UNESCO COUNTRY STRATEGY
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

Building Peace in the minds of men and women

“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.”
- Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO
# Table of Contents

**Foreword** ................................................................................................................................. 2

**Section 1: Overview and Situation Analysis** .................................................................................. 3
  - Background .................................................................................................................................. 3
  - Rationale for Intervention: Situation Analysis, State Fragility and Peace Agreement .................. 3
    - Situation Analysis .................................................................................................................. 3
    - State Fragility Analysis ....................................................................................................... 5
  - Status of Peace Agreement ....................................................................................................... 5

**Section 2: UNESCO Cooperation Framework** ................................................................................ 6
  - UNESCO Theory of Change (TOC) and Outcomes for South Sudan ........................................ 6
  - UNESCO’s 3-year Strategic Vision for engagement in South Sudan ........................................... 7
  - Principles of Engagement ....................................................................................................... 7

**UNESCO Country Strategy for South Sudan 2019 – 2021 (At a glance)** ......................................... 9

**Section 3: Sector-specific Strategic Priorities and Interventions** .................................................. 10
  - Education: Promoting Right to Education through Education 2030 Framework ....................... 10
  - Culture in Conflict: Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage ................................................ 15
  - Communication and Information (CI): Freedom of Expression as an inalienable human right .... 19
  - Social and Human Sciences (SHS): Youth Empowerment - By Youth, With Youth, for Youth ...... 22
  - Natural Sciences: Science and Innovation to Empower Society ................................................. 24

**Section 4: Implementation, Risk and Monitoring & Evaluation** .................................................... 27
  - Implementation Arrangements .................................................................................................. 27
  - Risk Analysis ............................................................................................................................. 28
  - Monitoring and Evaluation ....................................................................................................... 29

**Annex 1: Overview of UNESCO’s Portfolio in South Sudan (as of 14 December 2018)** .................. 30

**Annex 2: South Sudan sites on Tentative World Heritage List** ..................................................... 31
Foreword

UNESCO established its office in South Sudan in 2012. UNESCO, as part of the UNCT, has been supporting the people of South Sudan, who have been affected by the prolonged-conflict and crisis, to live a life with peace and dignity.


At the heart of UNESCO’s mandate in South Sudan is supporting the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the guiding force on which UNESCO Country Strategy is built. UNESCO will support the people of South Sudan, in line with its comparative advantage, in the areas of Education, Culture, Communication and Information (CI), Social and Human Sciences (SHS), and the Natural Sciences, with the objective of building resilience, and promoting peace and sustainable development.

Our interventions in Education and CI / Freedom of Expression, nested within a humanitarian-development nexus, are aimed at sowing the seeds for long-term sustainable development in South Sudan. Culture provides a unique opportunity to innovatively improve livelihoods, and strengthen social cohesion, promote peace and intercultural dialogue. SHS’s emphasis on youth is an urgent cross-sector priority. Natural Sciences will follow a pilot approach in strengthening disaster risk-reduction and mitigation mechanisms.

Based on its mandate and comparative advantage, with a people-centric approach, UNESCO will strive to achieve three mutually reinforcing outcomes for its interventions in South Sudan, which are (1) Increasing resilience and building capacity of institutions for policy development and implementation, (2) Strengthening service delivery in areas of UNESCO’s comparative advantage, and (3) promoting human rights, and institutional accountability.

UNESCO will promote the humanitarian-peace-development nexus in all its work, and adopt the New Way of Working (NWOW), to ensure a long-term sustainable vision for its interventions in South Sudan. The “Leave no one behind” principle, which emphasizes the centrality of protection and advocates increased social, political and economic inclusion, and buy-in from all segments of society, will be applied across all areas of UNESCO’s activities in South Sudan. Given the prolonged-conflict and fragile situation, special emphasis will be placed on institutional strengthening and improving the lives of the vulnerable groups in society, especially women and youth.

UNESCO will continue to work closely with its partners, including the government, UN agencies, development partners, civil-society organizations, and the private sector, at national and local levels, to build resilience and promote peacebuilding, to secure peace, progress and prosperity for the people of South Sudan.

Sardar Umar Alam
Head of Office
and UNESCO Representative to South Sudan
Section 1: Overview and Situation Analysis

Background

The Republic of South Sudan emerged on 9 July 2011, as the world’s youngest country, amidst widespread optimism from both within and beyond its borders. The aspirations and prospects of the new nation soon hit major roadblocks when the country descended into a civil war in 2013. Ever since, as the peace process broke down, South Sudan has suffered acute economic decline, and widespread domestic conflicts and instability arising from ethnic tensions. This has resulted in an enormous humanitarian crisis, depriving the country of peace, progress and prosperity.

The United Nations system, and development partners are working closely, in partnership with the Government of South Sudan (GOSS), to provide humanitarian assistance, and lay the basis for sustainable peace and development. In this context, UNESCO, stands as a unique partner for South Sudan, given its mandate to build peace in the minds of men and women, which is fundamental to traverse South Sudan’s on-going humanitarian and development crisis. UNESCO’s mandate of promoting peace is applied strategically across all sectors, including through education, communication and information, culture and the sciences.

This UNESCO Country Strategy (UCS) document for a three-year period (2019-21), in line with the United Nations Cooperation Framework (UNCF) 2019-21 for the Republic of South Sudan, and the National Development Strategy (NDS) of South Sudan 2018-21, lays the framework to envision and implement UNESCO’s distinctive mandate, drawing on its comparative advantage and decades of regional and global expertise and experience, to protect and uplift the people of South Sudan.

Rationale for Intervention: Situation Analysis, State Fragility and Peace Agreement

Situation Analysis

South Sudan has a population of over 12.5 million people\(^1\). In 2015, 66% were living in poverty (based on US$1.90 2011 poverty line), with poverty incidence varying from 40 percent to as high as 81 percent in some states; in 2016, 82 percent of South Sudanese were living under the international poverty line (World Bank). The economy is facing serious challenges, with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US$2.9 billion, and GDP per capita of around USD 237, as per 2016 estimates. Real GDP is projected to further contract by 3.5 percent in FY 2018, following the contraction of about 6.9 percent in FY 2017\(^2\). Livelihoods are mostly concentrated in low productive, unpaid agriculture and pastoralists work. The livelihoods and food security of up to 90% of the population in South Sudan depend on farming, fishing or raising livestock (FAO). A thriving agriculture sector is therefore crucial for economic reform, long-term development and stability in the country\(^3\).

South Sudan’s Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2017 is 0.388, which puts the country in the low human development category – positioning it at 187 out of 189 countries and territories\(^4\). The country’s 2017 HDI of 0.388 is below the average of 0.537 for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Unemployment is rampant in South Sudan i.e. more than 50% of young people are underemployed, and only 12% of the workforce is in formal employment\(^5\). Inflation has soared, with the year-on-year annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) increasing by 88.5% between June 2017 and June 2018, making basic livelihoods a struggle for majority of the South Sudanese people. There is a significant lack of livelihoods opportunities given the current economic situation.

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\(^1\) As of 2017, based on World Development Indicators Database, The World Bank.


\(^4\) Briefing Note for South Sudan on UNDP’s Human Development Indices and Indicators for 2018 is accessible here: [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/SSD.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/SSD.pdf)

\(^5\) Source: African Economic Outlook (AEO) 2018: South Sudan Economic Outlook.
As for the government fiscal situation, oil accounted for more than 80% of government revenues, as per 2017 estimates and forecast for 2018. The economy is heavily reliant on oil, accounting for almost all of its exports, and around 60% of its GDP. As per the approved budget for 2018/19, budget allocation for Security and accountability/public administration & rule of law spending accounts for 80.5%, while allocation for Education and Health, accounts for 16.6% and 3.5% respectively. Diversification of industry and livelihoods options, and sustained investment from government, UN system and development partners is a necessity, for the provision of basic livelihoods in the short-term, and for paving the path towards sustainable development in the medium and longer-term.

Demographically, over 70% of the population is below the age of 29, which constitutes both an opportunity, and potential recipe for instability if South Sudan’s demographic dividend is not utilized productively in a timely manner. Developing human capital within the country is an urgent need to kick-start the economy and promote sustainable development; it is also essential to secure an opportunity to “leapfrog” in certain sectors, such as agriculture and telecommunications, to reap “quick-wins” and catalyse growth. Furthermore, South Sudan has immense diversity within the nation, with over 63 ethnic/language groupings. There is a significant lack of social cohesion and national unity among the various groupings, and the on-going civil war has further caused disintegration of the social fabric. Furthermore, South Sudan has one of the highest illiteracy rates in the world, with more than 70% of the population above 15 years of age being illiterate. Inadequate investment in education also demonstrates the lack of a concerted effort towards social integration and human resource development, which are essential to promote progress and prosperity.

The on-going conflict in South Sudan is the principle cause and driver behind its economic deterioration, and breakdown of social fabric. Reports estimate that over 400,000 people have lost their lives due to the conflict since 2013, and around half of the lives are estimated to be lost through violence, with death toll peaking in 2016 and 2017. It is estimated that over 60% of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2018. Based on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) findings for September 2018 – March 2019, it is expected that 59% of South Sudan’s population faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity between July – August 2018. Women and children are among the worst affected by the crisis, constituting a significant proportion of the displaced, and are subject to severe discrimination, poor access to services, sexual exploitation and Gender Based Violence (GBV).

As of early 2018, the conflict has resulted in over one quarter of all South Sudanese becoming internally displaced (1.9 million) or among the 2.4 million refugees in neighbouring countries. As of 15 March 2018, the total number of civilians seeking safety in six Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites located on UNMISS bases is 202,776, including in Bentiu, Malakal, Juba UN House, Bor, and in UNMISS base and area adjacent to UNMISS in Wau. Given the prolonged conflict, development has taken a backseat, and the country suffers from weak institutions, poor infrastructure, and unfavourable business environment. South Sudan ranks among the world’s most constrained business and investment climates, as per the World Bank’s 2018 Doing Business report. The scale and intensity of the conflict, nested within a highly volatile economic and political context, has made achieving sustainable peace, progress and prosperity a significant challenge.

