractive sector. South Sudan is one such country dealing in mineral sector. The commercial component of IFFs arises from business-related activities. These are complex to determine in terms of the dividing line between the fair use of policy incentives and their abuse and the range and scope of economic activities from which such outflows can emanate (IFF 2015). The interpretation of such outflows has important implications for a sector that is expected to invest in productive activities, create jobs and impart managerial and technological skills. The business sector also has relative strengths in interpreting laws and rules and being able to avoid compliance with them because of the legal, accounting and finance assistance that it can draw upon. The BOSS, working in tandem with MoFP will have to initiate developing modeling to address the illicit financial flows from the country. The ultimate goal is to strengthen transparency and accountability in the mining sector to improve governance and tackle corruption.

[14] https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/south-sudan-open-budget-survey-2017-summary.pdf

[15] Illicit Financial Flows (IFF): Report of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa - Commissioned by the AU/ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,2015

4.7 Private Sector Development

➢ Measure and Policies oriented towards Supporting Private Sector

Good and conducive business environment is vital for a flourishing private sector. This is particularly important for a vibrant Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sector in both rural and urban areas. Good business environment is a key determinant of future prosperity in South Sudan. As of the end of 2010, according to the 2010 Business Survey Listing Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE 2011) there were 7,332 registered businesses in state capitals (1,294 at the end of 2005). The vast majority (over 90%) has fewer than five employees and over 80 % were engaged in wholesale and retail trade.

➢ Promoting Informal Sector for Job Creation

The informal sector is much more widespread, with about 76% of households involved in some kind of subsistence entrepreneurial activity (AfDB, 2013). Most of them remain small and are characterized as low capital and low technology as the costs and intricacies of upgrading or registering their businesses are prohibitive. Although this sector is quite undeveloped, along with agriculture and mining and services sector, the government aims to provide the necessary support to the sectors to grow and make the economy more vibrant. The biggest hindrance to the development of this sector currently is the level of skills amongst the population. For instance, according to the 2008 population census, only 10 % of the population was documented as skilled and in official employment. Many government departments lack staff with adequate training to support public service work. For instance, operations in the Ministries of Energy and of Mining are both affected by the lack of trained human resources (AfDB, 2013). Foreigners from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya continue to run businesses such as tourism, hotel management, restaurants, construction services, and retail and wholesale.

➢ Actions to facilitate Business Friendly Environment

Government of South Sudan, in partnership with UNDP, has initiated actions to promote inclusive economic growth by integrating trade into its national development strategies. Efforts are also underway to promote micro, small and medium enterprises, strengthen local markets, and support the development of rural value chains. This includes gender-sensitive sustainable livelihoods and skills training for internally displaced persons, host communities and conflict-affected people in rural and urban areas. While economic stability will support growth, it is not a sufficient condition. Diversifying the economy and creating growth require high investment levels. Investments have to be financed, and a positive climate has to be created through policies that emphasize stability, transparency and an investment-friendly regulatory framework.

4.8 Human and Social Development

➢ Implementing Free Education Policy to increase School Enrolment

Progress towards SDG target 4(1), to ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education, is not evident. Reports published in 2018 found that every third school has been damaged, destroyed, occupied or closed since 2013, and that more than 70 per cent of children who should be attending classes are not receiving an education, as schools continue to be destroyed or remain unusable and

teachers have fled violence and economic stress.[16] According to the 2018 Out-of-School Children South Sudan Country Study, at least 2.2. million school-aged children across the country are now out of school.[17]

Renewed conflict since 2016 seriously undermined the provision of education services. In conflict-affected locations, schools remained closed, often occupied either by armed forces or by internally displaced persons seeking shelter and protection. A peace agreement signed in September 2018 is holding in most areas of the country, allowing educational services to be provided in previously inaccessible areas.[18]

Pathways in the education sector, particularly at local government level, must firstly address the limited functionality of education facilities. It is also critical to improve access to education among marginalized groups, including girls as well as conflict-affected internally displaced and refugee populations (e.g. by ensuring that refugee children are included in the South Sudanese Education Plan). Pathways should also prioritize teacher training – and reflect the inter-linkages between conflict, education and inequality – to contribute to peace building. For instance, inclusive and conflict-sensitive criteria must be developed to inform strategies, policies and practices to promote access to equal education opportunities for both national and refugee populations (both IDPs, and those abroad who will eventually return).

The government is cognisant of the challenges in education sector. For instance, progress has been made on mainstreaming the SDGs in the education sector. With SDG-specific targets already included in the forthcoming general education plan, and the Ministry of General Education and Instruction have produced a national report on SDG 4. In addition, at the higher education level, a joint project between civil society groups, universities and UNDP has raised awareness and helped to anchor the SDGs among future civil servants and public officials. Additional efforts will require improved availability and quality of education data, in a way that is operationally useful to stakeholders in the education sector and supports collaboration between humanitarian and development actors.

Due to the continuing uncertainty within the country, over the coming years, government plans to conduct joint sector reviews each year to report on progress achieved and to adjust targets based on the prevailing situation in the country. The priorities for 2017-2018 cover access and equity, quality and management for General Education and Instruction which includes early childhood development, primary, secondary, alternative education systems (AES) and TVET. In order to improve access to and equity in education, priorities for 2017 and 2018 include the payment of salaries, capitation grants, and cash transfers to girls who are enrolled in upper primary and secondary education (*General Education Strategic Plan, 2017-2022*).

The key concern is how to finance the identified priorities on a sustainable way. It is projected that the ministry will not have sufficient funding through the GoSS budget system to pay salaries for all teachers, managers and administrative staff. This requires that additional government funding is secured. Partner support will be needed in order to be able to pay all salaries and to finance capitation grants and cash transfers to girls. Funding from Girls' Education South Sudan (GESS) has been used to pay the capitation grants and cash transfers to girls until 2018 when that funding ended. To abridge the funding gap, the government in collaboration with EU approved the EU IMPACT project in 2017. This project provided monthly salaries of USD 40/month for up to 30,000 primary teachers and head teachers for a period of 18 months.

The Ministry of Education will also focus on advocacy to communities with the prime objective of improving girls' enrollment and retention and advocating for the educational needs of children with disabilities. The Ministry will work with the Ministry of Justice in order to make copies of the General Education Act (2012) available in all states.

[16] UNICEF South Sudan, *Country Office Annual Report 2018*, 2019
[17] MoGEI-UNICEF South Sudan, *Education Brief*, May 2019
[18] MoGEI-UNICEF South Sudan, *Education Brief*, May 2019

The ministry will organize a consultation with state ministries to orient them on the requirements of the General Education Act (2012) and their responsibilities with regard to enforcement of compulsory primary education. Furthermore, state ministries will be mobilized to advocate for the redeployment of teachers to under-served and hard to reach areas within their states and to mobilize communities to construct classrooms, teacher housing and low-cost boarding schools for girls. The enrolment levels are expected to be improved over the years with the implementation of the General Education Strategic Plan. Table 3 illustrates enrolment and completion rates at different schooling levels by gender.

The ministry will also seek to increase access to learning for children with special education needs. New schools will be designed so that children with physical disabilities are able to access classrooms as well as water and sanitation facilities. In addition, the ministry will provide inclusive education training to school head teachers and teachers, so they are better able to accommodate varying learning needs within their schools/classrooms. In addition, schools will be encouraged to form Primary Education activism clubs whose purpose will be to advocate formally and informally for children with special needs through social activities. These clubs might include disability clubs, music, dance, drama and debating clubs. The idea is to inform and build confidence amongst all learners.

Table 3: Education Enrolment

Pre-primary Education	Year	Gross enrolment rates (%)			Net enrolment rates (%)		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	2011	5.76	5.94	5.58	3.48	3.59	3.37
Primary Education	Year	Gross enrolment rates (%)			Net enrolment rates (%)		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	2011	84.25	101.14	66.98	40.59	47.32	33.71
	Year	Completion rates (%)					
		Total	Male	Female			
	2010	15.9	21.3	9.6			
Secondary Education	Year	Gross enrolment rates (%)			Net enrolment rates (%)		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	2010	4.2	5.6	2.6	1.6	1.8	1.3
	Year	Completion rates (%)					
		Total	Male	Female			
	2010	1.9	2.8	0.9			

Source: UNESCO: Data Centre Country Profile (online); and South Sudan Statistical Yearbook 2011

➢ Capacity and Skills for Development and Transformation

Capacity and skills development through structured training is fundamental to the success of implementation of the IPoA priorities. It has been observed that implementation capacity is a constraint at all levels in the productive sector. Emphasis is to be given to educational system that is harmonized and coordinated to respond to the development needs of the country. Education equips South Sudanese with understanding and knowledge that enables them to make informed choices about their lives and those facing the country. The education sector will, therefore, provide the skills that will be required to steer the country into the economic and social goals stipulated in the Vision 2040 and stressed in NDS.

Focus on building the country level skills capacity is important as the implementation of Vision 2040 will largely be determined by the proactive capacity embedded at the national level. Thus, there is need to determine and build

the necessary human capacity skills requirement for the country. At the programme and project level, the GoSS will endeavor to establish the skills sets needed to ensure optimal mix and availability and knowledge to implement the transformation espoused in Vision 2040 and NDS. This will include analysis of specialized skills at all levels that are necessary to convert the natural resources into tradable goods and to give rise to value addition at country and continental levels.

➢ Emphasis on Technical, Vocational Education Training

Recognizing the urgent need for attention in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector in South Sudan, the government has stressed the need to direct more resource to it. As the nation's youth constitutes almost 70% of the population, it is essential to provide meaningful and productive economic engagement for all, to capture the nation's demographic dividend, and deter the population from becoming involved in the on-going conflict. TVET sector is one of the best opportunities for "quick-wins" as well as long-term gains across various avenues, including youth engagement, livelihood improvement, strengthening human capital, labour market enrichment, and national economic development.

The Sustainable Development Agenda acknowledges the importance of youth and vocational training, primarily through Goal 4, 8 and 9, respectively on education; inclusive economic growth and decent work; and industry, innovation and infrastructure. TVET and skills development are also strategic objectives within the framework of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025. TVET is also a priority programme in Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) General Education Strategic Plan 2017-2022, which states that the goal is to "promote relevant and quality non-formal and formal post-primary technical and vocational education and training that is governed by a unified and efficient TVET system that provides nationally and globally competitive human resources while stressing gender equity and inclusiveness". In table 4, the number of students at technical and higher education is illustrated for 2011.

Table 4: Number of Student – Technical and Higher Education

Higher Education Number of students	Year	University, Teacher training, TVET		TVET		AES[19]	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	2011	5,477	1,379	3,399	2,060	95,716	69,134

Source: GoSS. Educational Management Information System 2011

➢ Curriculum Development

Implementation of the revised South Sudanese curriculum is a priority during the period of the implementation of General Education Strategic Plan. The curriculum frameworks and syllabi have already been developed for primary and secondary education. Pilot testing of both started in early 2016. Following pilot testing of the curriculum, textbooks have been developed, printed and distributed since 2018. Existing Global Partnership Education (GPE) funding has been allocated for the development of lower primary (P1-P4) textbooks and for the development of national language textbooks for three languages for P1-P3. Funding is already being identified for the development of the upper primary, secondary or Alternative Education System (AES) textbooks or for the Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) teaching and learning materials. The ministry's short-term objective is to reach a

[19] The aim of the Alternative Education System (AES) in South Sudan is to increase access to primary and secondary education with a special focus on girls.

pupil-textbook ratio of 2:1 for primary and to make sure that a minimum of five sets of textbooks are distributed to each secondary school.

For ECDE, the short-term objective is to make sure that one set of teaching and learning materials is available for every 10 children. To make the new curriculum accessible to learners with disabilities, the provision of assistive learning materials/devices will also be prioritized. Finally, in conflict-affected areas where textbooks and Teaching/Learning Materials (TLM) have been destroyed, copies of existing textbooks and TLM urgently need to be reprinted and distributed to these schools as they reopen. The ministry will work with the Education Cluster and UNHCR to make sure those IDPs and refugees also have access to existing textbooks and to new textbooks beginning in 2018.

➢ Out of School Children

At least 2.2 million children are estimated to be out-of-school in South Sudan. The number of Out of School Children (OOSC) has increased in recent years and this trend is projected to continue, reaching over 2.4 million in the next two years, if present circumstances are maintained. The government has plans to establish the exact locations of the OOSC in order to initiate interventions to cater for their schooling needs. There are also thousands of children who may be enrolled in school, but who are at serious risk of being excluded from education. These include over-age students, child labourers, children displaced by conflict, children with disabilities, child soldiers, and children in pastoralist communities.

For instance, children make up around 60% of South Sudan's 1.9 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). In sub-Saharan Africa, South Sudan has the lower proportion of female students enrolled in primary school and second lowest in secondary school, in part due to prevalence of child and early marriage, as well as domestic responsibilities at home. Further, as per data generated by MoGEI in 2015, covering seven former states, 18,000 primary school students displayed a range of impairments, which suggests that providing access to education for children with disabilities needs urgent attention. Moreover, at least 60% of South Sudanese are engaged in pastoralism where, in those communities, being in the cattle camps and being a young bride tends to be valued above formal education.

In 2017, the GoSS in collaboration with the UN supported the development of a General Education Strategic plan (2017-2022) with a priority to address the enrolment of out of school children, quality of teachers and increase the access to vocational education. The initiative to address enrolment faced a number of challenges in 2017 including a worsened humanitarian situation, insecurity, high turnover of staff and increased costs of delivering basic services. These challenges have significantly limited agencies' capacity to plan and deliver services that focus on education system building and strengthening.

