



The South Sudan Peace Process

The Role and Prospects for
Women Refugees



With the Support of

Forum for Women and Development (FOKUS)
UN Women

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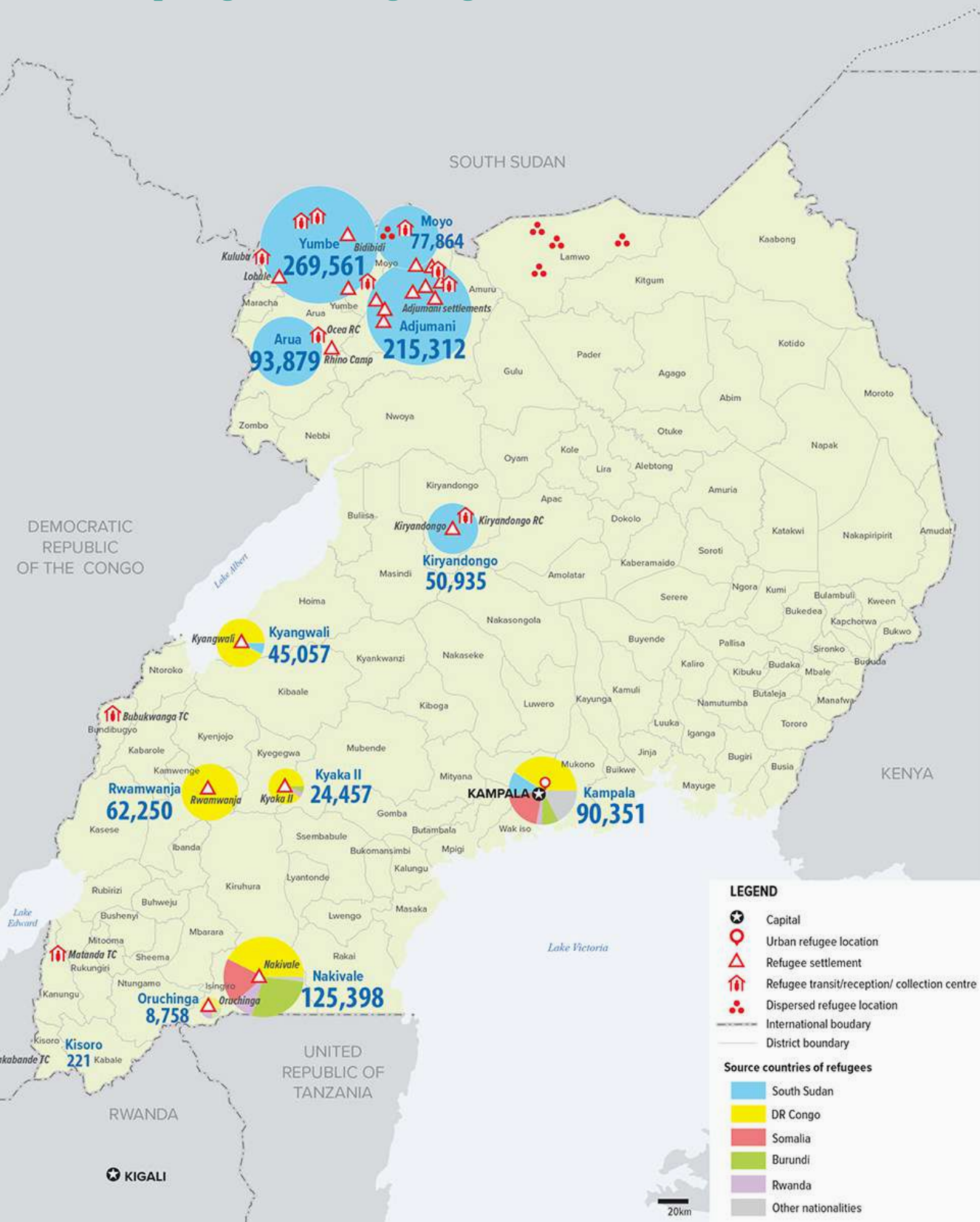
The South Sudan Peace Process

The Role and Prospects for Women Refugees

25th to 26th FEBRUARY 2020

ADJUMANI, UGANDA





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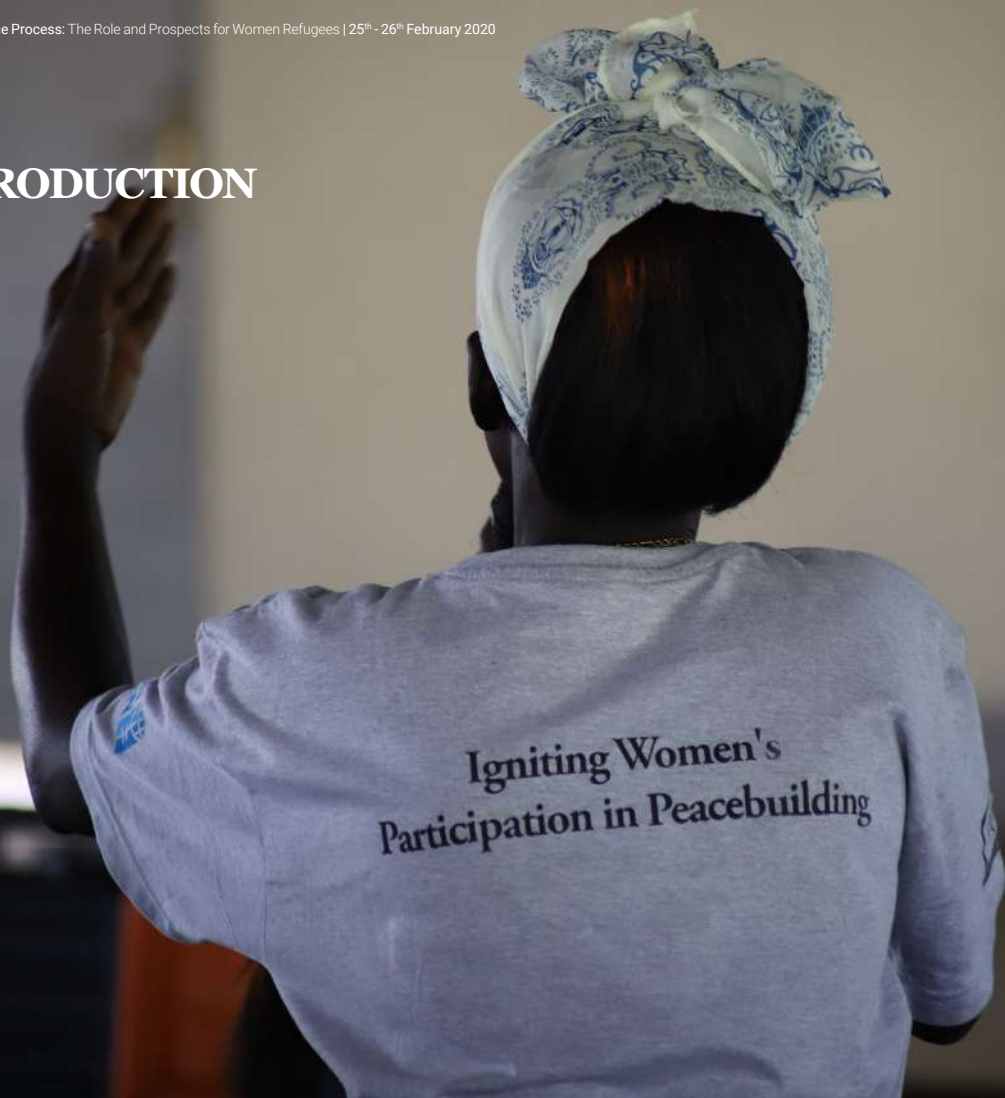
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ACRONYMS

