
WOMEN COUNT

A project of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Burundi, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, India, Kenya, Libya, Iraq, Nepal, Netherlands, Nagorno-Karabakh, Philippines, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sweden, and Uganda
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of discrimination against women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARE</td>
<td>Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CNHPR</td>
<td>Committee for National Healing, Peace and Reconciliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPA</td>
<td>Comprehensive Peace Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DDR</td>
<td>Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNWP</td>
<td>Global Network of Women Peacebuilders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Immunodeficiency virus/ Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGAD</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Authority on Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOSS</td>
<td>Judiciary of South Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGCSW</td>
<td>Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCRC</td>
<td>Sudan’s National Constitutional Review Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDDRC</td>
<td>National Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLA</td>
<td>National Legislative Assemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRCHPR</td>
<td>National Reconciliation Committee for Healing, Peace and Reconciliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POC</td>
<td>Protection of Civilians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAF</td>
<td>Sudan Arm Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCPR</td>
<td>Specialized Committee on Peace and Reconciliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGBV</td>
<td>Sexual Gender Based Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNGs</td>
<td>Special Needs Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPLA</td>
<td>Sudan People Liberation Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPLA/IO</td>
<td>Sudan People Liberation Army In Opposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSDF</td>
<td>South Sudan Defense Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSDP</td>
<td>South Sudan Development Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSPCR</td>
<td>South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSPS</td>
<td>South Sudan Police Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSR</td>
<td>Security Sector Reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCRSS</td>
<td>Transitional Constitution of South Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDRP</td>
<td>Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TGONU</td>
<td>Transitional Government of National Unity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNISFA</td>
<td>United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNMISS</td>
<td>United Nation Mission In South Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNPOL</td>
<td>United Nations Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSCR</td>
<td>United Nation Security Council Resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFP</td>
<td>United Nation World Food Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOA</td>
<td>Voice of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAAF</td>
<td>Women Associated with Armed Forces and Groups</td>
</tr>
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</table>
I. Women, peace and security profile

A. Nature of the conflict

The civil war in South Sudan ended in 2005 with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), giving South Sudan autonomy and its people the right to self-determination through a referendum on independence. The referendum took place in January 2011, and the Republic of South Sudan became a sovereign State on July 9, 2011. However, despite many successes under the CPA, South Sudan has recently returned to violence. On December 15, 2013, violence broke out in the South Sudan capital of Juba and speedily spread to Jonglei Unity and Upper Nile state. Fighting continued despite the agreement to cease hostilities that was signed on January 23, 2014. So far, more than 1.3 million people have been forced from their homes, including one million internally displaced people, of which, 340,200 have sought refuge in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan or Uganda.1

In the months prior to the outbreak of violence in December, key events created an environment that challenged the political power of President Salva Kiir. These included the firing of Vice President Riek Machar, the dissolution of Kiir’s cabinet, as well as the dismantling of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement’s (SPLM) leadership structure. While the speed at which the conflict has unfolded came as a surprise to many, the South Sudanese women, who were interviewed for this report, identified several factors that contributed to the tense environment. These include: mistrust, weak institutions, unequal distribution of power and resources, struggle for power, corruption, and prevalence of small arms. The Greater Upper Nile region, which includes the towns of Bor and Malakal, has been at the center of the recent battles between Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers and rebel factions. The state of Jonglei in particular has continued to experience conflict before and after South Sudan’s independence in 2011.2 The media has largely presented the situation as a conflict between two sides – the supporters of President Kiir and those in favor of Vice-President Machar – or, worse yet; they have reduced the political crisis to a tribal conflict. However, an important aspect of the conflict is the army. South Sudan’s national army, the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA), was created from several disparate groups that had fought the regime in Khartoum, (which created the South Sudan Defense Force (SSDF)), during the negotiations of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. In the transitional period that followed, several other armed groups were also incorporated into the army. As a result, the army has been loosely structured and key commanders have retained loyalty to their former militia leaders.3 This has led to a split within the army, followed by a split within the SPLM, South Sudan’s dominant party, which fueled the violence post-December 2013. Consequently, the main sides to the conflict are the South Sudanese government (SPLM), supported by the SPLA, and the SPLM-In-Opposition (SPLM-IO), which is supported by the SPLA rebels (SPLA-IO).

The consequences of the conflict for the civilian population have been devastating. There have been attacks on hospitals, churches, mosques, and United Nations’ bases. All parties to the conflict have committed acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence against women from different ethnic groups.4

The conflict has destroyed the social fabric of the South Sudanese communities and severely damaged livelihoods. It is continuously producing traumatized and psychologically incapacitated soldiers, wounded, child soldiers, widows and orphans, who need rehabilitation, medical and psycho-social support in order to be able to peacefully work and live in their community. The conflict has led to the shutdown of some learning institutions, such as primary schools, secondary schools and universities, preventing students from pursing their studies. This in turn increases the prevailing adult illiteracy, which makes it impossible to create a new group of intellectual and skilled individuals who could contribute to nation-building and development. The conflict has already led to the shutdown of several oil fields in parts of the state due to insecurity. This is an absolute detriment to South Sudan’s economy, which depends entirely on oil revenues. Moreover, such insecurity may scare away investors across the country, which will continue to hamper South Sudan’s economic development.5

B. Impact of conflict on women

“The impact of the conflict on women and girls has been horrifying. The things happening here to women and girls are evil. Women tied up, raped and then shot. Women attacked in hospitals and churches where they had fled, seeking safety with their families. There is no safe place for a woman today in South Sudan.”

-- Country Director of CARE South Sudan in the report released in May 2014

With the onset of the December 2013 conflict, the situation of South Sudanese women deteriorated dangerously, as more women and girls engaged in transactional sex in order to gain

3 Ibid.
access to food or water for their families. Parents encouraged their daughters to marry early to gain access to bride price, to reduce the number of mouths to feed, and as a means of protection for their daughters in this conflict situation. Rape and sexual assault have become a weapon of war.7 Women are being raped to inflict pain and humiliation. During a focus group discussion conducted by EVE Organization in Rubkona town in Unity State in April 2014, women reported cases of extreme violence, including women being raped and then executed in their hospital beds, women being forced to have sex with their sons at gun point, the insertion of objects like bullets, broken bottles and sticks into women’s vaginas, and even shooting women through their vaginas.

