



UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES OF MINE ACTION IN SOUTH SUDAN

*Cover: UNMISS Military Engineering Company of Republic of Korea (ROK HMEC)
operating on Pibor-Akobo Main Supply Route, 2022.
Source: UNMISS/PIO Bor*

The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in South Sudan,
GICHD and UNDP, June 2023

© GICHD and UNDP

The content of this publication, its presentation and the designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the GICHD and UNDP regarding the legal status of any country, territory or armed group, or the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries. All content remains the sole responsibility of the GICHD and UNDP.

**THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES
OF MINE ACTION IN SOUTH
SUDAN**

CONTRIBUTORS

GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING (GICHD)

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining works towards reducing risk to communities caused by explosive ordnance, with a focus on landmines, cluster munitions and ammunition stockpiles.

The Centre helps develop and professionalise the sector for the benefit of its partners: national and local authorities, donors, the United Nations, other international and regional organisations, non-governmental organisations, commercial companies, and academia. It does so by combining four lines of service: field support focused on advice and training, multilateral work focused on norms and standards, research and development focused on cutting-edge solutions, and facilitating dialogue and cooperation.

SOUTH SUDAN NATIONAL MINE ACTION AUTHORITY (NMAA)

The South Sudan National Mine Action Authority is a legal body, established by the Government of South Sudan, with responsibility for coordination, planning, and monitoring of mine action in South Sudan. The NMAA shares the responsibility with the UN Mine Action Service for monitoring the quality of land release efforts, accrediting mine action organisations and for monitoring their adherence to quality management plans.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme is the leading United Nations organisation fighting to end poverty and inequality, and climate change. UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, as well as drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in nearly 170 countries and territories, the UNDP offers a global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION SERVICE (UNMAS)

UNMAS leads, coordinates, and implements mine action to support local communities in living in a safe and secure environment, free of the threat of explosive ordnance.

UNMAS is an integral component of the United Nations Mission to South Sudan (UNMISS), mandated under Security Council resolution 2567 (2021). Its operations support the four core UNMISS mandated activities: protection of civilians; creating the conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance; supporting the peace process and the implementation of the 2018 “Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan”; monitoring, investigating, and reporting on violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The GICHD and UNDP would like to extend their gratitude to the South Sudan National Mine Action Authority and the United Nations Mine Action Service, whose support was indispensable in carrying out this research.

The research team would also like to thank the DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), G4S Ordnance Management, Humanity & Inclusion (HI), Mines Advisory Group (MAG), and SafeLane Global who generously took part in the interview process, provided data, and shared their insights.

The GICHD and UNDP would like to thank the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) for the financial support to this project.

The authors of this study are Ángela Hoyos Iborra, Arsen Khanyan and Boris Ohanyan of the GICHD.

CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	8
LIST OF FIGURES	9
FOREWORD	11
KEY FINDINGS	15
PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY	27
INTRODUCTION	33
THE CONTRIBUTION OF MINE ACTION TO THE SDGs	47
1. LAND RELEASE	51
2. VICTIM ASSISTANCE	79
3. EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION	93
4. GENDER AND DIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING	103
5. PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION	115
CONCLUSION	127
ENDNOTES	129

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention	PWD	Person with disabilities
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement	R-ARCSS	Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
DCA	DanChurchAid	R-NDS	Revised National Development Strategy
DRC	Danish Refugee Council	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
EO	Explosive ordnance	ToT	Training of Trainers
EORE	Explosive ordnance risk education	UNCF	UN Cooperation Framework
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
HI	Humanity & Inclusion	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
HLP	Housing, land and property	UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross	UNMIS	United Nations Mission in Sudan
IDP	Internally displaced person	UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
IMAS	International Mine Action Standard	VA	Victim assistance
MAG	Mines Advisory Group		
MGCSW	Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare		
NMAA	National Mine Action Authority		

LIST OF FIGURES

- FIGURE 1** CONTRIBUTION OF MINE ACTION TO THE SDGs IN SOUTH SUDAN
- FIGURE 2** CONTRIBUTION OF MINE ACTION TO THE SDGs BY ACTIVITY IN SOUTH SUDAN
- FIGURE 3** REMAINING HAZARDOUS AREAS IN SOUTH SUDAN AS OF 23 MARCH 2023
- FIGURE 4** MILESTONES IN MINE ACTION IN SOUTH SUDAN
- FIGURE 5** CONTRIBUTION OF LAND RELEASE TO THE SDG TARGETS IN SOUTH SUDAN
- FIGURE 6** LAND RELEASE IN SOUTH SUDAN (2004–2022)
- FIGURE 7** LAND RELEASE IN SOUTH SUDAN (2011–2022)
- FIGURE 8** LAND USE AFTER RELEASE IN SOUTH SUDAN (2004–2022)
- FIGURE 9** CONTRIBUTION OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE TO THE SDG TARGETS IN SOUTH SUDAN
- FIGURE 10** TOTAL NUMBER OF EO VICTIMS IN SOUTH SUDAN (1964–2022)
- FIGURE 11** MAP OF EO ACCIDENT LOCATIONS BY EO CATEGORY IN SOUTH SUDAN (1964–2022)
- FIGURE 12** CONTRIBUTION OF EORE TO THE SDG TARGETS IN SOUTH SUDAN
- FIGURE 13** TOTAL NUMBER OF EORE BENEFICIARIES IN SOUTH SUDAN (2004–2022)
- FIGURE 14** CONTRIBUTION OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING TO THE SDG TARGETS IN SOUTH SUDAN
- FIGURE 15** CONTRIBUTION OF PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION TO THE SDG TARGETS IN SOUTH SUDAN

FOREWORD

A thriving and sustainable future without risks from explosive ordnance cannot be achieved without effective, efficient, inclusive, and sustainable mine action. Key ingredients for this are strong national ownership; sustainable local capacities; sound and inclusive strategic planning; effective operations supported by the latest standards, methods and tools; as well as long-term and predictable funding. In this context, the development of local expertise and the availability of necessary human, institutional, technical, and financial resources are key.

Since 2021, the GICHD, together with key partners, has been documenting the enabling and transformative role of mine action towards broader agendas. Relying on the globally agreed framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, these studies aim to help practitioners and the international community to assess the results of mine action in the medium and long term, beyond the square meters released.

The South Sudan case study was conducted as part of the Beyond Square Meters project, implemented jointly with the United Nations Development Programme, as one of a series of country-level studies on the relationship between mine action and sustainable development. It showcases the contribution of land release, victim assistance, and explosive ordnance risk education to South Sudan's progress towards sustainable development. This study also highlights the role that gender mainstreaming efforts and the establishment of partnerships – within and beyond the mine action sector – have played in turning into reality the overarching principle of “leaving no one behind”.

While explosive ordnance contamination is merely one of numerous challenges to South Sudan's long-term sustainable development, it has posed severe obstacles to the safety of communities and the attainment of the country's social, political, and economic objectives. Mine action in the country has been implemented in a context presenting significant challenges, including the return to inter-communal and political violence, high levels of displacement, and flooding. Despite these difficulties, mine action has played a critical role in addressing immediate humanitarian risks, mitigating the impacts of explosive ordnance, promoting economic growth and social inclusion and establishing some of the foundations for sustainable development. Enabling increased policy coherence, mine action in the country directly contributed to fifty targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The findings of this study are meant to serve as a reference to highlight and promote the value of mine action in South Sudan as an enabler of broader humanitarian, peace, and development efforts.

We hope this study will also serve as a reminder of the need for an increased and full international support to South Sudan's final push to free the country from explosive hazards.



Hon. Jurkuch Barach Jurkuch

Chairperson
National Mine Action Authority under the
Government of South Sudan



Ambassador Stefano Toscano

Director
Geneva International Centre for
Humanitarian Demining

KEY FINDINGS

This study comprehensively maps the sustainable development outcomes of mine action activities in South Sudan. It analyses the impact of land release, victim assistance, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), gender and diversity mainstreaming, and partnerships and cooperation, in the medium and long term.

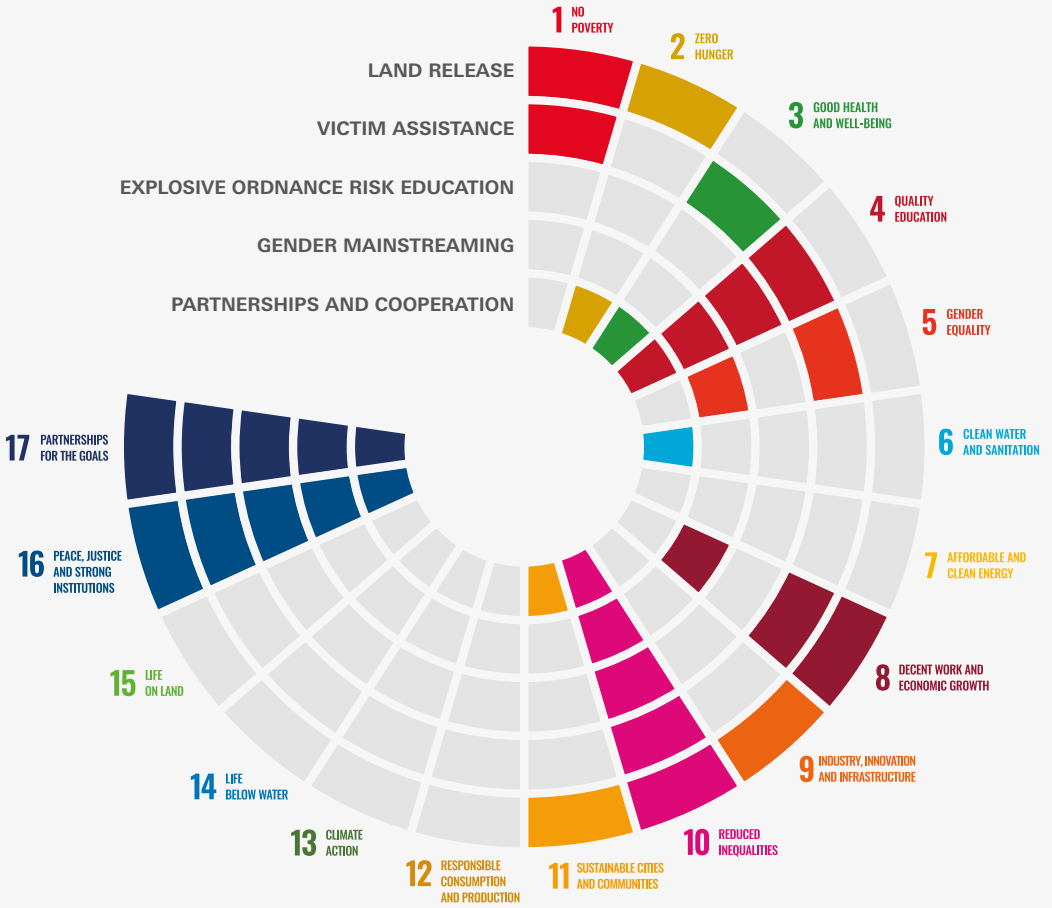
The study presents evidence of the multidimensional and transformative role of mine action in South Sudan by identifying its contribution to **12 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and to at least **50 of their targets**. In South Sudan, the mine action sector has thus contributed to all five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: partnership, peace, people, planet and prosperity.

FIGURE 1 CONTRIBUTION OF MINE ACTION TO THE SDGs IN SOUTH SUDAN



FIGURE 2

CONTRIBUTION OF MINE ACTION TO THE SDGs BY ACTIVITY IN SOUTH SUDAN



LAND RELEASE



Land release throughout South Sudan has allowed communities to resume cultivation and livelihoods and has reduced tension around access to natural resources.

Besides the immediate contribution to **SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** and its **target 16.1** on the reduction of all forms of violence, the study identifies the direct contribution of land release to 7 SDGs and 20 of their associated targets.

Land release has facilitated orderly and safe mobility for internally displaced persons, nomadic pastoralists, and local communities living in and around contaminated areas, thereby contributing to **SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities** and its **target 10.7** on facilitating orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people.

AGRICULTURE AND PRODUCTIVE USE OF LAND

As flooding and drought, climate change-induced extreme weather events, as well as man-made environmental changes have been depleting the agricultural land in South Sudan, the population has been forced to resort to using land in contaminated areas. Land release efforts have thus had a positive impact on reducing the vulnerability of the population to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks.

Due to the importance of subsistence agriculture as a primary source of income for the population of South Sudan, land release has expanded safe access to land and helped small-scale family agriculture, contributing to **SDG 1 No Poverty** through **target 1.1** on reduction of poverty, **target 1.4** on equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services, as well as **SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth** and its **target 8.1** on per capita economic growth.

By enabling the safe use of land for crop production, mine action has contributed to **SDG 2 Zero Hunger**, and its **target 2.1** on ensuring access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food, **target 2.2** on ending malnutrition as well as **target 2.3** on agricultural productivity. The study identified an example of partnership where beneficiaries of land release were trained on farming skills and methods for efficient and increased production of the released land. Land release has thus contributed to **target 2.4** on ensuring sustainable food production. It has also promoted **SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth**, and its **target 8.3** on supporting productive activities and decent job creation and **target 8.5** on productive employment.

Through a partnership which referred beneficiaries of the released land for training to enhance their farming skills and practices, land release has contributed to **SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals** and **target 17.16** on enhanced global partnership for sustainable development.

HOUSING

By enabling the building of houses on cleared land, land release has contributed to **SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth**, its **target 8.1** on sustaining per capita economic growth, as well as **SDG 11**, specifically its **target 11.1** on ensuring access to adequate housing.

ROADS

Through road clearance, land release has contributed to **SDG 1** and its **target 1.4** on access to basic services and natural resources, including land. By giving local traders in Pibor access to imports from Ethiopia and to local marketplaces, land release has also facilitated **SDG 9** and its **target 9.1** on developing reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure to support economic development and well-being as well as **target 9.3**, increasing the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, and their integration into value chains and markets. It also facilitated sustainable and resilient infrastructure through enhanced financial, technological, and technical support, thereby contributing to **target 9.a**. It also supported **SDG 8**, specifically **target 8.1** on sustained economic growth, **target 8.2** on increased economic productivity, **target 8.3** on supporting productive activities and decent job creation, **target 8.5** on productive employment and decent work, as well as contributed to **SDG 10** and its **target 10.2** on promotion of social, economic, and political inclusion of all. The release, rehabilitation and reopening of Pibor-Akobo Road helped mitigate the effects of the floods, which in turn links to **SDG 1**, and its **target 1.5** on improved resilience and reduced vulnerability to climate-related weather events.

The opening of roads achieved through multi-stakeholder cooperation in South Sudan has enabled access for peacekeeping operations, delivery of humanitarian assistance, thus contributing to **SDG 17**, and specifically its **target 17.9** on enhanced international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building, as well as **target 17.16** on enhanced global partnership for sustainable development. Finally, land release has facilitated safe transport, impacting **SDG 11** and its **target 11.2** on providing access to safe, accessible transport systems and improving road safety.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE



Ongoing work to mainstream policies on victim assistance (VA) and disability rights in South Sudan has contributed to **SDG 3** and its **target 3.8** on health coverage and access to quality health services as well as **SDG 17** and its **target 17.14** on enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development, as well as **target 17.17** on effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

Facilitating universal access to healthcare services has contributed to **SDG 5** and **target 5.1** on ending all forms of discrimination. Existing policies on VA also contribute to **SDG 1** and its **target 1.b** on creating frameworks based on pro-poor development strategies.

Various multi-stakeholder partnerships in VA as well as efforts to promote employment opportunities and financial autonomy of persons with disabilities (PWDs), make a clear contribution to **SDG 17** and its **target 17.16** on partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as **target 17.17** on effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

By enabling the active engagement of victims in priority setting, victim assistance has contributed to **SDG 16** and its **target 16.6** on developing accountable institutions, **target 16.7** on ensuring inclusive decision-making at all levels, and **target 16.b** on non-discriminatory laws and policies.

By promoting the access of victims to economic resources, victim assistance has directly contributed to **SDG 1 No poverty** and its **target 1.3** on implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, and **target 1.4** on ensuring that the poor and the vulnerable have equal rights to economic resources.

By promoting social and economic inclusion and adopting social protection policies, victim assistance has contributed to **SDG 10** and its **target 10.2** on social, economic, and political inclusion, and target **10.3** on endorsing policies and action that reduce inequalities. Through training, such as on business, asset management, overall financial literacy, as well as through the provision of start-up kits for ensuring socio-economic autonomy, VA efforts have contributed to **SDG 8** and its **target 8.5** on achieving decent work for all.

In terms of facilitating access to education and facilitation of vocational training of PWDs, victim assistance has contributed to **SDG 4** and its **target 4.3** on equal access to vocational education, as well as **target 4.5** on ensuring access to education for the vulnerable, including PWDs.

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION



Risk education is critical to protect civilians in South Sudan, where large population movements increase the vulnerability of millions of people to explosive threats.

Through interpersonal EORE sessions, many community members have learnt to identify explosive ordnance (EO) and alert authorities to its presence. By encouraging and promoting safe behaviour among communities at risk of encountering EO and ensuring incidents are reported, EORE in South Sudan has contributed to **SDG 16** and its **target 16.1** on the reduction of all forms of violence.

EORE in South Sudan is implemented through partnerships between international operators, local EORE providers, and community leaders and focal points to ensure training and support to beneficiaries. These partnerships support **SDG 17**, including **target 17.14** on enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development, **target 17.16** on multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and **target 17.17** on effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

By ensuring that EORE sessions serve the needs of individuals and marginalised groups, accounting for characteristics such as gender, age, and language, mine action has also contributed to **SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities** and its **target 10.3** on ensuring equal opportunity and reducing inequalities of outcome, as well as **SDG 4** and its **target 4.a** on providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING



Mine action has shown successful examples of promoting the meaningful participation and inclusion of women in the sector in South Sudan.

Significant efforts have been made to provide equal access to employment for men and women, as well as for the recruitment of women, including as deminers. Gender mainstreaming in mine action has helped increase women's representation and participation, thus contributing to **SDG target 5.1** on ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls, **target 5.5** on ensuring women's full and effective participation, and **target 5.c** on adopting policies for the promotion of gender equality. It has also facilitated **SDG 8** and its **target 8.5** on full and productive employment and decent work. Mine action has also contributed to **SDG 10** and its **target 10.2** on empowering and promoting inclusion for all, and **target 10.3** on reducing outcome inequalities.

Efforts to ensure that community liaison and EORE are tailored to the needs of women and girls has facilitated **SDG 4** and its **target 4.5** on eliminating gender disparities and ensuring equal access to education, as well as **target 4.a** on building safe and inclusive learning environments. This, in combination with broader efforts to enshrine women's rights in all aspects of social, economic and political life, has contributed to **SDG 16** and its **target 16.b** on promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

In South Sudan, various mine action initiatives have been taken in relation to gender and diversity mainstreaming, which have contributed to **SDG 17** and its **target 17.16** on enhanced global partnership for sustainable development as well as **target 17.17** on encouraging and promoting effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION



Partnerships in mine action in South Sudan have contributed to **SDG 17**, including **target 17.3** on mobilising financial resources, **target 17.14** on enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development, **target 17.16** on multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources, **target 17.17** on effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, as well as **target 17.18** on capacity-building support to increase availability of high-quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data.

These efforts have also allowed for effective capacity building at different levels, facilitating improvements towards **SDG 16** and its **target 16.6** on the development of effective, accountable and transparent institutions, and **target 16.a** on strengthened national institutions.

Through land release efforts that enabled the construction of educational facilities, mine action has contributed to **SDG 4 Quality Education** and its **target 4.5** on access to education, vocational training for the vulnerable, and **target 4.a** on disability-sensitive education facilities.

Partnerships to raise international awareness and resources for victims of EO and armed conflict have contributed to **SDG 10** and its **target 10.3** on equal opportunity and the reduction of inequalities of outcome by recognising the importance of participation of youth in mine action.

The study has identified examples of partnerships addressing the needs of people in South Sudan through the triple nexus approach, and through mobilising and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Through these partnerships, mine action has contributed to **SDG 11** and its **target 11.7** on safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces as well as **SDG 10** on reducing inequalities and its **target 10.7** on facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.

Partnerships in mine action have enabled the delivery of humanitarian aid and emergency response, including to children under five at risk of starvation. Through this partnership, mine action has also contributed to **SDG 2 Zero Hunger**, and its **target 2.1** on ensuring access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food, as well as **target 2.2** on ending malnutrition.

Another partnership which led to the implementation of a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) project in a residential area in the capital of South Sudan has contributed to **SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being** and its **target 3.9** on reducing the burden of disease from unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene, as well as **SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation**, in particular **target 6.1** on access to safe and affordable drinking water, **target 6.2** on access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, **target 6.4** on increased water-use efficiency, **target 6.a** on international cooperation in water and sanitation-related activities as well as **SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities** and its **target 11.3** on inclusive and sustainable urbanisation.

Through a partnership leading to construction of a field hospital, mine action has contributed to **SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being** and its **target 3.1** on reduction of maternal mortality, **targets 3.7** and **3.8** on sexual and reproductive , and access to essential healthcare services.

As a result of these partnerships and exchanges, mine action has contributed to **SDG 10** and its **target 10.b** on encouraging official development assistance and financial flows.

PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY

This study aims to map and analyse the overall sustainable development outcomes of mine action in South Sudan, using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an analytical framework. The study was conducted as part of the Beyond Square Meters project as one of a series of country-level studies.