| | |
|------------|--|
| ARCSS | Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan |
| BSRF | Board of Special Reconstruction Fund |
| COHA | Cessation of Hostilities Agreement |
| CTSAMVM | Ceasefire Transitional Security Arrangement Monitoring and Verification Mechanism |
| EFMA | Economic and Financial Management Authority |
| FOKUS | Forum for Women and Development |
| KDA | Khartoum Declaration Agreement |
| IBC | Independent Boundary Committee |
| Isis-WICCE | Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange |
| NEC | National Elections Commission |
| NCAC | National Constitutional Amendment Committee |
| NPTC | National Pre-Transitional Committee |
| OPM | Office of the Prime minister |
| R-ARCSS | Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan |
| RC | Refugee Commission |
| RRP | Refugee Response Plan |
| RWC | Refugee Welfare Council |
| SDSR | Strategic Defense and Security Review |
| SDSRB | Strategic Defense and Security Review Board |
| SPLM | Sudan People's Liberation Movement |
| SPLM IO | Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition |
| SRF | Special Reconstruction Fund |
| TBC | Technical Boundary Committee |
| TCRSS | Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan |
| TGoNU | Transitional Government of National Unity |
| UN Women | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNSCR | United Nations Security Council Resolution |
| VENA | Vulnerability and Essential Needs Assessment |
| WPM | Women Peace Mediators |
| WPS | Women Peace and Security |



1.0 INTRODUCTION



Women's International Peace Centre (The Peace Centre) is a feminist organization that seeks to ignite women's leadership, through amplifying women's voices and deepening their activism to (re)create peace. To meet its strategic goal to enhance the position of women to influence peace building processes, The Peace Centre is promoting women's effective participation in peace building in Kotido district and the refugee and host communities of Yumbe and Adjumani districts. This initiative is aimed at strengthening the capacity of key actors to mainstream gender perspectives and promote the rights of women and girls in conflict, post conflict and other crisis situation. It also seeks to enhance women's skills to participate in and influence decision-making processes relating to prevention,

management and resolution of conflicts in South Sudan and Uganda.

To provide a platform for refugee women to take part in the peace building processes in South Sudan, The Peace Centre held a two-day interdisciplinary dialogue under the theme The South Sudan Peace Process; the role and prospects for refugee women. South Sudan refugee women and girls in Uganda and key decision-makers were brought together on 25th and 26th February 2020 at the Multipurpose Conference Hall in Adjumani, northern Uganda with the funding support of UN Women and FOKUS. This report provides details of the proceedings of the conference.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The conflicts in South Sudan triggered the displacement of families to neighboring countries, particularly Uganda. By 31st March 2020, the refugee population in Uganda was 1,423,377 (734,638 females, 688,739 males) with South Sudanese refugees as the majority at 61.8%, followed by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at 29.1% and 9.1% from other countries. Yumbe is currently hosting 16.8% and Adjumani is hosting 15.1% of the total refugee population (Uganda Refugee Portal UNHCR 31st March 2020).

South Sudan seceded from Sudan and became an independent state in July 2011. In December 2013, an internal armed conflict erupted as a result of simmering political tensions between President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar. In August 2015, parties to the conflict and other stakeholders signed the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The agreement provided for the formation of a Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) and for national elections after two and a half years, broad security sector reform, transitional justice, and a constitutional development process. In December 2017, the High Level Revitalization Forum commenced resulting in the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA), Declaration of Principles in February 2018, Khartoum Declaration Agreement (KDA) in June 2018 and the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) on 12th September 2018 in Khartoum, Sudan. In all these processes, women played key roles as mobilisers, advocates, mediators and negotiators for peace. Women pushed for inclusivity and secured space for their technical teams to access the negotiation venues in Addis Ababa and Khartoum. They also influenced the peace agreement to include a provision for at least 35% representation of women in all committees for the implementation of the agreement and at all levels of decision-making.

In 2019, Office of the Prime Minister Department of Refugees and UNHCR jointly launched the revised Uganda 2019-2020 Refugee Response Plan (RRP), aligning Refugee Response Plan (RRP) targets and financial requirements with a reduced refugee

population planning figure. This plan also included sector strategies and budgets to address the needs of refugees from South Sudan. With a new baseline population of 789,099 South Sudanese refugees as of 31 December 2018, RRP partners adjusted their plans to cater for approximately 835,000 South Sudanese refugees by the end of 2019 compared to the initial projections of 1.1 million. In the first half of 2019, there were 24,479 new refugee arrivals from South Sudan who sought safety in Uganda, citing fears of sexual and physical violence, political uncertainty and insecurity as reasons for fleeing their country of origin.

The Government of Uganda continued to grant South Sudanese refugee status on a prima facie basis. In line with the 2006 Refugee Act, refugees enjoy freedom of movement, the right to work and establish businesses, the right to documentation and equal access to national services.