Meanwhile, the Government's Back-to-Learning initiative has been effective in bringing children back into education. Since 2015, 1,258,244 children have been reached through the initiative. Strategies for 2019 include focusing on girls, pastoralists and other marginalized groups; emphasizing measurable learning outcomes for children; boosting inter-sectoral convergence; and expanding services to previously inaccessible areas.[20]

Research at household level in Bor and Rumbek East in 2018 identified cultural barriers, not school distance, as the predominant reason not to attend school. Other significant obstacles to school attendance include a low value placed on education, or the need for youth to help support the family – though the range of expressed obstacles varies with education levels, and qualitative responses, including from females and youth, reveal more diverse

[20] MoGEI-UNICEF South Sudan, Education Brief, May 2019

viewpoints. Most schools are government-funded, with a modest proportion of privately-owned schools. Faith-based schools are most common in Yei, Wau and Yambio. [21]

➢ Bridging the ICT gap for improved service delivery

A national communications grid for ICT is being developed, based on a fibre optic network linked to the operating submarine cable on the eastern seaboard of Africa. This will bring major benefits to all at reasonable cost. South Sudan has consolidated arrangements for oversight and regulation and expanded the range of applications that are available to the population and in the education system. Nearly half the population will have access to voice communications by 2020, as would 60-70% of government, health and educational institutions. This would have a profound impact on the wellbeing of the entire population and transform prospects for small scale commercial farming.

In addition, efforts are being made to establish access to the global communication network of submarine cables and build a national broadband network linked to it; implement a policy of universal access and promote competition among providers to keep costs down. This has been estimated to cost US$ 850 million, to be funded mainly by the private sector. To sustain effective communication system, it is recognized that there is a major need to strengthen and build capacities to design, implement and oversee infrastructure programmes in the relevant line ministries, to improve budget execution rates and to enhance and systematize donor support, which has tended to be fragmented.

➢ Improving access to Housing

Dignified housing, water and sanitation services for the people of South Sudan will enable people to live good lives where their unleashed physical and psychological potential will stimulate economic growth and sustainable development. Therefore, the rights to housing (habitat), safe water and improved sanitation are not only fundamental human rights but also locomotives for development. Unlike provision of housing, water and sanitation services are to a larger extent considered public goods that the Government has to provide. Nevertheless, the GoSS will need to create an enabling environment for financing, cost recovery and private sector involvement in order to sustain these services.

➢ Measures to Develop Human capital

Developing human capital is an urgent need to kick-start the economy and promotes sustainable development. It is also essential to harness opportunities to "leapfrog" in certain sectors, such as agriculture and telecommunications, to reap "quick-wins" and catalyze growth. Inadequacy in human capital and strong institutions leads to severe shortage and mismatch of skills across many key sectors. This shortage is exacerbated by the very poor provision of educational and training opportunities and will take a generation of relative peace to address them. There is perhaps the prospect, when peace is restored, that some of the at least 500,000 South Sudanese diaspora may be induced to return to the country. There will need to be a major improvement in political and economic prospects for this to be realistic. Until South Sudan can train and recruit its own cadre of skilled service providers, engineers, government officials and indeed private-sector entrepreneurs, the country is going to have to continue to import skills.

[21] WHO, *Country Coordination Strategy at a Glance: South Sudan*, May 2017, at http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/136881/1/ccsbrief_ssd_en.pdf

➢ Building Strong Institutional Architecture

The effectiveness of the economic transformation enablers not only depends on the availability of the right human capital but also on the effectiveness of institutional capacities and the correct policy environment. Table 5 provides example institutional architecture that the country needs to remain conscious about and promote.

Table 5 Institutional Strengthening

Institutional Reforms	Need to review and realign the national institutional structures to respond to the emerging and changing needs of the national vision and aspirations.
Institutional Mandates	Some of the institutions have outdated mandates. The instructional mandates need to be revisited in order to clarify, harmonize and reduce duplication
Work Systems and Functioning	The work processes in many of the institutions have to be reviewed in order to render them more result-focused and less bureaucratic to respond to the need for efficiency and effectiveness
Institutional and Corporate Governance	There should be a drive for implementation of decisions and results with effectiveness in order to reduce transaction costs

The policy orientation at national level should be done within the broader framework of Agenda 2040, while considering the national goals as espoused in NDS. The South Sudan development planning is built on current development knowledge and anticipation of the future.

➢ Regional and South-South Cooperation.

South Sudan can benefit from leveraging the experience and thinking of professionals, policymakers and other leaders from the Global South who have experience in fostering change on the ground. This would provide South Sudan with valuable signposts for avoiding pitfalls, identifying tipping points, and learning from best practices developed elsewhere. Through the South-South exchange of people and ideas, South Sudan has the greatest potential in the near term to learn from the experience of other countries, in particular from other countries of East Africa to which South Sudan has the closest affinity. The South Sudan/IGAD Regional Initiative, convened by donors during the 2010 Oslo Accord to support South Sudan after independence, deployed 199 officials, to 22 national and state institutions across South Sudan during its first phase. The second phase saw 90 Civil Service Support Officers (CSSOs) deployed to 15 national, 27 state and 3 county institutions.

4.9 Access to Health and Other basic Services

➢ Population and Primary Health

In mid-2017, the population of South Sudan was estimated at 13,091,132 based on the latest United Nations estimates (Worldometers, 2017). Jonglei is the most populous area, with 16% of the total population, and Western Bahr el Ghazal is the least populous area with only 4% of the total. The highest population densities are along the Nile River and their tributaries.

The majority of the population of South Sudan is young and lives in rural areas. About two-thirds of the population is under the age of 30 (World Bank, 2016), and more than three quarters, or 81% of people live in rural areas (RSS,

2010). In northern Bahr el Ghazal, 92% of the population is rural while in Western Bahr el Ghazal, the proportion is 57% (MOE, 2015). The main towns are Juba, the capital, Wau and Malakal. In 2015, the average annual population growth was 3.53%.

The infant mortality rate is 105 (per 1,000 live births) and the maternal mortality rate is 2,054 (per 100,000 live births) (World Bank, 2016). Households are large, with an average of 6.5 people living under one roof (NBS, 2012). According to the country's 2010 Households Survey, in one out of 10 households, there were more than ten members living together (RSS, 2010).

South Sudan remains a rural society. The share of people in urban areas is still small despite rapid urbanization and is projected to remain so compared with other countries in Eastern Africa. The urban population is estimated to have been about 9% in 1950, to have almost doubled to 16.5% in 2000 and is projected to reach 34% in 2050, still well below the expected world and regional averages at that time.

➢ Initiatives to promote Health and Health Equity

An evaluation (Evaluation Report 7 July 2018) of South Sudan Interim Cooperation Framework ((2016-2018) indicated that in the first half of 2016, notable progress was achieved in maternal, newborn and child health, immunization, combating Malaria, Tuberculosis, (TB) and HIV and sector-wide system strengthening, such as for example rehabilitation of health infrastructure and training of frontline health service providers. UN supported development of policies and guidelines to strengthen health delivery system, including, inter alia, (i) National Health Policy, (ii) Quality Assurance Framework for Health Sciences Institutes, (iii) Policy on adolescent and youth Sexual and Reproductive Health, (iv) System for forecasting and monitoring Reproductive Health commodities, and (v) review of Logistics Management Information System tools.

➢ Universal access to Reproductive Health

The WHO website (WHO, 2015) has noted that South Sudan faces a severe shortage of all categories of trained Human Resources for Health (HRH) professionals, including physicians (1 per 65,574 populations) and midwives (1 per 39,088 population). As a result, the country relies on inadequately trained or low skilled health workers. There is also an inequitable distribution of health workers both among the states, with Central Equatoria having the largest number of health workers, and between urban and rural areas- where the majority of the population lives (Health Strategic Plan 2011-2015, Government of South Sudan Ministry of Health). Meanwhile, according to WHO, NGOs are now responsible for almost 80 per cent of health service delivery, with only 20 per cent provided by the Government.[22] This complicates the coordination of service delivery.[23]

Further contributing to these challenges are a lack of a national Human Resources for Health (HRH) retention policy; high staff turnover in all government-managed health facilities; lack of financial resources for training; and poor HRH management which is reflected in a lack of job descriptions, low and irregularly paid wages, and a lack of supervision at all levels. No formal system is yet in place for supervision and support of nursing and midwifery practice at the state level; and no legal or regulatory framework guiding midwifery practice exists yet at the national level.

In the face of these difficulties, some achievements have been made by the Ministry of Health, including: Creation of a Health Sector Development Plan (2011-2015) that emphasizes HRH as a determinant of all 3 of the Plan's

[22] UNICEF South Sudan, *Health Brief*, May 2019.
[23] WHO, *Country Coordination Strategy at a Glance: South Sudan*, May 2017, at http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/136881/1/ccsbrief_ssd_en.pdf

objectives; A Strategic Plan for Human Resources for Health 2007-2017; and a draft national HRH policy 2011-2015.

➢ Reversing the spread of HIV-AIDS and the Incidence of Malaria

Although an estimated 176,000 people are living with HIV in South Sudan, only 19,000 cases, or about 11% of all cases, have been identified and/or treated. The GoSS in collaboration with UNDP is working with other United Nations agencies with funding from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria to address this gap and reduce new HIV infections by half. In April 2018, UNDP supported a two-week training for medical staff of new treatment centres planned to launch in the Greater Equatoria region. The training focused on capacity building for 10 new antiretroviral therapy sites and included modules on treatment, care and support for HIV-positive patients and HIV testing and counseling for vulnerable populations. The next steps for the trainees will be to deploy to their clinic locations in the Greater Equatoria region and to assess, establish and evaluate HIV support programmes, with UNDP support.

In July 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that malaria trends in at least 19 counties of South Sudan have exceeded the threshold of cases recorded between 2013 to 2017. According to the WHO latest disease surveillance update, malaria accounted for nearly 68 per cent of all illnesses and 72 per cent of deaths reported in health facilities across the country in the first half of July. Most of these cases where children under the age of five. In Duk County of Jonglei, one of the counties reported, authorities have said that they lack malaria drugs at the health facilities, and people use herbal medicines instead. In response to the increased malaria cases, humanitarian organizations are scaling-up prevention and response. This includes the distribution of mosquito nets and replenishing antimalarial drugs in health facilities across the country. [24]

On the Ebola virus disease (EVD), also known as Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever (EHF), a noticeable progress has been made at the National level since the First Joint Monitoring Mission (*JMM*) in November 2018. The Ebola National Task force and Strategic Advisory Group (NTF/SAG) and the Technical working groups involved in the EVD preparedness are fully operational though coordination remains a challenge. The National Authorities (led by the Ministry of Health), partners (UN agencies (led by WHO), International NGOs (INGOs), Red Cross, NGOs), and donors are strongly involved in the preparedness process.

➢ Water and Sanitation

Water supply and sanitation are severely constrained. About a third of the population relies on surface water. Access to piped water is virtually non-existent. Three quarters of the population has no access to sanitation facilities. Government plans to rehabilitate non-functioning rural water points and build about 11,000 new ones to provide 65% of the rural population with access to improved water by 2020. There is also effort to upgrade and extend urban water supply so that 70% of the urban population can access improved water by 2020, compared with only 15% at the time of devising the plan. Table 6 shows water and sanitary access in 2015. Progress is being made towards ensuring access to water and sanitation as well as measures and strategies oriented at increasing water efficiency and productivity, particularly in relation to rural areas and disadvantaged populations. To sustain this, the government is implementing a programme of technical support and training that will enhance overall capacities to provide water service.

[24] OCHA, *South Sudan Situation Report*, 2 August 2019, at https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Situation%20Report%20-%20South%20Sudan%20-%202%20Aug%202019.pdf

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is a priority for both development and humanitarian professionals in South Sudan as more than five million people are estimated to be in need of WASH services. For sanitation, the government plans to rehabilitate the existing rural and urban facilities and construct new ones to provide 60% of urban and 40% of rural households with access to improved sanitation by 2020. Measures have been taken to reform the coordination and implementation of sanitation programmes and increase funding; provide improved sanitation facilities for all healthcare centres and schools; develop hygiene education programmes for all communities and for the school curriculum.

The 2017 WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) gave estimates for 2015 that 50 per cent of the population had at least basic access to improved water, while a further 30 per cent had limited access (having to walk at least 30 minutes to access this water). The JMP estimates are disaggregated by urban and rural areas, and it can be seen that urban water supply is slightly better though the difference is minimal.[25] These figures are much better than the previous JMP estimates, which showed that 24 per cent used surface water and another 17 per cent other unimproved sources.[26] It is not clear if this difference is a result of methodological challenges or a perception that the situation is better than was previously thought.

Improved sanitation and hygiene are also important aspects of SDG 6. Safely-managed sanitation services, as outlined in SDG target 6.2, are defined as a hand-washing facility with soap and water, and the safe, hygienic treatment of human waste. The Joint Monitoring Programme estimates that in 2015, only 10 per cent of the population had at least basic sanitation facilities (rural 6 per cent and urban 28 per cent). Meanwhile, 61 per cent of South Sudan's population practised open defecation (70 per cent in rural areas and 22 per cent in urban areas).[27] This number of people without access to improved sanitation is likely to have increased even further as a result of the internal displacement of nearly two million people during the conflict.

