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# Youth LEAD Baseline Assessment

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Eastern Equatoria,  
Upper Nile & Jonglei States

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Prepared for UNICEF South Sudan

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Conducted by Forcier Consulting

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Youth LEAD Baseline Assessment:  
Eastern Equatoria  
Upper Nile  
Jonglei

Prepared for:  
UNICEF South Sudan

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Natalie Forcier  
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## ACRONYMS

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AAR Japan	Association for Aid and Relief, Japan
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AIC	African Inland Church
AMA	Assistance Mission Africa
ARC	American Refugee Committee
ASI	Adam Smith International
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
AVSI	Association of Volunteers in International Service
CBO	Community Based Organization
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CHW	Community Healthcare Workers
CMCM	Christian Mission Continuous Ministries
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
CRADA	Christian Relief and Development Agency
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DOT	Diocese of Torit
EMOC	Emergency Obstetric Care
FAO	Food & Agriculture Organization
FI	Freedal International
GoNU	Government of National Unity
GoSS	Government of South Sudan
GAYA	Greater Akobo Youth Association
HAI	Help Age International
HASS	Humanitarian Assistance for South Sudan
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IMC	International Medical Corps
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices
LCDA	Liech Community Development Association
LCDO	Llolia Community Development Organization
LEAD	Leadership, Education and Access to Development
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
LRDA	Losolia Rehabilitation and Development Association
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MAG	Mines Advisory Group
MERLIN	Medical Emergency Relief International
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoYSR	Ministry of Youth, Sport, and Recreation
MRDA	Maban Relief Development Agency
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NCA	Norwegian Church Aid
NCDA	Nasir Community Development Association
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NESI Network	New Sudanese Indigenous NGOs Network
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization



NHDF	Nile Hope Development Forum
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
NSCC	New Sudan Council of Churches
PACT	Partnership Agencies Collaborating Together
PCC	Pochalla Peace Committee
PEFADA	Peace Farmers for Development Association
PFS	Pastoralist Field School
PHA	Polish Humanitarian Agency
PHCC	Public Health Care Center
PHCU	Public Health Care Unit
PSF-CI	Pharmaciens Sans Frontieres- Comite
PTA	Parent-Teacher Association
RSS	Republic of South Sudan
SAF	Sudan Armed Forces
SAFORD	Sunrise Association for Development
SALF	Standard Action Liaison Focus
SALT	Serving and Learning Together
SDA	Sobat Development Agency
SSP	South Sudanese Pound
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SMC	Sudan Medical Care
SOS Children	SOS Children's Villages
SPLM/A	Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army
SSAC	South Sudan Aids Commission
SSCCA	Sudan Christian Community Agency
SSRRC	Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission
STATA	Data Analysis and Statistical Software
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
SuNDE	Sudanese Network for Democratic Elections
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats
TDA	Toposa Development Organization
TOT	Trainers of Trainers
UDP	United Democratic Party
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Service
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	Upper Nile Initiative and Development Organization
UNKEA	Upper Nile Kalaazar Eradication Association
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan
UNYMPD	Upper Nile Youth Mobilization for Peace and Development
UNYMPDA	Upper Nile Youth Mobilization for Peace and Development Agency
URDOS	Universal Relief and Development Organization
VATVS	Velicer Attitudes Toward Violence Scale
VCD	Vision for Community Development
VFH	Voice for Humanity
WASH/WATSAN	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WVI	World Vision International
YAASO	Youth Anti-AIDS Services Organization

## INTRODUCTION

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### BACKGROUND ON SOUTH SUDAN

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South Sudan declared its independence on July 9, 2011, becoming the world's 193rd country and Africa's 54th state. Unlike other post-colonial states, South Sudan's independence was not granted at the discretion of a non-belligerent colonial power. Rather, decades of armed conflict with the North culminated in an internationally-brokered peace in 2005 that allowed for a referendum on separation.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of (Northern) Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) ended two decades of civil war in the region and established a shared system of governance between the Government of National Unity (GoNU) and the semi-autonomous Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS). After the signing of the CPA, GoSS became responsible for the governance of the region now known as South Sudan. In accordance with the terms of the CPA, GoSS conducted a referendum on self-determination in January 2011 that resulted in an overwhelming turnout, 99% of South Sudanese voting in favor of secession.

In July, the newly independent Republic of South Sudan (RSS) secured statehood and immediately dropped to the bottom of the world's development indexes. Since schools were closed or destroyed throughout much of the population's childhood, about three-quarters of adults are unable read. Only 1 percent of households have a bank account. Half of Southern Sudanese (50.6%) live beneath the national poverty line of 72.6 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) per month and 47% are food deprived.<sup>1</sup> As a result, the vast majority of South Sudanese face numerous challenges in securing sustainable livelihoods to support themselves and their families.

The huge influx of refugees and internally displaced people further complicated the existing political dynamics in the state. During the course of decades of war, millions of southerners fled north to escape the fighting and conflict. Since the 2005 CPA, those who fled have been returning back to their homes in the south. More than 350,000 individuals returned to South Sudan in 2011 alone.<sup>2</sup>

With more than 70% of the population under the age of 30, the country's stability and future development depends on its ability to target young people in its relief and development programming. By ensuring that these young people experience a safe, healthy, and productive transition to adulthood, South Sudan will also be on its way towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and ensuring internal stability. Particular attention to young women, such as those who are isolated due to traditional practices associated with bride wealth, will both build the skill base of young people and ensure gender equity in a new country.

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<sup>1</sup> "Poverty in Southern Sudan: Estimates from the 2009 National Baseline Household Survey," Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation.

<sup>2</sup> Refugees International. "Displacement Plagues the World's Newest Nation." 2012.

## YOUTH LEAD PROJECT

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Through the Youth LEAD Project, UNICEF focus on helping youth aged 10-24 become productive members of their communities and society more broadly and to reduce conflict-related vulnerabilities in selected geographic locations in South Sudan. Towards this goal, the YouthLEAD Project supports: broader access to quality education, life skills and health care, clean water and food security; increased sustainable livelihoods; and participatory processes focused on youth for good governance and peace promotion at all levels. At the same time, child protection systems and enabling environments for youth is strengthened by building the organizational and technical capacity of state and non-state youth service providers across a range of sectors; and supporting the development and reform of demand-driven, youth-centered policies, strategies and services.

The Project is being implemented in three states of South Sudan (Upper Nile, Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria). Within these states, 12 localities have been selected in which to pilot the Project over its three-year period; two localities per state (one urban and one rural). These areas face a combination of conflict, service gaps, and food and water insecurity, among other vulnerability factors. Initial missions to these areas have also verified local youth efforts, government, UN and civil society stakeholders who will serve as partners to implement activities on the ground.

Adolescent girls and young women are a key focus of the initiative. Out-of-school youth, youth associated with armed forces/groups, youth in need of special protection such as street youth, those with disabilities including disabilities due to mines and UXOs, youth living with HIV, and youth who are members of mobile populations including nomadic youth, will be specifically targeted.

The YouthLEAD Project has five main components, as outlined below:

### **Component 1 – Youth Friendly Spaces and Services**

Under this component, Youth Friendly Spaces/Centers (YFS) will be developed in each of the 12 target localities to offer demand-driven social services, and a place where youth feel they belong. Services will be gender-responsive, meaning that they: a) will be designed specifically to deal with boys'/men's and girls'/women's different needs for and access to services; b) have an allocation of resources for the implementation of GE provisions that deal with gender-specific needs and priorities; c) highlight/disaggregate benefits for women/girls and men/boys of improved services; and d) are based on consultations with girls/women and boys/men, including women's organizations and GE advocates.

YFS will provide an overall framework for YouthLEAD, providing a hub for core project activities, referrals and linkages to youth programming, networks and groups. With technical support from UNICEF, young men and women will be directly involved in the management of the YFSs through a Youth Committee. This engagement will empower the youth, provide them with leadership and life-skills (i.e. interpersonal communication, negotiation, decision-making), and ensure sustainability. The staff for the YFSs will be provided and paid for by government and trained by the Project.

Where possible, UNICEF will build on the many existing centers and spaces in target localities. However, new spaces will have to be constructed in some localities. The design, locations, and services of the YFSs will be informed by detailed mappings and assessments to be completed in the first four months of the Project (referred to as the Project Implementation Plan/PIP Phase). These mappings will also inform the

development of a comprehensive referral system. It is anticipated that the YFSs will facilitate or provide the following services:

- *HIV and Reproductive Health Services:* In partnership with the Ministry of Health (MOH), UNICEF will provide youth-friendly HIV services, including Voluntary Confidential Testing and condom distribution, in the YFSs or target service sites. UNICEF will also partner with UNFPA to support youth-centered RH services. Based on further assessment, strategies to ensure equitable access to services for adolescent girls and young women may include home visits, mobile centers, or the provision of access to transportation or child care. Partnerships with the MOH have been secured at state levels (i.e. in Blue Nile State, the MOH will provide part-time staff for the YFSs).
- *Nutrition, Food Security and WASH:* UNICEF will provide nutrition counseling and support in the youth centers, as well as referrals to the Food and Agricultural Organization's (FAO) youth-focused food security programming in target localities. Referrals to UNICEF Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programming in prioritized communities will also be integrated in this service area.
- *Psycho-Social Support:* Both professional and peer based counseling will be provided in the YouthLEAD YFSs. Psycho-social support will focus on the mental health consequences of war affected youth. Necessary referrals will be made to UNICEF Child Protection Unit and other appropriate support services. Partnerships have been secured with both the MOH and the Ministry of Social Development at state levels to work with/provide social workers and counselors. UNFPA's Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER) will also partner with UNICEF in this service area.
- *Youth Sports, Entertainment and Cultural Activities:* On-going sports, entertainment, cultural and extra-curricular activities will be housed in the youth center. Partnerships will be made with existing sports clubs and unions in youth center localities. These activities will build youth leadership, and offer opportunities for building skills in conflict resolution and peace building among youth from diverse ethno-racial and tribal communities.
- *Adolescent Girls and Young Women Groups:* One of the aims of these groups will be to attract and encourage consistent uptake of YouthLEAD services and activities by and for young women and adolescent girls. Partnerships will be made with local women's unions and other groups, services and providers as determined by mappings and assessments. A partnership has been established with state Ministries of Social Development to support this activity.
- *Education, Livelihoods and Employment Counseling and Vocational Training:* Counseling and training will be provided to youth to increase their ability to qualify for, find and develop opportunities to earn a living in sectors of interest. Referrals will be made to the Alternative Learning Program (ALP) discussed below, FAO farming programs, computer training, health academies, WASH pump mechanics trainings, entrepreneur and vocational schools, and apprenticeships. Partnerships with local labor and vocational unions will be made.
- *Internal Operations and Committee Support:* YouthLEAD will develop youth volunteer and mentorship programs in partnership with UNFPA's Y-PEER. It will also develop or support existing community multi-sector committees to focus on youth and cross cutting issues, and will house meetings, coordination mechanisms, and on-going support in the YFSs to provide a community hub.

## **Component 2 – Basic Education, Skills Training and Livelihoods**

YouthLEAD will provide basic education and skills training opportunities linked to livelihood and employment programming via the Alternative Learning Program (ALP) established by federal and state Ministries of Education with UNICEF support. The ALP aims to provide learning opportunities for out of school youth by offering flexible schedules, accelerated learning, and community girls' schools. It focuses on the provision of youth literacy, numeracy, life-skills (i.e. hygiene, nutrition, dangers of UXOs), and vocational skills. The ALP is already functional in Blue Nile, South Kordofan and South Darfur and will be expanded to the project's three states in Southern Sudan. This will require the adaptation and printing of the ALP curriculum and learning materials, including integration of peace building, GE and environmental sustainability, capitalizing on the on-going mobile/alternative education initiative for pastoral communities, and the training of ALP teachers in gender-sensitive learning methodologies.

The ALP seeks to:

- Provide catch-up learning for re-integration of early drop-outs into the school system;
- Provide an adapted accelerated curriculum for completion of the basic cycle at grade 8 for transition to secondary school as well as vocational schools and academies;
- Ensure other learning opportunities provided in communities offer a broad-based curriculum that increase chances for further growth and development of young people;
- Provide youth livelihood skills development linked to literacy and life-skills activities.

The vocational skills training component will include training on agriculture (i.e. farming and animal husbandry) and will be implemented through specialized NGO partners at the Youth Friendly Spaces. UNICEF will also work with partner UN agencies, including UNDP, FAO, Joint Youth Employment program, International Labor Organization (ILO), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), to facilitate vocational training for youth. UNICEF will provide basic financial skills and/or accounting skills components. The Project will include apprenticeship placements, micro-credit opportunities provided in partnership with local lending institutions, and agricultural inputs, etc. Young women will be specifically targeted for participation in income generation activities.

YouthLEAD activity aimed at creating employment for young men and women will be in line with international standards associated with child labor and the elimination of the worst forms of child labor, as well as Sudan's Labor Code (1997). These international and national standards allow the distinction to be made between what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable forms of work for children at different ages and stages of development. Partnership with and guidance from the ILO and Sudanese labor authorities will ensure conformity with international and local labor standards.

### **Component 3 – Youth Voices in Peace and Governance**

This component aims to provide opportunities for young voices to be heard in society and in the media. Youth will be engaged as leaders in the process of peace building, and dialogue and advocacy for peace, based on established platforms for communication and messaging. The central activity for the Youth Peace Campaign will be the “We Live Together” *Nawish Sawa Sawa* caravan, which will travel to target YouthLEAD localities to deliver messages of peace. *Nawish Sawa Sawa* will engage popular national artists to provide workshops for the local community in areas of cultural and artistic interest, and to showcase young local talent and expression related to peace building.

- Development of a Youth Voices documentary that will collect and share youth vision for peace and the future of Sudan via audio, video, written and pictorial representations of peace.

- A peace building curriculum will be developed for integration into the ALP and the Youth Peace Ambassadors Program will be launched in formal and non-formal schools.
- Youth will be trained on basic journalism skills and in all elements of radio production and radio for peace concepts and will be mentored by local radio staff.
- Youth groups and networks will be established or strengthened, and trained, to undertake gender-responsive dialogue and advocacy on the needs and interests of young people.

#### **Component 4 – Capacity Building in Policy and Advocacy**

This component aims to educate youth on how policy and dialogue can support peace, and to build capacity of partners to effectively develop and strengthen youth-centered policies, to link policy to programming, and to advocate for youth policies and programs that make a difference for youth and their communities. Towards this objective, activities will include: a comprehensive review of existing youth policies and programs at federal, state and locality level to identify gaps and synergies; awareness raising on key peace-related policies, conventions and agreements such as the CPA, Darfur Peace Agreement, Eastern Peace Agreement; identification of policy champions to promote the implementation and understanding of youth policies at the federal, state and locality levels; knowledge sharing meetings and policy forums with line ministries, CSOs and young people, to communicate, assess, develop and advocate for effective youth centered policies and programs; support for the development of holistic youth policies and strategies in the north and the south; and the provision of training on effective youth centered policy and program development, implementation and advocacy.

#### **Component 5 – Institutional Capacity Building of CSOs and Ministries Supporting Youth.**

Based on further partner mapping and needs assessment, UNICEF will develop and implement capacity building trainings around core management, administrative, and programming functions, including: computer literacy, financial management, gender sensitivity, environment sensitivity, conflict resolution, team member roles and responsibilities, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), strategic internal and external communication, partnership development, advocacy, strategic planning, resource mobilization and donor relations, work planning, and report writing. Line ministries and CSO partners involved in the delivery of services and programs under the Youth Friendly Centres will be specifically targeted for capacity building support under Components 4 and 5.

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### **OBJECTIVE OF THE BASELINE ASSESSMENT**

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The baseline is critically essential to establish initial conditions against which the effects of a YouthLEAD project can be compared. It forms the basis for the 'before and after' YouthLEAD project implementation or a 'change over time'. Without baseline of pre-operation conditions for outcome and impact indicators, it is difficult to understand whether change at the outcome and impact level has in fact occurred.

Specifically, this baseline survey is important in establishing the Reproductive Health (RH) situation of the project target areas, six counties. It helps to understand HIV/AIDS Knowledge Practice and Attitude (KAP) among the youth. So should with regards to protection and WASH. It establishes literacy rate. Moreover, the baseline indicates the situations of protection, vocational training, microfinance and maps employment opportunities and involvement of the youth in peace and governance in the project areas.

The baseline survey also generates gender disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data in all the above areas so that impacts of the project can be measured in relation to gender. It also scans the effect of YouthLEAD project on the environment, particularly in relation to constructing Youth Friendly Centers.

Moreover, the baseline survey makes stakeholders analysis and action oriented institutional capacity assessment.

Generally, the data generated through this survey will help to understand real situation of youth in the 6 counties, monitor project outcomes, take corrective measures and create youth development model (knowledge development) that can be employed to scale up the project vertically (institutionalization) and horizontally (geographic expansion).

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## METHODOLOGY

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### FRAMEWORK

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#### SPHERE STANDARDS

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Organized by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and a group of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in 1997, the Sphere Handbook outlines the minimum standards for humanitarian action. Sphere Standards are underpinned by four core protection principles; namely that humanitarian actors should avoid further harm as a result of their actions, access to impartial assistance should be ensured, individuals should be protected from physical and psychological harm arising from violence and coercion, and individuals should be assisted in claiming and asserting their rights.

Sphere Standards were employed in the development of Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) and Needs and Perceptions questionnaires, particularly with respect to (WASH) and sexual and reproductive health questions.

The Sphere Standards are comprised of the following:

- People-centered humanitarian response: people's capacity and strategies to survive with dignity are integral to the design and approach of humanitarian response;
- Coordination and collaboration: humanitarian response is planned and implemented in coordination with the relevant authorities, humanitarian agencies, and civil society organizations engaged in impartial humanitarian action, working together for maximum efficiency, coverage, and effectiveness;
- Assessment: the priority needs of the disaster-affected population are identified through a systematic assessment of the context, risks to life with dignity, and the capacity of the affected people and relevant authorities to respond;
- Design and response: humanitarian responses meet the assessed needs of a population in relation to context, the risks faced, and the capacity of affected people to cope and recover;
- Performance, transparency, and learning: the performance of humanitarian agencies is continually evaluated and regularly communicated to stakeholders, and plans are revised as needed; and

- Aid worker performance: humanitarian agencies provide appropriate management, supervisory, and psychosocial support, enabling aid workers to have the knowledge, skills, behavior, and attitudes to plan and implement an effective response.

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## ANDERSON FOUR FACTOR MODEL

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The newly revised Velicer Attitudes Toward Violence Scale (VATVS) is a tool to map and quantify attitudes along four specific constructs of violence: violence in war; penal code violence; corporal punishment of children; and intimate violence. These quantified attitudes have been shown to be useful in predicting violent behaviors in both females and males. Various questions from the Anderson Four Factor Model were included in the Needs and Perceptions questionnaires in order to construct an initial assessment of the attitudinal orientations towards violence among South Sudanese youth.

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## TOOLS

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Given the diverse needs of the baseline assessment for the YouthLEAD project, a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods will be employed to collect data within the three primary assessment components:

- **Representative Youth KAP Survey** on reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and WASH indicators;
- **Rapid Assessment of Youth Needs & Perceptions** on education levels (specifically literacy & numeracy), vocational training, micro-finance, job opportunities, peace, protection & the environment; and
- **Stakeholder Analysis & Institutional Capacity Assessment**

The specific methodological approaches, sampling frames, quotas, and tools are discussed in the following sections.

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## QUANTITATIVE

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Data was collected using Samsung Smartphones operating Android with the program EpiSurveyor. Surveys were submitted electronically to the server daily, with quality control checks performed nightly. Data was then exported to Excel and analyzed using Data Analysis and Statistical Software (STATA).

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## QUALITATIVE

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Preliminary quantitative analysis was conducted by Forcier Consulting's staff statisticians. Qualitative and quantitative analysis and comparison were then conducted by the principle investigator.

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## DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

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### *Representative Youth KAP Survey*



In order to support Component 1 (Establishment/Refurbishment of Youth Friendly Spaces and Services) and Component 2 (Basic Education, Skills, Training & Livelihoods), Forcier Consulting conducted a Youth KAP Survey that was *representative at the county level* for each age group (10-14; 15-19; 20-24). Due to the sensitive nature of some of the topics covered in the reproductive health and HIV/AIDS modules, it was necessary to develop age specific questionnaires. The below detailed sampling strategy also set representative quotas for each age group, allowing progress on key KAP indicators to be tracked throughout the lifetime of the project to ensure that “younger” and “older” youth was being equally targeted and served by project activities.

Questionnaire content was derived from the Sphere Indicators Handbook (WASH sections) and the Key Indicators Survey developed by MeasureDHS (reproductive health & HIV/AIDS sections). All questionnaires were tailored to the South Sudanese context and developed in close consultation with UNICEF. The questionnaires were then pre-tested before data collection began in the field.

Individuals were selected using a systematic random sampling technique within each boma of the county. Boma-level quotas were established for each age group using probability proportionate to size sampling. Depending on the location and research frame, between eight and twenty enumerators were trained to collect data on the Samsung smartphones with EPISurveyor, with consensus translation being established during training in the local language. The following table represents the quotas established for each of the data collection sites in order for the information to be representative with a confidence level of 95% and confidence interval of  $\pm 5$  percentage points.

TABLE 1 COLLECTED OBSERVATIONS AT THE COUNTY LEVEL BY AGE GROUP

State	County	Age Group	Population Size <sup>3</sup>	Collected Observations	
				Males	Females
Eastern Equatoria	Budi	10-14	15114	34	47
		15-19	13977	69	79
		20-24	8250	26	87
		<b>Total</b>	<b>37341</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>213</b>
	Kapoeta East	10-14	25104	38	65
		15-19	20245	42	76
		20-24	13771	52	55
		<b>Total</b>	<b>59120</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>196</b>
Jonglei	Uror	10-14	24474	34	86
		15-19	19717	75	77
		20-24	16305	65	75
		<b>Total</b>	<b>60496</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>238</b>
	Nyirrol	10-14	14565	96	99
		15-19	12411	53	53
		20-24	9829	111	101
		<b>Total</b>	<b>36805</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>253</b>
Upper Nile	Nasir	10-14	31921	166	211
		15-19	26601	163	100
		20-24	17212	49	168
		<b>Total</b>	<b>75734</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>479</b>
	Ulang	10-14	12144	242	161
		15-19	9941	185	194
		20-24	6742	137	133
		<b>Total</b>	<b>28827</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>488</b>

In addition to this quantitative data, qualitative data was collected in the form of in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with community leaders and young people. Both qualitative methods selected young people within each age group (10-14; 15-19; 20-24) and both genders. Focus group discussions was gender segregated as past experience has indicated that women are reluctant to fully participate in group discussions in mixed gender settings, particularly among young people aged 15-19.

Data have been analyzed and presented by county with proper disaggregation by age and gender on each of the indicators. The exact data analysis and report layout have been developed in consultation with UNICEF to ensure that the information meets the needs of the YouthLEAD project.

### ***Rapid Assessment of Youth Needs & Perceptions***

In order to support the education and vocational training/livelihoods activities of Component 2 (Basic Education, Skills Training & Livelihoods) and Component 3 (Youth Voices in Peace & Governance) a rapid assessment of youth needs and perceptions in the areas of education levels (specifically literacy &

<sup>3</sup> Data provided by the Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics & Evaluation taken from 2008 Census Population Figures.

numeracy), vocational training, micro-finance, job opportunities, peace, protection & the environment. Similar to the KAP Survey, separate questionnaires were developed as necessary for each of the target age groups (10-14; 15-19; 20-24). Questionnaire content was informed by several internationally standardized instruments including the ILO TREE Model (vocational training, micro-finance, job opportunities) and the Anderson Four-Factor Model (for measuring attitudes towards peace, justice & violence). Exact indicators and questions were developed based on the project document desk review, interviews with UNICEF YouthLEAD project staff, and the particular needs of the baseline assessment.

Individuals were selected using a systematic random sampling technique within each boma of the county. A total of 100 questionnaires were administered per county, with the number of boma-level quotas to be established using probability proportionate to size sampling. Depending on the location and the time frame of the research, a number between eight and twenty enumerators were trained to collect data on the Samsung smartphones with EPISurveyor with consensus translation being established during training in the local language.

In addition to this quantitative data, qualitative data was collected in the form of in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with community leaders and young people. Both qualitative methods selected young people within each age group (10-14; 15-19; 20-24) and both genders. Focus group discussions were gender segregated.

Data was analyzed and presented by county with proper disaggregation by age and gender on each of the indicators. The exact data analysis and report layout have been developed in consultation with UNICEF to ensure that the information meets the needs of the YouthLEAD project.

### ***Stakeholder Analysis & Institutional Capacity Assessment***

In order to inform the development of Components 4 (Capacity Building in Policy & Advocacy) and 5 (Institutional Capacity Building of CSOs and Ministries Supporting Youth), Forcier Consulting undertook a participatory, action-oriented stakeholder analysis and institutional capacity assessment of NGOs, community-based organizations, civil society organizations, and local government institutions currently working with youth. In addition, a rapid institutional capacity assessment of the Ministry of Youth, Sport & Recreation's ability to implement activities at the county-level was undertaken to complement UNICEF's previous MoYSR capacity assessment. The qualitative tools used in this assessment includes (but are in no way limited to) Appreciate Inquiry Models and were developed in close consultation with the YouthLEAD project vis-à-vis planned capacity building and implementation activities.

### ***Research Team Structure***

The Principle Investigator, Natalie Forcier, has been responsible for all communications with UNICEF, creation of research tools, oversight of data collection, data analysis, and report writing. Data was collected using teams of three fieldwork coordinators who in turn oversaw data collectors and translators in each location. One fieldwork coordinator was assigned to each component of the assessment (detailed above). Data was collected over the course of six days in each location, with separate teams assigned to each state to allow data collection to occur simultaneously within the timeframe indicated in the RFP. All fieldwork coordinators are specialized, trained, Forcier Consulting staff with experience collecting qualitative and quantitative data in Southern Sudan.

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## **LIMITATIONS**

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While the research teams and data collectors made every effort to achieve a gender balance in quantitative interviews, there were fewer female than male respondents. The gender disparity may be a result of the sensitive nature of the questionnaires and women feeling uncomfortable answering questions about sexual intercourse and reproductive health. Female respondents also might have been reluctant to participate in surveys if a male from the household was present during the time of the interview.

Research teams in all locations were either unable to recruit any female data collectors or unable to recruit an equal number of male and female data collectors. Despite interviewing multiple candidates, few women in the research locations possessed the English-language proficiency required to conduct the surveys, and the timeframe given for the research did not allow for the possibility of training women in their local language. In addition, the lack of any budget for transcription or subsequent translation following research made it impossible to use recordings of interviews to overcome this difficulty, as this would have entailed several hundred hours of recordings to be translated. In all locations, however, focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews were conducted with females in all age categories, and although in most cases the translator was not female, the facilitator was wherever possible. The aforementioned gender disparity in the data collected was also a result of male-dominated teams of data collectors. Research teams suspected that female youth would feel uncomfortable answering openly to a male interviewer, a fear proven pertinent as incidences of abandonment occurred. The concern remains that those completing the survey may have withheld information at these junctures.

Depending on the location, the data collection team was sourced from either the pool of local teachers or active community members, specifically chosen for their strong English language skills. It was noted that the respondents were likely to be known to their interviewers due to their profiles within the community, raising concerns about the comfort of the participant to offer frank and honest answers. Female youth who were not known to their interviewers were also reluctant to stop in a public area and be seen talking to a male who was not a relative, creating difficulties in attaining quotas for female participation. The nature of the areas surveyed and difficulty in mobilizing people meant that it was not possible to have a private room for interviews in most cases, and even if a room was available it most often would not have glass in the windows or would be made from grass, and therefore would not be soundproof, making the interview somewhat public. In general, locating girls in each of the locations to participate proved problematic, due to a low public profile in town and a tendency to remain in their home compounds.

Specific to Ulang County, an official visit from the State Governor of Upper Nile State during the research period created large disruptions in town, with the forced closure of shops and a mass rally involving many of Ulang's residents, further hindering and stretching deadlines.

In all of the locations surveyed, research teams did not have access to transportation due to a lack of budget for this, preventing them from gathering data from far-reaching bomas and households. Data collectors travelled to households by foot only, and as such, it was difficult to meet quotas in the allotted time frames. Also, data collectors reported a difficulty in recruiting participants, as many individuals were deterred by the significant time commitment the survey required.

## PART I: EASTERN EQUATORIA

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Eastern Equatoria State has a population of approximately 900,000 (11% of the total population of South Sudan) with an area of 73,472 km<sup>2</sup> that borders Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Central Equatoria and Jonglei States.<sup>4</sup> Eastern Equatoria has been riddled with violence due in part to its strategic and logistical location bordering Uganda and Kenya; it hosted the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) until 2006 and the SPLA was based there from 1990 to 2001.<sup>5</sup> The state continues to be volatile and conflict-prone due to the proliferation of small arms,<sup>6</sup> although the rate of conflict incidences decreased to approximately 5% of the nation in 2010.<sup>7</sup> Comparable to a number of states in South Sudan, cattle raiding is a key cause of cyclical violence.<sup>8</sup>

The hot and arid areas of Eastern Equatoria State make it prone to food insecurity, especially during droughts.<sup>9</sup> The 2010 Annual Health and Livelihoods Assessment estimates that 72% of households in the state were affected by the food crisis caused by a shortage of rain in 2009 and 2010, especially towards the southeastern tip of the state (30% with severe food insecurity, and 42% with moderate food insecurity).<sup>10</sup> The overreliance on cattle as both food and currency is problematic during periods of limited resources.

The predominant tribes and ethnic groups that live in Eastern Equatoria include the Acholi, Dongotono, Imatong, Lokuta, Madi, Ofirha, and the Pari,<sup>11</sup> signifying a diversity that is also reflected in the five climate zones or geographical regions in the area (Arid/Pastoral, Hills and Mountains, Greenbelt, Eastern Flood Plains and Ironstone Plateau).<sup>12</sup> The average rainfall ranges from 200 mm to 1800 mm per year,<sup>13</sup> and as such, agricultural practices vary depending on annual rainfall; towards the east and south, there is little agricultural activity and food production relies almost exclusively on cattle rearing, while the west's wetter areas allow for extensive crop production.<sup>14</sup>

An estimated 19% of the population aged 15 and older is literate,<sup>15</sup> an unsurprising number considering only 27% of the state's population above the age of six has ever spent any time in school. In terms of healthcare, the maternal mortality rate and under-5 mortality rates are slightly lower than the national average (1,844 maternal deaths per 100,000 births), even though 43% of the population does not have access to healthcare and 46% do not own mosquito nets.<sup>16</sup> On levels of consumption, Eastern Equatoria is about average compared to nationwide statistics, with individuals spending 103 SSP in Eastern Equatoria against 100 SSP on the national level.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Key Indicators for Eastern Equatoria, 1 ([ssnbs.org/storage/key-indicators-for.../Key%20Indicators\\_93.pdf](http://ssnbs.org/storage/key-indicators-for.../Key%20Indicators_93.pdf))

<sup>5</sup> Eastern Equatoria State Profile, 1 ([unmis.unmissions.org/Portals/UNMIS/.../Eastern%20Equatoria.pdf](http://unmis.unmissions.org/Portals/UNMIS/.../Eastern%20Equatoria.pdf))

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.; Eastern Equatoria County Consultation Summary ([ss.unep.org/Documents/CSAC%20Reports/EES-Summary-Report.pdf](http://ss.unep.org/Documents/CSAC%20Reports/EES-Summary-Report.pdf))

<sup>7</sup> South Sudan Consolidated Appeal, OCHA, 18 ([docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/CAP\\_2012\\_South\\_Sudan.pdf](http://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/CAP_2012_South_Sudan.pdf))

<sup>8</sup> Eastern Equatoria County Consultation Summary ([ss.unep.org/Documents/CSAC%20Reports/EES-Summary-Report.pdf](http://ss.unep.org/Documents/CSAC%20Reports/EES-Summary-Report.pdf))

<sup>9</sup> Eastern Equatoria State Profile, 1 ([unmis.unmissions.org/Portals/UNMIS/.../Eastern%20Equatoria.pdf](http://unmis.unmissions.org/Portals/UNMIS/.../Eastern%20Equatoria.pdf))

<sup>10</sup> Southern Sudan Livelihood Profiles, 21; pastoral pages ([pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PNADH322.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADH322.pdf)) and Annual Needs and Livelihoods Assessment 2010/2011, (<http://reliefweb.int/node/389070>)

<sup>11</sup> <http://theonlyprojectuk.blogspot.com/2011/06/eastern-equatoria-state-part-1.html>

<sup>12</sup> Annual Needs and Livelihoods Assessment 2010/2011, (<http://reliefweb.int/node/389070>)

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.ross-ees.org/Agriculture.html>; Statistical Yearbook for Southern Sudan 2010 (<http://ssnbs.org/statistical-year-book/>)

<sup>14</sup> Annual Needs and Livelihoods Assessment 2010/2011 (<http://reliefweb.int/node/389070>)

<sup>15</sup> Key Indicators for Eastern Equatoria, ([ssnbs.org/storage/key-indicators-for.../Key%20Indicators\\_93.pdf](http://ssnbs.org/storage/key-indicators-for.../Key%20Indicators_93.pdf)) and 2010 Yearbook

<sup>16</sup> Statistical Yearbook for Southern Sudan 2010 (<http://ssnbs.org/statistical-year-book/>)

<sup>17</sup> Statistical Yearbook for Southern Sudan 2010, 125 (<http://ssnbs.org/statistical-year-book/>)

### BUDI COUNTY

Located in Eastern Equatoria State, Budi County is situated in mountainous terrain with a total population of 99,234.<sup>18</sup> The county headquarters are located in the town of Chukudum in Hibirich boma, Komori payam and are approximately a 3-hour drive from the state capital of Torit. While the road from Torit to Budi is passable and often busy with commuters, the road from Budi to Chukudum is poor and impassable during the rainy season. In addition, residents and NGOs consider the Budi-Chukudum road to be highly insecure due to frequent armed robberies. NGO staff operating in this area travel with armed escorts. Within Budi County, roads are very poor and many bomas can only be reached by foot during both the dry and rainy seasons. There is an airstrip in the county headquarters; however, this airstrip is not frequently used.

Komori payam is the largest payam in Budi County with 17,413 residents and 4,072 households, of which there are 8,180 males and 9,233 females.<sup>19</sup> There are five bomas in Komori, most of which are situated on the surrounding mountaintops. The predominant tribe is the Didinga, but there are also smaller populations of Boya, Toposa, and Dinka tribes present. The Didinga are small-scale subsistence farmers and are semi-pastoralists, keeping cattle as signs of wealth as well as for marriage dowries. Most crops – particularly sorghum, cassava, and beans – are cultivated in the mountains. According to respondents, the majority of residents of Komori and the surrounding payams live in the mountains and travel by foot to the county center during the day to go to the market, graze livestock, and to access water, education, and health services. While there are some primary schools and drug dispensaries in the mountains, residents perceive the supply and quality of these services to be poor. There is one main market in Komori – in Chukudum town – where there are many items imported from Kenya for purchase. The cellular phone network in Komori is extremely limited, though some areas are able to access the MTN-Uganda network.

Chukudum, the county headquarters, is located in a valley and is surrounded by payams and bomas situated on the mountaintops. In the mid-1950s, a group of Italian missionaries established a mission and built a large church, residences, and school buildings in Chukudum. Over the years, the mission developed and expanded as Italian nuns moved to the mission and provided education services to the youth. However, due to insecurity between 1999 and 2002 between the Didinga and the SPLA, the missionaries evacuated Budi and left the mission houses vacant. While the church and priest's living quarters are still used today, the other mission buildings have been taken over by residents of the area as informal homes and storage areas.

During the second Sudanese Civil War, tensions were raised between the Dinka-dominated SPLA who were stationed in Chukudum and the resident Didingas. In 1999, there was an uprising by the Didinga against the SPLA in Chukudum, resulting in the displacement of many residents who fled the town for the surrounding bomas. In 2002, a peace agreement was reached between SPLA and the Didinga, though the SPLA had mined Komori payam in the intervening years. While many of these landmines were later cleared by the SPLA, the remaining landmines continue to be a significant security issue. Additionally, there are no formal security services in the mountains as neither the police nor the SPLA patrol the remote bomas; due to the unavailability of any formal security provision, young Didinga men organize and arm themselves to provide security to their cattle and the community.

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<sup>18</sup> "Statistical Yearbook of Southern Sudan 2010," Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation. 14.

<sup>19</sup> "Statistical Yearbook of Southern Sudan 2010," Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation. 14.

## KAPOETA EAST COUNTY

Kapoeta East is the second largest county in Eastern Equatoria, with a total population of 163,997. Research was conducted in Narus Payam, the county headquarters, which has a total population of 27,489. Within Narus, there are 12,613 females, 11,309 males, and 5,788 households. Compared to mountainous Budi, Kapoeta East is relatively flat, with few water sources during the dry season. The road network in Kapoeta East from Torit is passable and is in much better condition than the road network in Budi. The Kapoeta East road network leads to the Kenyan border and is better maintained and more frequently used. The distance from Torit to Kapoeta Town is approximately three to four hours driving, while the distance from Kapoeta Town to the county headquarters in Kapoeta East is approximately one hour and thirty minutes.

Bomas are spread out throughout the payam, though most are reachable by land cruiser vehicles. The weather is very dry and water sources are scarce during the dry season. There are currently no NGOs operating in Kapoeta East, although Partnership Agencies Collaborating Together (PACT), Save the Children, and other NGOs have bases in Kapoeta Town.

The main tribe in Kapoeta East is the Toposa; however, there are small communities of Dinkas and Didingas in the Narus. The Toposa are primarily cattle herders, but are also involved in some small-scale subsistence farming. Cattle raids between the Toposa and the Turkana cattle herders from Kenya are common, particularly during the dry season. During the dry season, Toposa cattle herders cross the Kenyan border to graze their cattle and find water sources, remaining in Kenya anywhere from four months to one year. Cattle raiding between the two tribes has continued despite various efforts by community leaders to establish peace.