In South Sudan it is common for women to fetch water and firewood for the household. However, the journey to perform this daily task puts them at high risk. One of the women living in the Protection of Civilians (PoC) site in Rubkona, said in an interview about issues of gender-based violence:

“We cannot survive on the food rations given to us by the UN World Food Program; it is not enough, so some of us have to venture out to get firewood and sell it at the market. In the process, we are beaten and sometimes raped. I have been raped three times, but I still go out; what else can I do? On a lucky day, nothing happens to me, but on a bad day I meet these bad guys; but I will continue to go out for the sake of my family.”

Women are not only targets of sexual violence and abuse; the conflict has also disrupted their gender roles. As the violence erupted, women suddenly became the heads of household. For example, many women were forced to flee their towns and seek protection for their children and themselves at the UNMISS compounds in Malakal, Rubkona, Bor and Juba, while their husbands and sons were killed or recruited. Young girls who lost their parents also became the main breadwinners for their siblings. The conflict has also had an adverse effect on the socio-economic status and health of women. The complete destruction of livelihoods has led to extreme poverty, reversal of the limited socio-economic developments, and continuous psychosocial trauma for women. In a recent report by UNFPA, it is estimated that 80,000 pregnant women living in affected areas will require medical care by the end of December 2014. An estimated 12,000 women will likely experience pregnancy complications. About 4,000 births are likely to require emergency Caesarean sections. Without adequate care, this number could increase considerably.8 Gender-based violence (GBV), including rape, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence and early marriage, has already been widespread in South Sudan before the crisis. This number is likely to increase due to high insecurity, and the loss of community protection mechanisms as a result of the conflict.9

Much of South Sudan’s women and girls are mostly victims of violence. They also take on multiple roles during the current conflict. Apart from taking care of the family, nursing the wounded soldiers and cooking for them, some women are actual combatants alongside their male counterparts. In the SPLM/IO, a number of women are seen in the senior administration and hierarchy of the opposition. In some cases, women were also reported to be inciting their husbands and male relatives to enact revenge and commit acts of violence.

C. Relevant legal and policy framework

Prior to signing the CPA, South Sudan had no policy and legal framework that supported the promotion of gender equality and protection of the rights of women. The Republic of Sudan was operating under the Sharia law, which contains provisions that undermine women’s rights and gender equality. However, in the interim period of the CPA and the post-independence period, South Sudan has witnessed progress in gender equality and the empowerment of women.10 Some of the policy frameworks and legal provisions that are related to women, peace and security are listed below:

- The Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (TCRSS)
- The Child Act (2008)
- The Land Act (2009)
- The Local Government Act (2009)
- Convention on the right of Child (2013)
- South Sudan Capacity Development Strategy (2011)
- National Gender Policy and Strategic Plan (2014)
- South Sudan Development Plan 2014-2016

Political will to advance gender equality has been demonstrated by the establishment of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW) in October 2005, and the Office of the Advisor to the President on Gender and Human Rights. Both of these have the mandate to promote gender equality and to monitor progress in its implementation in all sectors. South Sudan’s first post-independence development plan (SSDP 2011-2013) recognized the central role of gender equality in development and included it among the seven cross-cutting issues (environment, gender equality, youth employment, capacity-building, human rights, HIV/AIDS, and corruption), which all government ministries were required to mainstream in all policies, plans and programs. The establishment of the South Sudan Human Rights Commission and War Wounded, Widows and Orphans Commission is another sign of the commitment to further gender equality.

South Sudan developed a National Gender Policy, and its implementation strategy came to effect in 2013. The policy came

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7 Ibid.
9 Ibid.
as a result of thorough consultation with different stakeholders, including the private sector, national and state-level government, development partners, national, and international organizations. The National Gender Policy serves as a policy framework, and provides guidelines for mainstreaming gender and integrating women’s empowerment principles in the national development process, with the ultimate goal of making gender equality an integral part of all laws, policies, programs and activities of all government institutions, the private sector and civil society.11

The first draft of the National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 was completed and released in December 2013. The second draft is under review. It is expected that the NAP will be launched before the end of 2014, which will be another milestone for South Sudan in advancing gender equality.

Since the independence in 2011, the Government of South Sudan has already ratified the United Nations Convention on the Right of Child and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), on September 3, 2014. The ratification of CEDAW by the South Sudan Government has paved the way to initiate programs that protect women’s rights. According to the Miraya Radio interview with Central Equatoria’s Minister of Gender, the ratification of CEDAW has long been anticipated by South Sudanese women who have been tirelessly campaigning for this convention. The Minister added that there is a need to translate the convention into local language because every woman in South Sudan has been sensitized to the convention details, even at the grassroots level. The ratification of CEDAW is a positive measure of political will towards ending gender inequality and early discrimination against women and girls. However, limited knowledge of CEDAW across the county remains a challenge. It is the role of civil society and women organizations to advocate the importance of CEDAW and raise awareness.12

In an effort to mainstream gender into all levels of government, the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare established Gender Focal Points or coordination departments in all government ministries and institutions. The main responsibility of the Gender Focal Points is to create awareness on gender issues and address the tendency to equate gender with women, and the common understanding that the Ministry is a women’s ministry. These departments also act as linkages between the Ministry and other government institutions. However, most of the Gender Focal Points are ineffective due to several factors. One of them is that they are not adequately funded. A 2011 report by the Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO), examining gender-based violence and women’s rights violations in Central Equatoria, found that gender initiatives are not prioritized in budget allocations, because they are viewed as the domain of international NGOs.13 Moreover, some of the Gender Focal Points are managed by personnel who might have limited knowledge and unclear understanding of gender issues.