Beyond Square Meters: measuring the impact of humanitarian mine action on local sustainable development through the SDGs.

Funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, Beyond Square Meters is a project jointly implemented by the United Nations Development Programme and the GICHD. The project aims to demonstrate how mine action contributes to sustainable development and peace beyond the number of square metres and mines cleared.

It intends to strengthen the nexus between humanitarian mine action, development, and peace efforts by improving coordination, planning, reporting, and information sharing.

While the impact of mine action in terms of the square metres released or the number of explosive ordnance removed can be immediate and tangible, its contribution to broader sustainable development in the medium and long term is more difficult to plan and measure.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Building upon the achievements and lessons learnt from the Millennium Development Goals,¹ in 2015 the United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a new plan of action.² The 2030 Agenda is universal, transformative and rights based, under the premise that ‘no one will be left behind’.³ It contains 17 integrated Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets which are based on the three core elements of sustainable development – economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection – and calls for peace and partnership.

There are five critical dimensions at the core of the 2030 Agenda, known as ‘the 5 Ps’: people, prosperity, planet, partnership, and peace.⁴

The SDGs serve to measure the longer-term consequences of mine action interventions, since they allow the integration and assessment of most of the external dimensions that influence the results of mine action, including political, economic, social, environmental and cultural factors, and the performance of other related projects.

The findings of this study are meant to serve not as an evaluation of the mine action activities conducted in South Sudan, but as a reference to highlight and promote the value of connecting sustainable development, peacebuilding and humanitarian activities as mutually reinforcing efforts across the full cycle of a mine action programme, from planning to monitoring and evaluation.

This is one of a series of country-level studies undertaken as part of the Beyond the Square Meters project. It builds on the following previous studies conducted by the GICHD in collaboration with partners:

- *Leaving no one behind: Mine action and the Sustainable Development Goals (2017).*
- *The Socio-economic Impact of Anti-vehicle Mines in Angola (2019).*
- *Linking Mine Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Insights from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lao PDR (2020).*
- *The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Jordan (2021).*
- *The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Cambodia (2021).*
- *Contribuciones de la acción integral contra minas al desarrollo sostenible en Colombia (2022).*
- *The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2022).*
- *The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Somalia (2022).*

The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Jordan⁵ constituted a first-of-its-kind study that comprehensively mapped the sustainable development outcomes of mine action activities and approaches in Jordan. This pilot publication set out the methodology for a subsequent series of studies, including this one.

This study aims to bolster the evidence of mine action's multidimensional impact in South Sudan as an enabler of longer-term results which, in turn, can potentially support awareness raising and resource mobilisation in the sector. Ongoing efforts are needed to support national coordination, localisation, and the sustainable resourcing of mine action, particularly in the context of severe climate-related shocks which have increased internal displacement and impeded land access. It is therefore imperative to ensure

greater visibility and understanding of the important role of mine action in countering some interlinked challenges that hinder development prospects in South Sudan.

The methodology for this study has been adapted considering its relevance for the South Sudan context, based on feedback obtained through consultations with mine action stakeholders working in South Sudan. Due to difficulty of access and security concerns, this study primarily relied on desk research and remote interviews (both structured and semi-structured) with representatives from the South Sudan National Mine Action Authority, United Nations Mine Action Service, mine action operators, and other UN agencies and relevant organisations active in South Sudan. The limited access to direct testimonies of beneficiaries does present a shortcoming, and the study acknowledges that the research would have benefitted from direct interaction with key stakeholders and from field visits.

The primary data collected via remote interviews was cross-referenced with secondary data and grey literature sources. Information was analysed using the SDGs and their targets as the analytical framework to identify the sustainable development outcomes of mine action efforts.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provided relevant land cover (LC) data based on satellite data. The coordinates of some areas cleared by Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Magwi County were overlaid with LC data as well as with remote sensing data for crop type mapping. A map and textual information were thus produced and provided by FAO.

Considering the extent of the results of mine action interventions over the years, the study has selected some noteworthy examples identified through primary and secondary sources during the research process. Even though mine action interventions have been conducted in multiple locations throughout South Sudan, the land release section is limited to the examples of the states of Central Equatoria (Juba County), Eastern Equatoria (Magwi County), and Jonglei (Akobo and Pibor Counties), which are also some of the most contaminated areas in the country.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

Explosive ordnance (EO) contamination in South Sudan dates back to the first Sudanese Civil War, which broke out between the North and the South in 1955, the year before Sudan gained its independence,⁶ and came to an end with the 1972 Addis Ababa Agreement.⁷

In 1983, largely as a continuation of the first Sudanese Civil War, the conflict re-erupted between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army.⁸ Lasting 22 years, this conflict, known as the second Sudanese Civil War, ended on 9 January 2005 with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and the Government of the Republic of Sudan/Government of Sudan.⁹

The CPA sought to set out a democratic system of governance, the structures of government and the sharing of oil revenues between Sudan and South Sudan.¹⁰ The agreement also established that a referendum would be held six years later, in January 2011.¹¹ The United Nations Security Council, with resolution 1590 of 24 March 2005, established the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), mandating it to support implementation of the CPA in addition to other tasks.¹²

Following the referendum that voted overwhelmingly in favour of secession, South Sudan declared independence on 9 July 2011, becoming the 193rd Member State of the United Nations.¹³ On the same day, UNMIS ended its operations, and the Security Council established a successor mission to UNMIS – the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).¹⁴

From the outset, the country faced immense humanitarian, development, and security challenges,¹⁵ whilst intercommunal violence had already broken out in several areas of the country even before this point.¹⁶

Two years after independence, a power struggle between President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar resulted in a civil war in South Sudan.¹⁷ In 2015, the signing of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS), led to a temporary pause in the

fighting, which erupted again a few months later.¹⁸ These outbreaks of civil war resulted in additional EO contamination whilst also causing widespread displacement and a severe deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the country.¹⁹

Subsequent efforts in peace negotiations resulted in the signing of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) in 2018.²⁰ On 22 February 2020, South Sudan formed the Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) for a 36-month period.²¹

Although these developments led to an improvement in the security situation across the country, the recovery and peacebuilding efforts risked being reversed with a surge of violence in 2021 and 2022.²²

On 4 August 2022, parties to the R-ARCSS agreed on a roadmap for a peaceful and democratic end to the transitional period of the R-ARCSS, extending the transitional period by 24 months (from 23 February 2022 to 22 February 2025) to allow the government to meet key benchmarks in the peace agreement.²³

With resolution 2625 (2022), the UN Security Council extended the UNMISS mandate until 15 March 2023, emphasising that UNMISS should continue advancing its 3-year strategic vision defined in resolution 2567 (2021) to prevent a return to civil war, build durable peace, and support inclusive, accountable governance, and free, fair and peaceful elections in accordance with the Revitalised Peace Agreement.²⁴ The UNMISS mandate includes four pillars: protection of civilians; creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance; supporting the implementation of the revitalised agreement and the peace process; and monitoring, investigating, and reporting on violations of humanitarian and human rights law.²⁵

South Sudan still faces a humanitarian crisis, exacerbated by conflict, fragility, economic stagnation, instability, ubiquitous poverty, displacement, and external shocks.²⁶

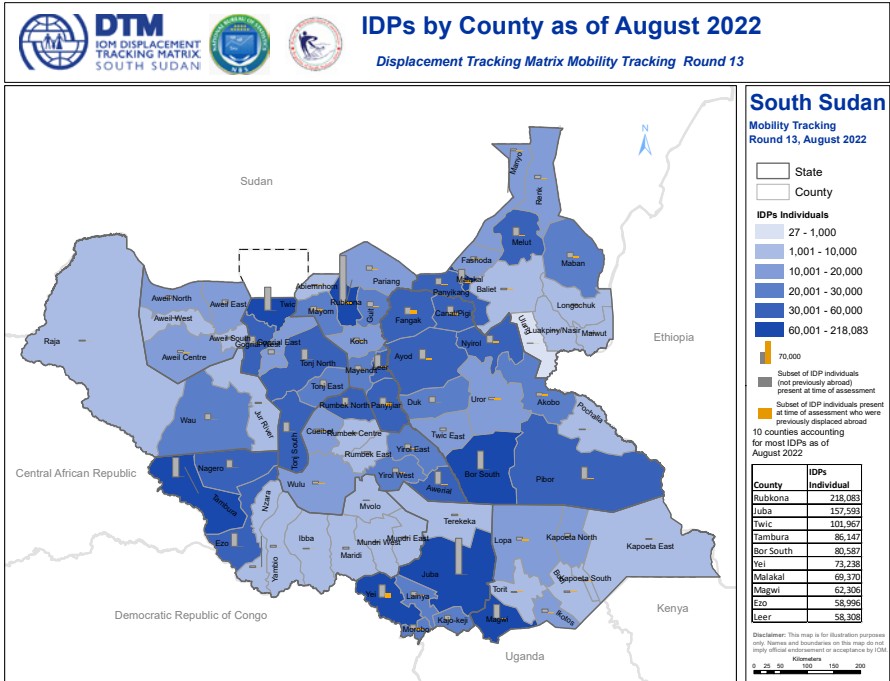
South Sudan's economy is marked by high, volatile inflation and widespread market failure. The national budget has been impacted by low production, a global drop in oil demand and a collapse in prices.²⁷ In 2020–21, agriculture was negatively impacted by floods and locusts, and production in the oil sector, which accounts for over 75 percent of GDP and 80 percent of the industry sector's value added, fell as some oilfields reached maturity. Public and private consumption, which drove growth on the demand side in 2020, were affected by reduced economic activity in 2020/21.²⁸ The Covid-19 pandemic further contributed to food price increases in 2020–2021 due to supply-side disruptions.²⁹ According to the World Bank, market failures attributed to excessive inflation have had the greatest direct impact on food insecurity in South Sudan since late 2015, surpassing previously dominant conflict-related factors.³⁰

The country remains one of the most acute food insecurity emergencies in the world, with around two-thirds of its population facing extreme levels of food insecurity and malnutrition.³¹ An estimated 9.4 million of the most vulnerable people in South Sudan will need urgent life-saving assistance and protection in 2023, compared to 8.9 million in 2022.³²

Humanitarian access to affected populations continues to be constrained by subnational and intercommunal violence, bureaucratic impediments, and politically or economically motivated threats against humanitarian personnel and assets.³³ The country presents a high-risk context for aid workers, with relocations of humanitarian workers due to the security situation, looting of humanitarian facilities and supplies, and movement restrictions across some areas.³⁴

South Sudan is characterised by a high degree of population movement. Decades of conflict, humanitarian crises as well as climate change have caused forced displacement in the country. With an estimated population of 11.6 million as of 2022,³⁵ South Sudan has registered more than four million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in neighbouring countries.³⁶ Relative stability since the R-ARCSS has enabled further movements by allowing forced displaced populations to return. More than half a million spontaneous refugee returnees have been registered in South Sudan since 2018.³⁷

As of August 2022, the International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix mapped a total of 2,257,672 IDPs (7 percent previously displaced abroad) and 2,175,352 returnees (29 percent returned from abroad) in 3,614 locations across South Sudan.³⁸



Insecurity, the persistent threat of surges in violence, the presence of explosive ordnance, the lack of safe access to basic services and housing, as well as land and property issues in potential return areas, pose additional challenges to large-scale returns.³⁹

In 2022, insecurity escalated in the Greater Upper Nile and Greater Bahr el Ghazal regions.⁴⁰ In February 2022, an escalation of violence was registered in Jonglei State, with several attacks reported in different areas (Bor South, Duk, Pochalla and Urur).⁴¹ In addition, armed violence increased in different

areas in the Greater Equatoria States (Lainya, Yei River Counties). The situation in Unity State has remained volatile since the beginning of 2022, causing the displacement of around 39,000 people.⁴²

In March 2022, increased violence related to long-standing border disputes was registered in the Abyei Administrative Area, resulting in around 70,000 people being displaced.⁴³ Clashes also broke out in mid-November 2022 in Fashoda County, Upper Nile State, resulting in the displacement of over 9,100 people, causing civilian deaths and injuries, abduction of women and children, hampered access to life-saving services, and the destruction of property, schools, and health facilities, with reports of incidents of gender-based violence.⁴⁴

Peace, security and livelihoods in South Sudan are also threatened by climate-related shocks such as torrential rains, seasonal flooding, and severe droughts.⁴⁵ These natural disasters have resulted in the depletion of natural resources, particularly grazing land, and have affected the access to water sources and led to the loss of cattle, increasing the subnational and intercommunal violence that revolves around grazing rights and cattle migration.⁴⁶ Contamination of water sources and stagnant flood waters have been linked to an increase in reported cases of malaria and diarrhoea, affecting children the most.⁴⁷

The May–November 2021 floods, reportedly the most devastating since the early 1960s, affected 9 out of the 10 South Sudan states, impacting around one million people and displacing more than 300,000.⁴⁸ Since August 2022, torrential rains and flash floods have swept across the country, affecting more than one million people spread across 36 counties, with people in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, Unity and Western Equatoria States the worst affected.⁴⁹

This cascading set of challenges has created a complex context for mine action and for its contribution to sustainable development in South Sudan.

MINE ACTION IN SOUTH SUDAN

The conflict that led to the creation of South Sudan lasted for 50 years, leaving a legacy of landmines and explosive remnants of war.⁵⁰

Records of landmine use were rarely kept and those that exist are often inaccurate or out of date. As a result, defining the true extent of landmine contamination and its impact on the lives of the local populations has been challenging.⁵¹

All 10 South Sudan states have been affected by explosive ordnance,⁵² with the highest contamination reported in the states of Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Upper Nile and Jonglei.⁵³ EO contamination has severely affected the road network and agricultural activities, complicating access to land and undercutting food production in large areas which are suspected to be unsafe.⁵⁴

EO contamination limits agriculture, cattle grazing, and access to natural resources.⁵⁵ In addition, minefields have been found around schools and medical facilities and, in a country where a significant amount of travel is done by foot, minefields make travel dangerous.⁵⁶

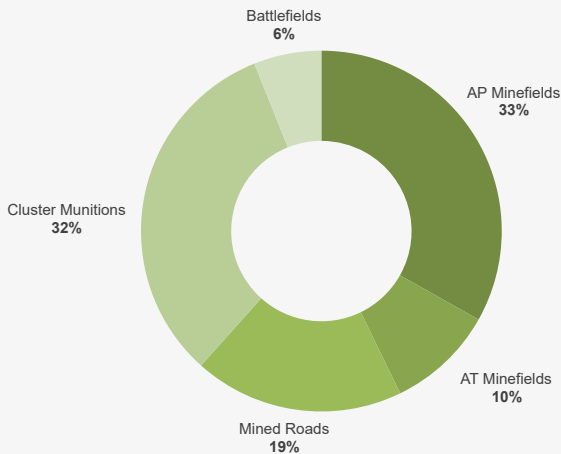
Land in the country is often used for burning charcoal (for home use and for sale), grazing cattle and other livestock, collecting fruit (for food and for making oil), hunting, and harvesting honey. Because of the importance of these natural resources, community members may venture away from known roads and safe paths, putting themselves at greater risk of accidents.⁵⁷ The clearance of EO, therefore, has the potential for allowing communities to resume cultivation and their livelihoods, practice activities related to education and shelter, and to reduce tension around natural resources and land availability.⁵⁸

The return to violence, and the general insecurity that has affected the country for most of the time since independence, has had a severe impact on land release efforts while also adding more contamination to be cleared. A recent example is the suspension of land release operations in 2022 along the Juba-Nimule highway (Central and Eastern Equatoria) due to the security situation and intercommunal violence.⁵⁹

As of June 2022, South Sudan had a known remaining contamination area of 18,349,347 m² with a total number of 346 known hazardous areas comprising 114 anti-personnel minefields, 72 anti-tank minefields, 126 cluster strike areas and 34 battlefields.⁶⁰

FIGURE 3 REMAINING HAZARDOUS AREAS IN SOUTH SUDAN AS OF 23 MARCH 2023

	CHA		SHA		TOTAL	
	AREA M ²	TASKS	AREA M ²	TASKS	AREA M ²	TASKS
AP Mines	3,052,578	65	2,363,059	47	5,415,637	112
AT Mines	876,694	37	699,164	13	1,575,858	50
Mined Roads	1,297,707	12	1,775,997	12	3,073,704	24
Cluster Munitions	4,577,114	120	701,395	7	5,278,509	127
Battlefields	911,562	27	79,315	8	990,877	35
TOTAL	10,715,655	261	5,618,930	87	16,334,585	348



Source: UNMAS/NMAA South Sudan

The Government of Sudan signed the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention on 4 December 1997 and ratified it on 13 October 2003 when Sudan was still one country. Demining in South Sudan began in 2004. South Sudan deposited its notification of succession to the Convention on 11 November 2011. According to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, the Convention became effective for South Sudan on 9 July 2011, the date of State succession.

The current National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) is a successor to the South Sudan Demining Authority that was mandated by the Government of Southern Sudan's Presidential Decree No. 45 (2006) to "formulate and implement plans for removing mines from roads, paths and all other places where they are suspected to be laid or buried".⁶¹ The NMAA serves as "the legal body with responsibility for the delivery and regulation of mine action activities in the country".⁶²

South Sudan does not have national mine action legislation.⁶³ Since 2011, mine action in the country has been overseen by the NMAA with the support of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).⁶⁴ The first law on mine action is in the process of being drafted.⁶⁵

The latest mine action strategy in the country covers the period 2018–2021. The National Mine Action Authority is currently working on resource mobilisation for developing a new mine action strategy 2023–2026.

In the mine action strategy, South Sudan categorised the humanitarian and socio-economic impact from EO into the following five areas: agriculture and livestock; infrastructure and community development; access to natural resources; displacements and IDP/refugee returns; and injuries and deaths.

Mine action operations are implemented by commercial operators managed by UNMAS, and by international and national NGOs funded through bilateral donations. All are licenced and accredited to operate in South Sudan by the NMAA, and all report results to UNMAS and the NMAA through coordination meetings, co-chaired by the NMAA and UNMAS. Other bilaterally funded partners also look to UNMAS for tasking to ensure appropriate use of resources.⁶⁶

UNMAS constitutes an integral component of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan which is mandated under Security Council resolution 1996 (2011). This resolution authorised UNMISS, among other tasks, to support “the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in conducting de-mining activities within available resources and strengthening the capacity of the Republic of South Sudan Demining Authority to conduct mine action in accordance with International Mine Action Standards”.⁶⁷ UNMAS and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) currently jointly chair the Mine Action Sub-Cluster in South Sudan which is part of the Global Protection Cluster for South Sudan. UNMAS has worked to support the development of the NMAA since its inception and has managed records of contamination and land release operations, as well as monitoring the quality of land release efforts, jointly with the NMAA.⁶⁸

Several national NGOs in South Sudan have been accredited to carry out explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), and some NGOs have been trained on technical clearance efforts by international NGOs.⁶⁹ Currently, three international NGOs (DanChurchAid (DCA), the DRC, Mines Advisory Group) and three commercial organisations (G4S Ordnance Management, The Development Initiative, and SafeLane Global) operate in the country.

Considering the remaining contamination, in 2020 South Sudan was granted a 5-year extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 1 of the APMBC.⁷⁰ However, the lack of sustained funding for mine action has been highlighted as a challenge for the timely completion of South Sudan’s clearance obligations.⁷¹

South Sudan is not a High Contracting Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons although it has expressed interest in joining this Convention. The country has participated as an observer in several Convention meetings. On 24 February 2023, South Sudan completed the national normative processes that enabled the country to join the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).⁷² On 9 May 2023, the country also completed the national procedures allowing it to become party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).⁷³

Since 2012, EORE has been implemented in the country by South Sudan's Ministry of Education alongside local and international NGOs and with support from the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNMAS.⁷⁴ Coordination of EORE activities takes place through the Mine Action Sub-Cluster as part of the Global Protection Cluster.⁷⁵

The NMAA is the focal point on victim assistance (VA) in South Sudan. The implementation of VA is a function of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW). Humanity and Inclusion provides rehabilitation services, assistive devices, and counselling support in physical rehabilitation centres in the country: in Juba, Rumbek, and Wau. The International Committee of the Red Cross supports the running of a prosthetics centre in the country and supports the physical rehabilitation centres managed by the MGCSW.

- **1955** Beginning of the first Sudanese Civil War.
- **1972** End of the first Sudanese Civil War and establishment of the Southern Sudan Autonomous Region through the Addis Ababa Agreement.
- **1983** Beginning of the second Sudanese Civil War.
- **2004** Beginning of mine action in South Sudan.
- **2005** Signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement ending the second Sudanese Civil War.
- **2006** Establishment of the South Sudan Demining Authority, later renamed South Sudan National Mine Action Authority.
- **2011** Declaration of Independence of South Sudan, becoming the 193rd Member State of the United Nations.
South Sudan's succession to the APMBC.
Adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1996 creating the United Nations Mission in South Sudan with a mandate to support mine action in South Sudan, among other tasks.
- **2012** Adoption of the South Sudan national mine action strategic plan 2012–2016.
- **2013** Outbreak of civil war in South Sudan.
- **2015** Signing of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan.

- **2017** Adoption of the South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2021.
- **2018** Signing of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS).
- **2020** Formation of the Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity.
Granting of 5-year extension under Article 5 of the APMBC.
- **2022** Signing of the agreement of the parties on a roadmap for a peaceful and democratic end to the transitional period of the R-ARCSS extending the transitional period by 24 months.