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7 As per the South Sudan Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP), [http://grss-mof.org/](http://grss-mof.org/). Also, refer to World Bank South Sudan Economic Update (July 2018).
10 Findings from IPC Report for South Sudan (Sept 2018 – Mar 2019) can be accessed here: [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/South_Sudan_IPC-Analysis_Key_Messages_-_28_September_2018.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/South_Sudan_IPC-Analysis_Key_Messages_-_28_September_2018.pdf)
UNESCO’s unique mandate, with peace and sustainable development as the overarching goal, coupled with rich experience and expertise across various sectors, including education, culture, sciences and communication and information, provides an opportunity to support South Sudan in protecting its people, building resilience, and promoting inclusive development.

State Fragility Analysis
South Sudan is a founding member of the g7+ group of conflict affected and fragile countries\(^\text{13}\), and has piloted the implementation of the New Deal (International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding) to help identify and address the root causes of fragility and build a sustainable pathway towards resilience. Fragility is a key metric to understand South Sudan’s peace and development challenges; though various definitions of fragility\(^\text{14}\) exist, fragility broadly means that “a state is at risk of failure”\(^\text{15}\). South Sudan ranks as the most fragile country (amongst a ranking of 178 countries) in the 2018 Fragile States Index\(^\text{16}\).

South Sudan faces a crisis at various levels, including lack of institutional capacity and inability to provide basic services to its citizens. In addition to political and economic volatility, fragility can also result in an inability to provide reasonable public services, and the wide range of state failure risk elements such as extensive corruption and criminal behaviour, sharp economic decline, group-based inequality, institutionalized discrimination, and severe demographic pressures\(^\text{17}\).

UNESCO is well-positioned to support South Sudan in devising and undertaking “country-led” assessments and strategic planning in its areas of comparative advantage, to manage fragility, and advance peacebuilding and statebuilding, in line with the South Sudan National Development Strategy (NDS) 2018 – 21. UNESCO’s technical assistance to local institutions will foster an inclusive approach to realize South Sudan’s “One Vision, One Plan” strategy to transition out of fragility, through wider consultation with civil-society and relevant stakeholders drawing on UNESCO’s portfolio in South Sudan.

Status of Peace Agreement
On 12 September 2018, Salva Kiir, the President of South Sudan, Riek Machar Teny, the leader of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition and other rebel factions signed the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS). R-ARCSS is aimed at ending the hostilities that broke out in 2016 following the collapse of the 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. The new agreement includes a ceasefire and power sharing deal, and that the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity will govern the country for 36 months.

The R-ARCSS is a welcome agreement, but there remain reservations and scepticism among international partners and opposition groups, since a similar peace agreement signed in 2015 did not hold more than twelve months. There is a need to bridge the distrust towards the revitalized peace agreement among South Sudanese people, who believe that this high-level political process is far removed from lives dominated by anger, trauma, profound conflict fatigue and desperate living conditions\(^\text{18}\).

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\(^{13}\) The g7+ is a voluntary association of countries that are or have been affected by conflict, and are now in transition to the next stage of development. The group, currently comprised of 20 countries, was established to give a collective voice to conflict-affected states, and a platform for learning and support between member countries. More information available here: [http://g7plus.org/who-we-are/](http://g7plus.org/who-we-are/)

\(^{14}\) The World Bank defines a “Fragile Situation” as having either: a) a composite World Bank, African Development Bank and Asian Development Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) rating of 3.2 or less; or b) the presence of a UN and/or regional peace-keeping or peace-building mission, with the exclusion of border monitoring operations, during the past three years. South Sudan has a Harmonized average CPIA rating of 1.69, and has a UN Peacekeeping mission since 2011. See Harmonized List of Fragile Situations FY 19 here: [http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/892921532529834051/FCSList-FY19-Final.pdf](http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/892921532529834051/FCSList-FY19-Final.pdf)

\(^{15}\) Definition based on “Fragility in the data” report (April 2018), produced by the LSE - Oxford Commission on State Fragility, Growth and Development launched in March 2017.


\(^{18}\) Interim report of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan submitted pursuant to resolution 2428 (2018)
Section 2: UNESCO Cooperation Framework

UNESCO’s engagement in South Sudan addresses the fragile context implicit in devising and implementing concrete interventions, and tailors its approaches accordingly. Strengthening protection and building resilience to economic and social shocks, and furthering implementation of sustainable development within that backdrop, bringing in decades of multi-sectoral regional and global experience, captures the basis of UNESCO’s innovative and transformative agenda in South Sudan.

The United Nations Cooperation Framework (2019-21) for the Republic of South Sudan (UNCF), is the principle document on which UNESCO’s UCS is anchored. UNESCO engagement is embedded in the four priorities of the UNCF, which are:

1. Building peace and strengthening governance,
2. Improving food security and recovering local economies,
3. Strengthening social services,
4. Empowering women and youth.

As a specialized UN agency, UNESCO will draw on its unique global convening position, to support South Sudan to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and promote peacebuilding. UNESCO is the lead-agency for implementing the Education 2030 agenda. UNESCO has a specific mandate to protect and promote Freedom of Expression, Culture and the Sciences, and is globally recognized for its comparative advantage in niche fields such as Education in Emergencies and Culture in Conflict. Overall, UNESCO’s experience in fragile situations is firmly grounded in the on-going UN reforms, including the New Way of Working (NWOW).

UNESCO’s Country Strategy reflects the guiding principles of South Sudan’s National Development Strategy (2018-2021), whose stated mission is to “Silence the guns and improve the living conditions of South Sudanese”, with an overall objective of consolidating peace and stabilizing the economy. Guiding principles of the NDS are, (1) Peace, Security and Rule of Law, (2) Democracy and Good Governance, (3) Socio-economic Development, and (4) International Compacts and Partnerships.

UNESCO Theory of Change (TOC) and Outcomes for South Sudan

Within the overarching framework of the UNCF, this UNESCO Country Strategy (UCS) for 2019-2021 is built on a Theory of Change (TOC), that connects sector-specific project outputs, in areas of UNESCO’s comparative advantage, to three overarching outcomes, which are mutually reinforcing.

The three outcomes which mutually reinforce each other are as follows:

1. Improved resilience and capacity of institutions for policy development and implementation at all levels
2. Enhanced access and quality of service delivery
3. Strengthening human rights and institutional accountability towards the people, with a focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable communities

Within each area of UNESCO’s comparative advantage in South Sudan, sector and context-specific challenges will be identified, and UNESCO’s interventions, activities and solutions are designed to achieve the three overarching outcomes listed above.
UNESCO’s 3-year Strategic Vision for engagement in South Sudan

Based on the Theory of Change (TOC) and outcomes identified above, UNESCO’s strategic vision will aim to execute the following:

(1) Evidence-based interventions and concrete outputs in areas of UNESCO’s comparative advantage, in the field of Education, Sciences, Culture and Communication & Information

(2) Context-specific solutions delivered for South Sudan, coupled with innovative, knowledge-driven, and target-oriented efforts, to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

(3) Ensure application of the Principles of Engagement, including gender-sensitive and conflict-sensitive approach, in all of UNESCO’s interventions in South Sudan

Principles of Engagement

To create the groundwork for sustainable peace and development in South Sudan, UNESCO will execute its strategy in South Sudan, in partnership with the government, civil-society and the private-sector, guided by the following principles of engagement:

2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: The 5 guiding pillars of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which include People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership, will serve as the foundation for UNESCO’s engagement in South Sudan. SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 4 (Quality Education) have ranked among the top two SDG priorities for South Sudan, as per survey findings noted in the NDS 2018-2021, which is in line with UNESCO’s areas of competence and comparative advantage. UNESCO seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences, Culture and Communication and Information. The organization believes that Peace must be built upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of humanity, and is therefore, contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda through its work to help people live as global citizens free of hate and intolerance, which is the need of the hour for South Sudan.

Leave no one behind: With the overall objective of helping South Sudan achieve the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, UNESCO will ensure application of the “Leave No One Behind” principle in all its activities. “Leave No One Behind” emphasizes the centrality of protection and advocates increased social, political and economic inclusion, and buy-in from all segments of society. The principle is at the forefront of UNESCO’s engagement with South Sudan, which is characterized by an absence of national unity, and severed social contract between the state and the citizens it serves19. Given that a large proportion of conflict-affected groups in South Sudan include women, children and vulnerable communities, uplifting the most marginalized to ensure dignity and justice for all is essential.

New Way of Working (NWOW): The volatile economic and political situation in South Sudan necessitates massive humanitarian efforts, but it is essential to work consistently towards strengthening the linkages between development, humanitarian, peacebuilding and human-rights work. UNESCO’s overall strategic positioning in South Sudan will apply the New Way of Working (NWOW), which is an international commitment agreed at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit. The NWOW recognizes the need for galvanizing new partnerships and collaboration in support of achieving collective and measurable outcomes that reduce people’s needs, risk and vulnerability. Shrinking humanitarian needs over the long-term, and improving SDG outcomes through development and peacebuilding is emphasized through the NWOW.

19 UNCF 2019-2021
**Building Resilience**: As per the UNCF, Resilience in the South Sudanese context is defined as the capacity to absorb, adapt and transform in the face of economic, social, environmental and political shocks and stressors while taking account of different needs of people based on existing / structural inequalities and exclusion. UNESCO will continue to work with the UN Country Team (UNCT) to pursue this objective regardless of the prevailing political situation in the country or the outcomes of the peace process.

