

Recovery & Resilience Program

Project Number: 00115998

1st Quarter (Jan- March 2020)

June 2020



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



UN Special Envoy for Youth flanked by Honourable Minister of Labour and Acting Governor of Torit State, UNDP Resident Representative and the Head of Cooperation of the Embassy of the Netherlands, during the Official launch of the YEEP Vocational Skills Training Program at Torit Vocational Training Centre. (January, 2020. Photo@ UNDP)



Kingdom of the Netherlands



From
the People of Japan



Project Summary

Country: South Sudan
Project Duration: October 2018 – 31 December 2022
Project Budget: US\$ 15450710
2020 Annual Budget: US\$ 5,523,142.00

Donor	Annual Budget in USD	Cumulative Expenditures
Netherlands	3,431,068.00	461,827.97
Japan	997,916.00	67,920.02
SURGE	85,158.00	11,881.28
UNDP	1,009,000.00	136,733.23
TOTAL	5,523,142.00	678,362.47

Cumulative expenditure: US\$ 678,362.47

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Responsible Parties: Ministry of Labour, Public Services and Human Resources Development, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary education, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, collaborating UN Agencies, and Civil Society Organizations.

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Acronyms

AU	African Union
AWP	Annual Work Plan
B2B	Business-to-business
CAPS	Career Advice and Placement Services
CPD	Country Programme Document
GoSS	Government of South Sudan
HDIGU	Human Development and Inclusive Growth Unit
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PfRR	Partnership for Recovery and Resilience
PMSU	Partnership and Management Support Unit
TVET	Technical vocational education and training
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNU	Upper Nile University
VTC	Vocational Training Centre
YEEP	Youth Employment and Empowerment through Private Sector and Value Chain Development Project

1. Executive Summary

The Resilience and Recovery portfolio seeks to enhance and empower communities especial of youth and women and creating opportunities for youth employment and empowerment including through private sector and value chain development, reestablishing higher education learning opportunities, and addressing climate change and disaster risk management is essential toward ensuring the progressive transformation of South Sudan to durable peace and sustainable development; through supporting sustainable livelihoods skills, infrastructure development, and the re-establishment and improvement of higher learning institutions that can effectively serve the youth of South Sudan. The RR programme is implemented following the United Nations Country Team's (UNCT) Interim Cooperation Framework, the joint United Nations (UN) Recovery and Stabilization framework and the UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) 2019-2021. The programme is currently operational in seven locations: Bentiu, Bor, Jubek, Malakal, Rumbek, Torit, and Yambio.

The project is being implemented in collaboration with various actors including Ministry of Labour, Public Services and Human Resources Development, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary education, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, UN Agencies, and Civil Society Organizations.

Main achievements during the year

- **Enhanced sustainable livelihood skills:** 1,631 women in 4 states (Toirt, Rumbek, Wau and Yambio) commenced trainings in sustainable livelihood skills (agribusiness, tailoring, hairdressing, food preparation, agriculture among other areas) that can help increase their resilient coping capacity. 265 of the 1,631 women graduated in Wau with improved skills and are ready to start different businesses.
- **Enhanced vocational skills through training:** The 1,409 (39% females) youth continued receiving the much need skills through training in 14 different trades in Bor, Juba, Torit and Yambio. The official launch of the vocational training program in Torit by the UN Special Envoy on Youth;
- **Youth empowerment and employment in the private sector:** 37 private sector organizations were identified during a due diligence assessment for job placement and internships in 4 project implementation areas (Bor, Rumbek, Torit and Yambio). The trainees at the VTCs are more likely to benefit from the asset linked job placement scheme. 30 (12 females and 18 males) youth entrepreneurs completed their global coaching and mentoring programme and were provided with start-up support for their business ideas.
- **Improved learning infrastructure:** Rehabilitation of Upper Nile University is at an advanced stage. Roofing works, finishing plastering, painting ,tile works and electrical installations were ranging from between 85- 100% completion within the reporting period for Lots one and two (15 rehabilitated structures-Administration Building, Lecture Halls, Laboratories, staff offices, ladies'accomodation, library, clinic, cafeteria and toilets).
- **Trainees Provided with startup kits.** A total of 216 (88 females) trainees received assorted startup kits for carpentry, electricity, plumbing, tailoring and computer trades in Aweil. Apart from computer class, trainees from the rest of trades were divided into two(2) groups. Computer class had trained quite big number compared to other trades, and were grouped into ten(10) groups.