**THE CONTRIBUTION
OF MINE ACTION
TO THE SDGs**

Connecting mine action with broader agendas and approaches requires policy coherence and facilitates the complementarity of interventions, particularly among actors working in the humanitarian, development, and peace (HDP) sectors, in line with the triple nexus approach. Given its cross-cutting and facilitating role, mine action is well positioned to bridge the different HDP actors and forums, maximising the impact of different responses aimed at the plethora of dimensions of a crisis.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a comprehensive framework for mine action to demonstrate and measure its transformative and enabling role for sustainable development, humanitarian action, peace and security.

The study has identified direct contributions of mine action to **12 SDGs** and at least **50 of their targets**.

In the following sections, the study explores the multidimensional contribution of mine action to sustainable development and examines the contribution of mine action efforts in South Sudan in attaining the SDGs.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

Adopted in 2021, South Sudan's Revised National Development Strategy (R-NDS) 2021–2024 expresses the “national aspirations to slowly move from dependence on humanitarian aid to a development trajectory” and embraces the humanitarian, development and peace nexus approach to the implementation of the R-NDS. It is aligned with the following frameworks: the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Agenda 2063 (for Africa); South Sudan's Nationally Determined Contribution; South Sudan 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan 2021.⁷⁶

The R-NDS lists explosive ordnance contamination affecting farming, grazing and human settlement as one of the five issues under the governance cluster to be addressed “to establish an environment for

sustainable peace and development in the country”.⁷⁷ The consultations that informed the design of the R-NDS reconfirmed **SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** as the priority SDG in the country and as an enabler to achieve the other SDGs.

South Sudan has also made a commitment to implement the African Union Agenda 2063 which served as an inspiration for the development of the country’s National Development Strategy 2018–2022.⁷⁸

The vision, mission and strategic goals outlined in South Sudan’s latest National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2021 reinstate the commitment of South Sudan to fulfilling the SDGs and to recognising and promoting linkages between the SDGs and the country’s mine action programme.⁷⁹

On 16 November 2022, the Government of South Sudan and the United Nations in South Sudan signed the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2025, which comprehensively outlines the UN development system’s collective action to support the Government of South Sudan’s national development priorities for the period 2023–2025. Derived from a strategic prioritisation workshop with stakeholders, the framework is aligned with national development priorities, as elaborated in the Revised National Development Strategy and linked to the 2030 Agenda.⁸⁰



MAG community liaison officer interviews community members as part of an impact assessment on land use following landmine clearance. © Courtesy of MAG

1. LAND RELEASE

FIGURE 5

CONTRIBUTION OF LAND RELEASE TO THE SDG TARGETS IN SOUTH SUDAN



- 1.1** End of extreme poverty
- 1.4** Equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services
- 1.5** Improved resilience, reduced vulnerability



- 9.1** Equitable access to infrastructure
- 9.3** Increased access to financial services
- 9.a** Infrastructure development through financial, technological and technical support



- 2.1** Access to food
- 2.2** End malnutrition
- 2.3** Doubling of the agricultural productivity
- 2.4** Sustainable food production



- 10.2** Social, economic, political inclusion of all
- 10.7** Safe migration and mobility



- 8.1** Sustained economic growth
- 8.2** Increased economic productivity through diversification
- 8.3** Support for productive activities and decent job creation
- 8.5** Full and productive employment and decent work



- 11.1** Access to adequate, safe and affordable housing
- 11.2** Access to safe and sustainable transport systems



16.1 Reduction of all forms of violence



17.9 Enhanced international support for capacity-building

17.16 Enhanced global partnership for sustainable development

The wording of the SDG targets listed above has been simplified; the full list of targets and their official names can be found on the United Nations website: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

Land release refers to the process of applying "all reasonable effort"⁸¹ to identify, define, and remove all presence and suspicion of explosive ordnance through non-technical survey, technical survey and/or clearance.⁸²

The release of land for safe passage and access is essential in South Sudan, which has faced a converging and cascading set of crises and emergencies since its independence, marked by extreme levels of food insecurity, poverty, extreme weather events, armed conflict, and high levels of internal displacement. Although explosive ordnance (EO) contamination is merely one of numerous challenges to South Sudan's long-term sustainable development, it continues to be an obstacle to community safety, and land release a prerequisite for social, political, and economic objectives.

In South Sudan, beneficiaries return to and start using the land as early as possible and as soon as the land is released. Reducing casualties caused by EO, land release thus facilitates return of internally displaced persons to their homes in previously unsafe areas, making land accessible for infrastructure, agriculture, and other economic activities.

From 2004 to mid-2022, a total of 1,298,704,142 m² of land was released in the country, 90 percent of which was cancelled through non-technical survey (NTS).⁸³

FIGURE 6 LAND RELEASE IN SOUTH SUDAN (2004–2022)

BATTLE AREA RELEASED (M ²)	MINED AREA RELEASED (M ²)	CANCELLED NTS (M ²)	TOTAL AREA RELEASED (M ²)
81,779,112	46,532,740	1,175,103,181	1,303,415,033

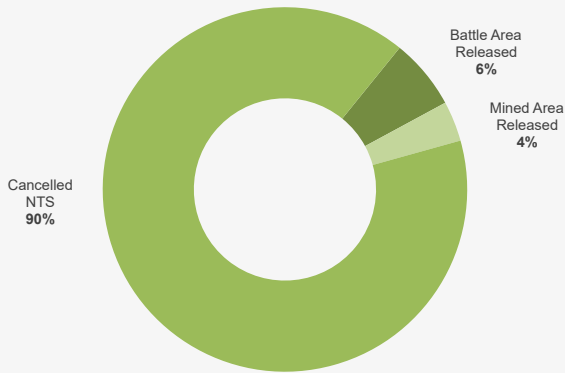
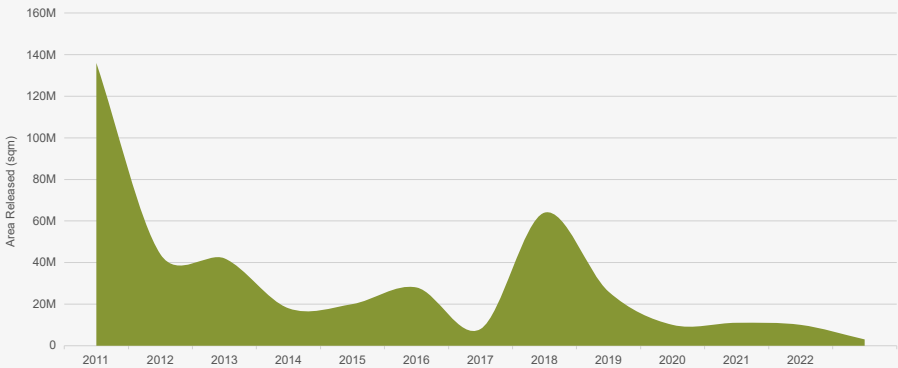


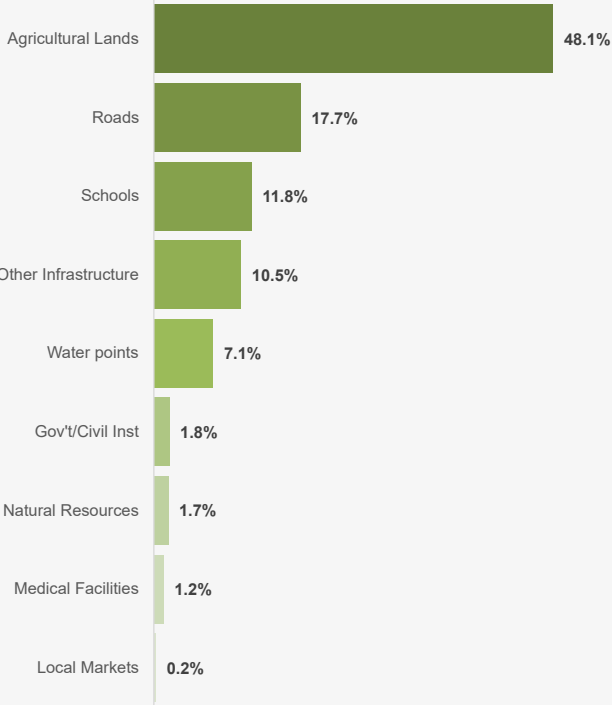
FIGURE 7 LAND RELEASE IN SOUTH SUDAN (2011–2022)



Source: UNMAS/NMAA South Sudan

In South Sudan, agricultural land, roads, and water points have been particularly affected by EO due to their proximity to minefields.⁸⁴ Land release has enabled access to land and resources: almost half of the land released in South Sudan between 2004 and 2022 has been used for agricultural purposes, followed by roads and schools.⁸⁵

FIGURE 8 LAND USE AFTER RELEASE IN SOUTH SUDAN (2004–2022)



Source: UNMAS/NMAA South Sudan

Competition over access to pasture, water, fuel-wood, and productive farmland – between pastoralists and farmers, and communities and clans – exacerbates conflicts and forced migration within South Sudan and across its borders.⁸⁶ Conflict-related displacement has particularly affected the country's large pastoralist population who depend on herds for economic sustainability, basic nutrition and social interaction.⁸⁷ Mobility thus plays a critical role in sustaining pastoral livelihoods.

By preventing EO-related deaths and injuries, land release contributes directly to **SDG 16** and its **target 16.1** on reducing all forms of violence and related death rates. It also plays a critical role in enabling orderly and safe mobility of internally displaced persons, nomadic pastoralists, and local communities living in and around contaminated areas, thereby contributing to **SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities** and its **target 10.7** on facilitating orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people.

AGRICULTURE AND PRODUCTIVE USE OF LAND

Agriculture is one of the main areas impacted by EO contamination in South Sudan,⁸⁸ where around 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas and works in agriculture.

The country has around five times the area of agricultural land per capita compared to Kenya, Uganda or Ethiopia.⁸⁹ More than 70 percent of South Sudan's total land area is suitable for crop production.⁹⁰ As of 2022, out of the estimated 64 million hectares of agricultural land, about 4 percent (approx. 2.8 million ha) has been cultivated either continuously or periodically. The actual area cultivated in any year ranges from about 800,000 to 1.3 million hectares (about 1 percent and 2 percent of the total land area).⁹¹

Crop and vegetable production levels in the country are low.⁹² As farmers rely heavily on rain-fed crop production, erratic or delayed rains can result in poor or no harvests, while heavy rains and flooding can waterlog fields and destroy stocks.⁹³ Conflict and mass displacement continue to force farmers from their fields during key times in the planting season.⁹⁴

Internal trade in South Sudan is limited and agricultural produce is mainly used for self-sufficiency.⁹⁵ Infrastructure bottlenecks, non-tariff barriers, high labour costs, and limited use of productivity-enhancing technologies hinder progress and constrain the competitiveness of South Sudan's agriculture sector, relative to its neighbours.⁹⁶

South Sudan is highly prone to shocks – from economic downturns and conflict-driven crises to natural hazards such as floods, drought and food chain catastrophes, owing to outbreaks of pests and diseases affecting crops and animals.⁹⁷ The cumulative effect of these shocks exacerbates prevailing food insecurity and undermines agriculture-based livelihoods.⁹⁸

95 percent of livelihoods in South Sudan depend on traditional rain-fed agriculture, crop farming, pastoralism and animal husbandry.⁹⁹ According to a household survey run by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) system, 98 percent of households interviewed depend on rain-fed agriculture, with cultivated primary crops including sorghum (53 percent), peanuts (20 percent) and maize (17 percent).¹⁰⁰

While flooding and drought are recurrent in parts of South Sudan, climate change-induced extreme weather events have contributed to an additional increase in the occurrence of these water-related hazards, further diminishing the livelihood opportunities of the population.¹⁰¹

Displacement from farming areas (most notably Greater Equatoria) has severely compromised food availability across the country.¹⁰² South Sudan is currently experiencing rising food insecurity affecting more than eight million people.¹⁰³ According to the World Food Programme, as of 2022 there were two million women and children under five facing acute

malnutrition.¹⁰⁴ More than 80 percent of the population affected by food insecurity is in the Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Lakes, Eastern Equatoria (Kapoeta East), and Warrap States.¹⁰⁵

Households that do not own livestock, engage in unsustainable livelihoods based on natural resources, have limited to no access to arable land for crop cultivation, and face difficulties accessing functioning markets, are among the most vulnerable.¹⁰⁶ Armed conflicts in South Sudan have led to contamination preventing farmers from accessing arable lands. Together with extreme weather events, conflict, economic downturn, displacement and disrupted livelihoods, EO contamination which prevents access to land, is yet another factor contributing to food insecurity in these areas. Sometimes, however, communities use contaminated land for agricultural purposes, despite the high risks.¹⁰⁷

A 2012 study showed that the potential for agricultural production and population density in South Sudan are spatially correlated, with areas of higher agricultural production potential having the highest population density, except for areas in Western and Central Equatoria that are part of the Eastern Flood Plains where population density is low.¹⁰⁸

The majority of the remaining land release tasks in South Sudan lie in the Greater Equatoria region of the country, comprising Eastern, Central and Western Equatoria. This is also the area where the largest number of hazardous areas have been cleared, and thus it is the part of the country in which the mine action sector is most confident of its work being understood. Reported mine accidents have largely been concentrated in Central Equatoria in the south of the country.¹⁰⁹

In 2020, 52 percent of hazardous areas in the 159 minefields, of which 89 were confirmed hazardous areas and 70 suspected hazardous areas, and for which data was available, were located within 50 metres from agricultural land, limiting agricultural activities, cattle grazing, and access to natural resources.¹¹⁰

In many South Sudanese communities, cattle represent much more than a source of food, as they are considered a symbol of wealth, influencing family social status.¹¹¹ As the main pillar of pastoral and agropastoral communities'

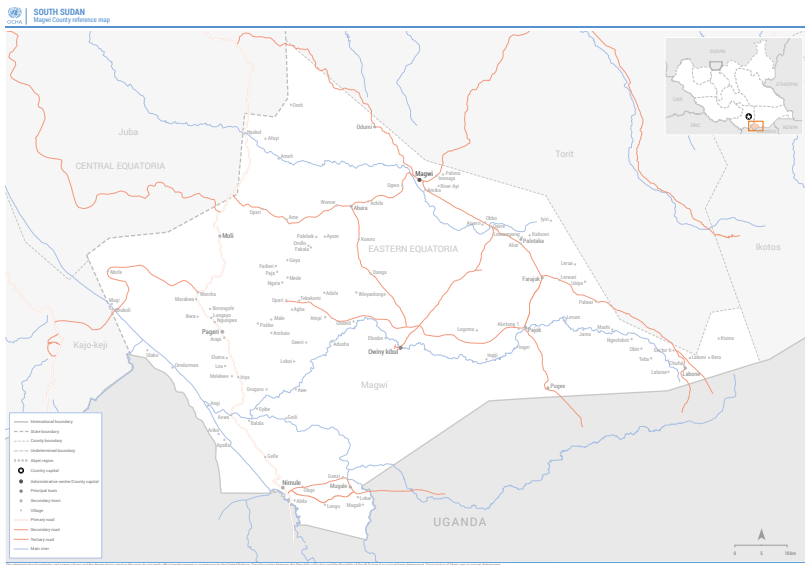
livelihood systems, cattle are central to the country's economy and society.¹¹² Flooding and drought, climate change-induced extreme weather events, as well as man-made environmental changes have been depleting the agricultural land in South Sudan. This has resulted in resource-based conflicts between the pastoralists and the farming communities over access to grazing land.¹¹³

Due to the importance of subsistence agriculture as a primary source of income for the population, land release has expanded safe access to land and helped small-scale family agriculture, contributing to **SDG 1 No Poverty** through **target 1.1** on reduction of poverty, **target 1.4** on equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services as well as **SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth** and its **target 8.1** on per capita economic growth.

By enabling the safe use of land for crop production, mine action has contributed to **SDG 2 Zero Hunger**, and its **target 2.1** on ensuring access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food, **target 2.2** on ending malnutrition as well as **target 2.3** on agricultural productivity. This study also identified an example of partnership where land release beneficiaries were trained on farming skills and methods for efficient and increased production of the released land. Land release has thus contributed to **target 2.4** on ensuring sustainable food production. It has also promoted **SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth**, and its **target 8.3** on supporting productive activities and decent job creation, and **target 8.5** on productive employment.

FACILITATING AGRICULTURE IN MAGWI, EASTERN EQUATORIA

Magwi County in the Eastern Equatoria State is a key area for food production and consequently for the country’s food supply.¹¹⁴ The county is part of the highland forest and sorghum-producing zone.¹¹⁵ Its location on South Sudan’s border with Uganda and proximity to the major trade routes has historically allowed farmers to sell their crops in major markets such as in Juba and Torit.¹¹⁶



The security situation in this county has been stabilising since 2019, with the implementation of the revitalised peace agreement and the cantonment of soldiers.¹¹⁷ Parts of Magwi County’s border with Uganda are contested by communities on both sides. Whilst a committee has been set up to resolve this dispute, to date there has been no permanent resolution.¹¹⁸ Increases in spontaneous refugee returns have the potential to increase intercommunal competition over land and resources in the county.¹¹⁹ Persistent cattle

farming often creates tensions over land and impedes any potential increase in agricultural production.¹²⁰ While tribal conflicts and cattle raids are not uncommon in South Sudan, the increased movement of livestock along unusual migratory routes to flee violence, particularly in agricultural areas, has created tensions among farming communities, often leading to violence.¹²¹

In 2018, the net cereal production in Magwi County was 28,339 tonnes. According to a 2021 report by the FAO,¹²² 95 percent of 185 households interviewed in Magwi reported the sale of agricultural produce as their main source of income, 20 percent reported casual labour related to agriculture as a source of household income, while 9 percent reported casual labour related to non-agricultural activities to be a source of income. The report also indicates that most (88 percent of those interviewed) of the households in Magwi cultivated maize and cassava (57 percent of households), mung beans (38 percent), sesame (37 percent), groundnut (35 percent), sorghum (28 percent), and local vegetable seeds (28 percent).¹²³

The areas cleared by DRC were not in use in the past, due to EO contamination left from the second Sudanese Civil War. In 2022, DRC completed the task – started in 2020 – and handed the released land back to 35 farmers. This allowed farmers to resume proper and safe use of arable land, resulting in a relative increase in production of cassava and maize as staple food for the community.¹²⁴



A farmer planting potato vines in his garden after land release in Magwi, Eastern Equatoria. © Courtesy of DRC



*DRC mine action teams conducting clearance with large loop metal detectors within agricultural land and settlements in Magwi.
© Courtesy of DRC*

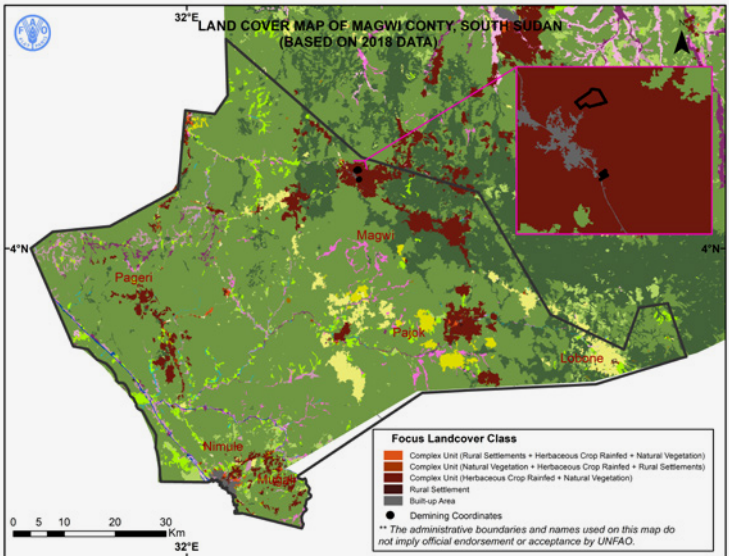
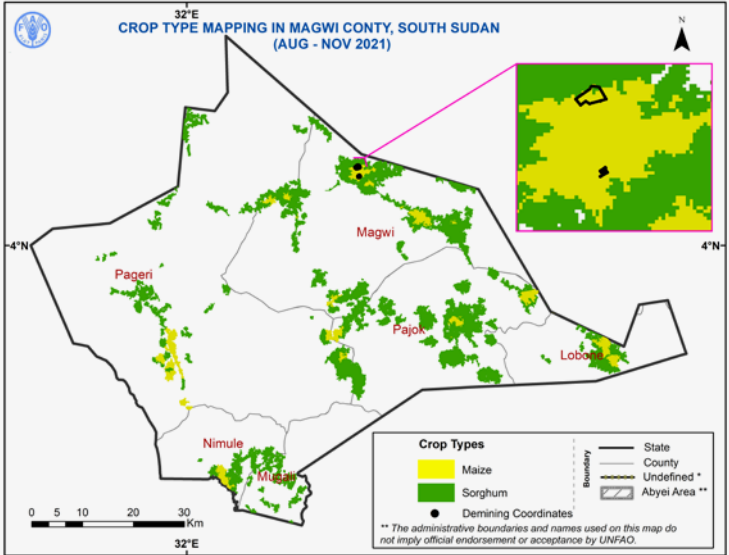
In 2021, the overall areas planted with cereal (maize and sorghum) in Magwi County totalled approximately 59,000 hectares, according to a remote sensing and land cover analysis.

The areas cleared by DRC are on parts of land that were predominantly maize farms as of 2021 (see page 64 for crop type mapping, produced by FAO). Thus, land release can allow for increased production of maize.