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## FINDINGS: BUDI

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The main structural and socio-cultural challenges in Budi County are pervasive and endemic. A lack of reliable teachers weakens the already fragile educational system, compounded by early pregnancies and forced marriages. Schools are too often seen as food distributors instead of community centers for educating the young. HIV/AIDS counseling and programs are defunct and, if they exist at all, unreliable. An atmosphere of stark ethnic tensions riddles the communities with violence—both within communities and between tribes—often at the mercy of alcohol, a high rate of small arms, and a general lack of engagement with economically productive activities.

Furthermore, youth friendly places are almost non-existent. Female youths did not report any places to congregate with friends, while males were mostly limited to playing football on the school grounds. Insecurity limits youths, especially females, from wandering out after dark or straying too far from others for fear of encountering other tribes or drunken men. Systemic improvements, such as teacher training and retention, sustaining opportunities for youth to engage with productive activities, and improvements in health care access and delivery are the most vital needs for Budi County.

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## BASIC EDUCATION, SKILLS TRAINING & LIVELIHOODS

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One of the greatest barriers to a quality education in Budi is a lack of reliable teachers. During one focus group discussion conducted with girls at a primary school, respondents indicated that they were waiting in

vain for their teacher to arrive, and that there had been no teacher at the school for three days. The absence of a proper employment system for teachers was considered to be the reason for their unreliability.

The provision of food at some of the schools was a big incentive for parents to send their children to school, although some parents merely sent their children to collect the food but did not want them to attend the lessons. Young boys who are required to look after livestock were identified as the group who was least likely to be able to access education. In general, attending school was felt to be a pathway to many other things, as NGOs distribute items and provisions through the school system such as bags and school materials.

Respondents, regardless of gender, cited forced marriage and pregnancy as the main causes of female dropouts in school. One group of teachers interviewed suggested that providing boarding schools divided by gender would be one of the most effective ways to ensure the continued education of girls. As well as concerns over girls being in close contact with boys and male teachers at school, some respondents expressed concerns about girls coming into contact with men from different tribes, as their community felt if they marry someone from a different tribe the girls' parents will lose opportunities for receiving cows. One female youth stated that while boys could marry at 16, girls should not get married until after the age of 19, "because when a boy gets married he can continue to go to school, but not the girl." Female youth also reported that performing household chores (e.g., child care, water collection), while their mothers brewed a local beer for sale, inhibited their ability to attend school.

TABLE 1. 1 COMPLETED EDUCATION LEVEL RELATED TO AVERAGE NUMBER OF PREGNANCIES IN BUDI COUNTY

Level of Education	Average Number of Pregnancies 15-19 Years of Age			Average Number of Pregnancies 20-24 Years of Age		
	n=65	%	Average	n=47	%	Average
<b>None</b>	23	35.4	0.26	26	55.3	0.077
<b>P1-P3</b>	8	12.3	0.0	10	21.28	0.0
<b>P4-P6</b>	12	18.5	0.0	5	10.64	0.13
<b>Above P6</b>	22	33.8	0.0	6	12.77	1.67

As indicated in the above table, a higher level of education for females does not lessen the average number of pregnancies, though no education does correlate with an absolute greater number of pregnancies.

Female youth also reported having lower access to money, with some respondents stating that "boys and girls are given equal money from their parents, but girls have to spend their money on Always (brand of menstrual pad) and soap. Boys can spend this money on books." One teacher interviewed noted that "girls have no money to pay for [school] fees, hence [they] look for older men for marriage."

In terms of HIV/AIDS facilities available in the area, health professionals indicated that there was a lack of HIV counseling, with one health care worker reporting that "infected youths don't even tell close relatives of their status, further risking infecting other community members."

TABLE 1. 2 YOUTH THAT ANSWERED "YES" TO HIV/AIDS STATEMENTS IN BUDI COUNTY

Question	15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	n=69	%	n=65	%	n=24	%	n=47	%



<b>Have you ever heard of an illness called HIV/AIDS?</b>	63	91.3	29	44.6	23	95.8	15	31.9
<b>Can people reduce their chances of getting the AIDS virus by having just one uninfected sex partner who has no other sex partners?</b>	48	69.6	16	24.6	19	79.2	11	23.4
<b>Can people get the AIDS virus from mosquito bites?</b>	9	13.0	7	10.8	7	29.2	5	10.6
<b>Can people reduce their chance of getting the AIDS virus by using a condom every time they have sex?</b>	50	72.5	12	18.5	19	79.2	3	6.4
<b>Can people get the AIDS virus by sharing food with a person who has AIDS?</b>	9	13.0	1	1.5	10	41.7	4	8.5
<b>Can people reduce their chance of getting the AIDS virus by not having sexual intercourse at all?</b>	48	69.6	4	6.2	18	75.0	2	4.3
<b>Can people get the AIDS virus because of witchcraft or other supernatural means?</b>	6	8.7	2	3.1	7	29.2	3	6.4
<b>Is it possible for a healthy looking person to have the AIDS virus?</b>	49	71.0	16	24.6	7	29.2	5	10.6
<b>Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during breastfeeding?</b>	n/a	n/a	19	29.2	n/a	n/a	5	10.6
<b>Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during pregnancy?</b>	n/a	n/a	15	23.1	n/a	n/a	1	2.1
<b>Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during delivery?</b>	n/a	n/a	21	32.3	n/a	n/a	3	6.4

Comparing percentages from these limited sample sizes, males in both age groups were still disproportionately more aware of HIV/AIDS than their female counterparts (around 95%). The younger males were also more accurate in their knowledge of the virus, i.e. compared to the older males, and the younger males were also more likely to know that healthy looking individuals can have HIV (71% vs. 29%), or that witchcraft cannot infect someone with HIV (91% vs. 71%), and that people cannot contract HIV by

sharing food (87% vs. 58%). Females, on the other hand, do not have the same level of knowledge. A mere 31.9% (n=15) of females in the 20-24 age group responded to having heard of HIV, while of particular importance to them, only 12% understood how condoms can limit exposure, compared to the male average of 76%.

There was a vocational training center established in the area, however multiple groups of respondents reported that the NGO responsible had handed over responsibility to the government and it had since become ineffective and was now defunct. Young women reported that they would like to receive agricultural training to grow vegetables, and brewing local beer was also felt to be one of the most suitable forms of income generating activities for young women.

## PEACE & GOVERNANCE

The youth in this area are highly aware of the tensions that exist. Girls aged ten and eleven quickly identified one of their greatest challenges as the fear they felt when collecting firewood; they were scared that their ‘enemies’ would kill them, saying ‘we are all fearing’. When asked who their enemies were, they replied ‘The Lamoule’, demonstrating the stark ethnic divides apparent in the community. Another group of young teenage girls in a neighboring area also referred to ‘the enemy’ as the Loger, and stated they were scared at night of men from their own community, suggesting there is also violent behavior against women within their own communities. Other women from the area reported that rape was a big problem for their community.

In addition to the above-mentioned instances of violence, one group of young women said that sometimes soldiers would come into the local area to go to discos and end up fighting with local youth. In general, respondents indicated that a large proportion of the populace is armed, and this was confirmed by the observations of the research team. This, combined with the high levels of alcohol consumption, often leads to an escalation of violence.

TABLE 1. 3 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN STATEMENTS IN BUDI COUNTY

Question	10-14 Years of Age	
	n=128	%
<b>Punishing a child physically when he/she deserves it will make him/her a responsible and mature adult</b>	8	25.8
<b>Giving mischievous children a quick slap is the best way to quickly end trouble</b>	1	3.2
<b>An adult should beat a child with a strap or stick</b>	11	35.5
<b>A parent hitting child when he/she does something bad on purpose teaches the child a good lesson</b>	28	90.3
<b>Young children who refuse to obey should be</b>	24	77.4

<b>whipped</b>		
<b>A teacher hitting a child when he/she does something bad on purpose teaches the child a good lesson</b>	26	83.9
<b>Children should be spanked for temper tantrums</b>	4	12.9
<b>A child's habitual disobedience should be punished physically</b>	10	32.3
<b>An adult should choke a child for breaking the law</b>	16	51.6

Of particular concern in the above table is the high rate of dangerous physical violence young youths justify while rearing children; for example, about half of those asked believe that “An adult should choke a child for breaking the law,” or that 77% of respondents believe that “Young children who refuse to obey should be whipped.”

TABLE 1. 4 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE STATEMENTS IN BUDI COUNTY

Question	15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	n=16	%	n=16	%	n=16	%	n=25	%
<b>Prisoners should not get out of their sentences early</b>	8	50.0	14	87.5	5	31.2	7	28.0
<b>Capital punishment is often necessary</b>	2	12.5	1	6.2	2	12.5	1	4.0
<b>No matter how severe the crime, one should pay with an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth</b>	6	37.5	8	50.0	2	12.5	4	16.0
<b>Violent crimes should be punished violently</b>	0	0.0	1	6.2	1	6.2	2	8.0
<b>Any prisoner deserves to be mistreated by other prisoners in jail</b>	1	6.2	1	6.2	3	18.8	5	20.0
<b>Police should shoot students if they are demonstrating</b>	0	0.0	16	100.0	1	6.2	1	4.0
<b>Police should beat students if they are obscene</b>	2	12.5	4	25.0	7	43.8	13	52.0
<b>Any nation should be ready with a strong military at all times</b>	10	62.5	6	37.5	7	43.8	12	48.0
<b>Our country has the right to protect its borders forcefully</b>	13	81.2	7	43.8	9	56.2	13	52.0
<b>The manufacture of weapons is necessary</b>	11	68.8	11	68.8	6	37.5	9	36.0
<b>Our country should be aggressive with its military internationally</b>	1	6.2	3	18.8	5	31.2	1	4.0
<b>Killing of civilians should be accepted as an unavoidable</b>	4	25.0	5	31.2	2	12.5	1	4.0

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## part of war

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Though proportional comparisons are difficult in both age groups, males generally accept violence-centric attitudes and mindsets more readily than females, except for the “eye for an eye” form of justice (more female supporters), and that, for the younger female group, all of them believed that students should be shot when demonstrating, compared to none of the males. Finally, many more females (in both groups) believed that police should beat students if they are behaving “obscenely.”

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## YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES

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One group of girls reported that there had previously been a football club in the area, but that this had closed as the owner wanted to use the land for farming instead. There now appears to be a dearth of activities for girls in the area, and the same group indicated that for fun they helped their mothers to harvest, dance, and play a game called ‘poing’, similar to tag. Young boys were observed playing football in their school grounds on days off school.

TABLE 1. 5 YOUTH EDUCATIONAL AREAS OF INTEREST IN BUDI COUNTY

	N=61	%
<b>Culture and arts</b>	19	61.3
<b>Journalism</b>	14	45.2
<b>Radio production</b>	7	22.6
<b>Music production</b>	8	25.8
<b>Rights advocacy</b>	6	19.4
<b>None of the above</b>	7	22.6

Between learning “journalism” versus “culture and arts,” more respondents deemed the latter as more interesting. Amongst the three subjects of “radio production,” “music production,” and “rights advocacy,” “music production” comes out on top, though not significantly; 7 of the 33 respondents also chose “none of the above.”

Children reported difficulties in their personal life, with alcohol abuse identified as causing problems for the community. One young teenage boy stated that his friend’s father drank excessively and then committed suicide. Others in the group also indicated that alcohol abuse can lead to murder, leaving some children as orphans, whilst another reported drunkenness and a lack of support from their parents as being the biggest challenge youth in the area faced. In addition, teenagers reported that parents sometimes became angry with children and cursed them, which they believed can lead to the child’s death.

All respondents felt that the further away youth lived from the county headquarters, the less access they had to all forms of resources. It was also generally felt that female children and youth faced more challenges than male youth due to cultural reasons. One group of respondents reported that the Didinga had more access to services than Boya people, because the Boya were “looking after cows”.

## FINDINGS: EAST KAPOETA

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The Toposa people, along with a few Didinga and Murle, are the primary inhabitants in the Narus Payam in Kapoeta East, Eastern Equatoria. Along with much of South Sudan, they face a number of severe challenges ranging from a lack of educational opportunities, insecurity from cattle-raiding and scarce resources, hunger from droughts, an inhibiting lack of medical services, and cultural-social challenges such as forced marriages for young girls and domestic violence.

The greatest challenges youth face are multifaceted, though they can generally be grouped into insecurity of all types: food, violence, economic, and health. Examples are varied, from not having watches for monitoring cows' grazing time, not having fencing for kraals, and not having enough ammunition (ostensibly to ward off hyenas). Essentially, insecurity from cattle rustling (and attacks from neighboring tribes, including across international borders, or even aerial attacks from Uganda's Museveni's government) is the most prominent risk young males face; peace-talks are not sustainable because hunger causes the need to raid livestock. Domestic violence as a consequence of forced marriage is perhaps the most worrying risk young females face. The primary cause of suicide or running away from home for females is being forced to marry against their will. Moreover, a lack of food and especially water is a compounding problem, partly because it can lead to confrontation with aversive tribes over scarce watering holes; women often feel insecure rummaging for firewood for fear of getting shot. Finally, for young females, the toil of grinding grain is an oft-repeated hardship, along with the search for water during the dry season. And the most disenfranchised members of the communities include young orphans who beg for food, those who live with disabilities (including mental illnesses), and young boys who sell petrol on the side of the road or wash automobiles.

Schools have few resources and are comparatively expensive, limiting their purpose and preventing students from receiving an elementary education. A lack of food, distance for travel, health concerns or menstruation, marriage, and family concerns (like needing more help around the house or to tend cattle) all count as reasons for preventing students from attending school. According to a focus group discussion of educators in Lolim boma, education is not valued highly enough, while programs like the "Accelerated Adult Learning Program" have a restraining shortage of funding and supplies. Although in some areas females enjoy decision-making responsibilities and governance involvement, many are restricted in livelihood choices, especially when it comes to attending school.

"Hospitals" that exist are over-burdened and understaffed, barely covering the most basic health services. In Lolim, the hospital has no personnel; it provides no services. There is no health center in Naeapal boma or in Kaldo, and the probability that a newborn baby will die (according to those in Kaldo) is half.

A general trend for the payam is that the youth constitute the highest proportion in demographics—up to 40% of the population. Community members attribute this effect to traditional marriage and procreation norms and a lack of family planning options, (while violence potentially reduces the likelihood of surviving into old age). In Narus particularly, females represent a larger segment of the community, which creates problems because widows are often disenfranchised and cannot generate income, much like orphans and disabled individuals throughout the payam.

A majority of those interviewed contended that females should get married when they are in their upper teens to early twenties, (with most implying that maturity is necessary), but reports of early child

marriages—sometimes as young as nine years old—undercuts this standard. Others state that males should sometimes wait until they are 30, an age where they can shoulder the responsibility of supporting their family, but this seems to be rare as well. One stated reason why females should marry earlier than males is that “The woman becomes old quickly”. Though the suitable age for marriage for young females, according to a number of mother respondents in Kaldo, depends on others in the community, as well as how much cattle enters the decision-making equation. Giving birth is considered best when married, but is ideal immediately afterwards, too.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene practices and the general infrastructure, such as transportation, are often inadequate or non-existent. Boreholes, if they exist at all, are mostly polluted or spoiled, forcing community members to search for water and drink from unfiltered sources like streams. Regarding sexual and reproductive health concerns, a significant segment of the communities has not heard of HIV/AIDS, and there are irregular health awareness programs offered. NGOs and other organizations that have historically been involved in providing sexual and reproduction health education and awareness sessions include the Catholic Diocese of Torit, the Government of South Sudan, the Carter Center, and CARITAS. However, there are no NGOs currently operating in the payam.

The main revenue sources stem primarily from cattle herding and producing the “local brew,” a task that females are usually obliged to undertake. In this manner, most “youth groups” and youth activities revolve around day-to-day livelihood chores and tasks. Official youth groups are almost non-existent and are usually burdened with a lack of leadership or organization, limited mostly to impromptu football matches under the auspices of the local school. Males usually interact with each other during cattle herding; females may find opportunities with their chores or around boreholes when collecting water, but this occurs less frequently. Youth representation in government is likewise limited, but the one feature that everyone shares and participates in is “traditional dance,” often under the bright light of the full moon.

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## BASIC EDUCATION, SKILLS TRAINING & LIVELIHOODS

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Education in the Narus Payam faces a number of structural, socio-economic and perhaps cultural hurdles, thereby limiting the reach and development of schools. Only primary schools are present in Narus Payam and all are underfunded. There are two schools in Kaldo boma, and it is the only boma that reported having more than one school. The school in Lolim does not have mattresses or a number of accessories for females, thereby limiting their potential involvement. The reasons for not attending schools are varied, including:

- Some parents believe that if their daughters become educated – especially if they learn English – they will refuse to marry
- Only when enough children can help out with their parents’ livelihoods and jobs can the remaining siblings attend school
- Distances to school and school fees are prohibitive
- Schools may not be able to provide food to their students
- Pregnancy out of wedlock will often result in both parties dropping out of school due to the necessity to marry
- Males often need to tend to cattle or assist their fathers

- Menstruation for females will cause those who are unable to obtain pads to remain at home; sickness in general prohibits attendance
- Females are often only valued for dowry they bring to a marriage, thereby reducing education as a priority.

TABLE 1. 6 PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED YOUTH IN EAST KAPOETA COUNTY

	Male				Female			
	15 - 19 Years of Age		20 - 24 Years of Age		15 - 19 Years of Age		20 - 24 Years of Age	
	%	n=15	%	n=19	%	n=21	%	n=12
Employed	46.7	7	78.9	15	23.8	5	83.3	10
Unemployed	53.3	8	21.1	4	76.2	16	16.7	2
Total	100.0	15	100.0	19	100.0	21	100.0	12

Individuals in the above table who declared themselves as unemployed are characterized as idle, and employment includes anybody engaged in gainful employment, including salaried individuals. The statistics are surprisingly positive in this respect, especially amongst 20-24 year-olds, where approximately 80% of the population declared themselves engaged in work (males: n=15, 78.9%; females: n=10, 83.3%). However, not a single recipient, male or female, reported having received a loan.

Sexual and reproductive health information awareness is inconsistently delivered and disseminated. A sizeable number of personal interviewees and participants in FGDs have not heard of HIV. Those that have acquired this knowledge did so via informal social groups (peer groups) and PHC outreaches in school or churches. Additionally, NGOs have conducted awareness sessions, though their presence is inconstant. Teachers have also introduced these topics if they were trained in Kapoeta Town, (like those who teach in Lolim). According to a number of FGD participants, an important problem occurs when a husband contracts syphilis for example, because the rest of the household will be affected. In the Narus Payam, the Catholic Diocese of Torit has conducted health outreach, though most NGO awareness programs were conducted in Kaldo.

TABLE 1. 7 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO HIV/AIDS STATEMENTS IN EAST KAPOETA COUNTY

Question	15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	%	n=42	%	n=75	%	n=51	%	n=55
Have you ever heard of an illness called HIV/AIDS?	52.4	22	48.0	36	25.5	13	54.5	30
Can people reduce their chances of getting the AIDS virus by having just one uninfected sex partner who has no other sex partners?	50.0	21	33.3	25	17.6	9	25.5	14

Can people get the AIDS virus from mosquito bites?	7.1	3	40.0	30	11.8	6	7.2	4
Can people reduce their chance of getting the AIDS virus by using a condom every time they have sex?	45.2	19	34.7	26	9.8	5	30.9	17
Can people get the AIDS virus by sharing food with a person who has AIDS?	11.9	5	2.7	2	15.7	8	3.6	2
Can people reduce their chance of getting the AIDS virus by not having sexual intercourse at all?	50.0	21	5.3	4	9.8	5	7.3	4
Can people get the AIDS virus because of witchcraft or other supernatural means?	4.8	2	6.7	5	5.9	3	3.6	2
Is it possible for a healthy looking person to have the AIDS virus?	45.2	19	28.0	21	13.7	7	41.8	23
Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during breastfeeding?	42.9	18	30.7	23	19.6	10	50.9	28
Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during pregnancy?	N/A	N/A	2.7	2	N/A	N/A	1.8	1
Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during delivery?	N/A	N/A	17.3	13	N/A	N/A	49.1	27

Levels of awareness of HIV/AIDS were relatively low, with less than half of all respondents expressing recognition for the disease (45.3%, n= 101). The lowest awareness levels were found amongst males aged 20-24, where only a quarter professed themselves to be aware of its existence (25.5%, n= 13). The data indicates an inconsistent understanding of how HIV/AIDS is transmitted. Most notable was the almost universal understanding that a person could not contract HIV/Aids from sharing food with an infected person (7.6%, n= 17) or through witchcraft (5.4%, n= 12). Respondents seemed less confident and responses were more mixed when asked whether a baby could contract the AIDS virus through breastfeeding<sup>20</sup> or whether it was possible for a healthy-looking person to be infected<sup>21</sup>. A mixed response was also reported when youth were asked to consider whether a person could reduce their chance of contracting the AIDS virus by using a condom every time they have sex; although almost half of males aged 15-19

<sup>20</sup> Males 15-19: 42.9%, n= 18; Females 15-19: 30.7%, n= 23; Males 20-24: 19.6%, n= 10; Females 20-24: 50.9%, n= 28)

<sup>21</sup> Males 15-19: 45.2%, n= 19; Females 15-19: 28.0%, n= 21; Males 20-24: 13.7%, n= 7; Females 20-24: 41.8%, n= 23)



identified this statement as being correct (45.2%, n= 19), only 9.8% (n= 5) of males aged 20-24 were able to do so. This discrepancy indicates a lack of standardization in the information being conveyed to recipients.

TABLE 1. 8 COMPLETED EDUCATION LEVEL RELATED TO AVERAGE NUMBER OF PREGNANCIES IN EAST KAPOETA COUNTY

Level of Education	Average Number of Pregnancies 15-19 Years of Age		Average Number of Pregnancies 20-24 Years of Age	
	n=75	%	n=55	%
None	56	74.7	47	85.5
P1 - P3	6	8.0	4	7.3
P4 - P6	7	9.3	2	3.6
Above P6	6	8.0	2	3.6
Total	75	100.0	55	100.0

A clear link exists between education levels and pregnancy rates, as indicated in the above table. In fact, data suggests that even after receiving the smallest amount of education, pregnancy rates decrease significantly. Amongst 15–19 year-olds with no education, pregnancy rates were 74.7% (n=56), a statistic supported in 20-24 year-olds, where 85.5% (n= 47) of non-educated females reported pregnancies. However, among girls with education ranging from the P1–P3 levels, this figure dropped drastically to less than 10% for both age groups.<sup>22</sup> However, no major reductions in pregnancy rates were recorded with the introduction of further education; the rate for 15-19 year-olds remained at 8.0% (n= 6) even for those with education above the P6 level and dropping only slightly to 3.6% (n= 2) for 20-24 year-olds. However, the likelihood must also be considered that some respondents supplied incorrect details regarding the number of pregnancies due to cultural beliefs.

All groups—male and female, old and young—suffer from a dearth of inadequate healthcare services compounded by a weak infrastructure (limiting transport options). A recurring problem is the insufficient number of mosquito nets, especially during the rainy season. Participants from Kaldo reflected on how the lack of health services, especially for maternity care, was their greatest community concern, along with a generally diseased population and high rates of hunger.

The most important skills for the youth groups primarily include cattle herding for males, along with farming, hunting, and firewood/pole collection, duties which females can also undertake. For girls: milking, selling, gardening, fetching water and firewood, and brewing local brews are all considered important, while the need for making local arts, crafts, and jewelry like necklaces, beads, hairdressing, and dressmaking, is pertinent as well.

The youths have little participation in WASH and water and hygiene practices tend to be poor. There are three boreholes in Lolim, however all are currently polluted and community members drink water from

<sup>22</sup>15-19 age group n=6, 8.0%; 20-24 age group n=4, 7.3%

streams without filtering. There are three boreholes present in Narus and only two boreholes are currently unpolluted and usable in Kaldo.

TABLE 1. 9 YOUTH REPORTED MAIN DRINKING WATER SOURCES FOR THEIR HOUSEHOLD IN EAST KAPOETA COUNTY

What is the main source of drinking water for your household?	15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	%	n=75	%	n=42	%	n=55	%	n=51
Piped water into yard or plot	0.0	0	0.0	0	1.8	1	0.0	0
Borehole	94.7	71	35.7	15	92.7	51	49.0	25
Protected well	0.0	0	2.4	1	0.0	0	0.0	0
Unprotected well	0.0	0	4.8	2	0.0	0	17.6	9
Water from spring – protected	0.0	0	2.4	1	0.0	0	0.0	0
Rainwater collection	0.0	0	2.4	1	0.0	0	0.0	0
Surface water (river etc.)	5.3	4	52.4	22	5.5	3	33.3	17

As the above table indicates, according to male respondents, by far the most common source of drinking water for households is from a borehole (72.6%, n= 162), although female respondents also indicated a strong tendency to collect water from open sources such as the river (41.9%, n= 39).

TABLE 2. 1 YOUTH THAT ENGAGE IN WATER TREATMENT AND THE METHODS UTILIZED IN EAST KAPOETA COUNTY

Do you treat your water before using it? If yes, how?	15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Female		Male		Male		Female	
	n=75	%	n=42	%	n=55	%	n=51	%
No do not treat	68	90.7	0	0.0	49	89.1	0	0.0
Filter cloth	2	2.7	3	7.2	1	1.8	2	3.9
Boiling	3	4.0	0	0.0	3	5.5	0	0.0
Bleach/chlorine	2	2.7	1	2.4	2	3.6	0	0.0
Let it stand and settle	0	0.0	1	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	75	100.0	42	100.0	55	100.0	51	100.0

Given that 90.7% (n=68) of females and 89.1% (n=49) of males reported not treating water before using it, the prevalence of spoiled boreholes in Kapoeta East in conjunction with poor WASH practices has severe health consequences for youth in the county.

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## PEACE & GOVERNANCE

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For the two bomas in Narus payam, the governance body is elected. There are a total of twelve people, three women and three men for each. At the county level as a whole, however, there is limited youth representation, and Kaldo residents stated youth representation does not exist at all, while community group projects and organizations are usually unsuccessful.

Throughout the payam, the youth have a regular hierarchy of addressing authorities when they require assistance. In school, their first option is to approach their teachers, while at home it is usually the mother for the girl or the father for the boy. After this, youth may approach the Parent Teacher Association. Nonetheless, if the issue is left unresolved, they have the option of speaking to the commissioner. Some young males mentioned that “if their parents and God cannot help, they go raid.”

Cattle rustling and raids is a common community affliction, while domestic and inner-community violence is similarly frequent. Alcohol is often considered a culprit, even among co-wives; large intra-community fights in some bomas happen frequently.

Intertribal fighting is the greatest security threat these communities face, and they happen to occur regularly as well, often induced by a search for water, the need to gather cows for a dowry (an average of 50 per marriage), and simply because of hunger. Uganda has also dropped aerial attacks and sent tanks across the border, inducing the Government of South Sudan to address the concern. The most feared tribes include the Turkana (in Nadapal or the NawoyaChebi area) and the Didinkas (in Newkuch), although in Kaldo there was a conflict with the Jie a few months before the research. Respondents claim they are often resigned to the fate of continual violence. They state and believe that peace talks may be the best option, but the likelihood that any deal would hold is very low.

Sometimes in schools themselves, the intertribal diversity has caused problems among the Toposa, Murle and Dinka students, despite the teachers’ best attempts of creating a sense of cohesion. Furthermore, according to some FGD participants in Narus, gun possession increases insecurity, an opinion at odds with those in Lolim and Kaldo, where many young male interviewees stated the need for extra ammunition and arms for protection. “Strong men with guns” is the best protection they can hope for.

TABLE 2. 2 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED "YES" TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN STATEMENTS IN EAST KAPOETA COUNTY

Question	10-14 Years of Age	
	%	n=x
Punishing a child physically when he/she deserves it will make him/her a responsible and mature adult	40.4	21
Giving mischievous children a quick slap is the best way to quickly end trouble	42.3	22
An adult should beat a child with a strap or stick	30.8	16
A parent hitting child when he/she does something bad on purpose teaches the child a good lesson	65.4	34
Young children who refuse to obey should be whipped	65.4	34
A teacher hitting a child when he/she does something bad on purpose teacher the child a good lesson	57.7	30
Children should be spanked for temper tantrums	26.9	14
A child's habitual disobedience should be punished physically	50.0	26
An adult should choke a child for breaking the law	34.6	18

A survey of attitudes amongst 10-14 year-olds revealed an acceptance for physical punishments towards children. Two thirds of those surveyed agreed it was acceptable for a parent to hit and/or whip a disobedient child (65.4%, n= 34) and over half felt that a teacher had a right to strike a child to teach him or her a lesson (57.7%, n= 30). Less tolerance was however shown for more violent beatings, with only a third of children condoning choking as a means of discipline (34.6%, n= 18) and even fewer excusing the use of a strap or stick (30.8%, n= 16).

TABLE 2. 3 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED "YES" TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE STATEMENTS IN EAST KAPOETA COUNTY

Question	15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	%	n=x	%	n=x	%	n=x	%	n=x
Prisoners should not get out of their sentences early	80.0	12	76.2	16	100.0	19	91.7	11
Capital punishment is often necessary	20.0	3	23.8	5	0.0	0	0.0	0

No matter how severe the crime, one should pay with an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth	40.0	6	19.0	4	0.0	0	0.0	0
Violent crimes should be punished violently	53.3	8	61.9	13	47.4	9	33.3	4
Any prisoner deserves to be mistreated by other prisoners in jail	20.0	3	42.9	9	0.0	0	0.0	0
Police should shoot students if they are demonstrating	6.7	1	19.0	4	0.0	0	0.0	0
Police should beat students if they are obscene	26.7	4	33.3	7	0.0	0	0.0	0
Any nation should be ready with a strong military at all times	80.0	12	71.4	15	89.5	17	91.7	11
Our country has the right to protect its borders forcefully	66.7	10	66.7	14	26.3	5	16.7	2
The manufacture of weapons is necessary	73.3	11	57.1	12	100.0	19	100.0	12
Our country should be aggressive with its military internationally	40.0	6	76.2	16	100.0	19	83.3	10
Killing of civilians should be accepted as an unavoidable part of war	46.7	7	38.1	8	0.0	0	0.0	0

The data suggests that 15-24 year-olds, both male and female, demonstrated a strong stance regarding offenders, with the majority (85.3%, n= 58) endorsing prisoners serving full sentences. Support for stronger punishments such as capital punishment was less emphatic, with endorsement coming from less than a quarter of male respondents (22.2%, n= 8) and no females. Support for students was also shown to be strong among youth respondents to the survey: no female interviewees believed it acceptable that students be shot for demonstrating and only 19.0% of males 15-19 years old and only one 20-24 year-old male felt it appropriate (6.7%). One of the strongest opinions was expressed in regards to the military, where it was almost unanimously agreed upon that any nation should be ready with a strong military at all times (83.1%, n= 55).

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### YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES

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There are few specifically youth friendly spaces in much of the greater Narus payam. Churches and schools are often the best bet, though most interaction occurs during cattle herding or during marriage ceremonies. Some bomas have “clubs”, but the lack of resources or amenities—like sports balls—make them ineffective

meeting places, though they can sometimes provide a venue for conflict resolution centers or for meat sharing negotiations. There is a football club in Kaldo and Narus; the latter is known for where youth have deliberated with parents to grant them permission to attend school.

Women sometimes gather around boreholes, but often remain with their family at home. Schools, as mentioned above, are limited. And if nothing else, gathering under trees for traditional games provides the best option. Traditional dance—a widely practiced custom—is an additional occasion for youth to intermingle.

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## FINDINGS: INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF CBOS AND MINISTRIES

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### **Eastern Equatoria State Government Ministries**

#### ***Roles and Responsibilities of the Office***

Director Generals across all Ministries showed a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of their office, emphasizing that their priorities included the implementation of policies, project proposal analysis, the accountable distribution of resources, and the coordination of multiple directorates in strategic plans.

Lower level staff varied more in their assessments of how roles and responsibilities were allocated. Within the Ministry of Health, a focus group discussion revealed that not all staff felt fully aware of their mandates, due in part because the Ministry of Public Services trainings only began in 2011. Staff explained that they still did not benefit from written responsibilities, claiming the Director General assigns responsibilities and that there is an informal understanding of: “Once you are employed, you just remain as you are.” This view contrasts markedly with the Ministry of Social Development, where the staff reported not only being able to view written job descriptions, but also having orientation sessions. Furthermore, as staff in the Ministry of Education (MoE) reported being aware of job descriptions, (although they were not officially distributed), it can be said that standards vary across the various state-level ministries. Even in instances where individual roles are not explicitly stated, ministry staff participating in focus group discussions still confidently explained their roles in general terms and displayed a clear understanding of the ultimate purpose of their appointments.

#### ***Communication Systems***

The ministries employ a wide range of communication methods to transmit information. These methods include posted notices, mobile telephones, written documents, and face-to-face communication, though letters and official documents are used for important issues requiring documentation. FM radio also plays a vital role in contacting staff in remote areas. Due to a lack of equipment, computerized communication is rare and no Ministries reported an internet system.

Ministries frequently hold meetings as the prime method of disseminating information. Inter-department meetings are usually held weekly while coordination meetings with outside development partners (who assess program delivery) are held monthly. However, that is not to say that issues do not arise. During a focus group discussion with the Ministry of Health, staff admitted that “the hospital used to have regular meetings every week but staff didn’t turn up and there was no space for it,” admitting that “poor communication [makes it] harder to solve problems.”

Nonetheless, a clear chain of command was acknowledged and corroborated by each of the ministries visited, with many approval stages required before a motion is passed. All agreed that the approval process begins with General Inspectors, followed by Senior Inspectors, Department Directors, the Director General, and finally, the Minister. Directorates report to the Director General, who compiles the county and departmental reports and directs them to the State Minister of Education. The same chain operates in reverse for cascading information down through the ministries; ministry staff members explained that when the GoSS issues a directive, the information passes from the government to the Minister and is channeled through the Director General before reaching the office of the clerk, who places it on the notice board. Despite this apparent devotion to hierarchy, structure, and order, the length and complication of the communication system makes it vulnerable to breakdown or delay. A single failure in the communication chain could cause a system-wide breakdown. As the Director General of the Ministry of Health explained, “A strong chain of communication is absent, resulting in a failure of the delivery of information. It will be some time before staff appreciate the value of a capable communications structure.” It was also felt that the dissemination of information down from national level to the ministries was not very efficient or streamlined. An example provided by the Director General of Health involved NGOs and some of their initiatives that did not receive prior consent from State officials, resulting in “conflicts of interests,” although he was also able to concede that the situation has “improved since we established regular coordination meetings.”

Staff feedback and praise was also highlighted as an area requiring improvement. As a staff member in the Ministry of Health commented, “We congratulate ourselves. There is no formal system.” This opinion was also shared by staff in the Ministry of Social Development, who affirmed, “It never happens. It is not very common.” and also in the MoE: “The only award that we get is our salary.”

Additional issues were also highlighted, including discrepancies between how Director Generals view communication within their departments versus how it is perceived by more junior staff. According to the Director General of Social Development, “staff at the ministry are well informed about key decisions... The FM radio plays a key role in delivering information from the government. Once broadcast, everybody knows.” This was not, however, the picture painted by ministry staff in focus group discussions, who raised issues such as “If there was internet connection staff would receive information at the same time. Information arrives late because it goes through many corridors” and “There is a system but it is not written down. Meetings are not regularly held and only when necessary.”

The same difference of opinion was noted within the MoE. Although the Director General was willing to concede that there had been recent delays in radioed information, resulting in a loss of opportunity to act, he maintained that “there are regular meetings of all staff... When necessary, emergency meetings are conducted” and “reports and feedback are received from all levels within the ministry and the action that follows up depends on the report.” However, junior staff were quick to contradict these statements with comments such as “some decisions are discussed, taken and implemented without consultation,” “some letters are written and no one is informed,” and “letters hardly ever reach the inspectors. Inspectors know what the policy says, yet decisions are not passed to them.” One employee went further, explaining how “Working documents and policy papers from national level end up in the Director General’s officer or the offices of the directorates. They do not reach the inspectors who are on the immediate ground.” In addition to individual issues raised by staff, this difference in perception between the levels of hierarchy is in itself indicative of a fundamental communication breakdown within the ministries.

### ***Plans and Proposals***

In terms of planning, ministries agreed that the principle goals and targets of their offices were set annually according to national strategic plans. As explained by the Director General of Education: “project proposals are dictated by the local situation, but guided by the national objective... referral to the Ministry of Health’s Strategic Plan is necessary.” Plans are based primarily on the previous years’ objectives; if plans are not implemented, an assessment is carried out to identify the reasons.

The budget ceiling that is afforded to each ministry helps determine the cost of implementing initiatives as well as identifying challenges. The process is highly participatory, with the Ministry of Finance training all Planning Officers at the national level, who in turn meet with each department’s Director in order to commence budget setting procedures. The Director General then coordinates with these departments and reports findings to the State Minister. Despite the Director General of Education’s assertion that “all departments participate in one way or another and participation from officers is high,” the Director General of Health did confirm that as chairman of the discussions, “my word is last if people don’t agree on a point.” Once a proposal has been agreed, it is submitted to the State Minister and Council of Ministers at state-level for approval, with department head follow-ups proceeding either monthly or quarterly after the allocation of funds.

The most significant challenge affecting all state-level ministries, however, is still the challenge of allocating the low level of funding to address the ministry’s many priorities and initiatives.

### ***Staffing***

Staffing is one of the key issues in the ministries, and one that has begun to receive more attention. The importance of staff training and experience is not lost on ministry employees, although still much work needs to be done to bring all teams up to capacity.

No ministries attested to conducting needs assessments to aid their staff, a fact justified by the Director General of Health with his explanation: “The Ministry is aware of its needs. For example, there are three midwives; therefore, there is no need to carry out an assessment on how many are needed.” The same official, however, declared himself more proactive in the supervision of existing staff, explaining: “The directorates file reports, the staff are regularly supervised and the State Health Inspector inspects official conduct.” He also reported that training workshops on software systems, especially in regards to standardize reporting, are attended by staff.

When questioned on the appropriateness of staff qualifications and experience, focus group discussions with ministry staff revealed a lack of confidence across the ministries. According to staff in the Ministry of Health: “Few are properly trained... Only Department Directors and specialists consultants are fully qualified.” This was a sentiment echoed by the staff in the MoE, with one focus group participant explaining: “Most staff were trained in the 1970s and 1980s... Though most members of staff have proper qualifications, it’s necessary to have new staff in order to keep up with the modern technology of computers.” A second staff member also added, “The basic experience is there; however, experience is a continuous thing...” Even the Director General conceded that “There are so many experienced people. However, there is a lack of modern technical expertise...” Within the Ministry of Social Development, staff explained that while some of them benefited from degrees in their respective fields, the majority were



lacking in technical experience. As one staff member explained: “Experience is what is very important; if you don’t have experience, you will do the contrary.”