It is estimated that the capital cost for water is US$1.1 billion between 2011-2020, plus US$ 150 million in support for capacity-building; the capital cost for sanitation is estimated at US$ 700 million, plus some US$ 150 million needed for sanitation education and capacity-building. Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE) indicates that 55% of the population has access to improved sources of drinking water. 67% of the urban population has access to improved sources of drinking water compared to 53% of the rural population. 80% of the population does not have access to any toilet facility and 60% of households own at least one mosquito net.

Table 6: Water and Sanitation Access

	People using improved drinking water sources (% of population) (2015)	People using improved sanitation (% of population) (2015)	People practicing open defecation (% of population) (2015)
Value	59%	7%	73.6%

Source: WHO. World Health Statistics 2016

[25] WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, *Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2017*, 12 July 2017, at https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/JMP-2017-report-launch-version_0.pdf. As of late November 2019, these are the latest figures available at https://washdata.org

[26] WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water: 2015 Update and MDG Assessment*, 2015, at http://files.unicef.org/publications/files/Progress_on_Sanitation_and_Drinking_Water_2015_Update_.pdf

[27] WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, *Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2017*, 12 July 2017, at https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/JMP-2017-report-launch-version_0.pdf

4.10 Infrastructure and Energy

➢ Development of Infrastructure

Accessibility to rural communities: Uninterrupted access by roads is critical for sustainable development efforts in the country. This is particularly true in rural areas, as most existing and functioning infrastructure exists in the major urban centres and cities, such as Juba. Notably in the agriculture and social services sector, poorly maintained and inaccessible road networks limit access to markets; trade in goods and services, and education and health provision.

Rehabilitation of the road networks: Enabling safe access to all parts of the country in conditions of peace will generate positive spinoff effects and benefits to many IPoA priorities and other SDG areas. It will improve prospects for adequate health provision and food security, poverty reduction and economic diversification. The government's ambition is to upgrade the country's physical infrastructure such as upgrade road networks to connect major regional and international markets, and link major cities and state capitals.

➢ Energy Production and Consumption

The total primary energy supply of South Sudan in 2014 was 700 ktoe[28], up from 644 and 677 ktoe in 2012 and 2013, respectively. Most of the energy in South Sudan is produced from oil and its dependence on oil for energy has been increasing. In 2012, total energy from crude oil was 1,578 ktoe, with 193 ktoe from biofuels and waste, increasing to 5,043 in 2013 and 7,915 in 2014 (*IEA*).

The total final consumption or end use energy has been fluctuating over the last three years. It was 542 ktoe in 2012, decreasing to 526 ktoe in 2013. In 2014, total final consumption was 543 ktoe, with 345 ktoe from oil products, 162 from biofuels and waste, and 37 ktoe from electricity. In 2014, a total of 488 GWh of electricity was produced. Of this, 486 GWh was produced from oil and 2 GWh[29] from solar energy. It is expected that electricity will continue to be the single largest use of energy in South Sudan for years to come. In table 7, figures available show that in 2012, electrification rates in urban and rural areas were 5.1% and 3.5 % respectively.

Access to electricity enhances the increase in the use of electronic communication. In 2014, as shown in table 7, 24.5% subscribed to modular cellular, while internet users (per 100 people) were 15.9 persons.

Table 7: Access to Electricity and Internet

Year	Electrification rates		Mobile cellular subscription	Internet user (per 100 people)
	Urban	Rural		
2012	5.1%	3.5%	-	-
2014	-	-	24.5%	15.9 persons

Source: UNDP. 2015. South Sudan National Human Development Report 2015 and World Bank. Open Data

➢ Energy and Mineral Resources

The significance of the natural resource sector in South Sudan is expressed by the fact that oil remains the cornerstone of the South Sudanese economy. Oil sector earned about 60 per cent of GDP in 2010 down from 98 per cent in 2008, and this has had significant impacts at the national level (AfDB, 2013). Recent data indicates that

[28] Kilotonnes of oil equivalent
[29] Gigawatt hours

there was 11,378 ktons of crude oil in 2015 (Africa Energy - AFREC, 2015)[30] and the proven reserves by the beginning of 2014 were 3.5 billion barrels of oil (US Energy Information Administration, 2014). The expansion of oil resources in Abyei region will equally expand the opportunities in the sector. In addition South Sudan has many natural resources such as petroleum, iron ore, copper, chromium ore, zinc, tungsten, mica, silver, gold, and hydropower.

➢ Preservation of Environmental Assets

The population of South Sudan is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of increased warming and unpredictable and reduced rainfall, given its fragile state and its extreme dependence on rain-fed subsistence agriculture. A warmer climate and drier weather have food security implications, reducing crop harvests and pasture availability and intensifying the impacts of droughts and floods. If the current climate change trend continues, rain-fed agriculture may become untenable.

Climate change will exacerbate the development challenges already stemming from decades of political instability, poverty and persistent food insecurity. Already, in 2007 and prior to the independence of South Sudan, the United Nations Environment Programme projected that expected changes in weather patterns would exacerbate existing household vulnerabilities and exceed current coping mechanisms, further limiting poor people's capacity to maintain sustainable livelihoods throughout the former Sudan. The projections were published in the *Sudan Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment,* which analyzed livelihood activities in the major agro-ecological zones to understand climate change vulnerabilities and identify the most vulnerable areas in the country. It also assessed the climatic risks and impacts of climate change on key economic sectors that support these livelihoods.

4.11 Gender Dimensions

➢ Gender equality and Empowerment of Women

The Africa Human Development Report launched in 2016 highlights how poverty and hunger can be eliminated by closing the gender gap in labour markets, education, health, and other areas. Specifically, the report finds the gender gap is costing Africa US$95 billion per year. The South Sudan National Human Development Report found gender inequality contributes to a 19.5% loss in the country's overall human development index value. Only 15.6% of women over the age of 15 are literate – and a young girl in South Sudan is three times more likely to die in childbirth than to finish primary school.

The National Gender Policy and the South Sudan Development Plan advocate for a pro-poor approach in delivery of basic services to meet the need of the most vulnerable group including the women. The Transitional Constitution and the Land Act single out very clearly, the right of women to acquire property and land for economic development and right to equal opportunity by women and men, girls and boys.[31]

To economically empower women in various sectors, the government of South Sudan through the Ministry of Gender with a loan secured from the World Bank, implemented the Safety Nets and Skills Development Project (SNDP). Grants were given to 109 women, who started small businesses. Through the project, a women's vocational training institute was launched, the first of its kind in South Sudan.[32]

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30 Energy profile of South Sudan, 2015

31 Republic of South Sudan National Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Pg. 21-22

32 United States Institute of Peace Special Report; Gender and State Building in South Sudan. Pg. 6

Analysis of the SDG 5 illustrates that gender equality, in its many forms (be it reducing gender discrimination or harmful practices, or increasing representation in public life), emerged as an important enabler for sustainable development. Gender inequality is pervasive and women and girls tend to be disproportionately affected in many SDG areas, including: intensity of poverty (SDG 1), access to nutritious food (SDG 2), access to health services (SDG 3), literacy rates (SDG 4), and exposure to various forms of violence and harm (SDGs 5 and 16).

Consequently, investing in expanded opportunities for women and girls to advance their economic, legal and political empowerment is essential for positive, long-term results in all of the sustainable development areas. In other words, promoting gender equality and the status of women can help to secure progress across much of the transformation process.

➢ Measures for the integration of Youth in Economic Activities

To address the challenges constraining productivity and earnings for youth, the NDS is building on the aspirations of Vision 2040 to focus on finding pathways to productive work in the emerging sectors of agriculture, industrialization, manufacturing mining, transportation and services. This will be linked to human capital and infrastructure development, and creating business environment with harmonised regulated framework required for sustaining economic transformation and employment creation. Human capital will emphasize interventions on educational system that produces relevant skills set for the productive sectors. The business environment facet will aim to create access to finance and secure legal and regulatory framework to enable growth and productivity.

➢ Policies fostering Gender Equality and Empowerment

In South Sudan, there is room to foster political and economic empowerment for women, both in the public and the private spheres. Sustainable development planning and forward-thinking policies are important to achieve the improvement in women empowerment. Policy dialogue on gender issues must also become more prominent, including among UN agencies that are obliged to mainstream gender equality in their work. Beyond policy solutions, there is an urgent need to raise awareness about gender challenges, and the importance of advancing women's rights, particularly on culturally-sensitive issues like child marriage. Challenging commonly-held practices and gender norms is important at grassroots level and throughout government institutions.

One of the achievements of women who participated in the peace negotiations that led to the signing of the Revitalized Peace Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) is the successful negotiation for inclusion in the Agreement and in the Constitution a 35% affirmative action. To realize this, the Government is endeavoring to work with the political parties and other parties to the peace Agreement, towards strengthening intra party democracy in the country.

It is emphasized that SDG 5 requires going beyond political representation and mainstreaming gender sensitivity throughout planning and policy strategies, budgets and reporting mechanisms. Empowering the work and standing of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare could be a useful step in this direction as the Ministry seeks to mainstream gender issues throughout the Government and its institutions. Finally, reinforced efforts are required to reduce the high rates of GBV, including prevention and risk mitigation in all sectors. While some useful policy and legal frameworks are in place, such as the National Social Protection Policy and the National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, these require comprehensive implementation. South Sudan has drafted CEDAW (first for South Sudan) and Beijing +25 reports. These will go a long way in actualization of the UNSCR 1325.

➢ Gender Based Violence

Gender-based violence is still prevalent, taking different forms such as domestic violence, early and forced marriage, and the abduction of women and children during cattle raids. An assessment on GBV conducted in 2009 indicates that 41% of the respondents experienced GBV themselves in one form or another in the past one year, 29% knew of someone who experienced GBV. More females (44%) have experienced GBV compared to 36 % for males (NGP[33] 2012) . The majority girls and women experience sexual violence for the first time under the age of 18.[34]

The underlying root cause of GBV is the unequal gendered power relations, aggravated by alcoholism, cultural practices, poverty and conflicts (Country Gender Assessment - CGA 2011). Cultural norms that tends to control and infringe on women rights are strong. Militarization and brutalization of the society, wide spread circulation of small arms, trauma of men, breakdown of social fabrics, all aggravate GBV (CGA 2011). The emphasis of the GoSS is to systematically address the GBV within the framework of the national development strategy.

The laws of South Sudan prohibit rape and other sexual based violence. 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. It follows that having sexual intercourse with a person under the age of 18 years amounts to a statutory rape[35], since the person is not capable in law of giving consent.

➢ Social Protection

Social protection is increasingly seen as an important part of the Government's strategy to fight poverty and promote economic growth. The South Sudan Development Plan (SSDP) 2011-2013 first recognized the importance of developing a coherent social protection system in order 'to reduce risk, vulnerability, poverty and economic and social exclusions throughout South Sudan.' Since then, a National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF) has been adopted 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 the country remains limited. In response, the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MoGCSW), as the lead Ministry with mandate on social protection, plans to work with development partners to operationalize the National Social Protection Policy Framework, which can provide strategic guidance to partners active in the social protection sector and ensure that interventions are implemented in more systematic, coordinated, and sustainable ways to address chronic poverty and vulnerabilities in the country. It provided the Government with analytical and technical assistance over the two-year period of 2016-2018, and focused on: (i) Sector wide Assessment of Social Protection Programs; and (ii) Technical Assistance to Operationalize the National Social Protection Policy Framework and Knowledge Transfer. These interventions are planned to continue over time.

In addition, in 2019, the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MoGCSW), completed the first-ever national mapping of social protection initiatives using the Interagency Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) methodology. The results, which were validated and endorsed by the NSPWG, included recommendations to redouble existing

[33] The New Growth Path (*NGP*) is expected to identify areas where employment creation is possible on a large scale

[34] UNICEF South Sudan, Gender-based Violence Brief, May 2019

[35] National Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) Republic of South Sudan JUNE 2019

coordination efforts; harmonize the transfer levels in public works and asset creation programmes; improve the compatibility of management information systems; and create an overarching social protection M&E framework[36].

4.12 Multiple Crises and other Emerging Challenges

➢ Measures to maintain Peace for Prosperity

There is a realization that a country cannot have prosperity without peace and a country certainly cannot have peace without people. During the period under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (2005-2011), South Sudan made significant strides towards establishing state structures and consolidating its state building goals. Conflict and insecurity have, however, undermined the governance and institutions of South Sudan and diminished state-society relations, as well as the national identity of the South Sudanese people. Insecurity remains pervasive. Uncontrolled arms proliferation, including at the community level, has given rise to a culture of violence and lawlessness. National and local capacity to plan, finance, develop and deliver basic services and invest in infrastructure is also severely constrained.

➢ Policy Measures towards the Reduction of Vulnerability

On 12 September 2018, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and opposition armed groups, including SPLA-IO (RM), the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM/former detainees), and the South Sudanese Opposition Alliance, signed the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). This agreement, which was facilitated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), arose from the 2015 ARCSS, which was waylaid by the resumption of conflict in July 2016.

The security arrangements framework, central to R-ARCSS, provides, *inter alia*, for a permanent ceasefire including the unification of the armed forces of the signatory parties, withdrawal of allied troops and opening of humanitarian corridors. It also provides for the assembly and cantonment of these forces within 30 days of the signature of R-ARCSS, to enable registration of personnel, weapons and equipment accountability, screening, re-organization and/or disarmament and demobilization. Furthermore, the transitional security arrangements prohibit acts and forms of sexual and gender-based violence including sexual exploitation and harassment. In September 2018, in anticipation of the integration into the organized forces, armed groups began to move toward assembly points, but also bolstered their ranks through the forced recruitment of adults and children in several key areas.