Challenges faced during the implementation period;

During the reporting period, the project faced several challenges that slowed the pace of implementation of activities at both the national and sub-national levels as follows:

- The delays in conducting the Business and Labour Market Study and Agriculture and Natural Resources Value Chain Study have in turn delayed the implementation of other key indicators that are pivotal to project implementation. The project is in the process of engaging another consultant who will be beginning the work in the coming quarter.
- The Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic brought immense challenges in implementation as the Government and partners instructed to suspend the conduct of trainings. The project is in the process of adjusting its implementing plan.
- It took longer time than expected for the startup kits to arrive in Aweil. This further delayed planned graduation of trainees. Some trainees were growing impatient, but the project maintained constant feedback mechanism providing timelines for the arrival of the tools.
- Delays in construction material reaching Malakal due to poor nature of the roads and insecurity (some isolated areas have insurgencies) continued.

Lessons Learnt;

- Engagement of National Non- Governmental Organisations (NNGOs) proved to be a good practice leading to the confirmation of the assumption that engagement with, and commitment from local community members will be generated if an organization known to and living with the people themselves are involved in the community activity. This experience also proved that there is adequate capacity amongst the NNGOs engaged in the delivery of the trainings as per expectations.
- There is need to closely synchronise support to the technical development of new trainings and their eventual operationalization (offering the actual trainings after development). Any new trade offerings should be made public by the VTCs, and it must be ensured through the project that the right tools and consumables are procured and delivered to support it.
- Timely planning is crucial to ensure new trainings should not be conducted during the period of December to prevent unavoidable delays that would ensue as a result of financial closures. This should be done to allow the materials and tools are available before the trainings commence.

Budget Performance

The total cumulative programme expenditure for the period January- March 2020 was US\$678,362.47, representing 12.28% percent delivery of the total 2020 programme budget of US\$5,523,142.00.

1. Situation Background

The Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) of September 2018 laid the foundation for ceasefire and negotiations for a transitional political roadmap that led to the formation of Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) in February 2020¹ brought hope and renewed impetus towards stabilizing the fragile situation in the country. Even so, South Sudan continues to face immense political, institutional, social and economic challenges which include the exclusion of women, youth, minorities and other special interest groups in livelihood initiatives that enable nation-building. R-ARCSS provides the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) with a mandate to implement the agreement with the promise of no return to war; to reintegrate refugees and IDPs; to undertake legal and institutional reforms; and to develop national security architecture. It also offers special consideration to conflict-affected persons (children, orphans, women, people with special needs, etc.), in the public services delivery, including access to education services.

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. This declaration resulted on a quick and sudden global chain of events that did not spare South Sudan. By 16 March, a presidential statement ordering the mandatory self-quarantine for travelers from countries with escalating confirmed cases, postponement of social gatherings as well as other preventive measures was issued. A national directive closing all schools, training centers, among other actions was decreed on 20 March. With the threat lurking at the South Sudanese borders, the country closed its borders to travelers particularly its international airport and major border crossings with enhanced border controls on 23 March. A national curfew was then imposed and remains in effect in the country.

Riding on the impetus of the R-ARCSS and the R-TGoNU formation, the recovery and resilience programme is designed to complement the ongoing efforts of UNDP and other UN entities in South Sudan that help to ensure and promote sustainable peace and development in South Sudan. UNDP efforts through the program are anchored in the United Cooperation Framework (UNCF), the Partnership for Resilience and Recovery (PfRR) and the UNDP CPD 2019-2021. Most significantly, it supports the CPD's Pillar II: 'Inclusive and risk-informed economic development'. The implementation strategy is embedded within the UNCT's programme criticality principles of addressing the immediate needs of the conflict-affected population as well as build the foundations for early recovery.

The program seeks to engage the youth to ensure their productive capacities are enhanced through the nurturing of their livelihood and employable skills to improve their economic well-being. In improving the wellbeing, resilience and peaceful co-existence among youth in and around targeted areas in South Sudan (impact); using a two-pronged outcome approach in its theory of change:

- a. *If* local private sector enterprises, agricultural and natural resource -linked value chains and services for young men and women are enhanced *then* new business and income generating opportunities will be created whilst productivity and labour absorptive capacities of new and existing local private sector enterprises and value chains will be boosted (outcome 1).
- b. *If* the youth are provided with vocational, technical and entrepreneurial skills, psychosocial and business management advisory support *then* the employability and engagement in

¹The R-TGoNU was formed on 22 February 2020 after missing two deadlines, June and November 2019

economic and livelihood initiatives and productivity and incomes for young men and women in targeted areas will be increased (outcome 2).