NGOs and development partners sponsor nearly all ministries’ staff trainings predominantly due to budget pressures within the ministries. In fact, it emerged during focus group discussions that the Ministry of Social Development had never organized *any* trainings, with projects conducted solely by development partners.

Examples of recent trainings in the Ministry of Social Development included Human Resources Management, IT, and Finance Management trainings organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as courses on information communication systems. Workshops conducted by Adam Smith International (ASI) have been implemented on gender training and financial management and there have also been two recent trainings on Public Services Regulations and Finance, with reportedly satisfactory results. Within the Ministry of Health, the Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) is assisting in the establishment of an office for monitoring and evaluation, and administration staff are currently deployed in Juba for the appropriate NPA and County Health Department training. Other staff in the Ministry of Health have received training in a range of skills and NPA has worked with Emergency Obstetric Care (EMOC) in public healthcare centers in remote areas, where they successfully train medical staff in performing caesarean sections. Staff at the MoE reported having received training in institutional development funds, budgeting and planning, monitoring and evaluation, financial management, marketing, management, leadership for change, and project proposals.

The only quoted exception to the rule of NGO dominance of public service training was provided by the Ministry for Public Services, which selects five employees from each ministry for enrolment in a computer literacy course. Across both government and NGO suppliers, participants expressed satisfaction with the training programs: “Facilities are available and the consultants have actual knowledge of their field.” Despite this praise for the quality of training, there is recognition that more remains to be accomplished, with the principle barrier presenting itself once again to be a lack of funds. As the Director General of Health admitted, “Although the ideas may be good, they are not implemented.”

Despite these efforts, ministry staff agreed that more training must be implemented to raise staff to full capacity. For example, since the adoption of English as South Sudan's national language at independence in July 2011, all official communications must now be conducted in English, necessitating language tuition for the many Arabic speakers in the ministry. In addition, within the MoE, an additional concern was raised concerning the standard of teaching in many of the states’ schools. As one staff member explained: “Community based schools do not help. One room, one teacher, poor English, and wrong information. The child suffers.” The MoE maintains that diverse training is difficult but required, especially academic training for teachers, and has made calls for institutional management, material management, and computerized filing system trainings to complement staff's existing skills. Other issues raised by staff in the ministries included the reach of training programs (with many not extending to staff based in the counties), a lack of follow up on training completed, politically motivated redeployment of staff shortly after training, and personal ambition: “[People] receive training and then go and work for NGOs instead of serving the ministry.” It was also felt that mobilizing staff to Juba for training was not a long-term option due to the considerable costs incurred; rather, distance learning should be introduced, as “the Diploma is not enough.”

Also, interviews with ministry staff revealed that staffing remains problematic. Within the Ministry of Health, many key positions remain vacant; during the observation period, there was only one laboratory technologist in Torit.

### ***Resources***

A lack of resources continues to undermine the ministries' mandates. For example, the Ministry of Health reported possessing only three computers and one printer, donated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Although NPA installed Wi-Fi, internet usage is not widespread and maintenance is poor due to a lack of expertise. A similar pattern emerges in the Ministry of Social Development, where five computers are installed but staff estimate that only 30% of employees have access to them while most rely on their own equipment. No office internet connection is available; mobile phones are a personal responsibility and documentation is photocopied at other ministries due to the lack of a photocopier; all these problems are attributed to insufficient and unreliable funds. A slightly more positive picture emerged from the MoE, whose Director General confirmed that there are computers, office equipment, and an internet connection in almost all departments since 2011, although there are no qualified technicians employed who can maintain equipment.

Despite serving as one of the principle methods of communication, ministry staff are not provided with mobile telephones, nor are they reimbursed for work-related calls. The Ministry of Finance has been made aware of this issue, though the "liquidity is not there" to solve this issue.

Additional problems cited by the Ministry of Health included a lack of office space, with some staff - the Director General included - operating in hospital working space: "The hospital feels like we have invaded them." Staff also expressed issues with remuneration: "Allowances for staff are considered least important. They are put at the bottom of the pile." Within the Ministry of Social Development, transportation is at a serious deficit, with only two vehicles available for official use. Staff claim that the Ministry building itself is in poor condition and materials for official use have all been donated by development partners such as UNICEF. The Director General of the MoE felt strongly that "There is a shortage of stationary, limited mobility, and an unstable source of electricity. The governor's office is also located within the Ministry, causing a lack of office space. Material and financial [resources] are not sufficient for the department to operate effectively."

### ***Budgeting***

The budgeting process for the ministries involves multiple participants, headed by the Director of Finance and the Director of Planning, and including directors from each department. Reports are received from the counties that propose activities and their expected costs; the Director General assesses the needs and the Director of Planning and other department Directors form a budget proposal. This file is forwarded to the Ministry of Finance where a budget ceiling is established under which each directorate's activities must fall.

Approval and accountability mechanisms for the budgeting process have been implemented; all money rests with the Ministry of Finance and not the individual ministries involved. Proposals are discussed at the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Finance is involved at all levels during the procurement process.

Even in order for funds to be withdrawn, financial requests must be authorized by the Director General and forwarded to the Director of Administration and Finance before being passed on to the Accounting Officer.

However, that is not to say that problems do not exist. Although the high number of links in the authorization chain serve as a deterrent to fraud and corruption, with so many stages to be fulfilled before action can be taken, the system is also open to breakdown and delay. As an example, ministry staff highlighted that a common problem encountered was funds not being released in the appropriate fiscal year despite approval at all levels. The Director General of the Ministry of Social Development went as far as to claim that “Plans at the ministry are currently without figures due to the fact that there is no budget ceiling.” Referring to the lack of funds at the national level, the same Director General stated, “If the ceiling is not there, you cannot divide funds among the departments.” This problem has proved especially difficult this year, when his ministry has been forced to “knock on the doors of our partners.” Staff also indicated a lack of technical budgeting knowledge within the ministries; it was felt that more emphasis must be placed upon managerial roles, with challenges arising due to staff lacking technical skills.

There are also far more projects to implement than the budget ceiling will allow, an issue affecting all state ministries. As one staff member in the MoE commented, “For our plans to happen, it will need resources. If this does not happen then our plans will remain in black and white.” The lack of funds at the state level prevents provisions of services and resources.

### ***Additional Challenges***

Above and beyond those already discussed, state ministries in Eastern Equatoria find themselves beset by several additional challenges, many of which are centered on service delivery to rural counties. Mind-sets in remote villages are difficult to navigate due to deeply held cultural and traditional values, while poor infrastructure makes accessing these areas difficult. For example, the Ministry of Social Development only possesses two vehicles, so officers must liaise with development partners in order to deliver required services.

Ignorance was also cited as one of the larger challenges. As one staff member explained, “Most in the State are not informed so they act out of ignorance. They do not have access to education. The people are blind.” Another expounded further saying, “The attitude of the people itself is challenging. They are traumatized... The youths are used to violence from all areas.” For this, staff viewed chiefs and youth leaders as key actors, as their input would prove invaluable for coordinating efforts in the communities. Another issue highlighted by staff was the apparent passive mentality of community members in the area: “People are still waiting for the government to come and do work for them. Community participation is very low. As much as we can make a decision in this house, we cannot move very fast unless we change mind-sets.”

Other issues identified included low salaries and weak ministry structures, a lack of cohesion among stakeholders who are rarely gathered together in the same forum, and a tendency for politicians to abruptly shift priorities, resulting in the loss of planned services.

### ***Challenges Facing Eastern Equatoria Youth***

When questioned about the key issues affecting youth in the state, the regional government highlights several principle problems, not least of which is education. Many parents in the region are subsistence farmers and low-income pastoralists who are unable to afford the school fees for their children’s education.

The drop-out rate remains high and, ironically, schools are congested due to a low teacher-pupil ratio. Young girls are often subject to early marriages and in some villages cultural practices that challenge education are prioritized, leading to the early curtailment of schooling. As the Director General of Social Development explained, “Though the culture must not be lost, it should be saved in a better way.”

Those children who have ended their schooling are often found loitering, committing crimes, and raiding livestock due to a lack of alternative opportunities for positive engagement. One ministry employee stated that “If you cannot go to university, where can you go next?” Youth unemployment is endemic and the lack of human and material resources hinders the mobilization and sensitization of youths.

It was strongly felt that a practical solution to the current void lay in vocational training to provide youth with the skills necessary for self-reliance. Areas such as carpentry, plumbing, painting and decorating, metal works, and automotive engineering were suggested as being the most appropriate for income generation, although workshops to combat cattle raiding and raise awareness of HIV/AIDS were also deemed important. As the Director General of Education explained, “Youths must be made aware of their responsibilities to one another and the wider community.” However, the lack of funds limits the Ministry’s ability to respond to the needs of the youth population.

It was also suggested that some cultural practices must also be limited and, where necessary, banned. For example, the tradition of early marriage for girls aged sixteen to seventeen and the accompanying dowry, which can reach up to fourteen cows and one hundred and twenty goats, is a significant sum for many poor families. Within the Department of Education, incidences of female students becoming pregnant by their teachers remains a source of serious concern, an issue raised by ministry staff themselves: “We need to do something about girls [being] impregnated by teachers. There needs to be an Act passed and not wait for the Education Act.”

### ***Current Youth Projects and Initiatives***

In order to combat some of these issues, several initiatives have been put in place by the state government. Although the Ministry of Health states that it does not currently have a direct youth plan or strategy in place, staff do engage youth in schools, stage rallies, and speak with chiefs in the community and at cultural events in the most remote counties to create awareness of the dangers of HIV/AIDS. Staff at the Ministry acknowledged once again the issue of funds as the principle barrier to widening the scope of their schemes.

At the Ministry of Social Development, a three-year plan reviewed biannually has already been implemented, although a new plan is currently under development. A draft Concept Paper for Youth & Sports, focusing on the understanding of rules and regulations on peaceful coexistence, has been requested by GoSS which, when approved by the Council of Ministers, will be used as a working paper for youths. Despite initial enthusiasm for the new project, a lack of material resources, especially transportation, remains an obstacle of implementation. In addition, a plan focusing on the creation of Youth Centers and Youth Associations to provide key developmental skills for scattered youths has been ratified, although the necessary funds have yet to be released, resulting in stagnation. GoSS has also recently published the Strategic Framework for Youth, Culture and Sport, although it was admitted among ministry staff that few are aware of it in the directorate and only one copy of the framework exists.

The issue of funding raised itself as a prohibitive factor to the development of further projects and programs, as the Director General of Social Development pointed out: “We are handicapped; we have so many good plans that we put on paper and [yet] they remain on paper.” Youth Training and Vocational, Athletic, and Academic Development Centers continue to be pursued yet progress is slow. Should the required funds be available, the Ministry of Social Development expressed a desire to develop youth forums to integrate the returnee population and raise the profile of gender-based violence to the national agenda.

The MoE has established a three-year plan with policies derived from the central government. Staff regard the state’s strategic youth plan to be exhaustive and promising, with workshops, new teaching methods, and vocational training to be accessed by those who do not wish to participate at local schools. Although the ministry is also involved in a baseline assessment for a project targeting girls with incentives to participate in education, the Director General conceded that “regulations guiding youths are not available. There are children of whom a good educational environment is not available”. At present the school term is unaffordable to those in extreme poverty, leaving orphans with little support, and only a few fortunate children are schooled by NGOs.

The Ministry would like to reduce the drop-out rate and send those twenty years of age and over into Vocational Training centers to learn skills in construction, engineering and agriculture. However, due to the shortage of funds allocated to the ministries, there remains a backlog of plans yet to be implemented.

## Development Partner Activity

### *NGOs/CBOs Operating in Eastern Equatoria*

There are several NGOs operating in Eastern Equatoria, as per the table below:

TABLE 2. 4 ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING IN EASTERN EQUATORIA

Organization	Activities	Location	Type
FAO (Food & Agriculture Organization)	Provide seeds and coordinate food security programs with INGOs and NGOs concerned	Lafon – Torit Counties	UN Agency
UNHCR (UN High Commission for Refugees)	Cross-sector support for return and reintegration	Torit County	UN Agency
UNICEF (UN Children’s Fund)	Supporting & coordinating Health/ Sanitation & Education	Budi – Kapoeta East – Kapoeta North – Kapoeta South- Lafon -	UN Agency

	Programs	Torit Counties	
WFP (World Food Programme)	Providing Food for Education, Food for Work and food to IDPs and Returnees in general. Conduct Annual Needs Assessment in the State	Budi – Ikotos – Kapoeta East – Kapoeta North – Kapoeta South - Torit Counties	UN Agency
WHO (World Health Organization)	Coordination of Health Programs	Budi – Ikotos – Kapoeta East – Kapoeta North – Kapoeta South – Lafon - Torit Counties	UN Agency
AVSI (Association of Volunteers in International Service)	Mine awareness, water and sanitation	Ikotos - Lafon - Torit Counties	International organization
CARE	Capacity Building (women rights & leadership promotion)	Torit County	International organization
HAI (Help Age International)	Health	Lafon County - Torit County	International organization
MAG (Mines Advisory Group)	Community Development	Kapoeta East – Kapoeta North – Kapoeta South Counties	International organization
NCA (Norwegian Church Aid)	Education activities, water and sanitation	Ikotos - Lafon – Torit Counties	International organization
PACT (Partnership Agencies Collaborating Together)	Governance and rule of law	Budi – Ikotos – Kapoeta North – Lafon - Torit Counties	International organization
HASS (Humanitarian Assistance for South Sudan)	Health	Budi County	Community based organization
Land 'O' Lakes	Food security	Ikotos – Kapoeta East – Kapoeta North – Kapoeta South Counties	Community based organization
LRDA (Losolia Rehabilitation and Development Association)	Providing training programs for women	Kapoeta North– Kapoeta South Counties	Community based organization
AIC (African Inland Church)	Health, food aid, food security, education and vocational training	Ikotos County	Faith-based organization
CRS (Catholic Relief Services)	Providing Health and Education Services,	Budi – Kapoeta North – Torit Counties	Faith-based organization

Other international organizations include: the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR Japan), the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), the American Refugee Committee (ARC), Malaria Consortium, Medical Emergency Relief International (MERLIN), Pharmaciens Sans Frontieres- Comité International (PSF CI), Stromme Foundation and World Vision International (WVI). Other indigenous/community-based and national NGOs include: Toposa Development Organisation (TDA), Sudan Medical Care (SMC) and New Sudanese Indigenous NGOs Network (NESI-Network). Other faith based organizations include: New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC), and Diocese of Torit (DOT).

Qualitative interviews were conducted with a small sample of three of these organizations –DOT, Voice of Humanity (VFH), and Youth Anti-AIDS Services Organisation (YAASO) -- to gain a clearer insight into their work, what challenges they face, and what successes they have achieved.

DOT is a church-based organization that was established on May 14, 1983 with the principle aim of engaging the community for social development. Primarily funded by donors and volunteer groups (e.g. USAID, WFP, Caritas International and European CBOs), it has been based in Torit since its establishment and operates throughout Eastern Equatoria. VFH is a non-profit NGO that has been operational in Eastern Equatoria for approximately one year. Aside from occasionally receiving small amounts of support from the County Commissioners' Office, VFH currently receives no funding above that which volunteers are able to sacrifice for their peers. YAASO has been present in Eastern Equatoria for the past two years, aiming to enhance capacity to prevent and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS and other diseases in society and to engage youths in identifying needs and participating in development programs.

### ***NGOs/CBOs Objective & Goals***

DOT covers two main sectors in the delivery of services in Eastern Equatoria, namely a Pastoral Program and a Social Development Program. Within the Social Development program there are seven additional programs that encompass health, peace and justice, education, WASH, food security, community empowerment, and dissemination of information. VFH displays a strong ethos regarding youth, including promoting the legal rights of children to reduce social and economic abuse and discrimination, as well as increasing access to micro-credit services for children and youth so that they can take an active part in the economic growth and development of their society. YAASO is currently concentrating on enhancing the capacity of the community to prevent and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS for youths, including community education on adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights (ASRH), promoting maternal health among young people and improving youth livelihood through income generating activities (IGAs).

### ***NGO/CBO Gender-Specific Activities***

A department for youth exists within the infrastructure of the DOT that undertakes gender-specific projects including youth teamwork on peace to discourage young warriors from cattle rustling. There are workshops, group discussions, and activities for rival young men, whereby they are brought together in a safe environment. DOT reports that four thousand young men and boys completed a life skills training course in 2011. For female youths, a Youth Vocational Training Center exists in Nairus, Kapoeta East, where life skills are taught, including the empowerment of young girls aimed to protect them from

infection and rape. Likewise, VFH looks to empower female youths through the promotion of girl child education to reduce female illiteracy.

In terms of gender-specific projects, YAASO implements strategies to ensure that program interventions optimize opportunities for female participation and incorporate labor saving activities for women and girls. YAASO ensures gender equality in all project interventions, equality of access to capacity building, and formal training opportunities at all levels.

### ***Government Relationships***

DOT maintains a strong relationship with the Ministry of Social Development, participating in coordination, planning, and committee meetings to share information and assist in the development of the communities in Eastern Equatoria. Although DOT does not receive direct funds from the government, the Ministry of Health sometimes donates equipment for use and distribution. A lack of funds prevents the government from supplying staff with such equipment. The organization maintains weekly contact with the government and the Bishop is able to establish direct communication with both the Director General and Governor. DOT feels that coordination is successful and properly structured, although “when meetings are held on what there is to be done, the implementation depends on the security situation.” DOT is even consulted in the planning process for state-level government, claiming itself to be “in a position to influence policy.”

VFH describes itself as more heavily engaged with county-level offices, namely the County Office of Youth and Children’s Affairs, engaging in planning and designing programs that directly affect youth. VFH also works closely with the Commissioner of Youth and Children’s Affairs, the Office of Community Development, and the Office of Assistant Commissioner for Health. Both of these relationships are deemed positive and supportive, characterized by close sharing of information relating to youth health issues. Coordination meetings are scheduled quarterly for all stakeholders to share experiences, identify gaps, and set future coordinated intervention strategies, although it was acknowledged that follow-up on action points remains weak.

In the implementation of its activities, YAASO works in close collaboration with the South Sudan Aids Commission (SSAC), the Ministry of Gender and Social Development, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Recreation (MoYSR), and the Ministry of Health, with which it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) stipulating the roles and responsibilities of the state government. This has created a free and smooth platform for easy, regular, and transparent progress updates to government officials, and to ensure that community leaders are fully engaged in the initiation, planning, implementation, and monitoring of all project activities. In addition to this, YAASO, together with other partners, is involved in a myriad of committees and meetings, including monthly review and coordination meetings, quarterly Review and Planning Meetings, Health Cluster Coordination Meetings and Peer Educators Forums. The program coordinator will receive reports from program officers, which will then be compiled and disseminated to the Board of Directors and donors. Coordination is deemed effective, especially for minimizing duplication of activities with other partners running similar projects in the catchment area.

### ***Inter-NGO Communication***

All three NGOs enjoy a working relationship at field level with many INGOs/CBOs/NGOs, including Caritas, PACT-SUDAN, Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI), and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA). Coordination and communication is conducted via meetings and committees, including weekly



surveillance reports and monthly partner meetings. DOT also has a Global Partnership Agreement with its partner organizations and shares non-project specific and project-specific MOUs.

### ***Problems with Government***

Despite their strong working relationships, NGOs surveyed still acknowledge difficulties faced by the government, identifying primarily a huge funding gap left by the previous government that has caused a shortage in services. According to YAASO, policies and laws related to drug and alcohol consumption are still poor, affecting the implementation of activities, and there are also no policies on commercial sex workers, which increases HIV/AIDS and STI infections among the community.

### ***Problems Facing Youth***

According to NGOs surveyed, the biggest youth difficulties throughout state are illiteracy and a lack of access to both formal education and vocational training centers. Schools are experiencing an elevated drop-out rate, especially among girls who are often forced to marry at a young age, resulting in ignorance that leaves them vulnerable and easily marginalized. There is also inadequate basic information on health, nutrition, communicable diseases, HIV/AIDS, child protection, personal hygiene, sanitation, etc. This lack of disease awareness and poverty causes many early deaths, especially from HIV/AIDS, which is rapidly spreading among young people. These issues are heightened by the scars of two decades of civil war that has left many young people orphaned, traumatized, and with limited income generating potential to transform their future prospects. HIV/AIDS continues to scourge the region and widow inheritance may become even more prevalent in Eastern Equatoria. Poor communication channels exacerbate existing problems by hindering access to information on development interventions and there is criticism of youth for their low ability to initiate or improve skills for enhanced livelihood and self-reliance.

In order to combat these problems, both DOT and VFH see a solution in increasing access to educational programs that stress the importance of work and life skills, train youths in a variety of employment skills, and also engage them in meaningful leisure activities such as sports. Meetings should be established with village chiefs and heads of households to unite youth in peace building and conflict resolution, with efforts increased to spread understanding that it is possible to live in harmony.

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## CONCLUSIONS

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Based on the data presented in this assessment, the following conclusions are made for Eastern Equatoria:

- **Youth face a number of systemic socio-economic challenges limiting their growth and life choices**, including food insecurities, unemployment, poor access to education and health, scarce resources as well as violence and insecurity.
- **The main challenges facing female youth in obtaining an education is reported to be early pregnancies and forced marriages**, which reduces, and in most cases eliminates, the potential of the girl continuing her education. **As for male youth, they are expected to look after livestock**, which both reduces their access to education, and exposes them to insecurities such as cattle raids and abduction. Furthermore, both **male and female youth struggle to find gainful employment**.

- **Alongside few learning spaces, lack of resources and reliable teachers are great obstacles to a quality education** as their absence weakens the already fragile educational system. Additionally, **in Budi County schools are primarily seen as distributors of items and provisions and not as learning centers** as NGOs often use schools as their venue for distribution. This distorts the value of attending classes and contributes to a view that education is not important.
- **Cultural beliefs and family commitments limit both males and females in attending school.** Boys are expected to care for the cattle, while girls' access to education is restricted due to concerns over girls being in close contact with boys and male teachers. Girls are also expected to help out in the home and it was reported that performing household chores inhibited their ability to attend school.
- **HIV/AIDS counseling programs are defunct or, if they exist, unreliable and irregular. Consequently, awareness and knowledge among youth is poor.** The youth have some knowledge about HIV/AIDS though levels are erratic and uneven between the genders as well as age groups. In Budi, male youth scored better than their female counterparts, though there were discrepancies between age groups. Namely, male youth between 15 and 19 years were more accurate in their knowledge compared to those between 20 and 24 years of age. This is mirrored in Kapoeta East, where males between 20 and 24 scored lowest among all. This indicates a lack of standardization in the information being conveyed to the recipients.
- **Ethnic tensions riddles the communities with violence,** both within communities and between tribes—often at the mercy of alcohol, unemployment and idleness and a high rate of small arms. Community members in Kapoeta East reported that peace talks are considered futile as food insecurities and scarce water resources force confrontations between neighboring tribes.
- **Acceptance of violence is inconsistent between the different age groups and between genders.** Though there is a high acceptance of physical punishment in relation to disobedience among youth aged 10-14, the levels were less when it came to severe punishments such as violent beatings. Among youth aged 15-24 there is a strong stance regarding offenders though they showed less support for capital punishments. The strongest opinions were expressed in regards to the military.
- **Youth Friendly Spaces are few and far between and those that exist often lack resources or amenities.** In Kapoeta East, male youth reported to play football on school grounds while females said they socialize during chores such as fetching water. Female youth in Budi did not report any places to congregate with friends. Traditional dancing and games, often carried out close to the church or under a large tree, are activities enjoyed by both girls and boys. However, outside school, if one attends, youth are mainly occupied with daily livelihood activities and household chores. Furthermore, insecurity in the communities also limits the youth's opportunities to engage in informal and impromptu past-time activities.
- **The majority of the youth in Kapoeta East characterized themselves as employed while not a single recipient, male or female, reported having received a loan.** The most important skills identified for youth to learn include, but is not exclusive to, cattle herding

(male youth), farming and hunting (both genders) and the making of local arts and crafts (female youth). **Comparatively, few employment opportunities can be found in Budi.**

- **Both ministry staff and CBOs reported on a good working relationship between government and civil society. Moreover, there is a great awareness of the youth's needs and challenges in the state-level ministries** visited in this research. Ministry staff further showed a keen interest in youth activities.
- **However, all reported to be constrained by lack of funding and few resources accompanied by lengthy and oftentimes slow bureaucratic procedures.** Furthermore, insufficient human resources, lack of up-to-date knowledge and poor training opportunities also pose a great challenge on the ministries ability to effectively serve the youth. The funding gap was also noted by civil society actors.
- **There are strong civil society organizations operating in Eastern Equatoria.** DOT has existing programs relevant for the YouthLEAD Project as well as strong human resources. Furthermore, DOT has a good working relationship with both the state government as well as communities throughout Eastern Equatoria. As such, they not only liaise, but enjoy freedom of movement almost regardless of insecurity and instability.

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## PART II: UPPER NILE

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Located in northwestern South Sudan along the border with Ethiopia and Sudan, Upper Nile State has a population of approximately one million people covering a total area of 77,283 square kilometers. Upper Nile's strategic location and oil reserves, along with a history of intertribal cattle raids and competition for scarce resources, have contributed to instability and a significant influx of refugees. In 2001, an estimated 8% of all conflict incidences in South Sudan occurred in Upper Nile State, and an average of 1,000 refugees from conflict-stricken Blue Nile arrived daily during December 2011.<sup>23, 24</sup> More recently, approximately 100,000 cows were stolen from Lou Nuer in Upper Nile during a two-day raid by Murle from Jonglei State; more than 200 people died in the raid and hundreds were abducted.<sup>25</sup>

The principle tribes in Upper Nile State include the Shilluk, Dinka, Jinka Nuer, Gajaag Nuer, Berta, Burun, Dajo, Mabani, and Koma, though additional nomadic groups – particularly Arabs and Ethiopians – are present.<sup>26, 27</sup> The climate and geographical setting of Upper Nile State is characterized by lowland flood plains and the River Sobat and Nile zones; in addition to crops and livestock, fishing and harvesting of wild foods also contribute to livelihoods and food consumption. Despite insecurity and competition over scarce resources, Upper Nile has the lowest incidence of poverty in South Sudan (25%) and the highest rate of consumption per person (144 SSP compared to the national average of 103 SSP per month).<sup>28</sup> While there exists considerable potential for oil revenues to help spur infrastructural development in the state, the

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<sup>23</sup> South Sudan Consolidated Appeal, OCHA, 18 ([docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/CAP\\_2012\\_South\\_Sudan.pdf](https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/CAP_2012_South_Sudan.pdf))

<sup>24</sup> SUDAN-SOUTH SUDAN: Refugees stream into Upper Nile state (<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/94472/SUDAN-SOUTH-SUDAN-Refugees-stream-into-Upper-Nile-state>)

<sup>25</sup> <http://timelinesdb.com/listevents.php?subjid=1492&dayinhist=0&date1=9999999999&date2=9999999999&words=&title=South%20Sudan&fromrec=120>

<sup>26</sup> Resident Coordinator Support Office, Upper Nile State Briefing Pack ([unmis.unmissions.org/Portals/UNMIS/Referendum/Upper%20Nile.pdf](https://unmis.unmissions.org/Portals/UNMIS/Referendum/Upper%20Nile.pdf))

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.ssddrc.org/states/upper-nile.html>

<sup>28</sup> Statistical Yearbook for Southern Sudan 2010, 124 (<http://ssnbs.org/statistical-year-book/>)

resettlement of over 165,900 refugees and internally-displaced persons (IDPs) since 2004 has exacerbated the weak infrastructure in the area, emphasizing the already limited efficacy of local government and aid agencies.<sup>29,30</sup>

Upper Nile also has a comparatively high rate of individuals living in urban areas — a full 25% — which may account for a relatively high rate (50%) of individuals who have received some schooling in their lives and the lowest rate of illiteracy (55%) for individuals aged 15 and older. Regarding health, Upper Nile is the epicenter for kala azar (Leishmaniasis),<sup>31</sup> despite having the second highest rate (87%) in access to health care. Seventy-five percent of households own mosquito nets, and while maternal mortality rates are marginally higher than the national average of 2,054 deaths per 100,000 births, under-5 mortality rates are slightly lower than nationwide averages.

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<sup>29</sup> *ibid*

<sup>30</sup> Statistical Yearbook for Southern Sudan 2010 (<http://ssnbs.org/statistical-year-book/>)

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/news/country.cfm?id=2369>

### NASIR COUNTY

Nasir County is situated in southeast Upper Nile State and has a population of 210,002 with 29,703 households.<sup>32</sup> The county is divided into eight payams with households spread throughout the county, though there is a tendency of clustering around the payam centers. The administrative headquarters of Nasir County is Nasir, which is located on the banks of the Sobat River and is approximately 250 kilometers from the state capital of Malakal and 30 kilometers from the border with Ethiopia. Nasir's population of 43,733 residents consists of 23,982 males and 19,751 females spread across 5,532 households.

Jikany Nuer is the predominant tribe in Nasir County and is part of one of the South Sudan's largest ethnic groups, the Nuer. Jikany are further separated into sub-clans such as the Gajaak, Gajiok, and Gaguang. Jikany Nuer are semi-pastoralist and most households keep cattle in addition to engaging in subsistence farming. For Jikany Nuer, cows are a sign of wealth and they are essential for dowries when a man gets married. While cattle are kept for cultural reasons, land is cultivated for self-consumption. The area has a rich clay soil that is well suited for agriculture and the main crops are grains like maize, millet, and sorghum, as well as onions, pumpkin, kuthra (similar to okra), and potatoes. Fishing is also a main source of livelihood for households living by or near to the Sobat River.

Throughout Nasir County, access to basic services such as education, health, and water and sanitation is very limited. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) operates a hospital in Nasir alongside a government-run Public Health Care Center (PHCU). Together, these two facilities serve the entire county, as there are no medical facilities outside the headquarters. There are very few boreholes and the majority of the population uses the river as their main water source. In terms of education, only three schools are operational in the county and the highest level is Primary 8. The limited NGO presence in Nasir includes MSF, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), and the Upper Nile Kalaazar Eradication Association (UNKEA); UN agencies like WFP have also been active in the area.

The road network is poor throughout the county and only dirt paths are available for guidance during the dry season. During the rainy season, travel is largely limited to the Sobat River as the roads are largely impassable. A small airstrip is present, though it is only serviced by the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and currently flights only land once per week. Mobile phone service is provided by MTN and Zain, albeit an oftentimes unreliable and poor connection.

There is a mid-sized market in the headquarters of Nasir, though the availability of goods and the economic opportunities present for those in surrounding areas are limited. The heavy reliance on imports makes the market vulnerable to shocks affecting the supply chain, such as the recent closing of the border to Sudan, increased taxes, and the deterioration of roads during rainy season. In general, very few items are available for purchase and prices are severely inflated, particularly now that Sudan has restricted the export of goods to South Sudan and most imports for the Nasir market arrive from Ethiopia. Additionally, Nasir County was experiencing a food shortage emergency during the observation period as a result of insufficient harvest yields in 2011.

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<sup>32</sup>“Statistical Yearbook of Southern Sudan 2010,” Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation. 15.

While the headquarters of Nasir were controlled by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) during the civil war, intense fighting occurred with an SPLA contingent based across the riverbank, including frequent shelling by the SPLA. After the signing of the CPA, SAF forces redeployed to Khartoum with the SPLA maintaining a small presence in Nasir. A small police force is also present; however, the local population reports that they mobilize themselves for security.

Currently, the main source of insecurity in Nasir stems from violent cattle raids between the Jikany Nuer and neighboring Lou Nuer and Murle tribes. Historically part of tribal culture in South Sudan, the frequency and intensity of cattle raids have been exacerbated by a prevalence of small arms and few opportunities for sustainable income-generating opportunities. Cattle raids are more likely to occur during the dry season, when tribes compete for access to grazing pastures and water sources. Raids are retaliatory in nature, and often include the abduction of women and children.

## ULANG COUNTY

Ulang County is nestled in southeastern Upper Nile State, bordering Nasir and Baliet Counties, Jonglei State, and Ethiopia. Comprised of four payams – Ulang, Doma, Kurmuot, and Yomding – Ulang County has a total population of 85,044 of which 48,202 males and 36,842 females are spread across 11,815 households.<sup>33</sup> The administrative headquarters of Ulang County is Ulang, a small village situated on the Sobat River of approximately 18,810 residents. Ulang is divided by the Sobat River and while there are a few households clustered near the city center, most tukuls are spread throughout the county. There is a small market present in the city center with a few permanent structures, such as the office for the County Commissioner. As with many areas in South Sudan, the closure of the border with Sudan and subsequent cessation of imported goods has inflated the price of goods and services available in the market; during the observation period, a 90kg sack of durra could be purchased in Ulang for as much as 450 SSP.

As in neighboring Nasir County, the majority of residents in Ulang County are the semi-pastoralist Jikany Nuer. Of the approximately 11,800 households in Ulang, 9,437 households were farming a total area of 5,946 (ha) in 2009.<sup>34</sup> During the same year, gross cereal production was 2,844 tons and net cereal production was 2,275 tons.<sup>35</sup> Ulang's principal agricultural outputs are tomatoes, eggplant, cabbage, okra, and onions although harvest yields are not sufficient to export outside the county. Given the proximity of the Sobat River, fishing is also a significant source of food and income for households in Ulang. Since the end of the civil war, residents have been able to resume fishing as a livelihood and government estimates suggest that approximately 3,000 fish are caught daily and sold predominantly in the county market. Officials believe that hauls could be increased with improved equipment, training, and government support. However, unemployment rates are at a critical level, and aside from government posts and lucrative – but rare – NGO positions, there remain few income-generating opportunities outside of fishing, farming, and tree cutting.

Ulang remains severely underdeveloped, both in terms of social services and infrastructure. There are few boreholes, schools, clinics, or other basic services available and there is a very limited NGO presence in Ulang. Currently, Irish NGO GOAL operates a compound in Ulang, implementing healthcare as well as water and sanitation programs. However, the closest hospital is located approximately 1½ hours away by

<sup>33</sup> "Statistical Yearbook of Southern Sudan 2010," Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation. 16.

<sup>34</sup> "Statistical Yearbook of Southern Sudan 2010," Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation. 88.

<sup>35</sup> "Statistical Yearbook of Southern Sudan 2010," Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation. 93.

car in Nasir and is operated by Médecins Sans Frontières. Primary school enrollment in 2009 for Ulang County included 13,888 boys and 9,183 girls, and of children aged 6-13, 17,790 were enrolled in primary school in 2009 or 80% of the total 6-13 population.<sup>36</sup> However, of the 46 schools present in Ulang County, only 3 schools are equipped with toilet facilities and 5 with access to water.<sup>37</sup> Due to insufficient school buildings, many pupils are schooled outdoors and are frequently forced to abandon their lessons during the rainy season. As with most of South Sudan, enrollment for female students remains low due to adverse parental influence and a lack of incentives or understanding of a girl's right to education. In addition, both teachers and community leaders have noted that the current salary of 250 SSP per month is not sufficient to either recruit or retain qualified staff, leading many to leave the profession in search of more lucrative NGO positions where salaries might be double of those that can be earned in government employment.

Access to Ulang and most areas of the county is limited, as the existing road infrastructure is poor and there is no functional airstrip in the surrounding vicinity. Although the government has recently constructed a road connecting the county to the state capital of Malakal, the severity of the rainy season renders dirt roads impassable. As such, boats are the only means of transportation during the rainy season, with fares upwards of 50 SSP just to reach nearby Yomding. Communication systems are limited, as mobile service providers are not present and internet is only accessible in the County Commissioner's office.

The county has recently received an influx of armed and displaced Lou Nuer – historically rivals of the Jikany Nuer – as a result of inter-tribal violence occurring in Jonglei State. The arrival of the Lou Nuer has increased tension and insecurity in the area, as recently disarmed Jikany Nuer have expressed fears of cattle raiding by the Lou Nuer.<sup>38</sup> During the observation period, the research team was informed that a victim of a gunshot wound received during a cattle raid was transferred to the local clinic for treatment. Insecurity is likely to intensify, as government officials deployed 15,000 SPLA troops in March 2012 to Jonglei State for the start of a disarmament campaign.<sup>39</sup>

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## FINDINGS: NASIR COUNTY

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When questioned about the greatest challenges facing youth, answers were generally consistent regardless of the age, role or gender of the respondent. Forced marriage was cited as the most pressing issue for female youth, while unemployment was reported as the main challenge for male youth. A lack of educational opportunities – or access to education – was reported as a serious challenge for both male and female youth. Responses were inconsistent, but females were generally reported to have less access and greater challenges than boys, in large part because of societal constraints. One respondent noted that “If women go anywhere without informing their husbands, they risk being beaten.” Despite community members reporting forced marriage as a significant obstacle to female development, the suggested age in which it is suitable for women to marry and have children was often not many years older than the current age (15-16) at which girls marry. Access to education also presents different challenges for male and female youth, in that female youth are more likely to be removed from school by their parents or simply not encouraged to attend.

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<sup>36</sup> “Statistical Yearbook of Southern Sudan 2010,” Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation. 53, 58.

<sup>37</sup> “Statistical Yearbook of Southern Sudan 2010,” Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation. 70.

<sup>38</sup> “Arrival of armed Lou Nuer in Upper Nile raises concerns,” United Nations Mission in South Sudan. 18 February 2012.

<sup>39</sup> “President Kiir opens disarmament in troubled Jongei,” Sudan Tribune. 13 March 2012.

In terms of security concerns, cattle raiding was the most widely reported security issue for male youth while female youth are most at risk of being raped while walking long distances alone and at night. As reported by community leaders and youth alike, Nasir County continues to experience insecurity from cattle raiding, with the most recent raid occurring in July 2011. Insecurity is further compounded by the perception that there are not enough police capable of ensuring security in the county.