**Gender equality and women empowerment**: It is estimated that gender gap costs sub-Saharan Africa $US95 billion a year\(^20\). The UN System-Wide Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (SWAP) seeks to accelerate the efforts of the UN system to advance the agenda for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women through the practical implementation of the globally agreed commitments, and to ensure that a gender perspective is reflected in all organizational practices, policies and programmes\(^21\). Through identifying Gender Equality as a global priority, UNESCO believes that all forms of discrimination based on gender are violations of human rights, and both women and men must enjoy equal opportunities, choices, capabilities, power and knowledge as equal citizens. UNESCO’s programs in South Sudan will mainstream gender equality in its project activities and outcomes, and actively contribute to address women’s empowerment through advocacy and gender mainstreaming.

**Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE)**: Violent extremism is a serious threat facing South Sudan, and affects the security, well-being and dignity of individuals. Violent extremism refers to the beliefs and actions of people who support or use violence to achieve ideological, religious or political goals. In line with the UNSG’s PVE Plan of Action, UNESCO will adopt a practical approach, and work with national stakeholders to strengthen capacities for PVE, encourage dialogue and messaging for PVE through its activities, engage communities to combat violent extremism, and empower youth and facilitate socio-economic development to ensure PVE. UNESCO’s multidisciplinary approach is well suited to support South Sudan in PVE, which is a complex issue requiring context-specific interventions with sustained national-ownership.

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20 For further reference, see UNDP’s Africa Human Development Report 2016: Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Africa.
UNESCO Country Strategy for South Sudan 2019 – 2021 (At a glance)

Supporting South Sudan to achieve the SDGs is the main thrust of UNESCO’s Country Strategy for South Sudan. Sector-specific priorities and outputs, in line with UNESCO’s comparative advantage, lead to three overarching, mutually reinforcing Outcomes of UNESCO’s Interventions:

1. **Building peace and strengthening governance (SDG 16)**
   - Peace, Security and Rule of Law (SDG 16)

2. **Improving food security and recovering local economies (SDG 2, 8)**
   - Zero hunger (SDG 2), Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8)

3. **Strengthening social services (SDG 4, 3, 6)**
   - Quality education (SDG 4), Gender equality (SDG 5), and Universal health coverage (SDG 3)

4. **Empowering women and youth (SDG 5)**
   - Gender equality (SDG 5), Peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16), and Partnerships for the goals (SDG 17)

UNESCO’s Theory of Change Framework in South Sudan

### SDGs linkages between UNCF priorities and UNESCO’s activities (for all sectors)

- **Enhanced access and quality of service delivery**
- **Promoting human rights, and institutional accountability**
- **Mutually reinforcing Outcomes of UNESCO’s Interventions**

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### UN Cooperation Framework 2019-2021 Priority Areas & SDGs

- **UNESCO’s Strategic Priorities for Interventions**
  - 1) Significant gap in education across various sub-sectors of education. Over 70% of the population above the age of 15 years is illiterate
  - 2) Low demand and access to quality education, due to conflict, high poverty rates, poor health and sanitation status, and gender discrimination
  - 3) Lack of access to resources, inadequate infrastructure, need to put education to work through skills development, and undertake assessments for targeted interventions

- **Guiding Principles of National Development Strategy of South Sudan 2018 – 21**
Section 3: Sector-specific Strategic Priorities and Interventions

**Education: Promoting Right to Education through Education 2030 Framework**

Through the Incheon Declaration adopted at the World Education Forum in May 2015, UNESCO, as the United Nations’ specialized agency for education, was entrusted to lead the Education 2030 agenda with its partners. The Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” captures the ambitions of the Education 2030 framework. Education 2030 is founded on the principle of the *Right to Education*, and the Education 2030 Framework for Action provides guidance to governments and partners on how to turn commitments into action.

The education system in South Sudan is facing significant pressures due to multiple factors, including the conflict, lack of access to resources, inadequate infrastructure and high-teacher turnover. More than 70% of the population above the age of 15 years is illiterate. Further, high poverty rates, poor sanitation and health status significantly affect demand and access to education. UNESCO will continue to provide assistance to the government of South Sudan for implementing the Education 2030 Framework for Action, to ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education opportunities for the people of South Sudan.

UNESCO is emphasizing strengthening of Education Accelerators in South Sudan, which are establishing training and learning spaces for vulnerable children, improving retention and quality of teachers, and promoting Non-Formal Education (NFE) programs for out-of-school youth and adults. Peace-education is embedded in UNESCO’s interventions, through training, skills and information for learners, including former combatants, directed towards cultivating a culture of peace based on human rights principles. UNESCO will strengthen skills and networks for young people, such as school based peace-clubs, to promote peacebuilding.

According to the South Sudan Education Sector Analysis (2016), conducted by UNESCO in partnership with the Government of South Sudan, school coverage rates in South Sudan remain low nationally with Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) of 56.5% for primary (eight-year cycle) and 6.5% for secondary schooling (including secondary technical schools) in 2015. In the wake of persistent fragility and conflict, at least 2.2 million school-aged children are estimated to be out of school with thousands more at risk of dropping out. In some parts of the country, over 75% of primary-aged girls are not in school. Nearly 50% of all rural-dwelling primary school-aged children were found to be out of school with out-of-school children rates that were even higher for rural girls. More than 89% of primary school students and 93% of secondary school students were overage for their grade level across all states and children, irrespective of sex or the wealth of their family.

Moreover, the national assessment conducted by the Education Cluster in November 2016, notes that 25% of primary schools which were open at any points since 2013 were non-functional, and that 31% of primary schools had suffered at least one or more attacks since December 2013. Female enrolment rate is particularly low, especially due to early marriage and pregnancies. In 2010, 40% of women aged 15-19 years were married or in a union and 31% of women aged 15-19 had begun child-bearing; the latter negatively affects girls’ schooling, as the majority of young mothers do not return to school.

South Sudan has the lowest literacy rate which stands at 27%. UNESCO has been engaged in the provision of literacy and numeracy instruction for young girls, women, and youth and adults. Through a joint-partnership between UNESCO and FAO, literacy and livelihood learning opportunities are being provided for South Sudan’s pastoralists – a group that is often hard-to-reach with traditional education methods. South Sudan’s pastoralist communities are very mobile and traditional schools are not effective in reaching out to them as they tend to cattle that require constant movement across the country.

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22 31% of South Sudanese lack access to safe drinking water supplies and only an estimated 15% have access to improved pit latrines or toilet facilities (South Sudan Education Sector Analysis 2016).

23 South Sudan Education Sector Analysis 2016.
UNESCO believes that investing in education in times of crisis builds resilience and social cohesion across communities, and will support the people of South Sudan to promote the Right to Education, which is a fundamental tenet of UNESCO’s mandate. Globally, UNESCO is actively participating in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Humanitarian Education Cluster and Early Recovery Cluster, which demonstrates UNESCO’s commitment and expertise in operating in fragile situations.

Due to the prolonged conflict, service-delivery in education in South Sudan is heavily focused on humanitarian aspects, and thus, education interventions for policy-support and long-term capacity building has not received its due attention. UNESCO will actively work towards bridging the humanitarian-development interventions across all ages and areas of education. Emphasis will be laid on building resilience and addressing needs of vulnerable sections of the population, such as persons with disabilities.

In this context, UNESCO’s guiding framework for interventions in the Education sector in South Sudan is shown below in Figure 2. The framework will be applied to inform UNESCO’s approach to strategic priority areas for Education in South Sudan, with the objective of strengthening service delivery through (1) diagnostic analysis and policy support, (2) Education data and Strengthening EMIS, and (3) Capacity Building and System Strengthening.

Building on the work undertaking through the ESA in 2015-2016, UNESCO worked closely with the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI), providing necessary technical assistance for the development of the General Education Sector Plan (GESP) 2017-2022. This strategic plan is a key document of MoGEI for education policy development and planning within the country. The GESP 2017-2022, provides four strategic priorities which are (1) Access and equity, (2) Quality, (3) improving educational management, and (4) Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Based on the strategic priorities outlined in the GESP 2017-2022, UNESCO will provide support for diagnostic analysis, educational policy-making and implementation, capacity building for institutional strengthening and education service delivery, and in ensuring evidence-based interventions through education data and strengthening of the Education Management Information Systems (EMIS). Where applicable, UNESCO will bring in innovative methods and expertise in delivery education through use of Information and Community Technology (ICT) to enhance access and quality of education.
Priority Sub-themes and project-specific activities in Education sector

In line with its guiding framework (see figure 2), UNESCO will work on three key strategic priority sub-themes under the education sector, presented below (see figure 3):

1. Out-of-School Children
2. TVET
3. Teacher Training

Figure 3: Strategic Priority Sub-Themes

A brief overview of the strategies within each sub-theme identified in Figure 4, is presented below:

1. **Out of School Children (OOSC)**

With a focus on identifying the most vulnerable in the education sector, UNESCO in South Sudan has conducted an in-depth country study for South Sudan within the framework of a global initiative on out-of-school children (OOSC). OOSC are deprived of a protective and nurturing environment for healthy cognitive, social and emotional development, and lack the opportunity to unlock a peaceful and productive future for themselves. Out-of-school children are also at a huge risk of being recruited into armed groups; an estimated 17,000 children have already been recruited into armed groups. In the long-term, development of human capital in the country is adversely affected as students prematurely drop out of the schooling system.

While at least 2.2 million children are estimated to be out-of-school in South Sudan, the number of OOSC has increased in recent years and this trend is projected to continue, reaching over 2.4 million in the next two years, if present circumstances are maintained. There are also thousands of children who may be enrolled in school, but who are at serious risk of being excluded from education. These include overage students, child labourers, children displaced by conflict, children with disabilities, child soldiers, and children in pastoralist communities. For instance, children make up around 60% of South Sudan’s 1.9 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). In sub-Saharan Africa, South Sudan has the lower proportion of female students enrolled in primary school and second lowest in secondary school, in part due to prevalence of child and early marriage, as well as domestic responsibilities at home. Further, as per data generated by MoGEI in 2015, covering seven former states, reported that 18,000 primary school students displayed a range of impairments, which suggests that providing access to education for children with disabilities needs urgent attention. Moreover, at least 60% of South Sudanese are engaged in pastoralism where, within communities, work in the cattle camps and being a young bride tends to be valued above formal education.

