

SOUTH SUDAN CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION FOR THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
3RD CYCLE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW MID-TERM REPORT

SUBMITTED TO THE UN OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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ACRONYMNS

AEB - Annual Education Budget	**NCRC** - National Constitutional Review Commission
CID - Criminal Investigation Department	**NIEP** - National Inclusive Education Policy
CRA - Compensation and Reparations Authority	**PPC** - Political Parties Council
CRPD - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	**PDO** - Professional Development Opportunities
CTRH - Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing	**PWD** - Persons with Disabilities
CSO - Civil Society Organization	**RTGNO** - Revitalized Government of National Unity
CRSV - Conflict Related Sexual Violence	**SSNBS** - South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics
DBM - Data Base Management	**SSPDF** - South Sudan Peoples' Defense Forces
ER - Enrollment Rates	**TPB** - Teachers Performance Bonuses
GESS - Girls Education South Sudan	**UNMISS** - United Nations Mission in South Sudan
GOSS - Government of South Sudan	**UNHCSS** - United Nations Human Rights Commission on South Sudan
HCSS - Hybrid Court for South Sudan	
ICCPR - International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights	
ICESR - International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights	
GBV - Gender Based Violence	
IDP - Internally Displaced Persons'	
ICTJ - International Centre for Transitional Justice	
JOSS - Judiciary of South Sudan	
NPS - National Police Service	
NSS - National Security Service	
NUF - Necessary Unified Service	
NEC - National Elections Act	

1.INTRODUCTION

South Sudan's human rights records were examined by the UN human Rights working group on the UPR in January 2022. During the adoption session in July 2022, South Sudan was issued with 258 recommendations out of which 222 were accepted and 56 noted, as part of engaging with the UPR process, reviewed states and Stakeholders/non-state actors submit mid-terms reports highlighting the status of implementation. The South Sudan Civil Society Coalition for the Universal Periodic Review (SSCSC-UPR) prepared a mid -term report as guided by a four themed implementation matrix: (Legal & Institutional reforms, Civil & Political Rights, Economic, Social & Cultural Rights and Group Rights) adopted as a roadmap to measure progress and follow up on the implementation of the accepted recommendations by the Government of South Sudan. Progress was evaluated based on designed and defined indicators as in the implementation matrix. The purpose of the report is to shed light on the status of implementation of the recommendations accepted by South Sudan highlighting progress made and challenges encountered mid-point from the time of review. The report equally highlights areas that require urgent attention for the realization of human rights in South Sudan.

2.METHODOLOGY

The South Sudan Civil Society Coalition for the UPR carried out consultations with the government, United Nations agencies, the media, and other relevant stakeholders to gather accurate and relevant information for this report, through the use of Key informant interviews and focus group discussions. Credible reports from International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO's), National Non-Governmental Organizations, United Nations (UN) agencies, Human Rights Institutions, Faith Based Organizations, Academia and Media were also used. A validation workshop was held in July 2025 to enlist inputs from stakeholders and validate the findings of the report. The one-day validation workshop brought together representatives from the key government institutions, civil society, women groups, youth groups and persons with disability (PWDs).

COLOR CODE

IMPLEMENTED	
IN PROGRESS	
NOT IMPLEMENTED	

3. MID-TERM ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

A. LEGAL & INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS		
i) Ratification of International Instruments		
113.2 Continue to take steps in the ratification of outstanding international human rights instruments (Malawi); 113.1, 113.2, 113.3, 112.4, 113.5, 113.6, 113.8, 113.9, 113.10, 113.11, 113.12, 113.13, 113.4, 113.17, 113.18, and 113.20		
Tracking indicators	**Status of implementation by Government and other stakeholders**	
CRPD, ICESR, ICCPR and Maputo protocol domesticated.	▪ On February 5, 2024, the Government of South Sudan (GOSS) acceded to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, without ratifying the optional protocol CCPR-OP2-DP), the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Covenant on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) ▪ The government made great progress by ratifying and acceding to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) in Feb 2023 and deposited the instrument of ratification on the 7th June 2023.[1]	
Number of initiatives taken for domestication	▪ Since South Sudan acceded to the ICCPR, ICESCR, CRPD, and the Maputo Protocol, there have been no initiatives and/or processes put in place by the government to domesticate them into the existing national laws and/or legal frameworks.	
Initial report submitted (for CAT, ICCPR, ICESCR, CRPD,)	▪ The government of South Sudan has not yet submitted any initial report on the Convention Against Torture (CAT), Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Covenant on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD).	
Number of community awareness sessions conducted	▪ The government has not conducted community awareness on the ICCPR, ICESCR, CRPD, and the Maputo protocol. ▪ However, in July 2023, the government launched the Maputo protocol and expressed that the launching of the protocol demonstrates the government's commitment and dedication to safeguarding the rights of women and girls. ▪ During the launch, the government pledged its commitment to devise a roadmap to ensure the protocol's effective implementation. Since then, the roadmap has not been developed.	
Number of workshops conducted on international human rights mechanisms	▪ Except the non-state stakeholders, the government is yet to conduct workshops on the international human right mechanisms.	
Recommendations: The State of South Sudan should; ▪ Consider domesticating the ICCPR, ICESCR, and the CRPD without any further delay, ▪ Report to the Human Rights Council on the government's efforts and obligation in implementing the international human rights instruments it is already a party to.		

