

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.



UNDP Southern Sudan makes poverty reduction a key priority



Photos: © Jenn Warren

Enabling people to improve and expand their own economic opportunities is a key step in combating poverty.

World leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, which include the overarching goal of cutting extreme poverty in half. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), using its worldwide network, is coordinating global and national efforts to reach these Goals.

"Following many years of war, which required sustained emergency assistance, Southern Sudan is slowly beginning to shift towards recovery," said Mr. Joe Feeney, UNDP Southern Sudan's Head of Office. "In light of this new reality, UNDP is changing the way it does business in the region."

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UNDP has restructured its operations in Southern Sudan

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to make poverty reduction a key priority. Under the leadership of Ms. Mandisa Mas-hologu, UNDP's new Poverty Reduction and MDG Unit will provide support to national and sub-national counterparts to plan, monitor, evaluate, and implement poverty reduction initiatives.

It will also focus on consolidating a number of related projects and implementing new ones.

A top line initiative includes producing and disseminating *National Human Development Reports* to inform and influence policy. These reports will serve to strengthen national and state level capacities for data collection and management, in order to support strategic and annual planning efforts.

In close collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP), the Poverty Reduction and MDG Unit will also work to improve aid management and coordination. International assistance plays a major role in expanding the social safety net in Southern Sudan, and effective aid management will be crucial to ensuring that donor funds are targeted appropriately.

In addition, the Unit will lead on implementing policy and regulatory reforms for micro,

small, and medium-scale enterprises to improve social and economic opportunities for the poor. The private sector is a vehicle of growth and providing greater access to markets, goods, and services is vital.

Improving the delivery and usage of the *Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria* is also part the Unit's remit. HIV/AIDS, in particular, is a key issue in the region and national institutions must be supported to mitigate its impact and prevent its further spread (see page 2 for more details on our projects under this heading).

The fight against poverty requires a better understanding of what causes poverty, who is poor and how poverty changes over time. Many developing countries — including Southern Sudan — lack consistent, reliable and timely data on poverty and inequality. UNDP will fill this gap by supporting the establishment of a monitoring and assessment system. It is hoped that, as it develops, the data generated will be used to inform evidence-based policy-making aimed reducing poverty and advancing human development.



Photos: © Jenn Warren

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Empowering community leaders in the fight against HIV/AIDS

Last month, the Southern Sudan AIDS Commission teamed up with UNDP and the Southern Sudan Network of People Living with HIV (SSNeP+) to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS among vulnerable groups.

In a ten-day workshop targeted at faith-based organizations and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UNDP and its partners provided training on how to establish and run effective HIV/AIDS programmes. Special emphasis was placed on how to target high-risk groups, such as commercial sex workers and men having sex with men.

“We are pleased and proud to support such an important initiative,” said Ms. Mandisa Mashologu, Head of UNDP’s Poverty and MDGs Unit, on the opening day. “Community leaders in Southern Sudan have a long history of providing guidance on a variety of topics, including health issues, so it is important to give them the skills they need to curb unsafe behavior in their communities.”

The event was attended by almost 50 community leaders from across Southern Sudan, who were supported in the production of HIV/AIDS programme proposals, and guided with regards to possible funding opportunities for their projects.

“We hope that training of this nature will continue and that this isn’t the end of a process, but the beginning.”

-Mr. Lole Lalia Lole, Chairperson of SSNeP+

Participants were also briefed on the theoretical basis and practical application of behavior change techniques. The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for relationship-building and networking among community groups doing similar work.

The initiative was supported by UNDP’s Regional HIV/AIDS Programme in the

UNDP supports opening of ART clinic in high-risk county



Photos © Jenn Warren

Training local medical personnel enables HIV/AIDS patients to seek treatment close to home.

Ante-natal care attendants in Tambura County in Western Equatoria State are faced with a staggering rate of HIV infection (around 10 percent). In response, UNDP and its national partners opened the Tambura Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) Clinic earlier this year to help serve the overwhelming needs of the county. Prior to the existence of the clinic, patients were forced to travel long distances to retrieve antiretroviral drugs (ARV) from the state capital of Yambio, or neighboring Uganda.

“This clinic is instrumental in addressing the treatment needs of people with advanced HIV infections in Western

Equatoria State,” says Karin Karin Nasheya, UNDP’s Global Fund Project Manager. “In the coming year, UNDP will be supporting the opening of ART sites in other parts of Southern Sudan to protect and improve the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS.

The opening of the Tambura ART Clinic will decrease the burden on Yambio’s ART clinic, which is inundated with patients from across the state. It will also allow medical staff to improve treatment services and carefully monitor adherence to drug regimens for local patients.

UNDP’s Global Fund grant covers staff salaries and the operating costs of the clinic as well as office furniture; the training of personnel; lab equipment and reagents; ARVs; and other related supplies. International Medical Corps, a specialist medical NGO, runs the primary health care in which the clinic is housed and other testing and counselling services are also available at this location.

Support to the training of laboratory personnel and the installation of state-of-the-art CD4 testing machines (see box) in eight hospitals across Southern Sudan is also provided through UNDP’s Global Fund grant. The availability of this new testing technology has empowered people to take control of their health, no matter what their status, by seeking the treatment they need.

