

in other locations

the impact and performance of the project using the OECD/DAC criteria, including by assessing the extent to which the project has achieved its intended outcomes and contributed to the participating agencies' overall goals and the objectives in the UNCF for South Sudan

The evaluation was conducted between 21 November 2022 and 7 January 2023 and consisted of a document review, a quantitative survey consisting after data cleaning of 304 interviews (145 females/159 males), 20 semi-structured interviews (3 females/17 males) and four focus group discussions (FGD) with a total of 44 participants (24 females/20 males). These are further discussed in the full report.

The evaluation has shown that the "Youth Action for Reduced Violence and Enhanced Social Cohesion in Wau, South Sudan" identified the right target group and the right entry point for project activities

The project demonstrated a significant level of impact in behavioural change in that it started the process for youth to move from violent gang activities to more peaceful means of being in their

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) led the implementation of a project titled "Youth Action for Reduced Violence and Enhanced Social Cohesion in Wau, South Sudan" from December 2019 to May 2022. The project was funded by the United Nations Peace Building Fund (PBF) under the priority area "Youth promotion initiative." The project responded to a surge in youth violence in Wau town, driven by a developing youth gang culture in a still fragile post-conflict context. Trauma from experienced violence and the lack of economic perspectives, linked with idleness, were identified as the main reasons behind this trend.

For the project, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MoCS) was an operational partner. The

Especially against this background, it was bold and innovative that the UN Peacebuilding Fund chose Wau town as a project location. The rationale, which is proven correct by this evaluation overall, was

data review a quantitative survey, which after data cleaning consisted of 304 interviews (145

Graph 2 Age characteristics of the survey sample

Graph 3 Gender of respondents

Graphs 2 and 3 show that the sampling strategy has been successfully applied. While the stratification along gender has resulted in a close to equal distribution (52.3% men to 47.7% women), the age distribution shows a clear oversampling of youth. Given that only respondents above 18 years could

Graph 7: Do you trust members of other ethnic groups?

In terms of identity, respondents overwhelmingly state they are proud of being South Sudanese (see graph 6). Of considerable relevance and interest is the high level of trust to members of other ethnic groups and communities, as shown in graph 7. The vast majority of respondents trust members of other ethnic communities either the same or more. Compared to similar national surveys (eg Deng

and inability to access formal education, many young people across South Sudan have formed youth gangs and engage in criminality.¹⁰

The selection of youth gangs as a peacebuilding challenge is a bold and innovative move by the UN Peacebuilding Fund, going against the grain of the general expectation that only armed violent conflict deserves the attention of peacebuilding programmes in South Sudan. As laid out in the project document, the project attempted to remedy “some of the gaps in existing projects that tend to neglect the views and perspectives of those who are actually responsible for the kinds of insecurity”.

Respondents confirmed the relevance and correctness of the approach. These views are also confirmed by the survey. A relevant part of respondents, 35.2% confirm that youth gang violence is a big or very big problem in their community, with another 48.7% confirming that it is a problem,

Graph 13 Problems of Youth in Wau town

The findings indicate that the project was largely tailored to the needs of the of the youth gang members in Wau Municipality. Graph 13 shows that, indeed, the lack of employment opportunities and the lack of education, the two factors the project focused their efforts on, are identified as the biggest challenges youth faces in Wau town. What also has been confirmed in the interviews, by implementors, observers and beneficiaries alike, is the pivotal importance of the psychosocial support the project has offered. The psychosocial support given has been identified as one of the game changes that would be able to guarantee sustainable results of the project (see also further below under sustainability).

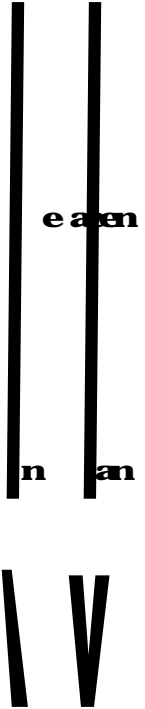
Whilst the initial project was expected to last for 18 months, a further cost extension was made with an additional implementation period of 12 months. The extension of the project reflected the changing dynamics of the realities on the ground, such as the impact on COVID 19 and the slow implementation of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (especially the formation of state government and the State Ministry of Peacebuilding that works closely with IOM, UNESCO and local partners in the implementation of this project). This was an important building block with important ,

support from the local government institutions such as the Ministry of Youth and Sports through registration¹¹, and through proposed funding from the Vice President for Gender and Youth Cluster¹².