Development partners continued to provide all new arrivals with reception assistance at entry points and collection centers as well as relocation to settlements. The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) continued to undertake registration and documentation of refugees. In the settlements, refugees continued to receive monthly food rations, household items and access to health care, education, water and sanitation, and protection services. New arrivals were allocated a plot of land for housing and farming, donated by host communities.

In March 2019, UNHCR, WFP and REACH in coordination with RRP partners began an interagency Vulnerability and Essential Needs Assessment (VENA) in 11 refugee-hosting districts and 30 refugee settlements to better understand the vulnerabilities of the refugee populations, including South Sudanese. The findings of the VENA at the end of 2019, helped to improve and inform targeting systems for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In coordination with Sector Working Groups and partners, in April 2019 UNHCR deployed Activity Info, an online platform designed to monitor the performance of the RRP through quarterly progress updates.

With only 21 per cent of funding received for the South Sudan situation in the first half of 2019, RRP partners continued to face enormous challenges in stabilizing existing programs and often meeting the minimum standards of service provision, let alone investing in long-term and more sustainable interventions. Notably, severe underfunding compromised the quality of child protection, education, water and sanitation services, the capacity to fully support prevention and response to violence against women and girls, environmental protection, support resilience of host communities, and permanent community infrastructure.

World over, women's participation in peace building is remarkably low. Women are often not involved in planning for the conflicts but are the most affected. Worst still women are not meaningfully involved in the planning for humanitarian actions, peace processes and conflict resolutions. Women's voices are often not heard. Similarly, the South Sudan refugee women lacked information about the South Sudan Peace Processes, this leaves them with no hope. To amplify the voices of the refugee women in the South Sudan Peace Process, The Peace Centre convened a conference that enhanced their understanding and voiced the concerns of refugee women on the peace process.

Objectives of the Conference

- To provide a platform for refugee women to understand and receive updates on the peace building processes in South Sudan
- To link the refugee women with other women involved in advocacy towards engendering the peace processes in South Sudan
- To ignite women's ability to participate in the formal and informal peace building processes right from the refugee settlement for sustainable peace in South Sudan.

Profile and Expectations of Participants

A total of 105 (17 men and 88 women) people participated. Participants included representatives from key institutions such as Yumbe and Adjumani District Local Government, UN Women, Office of the Prime Minister, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the School of Women and Gender Studies, College of Humanities and Social Science- Makerere University, Civil Society actors from South Sudan, Religious and Cultural leaders, Women Peace Mediators from Refugee Settlements in Yumbe, Adjumani and Kotido Women Peace Mediators, Refugee Welfare Council (RWC) II and RWC III chairperson, selected media

houses, Refugee Law Project and the Peace Centre staff.

Participants shared their expectations to build relationships, network and define action plans on promoting women's effective participation in the informal and formal peace building processes in the settlements and in South Sudan. They also looked forward to defining more peace initiatives in the community and increased understanding of the South Sudan peace agreements especially as Women Peace Meditators.

3.0 OPENING REMARKS

The moderator of the conference Oroma Diana, Project Officer at the Peace Centre, welcomed participants and took them through the programme for the two days seeking for meaningful, interactive and productive deliberations for peace. The day started with the Uganda National Anthem, Women's Anthem and an opening prayer led by Reverend Samuel Drani the Vicar of St. Luke Church of Uganda Adjumani Parish.

Helen Kezie-Nwoha the Women's international Peace Centre Executive Director gave a brief about the organization, and the conference's aim to provide a platform for women refugees and other actors to access information on the peace process in South Sudan and design strategies to include refugee women's voices and needs.

She stated that the conference would also provide an opportunity for women to share their experiences in peace building, learn from best practices and define plans to address women, peace and security concerns through ongoing peace processes. Helen

further highlighted the importance of promoting women's effective participation in decision making on peace and humanitarian assistance as well as contribute to closing real and perceived gaps between often-isolated local women (including refugee women and girls) and larger national level women's rights organizations engaged in advocacy on key peace building processes.

Therefore, the conference focused on facilitating connections between the South Sudanese refugee women and other women's rights organisations supporting the engendering of the implementation of the peace agreement and related transitional processes in South Sudan.



Helen Kezie-Nwoha – Executive Director, Women's International Peace Centre welcomes participants into the space

3.1

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Mohamed Koddam, the UNHCR Adjumani Head of Sub Office encouraged the refugee women to participate in the peace processes in South Sudan to achieve sustainable peace.

He emphasized the importance of women learning how to resolve conflicts peacefully both in the family and in the community. Mohamed also highlighted the need for refugee women to participate in setting the goals for peace and working to sustain peace in South Sudan.

3.2

UN Women

Yusrah Nagujja of UN Women in her remarks echoed the importance of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) which supports women's participation in peace building. She highlighted that UN Women is working closely with the Ministry of Gender to develop the National Action Plan for the implementation of the UNSCR1325 in Uganda due to be launched in May 2020.

She commended OPM and UNHCR for supporting the implementation of Women, Peace and Security agenda. Yusrah also applauded Women's International Peace Centre (The Peace Centre)

for their continued and tireless efforts in ensuring refugee women's leadership for peace in the different refugee settlements and host communities in Adjumani, Yumbe and Kotido districts.

She announced that there will be celebrations of UNSCR 1325 at 20 years in October 2020 within the refugee settlement during which the Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund will be launched. She encouraged women to look at themselves not as victims but contributors to lasting peace. Yusrah ended by highlighting how improved skills and networking would help in bringing peace and security to South Sudan.

Yusrah Nagujja, UN women commends partners for supporting the implementation of Women, Peace and Security agenda

3.3

Office of the Prime Minister, Adjumani

Draleru Joseline Solomon – Representative of OPM Adjumani shares her views on peace building

Draleru Joseline, the Office of the Prime Minister representative in Adjumani thanked the Peace Centre for organizing the conference, saying the OPM is delighted to have the Peace Centre as one of few partners focusing on women's participation in peace building. She affirmed that to attain peace, women have to be fully involved in the peace processes. She also stated that one of the key roles of the OPM is to ensure that women are empowered to be at the center of every decision-making process.