Nevertheless, there has been an overall decline in the number of violent incidents throughout Unity since September 2018. This is likely attributable to several factors, including the signing of R-ARCSS, the proactive engagement of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) with local and national authorities and military commanders, and the deployment of additional peacekeepers in Leer and Mayendit (both located in southern Unity), as well as the rainy season. However, tensions between armed actors remain high. Outside the scope of R-ARCSS, other issues, such as oil revenue and access to grazing lands remain contentious, and some national and regional actors are likely continuing to pursue selfish interests for their own gains.

➢ Measures for Adaptation to Shocks

Strengthening the ability of households and communities to mitigate and adapt to shocks and to protect, recover and enhance their productive assets can help reduce the effects of conflict, as well as prevent future violence from breaking out. Building the resilience of households and communities is a challenge that requires a combination of

[36] CODI National Mapping and Analysis of Social Protection in South Sudan, MoCGSW/UNICEF (July 2019)

short-medium- and long-term interventions to lay the foundations for recovery, stabilization and sustainable peace. The government's plan is to address the main shocks and drivers of risk, including but not limited to: insecurity and conflict; low investment, declining revenues (oil production has dropped significantly), a decrease in GDP, disrupted market functionality and limited employment opportunities; climate variability; animal diseases and crop pests and diseases in South Sudan.

➢ Flooding Emergency

Since July 2019, South Sudan has experienced unusually heavy rainfall and flooding, affecting an estimated 908,000 people[37]. In October, the Government of South Sudan declared a state of emergency in the areas affected by flooding. At least 620,000 people needed immediate humanitarian assistance. A coordinated response is on-going in priority locations, including most recently flooded counties in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile. Immediate priorities include delivering multi-sector flood rapid response kits, food and health support to most affected families, followed by restoring critical water, health, nutrition and education infrastructure, and people's food security and livelihoods.

➢ Fragility Pressures

The December 2013 crisis and consequent economic difficulties appear to have delayed finalization of the South Sudan Development Initiative[38] (SSDI), which held the promise of providing a viable framework for post-conflict planning. As a self-described fragile state, South Sudan also embraced the New Deal Compact as a framework for enhanced partnership between Government, civil society and development partners to facilitate the implementation of the SSDP and the SSDI. However, this initiative was also undermined by the December 2013 crisis.

The Fragile States Index, produced by the Fund for Peace, is a critical tool in highlighting not only the normal pressures that all states experience, but also in identifying when those pressures are pushing a state towards the brink of failure. By highlighting pertinent issues in weak and failing states, the Fragile States Index[39] makes political risk assessment and early warning of conflict accessible to policy-makers and the public at large.

Table 8 shows that in 2015 South Sudan ranked first by the Fragile States Index; while in 2016 it moved to second position.

Table 8 Fragile State Index for South Sudan

Fragile States Index	Fragile States Index 2015		Fragile States Index 2016	
	Index	Rank	Index	Rank
	114.5	1st	114.0	2nd

Source: Fund for Peace. Fragile States Index 2015; Fragile States Index 2016

Figures for 2014 in table 9 and Fig 3 .have been used to illustrate the situation of South Sudan as compared to the rest of Partner States in East African Community. In 2017, South Sudan returned to top position on the annual Fragile States Index (FSI) for 2017.

[37] OCHA. South Sudan: Floods Emergency Response Strategy and Funding Requirements, Nov 2019

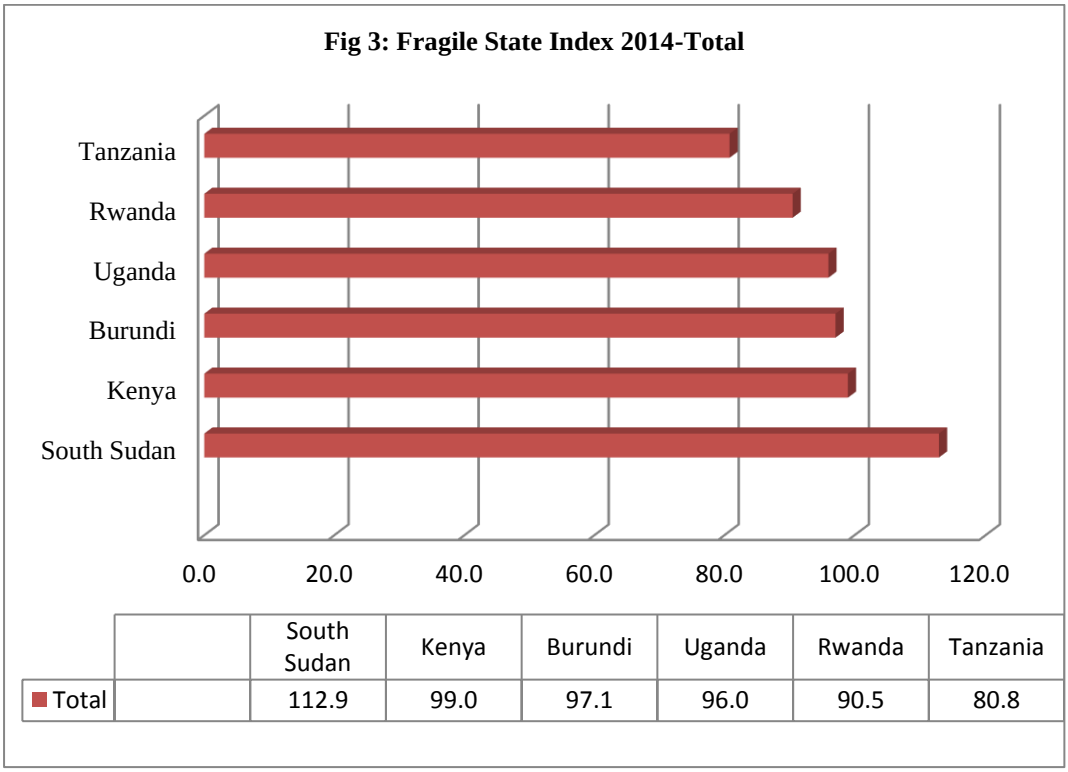
[38] South Sudan Development Initiative (SSDI) is to translate the objectives of the South Sudan Development Plan (SSDP) into concrete, costed action plans. The SSDI is intended to serve as an implementation framework for the SSDP, and as a first public investment plan for South Sudan.

[39] Fragile State Index and the social science framework and software application upon which it is built — makes political risk assessment and early warning of conflict accessible to policy-makers and the public at large

Table 9 Fragile State Index

Fragile States Index 2014	Total	Demographic Pressures	Refugees and IDPs	Group Grievance	Human Flight	Uneven Development	Poverty and Economic Decline	Legitimacy of the State	Public Services	Human Rights	Security Apparatus	Factionalized Elites	External Intervention
South Sudan	112,9	9,1	10,0	10,0	6,8	8,9	8,8	9,7	9,9	9,9	9,9	10,0	9,9
Kenya	99,0	8,7	8,2	9,3	7,8	8,0	7,9	8,4	8,2	6,8	8,2	9,3	8,2
Burundi	97,1	8,7	9,0	8,1	6,5	7,5	8,8	8,1	8,6	8,0	7,4	7,9	8,5
Uganda	96,0	8,7	8,7	8,3	6,9	7,6	7,3	7,8	8,3	7,6	7,9	8,9	8,0
Rwanda	90,5	8,0	8,2	8,5	7,2	7,9	6,7	6,5	7,5	7,8	5,9	8,2	8,1
Tanzania	80,8	8,6	6,7	5,9	6,7	6,7	6,7	6,0	8,7	6,3	5,2	5,7	7,6

Source: Adapted from Fragile States Index 2014



4.13 Mobilizing Financial Resources for Development and Capacity Building

➢ Domestic Resource Mobilization

The priority of the Government of South Sudan is to achieve a return to sustained peace and security. After that, the government seeks to resume provision of basic social services such as health, education, infrastructure and agricultural development. To do so, it will need to improve its own capacity and its ability to generate revenue. This will take time and so, for the foreseeable future, external support will play an important role. Domestic resource mobilization refers to, all resources generated in the country including public domestic spending and private

spending. Private expenditure includes out of pocket expenditure, pre-paid expenditure and expenditure by private enterprises.

The non-oil revenue mobilization and accountability project in South Sudan was designed because of the need to take immediate steps to reduce dependency on oil, boost non-oil revenues and reduce oil revenues and strengthen control of expenditure. Indeed, oil revenues, on which the country's economy depends, collapsed following the price decline since July 2014, resulting in a budget deficit of 30% of GDP in 2015. The government is promoting a project for institutional support, funded by both grant and loan resources, to complement other donor interventions designed to address capacity needs in two interrelated areas, including capacity building at the country level, non-oil revenues at both the national and state levels, while improving financial control, transparency and accountability. It has three mutually reinforcing components: (i) Improved domestic resource mobilization in the non-oil sector; ii) Strengthening financial control, accountability and control mechanisms; and iii) Project management.

Public-Private Partnerships have the potential to orient private finance and investment to flow into areas where significant impacts can be made in terms of development. South Sudan has realized this potential and recently incorporated PPP in its development plan. There is an active network of companies with Corporate Social Responsibility activities, mostly focused on infrastructure such as hospitals, clinics, schools, and water wells. However, many of these efforts are scattered, unevenly distributed, duplicated and sometimes unsustainable. Government is undertaking major steps to organize Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and ensure that it is linked to the institutions that are expected to sustain its efforts.

South Sudan's rapid population growth presents both opportunities and challenges. The ongoing demographic transition is increasing the number of newborns each year (around 350,000 in 2019) as well as the size of the working age population. One of the immediate consequences is increasing pressure on basic social services provided by both Government and development partners. If the government dedicates adequate resources to social sectors and strategically invests in children and youth, this may well facilitate a sustained boost of economic growth, help eradicate poverty and lead to long-term peace. In contrast, if children are neglected in budgetary decisions, current vulnerabilities are likely to deepen, thereby exacerbating levels of poverty, inequality, crime, violence, social and political instability, emigration, and so on. Investments in social sectors that benefit children and women will facilitate economic growth, poverty eradication and peace.

Despite progress, the social sectors remain gravely underfunded. The 2019/2020 national budget for the health sector increased by 31% in real terms compared to the FY 2018/19 budget.[40] However, this only represents 1% of the national budget, which is far short of the government's commitment to the Abuja Declaration whereby 15% of the national budget should be for the health sector. The Education sector registered an increment of 54%, however, its allocation reduced to 5 percent of the national budget.[41] Lower investments in the social sectors make it harder to gain from the growing human workforce in the country. Moreover, it directly negatively affects children's and women's welfare. These sectors continue to rely on humanitarian funding from donors and development partners[42]. Furthermore, the budget execution process is characterized by low credibility including overspending within a few sectors, which has a disproportionate negative impact on social sector spending, directly affecting women's and children's welfare. [43]

[40] FY 2019/2020 National Citizens' Budget; MoFP, http://www.mofep-grss.org/docs/fy-2019-2020-citizen-budget-version-1/

[41] Ibid.

[42] Ibid.

[43] Ibid.

➢ Official Development Assistance

There are challenges to gather comprehensive information on ODA in South Sudan. There is also a need to streamline the information systems through which development partners and Government share data, as well as the need to reflect the ODA in budgets in line with the macroeconomic programme. Furthermore, the predictability of ODA flows in South Sudan is poor, restricting forward planning and making programme and project implementation difficult. Amounts of assistance remain focused on humanitarian food aid.

Regarding official development finance management, the Government of South Sudan plans to resume the constructive levels of dialogue with partners that characterized the immediate post-independence period. Returning to the coordination structures and targets outlined in the 2011 Aid Strategy (and jointly amending them where necessary) would be a good first step. In 2013, many innovative modalities and co-operation mechanisms were designed to maximize the effectiveness of official development finance in South Sudan and there is likely to be significant value in resuming them. Alongside this, continuing the New Deal process and signing a New Deal Compact are likely to be priorities.

Government is cognizant that to enhance the flow of ODA to South Sudan, reforms in public financial systems and internal auditing systems, government aid coordination, coordination and dialogue with international development partners, and South–South cooperation needs to be undertaken. The overall vision will be to move from an aid effectiveness approach to a development effectiveness approach to ODA. Currently, the majority of development ODA comes from technical cooperation, followed by the multilaterals, and the international non-governmental organizations.

➢ External debt - Trends on Debt Vulnerability

According to the IMF's latest debt sustainability assessment report, released in March 2017, South Sudan is in debt distress. Total public debt was estimated at 62.1% (of which 42.1% was foreign) of GDP in 2017, a drop from 127.9% (of which 87.8% was foreign) in 2016, as the Government has started settling some of its debts. The present value of public sector debt-to-revenue is estimated at 167.4% (of which 109.2% is external) in 2017, down from 399.5% in 2016. Meanwhile, the debt service–to-revenue ratio increased to 11.7% of GDP in 2017, from 9.9% in 2016. Continued high spending by the authorities, issuance of more uncovered Bank cheques, and the likelihood of assuming the debts contracted by the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) are the main drivers of the public debt. While there are ongoing consultations between the government and the IMF to discuss measures to reduce debt levels, human and institutional support for the debt unit through trainings and implementation of debt management software has been provided. A strategy on debt management is also envisaged. Going forward, the government should pursue prudent fiscal policy, and sustain the new PSA agreement that will help to attract foreign investment.