[1] South Sudan becomes the 44th country to ratify the Protocol on Women's Rights. | African Union

▪ Make initial steps for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED), and ▪ Launch a nationwide civic education and awareness raising on the international human rights instruments it is a party to.		
ii) Peace and security		
113.103 Establish the three transitional justice mechanisms named in the peace agreement (Sierra Leone 113.101, 113.102, 113.103, 113.104, 113.105, 113.106, and 113.107		
Transitional Justice mechanisms established	▪ In the fourth quarter of 2024, the Government of South Sudan made a laudable milestone, taking a step forward for the implementation of the chapter five of the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), 2018 by enacting two transitional justice's laws – the Commission for Truth, Healing & Reconciliation (CTRH) Act 2024 and the Compensation and Reparations Authority (CRA) Act 2024. As provided by chapter v of the 2018 peace agreement, these laws set the ground for the establishment of the CTRH and the CRA institutions.	
	▪ Despite the laudable steps of enacting the CTRH Act, 2024 and the CRA Act, 2024, the government of South Sudan is yet to start the implementation of these laws. The processes for the establishment of the CRTH and the CRA institutions as enshrined in these respective laws are yet to be affected.	
	▪ Concerning the third transitional justice mechanism – the Hybrid Court for South Sudan (HCSS) as provided for by Chapter V of the 20218 peace agreement, the government is yet to take steps to establish the broad guidelines for the establishment of this equally important transitional justice mechanism. It is not clear when the government will start the process for the establishment of the HCSS	
Number of national consultations conducted	▪ In May 2023 and prior to the enactment of the CRTH Act, 2024 and the CRA Act, 2024, the government of South Sudan, and with support from development partners, held a three-day conference on transitional justice mechanisms in South Sudan to ensure justice and accountability under the theme "Building a Sustainable South Sudanese Model for Transitional Justice System". ▪ The conference which was attended by the most senior government officials and institutions including the presidency brought together all the parties to the 2018 peace agreement, development partners and regional and international experts on transitional justice.	
	▪ This national transitional justice conference however did not focus on the Hybrid Court for South Sudan (HCSS) being one of the three transitional justice mechanisms stated in chapter v of the 2018 peace agreement. In addition to this, the government is yet to popularize the "…Sustainable South Sudanese Model for Transitional Justice System" as reflected in the conference resolutions.	
	▪ The government, through the Technical Committee for the Establishment of the CRTH and the CRA, and with support from development partners conducted thirteen consultations in the country, covering all the ten states and the three administrative area (one consultation in each).	

	▪ The consultations were meant to get the citizens views on the establishment of the CTRH and CRA institutions and process. ▪ However, during the consultations, some locations and social settings were not put into consideration ▪ The consultations were only centered at the headquarters (towns) of the ten states and the administrative areas. Communities at the county levels/grassroots populations, the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and South Sudanese refugees in the neighboring countries as well as the South Sudanese in the diaspora were not considered in these consultations.	
Number of advocacy initiatives conducted at the national & regional level	▪ The government has not conducted or initiated any advocacy on transitional justice at the local, national and regional levels. It is unclear when the government would start carrying out advocacy initiatives on transitional justice for South Sudan. ▪ Often, it is the non-state actors such as the civil society organizations, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), United Nations Human Rights Commission on South Sudan (UNHCSS) and other United Nations agencies particularly the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and international organizations such as the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and these initiatives are still ongoing.	
Number of civic education and awareness raising activities on transitional justice.	▪ Since the signing of the 2018 peace agreement, the government is yet to carryout civic education and awareness raising on transitional justice mechanisms and processes, yet the citizens – including victims and/or survivors, witnesses and family members of victims and/or survivors are eagerly waiting to be educated more about transitional justice and how they could participate in the transitional justice processes.	
	▪ In getting accurate information and education about transitional justice for South Sudan, South Sudanese citizens only rely on the civil society organizations and other non-state stakeholders including the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), United Nations Human Rights Commission on South Sudan (UNHCSS) and other United Nations agencies particularly the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and international organizations such as the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). These non-state actors have been and are still continuing to educate the public on transitional justice through different ways.	
Number of victims/survivors protected	▪ The government has not formulated any transitional justice policy aimed at protecting victims and/or survivors. The institutions of the transitional justice – the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) and the	

Number of victims/survivors received psychosocial support	Compensation and Reparations Authority (CRA) have not been established. It is unclear when the government would make these key institutions to function as provided by the respective laws and the Chapter V of the 2018 peace agreement.	

Recommendations: The State of South Sudan should:

- Urgently appoint the members to the selection panel of the CRTH and the CRA board members respectively,
- Invite the African Union to initiate processes for the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan,
- Enact a policy for the protection of victims and/or survivors and witnesses of human rights violations during and after the transitional justice period and process as provided for by law,
- Carryout investigation and documentation of human rights violations in the country resulting from the war the 2018 R-ARCSS is addressing for the purpose of the transitional justice processes,
- Issue an order for the search of the missing persons resulting from the war the 2018 R-ARCSS is addressing for purpose of the transitional justice processes,
- Provide legal aid, medical support and Psychosocial Support to the victims and/or survivors, witnesses and family members of human rights violations the 2018 R-ARCSS is addressing,
- Adequately fund the CTRH and the CRA institutions and support the independence of the transitional justice mechanism.