Draleru Joseline recognized the co-existence between Adjumani and the South Sudan refugee women, attributing this to the successes women are achieving within the community. She said that peace within the families and the community as a whole promotes healthy interactions, development, mutual understandings and agreements. She lamented the high rate of early marriages and encouraged the women to support girl child education and build a generation of empowered women who can participate in decision-making. In closing she reechoed that peace should start with individuals, in homes and it spread out to the world.

3.4

District Local Government, Adjumani

Hon. Anyanzo John, District Vice Chairperson of Adjumani acknowledged the peace building role of women in the community saying that the conference was very timely. He appreciated the role of the stakeholders in community peace building and looked at mediation as a key factor in resolving conflict. He also noted that since the recent signing of the Peace Agreement in South Sudan by the two leaders, while the intention was to share power, unite the government and together re-build South Sudan it had left people unsure of next steps.

Hon. Anyanzo noted that women are good at mediating and their role is critical in the peace process. In reference to the conflict in Northern Uganda, he mentioned that Betty Bigombe, was a woman leader key in resolving the conflict. John concluded by saying that the learnings from the conference should aid the women of South Sudan to transform and create peace, when they return to their communities. He also anticipated the Upcoming Women's Day celebrations would be time to register success stories as a result of the learnings from the conference.



Hon. Anyanzo John, the District Vice Chairperson LC 5 Adjumani – commends The Peace Centre and UN Women for continuously supporting the Women Peace Mediators in the communities

Deputy Resident District Commissioner, Adjumani

Mugere Moses thanked the Peace Centre for organizing the conference. He reassured participants of continued government support and expressed sadness about the insecurity in South Sudan, the youngest nation in the world. He expressed his hope in the peace agreement signed in South Sudan to guarantee peace, and promised that the Government of Uganda will continue protecting the refugees in Uganda. He added that refugees are covered by the Ugandan

law protecting their interests and asked them to respect and abide by the governing laws.

He encouraged women to continue educating their children even while in the refugee settlements. Moses encouraged the partners to continue training more women peace mediators so they are able to continue the peace building when they return. He commended OPM and UNHCR for taking care of the refugees.



Mugere Moses Deputy Resident District Commissioner, Adjumani reassures participants of continued government support

4.0 DIALOGUE

4.1 The Context of the South Sudan Peace Process

Betty Sunday of the Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO) in Juba, South Sudan traced the conflict in South Sudan back to 1947. She analyzed the revitalized peace agreement from a gender perspective, highlighted requirements for

women's engagement, the role of women in the peace process and gaps that may affect women's effective participation Betty described the structure of the South Sudan government as follows;

Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) of the Republic of South Sudan:

The R-ARCSS provides for 35% representation of women in R-TGoNU comprising of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition (SPLM-IO), South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA), Former Detainees (FDs) and other opposition political parties. It states that the Executive shall comprise of the incumbent President H.E Salva Kiir

Mayardit, First Vice President-SPLM-IO Chairperson Dr. Riek Machar Teny, Vice President to be nominated by incumbent TGONU, Vice President to be nominated by SSOA, Vice President to be nominated by incumbent TGONU, Female Vice president to be nominated by FDS.

The Role of Women in the Peace Process

Women may participate in the peace process as:

- Mediators
- Delegates of the negotiating parties
- Signatories
- Witnesses
- Civil society representatives
- Gender advisors
- Technical committee members

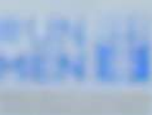
Recommendations by Women

- i. Subcommittees and caucuses should be created to focus exclusively on women's issues
- ii. Lobby for legislation dealing with women's issues to ensure that these issues are sufficiently addressed
- iii. Ensure gender sensitive security sector reform
- iv. Include quota for women and training of female judges
- v. Include women in the Refugee Commission (RC)
- vi. Include women in constitutional court
- vii. Family law to adjudicate on sexual violence and rape cases
- viii. Independent Boundary Committee (IBC) and Technical Boundary Committee (TBC) to be merged into one body and should include women, CSOs, faith based and traditional leaders
- ix. Boundary issues and number states to be tabled before a reconstituted Council of States that includes opposition and parties to the agreement.

SOUTH SUDAN PEACE PROCESS:

Prospects
for Refugees

25th to 26th Feb 2020
Adjumani - Uganda



Betty Sunday, Community Empowerment for Progress Organization Juba, shares the Context of the South Sudan Peace Process

4.2

Progress of the South Sudan Peace Process and Prospects for Women

Jackline Nasiwa, of the Centre for Inclusive Peace and Justice (CIGPJ) focused on the status of the South Sudan Peace Process looking at the first convening, key transitional tasks, major accomplishments, judicial reform process, general recommendations and challenges. She highlighted the following:

- Community meetings started with small groups expanding to include political leaders, cultural, community leaders and eventually involving women.
- During peace negotiations, women were merely observers, instead of key stakeholders. Women needed to be engaged to learn from how other eminent women, women coalitions and political parties in order to get involved in leadership and influenced peace building and decision making processes. IGAD therefore brought a gender advisor, to enhance women empowerment.
- In 2015, the first negotiation was done in South Sudan. In 2016, there was crisis, under IGAD's leadership and many groups came up to fight against the government. Community conflicts caused a lot of death and displacement of people.
- In September 2018, IGAD tried to influence in order to bring unity and peace. Sudan and Uganda were guarantors. Parties were called upon to respect cease-fire and also to respect the peace process in place. This was followed by the pre- transitional period which took 8 months, then the transition period and eventually will include elections.

Key transitional tasks included;

- Constitution Amendment involving review of laws, policies, involving Prisons, Police, South Sudan Defense Forces Act, through National Amendment.

- National Peace Transition Conference (NPTC), support roles. Monitoring Peace with supporting bodies, community leaders.
- Screening of state boundaries has not been done yet and the 6-months period has elapsed. There is a need to extend this and review the 8 months since security was still an issue. Another 100 days were given for the guarantors to come to Uganda to resolve issues. On 20th February 2020, they managed to resolve issues, creating 3 extra administrative areas.

Major accomplishments were recorded;

- A security advisor to the president was appointed.
- 3 administrative states were created. Undersecretaries were appointed to take care of the states as opposed to ministers. Speakers were to be drawn from the 3 administrative areas i.e. 1 from Opposition was appointed (Woman) and 1 from government as a representative.
- Women were allowed to have up to 35% participation,
- 5 clusters addressed women's issues. For example Ministry of Education awarded more scholarships for the women and youth. Ministry of Health looked more into women's issues like sexual violence, improved childbirths, and family planning. Ministry of Defense suggested that women should be in positions in defense and also in administrative roles.