II. Data presentation and analysis

The data for this report on the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR) in South Sudan was collected at the national, state and county level, and analyzed using the guiding questions provided by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP). Data for this report was collected and compiled by a National Consultant, under the supervision and review of EVE Organization. The National Consultant relied mainly on secondary data from different institutions and desk review. Interviews were conducted with different CSOs working on women, peace and security issues within Juba, Wau, Eastern Equatoria and Lanya County, and with women from these states.

A. Participation

Indicator 1 - Index of women’s participation in governance

Recognizing the contributions made by women to the liberation movement and society at large, and to redress historical injustices, the signatories to the CPA allocated a 25 percent women’s representation at all levels of government. A senior government official, interviewed by the researchers said that “many of our people feel that in order for a society as a whole to develop fast, it is necessary to afford women greater opportunities for catching up with men.” These opportunities start with education. Girls’ education is to be expedited and women’s employment to be enhanced through affirmative action. The affirmative action for women, if used effectively, can increase women’s leverage within the Parliament and the Executive. For instance, getting more women into Parliament is only one part of the tasks of representation. However, ensuring that female Members of Parliament (MPs) have concrete impact on political decision-making is equally important.14 Women are often relegated to political positions and institutions that reflect their stereotypical domestic roles of caring and nurturing. For instance, since the signing of the CPA in 2005, not a single woman was appointed to lead key ministries such as the Interior, Finance, or Defense. Often, women are relegated to service-oriented ministries and institutions. Therefore, it can be argued that the 25 percent quota for women’s representation, though beneficial to a limited extent, only created a false impression that gender inequality and women’s concerns and interests have been dealt with aptly, whereas in reality a lot remains to be done.15

Table 1.1: Women’s Participation in Governance in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male %</th>
<th>Female %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of the President (President)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the President (Vice President)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidential advisors</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Legislative Assembly</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council of States</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairpersons of Specialized Committees (NLA)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Ministers</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy National Ministers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Governors</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairpersons of Independent Commissions and Institutions (ICI)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Chairpersons of ICI</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Back of South Sudan</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassadors</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Government of South Sudan

Table 1.1 shows that the 25 percent minimum representation has been inconsistently observed in various positions, and no change had occurred in the number of women holding government positions, compared to the data collected in 2013. It is not yet known when the next government change, or elections, might take place. However, it is anticipated that if, as a result of the currently ongoing conflict, South Sudan forms a new government, the number of women might increase compared to the current data, based on the evidence that South Sudan is witnessing progress in recognition of advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women, such as the ratification of the CEDAW in September 2014.

As it can be seen from the table, only four areas of governance have attained the 25 percent female participation threshold. These are the National Legislative Assembly (29 percent), Chairpersons of Specialized Committees (28 percent), Deputy National Ministers (40 percent), and Deputy Chairpersons of Institutions and Commissions (25 percent). The future of women’s political participation shows some promise, however, progress will only be achieved once the 25 percent representation of women is observed at all levels respectively.

Table 1.2: Number and percentage of women in States Assemblies before the July 9, 2011 independence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>No. of Female MPS</th>
<th>No. of Male MPS</th>
<th>Total No. of MPS</th>
<th>% of Female MPS</th>
<th>% of Male MPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Equatoria</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Equatoria</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Equatoria</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonglei</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unity</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Nile</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakes</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Bahr El Ghazal</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Bahr El Ghazal</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrap</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Research and Library - SSLA

The current data representing the State Assemblies has not changed since April 2010 and it is anticipated that new members will be elected during the next election. However, due to the current conflict, the fate of the current assemblies remains vague. In the current state, only 4 out of the 10 states achieved the minimum required participation of 25 percent of women.

RATING: No change

Indicator 2 - Percentage of women in peace negotiating teams and detailed breakdown of gender issues addressed in peace agreements

South Sudan Peace Negotiations in Addis Ababa

When conflict erupted in South Sudan in December 2013, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a regional body uniting the Eastern African Heads of State and Government, immediately called for its 23rd Extraordinary Summit, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya on December 27, 2013. The purpose of the Summit was to discuss the situation, and as a result, three envoys were appointed to head the South Sudan peace process. All the three appointed envoys are men. The Special Envoys are assisted by a team of political and technical advisors that are based in the IGAD Secretariat in Addis Ababa. The Secretariat is composed of 24 staff members, 8 of which are women.

In the first phase of the negotiations of the South Sudan peace talks in Addis Ababa, which led to the signing of the cessation of
hostilities agreement; three women from SPLM-IO were, for the first time in such discussions, part of the delegations. In the first phase of the negotiations, the SPLM-IO’s 10-person negotiating team included three women, whereas, the delegation of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) to the peace process consisted entirely of men, who are mostly government officials; ministers, generals and parliamentarians. However, in the second phase, the government added three women to its negotiating team, as reflected in table 2.1 below. This change has been to a large extent a result of a sustained advocacy of the civil society in South Sudan.

Women activists, organizations and groups, such as the South Sudan Women Leaders for Peace, held several consultative meetings in Juba, Nairobi and Kampala to consolidate women’s voices and influence the peace talks. In one of the consultations with IGAD, the women demanded an immediate inclusion of at least 25 percent of South Sudanese women in the peace process. They also demanded the creation of a women’s bloc, as well as adequate representation of other stakeholders, such as political parties, the SPLM leaders, former detainees, CSOs and faith-based organizations in the negotiations. The table below shows the percentage of women’s participation in the South Sudan peace process.

### Table 2.1: Number and percentage of women in peace negotiating teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders to the South Sudan Peace Process</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% of women in the peace negotiation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Delegation</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPLM/A in Opposition</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Political Parties</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPLM Leaders - Former Detainees</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith Based Group</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Society Organizations</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Bloc (observers)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>69</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Based on the analysis of EVE Organization representatives in the peace process.

While a final peace agreement is yet to be reached, the South Sudanese women present at the negotiation table have been vocal in raising issues concerning the impact of conflict on women, especially issues around transitional justice, reconciliation and healing, reparation for war survivors, and transitional security arrangements. They are also lobbying for 40 percent women’s representation in all institutions of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGONU), including in ministerial positions. Women have also called for an adequate representation in the monitoring of the implementation of the peace agreement. Women’s groups and coalitions such as the South Sudan Women Platform for Peace (SSWPP) have been actively lobbying within the country, as well as in Addis Ababa, to ensure that women’s positions and interests are guaranteed in the peace agreement and in its implementation.