As part of the initiative, UNESCO has supported the development of the Pastoralist Education Programme Strategy Framework, and developed literacy and mainstream public school curriculum suited to the pastoralist way of life. Facilitators have also been trained to undertake teaching, while FAO is providing communities the skills they need to improve their livelihoods in agriculture and economic empowerment. A national curriculum has been developed and adopted by the Ministry of General Education and Instruction, and relevant line ministries including the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as countless other important initiatives that help make reaching pastoralist communities more sustainable and impactful.

UNESCO’s study on OOSC was ground-breaking and well-received by development partners as a key diagnostic study to address the issues of out of school children in South Sudan. The report analyses and uses available data to examine who and where these children are, and maps existing policies and strategies that are in place to

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25 As per the South Sudan Education Cluster’s Response Strategy for 2018.
tackle these key issues. UNESCO advocated for a series of concrete strategies for action aimed at enabling South Sudan’s large out-of-school population to enrol in- or return to – school.

**Action-plan:** Drawing on evidence-based recommendations through diagnostic studies, UNESCO will work with national stakeholders and development partners, to actively address the issue of OOSC. Advocacy and targeted campaigns to bring back children to school will be a priority. A combination of policy-based interventions, and initiatives to strengthening service delivery will be deployed, including improved educational infrastructure, teacher-training, and psychological support for children, to support the Government of South Sudan turn the current OOSC crisis around, and provide a safe and nurturing environment for children to enroll in and complete school.

2. **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) - Putting Education to Work**

Recognizing the urgent need for attention in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector in South Sudan, UNESCO conducted a Rapid Assessment of the TVET Sector in South Sudan.26 A Labour Market Assessment has also been conducted by UNESCO to understand needs to complement efforts to strengthen the TVET sector. As the nation’s youth constitutes almost 70% of the population, it is essential to provide meaningful and productive economic engagement for all, to capture the nation’s demographic dividend, and deter the population from becoming involved in the on-going conflict. South Sudan cannot risk having a lost generation, and TVET sector is one of the best opportunities for “quick-wins” as well as long-term gains across various avenues, including youth engagement, livelihood improvement, strengthening human capital, labour market enrichment, and national economic development.

Provision of TVET by the government is done through various arms, and requires further integration and standardization. Governance of the TVET sector currently involves 21 government bodies, and majority of TVET service delivery is currently being implemented by non-government actors, which do not necessarily coordinate with the government. For the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MoCYS), TVET is covered under the South Sudan Youth Development Policy. Under the Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development (MoLPSHRD), the South Sudan Vocational Training Policy guides the ministry in its Vocational Training (VT) work, while its Labour Act provides labour standards and some provisions of training. Under the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI), mainly two policy documents guide its work: National Technical and Vocational Education and Training Policy and General Education Strategic Plan, 2017-22. UNESCO will support in developing a clearly articulated integrated national policy, identifying roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, which will greatly benefit the target beneficiaries.

The Sustainable Development Agenda acknowledges the importance of youth and vocational training, primarily through Goal 4, 8 and 9, respectively on education; inclusive economic growth and decent work; and industry, innovation and infrastructure. TVET and skills development are also strategic objectives within the framework of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025. TVET is also a priority programme in MoGEI’s General Education Strategic Plan 2017-2022, which states that the goal is to “promote relevant and quality non-formal and formal post-primary technical and vocational education and training that is governed by a unified and efficient TVET system and that provides nationally and globally competitive human resources while stressing gender equity and inclusiveness”. In this context, UNESCO’s TVET Strategy (2016-21) lays out the framework to support the efforts of member states to enhance the relevance of their TVET systems and to equip all youth with skills required for employment, decent work, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning.

**Action-plan:** The multi-sectoral nature of TVET requires bringing on-board stakeholders from government, civil-society and private sector alike, for which UNESCO Juba Office is well-positioned. From a policy perspective, bringing together various stakeholders and initiatives within the framework of the government’s national TVET

priorities and ambitions would be a key aspect of UNESCO’s engagement in TVET in South Sudan. UNESCO will focus on providing institutional support to the government, in terms of capacity building and technical assistance for policy development and policy reviews. As for service delivery in the short-term, existing TVET centres will be revived and/or upgraded, and sectors such as agriculture and functional literacy will be prioritized to meet immediate needs. In tandem, mapping will be conducted for the longer-term to match skills with industry needs, and TVET approaches will be tailored accordingly. UNESCO will work with a range of stakeholders, including civil society and private sector partners, to promote and strengthen delivery of TVET, including training-of-trainers and facilitators, and ensure quality training and access to employment opportunities on a sustainable basis. Initiatives aimed as providing functional literacy and numeracy, such as the pastoralistic education programme, will be replicated and scaled-up across the country.

3. **Teacher Training**

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) notes that percentage of trained teachers in South Sudan is just 44%, and the student-to-teacher ratio is 50:1. More than half (58 percent) of primary level teachers are untrained, which negatively impacts the quality of learning outcomes. According to UIS, to achieve universal primary education, 79,000 teachers will need to be recruited in South Sudan. Many teachers leave schools due to insufficient, delayed and unpaid salaries, as well as lack of security. Teachers have also reported lack of resources and teaching materials, such as textbooks. Moreover, according to the National Education Statistics 2016 report, released by the South Sudanese Ministry of General Education and Instruction, 82% of the teachers were male, which shows a lack of gender-balance among teachers in the system.

UNESCO has made the supply of well-trained, support and qualified teachers one of its top priorities globally. The International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030 is hosted by UNESCO, and it works to address the “teacher gap” as well as tackle the issues raises in SDG Target 4.c which calls for a substantial increase in qualified teachers through the betterment of training, recruitment, retention, status, working conditions and motivation.

**Action-plan:** UNESCO in South Sudan will actively work with the Government of South Sudan for review and development of teacher policies and strategies, to develop capacities for enhancing the quality of teaching and learning. Provision of quality teacher-training, and resources for teachers, within a secure and stable environment will be ensured along with relevant partners to increase the pool of qualified teachers who are readily available to teach. Emphasis will be laid on training, recruitment, and retention of teachers. Professional development and capacities for management of teachers will be enhanced. Teacher capacities will also be strengthened to deal with conflict-sensitivity, psychological, gender and related issues.

### Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in South Sudan

Numerous social and cultural factors are putting young people at higher risk of HIV, unwanted pregnancies and STIs. Gender-based violence, especially sexual violence in conflict areas of the country, is one of the major concerns for HIV transmission. According to the 2010 national health survey, only about 10% of young people age 15 to 19 years had comprehensive knowledge of HIV. This gap contributes to the risky behaviour among young people. Social exclusions and gender imbalances contribute greatly to these statistics. As per the 2016 National Education Statistics report of South Sudan, the number of primary and secondary schools where some sexuality education topics were covered was low; only 11% of male teachers across all the 3 school types (AES, Primary and Secondary) and 20% of female teachers received any training in “life skills, HIV and sexuality education”.

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28 Annual Education Census (AEC) 2016
29 2017 Education Cluster Assessment
Schools are ideal places for young people to learn about their sexuality through age-appropriate, culturally sensitive Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). Evidence demonstrates that quality CSE is effective in HIV prevention as well as addressing the aforementioned challenges among young people. CSE provides learners with the tools to make informed decisions on social and sexual relationships. CSE cuts across all learning institutions, and in addition to SDG 4, it also directly addresses SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

With support from UNESCO, MOGEI has integrated CSE into the national curriculum. UNESCO has worked closely with partners to sustain political will, development of relevant materials and curriculum, integrate CSE into the curriculum, train teachers to deliver the curriculum, and engage with and mobilizing the community to raise awareness to create a community-based support-system. UNESCO will give special emphasis to training teachers and supporting them in using reference materials, and deliver the CSE-integrated curriculum effectively. Advocacy activities will continue to be conducted with the political leadership to ensure sustained political will for CSE, and promoting inclusive policies for target populations in the longer-term.

**Culture in Conflict: Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage**

South Sudan has vast cultural diversity, with over 63 different ethnic / language groupings. There are many semi-nomadic, pastoralist, and tribal communities in the country with rich cultural traditions and history which require safeguarding to strengthen peacebuilding and promote inclusive societies.

South Sudan is rich in natural heritage, with over 13% of the land area (87,000 square kms) designated as protected areas. This includes 18 wildlife protected areas, comprising 6 national parks, and 12 game reserves. Natural heritage includes forests and wetlands, which are home to rich biodiversity, including many species of wildlife. At the same time, the country is rich in natural resources such as gold, hardwood and charcoal, in addition to oil which is the primary source of government revenue. Competition for the country’s natural resources is central to the conflict, at both local and national levels.

The safeguarding and promotion of culture is an end in itself contributing to many of the SDGs. Culture is noted specifically in Target 4.7 (SDG 4), which calls for education to promote a culture of peace and non-violence, an appreciation of cultural diversity, and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development. Promoting respect for cultural diversity within a human rights-based approach also facilitates cultural understanding and peace (SDG 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions), prevents conflicts, and protects the rights of marginalized groups. Cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, and creativity are resources that need to be protected and carefully managed. Creative industries and cultural infrastructure are valuable resources for generating livelihoods and decent work (Targets 8.3 and 8.5 of SDG 8), and promotes local production. Cultural policies that promote preferential treatment in trade for locally-produced goods contribute to reducing inequalities within and among countries (SDG 10). Culture, particularly traditional knowledge, also contributes to resilience and recovery in the case of natural disasters (Target 13.1 of SDG 13). Substantial percentage of those employed in culture sector activities are women, directly addressing SDG 5 (gender equality).