Recommendations for Judicial Reform Process and Committee:

- i. The judiciary is to be an independent organ to protect the rights of the women and also to reform the mindsets of the people.
- ii. Cultural practices like, early marriages, were to be discouraged and the families sensitized accordingly of the dangers of this.
- iii. Even if Peace Agreement has been signed for permanent cease-fire, communal conflict has increased.
- iv. On disarmament and demobilization, guns need to be taken away from the civilians and to make sure arms are not carelessly sold to smaller groups.
- v. Create a Women's Enterprise Fund or microfinance, to help empower the women and boost their incomes, through borrowing and lending process.
- vi. Create a Youth Enterprise Fund, to help facilitate youth activities and development.

In South Sudan for example a '15-year-old girl who has had a baby is not considered as a youth anymore, so this hinders her progress if she wanted to return to school, or benefit from the youth fund'

- vii. "We Forgive, Forget and Reconcile" this slogan was emphasized to create lasting peace.
- viii. Documentation of all proceedings for easy reference. This would also show the process made in the peace attempts.

General challenges to the South Sudan peace process were summarized to include the large population, resources that would benefit the population like oil are enjoyed by a few people in power, hence continued conflict, lack of political will, the Peace Agreement being underfunded and addressing gender issues or sexual violence not prioritized.

General Recommendations

- i. Refugee women's communities need to participate in the peace process.
- ii. The return of the refugees has to be voluntary and not forced.
- iii. Women have to be involved in the reconciliation process and encourage communities to work together.

- iv. Refugee women now can speak English, read and write, which was not the case when they first arrived. They should be encouraged to pursue further Education so it puts them in better competitive advantage on return to South Sudan.

Way Forward

The Women Peace Mediators appreciated Government of Uganda and the favorable refugee laws, refugee-hosting districts local Governments, OPM, UNHCR and UN Women, for their efforts in providing a safe space for them over the years. The Peace Centre was acknowledged for making it possible for women to participate in decision-making relating to conflict resolution in the refugee settlements, which was not the practice in South Sudan.

Participants noted that both refugee and host communities need to be targeted with peace building projects. They acknowledged that the Ugandan refugee law stated that they could choose

to stay permanently or go back at will.

The women called upon the Government of South Sudan to;

- Consider aligning women in key sectors including ministerial positions,
- Recognize refugees and consider their voices in making peace a reality.
- Achieve desirable peace through dialogues and implementation of the peace agreement .
- Put in place policies that guarantee the safety of all

- Ensure continuous monitoring of the implementation of the signed Peace Agreement, support peace processes, ensure accountability for Human Rights for all, its citizens at all times from all angles before effecting return and address the root cause of the ongoing conflict.
- Properly align competent women in the military. Women in the military need to have a proper aligned process since, some are generals' wives and don't go through proper training and are not professional enough, hence irrational decisions are made.
- Ensure that parliament does not go beyond the set period.
- The judiciary to look into issues of sexual slavery
- The Ministry of Youth Culture to be led by a youth.

4.3

The Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) from a Gender Perspective



Dr. Ronald Kalyango presents the Research Findings on Implementing the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) from a Gender Perspective

The research findings on the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan from a gender perspective was presented by Lead Researcher Dr. Ronald Kalyango of Makerere University School of Women and Gender Studies, College of Humanitarian and Social studies. His presentation covered gender gaps in the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) challenges

and recommendations including the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements, barriers to women's participation in Security Sector Reform, Humanitarian Assistance and Reconstruction, Chapter 6 on the Permanent Constitution, Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (R-JMEC), Supremacy of this agreement and procedures for amendment of the agreement,.

Gender Gaps in Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS)

- Whereas the agreement increases the quota of women's participation in the executive from 25 per to 35 per cent, it falls short of expanding their participation at senior-level position in the Executive (President, Vice-President, First Vice President).
- The agreement does not contain a specific provision providing for the participation of women in the expanded Transitional National Legislative Assembly, the Council of States and local government.
- The agreement makes no provision for women's participation in the judiciary even though one woman is a member on the National Constitutional Amendment Committee (NCAC).
- There is also no provision for youth participation

General Resolutions

- Commitment to ensure peace and facilitate the operationalization of the transitional security arrangements and the voluntary repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees and internally displaced persons.
- Women recognized as members of the Ceasefire Transitional Security Arrangement Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM) Article 2.4.8;
- Only Article 2.1.1.10.2 calls for parties to refrain from acts of recruitment and forms of sexual and gender based violence including sexual exploitation and harassment. The rest of the articles are written in a gender neutral language:
- Women's participation in security sector reform is limited by resistance to women in military, societal norms that prescribe childcare to women only and understand women as inferior to men.

This was affirmed by one of the Generals in the army who said 'In the army, we try as much as possible not to put women at the front line or in the line of fire. This is a man's job. Instead we assign women other tasks away from actual combat (Key Informant Interview Juba, December 2019).

Humanitarian Assistance and Reconstruction

- The agreed principles for humanitarian assistance and reconstruction, describe the role of the Special Reconstruction Fund (SRF). However, a position for women on the Board of the SRF is not explicitly set aside such as seen in the Ceasefire Transitional Security Arrangement Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM).
- The Ministry of Gender is not represented on the Board of Special Reconstruction Fund (BSRF) where the Ministries of Finance, General Education, Agriculture, and Food Security, and Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management are represented.
- None of the provisions in the third chapter explicitly define positions for women. Women's concerns are in part catered for under article 3.1.2.2 where they are to be offered special consideration in the provision of public services including access to health and education.
- Despite relative stability in South Sudan, humanitarian needs remain high and urgent.
- According to the UNOCHA, (Dec 2019), some 7.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance or protection and 3.7 million are displaced inside or outside of the country.
- According to the recently launched South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan for 2020, humanitarian agencies estimate that over US\$1.5 billion is needed to reach 5.6 million people with urgent life-saving assistance.
- Recommendation: A gender analytical needs assessment is necessary to determine what types of assistance is required by returnees, mapping out agencies to be involved and their coordination structures.