## BASIC EDUCATION, SKILLS TRAINING & LIVELIHOODS

Access to education and basic healthcare is extremely limited for youth in Nasir County. Youth interviewed, particularly those aged 10-14, discussed the lack of educational opportunities and the desire for more schools, teachers, and materials. In Koat boma, respondents described overcrowding due to the presence of only one school within the boma that would also receive children from the neighboring bomas. In addition, youth from these neighboring bomas are often unable to attend school during the rainy season, as crossing the Sobat River is difficult or simply not possible. Male youth interviewed listed a lack of money, clothing, materials, and family obligations as obstacles preventing them from attending school, while respondents (male and female) reported that female youth are prevented from attending school if they marry, are raped, become pregnant, or lack parental consent. It was also noted among some youth interviewed that girls are often prevented from attending school because their parents believe their daughter will engage in prostitution. Both male and female youth respondents suggested boarding schools for girls that are located a good distance away from their families, thereby increasing the chance for a girl to complete schooling without interference from her family.

TABLE 2. 5 COMPLETED EDUCATION LEVELS AMONG MALE AND FEMALE YOUTH IN NASIR COUNTY

Education Level	10-14 Years of Age				15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
	n=166	%	n=210	%	n=212	%	n=98	%	n=49	%	n=65	%
No Education	8	4.8	21	10.0	45	21.2	16	16.3	15	30.8	15	23.2
P1	42	25.3	28	13.3	15	7.1	7	7.1	3	6.1	6	9.2
P2	38	22.9	40	19.0	25	11.8	5	5.1	6	12.2	5	7.7
P3	41	24.7	51	24.3	19	9.0	15	15.3	5	10.2	3	4.6
P4	29	17.5	29	13.8	25	11.8	13	13.3	2	4.1	6	9.2
P5	9	5.4	13	6.2	27	12.7	15	15.3	5	10.2	11	16.9
Above P5	4	2.4	9	4.4	31	14.6	26	26.5	13	26.4	19	29.2
Others	3	1.8	19	9.0	25	11.8	17	17.3	0	0.0	0	0.0

The above-discussed qualitative findings were confirmed by the quantitative research undertaken. Interestingly, the younger age categories were less likely to have had no education than older respondents, with only 10.0% (n=21) of female 10-14 and 4.8% (n=8) of male 10-14 year olds reporting having no education, compared to 21.2% (n=45) of male 15-19, 16.3% female 15-19, 30.8% male 20-24 and 23.2% female 20-24. As these figures demonstrate, the younger age category females were more likely to have received no education, but for the elder categories males were more likely to have never attended school. These differences between age and gender are likely to be a result of the civil war, during which many youth had their education disrupted, and many young boys became child soldiers.

With respect to healthcare, there is only one hospital present in the county headquarters of Nasir which is



operated by MSF alongside a government-run PHCU. As mentioned previously, these two facilities together serve the entire county as there are no medical facilities outside the headquarters. Access to sanitation and clean water is also problematic for youth in Nasir County, as there are few boreholes present and many youth in Nasir County are forced to rely upon unsafe water sources (i.e., rivers and ponds); in Koat boma alone, respondents reported the presence of only one borehole in the entire boma. Teachers and youth alike noted that youth oftentimes do not have an official role in the promotion of WASH techniques and awareness, though male youth are generally responsible for cleaning school property and females are tasked with collecting and delivering water, cleaning the house, and cooking food.

The qualitative data collected during interviews with community leaders, teachers, and youth in Nasir County indicate the presence of an inconsistent level of awareness or knowledge about HIV/AIDS between male and female youth. Many respondents noted that ADRA had spoken to members of the community about HIV/AIDS, and teachers interviewed reported that all youth in Nasir County are knowledgeable about the disease. However, interviews with youth revealed that male youth have a higher understanding of the causes of HIV/AIDS and methods to prevent transmission. Female youth, regardless of age, continue to have lower levels of knowledge about all aspects of the disease. When questioned, respondents to qualitative interviews noted the difficulty in speaking to females about issues related to health and sex; not only is it difficult to gain access, but female youth are not encouraged to speak about these issues outside of the household.

TABLE 2. 6 YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO HIV/AIDS STATEMENTS IN NASIR COUNTY

	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	n=x	%	n=98	%	n=49	%	n=65	%
<b>Have you ever heard of an illness called HIV/AIDS?</b>	125	59.0	53	54.1	30	61.2	34	52.3
<b>Can people reduce their chances of getting the AIDS virus by having just one uninfected sex partner who has no other sex partners?</b>	86	40.6	32	32.7	20	40.8	18	27.7
<b>Can people get the AIDS virus from mosquito bites?</b>	22	10.4	10	10.2	4	8.2	12	18.5
<b>Can people reduce their chance of getting the AIDS virus by using a condom every time they have sex?</b>	58	27.4	17	17.3	15	30.6	8	12.3
<b>Can people get the AIDS virus by sharing food with a person who has AIDS?</b>	25	11.8	8	8.2	5	10.2	4	6.2
<b>Can people reduce their chance of getting the AIDS virus by not having sexual intercourse at all?</b>	66	31.1	1	1.0	17	34.7	3	4.6

<b>Can people get the AIDS virus because of witchcraft or other supernatural means?</b>	26	12.3	10	10.2	6	12.2	7	10.8
<b>Is it possible for a healthy looking person to have the AIDS virus?</b>	52	24.5	38	38.8	11	22.4	22	33.8
<b>Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during pregnancy, delivery, breastfeeding?</b>	59	60	61					
<b>Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during pregnancy?</b>	68	32.1	28	28.6	17	34.7	19	29.2
<b>Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during pregnancy?</b>	n/a	n/a	36	36.7	n/a	n/a	24	36.9
<b>Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during delivery?</b>	n/a	n/a	39	39.8	n/a	n/a	25	38.5
<b>Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during breastfeeding?</b>	n/a	n/a	41	41.8	n/a	n/a	26	40.0

The observation during qualitative interviewing that female youth had lower levels of knowledge about HIV/AIDS than male youth was supported by the quantitative data. For example, only 17.3% (n=17) of female youth aged 15-19 and 12.3% (n=8) of female youth aged 20-24 knew that people could reduce their chances of getting the virus by using a condom every time they had sex, compared to 27.4% (n=58) of male youth aged 15-19 and 30.6% (n=15) of men aged 20-24.

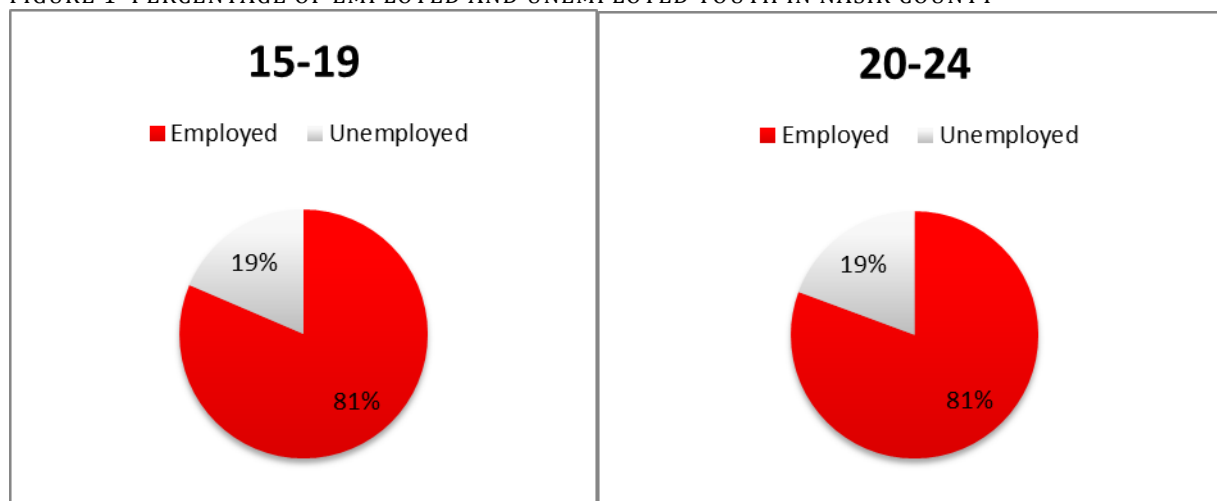
TABLE 2. 7 YOUTH THAT ENGAGE IN WATER TREATMENT AND THE METHODS UTILIZED IN NASIR COUNTY

<b>Do you treat your water before using it? If yes, how?</b>	<b>15-19 Years of Age Female</b>		<b>15-19 Years of Age Male</b>		<b>20-24 Years of Age Female</b>		<b>20-24 Years of Age Male</b>	
	n=98	%	n=212	%	n=65	%	n=49	%
<b>No do not treat</b>	77	78.6	0	0.0	53	81.5	0	0.0
<b>Filter cloth</b>	5	5.1	29	13.7	3	4.6	9	18.4
<b>Boiling</b>	9	9.2	6	2.8	4	6.2	0	0.0
<b>Bleach/chlorine</b>	1	1.0	17	8.0	1	1.5	2	4.1
<b>Solar disinfection</b>	1	1.0			0	0.0	0	0.0

Let it stand and settle	0	0.0	6	2.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
Water treatment tablets	5	5.1	2	0.9	3	4.6	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.5	38	77.6

In terms of livelihoods, respondents frequently stated that few, if any, opportunities exist in Nasir County for youth of either gender (fishing being the only cited example of an existing income-generating pursuit) and that there are no programs or opportunities to learn skills that might support income-generating opportunities. Few examples were offered when youth were questioned about suitable income-generating opportunities, a likely consequence of the lack of available skills training or employment opportunities in Nasir County. Male youth cited carpentry/woodworking, fishing, and boat driving as possible income-generating activities, whereas both genders reported that cooking/catering and cultivating crops were appropriate for females.

FIGURE 1 PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED YOUTH IN NASIR COUNTY<sup>40</sup>



The above qualitative findings were confirmed by quantitative research, which found that 81% of both age categories were unemployed.

TABLE 2. 8 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT HAVE RECEIVED MONEY OR TAKEN A LOAN IN NASIR COUNTY

	15-19 Years of Age		20-24 Years of Age	
Have been given money?	n=140	%	n=63	%
Yes	91	65.0	26	41.3
No	49	35.0	37	58.7
Have you taken a loan?	n=140	%	n=63	%
Yes	10	7.1	3	4.8
No	130	92.9	60	95.2

<sup>40</sup> Unfortunately, for one of the surveys in Nasir data collectors did not indicate the gender of the people they interviewed, hence it is not possible to disaggregate all Nasir tables by gender

Although a large percentage of respondents had received money from people they knew, very few respondents had ever taken out a loan, at only 7.1% (n=10) of 15-19 year olds and 4.8% (n=3) of 20-24 year olds. Of those who had received money from people they knew, the vast majority had received this money from a parent (52.7%, n=48), or another family member (23.1%, n=21). This demonstrates the strength of family ties and the informal monetary lending systems in place within this community.

## PEACE & GOVERNANCE

Traditionally, youth resolve disputes or discuss problems with their parents or close relatives, but after marriage the husband is the arbiter for his wife. Respondents noted that youth are represented at the local level via Youth Party Leagues within the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the United Democratic Party (UDP), both of which are located in the county headquarters of Nasir. However, neither organization executes activities on behalf of youth.

Community leaders, teachers, and youth interviewed all unanimously agreed that cattle raiding and rape were the most pressing security concerns facing youth in Nasir County. Female youth risk being raped if they have to walk long distances alone and at night, a risk that is compounded by the role girls have in collecting water for a household. While cattle raiding was associated as a main security concern for male youth, it can affect young girls as well, as it is not uncommon for both male and female youth to be abducted or killed during a raid. While there were no incidents during the observation period, individuals interviewed all noted that cattle raids occur between tribes from Nasir and Ulang counties, with the most recent attack occurring in July 2011. In terms of protection, respondents agreed that youth are largely without any protection, and many respondents indicated that disarmament has rendered communities unable to ensure security, while the police are not perceived as capable of providing security.

TABLE 2. 9 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED "YES" TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE STATEMENTS IN NASIR COUNTY

	15-19 Years of Age		20-24 Years of Age	
	n=140	%	n=x	%
<b>Prisoners should not get out of their sentences early</b>	113	80.7	55	87.3
<b>Capital punishment is often necessary</b>	40	28.6	15	23.8
<b>No matter how severe the crime, one should pay with an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth</b>	25	17.9	13	20.6
<b>Violent crimes should be punished violently</b>	43	30.7	24	38.1

<b>Any prisoner deserves to be mistreated by other prisoners in jail</b>	16	11.4	10	15.9
<b>Police should shoot students if they are demonstrating</b>	10	7.1	6	9.5
<b>Police should beat students if they are obscene</b>	35	25.0	19	30.2
<b>Any nation should be ready with a strong military at all times</b>	121	86.4	51	81.0
<b>Our country has the right to protect its borders forcefully</b>	78	55.7	26	41.3
<b>The manufacture of weapons is necessary</b>	49	35.0	16	25.4
<b>Our country should be aggressive with its military internationally</b>	26	18.6	9	14.3
<b>Killing of civilians should be accepted as an unavoidable part of war</b>	10	7.1	4	6.3

Given the level of insecurity and lack of protection for youth in Nasir County it is not surprising that 80.7% (n=113) of youth aged 15-19 and 87.3% (n=55) of youth aged 20-24 believed that prisoners should not be released before the completion of their sentences. The data also indicates low levels of support for violent acts, specifically that 7.1 % (n=10) of youth aged 15-19 and 9.5% (n=6) of 20-24 year-olds support police shooting students if they are demonstrating.

## YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES

Within Nasir County, there is a lack of formal and organized youth friendly spaces. Youth interviewed noted that common gathering areas include playing football for male youth and attending church and traditional dancing celebrations for female youth. Male youth, particularly those aged 10-14, will often gather under a tree to talk, share stories, and spend free time together, while this is less true for females. Both male and female youth respondents noted that a girl's movement is restricted by her parents and by the responsibilities she may have at home (i.e., fetching water, cleaning, assisting her mother).

TABLE 3. 1 YOUTH EDUCATIONAL AREAS OF INTEREST IN NASIR COUNTY

<b>Interested in Learning the Following Things:</b>	<b>Male</b>		<b>Female</b>	
	n=44	%	n=129	%
<b>Journalism</b>	44	100.0	120	93.0
<b>Radio production</b>	1	2.3	35	27.1

<b>Music production</b>	1	2.3	17	13.2
<b>Culture and arts</b>	0	0.0	14	10.9
<b>Rights advocacy</b>	36	81.8	18	14.0
<b>None of the above</b>	2	4.5	45	34.9
<b>Other</b>	0	0.0	3	2.3

Youth were extremely interested in learning journalism skills, with 100.0% (n=44) of male respondents and 93.0% (n=120) of female respondents indicating interest.

TABLE 3. 2 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN STATEMENTS IN NASIR COUNTY

Question	10-14 Years of Age			
	Male		Female	
	n=44	%	n=129	%
<b>Punishing a child physically when he/she deserves it will make him/her a responsible and mature adult</b>	13	29.5	95	73.6
<b>Giving mischievous children a quick slap is the best way to quickly end trouble</b>	36	81.8	77	59.7
<b>An adult should beat a child with a strap or stick</b>	19	43.2	35	27.1
<b>A parent hitting child when he/she does something bad on purpose teaches the child a good lesson</b>	38	86.4	108	83.7
<b>Young children who refuse to obey should be whipped</b>	37	84.1	82	63.6
<b>A teacher hitting a child when he/she does something bad on purpose teaches the child a good lesson</b>	37	84.1	105	81.4
<b>Children should be spanked for temper tantrums</b>	35	79.5	121	93.8
<b>A child's habitual disobedience should be punished physically</b>	27	61.4	92	71.3
<b>An adult should choke a child for breaking the law</b>	39	88.6	86	66.7

Respondents exhibited high levels of acceptance for physical violence against children, even if they were children themselves. For example, 84.1% (n=37) of boys aged 10-14 and 63.6% (n=82) of girls aged 10-14 agreed with the statement that “young children who refuse to obey should be whipped”.

TABLE 3. 3 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATEMENTS IN NASIR COUNTY

Question		
	n=207	%
<b>The male should not allow the female the same amount of freedom as he has</b>	30	14.5
<b>The dominant partner should keep control by using violence</b>	34	16.4
<b>It is alright to coerce ones partner into sex when they are not willing by forcing them</b>	77	37.2
<b>It is alright for a partner to choke the other if they hit a child</b>	62	30.0

<b>It is alright for a partner to shoot the other if they are unfaithful</b>	18	8.7
<b>It is alright for a partner to choke the other if insulted or ridiculed</b>	69	33.3
<b>It is alright for a partner to slap the others face if insulted or ridiculed</b>	76	36.7
<b>The partner is the appropriate one to take out the frustrations of the day on</b>	118	57.0
<b>Partners should work things out together even if it takes violence</b>	87	42.0
<b>It is alright for a partner to shoot the other if they flirt with others</b>	32	15.5
<b>It is alright for a partner to slap the others face if challenged</b>	73	35.3

Domestic violence also garnered relatively high levels of support amongst respondents, with 15.5% (n=32) of respondents agreeing with the statement ‘it is alright for a partner to shoot the other if they flirt with others’, and 42.0% (n=87) agreeing with the statement ‘partners should work things out together even if it takes violence’. In addition, a full 37.2% (n=77) of respondents thought that it was acceptable to coerce a partner into sex, demonstrating high levels of acceptance for sexual abuse within a marriage.

## FINDINGS: ULANG COUNTY

Employment, education, and insecurity were cited by all members of the community as the most pressing challenges for youth in Ulang. One youth noted that “a lack of jobs leads many people to take someone else’s properties.” As described in qualitative interviews, there are no employment opportunities available for boys or girls, and youth that are fortunate to obtain jobs have usually done so by virtue of their personal connections.

Female youth reported that parents are the biggest challenge for girls, in that they can restrict the ability to receive an education. One focus group discussant pointed out that if more parents had access to income-generating opportunities, it would lessen the pressure on young girls to marry and thus provide their families with dowries.

Education opportunities in Ulang are extremely limited as there is only one school present in the county, a primary school that encompasses levels P1 through P8. Youth interviewed repeatedly spoke of the desire for an education, largely as a means to improve chances at future employment. As with much of South Sudan, female attendance in school is significantly lower than male attendance, and there were frequent mentions in qualitative interviews of the need for single-sex schools as well as awareness campaigns to inform and encourage parents to allow their children to attend school.



When discussing education, many respondents noted the impact of the lack of food on the ability of youth to attend school. Hunger was often cited as a reason male youth will either not attend or will drop out of school. Food insecurity has broader implications in Ulang, as youth and community leaders alike noted that male youth steal cattle for money to purchase food.

With respect to insecurity, there were repeated mentions of concerns regarding the prevalence of armed and unemployed male youth. One respondent noted that people in Ulang are afraid to go into the bush in search of food because of the fear of being attacked by armed youth. Focus group participants indicated dissatisfaction with government authorities in addressing the prevalence of guns among male youth and noted that if youth had jobs “they will not cause problems because they will be busy at their work.” Frustration with local government authorities extended to issues with education and healthcare, with focus group respondents complaining about the lack of support from the local government in these areas.

Qualitative interviews revealed different perceptions of the challenges facing young boys and girls; quite a few respondents reported that regardless of gender, youth in Ulang County are confronted with the same obstacles. However, some participants indicated that life is more difficult for female youth, in large part because of societal constraints, namely the responsibilities accorded to women in the household and the lack of say female have in when or whom they marry. As one female responded, “Girls have a worse advantage than boys because girls’ fathers want girls to be married but boys can go where they like. It’s better to be a boy.”

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## BASIC EDUCATION, SKILLS TRAINING & LIVELIHOODS

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TABLE 3. 4 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED IN ULANG COUNTY

	Male				Female			
	15-19 Years of Age		20-24 Years of Age		15-19 Years of Age		20-24 Years of Age	
	n=17	%	n=12	%	n=8	%	n=8	%
<b>Employed</b>	5	29.4	5	41.7	2	25.0	0	0.0
<b>Unemployed</b>	12	70.6	7	58.3	6	75.0	8	100

The vast majority of youth respondents to the quantitative research were unemployed due to a lack of employment opportunities in the area. Some respondents noted that there are youth employed as police and wildlife officers, however, the issue of nepotism was raised in multiple interviews. Specifically, youth interviewed expressed frustration over feeling that relatives of current government officials were the only eligible applicants for the few job vacancies available. Additionally, youth mentioned in qualitative interviews that many jobs – particularly those in the food sector – are controlled by Ethiopians and Darfuris.

Qualitative interviews with male youth in Ulang revealed an interest in receiving training in carpentry, farming/cultivation, and auto mechanics. Business/retailing, nursing, and catering were cited as appropriate activities for female youth. Female youth interviewed indicated an interest in selling fish, owning tea shops, and cooking/catering, as well as learning agriculture/cultivation skills.

As with many areas in South Sudan, Ulang County lacks adequate school facilities. The Ulang County Head Chief reported that the only school present is a primary school located inside the county center that covers the P1-P8 levels. In qualitative interviews, community members noted that Ulang is receiving many

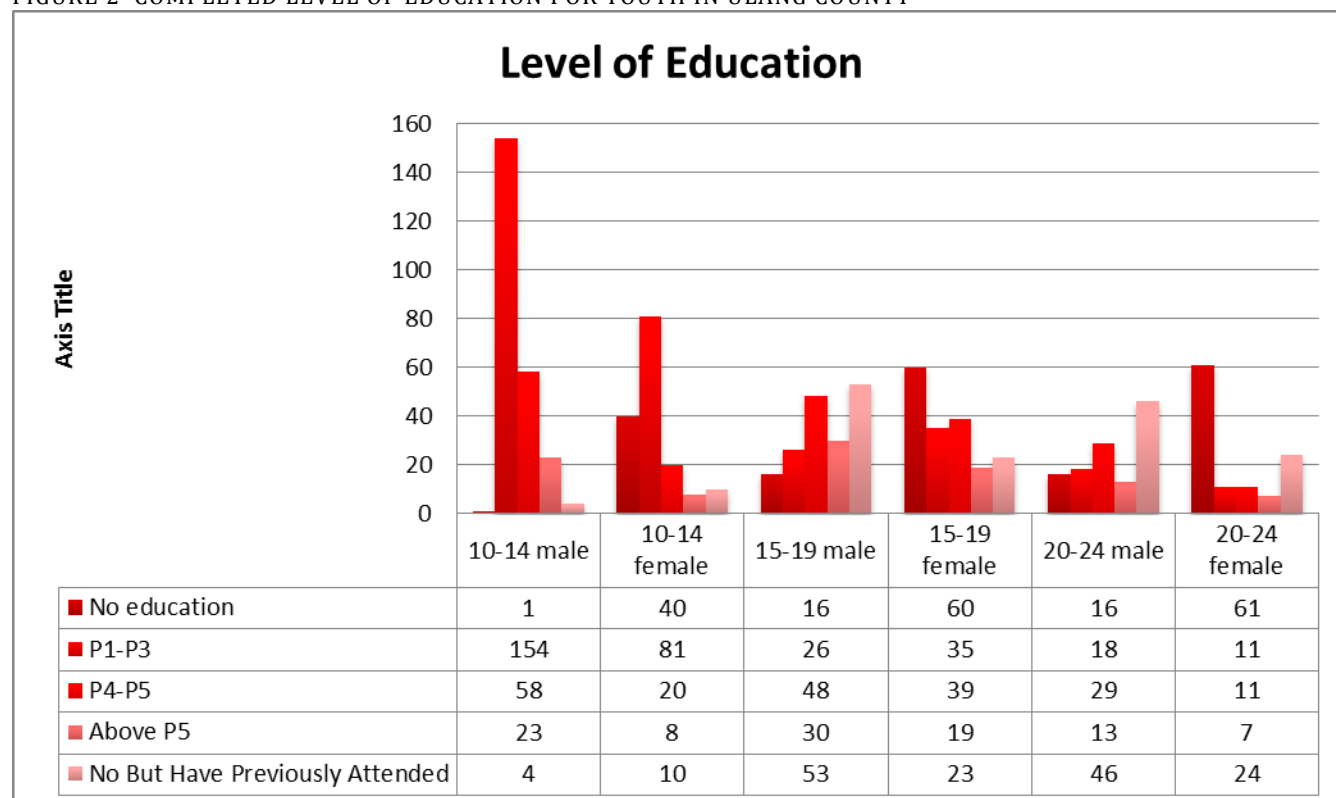
returnees from other counties in South Sudan as well as from Ethiopia, compounding the need for more schools and teachers. One respondent indicated that the existing primary schools – constructed by Food for Hunger – cannot accommodate many students as the facilities only consist of two blocks (buildings). The Head Chief also noted that younger children are more impacted by the lack of schools, as surrounding villages will only allow elder youth to travel the long distances to attend school. Echoing the Head Chief, local teachers reported that children will not travel away from home to attend school until they are between 10-12 years of age. In areas like Ulang County where most of the population is not clustered around a county center, boys and girls under the age of 10 are at a greater risk of not receiving any education. Youth reported a lack of qualified teachers in Ulang and even noted that teachers are receiving salaries without teaching classes.

Concerns over the lack of available food resources was also raised in terms of school attendance; that is, youth interviewed discussed that boys and girls may stop attending school if there is no food available at the school. Community leaders in particular suggested feeding programs for schools as a means to address the current food insecurity and to encourage attendance among youth.

Youth reported that low school attendance rates for female youth are in large part because parents do not understand or stress the importance of education for girls, and the presence of a boarding school in Ulang would motivate many girls to attend school. Several respondents – both community leaders and youth of both genders – pointed out the need for parents to be informed and made aware of the need to educate female youth. In particular, mothers were often singled out in interviews as a primary obstacle to female youth attending school. Not only are many older women unaware of the rights afforded women and female youth in South Sudan or the importance of receiving an education, oftentimes young girls are required to stay at home to support the running of the household.

As with Nasir County, when questioned about the appropriate age for youth to marry, the suggested age was not much older than the reported age that youth marry (16-17). This was not restricted to any gender or age group; respondents in each category (community members, teacher, youth, etc.) frequently remarked that between 18-20 years old is an appropriate age for women to marry, while it was suggested that men marry after the age of 22. One male youth reported that many girls are becoming pregnant outside of marriage and as a consequence are being beaten severely by their families. However, this same youth noted that police are now protecting youth from overt physical violence and parents can no longer beat their children in public.

FIGURE 2 COMPLETED LEVEL OF EDUCATION FOR YOUTH IN ULANG COUNTY



Older youths were far more likely than younger youth to have never attended school, with a full 46.2% (n=61) of female respondents aged 20-24 having never attended school. Across the board females were far more likely than males to have never attended school, for example 24.8% (n=40) of female 10-14 year olds falling into this category as opposed to 0.4% (n=1) of male 10-14 year olds, and 31.1% (n=60) of female 15-19 compared to 8.6% (n=16) of male 15-19 year olds.

Female youth interviewed indicated that some training and awareness regarding HIV/AIDS has taken place in Ulang and that ADRA would be mobilizing community members in April 2012 to further awareness of the disease. However, respondents also noted that not enough people in Ulang have been educated about HIV/AIDS. As with Nasir County, interviews with male and female youth revealed a greater awareness of HIV/AIDS among male youth; female youth often reported of hearing of HIV/AIDS, but were not able to discuss means of transmission or methods of prevention in any detail.

TABLE 3. 5 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO HIV/AIDS STATEMENTS IN ULANG COUNTY

Question	15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	n=185	%	n=193	%	n=137	%	n=132	%
Have you ever heard of an illness called HIV/AIDS?	84	45.4	136	70.5	45	32.8	113	85.6
Can people reduce their chances of getting the AIDS virus by having just one uninfected sex partner who has no other sex partners?	47	25.4	86	44.6	29	21.2	54	40.9
Can people get the AIDS virus from mosquito bites?	13	7.0	88	45.6	9	6.6	63	47.7
Can people reduce their chance of getting the AIDS virus by using a condom every time they have sex?	34	18.4	78	40.4	17	12.4	43	32.6
Can people get the AIDS virus by sharing food with a person who has AIDS?	12	6.5	8	4.1	11	8.0	6	4.5
Can people reduce their chance of getting the AIDS virus by not having sexual intercourse at all?	24	13.0	54	28.0	20	14.6	37	28.0
Can people get the AIDS virus because of witchcraft or other supernatural means?	20	10.8	3	1.6	14	10.2	3	2.3
Is it possible for a healthy looking person to have the AIDS virus?	42	22.7	58	30.1	22	16.1	74	56.1
Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during pregnancy, during delivery or by breastfeeding?	47	25.4	n/a	n/a	19	13.9	n/a	n/a
Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during pregnancy?	n/a	n/a	76	39.4	n/a	n/a	80	60.6
Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during delivery?	n/a	n/a	76	39.4	n/a	n/a	81	61.4

<b>Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during breastfeeding?</b>	n/a	n/a	77	39.9	n/a	n/a	56	42.4
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In contrast to some of the other locations, females were more likely to be aware of HIV/AIDS than males, with 70.5% (n=136) of females aged 15-19 aware of the disease compared to 45.4% (n=84) of males in the same age category, and 85.6% (n=113) of females aged 20-24 compared to only 32.8% (n=45). This trend continued into awareness of methods of preventing transmission, with for example 32.6% (n=43) of females aged 20-24 agreeing that people could reduce their chances of contracting the virus by using a condom every time they had sex, as opposed to only 12.4% (n=17) of men in the same category. A higher level of awareness was also coupled with a higher level of misconceptions about the disease; however, with over 40% of both categories of females believing that one could contract the AIDS virus from mosquito bites, as opposed to only around 8% of males.

TABLE 3. 6 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL WHILE MENSTRUATING AND REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING IN ULANG COUNTY

<b>When you menstruate do you go to school? If not, why not?</b>	<b>15-19 Years of Age</b>		<b>20-24 Years of Age</b>	
	n=193	%	n=132	%
<b>No, socially unacceptable</b>	14	7.3	40	30.3
<b>No, embarrassed</b>	68	35.2	41	31.1
<b>No, too painful</b>	16	8.3	9	6.8
<b>No, too difficult</b>	44	22.8	20	15.2
<b>Yes, attend school</b>	44	22.8	13	9.8
<b>No other</b>	7	3.6	9	6.8

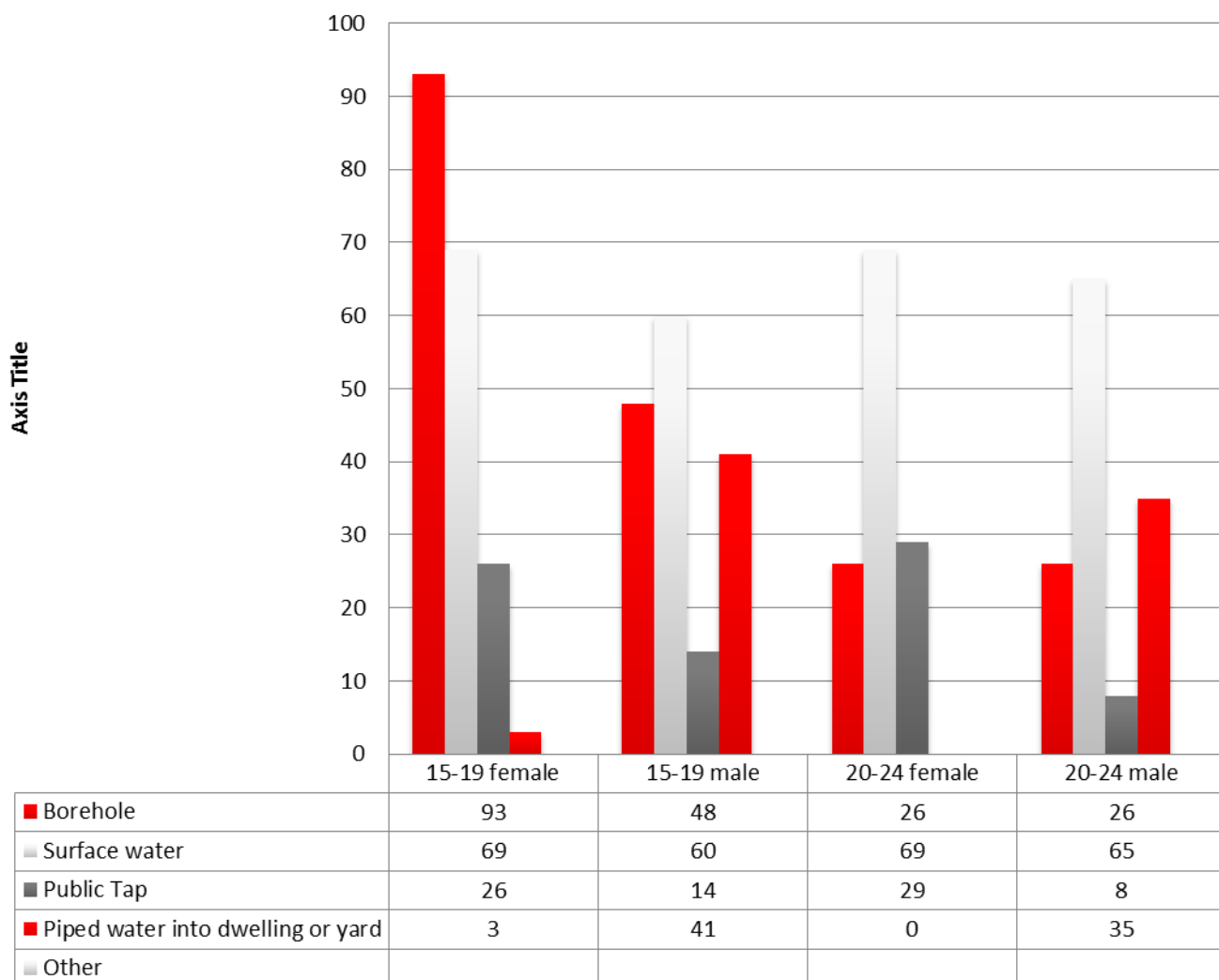
A large majority of female respondents did not attend school when they were menstruating, with only 22.8% (n=44) of 15-19 year olds, and only 9.8% of 20-24 year olds indicating they attended school during this time. The category of 10-14 year olds almost universally refused to answer this question, most probably due to embarrassment at what is a sensitive subject, especially for such young girls. This embarrassment tells a story in itself however, and it is safe to assume the majority of girls this age might also feel unable to attend school during menses.

In terms of WASH, male youth interviewed reported that some youth volunteer by collecting trash in the streets. However, many respondents noted the absence of any formal WASH delivery or promotion services that are specifically provided by Ulang youth. Female youth interview spoke of the difficulty they experience collecting water, as there are few clean water access points in the county.

During qualitative interviews, respondents indicated that outside organizations (names not specified) had come to Ulang for hygiene and sanitation training and promotion, but that "...they only taught 15-20 people. Now there is no good sanitation because there are only a few people that know."

FIGURE 3 YOUTH REPORTED MAIN SOURCES OF WATER FOR THEIR HOUSEHOLD IN ULANG COUNTY

## What is the main source of water for your household?



## PEACE & GOVERNANCE

Traditional means of conflict resolution and governance are relied upon initially to resolve conflicts involving youth. As described by the Head Chief of Ulang, the Head Chief, Sub-Chief, and Head Man are the three main traditional community leaders, of which the Head Man is the first point of contact to resolve disputes. Sub-Chiefs and Head Chiefs, as well as the local police, will be called upon if necessary. One community member indicated that there is a Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) present that is able to assist in resolving any disputes among youth at school or between youth and their families.

Interviews with male youth (ages 15-19) revealed a degree of frustration and dissatisfaction with local government authorities. One youth noted that youth in Ulang are supposed to communicate any challenges or issues to the County Commissioner, but no action is ever taken, while another youth said that “there is no direct and clear line of communication between the youth and local government...making it harder to communicate our problems to anyone in local government.” This sentiment was echoed by several more

youth, with one individual stating that “no one cares about you here because no one wants to help.” However, several participants in qualitative interviews indicated that youth in Ulang County had participated in the selection of a youth representative within the local government. However, it was not clear whether this position had any impact – positive or negative – within the youth population of Ulang.

Male youth reported that the current instability and insecurity has created chaos in the community and also blamed local police for intimidating civilians. In fact, qualitative interviews revealed a general sentiment among community members in Ulang that the local police not only fail to protect civilians; they actively inflict physical violence against individuals. During the observation period, youth noted that a retaliatory incident between two Lou Nuer groups had occurred recently, killing one person in the process. Other respondents cited the lack of youth representation in local government as a cause of cattle raiding and theft.

Participants in qualitative interviews almost unanimously stated that a void exists in terms of local police that are able to provide security to the community. In some areas of Ulang County, respondents noted a complete lack of a police presence, while more frequently it was stated that there are simply not enough police officers to ensure security. While most respondents noted that there was not a high level of cattle raiding within Ulang County, there are concerns over violent cattle raiding occurring in the neighboring Jonglei State and the spillover effect for Ulang residents. Additionally, there is a fear among youth of being attacked by wild animals at night, resulting in youth feeling that parts of Ulang are unsafe.

One community leader interviewed spoke of the need for food security—in his eyes, insecurity and fighting within Ulang County was a direct result of a lack of sufficient food consumption for households. Female youth repeated this sentiment, stating that “girls can be beaten by boys because of hunger.”

TABLE 3. 7 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN STATEMENTS IN ULANG COUNTY

Question	10-14 Years of Age			
	Male		Female	
	n=17	%	n=21	%
<b>Punishing a child physically when he/she deserves it will make him/her a responsible and mature adult</b>	15	88.2	21	100.0
<b>Giving mischievous children a quick slap is the best way to quickly end trouble</b>	15	88.2	2	9.5
<b>An adult should beat a child with a strap or stick</b>	3	17.6	11	52.4
<b>A parent hitting child when he/she does something bad on purpose teaches the child a good lesson</b>	16	94.1	21	100.0
<b>Young children who refuse to obey should be whipped</b>	12	70.6	20	95.2
<b>A teacher hitting a child when he/she does something bad on purpose teaches the child a good lesson</b>	17	100.0	21	100.0
<b>Children should be spanked for temper tantrums</b>	1	5.9	4	19.0
<b>A child’s habitual disobedience should be punished physically</b>	15	88.2	20	95.2

<b>An adult should choke a child for breaking the law</b>	14	82.4	20	95.2
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As in other locations, children themselves demonstrated high levels of support for violence against children, with for example 95.2% (n=20) of girls aged 10-14 and 82.4% (n=14) of boys aged 10-14 agreeing with the statement ‘an adult should choke a child for breaking the law’.

