



Annual Narrative Report 2023

Building Sustainable Peace and Gender Equality in South Sudan



Development Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

List of Acronyms

AU	African Union
AWG	Annual Women Gathering
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CoC	Champions of Change
CS(O)	Civil Society Organizations
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CYPP	Children and Young People's Parliament
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GE&I	Gender Equality & Inclusion
GYW	Girls and Young Women
HRD	Human Right Defender
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IWD	International Women's Day
L&A	Lobby & Advocacy
LoP	Leaders of Peace
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoGCSW	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare
MP	Members of Parliament
NAP1325	National Action Plan 1325
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PCCA	People's Coalition for Civic Action
PFP	Psychosocial Focal Point
PME&L	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
PSEAH	Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
PSS	Psycho Social Support
R-ARCSS	Revitalized Agreement on The Resolution of The Conflict in South Sudan
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RMM	Resource Mapping and Mobilization
RTGoNU	Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity
R-TNLA	Revitalized Transitional National Legislative Assembly
SEAH	Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
SC	Steering Committee
SCS	Strengthening Civil Society
(S)GVB	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
SRF	Special Reconstruction Funds
ToC	Theory of Change
UNSCR1325	UN Security Council Resolution 1325
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
W/G/Y	Women & Girls & Youth
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
WRGE	Power of Voices Women's Rights and Gender Equality
WRO	Women Rights Organization

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1. Introduction

The Leaders of Peace (LoP) consortium is a 5-year joint programme (2021-2025) implemented by Assistance Mission for Africa (AMA), EVE, HealthNet TPO (HNTPO), PAX and Plan International and is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). The programme is implemented in 5 states located in South Sudan: Unity, Lakes, Western Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria and Central Equatoria. 2023 is the third year in which Leaders of Peace implements its strategies with the aim of contributing to a more empowering and inclusive environment, where women and girls (W/G) feel safer and better enabled to realize their rights, to play an influential role towards conflict prevention and sustainable peace.

The LoP Consortium is led by Plan International Netherlands and is implemented in strategic partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) under the Strengthening Civil Society framework (Women, Peace and Security grant instrument). The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) grant instrument is one of the grant instruments through which the MoFA contributes to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325. The Netherlands has translated the Women, Peace and Security theme into the Dutch National Action Plan (NAP) 1325.

LoP prioritizes 3 key strategies in achieving success in three result areas:

- capacity building and resources
- influencing attitudes and beliefs on gender equality
- influencing laws and policies supporting Women, Peace & Security agenda

This annual report covers the period January - December 2023 and demonstrates also this year the added value of working in a consortium as it reflects not only on the context in which Leaders of Peace is operating, but it is also able to show some changes due to LoP's interventions in the difficult context of South Sudan. Progress is described per result areas of the Theory of Change, and signs and outcomes are shown as observed and consolidated during implementation and outcome harvesting analysis. In the realization of outputs, the deviation from targets and explanation is given. Furthermore, this annual report reflects on the learning agenda and the crosscutting issues that include gender, youth, climate, and integrity and Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH). It closes with a short reflection on sustainability and partnership. This report can be read together with the Mid Term Evaluation (MTE) report, which gives more insight in achievements at outcome level and recommendations how to further strengthen the programme.

The result framework and risk assessment are included as an annex to the report. The result framework is indicating the actual results for 2023 versus the programme indicators and basket indicators.

2. Context Reflection

Political context

During the year, the President of South Sudan assented to three international conventions. These include the Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities; International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (MAPUTO Protocol) . The President signed the Maputo Protocol into law on 24th February and its launch ensued on 18th July 2023.

The female Minister of Defense and Veteran Affairs was relieved from her position and replaced with a male official, which is a setback towards the 35% affirmative actions and the role of women in leadership positions. Most importantly, she has been instrumental in the LoP as she participated in the Annual Women Gathering every year as a role model for influential women in leadership positions. However, towards the end of 2023, she was reinstated into a leadership role by heading the Ministry of Interior, being a positive gesture.

Although the President publicly reaffirmed his commitment to hold elections in December 2024, still there has been limited progress in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the resolution of the conflict. Furthermore, the National Constitutional Review Commission was reconstituted in November 2023. The Commission met the required 35 % quota for women members. However, the civil society activists raised a concern about the impartiality of the Chairperson of the National Elections Commission.

In CES, Terekeka County, inter-tribal conflict was rampant as the number of cattle increases and grazing land and water resources diminish especially during the dry season. This resulted to several people killed in a conflict between Tali Payam of Terekeka County and Mundri East County in Nora. However, efforts from both counties and the governments of Central and Western Equatoria have successfully resolved the conflict. Still along Yei-Juba-Bor road, the cattle migration remains a challenge causing insecurity and damage to the local farmland. This resulted in the attack of the CES governor's convoy while on his way back from talking to the cattle herders on 9th March 2023 in Mangalla, Bor road.

The governor of CES revoked the appointment of the Lainya County Commissioner as the caretaker mayor of Juba City Council (JCC) for assaulting a female vendor selling mosquito nets while wielding a pistol in his right hand. The video caused an uproar among women activists, civil society organizations, the public, and in parliament, with many calling for his immediate dismissal. The decision of the governor is welcome as a victory in the fight against gender-based violence. The governor replaced him with a female as Mayor for Juba City and restructured the Municipal Council. This appointment increased women's participation in decision-making and leadership position.