➢ Foreign Direct Investment

Foreign investment exited the country in 2015 and virtually no new inflows were recorded in 2016 (*KPMG South Sudan Economic Snapshot H2, 2017*). One of the reasons behind this was the uncertainty caused by a government order in September 2014 that foreign workers must leave the country, followed shortly by a reversal of the order. In March 2017, the cost of foreign worker permits was also raised substantially, adding pressure to foreign nationals. Underdeveloped infrastructure and a lack of skilled and unskilled labour are other factors that also inhibit investment in South Sudan. Ongoing civil conflict and poor financial management further exacerbate the difficult investment climate. On a positive note, the recently released World Bank Doing Business 2018 report ranked South

Sudan 66th out of 190 countries regarding the payment of corporate taxes. The number of payments, time involved and tax paid as percentage of profit are all lower than the Sub Saharan Africa average, with the total tax contribution being below the average calculated for Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. South Sudan is also ranked 81st in terms of contract enforcement.

➢ Remittances

The decline in oil revenues, the narrow export base and the need to import both consumption and capital goods have brought the current account into a fairly substantial deficit since 2011. In the absence of a large rise in oil revenues, this is likely to remain the case even with the revival of the economy and resumption of developmental investment, once peace is secured. One large unknown is the net remittances, which may be a significant equilibrating factor. Unfortunately, no data on remittances are available, and this is an important data gap that would need to be addressed.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held in Ethiopia in 2012 found that remittances sent to poor nations from family and friends living abroad had increased from $3.5 billion in 1990 to $27 billion in 2011. South Sudan personal remittances received was at level of 200 million US dollars in 2018, down from 633 million US dollars previous year. This is a drop of 68.44 %. Measures need to be taken to encourage the increase in the remittance from the diaspora.

5. GOOD GOVERNANCE AT ALL LEVELS

Coupled with the low performances in major indicators, including the Corruption Perceptions Index, the Ease of doing business rank, the Freedom of the Press, the Management Index (Political Leadership), towards democracy and a market economy,[44] the Open Budget Index,[45] Paying Taxes Indicator;[46] the governance system has deteriorated further at both national and local level and has been unable to ensure effective delivery of essential functions such as agricultural extension services or basic social services. Local governance actors face enormous challenges from scarce human and financial resources, weak collaboration between the state and its citizens, and diminished social cohesion and trust between society and local governance. A recent government decision to increase the number of administrative units such as states and counties created additional operational challenges. With support from UNDP, as part of its efforts to strengthen peace and governance in South Sudan, government is undertaking capacity development at all levels and across multiple sectors, covering legal, regulatory, institutional, labour, work procedures, operational arrangements and skills development.

➢ Collaborative Leadership Dialogue

In February 2016, leaders representing different sectors of South Sudan, including the Peace and Reconciliation Commission, Parliament, Ministry of Defense, Council of Churches and civil society organizations, met for the second Collaborative Leadership Dialogue to share diverse opinions on how to approach the peace and reconciliation process. “We should stop identifying ourselves as from this or that tribe, we have to see ourselves as South Sudanese to build our nation,” said a civil society representative at the Dialogue. “We have to move away from tribal identity and identify ourselves as South Sudanese. We have to think about what we are here for and not where we come from.” Such type of the Collaborative Leadership Dialogue provides an opportunity to continue the

[44] The Management Index evaluates the reform activities of political decision-makers in working toward a market-based democracy

[45] The Open Budget Index indicates how transparent and accountable the national budget of a country.

[46] The Ease of Paying Taxes Survey ranks countries based on their total tax rate as well as measuring the administrative burden of paying taxes.

discussion on key issues in South Sudan and strategize future engagement to promote opportunities for further collaboration.

Within the framework of NDS, the establishment of the Governance cluster is very critical to achieving the objectives and aspirations of the GoSS. Good governance is important for creating the enabling environment for peace, economic development, capacity development and equitable service delivery. It reduces the potential for corruption and enables the allocation of public resources to respond to priority needs (security, food security, health and education). Effective and credible governance also facilitates an environment for macroeconomic stability, enabling economic activity to flourish. The Governance Cluster consists of the Rule of Law, Security, Public Administration and Accountability sectors. The goal for the Cluster is: *"A peaceful, developed/prosperous, secure, democratic, effective, efficient and accountable society which adheres to the rule of law." The* cluster deliberates on numerous issues that must be addressed to establish a conducive environment for sustainable peace and development in the country.

➢ Creating Conducive Environment for Good Governance

Vision 2040 emphasizes the need to build a compassionate and tolerant nation. The goal is to create opportunities for equitable distribution of income; provide support and opportunities to those who are poor and vulnerable and guarantee equitable share in the benefits of economic growth; ensure access to quality basic services to all vulnerable people; and promote the free expression of ideas, free practice of religious and other beliefs and free association of people in pursuit of legitimate goals. South Sudan aims to establish governance mechanism that responds to the key dimensions of governance. These include but not limited to accountability; political stability; government effectiveness; rule of law; and control of corruption.

6. PROGRESS TOWARDS GRADUATION

➢ Strategies to achieve Graduation

The government systematically aligned its development strategies with the priority areas of IPoA. Vision 2040 also aims for the kind of economic transformations whose focus is either to graduate from LDC status or to attain higher-level country status. Given the recurrence of crisis, a clear timetable for graduating from the LDC category is not definitive. The Government of South Sudan will prepare an approach to the graduation from the LDC status to be achieved during the duration of Vision 2040. The preparation of an approach for graduation from the LDC status is important as it would provide a trajectory on planning official development assistance flows and trade preferences, including through an exchange of views with already graduated countries (*UN, 2016*).

The armed conflict has led to declining oil and food production. Developments in the international oil market coupled with the conflict contributed to the strong downturn from 2014/15. Without accumulated reserves of oil revenues to insulate the non-oil economy from volatile movements in the oil price, its steep fall forced sharp cuts in government expenditures. This resulted in declining living standards for the population. While negative impacts from the extreme swings in the oil price experienced could not be avoided, they could have been substantially reduced if a better system for managing oil revenues was in place.

South Sudan's economic outlook is by most accounts gloomy, but not hopeless. Any scenario involving progress on the SDGs is, however, premised on a complete and lasting cessation of hostilities. Moreover, as oil dependence makes the country sensitive to price volatilities, any sound policy choice must address the dual challenges of: a) managing future price declines and harnessing oil wealth to enable investment in sustainable development (which presupposes reducing security spending) while; b) mitigating oil dependency through economic diversification.

Together, these steps may have the added benefit of building confidence among bilateral and multilateral partners who at present are reluctant to engage in development financing.

7. COHERENCE AND LINKAGES WITH THE 2030 AGENDA AND OTHER CONTINENTAL AND GLOBAL PROCESSES

Agenda 2030 has placed the promise of "leaving no-one behind" at the centre of the global efforts to eradicate extreme poverty, build a future of shared prosperity and protect our planet. LDCs received special attention in the 2030 Agenda as the most vulnerable countries. Annex 1 indicates how the principles, actions and guidelines of the 2030 Agenda and other major international frameworks are interlinked. It is an attempt to show how the South Sudan national strategies such as Vision 2040 can be integrated in national development flagships in order to accelerate progress on the priority areas set in the IPoA and ensures sustainable and inclusive development that fosters meaningful change to the lives of those living in the country.

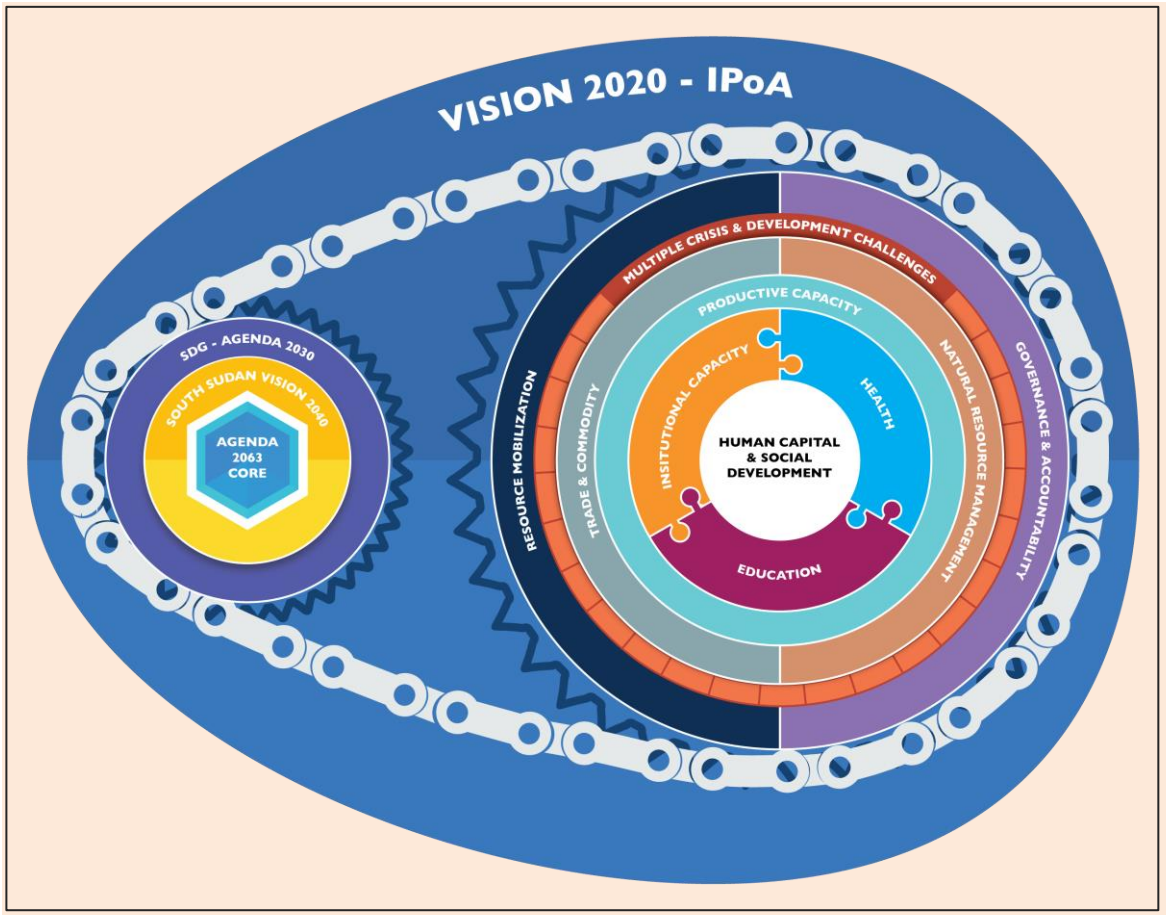
Agenda 2063 is the primary framework for transformation in the continent. This is made clear by its specific goals, priorities and targets as explained in-depth in the first 10-year implementation plan for the period 2014 -2023. The overarching priorities of the IPoA (2011-2020) straddle the implementation framework of this continental agenda as illustrated in figure 4. This figure depicts the inbuilt dynamics that exist between the successful implementation of the IPoA priorities and the other existing continental and national development frameworks. The concept depicts working together in unison to realize the aspired transformation. It also stresses the importance of internal dynamics in the actualization of development and transformation processes. Each process is linked to the other and acts to create positive momentum if well managed.

The internal motions under Vision 2020 - IPoA, energized by human capital and social development, are propelled by activities under Agenda 2030 – SDG. These are boosted by continental interventions under AU Agenda 2063. The motions are accelerated by the nation state visions (like South Sudan Vision 2040) whose ultimate goals are to actualize the "Africa We Want".

Realization of human capacity and social development under IPoA energizes the productive capacity needed to enable the country to optimally utilize their natural resources for the benefit and development of the population. This requires sustained peace and provision of health and education services to ensure that the released development potential creates motion for development at all levels. The basic principle is that effective implementation of IPoA priories increases the chances of realization of goals and priorities of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 and related nation state visions. Other continental and global frameworks, include the AfDB High 5s which complement the African Union framework. Annex 1 gives an idea of possible inter-linkages, synergies and strategic areas for the frameworks and their mapping to the priorities of South Sudan Vision 2040. This provides impetus for harmonization and coherence among the frameworks.

South Sudan Inaugural SDG Report (2017) showed that nearly all-available data on the SDGs paint a grim picture, and the main underlying factor has been the on-going armed conflict. Finding a lasting political resolution to the conflict and building a peaceful, just and inclusive society, as expressed in SDG 16 is vital. Many South Sudanese have the perception that SDG 16 is the most urgent of all the SDGs. SDG 16 is also seen as an 'enabler' that can unlock pathways in most other SDG areas and build the foundations for longer-term development.

Figure 4: Coherence and Linkages with other Frameworks



Source: CreativeBox Concept - Own Design

As illustrated in annex 1, SDG 16 is closely linked to key aspects of IPoA priority goals on good governance (Priority 8) and restoration of multiple shocks (Priority 6). It is further linked intrinsically with goals 3 and 4 of South Sudan Vision 2040. These are mirrored in goal 11 on democratic values of African Union Agenda 2063. Restoring security among communities is therefore a vital way to realize the goals and aspiration set in the IPoA priorities for South Sudan. By achieving SDG 16, one is sure to realize increased school attendance, boost agricultural productivity, facilitate access to markets, and achieve more inclusive economic growth. Similarly, addressing the conditions and finding solutions for the country's displaced people, and enabling them to make informed and positive choices, is needed to make progress on the IPoA priorities.

As in the case of SDG[47], the long-term progress on the realization of IPoA priorities will require more inclusion of marginalized groups and increased accountability in the political and governance spheres (alongside technical and capacity building approaches) and establishing what an equitable and representative South Sudanese state and society can and should look like (Vision 2040). It will require addressing the very real justice and reconciliation needs of the people, as well as the historical (and more recent) grievances that underpin many inter-communal tensions and violence.