2. Progress towards development results

2.1 Contribution to longer-term results

a) CPD Outcome 2: 'Inclusive and risk-informed economic development'

Summary achievements based on CPD Outcome 2.3 target

CPD outcome target 2.3	Summary achievement	Status
Number of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises utilizing supplier development platforms for inclusive and sustainable value chains Target: 100	40 businesses identified and due diligence assessment conducted for asset linked internship program	Ongoing

Overall status

Ongoing

a) CPD Output 2.1: Increased access to emergency assistance, alternative livelihood and employment opportunities for families in conflict and disaster-prone communities

Summary achievement based on CPD output targets

CPD output targets	Summary achievement	Status:
Indicator 2.1.2: Number of people reached with entrepreneurship and skills development, emergency employment and business support services Target (2020): 333 (60% women)	216 Youths (41%) acquired marketable skills in various vocations including computer operations, plumbing, electricity, carpentry and tailoring.	ongoing
Indicator 2.1.3: Number of people benefitting from jobs and improved livelihoods in crisis or post-crisis settings, disaggregated by sex Target (2020): 1,323 (49% women)	676 persons (16% women) gainfully employed in various trades.	ongoing
Overall status		Ongoing

Indicator 2.1.2: Number of people reached with entrepreneurship and skills development, emergency employment and business support services

The project reached out 216 (88 females) persons with entrepreneurship and skills development through sustainable livelihood skills (computer operations, plumbing, electricity, carpentry, and tailoring) training in Aweil. The training graduates received start-up kits as part of the support in their desire to have their own businesses. A total of 18 groups (businesses/ cooperatives) were formed by the graduates to allow them to start partnership private sector businesses and pool their inputs. Having the graduates work in groups make it easier to have more resources between them,

apply for loans and can register their business with the relevant authorities. The project will monitor progress and provide the necessary business development services for the said businesses to grow. Furthermore, the project continued the sustainable livelihood skills training for 1,631 women in Torit, Wau, Yambio, and Rumbek in 10 trades that include tailoring, hairdressing, food processing, agriculture, etc. The said trainees are yet to complete their skills training which was disrupted by the COVID pandemic.

Indicator 2.1.3: Number of people benefitting from jobs and improved livelihoods in crisis or post-crisis settings, disaggregated by sex

A total of 676 people (16 percent women) benefitted from jobs and improved livelihoods. Of the said total, 116 jobs – NGO workers, drivers, security guards, etc. - were filled through the job vacancies advertised in the three job fairs (Yambio, Torit, Bor) of 2019. The remaining 340 jobs that came from various positions filled through the reconstruction of the UNU Malakal campus were filled by 15 women and 286 men. Additionally, the 216 (88 females) persons previously mentioned were supported to engage in business through the start-up kits provided. Those employed are currently benefiting from incomes that allow families to have access to food and improved housing conditions. More than 75 jobs from the job fairs are currently in the process of being filled.

<i>Trades</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Number of groups formed</i>
<i>Carpentry</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Tailoring</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Plumbing</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Electricity</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Computer</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>18</i>

2.2 Progress towards program outputs

Programme Output 1: Young men and women in Bor, Jubek, Rumbek, Torit, Bentiu, Aweil and Yambio are provided with vocational and entrepreneurial skills

Summary achievement against 2020 Annual Work Plan (AWP) target

Indicator	Target (2020)	Summary achievement	Status
1.1 Number of enrolled youth that complete the vocational, technical and entrepreneurship skills training, disaggregated by gender and location	3,500	1,409 (553 women) continued vocational, technical and entrepreneurship skills training.	On going
1.2 Proportion of young entrepreneurs utilizing innovation centers, business incubators and development hubs for skills enhancement	30%	60% of young entrepreneurs seconded to the Tony Elumulu benefited from global mentoring and networking	On going

1.3 Proportion of youth previously involved in conflict recruited for skills training	15%	10% of enrolled youth in vocational skills previously involved in conflict	On going
Overall status			Ongoing

Indicator 1.1: Number of enrolled youth that complete the vocational, technical and entrepreneurship skills training, disaggregated by gender and location (Target 3,500)

A total of 1,409 (553 female) youths were enrolled during the last quarter of 2019 and are currently undergoing training in 14 trades. Of the said number, about 150 persons (65% women) are vulnerable people having been involved in conflict while some are expectant mothers. The vocational training in Torit was officially launched by the UN Special Envoy on Youth together with the Minister for Public Service, Labour and Human Resources Development, the UNDP Resident Representative, the Head of Cooperation of the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands, country representatives of UNICEF and UNFPA as well as undersecretaries for the Ministry of Youth and the Ministry of Labour in attendance.