113.55 **Comply with and enforce the permanent ceasefire commitment, as well as the other provisions of the Revitalized Agreement, the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and the Rome resolution in this regard (Paraguay)** **113.53, 112.54, 113.55, 113.56, 113.57, 113.58, and 113.59**		
Necessary Unified Forces Cantoned, trained, screened and redeployed, Hostility diminished/reduced	▪ Chapter II of the R-ARCSS provided for 83,000 Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) to be cantoned, trained, screened, and redeployed to provide security throughout the transitional period. However, since the formation of the transitional government in 2020, only 53, 000 NUF were passed out on October 30, 2022. Since then, only 3,774 of the 53,000 NUF troops (7.1%) were redeployed between November and December 2023. ▪ Despite the August 2, 2022 roadmap provided by the government for the extension of the transitional period by 24 months which detailed how the government was to accomplish the remaining tasks of the security arrangement, nothing much was accomplished other than the redeployment of the 7.1% of the graduated NUF. On another worrying note, majority of these NUF were deployed with sticks, but not firearms. The government says there are no firearms to provide to the NUF because of the arms embargo imposed on South Sudan. ▪ Despite this concern from the government, it is worth mentioning that there are plenty of uncontrolled and unlicensed firearms in the hands of civilians of which the government should have done all it can to remove the guns from the civilians. The civil society activists, human rights activists, political opposition leaders, critics of the government and concerned citizens allude that the "arms embargo" has done more good than harm since 2019 as it has significantly reduced the levels of violence and hostilities throughout the country.	

Recommendations:

- Fully and speedily implementing the Chapter II of the 2018 peace agreement which includes Cessation of Hostilities, Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements;
- Redeploy the first batch of the NUF to the security hotspots in the country and start the processes for the cantonment, training, screening and redeployment of the second batch of the NUF without any further delay,
- Disarm all civilians and provide maximum protection to all civilians who hand over their firearms.
- Expedite the implementation of the five benchmarks given by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- Prioritize peace talks with the holdout groups and all other armed oppositions not part of the 2018 peace agreement.

B. CIVL & POLITICAL RIGHTS		
i) FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY & ACCESS TO INFORMATION		
113.138 Protect human rights defenders and journalists from violence and arbitrary arrest and address impunity for crimes against human rights defenders and journalists (Estonia) **113.132, 113.133, 113.134, 113.135,113.136, 113.138, 113.139,113.140, 113.141, 113.142, 113.143, 113.144, 113.145, 113.146, 113.148, 113.149, 113.151, 113.152, 113.153, 113.154, 113.155, 113.157, 113.158, 113.159, 113.160, 113.161 and 113.162**		
National Security Act Amended (section, 13, 54 & 55 ,57)	▪ The National Security Service Act, 2014 was amended, and passed in July 2024 and came into force with sections 54, 55, 57 and 13 intact without being repealed. This law is the major driving force for the continuous repression and closing of the civic and political space in the country.	
Number of cases reported, investigated and prosecuted	▪ There have been several cases of arrest without warrant and prolonged detention of civil society/human rights activists, journalists, critics of the government, political activists and opposition leaders without trial in a competent court of law. ▪ These arbitrary arrests and detentions are still ongoing and are believed to be carried out by the national security service agents. This is evidenced by the fact that several of the victims of arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention end up being found in the national security service detention facilities, with others either being released without charges or being presented to court by the national security service after several months of detention, ▪ In most of the cases, the victims of these arbitrary arrests and detention are denied access to their family members or lawyers, and sometimes the national security authorities do not inform the family members or the public that they arrested and are detaining the individuals for a particular reason. This action of the NSS traumatizes and causes psychological torture to the family members of the individuals being held in detention. ▪ Despite the fact that on several incidents, the government denies responsibility or involvement in the arbitrary arrest and detention of civil society/human rights activists, journalists, critics of the government, political activists and opposition leaders whose arrest and detention often take the scope of an enforced disappearance, the government has not reported, apprehended, investigated or persecuted any perpetrator involved in carrying out these arbitrary arrests and detentions.	
Number of advocacy meetings conducted	▪ The non-state actors particularly the civil society organizations conducted several advocacy meetings with the relevant state authorities/institutions pursuing for the repealing of sections 13, 54, 55, and 57 of the National Security Service Act before and during its amendment processes. ▪ Though the law is now in force, these advocacy initiatives are still ongoing.	

Recommendations:

- Repeal sections 13, 54, 55 and 57 of the National Security Service (NSS) Act, 2014 as amended,
- Amend section 7 of the South Sudan NGO act 2016 to include development organizations instead of humanitarian organizations only,
- Monitor, document and investigate all civic and political space related violations in the country, apprehend and try all alleged perpetrators of civic and political space violations in a competent court of law;
- Establish an independent human rights and humanitarian tribunal or uplift the mandate of the South Sudan Human Rights Commission (SSHRC) to try and persecute all perpetrators of human rights violations in the country,