Under Chapter 6 on The Permanent Constitution:

The Agreement promotes women's inclusion in the constitutional process. There are provisions for adequate consultations of women before the TGoNU passes electoral and gender laws or constitutional amendments to enforce women's rights in consultation. All stakeholders including

political parties, civil society organizations, women groups, youth and faith-based groups shall reconstitute the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) and appoint a preparatory sub-committee for convening a national constitution conference.

Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (R-JMEC)

R-JMEC is responsible for monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the Agreement. R-JMEC also oversees the work of the CeaseFire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM), the Economic and Financial Management Authority (EFMA), the Strategic Defense and Security Review Board (SDSRB), the National Elections Commission (NEC) and all other transitional institutions created by the agreement. Women have two representatives with the Women's Bloc and the South Sudan Women's Peace Coalition having one representative each;

- Though the Agreement provides for women representative on the R-JMEC, it does not require that a certain number or percentage of the other R-JMEC members be women.
- This provides room for the other proposed R-JMEC members to include women as they fill their positions.
- Affirmative action is therefore required to identify and second women to the R-JMEC beyond the two slots such as within the ranks of other members;
- Mainstream gender analysis into its monitoring and reporting of R-JMEC activities.

Supremacy of the Agreement and Procedures for Amendment of the Agreement

The R-ARCSS, after ratification by all parties replaced all the earlier agreements and incorporated into the 2011 Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (TCRSS) as amended. Gender related challenges in the realization of the agreement include:

- An acute lack of funding with the government failing to provide all the pledged funds.
- There is limited representation of the women in almost all sectors of the governing bodies
- Lack of proper coordination and capacity gaps among the stakeholders, and
- Periodic fallout within some of the Parties to the Agreement like SSOA, which accounts for the delays in the implementation of critical pending tasks.
- Team work is lacking and people also don't share the same opinions on the same issues that would build them.

Recommendation

- Set guidelines on how the government will encourage women's participation in elections.
- Support affirmative action for women participation in all institutions and processes for the TGoNU.
- Put in place measures such as:
 - Capacity strengthening to enhance women's engagements in leadership.
 - Increase the number of women in governance and political processes.
- Implement the law especially when it comes to discrimination and violence experienced by women during electoral and political processes.
- Engage in continuous civic education and public education to address negative gender norms.
- Ensure gender-responsive budgeting.
- Mainstream gender analysis into monitoring and reporting of R-JMEC activities.

Participants' Dialogue

After the presentation participants engaged in an interactive discussion and highlighted the following concerns;

1. The militarized nature of politics means that only army generals are listened to in South Sudan. This eliminates effective participation of civilians who have brilliant ideas, but their opinions are considered irrelevant.
2. Civil society in Uganda should help empower women refugees, since it's a more balanced society as both men and women, army and civilian work together.
3. The proliferation of arms is a major driver of conflict in South Sudan.
4. The huge number of Vice Presidents: "Uganda has one Vice President and its stable, I think it will cause more problems for South Sudan to have more, this may be problematic.
5. The likelihood of sustainable peace was questioned. Participants wondered if there is really going to be peace in South Sudan given the long duration of the war.
6. Lack of participation of women in the TGoNU "Are there women in these government positions? 5 vice presidents, is a confusing system, it biases and removes any intended aspects of peace".
7. Lack of complete disarmament and demobilization of fighters: "Have the illegal guns been removed from the civilians? Otherwise, the peace agreement will not work."
8. The limited participation of grassroots women: "How are the grassroots women listened to? Voices of the mothers of South Sudan are not heard: The Government is still divided so conflict will still loom."

9. Need to address the root causes of the conflict: "There has to be a known angle of what caused conflict in order to have peace."
10. The rights and abilities of the women in South Sudan are not listened to and considered. Refugee women feel they still need to vote,

and participate in different aspects of the political system in South Sudan. They asked that the leaders should organize programs that address stigma against women so they can work hand in hand to achieve the provisions of the peace agreement.



Refugee women add their voices to the discussions during the conference





Martha, a Peace Mediator from Nyumanzi Refugee Settlement shares concerns for the rights of Persons with Disability in conflict resolution

In response to the women's concerns, Dr. Ronald Kalyango highlighted that having more than 1 Vice President in South Sudan was aimed to fairly represent the different parties. He added that women should join political parties so as to participate in government and ensure fair representation. In regards to the disarmament, only 75% of combatants have come for screening

and declared their weapons, so that is still a challenge. In response to if there is actual peace in South Sudan, he noted that, while there is peace on the streets of South Sudan, particularly in the capital Juba, the same couldn't be said for the States. South Sudanese need to start as individuals to be peaceful, within themselves and believe they can be the initiators of peace.

5.0

EXPERIENCES SHARING BY WOMEN PEACE MEDIATORS

The Peace Centre trained 156 women selected from political, cultural, religious and women groups' leadership from the refugee and host communities in Adjumani, Yumbe and Kotido as peace mediators. As a result, 5 networks of women peace mediators were formed, community action plans were developed and rolled out for women to identify and mediate conflicts in their communities to ensure their participation in peace building right from their homes to the communities.

During the conference, women peace mediators from Adjumani, Kotido and Yumbe actively engaged in the interactive discussions on the South Sudan peace process and shared their experience and lessons. They shared the most common conflict cases including tensions between refugee and host communities, resource conflicts (such as land, food, firewood, water, grass and timber), violence against women and girls, tribal conflicts and animal raids.

Akanyo Jessica, Rabecca Arual and Namwe Rose sharing their experience as Women peace mediators



Experience of Adjumani Women Peace Mediators

Rebecca Arual shared that as Women Peace Mediators they have used the skills acquired to identify conflict incidences before they grow into active violence. They have been able to mediate and report on conflict incidences to leaders. Most common conflicts include resource conflicts, domestic violence, negative cultural practices and beliefs. She presented the examples below:

“After the training, we went back and started transferring the knowledge and skills we gained during the mediation training to our communities. We have created awareness on peace in our communities through a multiplier effect. Identified, analyzed, mediated and reported conflict related cases to our leaders”

“The training prepared and enabled us successfully engage our people in Nyumanzi where a conflict

happened immediately after we were trained. We informed our leaders of everything that was happening, dialogued with our youth and men to stop fighting, we engaged the leaders of the host communities and the refugee leaders, reached out and consoled the families that had lost their dear ones and shared with them peace messages. We also participated in all the peace meetings”.