To further maximise the social economic impact of land release in Magwi, DRC referred 25 farmers to different food security and livelihood partners (e.g. the Peace and Development Collaborative Organization) for training on modern farming skills and methods for efficient and increased production, as well as on land rights and use.¹²⁵ This referral was essential for enhancing the productivity of farming on the released land. Through the use of improved tools, practices and skills, the arable land will be put to proper use as required.

Through this partnership, land release has contributed to **SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals** and **target 17.16** on enhanced global partnership for sustainable development.

Land release of remaining tasks in Magwi County will be continued in 2023 by other mine action partners in accordance with the updated annual work plan.¹²⁶



PAGERI PAYAM, MAGWI COUNTY

Pageri village, like most villages in the area, was affected by the second Sudanese civil war, before the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed. Fighting was intense when, in 1995, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) drove the Sudanese Armed Forces from Pageri and the neighbouring areas. A wide range of EO was used, targeting SPLA bases and the surrounding areas. This resulted in widespread contamination of EO which is still affecting communities to the present day, in and around Pageri.

The people most at risk from the scattered devices are the local children who play with them, people who collect these items to sell as scrap metal, and women collecting firewood. The presence of EO has had a severe economic impact on the community members of Pageri village and surrounding communities.

In 2021, SafeLane Global, was tasked by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to undertake battle area clearance activities to remove and destroy all EO from the designated area, thus allowing safe access to land for cultivation and to facilitate movement in the area.

Three areas were cleared around Pageri, one of which will be used as a UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) temporary operational base in the future.¹²⁷ A total of 169,000 m² land was released between 18 February 2022 and 25 April 2022, benefitting 245 persons, including 55 women, 50 men, and 65 boys and 75 girls.

UNMAS has coordinated efforts with SafeLane Global to release land for a community in need of reassurance and access to their most vital resources, including land for crop cultivation, areas for charcoal production and grounds for hunting. The ongoing removal of EO, and its subsequent verification, is strengthening the community's confidence in continuing with their daily routines, as the danger posed by EO recedes. These families, as well as the surrounding community, will be able to make use of their fertile land.

Cleared from the threat of EO, the fertile land was handed back to the local community to restore agricultural production, allowing for these areas also to be used as construction sites for government development programmes.¹²⁸

BIRISI VILLAGE: FROM BATTLEFIELD TO CROP CULTIVATION

Birisi village (Lokiliri Payam, Juba County, Central Equatoria State) is located 70 kilometres to the south of Juba along the road to Nimule.

Because of the mountains surrounding the road, Birisi village played a strategic role during the second Sudanese Civil War. As the road to Nimule was, and remains, the main supply route for goods and services from Uganda to Juba, and the only all-season trading route in South Sudan,¹²⁹ the two opposing forces set up camps on separate hills with the village caught between them. The need to control this supply route resulted in confrontation, and the owners of the land were left with little choice other than to flee to the nearby hills in Ngangala or to cross over the border to refugee camps in Uganda. The displaced population was able to return to the village only after the CPA was signed in 2005. They then reported the presence of anti-personnel mines in the village.¹³⁰



Moulding bricks (left) and preparing charcoal (right) in the cleared areas in Birisi village. © Courtesy of UNMAS

Land release in the area was deemed essential to ensure the safe movement of people and goods, while improving food security.¹³¹

G4S, tasked by UNMAS, conducted minefield clearance in the area from October 2019 to April 2020. To date, 98 anti-personnel mines and 15 items of EO have been destroyed, and 218,904 m² of fertile land suitable for crop production have been released to a community of around 345 people.¹³²

MARKAS VILLAGE, AKOBO COUNTY

Markas village, located on the northern and western sides of the Akobo Airstrip, was affected by the second Sudanese Civil War, during which the Sudanese Armed Forces had a base 150 metres west of the airstrip. The area is highly contaminated with air-dropped weapons, submunitions, and other EO.

Decades of conflict have forced populations to migrate to neighbouring countries or other South Sudanese states. While insecurity and EO contamination prevailed after independence, people have started to return in recent years. As a result, reducing the risk to affected communities caused by the presence of EO in this area has become a priority.¹³³

In 2022, UNMAS tasked SafeLane Global to address the clearance of submunitions and other EO reported by informants NTS in Akobo and the surrounding communities, covering a total area of 16,791 m². The coordinated efforts of SafeLane Global clearance assets and community liaison teams will reduce the danger to community members that has been in place for over 30 years.¹³⁴ During March 2022, the team located in Akobo County conducted battle area clearance in Markas village and completed the task on 4 April 2022.¹³⁵ Land release of the remaining tasks in Akobo County will be continued in 2023 by other mine action partners in accordance with the updated annual work plan.¹³⁶

According to testimonies from the owners of the first two compounds during the short time that SafeLane Global's team has been operating in their area, UNMAS's intervention came at a critical time.¹³⁷

Due to the importance of subsistence agriculture as a primary source of income for the population of South Sudan, land release has expanded safe access to land and helped small-scale family agriculture, contributing to **SDG 1 No Poverty** through **target 1.1** on reduction of poverty, **target 1.4** on equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services as well as **SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth** and its **target 8.1** on per capita economic growth.

By enabling the safe use of land for crop production, mine action has contributed to **SDG 2 Zero Hunger**, and its **target 2.1** on ensuring access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food, **target 2.2** on ending malnutrition as well as **target 2.3** on agricultural productivity. The study identified an example of partnership where beneficiaries of land release were trained in farming skills and methods for efficient and increased production of the released land. Land release has thus contributed to **target 2.4** on ensuring sustainable food production. It has also promoted **SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth**, its **target 8.1** on sustained economic growth, **target 8.3** on supporting productive activities and decent job creation and **target 8.5** on productive employment.

HOUSING

Housing, land and property (HLP) rights including reclamation, restitution and reconstruction are a crucial issue in South Sudan.¹³⁸ Equitable access to HLP remains a pivotal requirement for peacebuilding and recovery in post-conflict South Sudan.¹³⁹ Conflicts over intercommunal land and resources rooted in access, ownership, and usage, threaten peacebuilding and stabilisation efforts.¹⁴⁰ Mine action actors continue to work in a difficult environment due to challenges relating to land rights.¹⁴¹

There have been significant challenges to providing equitable land access for the population of South Sudan, mainly as returnees have been gravitating to urban and peri-urban areas without regulated access to land, which has led to conflict and insufficient guarantees in terms of HLP rights.¹⁴²

South Sudan's population was 11.6 million in 2022.¹⁴³ More than half of the population lives below the poverty line, with the poorest concentrated in rural areas.¹⁴⁴

South Sudan's predominantly rural population has gradually been shifting to urban areas, with the proportion of the population living in urban areas increasing from 8.6 percent in 1972 to 18.8 percent in 2016.¹⁴⁵ In 2018, 91 percent of urban residents lived in grass-thatched slums.¹⁴⁶

As demand for urban land increases, tensions also increase between the government and its citizens on how land is to be used, which can affect mine action operations.¹⁴⁷

NESITU VILLAGE

Nesitu is a village 16 kilometres south-east of South Sudan's capital, Juba. It was a strategic position during the second Sudanese Civil War and remains so today. Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and other demining organisations have carried out land release operations around the capital for several years. Recently, MAG was asked to return to Nesitu after villagers, who were cultivating crops, found more landmines, leading to the discovery of previously unknown minefields. Overall, 408 women, men, boys and girls have benefitted directly and 11,134 indirectly from the land release, community liaison, and explosive ordnance risk education activities.



Homes that have been constructed on the task site. © MAG

Even before the land was officially handed over to the community, seven families had started building their houses on it. Land release assured these people of safety and security and encouraged the return of refugees to the village to construct houses and prepare to plant crops for the start of the rainy season.¹⁴⁸

By enabling housebuilding in Nesitu, land release has contributed to **SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth**, its **target 8.1** on sustaining per capita economic growth, as well as **SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities**, in particular its **target 11.1** on ensuring access to adequate housing.

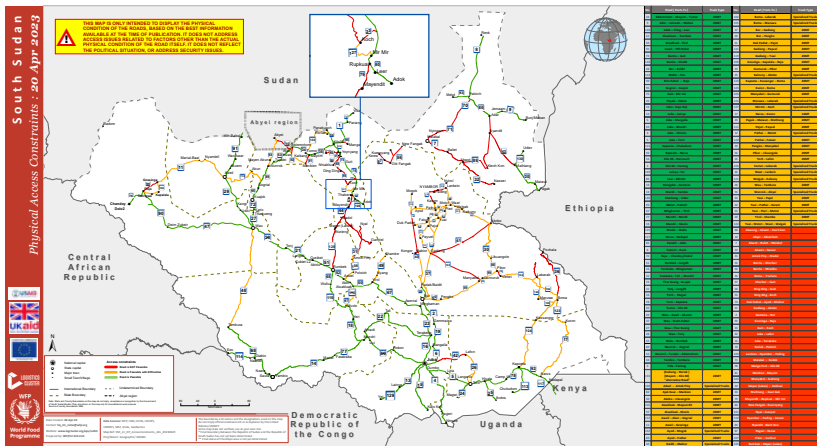


Deminers preparing to conduct follow-up in Nesitu using a Minelab F3 detector and pickets @ Courtesy of MAG

ROADS

South Sudan has one of the world's most underdeveloped road networks and the lowest road density in Africa (15 km of road per 1000 km² of arable land).¹⁴⁹

South Sudan did not have a single surfaced road until shortly after its independence in 2011.¹⁵⁰ The total estimated road length in the country is approximately 90,200 km.¹⁵¹ There is a road network of about 15,764 km, consisting of 2,696 km of 'interstate primary roads' (connecting all state capitals plus major cross-border corridors); 4,475 km of 'other primary roads'; 6,292 km of secondary roads; and 2,301 km of tertiary roads. Secondary and tertiary roads, as well as some primary roads, are considered 'rural'.¹⁵² Currently, only one international road, the 192-km stretch between Juba and Nimule on the Ugandan border, is surfaced.¹⁵³ The majority of other surfaced roads are urban roads within the capital city of Juba. All other national, interstate, and urban roads consist of badly or non-maintained dirt roads.¹⁵⁴



Map of physical access constraints in South Sudan, 20 April 2023.
Source: South Sudan Logistics Cluster

The general road infrastructure and conditions make them vulnerable to seasonal influxes of people, with many roads impassable for extended periods of time during the rainy season and large areas of the country becoming isolated.¹⁵⁵ Annual rains often render already poor roads inoperable, to the extent that barges that take up to two months to navigate the waters of the Nile have often proved to be the most reliable means of transport.¹⁵⁶ Road access was reported to be a constraint by 87 humanitarian organisations operating in over 60 counties in South Sudan in 2021.¹⁵⁷

All these factors contribute to relatively high transportation costs, and the government has identified the poor condition of the road network and infrastructure as one of the major hindrances to economic and social development.¹⁵⁸ Roads are also exposed to other security risks such as illegal checkpoints, especially in large towns and cities and in areas that have recently experienced civil unrest.¹⁵⁹ Fixing roads has also been recognised as essential for UNMISS peacekeeping activities to deter violence, protect civilians, and provide displaced people with the confidence to return home.¹⁶⁰

These factors, coupled with EO contamination of the roads, further prevent the delivery of vital humanitarian aid and threaten the safety of individuals, communities, and humanitarian actors.¹⁶¹

PIBOR-AKOBO ROAD, JONGLEI STATE

Located in Jonglei State, the 124 km-long Pibor-Akobo Road is the main supply route linking the two major towns of Pibor and Akobo, through Likangole. The road runs close to the Ethiopian border and represented an important migration and trade route that was effectively abandoned due to conflict.¹⁶² Both towns and other areas through which the road passes continue to face cyclical intercommunal violence. As a result, the road was abandoned from 2012 and has since disappeared under dense overgrown vegetation for most of its length.¹⁶³ Given such excessive overgrowth, some areas of the road were not even traceable from the air.¹⁶⁴

Due to its direct access to Ethiopia from the Akobo side, the road is essential for any future economic growth. Furthermore, the local communities scattered along Pibor-Akobo Road have had limited means and opportunities for transportation, therefore cattle herding, hunting, farming and charcoal production have been the main activities undertaken.¹⁶⁵



Two sections of Pibor-Akobo Road after being opened by clearance teams (left) and repaired by UNMISS engineers from ROK HMEC (right). © Courtesy of UNMAS



A deminer conducting a visual assessment through an overgrown area, Pibor-Akobo Road, Jonglei State. © Courtesy of UNMAS

UNMISS directed UNMAS to conduct an assessment and clearance before starting road rehabilitation work. The clearance was carried out from October to March 2022 paving the way for UNMISS and the Republic of Korea Horizontal Military Engineering Contingent (ROK HMEC) to start rehabilitation work.¹⁶⁶ The 124 km-long Pibor-Akobo Road assessment and clearance were completed on 4 March 2022.¹⁶⁷



Mortar bombs found during route assessment of Pibor-Akobo Road. © Courtesy of UNMAS



BV206 deployed for route assessment of the Pibor-Akobo Road. © Courtesy of SafeLane Global



Deminers conducting manual route verification, Pibor-Akobo Road, Jonglei State. © UNMAS/TDI

The reopening of the Pibor-Akobo Road (March 2022) enabled UNMISS to supply its operating base in Akobo by road, which could previously only be done by air. It further allowed UNMISS to establish United Nations temporary operating bases along the road to facilitate the patrol of hotspots, with a view to deterring community conflicts. The reopening of this road also enabled other humanitarian partners to deliver lifesaving interventions to communities residing along it. This allowed for the free movement of goods, commodities and services to be resumed, and enabled local traders in Pibor to import goods from Ethiopia through Akobo, helping to lower their market price while benefitting local communities.¹⁶⁸

The release, rehabilitation and reopening of Pibor-Akobo Road has contributed to the achievement of UNMISS and the World Food Programme objective to repair and rehabilitate nearly 3,200 kilometres of roads in South Sudan “to make sure communities connect, trade flourishes, humanitarian assistance reaches the most vulnerable and violence is prevented”.¹⁶⁹

Through the release of the road and enabling the road to reopen, land release has contributed to **SDG 1** and its **target 1.4** on access to basic services and natural resources, including land. Moreover, by giving local traders in Pibor access to imports from Ethiopia and to local marketplaces, land release has also facilitated **SDG 9** and its **target 9.1** on developing reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure to support economic development and well-being as well as **target 9.3**, increasing the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, and their integration into value chains and markets. It also facilitated sustainable and resilient infrastructure through enhanced financial, technological, and technical support, thereby contributing to **target 9.a**. It has supported **SDG 8**, specifically **target 8.1** on sustained economic growth, **target 8.2** on increased economic productivity, **target 8.3** on supporting productive activities and decent job creation and **target 8.5** on productive employment and decent work, as well as facilitating **SDG 10** and its **target 10.2** on promotion of social, economic, and political inclusion of all.

The opening of the road helped mitigate the effects of the floods,¹⁷⁰ which in turn links to **SDG 1**, and its **target 1.5** on improved resilience and reduced vulnerability to climate-related weather events.

The opening of road achieved through multi-stakeholder cooperation in South Sudan has enabled access for peacekeeping operations, and delivery of humanitarian assistance, thus contributing to **SDG 17**, and specifically its **target 17.9** on enhanced international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building, as well as **target 17.16** on enhanced global partnership for sustainable development.

Finally, land release has facilitated safe transport, impacting **SDG 11** and its **target 11.2** on providing access to safe, accessible transport systems and improving road safety.



Deminers conducting manual route clearance, Pibor-Akobo Road, Jonglei State. © UNMAS/TDI



*South Sudan National Victim Assistance and Disability Stakeholder Dialogue (Meeting the Needs of Mine Victims), 17-19 July 2019.
Source: the Implementation Support Unit of the AP Mine Ban Convention*

2. VICTIM ASSISTANCE

FIGURE 9

CONTRIBUTION OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE TO THE SDG TARGETS IN SOUTH SUDAN



- 1.3** Implementation of social protection systems and measures
- 1.4** Equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services
- 1.b** Creation of pro-poor policy frameworks



- 5.1** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls



- 3.8** Access to essential health-care services



- 8.5** Full and productive employment and decent work



- 4.3** Equal access to technical, vocational and tertiary education
- 4.5** Equal access to all levels of education



- 10.2** Social, economic, political inclusion of all
- 10.3** Equal opportunities, reduction of inequalities



-
- 16.6** Development of accountable institutions
 - 16.7** Inclusive, participatory, representative decision-making
 - 16.b** Non-discriminatory laws and policies



-
- 17.14** Enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development
 - 17.16** Enhanced global partnership for sustainable development
 - 17.17** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships

The wording of the SDG targets listed above has been simplified; the full list of targets and their official names can be found on the United Nations website: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

Victim assistance (VA) refers to a set of activities addressing the needs and rights of explosive ordnance (EO) victims, and comprises emergency and ongoing medical care, rehabilitation, psychological and psychosocial support, socio-economic inclusion, as well as data collection and laws and policies.¹⁷¹

Victims include persons who, either individually or collectively, have suffered physical, emotional, and psychological injury, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights through acts or omissions related to the use of EO. Victims include individuals directly impacted (direct victims), and family members of those injured or killed, as well as communities affected by EO (indirect victims).¹⁷²

Survivors refer to men, women, boys and girls who have been injured and possibly impaired as a result of an EO accident.¹⁷³

Persons with disabilities include those with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments that, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.¹⁷⁴

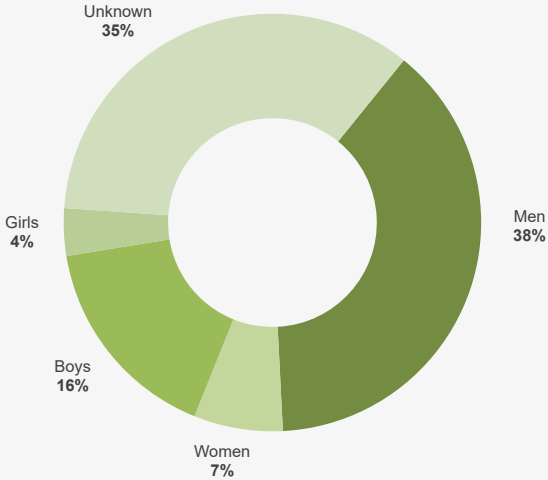
EO contamination continues to pose a threat in South Sudan, with an estimated 650,000 people still at risk of injury or death from explosive ordnance.¹⁷⁵ South Sudan's latest National Mine Action Strategy (2018–2021) categorised injuries and deaths as one of the five areas of humanitarian and socio-economic impact from EO.¹⁷⁶

From South Sudan's independence in 2011 to 2020, the country registered 568 EO victims, with more than half of the cases resulting from explosive remnants of war-related accidents. In the 10-year period prior to independence, more than 4,500 EO victims were recorded.¹⁷⁷

As of June 2022, a total of 5,218 women, men, girls and boys were either killed or injured as a result of EO accidents.¹⁷⁸

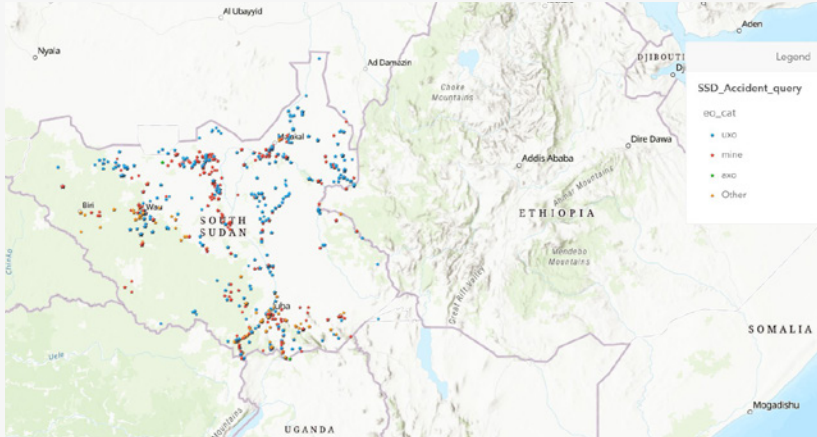
FIGURE 10 TOTAL NUMBER OF EO VICTIMS IN SOUTH SUDAN (1964–2022)

	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS	GIRLS	NOT SPECIFIED	TOTAL
Killed	466	114	218	54	573	1,425
Injured	1,536	246	634	138	1,239	3,793



Source: UNMAS/NMAA South Sudan

FIGURE 11 MAP OF EO ACCIDENT LOCATIONS BY EO CATEGORY IN SOUTH SUDAN (1964–2022)



Source: UNMAS/NMAA South Sudan

Protracted conflict has significantly deteriorated South Sudan’s health system and infrastructure. The country has very poor health indicators, including on low life expectancy and access to health services.¹⁷⁹ Government funding for health represents less than two percent of the national budget, and out-of-pocket spending of individuals accounts for around 54 percent of total health expenditure.¹⁸⁰ There is an acute shortage in the health workforce, inadequate health infrastructure and poor use of health services.¹⁸¹

More than half of the 2,300 health facilities in the country are non-functional for various reasons, including insufficient funding for maintenance, being damaged, looted, or simply abandoned due to forced displacement because of fighting.¹⁸² The functioning facilities are frequently underequipped and understaffed and can be difficult to access due to security concerns. Consequently, EO survivors lack access to basic services.¹⁸³

UN Security Council resolution 2459 (2019), which renewed the mandate of UNMISS for another year, expressed “serious concern about the dire situation of persons with disabilities in South Sudan, including abandonment, violence and lack of access to basic services”.¹⁸⁴

POLICIES AND FRAMEWORKS

The NMAA is the focal point for victim assistance in South Sudan. The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW) formulates and implements policies and legislation related to its mandate to “promote gender equality, social justice, and safeguard the rights and welfare of women, children, persons with disability and other vulnerable groups”.¹⁸⁵ The Ministry is the entity responsible for overseeing the integration of victim assistance into broader national frameworks.¹⁸⁶ The Ministry has dedicated departments focusing on social welfare, special needs and rehabilitation, as well as on disabilities.