The alignment between the project and the national priorities was also strong. The United Nations Cooperation Framework (UNCF) for the Republic of South Sudan (2019-2021) guides the interventions of the UN entities (including IOM and UNESCO) in the country. This project falls within two UNCF priority areas, thus 1) Building peace and strengthening governance, and 4) Empowering women and youth. The project is also aligned with the South Sudan National Development Strategy (NDS) to stem violence against the youth and trying to provide livelihoods for the youth in Wau feed into these priorities.

Another important document is the South Sudan's National Development Strategy (NDS). The NDS sets out the national development priorities for South Sudan in the period between 2018-2021. The project is in sync with NDS priority area (specifically, Strategic Objectives 3)

To mainstream gender issues into all policy frameworks, programs and strategic plans in public institutions and private sectors in South Sudan.



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Were they had similar activities, IOM and UNESCO were innovative. For example, the interview participants related that the roads were rehabilitated by the former youth group members though

The major activities such as dialogues between community leaders and members were implemented

have been improved, as the willingness to resort to violence as a conflict resolution mechanism is still at a considerable level, with almost no difference between genders.

Additionally, the evaluation team observing during FGDs did not get the impression that many girls took part in most activities of the project. For example, the “cash for work” activity did not enlist many girls and women to take part in the roads’ rehabilitation. This is understandable because the number of female members of youth gangs has been considerably lower compared with male members. But it also affirms the gender stereotypes around physical work, which is assumed not to favour women and girls – who are therefore not always considered to take part.

Baseline study figure 41: Positive contribution of youth to society

Survey data confirms these statements. Graph 17 shows that over three quarters of respondents assess the current influence of youth on the community as 'positive' or 'very positive', which is also a significant improvement compared with the data presented by the project baseline study (figure 41) included above. In terms of the project's direct contribution, also considering other factors, the general perception of youth is an important indicator besides the key informant interviews, which

Baseline study figure 42 To what extent are youth contributing to their families' income in your community

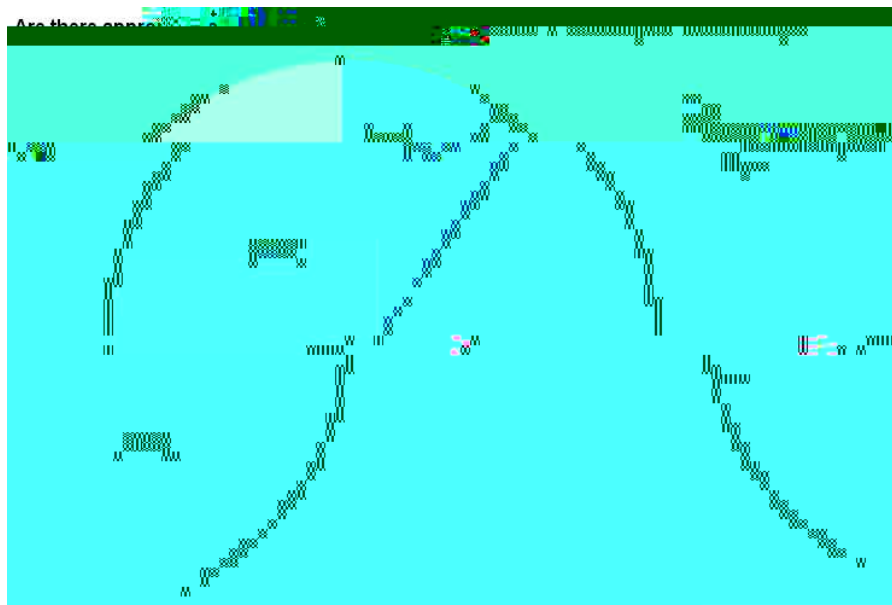
For generating a long term impact on the target beneficiaries, the project adopted a multi-dimensional model, focusing on training and supporting them in starting their own small businesses or getting into employment, combined with multiple efforts to increase self-confidence and inter-generational

issue of the high acceptance of violence among men and women, a more nuanced approach, focused specifically on gender norms and on general violence, could have had a stronger effect.