The women peace mediators in Adjumani have handled 22 conflict cases so far such as the case involving a young girl from a poor family whose father was forcing her to get married to an elderly rich man who lives in America. The mediators engaged the girl's family, who understood and asked the women to pay for her school fees since they wanted her in school. The girl was referred to an organization for sponsorship.

Experience of Bidi Bidi Women Peace Mediators

Jessica Akanyo thanked the government of Uganda, OPM, UN Women, UNHCR, Women's International Peace Centre, local leaders, partners for their role in ensuring the women have peace. She shared as follows:

Bidi Bidi women peace mediators obtained practical mediation skills from The Peace Centre in December 2019. We went back to our communities and started by building peace at individual level because we were told that you cannot give peace when you do not have peace. We identified and mediated conflict cases, We have formed seven groups where we pass information on peace to the women on weekly basis.

After being trained we were able to change our

mindset because peace begins with us and we have ensured that our families are living in peace before rolling out to reach the community. “Peace starts with us”. We shared peace messages with our children, husbands, other women and the community at large. We formed 11 women groups across the five zones and we are able to pass information on peace through these groups. We have mediated 15 cases of domestic violence, encouraged girls who had dropped out of school to go back to school and 20 were able to go back to school After the mediation training we were tasked to go back and inform our leaders about the training and our work as a result, our leaders have started inviting us to community spaces to pass information on peace.

Experience of Kotido Women Peace Mediators

Namoe Rose Chila shared the case of Kotido women peace mediators as follows:

Cattle raids is the major conflict due to resource sharing issues between the Jie and neighbouring communities in Moroto, Kabong, Napak, Kotido, and Turkana of Kenya. This is coupled with revenge as a result of loss of animals and lives. Uganda disarmed but the neighbouring Turkana are armed. This has resulted in human sacrifices through rituals practiced to end conflict, killing of security guards protecting settlements of people and animals, destruction of food gardens, loss of settlement camps, often times wrong decisions made because the leaders of Kenya and Uganda who were not involved in the peace meetings of the affected tribes.

Women peace mediators conducted a conflict analysis and realized that full attainment of peace is hindered by: insecurity due to rampant animal raids, illegal guns in the hands of the civilians, food insecurity, negative cultural beliefs and practices, violence against women and girls i.e. girls are reportedly defiled in the communal house of girls, rape, inheritance rights that do not favor women and girls and low value attached to girls education. Meetings were convened, 14 peace dialogues were conducted within and outside Kotido. The role women play in fueling the conflicts were discussed, 400 children were encouraged and returned to school. Conflicts reduced but the guns that have remained in the hands of the civilians remain a threat and can be used to escalate the conflicts at any time.

Response from Leaders

In response to the experience sharing, key resource persons from The Peace Centre, OPM, Local governments, and the three presenters cited some of the things that are being done by the leaders on the common conflict drivers presented. There is a need to ensure security operates both day and night to guarantee safety in the settlements, preferably using shifts since there are 98 police officers on pay roll. It is key to involve everyone in identifying and reporting incidences to the right people before they occur.

Plots of Land have been given to the refugees at no costs for settlement through dialogue (in 19 Refugee settlements) with clear demarcation between host and refugee communities and

within the refugee settlements to reduce land related conflicts. Land has also been apportioned for agriculture. There is also an emphasis on the need for change of mindset, attitudes, and beliefs starting from individual level to help the refugees transition and build the communities.

Dialogues are being conducted with the cultural leaders to address the issues of negative cultural practices. The challenge of inadequate water supplies especially in the dry season, is being addressed by erecting boreholes to act as back up water points. There is now a need to provide a safe place for the refugees to keep their animals to address the problem of conflicts over livestock.

6.0 CLOSING SESSION

In the wrap up session the women peace mediators expressed great appreciation to The Peace Centre, UN Women and FOKUS for the unique opportunity to voice their concerns and making them know that their voices matter in the peace process in South Sudan. The women were grateful for the exposure and opportunity to interact with different actors including their sisters from South Sudan whom they separated with during the war. Adjumani refugee women peace mediators network, with the slogan “Our new vision is Peace and Unity” promised to contribute to the peace process by promoting peace right from the settlement to promoting peace back home”. Bidi Bidi women peace mediators network, took on the slogan “We are peace keepers since we are the most affected and have taken up the mantle to build peace” while for the Kotido women peace mediators network, it was “Never lose hope, peace is a process”

The women expressed gratitude that they were able to engage with different actors including their sisters from South Sudan and other districts. Every one of the women needs to play an individual role for the peace process to work.

The reverend of the Adjumani Parish wrapped the session by emphasizing the need for people to embrace peace and turn away from wickedness and conflicts, sighting a quotation from the Bible

2nd Chronicles 7: 14 “If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land”



We are peace keepers since we are the most affected and have taken up the mantle to build peace

The Local Government leaders and community leaders pledged to continue promoting the peace processes through addressing gender gaps and empowering women to take up government positions. They appreciated the conference organizers for a job well done.

The OPM team, pledged to continue encouraging the implementation of peace policies and key actions sighted in the conference statements including protecting the refugees and informing them at the right time when the situation back home is okay for possible return.

Closing Remarks by Resident District Commissioner, Adjumani

Taban Peter Data, the RDC, thanked the Peace Centre for organizing the conference. He acknowledged that the government of Uganda has given key positions to women and this has helped build the economy. He noted that the conference is relevant as it helps to interrogate the role of the women of South Sudan in peace building. He emphasized the multiple roles of women at home, in the community and in peace building once they are empowered.

He urged the women of South Sudan to work together and support government’s efforts to achieve peace in their country. He requested the Peace Centre to ensure the outcome of the conference is implemented and to continue their work in peace building.



Promoting Women's Effective Participation in Peace Building in Uganda

Wundanyi, Kullale & Adjumani Districts



Ministry of Gender and Equal Opportunities
Gender Equality
Gender Equality

UN WOMEN
Gender Equality
Gender Equality

Taban Peter Dada Resident District Commissioner, Adjumani, in his closing remarks, urged the women of South Sudan to work together and support government's efforts to achieve peace in their country.

