IGAD SOUTH SUDAN

Strategy on Implementation of Chapter III of the R-ARCSS: Towards Durable Solutions for South Sudan Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

2020-2023

Prepared for IGAD South Sudan by:
Rose Mwebi
(UNHCR Secondment to IGAD)

Contributors
(IGAD and UNHCR)

June 2020

PEACE, PROSPERITY AND
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

STRATEGY SUMMARY

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development(IGAD) had a major role in facilitating negotiations towards the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan(R-ARCSS), signed in September 2018. Subsequently, a Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity(R-TGoNU) was formed in February 2020. The implementation of the pre-transitional phase of the R-ARCSS, was a further milestone in the resolution of the conflict in South Sudan. As a result, security situation and humanitarian access in the country improved, which has contributed to creating an enabling environment for sustainable solutions for refugees in the neighbouring countries and internally displaced persons(IDPs).

To support planning for durable solutions, this strategy advances approaches launched at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in 2016 that span the triple nexus of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding. The intention is to strengthen stakeholders' commitment to joint actions in implementation of Chapter III of the R-ARCSS on humanitarian assistance and reconstruction.

The triple nexus being central to advancing durable solutions to displacement is anchored in the R-TGoNU solutions orientation as documented in the National Development Strategy (NDS)[1], which incorporates the United Nations Cooperation Framework (UNCF) and encapsulates the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs). As a result, taking into account the triple nexus strengthens the whole of government approach in providing protection and assistance to refugees, IDPs and returnees, including durable solutions. This is in view of identification and prioritisation of interventions that spread across humanitarian, development and peacebuiding spheres to build resilience for the displaced persons and host communities.

Additionally, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and its annex – the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) through its 3rd pillar focuses on aspects of comprehensive solutions and is progressively being implemented in South Sudan. In this context, the Government recently adopted a National Framework on Return, Relocation and Reintegration of Displaced Persons (National Framework), which was followed with an Action Plan to operationalize the National Framework over the R-TGoNU period. Therefore, stakeholders collaboration to support operationalization of the National Framework is key to the Government of South Sudan.

Furthermore, this strategy promotes addressing prevention, protection, and solutions to the South Sudan displacement situation as part of a comprehensive regional approach. IGAD as a regional body supports UNHCR and states' additional measures and initiatives that promote overall society stability, with respect to citizens' rights, including refugees, IDPs and returnees in order to minimize factors that cause displacement. This approach is geared towards maintenance of peace, security and promotion of economic and social development. Assistance and acceleration of solutions for IDPs is another important aspect of the comprehensive approach that reduces further risks of displacement and contributes to attainment of overall solutions. Additionally, a regional approach facilitates coordination to ensure that obligations of states on granting of asylum are upheld, and further complements state responsibilities that enable joint efforts in seeking solutions.

South Sudan's protracted conflict, aggravated by the 2013 clash extended into July 2016, as well as recent inter-communical violence have destroyed livelihoods and caused widespread population displacement. Over 2.2 million people are displaced into neighbouring countries and approximately 1.67 million are internally displaced, with over 180,000 living in UNMISS Protection of Civilian(PoC) sites across the country.

1 South Sudan National Development Strategy(2018-2021)

The prolonged crisis weakened the economy and food security, negatively impacting on the country's attainment of Sustainable Development Goals. Despite the foregoing, from end of 2017 to mid 2020, there has been a continued increase in spontaneous returns of both IDPs and refugees, a sign of confidence in the peace process. Following this development, UNHCR and the Humanitarian Country Team continue to assess the scale of returns of refugees and IDPs, in order to support the Government to provide consistent basic services for voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable returns. Currently, UNMISS is in the process of withdrawing its peacekeeping troops from the PoC sites and is leading consultations with national authorities on security takeover and designation of the PoC sites as IDP sites. Consequently, it is imperative that humanitarian, development and peace partners accelerate engagement in return areas to support the Government in its primary responsibility to protect and to ensure reintegration of the over 3 million displaced South Sudan populations.

Post-conflict reintegration challenges facing the country remain considerable. There is evidence that the absorptive capacity of most communities is low and may cause concern and even tensions with host communities. Most returnees are living in IDP-like situations with limited livelihoods and inadequate basic services, specifically for those returning to rural areas. A number of pressing protection and solutions issues that are also components of peacebuilding require immediate attention, including: establishing inclusive governance institutions, resolving insecurity, enforcing rule of law and access to justice, finding solutions for complex housing land and property issues, establishing conflict resolution mechanims at community level, provision of basic services and addressing the urbanization needs of returnees who may not wish to return to rural areas of origin; disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants, establishing peacebuilding structures and, addressing the long-term imperatives of reconciliation and transitional justice. Surmounting these obstacles is essential to providing an environment conducive to sustainable return of both refugees and IDPs, hence vital to implementation of Chapter III of the R-ARCSS. Peace building priorities should thus focus on support to: (i) monitoring basic safety and security, including protection of civilians and rule of law; (ii) delivery of basic services; (iii) inclusive political processes; (iv) restoring core government functions, and; (v) economic revitalisation. This strategy contributes to these efforts by articulating key areas in implementation of Chapter III of the R-ARCSS to inform return and reintegration programming during the transitional phase of the R-ARCSS.

Essential to post-conflict reconstruction is the participation of refugees and IDPs in peacebuilding in order to contribute to rebuild their own futures and a lasting peace in the country. The R-ARCSS incorporates matters of displacement providing for refugees and IDPs rights as well as meaningful participation in social, political and economic arenas. The advocated for rights include, general guarantees of human rights, the right to physical safety and security, the right to citizenship, the right to and choice of durable solutions, the right to voluntarily return in safety and dignity, the right to documentation, the right to family re-unification, and provision on state obligation to provide for the reintegration needs of persons with specific protection needs. Refugees and IDPs civil and political rights in the R-ARCSS include, the right to vote, the right to freedom of assembly and association, and of expression, enabling refugees and IDPs to play an active role in shaping the future of their country. Furthermore, the R-ARCSS provides for the following priorities in the transition period: (i) the enactment of a permanent constitution in which the various sectors of society, including IDPs and returnees, can become stakeholders; (ii) and, ensuring political transition that establishes an effective and legitimate government through democratic elections. Therefore, the R-ARCSS reinforces the notion that rendering support to displaced populations to voluntarily return and reintegrate encompasses their meaningful participation in implementation of the peace process. In addition, participation of refugees and IDPs in the peace process serves to simultaneously address the root causes of the displacement, helping prevention of further displacement.

In particular, increasing effective participation of refugee and IDP women in peacemaking and conflict prevention efforts is a key priority. This is achievable through commitment to initiatives to increase women participation in formal peacemaking processes at the national level according to the gender provisions of the R-ARCSS. Equally, including the youth in peacebuilding processes is critical to ensuring sustainable and inclusive peacebuilding, as provided in Article 1.1.4.5 of the R-ARCSS that obliges the Government to strive to include the youth in their quota at different levels. In addition, the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution (SCR) 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 16) requires inclusion of youth in peacebuilding as necessary for promotion of peace, justice and strong institutions.

Considering that implementation of durable solutions requires government leadership and collaboration with stakeholders, this strategy contributes to advancement of the following three main inter-related areas:

- *Reinforcing national systems:* The objective is to shift tasks and leadership to national stakeholders starting from analysis and planning to programming and financing for durable solutions. These actions ensure greater alignment with national systems for reintegration programming for returning refugees, IDPs and host communities, through expansion of national protection systems and inclusion of activities in national and sectoral plans to build national capacity. National ownership is also intended to promote commitment to humanitarian principles and human rights-based approaches by key stakeholders.

- *Transcending humanitarian, development and peace divide by working towards collective outcomes, based on comparative advantages.* This aims to build stronger national resilience by promoting complementary actions towards collective outcomes by humanitarian, development and peacebuilding partners to work together to contribute to longer-term development results. The Global Compact on Refugees provides an opportunity for such coordination, coherent approach and a common vision of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding outcomes, shared by different parts of government and its partners.

- *Working together towards an anticipatory approach through joint planning to avert crisis:* This relates to strengthened stakeholder collaboration in response to the humanitarian situation and underlying multiple shocks in the country that include inter-communinal and localized conflicts, economic shocks, natural disasters and fiscal challenges that require joint engagement and planning to upstream preventive initiatives.

IGAD will thus harness opportunities created at the global level through the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees and at the regional level through the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action to strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration to expand opportunities for implementation of comprehensive solutions approaches to end the current displacement situation. This strategy draws from the National Development Strategy in addressing issues of governance, economic recovery and social service institutions. In addition, the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the 2009 Kampala Convention are key to implementing the nexus as that translates to state responsibility to protect; international obligations; and, meaningful participation of IDPs (and returnees) in resolving internal displacement. Likewise, the 2010 IASC Framework on Durable solutions and the 2016 Preliminary Operational Guidance to the UN Secretary General's Decision on Achieving Durable Solutions in the Aftermath of Displacement, are important tools providing a basic understanding of durable solutions and clarification on coordination on durable solutions implementation respectively. IGAD will collaborate with UNHCR and stakeholders to promote inclusive application of international refugee protection principles and applicable standards. Furthermore, in the current pandemic situation, IGAD's regional frameworks on response COVID-19 pandemic are key to promoting inclusive healthcare services for refugees and IDPs, which remains to be a significant humanitarian response.

Following the above, the overall objectives of this strategy in implementation of Chapter III of the R-ARCSS that encompass the Government of South Sudan's implementation of the National Framework on Return, Relocation and Reintegration of October 2019 are:

1. Promote participation of refugees, IDPs and returnees in peacebuilding and reconciliation in implementation of the peace process.

2. Promote an enabling protection environment for refugees, IDPs and returnees and expand opportunities for solutions.

3. Promote comprehensive and regional approaches to attaining solutions for South Sudan refugees and IDPs.

4. Provide technical assistance and support institutional capacity of the government to reinforce national protection systems.

5. Strengthen health support and preventive services for refugees, IDPs and returnees related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, in the context of implementation of this strategy for protection and solutions for refugees and IDPs according to the R-ARCSS, which IGAD is a major contributor to, there are opportunities as well as challenges. The former is highlighted as strengthened normative frameworks that provide conducive legal environment for protection and for implementation of durable solutions. In addition, the National Dialogue process by the government provides an opportunity for strengthened policy frameworks and an inclusive peacebuilding process. The latter is in view of delay in implementation of transitional security arrangements under Chapter II of the R-ARCSS coupled with slow pace of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups which may create a serious obstacle to return due to potential security threat to returnees. There has also been a delay in implementation of governance activities under Chapter I of the R-ARCSS that pertain to effective functioning of the R-TGoNU both at national and state levels. In addition, insecurity in some parts of the country perpetuated by non-state actors has continued to prevent returns of both refugees and IDPs.

The following is a summary of recommended prioritized protection actions and programmatic intervention in planning for durable solutions for refugees, IDPs and returnees:

For Government

- Improve security in areas of return through demilitarization and elimination of other sources of insecurity that returnees may face when returning to places of origin or areas of choice;
- Establish institutions to implement the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), ensuring that they are well coordinated to work with and include refugees, IDPs and returnees in the peace process;
- Establish a mechanism for continued dissemination of information on the R-ARCSS during the transitional period to include dissemination to refugees, IDPs and returnees;
- Implement South Sudan's Global Refugee Forum pledges to achieve more coherence and drive sustainable outcomes towards durable solutions in the medium and longer term;
- Ensure a whole of government approach in resolving the current displacement situation by establishing an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate protection, assistance and durable solutions implementation for IDPs and returning refugees;
- Coordinate with humanitarian and development partners to prioritise areas that have suffered most from the effects of the civil war and high return areas in post conflict reconstruction, as stipulated in Chapter III of the R-ARCSS;
- Reaffirm state commitments to humanitarian principles and international humanitarian and human rights law;
- Facilitate humanitarian access for IDPs, returnees and affected populations;

- Create a framework in which effective participation of refugees, IDPs and returnees in planning, execution and development of public policies is guaranteed, within the R-ARCSS. This should entail: establishment of taskforces for effective participation; facilitation of such participation; and, provision of technical and logistical support;
- Adopt the national IDP law to strengthen the national legal framework for prevention, protection of displaced persons and resolution of internal displacement;
- Establish a legal framework for the return of refugees from neighbouring countries, when conditions are deemed suitable for returns, ensuring that protection guarantees for returnees are in place;
- Establish an integrated system for reparation, transitional justice, accountability and reconciliation, as provided in Chapter V of R-ARCSS, as part of reintegration support, peacebuilding and conflict prevention;
- Undertake Judicial reforms to strengthen rule of law as an integral part of planning and execution of return, relocation and reintegration;
- Ensure adequate financing for implementation of laws, policies and frameworks to benefit programmes for returnees and IDPs;
- Provide physical protection and reliable monitoring system during and after return, and put in place an effective system of redress;
- Strengthen implementation of activities of the DDR commission as part of transitional security arrangements;
- Ensure demobilization of all child soldiers and support their reintegration to communities;
- Ensure equitable social service provision that is critical both for recovery and prevention;
- Negotiate local integration and resettlement opportunities for returnees;
- Maximize inclusion and social cohesion, and promote the rights, protection and participation of vulnerable groups including women and children;
- Increase effective participation of refugee, returnee and IDP women in peacemaking and conflict prevention efforts;
- Ensure an inclusive peacebuilding process that considers participation and contribution of the youth and South Sudanese in diaspora;
- Provide documentation to IDPs and returnees to ensure access to services; facilitate their access to timely and effective legal recourse for land disputes;
- Incorporate early warning systems and drivers of conflict in national development and peacebuilding planning and analysis;
- Include more contingency planning in national development plans to include staff, budget and necessary procedures;

For Humanitarian, Development and Peace Partners

- Support implementation of the R-ARCSS to actualize basic safety and security, inclusive political processes, delivery of basic services, restoration of core government functions, economic revitalization, and constitutional and judicial reforms, stipulated in the R-ARCSS;
- Prioritize as a strategic objective to strengthen national prevention, response and recovery capacities, and preparedness to better prevent and alleviate crises;
- Support strengthening of emerging government institutions and programmes aimed at re-establishing rights, creating livelihoods and support for return and reintegration of refugees and IDPs;

- Maintain political dialogue to work jointly with authorities towards achieving an enabling political, administrative, operational and legal environment, for delivery of protection and assistance, including implementation of durable solutions;
- Maintain meaningful dialogue with refugees, returnees, IDPs and persons-at-risk of statelessness, to identify and pursue concrete actions, work in partnership with and be accountable to the communities across the humanitarian response in line with the principle on accountability to affected people (AAP);
- Transcend the humanitarian and development divide in implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and the CRRF, enabling collaborative work, and bringing in new actors, where appropriate;
- Identify collective outcomes- through UNCF, HRP, RRRP and NDS that are concreate results that humanitarian, development and peacebuilding partners commit to achieving jointly to provide inclusive frameworks to drive programming across the triple nexus, capable of sustainably reducing risks and vulnerabilities;
- Strengthen coordination and financing modalities that can support collective outcomes;
- Support a whole of government national systems for early recovery and post conflict reconstruction;
- Undertake predictable and joint situation and problem analysis to build a common understanding of risks, vulnerabilities, addressing root causes of displacement, promoting resilience, and incentivizing early action in order to minimize the impact and frequency of risks and hazards;
- Enhance information sharing with refugees and IDPs to promote free and informed choices and voluntary return;
- Promote refugee and IDP rights provided in the R-ARCSS that include principles on non-discrimination, freedom of movement, free choice of settlement upon return and amnesty provisions;
- Support and invest in local, national and regional leadership, including amongst affected populations;
- Strengthen area-based programming to establish humanitarian, development and peacebuilding linkages to address capacity gaps;
- Implement cash programming where feasible to strengthen national and social protection systems;
- Ensure that women and girls are safe and secure and that their human rights are protected especially during conflict and crisis;
- Ensure a conflict sensitive approach that seeks to identify and mitigate against actual and potential local level conflict, is applied in all interventions;
- Ensure humanitarian assistance is implemented in line with humanitarian principles;
- Maintain a rights-based approach across durable solutions;
- Empower women to meaningfully participate across the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding spheres, and on decisions on their protection and durable solution;
- Promote youth participation by adapting to new ways of participation of youth, such as, establishing youth friendly mechanisms and adapting tools to stimulate their full contribution in peacebuilding;
- Implement development work focused on addressing causes of crisis and displacement and ensure to target the most vulnerable to promote their resilience;
- Support capacity building of local actors and community based organizations as part of localization and building national capacities;
- Identify and work closely with national institutions in the human rights field , with a view to maximize support for creating enabling conditions for safe return and reintegration of refugees and IDPs;

- Ensure humanitarian, peacebuilding and macro-economic policy linkages and concrete follow up actions to strengthen collaboration.