Action 34 of the Oslo Action Plan requires States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed through national policy and legal frameworks relating to disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction, in line with the relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).¹⁸⁷

On 24 February 2023, South Sudan completed the national normative processes that enabled the country to join the CRPD.¹⁸⁸ The country is a State Party to the APMBC and has thus committed to providing victim assistance.¹⁸⁹ In the context of the latter, victim assistance comprises the following six elements: i) data collection; ii) emergency and ongoing medical care; iii) rehabilitation; iv) psychological and psychosocial support; v) socio-economic inclusion; vi) laws and public policies.¹⁹⁰

In 2015, South Sudan ratified and acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.¹⁹¹ It also acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2015, and its first and second Optional Protocols in 2018.¹⁹²



Delegation of South Sudan at the 2022 Intersessional Meetings of the APMBC, Geneva. Source: AP Mine Ban Convention ISU

The Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan includes provisions on the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs), namely in relation to the right to education (Article 29) and the basic values and guidelines for civil service (Article 139).¹⁹³

In addition, the country has adopted the following national policies to address the rights and needs of PWDs:

- **National Disability and Inclusive Policy** (2015) with the overall goal “to address and respond to multiple vulnerabilities faced by Persons with disabilities and promote and protect their rights and dignity in an inclusive manner”.¹⁹⁴ The National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) as well as the Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, Union of Physically Disabled Persons, The Leprosy Mission, South Sudan Landmine Victims Association and the South Sudan Women with Disabilities Network, worked in cooperation with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare in developing the policy.¹⁹⁵

- **National Disability Action Plan (2020)**¹⁹⁶ aimed at implementing the National Disability and Inclusive Policy of 2015 and at improving the quality of life of PWDs, including EO victims. The plan was developed with financial support from the European Union, technical support from the Implementation Support Unit of the APMBC, and with contributions from various international stakeholders, as well as in consultation with and participation of PWDs and EO victims from all 10 states of South Sudan.¹⁹⁷
- **National Social Protection Policy Framework (2016)** which provides a national protection system with strong coordination for the most vulnerable and includes provisions on victim assistance. The framework contains six social protection programmes: South Sudan Safety Net Project; Food Assistance for Assets; Building Resilience through Asset Creation Phase II; Urban Safety Nets; Girls’ Education South Sudan Phase 2 (GESS 2); and School Feeding Programme. These programmes are implemented in collaboration with the World Bank, UN Office for Project Services, World Food Programme and the GESS team.¹⁹⁸

Recognising the long-term dimensions of VA, the current National Mine Action Strategy of South Sudan (2018–2021) views victim assistance efforts as “short-term solutions” that should be implemented until VA is incorporated into broader government sectors and frameworks. As per the Strategy, the NMAA’s role in VA lies in collecting “up-to-date and accurate EO accident SADD [sex and age disaggregated data]” and sharing them with relevant government ministries.¹⁹⁹

Several mechanisms have been established in the country to ensure coordination among various stakeholders. These include, amongst others:

- **Victim Assistance and Disability Working Group** (previously known as the Victim Assistance Coordination Group), co-chaired by the MGCSW and the National Mine Action Authority, which meets on a monthly basis.²⁰⁰

- **National Social Protection Working Group** serving as the primary body for government and non-government stakeholders to discuss technical and policy aspects of social protection, build consensus on policy and programmatic issues, and coordinate to avoid duplication of efforts.²⁰¹

The South Sudan NMAA reported facing several challenges in the area of victim assistance. These include limited technical capacities, lack of funding, as well as lack of adequate services including rehabilitation, medical, socio-economic inclusion, and psychosocial support.²⁰² In addition, the country's protracted conflict has caused extensive displacement and impeded the delivery of services to victims.²⁰³

Ongoing work to mainstream policies on victim assistance and disability rights will contribute to **SDG 3** and its **target 3.8** on health coverage and access to quality health services as well as **SDG 17** and its **target 17.14** on enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development, as well as **target 17.17** on effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.



*South Sudan National Victim Assistance and Disability Stakeholder Dialogue (Meeting the Needs of Mine Victims), 17-19 July 2019.
Source: the Implementation Support Unit of the AP Mine Ban Convention*

REHABILITATION

The MGCSW has trained some of its staff to provide psychosocial support to PWDs including EO victims and other vulnerable people. However, challenges regarding capacity remain, to be able to provide these services in all 10 states.²⁰⁴

The Juba Teaching Hospital and the Giada Military Hospital serve as main centres for providing medical care for people with traumatic injuries, including EO victims.²⁰⁵

OVC La Nostra Famiglia provides rehabilitation support to persons with disabilities including mine victims. Since 1984, this NGO has been running the Usratuna Rehabilitation Centre in Juba, offering physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, assistive devices and education services.²⁰⁶

The International Organization for Migration, the UNMISS Human Rights Division, and the World Bank also implement victim assistance in the country. Other international NGOs actively engaged in victim assistance include the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Christian Blind Mission South Sudan, Episcopal Church of South Sudan, Light for the World, and Norwegian Church Aid. There are as well various national NGOs implementing victim assistance in the country, including the Central Equatorial Union of Visual Impairment, The Leprosy Mission, the Organisation of Hearing and Speech Impairment, the South Sudan National Union of Persons with Disabilities, the South Sudan Network of Women with Disability, the Union of Physically Disabled Persons, the Young Women Christian Association.²⁰⁷

There are three physical rehabilitation centres in the country: in Juba, Rumbek, and Wau. These are managed by the MGCSW and supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); they also provide psychological counselling.²⁰⁸ The centres in Juba and Rumbek provide prosthetic and orthotic services, elbow crutches, wheelchair services and physiotherapy for thousands of people each year.²⁰⁹ To ensure its accessibility to as many PWDs as possible, HI facilitates transportation to the centre and the ICRC covers the cost for PWDs to return home once the visit is over.²¹⁰

The three centres offer various services such as providing assistive devices, prosthesis, and orthosis, wheelchairs, physiotherapy, and psychosocial care. However, access to these centres remains one of the main challenges conditioned by continued insecurity, poverty, poor infrastructure, and lack of transportation, among other issues.²¹¹

Humanity and Inclusion (HI) have supported all three rehabilitation centres with the installation of ramps, rails, and wider entrances and paths for wheelchairs, with a view to removing physical barriers to access by PWDs.²¹²

The South Sudan Ministry of Health and HI have signed an MoU allowing the latter to work in primary healthcare centres to provide rehabilitation services to PWDs. HI has established its services within the hospitals to ensure easy access for community members.²¹³ HI provides functional rehabilitation programmes in Juba and Yei, and it has expanded its operations to Aweil, Pibor, Payam and Bentiu since September 2021. HI also implements community-based mental health and psychosocial support programmes in these regions, including through individual and group counselling, and peer-to-peer support.²¹⁴ As of 2022, HI provided rehabilitation services, assistive devices, and counselling to 4,000 PWDs to support them in regaining their independence.²¹⁵

HI has worked closely with the ICRC for the provision of prosthetic care as well as with the International Rescue Committee on women's sexual and reproductive health activities.²¹⁶

These efforts to protect the rights and address the needs of persons with disabilities have directly contributed to **SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being**, in particular its **target 3.8** on universal health coverage and quality healthcare services. Facilitating universal access to healthcare services has contributed to **SDG 5** and **target 5.1** on ending all forms of discrimination. The existing policies also contribute to **SDG 1** and its **target 1.b** on creating frameworks based on pro-poor development strategies.

The study has identified an example of partnership between the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), ICRC and HI. Following an accident involving EO, UNMAS carries out an investigation and then refers the case to the ICRC and HI for the provision of rehabilitation and other services.²¹⁷

These efforts contribute to **SDG 17** and its **target 17.16** on multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as **target 17.17** on effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

LIVELIHOOD AND EMPLOYMENT

South Sudan remains one of the poorest countries in the world.²¹⁸ PWDs in South Sudan have limited livelihood opportunities including access to employment and thus to regular income. This makes them especially vulnerable to poverty.

PWDs in South Sudan are “among the poorest, vulnerable and unemployed people”.²¹⁹ They also lack means and assets to obtain business loans from financial or credit institutions.²²⁰

In this context, HI has provided PWDs with capacity-building workshops to improve their skills and gain socio-economic autonomy. For instance, in 2021, 53 PWDs in Juba and Yei received training on business and asset management, and 220 PWDs in Yambio on financial literacy.²²¹

In addition, to ensure that the support provided to PWDs is more sustainable and leads to financial autonomy, HI provided the 53 PWDs in Juba and Yei with start-up kits allowing them to establish their own businesses.

There are two vocational training institutions in South Sudan which operate under the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of General Education and Instruction, respectively.²²² After conducting needs assessments, HI works

with vocational training centres so that PWDs can receive²²³ relevant training.²²⁴ HI conducted two ‘barriers and facilitators assessments’ in 2021 to identify obstacles to vocational training and support other stakeholders in developing an action plan to remove them. Moreover, almost 500 people, comprising national and international staff as well as community leaders, have received training – both in person and online – on enhancing disability inclusion practices in their organisations and activities.²²⁵

By enabling the active engagement of victims in priority setting, victim assistance is a contributor to **SDG 16** and its **target 16.6** on developing accountable institutions, **target 16.7** on ensuring inclusive decision-making at all levels, and **target 16.b** on non-discriminatory laws and policies.

The multi-stakeholder partnerships to promote employment opportunities and the financial autonomy of PWDs have contributed to **SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals** and its **target 17.16** on knowledge sharing and expertise through multi-stakeholder partnerships, and **target 17.17** on enhancing public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

By promoting access of victims to economic resources, victim assistance has directly contributed to **SDG 1 No poverty** and its **target 1.3** on implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, and **target 1.4** on ensuring that the poor and the vulnerable have equal rights to economic resources.

By promoting social and economic inclusion and adopting social protection policies, victim assistance has contributed to **SDG 10** and its **target 10.2** on social, economic, and political inclusion, and target **10.3** on endorsing policies and action that reduce inequalities. Through training, such as on business, asset management, overall financial literacy, as well as through the provision of start-up kits for ensuring socio-economic autonomy, VA efforts have contributed to **SDG 8** and its **target 8.5** on achieving decent work for all.

In terms of facilitating access to education and the facilitation of vocational training of PWDs, victim assistance has contributed to **SDG 4** and its **target 4.3** on equal access to vocational education, as well as **target 4.5** on ensuring access to education for the vulnerable, including PWDs.



NMAA Mobile Team 1 EORE Session in Jebel Kujur, Juba County, South Sudan. © Courtesy of UNMAS South Sudan

3. EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION

FIGURE 12 CONTRIBUTION OF EORE TO THE SDG TARGETS IN SOUTH SUDAN



4.a Building safe and inclusive learning environments



- 17.14** Enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development
- 17.16** Enhanced global partnership for sustainable development
- 17.17** Effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships



10.3 Equal opportunities, reduction of inequalities



16.1 Reduction of all forms of violence

The wording of the SDG targets listed above has been simplified; the full list of targets and their official names can be found on the United Nations website: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) “refers to activities which seek to reduce the risk of injury from EO by raising awareness of women, girls, boys and men in accordance with their different vulnerabilities, roles and needs, and promoting behavioural change. Core activities include public information dissemination, education and training. [...] **The objective is to reduce the risk to a level where people can live safely, thus contributing to an environment where economic and social development can occur free from the constraints imposed by EO contamination**”.²²⁶

International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 12.10 Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)²²⁷ represents the most substantial update of this standard since 2009, which also marks the shift in terminology from mine risk education (MRE) to EORE.

In this context, the updated IMAS 12.10 on EORE establishes principles and provides guidance for the effective assessment, planning, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of EORE interventions.

By raising awareness and promoting safer behaviour, risk education aims to ensure that communities are aware of the risks from explosive ordnance (EO) and are encouraged to behave in a way that reduces the risk to people, property, and the environment.

EORE is particularly relevant in the context of South Sudan where forced displacement has occurred on multiple occasions. In this framework, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees belong to the main target groups when delivering EORE.²²⁸ This is especially important in areas where refugees/IDPs primarily rely on collecting firewood for their livelihood (e.g. in Upper Nile State).²²⁹

EORE was identified as one of the three strategic goals in South Sudan's current mine action strategy containing three specific objectives:

1. Age-and-gender-sensitive EORE to be continuously provided to at-risk women, girls, boys and men;
2. EORE curriculum to be fully implemented in all schools in South Sudan;
3. Survey and clearance activities to be supported by community liaison to ensure community needs and priorities are acknowledged and addressed.

EORE COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Since 2012, EORE has been implemented in the country by South Sudan's Ministry of Education alongside local and international NGOs and with support from the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS).²³⁰

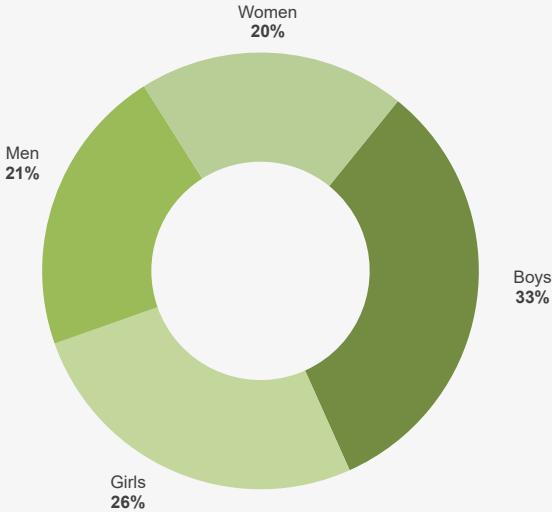
Coordination of EORE activities takes place through the Mine Action Sub-Cluster as part of the Global Protection Cluster.²³¹ There is also an EORE working group co-chaired by the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and UNMAS with the aim "to improve the coherence, effectiveness and impact of collective response delivered in support of national authorities and to facilitate effective engagement of international actors and civil societies in South Sudan".²³² The working group meets regularly and serves as a platform to bring together local authorities, UN agencies, international and national NGOs, as well as commercial mine action entities.²³³

EORE in South Sudan is implemented through **partnerships** between international operators, local EORE providers, and community leaders and focal points, to ensure training and support to beneficiaries. These partnerships support **SDG 17**, including **target 17.14** on enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development, **target 17.16** on multi-stakeholder

partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and **target 17.17** on effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

FIGURE 13 TOTAL NUMBER OF EORE BENEFICIARIES IN SOUTH SUDAN (2004–2022)

BOYS	GIRLS	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
2,026,332	1,641,325	1,337,089	1,234,653	6,239,399



Source: UNMAS/NMAA South Sudan

EORE ACTIVITIES

EORE in South Sudan is delivered using different approaches: interpersonal EORE primarily in schools and through community liaison, mass media, and training of trainers. Through these various approaches over eight million girls, boys, women, and men received EORE in South Sudan, between 2004 and 2022.²³⁴

EORE providers occasionally conduct pre-deployment needs assessments, and throughout the process measure the impact of previous EORE activities and any behaviour changes recorded as a result of EORE initiatives.²³⁵ UNMAS and NMAA introduced a pre/post EORE survey, which measures the immediate impact on beneficiaries' perception of risk behaviour and their understanding of EORE messages delivered by an EORE team.²³⁶ Pre/post EORE survey is also used in analysing the quality of the EORE messages and identifying trends amongst the targeted audience, which helps to tailor EORE messages and approaches for beneficiaries considered to be targeted groups with a specific risk behaviour.²³⁷

EORE ACTIVITY	NUMBER OF SESSIONS	BOYS	GIRLS	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Interpersonal	187,364	2,025,076	1,639,925	1,336,626	1,234,304	6,235,931
Mass & digital Media	31					2,400,000
ToT	308	1,256	1,400	463	349	3,468
Total	187,702	2,026,332	1,641,325	1,337,089	1,234,653	8,639,399

INTERPERSONAL EORE

Through training sessions and contact with remote communities, many community members have learnt to identify EO and alert the authorities to their presence. By encouraging and promoting safe behaviour among communities at risk of encountering EO and ensuring incidents are reported, EORE in South Sudan has contributed to **SDG 16** and its **target 16.1** on the reduction of all forms of violence.

UNMAS collects data on EORE beneficiaries who have reported explosive ordnance during EORE sessions, or after the sessions through follow-up interactions.

STATE	NUMBER OF EO REPORTED DURING EORE ACTIVITIES IN THE PERIOD 2004–2022	BENEFICIARIES REACHED
Central Equatoria	263	1,645,112
Eastern Equatoria	451	1,162,273
Jonglei	74	889,351
Lakes	7	117,764
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	43	99,709
Unity	48	663,376
Upper Nile	51	958,875
Warrap	57	84,670
Western Bahr el Ghazal	50	310,371
Western Equatoria	30	307,898

UNMAS and other partners also continue to work with schools to ensure children receive EORE sessions. This is particularly significant in the current context of South Sudan where EO accident data indicate that in the past few years children (mostly boys) have been the most affected group in the country.²³⁸



EORE in Ngangala, South Sudan. © Courtesy of SafeLane Global

EORE has however not yet been included in the school curriculum. The South Sudan NMAA and UNMAS, together with UNICEF and other EORE partners, are working on strengthening EORE for children by reinforcing child-child or peer-to-peer learning in schools and communities, implementing training of trainers (ToT), and redesigning EORE banners and leaflets in a child-friendly manner, among other activities.²³⁹

While protracted conflict, access constraints as well as Covid-19 or other diseases such as Ebola have caused a number of challenges for EORE delivery, various achievements have been registered. One of the key achievements is the integration of community liaison in all the survey and clearance activities in the country, as per the third objective of the mine action strategy (2018–2021). In this context, it is important to highlight that the target was not only achieved but also exceeded, as it was set at 70 percent.²⁴⁰

MASS MEDIA AND DIGITAL MEDIA EORE

Mobile connections are often being used to reach out to affected communities in South Sudan’s remote areas or where access is not always possible due to security constraints. For instance, during May and August 2022 the population of Yei, Magwi, and other areas (particularly where IDPs were located) received SMSs containing basic EORE safety and security messages. Similarly, everyone in the population with mobile connectivity receives an SMS on 4 April, the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. In addition, Radio Miraya, which is a United Nations radio station in South Sudan, is also often used as a platform to disseminate EORE messaging.²⁴¹

EORE TRAINING OF TRAINERS

EORE activities particularly targeted teachers and school students. In this context, EORE training was provided to more than 800 teachers from 200 schools.²⁴²

REGION	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
Central Equatoria	298	221	519
Eastern Equatoria	165	128	293
Total	463	349	812

In addition, the NMAA and UNMAS are working to enhance the ToT approach and ToT programmes for national NGOs are now being envisaged with a view to having two focal points for each NGO.²⁴³

EORE AND INCLUSION

Efforts are made to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in EORE sessions. For instance, the UNMAS approach is to specifically reach out to PWDs by gathering information from communities about their whereabouts to ensure that they also receive EORE, for instance by visiting their homes.²⁴⁴ A dedicated column on PWDs has been included in UNMAS reporting templates for EORE.

By ensuring that EORE sessions serve the needs of individuals and marginalised groups, accounting for characteristics such as gender, age, and linguistic needs, mine action has also contributed to **SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities** and its **target 10.3** on ensuring equal opportunity and reducing inequalities of outcome as well as **SDG 4** and its **target 4.a** on providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.



Woman deminer in personal protective equipment conducting clearance in a minefield in South Sudan. © Courtesy of DRC

4. GENDER AND DIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING

FIGURE 14

CONTRIBUTION OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING TO THE SDG TARGETS IN SOUTH SUDAN



- 4.5** Equal access to all levels of education
- 4.a** Building safe and inclusive learning environments



- 10.2** Social, economic, political inclusion of all
- 10.3** Equal opportunities, reduction of inequalities



- 5.1** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls
- 5.5** Women's full and effective participation at all levels of decision making
- 5.c** Strengthened policies and legislation for gender equality



- 16.b** Non-discriminatory laws and policies



- 8.5** Full and productive employment and decent work



- 17.16** Enhanced global partnership for sustainable development
- 17.17** Effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships

The wording of the SDG targets listed above has been simplified; the full list of targets and their official names can be found on the United Nations website: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

As emphasised by UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, there is a need for all parties to ensure that land release and mine awareness programmes consider the special needs of women and girls.²⁴⁵ Consequently, mine action works to improve the impact of interventions on affected women, girls, boys and men from diverse groups.²⁴⁶

This section focuses on the direct contributions of gender mainstreaming to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, to ensure that the overarching principle of leaving no one behind is upheld, gender mainstreaming needs to be implemented and monitored as a cross-cutting approach in all mine action programmes, projects, and activities.