The first batch of vocational training will need to be completed the soonest restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic has been lifted. Tools and materials to cover for the additional trade offerings have been delivered to allow the trainees to complete their practical training.

The trainings are boosting the youths’ market skills and employability, as well as, enhanced their livelihood skills for coping with shocks. The project is in the process of procuring start-up kits that will be given to trainees upon graduation to facilitate formation of small businesses.



Masonry students learning bricklaying at Torit vocational training centre, January 2020, UNDP

Indicator 1.2: Proportion of young entrepreneurs utilizing innovation centers, business incubators and development hubs for skills enhancement (Target 30 %)

The project continued to follow through on 50 youth entrepreneurs that were vetted and channeled for support to the partnership with the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF). Of the total number selected, only 30 youth entrepreneurs successfully completed the training and were able to benefit from global coaching, mentoring, and networking. The project will follow-through with 30 youth entrepreneurs who completed the training and provide the necessary support in the full operationalization of the private enterprises.

The project in 2019 identified three locations (Juba MTC, Yambio VTC, and Torit VTC) as the locations for the One-Stop Business, Employment, and Innovation Centre. Two of the centres (Yambio and Torit) were renovated and procurement work for equipment for the centres currently in progress. The centres are expected to provide face to face interaction support support to young entrepreneurs as their business ideas are incubated and supported by the Accelerator Lab of UNDP.

For remote support, the project continues to update two online platforms; business portal and employment portal that will provide similar services to the face to face support.

Indicator 1.3: Proportion of youth previously involved in conflict recruited for skills training (Target 15%)

Approximately 150 persons (65% women) of the 1,409 (553 female) enrolled youths who are undergoing training have been previously involved in conflict. Some of the vulnerable groups benefiting from the trainings among them include former soldiers/ fighters, Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAAFAGs) as well as women associated with fighting forces.

Programme Output 2.1: TVET and university graduates have increased access to career development and employment opportunities

Summary achievement against 2020 AWP target

Indicator	Target (2020)	Summary achievement	Status
2.1.1 Number of skills training graduates that secure jobs from UNDP-supported private sector enterprises and value chains disaggregated by gender	600	None, though 1,409 trainees enrolled in last quarter of 2019, are still undergoing training.	Ongoing
2.1.2 Proportion of tertiary education students in the targeted locations receiving career guidance and mentoring through CAPS, disaggregated by gender	15%	None though, 2 centres renovated and currently being equipped so as to start supporting CAPS	Not started
2.1.3 Number of jobs traded through jobs fairs	200	116 jobs filled from the three job fairs in 2019.	Ongoing
2.1.4 Number of faculties of Upper Nile University ready for teaching	4	None completed as the facilities for 4 faculties undergoing reconstruction	Ongoing
2.1.5 Number of Number of students and teachers relocated to Malakal Campus of Upper Nile University	1000	No students relocated as reconstruction is ongoing	Not started
Overall status			Ongoing

Indicator 2.1.1 Number of skills training graduates that secure jobs from UNDP-supported private sector enterprises and value chains disaggregated by gender (Target 600)

No skills training graduates have been recorded as yet as the project is yet to complete training of the 1,409 (553 female) youths enrolled and undergoing training in 14 trades. The graduation of the first batch of graduands was affected by the COVID- 19 pandemic and therefore unable to complete the practical aspects of their training. In the even the pandemic is contained, the project looks at having its first batch of graduates receive start-up kits.

The project also in an attempt of supporting private sector and value chains identified and conducted a due diligence assessment of 40 organisations for the asset linkages internship program

which will benefit the organisation and 227 vocational skills graduates. More organisations for the asset linkages initiative will be identified and engaged in the coming quarters.

Indicator 2.1.2 Proportion of tertiary education students in the targeted locations receiving career guidance and mentoring through Career Advice and Placement Services (CAPS), disaggregated by gender (15%)

No students in the YEEP five project locations (Bor, Juba, Rumbek, Torit and Yambio) benefitted from the Career Advice and Placement Services (CAPS) initiative. The project however, in 2019 identified and renovated two locations (Yambio VTC, and Torit VTC) as the locations for the One-Stop Business, Employment, and Innovation Centre. Currently the centres are being equipped with furniture, computers and printers. These centres besides being used for business incubation, will also be used for CAPS offering assistance to students whereas at the same time they can also access the online portals or platforms.