This is the first time that South Sudanese women have been able to participate in peace negotiations, and it reflects the impact of women’s advocacy for participation in peace processes. The women of South Sudan have played a key role in the country’s liberation struggle, and will continue to raise their voices loud and clear as the world’s youngest nation seeks to restore peace and stability amid the recent conflict.

### The Peace and Security Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region

On February 24, 2013, recognizing the recurring cycles of conflict and violence that permeate the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, together with ten other African countries, signed a Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the region. This agreement represents an avenue of hope for the people of the region to build stability by addressing the root causes of the conflict and fostering trust between neighbors. The Framework outlines national, regional and international actions that aim to end violence; it also calls for the establishment of a regional oversight mechanism involving the eleven countries and the leaders of four international organizations. Signatories agreed to jointly develop a plan of implementation for the Framework, which includes the establishment of benchmarks and follow-up measures to deliver on commitments made under the Framework. The DRC also agreed to put in place a national mechanism to oversee the implementation of its national commitments.

South Sudan, despite being a signatory to the Peace and Security Cooperation Framework, has not put efforts into making this cooperation framework known to the public. Therefore, only very few people within the country know about the existence of this Cooperation Framework. Most women in South Sudan have not heard about the Framework, and thus it has had no impact on women’s rights, or their participation in the peace processes.

**RATING: Moderate Progress**

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**Indicator 3 - Index of women’s participation in the justice, security sector, and peacekeeping mission**

**Women in the Judiciary**

The constitution of South Sudan mandates the establishment of the Judiciary of South Sudan (JOSS) as an independent decentralized institution. JOSS is independent from the Executive and the Legislature, with its budget charged to a consolidated fund, thereby having the necessary financial independence. The president of the Supreme Court of South Sudan, as the head of the Judiciary of Southern Sudan, is answerable to the President for the administration of the Judiciary. The Judiciary of South Sudan consist of: the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, High Courts, County Courts, Other courts or Tribunals as deemed necessary to be established, and New Sudan Judicial System - Court Hierarchy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Table 3.1: Number and percentage of women in the judiciary</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President of Supreme Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy President of Supreme Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courts of Appeal (Justices)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Court Judges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Grade County Courts Judges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Grade County Court Judges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Assistant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Gurtong Organization

The Transitional Constitution of South Sudan, Article 123(6), provides for considerable representation of women in the Judiciary, taking into consideration their competence, integrity, credibility and impartiality. Table 3.1 reveals that article 123(6) of the Transitional Constitution has not been realized, and the dominance of men is evident. However, according to an interview with the UNSCR 1325 focal point person at the South Sudan Law Society, some women lawyers who are qualified are not willing to apply to become a judge at the County level because of very low salaries at this level. Most of them prefer to work at the national level, even though it requires more experience and expertise. Another factor contributing to women’s low representation is that the majority of female lawyers in South Sudan received their legal education in Sudan, a country, which embraces a civil law system and Sharia law, offered in the Arabic language. The official language used in South Sudan is English, according to Section 6(2) Transitional Constitution. This constitutes a huge barrier and deterrent to women’s representation and participation in the Judiciary. Lastly, the legal profession has been traditionally dominated by men; therefore, it is not a surprise that the key institutions of the rule of law – the Judiciary and the Ministry of Justice – are dominated by men, creating an environment that is uncomfortable for women and creates an eminent fear of domination.

In general, there has been no change to the participation of women in the Judiciary in the past years, due to the lack of new appointments. However, the 38 percent representation of women in recent appointments of the legal assistants for the Judiciary presents some hope that the understanding of the impact of the law on women and girls will improve.

**Women in military**

Due to the political crisis and armed conflict in South Sudan since December 2013, the monitoring team could not get access to the exact number of women in the military.

**Women in Police**

The South Sudan Police Force is made up of former rebels who fought the Sudanese regime. Although there has been some controversy surrounding the exact number of police officers, it has been confirmed that there are 25,778 police force members. According to the North-South Institute, unconfirmed official estimates say that around 25 percent of the police force is female. However, their roles are often limited to administrative tasks, sewing and making tea. The report also stated that female police officers experienced the same literacy, education and training challenges as their male counterparts, while also facing gender discrimination. Because women are often relegated to administrative roles, their contribution to improving the police service is often overlooked.

In May 2014, the South Sudan National Police established a new Directorate of Gender Affairs at Police headquarters to promote gender issues. The directorate’s mission is to combat and investigates crime, with particular attention to vulnerable groups, especially women and children, and to create and maintain a safe, stable and peaceful environment. The establishment of the Directorate is an important step forward, yet the effects of its work are yet to be seen.

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**Women’s participation in peacekeeping missions**

In adopting resolution 1996 (2011) on July 8, 2011, the Security Council determined that the situation faced by South Sudan continued to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region, and established the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), to consolidate peace and security and to help establish conditions for development.26

At the moment, South Sudan is not contributing troops to any peacekeeping missions due to security instability. However, the country is a beneficiary of the UNMISS peacekeeping mission, as well as the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). UNISFA was established on June 27, 2011 to monitor the flashpoint border between north and south, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid, and authorize the use of force in protecting civilians and humanitarian workers in Abyei. The percentage of women military experts and troops in the missions, displayed in the table below, is low, which shows that UNMISS has not fully implemented the UNSCR 1325.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women in Peacekeeping Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)</th>
<th>Number of Women</th>
<th>Number of Men</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% of Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Experts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Police</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formed Police Units</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingent Troops</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>10,025</td>
<td>10,363</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>447</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,958</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,405</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.9%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women in Peacekeeping Mission in Sudan (UNISFA)</th>
<th>Number of Women</th>
<th>Number of Men</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% of Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Experts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Police</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingent Troops</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>3,676</td>
<td>3,954</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>287</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,820</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,107</strong></td>
<td><strong>7%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.2: Women’s participation in peacekeeping missions as of August 2014