Equality of all persons is enshrined in South Sudan's Transitional Constitution, which grants equal protection of the law "without discrimination as to race, ethnic origin, colour, sex, language, religious creed, political opinion, birth, locality or social status".²⁴⁷ The Constitution, in addition, stipulates that all levels of government shall "promote women['s] participation in public life and their representation in the legislative and executive organs by at least twenty-five per cent".²⁴⁸ This affirmative action for women was later increased to a minimum of 35 percent through the 2018 Revitalised Peace Agreement.²⁴⁹

While the 2020 Human Development Report assigned South Sudan a low ranking (185th place),²⁵⁰ the country has a high labour force participation rate both for women and for men. The latest 2021 International Labour Organization data indicated a labour force participation rate of 71.9 percent for women and 74 percent for men (aged 15 and older).²⁵¹

South Sudan's current mine action strategy 2018–2021 contains a dedicated chapter on gender and diversity, recognising the varying needs and priorities of women, men, girls, and boys. The strategy underlines the need to reflect these needs in mine action activities including survey and clearance, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), and victim assistance (VA) to ensure they are effective and non-discriminatory and that results are sustainable. Guidelines on mainstreaming gender considerations in mine action planning and operations in South Sudan are also incorporated in the strategy. In addition, the strategy acknowledges the contribution of gender-sensitive mine action to the achievement of **SDG 5** on gender equality, particularly by empowering women and girls through assistance, operations, and employment opportunities.²⁵²

The recognition of the needs and priorities of women, girls, boys and men in the mine action strategy facilitates **SDG 5** and its **target 5.c** on adopting and strengthening sound policies for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

In 2020, South Sudan reported that all community liaison teams in the country were gender balanced.²⁵³ Deployment of mixed gender teams is in fact a requirement for community liaison activities as per South Sudan's National Technical Standards and Guidelines.²⁵⁴ This facilitates **SDG 8** and its **target 8.5** on full and productive employment and decent work. Community liaison teams are also trained to be inclusive and to conduct activities taking into consideration local cultural practices.²⁵⁵

Gender-balanced liaison teams allow for effective liaison and address the needs of all sections of the community.²⁵⁶ EORE has been conducted separately for different age and gender groups while considering acceptable local cultural norms.²⁵⁷ In addition, gender norms and roles are taken into consideration, to ensure that the timing and location of EORE sessions are adapted to reflect availabilities based on the gender-balanced division of labour.



Mixed gender community liaison team of MAG delivering EORE session at a school in Nimule, on the Uganda-South Sudan border. @ Courtesy of MAG

For instance, in Yei, Central Equatoria, where women spend most of the time on farms, the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) organises EORE sessions in the late afternoon or evening, or visits to farms during the day. Similarly, in the Upper Nile State, where the population consists mainly of cattle farmers, it is harder to reach men and boys who are engaged in herding cattle. The sessions are therefore conducted in cattle camps, cultivation areas, or at home when the herders bring the cattle back.²⁵⁸

Efforts to ensure that community liaison and EORE are tailored to the needs of women and girls facilitates **SDG 4** and its **target 4.5** on eliminating gender disparities and ensuring equal access to education, as well as **target 4.a** on building safe and inclusive learning environments.

This work, in combination with broader efforts to enshrine women's rights in all aspects of social, economic and political life, contributes to **SDG 16** and its **target 16.b** on promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.



EORE session for men in a cattle camp in Bilinyang near Juba, South Sudan. © Courtesy of UNMAS South Sudan

Having women representatives is “a game changer, specifically when it comes to community mobilisation, EORE presentations, and carrying out surveys due to the high level of trust they enjoy among women beneficiaries”.²⁵⁹ For instance, the DRC found that more gender-balanced EORE teams (5 out of 12 of DRC’s EORE workforce were women as of 2022) allowed for significant improvement in their results over the past years, with an average of 2,500 direct beneficiaries per month with more women participating than men.²⁶⁰

The inclusion of women in DRC’s EORE teams encouraged women and girls among Sudanese refugees from the Angasana tribe in Maban County, Upper Nile State, to attend EORE sessions. The Angasana tribe traditionally restricts women and girls from participating in public life.²⁶¹ Similar findings were also identified in pre- and post-EORE evaluation surveys conducted by DRC in Magwi, Eastern Equatoria, showing that women beneficiaries are encouraged by and are more likely to engage in activities co-run by women.²⁶²



G4S EORE Session at New Hope Nursery and Primary School in Torit, Eastern Equatoria State, South Sudan. © Courtesy of UNMAS South Sudan

In South Sudan, various mine action initiatives have been taken in relation to gender and diversity mainstreaming. In 2019 and 2020, UNMAS conducted workshops for the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and other mine action stakeholders on gender equality, gender-based violence and gender mainstreaming programming in mine action. The training aimed not only to promote equal opportunities for women, but also to mainstream gender-based violence prevention practices in mine action.²⁶³ These efforts have contributed to **SDG 17** and its target **17.16** on enhanced global partnership for sustainable development and **target 17.17** on encouraging and promoting effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.



Woman deminer conducting vegetation clearance. © Courtesy of SafeLane Global

Significant efforts have been made to provide equal access to employment for men and women, as well as for the recruitment of women as deminers and other staff members.

25 percent of the NMAA staff are women, two percent of which occupy managerial-level positions. Furthermore, the NMAA aims to maintain balance in regional representation when recruiting its staff.²⁶⁴

The UNMAS South Sudan strategy covers both parity and mainstreaming aspects of gender and diversity, in line with broader strategies such as the UN Mine Action Strategy (2019–2023), UNOPS Gender Parity Strategy and the UNMAS Strategic Plan (2019–2023). As of 2022, 42 percent of all UNMAS personnel in South Sudan were women. At the leadership level, gender parity stands at 50 percent.²⁶⁵

UNMAS continues to advance its efforts in achieving equal representation of women and men across its offices in South Sudan. UNMAS’s coordination, communication, visibility as well as liaison with other stakeholders have been greatly benefitted by hiring women for field coordination officer positions.²⁶⁶

In this context, in 2021, UNMAS, through its partner SafeLane Global, offered a basic demining training, where 20 percent of participants were women.²⁶⁷

Furthermore, UNMAS policy requires that contracted partners elaborate in their proposals any approaches linked to the improvement of participation of women in their activities.²⁶⁸

Similar efforts to ensure gender and diversity mainstreaming and providing equal employment opportunities to both women and men were observed among mine action operators in South Sudan. Furthermore, being employed in the mine action sector provided additional opportunities for women to receive training and skills development sessions.

Mines Advisory Group (MAG) organises women-only focus groups to ensure that their perspectives and opinions are taken into consideration.²⁶⁹ In addition, to promote recruitment of women deminers, in 2021 MAG conducted its second training, with 16 women graduating to join MAG's demining teams.²⁷⁰ MAG's first woman deminer training was conducted in 2018 followed by employment of all the trained deminers.²⁷¹ In 2020 and 2021 MAG provided training to 39 men, 15 boys, 44 women, and 5 girls as community focal points.²⁷²

As of March 2022, women represented 35 percent of MAG's survey and clearance team members, whilst three women occupied managerial positions. Women in MAG benefit from training opportunities to increase their chances of obtaining leadership positions. In 2021, the first woman acquired an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) Level 2 qualification and subsequent accreditation.²⁷³

In 2021 DRC's 12 women deminers received training to enhance their technical skills relating to battle area clearance, manual mine clearance, EOD, technical survey and non-technical survey, as well as EORE.²⁷⁴

DRC, which employed 14 women deminers (out of 36) as of 2022, encourages equal pay for equal work without any gender-based discrimination or preferential treatment. In addition, as part of DRC's gender-sensitive programming approach, the Council's women staff are

given women's hygiene products and extra detergent to cater for their different needs. DRC has also put in place gender-sensitive budgeting to consider additional training costs for women, as well as contingency funds for maternity and paternity leave to ensure effective implementation of its gender-sensitive programmes.²⁷⁵



Women deminers conducting clearance using large loop metal detectors in Magwi. © Courtesy of DRC

In South Sudan, two out of nine deminers were women (as of 2021) in addition to one woman medic and one woman community liaison officer.²⁷⁶

While no longer involved in mine action activities in South Sudan, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) had established an all-women demining team of 12 members.²⁷⁷ In addition, women at NPA were able to benefit from various initiatives such as working in the operations centre or the radio room during pregnancy or receiving computer training.²⁷⁸

G4S and SafeLane Global have also put considerable effort into ensuring gender and diversity representation in their teams. 30 percent of SafeLane Global staff are women, including 26 percent women deminers. G4S, in turn, has 5 women deminers and 7.3 percent of its local staff are women.

In addition, SafeLane Global employs 187 local staff, and G4S 259, respectively.²⁷⁹ G4S will commence the next demining season with toolbox talks on contraception and sexually transmitted infections.²⁸⁰



A 37-year-old single mother of four and DRC woman deminer who left a nursery teaching job for demining in 2018. © Courtesy of DRC

South Sudan is linguistically and ethnically diverse, with 64 tribes or ethnic groups and more than 70 associated languages.²⁸¹ There are however tensions and differences between these groups. Therefore, ethnic identity is carefully considered in survey and clearance teams to ensure safe and effective interventions.²⁸²

Operators continue to ensure recruitment from different ethnic groups to encompass diversity considerations and to guarantee representation of local language representatives in deployed teams, as communication would not be possible without appropriate ethnic representation.²⁸³

Insights gathered for this study indicate that hiring women in the mine action sector has played a significantly positive role in their lives. An increase in confidence, economic and financial self-reliance, the ability to support and address their families' needs, and greater participation in family and community decision-making, are some examples reported by mine action stakeholders in South Sudan.



DRC's gender-mixed team of deminers pose for a photo with their F3 Minelab metal detectors in Magwi, Eastern Equatoria. © Courtesy of DRC

By ensuring women's representation and leadership through the employment of women, mine action has contributed to **SDG 5 Gender Equality** and its **target 5.1** on ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, and **target 5.5** on ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership, and **target 5.c** on adopting policies for the promotion of gender equality. It has also facilitated **SDG 8** and its **target 8.5** on full and productive employment and decent work. Mine action also contributed to **SDG 10** and its **target 10.2** on empowering and promoting inclusion for all and **target 10.3** on reducing outcome inequalities.



A football match held on previously contaminated land at the UNMAS-organised Safe Ground event in September 2021. © Courtesy of UNMAS

5. PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION

FIGURE 15

CONTRIBUTION OF PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION TO THE SDG TARGETS IN SOUTH SUDAN



- 2.1 Access to food
- 2.2 End malnutrition



- 6.1 Access to safe and affordable drinking water
- 6.2 Access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene
- 6.4 Increased water-use efficiency
- 6.a Increased water and sanitation-related official development assistance



- 3.1 Reduction of maternal mortality
- 3.7 Universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services
- 3.8 Access to essential health-care services
- 3.9 Reducing the burden of disease from unsafe water and sanitation as well as lack of hygiene



- 10.3 Equal opportunities, reduction of inequalities
- 10.7 Safe migration and mobility
- 10.b Financial flows to states where the need is greatest



- 4.5 Equal access to all levels of education
- 4.a Building safe and inclusive learning environments



- 11.3 Inclusive and sustainable urbanisation
- 11.7 Universal access to public spaces



-
- 16.6** Development of accountable institutions
 - 16.a** Strengthened national institutions, including through international cooperation



-
- 17.3** Access to additional financial resources for developing countries
 - 17.14** Enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development
 - 17.16** Enhanced global partnership for sustainable development
 - 17.17** Effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships
 - 17.18** Capacity-building support to improve access to and quality of data

The wording of the SDG targets listed above has been simplified; the full list of targets and their official names can be found on the United Nations website: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

As recognised by UN Security Council resolution 2365, partnerships and cooperation are central to the success of mine action, particularly among national authorities, the United Nations, regional organisations, civil society, and the private sector.²⁸⁴

Partnerships are voluntary and collaborative relationships in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task, as mutually agreed.²⁸⁵

South-South cooperation refers to the process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how, and through regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships involving governments, regional organisations, civil society, academia and the private sector, for their individual and/or mutual benefit within and across regions. South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, traditional North-South cooperation.²⁸⁶

Triangular cooperation is the collaboration in which traditional donor countries and multilateral organisations facilitate South-South initiatives through the provision of funding, training, management and technological systems as well as other forms of support.²⁸⁷

Through multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships at different levels, mine action outcomes are closely linked to **SDG 17**, including **target 17.3** on mobilising financial resources, **target 17.14** on enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development, **target 17.16** on multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources, and **target 17.17** on effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

Through a partnership leading to the building of educational facilities, mine action has contributed to **SDG 4 Quality Education** and its **target 4.5** on access to education, vocational training for the vulnerable, and **target 4.a** on disability-sensitive education facilities.

The study identified partnerships in mine action that have enabled the delivery of humanitarian aid and emergency response, including to children under five, at risk of starvation. Through these partnerships, mine action has therefore also contributed to **SDG 2 Zero Hunger**, and its **target 2.1** on ensuring access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food, as well as **target 2.2** on ending malnutrition.

Another partnership, which led to the implementation of a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) project in a residential area in the capital of South Sudan, has contributed to **SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being** and its **target 3.9** on reducing the burden of disease from unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene, as well as **SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation**, in particular **target 6.1** on access to safe and affordable drinking water, **target 6.2** on access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, **target 6.4** on increased water-use efficiency, **target 6.a** on international cooperation in water and sanitation-related activities as well as **SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities** and its **target 11.3** on inclusive and sustainable urbanisation.

Through a partnership leading to construction of a field hospital, mine action has contributed to **SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being** and its **target 3.1** on reduction of maternal mortality, **targets 3.7** and **3.8** on access to sexual and reproductive, and essential healthcare services.

South Sudan is actively engaged in regional and international partnerships and coordination mechanisms. In 2010, the country became a founding member of the G7+, established as a platform to meet and share experiences among fragile and conflict-affected states.²⁸⁸ As part of the G7+, South Sudan participates in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding forum.²⁸⁹

Various mechanisms are in place to facilitate national coordination on mine action. Currently jointly chaired by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Mine Action Sub-Cluster in South Sudan is part of the Global Protection Cluster for South Sudan and aims to ensure coordination amongst relevant stakeholders in the country.²⁹⁰ The sub-cluster works in coordination with national and State-level inter-cluster working groups.²⁹¹

Through the UN Cooperation Framework (UNCF), the UN Country Team in South Sudan has contributed to the achievement of the country's national development priorities as well as to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.²⁹² For instance, UNMAS has been providing mine action information and data in its reporting through the UNCF.²⁹³

The UNCF 2019–2021, which was extended to 31 December 2022, focused on four priority areas: building peace and strengthening governance; improving food security and recovering local economies; strengthening social services; and empowering women and youth.²⁹⁴ The UNCF also aims to strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in the country, while promoting long-term sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063.²⁹⁵

With regard to coordination with donors, the National Mine Action Authority and UNMAS jointly organised a Mine Action Sector and Donor Coordination Meeting on 14 January 2022, which aimed to assess achievements and next steps in South Sudan's mine action programme. Participants included various national and international partners, including the Anti-Personnel Min Ban Convention Information Support Unit, Community In Need Aid, DCA, DRC, EU Delegation to South Sudan, Embassy of the Netherlands, G4S, Mines Advisory Group, Multi-Task Team, Operation Save Innocent Lives, The Development Initiative, World Vision, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).²⁹⁶



South Sudan's NMAA/UNMAS co-hosted a 'Mine Action Sector and Donor Coordination Meeting' in January 2022. © Courtesy of UNMAS

The principles of partnership and coordination and the triple nexus approach were adopted as well as other strategic approaches, to design and implement the Revised National Development Strategy.²⁹⁷

Mine action operators in South Sudan have been working closely with development and other actors to maximise land use after release by putting in place skills development programmes for beneficiaries, particularly for farmers.

Partnerships in mine action in South Sudan have contributed to **SDG 17**, including **target 17.3** on mobilising financial resources, **target 17.14** on enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development, **target 17.16** on multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources, and **target 17.17** on effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, as well as **target 17.18** on capacity-building support to increase availability of high-quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data.

As a result of these partnerships and exchanges, mine action has contributed to **SDG 10** and **its target 10.b** on encouraging official development assistance and financial flows.

These efforts have also allowed for effective capacity building at different levels in South Sudan, facilitating improvements towards **SDG 16** and its **target 16.6** on the development of effective, accountable and transparent institutions, and **target 16.a** on strengthened national institutions.

PARTNERSHIPS TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND RESOURCES

The UNMAS 5-year Safe Ground campaign was launched by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in 2019, on the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.²⁹⁸ The campaign aims to raise awareness and resources for the victims of armed conflict by turning minefields into playing fields through partnerships among states, donors, the private sector and other stakeholders.²⁹⁹

As part of the Safe Ground initiative, a Safe Ground event was organised by UNMAS on 30 September 2021, in the form of a football match on previously contaminated land next to Ngulere Primary School. In addition, UNMAS offered explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) sessions to the community, in cooperation with The Development Initiative.³⁰⁰

The production and dissemination of the risk education music video 'Beware' is another example of an awareness-raising partnership in mine action. The video was launched in 2017 by UNMAS in collaboration with local South Sudanese rap artists, the Jay Family, and the Giada Girls Primary School in Juba. The aim of the video was to promote awareness about explosive hazards, particularly targeting children and young adults.³⁰¹

These efforts contributed to **SDG 10** and its **target 10.3** on equal opportunity and the reduction of inequalities of outcome by recognising the importance of participation of youth in mine action.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WATER, HEALTH, EDUCATION)

This section presents examples of partnerships addressing the needs of people in South Sudan through the triple nexus approach, and through mobilising and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The humanitarian hub in Kodok is one such project aimed at supporting humanitarian access, timely response and the provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance in remote areas. It is a multi-stakeholder partnership which contributed to **SDG 17**, and specifically its **target 17.16** on enhanced global partnership for sustainable development.

Survey and clearance of over 28,000 m² of land were conducted by UNMAS in 2020 to enable the construction of this humanitarian hub, located on the west bank of the Nile in the north of South Sudan. Since 1990, there has been heavy use of explosive ordnance (EO) on the site of the Kodok hub as it has been used as a military barracks.³⁰²

The hub in Kodok is a joint project between the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Danish Emergency Management Agency, the International Organization for Migration, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, and UNMAS.³⁰³ There are currently eight humanitarian hub sites across South Sudan.³⁰⁴

Similarly, in 2020, UNMAS surveyed and cleared a former battlefield covering 54,000 m² of land in Gumuruk, Jonglei State. This allowed the World Food Programme to airdrop over 300 tonnes of cereals and pulses as an emergency response to more than 20,000 people at risk of starvation, including more than 4,000 children under the age of five.³⁰⁵

Another partnership example is the mine action support to a project aimed at providing a piped water system to supply clean and safe drinking water to residents of Gudelle, a residential area of Juba City in South Sudan.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) partnered with UNMISS/UNMAS to conduct survey and clearance in the targeted areas, as EO contamination created obstacles to ensuring the safe installation of underground water pipelines which required deep excavation operations within the Gudelle residential area on the outskirts of Juba City. In 2020, UNMAS provided land release support during the excavation phase and delivered EORE to staff contracted for the project. Several EO items were found and destroyed. Such concerted efforts allowed for the safe, efficient, and effective implementation of the project, enabling access to clean and safe drinking water for many residents in the neighbourhood, thus fulfilling their basic needs and improving their lives.³⁰⁶

This partnership between UNMAS and UNICEF contributed to **SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being** and its **target 3.9** on reducing the burden of disease from unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene, as well as **SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation**, in particular **target 6.1** on access to safe and affordable drinking water, **target 6.2** on access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, **target 6.4** on increased water-use efficiency, **target 6.a** on international cooperation in water and sanitation-related activities as well as **SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities** and its **target 11.3** on inclusive and sustainable urbanisation.

As mine action has enabled the delivery of humanitarian aid and emergency response, including to children under five at risk of starvation, it has also contributed to **SDG 2 Zero Hunger**, and its **target 2.1** on ensuring access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food, as well as **target 2.2** on ending malnutrition.

Another partnership between the African Development Bank, UNICEF and the Government of South Sudan enabled access to education for returnees in Eastern Equatoria in South Sudan.

Five educational facilities in Eastern Equatoria, previously occupied by soldiers or destroyed during the conflict, needed rehabilitation³⁰⁷ and were suspected of EO contamination. In June 2021, UNICEF requested land release support from UNMISS/UNMAS.

While one of the five schools had to be withdrawn from the project list due to insecurity in the area along the Nimule highway, the other four were surveyed and cleared between June and December 2021, allowing the rehabilitation process to start. Once finalised, the reopening of these schools is expected to greatly contribute to the education and well-being of the children among the returnee population in Eastern Equatoria.³⁰⁸

Through this partnership, mine action has contributed to **SDG 4 Quality Education** and its **target 4.5** on access to education, vocational training for the vulnerable, and **target 4.a** on safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all. Furthermore, it has contributed to **SDG 11** and its **target 11.7** on safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces as well as **SDG 10** on reducing inequalities and its **target 10.7** on facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.

Lastly, another partnership has allowed for the construction of a field hospital in Boma Villa, Jonglei State in South Sudan.