Donors

- Invest on effective participation of refugees, IDPs and returnees in implementation of the R-ARCSS as core to planning for durable solutions;
- Consider deploying strategic experts to support the government in implementing the triple nexus as part of national adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Advance solutions across the nexus such as the OECD recommendations that commit donors from OECD countries to improve on conflict prevention;
- Invest in national capacity for a whole of government preparedness, response, reconstruction and equitable services delivery;
- Support comprehensive planning at country level through projects that combine development, humanitarian and peace strategies;
- Adapt flexible funding processes to provide funding mechanisms capable of supporting complementary activities that span the triple nexus;
- Focus on development support in returnee hosting areas to improve absorption capacity;
- Support scaling up of activities through peacebuilding and other funding mechanims;
- Support greater funding for women and youth led initiatives at local levels.

ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union
BSRF	Board of Special Reconstruction Fund
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
GRF	Global Refugee Forum
GoSS	Government of South Sudan
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
MHADM	Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management
NDS	National Development Strategy
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
R-ARCSS	Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
RRC	Return and Rehabilitation Commission of South Sudan
RRRP	Regional Refugee Response Plan
R-TGoNU	Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SRF	Special Fund for Reconstruction
TNLA	Transitional National Legislative Assembly
UNCF	United Nations Cooperation Framework
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNCF	United Nations Cooperation Framework

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION 3
   1.1 Context 3
   1.2 Targeted Populations and Projection 5

2 PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES 7
   2.1 Progress in Implementation of the R-ARCSS 7
   2.2 Response to the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic 8
   2.3 South Sudan Normative and Policy Frameworks 8
   2.4 Global Refugee Forum Pledges 10
   2.5 Comprehensive and Regional Approach to Solutions to the Displacement 11

3. VISION 12

4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND MILESTONES 12

5. ADDRESSING DISPLACEMENT IN THE R-ARCSS 13
   5.1 Provisions on Refugees and IDPs in the R-ARCSS 13
   5.2 Institutional Framework and Coordination 16

6. INCLUDING REFUGEES, IDPS AND RETURNEES IN PEACEBUILDING 20
   6.1 Priority Displacement Related Peacebuilding Measures 20

7. IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH 23
   7.1 Promotion of Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus 23
   7.2 Prioritised Protection Actions and Programmatic Interventions 25

8. KEY STAKEHOLDERS 29
   8.1 Government of South Sudan 29
   8.2 Refugees, IDPs and Host Communities 29
   8.3 National Human Rights Commission 29
   8.4 OHCHR South Sudan 29
   8.5 Development Partners 29
   8.6 Humanitarian Country Team 29
   8.7 United Nations Country Team 29
   8.8 United Nations Security Council 29
   8.9 International Community 29
   8.10 UNHCR 30
   8.11 UNMISS 30
   8.12 IGAD Member States 30
   8.13 African Union 30
   8.14 Civil Society Organizations 30
   8.15 Displaced Youth 30
   8.16 South Sudanese in Diaspora 30
   8.17 Donors 30

9. SYNERGIES AND COMPLIMENTARITY 32

10. SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 32
    Implementation Matrix 32

    APPENDICES 42
    Appendix 1: Sudan's Pledges at the Global Refugee Forum, October 2019 43
    Appendix 2: List of Ministries of the R-TGoNU and incumbents as of June 2020 44

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

The signing of the IGAD-mediated Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) in September 2018, led to the formation of a Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) in February 2020, a significant milestone towards resolution of the conflict in South Sudan. This development resulted in improved security situation and humanitarian access in the country. The effects of years of conflict, violence and destroyed livelihoods have, however, left about two thirds of the population in dire need of some form of humanitarian assistance and protection. This has further created a prolonged humanitarian crisis aggravated by mass displacement, weakened economy and food insecurity situation, further impacting negatively on the country's attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The recent rise in inter-communal violence in the country has also led to heightened protection risks, as women and children continue to be disproportionately impacted.

South Sudan's civil conflict that erupted in December 2013 as well as the subsequent localized violence, have left over 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees in the neighboring countries, mainly Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. Approximately 80 per cent of the South Sudanese refugee population is comprised of women and children and more than 50,000 refugee children remain unaccompanied or separated. Nearly 1.67 million South Sudanese are internally displaced persons (IDPs), majority being women and children. Over 180,000 of the IDPs have sought refugee in UNMISS Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites. The country hosted 300,390 refugees and 3,787 asylum-seekers at the end of April 2020. 53% are female, women and children representing 82% of the total refugee population. A significant percentage of the refugee population (over 93%) is from Sudan.

Despite the aforegoing, the end of 2017 to half of 2020 continued to see returns of IDPs and spontaneous returns of South Sudanese refugees from neighbouring countries – a sign of confidence in the peace process. UNHCR and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) continue to assess the scale of returns, in order to provide support to the Government in ensuring that the voluntary returns happen in a safe and dignified manner. The UN is in the process of withdrawing its peacekeeping troops from UNMISS Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites across the country and is leading consultations with national authorities on takeover of the security of the sites by the government. The POC sites which have been under UNMISS protection since the outbreak of the civil war in 2013, will be designated as IDP sites. This new development requires humanitarian, development and peace partners to step up peacebuilding and social cohesion programmes particularly in conflict affected and expected high return areas.

As of 6 September 2020, South Sudan reported 2,545 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 48 deaths, including one health worker. South Sudan is also Priority Two country on Ebola preparedness, due to its proximity to the epicentre of the latest outbreak, DRC. The emergencies compelled planned prioritization of the country's limited resources. IGAD and partners have supported the government to step up responses against the impact of the pandemic on refugees, returnees and IDPs,encouraging the Government to evolve a health coordination structure and integrate the COVID-19 responses to the national health plan, including at state and county levels.

However, the conflict and associated economic decline have eroded the government's ability to provide consistent basic services to its people such as health care, nutrition and access to safe water, thus subjecting more vulnerable people, particularly boys and girls to the risk of malnutrition and disease. More than 70 per cent of school-going children and youth are not receiving an education, exposing them to the risk of recruitment by armed groups. Years of conflict, displacement and underdevelopment have also limited people's livelihood opportunities, marginalized women's formal employment opportunities, and weakened families' ability to cope with the protracted crisis and sudden shocks.

BOX 1: KEY DEFINITIONS

Refugees

"Persons falling under the 1951 Convention on Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and any other national and regional instruments containing provisions on refugees, and, who have fled to neighbouring or third countries of asylum. The term "refugee" referenced in Chapter III of the R-ARCSS refers to South Sudanese refugees in asylum countries and not refugees hosted in South Sudan.

IDPs

"Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular, as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or human made disaster and have not crossed an international border". - 2009 Kampala Convention.

Returnees

The term "returnees" includes both IDP and refugee returnees.

Stateless Persons

Under international law, a stateless person is someone "who is not considered as a national by any state under the operation of its law". At-risk-of-Statelessness is a term used to describe situations in which people are vulnerable to being left without a nationality. - Article 1 of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

Resettlement or Relocation

The voluntary process of starting a new life in any place in South Sudan other than that of the original place or region of origin. - 2010 IASC Framework.

Reintegration

The re-entry of formerly internally displaced persons or refugees back into social, economic, cultural and political fabric of their communities. - 2019 National Framework on Return, Relocation and Reintegration.

Local Integration

A process where displaced persons choose not to return to their places or regions of origin and instead choose to integrate and adapt into the social, economic, cultural and political fabric of their host community. - 2010 IASC Framework.

1.2 Targeted Populations and Projection

The targeted populations are those covered under Chapter III of the R-ARCSS, being South Sudanese refugees, IDPs and returnees who have been displaced in the wave of the conflict in South Sudan. A majority of the South Sudanese refugees, IDPs and returnees are children and women, with many being female-headed households.[2] This year marks the seventh year of the conflict with over 2.2 million South Sudanese having sought refuge in neighboring countries (Refer to Table 1),[3] while 1.6 million are internally displaced (Refer to Table 2). There are 300,390 refugees hosted in South Sudan as of end of April 2020 (Refer to Table 3), majority of whom are from Sudan, formerly one country with South Sudan with inter-linked socio-economic and political dynamics.

Additionally, statelessness is a major concern in the country due to gaps in nationality law and lack of access to nationality documentation by stateless persons and persons-at-risk-of statelessness. UNHCR supports the Government to issue nationality documentation to vulnerable individuals among the persons of concern.

Table 1: Summary of South Sudanese Refugees in the Region as of April 2020

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
Uganda	873,741
Sudan	818,462
Ethiopia	338,250
Kenya	121,476
Democratic Republic of the Congo	88,583
GRAND TOTAL	2,240,512

Source: (UNHCR) April 2020

Table 2: Summary of Internally Displaced Persons in South Sudan as of April 2020

STATE	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
Unity	247,614
Warrap	233,198
Upper Nile	215,888
Central Equatoria	208,853
Lakes	206,455
Jonglei	196,055
Northern Bahr El Ghazal	127,035
Western Bahr El Ghazal	105,465
Western Equatoria	64,027
Eastern Equatoria	61,225
GRAND TOTAL	1,665,815

Source: (IOM Mobility Tracking Round 7)

2 UNHCR Regional Refugee Response Plan for South Sudan Situation at: https://www.unhcr.org/partners/donors/5c330cf34/south-sudan-2019-2020-regional-refugee-response-plan-december-2018.html
3 UNHCR Regional Response Plan for South Sudan Situation at: https://www.unhcr.org/partners/donors/5c330cf34/south-sudan-2019-2020-regional-refugee-responseplan-december-2018.html

As of 22 June 2020, 181,231 IDPs out of the total number of 1,665,815 IDPs in the country, were hosted in six Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites located in UNMISS bases as follows: 111,766 in Bentiu; 29,658 in two Juba UN House PoCs; 27,930 in Malakal; 1,921 in Bor, and; 9,956 in the area adjacent to UNMISS base in Wau.

Table 3: Refugee Population in South Sudan as of April 2020

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
Sudan	278,091
Democratic Republic of the Congo	15,776
Ethiopia	4,143
Central African Republic	2,036
GRAND TOTAL	300,046

As of April 2020, UNHCR and partners verified 276,896 spontaneous refugee returnees as shown in Table 4 below, majority of them living in IDP-like situation. The key planning parameters for the gradual arrival of 350,000 cumulative spontaneous refugee returnees, as operational figures for 2019-2023 planning, is based on a combination of planning scenarios under UNHCR South Sudan planning figures and may depend on changing situations presented by evolving security situation in the country.

Table 4: Spontaneous Refugee Returns in South Sudan as of April 2020

COUNTRY OF ASYLUM	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
Uganda	136,457
Sudan	76397
Ethiopia	55,751
Kenya	6283
Democratic Republic of the Congo	6724
Central African Republic	3,266
Other	79
GRAND TOTAL	276,896

Source: (UNHCR and Partners)

As of 30 April 2020, there are 1,022,689 IDP returnees, based on IOM-DTM Round 8 data. This figure includes IDPs returning home or relocating elsewhere in the country from UNMISS PoC sites.

2. PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

2.1 Progress in Implementation of the R-ARCSS

The signing of the R-ARCSS leading to the pre-transitional phase was an indication of goodwill among the signatories towards the peace agreement. This was followed by the formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) on 22 February 2020, marking the end of the pre-transitional period. The implementation of the R-ARCSS enabled completion of critical pre-transitional tasks, mainly, agreement on the number of states and their boundaries, and transitional security arrangements under Chapter II of the R-ARCSS. This development together with the continued commitment of the Parties to the R-ARCSS to the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) Agreement signed in 2018, in Khartoum, Sudan, have led to improved security situation as well as humanitarian access, in many parts of the country. Critical humanitarian activities are already underway for spontaneously returned refugees and IDPs, led by the HCT, UNHCR and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) overseen by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM). Protection activities that are on-going include data collection, protection monitoring, mapping of vulnerabilities, and support for reintegration of the returnees.

The R-TGoNU period is intended to last 36 months with tasks that are categorized into thematic areas. Chapter I activities relate to the formation of the R-TGoNU and are already underway. These activities include, reconstitution of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA), judicial sector reforms, restructure and reconstitution of commissions and institutions at national level, and political parties and electoral reforms. Chapter II components are permanent ceasefire and transitional security arrangements in relation to security sector reforms. Humanitarian assistance and reconstruction is addressed in Chapter III of the R-ARCSS, with tasks relating to creation of an enabling political, administrative, operational and legal environment for delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection, including establishment of a Special Fund for Reconstruction (SPF). Chapter IV on resources, economics and financial management relates to public financial management and economics and related institutional reforms covering transparency and accountability, oil and petroleum resource management, and land and social security reforms. Chapter V on transitional justice, accountability, reconciliation and healing has activities relating to return and reintegration of refugees and IDPs such as the establishment and operation of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing, the Hybrid Court for South Sudan and the Compensation and Reparation Authority. Chapter VI on parameters of the permanent constitution is key to implementation of peacebuilding and relates to the permanent constitutional making process, including the reconstitution of the National Constitutional Review Commission. The transitional period will ultimately culminate in conducting of general elections to usher in a democratically elected leadership in the country.