Cultural and Natural heritage in South Sudan, presents a unique opportunity for nation and peacebuilding, as well as and social integration. Competition for natural resources, along with rifts along ethnic lines, is central to the prolonged conflict. Local competition for access to resources also motivate armed confrontations that can assume national significance given the fragile political and security environment. In an armed conflict, culture is particularly at risk, owing to its inherent vulnerability and tremendous symbolic value. At the same time,
culture is as a driver of recovery, strengthening the resilience of a community and providing a channel of reconciliation. Making use of national resources that demonstrate the shared values, history and aspirations is crucial. Natural Resource Management (NRM), and creating the basis for appropriate protection and management of natural and cultural heritage, can foster national integration, unity and social harmony, which is vital for achieving sustainable peace in South Sudan.

As the UN agency with a mandate in Culture, UNESCO adopted a Strategy for the reinforcement of the Organization’s actions for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict (38/C49) in 2015. This document aims to further focus the Organization’s work in “reducing the vulnerability of cultural heritage and diversity before, during and in the aftermath of conflict” through two objectives: (1) to strengthen the ability of Member States to prevent, mitigate and recover the loss of cultural heritage and diversity as a result of conflict; and (2) to incorporate the protection of culture into humanitarian action, security strategies and peacebuilding processes by engaging with relevant stakeholders outside the culture domain. Furthermore, recognition, protection and promotion of cultural diversity and heritage can act as a medium for social cohesion, national integration and fostering unity.

Through the implementation of its mutually reinforcing Culture Conventions, UNESCO engages with governments, local communities and relevant stakeholders to protect culture and promote cultural pluralism in challenging situations, implementing activities in times of civil strife and warfare, as well as in the wake of disasters caused by natural or human-made hazards. Furthermore, UNESCO’s flagship programme of Priority Africa aims to “harness the power of culture for sustainable development and peace in a context of regional integration”.

In South Sudan, UNESCO has been working closely with the government to strengthen national policies for protection of culture, and supporting the government to ratify international culture conventions and ensure their effective implementation.

The priority is to put South Sudan on the global discourse for culture, to articulate its cultural heritage and engage with the world. In this context, South Sudan has ratified the following conventions:

- **1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**: World Heritage Convention ensures the protection of natural and cultural heritage sites that have been inscribed on the World Heritage List. The most significant feature of the 1972 World Heritage Convention is that it links together the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties. The Convention recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.

  See section below on World Heritage in South Sudan for further details on progress regarding the 1972 World Heritage Convention in South Sudan.

- **2003 Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)**: The 2003 Convention is aimed at safeguarding the uses, representations, expressions, knowledge and techniques that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals, recognise as an integral part of their cultural heritage. Through its acceptance, countries agree to adopt a general policy aimed at highlighting the function of intangible cultural heritage in society.

  Intangible heritage is found in forms such as oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and traditional craftsmanship knowledge and techniques.

  The root cause of the conflict in South Sudan is weak common consensus of a national identity and unity, given the ethnic and linguistic diversity in the country. Recognizing that intangible cultural heritage is an important factor in peacebuilding and promoting social cohesion and unity, UNESCO will
provide technical assistance in documenting and safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in South Sudan. UNESCO will provide support for capacity-building and training on community-based inventorying of South Sudan ICH. An understanding of the intangible cultural heritage of different communities helps with intercultural dialogue, and encourages mutual respect for other ways of life.

- **2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**: Based on human rights and fundamental freedoms, the 2005 Convention provides a new framework for informed, transparent and participatory systems of governance for culture. The convention is a legally-binding international agreement that ensures artists, cultural professionals, practitioners and citizens worldwide can create, produce, disseminate and enjoy a broad range of cultural goods, services and activities, including their own.

The 2005 Convention is at the heart of the creative economy which holds great potential for economic, social and cultural development. It encourages introduction of cultural policies and measures that nurture creativity, provide access for creators to participate in domestic and international marketplaces, recognize and optimise the overall contribution of the cultural industries to economic and social development, and integrate culture into sustainable development strategies and national development policies.

UNESCO actively engaged with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MoCYS), and has provided technical assistance to review the *Draft Culture Policy*. UNESCO will continue to work with relevant stakeholders for the realization of the Culture Policy.

Further to the above conventions, UNESCO is engaging with the government and stakeholders to create awareness, and work towards ratifying other relevant UNESCO conventions, which include:

1. **1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict**: It is the first international treaty with a world-wide vocation focusing exclusively on the protection of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict. It covers both immovable and movable cultural heritage, including works of art, archaeological sites, and manuscripts.

2. **1970 Convention of the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property**: The convention requires state parties to take action in establishing preventive measures, such as monitoring trade, and educational campaigns. It also includes restitution provisions, and an international cooperation framework among and between State Parties.

In this context, the Culture sector will adopt a two-pronged approach, with both policy-based and project-based interventions being undertaken simultaneously, as shown in Figure 4.
Progress on 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage:

South Sudan ratified the World Heritage Convention (WHC) in 2016, and the ratification is a national commitment to safeguarding South Sudan’s natural and cultural heritage. As a State Party to the Convention, South Sudan is invited to participate in the annual World Heritage Committee meetings, where decisions are made about the State of Conservation of inscribed World Heritage properties, and where new sites are added to the World Heritage List and added or removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Having ratified the WHC, South Sudan must ensure adequate legislation for the site’s protection, including ensuring capacity building and awareness-raising amongst staff and communities, and ensure benefits return to the local communities. UNESCO is providing technical assistance to the Government of South Sudan, and will work with communities to ensure that these objectives are met, with the overarching goal of mobilizing culture as a tool for integration and unity in the country.

With technical assistance from UNESCO, South Sudan has added 3 sites on the Tentative World Heritage List, which include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Site</th>
<th>About the Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural Site</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diem Zubeir Slave Route</td>
<td>Deim Zubeir is a historical slave route trench from the 19th century and associated to the North Africa, Arab and Asian-led slave trade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Site</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boma-Badingilo Migratory Landscape</td>
<td>BBML hosts one of the largest animal migration in the world in one of East Africa’s most extensive Savannah habitats. Each year, the white-eared kob’s migration is a natural spectacle of approximately one million animals moving in mega-heards, between Boma and Badingilo National Parks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sudd Wetlands</td>
<td>The Sudd Wetlands represents one of the largest freshwater ecosystems in the world with its network of channels, lagoons, and inundated areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more details and pictures from the Sites listed in above Table, please see Annex 2.

Within the World Heritage Framework, with a focus on the natural site, Boma Badingilo National Park, listed on the tentative World Heritage Listed (See Table 1), the following objectives are foreseen as technical assistance from UNESCO:

- To develop the capacity of the national authorities in park conservation and management within a World Heritage and Sustainable Development framework

- To develop an integrated conservation and management plan for Boma National Park that will conserve and protect the wildlife population and their migration corridor and the rich cultural heritage in the area

  To contribute to the preparation of an eventual nomination file for Boma National Park, after having fully consulted with local community members, and with Conservation and Management Plan approved by the National Authorities with full legal status.
Communication and Information (CI): Freedom of Expression as an inalienable human right

Media development in South Sudan is highly underdeveloped, and its immense potential needs to be realized for peacebuilding in South Sudan. Given the prolonged conflict, the resulting insecurity and political uncertainty has had a particularly damaging effect on the media industry with journalists and media houses experiencing legal restrictions, censorship, safety and security issues, and intimidation. The country was ranked 144th on the 2018 World Freedom Index, falling 19 places from rank 125 in 201534.

The Association of Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS) estimates that the number of media houses operating in South Sudan in 2017 is about 70, including eight newspapers and about 60 radio stations. There is inadequate awareness among media professionals who often lack formal journalism education and training, which perpetuates mistrust through inaccurate reporting and inflammatory language / hate speech. Overall, the public in South Sudan has limited knowledge of lawful limitations to the exercise of freedom of expression. Media development is one of the least funded thematic development sectors in South Sudan, and requires urgent attention and support from government stakeholders and development partners.

As the United Nations agency with a specific mandate to promote “the free flow of ideas by word and image”, UNESCO works to foster freedom of expression, and its corollaries, press freedom and freedom of information, through independent and pluralistic media in print, broadcast and online. Media development in this mode enhances freedom of expression, and it contributes to peace, sustainability, poverty eradication and human rights. UNESCO’s approach to media development is both knowledge-driven and context-sensitive, and directly addresses SDG 16.10, which aims to “ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements”. Further, UNESCO work on the promotion of universal access to information contributes directly to the achievement of Goal 9, which focuses on building resilient infrastructure and fostering innovation, particularly through increased access to ICT.

In South Sudan, UNESCO works towards strengthening the media environment, and enabling the public to make informed choices, by ensuring a pluralistic and diverse media. UNESCO works towards ensuring a more comprehensive policy impact by sensitizing duty bearers, including parliamentarians and government officials, about the need to enable people’s voices to be heard, and bolster civic engagement through community radio and Media and Information Literacy (MIL) initiatives. UNESCO uses diagnostic analysis and indicator-led assessments, such as UNESCO’s Media Development Indicators (MDIs), Gender Sensitive Indicators for Media (GSIM), Internet Universality indicators (IUIs) etc. to establish baselines, and provide analysis to help improve the media environment. In with these frameworks, UNESCO published the Interim Assessment of Media Development in South Sudan in 2015, based on UNESCO’s Media Development Indicators, which has provided a significant baseline analysis, and undertaking further initiatives to strengthen media in the country.

In this context, UNESCO Communication and Information (CI) sector will support media development in South Sudan through three main pillars, which include (1) fostering freedom of expression and media pluralism, (2) promoting journalists’ safety and combatting impunity, (3) technical support and capacity building of media institutions and strengthening media environment, as outlined in Figure 5 below:

Figure 5: Three strategic priority areas for UNESCO’s interventions in South Sudan

34 The ranking of South Sudan in the 2018 World Press Freedom Index can be accessed here: https://rsf.org/en/south-sudan
1. **Fostering Freedom of Expression and media Pluralism:**

UNESCO will continue to work closely with the Government of South Sudan to support development and strengthening of policy frameworks and media legislation to support *Freedom of Expression (FOE)* as an inalienable human right set-down in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In South Sudan, UNESCO advocated for the adoption of three media laws critical for fostering freedom of expression i.e. the Right of Access to Information Bill, the Broadcasting Corporation Bill, and the Media Authority Bill. UNESCO will continue efforts to increase public awareness of the content of the media laws through engaging media and legal experts to promote and advocate for freedom of expression and media pluralism in South Sudan.