Indicator 2.1.3 Number of jobs traded through jobs fairs (200)

The project did not have any jobs recorded as traded through the job fairs during the reporting quarter. However, the project continues to follow up on the 75 pipeline positions from the job fairs conducted in 2019 which saw 116 jobs filled. Those currently employed are now able to have an income to cater for their families, buy food and pay for school fees for their children. The planned nationwide Juba job fair was affected by the delays in formation of the T-GoNU as well as the COVID pandemic. Job fairs are a platform of interaction for job seekers and employers, providing career guidance and targeted capacity building in CV writing and interview techniques.

Indicator 2.1.4 Number of faculties of Upper Nile University ready for teaching

The rehabilitation of Upper Nile University (UNU) which commenced in June 2019 is proceeding as per schedule with four (4) faculties under renovation to increase the UNU's intake capacity and improve learning conditions. The first and second lots comprised of 15 rehabilitated structures (Administration Building, Lecture Halls, Laboratories, staff offices, ladies' accommodation, library, clinic, cafeteria and toilets) were expected to be completed by the close of the quarter while Lot 3 which is tackling the rehabilitation of 14 structures (washroom, staff accommodation, student accommodation, cafeteria, teachers' accommodation and toilets) is expected to be finished by June 2020. Unfortunately, completion of the rehabilitated structures was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic as the presidential decree banned all gatherings. This in turn affected the continuation of rehabilitation works. The reconstruction of Upper Nile University will help ease congestion at University of Juba and is already contributing to the economic and social revitalization of Malakal town through the number of jobs being created, business activities generated, and social interaction amongst the population around the university premises. Procurement of the much-needed tools and equipment that will allow completion of the rehabilitation and make the institution ready for learning continued during the quarter.

Indicator 2.1.5 Number of students and teachers relocated to Malakal Campus of Upper Nile University

The enrolment and the relocation of students is the responsibility of the university. The project will however monitor the progress to ascertain whether the rehabilitated structures serve their purpose. The rehabilitation of Upper Nile University and completion of corresponding 29 (4 faculties) critical structures is vital in encouraging and facilitating the enrolment of students. UNU has already started the sensitization process with potential and existing students and staff on their eventual enrolment and relocation to the main Malakal campus of Upper Nile University.

Programme Output 3: Young men and women in targeted areas benefit from jobs, livelihood and income-generating initiatives created through strengthened private sector enterprises and local value chains

Summary achievement against 2020 AWP target

Indicator	Target (2020)	Summary achievement	Status
3.1.1 Number of new jobs created through value chains and private sector enterprises supported by UNDP	900	0 (Dependant on the Agricultural Value Chain study)	Ongoing
3.1.2 Number of new MSEs created by supported youth	40	30 youth entrepreneurs benefitting from support of the project	Partially Achieved
3.1.3 Proportion of trained youth engaging in livelihood and income-generating activities (individually or in groups)	30%	None, though 3,040 people recently started vocational and livelihoods skills training	Ongoing
3.1.4 Number of youth-oriented facilities benefiting from clean energy solutions	8	3 Vocational training centres equipped with solar panels	Partially Achieved
Overall status			Ongoing

Indicator 3.1.1 Number of new jobs created through value chains and private sector enterprises supported by UNDP

The contract for the conduct of the Agricultural and Natural Resources Management Value Chain study was cancelled due to technicalities on the side of the consultant firm. This study is supposed to inform the type of support which the project will provide toward enhancing agricultural value chain and private sector actors in the project implementation areas. The consultancy was relaunched but combined with the labour-market study which will inform the jobs and job types that will be created by the various agricultural trade and crops which are worth investing in.

Indicator 3.1.2 Number of new micro- and small-scale enterprises (MSEs) created by supported youth

30 (12 females and 18 males) youth entrepreneurs seconded to the Tony Elumulu foundation continue to benefit from global mentorship and support of the project. The youth now are acquainted with global standards and best practices in running their businesses.

Indicator 3.1.3 Proportion of trained youth engaging in livelihood and income-generating activities (individually or in groups)

The achievement of this indicator is dependent on the successful implementation of vocational and livelihoods skills training for 3040 students that are currently enrolled (1,409 students for vocational training and 1,631 students for sustainable livelihoods training) that started in December 2019. Information regarding this indicator will be tracked once the program records completed training batches.