Key areas of focus in 2020 include promotion of refugees, returnees and IDPs' participation in emerging institutions of the R-TGoNU, articulated in the various chapters. Chapter III of the R-ARCSS requires prioritization of conflict-affected areas in humanitarian assistance and reconstruction as well as inclusion of returnees in economic recovery. Increasing effective participation of refugee and IDP women in peacemaking and conflict prevention efforts is also a key priority and aligns with the Security Council's agenda, with the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). This includes implementing commitments and initiatives, to increase women participation in formal peacemaking processes, inclusive of refugee and IDP women, as well as, implementing the gender provisions of the R-ARCSS, to sufficiently address women's security and peacebuilding needs. Likewise, youth inclusion in peacebuilding processes is critical to ensuring sustainable and inclusive peace, as provided by Article 1.1.4.5 and recognized by the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution (SCR) 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security and Sustainable Development Goals(SDG16).

Humanitarian and development partners' contributions to implementation of the R-ARCSS, should include resilience strengthening activities among vulnerable and conflict affected populations including returnees. This highlights strengthening of national protection systems, prioritizing prevention activities and implementing collective actions to ensure equitable access to quality services and protection measures for refugees, IDPs and returnees as well as assistance to host communities.

2.2 Response to the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

In the current situation, IGAD's response strategy and framework on the impact of COVID-19 on peace and security in the region will augment implementation of this strategy. Such responses include identification, referral and support to vulnerable returnees and IDPs, and capacity support to the Government to strengthen management of returning refugees through border crossing points, in ways that respect international human rights and refugee protection standards.

2.3 South Sudan Normative and Policy Frameworks

South Sudan's improved normative and policy frameworks provide a basis for implementation of longer-term solutions for refugees and IDPs. South Sudan has recently acceded to the 2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (Kampala Convention), which it ratified on 28 May 2019. The country is in the process of adopting a national legislation to fully domesticate the Kampala Convention as well as other regional and international legal standards on protection and assistance to IDPs. Furthermore, South Sudan is party to the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) of the UN-AU (African Union) and the 2006 Pact on Security, Stability and Development. The latter is a multilateral instrument that commits member states to adopting and implementing the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement through its Great Lakes Region Protocol on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (The Great Lakes Protocol)[4]. The Great Lakes Protocol provides measures aimed at protecting the physical safety and material needs of displaced persons and creates obligations for states to prevent and address root causes of displacement.

South Sudan acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention in 2019, without reservations and enacted a Refugee Act in 2012. At continental level, South Sudan is party to the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention – the region's main refugee protection framework that builds on the 1951 Refugee Convention by incorporating provisions specifically relevant to refugee issues in Africa. These include a regional refugee definition (article I (2)), non-refoulement (article II (3)), solidarity and international co-cooperation (article II (4-5)), voluntary repatriation (article V) and a non-discrimination provision (article IV). However, addressing statelessness has been challenging as the country is not party to either the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons or the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Ambiguities in South Sudan's 2011 Nationality Act and associated Nationality Regulation including the use of terms such as "indigenous", contribute to an increased risk of statelessness in the country. This is exacerbated by contextual factors such as the widespread displacement and lack of civil documentation.

At the regional level, IGAD Heads of States and Governments adopted the Nairobi Declaration and Plan of Action (The Nairobi Declaration) on 25 March 2017. The Declaration sets out a comprehensive regional approach and commitments at four levels: (1) accelerating solutions by creating an environment conducive for voluntary and sustainable returns; (2) delivering durable solutions; (3) promoting self-reliance and strengthening sub-regional co-operation; 4) and, increasing international responsibility sharing. South Sudan, as a member state, has committed to implement the Nairobi Declaration and Accompanying Plan of Action.

4 The Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons-the IDP Protocol-was signed as part of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region by the Heads of State and Government on 15 December 2006. South Sudan formally applied for membership of International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on 08.09.2012 during the 3rd Extraordinary Summit of ICGLR Heads of State.

Among key regional achievements of the Nairobi Declaration and its Plan of Action implementation are the adoption of the Djibouti and Kampala declarations. The Djibouti declaration promotes inclusion of refugees into national education curricula while the Kampala declaration promotes provision of livelihood opportunities, jobs and self-reliance for both refugees and their host communities across the region. Currently, there is further significant progress of the Nairobi Declaration implementation in South Sudan with the development of a National Framework on Return, Relocation and Reintegration of Displaced Persons (National Framework) to achieve durable solutions. The National Framework was launched in October 2019 by MHADM towards implementation of Chapter III of the R-ARCSS, over the period of the R-TGoNU.

The National Framework is intended to maximize utilization of resources and improve shared collective responses to both IDPs and refugees hosted in neighbouring countries, who opt to voluntarily return home, following restoration of peace in the country. It outlines roles and responsibilities of engaged stakeholders while guaranteeing national ownership, legitimacy and accountability of actions. The operationalization of the National Framework aims to: (1) secure access to civilian populations in need of emergency humanitarian assistance and protection; (2) create safe and secure environment, establishing rule of law to achieve durable solutions for return, relocations and integration; (3) implement relief and development programmes in line with accepted human rights and humanitarian principles; (4) provide special consideration to conflict-affected persons in delivering needed services, while granting the host communities access to the same humanitarian services and protection; (5) implement early recovery and stabilization interventions especially in host communities, restoring capacity of local governments, rule of law institutions as well as creating a sustainable value chain; and, (6) foster community dialogue and reconciliation between government and relevant stakeholders including: IDPs, local communities, civil society, humanitarian, development and peacebuilding partners, UN agencies and the international community.

This strategy reinforces implementation of the National Framework and is aligned with the National Development Strategy (NDS) for South Sudan, a major element towards implementation of the R-ARCSS, addressing issues related to governance, post-conflict economic reconstruction and social service institutions. NDS is a recycled three years budget guide for national investment and development actions with a goal to "consolidate peace and stabilize the economy."[5] Therefore, operationalization of the National Framework delivers the objectives of NDS specifically articles 4.3 on Social Service Cluster and 4.4 covering Cross-Cutting Issues, respectively, aimed towards establishment of equitable social service system and partnership that is sustainable and accountable and "effective public service that enhances inclusive, productive and quality service delivery for the welfare of the entire society."[6]

This strategy further draws on the 2010 Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principles on Durable solutions and the 2016 Durable Solutions Preliminary Operational Guidance to the UN Secretary General's Decision on Durable Solutions. It aligns with UNHCR Regional Refugee Response Plan for the South Sudan situation (RRRP) 2019-2020, with regard to returning refugees. Furthermore, UNHCR policy on Returns to South Sudan and new IDP policy, provide important standards on protection and implementing comprehensive solutions approaches, respectively.

Finally, the National Dialogue process compliments the implementation of the R-ARCSS and provides opportunities for an inclusive peacebuilding process. There are also opportunities to implement findings and recommendations from the National Dialogue to strengthen legal and policy frameworks for innovative approaches to holistic solutions for refugees and IDPs.

5 South Sudan National Development Strategy (NDS) 2018-2021
6 South Sudan National Development Strategy(NDS) 2018-2021

2.4 Global Refugee Forum Pledges

All UN member states in 2018 affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and its annex – the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) through its 3rd pillar, which focuses on aspects of comprehensive solutions. The GCR supports implementation of both the 1951 and the 1969 OAU Convention by reinforcing three key principles: solidarity and international cooperation, regional approaches, and ensures non-refoulement as well as voluntary repatriation facilitation. The GCR aspects are drawn with a strong 'holistic societal' approach that establishes broader support and solidarity, hence, IGAD region countries' urge for increased responsibility sharing while committing to inclusive national policies.

As a UN member state and a signatory to the GCR, the Government of South Sudan made commitments during the Global Refugee Forum held in December 2019. The country's government made four pledges across six thematic focus areas namely: (1) Education; (2) Jobs and Livelihoods; (3) Energy and Infrastructure; and, (4); Durable Solutions. Box 2 below provides a summary of the pledges.

BOX 2: SOUTH SUDAN PLEDGES AT THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM, 2019

1. Create enabling conditions for safe, dignified and sustainable return of South Sudanese refugees.

2. Increase access to quality education for refugees and host communities by 2024, and reduce the number of out school refugees and host communities, by improving school infrastructure (construction and rehabilitation) and providing teacher trainers in refugee hosting districts, promoting psycho-social well-being of students (especially girls), and strengthening Education Management Information Systems (EMIS).

3. Expand economic opportunities and ensure equitable economic development in refugee hosting areas by:

- Providing technical and vocational training for 10,000 refugees and host communities by 2024.
- Working with host communities to expand access to land for refugees to 50,000 acres for the creation of farming opportunities.
- Promoting use of improved agricultural techniques.
- Enhancing connectivity solutions with the private sector.
- Providing a conducive environment for private sector investment.

4. Create access to sustainable and green energy solutions for refugees by implementing the national forestry policy and planting of 100 million trees in line with the national reforestation programme and policy; and, piloting of innovative approaches to resilience and climate smart adaptation.

Source: UNHCR/IGAD

Three (3) of the Government of South Sudan's pledges, above, relate to refugees hosted in South Sudan, while the pledge on "creating enabling conditions for safe, dignified and sustainable returns of South Sudanese refugees", relates to implementation of the National Framework, in the following four strategic areas:

1. Developing and adopting a national policy framework to address housing, land and property rights;

2. Establishing inclusive peacebulding structures;

3. Establishing alternative conflict resolution mechanisms, working jointly with traditional courts, community leaders and peace committees at community level;

4. Enforcing rule of law and access to justice by establishing a strong presence of state organs at all levels.

The above commitments by the Government support implementation of Chapter III of the R-ARCSS thus requiring concerted effort of stakeholders to support the Government in terms of policy development and programming, to realise durable solutions for refugees and IDPs.

2.5 Comprehensive and Regional Approach to Solutions to the Displacement

Aligning with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), this strategy highlights addressing prevention, protection, and solutions to the South Sudan displacement situation as part of a comprehensive regional approach. IGAD as a regional body will support UNHCR and states' additional measures and initiatives to promote overall stability of the society and respect for the rights of citizens, including refugees, IDPs and returnees, and thus to remedy the factors causing displacement. This approach is geared towards maintenance of peace and security, the promotion of economic and social development, and respect for human rights as essential elements of the comprehensive approach, as well as, responding to the displacement situation across the spectrum, from protection and assistance to solutions and prevention in an interlocking and mutually reinforcing manner. This includes assistance and protection for internally displaced populations in order to reduce the risk of further displacement and contribute to the attainment of overall solutions.

Furthermore, a regional approach facilitates a coordinated approach to ensure that obligations of states on granting of asylum are upheld. This further complements state responsibilities that enable joint efforts in seeking solutions, which may include sharing costs, technical capacities, lessons learnt and experiences. For example, the Government of Sudan's pledges at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019 (See Annex 2) present opportunities to implement holistic solutions for refugees and IDPs within its territory as well as to reinforce solutions for the over 300,000 Sudanese refugees hosted in South Sudan and others in the region.

Additionally, IGAD will engage with the Government of South Sudan to advance cooperation that facilitates monitoring of the protection environment, prioritized actions to improve the protection environment both in the country and in countries of asylum and agree on planning for durable solutions for returnees, including necessary benchmarks for returns. In this regard, IGAD will collaborate with UNHCR and stakeholders to promote inclusive application of international refugee protection principles and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, while taking into account other national, regional and international standards for the protection of and solutions for the populations of concern.

3. VISION

BOX 3: VISION

Durable reintegration in areas of origin or choice is feasible for most IDPs and returning refugees

This strategy primarily targets South Sudanese refugees in the neighbouring asylum countries, returnees and IDPs. In addition, the strategy promotes attainment of durable solutions for refugees hosted in South Sudan covered under the South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND MILESTONES

Strategic Objective 1: Promote participation of refugees, IDPs and returnees in peacebuilding and reconciliation in implementation of the peace process

Outcome 1.1: Elaborate a joint strategy with the Transitional Government on participation of refugees, returnees and IDPs in the next phases of the peace process in coordination with UNHCR;

Outcome 1.2: Refugees, IDPs and returnees have access to information on the peace process.

Strategic Objective 2: Promote an enabling protection environment for refugees, IDPs and returnees and expand opportunities for solutions

Outcome 2.1: The ceasefire agreement holds and commitments and provisions on return and reintegration of refugees and IDPs, and their participation in peacebuilding are adhered to by parties to the R-ARCSS;

Outcome 2.2: Advocacy actions are undertaken in support of the Transitional Government implementation in fulfilling its Global Refugee Forum pledges as they relate to South Sudan's National Framework on Return, Relocation and Reintegration;

Outcome 2:3: Reduction in protection risks and support for resilience of the most vulnerable groups, with specific attention to the protection needs of women and children;

Outcome 2.4: National legislation, policies and strategies on refugees, IDPs and persons at risk of statelessness are adopted or improved;

Outcome 2.5: The funding mechanism under Chapter III (Special Reconstruction Fund) is established with participation of the international community;

Outcome 2.6: Opportunities for quality education and self-reliance are supported including access to shelter, domestic energy and, water, sanitation and hygiene, with reported access increase among refugees, IDPs and returnees in the hosted areas;

Outcome 2.7: Strategized civic engagement of refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities is developed in collaboration with other actors;

Outcome 2.8: Secured birth registration and increased individual documentation for returnees and IDPs;

Outcome 2.9: Improved research and knowledge on effective practices, policies and legislation and on management of return, relocation and reintegration of refugee and IDPs.

Strategic Objective 3: Promote comprehensive and regional approaches to attaining solutions for South Sudanese refugees and IDPs

Outcome 3.1: Improved learning and regional exchange on effective practices, policies and strategies on return, relocation and reintegration of refugees and IDPs;

Outcome 3.2: Improved regional collaboration to promote solutions to displacement.

Strategic Objective 4: Provide technical assistance and support institutional capacity of the Government to reinforce national protection systems

Outcome 4.1: Improved knowledge of protection among key local and national stakeholders;

Outcome 4.2: Government is supported in constitution making process and planning for democratic elections, ensuring effective participation of refugees, IDPs and returnees;

Outcome 4.3: A joint multi-sectoral Post Conflict Needs Assessments (PCNA) is implemented for joint situational analysis and planning, ensuring that it prioritizes addressing the needs of refugees, IDPs and returnees.

Strategic Objective 5: Strengthen health support and preventive services for refugees, IDPs and returnees related COVID-19 pandemic

Outcome 5.1: National health systems and preventive responses include refugees, IDPs and returnees;

Outcome 5:2: Government capacity is enhanced to manage border entry points for returning refugees in accordance with refugee protection standards;

Outcome 5:3: A study on inter-communal violence and its impact on humanitarian access and inclusive service delivery is undertaken to inform interventions.