47 South Sudan Inaugural SDG Report - A Roadmap Towards Sustainable Development September 2017

8. TOWARDS THE NEXT LDCS AGENDA
Emerging Issues

➢ Dependency on Oil to generate Growth

Oil is currently the backbone of South Sudan's economy. Available data indicate that oil alone accounts for 95% of the government budget, and in the recent past contributed between 60 and 80 per cent to GDP (NBS, 2012). Relying on oil revenues alone to generate growth is unlikely to be a broad-based growth strategy as extractive industries tend to be highly capital intensive and do not create many jobs. Moreover, the jobs that are created tend to be specific to certain locations. As a result, the benefits of oil-led growth are likely to be concentrated among just a few individuals and firms. To encourage the development of non-oil production, it is important to ensure the economy is attractive to private investors. As well as maintaining a stable macro-economy, it must also be borne in mind that excessively high or unpredictable levels of taxation can harm growth by discouraging production and foreign direct investment

➢ Internal and External Threats to Peace and Security

Emerging challenges to the country relate to continued internal and external threats to peace, security, and stability; the disputed oil-producing region of Abyei; institutional and human capacity weaknesses; a narrow economic base; and dilapidated infrastructure. Peace, security, and stability are the most pressing challenges for South Sudan. The territorial boundaries of Abyei remain contested and could reignite hostilities between affected people on both sides, with dire social, security, and economic consequences. Institutions and the human resource base remain weak, as the country is in tremendous need of massive financial and technical education services support at all levels. Heavy dependence on the oil sector is a source of economic fragility and vulnerability. It underscores the urgent need for economic diversification. Decades of civil war destroyed the country's basic infrastructure and much of its productive capacities.

➢ Human Capital and Social Development as Nuclei for Development

Establishing clear and intrinsic relationships between the IPoA priorities is important in understanding the synergy for their implementation effectiveness. Human capital and social development provide the nuclei for creating development energy to power the implementation of the IPoA priority areas. Human capital is about skills building which entails knowledge, intellectual capacity and health that people accumulate throughout their lives, enabling them to realize their potential as productive members of society. Thus, investing in people through nutrition, health care, quality education, jobs and skills helps develop human capital to add value to natural resources. These include, but not limited to, extractive sector optimization, infrastructure development, agriculture and food security, and value additions to expand trade and manufacturing possibilities. The postulation is that human capital and social development are fired by structured and responsive health and educational systems which are hinged on strong institutional capacity.

Lessons Learned

IPoA Priority	Lessons and Practices	Impact
Productive Capacity	Private investment and efforts to stimulate economic diversification	The government has taken the lead by initiating and investing in agriculture to achieve food security. This has promoted diversification and expanding the role and participation of women in development.
	Investing in transport and transit infrastructure	Infrastructure has been promoted as an enabling environment for economic activities. These include focusing on energy; science, technology and innovation (STI); land reform; human resources development; security; and public sector reforms.
	Reducing the energy challenge	The government has emphasized the need for energy efficiency and conservation. The focus is to have a country endowed with affordable, reliable and renewable energy. This will have positive impact on over 620m people who live without access to electricity.
	Implementing institutional and legal reforms	Investment is being attracted through appropriate investment policies and by promoting research and development. Initiatives on the legal and regulatory framework for investment have started yielding the results, as reflected in the country's international investment climate rankings. The recently released World Bank Doing Business 2018 report ranked South Sudan 66th out of 190 countries regarding the payment of corporate taxes.
Agriculture, food security and rural development	Initiatives in area of food security and rural development	Transformation of agriculture aims to accelerate the implementation of the sustainable development. This is being achieved through the allocation of a minimum of 10 percent of the Government budget to agriculture and the achievement of a 6 percent annual growth in Agriculture GDP. This is sustained by establishing policies to increase productivity, add value to agriculture production and to target investment in agriculture industries and exportable agriculture goods,
	Focus on Rural Economy in South Sudan	Sustainable agricultural production and productivity in the country is being promoted by opening space for trade in agricultural commodities and ensuring improved functioning of cross-border trading and strengthening regional cooperation.
	Innovation and Agro-Business	Entrepreneurship in agriculture is being used to promote the development of agribusiness through emphasizing feasibility studies building on partnership between public and private sectors. The aim has been to benefit developing local economy agricultural value chains
	Strategies to combat impact of climate change on agriculture	Climate change is of high priority. Government has identified measures needed to address climate change impacts now and in the future. At the national level, this has led to setting out the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) for South Sudan.
Trade	Simplification and harmonization of customs and transit procedures	By actively participating in EAC economic bloc, South Sudan has initiated interventions aimed at enhancing intra-regional trade. These include Export through activities such as trade missions, market research and facilitating the participation of the private sector in trade shows and exhibitions; and enhancing

IPoA Priority	Lessons and Practices	Impact
		Trade Facilitation through the creation of One Stop Border Posts. This has led to simplification and harmonization.
	Constraints and barriers preventing integration in global value chain	EAC Partner States including South Sudan have established free trade on goods among themselves, and a Common External Tariff (CET) applying to goods imported from the rest of the world. This has been implemented across the board; this provides good environment for efficient cross-border trade.
Commodities	Investing in value addition to enhance productivity	South Sudan has potentially many advantages for international trade, given its status as a least developed country. To optimize from these advantages, the government has to address the pervasive problem of the excessive taxation at legal tax checkpoints and extortion at illegal roadblocks, both of which add extra costs to transport and impede trade.
	Developments in the oil sector	Oil is a strong driver of investments in the South Sudan economy. It is however not a renewable resource and already declining crude oil reserves point to an urgent need for government investment in other revenue earning sectors. Plan is underway for diversification and to encourage the development of non-oil production sectors for long term sustainability.
Private Sector Development	Actions to facilitate business friendly environment	Government of South Sudan initiated actions to promote inclusive economic growth by integrating trade into its national development strategies. Efforts have also been made to promote micro, small and medium enterprises, strengthen local markets, and support the development of rural value chains. This includes gender-sensitive sustainable livelihoods and skills training for internally displaced persons, host communities and conflict-affected people in rural and urban areas.
Human and Social Development	Capacity and skills for development and Transformation	The focus should be given to the organizational strengths by determining the necessary human capacity skills requirement. The skills sets are to be established to ensure optimal mix and availability of the skills and knowledge to implement the transformation espoused in Vision 2040 and incorporated in NDS for implementation.
	Initiatives to promote health and health equity	Notable progress has been made to achieve improvement in maternal, newborn and child health, immunization, combating Malaria, Tuberculosis, (TB) and HIV and sector-wide system strengthening, such as for example rehabilitation of health infrastructure and training of frontline health service providers. This effort plays significant role in health equity in South Sudan.
	Gender equality and empowerment of women	South Sudan aspires to be that country that is capable of harnessing the contribution of transformation of the youth and women as a result of their empowerment through structured educational process and capacity development. Consequently, the government is investing in this sector to expand the opportunities for women and girls to advance their economic, legal and political empowerment

IPoA Priority	Lessons and Practices	Impact
Multiple Crises and other Emerging Issues	Measures to maintain peace for prosperity	The conflict sensitive planning is weighted highly given the country context in South Sudan where emergent crisis can easily destabilize the implementation of the aspired goal. The government and the stakeholder thus maintain significant extent of conflict sensitive analysis to inform the formulation and design of the medium and long term development frameworks. The frameworks are therefore fluid and flexible to enhance their capacity of being adaptable to the changing contexts.
	Strengthening the ability of households and communities to resist and adapt to shocks. Establish interventions to address the plights of IDPs	Building the resilience of households and communities is vital, and requires a combination of short-medium- and long-term interventions to lay the foundations for recovery, stabilization and sustainable peace. The government has been addressing the main shocks and drivers of risks, including but not limited to: insecurity and conflict; low investment, declining revenues, decrease in GDP, disrupted market functionality and limited employment opportunities; climate variability; animal diseases and crop pests and diseases in South Sudan.
Mobilizing Financial Resources for Development and Capacity Building	External debt	Regarding official development finance management, the Government of South Sudan plan has resumed the constructive levels of dialogue with partners to enhance the flow of ODA. This has been done with the commitment to undertake reforms in public financial systems and enhancements of internal auditing systems, government aid coordination, coordination and dialogue with international development partners, and South–South cooperation.
	Remittance	The net remittance to South Sudan may be significant; this can be an equilibrating factor to compensate for the decline in foreign direct investment. South Sudan personal remittances received were at level of 200 million US dollars in 2018, down from 633 million US dollars previous year. Remedial measures have to be put in place to maintain the higher level of remittance.
Good Governance	Collaborative leadership dialogue	A Collaborative Leadership Dialogue was organized to share diverse opinions on how to approach the peace and reconciliation process. Such type of the Collaborative Leadership Dialogue have provide an opportunity to continue the discussion on key issues in South Sudan and strategize future engagement to promote opportunities for further collaboration. This is a good lesson for other.

Priority Areas for Next 10-Year Programme of Action for South Sudan

In addition to the identification of lessons and best practices, this section determines priorities for considerations for the next 10-year Programme of Action. Steered by MoFP in collaboration with stakeholders (private sector entities, think tank, women associations, none-state actors, and development partners), the identified priority areas will be assessed and appraised for viability. This is to involve determinations of cost implications, resource needs, political goodwill, their transformational effectiveness and implementation phasing. A working group (under the guidance of MoFP) supported by appropriate expertise (in-house and external) will be set up to undertake detailed planning and specifics for each of the identified priority areas.

➢ Building the Resilience of Households

Building the resilience of households and communities is vital, and has to be given high priority in the immediate, medium and long term. It requires a combination of interventions to lay the foundations for recovery, stabilization and sustainable peace. The interventions have to addresses the following main shocks and drivers of risk: insecurity and conflict; the economy of South Sudan has been adversely affected as well, and is now characterized by very low investment, declining revenues, a decrease in GDP, disrupted market functionality and limited employment opportunities; climate variability; animal diseases and crop pests, knowledge or early warning systems on anticipated threats.

➢ Attention to Fragility Pressure

The Fragile States Index is a critical tool in highlighting not only the normal pressures that all states experience, but also in identifying when those pressures are pushing a state towards the brink of failure. By highlighting pertinent issues in weak and failing states, the Fragile States Index makes political risk assessment and early warning of conflict accessible to policy-makers and the public at large. The GoSS needs to establish a mechanism to monitor conflict, stability and social stressors and act on any likely signal that may increase the probability of the country entering the fragility pressure zone.

➢ Empowerment of Women

Efforts to strengthen political and economic empowerment for women are vital. This is both in the public and the private sector spheres. Sustainable development planning and forward-thinking policies are important to achieve improvement in women empowerment. The interventions on gender issues must become more prominent, including among UN agencies that are obliged to mainstream gender equality in their work. Beyond policy solutions, there is an urgent need to raise awareness about gender challenges, and the importance of advancing women's rights, particularly on culturally sensitive issues like child marriage. Challenging commonly held practices and gender norms is important at grassroots level and throughout government institutions.

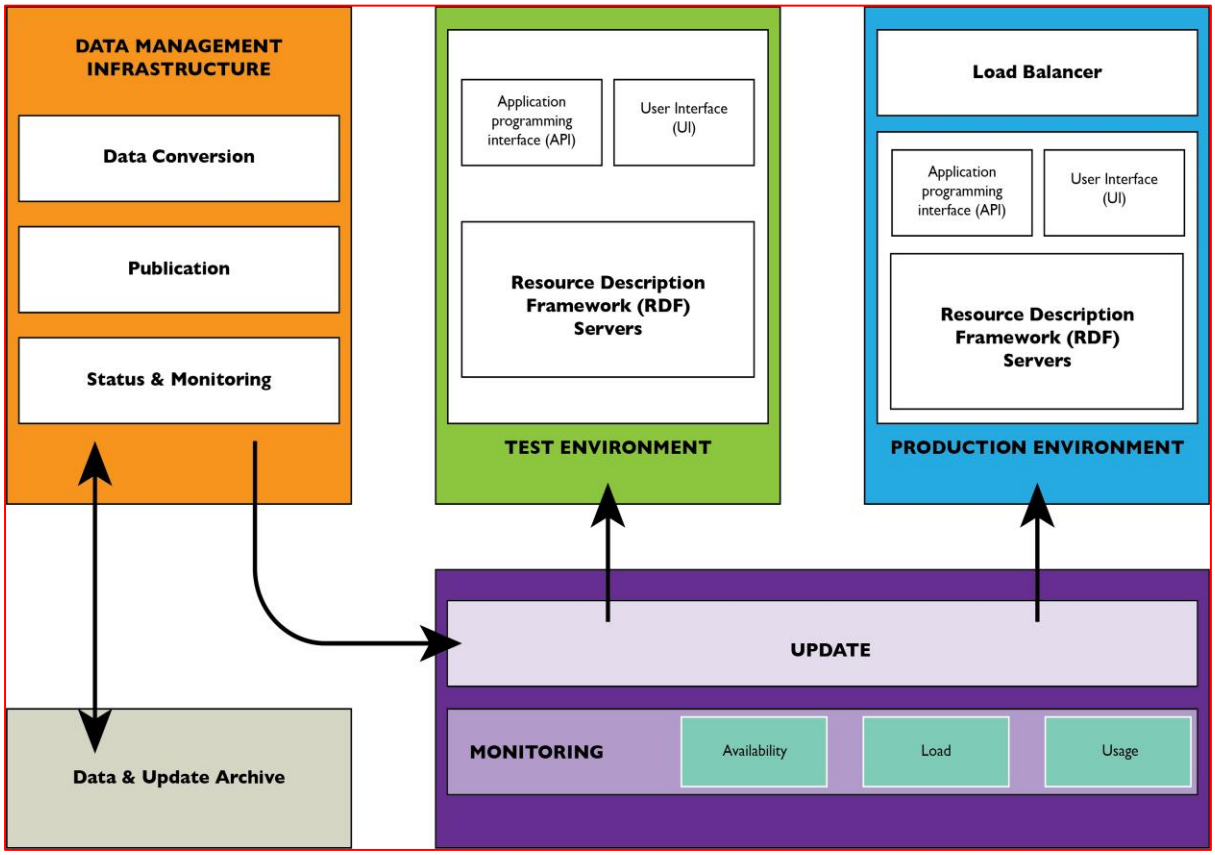
➢ Addressing Challenges of Data Infrastructure

This review observed real challenges in finding country-related data on the implementation of IPoA priorities and other frameworks. There is a need to initiate development of a mechanism for data and information collection that responds to the data need for planning in all sectors of the economy. The GoSS, using the institutional capacity of NBS, is to establish a national platform which should be populated with information already existing at the different

sector levels. The data infrastructure platform will aim to serve as a gateway for information on existing and planned implementation of IPoA, and related continental and global frameworks.