Indicator 3.1.4 Number of youth-oriented facilities benefiting from clean energy solutions

The program managed to rehabilitate 3 (Bor, Torit and Yambio) Vocational Training Centres which were all equipped with solar panels as a source of renewable energy in the reporting quarter. Moreover, the boreholes of all three VTCs are powered by wind and solar energy. This has eliminated environmental pollution (oil spillage, carbon emission and sound pollution) that may arise from the use of fossil fuels during the operation of generators.

Human Interest Story

A new skill in Town, Unstoppable 10 earns from Decoration and Event Management Skill while on training.

Women in Yambio are faced with different constraints and vulnerabilities. The economic burden of providing for their families remains a major part of their responsibility. To address these challenges, last year, UNDP initiated a Sustainable Livelihood Skills Training (SLST) project targeting 400 women in Yambio with the aim to build economic resilience, reduce gender economic disparity, and to empower vulnerable women to take charge of their lives and livelihoods.



Team members during learning session in Yambio Multi-purpose Vocational Center; February 2020, STO

The unstoppable 10 women are already reaping from the skills acquired. In just a month into their training, the team has been engaged in its first real event management. In February 2020, the team was invited to decorate in the event of inauguration of Safari Hotel in Yambio. This event introduced them to the taste and benefits of the acquired skills, in which 5,000 South Sudanese Pounds token of appreciation given to the team. The face value of this sum does not reflect what it meant to these women. It was the beginning of a new economic era, rejuvenation of hope of a better live for their families. "This is one of the rare opportunity that has happened in my life, I can now design and decorate any event, such as birthday parties, weddings parties, and any other function. Surely, with the coming of peace, many people will begin celebrations, it will be our group to manage such events, and we shall be able to earn from it. I want to thank UNDP for helping women like me in Yambio to earn my livelihood and help my children study and not become like me," said Christine 29, a single mother of three.

The decoration and event management enterprise is a small but yet focused team with big ambition. While still on training, the team has built up a strong group dynamic and has formed an

event company, and named it Team Events Company limited whose legal processes are underway with the relevant authorities in town.

A startup package that will engender this enterprising group in the business community in Yambio is being planned and will be handed over to the group during graduation after the end of the course period.

This group is not the only one that is already benefitting from the training. The vegetable group is planning to provide fresh vegetable to the market in Yambio as soon as possible.

The optimism of the unstoppable 10 is leading way in Yambio Vocational Training Center to other groups. It also remains the only group with the highest retention rate that gives it an advantage to progress in its future endeavor .

3. Cross Cutting Issues

3.1 Gender Results

Gender results	Evidence
<p>Gender result 1: Increased access to emergency assistance, alternative livelihood and employment opportunities for families in conflict and disaster-prone communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 676 persons (16% women) gainfully employed in various trades. 	<p>Evidence 1: Implementing partner report and project progress reports</p>
<p>Gender result 2: Young men and women in Bor, Jubek, Rumbek, Torit, Bentiu, Aweil and Yambio are provided with vocational and entrepreneurial skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1,409 (553 women) enrolled for vocational, technical and entrepreneurship training. - 1,681 women in Rumbek, Yambio, Torit, and Wau for sustainable livelihoods skills training. 	<p>Evidence 1: Project progress report, Implementing partners reports.</p>

4. Partnerships

The Recovery and Resilience Program is under the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience (STARR) Team of UNDP.

- **Projects within UNDP:** The program works with projects and units within UNDP. for example, the Peace and Community Cohesion (PACC), Access to Justice and Rule of Law (A2J/ RoL), Public Financial Management as well as the Accelerator Lab. The Youth Envoy visit to Torit was organised in collaboration with A2J and Accelerator Lab (Participants for the youth engagement and closed door meeting had 70 youth in attendance).
- **UN Agencies:** The program also collaborates and works closely with other UN agencies in project implementation. UNIDO is a sub-recipient under the YEEP for the provision of vocational and entrepreneurial skills within the five VTCs of project implementation. Currently UNIDO together with the VTCs is training 1,409 trainees in 14 different trades. UNICEF and UNFPA partnered with UNDP during the hosting of the UN Special Youth Envoy’s solidarity visit to South Sudan.