TABLE 3. 8 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATEMENTS IN ULANG COUNTY

Question	Male		Female	
	n=8	%	n=10	%
<b>The male should not allow the female the same amount of freedom as he has</b>	7	87.5	7	70.0
<b>The dominant partner should keep control by using violence</b>	7	87.5	8	80.0
<b>It is alright to coerce ones partner into sex when they are not willing by forcing them</b>	7	87.5	5	50.0
<b>It is alright for a partner to choke the other if they hit a child</b>	7	87.5	8	80.0
<b>It is alright for a partner to shoot the other if they are unfaithful</b>	1	12.5	10	100.0
<b>It is alright for a partner to choke the other if insulted or ridiculed</b>	5	62.5	9	90.0
<b>It is alright for a partner to slap the others face if insulted or ridiculed</b>	4	50.0	4	40.0
<b>The partner is the appropriate one to take out the frustrations of the day on</b>	5	62.5	7	70.0
<b>Partners should work things out together even if it takes violence</b>	7	87.5	7	70.0
<b>It is alright for a partner to shoot the other if they flirt with others</b>	2	25.0	7	70.0
<b>It is alright for a partner to slap the others face if challenged</b>	6	75.0	5	50.0

Additionally, males and females interviewed reported high levels of support for intimate violence with 87.5% (n=8) of males and 80.0% (n=10) of females supporting the use of violence by the dominant partner in a relationship as a way to maintain control.



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## YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES

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Youth interviewed – regardless of age or gender – all reported the lack of any youth center, program, or youth organization in Ulang, with one individual stating that “now there is nowhere for them [youth] to go, they are just going around the village randomly.” This was repeated in discussions with female youth, who suggested the organization of sports activities for male youth in Ulang. Other youth indicated that any youth networks that are present and available are informal and based upon friendships, rather than being efforts executed by local authorities or outside organizations. In the absence of a formal gathering place for youth, respondents noted that they will meet outside their homes or spend time meeting in the local churches.

While there are no formal youth centers or programming in Ulang, respondents noted in qualitative interviews that youth have organized themselves into football clubs for the boys and volleyball clubs for girls. However, representation in these activities remains higher among boys than girls. As described by youth in the 10-14 age group, children gather to tell stories, engage in traditional dancing, play football or netball (volleyball), or to simply hang out together. Many respondents – regardless of age or gender – reported desiring formal activities as well as a youth center where they could engage in youth specific activities as well as learn valuable skills that would increase their opportunities for employment.

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## FINDINGS: INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF CBOS AND MINISTRIES

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### Upper Nile State Government Ministries

#### *Roles and Responsibilities*

State ministries in Upper Nile State demonstrated a high level of familiarity and engagement with the mission statements and visions of their respective departments. Director Generals were able to concisely define the aspirations of their ministries in ways that were coherent and easy to retain. For example, the Director General of Gender summarized his Ministry's purpose as promoting “gender awareness, gender equality, and awareness of gender-based violence,” while the Director General of the MoE explained his goal as providing “quality education for every child in the state.” The Director General of the Ministry of Health noted that he was responsible for “delivering health services to the community.”

This certainty of purpose also extended to how the Director Generals’ viewed their roles and responsibilities within their respective departments. Each was able to provide a clear explanation of the responsibilities of his office, which were almost universally agreed upon as being the following: chief administrator, second in command and advisor to the Minister, and finally, coordinator of unit Directorates, charged with overseeing the overall functioning of the department according to regulations.

Even among lower level staff, there was almost unanimous satisfaction with job descriptions and the explicitness of the mandates of dispensed roles. The only exception was found in the MoE, where staff acknowledged that job descriptions were still in the process of development and not all positions were as yet entirely regularized. However, staff did report recent capacity building training in the distribution of roles up to the level of the Director General and agreed that communication and inter-departmental organization were improving.

#### *Communication*

Dissemination of information within the Ministries appeared healthy, with clear lines of communication and a reporting hierarchy firmly established. Without fail, all Ministries cited the flow of information as passing

in a clear chain of command starting with the Unit Director and then moving upwards to the Director General and Minister.

Ministries also reported instigating meetings within every directorate so that each Director might be fully briefed on happenings within his unit. The Director then conveys the outcome of these sessions in monthly meetings between the Director General and all of his individual Directors. These meetings were seen as an opportunity to discuss progress and challenges, coordinate projects, and transmit information around the department. Some departments even cited these sessions as occurring as frequently as weekly, on a set day of the week. From these meetings, the Director General will in turn relay relevant outcomes to the Minister. This set hierarchy of three meetings, each escalating information up a level from the junior staff to the Minister himself, allows for comprehensive gathering of reports from a wide-reaching scope of sources. However, the danger remains that with so many steps between the hard facts and the Minister, information may become lost or distorted en route should the smallest chink materialize in the communication chain.

Ad hoc or emergency meetings were also reported as accepted methods of communication within the ministries, occurring for example in the case when a Minister issues a new directive. The Director General is usually charged with delivering the information to the staff, who are in turn permitted to ask questions during the course of the meeting. The Ministry of Health explained that although all instruction received from Juba will pass initially through the Minister, this gentleman is also a politician, not a physician, and as such will call a technical meeting among his personnel in order to best design and implement any new health plan required.

Written correspondence is also a common way to dispatch information of which a formal record is required, as is often the case with letters. Copies of correspondence are created and distributed to the Directors of relevant units, who in turn report the contents to the junior staff verbally. For example, the Directorate of Public Service issued a decree that women were not permitted to sew during work time. A copy of the decree was produced and circulated to all staff. The Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs confirmed that sewing was now no longer an issue within the department, proving the effectiveness of this method.

Less common means of dispersing information include single- or multi-day workshops to educate staff on more complex directives. Feedback meetings may also be scheduled to coincide with the return of a Director from an official visit to Juba in order to formally convey information gleaned around the unit. There are also formalized procedures for coordinating with NGOs. The Ministry of Health reported Task Force Committees convening each Monday to discuss returnees and disease surveillance with its development partners.

The processes detailed above were clearly established. They were consistently reported throughout the Ministries and confirmed by lower members of staff who believed in their effectiveness. For these reasons, each Director General interviewed declared themselves satisfied that their staff were well informed of activity within their respective Ministries.

However, despite these positive practices, some gaps in procedures began to emerge during further questioning. Staff at the MoE complained that although it was protocol for a workshop to be held to disseminate the outcomes of ministry visits to Juba, this did not always occur. In addition, staff at the Ministry of Health reported occasional communication breakdowns resulting in information not being relayed. Staff across several departments also disclosed a lack of formal evaluation and praise systems, relying instead on the follow-up report issued by their superiors for recognition of a strong performance.

Poor infrastructure also poses a hindrance to communication. The logistics of visiting and delivering equipment to facilities and institutions in remote counties is problematic, and respondents reported insufficient vehicles for these tasks. Staff in the Ministry of Health claim essential medical equipment (e.g. for operating rooms and childbirth) is not available in remote locations due to these issues, as well as security concerns. Transportation even posed problems in the state capital of Malakal itself, as staff highlighted difficulties in reaching work during the rainy season.

### ***Plans and Proposals***

Priorities for ministerial action are filtered down from a national level (e.g. whether it be capacity building, construction, teacher training, etc.) but actual implementation is decided at state-level, with the exception of funds from Juba earmarked for specific purposes. These proposals were clearly and unanimously cited as following the same channels of reporting as all other forms of communication, i.e. Director to Director General to Minister. In the beginning, the relevant Director (e.g. Director of Widows/Orphans/Street Children etc.) will assemble his staff to arrange a draft proposal. If the funds for the project originate from donor partners as opposed to the national budget, the Director will also meet with the development partner(s) in the initial stages. The draft is presented to the Director General for comment and amendment until approved, signed, and printed on headed paper. This final draft is delivered to the Minister, as well as Administration & Finance, prior to arriving at the Council of Ministers.

Problems that emerge at any stage in this process are communicated back down the same reporting lines. Respondents placed a clear emphasis on authorization, procedure, and accountability, almost to the point of dogma. Accountability is in place but the process is laborious and may lack efficiency. Such a lengthy chain of reporting also leaves itself open to error and breakdown, should one element in the process delay or misplace information.

### ***Staffing***

Broadly speaking staff have been provided with job descriptions and appear confident with the remit of their responsibilities. Meetings are well implemented for pooling ideas and superiors are utilized for discussing and verifying ideas.

There were reports of some staff trainings occurring, often implemented in conjunction with development partners (e.g. UNICEF, ARC, etc.) on issues such as HIV/AIDS or gender-based violence. There were also reports of finance trainings provided by the Ministry of Finance and some specific sports trainings provided by bodies such as the African Football Association within the MoYSR. The Ministry of Health reported comprehensive capacity building being conducted in Juba by Kenyan consultants focusing on attitudes, delegation and people management.

This program was implemented alongside TOT (Trainers of Trainers), ensuring that those completing the course were able to train others so that expertise could be passed down from senior to middle and finally junior staff to ensure that knowledge and skills is shared throughout the Ministry.

However, a lack of training was recurrently cited as a problem among staff members. Some of the courses administered were considered too basic or too short in duration, and not comprehensive enough to be truly beneficial. In ministry focus group discussions, calls were frequently made for additional training in computers, with many citing their only instruction as personal experience. Appeals were also made for job-specific training. For example, within the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs, staff expressed a desire to participate in training on the Child Protection System as well as in income generation, which they aimed to disseminate to the community. Although many new recruits to the government are educated graduates, staff noted that this was not necessarily adequate preparation to discharge a role within

the ministries and “on-the-job” training was still required. Staff members in the payams were also described as suffering from a lack of training, due mainly to transport difficulties, logistics, and insecurity.

One of the biggest training challenges facing the Ministries came in the form of English language training. At independence, English was adopted as South Sudan’s national language, officially replacing the former Arabic, although this endures strongly as the lingua franca in the region. This is an issue affecting both the ministry staff themselves and those engaged in their employment indirectly, such as teachers and doctors. Fears were repeatedly expressed that even professionals who had received adequate training may have done so in Arabic and may thus be prevented from discharging their duties in English. In addition, these language barriers were even posing communication difficulties within the ministries, with some staff speaking only English and others only Arabic. Although some efforts had been made in this field, for example, the MoYSR reported free English language evening classes provided by local university lecturers, much progress is still needed to normalize the situation. Progress is also needed in the organization of training, which is either directed from Juba or by consultation with the Director General and his Directors. No ministry cited any formal system of assessing training needs.

In addition to these training issues, discussions with staff unveiled a culture of “it’s not my role;” such is the entrenchment of hierarchy and authority that there appeared a reluctance among staff to involve themselves in or aid colleagues with affairs that did not fall within the immediate remit of their authority. For example, when questioned on whether he was aware of any policies regarding youth within the Ministry of Gender, the acting Director General responded, “These policies are enacted by the Minister. If it concerns my department I am aware; if not, no.”

### ***Resources***

There is repeated reference to lack of resources as the fundamental problem of each ministry. Even basic equipment is severely lacking; staff report that mobile telephones are essential to communication but none are provided by the state and airtime is never reimbursed, despite promises to this effect from the Ministry of Finance. That said, in some ministries walkie-talkies are employed as a useful alternative to mobile phones given their long range and cost effectiveness. Some computer terminals do exist in the ministries, many of which were donated by UNICEF, but additional units are required. Even when computers are present, electricity for their operation is not assured, as reliable means/city power has not yet been achieved in the city and the majority of ministries are thus powered by costly generators. In the MoE, staff reported that the capacity of the generator itself was not great enough to support the ministry building. This power problem extends outside the principle towns; within the MoE, County Education Directors were provided with computers to assist their duties but they are not operational due to a lack of electricity in the counties.

Staff numbers are also low. The MoE reports a current student-teacher ratio above 150, despite policy specifying that this figure should stand at 50. To cover this shortfall, not only must the funds be available to recruit and train extra teachers, but the capacity of existing staff must also be addressed. Teacher recruitment pressures the budget, and the training period takes a lengthy three years to complete. In addition, the majority of teachers studied in Arabic and retraining is therefore costly. However, even in the event that personnel numbers are increased sufficiently to satisfy the deficit, there would still not be adequate building space to house new classes. This lack of building space was also encountered by the MoYSR; one compound building had been formally utilized as a youth center before being converted into offices to increase ministry space.

### ***Budgeting***

The budgeting process is lengthy and involves many participants, incorporating numerous checks and stages before completion. Every Ministry confirmed the existence of a Director of Budgeting and Planning to direct the procedure, although each document in the process is also second-copied between the Director General, the Minister and Administration & Finance before being related to GoSS.

The process for implementing the budget was universally confirmed by all respondents surveyed. Once finalized, the annual budget is delivered from GoSS to the state ministries in the form of a physical booklet, with a copy also directed to the state Ministry of Finance. Upon its receipt, each division meets to establish unit needs. Once the unit agrees in its priorities, the Directors of each unit convene to meet with the Director General to design the budget split within the ministry, a discussion which considers factors such as salary fees within each Directorate, operational costs of each Directorate, and existing capital within each directorate. This inevitably engenders disagreements between Directorates in the battle to ensure adequate departmental funding from an often-inadequate budget, but consensus of opinion agreed that these are always resolved.

Once completed, the plan is sent to the Budget Committee, after which it is sent to the Minister and then the Ministry of Finance for approval. It is also passed before the Council of Ministries and the Legislative Assembly of the state. If at any stage a problem is encountered, it is referred back down the same line of communication as it initially ascended.

Given that the budget is freely available for inspection within departments and the chains of approval are so long, standards of verification and accountability are high, leading to the universal perception within ministry staff that the system is effective.

In addition to the funding provided by the national-level government, state departments are also often the recipients of financial assistance from development partner organizations. Focus group discussions revealed that ministries enjoyed greater freedom of budgeting with means sourced from outside organizations. That is not to say that accountability is lower or the process for obtaining funds is less strenuous, but rather that the independence to decide where best to dispense the money is wider-reaching. In order to set this process in motion, the ministry submits a proposal to the development partner, who in turn will either accept or decline the proposal. In the case of acceptance, the promised funds are remitted by the donor for the Director General to request via the Controller. The Controller issues a directive for Administration & Finance to draw up a check to the value of the remitted amount in order to begin the project, before the obligatory report is filed. Once again, high levels of reporting and accountability are in place, making it difficult for individuals to access money without a stringent series of signatures and forms.

Praise for the budget has not drowned out all criticism, as certain issues were repeatedly raised by ministry staff. The principle concern related not to the actual budgeting process but rather to the ceiling budget distributed by GoSS, which was overwhelmingly deemed too low for all planned projects to be implemented. In fact, the budget was esteemed too low to cover even the basic needs of some departments; focus group discussions divulged a fundamental lack of materials, low salaries, and overcrowded offices. Since the signing of the CPA, the budget has adopted the “top-bottom” approach, meaning that direction is received from the top levels of government and conveyed down to the lower echelons. However, in situations such as this one it may be more beneficial for the direction to be reversed, as staff familiar with the situation on the ground are perhaps better placed to know where the budget should be focused.

Another issue raised was the heavy reliance on support from Development Partners, leaving ministries potentially subject to the whim of external policy. For example, the World Food Programme at one time supported a School Feeding Project by delivering school meals. Though after an unexpected policy change,

the organization's focus shifted to place greater weight on returnees and the program was terminated without alternative funding in place. This lack of control creates difficulties for long-term budget planning on the part of the ministries.

### ***Challenges Facing Upper Nile Youth***

When ministry staff were questioned on the largest difficulties facing youth in the state, several issues surfaced, mainly reflecting the relative concerns of each ministry. The MoYSR identified a lack of youth training as the most pressing concern, accompanied by insufficient materials and compounds. This was a response supported by the MoE, who cited a lack of educational resources as the biggest problem in their focus group discussion. This notion was expanded upon to highlight current problems within early childhood education. Many young children accompany their older siblings to school, where there is often no institution in place to receive them. These children require facilities and teachers for kindergarten education to acquire the basic knowledge needed to begin school. However, even if shelters are constructed, many must close during the rainy season. Due to a shortage of instructors, teachers are often commandeered from primary schools or parents offer assistance to meet the shortfall.

The Ministry of Gender was predominantly concerned with street children and insecurity in the counties. A focus group discussion revealed that there was a proposal for a street children's center outside of Malakal, but security concerns relocated it inside the town, drawing the children in to walk around the market and cause trouble. Another member of the focus group discussion also wished to highlight the plight of children in prisons, where there is currently no segregation between adults and children, leaving youth open to abuse.

For the Ministry of Health, nutrition and immunization (or lack thereof) were identified as priorities for concern, coupled with little assistance to help. The Ministry of Labor focused on the necessity of mobilizing youth to follow the right path and become good citizens.

### ***Current Youth Projects and Initiatives***

After identifying the issues affecting youth in their states, ministries were also questioned on youth projects currently being implementing to address these problems.

The Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs dispatches social workers to meet children who live on the streets, who are orphaned, or who face social problems. A street children's educational center has been established and medical treatment is provided for those who require it. There is also a program for returning street children to their homes if both parties (parents and children) are willing. In addition to these programs, the Ministry also promotes awareness among community leaders of the Child Act 2008 with an aim to address child mistreatment. Future projects include a proposal currently being written by the Director of Gender to implement workshops to tackle alcohol-fuelled youth violence in the streets.

A ministry especially hit by a lack of funds is the MoYSR. Many of the projects described were no longer operating, as the finances could not be found. For example, periodic celebratory youth camps were previously organized to celebrate special occasions, but these activities have now mainly ceased. There was a recent proposal for a sports camp between counties but this was also curtailed, as there were no means to fund it. The Ministry would like to arrange annual games and sporting competitions (e.g. volleyball, football, basketball, judo, athletics, etc.) both in the state capital and out in the counties; these are events that were previously arranged by the administration but have now been adopted by NGOs.

GoSS directives form the main focus for the MoE's programs; within the school curriculum there is a policy of arranging sports and activities such as singing etc., within schools. There appeared to be little action or

motivation to arrange youth-based projects outside the scope of the ministry's curriculum and school activities, which although set at GoSS level, may be evaluated and commented upon by state-level government. The ministry plans to train 600 teachers a year, although such targets are not always met and the intervention of development partners such as Solidarity is sometimes sought to assist.

Within the Ministry of Health, little information could be gleaned of current projects targeting youth in the specified age-range of 10-24. The ministry placed much emphasis on reducing maternity rates, implementing nutrition plans for young people and mothers and immunizing children against polio, tuberculosis, etc. but the only solid program to benefit youth in the state came in the form of plans to build a Complex Health Institute. This would constitute a vocational school offering training to medical assistants, nurses and midwives supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), although the facility's location in Malakal would offer little benefit to outlying areas.

The Ministry of Labor was not able to cite any youth-based project beyond its own employment strategies within the ministry. The Director General explained that the only way young people are currently being engaged is through the few who are appointed to a salaried position within the department. Selected on the basis of their education, they must pass through a selection committee where their documents (school certificate, nationality and birth certificate) are evaluated for positions such as clerks and bookkeepers. As can be imagined, the scope of this process is very narrow and will only benefit those who have already been privileged with education. That this process, which forms part of the normal functioning of a department, should have been described as a scheme to benefit young people serves to illustrate the cultural esteem levied upon government posts, one of the few employers in the state.

## **Development Partner Activity**

### ***NGOs/CBOs Operating in Upper Nile***

In addition to interviewing state ministries, a survey was also conducted among various NGOs and CBOs operating in the state. It was found that Upper Nile already benefits from an extended infrastructure of development partners, many of which have been operating in the area since before the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Some of these form part of large-scale international institutions such as Save The Children, Oxfam, and UNICEF who often pool resources by working in conjunction with smaller entities such as: South Sudan Christian Community Agency (SSCCA), Maban Relief Development Agency (MRDA), Nasir Community Development Association (NCDA), Nile Hope Development Forum (NHDF), Pochalla Peace Committee (PCC), Liech Community Development Association (LCDA), Lloia Community Development Organization (LCDO), Christian Mission Continuous Ministries (CMCM), Christian Relief and Development Agency (CRADA), Freedail International (FI), Assistance Mission Africa (AMA), Standard Action Liaison Focus (SALF), Sunrise Association for Development (SAFORD), Upper Nile Initiative and Development Organization (UNIDO), Universal Relief and Development Organization (URDOS), Vision for Community Development (VCD), Upper Nile Youth Mobilization for Peace and Development (UNYMPD), Upper Nile Kalaazar Eradication Association (UNKEA), Sobat Development Agency (SDA), Universal Relief and Development Organization (URDOS), and Serving and Learning Together (SALT). This work not only encompasses aiding young people in the state capital, but also extends into the counties and rural payams as far as transportation and communication will allow.

### ***NGOs/CBOs Objectives & Goals***

Few NGOs described explicitly supporting the implementation of government policy, although many of their aims and goals do relate to those of the government. As such, there are aspects of the MoYSR's Three Year Sector Plan that are still achieving results through the aid of NGOs, without this necessarily being the

express aim of the organization involved. No NGOs/CBOs reported actually contributing to the government policy setting process.

The majority of NGOs that are involved in youth-based projects concentrate their efforts on capacity building, especially as many of the smaller organizations are hampered in running material-based projects due to an unavailability of funding. For example, Pact South Sudan aims to build youth capacity in terms of basic life-skills training, to strengthen their ability to be better advocates of youth, and to find a voice in society. SOS Children's Village, which operates a large children's center in Malakal, also aims to build capacity through education and skills training. Organizations such as the Catholic Youth Organization in Upper Nile have similar goals, attempting to train youth in leadership, societal values and contemporary issues such as HIV/AIDS and tribal conflict.

In terms of the MoYSR's Three Year Sector Plan, the work carried out by NGOs is lending a heavy bias towards certain aspects. For example, in the area of increasing youth participation in voluntary service and South Sudan public affairs, the Catholic Youth Service (with support from the state government) is involved in developing and managing HIV/AIDS awareness and information programs for youth, planning gender sensitive programs, and strengthening existing youth clubs and associations. Also in this vein, Pact South Sudan works at engaging youth in civic education, which corresponds to the aim of organizing consultation forums on South Sudanese public affairs. However, even within this development objective, there are still areas that require attention, namely establishing and equipping a national training unit and team, three regional training units, and coordination of youth festivals, all of which are lacking progress from an ostensible lack of funds.

Good progress is also being made in the domain of increasing access to short-term vocational skills training for out-of-school youth. For example, Pact South Sudan facilitates youth skills training on borehole repairs, while the Catholic Youth Organization is both planning gender sensitive workshops, and training youth as trainers themselves to continue the cycle of transferring skills.

Other areas of the plan that are receiving attention from development partners include increasing youth access to well-structured sports and recreation activities. Organizations such as Pact South Sudan are reporting the establishment of sports competitions as a tool for peace building, thus filling the gap left by the underfunded MoYSR.

### ***NGO/CBO Gender-Specific Activities***

Some gender specific programs have already been launched and NGOs describe how women's groups have been utilized to spearhead a civic education and peace building campaign in the state. In addition to this, the Catholic Youth Organization also has plans to engage young women in female only education. However, programs targeting only male or only female participants remain thin on the ground.

### ***Additional Activities***

In terms of additional youth-based activities, a recurrent theme in the work of NGOs is an emphasis on peace building. Both Pact South Sudan and the Upper Nile Youth Mobilization for Peace & Development Agency (UNYMPDA) recount peace building through community-led dispute resolutions as an important aspect of their work. One of the current problems facing the region, especially at the end of the calendar year, is the arrival of cattle drivers from Jonglei state leaving their own dry pastures to seek more fertile grazing land in Upper Nile state. This migration leads to clashes between the newly arrived herders and the existing cattle communities, especially among the volatile youth. These peaceful discussion meetings have been introduced to bring the two groups together in an attempt to foster understanding between the two.

### ***Government Relationships***



NGOs describe maintaining good relationships with the Ministries. The consensus states that projects are freely undertaken as long as the NGOs cooperate, inform, and consult with the relevant Ministry. In return, access to Ministry staff is far-reaching: organizations are able to discuss their plans directly with the Director General or even the Minister. This mutual cooperation does not simply extend to the MoYSR, as good relationships also exist with other relevant ministries (depending on the genre of work being undertaken), including the MoE, the Ministry of Health, the former Ministry of Peace, the Ministry of Justice and State Judiciary, as well as the Ministry of Local Government, which County Commissioners represent. Interviews with NGOs revealed it is possible to simply show up at the relevant ministry and request a meeting with the relevant official to discuss individual proposals and requests. The Catholic Youth Organization even reported receiving support from the government in the form of materials, books, and stationary distributed via the MoE from development partners such as UNICEF, as well as six secondary school teachers on the MoE payroll.

### ***Problems with Government***

Lingering problems remain to be addressed regarding the relationship between NGOs/CBOs and the regional government. A respondent from Pact South Sudan spoke of government inefficiencies actually hampering the work of development partners in the region. For example, the lack of a functional disarmament policy contributes to the increased proliferation of small arms in the hands of youths, which perpetuates the cycle of instability. The absence of policies regulating and coordinating the organization of youth from national, state, and county levels increases the difficulty in identifying and targeting the most vulnerable youth; while a lack of clear policy on youth employment in the state leads to youth unemployment despite skills trainings. In addition to this, government preoccupation with party political issues encourages youth in the state to align themselves along political and tribal lines, splintering national identity and posing difficulties for institutions attempting to implement nation-building programs.

### ***Inter-NGO Communication***

As well as strong NGO-ministry links, inter-NGO communication is also cited as a factor that is currently performing strongly. A number of forums and co-ordination meetings are regularly held, including the Peace Actors Forum, Watch meetings, and WASH Sector Meetings that occur on specific days each week and month. These act as a forum for NGOs and CBOs to swap information on current projects and discuss relevant issues, allowing information to be pooled.

### ***Problems Facing Youth***

NGOs in Upper Nile, whose primary concerns revolve around improving the situation on the ground, were more vocal in describing the problems of youth than were the ministries, who have additional internal politics and issues to consider. The NGOs surveyed felt strongly that youth in the region were facing a myriad of problems; not least of which were the issues detailed below.

### ***Youths Returning from the Diaspora***

Youth returnees to South Sudan are largely English speaking, whereas those found in Upper Nile State converse predominantly in Arabic. Before English was adopted as the national language in South Sudan, most employers favored the Arabic speaking community, thus marginalizing the English speakers. Now, however, the equation is reversing and presenting new challenges.

### ***Attitudes to Work***

Most youth desire government employment, engendering a lack of motivation to engage in other work, especially manual labor roles such as construction. There is also a palpable lassitude towards the agricultural sector, which could have been exploited to uplift income levels and improve food security. These issues are

coupled with a lack of entrepreneurial skills, which in turn engender further problems such as unemployment.

#### *Education*

The South Sudanese educational system concentrates on promoting students with good grades to university level and pays little or no heed to vocational and skills training. There is also a chronic problem with youth illiteracy, especially in rural areas, and a large proportion of street children remain without formal education. There even exists a lack of awareness on the importance of tuition, resulting in parents not sufficiently encouraging their children to attend school.

#### *Politics*

Politicians have inculcated the youth to view each other through tribal lenses and inter-tribal projects are scarce. Due to a lack of education, youth can be manipulated and are often exploited by leaders for their own interests. Poor investment policies also do not provide sufficient employment opportunities for South Sudanese youth but rather foreign nationals from Ethiopia, Uganda, etc.

#### *Effects of War*

Children are especially vulnerable to the psychological effects of war. Many have been orphaned and suffer from social problems that alienate them from society at large.

#### *Rural populations*

Security still poses a problem for accessing rural populations and for organizing events and activities in the counties. In addition, a lack of infrastructure in the state means that there are areas that CBOs such as the Catholic Youth Organization have not yet been able to visit, leaving populations marginalized. Despite this catalogue of problems, hope remains high and there is still the belief that much can be done. During consultation with NGOs operating in Upper Nile state, several ideas were put forward as possible suggestions towards attaining sustainable solutions.

#### *Employment*

The design and implementation of programs to promote youth employment were advocated, especially involving youth in new government projects such as road construction. There were also calls for entrepreneurship and business skills training for youths, a discipline that has yet to establish itself in the region.

#### *Education*

NGOs visited felt that literate youths could benefit from English and computer training classes to advance their prospects, whereas in rural communities and cattle camps, functional adult literacy programs are required. The establishment of effective and sustainable vocational training facilities and programs to enhance skill acquisition for non-graduate youths would also likely provide additional employment prospects.

#### *Government Policy*

It was strongly felt by the NGOs consulted that implementation of new government policies could go some way towards improving youth's position in the state. For example, a strong policy against idleness could improve attitudes towards work and gender sensitive programs that emphasize female involvement in all societal processes, including female child education, could seek to redress the current gender imbalance. Design of an investment policy that promotes the employment of local youth by investors could go some

way to reducing idleness and increased investment in agriculture could be implemented as a youth job-creation tool to consequently raise living standards.

Perhaps one of the key points to recognize is that understanding often plays the most important role. In the example of clashes between Jonglei's migrant cattle communities and those based in Upper Nile state, it is impossible to attempt to resolve the issues without first drawing together those affected to determine the origins of the dispute. Without understanding the true nature of the malady, it is nearly impossible to propose a cure. Likewise, in order to engage children in education, it is necessary that its benefits be explained so that communities might understand the links between acquiring a basic education or vocational training and the ability to find work. It is only if this connection is understood that children will find the motivation to pursue an education.

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## CONCLUSIONS

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Based on the data presented in this assessment, the following conclusions are made from Upper Nile:

- **There was a high uniformity in the community in regards to the greatest challenges facing youth in Upper Nile State;** among them we find lack of educational opportunities, unemployment, forced marriage, domestic violence and insecurity from cattle raids.
- **The greatest challenge facing female youth is perceived to be forced and early marriage** while **unemployment was reported as the main challenge for male youth.** Youth that are fortunate to obtain jobs have usually done so by virtue of their personal connections.
- **There are few educational spaces available and students are often deterred from attending because of high school fees or long distances.** As such, access to education is a concern for both male and female youth. The quality of education is inconsistent as teachers are often not qualified, nor available in high numbers. **Girls are seen to be more disadvantaged than boys due to lack of parental support and societal constraints.**
- Security in the area is considered weak and the police are not regarded as a viable protection force. As such, **female youth are considered to be at risk of being raped while walking long distances alone, which increases at night. Male youth are more at risk for cattle rustling** as they are usually the ones attending to the family livestock.
- On the other side, **male youth with arms pose a threat to the wider society** and it was noted that people are afraid to go into the bush in search of food for fear of being attacked by armed youth. This fear reflects a much larger issue of **increased proliferation of small arms in the hands of male youth.** This problem is prevalent throughout South Sudan, and feeds into a cycle of repeated violence and instability, oftentimes deterring development actors from expanding activities to more rural and remote areas.
- **Health care services and facilities are limited as is the awareness and knowledge about HIV/AIDS.** Youth in the two locations displayed inconsistent levels of knowledge. In Nasir, males had a higher understanding of the causes of HIV/AIDS and the methods to prevent transmission, while female youth, regardless of age, displayed lower levels of knowledge about all aspects of the disease. **It was observed that not only is it hard to gain access to females, female youth are not encouraged to speak about these issues outside the household.**

Comparatively, female youth in Ulang were more likely to be aware of HIV/AIDS as well as possessing knowledge about transmission compared to their male peers.

- **WASH infrastructure and practices are poor and youth involvement is low besides girls and young women fetching water for their households.** However, in Ulang it was noted that some youth volunteer by collecting trash in the streets. In terms of water, safe and accessible sources are difficult to find when moving away from the county headquarters.
- **There are few livelihoods or employment opportunities for youth in the areas surveyed,** nor are there any programs offering continued learning after secondary school. When asked what they would be most interested in learning, youth aged 10-14 in Nasir clearly showed a high interest in journalism.
- **High levels of poverty coupled with few employment opportunities and high food insecurity has great impacts on societies.** In Ulang, it was reported that the lack of income-generating opportunities were linked to **parents pressuring girls to marry**, thus producing dowry for the girl's family. Furthermore, the lack of job opportunities has contributed to **male youth engaging in cattle raids to secure money** to purchase food. Lack of food was also raised as a reason for why **children do not attend school** or may drop out.
- **In Nasir, the majority of respondents indicated that they had taken out loans from family members (mainly parents) in the past.** This pre-existing system of community-based lending indicates that there is potential for micro-finance systems that rely on the community ties, personal relations and informal guarantees.
- **Youth attitude towards violence were inconsistent.** Though youth aged 15-24 showed low support for violent acts, youth aged 10-14 marked a high support for physical violence against children. Furthermore, domestic violence garnered relatively high levels of support.
- **There are no Youth Friendly Spaces available to youth.** Male youth engage in football on school grounds while female youth reported to practice traditional dances and story-telling among peers in churches. Insecurities also limit the youth's opportunities to engage in informal and impromptu past-time activities, as it is not wise to be out after dark. Girls are further restricted as they also have to tend to household chores.
- **Ministries are aware of the challenges and needs of the youth though their institutional capacity to effectively tackle these issues seems low.** Though ministries are staffed and well aware of their responsibilities, lack of funds, insufficient resources as well as lengthy bureaucratic procedures are discouraging staff in their operations. There was also a reluctance to go outside one's job description, which is reflective of the lack of initiative and lethargic environment present in the ministries visited.
- **Though there are discrepancies between ministries, all reported lack of resources (financial, material and human) as a fundamental problem in their operations.** Lacking elementary things such as adequate office space or basic office equipment, accompanied by a very restricted financial situation, **many ministry staff seemed unmotivated, as they felt unable to do anything.**

- **Lack of or insufficient trainings also pose a great challenge to the functioning of the ministries.** On-the-job guidance was highlighted as especially important as people may have an academic degree, though without experience they do not know how to perform their specific job tasks.
- **Upper Nile already benefits from an extended infrastructure of development partners who operates projects targeting youth,** among other groups. Organizations such as Pact South Sudan reported the establishment of sports competitions.
- **NGOs describe maintaining good relationships with the ministries.** NGOs are expected to cooperate, inform, and consult with the relevant ministry, and in return access to ministry staff is far-reaching and organizations are able to discuss their plans directly with the top-level.

## PART II: JONGLEI

With an estimated population of 1.4 million covering a total area of 122,479 square kilometers, Jonglei State is the largest state in South Sudan. Home to six Nilotic groups – Nuer, Dinka, Anyuak, Murle, Kachipo, and Jieh – Jonglei State has been the epicenter for recent inter-tribal violence that has resulted in the deaths and abductions of thousands of South Sudanese. Attacks between the Lou-Nuer and Murle tribes over the last year have escalated the retaliatory cycles of violence that have been endemic in the region for 150 years.<sup>41,42,43</sup> In 2011, approximately 40% of all South Sudanese conflict incidences occurred in Jonglei State.<sup>44</sup> That same year more than 1,000 individuals died in cattle raiding violence between the Murle and Lou-Nuer.<sup>45,46</sup> More recently, approximately 640 people were killed in Murle and Lou-Nuer fighting in Uror County in August 2011 and between 500 and 800 individuals were presumed dead or missing in Akobo County after a Murle raid that occurred in early March of 2012.<sup>47,48</sup> Insecurity in Jonglei has been further heightened by GoSS's renewed disarmament campaign that began in March of 2012.

The livelihoods and agricultural practices of Jonglei State stem from the four climatic-geographic regions present in the area: eastern flood plains, Nile-Sobat Rivers, hills and mountains, and the arid or pastoral lands towards the southeastern corner of the state. Average rainfall for these regions ranges from 400 mm per year in the hotter and more arid zones to 1300 mm in the flood lands.<sup>49,50,51</sup> In the flood plains, inhabitants primarily own and live off livestock and agriculture, supplemented by fishing, hunting, and wild-food gathering.<sup>52</sup> In the more arid areas, households almost exclusively depend on livestock and livestock trade for food.<sup>53</sup> With livestock playing such an important role in Jonglei's livelihoods, pastoralism sets the foundation for conflict as nomadic tribes enter other tribes' perceived territories, thereby increasing competition over scarce water resources and grazing areas, a consequence exacerbated by returning refugees from neighboring conflict areas.<sup>54</sup> As a result, food security worsened in 2011.<sup>55,56</sup>

Regarding health services, basic services, education, and poverty, though lamentable when compared to global standards, Jonglei is comparable to the rest of South Sudan. Jonglei's health sector, for example, usually has on par or slightly better estimated health indicators compared to the country's averages. While access to health care for the country averages at about 70%, Jonglei's rate beats the national average by two percentage points. Residents also own more mosquito nets (66% vs 60%); maternal mortality per 100,000

<sup>41</sup> NYTimes ([http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/06/world/africa/in-south-sudan-massacre-of-3000-is-reported.html?\\_r=2&ref=global-home](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/06/world/africa/in-south-sudan-massacre-of-3000-is-reported.html?_r=2&ref=global-home))

<sup>42</sup> qtd (Young 2007a; Garfield 2007). In <https://paanluwel2011.wordpress.com/2012/02/25/jonglei-the-case-of-abandoned-people-an-in-depth-analysis-of-the-tribal-crisis-in-jonglei-state/>

<sup>43</sup> qtd in [http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?iframe&page=imprimable&id\\_article=41774](http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?iframe&page=imprimable&id_article=41774)

<sup>44</sup> South Sudan Consolidated Appeal, OCHA, 18 ([docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/CAP\\_2012\\_South\\_Sudan.pdf](https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/CAP_2012_South_Sudan.pdf))

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.sudantribune.com/Murle-should-be-disarmed-first-in,41885>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-12-27/united-nations-urges-south-sudan-to-help-avert-possible-attack.html>

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.sudantribune.com/Jonglei-Over-500-people-killed-or,41862>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.sudantribune.com/Hundreds-killed-in-South-Sudan-s,39887>

<sup>49</sup> South Sudan Livelihood Profiles, 21; pastoral pages ([pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PNADH322.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADH322.pdf))

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.ssddrc.org/states/jonglei.html>

<sup>51</sup> Statistical Yearbook for Southern Sudan, 5 and <http://ssnbs.org/statistical-year-book/> (<http://www.wfp.org/content/south-sudan-faowfp-crop-and-food-security-assessment-mission-february-2012>)

<sup>52</sup> Annual Needs and Livelihoods Assessment 2010/2011, 62 (<http://reliefweb.int/node/389070>)

<sup>53</sup> South Sudan Livelihood Profiles, 21; 48-9 ([pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PNADH322.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADH322.pdf))

<sup>54</sup> qtd Fahey, 2006; Sundnes and Sahnmgaratnam, 2008: <https://paanluwel2011.wordpress.com/2012/02/25/jonglei-the-case-of-abandoned-people-an-in-depth-analysis-of-the-tribal-crisis-in-jonglei-state/>

<sup>55</sup> South Sudan Consolidated Appeal 2012, OCHA, 14 ([docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/CAP\\_2012\\_South\\_Sudan.pdf](https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/CAP_2012_South_Sudan.pdf))

<sup>56</sup> FAO/WFP Crop And Food Security Assessment Mission To South Sudan: 8 February 2012, 52-53 (<http://www.wfp.org/content/south-sudan-faowfp-crop-and-food-security-assessment-mission-february-2012>)

births is 1,861 (compared to 2,054); and neonatal, infant, or under-5 mortality rates all slightly edge under South Sudan's averages.