In November 2021, following a request from Médecins Sans Frontières-Belgium (MSF-Belgium), UNMAS completed the assessment and release of 31,649 m² in Boma village, Boma Payam, Pibor County, Jonglei State. The cleared area prepared the ground for the safe construction of a field hospital, as well as field offices and accommodation units for MSF workers. It is expected that the construction of the hospital will benefit an estimated 5,000 local inhabitants in the Boma area.³⁰⁹

Through this partnership, mine action has contributed to **SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being** and its **target 3.1** on reduction of maternal mortality, **targets 3.7** and **3.8** on access to sexual and reproductive, essential healthcare services.

Through multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships at different levels, presented in this section, mine action has contributed to **SDG 17**, including **target 17.3** on mobilising financial resources, **target 17.14** on enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development, **target 17.16** on multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources, and **target 17.17** on effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

CONCLUSION

The presence of explosive ordnance constitutes an obstacle to safety and security by posing a threat to the lives of the population. In addition, it prevents people from accessing resources or creating alternative sources of income, alienating potential investors, and generating negative psychological impacts for the affected communities. Mine action is thus a transformative activity that enables large socio-economic benefits and lays the foundation for sustainable development in the medium and long term.

The mapping of mine action's humanitarian and development outcomes in South Sudan and their links to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) demonstrate how mine action can play a key role in advancing sustainable development in a range of crucial activities. The SDG framework enabled the identification of mine action's direct contribution to **12 SDGs** and to at least **50 targets**, benefitting the five critical dimensions of the 2030 Agenda: partnership, peace, people, planet, and prosperity.

Access to fertile land in South Sudan and the support to victims has been a game changer for vulnerable communities dependent on agricultural activity.

The continuous refinement of methodical analyses of humanitarian and development outcomes derived from mine action will help to strengthen the evidence of the role of mine action in fostering the triple nexus between broader humanitarian, development, and peace initiatives.

Through the SDG framework, the international community and key stakeholders can increase cross-cutting policy coherence, evidence-based planning, reporting, and data collection to help integrate mine action activities into national SDG efforts and enhance its visibility, while contributing to strengthening its effectiveness.

ENDNOTES

- 1 In September 2000, the United Nations Member States adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration to reduce extreme poverty, hunger, and child mortality as well as to promote gender equality, and all this through a global partnership. The Declaration set out eight measurable goals, known as the Millennium Development Goals, to be reached by 2015.
- 2 United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1 adopted on 25 September 2015 "*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*", UN Doc. A/RES/70/1.
- 3 United Nations General Assembly Resolution (2015) UN Doc. A/RES/70/1.
- 4 United Nations General Assembly Resolution (2015) UN Doc. A/RES/70/1.
- 5 GICHD, *The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Jordan* (Geneva: GICHD, 2021), <https://www.gichd.org/en/resources/publications/detail/publication/the-sustainable-development-outcomes-of-mine-action-in-jordan/>
- 6 United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), "Comprehensive Peace Agreement", UNMIS website, accessed 11 January 2023, [Comprehensive Peace Agreement | UNMIS \(unmissions.org\)](https://www.unmissions.org/comprehensive-peace-agreement)
- 7 Encyclopædia Britannica, "The Addis Ababa Agreement", accessed 11 January 2023, [Sudan - The Addis Ababa Agreement | Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/topic/addis-ababa-agreement)
- 8 Encyclopædia Britannica, "Sudanese independence and civil war. Resumption of civil war", accessed 11 January 2023, [South Sudan - Sudanese independence and civil war | Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/topic/sudanese-independence-and-civil-war)
- 9 Encyclopædia Britannica, "The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement", accessed 11 January 2023, [South Sudan - The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement | Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/topic/2005-comprehensive-peace-agreement)
- 10 The Comprehensive Peace Agreement between The Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Sudan People's Liberation Army and the Government of the Republic of Sudan, signed on 9 January 2005, (GoS) [cpa-en.pdf \(unmissions.org\)](https://www.unmissions.org/comprehensive-peace-agreement)
- 11 Encyclopædia Britannica, "The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement", accessed 11 January 2023, [South Sudan - The 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement | Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/topic/2005-comprehensive-peace-agreement)
- 12 United Nations, "UNMIS Mandate", accessed 11 January 2023, [UNMIS Mandate - United Nations Mission in the Sudan](https://www.unmissions.org/unmis-mandate)
- 13 United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), "Comprehensive Peace Agreement", UNMIS website, accessed 11 January 2023, [Comprehensive Peace Agreement | UNMIS \(unmissions.org\)](https://www.unmissions.org/comprehensive-peace-agreement)
- 14 United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), "Background", accessed 11 January 2023, [Background | UNMISS \(unmissions.org\)](https://www.unmissions.org/unmiss-background). The UNMISS mandate was established for an initial period of one year, and since then it has been renewed continuously with the UN Security Council determining that the situation in South Sudan continues to pose a threat to international peace and security in the region.
- 15 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 16 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Article 5 extension, 21 August 2020.
- 17 Eli Stamnes and Cedric de Conig, "The Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS)", *The Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) FAIR Case Brief*, 6 (2022): 4, <https://www.prio.org/publications/13061>
- 18 Stamnes, de Conig, *Revitalised Agreement*, p. 4.
- 19 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, p. 5, <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/en/membership/south-sudan/>
- 20 The Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) between the Transitional Government of National Unity of the Republic of South Sudan (TGoNU), the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-In Opposition (SPLM/A-IO), the South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA), Former Detainees (FDs), Other Political Parties (OPP), Addis Ababa, 12 September 2018, <https://docs.pca-cpa.org/2016/02/South-Sudan-Peace-Agreement-September-2018.pdf>
- 21 United Nations, Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on South Sudan, 22 February 2022, <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-02-22/statement-attributable-to-the-spokesman-for-the-secretary-general-south-sudan?>
- 22 World Bank, *The World Bank in South Sudan, Context*, [South Sudan Overview: Development news, research, data | World Bank](https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/south-sudan/overview)

- 23 Mading Gum Mading, Joseph Geng Akech, Peter Garang Geng, *Amending the South Sudan's Revitalized Peace Agreement: The Implications of the Extension and its Roadmap*, SUDD Institute, Weekly Review, 10 August 2022, [Amending the South Sudan's Revitalized Peace Agreement: The Implications of the Extension and its Roadmap](#). RJMEC report on the status of implementation of the revitalised agreement on the resolution of the conflict in the Republic of South Sudan for the period 1st July to 30th September 2022, Situation Report, October 2022, [RJMEC report on the status of implementation of the revitalised agreement on the resolution of the conflict in the Republic of South Sudan for the period 1st July to 30th September 2022 - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)
- 24 UN Security Council resolution 2625 (2022). Adopted by the Security Council at its 8994th meeting, on 15 March 2022; United Nations Mission in South Sudan, "Mandate", accessed 11 January 2023, [Mandate | UNMISS \(unmissions.org\)](#); The Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS).
- 25 United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), "Background", accessed 11 January 2023, [Background | UNMISS \(unmissions.org\)](#)
- 26 World Bank, the World Bank in South Sudan, Context, [South Sudan Overview: Development news, research, data | World Bank](#)
- 27 World Bank, South Sudan Economic Monitor, Fifth Edition, February 2022: Towards a Jobs Agenda. [South Sudan Economic Monitor, February 2022: Towards a Jobs Agenda \(worldbank.org\)](#)
- 28 African Development Bank Group, "South Sudan Economic Outlook - Recent macroeconomic and financial developments", [South Sudan Economic Outlook | African Development Bank - Building today, a better Africa tomorrow \(afdb.org\)](#)
- 29 FAO & the World Bank, Transforming Agriculture in South Sudan. From Humanitarian Aid to a Development Oriented Growth Path (2022) [Transforming agriculture in South Sudan \(fao.org\)](#)
- 30 FAO & the World Bank, Transforming Agriculture in South Sudan. From Humanitarian Aid to a Development Oriented Growth Path, (2022), [Transforming agriculture in South Sudan \(fao.org\)](#)
- 31 UN OCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan South Sudan, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2022, [hrp_ssd_2022_30mar_2022.pdf \(humanitarianresponse.info\)](#)
- 32 UN OCHA, "Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan raises alarm on projected increase of people's humanitarian needs", 25 November 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/humanitarian-coordinator-south-sudan-raises-alarm-projected-increase-peoples-humanitarian-needs>
- 33 UN OCHA, South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan 2022, [South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan 2022 \(March 2022\) - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)
- 34 UN OCHA, "The humanitarian community in South Sudan strongly condemns the ongoing violence in Upper Nile State", 7 December 2022, [The humanitarian community in South Sudan strongly condemns the ongoing violence in Upper Nile State - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)
- 35 UNFPA, World Population Dashboard – South Sudan, [World Population Dashboard -South Sudan | United Nations Population Fund \(unfpa.org\)](#)
- 36 UNHCR, South Sudan, accessed 5 June 2022, [UNHCR - South Sudan](#)
- 37 As of March 2022. See UNHCR, South Sudan Dashboard for Spontaneous Refugee Returnees, March 2022, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/92824>; World Bank, The World Bank in South Sudan, accessed June 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/southsudan/overview#1>
- 38 IOM, Global Data Institute, Displacement Tracking Matrix – South Sudan, Round 13 Initial Findings, <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/south-sudan-mobility-tracking-round-13-initial-data-release?close=true>
- 39 UN OCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan South Sudan, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2022, [hrp_ssd_2022_30mar_2022.pdf \(humanitarianresponse.info\)](#)
- 40 World Food Programme, South Sudan Situation Report #306, 31 October 2022, [WFP South Sudan Situation Report #306, 31 October 2022 - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)
- 41 REACH Initiative, "Humanitarian Situation Overview, Jonglei State, South Sudan: January - March 2022", [Humanitarian Situation Overview, Jonglei State, South Sudan: January - March 2022 - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#).
- 42 United Nations Peacekeeping, "Following an upsurge of violence in Unity state, UNMISS peacekeepers ramp up patrols, support displaced people with clean water", 22 February 2022, [Following an upsurge of violence in Unity state, UNMISS peacekeepers ramp up patrols, support displaced people with clean water | United Nations Peacekeeping](#).

- 43 UN OCHA, "South Sudan: Abyei Administrative Area (AAA) - Humanitarian Situation Overview - People impacted by violence in Agok and Anet (March 2022)", 11 April 2022, [South Sudan: Abyei Administrative Area \(AAA\) - Humanitarian Situation Overview - People impacted by violence in Agok and Anet \(March 2022\) - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)
- 44 UN OCHA, "The humanitarian community in South Sudan strongly condemns the ongoing violence in Upper Nile State", 7 December 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/humanitarian-community-south-sudan-strongly-condemns-ongoing-violence-upper-nile-state>
- 45 World Bank, The World Bank in South Sudan, Context, [South Sudan Overview: Development news, research, data | World Bank](#)
- 46 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 47 UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report No. 10: 1-31 October 2022, [UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report No. 10: 1-31 October 2022 - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)
- 48 UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report No. 10: 1-31 October 2022, [UNICEF South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report No. 10: 1-31 October 2022 - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)
- 49 World Food Programme, South Sudan Situation Report #306, 31 October 2022, [WFP South Sudan Situation Report #306, 31 October 2022 - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)
- 50 Mine Action Review, "Clearing the Mines 2021", South Sudan p. 237, https://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/3644_NPA_Clearing_the_Mines_2021.pdf
- 51 The Republic of South Sudan, South Sudan national mine action strategic plan 2012–2016, [South Sudan National Mine Action Strategic Plan \(apminebanconvention.org\)](#)
- 52 The Republic of South Sudan, South Sudan national mine action strategic plan 2012–2016, [South Sudan National Mine Action Strategic Plan \(apminebanconvention.org\)](#)
- 53 Danish Demining Group (DDG) concept note on: "Survey, clearance and risk education for conflict affected populations in South Sudan", p. 1, Annex B to "The Republic of South Sudan Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, [South Sudan- Revised Extension Request-2020-08-21.pdf \(apminebanconvention.org\)](#)
- 54 GICHD, Landmines and Land Rights in Southern Sudan (Geneva: GICHD, 2010), [GICHD \(igid.int\)](#)
- 55 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, p. 49.
- 56 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Article 5 Deadline Extension, 21 August 2020, p. 49.
- 57 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Article 5 Deadline Extension, 21 August 2020, p. 50.
- 58 UN OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview South Sudan, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2021, [south_sudan_2021_humanitarian_needs_overview_print.pdf \(humanitarianresponse.info\)](#)
- 59 Radio Tamazuj, "At least 9 killed in Liria Payam attack, C. Equatoria State deploys security to restore calm", 27 June 2022, [At least 9 killed in Liria Payam attack, C. Equatoria State deploys security to restore calm | Radio Tamazuj](#)
- 60 Information received from UNMAS, 26 July 2022.
- 61 GICHD (2012) Transitioning Mine Action Programmes to National Ownership – Sudan, p. 9; Government of Southern Sudan Presidential Decree No. 45/2006, <https://unmis.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/Annex%2044%20-%20GoSS%20Commissioners.pdf>
- 62 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, p. 18. https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 63 Mine Action Review, "Clearing the Mines 2022", South Sudan, p. 265, [South Sudan Clearing the Mines 2022.pdf \(mineactionreview.org\)](#)
- 64 Mine Action Review, "Clearing the Mines 2022", South Sudan, p. 265.
- 65 In a recent meeting between UNMAS and the Government of South Sudan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had expressed its continued commitment to the treaty and indicated that it is in the process of tabling the first law on mine action. Final Report, "Individualised Approach of South Sudan. The way ahead together: Achieving the shared goal of ridding South Sudan of anti-personnel mines by its 2026 deadline", 24 November 2022, [20MSP-IA-South-Sudan-Final_Report.pdf \(apminebanconvention.org\)](#)

- 66 South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2021, December 2017, Reviewed version of May 2020.
- 67 UN Security Council resolution 1996 (2011). Adopted by the Security Council at its 6576th meeting, on 8 July 2011, para. 3, <http://unscr.com/files/2011/01996.pdf>
- 68 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, p. 18, https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 69 Information received from DRC, 29 March 2023.
- 70 Final Report, "Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction", pp. 14–15, 24 November 2020, <APLC/MSP.17/2018/12> (<apminebanconvention.org>)
- 71 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, p. 76, https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 72 Information received from the NMAA, 12 April 2023; Light for the World, "South Sudan signs for disability rights", 27 February 2023, [South Sudan signs for disability rights - Light for the World International \(light-for-the-world.org\)](South Sudan signs for disability rights - Light for the World International (light-for-the-world.org)); HI, "South Sudan signs international covenants on rights of persons with disabilities into law", 7 March 2023, <South Sudan signs international covenants on rights of persons with disabilities into law | HI>
- 73 Africa Press, "South Sudan ratifies Convention on Cluster", 9 May 2023, <https://www.africa-press.net/south-sudan/all-news/south-sudan-ratifies-convention-on-cluster-munitions>; The Towerpost, "South Sudan Ratifies UN Convention on Cluster Munitions", 9 May 2023, <https://thetowerpost.com/2023/05/09/south-sudan-ratifies-un-convention-on-cluster-munitions/>; Radio Tamazuj, "South Sudan ratifies UN Convention on Cluster Munitions", 9 May 2023, <https://radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/south-sudan-ratifies-un-convention-on-cluster-munitions>.
- 74 South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2021, December 2017, Reviewed version of May 2020.
- 75 South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2021, December 2017, Reviewed version of May 2020.
- 76 Republic of South Sudan, Revised National Development Strategy for South Sudan – 2021–2024, p. 9, <https://www.undp.org/south-sudan/publications/revised-national-development-strategy-south-sudan-2021-2024>
- 77 Republic of South Sudan, Revised National Development Strategy for South Sudan – 2021–2024, p. 22, <https://www.undp.org/south-sudan/publications/revised-national-development-strategy-south-sudan-2021-2024>
- 78 Republic of South Sudan, National Development Strategy, July 2018–June 2021, p. 13, <http://www.mofep-grss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/NDS-4-Print-Sept-5-2018.pdf>
- 79 South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2021, December 2017, Reviewed version of May 2020.
- 80 United Nations, UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–2025, Results and M&E framework, https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/South%20Sudan_Cooperation_Framework_Results_Framework-2023-2025.pdf
- 81 The criteria for "all reasonable effort" shall be defined by the National Mine Action Authority.
- 82 According to IMAS 04.10, explosive ordnance is interpreted as encompassing mine action's response to the following munitions: mines, cluster munitions, unexploded ordnance, abandoned ordnance, booby traps, other devices (as defined by the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Amended Protocol III), and improvised explosive devices. IMAS 04.10 Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations, Second Edition, Amendment 10, February 2019.
- 83 Information received from UNMAS, 26 July 2022.
- 84 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 85 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 26 July 2022.
- 86 UN Environment Programme, "Resource competition and climate change hampering South Sudan peace and development", 7 June 2018, [Resource competition and climate change hampering South Sudan peace and development \(unep.org\)](Resource competition and climate change hampering South Sudan peace and development (unep.org))
- 87 Minority Rights Group International, "South Sudan. Current Issues", [South Sudan - World Directory of Minorities & Indigenous Peoples \(minorityrights.org\)](South Sudan - World Directory of Minorities & Indigenous Peoples (minorityrights.org))

- 88 South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2021, December 2017, Reviewed version of May 2020.
- 89 FAO & the World Bank, Transforming Agriculture in South Sudan. From Humanitarian Aid to a Development Oriented Growth Path (2002), p. 7, [Transforming agriculture in South Sudan \(fao.org\)](#)
- 90 World Bank, "Agricultural potential, rural roads, and farm competitiveness in South Sudan", 2012, p. 9, [Agricultural potential, rural roads, and farm competitiveness in South Sudan - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)
- 91 FAO & the World Bank, Transforming Agriculture in South Sudan from Humanitarian Aid to a Development Oriented Growth Path (2002), p. 7, [Transforming agriculture in South Sudan \(fao.org\)](#)
- 92 FAO, "South Sudan at a glance", [South Sudan at a glance | FAO in South Sudan | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)
- 93 FAO, "South Sudan at a glance", [South Sudan at a glance | FAO in South Sudan | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)
- 94 FAO, "South Sudan at a glance", [South Sudan at a glance | FAO in South Sudan | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)
- 95 Interview with MAG, 24 August 2022.
- 96 World Bank, "Agricultural potential, rural roads, and farm competitiveness in South Sudan", 2012, [Agricultural potential, rural roads, and farm competitiveness in South Sudan - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)
- 97 FAO, Food and nutrition security resilience programme in South Sudan, Baseline Report, 2021, [The Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme in South Sudan \(fao.org\)](#); South Sudan Emergency Livelihood Response Programme 2021–2023, [South Sudan Emergency Livelihood Response Programme 2021–2023 \(fao.org\)](#)
- 98 FAO, Food and nutrition security resilience programme in South Sudan, Baseline Report, 2021, [The Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme in South Sudan \(fao.org\)](#)
- 99 UN OCHA, South Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022 (February 2022), pp. 15 & 20, <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-humanitarian-needs-overview-2022-february-2022>
- 100 FAO, South Sudan – DIEM – Data in Emergencies, Monitoring Brief, round 3. Results and recommendations, October 2022, [South Sudan: DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 3 \(fao.org\)](#)
- 101 South Sudan Emergency Livelihood Response Programme 2021–2023, [South Sudan Emergency Livelihood Response Programme 2021–2023 \(fao.org\)](#)
- 102 South Sudan Emergency Livelihood Response Programme 2021–2023, [South Sudan Emergency Livelihood Response Programme 2021–2023 \(fao.org\)](#)
- 103 World Bank, The World Bank in South Sudan, accessed June 2022, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/southsudan/overview#1>
- 104 World Food Programme, South Sudan, accessed June 2022, <https://www.wfp.org/countries/south-sudan>
- 105 FAO, "New assessment confirms deteriorating food security across South Sudan; UN agencies urge scale up in assistance to stave off hunger", 9 April 2022, <https://www.fao.org/south-sudan/news/detail-events/en/c/1504760/>
- 106 FAO, South Sudan Emergency Livelihood Response Programme 2021–2023, [South Sudan Emergency Livelihood Response Programme 2021–2023 \(fao.org\)](#)
- 107 Information received from DRC, 21 February 2023.
- 108 Xinshen Diao, Liangzhi You, Vida Alpuerto and Renato Folledo, Assessing Agricultural Potential in South Sudan – A Spatial Analysis Method <http://dx.doi.org/10.5772/47938>, [Microsoft Word - 08_Diao_final.docx \(intechopen.com\)](#)
- 109 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 110 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 111 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 112 FAO, South Sudan and FAO, "Building Resilience and Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security", 2019, [South Sudan and FAO](#)