The project's sustainability has been assessed with a view to how the continuation of the impacts or outcomes of the project will bring further benefits to the beneficiaries and their communities after the project implementation period. One essential question to be discussed in this respect is the continuation of structures, resources and processes established by the project after it has been phased out. This question entails three different components:

First is the effect of the livelihood-related activities, especially the vocational training and the starter packs received by the beneficiaries. In general, the training activities were designed along the usual requirements of the current business and labour market in Wau town, as assessed by the implementing partners in collaboration with partners from the state government, during the planning phase. While the skills have been generally well-received, beneficiaries, at times, raised doubts about the quality of the training (especially regarding its duration and the need to acquire in-depth knowledge). The training was designed as basic skills courses, while beneficiaries in KIs and FGDs

youth in such conflict resolution mechanisms (graph 23), it remains questionable, in terms of both sustainability and impact, why the structural level of community conflict resolution mechanisms has not been a direct focus of the project. A stronger involvement of traditional authorities and the security apparatus, especially police, could have supported the deepening of the sustainability of the project results.



Graph 23 Appropriate conflict resolution mechanisms in the community



Graph 24 Role of youth in conflict management

4.7.1 Catalytic character

The UNBF aims to fund projects which it defines as ‘balancing scale and focus means investments large enough to make a meaningful difference to catalyse national and international peacebuilding efforts while maintaining clear sight of the Funds’ mandate and priorities’ (UNBF Strategy 2020-2024, p.1). In terms of national peacebuilding capabilities, the consortium brought together two UN agencies coming from different backgrounds with five national implementing partners, from diverse backgrounds that would not necessarily work together. Furthermore, a strong partnership with the

Their violent actions are also, in many cases, not provoked by random events such as parties, but often follow clear mobilisation patterns and strategies

In such extremely different socio-cultural settings, it is unlikely that the approach of the Youth at Risk project can be applied in a way that would not require a full transformation in a society/community. To change cattle camp cultures of violence, social work might be helpful, but can only be a support activity at the fringes of broader initiatives in at-risk communities

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sense beneficiaries can be identified for multiple components Synergies should be regularly discussed at formal and informal levels

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To what extent were the stakeholders involved in the planning monitoring and evaluating the project?

**Inclusivity of the project implementation structures
Stakeholder priorities reflected in work plan and implementation**

Project structure

**Project document
Project reports**

Did synergies exist with other IOM interventions and intervention partners in Wau town and at the national level?

Reflection of IOM overall priorities in project

Was feedback from the beneficiaries regularly collected and appropriately addressed in the project intervention period?

**design target
communities**

Wid

	<p>positive change in Wau Level of project results linked to negative change in Wau</p>	<p>FGDs HS</p>	<p>Project reports Context analysis reports/notes Project staff Beneficiaries Survey respondents</p>
<p>Did the intervention take timely measures for mitigating any unplanned negative impacts?</p>	<p>Mitigation measures taken and their outcomes on the projects</p>	<p>Document review SSIs FGDs</p>	<p>Action plans Context analysis reports/notes Project reports Project staff Beneficiaries</p>

To what

<p>Has peace building funding been used to scale-up other peacebuilding work and or has it helped to create broader platforms for peacebuilding?</p>	<p>Interaction with other peacebuilding actors Interaction with other ongoing peacebuilding initiatives</p>	<p>Document review SSIs FGDs</p>	<p>Project reports Action plans Project staff Other organisations Beneficiaries Government officials</p>
<p>Was the project well-timed to address a conflict factor or capitalize on a specific window of opportunity?</p>	<p>Project conflict analysis identifies window of opportunity Reception by project partners and implementors</p>	<p>Document review SSIs FGDs</p>	<p>Project reports Action plans Project staff Donor Beneficiaries Government officials</p>
<p>Was EEI funding used to leverage political windows of opportunity for engagement?</p>			
<p>If the project was characterized as “high risk”, were risks adequately monitored and mitigated?</p>	<p>Evaluation of project risk matrix Adaptations based on risk related events</p>	<p>Document review SSIs FGDs</p>	<p>Project reports Action plans</p>