7.0

OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE

Key achievements of the Conference

The Conference engaged a total of 105 (17 males and 88 Females), enhanced more positive relationship among refugee women from Yumbe and Adjumani, as they were able to reunite with their long time lost friends and made peace with each other.

The Conference increased access to information on the South Sudan peace processes among the refugee women from refugee settlements in Yumbe and Adjumani and key actors in the humanitarian action. It provided a platform for refugee women to voice their demands for sustainable peace, demand for complete disarmament and the need for reassurance by South Sudan government on women's safety and protection.

Increased advocacy and action for peace right from the refugee settlements and back in South Sudan as an outcome statement was developed and shared

with different stakeholders including civil society organizations, government departments and Embassies of Sweden, Netherlands and Norway in South Sudan.

Increased visibility as activity updates were posted on The Peace Centre social media platforms (twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp groups). The conference was covered and featured on NBS live at 9pm on 27th Feb 2020, clips were shared on social media. Other media outlets included; Radio One link; <http://radioonefm90.com/women-rights-activists-unhappy-with-south-sudan-unity-government-structure/>, Chimp Reports Link; <https://chimpreports.com/women-decry-being-left-out-of-the-south-sudan-peace-deal/>, NBS YouTube; <https://youtu.be/liD4W0WrNhs>, Twitter reach; 9,530 impressions. 120 T-shirts carrying the message "promoting women's participation in peace building" were distributed

Lessons Learnt

Partnership and collaboration with different stakeholders is key for success. The conference was successfully convened with support from different stakeholders e.g. OPM authorized the movement of 30 refugee women from Bidi Bidi settlement in Yumbe for the conference in Adjumani.

Working with peacebuilding institutions in South Sudan (CIGPI and CEPO) enabled the delivery

of firsthand information on the progress of the implementing the Revitalized Peace Agreement by women peacebuilders from civil society in South Sudan. The delegates from South Sudan were able to share the outcome statement from the conference with government departments, embassies and civil society organizations and networks in South Sudan.



ANNEXES

The Conference in Pictures





II Programme

24th February 2020

- Arrival of participants from outside Adjumani

25th February 2020 Conference Day 1

- Arrival, Registration of all stakeholders and participants
- Opening prayer, Women's Anthem and National Anthem
- Introduction
- Workshop Objectives and Agenda review
- Background to the Peace Process in South Sudan and current situation
- Opening Remarks / Key note Address
- Debrief on the Women's Peace center and their involvement in the South Sudan Peace process
- Platform for Women Refugees, Lessons Learnt and Experience from the conference
- Presentations: UNHCR, UN Women, OPM, Official Opening by Adjumani District Local Government
- Context of South Sudan Peace Process
- Research Findings on implementing the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R- ARCSS), from a Gender Perspective.
- Discussions on the Presentation and Way forward
- Closure of Day

26th February 2020 Conference Day 2

- Arrival and registration
- Recap of the learning of Day one by the Refugee Ladies
- Experience Sharing by women Peace Mediators
- The Process of the South Sudan Peace Process: gains, Prospects for women, challenges.
- Discussion on presentation and the way forward
- Call to Action: Action planning, Group work
- General Conference wrap up
- Closure of Conference by the RDC Adjumani

III The Outcome Statement

"THE SOUTH SUDAN PEACE PROCESS: THE ROLE AND PROSPECTS OF REFUGEE WOMEN"
25th to 26th FEBRUARY 2020; ADJUMANI- UGANDA

We, women refugees living in Uganda participated in the conference under the theme "The South Sudan Peace Process: The Role and Prospects of Refugee Women" in Adjumani, Uganda from 25 to 26 February 2020 under the theme, acknowledged our common vision for sustainable peace in South Sudan and promoting peace in the communities where we live in Uganda;

THANK the Government of Uganda for their generosity of receiving us and enabling us to live in Uganda with dignity under their protection;

APPRECIATE the Office of the Prime Minister for Uganda, UNHCR and UN Women for their support over the years and providing us with access to education and health that has improved our well-being and livelihood;

FURTHER APPRECIATE the Government of Uganda for putting in place affirmative action for leadership in the settlements that has enabled 50-50 representation of women and men in decision making; that has enabled us to ensure the needs and concerns of women are taken into account in the management of the settlement;

ACKNOWLEDGE the contribution of other partners whose support has helped address most of our needs, including the Refugee Law Project, Care International and the Women's International Peace Centre;

REALISING that the Government of South Sudan is in the last stages of forming the Transitional Government of National Unity;

DRIVEN by the fact that urgent steps need to be taken to ensure that sustainable peace is achieved in South Sudan with the full participation of women and girls, particularly as it relates to the protection of women and girls from all forms of violence.

We urge the Government of South Sudan and signatories to the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan:

- To ensure complete ceasefire is maintained and non-signatories are brought on board to participate in the peace implementation by silencing the guns.
- We demand for a functional Disarmament, Demobilization and Rehabilitation Commission to ensure arms are removed from communities.
- We call upon H.E President Salva Kiir and Dr. Riek Macher to visit us in the camps and assure us of no return to war. We are tired of being refugees and want to return home to participate in building our nation.
- To ensure the complete implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and ALL its provision including monitoring and reporting; as well as respect the provision of 35% representation of women in decision making by nominating women in decision making positions at all levels.
- There is no sustainable without full participation of women in all levels.
- Recognize the capacity that resides with women refugees living in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt and find ways to ensure their inclusion in decision making to achieve sustainable peace;
- Develop and implement safe and dignified return of refugees, by developing and reinforcing policies that guarantee safety of all citizens, protect our borders and civilian populations especially IDPs and safeguard their human rights, including the right to safety, education, health, food security, economic development, and ensure lands that have been taken away are returned to rightful owners.
- Urge IGAD to continue to monitor the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement to ensure none of the parties violates ALL provisions; and if they do sanctions should apply.
- Also we urge the international community to monitor and support the peace process in South Sudan and ensure accountability for violation of human rights.
- We call on the Government of Uganda to continue to provide safe zones for refugee populations, develop and strengthen policies to provide holistic interventions that target women, girls and vulnerable groups including reintegration and economic empowerment for refugees.

Dated at Adjumani, this 26th day of February 2020.



#FeministPeace

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**Women's
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Peace Centre**

Amplifying Women's Voice and Power



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

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DEVELOPMENT