▪ Strengthen the South Sudan judicial system to fight impunity, ▪ Extend the mandate of the directorate of military justice in the South Sudan Peoples' Defense Forces (SSPDF) to try and persecute all organized armed forces in the country accused of obstructing the enjoyment of the civic and political space.		
ii) Right to participate in public affairs and the right to vote		
113.141Adopt without further delay all necessary constitutional and legal changes necessary for organizing democratic, free and fair elections in the foreseeable time frame (Czechia); 113.133, 113.141, 113.145, 113.149, 113.156		
NEC reconstituted	▪ The National Elections Commission was reconstituted and functioning.	
NCRC reconstituted	▪ The National Constitution Review Commission (NCRC) was reconstituted; However, the government is not sufficiently funding the commission to carry out its constitutional mandate.	
PPC reconstituted	▪ The Political Parties Council was reconstituted and functioning.	
Elections Act reviewed and amended	▪ The elections act was reviewed, amended, passed and it has taken effect. It was through this act that the elections commission was reconstituted. ▪ However, article 60 of the NEC needs to be amended.	
Political Parties Act reviewed and amended	▪ The Political Parties Act was reviewed, amended, passed and it's in force. It is the basis of which the Political Parties Council was reconstituted.	
Free and fair elections conducted	▪ No elections were conducted. In 2022, the parties to the Revitalized Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) agreed to extend the transitional period for twenty-four months with elections supposedly to take place in December 2024. ▪ In September 2024, again the parties to the R-TGoNU agreed to extend the transitional period for another twenty-four months with elections slated for December 2026. ▪ The R-TGoNU stated that these extensions were necessary because some key provisions of the 2018 agreement necessary for conducting free and fair elections were either not fully implemented or are yet to be implemented. ▪ The 2018 peace agreement provided for some key conditions necessary for the conduct of free and fair elections including the amendment of the PPC act, NEC act, reconstitution of the NEC, PPC, permanent constitution, conducive security environment, national census to determine constituencies, and repatriation and/or resettlement of refugees and IDPs among other key requirements for conducting elections. ▪ It is unclear why these said provisions were not fully implemented since establishment of the R-TGoNU in 2020. It is on this note that it is still unclear if South Sudanese will indeed go to the poll in December 2026. This is the case because the government has not unveiled a roadmap for the implementation of the pending tasks of the peace agreement which would usher the country into elections in December 2026.	

Budget allocated for organizing free and fair elections	▪ In February 2024, the government through the cabinet made an important step by approving 731.2 billion South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) supplementary budget for the financial year 2023/2024 for conducting elections in December 2024. This was a supplementary budget because the South Sudan's fiscal financial year budget 2023/2024 did not provide allocations for elections that were slated for December 2024. ▪ Despite this important milestone, the elections were postponed to December 2026 following the second extension of the transitional period by the parties to the R-TGoNU for another 24 months effective February 2024. ▪ On the day the second extension of the transitional period came to force, the government says the South Sudan's elections budgetary needs require over US$433 million. The total budget required by all elections institutions stands at $43,760,362 and that the parties to the 2018 peace deal had agreed to fund the 2026 elections. ▪ Without stating how much the government would provide in covering this budget and without clearly stating the deficit, the government instead went further calling for financial assistance from the international community to fund institutions and processes for preparations for the stated December 2026 elections.	
Number of sessions on voter's rights conducted.	▪ Voter's rights education sessions are yet to be conducted. It is not known when the government would start these important elections program.	
Number of consultations on elections conducted;	▪ Yet to be conducted.	
Number of election monitors/observers trained and deployed	▪ None was trained. It is not known when this would be effected.	

Recommendations:

- Fully and speedily implement all the provisions in Chapter II of the 2018 peace agreement in order to enable a conducive environment necessary for conducting and/or participating in elections.
- Adequately fund the National Elections Commission (NEC), Political Parties Council (PPC), National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC), South Sudan Human Rights Commission (SSHRC), South Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission, South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics (SSNBS) and the Judiciary of South Sudan (JOSS) and ensure that these institutions are independent as provided by law.
- Ensure that South Sudan has a permanent constitution before June, 2026.
- Free all political prisoners and or/detainees (including civil society activists, journalists and dissents) or present them before a competent court of law without any further delay.
- Ensure that the civic and political space is protected and expanded before, during and after the elections. This enables equal enjoyment of the civic and political space by all political parties, civil society, media and dissidents.
- Carry out voluntary repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes or places of their choice to enhance their opportunity to fully participate in the first ever elections.
- Conduct a national census to determine the number of illegible voters and to appropriately demarcate constituencies and to ensure that there is regional and geographical balance in allocating constituencies to be contested for by the interested political aspirants.
- Enact a law or a policy that would prohibit political parties and/or political aspirants from using state symbols such as the national flag, national emblem and its slogan, and state (national) assets (resources) including finances, and automobiles among others.

- Providing equal opportunities and platforms to all political parties, independent political aspirants, civil society and dissidents to equally access and use all the public outreach platforms including the public state-owned South Sudan Broadcasting Corporation (SSBC), state owned radio stations, community radios, print media, social media and public lands (freedom/independent squares) for political and/or public rallies before, during and after the elections.
- Allow interested independent local, national and international elections monitors before and during the elections by removing all politically motivated and impartial hard to attain accreditation requirements.
- Set clear elections related complains and or/grievances procedures and mechanisms, and how these complains and or grievances would be independently, peacefully, fairly or justly handled and ensure appropriate measures to resolve possible elections and/or post elections violence.

C. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL & CULTURAL RIGHTS		
i) The Right to Education		
113.182 Continue to increase the investment in education and reduce the rate of children dropping out of school (China); 113.183, 113.186,113.195		
Percentage Increase in the Annual Education Budget (AEB)	▪ The Annual Education Budget has not been increased (0% increment in the AEB). The government has allocated 8.3% of the annual education budget for FY2024/2025 less to the education budget compared to the previous fiscal year's 13% increment. (FY2022/2023 Budget), reflecting lack of commitment to enhance educational infrastructure and resources. **Recommendations** - Conduct awareness campaigns to highlight the importance of education in national development, especially during budget discussions. - Engage civil society, community leaders, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to advocate for education as a priority sector in the national budget, stressing its long-term benefits by amplifying voices in favor of education funding.	
Education Policies fully implemented	▪ It is estimated by the Ministry of General Education and Instruction that 40% of National Education Policies have been implemented. Many policies have been enacted but require further enforcement and monitoring. For example, 3 head teachers from Emmy Robin, Warrayat, Mayen Gumel in Warrap state Gogrial West County on the 31 March 2023 were suspended for charging school fees (Radio Tamazuj) following a presidential directive to declare free education for both primary and secondary schools. **Recommendations** - Enhance monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of implemented policies. - Conduct a comprehensive review of existing education policies to identify gaps and create a roadmap for implementation. - Involve local communities, CSOs, teachers, and education stakeholders in the policy implementation process to ensure it meets the needs on the ground.	