UNESCO has convened the Media Sector Working Group (MSWG), which was instrumental in bringing together all major international and national media partners to address media issues, including capacity building for journalist and media stakeholders, safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, access to information and media pluralism. With that, given the demographic and ethnic diversity of South Sudan, UNESCO will further strengthen support in outreach and dissemination work to strengthen human rights across the country. The overarching objective is to build capacity of duty-bearers, as well as media stakeholders, including journalists and media houses, to foster freedom of expression and media pluralism, based on media, internet and SDG-related indicators in South Sudan.

2. **Safety of Journalists, Issue of Impunity, Conflict-sensitive journalism and Countering Hate Speech**

Promoting the safety of journalists and combatting impunity for those who attack them are central elements within UNESCO’s support for press freedom on all media platforms. UNESCO will equip journalists and media stakeholders with conflict-sensitive reporting skills to enable them to report in a manner that promotes and builds peace. Conflict-sensitive Reporting recognizes that violent conflict attracts intense news media attention that requires greater analytical depth and skills to report on it without contributing to further violence or overlooking peace building opportunities.

UNESCO is committed to build capacities of media stakeholders to undertake conflict-sensitive journalism responsibly and effectively. UNESCO will strengthen mechanisms to monitor and counter hate speech and end impunity against hate crimes, through various initiatives including education on media ethics, multicultural awareness campaigns, and providing safe avenues for victims to report and tackle hate speech.

Furthermore, in recognition of the difficult media environment, South Sudan was one of the five countries selected to pilot the UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (UN Plan) that is coordinated by UNESCO. Under the framework of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalist and the Issue of Impunity (See Figure 6), UNESCO works closely with the Government of South Sudan, UN bodies, national authorities, media, and civil society organizations, to address issues related to media development and safety of journalists, and contributes directly to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

![Figure 6: Various approaches under UN Plan of Action on Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity](image-url)
Technical Support and Capacity Building: UNESCO has contributed to a series of national dialogues as well as the creation of platforms to promote freedom of expression and human rights, monitor incidents, and build local capacities to respond to incidents. UNESCO will advocate for the rights of journalists, and build their capacities to respond to the expectations and challenges faced by new-age media. UNESCO will provide technical assistance and capacity building across various sub-sectors identified below:

1. **Commemorating International Observance Days:** UNESCO facilitates commemoration of international observance days, such as the World Press Freedom Day on 3 May, World Radio Day on 13 February, the International Day for Universal Access to Information on 26 September, and the International Day to End Impunity on Crimes Against Journalists on 2 November. A series of workshops and dialogues will be organized for advocacy and raising awareness around these topics.

2. **Community Radio Development:** Community radio is a critical medium that gives voice to the voiceless, serves as a mouth-piece of the marginalized, and enables citizens to make their views known on decisions that concern them. UNESCO will work closely with duty-bearers to increase awareness about community radio, and empower and build-capacities of local radio stations to promote diversity of content in radio programming, and encourage two-way dialogues.

   UNESCO is currently supporting the work of the Community Media Network of South Sudan (CoMNeTSS), which comprises 14 independent radio stations aimed at promoting the emergence of a pluralistic and independent radio environment. Training and support packages are also being provided to eight Radio for Peace Network (RapNet) community radios to produce peace related content.

3. **Media and Information Literacy (MIL), Media Pluralism and Access to Information:** In order to empower individuals as informed producers and consumers of information, UNESCO will promote and strengthen initiatives in Media and Information Literacy (MIL). Inadequate access to accurate information limits the ability of citizens to engage in informed public debate. UNESCO’s focus on the capacity development for information is a paradigm shift from a top-down, one-way information dissemination model to an interactive two-way exchange consistent with the Communication for Development (C4D) framework espoused by UNESCO.

   Through technical assistance and capacity-building resources, such as policy guidelines and articulation, and trainings, UNESCO will support the development of C4D and MIL competencies among people, and enhance ability to critically engage with, and use information effectively.

   Further, recognizing that media reflects the diversity in society, UNESCO will organize trainings and awareness raising activities for journalists on the issues of media diversity and artistic freedom to enable media pluralism and promote equality, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, peace and freedom of expression for all.

4. **Building Capacity of Media Development Institute (MDI) and strengthening representation of women and youth in Media:** UNESCO will support strengthening and promoting the Media Development Institute (MDI) to engage with local and regional stakeholders, and build capacities of media and human rights organizations, journalists and media associations, academic institutions, artists’ associations, and youth organizations. UNESCO will strengthen knowledge-generation, coalition building and advocacy, norm-setting, monitoring and research to foster a thriving media environment in South Sudan.

   Strengthening the voice of women and youth in South Sudan is key tenet of UNESCO’s CI initiatives in South Sudan. In addition, UNESCO has helped establish women and youth radio listener clubs, linked to three radio stations, to increase MIL and access to information to encourage dialogue around issues of local concern, especially related to peaceful co-existence. Special attention will be given to empowering women’s freedom of expression as a means for women-empowerment through gender-transformative policies that go beyond equal numbers of women and men, to understanding and addressing root issues of women of all ages.
5. **Media in the new-age – Online-media, social-media, and countering fake news:** Social media and increasing access to ICT around the world, has given rise to new-age media issues such as fake-news, radicalization of youth and violent extremism on social media, and online hate-speech which often risks escalation leading to conflict. Therefore, strengthening capacities of regulatory agencies, and the public-at-large, to deal with issues concerning online media is essential. Given today’s dynamic media environment globally, UNESCO will work towards spreading awareness on media ethics, and challenges and opportunities posed by online media, including countering fake news and disinformation.

**Strengthening National Archives project:** UNESCO is the lead partner in the establishment of the South Sudan National Archives. The National Archives represent one of the only repositories of tangible historical and cultural reference available to South Sudan. The archival collection reflects the diversity of its people, languages and cultures and is an important enabler for strengthening peace and nation building in the young country. The public institution therefore holds a significant peace dimension on which many actors can draw; promoting respect for cultural diversity is fundamental to generating positive local and national dialogue and inclusion, and fostering lasting peace. UNESCO will work towards strengthening capacities to preserve the archival collection, by reducing threats, improving storage conditions, launching targeted conservation interventions, and maximizing the digitization efforts that will link strengthen the link between the public institution and citizens.

In this context, UNESCO’s Memory of the World Programme is an international initiative to safeguard the documentary heritage of humanity against collective amnesia, neglect, the ravages of time and climatic conditions, and wilful and deliberate destruction. South Sudan is working on inscribing three elements of its archival collection to the list of the programme to increase worldwide awareness worldwide of the existence and significance of this documentary heritage. UNESCO will continue to support the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of South Sudan in its participation in the programme to bring South Sudan to the world’s domain as part of the South Sudan National Archives outreach programme.

**Social and Human Sciences (SHS): Youth Empowerment - By Youth, With Youth, for Youth**

South Sudan is yet to capitalize on its youth dividend, given that over 70% of the population is below the age of 29 years. At present, many young people feel discouraged and consider taking part in conflict given the lack of engagement. The on-going conflict which has deprived youth opportunities and platforms to voice their ideas and invest their energies productively. There are limited opportunities for youth engagement in national dialogue and within their communities. Unleashing the creativity, potential and capacity of youth can enable South Sudan reap valuable demographic dividends, and avoid a lost generation. Empowering youth directly addresses SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 8 (Decent work & Economic Growth).

UNESCO will continue to promote dialogue among South Sudanese youth to enable them to drive social change and innovation, claiming respect for their fundamental human rights and freedoms, and seeking new opportunities to learn and work together for a better future. UNESCO’s Strategy on Youth is captured by the framework, highlighted in figure 7 below:

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Figure 7: Four Pillars of UNESCO’s Strategy on Youth in South Sudan

Proposed work under each of the above pillars in Figure 7 is detailed below:

1. **Formulation and Review of policies for Youth, and with Youth**

UNESCO’s Youth Programme works to create an enabling environment in which policies can be developed by the youth, with the youth, and for the youth. UNESCO’s work with, and for youth, is committed to empowering young women and men and helping them to work together to drive social innovation and change, participate fully in the development of their societies, eradicate poverty and inequality, and foster a culture of peace. UNESCO’s Operational Strategy on Youth 2014-2021 recognizes the importance of youth policies and aims to support national youth policy processes across the globe.

In this context, UNESCO is supporting the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MoCYS), and the Committee on Culture, Youth and Sports (Parliament), and youth groups in the promotion and engagement of young people in South Sudan. UNESCO is the co-lead of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Adolescents and Youth in South Sudan, and will work closely with government and development partners to strengthen youth policy formulation and review, with active participation of youth in South Sudan. UNESCO will strengthen youth-policies and initiatives, such as conducting youth assessments to identify youth-needs based on evidence, and address them collectively. Recognizing that increased investment in the success of youth is a necessary step in preventing and countering violent extremism, UNESCO will also provide technical assistance to enable policies that strengthen Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) through youth empowerment.

2. **Civic Engagement, Democratic Participation and Social Innovation**

There is a critical need to engage young people, especially in rural/remote communities, via sustainable platforms that are integrated within national, state and local governance to promote peacebuilding. To address this urgent priority, the first-ever National Youth Conference in recent memory brought together over 200 youth from across the country in August 2018, and was organized under the leadership of the MoCYS and the National Youth Union with support from UNESCO and development partners. A Youth Declaration adopted at the end of the conference, was the first-of-its-kind by the young people of South Sudan, in which they boldly expressed their concerns collectively and the need for youth to play a more central role in all activities. UNESCO will support similar activities, including encouraging youth participation in more state, national and regional level forms, and devise innovative initiatives such as Youth Innovation Labs to bolster youth engagement across the country. UNESCO will also work in partnership with regional youth initiatives to provide opportunities for South Sudanese youth to engage with regional and global counterparts, to exchange ideas and empower their societies through youth leadership.
3. **Support greater access to services, including sports, for young people**

Youth is a cross-cutting issue as per the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and requires investment across a wide range of sectors, including education, healthcare and livelihoods. A range of services are essential for youth, such as TVET, access to healthcare, decent work, and youth-friendly services mental health services. UNESCO will work with relevant line ministries to improve service delivery across these areas for youth to nurture youth leaders who will play an active role in socio-economic development and peacebuilding in South Sudan.