Source: United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)27

**RATING: Slight progress**

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**Indicator 4 - Number and percentage of women participating in each type of constitutional or legislative review (including security sector review)**

| Table 4.1: Number and percentage of women and men in Constitutional Review Commission |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------|
| **Constitutional review**       | **Number of women** | **Number of men** | **Total** | **Percentage of women** |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| **Constitutional review**       | **15**          | **39**          | **54** | **28%** |

Source: Interview with a member of the South Sudan Constitution Review Commission

President Salva Kiir launched the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) on January 24, 2012. The Commission is an independent body mandated to draft South Sudan’s Permanent Constitution within one year. The Commission originally included 9 full-time members, and 36 part-time members. Three of the permanent members, and seven of the part-time members were women, giving them 22 percent of the total representation in the Commission.28 Noting that the women’s representation in the NCRC falls short of the 25 percent guaranteed by the Constitution, women’s CSOs jointly called on the President to ensure that at least four women participate in the NCRC in order to include the voices of the women in the process.29

The numbers of Commission were later changed to include five more women and four more men, as reflected in Table 4.1. One of the women chairs the Civic Education committee within the Commission. According to an interview with one of the members of the Commission, women included in the Commission are well qualified to ensure that women’s interests are reflected in the Constitution.30

During an interview with Voice of America on May 23, 2014, the NCRC chairperson said that the NCRC was supposed to prepare a draft of a permanent constitution by January 2013, but missed that deadline because of lack of funding and the fighting that erupted in the country. The Parliament has since granted the commission an extension until the end of 2014.31 However, due to the ongoing conflict, not much progress has been achieved in the constitution review process. It is also important to note that the issue of a transitional constitution is an integral part of the ongoing peace process; therefore changes are expected to the review process including the composition and membership of the NCRC.

**RATING: No change**

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30 Interview conducted with Rosa Weet, member in the constitution review commision July 8, 2013.
**Indicator 5 - CSOs in task force/committees on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 (out of total task force members)**

South Sudan organized the first national conference on the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (NAP) in 2013 to identify the priority issues that the NAP should address. CSOs and government representatives from both national and state level in South Sudan participated in the conference.

Two committees have been formed to facilitate the national action planning: the Steering Committee, composed of representatives from related Government Institutions, CSOs, the Donor Community, UN agencies and Embassies, and the Technical Working Group, which consists of representatives from the government, civil society and the UN.

According to information from the Ministry of Gender, the NAP is expected to be launched before the end of 2014.

Table 5.1: Number and percentage of CSOs in task force/committees on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 (out of total task force members)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Number of CSOs</th>
<th>Total number of task force members</th>
<th>Percentage of CSOs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAP 1325 Steering Committee</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Working Group</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>37</strong></td>
<td><strong>8%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNSCR 1325 In-Country Monitoring Report, The Republic of South Sudan, 2013

On February 6, 2013, EVE Organization, in partnership with GNWP, facilitated a CSO strategy session on the NAP process. One of the outcomes of the strategy session was an official letter from the South Sudanese CSOs, requesting their greater representation in the NAP Steering Committee and the Technical Working Group. The main argument for the increase in CSO participation is that it ensures broad ownership of the NAP process, and can lead to more effective implementation of UNSCR 1325. Many of the CSOs work directly with the local communities affected by violent conflict, and are therefore in the best position to reach the population. The steering committee responded to statements of CSOs, by adding one additional seat for CSOs on the Steering Committee and one in the Technical Working Group, which results in an overall three CSO representation in the NAP process.

EVE Organization, Voice for Change and Skills for South Sudan, who are the three CSO representatives in the NAP committee, are all organizations working towards women, peace and security.

**RATING: No Change**

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**B. Prevention and protection**

**Indicator 6 - Number and percentage of SGBV cases reported, investigated, prosecuted and penalized**

The term gender-based violence refers to violence that targets individuals or groups on the basis of their gender. The United Nations’ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) defines it as “violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately” in its General Recommendation 19. Sexual violence is a form of gender-based violence. Although SGBV does not have a specific definition in the national laws of South Sudan, Chapter XVIII, Article 247 of the 2008 Penal Act of the Republic of South Sudan states that whoever has sexual intercourse or carnal intercourse with another person without that person’s consent commits the offence of rape, and upon conviction shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen years, and may also be liable to a fine.

Sexual and gender-based violence is not a new phenomenon in South Sudan, and the current crisis and the near-absence of protection for civilians has exacerbated it. According to an UNMISS report released on May 8, 2014, “conflict has exacerbated the vulnerability of women and children in South Sudan to sexual violence. (...) All parties to the conflict have committed acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence against women of different ethnic groups.”

The report further states that many victims do not report SGBV committed against them because of their fear of a social stigma. According to CARE International, 75 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) were reported in a “protection area” in just one week.

Violence against women is not only socially acceptable, women are also being told that rape is their punishment for supporting one side of the conflict over the other. Sexual and gender-based violence is thus used as a psychological tool of the conflict. The current militarized environment, where armed men are ubiquitous and civilian law enforcement is virtually absent, places women and girls at a heightened risk of sexual violence.

The exact numbers of the sexual violence remain unknown. While in its Human Rights Report, UNMISS recorded 84 SGBV cases across four states (see table below), CARE International recorded 75 cases in only one week, in one area. Furthermore, CARE International estimates that 57 percent of women who experienced SGBV do not report it, or share it with others.

While the exact figures are not reliable, due to the

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under-reporting, and difficulties with data collection, related to the deteriorating security situation, it is clear that violence against women and girls is an endemic problem in South Sudan.