Within the framework of monitoring and evaluation, Vision 2040 stresses the need to produce annual reports on the progress being made in the implementation of the Vision priorities. This is re-emphasized under socio-economic services cluster of NDS result framework whose goal is to expand and improve social infrastructure and to establish a versatile platform for data management. The platform will facilitate access to data and information as well as best practices and lessons learned from IPoA implementation processes to facilitate continuous progress monitoring. Data such as statistics, maps, and real-time readings will help to make decisions, build services and gain insights. The platform architecture will have 3 main tiers: load balancing and routing, application services and storage. This is illustrated in figure 5 below.

Fig 5: Data and Management Infrastructure



Source: Adopted by CreativeBox from Epimorphics[48]

The establishment of the platform will require formulation of the details of the contents and structure of the operational system. The NBS will solicit specialized usability developers to provide versatile architecture for the platform. The existing government website will be adapted to accommodate and house the data and information platform to facilitate monitoring of the implementation of IPoA priorities and related frameworks. In line with the note from OECD on Strengthening Digital Government[49], the following key aspects will need to be considered for effective data management infrastructure:

48 https://www.epimorphics.com/data-sharing-platform/

49 OECD: Strengthening Digital Government, March 2019

- Develop a digital government strategy, complemented by a plan of action and an impact assessment instrument. The strategy should indicate expected outputs, outcomes, and impacts, and should be formulated with the involvement of public sector organisations across all levels of government and consulting external stakeholders.
- Define a clear governance framework for the digital government providing a high-level political mandate, powers, and resources to the public sector organisation responsible to steer the design and coordinate the implementation of the digital government strategy across the public sector.
- Update the legal and regulatory frameworks in order to safeguard citizens' digital rights and incorporate the potential implications of increasing the use of emerging technologies and data into existing legal safeguards.
- Invest, or continue to invest, in the development of important key digital enablers (e.g. digital identity, shared data services, shared business processes) and provide incentives for their use across the public sector.
- Focus on developing digital and data-related skills in the public sector, creating profiles and career paths based on forecasted needs, and providing programmes for training and retraining of civil servants.
- Promote and enforce the adoption of digital standards and guidelines to offer more coherent, interoperable and resilient digital government infrastructures (e.g. standardised model for ICT project management, standardised model for business cases, service standards, data interoperability).
- Establish an integrated service design and delivery policy to help public servants adopt user design (UX) approaches from beginning to end and develop services with agile methodologies, whilst safeguarding multi-channel accessibility.
- Develop an overarching policy to support the development of a data-driven public sector, considering actions to establish the necessary data governance that would simplify and enhance data-sharing practices and actions, and promote the strategic use of data and emerging technologies across the public sector.
- Establish an open government data strategy (within the overarching data governance framework and policy), engaging external stakeholders, with clear actions to manage each stage of the data value chain and support the reuse of open government data for value creation

➢ Immediate and Long Term Human Capital Development

Human capital and social development provide the nuclei for creating development energy to power the implementation of the IPoA and related frameworks' priority areas. Human capacity building is needed for vertical and horizontal economic linkages to enhance value additions in the use and application of natural resource endowment in the country. The oil sector can provide huge job opportunities if the horizontal and vertical linkages are harnessed.

The main focus of South Sudan will be how to stimulate economic growth beyond the dominance of the oil sector through diversification, generation of value addition by moving up the value chains in productive activities, and

enhancement of linkages between sectors in the economy. To realize this objective, the NDS has emphasized the need to identify and produce corresponding skills that are necessary to actualize the value chain processes.

This requires that a framework focusing on skills development and that empowers the South Sudanese to achieve gainful activities is put in place. The Universities and institutions of TVETs should gear up to respond to the current and future needs of the evolving industrial and value adding sectors. The target is to get them to produce graduates equipped with "problem solving" skills to meet the needs of the economic transformation in South Sudan.

➢ Measures to Respond to IDPs and Refugees

The devastating civil war has left one-third of South Sudan population displaced. One year after the September 12, 2018 signing of a peace agreement, few have chosen to return home, and the humanitarian situation remains dire. After South Sudan's leaders missed their first and second deadline under the agreement to form a transitional government, a new deadline of February 2020 now looms. Displaced people, seeing little tangible progress, remain skeptical of peace taking hold and continue to fear a resurgence of the ethnic violence that caused them to flee in the first place.

A recent assessment by Refugees International (see Daniel Sullivn, No Confidence: Displaced South Sudanese Await 'Real Peace', Report, 3 October 2019), has shown that displaced people from minority groups fear returning to areas now controlled by soldiers, and several policies appear aimed at redrawing the boundaries of land and political influence along ethnic lines.

Thus, an important number of displaced persons expressed lack of confidence in the peace agreement. Barriers to return beyond the continued threat of conflict also include a lack of safety, services, and livelihood opportunities in areas of return; the destruction or occupation of their former homes; and a failure to hold perpetrators accountable for atrocities committed during the war, including widespread sexual violence. If returns are to take place, it will thus be important for the GoSS, the UN and humanitarian actors to account for the unique contexts in each area of return. An understanding of ethnic dynamics and assessments of conflict sensitivity will be needed to avoid any manipulation of returns or the risk that premature returns may fuel further violence.

Ultimately, the prospects for returns will depend on building the confidence of displaced communities in the peace agreement. A year after its signing, there have been some improvements in conditions for the displaced, including increased humanitarian access, greater freedom of movement, and, to a limited extent, returns of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs). This progress is fragile, however. Failure to move forward on the peace implementation will quickly erode what little confidence is beginning to take hold.

➢ Exploiting Opportunities from Regional Integration

Regional integration creates opportunities for joint programming at all levels by harnessing skills sets that reside in different part of the region/continent. The intrinsic inter-linkages in the type of skills-sets that are required at the country, regional and continental levels potentially provide opportunities for new impetus in the pursuit of economic and social development in the continent. Several initiatives to boost intra-regional activities have been undertaken. For example, in June 2015, a Free Trade Area among the Member/Partner States of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was established. The GoSS being a Partner State of EAC will greatly benefit from these tripartite agreements. The country should exploit to the maximum these opportunities as they emerge to harness the regional value chain. The regional integration will further be enhanced through promotion of culture and sports in the country and participating in the regional cultural events.

➢ Harnessing New Knowledge and Technological Innovations

To realize the aspirations of Vision 2040, the GoSS will have to make strategic, systematic and significant investments to generate and apply new knowledge and technological innovations, in order to achieve poverty reduction, deepen economic and political inclusion and attain high and sustainable GDP growth rate. The government should collaborate with the private sector and development partners to develop a long term comprehensive framework for Science and Teleology Innovation (STI) that responds to the transformation needs of the country.

➢ Role of TVET in National Development

Well-functioning TVET systems are best placed to train the skilled workforce which the country needs to address its socio-economic development challenges. As the nation's youth constitutes almost 70% of the population, it is essential to provide meaningful and productive economic engagement for all, to capture the nation's demographic dividend, and deter the population from becoming involved in the on-going conflict. TVET is also a priority programme in MoGEI's General Education Strategic Plan 2017-2022. This strategy states that the goal is to "promote relevant and quality non-formal and formal post-primary technical and vocational education and training that is governed by a unified and efficient TVET system and that provides nationally and globally competitive human resources while stressing gender equity and inclusiveness". In this context, the GoSS will collaborate with UNESCO in its attempt to promote its TVET Strategy (2016-2021) to support the efforts of the government to enhance the relevance of the TVET systems in South Sudan and to equip all youth with skills required for employment, decent work, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning.

➢ Awareness on IPoA

There is a need for investment in understanding of IPoA priorities and their linkages with the other global, continental and nation states visions. Key stakeholders including the private sector, UN agencies, CSOs and Development partners need to demonstrate awareness of the priorities and how they can best be mainstreamed into the regular development process. This review opines that the level of awareness is relatively low. There is need for local level seminars and conferences to discuss and create awareness on IPoA and their relationships with other framework in South Sudan. A prerequisite for the effective mainstreaming and implementation of the IPoA resides in building awareness across sectors and ensuring essential understanding of its essence at various levels.

➢ Promoting Beneficiation in Extractive Industries

Extractive industries require a well-designed broader country framework for natural resource management strategy. The exploitation and use of the natural resource endowment has to emphasize value addition to enhance forward and backward linkages. This is to generate employment creation and trade in the country and within the region and to enhance export expansion possibilities. South Sudan, being a member of EAC can collaborate with the other EAC Partner States to exploit the natural resources for the benefit of the country in particular, but also to explore optimal mix of mineral resources for joint large scale investment with other partner states in the region.

Emphasis has been made on the importance of diversification of the South Sudanese economy in view of its over dependence on oil sector. The goal of the economic diversification, which is in line with other policies and strategies of the country is to diversify the economic and oil export base of the country into sectors that will continue

to grow long after oil is exhausted. The government will push to formulate a comprehensive economic diversification strategy that takes into account all the economic sectors

For effective production in oil and mining industry, South Sudan has to plan to train and retain key professionals, such as in project evaluation; geology, resources and exploration; geotechnical engineering; environmental services; petroleum engineering; water quality and quantity; extractive metallurgists; mining engineers; explosive engineers, petroleum and natural gas extraction engineers. This should start now within the longer term development framework. Inaction will be more costly for the future generation.

International organisations should provide support and build capacity for sustainably managing South Sudan's natural resources, including community participation and benefits to meet the growing demand for goods and services. Climate change adaptation measures are needed in South Sudan to cope with the adverse impacts and to avoid further clashes over declining natural resources

➢ Providing Resources to Sustain Good Governance

GoSS is committed to developing the requisite competencies for all public servants and growing the right leadership based dialogue. Collaborative Leadership Dialogue provides an opportunity to continue the discussion on key issues in South Sudan and strategize future engagement to promote opportunities for further collaboration. Support should be given to the government to strengthen the operations of the Governance cluster established to enhance good governance in the country. Good governance is important for creating the enabling environment for peace, economic development, accountability and transparency, capacity development and equitable service delivery.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Linkages of the Global and Continental Frameworks

Vision 2020: IPoA Priorities	Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals	Vision 2040 – South Sudan	Agenda 2063 Goals and Priorities
1.Productive Capacity ▪ Building a critical mass of internationally competitive capacity in manufacturing and services as a means to benefit from greater integration with the global economy. ▪ Improved access to dependable and efficient energy sources and managerial abilities in both public and private sectors. ▪ Intensification of investment in productive capacity and tailor their rules and economic structures to attract more private sector resources. ▪ Special support is to be provided for young people to achieve full employment and decent work, and for access to affordable housing for all.	1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere in the world 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Strategic Goal (2): To build a prosperous, productive and innovative nation. ▪ To promote private sector development. ▪ To improve the tax base of the country. ▪ To promote industrialization.	1. High standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens ▪ Incomes, jobs and decent work ▪ Poverty, inequality and hunger ▪ Social security and protection, including persons with disabilities ▪ Modern, affordable and liveable habitats and quality basic services
1.Productive Capacity ▪ Productive capacity based on improvements in educational physical infrastructure networks,	4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Strategic Goal (1): To build an educated and informed nation. ▪ To increase access to general and higher education opportunities.	2.Well-educated citizens and skills revolution, underpinned by science, technology and innovation ▪ Education and science, technology

Vision 2020: IPoA Priorities	Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals	Vision 2040 – South Sudan	Agenda 2063 Goals and Priorities
scientific and technological skills. 5. Human and Social Development ▪ The greatest assets of the LDCs are their people. ▪ LDCs to pursue Millennium Development Goals for universal enrolment in primary school education and elimination of gender disparity in education and training; ▪		▪ To provide educational infrastructure to meet the needs of the nation. ▪ To build institutional capacity. ▪ To design a national curriculum that meets the needs of the people of South Sudan and enhances their international outlook.	and innovation-driven skills revolution
1. Productive Capacity ▪ TRIPS agreements providing for access to pharmaceuticals are to be maintained and respected. ▪ Improvements in physical health infrastructure networks, scientific and technological skills to address digital capabilities to access health services	3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Strategic Goal (6): To build a safe, secure and healthy nation. • To protect the territorial integrity of South Sudan. • To promote implementation of the South Sudan Security Policy and SPLA Defence Policy. • To build the capacity of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and other law enforcement agencies. • To combat international and trans-national	3.Health and well-nourished citizens ▪ Health and nutrition