ART services are currently available in nine health facilities in Southern Sudan and all of these are supported by UNDP’s Global Fund grant. UNDP’s partner World Health Organization (WHO) provides technical support, supervision and monitoring for these services.

What is CD4 testing?

CD4 testing is used to determine the number of CD4 T-helper cells in the blood. These T-helper cells play an important role in the immune system by helping to co-ordinate all the other cells to fight illnesses. A decreasing CD4 count warns of an increasing risk of opportunistic infection, and the CD4 count is a marker for HIV-staging and therapeutic decision making.

Budgeting for peace and security in 2010



Photos: © Jenn Warren

Budget Sector Working Groups allow integrated planning between partners to ensure basic service delivery to the people of Southern Sudan.

The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) is in the midst of its annual planning and budgeting process. This important process, which began in earnest back in June, was initiated by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP) and requires all ten states to provide the set of costed activities they plan to undertake in 2010. These plans are produced by UNDP-supported Budget Sector Working Groups (BSWGs).

This budget-focused costing is an essential part of the planning process. It ensures that sector plans retain a degree of realism and prioritization that is often lost in the planning processes of other countries. The process also tries to capture all donor assistance provided to different sectors — like health and education — and compiles an integrated set of outputs which combine both GoSS and donor financed activities. Early indications suggest that development partners' engagement with the process has improved this year, with more projects captured and better participation in BSWGs.

MoFEP has now moved into the more detailed budgeting phase. This begins with a calculation of total available revenues in 2010 — based on oil and non-oil

revenue forecasts. The Council of Ministers then allocates these resources by approving a set of budget ceilings for all GoSS agencies. Their decisions are informed both by the information supplied by sectors and by GoSS' six expenditure priorities — namely, security, roads, basic education, primary health care and production.

GoSS agencies are then asked to prepare more detailed budget proposals for 2010, taking into

account the resources available to them. This is done in a Budget Preparation Workshop, coordinated by MoFEP. This year's workshop took place on 27 October at the Government Accountancy Training Centre, with assistance from UNDP's Support to Economic Planning Project.

GoSS Agencies are now in the process of finalizing their budget proposals on the basis of the guidelines set out in the Budget Call Circular. These will soon be reviewed and consolidated into a single budget document for approval by the Council of Ministers and finally by the Assembly.

As each year passes, the annual planning and budgeting process is becoming more widely understood, both within GoSS and among donor agencies. This familiarization with, and acceptance of, the process is essential to its establishment of a robust and transparent process for resource allocation.

What is the Budget Call Circular?

The annual Budget Call Circular is a document issued jointly by MoFEP and the Ministry of Labor, Public Service & Human Resource Development which provides instructions on how to compile detailed budget proposals.

It should be noted that Southern Sudan has managed to establish a very impressive integrated planning and budgeting process in a very short space of time. In addition, the GoSS budget is compiled and executed on the basis of activities with associated outputs. This makes it possible for parliamentarians and civil society to see clearly what the budget is financing.

The big challenge now is to strengthen the implementation of the budget so that what is spent each year is more closely aligned with the budget that is approved by the Assembly. This discipline typically takes much longer to develop and is the focus of a number of ongoing reforms in Southern Sudan.



Photos: © Jenn Warren

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- Regional Programme Manager: Governance and Rule of Law (Kadugli)
- Consultant: Project Closure in Atlas
- Consultant: Finance Specialist

Knowledge Corner: UNDP focuses on Millennium Development Goals

Responding to the world's main development challenges, the MDGs promote poverty reduction, education, maternal health, gender equality, and aim at combating child mortality, AIDS and other diseases.

Set for the year 2015, the MDGs are an agreed set of eight key milestones to development that can be achieved if all actors work together and do their part. Poor countries have pledged to govern better, and invest in their people through health care and education. Rich countries have pledged to support them, through aid, debt relief, and fairer trade.

As Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations Secretary General, put it, "Looking ahead to 2015 and beyond, there is no question that we can achieve the overarching goal: we can put an end to poverty. But it requires an unswerving, collective, long-term effort."

The MDGs provide a framework for the entire UN system to work coherently together toward a common end. UNDP's global development network — on the ground in 166 countries — is uniquely positioned to advocate for change, connect countries to knowledge, and re-

sources, and coordinate broader efforts at the country level.

The eight Goals break down into 21 quantifiable targets that are measured by 60 indicators.

Guided by the UN Core Strategy, UNDP's work on the MDGs focuses on:

- coordinating global and local **advocacy efforts**;
- sharing the **best strategies** for meeting the MDGs in terms of innovative practices, policy and institutional reforms, means of policy implementation, and evaluation of financing options.
- supporting governments to **tailor the MDGs** to local circumstances and challenges; and
- **monitoring and evaluating** progress.

The MDGs recognise the interdependence between growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development. The principles laid out by the MDGs also acknowledge that development rests on the foundations of democratic governance; rule of law; respect for human rights; and peace and security.

In addition, the goals are time-bound and have measurable targets accompanied by indicators for monitoring progress; and as highlighted in the eighth Goal, the responsibilities of developing countries to be part of the global partnership to eradicate poverty.

	1 Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
	2 Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
	3 Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
	4 Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
	5 Goal 5: Improve maternal health
	6 Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
	7 Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
	8 Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development