5. ADDRESSING DISPLACEMENT IN THE R-ARCSS

The R-ARCSS addresses issues of refugees and IDPs as the country moves towards achieving durable peace. This includes addressing protection and assistance for returnees and their re-integration in new communities. Thus, the R-ARCSS reinforces the notion that rendering support to displaced populations to voluntarily return and reintegrate can also simultaneously address the root causes of the conflict and help prevent further displacement.[7] The resolution of displacement is thus inextricably linked with achieving peace, more so due to South Sudan's large, protracted displacement situation.

5.1 Provisions on refugees and IDPs in the R-ARCSS

The R-ARCSS enumerates the rights of displaced South Sudanese, including general guarantees of human rights, the right to and choice of durable solutions, rights as citizens, the right to documentation, and the right to restitution of property, as discussed below:

7 Ibid;

i. Right to physical safety and security

The Agreement provides in Chapter I on the mandate of the R-TGoNU on creating enabling conditions for return, in terms of restoration of peace, security and stability in the country, as follows:

"The R-TGoNU shall implement this Agreement and restore permanent peace, security and stability in the country (Article 1.2.2) and expedite the relief, protection, voluntary and dignified repatriation, rehabilitation, resettlement and reintegration of IDPs and returnees, working closely with the United Nations and other international agencies (Art.1.2.3)."

Furthermore, Chapter II calls for a permanent ceasefire to enable solutions to displacement, thus:

"The Parties hereby agree that the Permanent Ceasefire signed in the Khartoum Declaration on 27th June 2018, which came into effect on 1st July 2018, shall be observed meticulously throughout the Republic of South Sudan to ensure sustainable peace, and facilitate the operationalization of the Transitional Security Arrangements and the voluntary repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees and internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)."

ii. Protection of civilians, civilian character of IDP sites and vacation of civilian structures

The Agreement in Chapter II outlaws "acts of hostility, intimidation, violence or attacks against civilian population including IDPs and returnees. The R-ARCSS provides in Article 2.2.3.1 that "civilian areas shall be immediately demilitarized, which include schools, service centres, occupied houses and IDP sites."

iii. Right to return in safety and dignity

Chapter III substantively addresses displacement of refugees and IDPs in the peace processes. The R-ARCSS in Article 3.1.1.2 provides for important protection safeguards in return, thus:

"... the right of refuges and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to return in safety and dignity and to be afforded physical, legal and psychosocial protection" shall be ensured."

iv. General guarantees on human rights

Chapter III provides general guarantees on human rights and, importantly, also refers to preserving family unity. In this regards, Article 3.1.1.3 stipulates that:

"The rights of returnees shall be respected in accordance with the Bill of Rights as provided for in the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (TCRSS), as amended. Given that, efforts shall be made to assist in the re-unification of family members who were separated during the conflict."

v. Rights as citizens

The R-ARCSS in Article 3.1.1.4 provides for:

"The right of refugees and IDPs to citizenship and the establishment of mechanisms for registration and appropriate identification and/ or documentation of affected populations including their children, spouses, property, land and other possessions which might have been lost during the conflict."

The above provides an assurance that returnees and displaced persons did not forfeit any rights or freedoms by having left their places of origin and that their rights as citizens shall be respected on return. IDPs and refugees are, as a rule, citizens of the country where they are displaced, and the R-ARCSS recognizes this fact and guarantees their full rights as citizens.

vi. The right to documentation

Even where citizenship is uncontested, a problem for IDPs and returnees trying to exercise their rights (for example to education or healthcare) is the lack of official documentation. Article 3.1.1.4 above specifically addresses the issues surrounding the lack of personal documentation, and suggests remedies as being:

"...the establishment of mechanisms for registration and appropriate identification and/ or documentation."

The lack of personal documentation for the majority of the uprooted population groups increases their vulnerability and limits their access to basic services and the enjoyment of their civil and political rights.

vii. The right to choose return, local integration or settlement elsewhere in the country

The R-ARCSS in Chapter III (Article 3.1.1.5) provides for:

"Exercise of the right of refugees and IDPs to return to their places of origin and/or live in areas of their choice in safety and dignity."

The article provides for the right to return and, importantly, implicitly recognises the right not to return and, with regard to internally displaced persons, the right to stay elsewhere in their country. This enables IDPs and refugees to choose between different alternatives for durable solutions and commits to providing IDPs and refugees full information to allow an informed decision.

viii. The right to property

As indicated above, the right to property is specifically dealt with under Article 3.1.1.4 as it is often one of the most important obstacles to return and resettlement for refugees and IDPs. Returnees shall, upon return, have a legal right to recover property. This requires the Government, with support of partners and involvement of refugees and IDPs, to establish a system for resolution of housing, land and property issues.

The Great Lakes Pact, to which South Sudan is a signatory, includes a specific Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons. Article 4 provides for the establishment of legal mechanisms for adjudication of claims. It also requires the establishment of:

"...an affordable property registration scheme under which title to property, including land, held under both customary and statutory land tenure systems is recognized." [8]

Furthermore, international human rights law, as it applies to IDPs, is collated in the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

ix. Special Assistance and Protection to vulnerable groups and host communities

The R-ARCSS contains provision to ensure that the government provides special assistance and protection to vulnerable groups: Article 2.1.10.7.5 provides for protection of the needs of women, girls and those groups with special needs. It stipulates that:

"The Government shall ensure to offer special considerations to conflict affected persons (children, orphans, women, widows, war-wounded, etc.), in the provision of public services, including access to health and education services, and grant the host communities the same benefit, protection and humanitarian services."

8 International Refugee Rights Initiative/Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2007) Enhancing Protection of Displaced Populations: Translating the Great Lakes Peace Pact into Action, Background Note, April, 346

Furthermore, Article 2.1.10.2 prohibits acts and forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and harassment, while Article 2.1.10.3 prohibits the use of child soldiers by armed groups.

5.2 Institutional Framework and Coordination

Implementation of the R-TGoNU is categorised across five clusters coordinated by the Head of State and respective Vice Presidents. The clusters are: Governance, Economic, Service, Infrastructure and Gender and Youth; all organized around ministries, departments and related institutions. Reconstruction in the R-ARCSS is an implementation of transitional initiatives intended to create enabling conditions that "consolidate peace and stabilize the economy"[9] towards recovery and development. In the context of this strategy, three broad thematic pillars based on the five clusters encompass areas that are key to creating an enabling environment for sustainable returns, as illustrated in the following figure.

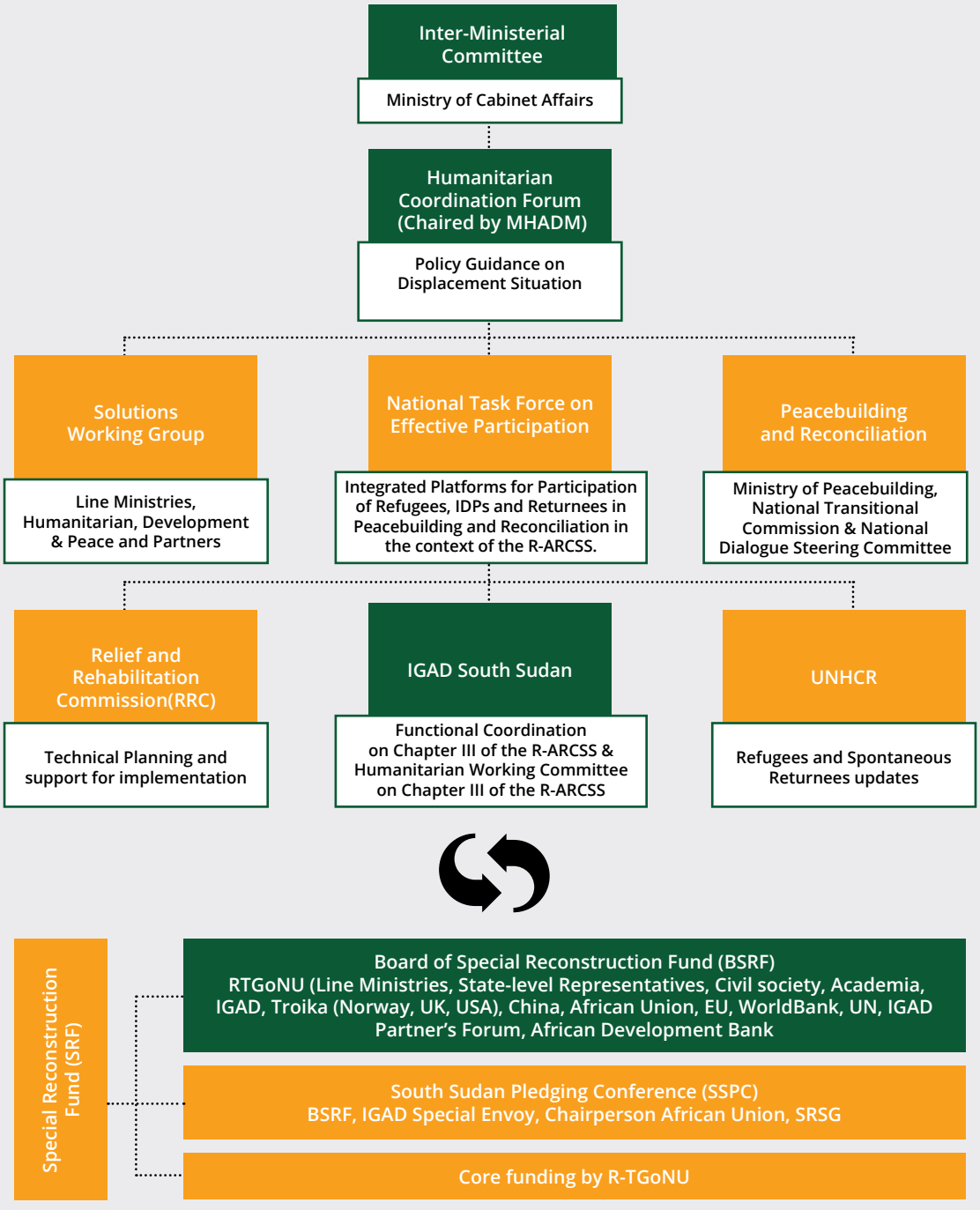
Figure 1: Thematic Pillars of R-ARCSS

THEMATIC PILLARS AND KEY ACTIONS FOR CREATING ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE RETURNS	
GOVERNANCE, JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION	• Strengthen institutions and improve governance at national, state and payam levels; • Streamline fiscal management structures and processes in all ministries at national and state levels for sustainability and growth; • Review and enhance rule of law institutions and mechanisms; • Address requirements for reparation and compensation; • Establish a culture of transparency and accountability with enhanced citizen participation.
ECONOMIC RECOVERY	• Institute inclusive peacebuilding measures; • Facilitate improvement of agriculture, livestock and rural-based livelihoods, production and productivity; • Enhance agricultural and livestock policies, regulatory instruments, and institutional arrangements; • Ensure oversight and management of natural resources; • Create a business enabling environment and promote private-sector development.
RECONSTRUCTION 1. SERVICE CLUSTER 2. INFRASTRUCTURE CLUSTER 3. GENDER AND YOUTH CLUSTER	• Enhance access to basic social services, including health, household energy, nutrition, water (for humans, agriculture and livestock) and education (primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational); • Improve communication, transport and geographic accessibility; • Meet the immediate infrastructure development requirements and assess future needs; • Address return, reintegration and/or urbanisation of refugees, IDPs and host communities; • Create access to sustainable and green energy solutions,piloting innovative approaches to resilience and climate smart adaptations

9 Republic of South Sudan: National Development Strategy 2019-2021

Refugees and IDPs fall under the Gender and Youth cluster, specifically, under the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disastor Management (MHADM), which is supported by the Return and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). The R-ARCSS creates a unique institutional opportunity to mainstream the needs of refugees, IDPs and returnees in post-conflict reconstruction, as shown in Figure 2 below. The Ministry of Peacebuilding is to oversee peacebuilding measures that encompass inclusion of refugees, IDPs and returnees in mechanims of the peace process that include: transitional justice and accountability; reconciliation and healing; permanent constitutional making process; and, holding democratic elections. As a result, the Ministry of Peacebuilding is a key player in implementation of this strategy.

Figure 2: Institutional Framework and Coordination



IGAD also works closely with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, on cross-cutting issues on gender and protection of women and girls, and inclusion of women and youth in the peace process.

Related to Figures 1 and 2 above, the R-ARCSS provides for the following specific measures on implementing return and reintegration for refugees and IDPs: (i) creation of enabling conditions for returns; (ii) return and rehabilitation and prioritisation of conflict-affected areas in reconstruction, ensuring to cater for the needs of vulnerable populations, and addressing the rights to social protection of those at risk of abuse; (iii) cooperation with the international community, and; (iv) establishing a funding mechanism for post conflict reconstruction. Specific provisions of the R-ARCSS are as follows:

i. Creating enabling conditions for returns ensuring humanitarian access

Article 3.1.1. provides that:

"During the Pre-Transitional Period and throughout the Transition, the Parties shall create an enabling political, administrative, operational and legal environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection."

Article 3.1.1.1 strengthens the provision by committing the parties to ensure access to civilian populations, including the creation of safe humanitarian corridors.

ii. Resettlement and rehabilitation and providing special consideration for vulnerable groups in delivery of services

Article 3.1.2.1 provides that, during the transitional period, the R-TGoNU shall:

"...immediately institute programmes for relief, protection, repatriation, resettlement, reintegration and rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees, in coordination with the United Nations and other relief and humanitarian agencies."

The R-ARCSS in the above article thus provides for the role of RRC in instituting programmes for resettlement and reintegration. The R-ARCSS further provides for special consideration for vulnerable populations in the provision of public services including access to health and education services, to support for host communities[10].

iii. Cooperation with the International Community

The R-ARCSS contains specific provisions for access by humanitarian agencies and workers to IDPs and return and resettlement areas. Article 3.1.1.1 of the R-ARCSS states that:

"In addition to the Permanent Ceasefire obligations described in Chapter II, the warring Parties, shall ensure...secure access to civilian populations in need of emergency humanitarian assistance and protection, including establishment of safe humanitarian corridors."[11]

iv. Establishing a funding mechanism for post conflict reconstruction

To address the funding challenge, the R-ARCSS has sought assistance from the international community to support the funding and implementation of return and resettlement programmes through the creation of a Special Reconstruction Fund. Article 3.2.1 provides that:

10 Article 3.1.2.2
11 Article 3.1.1.1

"The R-TGoNU, in collaboration and support of international partners and friends of South Sudan,shall establish a Special Fund for Reconstruction (SRF), within the first one (1) month of the Transition, to be administered by the Board of Special Reconstruction Fund (BSRF), comprising membership drawn from the R-TGoNU and international partners and friends of South Sudan."