Services for survivors of SGBV are severely lacking, women and girls have few ways to report violence, and even fewer options for care. This stems from the lack of empowerment and economic independence of women, and is deeply embedded in cultural and customary practices. Other forms of violence against women include force marriage, dowry-related violence, marital rape, sexual harassment, intimidation at work and in educational institution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, forced sterilization, trafficking, girl compensation and forced prostitution. What happens to women and young girls that fall victim to the violence in the country is dehumanizing. Since the situation of the women in South Sudan is largely influenced by traditional norms, it is imperative that the government set up a committee to gather information and collect data in all ten states of South Sudan.

Table 6.1: Conflict Related Sexual Violence cases reported in 2014 (UNMISS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Reported cases of Rape and Sexual Violence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Equatoria</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonglie</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Nile</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unity State</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Conflict in South Sudan, A Human Rights Report

The table above provides data on SGBV since the onset of the crisis in December 2013. The number of SGBV cases reported in this table is underestimated and does not reflect the magnitude of the problem, as reported in various media. This could be attributed to the fact that stigma still prevents women from reporting, since they are not hopeful that their cases will be properly handled. The monitoring team could not get information pertaining number of cases investigated, prosecuted and penalized with regards to the above figures.

RATING: Deterioration

Indicator 7 - Number and quality of gender-responsive laws and policies

Despite the fact that it is a young nation, South Sudan has already adopted a number of gender-responsive laws and policies that protect and promote women’s rights and gender equality. Many of these are the results of strong and sustained advocacy by women’s organizations. However, it has to be noted that South Sudan is at its early developmental stage in terms of laws and policy implementation. As the new state develops its justice sector, drafts new laws, and establishes a functional legal system, it faces the challenging task of reconciling customary law with the guarantees of human rights that are enshrined in the Constitution. Furthermore, the current armed conflict presents a further challenge to the implementation of the below laws and policies, and the ongoing peace process might lead to the change in their content and implementation mechanisms.

Below are some of the gender-responsive legal provisions:

- The Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (TCRSS)

The TCRSS set out to rectify historical injustices that have affected women. To do so, it included an Affirmative Action Clause designed to increase the number of women in key positions throughout institutions of governance.

Part II of the TCRSS (The Bill of Rights), Section 16 (1-5) provides for several rights for women, one of which is “the right to participate equally with men in public life.” Section 16(4) mandates that all government institutions must promote the following: “women participation in public life and their representation in the legislative and executive organs by at least 25 percent as an Affirmative Action to redress imbalances created by history, customs, and traditions.” Other rights include “equal pay for equal work,” provision for “maternity and childcare, medical care for pregnant women,” and the “right for women to own property and share in the estates of deceased husbands.”

Part IX, Chapter II, Section 142(3) provides that the National Government ensures that 25 percent of the seats on Independent Institutions and Commissions shall be allocated to women.

Part VI, Ch. III, Sec. 108(3) deals with the National Council of Ministers and requires the President to ensure that at least “twenty-five percent of members of the Council of Ministers are women.”

- The Local Government Act (2009)

Section 110 on the Rights of Women states that women shall be accorded full and equal dignity of person with men and that they shall have the right to equal pay for equal work and other related benefits with men. It further states that women shall have the right to participate equally with men in public life and that all Local Government Councils shall: promote women’s participation in public life and enforce their representation in the Legislative and Executive organs at the level of at least twenty-five percent, as an affirmative action measure to redress imbalances created by history, customs and traditions; enact legislations to combat harmful customs and traditions which undermine the dignity and status of women; and provide maternity, child and medical care for pregnant and lactating women. Women shall have the right to own property and share in the estate of their deceased husbands together with any surviving legal heirs of the deceased.

The Child Act (2008)
Section 26 on the Rights of the Female Child provides that (1) every female child has a right to be protected from sexual abuse and exploitation and gender-based violence, including rape, incest, early and forced marriage, female circumcision and female genital mutilation. (2) Every female child has the following rights: (a) the right of equal participation on a nondiscriminatory basis as partners with a male child in social, economic and political activities; (b) equal rights to succession and inheritance to property and reasonable provision out of the estate of a deceased parent without discrimination; and (c) the right to develop their full potential and skills through equal access to education and training. (3) No female child shall be expelled from school due to pregnancy or motherhood or hindered from continuing her education after one year of lactation.

The Land Act (2009)
Section 1.4 on Gender states that women shall have the right to own and inherit land together with any heirs of the deceased.

Section 48 on the Treatment of Female Prisoners states that female prisoners shall be kept in a separate section, equipped with the necessary requirements for their care and treatment. With regard to pregnant female prisoners, where possible, necessary precaution shall be taken for them to deliver their babies in Civil Hospitals, and if a child is born in the prison, no mention of that fact shall be made in the Registries.

One of the biggest challenges is the implementation of these provisions. Although the Land Act, as well as the Local Government Act and the TCRSS, for example, give women the right to own property left by their husbands, a significant number of widows are not able to inherit their deceased husband’s land because land issues are still regulated by customary practices that deprive widows from their right to own property.37 As concerns the provisions protecting the female child, it is important to note that despite the law, women and girls are still subjected to degrading practices, such as forced and early marriage, wife-inheritance, and that girls are sometimes used to pay debts.38 This is due to the deeply rooted, harmful traditions and practices, which are one of the dominant obstacles to the implementation of the above laws.

Institutional Mechanisms for Advancement of Women
In addition to the above laws, South Sudan has put in place a number of measures and mechanisms to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women at both national and sub-national level.

The National Gender Machinery is a set of coordinated structures, engaged in the promotion of gender equality. It’s an important system that oversees the promotion of diverse interests of women and men in the spheres of national, political, social, economic and cultural life. Its main function is to monitor and ensure that gender equality principles are mainstreamed into all legislations, policies and programs and projects. These mechanisms includes the following:

1. National Gender Policy and Strategic Plan
The policy commits to ensure that gender equality is an integral part of all policies, programs and activities of all government institutions and agencies, the private sector and civil society at all level of government.

South Sudan is in the process of finalizing the UNSCR 1325 NAP, which is due to be launched before the end of 2014. This is an important positive development. The implementation of the NAP will ensure women’s participation at all levels of decision-making and addressed their gender-specific security needs in South Sudan. Translating the NAP into practice will represent an important and ambitious task that could potentially have a strong impact in terms of addressing and reducing SGBV, and improving gender-inclusive human security in South Sudan.