	Number of interviewees	Male/Female
IOM- lead organization	3	3/0
UNESCO- lead organization	1	1/0
UNMSS	1	1/0
Government official	7	6/1
Implementing partner	7	6/1
Beneficiary	1	0/1

**IOMUNESCOYouthActionUNBBFproject
proposal
IOMUNESCOYouth Action UN BBF
Baseline report
IOMUNESCOYouth ActionBBF project progress
reports
IOMUNESCOYouthActionBBFproject extension
Communication products about the project from IOM, UNESCO and partners**

1 Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (2020 -2024): https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf_strategy_2020-2024_final.pdf

2 South Sudan National Development Strategy (SSNS), "Consolidate Peace and Stabilize the Economy" (2018 -2021): <http://www.nofepgss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/NDS4Print-Sept-5-2018.pdf>

3 The Revised National Development Strategy for South Sudan (RNDS), "Consolidate Peace, Stabilize the Economy" (2021-2024): <https://www.undp.org/southsudan/publications/revised-national-development-strategy-southsudan-2021-2024>

4 UN Cooperation Framework (UNCF) for the Republic of South Sudan (2019 -2021): <https://southsudan.un.org/sites/default/files/2020/07/UNCF%20NATIONS%20COOPERATION%20FRAMEWORK.pdf>

**Did synergies exist with other IOM interventions and intervention partners?
To what extent was the project consistent with other actors' interventions in the same area?
To what extent did the project add value/avoid duplication in the intervention?**

Here, the key achievements of the project against its set goals and objectives in relation to its planned outcomes will be assessed, this will be included but not limited to

**Were the target beneficiaries reached as planned?
Was feedback from the beneficiaries regularly collected and appropriately addressed in the project intervention period?
What were the major factors influencing the achievement of the project's desired outcomes?
To what extent did the project adapt to changing external conditions to ensure the project outcomes were achieved?
To what extent did the positive coping mechanisms taught to youth in Wau result in reduced violence?
To what extent were all relevant community members involved in and concerned by the project design and implementation?
To what extent did youth engagement in the community evolve during the implementation period?
To what extent did the project contribute to strengthened dialogue between community leaders and youth?
Youth increase their positive social and economic engagement in their communities**

This will measure the extent to which resources were used economically to deliver the project against the project plans will be assessed including the utilization of the project plans

**Was the overall project action plan used effectively and updated?
What proportion of the project activities in the work plan delivered?
Were the finances spent in line with the action plan?
Was monitoring data collected as planned, stored, and used to inform future of the project?**

And other programme management factors important for delivery, such as

**How appropriate were project strategies in the implementation of the project?
Were there any capacity gaps (possibly in the project team, other internal functions such as HR or Finance) between the project and the organization?**

An assessment of the continuation of the inputs or outcomes of the project to yield further

A highly reputable firm with highly experienced team of not less than five years in project evaluation(s) is required. Technical expertise (and or knowledge on youth and violence diffusion strategies is mandatory for the lead evaluator. A postgraduate qualification in monitoring and evaluation and knowledge in both quantitative and qualitative evaluation methodologies with track records of previous evaluations for peace building projects and knowledge of South Sudan context is an added advantage.

The following deliverables will be expected from the evaluator(s),
Inception report detailing the requirements of the evaluation and refining the methodology of the project evaluation (with data collection tools attached as annexes)

The ERG will ensure that the evaluation questions address the questions which needed to be answered for the purpose of this project, quality assurance of the reports but also help access documents/information, recommend potential interviewees, etc. The findings in the draft report are also shared with them for validation and to ensure ownership of the evaluation process. A participatory approach to establishing the ERG so the evaluation findings/recommendations are understood and used, once the evaluation is complete.