

2015 ANNUAL REPORT – Economic Advisory – South Sudan

A. Key Results [1-2 pages]

Note: A Senior Economist (Frederick Mugisha) and a Coordination and Research Associate (Nyakiir Atem) constitute the Strategy and Policy Unit in the Country Office.

This is about substantive contributions to the mandate of UNDP at the country level. The focus is therefore not on activities but concrete results and impact or near impact in the following areas:

National policy making:

- 1) The Strategy and Policy Unit supported the Country Office (through the Inclusive Growth Project) to initiate a process to develop a national policy on Gum Arabic. It includes a pilot experiment on improving value chains in two of the ten former states (now 28 states).
- 2) The Strategy and Policy Unit coordinated the mid-term evaluation of the Istanbul programme of action. While policies (intentions) exist, their implementation is still a challenge due to conflict, economic and governance constraints.
- 3) The Strategy and Policy Unit developed guidance on how to integrate and synergize Sustainable Development Goals into existing development frameworks: the Agreement to Resolve Conflict in South Sudan; the Africa Agenda 2063; and the South Sudan Vision 2040. Articulation of the synergies enables stakeholder buy-in. The guidance will be used for nationwide engagement.
- 4) Human development – for the first time, the Global Human Development Report included South Sudan in the global ranking. In addition, a National Human Development with the theme “People, Peace and Prosperity”. It will be launched early 2016.

National policy debates:

The Strategy and Policy Unit on behalf of the Country Office initiated a weekly digest on media reporting on economic issues. In addition, a **Monthly Economic** is provided on the most trending issues. Finally, for the critical issues, **Development Solutions** are devised.

Weekly Economic Digest: UNDP conducted an online survey to gauge the impact of the weekly digest with respondents being Government employees, International Non-Governmental Organizations, Multi-lateral Organization (UN, World Bank, etc) and Bilateral (Embassies and donor agencies). It keeps 86.7 percent of respondents informed. It also informs programmes (33.3 percent), operations (20 percent) and resource mobilization (20 percent).

The respondents made suggestions for improvements, emphasizing analysis (currently specific to Monthly Economic Note); creating a link to the UNDP website; and continue the digest. Here are some quotes.

“We get media reports on a daily basis from multiple other sources. What would be more useful is for UNDP to cut through the rumors, conjecture and poor economic reasoning and produce a one-page review of what is ACTUALLY going on with the economy in any given week. The level of analysis is so poor/low, that what is said in the media CANNOT be taken as a basis with which to understand economic developments in the country. What we need is for economic analysts to tell us what is true, what the trends

are on a number of key indicators, e.g., inflation rates, value of the pound, fuel shortages, prices, imports, oil, etc. In short: We don't need UNDP to collate media reports we already receive. We need UNDP to do proper economic analysis so we can better filter/dismiss those media reports.” --Respondent

“I find it easy to read and/or skim. I don't have time to read all the papers so this is an accessible way to read some major headlines. I only wish you did it for other areas of the news.” – Respondent.

“Provide a link while disseminating instead of pdf -The information be included in the UNDP Website under our project” – Respondent.

In 2016, UNDP will continue with the weekly economic updates.

Monthly Economic Note: a survey will be conducted in 2016. UNDP will continue with the Monthly Economic Note.

Development Solutions: In partnership with United Nations Online Volunteers, UNDP completed the first set of development solutions focusing on “What countries do to overcome shortage of foreign currency”; and the lessons South Sudan need to pick. In 2016,

Human and institutional capacity development:

With the support of the Strategy and Policy Unit, the Country Office under the Community Security and Arms Control Project completed a perception survey on peace, community security, gender based violence and nation building. The survey was used to compute a Conflict-Adjusted Human Development Index in the 2015 National Human Development Report.

UN System coherence:

With the support of the Strategy and Policy Unit, UNDP is helping shape the South Sudan Peace Agreement as a critical choice and a tool for sustainable peace and development. The Strategy and Policy Unit conducted a staff survey to elicit views on what to do to help implement the peace agreement, and the mechanism to do so. The staff suggested a combination of implementation the peace agreement (42%), recover and reconstruct (35%) and transform a nation (23%). Five streams of work are being pursued as a result to deliver the peace agreement for South Sudan. This conversation is also taking shape along the same lines in United Nations team in South Sudan.