The R-ARCSS commits the R-TGoNU to provide the SRF with an initial funding of (US$100 million) as follows:

"The R-TGoNU shall provide the SRF with initial funding of not less than one hundred million dollars (US $100 million) per annum for the Transitional Period and shall cooperate with international donors in the administration of pledges to the Fund."[12]

The R-ARCSS provides that the support from the international community includes a pledging conference following the establishment of the SRF, as follows:

"Within nine (9) months of the establishment of the SRF, the BSRF in collaboration with the Chairperson of IGAD, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Secretary General of the United Nations (UNSG) shall convene a South Sudan Pledging Conference to raise money to resource this Fund, and to support the implementation of this Agreement. The Fund shall supplement core financing by the R-TGoNU."[13]

v. Coordination Structure

Coordination is key to having a successful nexus approach, requiring internal dialogue within humanitarian, development and peace partners, to effectively render support to the Government in providing protection and assistance to returning refugees and IDPs , and advancing durable solutions.

IGAD South Sudan has been instrumental in the development of an action plan to implement the National Framework and continues to engage with MHADM and RRC in the operationalization of the National Framework to implement Chapter III of the R-ARCSS. Progressive implementation of the National Framework is supported by the Humanitarian Coordination Forum (HCF) that provides a platform for stakeholders' engagement with the Government on humanitarian issues. IGAD's activities in implementation of this strategy are outlined in the objectives section and the implementation matrix, and include: support to the Government in development of law, policy and strategies on ending displacement; capacity support to Government in implementing comprehensive solutions approaches; enhancing regional approaches to solutions; and, all activities geared towards creating an enabling environment for sustainable return of refugees and IDPs. IGAD's implementation of Chapter III of the R-ARCSS will create synergies with and feed into the operations of the Government-led Solutions Working Group and the Humanitarian Coordination Forum within established policy frameworks.

In view of the multi-sectoral approach to protection and assistance, including implementation of durable solutions, an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism ensures strengthened Government coordination and a whole of Government approach. IGAD's support to the Government will thus entail, strengthening of inter-ministerial approach to coordination of protection, assistance and durable solutions implementation.

The Government is constituting a national task force on refugees, IDPs and returnees effective participation in implementation of the R-ARCSS to ensure their meaningful participation in peace building and reconciliation. The task force will lead development of a National Framework on Effective Participation of Refugees, IDPs and Returnees in Peacebuilding and Reconciliation (National Framework on Effective Participation). This development follows a webinar on inclusion of South Sudanese refugees IDPs and returnees in peacebuilding and reconciliation in the implementation of the R-ARCSS, co-organised by the Government, IGAD, UNHCR and the GP20 Initiative on internal displacement on 10 December 2020. As a result, IGAD will support the establishment and functioning of the national task force as well as development of the National Framework

12 Article 3.2.7
13 Article 3.2.8

on Effective Participation that aims to strengthen an integrated approach for reparation, transitional justice and reconciliation provided for under the R-ARCSS as part of reintegration support for refugees and IDPs and thus promoting durable solutions.

In view of the UN system-wide humanitarian response, spontaneous refugee returnees are assisted together with IDPs and host communities. Humanitarian support for return, resettlement and reintegration for spontaneous refugee returnees follows HCT strategies in line with the core responsibilities assigned to the Humanitarian Coordinator.

Finally, IGAD will support and provide advisory to the Thematic Humanitarian Working Committee established under Chapter III and other thematic working groups of the R-ARCSS that support governance and peacebuilding measures, to monitor and evaluate progress in implementation of outcome areas of the R-ARCSS.

6. INCLUDING REFUGEES, IDPS AND RETURNEES IN PEACEBUILDING

Including displaced persons in the peace process requires enabling their access to civil, political, legal and economic rights provided for in the R-ARCSS, hence the need to address access to those rights in the peacebuilding phase.[14] Furthermore, support to return and reintegration will simultaneously address the root cause of the conflict and enable returnees to contribute to reconstruction and economic rehabilitation, while avoiding reinforcement of marginalization.[15]

Consequently, reconstruction, economic rehabilitation and political transitions under the R-ARCSS must consider the rights of refugees and IDPs to meaningfully participate in peacebuilding in the country, even before they return to their communities of origin. Furthermore, issues of reconciliation are closely related to issues of justice and to demands for restitution or compensation for loss, which have been experienced, and are key to supporting reintegration.

6.1 Priority Peacebuilding Measures in the Transitional Period of the R-ARCSS

Many of the basic conditions for creating enabling conditions for return are also components of peacebuilding, and, the extent to which durable solutions for displaced persons will be found depends on whether such efforts are successful. The following key peacebuilding measures of the transitional period of the R-ARCSS are discussed further below:

- Supporting disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants and enforcing rule of law;
- Strengthening mechanisms for resolving property related disputes;
- Addressing transitional justice and promoting reconciliation;
- Supporting social cohesion and furthering reconciliation between local communities and returnees;
- Re-establishing basic services as well as ensuring access to services, resources and livelihoods;
- Enacting of a permanent constitution in which the various sectors of society, including refugees, IDPs and returnees are stakeholders; and,
- Ensuring political transition by establishing an effective and legitimate government through democratic elections.

i. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants

DDR is an integral part of the transitional security arrangements and is crucial to creating or maintaining an environment that is safe for displaced persons to return to, and is an important peacebuilding task. The presence of armed groups may create a serious obstacle to return and is a potential threat to returnees. Thus, an effective

14 Azpuru, D. (1999), "Peace and Democratization in Guatemala" in C.J. Arnson, (ed.) *Comparative Peace Process in Latin America,* p.120
15 RSG (2007) Internal Displacement and Peacebuilding: A Contribution to the Discussion, Submission to the Peacebuilding Commission

DDR process pertains to either disarming such groups or to integrating them in the South Sudan Unified Force as provided in Chapter II of the R-ARCSS. Ensuring to locate military and cantonment sites away from civilian populations should also play a role in giving returnees a sense of security. It may be required to relocate former combatants to other parts of the country, in areas where the forces have caused displacement suffered by returnees.[16]

Strengthening rule of law ought to be prioritised,as impunity or lack of political will to hold perpetrators accountable may create tension, endangering the peace process. Furthermore, the safety of displaced persons and returnees can be threatened by combatants who have been demobilized but have not been fully integrated into civilian life. It is recommended to increase patrolling by UNMISS peacekeepers in the initial stage of supporting returns, and shift responsibility gradually from military to civilian authorities.[17] Further, undertaking Judicial reforms envisaged in the R-ARCSS, is key to strengthening rule of law , which, as discussed above, is a key component of planning for returns.

ii. Property

Experience in post-conflict reconstruction indicates that tensions between host communities, displaced persons and returnees are directly related to disputes over resources and property[18]. Population movements create conflict over land and dwelling. Lack of reconstruction of destroyed houses, or non-return of property left behind, also create serious obstacles to return[19]. Female heads of households may face additional challenges as they often lack property titles in their names. Orphans also face similar challenges.[20] Problems may arise where displaced persons hold traditional but informal titles not recognized by the authorities[21]. Stakeholders in South Sudan need to devise creative solutions to address such property disputes, to support reintegration, including the following suggested measures:

- Providing technical support to the ministry of lands to finalize a land policy through a consultative process and to review the land laws to align with the policy;
- Promoting registration of land left behind by displaced persons and updating or where necessary creating land registries;
- Providing legal assistance to enforce property rights of women, orphans and widows;
- Formalizing informal forms of property traditionally held by minorities or other vulnerable groups, and restoring collective forms of property to indigenous peoples;
- Establishing an administrative mechanism to handle large numbers of property disputes or where property has been destroyed or cannot be restored to its lawful owner to provide compensation for damage;
- Establishing efficient law enforcement mechanisms to enforce orders to vacate and restore property belonging to displaced persons and returnees to its lawful owner, linked to local reconciliation and transitional justice mechanisms, and;
- Developing transparent and equitable alternatives to restitution of property that involves eviction of other displaced persons.

iii. Transitional Justice and reconciliation

Chapter V of the R-ARCSS on transitional justice, accountability, reconciliation and healing provides for the rights of displaced persons to restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, reparation and a guarantee of non-repetition as part of support to return and reintegration of displaced persons, requiring the government to establish related institutions and administrative processes; this include: establishment and operation of the

16 RSG,E/CN.4/2006/71/Add.6 (Sudan), para.44; Para 44;A/HRC/4/38/Add.2 (Cote d'Ivore), para 56
17 Supra note 17
18 Supra note 24
19 RSG, e/cn.4/2006/71/Add.4 (Bosnia-Herzegovina), paras 38-41; RSG/CN.4/2006/71/Add.6 (Sudan),pars 47-49
20 RSG/CN.4/2006/71/Add.6 (Sudan), pars 46, 47, 52
21 RSG, a/61/276, para.34 (Northern Uganda); RSG,E/CN.4/2006/71/Add.6 (Sudan), par.47

Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing, the Hybrid Court for South Sudan and the Compensation and Reparation Authority.

Addressing transitional justice and reconciliation is a key imperative and needs to be approached two-fold; addressing the short term and sustainability in the long term. In addressing reconciliation in the short term, this imperative is rooted in the need to establish a degree of stability and order, protect vulnerable groups, facilitate legitimate redress for grievances, and build confidence amongst populations. In the long run, it relates to factors such as exclusion of minorities from governance, disparities between identity groups in access to resources and opportunities, ineffective law enforcement, institutionalized discrimination, and a lack of accountability and transparency that are the underlying causes of conflicts.[22]

Displaced persons may be unable to return to their places of origin or the return may not be sustainable because of discrimination or even acts of violence. Inter-communal or intra-communal tensions over access to land and water may exacerbate further outbreaks of violence[23]. All these require robust steps to promote reconciliation and restore justice.

iv. Post conflict reconstruction

This primarily entails the restoration of basic services and livelihoods in areas of return. This is critical in order to make return for displaced persons sustainable.[24] Furthermore, where basic infrastructure such as water, roads or electricity is destroyed, economic activities may be impossible. Priorities in post conflict reconstruction include access to employment and other forms of livelihood and access to labor markets.[25] The absence of, or high interest rates for, micro-credit and bank loans, would also make it difficult to re-start business or to bridge the time until agricultural land is productive again.[26] In order to stabilize the situation, it is important to closely coordinate and combine humanitarian assistance for returnees and reconstruction efforts. Additionally, there is need to pay attention to the reintegration needs of the youth due to loss of opportunities available to them in refugee or IDP camps, in contrast to what is available for them at home in terms of education, vocational training and the isolation created by language barriers and inadequate infrastructure.[27]

v. Political transition

The process of peacebuilding under the R-ARCSS requires establishment of a functioning, legitimate government, which involves setting up of an electoral commission to oversee a referendum on the drawing up of a permanent constitution, and to ensure that elections take place in a conducive environment with full participation of the population. Enabling refugees and IDPs to participate in these key processes will effectively contribute to peace and long term development. Key to this strategy is therefore the protection of the civil and political rights of refugees and IDPs that include the right to vote, to freedom of assembly and association, and of expression in order to enable refugees and IDPs to contribute to shaping their own future and that of the country.[28]

In view of the importance of participation of refugees and IDPs in the political transition above, it is critical that the government and the international community address key obstacles to refugees and IDPs participation. These may include: lack of documentation; discriminatory practices; obsolete and restrictive residence requirements; inadequate voting arrangements; lack of timely, adequate and clear information; and, insecurity or acts of intimidation.[29]

22 Parlevliet, M. (2006) National Human Rights Institutions and Peace Agreements: Establishing National Institutions in Divided Societies, Paper presented to International Council on Human Rights Policy Review Meeting on the Role of Human Rights in Peace Agreements, March 7-8
23 RSG,E/CN.4/2006/71/Add.6 (Sudan), para.46
24 RSG,E/CN.4/2006/71/Add.6 (Sudan), para.52
25 RSG, e/cn.4/2006/71/Add.4 (Bosnia-Herzegovina), paras 43
26 Ibid, para 46
27 Ibid.
28 Walter Kalin, "Keynote address: political rights of displaced persons by conflict, "Colloquium at the International Organization for Migration, 13 June 2006
29 Ghimire, A. (2007) " Enfranchising IDPs in Nepal," Forced Migration Review (28): 48

7. IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

7.1 Promotion of Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus

Implementation of this strategy will draw from the UN reform processes to support the government and partners to advance protection and solutions for refugees and IDPs in complementary ways. This requires identification of collective outcomes and the delivery of comprehensive and integrated responses to the protection and solutions needs of refugees and IDPs. The UN reform process envisions UN entities and its partners working in humanitarian, development and peace realms to work more cohesively together, capitalizing on their respective comparative advantages, following the recommendations of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and in line with the 2030 Agenda. Under the "New Way of Working (NWoW)" agreed in the summit, the various actors are expected to work towards "collective outcomes" that reduce risk and vulnerability and serve as installments towards achievement of the SDGs.[30] The humanitarian, development and peace nexus builds on the growing recognition that humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts are complementary and need to reinforce each other to respond to volatile situations.

Furthermore, recognizing the strong interrelationship between humanitarian, development and peace, there is now a global emphasis on the importance of working at the 'triple nexus' where these dimensions intersect (see Figure 3 below). A key component of this response is sharing data, joint analysis and assessment of situations in order to identify and implement collective outcomes.

Figure 3: "Triple nexus" Approach

i. Humanitarian-development nexus: Yambio model

South Sudan 2020 HRP aims at enhancing coordination of sectors across humanitarian and development programming towards the New Way of Working. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Yambio model is a remarkable example of an area-based approach to integrating humanitarian and development approaches.[31] In October 2018, the UNCT launched a UN Joint programme for recovery and resilience in Yambio for 2018-2021 due to the window of opportunity created by pockets of stability in the area and commitments of

30 ECOSOC, Enhancing the humanitarian development-Peace Nexus at: https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/14973644
31 UNCT South Sudan, Partnerships for Recovery and Resilience launched in Yambio at: https://ss.one.un.org/partnership-for-recovery-and-resilience-launched-in-yambio.html

the local government to development. The Yambio model seeks to build the resilience of people, restore institutions, focus on youth, support host communities, strengthen the rule of law and community policing, and build a capacity for reconciliation and peace dialogue, including the transformative capacity of women. Simultaneously, it aims for: improved food production through agriculture and other sectors through improved access to markets and land; establishing, restoring and enhancing basic social services, including health, education, WASH and protection; working with local and national partners to strengthen their capacity to provide services; and, to nurture effective partnerships with all relevant stakeholders to track progress, whilst coordinating and holding each other accountable. The above have set the stage for a renewed focus on promoting recovery and resilience through a partnership that integrates efforts and builds synergies between peace, humanitarian and development partners.

ii. The peace nexus: Yemen example

In terms of programming, the peace nexus requires integrating a strong portfolio of context-specific programming approaches. Firstly, it requires assessments that consider contextual dynamics, risks, needs, vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms, and that are driven by participatory approaches. Examples include integrating a conflict sensitive approach to humanitarian assistance that can range from efforts to 'do no harm', to contributions to peace, although the approach taken depends on the appropriateness to the context and safeguarding of humanitarian principles.[32] Secondly, the peace nexus calls for actors to support peace dividends, in parallel with humanitarian assistance, to lay the foundations for recovery and peacebuilding. Lastly, this calls for programming for peacebuilding or stability efforts or early recovery, creating conditions for humanitarian and development access down the line.