There is limited opportunities for youth to be engaged in sports, and quality physical education and sports value education (including anti-doping) has been identified by many stakeholders in South Sudan as having the power to bring unity towards a common cause in their communities and country. With UNESCO’s mandate in youth engagement and being the lead UN agency in sports and education at all levels/ages, UNESCO in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MoCYS) and Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) will utilize sports to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE) and as a peacebuilding intervention to promote unity across ethnic groups and communities nation-wide, all while building national and state-level sustainable capacity to execute such activities.

4. **Capacity development for empowerment of youth as catalysts for peace and development**

Recognizing the need to develop sustainable platforms to support youth engagement and leadership, UNESCO is developing a Youth Space Initiative (YSI) which organize capacity-building activities for the youth, concerned government Ministry, and raise awareness through social media and radio on the importance of youth engagement in decision-making processes for peacebuilding and development. UNESCO’s YSI in South Sudan aims to support the MoCYS for review and implementation of their policy and plans in the 10 former states as well as support youth involvement in global citizenship and UNESCO’s Regional Youth Space initiative. Such topics as peace/conflict, health, education, gender, migration/displacement, economic development, job opportunities, human rights and more are all topics of concern for young people, and will be incorporated in the YSI initiatives. Youth will, therefore, also act as a bridge between humanitarian and development activities, and play a crucial role in creating a culture of peace for a prosperous future for South Sudan.

**Natural Sciences: Science and Innovation to Empower Society**

In South Sudan, the prolonged conflict has meant that scientific development, and policy-making to promote innovation and science-education has taken a back-seat. South Sudan’s natural heritage and resources have not received due attention, and the capacities of institutions dealing with scientific knowledge, management of natural resources, and research and development is low, and suffers from minimal investment.

At the outset, it must be recognized that prolonged conflict in South Sudan, coupled with massive humanitarian and development challenges, provides a challenging context for promoting the natural sciences, innovation, and research and development. There are significant limitations to the extent of UNESCO’s interventions in the natural sciences, including lack of data availability, and low institutional capacity in both science-administration and academia. The government has limited resources to invest in the natural sciences, given the current context. In this context, UNESCO’s natural sciences engagement in South Sudan will be limited, and will depend on outcome of the peace agreement, availability of resources with institutions and their absorption capacity.

Having recognized the implicit challenges in South Sudan, UNESCO will work to advance and promote science in the interests of peace, sustainable development and human security and well-being. As a specialized UN agency with a specific mandate for Science, UNESCO mobilizes scientific knowledge in the context of its multidisciplinary mandate to address the most pressing issues of our times. It has acted as a catalyst for the
establishment of many leading scientific unions and bodies, such as the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, and the International Hydrological Programme, and hosts major international programmes in the freshwater, marine, ecological, earth and basic sciences.

UNESCO’s engagement in the science sector in South Sudan, over the next three years, will focus on advocacy to raise awareness about target issues, capacity building and conducting assessments to establish baselines for evidence-based interventions going-forward. Emphasis will be placed on linking South Sudan with international science-sector mechanisms, forums and dialogues to enable the country to engage in the global scientific discourse.

UNESCO’s work in the natural sciences sector directly addresses the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The three priority areas for South Sudan in the Natural Sciences sector will be (1) UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme (SDG 15: Life on Land), (2) Integrated Water Resource Management (SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation), and (3) Disaster Risk-Reduction (DRR) (SDG 11: “Sustainable Cities and Communities” with an overarching objective of addressing Climate change (SDG 13: Climate Action) for Sustainable Development.

In this context, UNESCO’s Science sector in South Sudan will focus on the following priorities, with an overarching objective of addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development:

**Figure 8: Priority Sub-themes for UNESCO’s Natural Sciences work in South Sudan**

**Climate Change:** As one of the most complex and challenging issues of our time, the adverse effects of climate change are more amplified for fragile countries such as South Sudan, affecting natural resource availability, livelihoods and economic growth. A multi-stakeholder approach and inter-disciplinary approach, based on sound-science, is essential in dealing with climate change. UNESCO’s unique global convening power can bring together state-of-the-art resources and expertise to tackle climate change in South Sudan. Moreover, South Sudan needs to increasingly engage with international mechanisms to absorb best-practices and mitigate climate risks faced by the people of South Sudan. As a catalyst for international cooperation and context-specific scientific innovation, UNESCO will work towards addressing climate change in South Sudan, with a focus on strengthening institutions and technical capacities.

1. **Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme:** South Sudan is yet to register a Biosphere Reserve as part of UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme. The MAB programme, whose World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) currently counts 686 sites in 122 countries all over the world, is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments. MAB combines the natural and social sciences, economics and education to improve human livelihoods and the equitable sharing of benefits, and to safeguard natural and managed ecosystems, thus promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate, and environmentally sustainable.
UNESCO will support the Government of South Sudan, and all relevant stakeholders to identify suitable sites, given the abundant natural heritage in the country, and will provide technical assistance and strengthen capacities towards nominating South Sudan’s first Biosphere Reserve. The nomination will provide much-needed impetus to biodiversity conservation, livelihoods development and promotion of scientific research in South Sudan.

2. **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM):** While South Sudan is well-endowed with water resources, accessibility of clean water in South Sudan is increasingly becoming a challenge, with only 55% of South Sudanese people having access to safe drinking water. Furthermore, with increasing water prices, more and more people are at risk of having no access to safe drinking water. Water is fundamental for sustainable development, and it affects inter alia sanitation, health, poverty alleviation, disaster reduction and ecosystem conversation. IWRM can play a key role in addressing these needs and challenges.

The IWRM approach endorses an efficient, equitable and sustainable development and management of the world’s limited water resources and coping mechanisms for conflicting demands. UNESCO will partner with government stakeholders and development partners to promote IWRM in South Sudan, through a combination of policy support and capacity building initiatives, especially for river-basin management, that incorporates environmental and socio-economic aspects of efficient and integrated water resource management.

3. **Disaster Risk-Reduction (DRR):** South Sudan is prone to persistent natural hazards (floods, epidemic outbreaks, drought, etc.), which threatens the lives and livelihoods of the local population. The effects of hydro-meteorological shocks being felt in South Sudan in the form of erratic and reduced rainfall periods and consequent increased frequency of droughts and floods which add to social and economic backwardness in the country.

UNESCO’s core focus on disaster risk reduction (DRR) is to support the member states in addressing the four “Priorities for Action” of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030, and to meet the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SFDRR aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries over the next 15 years. DRR is directly linked to SDG 11 on making cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The four “Priorities for Action” of the SFDR are (1) Understanding disaster risk, (2) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, (3) Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and (4) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

UNESCO has been supporting the development of draft Disaster Risk Management (DRM) policy of South Sudan, and will work closely with national partners to strengthen policies and implementation mechanisms to reduce disaster-risk in line with the SFDRR framework.

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Section 4: Implementation, Risk and Monitoring & Evaluation

Implementation Arrangements

UNESCO will convene and partner with a range of institutions, including government, development partners, civil-society and the private sector, to capitalize on synergies and comparative advantages, and maximize impact of its interventions. SDG 17 on partnerships for the global goals will be prioritized, to strengthen the means of implementation for achieving the SDGs. UNESCO will implement its interventions in line with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) of the UN system in the country, to ensure a results-oriented approach, and enhance cost-effectiveness and quality of operations.

1) **Joint-Programming with UN agencies**: UNESCO will continue to engage in Joint UN Programming, which is a recognized approach outlined in the UNCF, to work in a coordinated, coherent and effective way in South Sudan, given the vast breadth and complexity of challenges in the country. In line with UNCF’s strategy within and across sectors, UNESCO will support joint-programming initiatives in the country based on its comparative advantage, with UNICEF, FAO UNDP, UNFPA, WFP, UN Women and other UN agencies. Joint programming includes, among other modalities, joint funding mechanisms, joint policy dialogues, joint assessments, and joint-policy support to national partners.

UNESCO will actively tap into country-level joint-funding mechanisms, including the SDGs fund, UN Peacebuilding Fund, Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), and the South Sudan Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Reconciliation, Stabilization, Resilience (South Sudan RSRTF).

2) **Joint-Analysis, Assessment and Planning frameworks or Action Plans with UN agencies**: In line with the geographical approach outlined in the UNCF, UNESCO as a specialized agency, will work with partner UN agencies to identify complementary areas for joint-analysis, assessments, and planning frameworks. This will help ensure complementarity of interventions, based on comparative advantages, to establish baselines, conduct targeted assessments, and plan interventions nationally and locally.

3) **Civil-Society Organizations (CSOs)**: UNESCO will partner with CSOs, including national and international NGOs, youth and women’s groups, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations, and local leaders and eminent personalities, to improve outreach, effectiveness, and targeting of initiatives. UNESCO will engage with CSOs at various levels to enhance programme implementation in the country. Building capacities of national and local level organizations, especially at the grassroots with complementary mandates and expertise will be made a priority to ensure sustainability of UNESCO’s interventions.

4) **Donors, Bilateral development partners, donors, and International Financial Institutions (IFIs)**: UNESCO will work closely with both bilateral and multilateral development partners, to mobilize extra-budgetary resources and strengthen interventions in the country, in line with comparative advantages of various partners, such as geographical outreach and complementary resource allocations. Convergence areas will be explored with IFIs, and UNESCO will work in collaboration with the World Bank, African Development Bank and UNCT, to conduct joint-assessment and develop initiatives to address shared goals.