RATING: Slight progress

Indicator 8 - Number and nature of provisions/recommendations in the truth and reconciliation commission (TRC) and other transitional justice reports on women’s rights
The Government of South Sudan has established the following transitional justice mechanisms:

South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission (SSPCR)
The government of South Sudan established the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission (SSPCR) on April 22, 2013, with the mandate of overseeing efforts to reconcile the various communities in the country and to identify root causes of conflict and address them. South Sudan’s government has initiated the reconciliation process in the last few months prior to its establishment in order to reconcile the divided communities by decades of war, fearing that the lingering inter-communal violent conflicts would continue to hamper development and harmony in the country, unless their root causes were also addressed.39 The strategic and operational objectives for the Peace and Reconciliation commission 2013 - 2015 include specific operational objectives on the enhancement of gender-sensitive execution of peacebuilding and conflict transformation actions, as well as the promotion of gender equality through ensuring broad participation.40

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40 South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission Strategic plan 2013-2015.
**National Reconciliation Committee for Healing, Peace and Reconciliation (NRCHPR)**

The National Reconciliation Committee for Healing, Peace and Reconciliation was appointed in April 2013 and tasked with developing objectives for national peace and reconciliation, and determining short-term and medium-term activities. The Committee includes religious leaders, youth and CSO representatives. Since its inception, this committee had conducted a national training, including participants from different institutions and CSOs from the 10 states of South Sudan. However, the positive effect of the Committee was short-lived, as the country slid back into conflict in December 2013.

**National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation (NPPr)**

The NPPr was lunch on April 5, 2014 with the mission statement committing it to “working collaboratively to create an inclusive platform to address historical and present grievances among South Sudanese.” This platform is expected to work in such a way so as “to construct a national dialogue for peace and reconciliation.” The committee includes the Peace and Reconciliation Commission, the Specialized Committee on Peace and Reconciliation in the National Legislative Assembly, and the Committee for National Healing, Peace and Reconciliation. The platform will encourage citizens to speak openly about human rights abuses and grievances.

The National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation, which is comprised of several bodies, including the SSPCR and the NRCHPR, envisions a society that collectively confronts individual, communal, and state abuses and human rights violations; clarifies and reconciles its divisive history to ensure that stories of all ethnic communities are represented; upholds the integrity and rights of all individuals including women, children and youth; and reconciles South Sudanese in the diaspora with South Sudanese at home; and builds a new public culture characterized by inclusive governance, transparency, accountability, rule of law, and dialogue. The vision is inspired by ongoing consultations for a modern, strong, politically stable, socially inclusive and united South Sudan, where citizens are proud of and uphold their national values for the common good.

Although all of the above committees and the Platform for Peace and Reconciliation have been formed with the objectives of uniting and reconciling the people of South Sudan, their role with regards to the specific issues pertaining to women’s right such as rape, force marriages etc., is not clear. Despite the fact that cases of women’s rights violations are reported regularly, there are no major provisions and recommendations regarding women’s rights, in particular with regards to SGBV, included in the peace and reconciliation process in South Sudan.

**RATING: No change**

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**Indicator 9 - Percentage of women (versus men) who receive economic packages in conflict resolution and reconstruction processes**

The Pilot Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Program started its first phase in 2012, with close to 300 ex-combatants from four surrounding states of South Sudan. The ex-combatants were trained for more than three months in animal husbandry, carpentry, electrical science, farming and gardening, plumbing, masonry, motor mechanics and welding. The training was designed to ease their transition to civilian life and help them engage in sustainable livelihoods.

In September 2013, 290 ex-combatants out of 300 graduated from the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Training Center in Mapel, including 18 women, which constituted 6 percent of all graduates. All the ex-combatants, including women, received economic packages according to the types of vocational training they had received. The packages were not distributed based on gender, but rather the technical skills on which they were trained.

Women in the DDR program are entitled to the same benefits and provisions as the men; however, in some cases, special provisions were made for women going through the DDR process, especially if they had to stay overnight at a DDR site. In these cases, separate accommodations were provided for them. Otherwise, all stages were the same as for men. The ex-combatants who took part in the pilot program were identified by the SPLA and the demobilization was conducted by the DDR commission, in collaboration with partners responsible for the reintegration, in accordance with South Sudan’s DDR policy document.

While only an insignificant percentage of women were included in the DDR process, criteria for the selection of the ex-combatants could not be established and therefore it is very difficult to get any understanding of why women were underrepresented in the DDR process.

**RATING: Slight progress**

**C. Promotion of a gender perspective**

**Indicator 10 - Number and percentage of pre-deployment training and post-deployment programs for military and police incorporating UNSCR 1325, UNSCR 1820, international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law**

In April 2013, 22 officers of the South Sudan Police Service (SSPS) graduated from a training by the United Nations Police (UNPOL) on how to deal with GBV-related issues. This is in line with the new UNMISS mandate that focuses on the protection of civilians.

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under threat of physical violence, with specific protection for women and children. The protection of the people who can’t protect themselves is the main core of the mandate. Training the South Sudan National Police on issues regarding human rights is one of the essential steps towards guaranteeing effective protection of the vulnerable groups, including women.

In 2011, UNFPA sponsored a training of 500 police officers in assisting survivors of gender-based violence. Forty percent of the training’s participants were women. In this training, the police officers were introduced to the various types of gender-based violence, the societal factors causing it, and its consequences for survivors. The officers were also taught how to handle distressed women and children who seek help at their stations, as well as how to deal with cases related to harmful traditional practices, such as early marriage.44 These trainings mostly focused on SGBV, and it is not clear whether they included UNSCR 1325 and other related resolutions.

It is important to note that most of the trainings conducted for the reform of police and army took place from 2011 to 2013, and there has been only limited training conducted in 2014.