Under this strategy, IGAD will lead planning and implementation of a Post-Conflict Needs Assessment(PCNA) and contribute to joint assessments and situational analysis in order to identify collective outcomes with partners and integrated responses to protection risks faced by refugees, IDPs and returnees, based on complementarities between the partners. For example, in Yemen, such an approach is being implemented in the on-going conflict and aims to establish a platform to identify collective outcomes among humanitarian, development and peace partners. Additionally, it aims to collect and share data to contribute towards a common understanding of risks, needs, gaps, opportunities for joint analysis, joint planning, joint coordination, collective outcomes, multi-year planning and advocacy.[33]

The Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan is already implementing such an approach. For example, the 2019 HRP was launched together with the United Nations Cooperation Framework (UNCF) for South Sudan for 2019-2020, creating collaborations of humanitarian and development work. This initiatives requires further strengthening by forging peacebuilding linkages at programming level through inclusion of peacebuilding concerns in HRP, UNCF, RRRP and NDS, and joint prioritisation of peacebuilding issues, such as, preventing recruitment of youth by armed groups and implementing social cohesion programmes.

iii. Implementing humanitarian, development and Peace nexus in the current context

Even with the on-going implementation of the transitional phase of the R-ARCSS, it is becoming increasingly imperative to focus not only on post-conflict response, but also on efforts to prevent the occurrence or recurrence of the conflicts that gave rise to humanitarian crises. This requires addressing the root causes of the conflict through means such as social cohesion and reconciliation, as well as addressing security needs in return areas. In practical terms, the triple nexus calls for the actors and donor community that have been supporting the humanitarian-development nexus to focus on the "humanitarian, development and peace nexus" by continuing to provide assistance based on the "humanitarian-development nexus" concept. This requires seamlessly moving into assistance in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, as well as, economic development, with on-going support to spontaneous refugee and IDP returns in order to facilitate sustainable

32 See example from South Sudan at: https://devinit.org/publications/donors-triple-nexus-lessons-united-kingdom/programme-cycle-and-nexus/#section-3-3

33 World Bank https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/the-humanitarian-development-peace-initiative

returns.[34] Programming areas that require strengthening in the current situation include: Financing for disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) activities, development of legal and judicial systems, public safety and security, and reinforcing national and local systems. Furthermore, increased resilience programming will help to transition both refugees and IDPs to durable solutions.[35]

7.2 Prioritised Protection Actions and Programmatic Interventions

The principle of return, relocation and reintegration (the 3Rs) has been referred to in the National Framework as a way of ensuring that linkages are established between immediate and urgent interventions of return, relocation and reintegration to medium to longer term development activities, supporting area-based programming. Interventions will focus on the needs of, and most appropriate support to the displaced and conflict affected populations, and the communities to which they return, resettle or in which they choose to remain. As such, planning and execution of programmes for return, relocation and reintegration of IDPs and refugees will be based on applicable international and national legal standards on the protection and assistance to refugees and IDPs.

The following actions are, therefore, necessary to strengthen programming for protection and solutions for refugees, IDPs and returnees:

For Government

- Improve security in areas of return through demilitarization and elimination of other sources of insecurity that returnees may face when returning to places of origin or areas of choice;
- Establish institutions to implement the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), ensuring that they are well coordinated to work with and include refugees, IDPs and returnees in the peace process;
- Establish a mechanism for continued dissemination of information on the R-ARCSS during the transitional period to include dissemination to refugees, IDPs and returnees;
- Implement South Sudan's Global Refugee Forum pledges to achieve more coherence and drive sustainable outcomes towards durable solutions in the medium and longer term;
- Ensure a whole of government approach in resolving the current displacement situation by establishing an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate protection, assistance and durable solutions implementation for IDPs and returning refugees;
- Coordinate with humanitarian and development partners to prioritise areas that have suffered most from the effects of the civil war and high return areas in post conflict reconstruction, as stipulated in Chapter III of the R-ARCSS;
- Reaffirm state commitments to humanitarian principles and international humanitarian and human rights law;
- Facilitate humanitarian access for IDPs, returnees and affected populations;
- Create a framework in which effective participation of refugees, IDPs and returnees in planning, execution and development of public policies is guaranteed, within the R-ARCSS. This should entail: establishment of taskforces for effective participation; facilitation of such participation; and, provision of technical and logistical support;
- Adopt the national IDP law to strengthen the national legal framework for prevention, protection of displaced persons and resolution of internal displacement;

34 NYU Centre for International Cooperation, The Triple Nexus in Practice: Toward a New Way of Working in Protracted and Repeated Crisis (2019) at: https://cic.nyu.edu/publications/the-triple-nexus-in-practice
35 Ibid;

- Establish a legal framework for the return of refugees from neighbouring countries, when conditions are deemed suitable for returns, ensuring that protection guarantees for returnees are in place;
- Establish an integrated system for reparation, transitional justice, accountability and reconciliation, provided in under Chapter V of R-ARCSS, as part of reintegration support, peacebuilding and conflict prevention;
- Undertake Judicial reforms to strengthen rule of law as an integral part of planning and execution of return, relocation and reintegration;
- Ensure adequate financing for implementation of laws, policies and frameworks to benefit programmes for returnees and IDPs;
- Provide physical protection and reliable monitoring system during and after return, and put in place an effective system of redress;
- Strengthen implementation of activities of the DDR commission as part of transitional security arrangements;
- Ensure demobilization of all child soldiers and support their reintegration to communities;
- Ensure equitable social service provision that is critical both for recovery and prevention.
- Negotiate local integration and resettlement opportunities for returnees;
- Maximize inclusion and social cohesion, and promote the rights, protection and participation of vulnerable groups including women and children;
- Increase effective participation of refugee, returnee and IDP women in peacemaking and conflict prevention efforts;
- Ensure an inclusive peacebuilding process that considers participation and contribution of the youth and South Sudanese in diaspora;
- Provide documentation to IDPs and returnees to ensure access to services; facilitate their access to timely and effective legal recourse for land disputes;
- Incorporate early warning systems and drivers of conflict in national development and peacebuilding planning and analysis;
- Include more contingency planning in national development plans including staff, budget and necessary procedures;

For Humanitarian, Development and Peace Partners

- Support implementation of the R-ARCSS to actualize basic safety and security, inclusive political processes, delivery of basic services, restoration of core government functions, economic revitalization, and constitutional and judicial reforms, stipulated in the R-ARCSS;
- Prioritize as a strategic objective to strengthen national prevention, response and recovery capacities, and preparedness to better prevent and alleviate crises;
- Support strengthening of emerging government institutions and programmes aimed at re-establishing rights, creating livelihoods and support for return and reintegration of refugees and IDPs;
- Maintain political dialogue to work jointly with authorities towards an enabling political, administrative, operational and legal environment, for delivery of protection and assistance, including implementation of durable solutions;
- Maintain meaningful dialogue with refugees, returnees, IDPs and persons-at-risk of statelessness to identify and pursue concrete actions ,work in partnership with and be accountable to the communities across the humanitarian response in line with the principle on accountability to affected people (AAP);

- Transcend humanitarian and development divide in implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and CRRF, enabling collaborative work, and bringing in new actors, where appropriate;
- Identify collective outcomes- through UNCF, HRP, RRRP and NDS that are concreate results that humanitarian, development and peacebuilding partners commit to achieving jointly to provide inclusive frameworks to drive programming across the triple nexus, capable of sustainably reducing risks and vulnerabilities;
- Strengthen coordination and financing modalities that can support collective outcomes;
- Support a whole of government national systems for early recovery and post conflict reconstruction;
- Undertake predictable and joint situation and problem analysis to build a common understanding of risks, vulnerabilities, addressing root causes of displacement, promoting resilience, and incentivizing early action in order to minimize the impact and frequency of risks and hazards;
- Enhance information sharing with refugees and IDPs to promote free and informed choices and voluntary return;
- Promote refugee and IDP rights provided in the R-ARCSS that include principles on non-discrimination, freedom of movement, free choice of settlement upon return, and amnesty provisions;
- Support and invest in local, national and regional leadership, including amongst affected populations;
- Strengthen area-based programming to establish humanitarian, development and peacebuilding linkages to address capacity gaps;
- Implement cash programming where feasible to strengthen national and social protection systems;
- Ensure that women and girls are safe and secure and that their human rights are protected, especially during conflict and crisis;
- Ensure that a conflict sensitive approach that seeks to identify and mitigate against actual and potential local level conflict, is applied in all interventions;
- Ensure humanitarian assistance is implemented in line with humanitarian principles;
- Maintan a rights-based approach across durable solutions;
- Empower women to meaningfully participate across the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding spheres, and on decisions on their protection and durable solution;
- Promote youth participation by adapting to new ways of participation of youth, such as, establishing youth friendly mechanisms and adapting tools to stimulate their full contribution in peacebuilding;
- Implement development work focused on addressing causes of crisis and displacement and ensure to target the most vulnerable to promote their resilience;
- Support capacity building of local actors and community based organizations as part of localization and building national capacities;
- Identify and work closely with national institutions in the human rights field, with a view to maximize support for creating enabling conditions for safe return and reintegration of returning refugees and IDPs;
- Ensure humanitarian, peacebuilding and macro-economic policy linkages and concrete follow up actions to strengthen collaboration.

Donors

- Invest on effective participation of refugees, IDPs and returnees in implementation of the R-ARCSS as core to planning for durable solutions;

- Consider deploying strategic experts to support the government in implementing the triple nexus as part of national adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Advance solutions across the nexus such as the OECD recommendations that commit donors from OECD countries to improve on conflict prevention;
- Invest in national capacity for a whole of government preparedness, response, reconstruction and equitable services delivery;
- Support comprehensive planning at country level through projects that combine development, humanitarian and peace strategies;
- Adapt flexible funding processes to provide funding mechanisms capable of supporting complementary activities that span the triple nexus;
- Focus on development support in returnee hosting areas to improve absorption capacity;
- Support scaling up of activities through peacebuilding and other funding mechanims;
- Support greater funding for women and youth led initiatives at local levels,

The principles of engagement are derived from international law, IASC principles and IGAD operational strategies, as follows:

- Promote state responsibility as a priority to meeting the needs of the citizens and upholding and respecting their rights;
- Engage positively with member states, in order to add value and complement efforts of member states in a consultative process that enhances cooperation and the spirit of partnerships in the programmes;
- Promote centrality of protection to ensure that protection is central to humanitarian action, and that leadership, coordination and engagement in protection and all sectors is more strategic, aligned and directed towards a stronger response;
- Partnerships are key as situations of displacement are complex and require collaborative, multilateral and multi sectoral responses in line with the Humanitarian Reform and Transformative Agenda;
- Implement community based approach responsive to age, gender and diversity, to promote the rights of displaced persons to participate in decision making, with targeted interventions on account of age, gender and diversity;
- The principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence underpin all interventions of humanitarian actors in situations of displacement;
- Disengage responsibly by providing technical support to government institutions, community structures and other actors to build national protection capacities.

8. KEY STAKEHOLDERS

8.1 Government of South Sudan

Effective implementation of protection, assistance and durable solutions requires government leadership and a "holistic governmental" approach. IGAD will support inter-ministerial coordination of assistance protection, assistance and reintegration activities.

8.2 Refugees, IDPs and Host Communities

Refugees, IDPs and host communities bring in different capacities that will be harnessed to stregthen protection and solutions. Their meaningful participation will also ensure sustainability of interventions.

8.3 National Human Rights Commission

Contribution to the strategy will include advocacy on the protection of vulnerable groups, policy formulation, review of legislation to align with international standards, and assistance to IDPs and returnees seeking redress.

8.4 OHCHR South Sudan

IGAD will collaborate with OHCHR in the area of human rights training, to stregthen human rights monitoring and policy development as well as in knowledge and advocacy on refugee and IDP rights.

8.5 Development Partners

Strategic partnerships with development partners are key to implementing the nexus approach. Development partners bring with them resources, knowledge, policy support and expertise in post conflict reconstruction.

8.6 Humanitarian Country Team

IGAD will work with the HCT coordination mechanism through the Inter-Cluster Working Group (ICWG) and with the Protection Cluster on advocacy areas under Chapter III of the R-ARCSS.

8.7 United Nations Country Team

The UNCT is a strategic partner in undertaking joint Post-Conflict Needs Assessment(PCNA) as the lead in conducting Common Country Analysis (CCA), as well as the custodian of the UNCF with the Government of South Sudan. Collaboration with the UNCT is thus instrumental to ensuring inclusion of returning refugees and IDPs in recovery initiatives, and in knowledge exchange, advocacy, and policy and governance areas.

8.8 United Nations Security Council

In view of the mandate of the Special Envoy's office, IGAD will continue to update the UNSC and seek technical guidance on implementation of the R-ARCSS.

8.9 International Community

The international community continues to play its role as an enforcer of the peace agreement, while monitoring and offering knowledge and advocacy support for implementation of international standards.

8.10 UNHCR

IGAD will collaborate with UNHCR in all matters related to returning refugees, in view of UNHCR mandate on refugee protection and durable solutions.

8.11 UNMISS

The Security Council, through resolution 2514 (2020), renewed the mandate of UNMISS until 15 March 2021 to protect civilians, create conditions suitable for delivery of humanitarian assistance and to support implementation of the R-ARCSS. IGAD will continue to collaborate with UNMISS in implementation of Chapter III of the R-ARCSS.

8.12 IGAD Member States

Close coordination with member states is key to promoting state responsibility and identifying common areas of action in promoting return and reintegration of refugees.

8.13 African Union

Collaboration with the African Union is key to harnessing opportunities created at the continental level to promote durable solutions, such as in the area of normative frameworks for protection and solutions for refugees and IDPs.

8.14 Civil Society Organizations

Civil society and NGO support focuses on area-based interventions, in areas where NNGOs have a comparative advantage. Regional NGOs are instrumental in providing linkages between host communities and refugees in asylum countries.

8.15 Displaced Youth

Refugee and IDP youth may experience the greatest difficulties to reintegrate due to limited educational and vocational training opportunities in the country. As a result, there is need to engage with the youth, who make up 70% of South Sudan population affected by conflict, in order to identify ways to promote their reintegration.