	- Conduct nationwide campaigns to raise awareness among stakeholders about existing education policies to ensure they are understood and implemented at all levels. - Create oversight bodies that include educators and civil society representatives to monitor the implementation of education policies and provide feedback.	
Number of head teachers trained on Database Management (DBM)	▪ 1,000 head teachers were trained on DBM by Stromme Foundation, Ministry of Education and Light for the World across the country. A training program was launched to improve data management related to student enrollment, including data on PWDs. **Recommendations** - Organize regular training sessions focused on data management, analysis, and reporting to ensure head teachers can efficiently manage educational data. - Introduce user-friendly digital tools and platforms to assist head teachers in managing school data effectively. - Develop and conduct workshops focused on data management systems, emphasizing the importance of data for improving educational outcomes and policies. - Provide access to online resources and tools that can assist head teachers in effective database management	
Improved teacher retention in schools (improved payment of teachers)	▪ The Ministry of General Education and Instruction has noted a 2% increase in teacher retention rates. Though retention initiatives (400% salary increment) have been successful approved, Retention Initiatives like the Girl Education South Sudan (GESS) has a package for teachers. Free Housing (Teachers' quarter) in Juba and other major towns is another initiative aimed at retaining teachers. However, few numbers of both primary and secondary teachers were only retained. Due to poor working conditions as 12 months have gone without teachers receiving salaries and lack of professional development opportunities, so many of the trained teachers have abandoned the teaching profession and have opted to work for NGO's or engage in business. **Recommendations** - Advocate and lobby the government to prioritize the timely payment of teacher salaries and explore alternative funding sources for teacher compensation and to ensure that salaries are paid consistently - Implement Retention Incentive Programs (RIP), such as Teachers' Performance Bonuses (TPB), housing allowances, and Professional Development Opportunities (PDO), to motivate teachers to stay in the profession	
National Inclusive Education Policy (NIEP) passed into law	▪ The NIEP has been Passed into law in 2020. This policy aims to create a comprehensive framework for inclusive education and support for PWDs. However, little progress has been made in the past 2 years due to insecurity and inadequate funding from the government and development partners. **Recommendations** - Allocate further resources to training programs for educators on inclusive practices. - Implement dissemination campaigns to inform educators, parents, and communities about the inclusive education policy and its provisions. - Target training for educators and administrators on best practices in inclusive education to ensure effective implementation. - Develop localized materials to disseminate information about the Inclusive Education Policy to all states and administrative areas. - Form teams of education professionals to support local governments in understanding and applying the policy effectively.	

Revised curriculum inclusive of human rights concept	▪ The current South Sudan Secondary School Curriculum has been revised to integrate human rights concepts. The New curricula includes modules on human rights awareness tailored for all students. However, primary school students still face exclusion from human rights concepts in its textbooks. **Recommendations** - Engage and collaborate with educators, human rights experts and human rights organizations to develop a revised curriculum that integrates human rights education in primary school curricula. - Implement pilot programs and initiatives in selected schools to test and refine the revised curriculum based on feedback before wide-scale implementation.	
Number of learners with hearing and visual impairment enrolled in schools	▪ 2,378 learners with hearing and visual impairments have been enrolled in schools across the 10 states and 3 Administrative Areas. However, due to fragmented data, this number might be higher. The Enrollment Rates (ER) for learners with hearing and visual impairments have increased by approximately 5% in these categories. **Recommendations** - Launch community-based campaigns to increase awareness of the importance of inclusive education for learners with disabilities. - Develop targeted strategies for schools to reach and enroll students with hearing and visual impairments.	
Number of teachers trained on sign language	▪ 747 teachers have been trained on sign language by Light for the World, Community Empowerment for Progress organization, Y-Global, National Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, South Sudan Union of Persons with Disabilities, National Ministry of General Education and Instruction and other partners to mention. The ongoing training aims at improving communication and educational access for students with hearing impairments. However, some states still face challenges in accommodating learners with hearing impairment. **Recommendations** - Provide both technical and financial support for training programs for teachers on sign language to improve communication with deaf students. - Create and distribute teaching materials and resources that incorporate sign language. - Partner with organizations specializing in disability to establish structured, ongoing sign language training for educators. - Establish certification programs for teachers who complete training on sign language to encourage participation.	
Number of textbooks translatde into braille	▪ 4 primary school textbooks (Science, Social Science Studies, Christian Religious Education and Mathematics) except English have all been translated into braille and audio. This was made possible by the partners (Light for the World). Significant progress has been made in accessibility resources for visually impaired learners. **Recommendations** - Partner with organizations specializing in services for persons with disabilities to ensure the translation of essential textbooks and learning materials into Braille. - Establish a distribution system and share translated materials across schools, ensuring they are accessible to all students who need them.	