On other counts, Jonglei usually falls short. About 50% of the population goes without lighting at night (South Sudan's averages around 30%), 91% have no toilet facility (vs 80%), and Jonglei is the state with the lowest rate of telephone possession per household (5% vs 15% national average). Jonglei also ties for the state with the highest general illiteracy rate (84% vs 73%) and has the highest student to teacher ratio (84% vs 52%). Nonetheless, on levels of consumption Jonglei falls near the middle (98 SSP vs. 100 SSP per person per month).

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## COUNTY PROFILE: UROR & NYIROL

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### UROR COUNTY

With an area of 12,141.97 km<sup>2</sup>, Uror County is situated in the center of Jonglei State and is one of the state's eleven counties.<sup>57</sup> Uror is the most populated county, with a population of 178,519 people and 27,541 households.<sup>58</sup> The county is divided into eight payams, with the county headquarters of Yuai being located in Uror payam. The payam has a total population of 15,393, out of which 8,631 are male and 6,336 are female. Residents are spread out within the payam, and households scattered throughout. However, there is a tendency of clustering around main towns and village centers. Yuai is landlocked – as is much of Uror County – and there is no road linking the area to the nearest payam or to other counties. The road from Bor ends in Pamayi, which is a six hour walk away.

In terms of basic service there is very little that is available to Yuai's population as well as the greater population of Uror. In terms of health, there is one Public Health Care Clinic (PHCC) in Yuai alongside an MSF-run clinic in the headquarters, which also serves neighboring areas with health services. As far as education goes, primary school is the highest level possible to attain while staying in Yuai. In terms of water and sanitation, the main water sources are boreholes and water pumps.

Communication networks are poor throughout the state and there is very limited access to major cities like Bor, Malakal and Juba during the rainy season. Access is also hindered during the dry season because of the far distances, the lack of infrastructure and general terrain of the state. There is an airstrip in Yuai Town that is mainly used by United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) or United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), and the occasional charter flight by NGOs transporting supplies and staff. Some charters also carry in supplies from Juba, though the main good that is carried in is alcoholic beverages.

The market is mainly composed of makeshift structures made from wood, grass and iron tin sheets, with some traditional tukul structures surrounding the area. There is a very limited variety of goods and services. Besides shop keepers selling small quantities of very basic items like sugar and tomato paste and individuals selling slippers and rubber shoes from a makeshift corner store (i.e. a piece of cloth on the ground), tea shops and restaurants are the only services offered. At the time of the research, the majority of the market was empty, with most shops being closed or abandoned. According to the local residents, nothing is transported in or out of Yuai during the rainy season and the leftover stocks of what has been brought in

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<sup>57</sup> "Statistical Yearbook of Southern Sudan 2010," Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation. 12.

<sup>58</sup> "Statistical Yearbook of Southern Sudan 2010," Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation. 17.

during the dry season is quickly consumed until there is nothing. From this point, the people will have to wait until the rains end and the soil dries.

The soil in Yuai is a black clay soil and it is considered fertile, rich, and prime for cultivation. However, as there are no irrigation systems in Yuai, this potential is only utilized during the rainy season. The main crops cultivated are sorghum, maize and okra, with some people cultivating crops like onion, tomatoes and even watermelon.

Yuai does not have a large presence of national or international organizations. In addition to MSF, the Polish Humanitarian Agency (PHA) has a base in Yuai while the NPA has an agricultural officer working in the area though they do not have an operating base. In the fall of 2011, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) carried out a program on peace committees, organizing and training the youth to establish local peace committees throughout the county as well as in neighboring counties. The youth have also been activated by WHO as a part of their countrywide Polio Vaccination Campaign that was being carried out in the state at the time of the research.

The residents of Uror county are mainly Lou Nuer, and the local language is Nuer. Very few of the residents speak Arabic as Yuai was reportedly left untouched during the war. According to local residents, Yuai did not suffer from direct fighting or occupation by the North due to its remote location and lack of communication networks linking the headquarters, and county at large, to outside areas. As such, there have been little to no influence from the North in terms of language, customs or culture. Though seemingly less affected by direct fighting, a good proportion of the population has spent time abroad in refugee camps and settlements in neighboring countries such as Kakooma in Kenya and Dembele in Ethiopia.

In August of 2011, the neighboring payam of Pieri suffered from a violent cattle raid by the Murle. The attack took the lives of over 600 people while severely disrupting everyday life as most town residents fled to the bush and sought refuge in neighboring towns and areas. When the researchers visited the county headquarters in December 2011 it was reported that only about 1,000 residents remained in the town.

At the time of the research, there were a few instances of cattle rustling by the Murle on the outskirts of town. Cattle were stolen but there were no direct fighting or casualties reported. However, following the attacks, groups of young men – armed and unarmed – were seen walking towards the town limits to set up a defense line in case larger numbers of the Murle returned. Researchers also had problems finding young men in the age groups 15-19 and 20-24 as most of the potential candidates had left town. This incident highlights some of the challenges faced by youth, as well as the general population, in not only Yuai but in the county and state as a whole. The youth do not have many options in terms of livelihoods and many remain idle. Coupled with the high access to small arms in South Sudan, the young men usually constitute a crucial part of the local security ‘forces’ which forms when potential threats face the community, mainly cattle rustling by neighboring communities.

The research team also witnessed a fight between two young men in the market. When asked what the fight was about, they were informed that one of the men had impregnated the other one’s sister out of marriage and that this is a common occurrence among the youth in Yuai. Teen pregnancies are a challenge for the youth as it not only leads to higher dropout rates for young women but also leads to fighting and tension between the two families involved.



## NYIROL COUNTY

Comprised of a total population of 108,674 covering 7,137.43 square kilometers, Nyirol County is located in northeastern Jonglei State near the border of Upper Nile State and between Akobo and Uror counties.<sup>59</sup> Comprised of six payams – Chuil, Nyambor, Pading, Pulturuk, Thol, and Watt – there are a total of 60,567 males, 48,107 females, and 17,065 households in Nyirol County. Research was conducted in Waat Payam, home to 14,511 individuals and 2,117 households.<sup>60</sup> Residents of Waat consider themselves a sub-county of Akobo County due to the proximity of Waat to the edge of Nyirol and Akobo counties. There are 8,175 males and 6,336 females in Waat, the majority of which are members of the Lou Nuer tribe and have a history of engaging in cattle raiding in Murle in neighboring Akobo County.<sup>61</sup>

Waat is located an approximately nine hour walk from Lankin, the headquarters of Nyirol County. Completely landlocked, Waat is nearly impossible to access during the rainy season. Roads are impassible and the one functioning airstrip floods, preventing planes from landing. At the time of data collection, the only way to reach Waat by air was through charter flights or via once weekly flights serviced by UNHAS. Save the Children is the only NGO presently operating in Waat, however International Medical Corps (IMC) has a base approximately a 15-minute drive away in neighboring Akobo County.

The heart of Waat centers around a small market, which had completely burned down several days prior to the arrival of the research team. Shop keepers were in the process of rebuilding market stands during the data collection period, with a few tea shops, restaurants, and market stalls open for business. Given the size and location of Waat, the variety of goods and services available in the market is limited, but the research team observed powdered drink mix, powdered milk, biscuits, cigarettes, alcohol, soap and some household (food preparation and storage) items available for sale. Food is also a limited commodity in Waat, with few items outside of grains, onions, and potatoes for sale in the market.

There is only one healthcare clinic in Waat, which is currently overstretched. One doctor reported during a qualitative interview that he generally attended to approximately fifty patients per day, and only had access to very basic medical supplies and treatments. The clinic relies on Save the Children to fly in medical supplies and drugs, which becomes problematic during the rainy season when planes are often unable to land. There is also one pharmacy in Waat which sells medical products at a relatively high price.

## FINDINGS: UROR

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Insecurity, education, and unemployment ranked as the most challenging issues facing youth in Uror County. Within Yuai, respondents indicated a high level of insecurity between the Lou-Nuer and Murle tribes, characterized by frequent cattle raiding, retaliatory attacks, and trafficking and abduction of children. At the time research was collected, Murle youth raided Yuai in search of cattle. In total, four people died, one woman was abducted, and 370 cattle were stolen. Complicating insecurity is a lack of protection for the community Yuai. Youth reported that there are no protection services specifically for their age group with the exception of a few policemen stationed in the town. As such, the youth have formed groups to protect themselves, their families and community. Though most youth depend on spears to defend themselves when attacked, some also have access to fire arms such as AK47s.

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<sup>59</sup> “Statistical Yearbook of Southern Sudan 2010,” Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation. 18.

<sup>60</sup> “Statistical Yearbook of Southern Sudan 2010,” Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation. 18.

<sup>61</sup> “Statistical Yearbook of Southern Sudan 2010,” Southern Sudan Centre for Census, Statistics and Evaluation. 18.

With respect to education, youth in Yuai spoke of an inadequate number of school buildings, materials (textbooks, blackboards, etc.), and qualified teachers. Most teachers have been relieved of their duties, yet the government has not employed additional teachers in return. Female youth face particular challenges, in that forced marriage, a lack of parental consent, and shame of menstruation will prevent attendance. Trafficking in children by Murle is a great concern for parents and has led to children being prevented from attending school for fear they may be abducted while walking the long distances from their homes.

## BASIC EDUCATION, SKILLS TRAINING & LIVELIHOODS

TABLE 3. 9 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED IN YUAI

	Male				Female			
	15-19 Years of Age		20-24 Years of Age		15-19 Years of Age		20-24 Years of Age	
	n=26	%	n=20	%	n=24	%	n=25	%
<b>Employed</b>	14	53.8	12	60.0	11	45.8	7	28.0
<b>Unemployed</b>	7	26.9	4	20.0	9	37.5	15	60.0
<b>No response</b>	1	3.8	1	5.0	1	4.2	3	12.0
<b>Students</b>	4	15.4	3	15.0	3	12.5	0	0.0

There was a significant disparity between genders in the rates of employment. For male, 53.8% (n=14) of male respondents aged 15-19 were employed, and 60.0% (n=12) of male respondents aged 19-24 were employed. In comparison, only 45.8% (n=11) of female respondents aged 15-19 were employed, and this percentage lowered to 28.0% (n=7) for females aged 19-24. This most likely reflects cultural practices which mean that married women, especially those with young children, are less likely to be employed. Additionally, focus group participants reported that youth are being actively recruited into the Police, Prisons, and Wildlife forces, trained as school teachers and as Boma and Payam Chiefs.

When questioned about suitable income-generating activities, responses were generally consistent among male and female youth. The most frequently reported activities for men included business and sustainable agriculture skills training. On the other hand, tailoring, tourism (e.g., hotel), cooking/catering, and business skills training were commonly reported as suitable activities for women.

Table 4. 1 Percentage of youth that have received money and their relation to the lender in Yuai

Have you ever been given money by someone you know?	Male				Female			
	15-19 Years of Age		20-24 Years of Age		15-19 Years of Age		20-24 Years of Age	
	n=26	%	n=20	%	n=24	%	n=25	%
<b>Yes</b>	21	80.8	14	70.0	22	91.7	19	76.0
<b>No</b>	5	19.2	6	30.0	2	8.3	6	24.0
<b>Who gave the money?</b>	Male				Female			

	15-19		20-24		15-19		20-24	
	n=26	%	n=20	%	n=24	%	n=25	%
<b>Spouse</b>	6	23.1	4	20.0	10	41.7	3	12.0
<b>Parent</b>	13	50.0	7	35.0	7	29.2	11	44.0
<b>Sibling</b>	1	3.8	1	5.0	2	8.3	2	8.0
<b>Other Family Member</b>	0	0.0	1	5.0	2	8.3	2	8.0
<b>Friend</b>	1	3.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Community Leader</b>	0	0.0	1	5.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Religious Leader</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.2	0	0.0
<b>Other</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.0
<b>No response</b>	5	19.2	6	30.0	2	8.3	6	24.0

A high percentage of respondents across the board had been given money by somebody they knew, with no less than 70.0% of any age or gender category answering in the affirmative. This money was most likely to have come from parents or spouses. In contrast to the more informal loans given to people by relatives and friends, almost no-one reported having ever received a formal loan. Across all respondents aged 15-24, only three people had ever received a loan, demonstrating that this is currently a negligible factor. The high rates of respondents who reported having taken money in a more informal setting, however, suggests that there is a demand for a loan system such as a microfinance group.

TABLE 4. 2 COMPLETED EDUCATION LEVELS AMONG MALE AND FEMALE YOUTH IN YUAI

Education Level	10-14 Years of Age				15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
	n=75	%	n=86	%	n=73	%	n=x	%	n=64	%	n=x	%
<b>No Education</b>	22	29.3	26	30.2	27	37.0	30	40.0	24	37.5	42	60.0
<b>P1</b>	0	0.0	5	5.8	1	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>P2</b>	7	9.3	10	11.6	1	1.4	3	4.0	2	3.1	1	1.4
<b>P3</b>	13	17.3	16	18.6	1	1.4	3	4.0	0	0.0	2	2.9
<b>P4</b>	6	8.0	10	11.6	5	6.8	4	5.3	4	6.2	6	8.6
<b>P5</b>	9	12.0	9	10.5	1	1.4	10	13.3	0	0.0	3	4.3
<b>Above P5</b>	11	14.6	6	7.0	26	35.62	12	16	19	29.7	6	8.57
<b>No response</b>	2	2.7	1	1.2	3	4.1	1	1.3	4	6.2	0	0.0
<b>Previously attended</b>	5	6.7	3	3.5	9	12.3	12	16.0	11	17.2	10	14.3

Unsurprisingly, males in general had more schooling than females in all age groups. For the highest levels of education (above P5), males are roughly twice as likely to have attained such levels of schooling, a difference that is decreasing with time as access to education has increased since the CPA. The oldest group (20-24) had significantly less schooling proportionally (above P5) than the 15-19 age group, implying that younger generations have access to more educational opportunities. The high rates of individuals with no education, however, including 60% of females in the 20-24 age range, which admittedly drops to 30.2% for the 10-14 age range, still leaves plenty of room for improvement.

Male youth are likely to stop attending school if they are responsible for looking after the family's herd and are forced to walk long distances in search of grass and water for the cattle. Other youth interviewed noted that early marriage also affects male youth, and will result in boys dropping out of school after marriage. Traditional cultures were also reported as a hindrance to attending school, in that if a boy chooses to undergo tribal scarification as a symbol of adulthood, he is later to likely stop attending school.

As with many of the research locations, respondents in qualitative interviews presented differing ideas about the challenges facing male and female youth, with some participants believing challenges for Yuai youth were the same regardless of gender. However, it is clear that female youth in Yuai face unique challenges in accessing education. Respondents reported that a female youth may be forced to stop attending school if she has to attend to household chores (e.g. grinding millet for the family, fetching water, collecting firewood, cooking food for the family, and child care) or if the distance from the house to the school is far. As with many girls in South Sudan, early and forced marriage among Yuai youth effectively ends a girl's access to education. Qualitative interviews also revealed a perception that education will ruin a girl's reputation and consequently, her ability to secure a high dowry. Thus parents – as in most of the research locations visited – can be a significant obstacle to the ability of female youth to obtain an education. As one teacher noted, “If girls go to school, they will be spoiled by bad peer groups. This will make the girl lose dignity in the community and eventually boys will start avoiding her hence parents will lose dowry in cows.”

TABLE 4. 3 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL WHILE MENSTRUATING AND REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING IN YUAI

When you menstruate do you go to school? If not, why not?	10-14 Years of Age		15-19 Years of Age		20-24 Years of Age	
	n=20	%	n=56	%	n=50	%
<b>No, socially unacceptable</b>	2	29	15	27	14	28
<b>No, embarrassed</b>	1	13	14	25	10	20
<b>No, too painful</b>	2	29	6	11	7	14
<b>No, too difficult</b>	2	29	12	21	11	22
<b>Yes, attend school</b>	0	0	9	16	8	16

In particular, female Yuai youth reported experiencing feelings of shame when menstruating, and as the table above indicates, menstruation will frequently cause girls to stop attending school. In fact, 25% (n=14) of females aged 15-19 reported that they were too embarrassed to attend school during menstruation. In addition, failing to attend school during menstruation is not always self-imposed: one parent noted that “we don't know what the problem is among Yuai girls, whenever they go to school they start bleeding and get malaria. So some of us parents stop the girls in order to maintain their health.” This statement indicates a lack of knowledge and awareness surrounding female reproductive health, as well as the transmission and prevention of malaria.

TABLE 4. 4 MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE TO YOUTH IN YUAI

What kind of material for menstrual hygiene is available to you?	10-14 Years of Age		15-19 Years of Age		20-24 Years of Age	
	n=20	%	n=71	%	n=52	%
<b>Individual or washable cotton cloth</b>	11	55	29	41	25	48
<b>Leaves</b>	1	5	3	4	1	2

<b>Sanitary napkins</b>	1	5	0	0	1	2
<b>Tampons</b>	0		0	0	0	0
<b>Nothing</b>	6	30	39	55	25	48

Most females use either individual or washable cotton cloths when menstruating, or nothing. Though the sample size may not make the trend significant, older females (20-24) have a greater likelihood of not using anything (48%) while the youngest age group (10-14) is more likely to use cotton cloths (30%).

TABLE 4. 5 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO HIV/AIDS STATEMENTS IN YUAI

Question	15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	n=73	%	n=75	%	n=64	%	n=70	%
<b>Have you ever heard of an illness called HIV/AIDS?</b>	46	63.0	24	32.0	42	65.6	25	35.7
<b>Can people reduce their chances of getting the AIDS virus by having just one uninfected sex partner who has no other sex partners?</b>	27	37.0	1	1.3	23	35.9	23	32.9
<b>Can people get the AIDS virus from mosquito bites?</b>	7	9.6	6	8.0	5	7.8	6	8.5
<b>Can people reduce their chance of getting the AIDS virus by using a condom every time they have sex?</b>	20	27.4	6	8.0	22	34.4	13	18.6
<b>Can people get the AIDS virus by sharing food with a person who has AIDS?</b>	8	11.0	7	9.3	9	14.1	9	12.9
<b>Can people reduce their chance of getting the AIDS virus by not having sexual intercourse at all?</b>	22	30.1	1	1.3	16	25.0	5	7.1
<b>Can people get the AIDS virus because of witchcraft or other supernatural means?</b>	9	12.3	15	20.0	13	20.3	1	1.4
<b>Is it possible for a healthy looking person to have the AIDS virus?</b>	33	45.2	9	12.0	32	50.0	12	17.1
<b>Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during pregnancy, during delivery or by breastfeeding?</b>	11	15.1	n/a	n/a	14	21.9	n/a	n/a
<b>Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during pregnancy?</b>	n/a	n/a	9	12	n/a	n/a	10	14.3
<b>Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during</b>	n/a	n/a	11	14.7	n/a	n/a	13	18.6

delivery?								
<b>Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during breastfeeding?</b>	n/a	n/a	13	17.3	n/a	n/a	13	18.6

Male respondents were roughly twice as likely as female ones to report knowledge of HIV/AIDS, with 63.0% (n=46) of men aged 15-19 and 65.6% (n=42) of men aged 20-24 having heard of the disease, compared to only 32.0% (n=24) of women aged 15-19 and 35.7% (n=25) of women aged 20-24. Consequently, female respondents also showed much lower levels of knowledge of methods of HIV transmission, with only 8.0% (n=6) of women aged 15-19 and 18.6% (n=13) of those aged 20-24 thinking that people could reduce their chances of catching the disease by using a condom every time they have sex, as opposed to 27.4% (n=20) of men aged 15-19 and 34.4% (n=22) of men aged 20-24. False perceptions about the disease, however, were more equally spread between the genders, with for example 9.6% (n=7) of men aged 15-19 and 7.8% (n=5) of men aged 20-24 believing AIDS could be spread through mosquito bites, compared to 8.0% (n=6) of women aged 15-19 and 8.5% (n=6) of women aged 20-24.

TABLE 4. 6 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT HAVE COUNSELING SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES IN YUAI

<b>Is there a place in your community where young people are able to visit to talk about relationships, STIs, etc?</b>	<b>15-19 Years of Age</b>		<b>20-24 Years of Age</b>	
	n=75	%	n=70	%
<b>Yes</b>	15	20.0	15	21.4
<b>No</b>	60	80.0	53	75.7
<b>No response</b>	0	0.0	2	2.9

Community health workers interviewed noted that there is limited information on reproductive and sexual issues that is provided to youth. As the above table indicates, 80.0% (n=20) of youth aged 15-19 and 75.7% (n=53) of youth aged 20-24 reported that no center exists in Yuai where mental or physical health issues can be discussed. In addition, what little information and resources are available are effectively only available to youth that live within the center of the payam, and not to those youth living in more remote areas of the county.

Sexual and reproductive health information is typically disseminated by community health workers and a few trained youth leaders, then is spread during church services, community meetings, training, and awareness sessions. One obstacle to increased youth awareness is the lack of communication between parents and their children. Community health workers raised this issue in qualitative interviews, noting that parents do not discuss these topics on the basis that they are perceived to be immoral. Female youth are particularly disadvantaged, as they will be perceived as “spoiled” should they possess knowledge of HIV/AIDS, STIs, and other reproductive health issues.

In terms of WASH, discrepancies occurred in the information reported during qualitative interviews, in that some respondents indicated that youth in Yuai do not have the delivery of water and sanitation services due to the inadequacy of boreholes in the area, the insecurity caused by cattle raiding, and the lack of repair services (or capability) to maintain or fix boreholes. However, other respondents reported that youth have

conducted good hygiene practices campaigns in the community, including sensitizing their families on WASH practices. Respondents did agree upon the lack of boreholes in Yuai and Uror County.

TABLE 4. 7 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO HIV/AIDS STATEMENTS IN YUAI

Question	15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	n=73	%	n=75	%	n=64	%	n=70	%
<b>Would you buy fresh vegetables from a shopkeeper or vendor if you knew that this person had the AIDS virus?</b>	22	30.1	24	32.0	25	39.1	24	34.3
<b>If a member of your family got infected with the AIDS virus, would you want it to remain a secret or not?</b>	22	30.1	15	20	22	34.4	20	28.6
<b>If a member of your family became sick with the virus that causes AIDS, would you be willing to care for him or her in your own household?</b>	27	37.0	21	28.0	23	35.9	25	35.7
<b>In your opinion, if a female teacher has the AIDS virus but is not sick, should she be allowed to continue teaching in the school?</b>	26	35.6	14	18.7	24	37.5	13	18.6

Both genders have similar attitudes and perceptions towards HIV/AIDS-infected persons. Only about one-third in each group would purchase vegetables from an HIV/AIDS-infected vegetable shopkeeper. The most significant discrepancy by gender is how participants view HIV/AIDS-infected teachers: males double the number of females for those in “permitting” a teacher to continue their work in schools (around 36% instead of 18.7% across both age groups). Only in the 20-24 age group do males not outweigh their female counterparts in preferring to keep HIV/AIDS a secret or in caring for an infected family member.

TABLE 4. 8 PERCENTAGES OF VARIOUS CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS UTILIZED BY YOUTH IN YUAI

Contraceptive Method	15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	n=73	%	n=75	%	n=64	%	n=70	%
<b>Did not use anything</b>	0	0.0	39	52.0	0	0.0	35	50.0
<b>Don't know</b>	0	0.0	14	18.7	0	0.0	8	11.4
<b>Used condom</b>	11	15.1	13	17.3	13	20.3	16	22.9
<b>Diaphragm/female condom/cervical cap</b>	1	1.4	1	1.3	0	0.0	1	1.4
<b>IUD</b>	2	2.7	0	0.0	1	1.6	2	2.9
<b>Oral contraceptives</b>	1	1.4	1	1.3	0			
<b>Hormonal injections</b>	0	0.0	1	1.3	2	3.1	1	1.4
<b>Withdrawal</b>	1	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

<b>Calendar method</b>	1	1.4	3	4.0	1	1.6	1	1.4
<b>Vasectomy</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Emergency contraception</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Other</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.4
<b>Noresponse</b>	56	76.7	3	4.0	47	73.4	5	7.2

The majority of males in both age groups did not respond to the contraceptive method question (77% for 15-19 year olds and 73% for 20-24 year olds), leaving room for doubt about contraceptive use. All methods of contraception, except for condom use, which averaged about 19% by both females and males, were essentially negligible or nonexistent. Fifty percent of the females were the only ones reporting that no contraceptive method was used.

TABLE 4. 9 GIVEN REASONS FOR YOUTH NOT USING CONTRACEPTION IN YUAI

Reason for Not Using Contraception	15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	n=73	%	n=75	%	n=	%	n=70	%
<b>Want to have children</b>	1	1.4	8	10.7	8	12.5	9	12.9
<b>Religious beliefs</b>	3	4.1	6	8.0	4	6.2	6	8.6
<b>Partner does not agree with family planning</b>	0	0.0	1	1.3	0	0.0	2	2.9
<b>Relatives do not agree with family planning</b>	1	1.4	1	1.3	1	1.6	0	0.0
<b>Afraid of side effects</b>	0	0.0	1	1.3	1	1.6		
<b>Not aware of family planning</b>	8	11.0	6	8.0	5	7.8	5	7.1
<b>Difficulty in finding family planning methods</b>	1	1.4	2	2.6	1	1.6	0	0.0
<b>High cost</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	4.7	1	1.4
<b>Difficult to use</b>	1	1.4	0	0.0	2	3.1	5	7.1
<b>Infertility/menopause</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.9
<b>Partner not present</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		
<b>Don't know</b>	2	2.7	9	12.0	6	9.4	2	2.8
<b>Other</b>	8	11.0	5	6.7	0	0.0	3	4.3
<b>Woman does not agree with family planning</b>	3	4.1	0	0.0	1	1.6	0	0.0
<b>Man does not agree with family planning</b>	1	1.4	0	0.0	1	1.6	0	0.0
<b>No response</b>	44	60.3	36	48	31	48.5	35	50.0

About half of all respondents did not respond to why they did not use contraception; those that did generally claimed that the desire to have children (especially females and males in the 20-24 group: 13% each), religious beliefs (8.6% for females in 20-24 age group, decreasing to 4.1% for males in the 15-19 group), not being aware of family planning (7-11% of all respondents), and “don’t know” (12% for females in 15-19) where perhaps the most prominent reasons for not using contraception.

TABLE 5. 1 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS THAT FETCH WATER AS REPORTED BY YOUTH IN YUAI

Who usually goes to fetch water for the household?	15-19 Years of Age	15-19 Years of Age	20-24 Years of Age	20-24 Years of Age
	Female	Male	Female	Male



	n=x	%	n=73	%	n=70	%	n=64	%
<b>Adult woman</b>	64	85.3	64	87.7	60	85.7	55	85.9
<b>Adult man</b>	1	1.3	0	0.0	1	1.4	1	1.6
<b>Female child under 15</b>	9	12.0	7	9.6	8	11.4	7	10.9
<b>Male child under 15</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.4	0	0.0
<b>Don't know</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>No response</b>	1	1.3	2	2.7	0	0.0	1	1.6

Nearly all respondents across the board noted how adult women are the most likely individuals to fetch water, averaging about 86% from all respondents. Occasionally, younger females (under 15 years of age) will also fetch water, averaging about 10% for all respondents across all age groups.

A majority of respondents indicated that a borehole was their main source of water. Interestingly, significant numbers of respondents cited rainwater collection as their primary source of water, suggesting that this may be a sustainable method of water collection in this area.

TABLE 5. 2 YOUTH THAT ENGAGE IN WATER TREATMENT AND THE METHODS UTILIZED IN YUAI

<b>Do you treat your water before using it? If yes, how?</b>	<b>15-19 Years of Age Female</b>		<b>15-19 Years of Age Male</b>		<b>20-24 Years of Age Female</b>		<b>20-24 Years of Age Male</b>	
	n=75	%	n=73	%	n=70	%	n=64	%
<b>No do not treat</b>	33	44.0	0	0.0	18	25.7	0	0.0
<b>Filter cloth</b>	28	37.3	26	35.6	43	61.4	22	34.4
<b>Boiling</b>	8	10.7	5	6.8	2	2.9	5	7.8
<b>Bleach/chlorine</b>	1	1.3	1	1.4	1	1.4	1	1.6
<b>Solar disinfection</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0			0	0.0
<b>Let it stand and settle</b>	5	6.7	0	0.0	3	4.3	1	1.6
<b>Water treatment tablets</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.4	0	0.0
<b>Filter with straw</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.4	1	1.6
<b>Other</b>	0	0.0	0	0.0			0	0.0
<b>No response</b>	0	0.0	41	56.2	1	1.4	34	53.1

The most common method for treating water to make it potable was filtering it through a filter cloth; 61% percent of women aged 20-24 (who are most likely to actually treat the water) claimed this, though only about 34% of the other groups did so. No other treatment methods were significant, though over half of 15-19 male respondents did not provide an answer.

## PEACE & GOVERNANCE

Regardless of gender or age, respondents noted that violence associated from cattle raiding with neighboring Murle is one of the most salient threats to the community in Yuai and Uror County. Respondents also indicated a lack of inadequate protections for youth, particularly police or SPLA troops.

Unlike in Nyirol County, youth in Uror County consistently reported having several adults present with whom they could seek advice or present problems. Both male and female youth will talk with their parents

or a trusted neighbor and if necessary, chiefs, school teachers, and the County Commissioner are viewed as sources of help.

TABLE 5. 3 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATEMENTS IN YUAI

	N=95	%
<b>The male should not allow the female the same amount of freedom as he has</b>	31	32.6
<b>The dominant partner should keep control by using violence</b>	31	32.6
<b>It is alright to coerce ones partner into sex when they are not willing by forcing them</b>	6	6.3
<b>It is alright for a partner to choke the other if they hit a child</b>	24	25.3
<b>It is alright for a partner to shoot the other if they are unfaithful</b>	15	15.8
<b>It is alright for a partner to choke the other if insulted or ridiculed</b>	41	43.2
<b>It is alright for a partner to slap the others face if insulted or ridiculed</b>	28	29.5
<b>The partner is the appropriate one to take out the frustrations of the day on</b>	59	62.1
<b>Partners should work things out together even if it takes violence</b>	46	48.4
<b>It is alright for a partner to shoot the other if they flirt with others</b>	25	26.3
<b>It is alright for a partner to slap the other’s face if challenged</b>	29	30.5

When questioned about domestic violence, respondents demonstrated high levels of acceptance for certain levels of physical violence between partners. For example, 30.5% of respondents (n=29) deemed it acceptable to slap the other if challenged, and 43.2% (n=41) to choke the other if insulted or ridiculed. Coercing the other partner into sex was not however seen as an acceptable behavior, with only 6.3% (n=6) agreeing with this statement.

TABLE 5. 4 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE STATEMENTS N YUAI

Question	15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	n=26	%	n=24	%	n=20	%	n=25	%
<b>Prisoners should not get out of their sentences early</b>	23	88.5	20	83.3	17	85.0	18	72.0

<b>Capital punishment is often necessary</b>	14	53.8	13	54.2	11	55.0	14	56.0
<b>No matter how severe the crime, one should pay with an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth</b>	2	7.7	4	16.7	3	15.0	2	8.0
<b>Violent crimes should be punished violently</b>	6	23.1	5	20.8	5	25.0	5	20.0
<b>Any prisoner deserves to be mistreated by other prisoners in jail</b>	3	11.5	3	12.5	5	25.0	2	8.0
<b>Police should shoot students if they are demonstrating</b>	2	7.7	1	4.2	3	15.0	0	0.0
<b>Police should beat students if they are obscene</b>	4	15.4	4	16.7	4	20.0	2	8.0
<b>Any nation should be ready with a strong military at all times</b>	25	96.2	22	91.7	19	95.0	22	88.0
<b>Our country has the right to protect its borders forcefully</b>	26	100.0	22	91.7	18	90.0	24	96.0
<b>The manufacture of weapons is necessary</b>	22	84.6	17	70.8	19	95.0	22	88.0
<b>Our country should be aggressive with its military internationally</b>	9	34.6	5	20.8	4	20.0	11	44.0
<b>Killing of civilians should be accepted as an unavoidable part of war</b>	19	73.1	16	66.7	10	50.0	20	80.0
<b>No gender classification</b>	N=95					100%		
<b>War can be just</b>	75					78.9		
<b>Violence against the enemy should be part of every nations defense</b>	82					86.3		
<b>It is alright for the government to stop violent outbursts in neighboring countries with armed soldiers</b>	94					98.9		
<b>Violent revolution can be perfectly right</b>	46					48.4		
<b>Spying on our nation should be severely dealt with</b>	85					89.5		
<b>War in self-defense is perfectly right</b>	88					92.6		

The legacy of years of war is demonstrated by the extremely high levels of support for South Sudan having a strong and ready military, and for warlike activities. For example the statement “It is alright for the

government to stop violence outbursts in neighboring countries with armed soldiers” had a full 98.9% (n=82) of all respondents in agreement. Despite these high levels of support, such acts of violence were justified in terms of self-defense rather than active aggression, with 92.6% of respondents (n=88) agreeing with the statement ‘war in self-defense is perfectly right’, but only 27.7% (n=9) of 15-19 year old and 32.0% (n=15) of 19-24 year olds agreeing with the statement ‘our country should be aggressive with its military internationally’.

TABLE 5. 5 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN STATEMENTS IN YUAI

Question	10-14 Years of Age			
	Male		Female	
	n=16	%	n=27	%
<b>Punishing a child physically when he/she deserves it will make him/her a responsible and mature adult</b>	12	75.0	19	70.4
<b>Giving mischievous children a quick slap is the best way to quickly end trouble</b>	4	25.0	14	51.9
<b>An adult should beat a child with a strap or stick</b>	10	62.5	5	18.5
<b>A parent hitting child when he/she does something bad on purpose teaches the child a good lesson</b>	16	100.0	19	70.4
<b>Young children who refuse to obey should be whipped</b>	10	62.5	12	44.4
<b>A teacher hitting a child when he/she does something bad on purpose teacher the child a good lesson</b>	15	93.8	20	74.1
<b>Children should be spanked for temper tantrums</b>	9	56.2	4	14.8
<b>A child’s habitual disobedience should be punished physically</b>	15	93.8	17	63.0
<b>An adult should choke a child for breaking the law</b>	11	68.8	13	48.1
<b>Age Category 15-24 (non-gender specific)</b>	n=x		%	
<b>Punishing a child physically when he/she deserves it will make him/her a responsible and mature adult</b>	59		62.1	
<b>An adult should beat a child with a strap or stick</b>	54		56.8	
<b>A parent hitting child when he/she does something bad on purpose teaches the child a good lesson</b>	78		82.1	
<b>Young children who refuse to obey should be whipped</b>	26		27.4	
<b>A teacher hitting a child when he/she does something bad on purpose teacher the child</b>	77		81.1	

<b>a good lesson</b>		
<b>Children should be spanked for temper tantrums</b>	29	30.5
<b>A child's habitual disobedience should be punished physically</b>	59	62.1
<b>An adult should choke a child for breaking the law</b>	34	35.8

Even amongst the youngest age category of children aged 10-14, there were very high reported rates of agreement to violence against children. For example, the statement 'a parent hitting a child when he/she does something bad on purpose teaches them a good lesson' was agreed to by 100.0% of males (n=16), and 70.4% (n=19) of females. Even statements which suggested high levels of violence, such as 'young children who refuse to obey should be whipped' garnered high levels of support, with this statement having 62.5% (n=10) of males and 44.4% (n=12) of females agreeing with it. Interestingly, older respondents were generally less likely to show support for the more extreme forms of punishments, with only 27.4% of respondents (n=26) agreeing with the aforementioned statement. Despite the lower level, this is still nearly a third of respondents, however, and this demonstrates the high levels of acceptance for physically punishing children within the local community, even if this includes levels which could potentially seriously injure the child.

#### YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES

TABLE 5. 6 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH WITH ACCESS TO YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES IN YUAI

Youth groups in area	15-19 Years of Age Female		15-19 Years of Age Male		20-24 Years of Age Female		20-24Years of Age Male	
	n=24	%	n=26	%	n=25	%	n=20	%
	Yes	18	75.0	18	69.2	13	52.0	14
No	6	25.0	8	30.8	12	48.0	6	30.0

Youth centers in area	15-19 Years of Age Female		15-19 Years of Age Male		20-24 Years of Age Female		20-24 Years of Age Male	
	n=24	%	n=26	%	n=25	%	n=20	%
	Yes	23	95.8	23	88.5	21	84.0	19
No	1	4.2	3	11.5	4	16.0	1	5.0

While quantitative data indicates a high prevalence of youth groups and centers in Yuai and surrounding Uror County, qualitative interviews suggest otherwise. In fact, respondents frequently noted a lack of youth centers or other youth-friendly spaces. Some participants indicated that female youth are able to gather at traditional marriage ceremonies, while male youth gather at church or while playing football. There are youth groups in each payam with a leader to present their issues to the government. Community Healthcare Workers (CHWs) noted in a focus group discussion that youth are normally organized during social events and are segregated by sex. Additionally, youth tend to organize themselves, particularly whenever there is a looming problem (e.g., cattle raiding attacks), and will also address disputes among

themselves or other youth in the community; provide food for families; cultivate farms; and build tukuls for their families. However, female youth do not have equal representation in any of these activities, as “girls are not supposed to be in equal footing with young boys or men.”