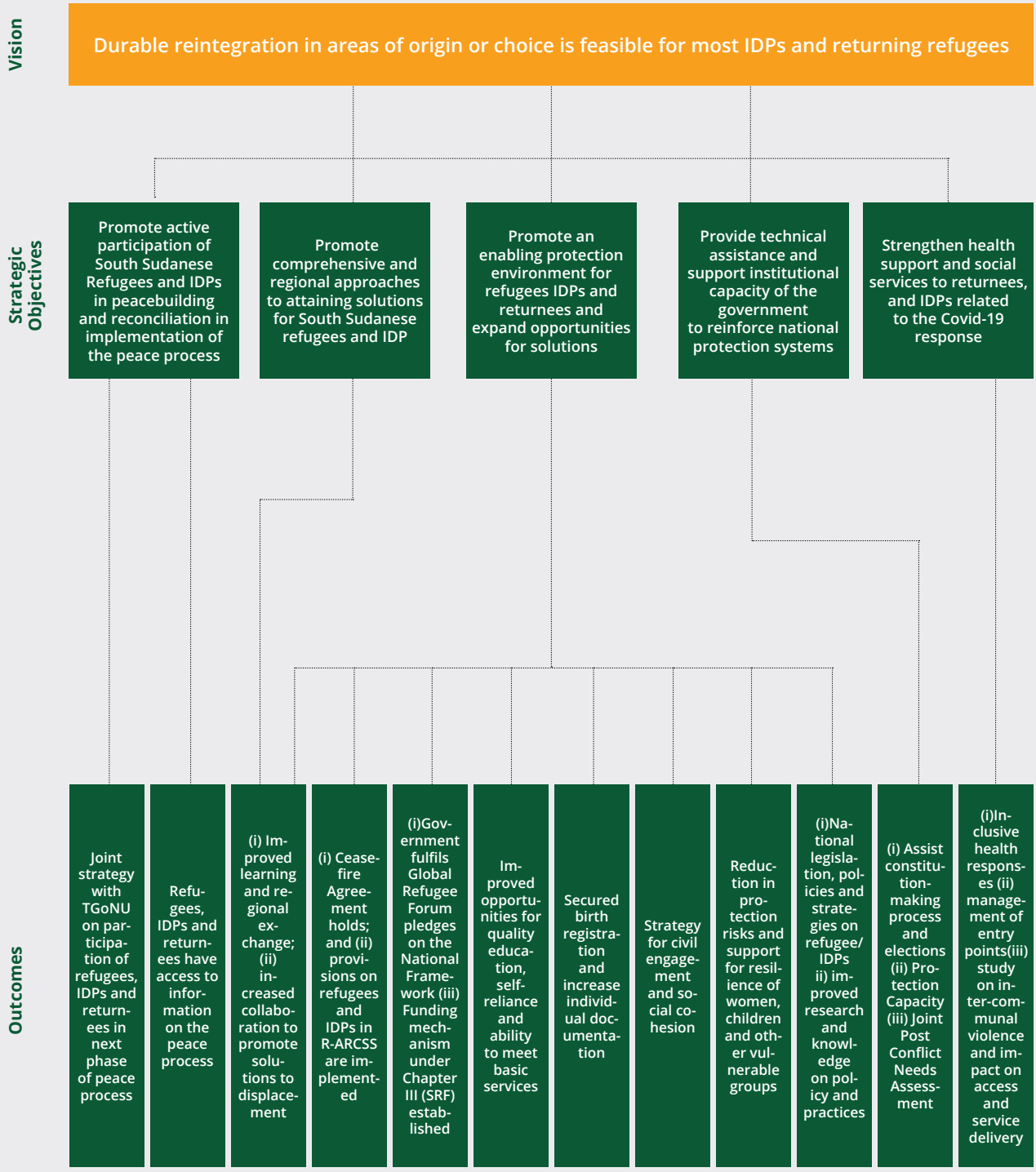
8.16 South Sudanese in Diaspora

Engaging actively with South Sudanese in diaspora is key to providing support (financial, investment, philanthropy, return of qualified nationals, e-platforms for engagement in education, business mentoring and business development solutions), to refugees and IDPs.

8.17 Donors

Donors might help in achieving collective outcomes by: adopting combined development-humanitarian-peacebuilding country strategies; providing guidelines on application of humanitarian principles to national actors (government and non-governmental); and, ensuring that development, humanitarian and peacebuilding budget lines can be pooled.

Figure 4: Summary of Strategic Priorities



9. SYNERGIES AND COMPLIMENTARITY

IGAD will coordinate interventions will IGAD organs, R-JMEC and CITISAVM. Continuous buy-in from member states, donors and other stakeholders at both decision making and technical levels will be promoted.

10. SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Implementation Matrix

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: PROMOTE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF REFUGEES AND IDPS IN PEACEBUILDING AND RECONCILIATION IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE PROCESS

Outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	Milestone Year 1	Milestone Year 2	Milestone Year 3	Existing Initiatives and Identified Gap	Key Programme Area	Implementation	
								Operational Lead	Partners
Outcome 1.1. Strategy on participation of refuges, IDPs and returnees in the Peace Process	Extent to which persons of concern participate in peace-process activities and meetings # of participants (male, female) participating in the peace process # of refugees, IDP structures supported	Refugees in camps in Kenya were consulted on number of states and boundaries, Refugees have not been systematically Involved in peace process	Government agreement secured on participation of refugees and IDPs in mechanism of the peace process Strategy on refugee participation in peace process developed and endorsed by Government	Pilot Programme established for refugees, IDPs participation in mechanism of the peace process	Process adopted and IDPs and refugees participate as stakeholders in the governance mechanism	Ad hoc initiatives to facilitate refugee participation, the R-ARCSS implementation Refugee representatives participated in HLRF process in Khartoum and Addis	Participation of Refugees and IDPs in the Peace Process	MHADM, RRC	UNHCR, IGAD, Protection Cluster, UNDP
Outcome 1.2. Refugees, IDPs and returnees have access to information on the peace process	Extent to which refugees, IDPs and returnees have access to information on the peace process % of refugees, IDPs and returnees reached with dissemination # of refugee and IDP women participating in the peace process	Mechanism is in place for systematic dissemination of peace agreement to refugees, IDPs and returnees	Government agreement secured for systematic dissemination of Peace Agreement to refugees, IDPs and internally displaced persons Strategy on dissemination and work plan in place Resource allocation for dissemination	Systematic dissemination of peace agreement to IDPs, refugees and returnees	Systematic dissemination of peace agreement to IDPs, refugees and returnees	IGAD has trained 100 disseminators in collaboration with dissemination unit under defunct NPTC Gap exists in dissemination of peace process to refugees, IDPs and returnees	Participation of Refugees and IDPs in the Peace Process	MHADM, RRC	UNHCR, IGAD, RJMEC

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: PROMOTE AN ENABLING PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT FOR REFUGEES IDPS AND RETURNEES AND EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLUTIONS

Outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	Milestone Year 1	Milestone Year 2	Milestone Year 3	Existing Initiatives and Identified Gap	Key Programme Area	Implementation	
								Operational Lead	Partners
Outcome 2.1 Ceasefire agreement holds and commitments and provisions on the return and reintegration of refugees and IDPs, and their participation in peacebuilding are adhered to by parties to the R-ARCSS	Extent to which humanitarian access is achieved Extent to which refugees and IDPs in the R-ARCSS are implemented	Ceasefire is generally holding Humanitarian access has improved compared to the period prior to the R-ARCSS Intercommunal violence threatens access	Further improvement in humanitarian access	Continued improvement of humanitarian access Inclusion of refugees, IDPs and returnees in peacebuilding	Continued improvement of humanitarian access Inclusion of refugees, IDPs and returnees in peacebuilding	High-level government committee to investigate incidences of intercommunal violence	Promote an enabling environment for protection and expand opportunities for solutions through strengthening of comprehensive approaches	Ministry of Defence/ Ministry of Interior	Protection Cluster, ICWG, IGAD
Outcome 2.2 Government fulfils Global Refugee Forum pledges on the National Framework on Return, Relocation and Reintegration	Extent to which the Government implements Global Refugee Forum Pledges on the National Framework	Protection environment not conducive for returns Limited opportunities for solutions to displacement	Implementation of the Costed Plan of Action	Implementation of the Costed Plan of Action	Implementation of the Costed Plan of Action	Costed plan of Action for the National Framework has been developed	Promote an enabling environment for protection and expand opportunities for solutions through strengthening of comprehensive approaches	Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management/RRC	UNHCR/ IGAD/HCT/ UNCT
Outcome 2.3. Reduction in protection risks and support for resilience of the most vulnerable groups, with specific attention to protection needs of women and children;	Extent community is active in SGBV prevention and survivor-centred protection Extent returnee and IDP children have access to national child protection and social services as citizens	Protection risks continue to be reported including risks to SGBV and limited social services for vulnerable populations including women and children	Participatory assessment in targeted locations to identify risks, prioritized interventions and potential within communities	Implementation of case management and referrals and prioritized actions emanating from participatory assessments	Continued implementation of prioritized actions, monitoring systems and consultations with communities.	Humanitarian actors are involved in participatory assessments, but gaps exist in terms of populations reached	Promote an enabling environment for protection and expand opportunities for solutions through strengthening of comprehensive approaches	Ministry of Gender, MHADM, RRC	Protection Cluster, ICWG, IGAD

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: PROMOTE AN ENABLING PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT FOR REFUGEES IDPS AND RETURNEES AND EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLUTIONS

Outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	Milestone Year 1	Milestone Year 2	Milestone Year 3	Existing Initiatives and Identified Dap	Key Programme Area	Implementation	
								Operational Lead	Partners
Outcome 2.4. Support Govt. capacity in developing national legislation, policies and strategies on refugees, IDPs and prevention and/or reduction of statelessness	Extent return has been voluntary and in safety and dignity Extent returnees have same access to rights as citizens Draft IDP national legislation is adopted and is consistent with international legal standards Extent socio-economic integration is realized Extent law is consistent with international standards relating to refugees Extent law and policy is consistent with international standards on internal displacement Extent law and policy is consistent with international standards on prevention of statelessness	Despite accession to Kampala, Convention has not been domesticated Socio-economic integration of returnees is still a challenge due to lack of enforcement of fundamental rights Government has not acceded to various, international human-rights instruments	Support legal review of national laws focusing on socio-economic rights of refugees and IDPs in view of implementation of GCR Support Ministry of Justice and TNLA in preparation of the draft bill of the National IDP law	Development of advocacy strategies with line ministries on review of relevant national law, and accession to pending, international, human-rights legal instruments	Provide technical support to Government in review of relevant national legislation and domestication of international human-rights instruments Support development of policies and strategies to enhance socio-economic integration of returnees.	National Legislation adopted No legal review undertaken to establish extent national laws support socio-economic integration of returnees Action plan to implement the National Framework on Return, Resettlement and Reintegration finalized with support of IGAD	Promote an enabling environment for protection and expand opportunities for solutions through strengthening of comprehensive approaches	Ministry of Justice, TNLA, MHADM, RRC	UNDP, UNHCHR, UNMISS Rule of Law, UNHCR

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: PROMOTE AN ENABLING PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT FOR REFUGEES, IDPS AND RETURNEES AND EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLUTIONS

Outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	Milestone Year 1	Milestone Year 2	Milestone Year 3	Existing Initiatives and Identified Gap	Key Programme Area	Implementation	
								Operational Lead	Partners
Outcome 2.5. Funding Mechanism under Chapter III instituted (BSRF) with participation of international community	Agreement mechanisms under Chapter III are instituted in a timely manner and are operational, including the Special Board on Reconstruction Fund (SBRF) Extent to which IDPs and returnees are mainstreamed in the post-reconstruction activities Prioritization of conflict-affected area and high return area for post-conflict reconstruction	TOR on Special Reconstruction Fund Board needs to be developed (Broad TOR required to cover reconstruction activities) Coordination mechanism on implementation of Chapter III of the R-ARCSS during transition period required	Special Reconstruction Fund Board constituted and develops a workplan Initial donor pledging conference held	Implementation of Special Reconstruction Fund Board (BSRF) Workplan	Implementation of Special Reconstruction Fund Board Workplan with reviews as necessary	Coordination with Government on Humanitarian Assistance under Chapter III through Humanitarian Coordination Forum established.	Promote an enabling environment for protection and expand opportunities for solutions through strengthening of comprehensive approaches	IGAD	BSRF,UNSRSG,African Union

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: PROMOTE AN ENABLING PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT FOR REFUGEES, IDPS AND RETURNEES AND EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLUTIONS

Outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	Milestone Year 1	Milestone Year 2	Milestone Year 3	Existing Initiatives and Identified Gap	Key Programme Area	Implementation	
								Operational Lead	Partners
Outcome 2.6 Opportunities for quality education and self-reliance supported including access to shelter, domestic energy, and water, sanitation and hygiene with reported increase in participation of refugees, IDPs and returnees;	% of persons of concern (18-59 years) with own business/ self-employed # of displaced persons, returnees who have access to national services (education) # of returnees who have access to micro-credit and bank loans	Rampant unemployment and lack of livelihood opportunities resulting from many years of conflict and multiple shocks	Map educational facilities and needs in return areas Conduct skills mapping for refugees in asylum countries, returnees and IDPs in POCs and collective sites	Support inclusion of returnee and refugee children in national schools through expansion of learning facilities and teacher training Increase people of concern who are supported to improve their business/ self-employment opportunities Support returnees access to micro-credit and bank loans	Support activities geared towards economic recovery Promote socio-economic integration of returnees	UNHCR skills profiling of refugees in asylum countries. Need to use the data obtained to plan for reintegration activities in South Sudan	Promote an enabling environment for protection and expand opportunities for solutions through strengthening of comprehensive approaches	MHADM, RRC,	IGAD, UNDP, IGAD,IOM, UNHCR
Outcome 2.7 Secured birth registration and individual documentation	% of children under 12 months old who have been issued with a birth certificate by the authorities % of returnees registered and issued with documentation	No established mechanism for birth registration for persons of concern Individual documentation is inaccessible for majority of persons of concern	Discussion with government and partners on way forward on mechanism for birth registration Scoping study on systems for issuance of individual documentation	Establish mechanism for birth registration for persons of concern Mechanisms for registration and individual documentation established	Systematic issuance of birth certificates to newborn children Increased level of documentations for persons of concern	UNHCR is supporting individual documentation for most vulnerable cases under statelessness pillar System for birth registration is not established	Promote an enabling environment for protection and expand opportunities for solutions through strengthening of comprehensive approaches	Ministry of Interior (DNPI);MHADM, RRC	UNDP,World-Bank,UNHCR,

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: PROMOTE AN ENABLING PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT FOR REFUGEES, IDPS AND RETURNEES AND EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLUTIONS

Outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	Milestone Year 1	Milestone Year 2	Milestone Year 3	Existing Initiatives and Identified Gap	Key Programme Area	Implementation	
								Operational Lead	Partners
Outcome 2.8 Strategy on civic engagement of refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities is developed in collaboration with other actors	Extent to which host communities support continued presence of IDPs, returnees # of active refugee and IDP participants in leadership/ management structures.	Spontaneous returnees and IDP returnees facing challenges integrating into new communities	Map locations of IDPs, returnees and community structures Map partners activities on social cohesion	Strategy on civil engagement of refugees, IDPs and host communities established	Roll-out the strategy on civic engagement at national, state and payam level	Protection Cluster partners and UNMISS are engaged in social-cohesion activities but a lot more must be done to complement efforts	Promote an enabling environment for protection and expand opportunities for solutions through strengthening of comprehensive approaches	MHADM, RRC	Protection Cluster, UNMISS Civil Affairs, NGO Forum, UNHCR
Outcome 2.9 Improved research and knowledge on effective practices, policies and legislation management of return, relocation and reintegration of refugee and IDPs.	Government and actors capacitated with new knowledge on effective practices, policies,legislations in management of displacement	Gap in knowledge and practices on management of displacement	Research instituted with recommendations on management of displacement	Implementation of recommendations	Implementation of recommendation	Various ad hoc studies	Promote an enabling environment for protection and expand opportunities for solutions through strengthening of comprehensive approaches		

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: PROMOTE COMPREHENSIVE AND REGIONAL APPROACHES TO ATTAINING SOLUTIONS FOR SOUTH SUDAN REFUGEES AND IDPS

Outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	Milestone Year 1	Milestone Year 2	Milestone Year 3	Existing Initiatives and Identified Gap	Key Programme Area	Implementation	
								Operational Lead	Partners
Outcome 3.1. Improved learning and regional exchange on effective practices, policies & strategies on return, resettlement and reintegration of refugees and internally-displaced persons	Extent to which return, resettlement and reintegration is sustainable Extent legislations, policies, strategies enable returnees' settlements integration	Gaps exist in implementing sustainable returns and integration	Undertake learning-objectives review of the RTGoNU and its institutions relevant to protection and solutions of refugees and IDPs Support research and gap analysis in implementing RRR in South Sudan	Undertake first-learning regional exchange in implementing RRR projects Roundtable on lessons learned from regional exchanges including best practices	Implementation of findings from research/ gap analysis and recommendations from the roundtable	GP20 and IGAD Health and Social Division held a regional exchange on durable solutions in 2019. This, however, did not address situation-specific or country-specific situations, e.g., the South Sudan situation	Regional exchange on effective practices on return, resettlement and reintegration for returnees and IDPs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MHADM, RRC, Ministry of Interior	UNDP, UNHCR, UNMISS, OCHA Protection Cluster, GP20, IGAD
Outcome 3.2. Improved regional coordination to enhance solutions to displacement in collaboration with UNHCR	Extent to which there is regional collaboration on protection and solutions to displaced persons of concern	Limited coordination between country of origin and countries of asylum on protection and assistance	Map regional actors in Government and stakeholders and priority areas of engagement	Support regional information-exchange and collaboration	Support regional information-exchange and collaboration	Limited regional-exchange on protection and solutions	Regional exchange on effective practices on return, resettlement and reintegration for returnees and IDPs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MHADM, RRC, Ministry of Interior	UNDP, UNHCR, UNMISS, OCHA Protection Cluster, South Sudan GP20,

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BUILD INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO REINFORCE NATIONAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	Milestone Year 1	Milestone Year 2	Milestone Year 3	Existing Initiatives and Gaps Identified	Key Programme Areas	Implementation	
								Operational Lead	Partners
Outcome 4.1 Improved knowledge of protection among local and national stakeholders	Extent to which stakeholders align interventions with protection standards	Reports of violations of protection standards including IHL, IHRL posing protection risks to persons of concern	Development of training manuals on IHL, IHRL and refugee protection regimes Training modules for different levels of government actors	Training for security and military authorities and middle-level government officials, including training of trainers	Training for middle-level and high-level government authorities	RTGoNU is in process of formations. Newly instituted government officials and actors will require training for protection IGAD and ICRC are supporting the on-going development of a protection-training manual for the unified police force	Technical assistance and support to institutional capacity of RTGoNU and stakeholders for improved protection and solutions	Ministry of Interior, MHADM	ICRC, IGAD, UNHCR
Outcome 4.2. Technical assistance is provided to elections and constitution-making processes, ensuring participation of refugees and IDPs	Extent to which elections and constitutional making processes comply with R-ARCSS Refugees and IDPs are involved as stakeholders in the elections and constitution-making processes	Population census has not been undertaken since independence Difficulties including refugees and IDPs in both census and constitution-making process due to displacement situation and lack of accessibility in some areas	Support preparations for National Population census ensuring returnees and IDPs are included	Support Technical Preparations for elections and permanent, constitution-making process	Provide technical assistance to election and constitution-making process, ensuring participation of persons of concern	Population census is yet to be undertaken; UNFPA planning for census that needs to be undertaken in due course	Technical assistance and support to institutional capacity of RTGoNU and stakeholders for improved protection and solutions	Ministry of Interior, MHADM, RRC	IGAD, UNFPA, RJMEC, National Bureau of Statistics, World Bank

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BUILD INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO REINFORCE NATIONAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	Milestone Year 1	Milestone Year 2	Milestone Year 3	Existing Initiatives and Gaps Identified	Key Programme Areas	Implementation	
								Operational Lead	Partners
Outcome 4.3 A joint multi-sectoral Post Conflict Needs Assessments (PCNA) is implemented for joint situational analysis and planning, ensuring that it prioritizes the needs of refugees, IDPs and returnees.	Post-Conflict Needs Assessment addresses issues of refugees, IDPs and returnees as provided under Chapter III of the R-ARCSS	Protection environment not conducive for large-scale returns, including absorption capacity for returnees	Post-conflict needs assessments are planned and executed, and prioritised needs of refugees and IDPs under Chapter III identified	Implementation of PCNA findings	Implementation of PCNA findings	Assessments and studies by various partners exist that will constitute baseline	Technical assistance and support to institutional capacity of RTGoNU and stakeholders for improved protection and solutions	Ministry of Finance and Planning	IGAD, African Union, UNHCR, UNCT,HCT

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: STRENGTHEN HEALTH SUPPORT AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO RETURNEES, REFUGEES AND IDPS RELATED TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Outcomes	Indicators	Baseline	Milestone Year 1	Milestone Year 2	Milestone Year 3	Existing Initiatives and Identified Gap	Key Programme Area	Implementation	
								Operational Lead	Partners
Outcome 5.1 National health systems and responses include refugees, IDPs and displaced persons	Extent to which persons of concern are included in national health systems and responses related to Covid-19. % of POCs accessing health systems	IDPs and returnees in POC sites and settlements face protection risks related to Covid-19 due to overcrowding and insufficient health-services and responses	Government agreement secured on inclusion of IDPs and returnees in national health-systems and responses	40% of PoC are included in national health systems and preventive responses	100% of POCs accessed health services and social services at a level equal to the nationals	WHO and other national programmes on health and social services and programmes launched in the country health services and preventive measures not accessible to all POCs	National health systems and preventive responses include refugees and returnees	MHADM, RRC	UNHCR, IGAD, Protection Cluster, UNDP, UNHCR
Outcome 5.2 Government capacity is enhanced to manage border entry-points for returning refugees, in accordance with refugee protection standards.	Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), UNHCR and partners capacitated to maintain presence at 37 formal and 40 informal entry-points for medical screening, and regard to protection standards	Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), UNHCR and partners have presence in the border entry-points for medical screening in view of COVID-19	Improve border management and support to vulnerable, returning refugees	Improve border management and support to vulnerable, returning refugees	Improve border management and support to vulnerable, returning refugees	Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), UNHCR and partners capacitated to maintain presence at 37 formal and 40 informal entry-points	National health systems and preventive responses include refugees, IDPs and displaced persons	MHADM, RRC	UNHCR, IGAD,
Outcome 5.3 A study on inter-communal violence and impact on humanitarian access and inclusive to services is undertaken to inform interventions;	Improved access to services, including health for displaced persons	Rampant inter-communal violence negatively impacting on services delivery	Study on root cause for inter-communal violence finalized	Implementation of recommendation	Implementation of recommendations and evaluation	High-level committee by government to probe root causes National dialogue regional and national conference recommendations apply	National health systems and preventive responses include refugees, IDPs and displaced persons	R-TGoNU, National Dialogue	IGAD/ Protection Cluster South Sudan Council of Churches

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Sudan's Pledges at the Global Refugee Forum, December 2019

THEMATIC AREA OF FOCUS	CONTRIBUTION AND PLEDGE DESCRIPTION
Responsibility sharing arrangements Policy	1. Develop radical solutions to the root causes of forced displacement
Education Policy	1. Complete the costed plan of action for refugee education in order to realize full integration of refugee children into the national education system 2. Integrate refugee education into national education system in a gradual manner
Jobs and Livelihoods Policy	1. Support livelihoods and self-reliance through access to jobs and livelihood opportunities for refugees
Energy and Infrastructure Policy	1. Integrate National health system gradually
Solutions Policy	1. Facilitate humanitarian access to needy people 2. Facilitate movement of refugees across the country 3. Enable local integration of refugees in areas where camps have been closed 4. Provide enabling environment for refugees and reintegration
Protection Capacity Policy	1. Complete the registration and documentation of the remaining 700,000 unregistered refugees 2. Continue to maintain and implement open door policy 3. Provide birth certificates for all refugee children born in Sudan

Source: UNHCR/IGAD, Global Refugee Forum, December 2019

Appendix 2: List of Ministries of the R-TGoNU and incumbents as of June 2020

LIST OF R-TGONU MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS				
#	Name	Sex	Position	Political Party
Ministers				
01	Hon. Mayiik Ayii Deng	M	Presidential Affairs	Incumbent TGoNU
02	Hon. Martin Elia Lomoro	M	Cabinet Affair	Incumbent TGoNU
03	Hon. Amb. Beatrice Khamis Wani	F	Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation.	Incumbent TGoNU
04	Hon. Angelina Teny	F	Defense and Veteran Affairs	SPLM/A-IO
05	Hon. Paul Mayom Akec	M	Interior	Incumbent TGoNU
06	Hon. Stephen Par Kuol	M	Peace Building	SPLM/A-IO
07	Hon. Justin Ruben Madol Arol	M	Justice & Constitutional Affairs	Incumbent TGoNU
08	Hon. Obutu Mamur Mete	M	National Security	Incumbent TGoNU
09	Hon. Jemma Nunnu Kumba	F	Parliamentary Affairs	Incumbent TGoNU
10	Hon. Micheal Makuei Lueth	M	Information, Communication Technology & Postal Services	Incumbent TGoNU
11	Hon. Lasuba L. Wango	M	Federal Affairs	SPLM/A-IO
12	Hon Deng Alor	M	East African Community Affairs	Former Detainees
Economic Cluster				
13	Hon. Salvatore Gararg Mabiordit	M	Finance & Planning	Incumbent TGoNU
14	Hon. Puot Kang Chol	M	Petroleum	SPLM/A-IO
15	Hon. Henry Dilang Oduwar	M	Mining	SPLM/A-IO
16	Hon. Josephine Joseph Lagu	F	Agriculture and Food Security	South Sudan Opposition Alliance
17	Hon. Onyoti Adigo Nykuach.	M	Livestock and Fisheries	Incumbent TGoNU
18	Hon. Kuol Athian Mawien	M	Trade and Industry	Incumbent TGoNU
19	Hon. Josephine Napwon Cosmas	F	Environment & Forestry	Incumbent TGoNU
20	Hon. Manoah Peter Gatkuoth	M	Water Resources and Irrigation	SPLM/A-IO
21	Hon. Micheal Changjiek Geay Mut	M	Land, Housing and Urban Development	Incumbent TGoNU
22	Hon. Rizik Zacharia Hassan	M	Wildlife Conservation and Tourism	Incumbent TGoNU
23	Hon. Dr. Dhiue Mathok Ding	M	Investment	Incumbent TGoNU
Service Cluster				
24	Gabriel Changson Chang	M	Higher Education, Science & Technology	South Sudan Opposition Alliance
25	Hon. Awut Deng Achuil	F	General Education & Instruction	Incumbent TGoNU
26	Hon. Elizabeth Acuei Yol	F	Health	SPLM/A-IO

LIST OF R-TGONU MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS

#	Name	Sex	Position	Political Party
Ministers				
27	Hon. Babgasi Joseph Bakasoro	M	Public Service & Human Resource Development	South Sudan Opposition Alliance
28	Hon. James Hoth Mai	M	Labor	Incumbent TGoNU
Infrastructure Cluster				
29	Hon. Peter Mercallo Nasir Jellenge	M	Energy & Dams	SPLM/A-IO
30	Hon. Madut Biar Yol	M	Transport	Former Detainees
31	Hon. Simon Mijok Mijak	M	Roads & Bridges	Incumbent TGoNU
Gender and Youth Cluster				
32	Hon. Ayaa Benjamin Warille	F	Gender, Child & Social Welfare	SPLM/A-IO
33	Hon. Peter Mayen Majongdit	M	Humanitarian Affairs & Disaster Management	Other Political Parties
34	Hon. Nadia Arop Dudi	F	Culture, Museum & National Heritage	Incumbent TGoNU
35	Hon. Dr. Albino Bol Dhiue	M	Youth & Sport	Incumbent TGoNU
Deputy Ministers				
01	Hon. Deng Akon	M	Cabinet Affairs	SPLM/A-IO
02	Hon. Deng Dau Deng	M	Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation	Incumbent TGoNU
03	Hon. Malek Ruben Riak	M	Defense	Incumbent TGoNU
04	Hon. Mabior Garang Mabior	M	Interior	SPLM/A-IO
05	Hon. Joseph Malek Arop	M	Justice & Constitutional Affairs	Incumbent TGoNU
06	Hon. Magok Makur Kur	M	Finance & Planning	SPLM/A-IO
07	Hon. Lily Albino Akol	F	Agriculture & Food Security	Incumbent TGoNU
08	Hon. Martin Tako Moi	M	General Education & Instruction	Other Political Parties
10	Hon. Khalid Boutrous	M	Public Service & Human Resource Development	South Sudan Opposition Alliance
11	Hon. Baba Medan Konyi	M	Information, Communication Technology & Postal Services	Incumbent TGoNU
12	Hon. Madut Biar Yol	M	Transport	Former Detainees
13	Hon. Simon Mijok Mijak	M	Roads & Bridges	Incumbent TGoNU
14	Hon. Ayaa Benjamin Warille	F	Gender, Child & Social Welfare	SPLM/A-IO
15	Hon. Peter Mayen Majongdit	M	Humanitarian Affairs & Disaster Management	Other Political Parties
16	Hon. Nadia Arop Dudi	F	Culture, Museum & National Heritage	Incumbent TGoNU
17	Hon. Dr. Albino Bol Dhiue	M	Youth & Sport	Incumbent TGoNU
18	Hon. Mayiik Ayii Deng	M	Minister for Presidential Affairs	Incumbent TGoNU

IGAD SOUTH SUDAN OFFICE (ISSO)

T + 251 116 621 653 +251 116 185 781
F + 251 116 183 619 P.O.Box 19439
E isso@igad.int

Cape Verde Street, Bole Sub-city, Tensae Building 4th floor,
Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic

www.igad.int