Increase enrollment rate for persons with disabilities in schools.	▪ The Ministry of General Education & Instruction conducted a National Education Census (2023) and the results indicated that 3097 out of the 6009 (51%) schools were found to have enrolled learners with disabilities, with the most common form being physical disability and Visual Impairment. **Recommendations** - Conduct specialized assessments to identify learners with disabilities using the Washington Group of Questions. - There is a need to launch campaigns to encourage enrollment and acceptance of children with disabilities in schools. - Provide financial or logistical incentives to schools that successfully increase enrollment and retain students with disabilities through grants or funding. - Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for students with disabilities to provide personalized support and resources.	

D. RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS		
i) Rights of women		
113.128 Take all necessary measures to end sexual & gender-based violence including by promptly and independently investigating all allegations of such violence and bringing perpetrators to justice, in accordance with international standards. (Sweden) **113.128, 113.197, 113.198, 113.199, 113.200, 113.201, 113,102, 113.203, 113.204, 113.205,113.206, 113.207, 113.208, 113.209, 113.210, 113.212, 113.213, 113.214**		
Number of police officers trained on investigating SGBV. Increased awareness and willingness among police on their responsibility to effectively investigate SGBV.	▪ Data provided by the government (National Police Service) shows a laudable step from July 2022 to 2024, the government with the support from development partners a total of 1196 (424 female) police officers from different police units including CID, SPU, Investigators, NPS, Operations units, steering committee and state focal points were trained on different areas on concerns including investigation of SGBV, CRSV, monitoring and evaluation, Response to CRSV, TOT, Leadership, Protection against SGBV, Data Collection, Child Protection, Public order management, crime scene investigation, protection of survivors and witnesses, case management and managing child marriages. ▪ The locations include Central Equatoria state, Juba city, Western Equatoria state, Western Bahr-el-Gazal state, Lakes state.	
Number of Police officers retained within the Special Protection Units.	▪ There is no data provided by the government on the number of trained police officers in handling SGBV cases were retained since July 2022. However, there are exist concerns that police officers are being moved from one unit to another, meaning police officers that are well trained in handling SGBV can be moved from the SPU to another unit within the police.	

Number of awareness sessions conducted	▪ Data shows that the government (National Police Service) with support from the partners conducted awareness raising and prevention of SGBV. A total of 49 officers (21 female) of the SPU underwent the awareness sessions. It is unclear whether the government is planning to conduct more of this awareness raising and prevention of SGBV. ▪ Despite limited financial and logistical capacity, the civil society and the other none-state stakeholders have conducted several awareness sessions for both state and non-state actors and the awareness sessions are still ongoing.	
Effective functionality of SPU's	▪ The Special Protection Unit (SPU) in the South Sudan National Police Service is fairly functional in the capital Juba where the SPU's headquarters is based. The SPU has minimal functions in the states. As part of the SPU, the government established gender desks in six (6) police stations in Juba. ▪ The primary purpose of these gender desks is to handle cases relating to women and girls in these respective police stations. ▪ The gender desk officials are well trained police personnel to handle the Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) related cases in these police stations. However, most of the police stations in the states do not have these gender desks, and the trained gender desk officials are always transferred to other units of the police, leaving a wider knowledge gap, making it very challenging in handling SGBV cases in the police stations.	
Anti-GBV bill enacted into law and provisions implemented.	▪ Anti-GBV law not yet passed.	
Number of Actions taken by respective government institutions to address conflict related sexual violence	▪ The government, with support from international partners is working to establish a women empowerment center, women economic hub and building a safe house. ▪ The police and the GBV and Juvenile court have made a significant progress in handling SGBV cases, though they have not covered the entire country.	

Recommendations:

- Double efforts by strengthening and training of the SSPDF, NSS, the Police and the Prisons officers in the prevention and fight against CRSV and SGBV,
- Arrest, investigate, try and persecute all perpetrators of CRSV and SGBV,
- Enact a national policy or law to protect and safeguard victims and /or survivors and witnesses of CRSV and SGBV,
- Provide adequate medical, legal, and psychosocial services (including establishment of safe houses) to the victims and/or survivors of CRVS and SGBV,
- Establish at least one safe house in each of the ten (10) states and in each of the three (3) administrative areas, and at least one gender desk in at least one police unit in each of the seventy-nine (79) counties of South Sudan to handle CRSV and SGBV cases,
- Ensure that the police (SPU officers) and the military officers trained in handling CRSV and SGBV cases are retained, and not transferred until other officers are trained on the same,
- Conduct civic education to the members of the SSPDF, NSS, Police and prisons service.

113.211 Fully implement the provision that guarantees that 35 per cent of positions in decision-making processes are occupied by women, as stipulated in the Revitalized Agreement (Norway);
113.211, 113.215, 113.216, 113.218, 113.219, 113.220, 113.221, 113.222, 113.223, 113.224, 113.225, 113.226, 113.227

Number of women in leadership positions of decision-making processes (35% quota)	▪ The women quota of 35% as provided for by the 2018 peace agreement has and is not being adhered to by the parties to the R-GoNU . Since the formation of R-TGoNU in February 2020, the women quota in leadership falls below 30%. In addition to this, women who were previously appointed into leadership positions at the various levels of government are being removed from these positions and replaced by men.	