Vision 2020: IPoA Priorities	Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals	Vision 2040 – South Sudan	Agenda 2063 Goals and Priorities
		organized crime and terrorism.	
3.Trade ▪ Trade is a means for adding to wealth and investment stock through exports and meeting needs through import of products and new ideas. 4.Commodities ▪ Dependence on primary commodities holds back job growth and economic development, and induces vulnerability to shocks from world markets or forces of nature. ▪ Diversification of economies are to be emphasized for value-addition ▪ Promotion of the full sovereignty of LDCs over their wealth, natural resources and economic activities enhance corporate transparency and accountability	8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Strategic Goal (2): To build a prosperous, productive and innovative nation. ▪ To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Public Sector. ▪ To promote smart partnership between the public sector and private sector. ▪ To promote private sector development. ▪ To improve the tax base of the country. ▪ To promote industrialization.	4.Transformed economy ▪ Sustainable and inclusive economic growth ▪ Science, technology and innovation-driven manufacturing, industrialization and value addition ▪ Economic diversification and resilience
1. Productive Capacity ▪ Building a critical mass of internationally competitive capacity in	2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Strategic Goal (2): To build a prosperous, productive and innovative nation.	5.Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production

Vision 2020: IPoA Priorities	Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals	Vision 2040 – South Sudan	Agenda 2063 Goals and Priorities
agriculture, manufacturing and services 2.Agriculture, Nutrition and Rural Development ▪ More investment in in Agriculture sector will be sought. ▪ High-yield seeds and fertilizers, access to dependable and efficient will also be sought for farm communities. ▪ Nutritional base lines for the overall population, urban or rural, will be supported and raised. ▪ Creation of small and mid-scale agro-enterprises will be supported. ▪ The rural economy will be progressively diversified, allowing for new service and industrial enterprises		▪ To increase agricultural productivity to enhance food security. ▪ To improve livestock and fish production. ▪ To improve the national marketing system for all national products.	▪ Agricultural productivity and production
	14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development		

Vision 2020: IPoA Priorities	Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals	Vision 2040 – South Sudan	Agenda 2063 Goals and Priorities
	6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss		

Vision 2020: IPoA Priorities	Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals	Vision 2040 – South Sudan	Agenda 2063 Goals and Priorities
7. Financial Resources ▪ Due to low-performing economies and lack of domestic financial infrastructure, LDCs are highly dependent on external inflows. ▪ To reduce dependence, LDFCs will need to boost savings rates, build fair and more effective tax systems, carry out			9.Continental financial and monetary institutions established and functional ▪ Financial and monetary institutions

Vision 2020: IPoA Priorities	Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals	Vision 2040 – South Sudan	Agenda 2063 Goals and Priorities
fiscal reforms, battle corruption and strengthen banking institutions ▪ The international community to share responsibility to control corruption help LDCs recover stolen assets and improve transparency in financial flows and international markets. ▪ Steps also will be taken to maintain and enhance incoming finance flows. Official development assistance flow to be maintained coupled with the continuation to provide timely and adequate debt relief. ▪ The partners will provide guarantees and information sharing that will encourage private firms to invest in LDCs, while the LDCs improve the domestic investment climate.			
1.Productive Capacity ▪ Productive capacity based on improvements in physical infrastructure, transport networks, scientific and technological skills,	9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Strategic Goal (2): To build a prosperous, productive and innovative nation. ▪ To construct a good inter-state and intra-state network of roads. ▪ To build a railway network connecting	10.World-class infrastructure criss-crosses Africa ▪ Communications and infrastructure connectivity

Vision 2020: IPoA Priorities	Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals	Vision 2040 – South Sudan	Agenda 2063 Goals and Priorities
digital capabilities for industrialization		production areas to markets and neighboring countries. ▪ (s) To renovate the Nile River transport particularly dredging of the main channel. ▪ To up-grade all existing airports and air-strips in the capitals of the 10 States in conformity with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) standards. ▪ To develop hydro-electric power.	
8. Good Governance ▪ LDCs have to continue to make progress on the rule of law, protection and promotion of human rights, democratic participation, transparency and institutional capacity. ▪ LDC governments need to build and maintain durable peace and stability, with the assistance of development partners as appropriate, and reduce the scope of internal conflicts. ▪ Good governance is required at the	16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Strategic Goal (3): To build a compassionate and tolerant nation. ▪ To create opportunities for equitable distribution of income. ▪ To provide support and opportunities to those who are poor and vulnerable and guarantee equitable share in the benefits of economic growth. ▪ To ensure access to quality basic services to all vulnerable people. ▪ To promote the free expression of ideas, free practice of	11. Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched ▪ Democracy and good governance ▪ Human rights, justice and the rule of law

Vision 2020: IPoA Priorities	Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals	Vision 2040 – South Sudan	Agenda 2063 Goals and Priorities
international level as well. ▪ International development institutions will promote policy coherence and coordination as applied to the special needs of LDCs.		religious and other beliefs and free association of people in pursuit of legitimate goals.	
	16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Strategic Goal (4): To build a free, just and peaceful nation. • To uphold the basic freedoms and liberties under the Bill of Rights. • To improve the capacity of the judicial system. • To promote respect for the rule of law. • To build the capacity of the South Sudan Police Service and South Sudan Prison Service	12.Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place ▪ Institutions and leadership Participatory development and local governance
6. Multiple Crises and Shocks ▪ Economic shocks to be address are in the form of economic recession and fuel and food price spirals. ▪ LDCs must endeavour to make their economies more stable and broad based and societies more inclusive, and build in risk management	16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Strategic Goal (5): To build a democratic and accountable nation. • To promote multi-party democracy. • To ensure regular free and fair general elections. • To ensure the implementation of the policy of decentralization throughout South Sudan.	13. Peace, security and stability are preserved. ▪ Maintenance and preservation of peace and security

Vision 2020: IPoA Priorities	Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals	Vision 2040 – South Sudan	Agenda 2063 Goals and Priorities
strategies and mechanisms. ▪ Financial institutions and development banks will stand ready to provide concessional lending in response to emergency situations. ▪ Donors will replenish and expedite resources for the LDC Fund and other UN Framework Convention on Climate Change adaptation mechanisms.		• To ensure smooth inter-governmental relations for effective participation of communities in their governments	
		Strategic Goal (7): To build a united and proud nation. ▪ To consolidate and strengthen the unity of the people of South Sudan. ▪ To promote the values, cultures and history of South Sudan. ▪ To promote the role of the family in inculcating the core values and building the nation. ▪ To promote peaceful co-existence within diversity	14. A stable and peaceful Africa. Institutional structure for African Union instruments on peace and security Defence, security and peace
			15.A fully functional and operational African Peace and Security Architecture

Vision 2020: IPoA Priorities	Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals	Vision 2040 – South Sudan	Agenda 2063 Goals and Priorities
			▪ Fully operational and functional APSA pillars
		Strategic Goal (4): To build a free, just and peaceful nation. To build the capacity of the Kings, Queens, Chiefs and traditional leaders of South Sudan to effectively administer justice and maintain peace in rural areas. To promote peaceful co-existence and harmony among communities by adopting appropriate conflict resolution mechanisms. To ensure that all government institutions respect the authority of the traditional leaders.	16. African cultural renaissance is pre-eminent ▪ Values and ideals of pan-Africanism ▪ Cultural values and African renaissance ▪ Cultural heritage, creative arts and businesses
	5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	▪ To ensure no citizen of South Sudan is disadvantaged as a result of gender, age, religion, belief, disability, colour, ethnic origin, location, language or political opinion. ▪ To eradicate negative social attitudes towards the disabled, the elderly and women and protect	

Vision 2020: IPoA Priorities	Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals	Vision 2040 – South Sudan	Agenda 2063 Goals and Priorities
		the citizens from all forms of sexual harassment and other prejudices. ▪ To promote respect for the rule of law, religious and spiritual values and high ethical standards. •	
1.Productive Capacity ▪ Small-scale farmers–most of whom are women–require social safety nets for their families.	4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Strategic Goal (7): To build a united and proud nation ▪ To build a sense of nationhood among the people of South Sudan and enhance national pride. ▪ To promote reconciliation and healing of the wounds of the prolonged civil war, particularly at grassroots and community levels. ▪ To make all institutions of government inclusive, sensitive and reflective of the diversity in South Sudan without prejudice to competence.	
	17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	Strategic Goal (6): To build a safe, secure and healthy nation. ▪ To combat international and	

Vision 2020: IPoA Priorities	Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals	Vision 2040 – South Sudan	Agenda 2063 Goals and Priorities
		trans-national organized crime and terrorism. ▪ To maintain peace and stability within South Sudan and promote co-operation with the neighbouring countries. ▪ To prevent and combat crime. ▪ To enhance disaster preparedness and management capabilities.	

Annex 2: Statistical Annex

➢ South Sudan Economic Indicators

Economic indicators		2013	2014	2015	2016
GDP	$ M	13,257.6	13,282.1	9,015.2	-
GDP growth	%	13.1	3.4	-6.3	-
Inflation (CPI)	%	0	3.3	50.2	380.8
Unemployment	%	-	-	-	-
Foreign direct investment	% of GDP	-6	0	-0.8	-
Export growth	%	99.5	52.8	-17	-
Import growth	%	10.7	5.1	-0.1	-
Current account balance	$ M	-	-935.4	-3087.2	-2500.1
Public debt	% of GDP	17.6	34.8	65.7	33.1
External debt	$ M	-	-	-	-
Total debt service	$ M	-	-	-	-
Net lending/borrowing	% of GDP	-	-	-	-
Tax revenue	% of GDP	-	-	-	-
Government consumption	% of GDP	25.6	23.8	35.8	-
Public education spending	% of GDP	1.2	1.7	1.5	1.8
Public health spending	% of GDP	0.9	1.1	-	-
R&D expenditure	% of GDP	-	-	-	-
Military expenditure	% of GDP	7.4	9.8	12.8	-

Source: The World Bank, World Development Indicators | International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Economic Outlook | Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Military Expenditure Database (as of October 2017).

➢ Comparative Statistics

Basic Indicators	Year	South Sudan	Africa	Developing Countries	Developed Countries
Area (000 sq km)	2017	644	30,067	80,386	53,939
Total Population (Million)	2017	13.1	1,184.5	5,945.0	1,401.5
Urban Population (% of Total)	2017	18.9	39.7	47.0	80.7
Population Density (per Sq Km)	2017	21.4	40.3	78.5	25.4
GNI Per Capita (US$)	2015	820	2945	4225	37317
Labour Force Participation: Total (%)		….	66.3	67.7	72.0
Labour Participation Female		….	56.5	53.0	64.5
Sex Ration (Per 100 Female)	2017	100.4	0.801	0,506	0.792
Human Development Index (Ranked among 187 countries)	2015	181	…	….	….
Population Living below$1.90 a Day (% of Population)	2009	427	39.6	17.0	…..

Source: Adapted from AfDB Statistics Database

➢ South Sudanese refugees by gender and age

Age	Male (%)	Female (%)
0–4	9.1	8.7
5–11	14.9	14.3
12–17	10.2	8.6
18–59	11.7	20.4
Above 60	0.5	1.5
Total	**46.4**	**53.6**

Source: UNHCR Information Sharing Portal, South Sudan Situation

➢ Women's Representation by Positions

According to Africa Human Development Report (UNDP 2016), the proportion of women parliamentarians in South Sudan is 27% (17th highest among 51 African countries). The lowest is the former Western Equatoria State (16%).

Organization	Total number	Number of women	Proportion of women (%)
National Assembly	332	95	29
Council of States	88	6	12
Chairpersons of Specialized Committees	18	5	28
National Ministers	29	5	17
Deputy National Ministers	27	10	37
Undersecretaries	32	4	12
Governors of former states	10	1	10
County Commissioners	82	1	1

Source: MGCSW Strategic Plan 2013–2018 and CGA 2011

➢ Human Development Index by States

As a contribution to positioning South Sudan in terms of its HDI indicators, UNDP's South Sudan Office has calculated preliminary HDU, IHDI and GDI indices for South Sudan and its 10 States. Calculations (table below) are based on the 2009 household survey data and they are available only for one year. but they build on what is available using the global database and provide a starting point from which to benchmark progress on development indicators, nationally and by region, in future years. As noted, the estimates are based on 2009 data and should therefore be treated as a baseline from which to assess future progress.

	Health Index	**Mean Year of Schooling Index**	**Expected Year of Schooling Index**	**Education Index**	**Income Index**	**Hunan Development Index**
Upper Nile	0,570	0.434	0.605	0.520	0..531	0..540
Jonglei	0,626	0.248	0.339	0.294	0.472	0.443
Unity	0,536	0.286	0.430	0.358	0.425	0.413
Warrap	0,531	0.257	0.274	0.266	0.416	0.389
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	0,425	0.276	0.406	0.341	0.397	0.386
Western Bahr el Ghazal	0,553	0.456	0.425	0.441	0.495	0.494
Lakes	0,540	0.262	0.364	0.313	0.489	0.436
Western Equatoria	0,546	0.477	0.588	0.533	0.481	0.519
Central Equatoria	0,547	0.660	0.551	0.605	0511	0.553
Eastern Equatoria	0,615	0.321	0.368	0.294	0.480	0.443
South Sudan	0,539	0.360	0.422	0.391	0.476	0.467

Sources: UNDP HDR South Sudan 2015

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