



## IN BRIEF

# ENDLINE EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT 'GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN SECURITY SECTOR REFORM IN SOUTH SUDAN'.

Photo: UN Women South Sudan

## Project description

The project aimed at the [establishment of an accountable, representative, inclusive and effective South Sudan's security sector](#) that ensures the meaningful participation of women at all levels of the security institutions and prioritizes the protection and human rights (HRs) of civilians.

Funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), the project was implemented from 27 March 2020 to 31 March 2023 with a budget of 4.5million USD.

## Evaluation overview

The evaluation serves to [determine the project achievements, provide recommendations to build on the achievements and identify lessons for future project design, innovativeness, result sustainability and improvements](#). The evaluation applied the criteria of: Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability and Human rights and Gender equality.

## Key achievements

- The project improved the availability of knowledge products and policy information to conduct an evidence-based gender mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform (SSR) of the Security Sector Institutions (SSIs).
- Dialogues, awareness creation and sensitization enhanced interactions among civilians and organized forces and enhanced joint work and platforms for gender mainstreaming in SSRs of SSIs.

- The joint works and collaboration enhanced the confidence, goal-team cohesion and trust among organized forces and civilians.

## Conclusions

### RELEVANCE

- The project objectives and design respond to beneficiary needs and priorities and continue to respond in the changing transitional governance setting of the SSIs.
- The project objectives and design respond to and are in alignment with the existing policies and priorities of the government of South Sudan and continue to be relevant in the transitional setting/context of the country.

### EFFECTIVENESS

- The project is effective and performed more than the planned target. However, there were activities that were planned but did not achieve their targets, such as producing statistics on the number of females in SSIs.

## EFFICIENCY

- The project is cost-efficient, context-sensitive and it indicates this emphasis is also an illustration of the program's emphasis on facilitating the effective use of national capacities with a view to maximizing national ownership.

## IMPACT

- Community level meetings, sensitization workshops and debate forums, reporting of Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases increased.
- Handling of GBV cases such as the police, in the referral pathways, medical treatment, psychosocial support and provision of justice also improved
- The participants in awareness creation, advocacy and debate sessions reduced their fear about security forces, and in many cases provide witnesses in the police stations and in the court of justice.
- The establishment of committees, networks and collectives such as Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) associations will have impact on future interventions and the participation of patterns in SSR, intervention design, implementation and evaluation.
- Platforms for cross learning ensured the SS institutions are responsive to gendered needs of women in uniform.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- There was a challenge with staff turnover due to lack of adequate funds for salaries and incentives, as the project exited.
- The sensitive nature of the security issues and the long security clearance process inhibit achievements and timely implementation of the project activities.
- However, the project's achievements, if consciously funded, indicate potential dimensions for sustainability such as women in security sector networks, the donor level trinodal committee and the community police relations committee

## Lessons learned

The evaluation identified the following lessons with significance beyond the program:

- 1 **Flexibility in project implementation process** enhances the achievement results and addressing the challenges facing the project implementation on the ground.
- 2 **Collaboration, partnerships and networking** during project implemented enhances the use of synergies and the pooling of capacities (human power, programs and resources) available.
- 3 **Institutionalization** such as the South Sudan Security Sector Women's Networks (SSSSWN) **and expanding volunteerism at local level** enhances the achievement of project results, outreach to communities and building trust among stakeholders.
- 4 **A security sector reform needs to give more focus on changing social norms** that perpetuate GBV and set the foundations for women/human/ rights violations at grassroots community levels.

## Recommendations

### RECOMMENDATION 1:

Provide adequate financial and technical support for consolidating the gender mainstreaming in the security sector reform processes of South Sudan.

### RECOMMENDATION 2:

Institutionalize collaboration among implementing partners, women groups/organizations and SSIs and relevant government ministries to lobby to promote the inclusion of women and PwDs in the leadership and decision-making positions of the SSIs after the SSR.

### RECOMMENDATION 3:

Assess exhaustive challenges (risks) and include mitigation measures to be taken by Implementing Partners in their future projects of gender mainstreaming in SSRs of SSIs.

### RECOMMENDATION 4:

Allocate adequate funds for gender mainstreaming in Security Sector Reforms in Security Sector Institutions.