Rating: No Change

Indicator 11 - Allocated and disbursed funding marked for women, peace and security (WPS) programs to CSOs and government

The South Sudanese government has no budget allocated to support CSO programs and projects on women, peace and security. Funding for CSO initiatives on WPS comes from UN entities, such as UN Women, UNFPA and UNMISS, as well as international NGOs and donors. CSOs with head offices in Juba have greater access to information and funding opportunities than community-based organizations. CSOs at the grassroots level are not able to properly implement projects, because they cannot access information about project funding and training opportunities, available at the national level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSO</th>
<th>Donor country/ entity</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Amount received for WPS (USD)</th>
<th>Percentage of total CSO budget dedicated to WPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EVE Organization</td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>Capacity building, awareness-raising, NAP process, Barometer for women, peace and security, women’s participation in peace process</td>
<td>$225,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Development Group</td>
<td>Cordaid</td>
<td>Implementing women’s leadership in peace and security</td>
<td>$26,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Equatoria Coalition of Women</td>
<td>Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA)</td>
<td>Women’s participation in peace and security, enhancement of women’s access to justice and peace and security</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soweto Community Based Organization</td>
<td>UNMISS (human rights &amp; Gender unit)</td>
<td>Strengthen women, peace and security through profiling of 10 south Sudanese female political leaders; Gender-based awareness creation</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Empowerment for Progress Organization</td>
<td>Global Network of Women Peacebuilders</td>
<td>Localization of UNSCR 1325 in Central Equatoria (Yei)</td>
<td>$6,280.75</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVE Organization</td>
<td>Global Network of Women Peacebuilders</td>
<td>Monitoring of UNSCR 1325</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


45 Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. It is only based on those organizations that agreed to share data on funding for their WPS initiatives.
According to an interview with the focal point person for UNSCR 1325 in South Sudan Law Society, the lack of funding is a major constraint in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 for most CSOs. Despite this, there has been progress in terms of implementation, capacity building and networking on WPS issues especially at the state level.

**Rating: Moderate change**

### III. Conclusion and recommendations

#### Conclusion

South Sudan is currently facing more challenges as a result of the conflict that erupted in December 2013. However, women have not kept quiet and have been playing a prominent role in development and peacebuilding, as well as in conflict mitigation activities in the country since the beginning of the conflict. The political and economic status of women in South Sudan is changing. Despite the fact that the country is in conflict, the Ministry of Gender, the NAP Steering Committee and the Technical Working Group are continuously working to ensure that the NAP is finalized and launched before the end of 2014. The Government, CSOs, UN Agencies, donors and other international partners have put in more efforts to increase awareness and knowledge of UNSCR 1325 and 1820, and to promote women’s rights. However, these efforts have been jeopardized by the current conflict, especially in the greater Upper Nile region, where the rights of women continue to be violated, and more cases of sexual violence have been recorded. Many women and girls have been displaced and supporting them in a safe return home is yet another challenge. With the new mandate of UNMISS on Protection of Civilians under threat of physical violence, which includes specific protection for women and children, there is a hope for the women of South Sudan, but it still requires coordinated efforts of all the stakeholders, including international partners.

#### Recommendations

**To the Government:**

- Ensure a high-level commitment and political will to improve the lives of women and mainstream gender into all governmental institutions.
- Promote women’s participation at all levels and introduce and implement quota of at least 30 percent of women at all levels of government.
- Ensure equitable participation of women in peace process, healing and reconciliation committees.
- Ensure that the Ministry of Gender organizes, in partnership with CSOs, especially women’s organizations, a campaign that raises awareness and knowledge on women and peace and security issues.
- Empower gender focal points in all ministries and institution to support gender mainstreaming and raise awareness of gender issues.
- Develop a proper monitoring and reporting system for SGBV, in collaboration with all partners working on SGBV.
- Establish training programs for police, national security services and the army, prosecutors and the judiciary, to assist them to deal with SGBV and protect women’s rights.
- Allocate funds to CSOs to work on WPS issues, including training in leadership and other relevant skills, and elimination of socio-economic, political, and cultural barriers to women’s participation at the household, community, and state levels.
- Require all government agencies, international organizations, and private sector to support women’s education and training, including through advance studies and internships.
- Ensure the independence of the justice system.
- Encourage women lawyers to practice at the county level, and give the opportunity to women lawyers with Arabic background for further training in English, to strengthen legal procedures in English.
To the UN:
» Ensure protection of civilians, especially women and children in the Protection of Civilian sites, war-affected areas and the whole country.
» Ensure availability of reports on violations of women rights by both UN troops and other violators, i.e. SPLA and SPLM/A-IO, to CSOs and the general public.
» Increase the percentage of women in uniform in UNMISS, to influence the South Sudan army and police and encourage them to implement UNSCR 1325 and 1820, and respect and protect women and girls’ rights.
» Ensure increased allocation of funds and transparency of the use of funds by UN entities for WPS projects.
» Ensure that UN entities support women CSOs to develop their institutional capacity in order for them to provide effective services to women.

To the donor community:
» Ensure the integration of UNSCR 1325 and gender mainstreaming as factors in the allocation of funds to government, CSOs and the UN.
» Provide financial support for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programs aimed at ending gender-based violence, promoting gender justice and empowering women in South Sudan.
» Provide financial support to research and policy advocacy on gender in South Sudan including the civil society monitoring of UNSCR 1325.
» Provide additional funds to the Ministry of Gender in support of WPS projects and programs.
» International universities and foundations should give special attention to South Sudanese women by providing special offers and scholarship to further their education.

To civil society:
» Work hand in hand with both government, UN agencies and International Organizations to ensure implementation of UNSCR 1325 in South Sudan.
» Engage donors to support the process of interlinking between CSOs, government and donor efforts in peace and state building.
» Advocate for the implementation of gender responsive laws and policies.
» Ensure that women representatives, regardless of education level or socio-economic status, be engaged in developing a strategic framework for achieving the 25 percent quota.
» Create networks for sharing information regarding funding and training opportunities.
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(Endnotes)

i Based on the exchange rate: 1 Euro = 1.2657, as of 14th Oct 2014
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