In addition, the Strategy and Policy Unit supported the UNCT Operations Management Team in shaping their strategy document in response to the current and anticipated development discourse, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

Development cooperation effectiveness

The Strategy and Policy Unit, on behalf of UNDP Country Office established a partnership with the United Nations Online Volunteers programme to develop **Development Solutions**. The first set of development solutions in response to “how nations overcome foreign currency shortage” was completed and will be launched early 2016.

B. Key Outputs and Activities [1-2 pages]

	Specific Activities	Concrete outputs and results
<p>Output 1: Top quality and innovative policy advisory services provided to Government or other stakeholders to implement pro-poor policies and the attainment of the MDGs/SDGs</p>	<p>1) Make presentations and assisted in making presentations to the humanitarian clusters and to civil society on the state of the economy and implications, as well as on the post-2015 development agenda; 2) Compile Weekly Economic Media Digests; 3) Write Economic Notes; 4) Write Development Solutions 5) Facilitate workshops on and related to Sustainable Development Goals.</p>	<p>1) UNDP increasingly being asked at the Country level to provide guidance on economic issues to humanitarian, development, and security actors. 2) Weekly Economic Media Digests have been judged to inform programmes, operations and resource management; this is in addition to provide regular information.</p>
<p>Output 2: Policy advisory services provided to RBA/SAU on economic developments, emerging issues and MDGs and emerging issues</p>	<p>1) Complete the 2015 AEO Country Note for South Sudan; 2) Review of papers for the Africa Economic Conference; 3) Review and comment on Global MDG Evaluation; 4) Peer Review for journal “Human Resources for Health”; 5) Co-moderated online discussion on the role of economists in Africa’s emergence; 6) Rapporteur on International Conference on Africa’s Emergence; 7) Review and comment on the Asia Human Development report</p>	<p>1) UNDP increasingly being recognized as an essential partner in the African Economic Outlook.</p>
<p>Output 3: Provide high quality inputs to UNDP/UN programmes</p>	<p>1) Write guidance note on UNDP contribution to the ARCISS. 2) Write guidance note on developments in South Sudan in the UNCT Operations Team strategies.</p>	<p>1) Completed the strategic position paper for UNDP to contribute to ARCISS implementation.</p>
<p>Output 4: Production of the NMDGR and NHDR, Dissemination including launch of the global HDR</p>	<p>1) Coordinate contributions for inclusion of South Sudan in the global Human Development ranking; 2) Write the first ever NHDR for South Sudan;</p>	<p>1) South Sudan included in the Global Human Development working; First NHDR completed, to be launched early 2016; 2) Guidance to integrate and synergize SDGs with ARCISS</p>

	Specific Activities	Concrete outputs and results
	3) Write guidance to integrate and synergize SDGs in other development frameworks (ARCISS 2018, Africa Vision 2063, and South Sudan Vision 2040).	2018, Africa Vision 2063, South Sudan Vision 2040.
Output 5: Country specific knowledge products	1) Conceptualize inter-dependences as an opportunity to bring about peaceful co-existence among communities; 2) Co-Chair the survey on Community Security; 3) Conceptualize pilots of Gum Arabic value chain in 2 states	1) Initial experimentation of the concept of inter-dependences; 2) Survey on community security completed; 3) Preliminary data on Gum Arabic pilots generated.
Output 6: Creation of strategic partnership and implementation of the resource mobilization strategy	1) Create partnership with the United Nations Volunteer programme’s online platform to design development solutions . 2) Coordinate Brown Bags series on development debates and actions held at UNDP with participation of country partners.	1) First product of the partnership. 2) Completed 3 brown bags: “Accelerating peaceful co-existence through community interdependence - concepts and tools”; “The Gender Lens: Meaning and programming implications”; “Exploring traditional initiatives for transitional justice responses in South Sudan”
Output 7. Others (Please specify).....		