Recommendation:

- Value the political contributions of women in the implementation of the 2018 peace agreement, respect the peace agreement and give to the women what belongs to the women as provided for by Chapter I of the peace agreement (35% affirmative actions),
- Give back to the women the positions previously held by women when the R-TGoNU was first formed in 2020,
- Consult with the parties to the agreement before carrying out reshuffle of the constitutional post holders.

ii) Rights of persons with disabilities

113. 252 Maintain and strengthen existing national programmes to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities (Sri Lanka);

National Inclusive Disability Policy (NIDP) fully implemented	▪ The implementation of the NIDP is ongoing, so far three rehabilitation centers have been established (Juba, Wau and Rumbek), advocacy and awareness raising activities are being conducted by Organizations of Persons with Disabilities , assessments to document the status of PWDs, strengthening of legal frameworks and policies (drafting of Disability Bill), establishment of a Data Collection Management System that encompasses the Washington Group Question, construction of new schools and toilets with accessibility standards, though slow progress has been recorded in the past 2 years. ▪ The dissemination of this policy has not covered most parts (school) of the states and administrative areas. Initiatives have been put in place to enforce the policy, but further implementation efforts are needed. **Recommendations** - Create a framework to monitor and evaluate the implementation of this policy at local and national levels. - Establish Feedback Mechanisms (channels for feedback) from families and communities on the effectiveness of the policy. - Engage stakeholders, including disability advocacy groups, in reviewing and enhancing the implementation of the inclusion policy.	
Number of assistive devices provided	▪ 2,757 assistive devices from three Rehabilitation Centers (Juba, Wau and Rumbek) have been provided by both government agencies and partners. (The distribution includes wheelchairs, hearing aids, white canes, tricycles and braille displays to enhance accessibility. **Recommendations** - Increase funding for assistive technology to further support learners with disabilities by building partnerships with NGOs, international bodies and private sectors to secure funding or donations of assistive devices. - Conduct a needs assessment to determine the types of assistive devices most needed in schools across different regions by Partnering with CSOs and international organizations to procure and distribute assistive devices.	

Number of awareness sessions on the rights of persons with disabilities conducted	▪ 29 awareness sessions on the rights of persons with disabilities conducted in 10 counties and 2 administrative areas with support from partners. (Ministry of Education and General Instruction, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, South Sudan Union of Persons with Disabilities, Y-Global, Light for the World, South Sudan Human Rights Defender, Young Women Christian Association South Sudan, Community Empowerment for Progress Organization, The Association of Volunteers in International Service, etc.). The Sessions reached over 5,000 community members and educators. **Recommendations** - Expand awareness campaigns to reach more communities and promote the rights of PWDs. - Organize regular community regular workshops, seminars and training sessions to educate parents, educators, and students in communities to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, focusing on inclusive education. - Incorporate Rights into Educational Framework by including lessons on the rights and responsibilities of all individuals, including those with disabilities. - Develop educational materials that highlight the rights of persons with disabilities and circulate them in schools and community centers.	
Number of assessments/surveys conducted on disability	▪ 6 National Assessments/Surveys were conducted by different partners including Light for the World, Y-Global, World Bank and others to ascertain the conditions of persons with disabilities. The aim was to gathered data on the status of PWDs in education and access to other basic services in the country. **Recommendations** - Develop standardized assessment tools to gather data on persons with disabilities and their educational needs to reduce fragmented data, ensuring data is collected systematically. - Partner with academic institutions to carry out comprehensive surveys to understand the educational landscape for PWDs and the effectiveness of inclusive education initiatives.	
Number of advocacy meetings facilitated	▪ 20 Advocacy Meetings were facilitated by (South Sudan Union of Persons with Disabilities, Save the Children, Light for the World, South Sudan Human Rights Defender, Plan International, Young Women Christian Association, Community Empowerment for Progress Organization, Christian Agency for Peace and Development, The Association of Volunteers in International Service, etc.). Engaged stakeholders were including, government officials, CSOs representatives and community leaders, to discuss inclusion strategies and situations of PWDs. **Recommendations** - Create advocacy forums that bring together educators, policymakers, and disability advocates to discuss inclusive education needs and strategies regularly by developing platforms for sharing best practices and resources among stakeholders involved in disability advocacy in education. - Form advocacy groups comprising stakeholders from government, CSOs, International NGOs, and communities to push for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in educational policies. - Schedule frequent meetings between government, CSOs, International NGOs, and community representatives to foster collaboration and share best practices.	

Number of PWDs involved in decision making levels	▪ 5 representatives of PWDs have been involved in decision making levels, reflecting underrepresentation. One in the deputy Chairperson committee of Gender and Inclusion at RTNLA (Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly), others hold higher positions at the States government. Though PWDs are now actively participating in advisory boards and policy-making processes., further effort needed to be done to increase their participation. **Recommendations** - Ensure that decision-making bodies at all levels include representatives from PWD communities by executing training programs to empower PWDs with advocacy and leadership skills necessary for participation and to take active roles in decision-making. - Develop a framework that outlines how persons with disabilities can participate in decision-making processes within educational settings.	
Number of coordination and collaboration meetings conducted	▪ 30 coordination and collaboration meetings were conducted. These meetings resulted in the formation of Disability Inclusion Technical Working Groups under the guidance of the National Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of CRPD has also been develop through the recommendations of key stakeholders during these advocacy and coordination meetings. Mechanisms and mapping of OPDs have been put in place to regulate the work of Organizations for Persons with disabilities (OPD). The Engagement was with the participation of multiple stakeholders, including NGOs, disability rights advocates, educational institutions, and government bodies. **Recommendations** - Create platforms for regular advocacy meetings involving educators, disability advocates, and policymakers to discuss and strategize on educational matters for PWDs to follow up the status of the Disability Bill of 2024. - Facilitate coordination meetings that allow sharing best practices and resources for inclusive education.	
Number of position papers issued on disability	▪ 2 Position Papers written by CEPO (Community Empowerment for Progress Organization) and SSUPD (South Sudan Union for Physical Disability) were issued with focus on critical issues affecting PWDs including underrepresentation and recommendations for policy improvements to aligned with UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. **Recommendations** - Conduct research to create evidence-based position papers on key issues affecting education for persons with disabilities by assigning teams comprising education experts, disability advocates, and stakeholders to develop position papers on key issues related to the educational rights of PWDs. - Create a strategic dissemination plan to share these papers with policymakers, educational institutions, and advocacy groups and stakeholders to inform and influence decision-making positively.	