TABLE 5. 7 YOUTH EDUCATIONAL AREAS OF INTEREST IN YUAI

	<b>Male</b>		<b>Female</b>	
	n=16	%	n=27	%
<b>Journalism</b>	6	37.5	2	7.4
<b>Radio production</b>	0	0.0	2	7.4
<b>Music production</b>	8	50.0	6	22.2
<b>Culture and arts</b>	6	37.5	13	48.1
<b>Rights advocacy</b>	0	0.0	6	22.2
<b>None of the above</b>	1	6.2	5	18.5
<b>Other</b>	1	6.2	0	0.0

Respondents were most likely to be interested in learning about music production (50.0%, n=8), while male youth selected culture and arts and journalism (each category at 37.5%, n=6) and females indicated an interest in culture and arts (48.1%, n=13), rights advocacy and music production (each category at 22.2%, n=6).

## FINDINGS: NYIROL

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Similar to its sister payams, Waat faces severe challenges with educating youth, increasing health care and HIV/AIDS awareness, enforcing good hygiene practices, and perhaps most significantly, containing violence for all age groups. Education is limited by the usual reasons of teachers not having sufficient monetary incentives to do their work, while females drop out of school for household chores, early pregnancies, forced marriages, menstruation, or the need to find a husband (in the market). Young males (aged 10-14) are significantly at risk from stopping school as they are obliged to begin cattle herding.

WASH practices and health services are likewise insufficient: rubbish is everywhere (despite a reported “hygiene committee”); flies and unhygienic practices—like playing with an animal carcass—are not considered worrisome; and the hospital is overstretched and limited in supplies. HIV/AIDS awareness is inconsistent, though those who have heard of it usually have misconceptions (i.e., regarding routes of transmission), and condoms are prohibitively expensive given the lack of available income or income-generating activities for the majority of youth in Waat.

Violence is endemic and pervasive in Waat; a great majority of youth has either witnessed violent cattle raids or has lost close siblings, and conception of the “antagonistic” Murle tribe do not easily engender reconciliation. Nonetheless, there is one bright spot for Waat: there is one large and functioning youth group that is open to the idea of hosting or competing with Murle youth in sporting activities. The youth group also has come together to form informal medical insurance for members (paid for with dues); helping to resolve family conflicts (i.e., regarding pregnancies); organizing competitive sporting events even with other areas; and organizing night-life social scenes like discos.

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## BASIC EDUCATION, SKILLS TRAINING & LIVELIHOODS

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Youth interviewed during qualitative research indicated that they placed value on an education, and this is demonstrated by local customs, as one respondent claimed that an uneducated girl was worth only eight cows in marriage, whereas an educated girl was worth thirty-five cows. A majority of youth spoken with during qualitative interviews reported having attended school. However, they claimed there were often problems with teacher attendance, as teachers do not receive a regular salary from the government and therefore often miss classes. During the research period all schools were closed for a couple of months due to the dry season, during which time a high percentage of children, especially boys, go to the cattle camps. This is disruptive for education and respondents identified going to cattle camps as the primary reason for boys being unable to go to school. Despite the timing of the holidays to match the dry season, this does not encompass the entire time boys go away, as some will leave for up to four months at a time.

TABLE 5. 8 COMPLETED EDUCATION LEVELS AMONG MALE AND FEMALE YOUTH IN WAAT, NYIROL

Education Level	10-14 Years of Age				15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
	n=96	%	n=99	%	n=53	%	n=45	%	n=110	%	n=83	%
No Education	26	27.1	24	24.2	8	15.1	11	24.4	23	20.9	30	36.1
P1	5	5.2	6	6.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	.9	3	3.6
P2	13	13.5	19	19.2	1	1.9	5	11.1	2	1.8	6	7.2
P3	21	21.9	9	9.1	9	17.0	8	17.8	5	4.5	8	9.6
P4	6	6.2	14	14.1	10	18.9	3	6.7	9	8.2	11	13.3
P5	9	9.4	8	8.1	4	7.5	8	17.8	6	5.5	3	3.6
Above P5	5	5.2	7	7.1	18	34.0	7	15.6	50	45.45	17	20.48

Despite claims of valuing education, there remains a large discrepancy among male and female youth in the amount of education received. Female youth remain severely underrepresented in schools, with 24.2% (n=24) of female youth aged 10-14 never having attended school, while 24.4% (n=11) of females aged 15-19 and 36.1% (n=30) of females aged 20-24 have never received any education. Of male youth surveyed, boys aged 10-14 reported having the least amount of education, with 27.1% (n=26) having never attended school. While male youth aged 10-14 remain a disadvantaged and at-risk group, the data is significantly more positive for older males. Specifically, 34% (n=18) of males aged 15-19 and 45.5% (n=50) of males aged 20-24 have attended school above the P5 level.

For girls, the primary reasons identified for being unable to attend school included assisting with household chores and childcare, early marriage, and pregnancy. Female youth indicated in qualitative interviews that they started doing significant amounts of household chores from around age seven, including fetching water, grinding maize, and cleaning. When asked how they spent a normal day all girls interviewed immediately spoke about household chores, in many cases finding it difficult to identify an activity they regularly did that was not a household chore. For example, when asked about what leisure activities they did for fun, two thirteen-year-old girls replied “grinding maize and mudding tukuls.” Girls are also sometimes forced into marriage, and even if they are not forced are likely to marry early. One pair of fifteen year old girls even identified the reason they were not attending school as their need to find a husband, meaning they preferred to spend their days in the market rather than in a classroom.



TABLE 5. 9 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL WHILE MENSTRUATING AND THE REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING IN WAAT

When you menstruate do you go to school? If not, why not?	10-14 Years of Age		15-19 Years of Age		20-24 Years of Age	
	n=99	%	n=45	%	n=83	%
No, socially unacceptable	4	4.0	9	20.0	9	10.8
No, embarrassed	7	7.1	2	4.4	0	0.0
No, too painful	1	1.0	0	0.0	4	4.8
No, too difficult	3	3.0	22	48.9	57	68.7
Yes, attend school	0	0.0	7	15.6	6	7.2
No other	4	4.0	5	11.1	7	8.4
No response	80	80.8	0	0.0	0	0.0

In addition to forced marriage/pregnancy and household chores, menstruation is also likely to prevent female youth in Waat from attending school. Of females aged 15-19, 48.9% (n=22) reported that it was too difficult to attend school while menstruating, while 68.7% (n=57) of females aged 20-24 also reported that they would not attend school during menstruation given the difficulties experienced.

Children under the age of sixteen also frequently work in paid employment in the market, helping out at their relatives' tea shops (for girls) and shops (for boys). Although the children interviewed during this research stipulated they did not miss class to do this work, this is also one potential aspect of some children not attending school. Generally, the money the children earned for this work was given over to their parents, rather than being spent by the children themselves.

Youth did not report being involved in service delivery in terms of health and (WATSAN), apart from the girls' role in collecting water for the household. Some youth reported that there was a 'hygiene committee' organized by the government, which was responsible for cleaning up rubbish in the market. Observations by the research team, however, demonstrated that if such a committee exists it is not having any significant impact on the market, which has a lot of rubbish strewn throughout. In general Waat has a lot of rubbish in the open air, particularly empty beer cans, and there are an extremely large number of flies in the area. It was observed that mothers did not seem aware of the role flies play in spreading disease, and that both parents and children were unperturbed by sometimes dozens of flies crawling on small children and into their eyes, mouths and noses. Awareness of good hygiene practice is not much in evidence: for example in one household, parents made no attempt to prevent several children under the age of ten from playing with the half-eaten carcass of a stillborn lamb.

There is only one clinic in Waat, which is very overstretched. One doctor reported during a qualitative interview that he generally saw around fifty patients per day, and that he had only very basic medical supplies. This can be a particular problem during the rainy season, as medical supplies are largely flown in

by Save the Children, and the airstrip can become unusable for several weeks at a time due to water on the runway. There is also one pharmacy in Waat which sells medical products at a relatively high price.

Youth in Waat were mostly embarrassed to talk about contraception and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Several of them (mainly males) said that they were aware of HIV/AIDS, but the majority of those who made this claim had certain misconceptions about the disease; primarily that it was ‘the use of sharp objects’ that spread the disease, without any mention of the sharing of blood. Several youth, particularly females, said they had never heard of the disease. In relation to other STIs, youth were highly embarrassed to talk about them, however, the local pharmacist reported that they were a common occurrence and that people often came looking for drugs to treat STIs. People were generally aware of condoms, but not of any other forms of contraception. The pharmacy in Waat sells condoms at a price of 5 SSP per condom, an exorbitantly high price that puts them out of the reach for the general population. They are also available in the county headquarters, but this is relatively far away so few people take advantage of this.

TABLE 6. 1 YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO HIV/AIDS STATEMENTS IN WAAT

Question	15-19 Years of Age				20-24 Years of Age			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	n=53	%	n=45	%	n=110	%	n=83	%
Have you ever heard of an illness called HIV/AIDS?	30	56.6	32	71.1	77	70.0	59	71.1
Can people reduce their chances of getting the AIDS virus by having just one uninfected sex partner who has no other sex partners?	21	39.6	8	17.8	54	49.1	21	25.3
Can people get the AIDS virus from mosquito bites?	1	1.9	1	2.2	4	3.6	5	6.0
Can people reduce their chance of getting the AIDS virus by using a condom every time they have sex?	23	43.4	7	15.6	50	45.5	19	22.9
Can people get the AIDS virus by sharing food with a person who has AIDS?	2	3.8	0	0.0	3	2.7	1	1.2
Can people reduce their chance of getting the AIDS virus by not having sexual intercourse at all?	19	35.8	10	22.2	48	43.6	11	13.3
Can people get the AIDS virus because of witchcraft	2	3.8	0	0.0	6	5.5	1	1.2

or other supernatural means?								
Is it possible for a healthy looking person to have the AIDS virus?	10	18.9	12	26.7	24	21.8	28	33.7
Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during breastfeeding?	21	39.6	29	64.4	64	58.2	53	63.9
Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during pregnancy?	N/A	N/A	4	8.9	N/A	N/A	18	21.7
Can the virus that causes AIDS be transmitted from a mother to her baby during delivery?	N/A	N/A	22	48.9	N/A	N/A	54	65.1

The quantitative data supports findings discovered during qualitative interviews, with most youth indicating an awareness of HIV/AIDS and yet also presenting a facile knowledge of ways to prevent transmission. Also, male youth presented consistently higher levels of awareness about HIV/AIDS than female youth interviewed. While 70.0% (n=77) of males aged 20-24 reported having heard of HIV/AIDS, only 49.1% (n=54) agreed that transmission of the AIDS virus could be reduced by having just one uninfected sex partner who has no other partners. Conversely, 71.1% (n=59) of females aged 20-24 knew of HIV/AIDS but only 25.3% (n=21) agreed that monogamous sex with an uninfected partner would reduce the chances of being infected with the AIDS virus.

In terms of family planning, all respondents did not perceive this as a desirable or necessary practice. All respondents to qualitative interviews saw having a large number of children as the norm, and children would often express a desire to have more than ten children when they grew up. Similarly, all respondents saw no purpose in delaying pregnancy after marriage. One female respondent, aged 21, had been married for three years without conceiving, identified difficulty in conceiving as the biggest problem that young women faced, and said that if she and her husband did not conceive soon she might try to find a different husband. The sole respondent who reported regularly using contraception was one 23 year old woman who had suffered from a severe disease for several years.<sup>62</sup> Due to this illness they had been advised that pregnancy would be harmful to her health, and her husband, a soldier with a regular salary, had therefore paid for her to fly to Kampala, both for treatment of the illness and to buy a large number of condoms.

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## PEACE & GOVERNANCE

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<sup>62</sup> The respondent was unwilling to specify exactly what illness

As with all ages of the populace, the youth in Waat have seen a great deal of violence. Roughly 70% of participants in qualitative interviews had witnessed a cattle raid with their own eyes, and described seeing people killed and children kidnapped. Two boys from separate focus group discussions, one aged eleven and one aged thirteen, reported having been badly injured during a cattle raid, both by spears. In addition, one woman in her early twenties reported having been shot during a raid a few years before. The prevalence of violence to this day was also exhibited by the research team itself: of the sixteen local young men employed for this research, one had watched his wife and baby child murdered during a cattle raid less than one year ago, and another lost a brother in a cattle raid north of Waat during the research period. When condolences for his loss were expressed his reply demonstrated the daily reality of violence in the area: “It is no problem, we are in a war and people often die”.

Given that young boys start going to the cattle camps for up to four months from the age of ten, children are often exposed to violence from a young age. All boys interviewed who had spent time in cattle camps had witnessed a cattle raid. From the age of eighteen boys will start to carry spears and/or guns to defend the camp, whereas younger boys will simply try to run away. The importance of cattle to youth is mainly focused upon the necessity of owning cows in order for men to marry, and owning cattle is therefore seen as an integral aspect of life rather than a lifestyle choice. All male respondents questioned indicated that the age they would get married would depend on when they had succeeded in getting enough cattle, and all the older youth were currently in the process of trying to get more cattle. The above-mentioned youth who had lost his wife and baby the previous year also spoke bitterly of how all of his cattle had been lost in this raid, and how this had brought him “back to the start” in trying to gather enough cattle to be able to marry again. During the course of research, none of the respondents mentioned the possibility of ceasing to own cattle as a way of solving or mitigating the violence between the Luo Nuer and the Murle, all assumed that both tribes would continue to keep cattle and the way to solve the problem was to prevent cattle raiding.

TABLE 6. 2 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN STATEMENTS IN WAAT

Question	10-14 Years of Age	
	n=37	%
Punishing a child physically when he/she deserves it will make him/her a responsible and mature adult	15	40.5
Giving mischievous children a quick slap is the best way to quickly end trouble	33	89.2
An adult should beat a child with a strap or stick	2	5.4
A parent hitting child when he/she does something bad on purpose teaches the child a good lesson	36	97.3
Young children who refuse to obey should be whipped	29	78.4
A teacher hitting a child when he/she does something bad on purpose teaches the child a	36	97.3

good lesson		
Children should be spanked for temper tantrums	30	81.1
A child's habitual disobedience should be punished physically	36	97.3
An adult should choke a child for breaking the law	33	89.2

Unsurprisingly given their exposure to violence at an early age, youth aged 10-14 reported high levels of support for intimate violence. In particular, 97.3% (n=36) of youth supported statements involving a parent or teacher hitting a child in order to teach the child a good lesson and the statement that “a child’s habitual disobedience should be punish physically.” Additionally, youth were supportive of more severe forms of violence, with 89.2% (n=33) agreeing with the statement that “an adult should choke a child for breaking the law.”

Despite the high prevalence of violence and the perception that it was only the Murle who raided cattle camps (all Luo Nuer aggression reportedly being ‘in defense only’), respondents were unequivocally keen on ending the violence. Youth expressed sentiments such as “if the violence was ended we would even marry the Murle men!”, and had positive reactions to suggestions of Murle youth coming to socialize with them. Government officials and community members said that now they have peacefully disarmed they are hoping that NGOs will come into the area. This was oft repeated, as the community felt that the reason for the lack of many NGOs in the area was due to the violence, and therefore hope this situation will now change.

TABLE 6. 3 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT ANSWERED “YES” TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATEMENTS IN WAAT

Question	Female		Male	
	n=23	%	n=15	%
15. The male should not allow the female the same amount of freedom as he has	14	60.9	10	66.7
16. The dominant partner should keep control by using violence	15	65.2	11	73.3
17. It is alright to coerce ones partner into sex when they are not willing by forcing them	4	17.4	4	26.7
18. It is alright for a partner to choke the other if they hit a child	7	30.4	6	40.0
20. It is alright for a partner to shoot the other if they are unfaithful	8	34.8	6	40.0

21. It is alright for a partner to choke the other if insulted or ridiculed	14	60.9	10	66.7
22. It is alright for a partner to slap the others face if insulted or ridiculed	20	87.0	14	93.3
23. The partner is the appropriate one to take out the frustrations of the day on	18	78.3	11	73.3
24. Partners should work things out together even if it takes violence	12	52.2	11	73.3
25. It is alright for a partner to shoot the other if they flirt with others	8	34.8	7	46.7
26. It is alright for a partner to slap the others face if challenged	20	87.0	14	93.3

Attitudes towards violence that are positive are largely shared among males and females in the 15-25 age group. As the table above indicates, males and females support intimate forms of violence, with 87.0% of females (n=20) and 93.3% of males (n=14) agreeing that it is permissible for an individual to slap his or her partner in the face if insulted, ridiculed, or challenged. Additionally, 65.2% of females (n=15) and 73.3% of males (n=11) indicated that the dominant partner in a relationship should maintain control by the use of violence.

#### YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES

There is one large youth group in the area, which roughly half of the youths spoken to during qualitative research were members. Membership of this group costs a small amount of money per month, in return members who have an urgent medical problem can receive grants for transport to the nearest hospital. The youth group therefore acts as a form of medical insurance. In addition, the leaders of the youth group sometimes help when a youth has issues, for example when a young man gets a girl pregnant, the youth group may help to facilitate a solution with the parents of the girl. The youth groups also have social events, primarily football matches for boys and volleyball matches for girls. Sometimes teams travel to neighboring counties to play youth groups there, and when asked whether they would like to travel to a Murle area or host Murle youths for such a sporting event, all youths questioned indicated that although this has not happened before they would like this to be organized. Occasionally the youth group also organizes discos in Waat, where music is played outside and youths pay a very small entry fee to come and dance and socialize.

TABLE 6. 4 YOUTH EDUCATIONAL AREAS OF INTEREST IN WAAT

	n=37	%
Culture and arts	18	48.6

Journalism	1	2.7
Music production	2	5.4
None of the above	7	18.9
Other	4	10.8
Radio production	2	5.4
Rights advocacy	3	8.1

Youth interviewed in quantitative surveys indicated an interest in participating in activities outside of sports, with 48.6% (n=18) responding positively to learning about culture and arts.

TABLE 6. 5 PERCENTAGE OF YOUTH THAT HAVE COUNSELING SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES IN WAAT

Is there a place in your community where young people are able to visit to talk about relationships, STIs, etc?	Female				Male			
	15-19 Years of Age		20-24 Years of Age		15-19 Years of Age		20-24 Years of Age	
	n=45	%	n=83	%	n=53	%	n=110	%
No	40	88.9	76	91.6	51	96.3	107	97.3
Yes	5	11.1	7	8.4	2	3.7	3	2.7

There also exists a lack of youth-friendly spaces that are non-recreational. As mentioned previously, youth in Waat are largely embarrassed or reticent to discuss HIV/AIDS, STIs, and reproductive health. As indicated in the table above, 88.9% (n=40) of youth aged 15-19 and 91.6% (n=76) of youth aged 20-24 indicated that there is no place in Waat for young people to talk to or obtain information from professionals about sensitive mental and physical health-related issues, which can lead to youth feeling uncomfortable when speaking about these issues with themselves or strangers.

## FINDINGS: INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF CBOS AND MINISTRIES

### Jonglei State Government Ministries

#### *Roles and Responsibilities*

State ministries in Jonglei performed strongly when questioned on their understanding of the roles and responsibilities of their respective departments. All ministries visited were able to concisely define their remit, with the sole exception of the Directorate of Sport, which admitted to still being in the process of setting its vision and mission statement, although the fact that this was clearly on the agenda is promising.

There was also a clear cross-departmental understanding of the role of the Director General as an executive organ; more specifically, the administrative power of the ministry mandated with the duty of coordination, planning and supervision of ministry departments.

### ***Communication***

Upon investigating the communication systems, a clear devotion to hierarchy was unveiled as the driving force behind all processes. Officials unanimously agreed upon a defined chain of command, namely, the Director issues reports to either the Director of Administration or the Director General (dependent upon the issue); the Director General reports to the Minister either verbally or in written correspondence; and the Minister is tasked with reporting to the Council of Ministers.

In terms of transmission of information, several methods of communication were described. Reports, both verbal and written, constitute an important factor in these processes and are frequently employed. Focus group discussions indicated that written communication is usually employed for formal reports and feedback on directives, although information can still be provided verbally, even at a high level; it is not uncommon for the Minister to telephone the Director General or for the Director General to visit the Minister's office. Although several ministries reported a heavy reliance on telephone and verbal communication, the Directorate of Gender deemed this especially pertinent. This department employs a high number of returnees equipped with differing educational backgrounds conducted in different languages; for this reason, verbal communication was cited as more effective than attempts to communicate in writing.

When asked about protocols for meetings, some respondents hesitated and differed in their views. Although all ministries detailed unit or departmental meetings, there were mixed opinions as to whether these were simply arranged according to need or whether they were set on a regular basis to prepare for Director Meetings. Director meetings involve senior officials (Directors) meeting with the Director General to review functions and were most commonly cited as monthly occurrences. The Ministry of Social Development in particular was confident that information was being shared well, citing a monthly meeting between the Directors and Director General on the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month, as well as unit meetings before the Directorial meetings to share activities.

In addition to the sessions mentioned above, staff were able to detail several other types of meetings that occurred within the ministries. For example, Coordination Meetings are held quarterly with development partners, meetings between the Director General and the Minister occurred monthly within the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Labor reported a recent ad-hoc Administration & Performance Evaluation Meeting to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the employees, the challenges, and the Code of Conduct. Emergency meetings are also conducted should needs arise.

These structures were echoed throughout the different ministries, implying that procedures have been successfully established and are for the most part being implemented. Lines of reporting have also been implemented both ways, with the Director General also delivering information back down the same communication lines, allowing developments to be related to junior staff. The majority of Directors and Director Generals interviewed were content with the success of the communication system and the depth of participation. Focus group discussions also reflected active communication between the departments and within each unit, with strengths reported in the areas of feedback and cooperation. The importance of communication was reiterated in the FGDs, as expressed by one Ministry of Health official: “We need to meet, of course, otherwise we cannot work.”



However, the process would likely benefit from refinement. Problems were indicated in the transmission of information from the national-level government. Communication is initiated through mobile phones, radio, magazines, or circulars and can thus be subject to breakdown; for example, through a lack of airtime. Even information that is successfully received may sometimes come late. As an example, one staff member related that details of a potential scholarship were not acquired until after the deadline had passed.

Issues with staff job descriptions have also contributed to dysfunction within lines of reporting and communication. It was revealed that the efficiency of the system could be improved and that learning was still taking place.

Confusion also reigned on the frequency of scheduled meetings. Within ministries, staff quoted the same meetings as occurring anywhere from weekly to biannually. As expressed by a staff member in the Ministry of Labor: “We are a new nation. We were in the war. Things are not going well. We try, but they are not good. We meet sometimes but not regularly”. Despite problems with implementation, it was generally agreed that the actual processes for communication had been established and that outside influences such as information technology offer ways to lessen inefficiencies in the system. This is especially pertinent in reference to communication with the counties, where a heavy reliance is placed upon mobile phone connection. Signal strength is often unreliable and in some payams is not present at all. In some circumstances information is still being transmitted by paper as no satellite phones are available. It was suggested that long-wave radios would be more successful due to their cost-efficiency and reliability, although their limited range could still prove problematic.

These communication difficulties, in addition to insecurity and logistical problems, also engender knock-on effects for collecting county-level data. For example, in 2011 the MoE was only able to compile data from three of its eleven counties. The significance of this lies in the state government's inability to provide accurate state-level data to GoSS, thus further impacting the annual budget received. This lack of infrastructure has also been attributed with stifling development in the state; respondents expressed the opinion that an improvement in the road to Juba would accelerate progress in Bor, while an enhanced road system within the state would help spread this advancement throughout the counties. To quote a staff member at the Ministry of Social Development: “The dark continent is still very dark”.

A basic lack of resources is also impacting staff ability to execute their roles within the ministries. Personnel are often required to use their own personal computers for ministry duties, which risks combining private and personal data. Anti-virus protection is not provided by the state, threatening to compromise not only the functioning of the computer but also the integrity of the data stored within it. At present, should a computer's internal systems fail, the operator simply has to proceed without it. In addition to these problems, many of the computers supplied by government agencies and NGOs are desktops, whereas laptops are deemed far more practicable due to their ability to hold charge during power outages. However, this does not take into account the ease with which laptops may be misplaced and/or broken with their ease of portability.

### ***Plans and Proposals***

Planning and proposal strategies still appear to generate a grey area among state ministry staff in Jonglei, with emphasis placed upon direction provided by national-level government. Although in focus group discussions with ministry staff it was explained that Director Generals from the ten states of South Sudan convene to debate issues for centralized national policies (through workshops and seminars) in order to create a work plan for each state, this must still be received by technocrats in the National Assembly before ratification. Dissatisfaction was also palpable as one ministry staff member explained that each state was

different, with its own challenges and idiosyncrasies, arguing that a more specialized view of each state and its requirements should be adopted by the national governments; one size certainly does not fit all. The same respondent conceded that the government is informed of these views, although is not always able to respond.

When questioned on the actual implementation of these national-level policies, the consensus agreed that the state government enacts this process. Meetings to this end are as far-reaching as to be held at departmental level, with proposals passing through the office of the Director General and the Minister before final approval. Staff across the ministries were satisfied that this system encouraged a high level of participation and collaboration, as even junior members of staff are involved in these unit-level discussion meetings. The value of input from all levels appeared to be firmly understood, as expressed clearly by the Director General of Labor: “We are working as a team. I learn from my subordinates, and they learn from me.” As an additional example of the ownership that some departments have displayed towards their overall team performance, the Directorate of Sport recently conducted an examination of its institutional strengths and weaknesses as well as external opportunities and threats, a so-called SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats and Opportunities).

### *Staffing*

All ministry staff focus groups felt themselves clear on their personal mandates and responsibilities, agreeing that job descriptions had been implemented to some degree; although in some departments job descriptions had only recently been adopted through the assistance of development partners. However, on the whole, structures, hierarchies, and units are clearly established, into which every staff member must fit alongside their delegation of responsibilities. The Ministry of Health was able to produce a formal booklet documenting a micro and macro plan (listing pay grades, responsibilities, work locations, required qualifications, etc.) for each job in the department). Only the Directorate of Youth admitted there was as yet no written job description booklet distributed to personnel, although staff within the department were attempting to design these based upon current assignments.

The area of staff feedback saw a strong performance due to set lines of reporting. Staff are encouraged to step forward with ideas and evaluation is delivered either in a written format or during scheduled meetings.

Training did however pose additional challenges for the state government departments. No staff members were able to describe formal procedures for assessing training needs within the departments, with senior staff admitting that the only current means of obtaining this information was to informally ask their staff's opinion. However, the Ministry of Labor did report conducting a needs assessment to calculate the requirements for training once the demand had been ascertained (i.e. accessories, a training hall, books, training of trainers, a timetable for study, etc.) in order for these materials to be requisitioned in the budget.

All ministries reported the completion of some recent training, mainly in conjunction with development partners. These were most commonly in topics such as capacity building, intensive English, computer skills, financial training, information systems, health and safety, management, and communication skills. In addition, the Ministry of Health reported training in various health programs (e.g. malaria and disease outbreaks). Within the MoE, a conference on teachers' education and code of conduct had been organized. One staff member also reported that a one year Education and Development training was held in South Africa supported by USAID. A gender-based violence workshop had also been implemented by the Directorate of Gender, in addition to workshops on youth, women and children, while the Ministry of Labor had held basic public service trainings on labor market information systems. Some staff also reported

having received training in the refugee camps (e.g. Kakuma) before returning to South Sudan with the acquired knowledge (e.g. management training). Among senior staff, general contentment with the standards of these training sessions prevailed, which the Director General of Labor described as “effective, successful, relevant”.

Despite these developments, the ministries still reported a lack of resources, although the desire remains to achieve further staff training, primarily in the fields of computer skills, management (including refresher training to strengthen existing conduct), monitoring and evaluation, English language, and public service training (to supplement academic training). Satisfaction levels were not as comprehensive among more junior members of staff, who believe that the short training courses that are currently provided are not sufficient for technicians. In addition to this, focus group discussions expressed difficulties with access to training for personnel based in outlying areas. For example, the Directorate of Gender wanted to extend its gender-based violence workshops to staff in the counties, but this was not possible due to a lack of transport, insecurity, and funding. It was also strongly felt that even those returning from the diaspora with a western education required training, as Jonglei is a new environment, posing new challenges.

Aside from the expected requests for training in computers and management, staff in the Ministry of Health suggested that training on proposal writing could prove valuable as it would empower them with increased likelihood that their proposals would be accepted. The Ministry of Social Development also requested instruction on gender-based violence, awareness of HIV/AIDS, and peace training.

In terms of existing education and experience resources within the ministries, the message received from focus groups was that the staff experience was present, with some figures having served many years in their respective departments, but that formal education was often lacking. During the war, focus was laid upon combat at the expense of education; an issue that must now be redressed. Some ministries - the Ministry of Social Development in particular - have seen the recruitment of returnees educated in the West, which has gone some way toward managing the balance of education and experience within the ministries, but significant work remains to be achieved.

### **Resources**

It was found that departmental resources vary depending upon the ministry in question. Most recounted a limited number of computers, stationary, chairs, etc. Only the Director General of the Ministry of Health reported that the ministry's computer facilities were sufficient, explaining that most of his offices benefited from computers; although these computers were now around six years old. The ministry had also been supplied with printers and photocopiers, but these were now out of function. Across the board accessibility to resources was cited as being non-exclusive and relatively free when availability allowed. Only the MoE reported having ministerial cars at its disposal (one for the Minister, one for the Director General, and three for services).

Mixed reports were received when discussing computer resources, both material and human. Some staff members reported using computers in their daily roles, others did not. It was, however, unanimously reported during focus group discussions that computer facilities within the departments were unsatisfactory (both for working and training) and that additional instruction was desirable. Staff in the Ministry of Health reported having attended a three-day workshop to this effect, although this was not considered sufficiently in-depth for true value to be gleaned. In fact, most respondents reported personal practice as their main method of computer training.

Only two ministries affirmed having access to Internet within their ministerial buildings. Of these, the connection in the Ministry of Health was not currently functional and that of the MoE existed only in the office of the Minister with a capacity for three people. To overcome these deficiencies, staff declared frequently employing their own Zain modems or visiting establishments with known Internet connections, such as the Freedom Hotel, to access online information.

In this vein, the most commonly cited resources desired were computers and their associated equipment, as many staff are operating with their own personal laptops and modems. Cars and motorbikes are also required for reaching communities in the counties, as well as for movement around the state capital. The Ministry of Gender added an additional requirement of transportation to allow facilities such as prisons to be accessible for visits and inspections. Office space was another recurrent obstacle; the MoE does not possess an established office area and is consequently operating its affairs from a teaching block, while the Directorate of Sport shares one office with the Directorate of Religious Affairs, leaving one desk to be shared among ten staff members.

Among other inadequacies, no ministries reported being supplied with mobile phones despite a heavy reliance on telephone communication. Due to unreliable network connection, radio was actually cited as a preferred but currently unavailable alternative. The Directorate of Sport was again particularly vocal in its additional insufficiencies, claiming a lack of sports shoes, uniforms, equipment, and one cupboard to share between two departments. Theirs was the only department to attest to no computers whatsoever, despite many of the staff being western-educated and computer literate.

### ***Budgeting***

Based upon salaries, capital, and operational costs, the GoSS sets the budget from where it is distributed by the Directorate of Administration. Within each ministry, a Director of Planning and Budgeting is appointed, with the Ministry of Health also citing a Budget Coordination Officer at its disposal. Participation in the budget is generally high across all staff levels, with every unit within the ministries meeting to discuss and project the proposals. The relevant Director subsequently reports to the Director General, who decides upon the most pertinent needs, as monetary restraints mean not all can be addressed. From the Director General, the budget is passed to the Minister for approval, before being transferred to the Director of Administration and Finance, who compiles all proposals ready for presentation to the Council of Ministers.

Due to high levels of engagement, it was generally held among the staff members at the ministries that the budgeting system was successful. Reports suggested that the system is now computerized and is thus considered, rightly or wrongly, more scientific and realistic. However, these advances bely an underlying dissatisfaction that becomes apparent upon further investigation. The budget received from the GoSS comprises a fixed transfer that covers little more than salaries and operational costs. Ministries reported submitting additional applications for money, but these are often unheeded due to a lack of funds. Additional challenges have also been faced due to a recent readjustment to the dates of the fiscal year.

Ministry staff also described difficulties arising when different priorities are identified by the state and national government. For example, GoSS in Juba may believe that insecurity is Jonglei's biggest problem, whereas the state may consider unemployment as their primary concern. The state has very limited power in this respect; when the state concludes itself to be underfunded in certain areas, there is little more that can be done than requesting rectification the following year.

Within the Directorate of Youth, budget-related obstacles were reported extending as far as the recruitment process. One staff member in the Ministry of Social Development reported applying for a position at director level. The same individual passed the relevant interview and was consequently hired for the role. However, upon entry into the department, he was informed he was actually to be engaged in the position of Assistant Director. The staff member in question relates this to a problem of budget, as there is a substantial difference between the pay grades of Director and Assistant Director.

Despite Jonglei's large scale, staff at the Ministry of Labor claim that each state receives the same budget, even though other states may only encompass three or four counties as opposed to Jonglei's eleven. The knock-on effects of these budget lacks are numerous. The MoE claimed it received only 6% of the budget; staff recounted low salaries accompanied by a lack of perks such as incentives, overtime bonuses, and housing allowances. Due to budget deficits in the MoE, schools lack essential facilities; pupils are being educated under trees; teachers are deserting in search of higher salaries; and books, desks and seats are all lacking, with NGOs such as UNICEF proffering the only support. In addition to these evident problems, the MoE is also left wanting in auxiliary areas, such as printing machines and training centers for examinations, also crucial for the effective functioning of an educational system. A plan is drafted each year to tackle these target areas, though it has so far not been implemented as the means to do so are simply not present.

### ***Additional Problems***

Aside from the chronic financial struggles besetting the various ministries, staff were also able to identify a myriad of additional obstacles compromising the effective functioning of the departments.

The MoE pinpointed areas of neglect in the area of early childhood education, even by donors. Staff explained that even cultural issues posed a barrier when instigating reform, as the community is still wary of government interference and commonly misunderstands intentions, believing the state is somehow attempting to interfere with their rights. The MoE also describes problems faced by an unstable supply and logistics chain; for example, fluctuations in the availability of provisions for the school feeding program render supply management problematic.

Issues identified by the Ministry of Health centered upon the poor state of infrastructure in the region. Badly maintained roads lead to difficulties in transporting goods and even create disturbances for personnel commuting to work within the town, as some staff reside as far as five kilometers away from their place of work. A lack of manpower was also cited as a concern. Some units in the ministry consist of only one person and if that person falls ill, his or her work is simply not completed. As one participant in the focus group discussion explained, "With too few cleaners, a place will get dirty. The same principle applies to the ministry."

The Ministry of Labor described several issues warranting attention. For example, the ministry building is currently being rented and does not possess a vehicle. Training is required within the ministry but cannot be provided due to a lack of means. In addition to internal instruction, it is policy to deliver vocational training to the community but current capacity simply does not support this.

The prime concern for the Ministry of Social Development was the lack of office space. During focus group discussions, it was revealed that members of staff were sitting outside under trees purely for want of sufficient space.

The Directorate of Sport focused primarily on policy implementation in terms of its biggest challenges. Participants in focus group discussions described how many of the activities that concern the ministry are seasonal and are impossible to implement during the months of the rainy season, as no alternative indoor facilities exist. However, this appears to be an issue overlooked by the central government, whose targets assume year-round participation and therefore prove almost impossible to meet. This leads to low indicators and delivery statistics, damaging the standing of the ministry.

### **Challenges Facing Jonglei Youth**

When questioned upon the largest issues facing youth in the region, there were several factors in a chain that were unanimously recognized as being primary inter-related factors in the state's difficulties, namely, a lack of education giving rise to unemployment, engendering idleness, and fomenting insecurity. Additionally, poverty and food security in the wake of war were also frequently noted as issues of serious concern for young people in the state.

#### *Education*

Educational deficiencies were frequently cited as being the common starting point for many of the state's youth difficulties. According to the Directorate of Youth, the number of educated individuals stands at less than five percent, although there is little accurate data available to support this due to insecurity, children being orphaned, families moving regions, etc. These educational shortcomings do not just extend to the academic sector; in Jonglei two vocational training schools previously existed before operations ceased due to lack of funds. Focus group discussions also reported auxiliary facilities as lacking; for example education could be provided to young mothers if childcare programs were in place.

#### *Unemployment*

Unemployment also remains one of the largest precipitators of youth problems in the state. As described during focus group discussions within the ministries, youth in Jonglei constantly witness educated young people struggling to obtain meaningful employment, thus damaging their motivation to learn. After fighting in the region had ceased, many young people returned to the area to find that occupations had already been filled. Most young people seek government employment as the ideal, but not only are there simply not enough jobs in this sector to provide adequate incentive for young people to enroll in education, but this is also at odds with the government aim of enhancing the private sector to stimulate the economy. According to ministry staff, out of a state population of approximately 1.3 million, less than one percent is on the government payroll, yet even during focus group discussions a synonymy emerged between “working” and “working for the government,” with little distinction made between the two. This is perhaps in part due to the esteem with which government positions are held, almost as the “be all and end all,” but perhaps also in part as a reflection on the lack of viable alternative employment options within the state. It was felt clearly that industry must be introduced to the region and married together with education in order to best serve the progress in the state.

#### *Idleness*

This unemployment is inevitably not without consequence and has led to widespread idleness within the state. This in turn engenders insecurity due to the large number of young people with post-war small arms training but lacking both the appropriate maturity for their use and alternative productive engagement. Focus group discussions cautioned the lack of centers for sports and games in Jonglei; in contrast to the West where young people enjoy entertainment and activities to distract attention away from violence, the only activity in this state was claimed to be cattle rustling. This is a situation which is exacerbated by a

recent hike in dowry prices, pressuring young men without means into cattle theft to meet the high prices demanded to procure a bride and progress with adult life. Brainstorming in focus group discussions suggested that even simple measures such as the provision of a meeting place for youth would help alleviate some of the problems. Within the MoE the interesting suggestion was put forth that land should be given to young people so as to engage them in building houses, based upon the premise that security is more costly than land. A similar notion was expressed within the Ministry of Health, which reiterated that while South Sudan may be lacking in some areas, the nation is blessed with large tracks of land. Although machinery and tools to work the land may be missing, the country has a large and redundant workforce at its disposal, thus negating this need. As the proponent of the theory continued, if the youth dispersed out into the fields with their hands as their fathers had done, there would be no need for WFP. This system proposed was akin to military service, but in an agricultural sense; a compulsory service for the dual goods of growing produce for a nation and engaging its youth, to enable South Sudan to free itself from existing on handouts. Either way, it is clear that idleness and insecurity perpetuate themselves in a vicious circle. Unless insecurity is addressed, investors will not consider the state. Until businesses invest, unemployment will remain endemic and idleness will prevail. As long as idleness exists, insecurity will reign.

