Leaders of Peace
Building Sustainable Peace & Gender Equality in South Sudan

Country

South Sudan

Population

·Terekeka, Juba, Torit, Panyijiar, Yambio, Aweil, Magwi Counties

Duration

2021-2025

Donors

Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Partners

Plan International
Pax
Assistance Mission for Africa
EVE

Background

Women and girls in South Sudan are not able to fully contribute to sustainable peace processes due to high levels of insecurity and harmful gender norms. The ongoing threat of conflict, continuing militarisation of society, combined with trauma, lack of work opportunities and high rates of alcohol abuse, have all negatively influenced society and livelihoods, with severe repercussions on the treatment of women and girls. Sexual and gender-based violence is one of the most critical threats to the protection and wellbeing of women and girls in South Sudan, with 65% of women and girls having experienced physical and/or sexual violence, the majority under 18 (UNICEF).

Project objectives

Following the Women and Girls for Change programme (2016 - 2021), HealthNet TPO is committed to re-emphasising the positive contribution of women and girls to sustainable peace. The LoP project will be carried out under the framework of the Dutch National Action Plan IV for Women, Peace and Security and as part of a consortium of international NGOs.

The project strives to build sustainable community-based psychosocial services and mechanisms in South Sudan, with an emphasis on strengthening the resilience of women, girls and communities affected by the conflict. It aims to create an empowering and inclusive environment where women and girls feel safer and are enabled to realise their rights and opportunities to play a significant role towards sustainable peace and development.

The LoP consortium will strive to achieve the following objectives:

- Improved implementation of policies and regulations on GBV and protection of women and girls, including psychosocial support and self-care;
- Civil society has changed attitudes and beliefs that facilitate inclusion of women and girls and promote gender-equality;
- Increased and effective participation of women and girls in leadership, decision-making and peacebuilding processes.

Activities

Members of the community will be trained and mentored as Psychosocial Focal Points (PFPs) to map out services at a community-level, develop referral systems, directly assist women and girls in need of focused psychosocial support and raise awareness on mental health distress. Through this community-based psychosocial support system, we strive to strengthen resilience.

Activities:
- Design and execute integrated community-based mental health programmes in 50 communities across five states.
- 50 Psychosocial Focal Points in 50 women groups will be capacitated on GBV case management, MHPSS, referral pathways, community engagement, mobilisation, and advocacy.
- PFPs will work and strengthen different community groups, including user groups and family networks, to lobby and advocate for MHPSS and laws for the prevention of GBV.
- Creation of a learning agenda.
  - HealthNet TPO will lead a learning agenda on the topics of MHPSS, GBV, peacebuilding, and inclusion of women in decision-making structures. This will support our advocacy strategies and allow the alliance to be more coordinated through evidence-based data and to remain relevant throughout implementation.

Past projects

Health Net TPO implemented the Women and Girls for Change programme (2016-2020) in South Sudan under the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Read the full report here.

With support from

HealthNet TPO

is an international non-profit organisation that supports communities in fragile and conflict affected settings to regain control and maintain their own health and wellbeing. We believe that everyone has the inner strength to (re)build a better future for themselves and those around them.

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