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## Risk Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Type</th>
<th>Risk Description</th>
<th>Risk Mitigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Political Risk and success of the Revitalized Peace Agreement</strong></td>
<td>Given the prolonged conflict, there is a deep distrust of the revitalized peace agreement, given the failed agreements in the past, and a high-level political process that is far removed from lives dominated by anger, trauma, profound conflict fatigue and desperate living conditions.</td>
<td>UNESCO will engage with relevant stakeholders to build resilience, and strengthen opportunities for peacebuilding and sustainable development. A resilience-based approach, fully-aligned with the UN Country Team within the framework of the UNCF, is central to all interventions of UNESCO in South Sudan, and politically risks will be assessed regularly, and measures to mitigate using tools such as conflict-sensitive programming, and partnership with CBOs and CSOs, will be employed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programme Sustainability</strong></td>
<td>South Sudan faces massive humanitarian challenges, and the situation is fragile. More resources may be allocated towards humanitarian activities, and the gap for development activities may narrow if conflict resurfaces and the economic situation deteriorates further.</td>
<td>UNESCO will apply the principles of New Way of Working (NWOW) across its programmes to lay the foundations to reduce humanitarian needs over time, and bridge the gap between humanitarian and development activities over time. Building resilience and reducing the impact of economic shocks and conflict on the people, especially vulnerable sections including women and youth, will be a key aspect of UNESCO’s programming in South Sudan. All activities will be undertaken in line with the UN Programme Criticality (PC) framework for South Sudan. UNESCO will strengthen the linkages between humanitarian and development initiatives, and ensure promoting human rights and accountability of institutions through its programmes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operational and Financial Risk</strong></td>
<td>The cost of operations in South Sudan is very high, including staff security, maintenance of office premises, procurement and administration for programme implementation, as it is a war-economy. High-risk of mismanagement of resources, due to weak public procurement and fund management systems, poor fiduciary standards, and lack of accountability, leading to financial leakages.</td>
<td>UNESCO as a member of Operations Management Team (OMT), will work closely with UN agencies in South Sudan to mitigate costs and ensure effective project implementation. Partnerships will be established through joint-implementation initiatives, especially at the field-level, and knowledge-sharing will be emphasized to increase efficiency, based on comparative advantages of sister UN agencies in the country. UNESCO’s interventions will be implemented primarily through the direct implementation modality given the weak public financial management system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programme delivery</strong></td>
<td>Given the fragile political and economic context, working closely with implementation partners, such as NGOs and CSOs, is essential. Implementing partners in South Sudan have low capacities, and lack of adequate human resources within the country compounds the challenge.</td>
<td>UNESCO will actively strengthen partnerships with NGOs and CSOs, and build their capacities to implement projects and ensure sustainability of interventions. In the field, UNESCO will identify partners through competitive processes, along with adequate due-diligence based on UNESCO / UN rules and regulations, to ensure high quality implementation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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36 See Interim report of the Panel of Experts on South Sudan submitted pursuant to resolution 2428 (2018).
Monitoring and Evaluation

UNESCO will proactively engage in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of programme implementation to ensure progress on its intended outputs and outcomes, and to measure impact of its interventions. As a specialized agency, given lack of adequate national data in South Sudan, UNESCO will place emphasis on data collection, analysis and establishing baselines, which are critical for measuring UNESCO’s contributions, and planning activities through an evidence-based approach.

A Results Based Management (RBM) approach is in place, through a participatory and team-based approach to programme planning, that focuses on achieving defined and measurable results and impact. Reporting is conducted in line with commitments to donors, national and international partners to ensure accountability and effective implementation of UNESCO’s activities.

UNESCO will continue to collaborate with the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), which is a recognized source of internationally-comparable data on education, science, culture and communication. UIS is the only UN body that produces cross-nationally comparative data for countries at all stages of development in the fields of education; science, technology and innovation; and culture and communication, in order to provide a global perspective in its fields of competence. In South Sudan, UIS will partner with and strengthen capacities of line ministries, national statistics offices, and other statistical organizations for better data availability and quality, and for effective monitoring and evaluation.

UNESCO will work closely with UNCT, government and partners to enhance data-availability, quality and accessibility, to track progress on implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and ensure mutual accountability.

***
### Annex 1: Overview of UNESCO’s Portfolio in South Sudan (as of 14 December 2018)

#### Total Projects Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Funding USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>3,783,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Culture</strong></td>
<td>102,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communication &amp; Information</strong></td>
<td>1,682,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social and Human Sciences</strong></td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Sciences</strong></td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Projects</strong></td>
<td>5,627,771</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Education Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total (USD)</th>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced Knowledge and Education for Resilient Pastoral Livelihoods in South Sudan</td>
<td>1,075,210</td>
<td>FAO/EU</td>
<td>MoGEI, Ministry of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture, &amp; local NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CapED TVET- Supporting the Development of TVET sector in South Sudan</td>
<td>850,000</td>
<td>CapED donors - Norway, Sweden, Finland</td>
<td>European Union, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), MoGEI, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MoCYS), and other line ministries &amp; local NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNAIDS UBRAF</td>
<td>63,302</td>
<td>UBRAF</td>
<td>Ministry of Health, MoGEI, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Training - Prevention of Violent Extremism</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>UNESCO ICBA, MoGEI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhanced Knowledge and Education for Resilient Pastoral Livelihoods in South Sudan - Phase II</td>
<td>685,000</td>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>MoGEI, Ministry of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, &amp; local NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Projects - Education Sector</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,783,512</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Culture Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total (USD)</th>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capacity building and Implementation Strategy for the World Heritage Convention in South Sudan</td>
<td>29,900</td>
<td>UNESCO World Heritage Center</td>
<td>MoCYS, UNESCO World Heritage Center (WHC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening capacities for implementation of UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MoCYS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening capacities for implementation of UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MoCYS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strengthening Implementation of UNESCO 1972 World Heritage Convention</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MoCYS)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Projects - Culture Sector</strong></td>
<td><strong>102,047</strong></td>
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</table>

#### Communication and Information (CI) Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total (USD)</th>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening Dialogue for Peace and Reconciliation in South Sudan</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>UN Peacebuilding Fund</td>
<td>Ministry of Information, UN PBF, UNDP, MDI, COMnetSS, RapNet, UNMSS (Civil Affairs), and local media houses, INGOs and NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting and Enabling Environment for Freedom of Expression</td>
<td>124,612</td>
<td>SIDA</td>
<td>AMDSS, UJOSS, UNDP, UNMSS (HR Division)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan National Archives: Preservation of Documentary heritage for Peace</td>
<td>950,000</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Norway, Department of Archives, Ministry of Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening Dialogue for Peace and Reconciliation in South Sudan - Phase II</td>
<td>487600</td>
<td>UN Peacebuilding Fund</td>
<td>Ministry of Information, UN PBF, UNDP, MDI, COMnetSS, RapNet, UNMSS (Civil Affairs), CEPO, and local media houses, INGOs and local NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Projects - CI Sector</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,682,212</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Social and Human Sciences (SHS) Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total (USD)</th>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening Public Policy and advocating for the promotion of the rights of youth with member states</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>UNFPA, UNMSS, and local NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Projects - SHS Sector</strong></td>
<td><strong>40,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Science Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total (USD)</th>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening Water Education</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>UNICEF, MoGEI, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Projects - Science Sector</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Annex 2: South Sudan sites on Tentative World Heritage List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tentative World Heritage List – Cultural Sites</th>
<th>About the Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> Deim Zubeir Slave Route</td>
<td><strong>Deim Zubeir</strong> is a historical slave trench from the 19th century and associated to the North Africa, Arab and Asian-led slave trade. The site includes a <strong>trench and a fortification where slaves were kept awaiting</strong> to be transported to various destinations along the Nile northwards. The trench, which contains rooms used as prisons, was built underground almost four meters deep and three kilometers long with wood and mud.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tentative World Heritage List – Natural Sites</th>
<th>About the Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>South Sudan has an extensive system of game reserves and national parks some of which date back to the 1930’s. According to Schedule IV of the Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act, 2003, South Sudan has 18 wildlife protected areas, comprising 6 national parks (including Badingilo, Boma, Nimule and Southern national parks) and 12 game reserves (including Bangangai, Bire Kpatous, Fanyikang, Kidepo, Mushra, Numatina and Zeraf game reserves). In total the protected area estate covers about 87,030 km(^2) of South Sudan, which is about 13% of the land surface.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> Boma-Badingilo Migratory Landscape</td>
<td>The Boma-Badingilo Migratory Landscape (BBML) hosts the <strong>one of the largest animal migration in the world</strong> in one of East Africa’s most extensive savannah habitats. Each year the white-eared kob’s migration is a natural spectacle of approximately <strong>one million animals moving in mega-herds</strong>, between Boma and Badingilo National Parks. The Boma-Badingilo Migratory Landscape (‘the landscape’) covers an estimated area of 37,500 km(^2). The landscape consists of Boma and Badingilo National Parks on either sides of a large expanse of savannah habitats. To the west lies Badingilo (8,935km(^2)) and to the east is Boma (19,747km(^2)). <strong>These are connected by an unprotected corridor that allows the wildlife to range between the two protected areas.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong> The Sudd Wetlands</td>
<td>The Sudd Wetland represents one of the <strong>largest freshwater ecosystems in the world</strong> with its network of channels, lagoons and inundated areas. The site is internationally recognized for its unique ecological attributes that include notable wildlife species, and various endangered mammalian species. Beyond its significance as a natural site, the Sudd is inhabited by Nilotic and pastoralists who are closely linked to its ecological functioning. These groups have developed traditions that have allowed them to adapt to the inundated and seasonally variable conditions across the Sudd through a combination of nomadic agro-pastoralism, non-timber forest product collection and fishing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Sudd Wetlands
(Picture credits: WCS)