COVID-19
GNWP Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and Appeal
April 2020

Country Update
South Sudan

As of April 16, 2020, there have been 4 confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Sudan, although the number of cases is expected to increase as more testing is done. The government has restricted the entry of people from affected countries, and have implemented measures to prevent the spread, including implementing a nation-wide curfew, and limiting social gatherings. UN staff currently on leave in the proscribed countries are being advised not to return “except for those personnel deemed essential to UN operations” – and will then be required to self-isolate for 14 days. All R&R leave has been suspended until 15 April, when the situation will be reviewed. UN Peacekeeping in South Sudan has been using its radio network to spread information about COVID-19 and promote preventative measures.

Impact on women and on peace and security:
The crisis is likely to delay the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCISS). Trainings of the unified forces of South Sudan – which bring together government and opposition groups’ troops – have been suspended. This will likely delay the unification of the forces, which is a key part of the power-sharing agreement included in the R-ARCISS and a pre-requisite for the formation of a joint government.

The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to worsen pre-existing gender inequalities and disproportionately affect women. In addition, South Sudan hosts 1.5M displaced persons, most of whom are living in camps where social distancing is impossible, and there is diminishing humanitarian aid.[1]