It is perhaps this notion of idleness versus engagement that is the key to unlocking many of the state's difficulties with youth. Youth need to be engaged because they are clinging to conflict; it is in their hands that the future of South Sudan rests and it is they that hold the power to both build or destroy the nation.

### ***Current Youth Projects and Initiatives***

When individual ministries were asked about current youth projects in place, the Ministry of Gender declared itself concerned primarily with girls' education. Male enrollment remains much higher than female enrollment, in part due to expectations of the female child to marry and remain at home. A project has been launched to encourage girls to attend school by creating awareness of the importance of girl child education within Jonglei communities. The premise is that even boys must be taught the importance of female education and that young people must be aware of their rights regarding issues such as forced marriage. However, budget lacks are proving problematic, as funds are required to transport staff out into these communities. In addition to this, a special police unit has also been opened to support women and young girls who find themselves victims of forced marriages. However, this project has also been rendered almost obsolete by financial difficulties, as presently there are few means to support those coming forward.

The Directorate of Sport has been especially beset by financial restraints, although it aims to organize activities and sports to occupy youth away from violence and crime. The Directorate of Youth also operates within the umbrella of the Ministry of Social Development and seeks to engage youth by supporting the organization of games and competitions with the ultimate aim of uniting youth within a welcoming yet supervised environment.

MoE reaches out to youth both through the curriculum and through pastoral education in the cattle camps. The ministry deploys teachers in the counties, supported by NGOs who provide additional aid in the form of materials and transport. According to the Ministry of Health, youth are not an entity for them and they have no direct involvement in youth programming. The Ministry of Health programs focus on advocacy. The Ministry of Labor has developed policies regarding youth employment, as well as implementing agricultural, social development, and labor markets projects to assess skills required within the labor market.

### ***Ideas for Youth Outreach***

Aside from actual programming currently in place, staff in the state ministries were asked to pool ideas on schemes beneficial for reaching out to young people should the funds be available.

The MoE stressed that youth must be targeted in troubled areas, where an educational vacuum currently exists. Staff were also quick to highlight the importance of providing vocational training for those who have not been academically engaged, and encouraged small projects such as evening classes. Ministry staff affirmed that some plans to this end have already been laid but are awaiting financial backing. A proposal has also been submitted for additional school construction based upon a recent survey indicating a lack of learning spaces. The MoE also expressed a desire to create a girls' boarding school to encourage female enrollment, although staff acknowledged that securing the means to do so could prove problematic as such facilities are not favored by GoSS due to their high operational expenses. However, the MoE argued that people in the countryside are often semi-nomadic, creating difficulties for service provisions unless such institutions exist. Above all, it was felt that youth needed to understand the importance of education, a message that primary schools should disseminate.

The Ministry of Labor attested to no current vocational training policies due to the infant nature of the county. Staff participating in focus group discussions expressed a desire to look to neighboring countries for a framework upon which to base their own, but once again, support is required for this to be achieved. Desired projects included the establishment of peace and harmony workshops, counseling and reconciliation workshop, and a vocational training center.

The Ministry of Social Development described an intention to lend extra support to aid the expansion of existing organizations such as the Girl Guides, a movement that is already well established in the state but lacks uniforms etc. Sites are also required for youth gatherings, as the budget does not extend to renting locations. A proposal has been submitted for the construction of a youth center; a place for cards, drama, sports, and peace-building events to encourage the return of youth who abandoned the state and to enable as many young people as possible to be engaged. However the center was planned for the state capital of Bor, offering little advantage to the hardest hit youth in more remote payams.

Staff within the Ministry of Health suggested a program to train youth as a means in tackling the issue of idleness, after recently writing a non-successful proposal to create job opportunities. However, staff within this ministry in particular recognized their current limitations, with one focus group discussion member quoting: "Like a small child will drink milk before it eats meat, we are still taking small steps like a child. We are taking steps to become a big person". A similarly metaphorical stance was taken by a clerk stationed at the MoE: "Things go step by step. You were once a baby and someone was looking after you. And not just one person, also older brothers and sisters. Jonglei State and GoSS should be looked after by the international community. Then when we are eighteen, we can manage. But now we are under-age."



## **Development Partner Activity**

### ***NGOs/CBOs Operating in Jonglei State***

Jonglei has several NGOs working in the state, ranging from large international organizations to smaller community-based projects. Inter-NGO communication and relationships were generally considered strong. Resources are often pooled to achieve a greater good; for example small CBOs such as the Greater Akobo Youth Association (GAYA) operate projects in conjunction with other organizations such as the Sudanese Network for Democratic Elections (SuNDE) and the lines of communication remain open, with smaller organizations such as UNYMPDA reporting regular meetings with their funder partners.

### ***NGOs/CBOs Objectives & Goals***

A selection of these organizations was profiled to assess the current youth-based development work being undertaken in the state. It became clear that several different initiatives are in place to shift attention away from violence, including for example projects aimed at the sensitization of small arms reduction. Saferworld is a strong proponent of this policy, which it predominantly implements in the form of community-police dialogue. Other organizations such as UNYMPDA also concentrate their efforts on delivering people from a state of war to a state of peace. Again, this effort is focused primarily on dialogue to bring together youth from all the eleven counties to participate in conferences and share ideas for reconciliation; a campaign that was launched initially in the towns but has since expanded to incorporate youth from the cattle camps. The CBO Peace Farmers for Development Association (PEFADA) has also adopted the cause of restoring peace to the region, working to heal young people whose lives have been characterized by violence and its associated issues, such as child abduction and cattle raiding. Another organization that was captured under the scope of this survey is GAYA, which focuses primarily on the propagation of peace among youth, alongside HIV/AIDS awareness through adult education programs within the three counties of Akobo, Uror and Nyirol, an objective which corresponds with the government policy on expanding and upgrading youth participation.

### ***NGO/CBO Gender-Specific Activities***

Although many programs appear to be designed through gender lenses – that is to say the differences of gender are strongly considered – the implementation of projects targeted directly at either of the sexes specifically appeared to assume a lower priority. For example, Saferworld did specify incorporating gender sensitivity into its service delivery programs, or ensure that both sexes were incorporated into their activities and captured under the umbrella of their research, but stopped short of running programs designed expressly for either gender.

That is not to say that no gender specific projects have been implemented at all; for example, UNYMPDA is currently delivering a program aimed at the victims of gender-based violence and abduction in Jonglei. Financed by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and instigated in partnership with Intersos, this organization is establishing a counseling and advice center for young women affected in Bor. This project is run in conjunction with propagating the message of gender-based violence through the radio, a scheme aimed at discussing attitudes towards the origins of gender-based violence and operated in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development. This is a message that UNYMPDA also attempts to spread on the ground; to combat low attendance figures at meetings, door-to-door activities are running in Ayod county to highlight the issue of gender-based violence, supported by NPA.

In additional support to these projects, UNYMPDA is also undertaking police training in this topic area, explaining how best to act if presented with a case of gender-based violence and the potential consequences of returning a girl or woman exposed to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) to her family.

### ***Additional Activities***

Aside from gender-specific projects, there are many additional activities being undertaken by NGOs in the region aimed at improving the situation of local youth. UNYMPDA related a myriad of projects, including a seed-distribution program in Pibor county for the rainy season, as food insecurity can provoke aggressive competition for provisions among youth in the region. This action is taken in conjunction with peace meetings with the Murle tribe to propagate the message of peaceful living. Furthermore, UNYMPDA is working with youth in schools to raise awareness of the issues facing returnees to the state, alongside discourse with religious leaders and local chiefs to ensure the dissemination of the message into the community. A primary school construction project is also underway in Akobo county, managed by UNYMPDA and funded by the government at county level.

UNYMPDA is also currently implementing additional activities, which although not directly aimed at youth will serve to strengthen the community at large and thus secure the environment in which youth are developing. An example of this is the program for raising awareness of democratic processes and good governance being conducted in conjunction with the National Democratic Institute (NDI). Although the fervor of independence has not escaped the people of Jonglei, this program aims to elucidate the practical significance and ramifications of this momentous change, such as explaining the significance of the new national anthem and new national flag, which is still often recognized as the SPLM flag.

UNYMPDA is of course not the only organization delivering good work. GAYA is also operational in the area, delivering sports events, HIV/AIDS awareness, cultural dances, adult education, and agricultural projects. PEFADA's current activities revolve primarily around empowering youth to self-reliance, including the provision of livelihood skills, introducing new farming methods (accompanied by the distribution of seeds and tools to youth engaged in agriculture), training youth leaders in leadership skills and fighting illiteracy. In addition to this, the organization is also running programs to address tribalism and encourage peaceful co-existence, through the organization of peace conferences and replacing guns with hoes as a new way of survival.

### ***Government Relationships***

All NGOs surveyed reported direct links with government departments, with the Ministry of Social Development repeatedly cited as the most prominent player. Saferworld, however, explained that they do not deal directly with the MoYSR but instead cooperate with the Bureau for Community Security & Small Arms Control and the State Ministry for Law Enforcement, as well as the Ministry of Internal Affairs at national level.

UNYMPDA also reports a close relationship with the government, accepting that all projects must be administered with their collaboration. The lead agency with which they cooperate is the Ministry of Social Development; however, other relevant departments are also contacted depending on the scope of the particular project. This was a sentiment echoed by PEFADA, which maintains a strong relationship with the Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry due to their continued work with youth and agriculture.

Communication was generally deemed strong. UNYMPDA explained that they formed part of a State Development Cluster, aimed at pooling relevant information. Another useful meeting group takes the form of the State Humanitarian Coordination Forum, which hosts monthly meetings lead by SSRRC, although additional special sessions may also be called to deal with exceptional or emergency situations. UNYMPDA reported participation in a Gender-Based Violence Task Force operating in Jonglei state to unite organizations engaged in battling this issue and facilitate joint planning.

NGOs stressed the importance of respect, punctuality, and non-partisanship in order to maintain good relations with the government. In addition to scheduled cluster meetings as per above, the organizations explained that the principle means of communication with the government took the form of an official letter, although emails and phone calls were also common place. It was likewise acceptable for a representative to visit the relevant ministry to narrate current developments in person. As a spokesman from PEFADA explained, “Coordination is effective. Any time we need anything from the government or any NGOs, we [contact them] by phone, email, or official visit”.

### ***Problems with Government***

Despite these many positive reports, room for improvement remains. None of the NGOs interviewed offered any form of input into the target and goal setting of the ministries, despite their significant combined experience. Nor did any receive funds or financial assistance from any government institution. PEFADA explained that since inception, the aims of the organization were presented to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, who subsequently conferred to them a recommendation letter promising technical support and advocating funding from any national or international funding agency. However, PEFADA claims that delays have resulted in the non-receipt of any assistance to date. Proposals have also been submitted by PEFADA, to UNHCR, and FAO but again, no definitive response has been received to date. A lack of cohesion was also identified between government and NGO policies. UNYMPDA acknowledged following the guidance of the Child Welfare Act and government policies on gender-based violence to inform their policy making, but this was not the case with GAYA or Saferworld who did not credit any government policies with shaping their own programming.

### ***Problems Facing Youth***

The majority of NGOs agree on the main difficulties that affect the youth in the state. These center predominantly around the fundamental issues of lack of education and high unemployment, resulting in widespread loitering. One NGO described a competent young man holding a bachelor degree in psychology who had been unemployed since 2010. Although he was continually meeting interview criteria, no employment offers were ever disbursed. This situation was deemed to be the norm as opposed to the exception, with many young people in the state struggling to obtain meaningful occupation, although NGOs did suggest that nepotism posed a significant barrier to obtaining an elusive government position.

While these incidences are interesting, it is also worth noting that among the NGO population interviewed, the same tendency emerged of creating little distinction between “job” and “government job.” While discussing the lack of employment among NGO representatives, comments were noted such as “We need to look into the structure of the ministry; there are lots of vacancies but no-one is employed,” implying that the government was considered the only source of fixed employment in the region.

NGO representatives also elaborated further on the topic of gender-based violence and forced marriage in the state, explaining that in many cases, young women are forced to marry in order for their financially struggling families to procure a substantial dowry. Those who refuse and flee deprive their already stretched parents of this capital and may be greeted with violence upon their return. This situation also sets in motion a ripple effect that contributes to the cultural favoring of boys to the further disadvantage of girls. After marriage girls are appropriated into the family of the husband, thus a disincentive is created for any education on her part, which would soon to be lost to her natural family. Females are hence considered to be of greater value contributing in the home. Conversely, boys in their maturity are tasked with sustaining their parents and siblings; to educate a boy is therefore to introduce an educated person into the household.

This situation engenders a large educational imbalance between the sexes, which remains thus far unresolved.

Several suggestions were put forward to attempt to tackle the vulnerable youth affected by these concerns. Fundamentally, there is a requirement for wider education, not only for children but also for incorporating learning centers for young adults who may have been forced to forfeit formal instruction in their childhood. Vocational training was also called upon, especially in the area of trades and entrepreneurship, aiming to compensate in part for the lack of an academic education by equipping young people with the tools for self-sufficiency. NGO representatives interviewed also felt that if young people are engaged in livelihood skills, e.g. carpentry or welding, their attention is deflected away from unwholesome activities such as cattle rustling and refocused on more productive endeavors. UNYMPDA described submitting a proposal to UNDP to this end but no response was ever received.

It was also felt that advocacy had a role to play in youth development, as discussing the role a secure environment could play in bringing young people together and ending the cycle of hostility. Security was also an issue raised by a representative from GAYA, who felt that it was important that youth be afforded protection by the government so as not to seek their own means of aegis, a factor that is contributing to instability in the state.

On a practical level, it was felt that training adults without corresponding infrastructural developments could prove fruitless. For example, it is futile to equip youth in the counties with trade skills until the connecting roads are put in place to allow goods and equipment to reach them there. Education and infrastructure must therefore be implemented in conjunction with one another for effective change.

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## CONCLUSIONS

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Based on the data presented in this assessment, the following conclusions are made for Jonglei:

- **Youth are challenged by a number of socio-economic and socio-cultural obstacles which are prevalent throughout communities.** These include lack of educational opportunities, scarce resources (including water shortages), few and inadequate medical services, cultural practices, and domestic violence.
- **Insecurity from cattle rustling, violent attacks and abduction by neighboring tribes have a great impact on the lives of youth.** Besides the insecurity such attacks breed, cattle raids are devastating to the socio-economic situation of a family. Youth may be prevented to continue school as fees can no longer be afforded or because they have to remain home to contribute to the household in the event of a death in the family caused by the raids. Even greater, the **insecure situation pushes mainly male youth to form groups, often with arms, as a means of self-protection**, ultimately drawing youth away from school as well as putting them in the front line of potential confrontations
- **Few educational spaces available to youth and the schools that are operating are severely limited by lack of resources, both financial and material, as well as shortages of qualified and modified teachers.** As such, both access to and the quality of education is restricted. Female youth are further challenged by forced marriages, lack of parental encouragement and/or consent and shame of menstruation.

- **Fear of abductions while walking long distances from the home, early marriages/pregnancy and familial responsibilities affect both male and female youth's access to education.** Male youth are expected to look after their family's livestock, while the girls and young women are expected to assist with chores.
- **There are significant disparities between genders in the rate of employment,** with male youth having significant higher levels than female youth. Even still, a great number of **youth remain unemployed as there are few job opportunities in the research areas.** Both of which are remote areas with limited access to the neighboring state capitals due to poor road networks. During rainy season, large parts of the counties are cut off as roads are impassable and potential flights are deterred because the landing strips flood. This also reflects the **low access to goods and supplies from outside, especially medical supplies,** experienced in these areas.
- Business and sustainable agriculture skills are seen as suitable livelihood activities for male youth while tailoring, catering and business skills were seen as appropriate for females. Youth aged 10-14 mainly expressed an interest in learning about culture and arts but also showed interest in music production, journalism and rights advocacy.
- **Informal loans between friends and family are common** and a high percentage of the youth reported having received such a loan in the past, mainly from either the parents or spouse. The high rates of respondents who reported having taken money in a more informal setting suggests that **there is a demand for a loaning system.**
- **Access to health services is poor and there is limited information on reproductive and sexual health issues provided to youth.** It was noted that the lack of communication between parents and children further stresses this situation. Reflective of the lack of health services and information, **youth showed inconsistent levels of HIV/AIDS awareness and knowledge.** In Yuai, Uror County, around two thirds of male youth expressed recognition of the disease, while only one third of females had heard about HIV/AIDS. Females in Waat, Nyirol County were on par with their male peers and around two thirds of all respondents reported to having heard of HIV/AIDS. Nevertheless, **misconceptions around transmission and false perceptions were high** in both research areas.
- **Water and sanitation infrastructure is poor** due to the inadequacy of boreholes in the area, the insecurity caused by cattle raiding, and the lack of repair services (or capability) to maintain or fix boreholes. In Yuai a significant number of respondents cited rainwater collection as their primary water source, suggesting this may be a sustainable water collection method in this area.
- In terms of hygiene, it was noted that **youth in Yuai have conducted good hygiene practice campaigns in the community,** including sensitizing their families to WASH practices. In Waat it was observed that hygienic practices were inadequate. Female youth also assist their mothers in fetching water for the households.
- **Youth demonstrated high levels of acceptance of violence,** both domestic violence between partners and violence against children. The majority of respondents also showed support for act of self-defense on a national level though the majority disagreed with having an aggressive military internationally.

- **There are few Youth Friendly Spaces available for youth.** However, youth organize themselves and meet in informal settings. Female youth most often gather at traditional marriage ceremonies or find time to interact during chores outside the home such as fetching water, while male youth socialize at church or while playing football. **In Waat, the only youth group present also serves as an informal medical insurance where membership fees are redistributed in form of grants in the event of a medical need** for one of the members. The group also organizes social events like sports matches and the occasional disco.
- Despite continued violence between the Murle and Nuer, **one youth group in Waat noted that they are open to the idea of hosting or competing with Murle youth in sporting activities.** The youth group also has come together to form informal medical insurance for members (paid for with dues); helping to resolve family conflicts (i.e. regarding pregnancies); organizing competitive sporting events even with other areas; and organizing night-life social scenes like discos.
- **Contrary to the other research locations, the community in Waat indicated that they place a value on education,** by awarding educated girls with a higher dowry compared to those who are uneducated. Despite this sentiment, there are still large discrepancies between male and female enrollment and attendance.
- **The institutional capacity of state level government in Jonglei State is weak.** Though ministry staff are aware of their responsibilities, all ministries appeared severely limited in their daily operations.
- **Funding restraints coupled with limited resources, logistical challenges (in reaching the counties) and lack of manpower reduces the ministries' ability to effectively operate.** Without a clear solution or change in sight, these factors demoralize staff and create an ineffective work environment. Despite being aware of the needs and challenges of the youth, **staff came across as unmotivated** and, similar to their colleagues in Upper Nile, there was a lethargic environment.
- Though some initiatives targeting youth have been set in place, financial restraints have kept many **good ideas confined within the walls of the ministry.**
- A number of trainings and workshops have been conducted in the ministries respective fields; however, **staff identified a need for refresher trainings as well as additional trainings** in the fields of computer skills, management, public service and English language.
- There was also a sentiment that **South Sudan is a new nation and as such needs guidance from the international community as well as its regional neighbors,** especially in regards to policy-making and forming a solid blueprint for the country to build on.
- Jonglei has several NGOs working in the state, ranging from large international organizations to smaller community-based projects. **Inter-NGO communication and relationships were generally considered strong and oftentimes resources are pooled to achieve greater results.**
- **Several initiatives targeting youth are in place, with a strong focus on violence reduction and peace-building,** such as sensitization of small arms reduction. Saferworld is a

strong proponent of this strategy while other organization focus on peace dialogues (UNYMPDA), sometimes combined with HIV/AIDS awareness (GAYA)

- Communications between government actors and civil society was deemed strong by both parties, however, a lack of cohesion between government and NGO policies were identified.

## OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE YOUTH LEAD PROGRAMME

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Based on the data collected and the information presented in this report, the following recommendations for the YouthLEAD Programme are made:

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### BASIC EDUCATION, SKILLS TRAINING & LIVELIHODS

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#### *Basic Education*

- **Educational opportunities must be improved and expanded**, including investment in more learning spaces, teacher trainings and retention as well as support for a proper employment system for teachers. **Construction of schools is a crucial step in improving the opportunities of youth**; elementary education does not only lay a strong foundation in terms of practical life skills, it also provides youth with the required background to pursue higher education. Nevertheless, a beautifully constructed school does not hold much value unless qualified teachers are available and motivated, textbooks and exercise books present and children and youth, regardless of gender, have the ability to attend classes.
- **Advocate and create awareness about children's rights** in the communities, **focusing on the importance of education** and the role it plays in a child's well-being and growth. Changing the attitudes of the communities towards education will be an important step in ensuring higher enrollment of both genders as well as lower dropout rates.
- **Promoting girl-child education** is especially important as girls are found to be more disadvantaged than boys.
- Undertake continuous sensitization programs and **educate parents and the communities at large on the dangers of forced or early marriages** alongside advocacy on alternative marriage lifestyles.
- **Morning and afternoon single-sex programs should be considered** as a way to maximize resources as well as to encourage female youth attendance in school.
- **Boarding schools should be constructed to give children and youth, especially girls, an appropriate learning space** where they can focus on their studies and not be distracted by familial chores and activities. Furthermore, boarding schools should be divided by gender as to promote girl child education.
- **Alternative learning spaces should be investigated further to increase the educational opportunities for male youth.** Non-traditional programs, such as pastoralist field schools (PFS), which simulate a school environment but without the permanent location, should be examined further as alternative models of education for primarily male youth (especially the young boys) that are engaged in pastoralist activities such as keeping cattle.



### *HIV/AIDS & Reproductive Health*

- **Create awareness about HIV/AIDS among youth through counseling programs, especially targeting the issue of perception of the illness.** Participants in the YouthLEAD workshop discussed the negative connotations of visiting clinics to be tested for the illness. One youth noted that people should be informed to “love yourself and get tested.”
- **HIV/AIDS programs should target genders separately as well as tailor their content according to age.** Girls and boys aged 10-14 should not be excluded from such counseling given the prevalence of early marriages and teen pregnancies. More so, they should be given targeted and age-appropriate information.
- **Counseling programs should also disseminate information on productive health, focusing on contraceptive methods.** Many of the communities visited during data collection reported having received some HIV/AIDS training, but oftentimes contraceptives were not available at the local clinic (if one was present) or were prohibitively expensive.
- **Given the taboos surrounding reproductive and sexual health, peer programs should be utilized** as it is more likely that youth will listen and open up to someone close to them in age rather than a senior authority. Furthermore, such counseling should be incorporated into other programs as to increase attendance.

### *WASH Services and Practices*

- **Sensitize the community on the importance of good water, sanitation and hygiene practices,** including the benefits of using water treatments, safe waste disposal and washing of hands with soap.
- Along with information campaign, also **distribute soap and water treatment methods as well as explore ways as to sustain the communities’ access to such supplies.**
- **Establish WASH committees** that would be responsible for community outreach as well as regular maintenance of water points. Provide training and necessary materials to maintain the committees function.
- **Construct boreholes and latrines in areas lacking such facilities.**

### *Skills Training & Livelihoods*

- **Suggested areas of skills training would be sustainable agriculture (mainly cultivation practices modified to the specific conditions of each area), business and small scale catering.** The first two would be suitable for both male and female youth while the latter is mainly intended for women.
- **Micro-finance opportunities should be incorporated** as a supplementary part of vocational training programs as to enhance the participants’ ability to utilize their new skills.
- **Furthermore, education and infrastructure must be implemented in conjunction with one another for effective change.** Training adults without corresponding infrastructural

developments could prove fruitless as they may not be able to practice their newly acquired skills. For example, it is futile to equip youth in the counties with trade skills until the connecting roads are put in place to allow goods and equipment to reach them there. **The issue of infrastructure is also relevant in regards to health programs and services as access decreases the further you are from a main city or town.** Many of the targeted communities are beset with extremely poor roads and little access to public transportation.

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## PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

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- **Use traditional authorities, such as the chiefs and religious leaders,** in approaching communities, as people are more likely to listen to the message and take part in activities if coming from these figures.
- **Promote conflict resolution techniques among youth as well as advocate peace throughout the communities.** Though it is important for the youth to take an active part in any peace and conflict initiatives, it is also important to secure support and recognition from the wider community.
- **Organize workshops and activities where youth from different tribes come together and share learning experiences as well as social events** as a way to show them different sides about each other besides violence and aggression.
- **Existing sports programs and leagues should be supported and combined with conflict resolution techniques as well as HIV/AIDS and WASH training.** In Nyirol County, male youth interviewed reported that they would be happy to host the Murle in a football tournament as well as travel to Murle areas to play. Similar activities were mentioned by DOT in Eastern Equatoria though the animosity and hostility between the tribes in this state seem much higher than what was displayed in Nyirol. Nevertheless, the youth in Nyirol show that there might be an opportunity to create relationships between youth from different tribes through sports and cultural events, which in turn might help mitigate instances of cattle raiding.

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## YOUTH FRIENDLY SPACES

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- **Youth Friendly Spaces must be created alongside sustainable opportunities for youth to engage with productive activities.** Not only do the youth need places to be, they also need to be engaged in meaningful activities that not only gives them a break from their normal daily routine but also enhances their learning and builds on their capabilities. However, **youth programs should not only focus on teaching vocational skills but also incorporate life skills.**
- **Existing organizations or informal activities should be explored further and built upon.** The example from Waat, Nyirol where youth have joined together for not only social activities like sports and dances, but also as an informal ‘medical insurance’ insurance drawn from membership fees should be studied and used as a model for youth groups in other areas.

- **Programs should build on the culture and traditions in each area, focusing on music, arts and crafts production,** as these were areas where youth showed a strong interest. Journalism and advocacy was also desired. The latter two fields can be combined with awareness campaigns for HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, WASH and even peace and conflict, creating synergies between the different components of YouthLEAD.
- **Programs targeting the youth should be mobile so that a greater part of the community is reached.** Far distances, lack of transportation means and insecurities in the area all hinder the youth's access to existing services and YouthLEAD should aim to reduce such obstacles by providing activities and programs throughout the county.

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### INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF CBOS AND MINISTRIES

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- **Draw on local knowledge and expertise in the development and implementation of YouthLEAD programs and activities,** such as local chiefs, active CBOs and relevant ministries at state and county level.
- **Build capacity in government actors through trainings and workshops as well as including government officials in the planning and implementation of the project.** The latter is a long-term investment but it will increase sustainability of the project as it transfers ownership and increases their ability to carry on after the program ends.
- **Identify strong implementing partners in each location, both at the state and at the county level.** CBOs and NGOs that currently operate in the targeted areas should be approached and brought onboard as to ensure coordination and cooperation so that all relevant actors are pulling in the same direction.
- **Build on existing activities and draw upon the experience and lessons learnt by civil society actors already operating in the targeted areas.** For example, DOT has been operating in Eastern Equatoria since the early 1980s and the organization enjoys great relationships both with communities throughout the state as well as the government. Furthermore, the organization reported to be less affected by insecurities because of their long-standing presence. **Government actors should also be a natural partner in this process in order to ensure cohesion with government policies as well as create ownership of the outputs of the project.** Working together with the ministries also strengthens their position and builds their credibility among communities.

## ANNEX 1

### *National Level Capacity*

On a national level, the important role of youth is clearly acknowledged and understood. This is underlined most prominently by the MoYSR which recognizes youth as “not only a major resource and inheritors of the future society, but [...] also active contributors to the nature of society today”.

However, this same Ministry also accepts that the present situation of youth is in a fragile state, characterized by weak organizational structures, lack of funds, illiteracy, lack of education, the adverse effects of war, and problematic reintegration of returnees. The MoYSR also documents these difficulties as being further complicated by the additional challenges of unemployment, poverty, hunger, epidemics, violence, crime, negative customs (e.g. forced marriage) and the impact of foreign cultures.

To this end, a Youth Policy Framework has been adopted to steer the treatment of these issues (a revised version is due to be reviewed in July 2012). Within this framework, the government sets clear objectives for its youth policy, including:

- Identifying the needs and aspirations of youth
- Providing examples of how youth can engage in the decision-making process of their country
- All around development of the youth morally, intellectually, physically and professionally to ensure their mental and physical health and well-being in order to produce good citizens, leaders and preservers of cultural heritage
- Promotion of unity amongst the youth
- Provision of special care and attention to young persons with special needs as to empower them to develop their hobbies and potentials
- Instill democratic ideals and norms in the youth as leaders of tomorrow and prepare them in building a tolerant and peaceful society

To this end, the MoYSR has clearly identified twelve different themes, all aimed at addressing the issues at hand. These are clearly laid out within the policy framework, along with a detailed description of how the policy should be addressed.

A brief summary of these themes is detailed below:

Theme	Method of Achievement
<b>Education, Training &amp; Young People</b> <i>“Further enhancing educational options and developing a comprehensive and integrated educational and training approach which develops the thinking and creativity of young people”</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Continuous development of appropriate education and curricula</li><li>- Building closer links between the education training system and the labor market</li><li>- Enhancing career counseling for both young people and their parents</li></ul>
<b>Employment of Young People</b> <i>“Preparing young people for the job market; increasing the</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reconciling training and education systems to job market requirements</li></ul>

<i>net number and variety of youth employment opportunities; increasing the productivity of young people and motivating them to be self-reliant and eliminating discrimination within the job market"</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting the role of family in building a work culture</li> <li>- Eliminating child labor</li> <li>- Opening IT training centers for young people</li> </ul>
<b>Health &amp; Young People</b>  <i>"Promoting healthy lifestyles amongst young men and women... using a holistic multi-disciplinary approach which views young people as people, not problems"</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting awareness of personal health, including the importance of hygiene, good nutrition, exercise and dental health</li> <li>- Establishing and supporting youth psychological health services</li> <li>- Providing youth friendly facilities that provide support in terms of reproductive health</li> </ul>
<b>Participation &amp; Young People</b>  <i>"The creation of a safe and conducive environment for young women and young men to participate fully in all fields of public life"</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promotion of participation in representative institutions at all levels</li> <li>- Establishment of youth centers</li> <li>- Creation of new opportunities for all young people to plan and investigate community service actions and initiatives in response to their challenges and community opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>Participation in Cultural Life</b>  <i>"Promoting cultural activities and structures"</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting youth cultural groups</li> <li>- Encouraging youth participation in inter-state cultural festivals and events</li> </ul>
<b>Civil Rights, Citizenship &amp; Young People</b>  <i>"Building a culture of democracy, self-esteem and patriotism amongst the youth"</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting the principles and practices of citizenship and democracy</li> <li>- Enhancing the skills of youth service providers</li> <li>- Strengthening personal and leadership skills of young men and young women to enhance their participation in national and community life</li> </ul>
<b>Enhancing Civic Awareness of South Sudan Youth</b>  <i>"Raising youth awareness and knowledge of their human, civil and political rights and responsibilities"</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting youth participation in decision-making at all levels of civil society institutions</li> </ul>
<b>Recreation Activities, Leisure Time &amp; Young People</b>  <i>"Increasing self-confidence and participation, enhancing personal skills, health, growth and development"</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enabling youth-friendly environments for young people to access quality recreational activities</li> <li>- Creating awareness of the importance of recreational activities to personal development, with a focus on young women</li> <li>- Building on already existing recreational programs to enhance the participation of young women and young people with special needs</li> </ul>
<b>Create Culture through Youth Community Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhancing a sense of social responsibility within the private</li> </ul>

<b>Activities</b>  <i>"Promoting culture in local communities"</i>	sector to support recreational activities  - Integration of non-formal educational activities (community service, sports, hobbies) and provide leadership roles for young people in their conduct
<b>Media, Culture &amp; Young People</b>  <i>"Deepening the concept of national culture within the minds of young people and finding effective ways to enable them to contribute positively to the formulation of an effective cultural and information policy"</i>	- Identifying and promoting amongst young people clear understanding of the culture of people of South Sudan  - Promoting the elements of positive culture, values, customs and behaviors  - Sensitizing and protecting young people from the negative effects of foreign culture  - Strengthening the understanding of young people regarding the concept, challenges and opportunities of globalization
<b>Information Technology, Globalisation &amp; Young People</b>  <i>"Demystifying ICT and developing awareness and acceptance amongst young people of how it can positively affect their daily lives and create opportunities and options that would otherwise be none existent"</i>	- Promoting awareness through education, electronic games and media of the importance, uses and benefits of ICT  - Developing and promoting training and employment opportunities available through ICT  - Continually upgrading national and community capacity regarding ICT infrastructure and opportunities
<b>The Environment &amp; Young People</b>  <i>"Enhancing environmental awareness amongst the youth"</i>	- Fostering the efforts of youth organizations in the field of voluntary environmental work and action  - Increasing youth participation in tree-planting  - Establishing Youth Associations and clubs for the protection of the environment

The themes of promoting awareness and participation continue to run throughout the policy framework as the key ingredients to beginning the development process, with an emphasis on youth education and active involvement. However, many of the ideas and plans expressed in the policy framework are also far-reaching and peppered with bold and sweeping targets, such as *"enhance the role of all youth-related institutions"*, without any direction as to how this may be concretely achieved.

In addition, the framework clearly states that *"there will be close collaboration and coordination between the Ministries of Education, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and other relevant Ministries, such as the Ministry of Labor, Public Service and Human Research Development"*. However, it appears that coordination between the national-level government Ministries still requires improvement, as when visited, none of these related Ministries were able to produce any policy directed specifically towards youth within their own Ministry or even seemed aware that such a policy existed.

### ***MoYSR 3 Year Sector Plan***

In addition to the Policy Framework, MoYSR has established goals within the domain of a Youth Service. Below is an excerpt from the MoYSR 3 Year Sector Plan.

The Ministry has set a target of an active Payam Youth Service<sup>63</sup> in 100 payams by 2013. The program is a two-year national volunteer service that will grow in stages, starting with 1,000 young men and women and reaching 5,000 to 10,000 over time. The Service seeks to achieve a number of important development objectives. First, it gives young men and women a stake in the country's national development by supplementing the public service at the community level, where it is most needed. It will do this by providing affordable, scalable and socially inclusive services for the Payam.<sup>64</sup> Second, it is a job creation program that builds national solidarity and cultural inclusiveness while linking the service of youth to the priorities of the SSDP. Finally, it is a solid investment in nation building and the development of human capital through the building of the next generation of the public service and the private sector.

Other key youth targets are:

- 3% of youth (15-29 years) with equal gender balance have access to well-structured sports and recreation activities
- Existence of gender sensitive nation-wide Youth Voluntary Service Program
- Youth meaningfully involved in 5 major national processes, representative of both boys and girls
- 8,600 young people (60% females) trained in short-term vocational training

To address these issues and achieve the sector objective, there are three interventions will be undertaken to directly impact youth:

#### **Developing Youth Access to Sports and Recreation**

*The Development Outcome Objective is:* "Increase youth (boys and girls) access to well-structured sports and recreation activities."

*The target for 2013 is:*

- a) To ensure that three percent of youth have access to well-structured sports and recreation activities

*Planned activities include:*

- a) Developing a gender sensitive policy framework and three year strategic plan and establishing gender disaggregated information management system to monitor implementation;
- b) Establishing, equipping and supporting girls and boys sports associations and clubs;
- c) Developing a communications strategy promoting cohesiveness and national unity to be implemented through sports associations and clubs;

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<sup>63</sup>The Payam Youth Service is referred to interchangeably as a national youth volunteer service throughout the SSDP.

<sup>64</sup>Activities of the Payam Youth Service will include: functional literacy and numeracy; Y-PEER educators for reproductive health tackling issues of early pregnancy and marriage; birth registration; community security and conflict mitigation; organizing of youth associations and sports; farmer and pastoral field schools; running of rotating savings and credit groups; income generation, skills training and business start-ups; and other priority issues identified by communities.

- d) Introducing a capacity building program for coaches, referees, and staff;
- e) Renovating and constructing sports fields and associated infrastructure and general equipment;
- f) Conducting annual sports tournaments; and
- g) Preparing South Sudan national teams consisting of both young girls and boys for regional and international tournaments.

### **Expanding & Upgrading Youth Participation**

*The Development Outcome Objective is:* “Increase youth (boys and girls) participation in voluntary service and South Sudan public affairs.”

*The targets for 2013 are:*

- a) To ensure youth representatives (boys and girls) are meaningfully involved in at least five national processes; and
- b) To introduce gender sensitive nationwide youth voluntary service program.

*Planned activities include:*

- a) Revising and formulating gender sensitive policy framework for youth organizations;
- b) Developing and implementing a National Youth Volunteer policy, procedures, monitoring and evaluation, and performance appraisal systems for the Payam Youth Service;
- c) Exposure visits to Youth Volunteer Services in the Africa region; strengthening existing youth clubs and associations considering equal opportunity for boys and girls;
- d) Establishing and equipping a national training unit and team and three regional training units and teams at Wau, Malakal and Amadi;
- e) Developing and administering gender sensitive youth volunteer program;
- f) Developing and managing HIV/AIDS awareness and information programs for youth;
- g) Organizing consultation forums on South Sudan public affairs;
- h) Coordinating youth festivals; and
- i) Introducing support programs for youth organizations such as Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

### **Providing Youth Vocational Skills Training**

*The Development Outcome Objective is:* “Increase out of school youth (60% females) to access to short term vocational skills training for better job opportunities.”

*The target for 2013 is:* Increase to 8,600 the number of young people receiving short-term vocational training that includes entrepreneurship and life skills modules.



*Planned activities include:*

- a) Developing gender sensitive vocational training policy framework for drop-outs and out of school youth;
- b) Renovating and constructing vocational training centers;
- c) Collaborating with the Ministry of General Education and the Ministry of Labor to develop and distribute targeted vocational curricula; and
- d) Engaging vocational trainers and coordinating the provision of youth vocational training.