- **Local NGOs:**The program works closely with local NGOs in the provision of sustainable livelihood skills training for 1,500 women in four locations Yambio (Star Trust Organisation- STO), Torit (Action for Recovery and Transformation- ART), Wau (RCDI) and Rumbek (Vocational Skills Development Organisation- VOSDO). Help Restore Youth (HeRY) graduated 216 livelihoods skills graduands under the Recovery and Stabilisation project in Aweil.
- **Government:** UNDP works closely with the Government of South Sudan (GoSS). For the reconstruction of the Upper Nile University, the program works in close cooperation with the Ministry for Higher Education, Science and Technology as well as the university itself. For other activities, the program directly engages with the Ministries of Labour, Agriculture, Trade, and Youth at both national and state levels. The project works also in close collaboration with local authorities such as the State Government and municipal authorities as well as the Vocational Training Centres.
- **Partnership for Recovery and Resilience:** The program is working on the recovery and resilience front through its active involvement and engagement in the Partnership for Recovery and Resilience. At the national level, UNDP is a member of the Joint Analysis, Monitoring and Measurement Group (JAMMG), the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) as well as the communication task force. At the local/ state level, in Yambio, UNDP is the co-leader for Pillars 1 and 4, and it is also a member of Pillar 3 of the PfRR. In Torit, where the initiative is in its first stages, UNDP acts as the secretariat together with United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

4.2 Environmental considerations

- The project strives to ensure compliance with UNDP environmental policies and standards. The construction and rehabilitation works underwent environmental impact assessments to minimize damage to the environment. The project ensured that no existing trees were cut during the implementation. Most construction wastes like cement bags were collected and disposed off by contractors away from site to designated disposal points in an environmental friendly manner.
- An environmental assessment was undertaken in Bor and Rumbek to allow for the rehabilitation of Bor's Business Development Centre as well as Rumbek's VTC to ensure compliance to environmental standards and procedures.
- The project's renovated VTCs have installed solar panels and wind powered boreholes to allow environmental sustainability and practising of clean energy initiatives.

4.3 Strengthening national capacity

Results achieved	Institution	National capacity strengthened
1) Provision of vocational skills trainings	Ministry of Labour, Public Service, and Human Resource Development	Provision of equipment and tools to facilitate vocational training at Torit, Bor, Juba and Yambio VTCs
2) Improve the quality of tertiary education and make it more accessible to people	Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology	Rehabilitation of Upper Nile University
3) Improved monitoring and reporting capacity	4 CSOs	Monitoring and report writing

5. Monitoring and evaluation

Key M&E activities conducted during the quarter:

Key M&E activity (monitoring visit, evaluation, review exercise)	Key outcomes/observations	Recommendation	Action taken
M&E activity 1: Review of progress reports (ART, STO, VOSDO, RCDI)	Progress reports to ensure activities are implemented in accordance with the implementation plan	Ensure timely submission of reports.	Continue capacity building of CSOs monitoring and reporting capacity.
M&E activity 2: Progress meeting with Ministry of Labour, VTC principals and UNIDO	Progress made per each VTC highlighted including challenges befacing each location.	Quarterly progress meetings encouraged for allowing for planning	Action plan and accelerated plan developed for purchase of tools and equipment
M&E activity 3: Update of RR ME indicator matrix	The ME indicator tracking is the ME system developed to track progress against set targets quarterly and annually. Though there has been slow progress in terms of implementation of the project, there are some activities that have been fed into the tracker against the AWP.	Need to carry out verification and validation missions to the field	ME tracker updated regularly including revision of targets and indicators
M&E activity 4: Field monitoring visit by government engineers	Works progressed well: lot-1 company progressed from 60% to 85%; lot-2 company progressed from 60% to 100%; lot-3 company that was lagging made a 50% progress	Lot-3 company being monitored closely , both from the field and with their management in Juba to close the gap and finish the work within agreed timelines	Met with the management of Lot-3 company and secured commitment to complete the work within agreed timeframe

6. Risk Management:

Risks	Mitigation Measures
Political: Changes in political leadership may impact the commitment to and ownership of projects by local governments.	The project continues to work closely with all levels of government to ensure ownership that is not depending on individual leaders.
Political: The breakdown of the peace agreement could impact the government's ability to commit to development efforts.	The project continues to work closely with all levels of government to ensure ownership that is not depending on individual leaders.
Security: The recommencement of hostilities could prevent or hinder programme activities as well as access to programme locations.	UNDP will continue to make contingency plans. The programme is focused on hubs of peace and it supports stabilization and resilience.
Financial: Lack of access to micro-financing can hinder the successful establishment and running of businesses by beneficiaries trained by UNDP.	UNDP encourages innovative thinking and communal support mechanisms.
Operational: Delays in operational issues, such as procurement of start-up kits, may depress the benefits of the programme for trained beneficiaries.	UNDP will continue to prioritize the acceleration of procurement processes and other operational issues that may delay programme activities.