- 113 United Nations, "Dire impact from floods in South Sudan as new wet season looms", 29 March 2022, [Dire impact from floods in South Sudan as new wet season looms | UN News](#); UNHCR, "Devastation in South Sudan following fourth year of historic floods", 21 October 2022, [UNHCR - Devastation in South Sudan following fourth year of historic floods](#); UNHCR, "Climate change has hit South Sudan hard – here's how UNHCR is responding", 5 June 2022, [UNHCR - Climate change has hit South Sudan hard – here's how UNHCR is responding](#); UNDP, News, "Confronting climate change in South Sudan", 29 June 2017, [Confronting climate change in South Sudan | Africa Renewal \(un.org\)](#)
- 114 Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility (CSRF), South Sudan, County Profiles, Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State, [Magwi - csrf-southsudan.org](#)
- 115 CSRF, South Sudan, County Profiles, Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State.
- 116 CSRF, South Sudan, County Profiles, Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria State.
- 117 FAO, Food and nutrition security resilience programme in South Sudan, Baseline Report, 2021, [The Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme in South Sudan \(fao.org\)](#)
- 118 FAO, Food and nutrition security resilience programme in South Sudan, Baseline Report, 2021, [The Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme in South Sudan \(fao.org\)](#)
- 119 UN OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview South Sudan, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2021, [south_sudan_2021_humanitarian_needs_overview_print.pdf \(humanitarianresponse.info\)](#)
- 120 Interview with FAO South Sudan, 11 January 2023.
- 121 FAO, "Growing concern for South Sudan's herders as conflict displaces millions of cattle", 31 December 2014, [FAO - News Article: Growing concern for South Sudan's herders as conflict displaces millions of cattle](#)
- 122 FAO, Food and nutrition security resilience programme in South Sudan, Baseline Report, 2021, [The Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme in South Sudan \(fao.org\)](#): baseline study aimed at conducting a preliminary implementation measurement of the results indicators outlined in the logical framework of the Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (FNS-REPRO) in South Sudan.
- 123 FAO, Food and nutrition security resilience programme in South Sudan, Baseline Report, 2021, [The Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme in South Sudan \(fao.org\)](#)
- 124 Information received from DRC, 22 August 2022.
- 125 Information received from DRC, 22 August 2022.
- 126 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 23 March 2023.
- 127 Information received from SafeLane Global, 11 October 2022.
- 128 Information received from SafeLane Global, 11 October 2022.
- 129 FAO and World Food Programme, Special Report – 2021 FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) to South Sudan, 9 June 2022, <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0474en>
- 130 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 26 July 2022.
- 131 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 26 July 2022.
- 132 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 26 July 2022.
- 133 Information received from SafeLane Global, 11 October 2022.
- 134 Information received from SafeLane Global, 11 October 2022.
- 135 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 23 March 2023.
- 136 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 23 March 2023.
- 137 Information received from SafeLane Global, 11 October 2022.
- 138 Housing, Land and Property Technical Working Group, "Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Challenges in South Sudan January 2021", 5 February 2021, [Housing, Land and Property \(HLP\) Challenges in South Sudan January 2021 - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)
- 139 Housing, Land and Property Technical Working Group, "Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Challenges in South Sudan January 2021", 5 February 2021, [Housing, Land and Property \(HLP\) Challenges in South Sudan January 2021 - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)
- 140 Housing, Land and Property Technical Working Group, "Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Challenges in South Sudan January 2021", 5 February 2021, [Housing, Land and Property \(HLP\) Challenges in South Sudan January 2021 - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)

- 141 Norwegian Refugee Council and GICHD "Mine Action and Land Rights in South Sudan: Key findings and recommendations", 2013, [Mine Action and Land Rights in South Sudan \(gichd.org\)](#)
- 142 Norwegian Refugee Council and GICHD "Mine Action and Land Rights in South Sudan: Key findings and recommendations", 2013, [Mine Action and Land Rights in South Sudan \(gichd.org\)](#)
- 143 United Nations Population Fund, World Population Dashboard South Sudan, [World Population Dashboard - South Sudan | United Nations Population Fund \(unfpa.org\)](#)
- 144 UN-Habitat, "South Sudan. Overview", [Urbanization in South Sudan: Building inclusive & sustainable cities \(unhabitat.org\)](#)
- 145 UN-Habitat, "South Sudan. Overview", [Urbanization in South Sudan: Building inclusive & sustainable cities \(unhabitat.org\)](#)
- 146 Centre for Affordable Housing Finance in Africa, "Housing Finance in South Sudan", [South Sudan - CAHF | Centre for Affordable Housing Finance Africa](#)
- 147 Norwegian Refugee Council and GICHD "Mine Action and Land Rights in South Sudan: Key findings and recommendations", 2013, [Mine Action and Land Rights in South Sudan \(gichd.org\)](#)
- 148 Information received from Mines Advisory Group (MAG), 28 October 2022.
- 149 World Food Programme/Logistics Cluster, Logistics Capacity Assessment, South Sudan Road Network, [2.3 South Sudan Road Network - Logistics Capacity Assessment - Digital Logistics Capacity Assessments \(logcluster.org\)](#); FAO & the World Bank, Transforming Agriculture in South Sudan. From Humanitarian Aid to a Development Oriented Growth Path, 2022, [Transforming agriculture in South Sudan \(fao.org\)](#)
- 150 World Bank, "A Triumph Over Long Odds: Building Rural Roads in South Sudan", 9 February 2016, [A Triumph Over Long Odds: Building Rural Roads in South Sudan \(worldbank.org\)](#)
- 151 World Food Programme/Logistics Cluster, Logistics Capacity Assessment, South Sudan Road Network, [2.3 South Sudan Road Network - Logistics Capacity Assessment - Digital Logistics Capacity Assessments \(logcluster.org\)](#)
- 152 World Bank, "Agricultural potential, rural roads, and farm competitiveness in South Sudan", 2012, [Agricultural potential, rural roads, and farm competitiveness in South Sudan - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)
- 153 World Food Programme/Logistics Cluster, Logistics Capacity Assessment, South Sudan Road Network, [2.3 South Sudan Road Network - Logistics Capacity Assessment - Digital Logistics Capacity Assessments \(logcluster.org\)](#)
- 154 World Food Programme/Logistics Cluster, Logistics Capacity Assessment, South Sudan Road Network.
- 155 World Food Programme, Logistics Cluster, Logistics Capacity Assessment, South Sudan Road Network.
- 156 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, p. 8, https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 157 UN OCHA, South Sudan: Humanitarian Access Severity Overview (January to June 2021), [South Sudan: Humanitarian Access Severity Overview \(January to June 2021\) - South Sudan | ReliefWeb](#)
- 158 World Food Programme/Logistics Cluster, Logistics Capacity Assessment, South Sudan Road Network, [2.3 South Sudan Road Network - Logistics Capacity Assessment - Digital Logistics Capacity Assessments \(logcluster.org\)](#)
- 159 World Food Programme/Logistics Cluster, Logistics Capacity Assessment, South Sudan Road Network.
- 160 United Nations Peacekeeping, "UNMISS repairs 2500kms of roads to encourage economic growth and peace in South Sudan", 13 June 2019, [UNMISS repairs 2500kms of roads to encourage economic growth and peace in South Sudan | United Nations Peacekeeping](#)
- 161 UNHCR, "UNHCR concerned at climate change impacts in South Sudan", 15 March 2022, [UNHCR - UNHCR concerned at climate change impacts in South Sudan](#); The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 162 UNMAS, Paving a Path to Peace – South Sudan, [Paving a Path to Peace – South Sudan | UNMAS](#)
- 163 Information received from SafeLane Global, 11 October 2022.
- 164 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 26 July 2022 and 25 September 2022; UNMAS, "Paving a Path to Peace – South Sudan", accessed August 2022, <https://www.unmas.org/en/paving-path-to-peace-south-sudan>

- 190 APMBC, Assisting the Victims, accessed September 2021, <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/the-convention/assisting-the-victims/>
- 191 More information about the Convention can be obtained at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women>
- 192 The first Optional Protocol relates to the rights of the child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, while the second one refers to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. More information about the Convention can be obtained at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>
- 193 Government of Southern Sudan, The Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, 2011, <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/MONOGRAPH/90704/116697/F762589088/SSD90704%202011C.pdf>
- 194 Republic of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, South Sudan National Disability and Inclusive Policy, 2015.
- 195 Republic of South Sudan, Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, 15–19 November 2021, Statement of South Sudan on Victim Assistance, [19MSP-10a-VA-South-Sudan.pdf \(apminebanconvention.org\)](https://www.apminebanconvention.org/19MSP-10a-VA-South-Sudan.pdf)
- 196 Republic of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, National Disability Action Plan 2020, <https://mgcsw.gov.ss/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/national-disability-plan-of-Action.pdf>
- 197 Statement by South Sudan during the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, 15-19 November 2021, The Hague.
- 198 Government of the Republic of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, National Social Protection Policy Framework Annual Report 2020, July 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/media/8136/file/South%20Sudan%20Social%20Protection%20Annual%20Report%202020.pdf>
- 199 South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2021, December 2017, Reviewed version of May 2020.
- 200 Republic of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, National Disability Action Plan 2020, <https://mgcsw.gov.ss/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/national-disability-plan-of-Action.pdf>
- 201 Government of the Republic of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, National Social Protection Policy Framework Annual Report 2020, July 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/media/8136/file/South%20Sudan%20Social%20Protection%20Annual%20Report%202020.pdf>
- 202 APMBC Intersessional Meetings 30 June–2 July 2020, Statement on Victim Assistance Implementation in South Sudan, 1 July 2020; Republic of South Sudan, Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, 15–19 November 2021, Statement of South Sudan on Victim Assistance.
- 203 Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, South Sudan, 9 October 2017, <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/reports/2018/South-Sudan/victim-assistance.aspx>
- 204 Republic of South Sudan, Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties (19MSP) to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, 15–19 November 2021, Statement of South Sudan on Victim Assistance.
- 205 Republic of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, National Disability Action Plan 2020, p. 12, <https://mgcsw.gov.ss/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/national-disability-plan-of-Action.pdf>
- 206 OVCI la Nostra Famiglia, "South Sudan Rehabilitation Commitment", [Rehabilitation Commitment \(ovci.it\)](https://www.ovci.it/rehabilitation-commitment)
- 207 Information received from the NMAA, 12 April 2023.
- 208 APMBC Intersessional Meetings 22–24 June 2021. Preliminary Observations, Status of Implementation – South Sudan, Committee on Victim Assistance (Algeria, Ecuador, Sweden, and Thailand), <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC-DOCUMENTS/Meetings/2021/IM21-Observations-VA-South-Sudan.pdf>; Republic of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, National Disability Action Plan 2020, <https://mgcsw.gov.ss/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/national-disability-plan-of-Action.pdf>
- 209 ICRC, ICRC in South Sudan, [The ICRC in South Sudan - ICRC](https://www.icrc.org/en/document/icrc-in-south-sudan), accessed on 24 April 2023.
- 210 Interview with HI, 14 July 2022.
- 211 Republic of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, National Disability Action Plan 2020.
- 212 Information received from HI, 5 August 2022.
- 213 Interview with HI, 14 July 2022.
- 214 APMBC Intersessional Meetings 20–22 June 2022, Committee on Victim Assistance, Preliminary Mid-Term Assessment, [IM22-Observations-VA-SouthSudan.pdf \(apminebanconvention.org\)](https://www.apminebanconvention.org/IM22-Observations-VA-SouthSudan.pdf)

- 215 APMBC Intersessional Meetings 20–22 June 2022, Committee on Victim Assistance, Preliminary Mid-Term Assessment, [IM22-Observations-VA-SouthSudan.pdf \(apminebanconvention.org\)](#)
- 216 Interview with HI, 14 July 2022.
- 217 Interview with UNMAS, 19 August 2022.
- 218 World Bank, Poverty & Equity Brief, South Sudan, April 2023, [Global_POVEQ_SSD.pdf \(worldbank.org\)](#).
- 219 Republic of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, South Sudan National Disability and Inclusive Policy, 2015; Republic of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, National Disability Action Plan 2020, <https://mgcsw.gov.ss/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/national-diability-plan-of-Action.pdf>
- 220 Republic of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, South Sudan National Disability and Inclusive Policy, 2015; Republic of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, National Disability Action Plan 2020.
- 221 Information received from HI, 5 August 2022.
- 222 Republic of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, National Disability Action Plan 2020, <https://mgcsw.gov.ss/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/national-diability-plan-of-Action.pdf>
- 223 Interview with HI, 14 July 2022; Information received from HI, 5 August 2022.
- 224 Republic of South Sudan, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, National Disability Action Plan 2020, <https://mgcsw.gov.ss/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/national-diability-plan-of-Action.pdf>
- 225 Information received from HI, 5 August 2022.
- 226 IMAS 12.10 Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), Second Edition, Amendment 3, September 2020.
- 227 IMAS 12.10 has been comprehensively reviewed and updated by an IMAS-mandated technical working group led by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group (EORE AG). The revised IMAS 12.10 replaces and supersedes all previous IMAS on MRE and serves as a basic framework for EORE operations globally.
- 228 Interview with UNMAS, 19 August 2022.
- 229 Interview with DRC, 25 August 2022.
- 230 South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2021, December 2017, Reviewed version of May 2020.
- 231 South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2021, December 2017, Reviewed version of May 2020.
- 232 Terms of Reference and Work Plan for Mine Risk Education Working Group (MRE WG) in South Sudan, Final, 2016.
- 233 Interview with UNMAS, 19 August 2022.
- 234 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 26 July 2022.
- 235 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 9 April 2023.
- 236 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 9 April 2023.
- 237 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 9 April 2023.
- 238 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 26 July 2022.
- 239 Interview with UNMAS, 19 August 2022; MoU between UNMAS, UNICEF, and NMAA South Sudan for the provision of support in mine risk education to the National Mine Action Authority of the Republic of South Sudan, 2016.
- 240 South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2021, December 2017, Reviewed version of May 2020.
- 241 Interview with UNMAS, 19 August 2022.
- 242 South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2021, December 2017, Reviewed version of May 2020.
- 243 Interview with UNMAS, 19 August 2022.
- 244 Interview with UNMAS, 19 August 2022.
- 245 UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Adopted by the Security Council at its 4213th meeting, on 31 October 2000, https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/SC_ResolutionWomenPeaceSecurity_SRES1325%282000%29%28english_0.pdf
- 246 Gender and Mine Action Programme website, accessed 20 November 2020, <https://www.gmap.ch/>.

- 247 Government of South Sudan, The Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, 2011, Article 14, <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/MONOGRAPH/90704/116697/F762589088/SSD90704%202011C.pdf>
- 248 The Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan, 2011, Article 16, <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/MONOGRAPH/90704/116697/F762589088/SSD90704%202011C.pdf>
- 249 While the 2018 Revitalised Peace Agreement overrides the Transitional Constitution of 2011, the constitutional text has not yet been modified.
- 250 UNDP, Human Development Report 2020, "The Next Frontier, Human Development and the Anthropocene", <https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2020>.
- 251 ILO, ILOSTAT, Data, <https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/#>.
- 252 South Sudan National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2021, December 2017, Reviewed version of May 2020; Mine Action Review, "Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2022", p. 185, https://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/NPA_Cluster_Munitions_2022_WEB.pdf
- 253 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 254 Republic of South Sudan NMAA & UNMAS, National Technical Standards and Guidelines South Sudan. Part 1, Demining, Edition 2, Version 2, 31 October 2021, https://www.unmas.org/sites/default/files/south_sudan_ntsg_october_2021.pdf
- 255 Mine Action Review, "Clearing the Mines 2021", p. 238, https://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/3644_NPA_Clearing_the_Mines_2021.pdf
- 256 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 257 Mine Action Review, "Clearing the Mines 2021", p. 238, https://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/3644_NPA_Clearing_the_Mines_2021.pdf
- 258 Interview with UNMAS, 19 August 2022.
- 259 Information received from DRC, 22 August 2022.
- 260 Information received from DRC, 22 August 2022.
- 261 Information received from DRC, 22 August 2022.
- 262 Information received from DRC, 22 August 2022.
- 263 Mine Action Review, "Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2022", p. 185, https://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/NPA_Cluster_Munitions_2022_WEB.pdf
- 264 Information received from the National Mine Action Authority of South Sudan, 3 November 2022.
- 265 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 26 July 2022.
- 266 Interview with UNMAS South Sudan, 18 August 2022.
- 267 Mine Action Review, "Clearing the Mines 2021", p. 239, https://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/3644_NPA_Clearing_the_Mines_2021.pdf
- 268 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 26 July 2022.
- 269 Mine Action Review, "Clearing the Mines 2021", p. 239, https://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/3644_NPA_Clearing_the_Mines_2021.pdf
- 270 Mine Action Review, "Clearing the Mines 2021", p. 239.
- 271 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 272 Mine Action Review, "Clearing the Mines 2021", p. 239, https://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/3644_NPA_Clearing_the_Mines_2021.pdf
- 273 Interview with MAG, 24 August 2022; Mine Action Review, "Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2022", p. 185, https://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/NPA_Cluster_Munitions_2022_WEB.pdf
- 274 Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 6 September 2022.
- 275 Information received from DRC, 22 August 2022.

- 276 Mine Action Review, "Clearing the Mines 2021", p. 238, https://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/3644_NPA_Clearing_the_Mines_2021.pdf
- 277 The Republic of South Sudan. Revised request for Extension to the Deadline for Fulfilling Obligations as per Article 5, Para 1 of the APMBC, 21 August 2020, https://old.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/clearing-mined-areas/art5_extensions/countries/18MSP-South-Sudan-ExtRequest-Received-27Mar2020.pdf
- 278 GMAP, Gender-Sensitive Recruitment and Training in Mine Action – Guidelines, (Geneva 2013), <https://www.gmap.ch/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/GMAP-Recruitment-and-Training-Guidelines-2013.pdf>
- 279 Interview with SafeLane Global and G4S, on 27 September 2022 and 16 August 2022 respectively.
- 280 Information received from G4S, 28 September 2022.
- 281 Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan in Norway, Culture in South Sudan, <http://www.embrss-norway.org/culture/>; Minority Rights Group International, South Sudan, <https://minorityrights.org/country/south-sudan/>
- 282 Mine Action Review, "Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2022", p. 184, https://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/NPA_Cluster_Munitions_2022_WEB.pdf
- 283 Interview with DRC, 25 August 2022.
- 284 UN Security Council resolution 2365 (2017). Adopted by the Security Council at its 7992nd meeting, on 30 June 2017, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/194/74/PDF/N1719474.pdf?OpenElement>
- 285 UN General Assembly resolutions 68/234, 66/223, 64/223, 62/211, 60/215, 58/129, 56/76.
- 286 UNDP, Frequently Asked Questions. South-South and Triangular Cooperation, 24 August 2017, <https://www.undp.org/publications/frequently-asked-questions-south-south-cooperation>
- 287 United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, About South-South and Triangular Cooperation, accessed on 15 September 2020, <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/about/about-ssct/>
- 288 More information on G7+ can be found at <https://g7plus.org/>
- 289 More information on International Dialogue on Peacebuilding & Statebuilding can be found at <https://www.pbsbdialogue.org/en/>
- 290 More information on South Sudan Protection Cluster can be found at <https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/field-support/field-protection-clusters/south-sudan/>
- 291 Mine Action Review, "Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2022", p. 184, https://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/NPA_Cluster_Munitions_2022_WEB.pdf
- 292 UN Sustainable Development Group, South Sudan, The United Nations in South Sudan, accessed June 2022, <https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/south-sudan>
- 293 UNMAS, Annual Report 2020, p. 22, https://unmas.org/sites/default/files/unmas_annual_report_2020.pdf
- 294 UN Sustainable Development Group, South Sudan, The United Nations in South Sudan, accessed June 2022, <https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/south-sudan>
- 295 UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, Independent Country Programme Evaluation: South Sudan, Annexes, Annex 1. Terms of Reference, p. 5, http://web.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/adr/south_sudan.shtml
- 296 UNMAS Facebook page, accessed May 2022, <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedNationsMineActionService/photos/a.10157297842775679/10158799675785679/?type=3>
- 297 Republic of South Sudan, Revised National Development Strategy for South Sudan – 2021–2024, <https://www.undp.org/south-sudan/publications/revised-national-development-strategy-south-sudan-2021-2024>
- 298 UNMAS. Safe Ground, accessed 5 September 2022, <https://www.unmas.org/en/safe-ground>
- 299 UN Mine Action – E-Mine, Safe Ground <https://www.mineaction.org/en/safe-ground>
- 300 UN Audiovisual Library, South Sudan / UNMAS Safe Ground, <https://www.unmultimedia.org/avlibrary/asset/2663/2663005/>; UNMISS, Safe Ground, Turning Minefields in to Playing Fields, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/unmissmultimedia/51537960460/in/album-72157719947774342/>
- 301 UNMAS, Beware – South Sudan Mine Risk Education, <https://www.unmas.org/en/beware-south-sudan-mine-risk-education>
- 302 United Nations Sustainable Development Group, "A place of peace once again: The UN in northern South Sudan", 28 June 2021, accessed May 2022, <https://unsdg.un.org/latest/stories/place-peace-once-again-un-northern-south-sudan>

- ³⁰³ United Nations Sustainable Development Group, "A place of peace once again: The UN in northern South Sudan", 28 June 2021, accessed May 2022.
- ³⁰⁴ IOM, Concept of Operation, Humanitarian Hubs in Deep Field Locations, Kodok Leer and Kajo-Keji and Jiech, South Sudan (1 January 2021), https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/20210126_humanitarian_hubs_in_deep_field_locations.pdf
- ³⁰⁵ United Nations Country Team Newsletter, South Sudan, November 2020, <https://southsudan.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/UNCT%20November%20Edition.pdf>; World Food Programme, WFP South Sudan Situation Report #280, 1 December 2020, <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/wfp-south-sudan-situation-report-280-1-december-2020>
- ³⁰⁶ Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 26 July 2022.
- ³⁰⁷ The rehabilitation works include the installation and maintenance of doors and classroom platforms, tile work for schoolyards, painting of school buildings and classrooms, installation of new glass windows and plastering for facades of premises, maintenance of electrical systems, as well as the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities to ensure access for, and inclusivity of, students with physical disabilities.
- ³⁰⁸ Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 26 July 2022.
- ³⁰⁹ Information received from UNMAS South Sudan, 26 July 2022.



Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

Maison de la paix, Tower 3, Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2C
PO Box 1300, CH – 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland

info@gichd.org

gichd.org