CONCLUSION

This mid-term report highlights progressive steps taken by the government and calls for more efforts in ensuring that the people of South Sudan enjoy their rights. The SOUTH SUDAN CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION FOR THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (SSCSC-UPR) is committed to continue monitoring the implementation of the accepted UPR recommendations and engage in advocacy initiatives aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of the marginalized groups of people in South Sudan. The coalition would like to thank their partners particularly the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) for their technical and financial support in preparing this report.

THE SOUTH SUDAN CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION FOR THE UPR

The South Sudan Civil Society Coalition for the Universal Periodic Review (SSCSC-UPR) is a loose network of organizations dealing with human rights established in 2016. The aim is to enlighten citizens on their fundamental human rights and strengthen the capacity of non-states actors and other stake holders in order to advance the human rights situation to improve social justice in South Sudan. It is a collaborative mechanism established to enhance coordination among the coalition members and to work in partnership with government institutions and international partners to foster active participation during the UPR cycle.

MEMBERS OF THE SSCSC-UPR

i) Action 54

ii) ACEDO- Action for Community Education and Development

iii) ONAD-Organization for Non -Violence and Development

iv) YVSS-Youth Vision South Sudan

v) SOWA-Solidarity for Women's Rights Association

vi) PIDP-Peace and Integrated Development Program

vii) IDEAS South Sudan

viii) PAPA alliance

ix) SSHRC-South Sudan Human Rights Commission

x) LWF -Lutheran World Federation**.**

xi) PDCO-Peace and Development Collaborative Organization

xii) **AMALNA** South Sudan

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30. Eighth teachers arrested over pay disputes and for criticizing the director general of education in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/eight-teachers-detained-over-pay-dispute-in-northern-bahr-el-ghazal&ved=2ahUKEwiSiuDcl_KOAxWF87sIHUt4M6UQFnoECBoQAQ&usg=AOvVaw0TG3HVQlUaAqm4BVcLe3tH
31. Journalist arrested by South Sudan National Security Service (NSS) in Yambio, Western Equatoria State: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/south-sudan-national-security-arrest-radio-journalist-in-yambio-

w-equatoria&ved=2ahUKEwiGjPGBmPKOAxUFRuUKHaI-JJQQFnoECB4QAQ&usg=AOvVaw2c4BCzy6ggtwSmorG2p6og
32. Journalist arbitrarily arrested and detained by security in Eastern Equatoria State: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://cpj.org/2024/08/south-sudan-police-detain-journalist-sisto-germano-ohide-without-charge/&ved=2ahUKEwiHxaulmPKOAxVcgf0HHV2UJykQFnoECBoQAQ&usg=AOvVaw35lmzp1IBfvYURS1MNWlEQ
33. Government bans social/community meetings and gatherings in Jonglei State
https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.voaafrica.com/a/7934356.html&ved=2ahUKEwiu8JuNmfKOAxX0nf0HHVizASsQFnoECBYQAQ&usg=AOvVaw1vrckdud8t2PPTIY2yBNcV

34. The Inspector General of Police has warned the public that unauthorized public gatherings, rallies, or demonstrations will not be permitted during the Martyrs' Day: https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1ArAPSk8zv/

35. Cabinet approves a memo containing guidelines for establishing women empowerment facilities (safe house): https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://onecitizendaily.com/index.php/2024/06/22/cabinet-approves-guidelines-for-establishing-managing-safe-homes/&ved=2ahUKEwjyh4PRm_KOAxWf9LsIHc6sF5oQFnoECHYQAQ&usg=AOvVaw0e6EuhRzcPSY0EhNxfCiNp
36. South Sudan government with support from partners to build women empowerment facilities (safe house): https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/gender-minister-unops-sign-deal-to-build-womens-empowerment-facilities&ved=2ahUKEwjyh4PRm_KOAxWf9LsIHc6sF5oQFnoECDAQAQ&usg=AOvVaw1bybjU-9QfDlnoqBGHChXi

37. Interview with an official with the Special Protection Unit (SPU) of the South Sudan National Police Service

38. Research reveals women's representation in South Sudan's unity government still below 35% target affirmative action provide by the 2018 peace agreement: https://www.eyeradio.org/research-reveals-womens-representation-in-unity-govt-still-below-35-target/

39: Violence and armed conflict, including inter-communal violence still continues in the country: United Nations Mission In South Sudan (UNMISS) quarterly reports on human rights violations and violence affecting civilians in South Sudan
https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://unmiss.unmissions.org/human-rights-reports&ved=2ahUKEwiumpzMnPKOAxVbhf0HHfTPMhoQFnoECB8QAQ&usg=AOvVaw0x3ZT34DPndukkVhhcW_vT