7. Challenges

The main challenges affecting the implementation of project activities are mainly of an operational nature. Below are the key challenges and the actions taken:

- The conduct of the Agricultural Value Chain and Natural Resources Management Study was delayed due to the inability of the contracted firm to deliver on expected results on the timeline prescribed/agreed into.
Action: UNDP cancelled the contract and readvertised the conduct of the studies.
- Delays in procurement of tools, material and equipment hampered the successful completion of the first batch of vocational skills training. The delay was caused by the identification of training offerings on additional trades (UNIDO identified with the VTCs) that were conducted in December 2019. Due to year-end financial closure processes, procurement could only be undertaken in January 2020 when the books were opened (for the year).
Action: UNDP expedited through local procurement (where possible) but following prescribed UN rules and regulations. Materials and consumables were delivered in March 2020. There is need for the realignment of funds to finance the procurement of materials and consumables for the next tranches and to cater to additional trades. Procurement planning for the next cycle of training is already ongoing.
- The Corona Virus (COVID- 19) pandemic resulted to the suspension of all trainings and closure of VTCs as per government directive.
Action: UNDP requested all VTCs and partners to suspend the conduct of livelihood trainings. UNDP is working with VTCs and partners to develop the plan once the suspension has been lifted.

8. Lessons Learned:

- Engagement of national NGOs proved to be a good practice leading to the confirmation in the assumption that a high level of engagement with and commitment from local community members will be generated if an organization known to and living with the people themselves are to administer the activity. This experience also proved that there is adequate capacity amongst the NNGOs engaged in the delivery of the trainings as per expectations. The experience has opened up the possibility of exploring further an existing business model for UNDP.
- Close synchronicity between the technical aspect of developing and offering training on new trades and the operational work that needs to be done to support the said new offerings. Any new trade offerings should be made public by the VTCs, and it must be ensured through the project that the right tools and consumables are procured and delivered to support it.
- Timely planning is crucial to ensure new trainings should not be conducted during the period of December to prevent unavoidable delays that would ensue as a result of financial closures. The exception of course is if the right tools and materials are available before the trainings are conducted.

9. Conclusions and way forward:

Although there have been some delays in the implementation of key projects within the portfolio, the programs are well-positioned to tackle many of the challenges currently facing the youth of South Sudan. The high motivation and high demand of youth willing to undergo vocational and technical skills training show the resilience and readiness being depicted by the youth. The program will scale up finding additional avenues for funding for implementation and expansion of the program to the other sites of South Sudan. The project will finalise the employment and business portal, start procurement of start-up kits and continue the trainings of the vulnerable youth of South Sudan. The program will also continue the conducting of the business to business linkages events in collaboration with state chambers of commerce as well as the nationwide job fair in Juba as well as enhance job creation through asset linkages job placements and internships for the VTCs linked.

10. Financial Summary:

Outputs / Activity Result		Current Annual Budget (US\$) (Jan - Dec 2020)	Expenditure (Reporting Period)	% of Expenditure (Cumulative)
		A	B	B/A*100
Output 1: 113334- Job & Employment creations through the development of inclusive value chains & private sector enterprises				
Activity Result 1	Vocational & Entrepreneur for Youth	1,906,236.00	226,072.31	11.85%
Activity Result 2	TVET Development & Employment Opportunities	1,084,207.00	23,947.92	2.21%
Activity Result 3	Income Generating Initiatives	533,223.00	8,539.93	1.60%
Activity Result 4	Effective Project Management	597,402.00	282,764.97	47.33%
Surge Activities	Surge19	85,158.00	11,881.28	13.95%
Output 1 Sub-total		4,206,226.00	553,206.38	13.15%
Output 2: 114505-Recovery & Stabilization interventions that geared towards the provision of livelihoods & skills development				
Activity Result 1	Local Economic Revitalization	100,000.00	6,508.95	6.51%
Activity Result 2	Locally tailored Entrepreneurs	154,000.00	33,866.65	21.10%
Activity Result 3	Return & Reintegration	65,000.00	16,860.00	25.94%
Output 2 Sub-total		319,000.00	57,236.07	17.94%

Output 4: 115727- Contribute to the progressive transformation of South Sudan towards durable peace & sustainable Development				
Activity1 Result	UNU Malakal Campus Renovated	751,250.00	32,887.18	4.38%
Activity2 Result	Juba uni Culture C Renovated	40,000.00	5,923.37	14.81%
Activity3 Result	Project Management	206,666.00	29,109.47	14.09%
Output 4 Sub-total		997,916.00	67,920.02	6.81%
Grand Total		5,523,142.00	678,362.47	12.28%