In EES road ambushes on Nimule, Juba and Torit highways have reduced. This is attributed to the unification of forces in Torit under one command that strengthened peace among the warring partners and created safe spaces. As a result, refugees are voluntarily coming back to Loa Boma, Moli, Nimule, Kerepi and Mugali Payams. 557 HHs returnees registered in the above-mentioned locations from Uganda. However, lack of secondary schools in other locations forced some families to settle in Nimule Town Council. Meanwhile lack of police posts in Pageri, Kerepi and Mugali payams affect protection of women and girls in case of gender-based violence (GBV) cases. Additionally, the Magwi County Commissioner David Otto Remson was arrested and detained in the capital Juba. The arrest of the commissioner in Juba has caused worries in Magwi County because he is popular in the community.

In Unity State, the former deputy RRC Director defected and joined the armed youth. To avoid the intensifying of the violence, the commissioner of Payinjar intervened, managed the situation, and hence did not negatively affect the activity implementation.

In WES, there was a tense political relationship between SPLM-IG and SPLM-IO that has taken an ethnic dimension. As a result, in August, the governor was summoned into the TNLA but he refuted the allegations that he had misappropriated funds intended for state officials and instead is demanding salary arrears from the national government. The state also recorded a series of mysterious killings that includes Richard Sereberani the Education Director in Nagero county, and Justin Agbiamamu, the chief.

Ministry of Health (MoH) declared a yellow fever outbreak in Western Equatoria in December with a register suspected 30 cases and 5 deaths. The MoH immediately deployed a rapid response team, along with support from USAID/BHA partner the UN World Health Organization (WHO).

Changes in the enabling environment for Civil Society L&A

The civic space for civil society remains controlled or closed, particularly in the national capital in Juba where one must seek approval to conduct any workshop or activities. Meanwhile in EES, the state leadership has shown free space for CSOs, NGOs and women to conduct their meetings and seminars. Despite the shrinking civic space, LoP Consortium partners have benefitted by engaging in the very high-level Lobby & Advocacy (L&A) activities by involving the members of parliament of the specialized committees, as well as the women parliamentary caucus.

In addition, the National Security Act limits civic space and it gives sweeping powers to security forces to arrest and detain citizens without due process. The government was accused of harassing and intimidating CSOs, journalists and human rights defenders who criticize government policies. There are many incidents of harassment recorded in 2023, including the confiscation of opposition's T-shirts in Ayod County and denial of permission to SSOA to hold a reception ceremony for Dr. Lam Akol in Juba.

Economic context and COVID-19

The Republic of South Sudan continues to face a worsening economic situation in 2023 in comparison to 2022 as the South Sudanese Pound continued to depreciate against the US dollar. This is attributed to lack of a proper financial and monetary policy and chronic corruption. In addition, South Sudan's 80% budget comes from oil and currently there is reduction in oil production due to lack of maintenance of pipelines. This resulted in a lack of foreign earnings hence weakening the local currency further. In June 2023, the inflation rate reached 255% making essential goods and services unaffordable for many South Sudanese citizens. To address the fiscal deficit, the government implemented measures such as cutting spending, reducing subsidies, and increasing taxes but did this has not worked out.

In addition, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank provided financial and technical assistance to the government in order to address the economic crises. The IMF approved a loan of \$174.2 million to help the government address the balance of payments deficit and support economic reforms. Meanwhile the World Bank provided \$200 million to support the government's efforts to improve public financial management and promote economic growth.

Additionally, the government and international partners worked towards improving agriculture and promoting non-oil sectors such as tourism and mining to diversify the economy. The government also launched initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises, which is crucial in creating employment opportunities and supporting economic growth. In the past two years, the East African region faced prolonged droughts, which led to reduction in agricultural yield in some places. As South Sudan depends on imported food mainly from Uganda, this resulted in shortage of food, which further increased their prices. In Terekeka, the drought destroyed crops including groundnuts, sorghum and other staple crops. Communities had to sell their cows and goats to purchase food. Those who do not have cattle are likely to resort to cattle rustling, infringing community co-existence even more and increasing GBV.

The uncertainties associated with Covid-19 were not experienced through the year and no longer seen as a threat. All the restrictions were lifted and there was free movement of people within the East Africa community and in South Sudan. Even with absence of restrictions and disappearance of fear of Covid-19, LoP continued awareness raising and observing Covid-19 protocols during implementation. The lifting of travel restrictions affected implementation positively. Activities involving large numbers of participants could easily be conducted.

Socio-cultural context

In 2023, SPLM (Ruling Party) tried to build alliances with the kings of Shilluk and Azande Kingdoms to strengthen its political power and maintain control over the country. The enticement of the SPLM offered traditional authorities the possibility of greater political power and access to resources, but had negative consequences, particularly for the communities these traditional authorities represented. The alignment of these authorities with the ruling party created a perception of corruption and undermined the legitimacy of these leaders in the eyes of some members of their communities. Moreover, it reinforced the perception of a centralized, top-down approach to governance, which undermined the role of local communities in decision-making processes.

In EES, the LoP partners observed both positive and negative changes in socio-cultural context. Cultural norms with a negative attitude on girls child education have changed in project locations, as evidenced by an increased number of girls in primary schools compared to secondary school and university. However, girl's retention at secondary and university needs more effort from community, parents and law enforcement.

In Unity State at Payinjiar County, cases of revenge killing declined compared to the past year. This can be attributed to the general calmness because of strengthening the leadership structures through filling all the power gaps and including women in leadership in the local government structure. However, the flooding coupled with the occurrence of Taiyar port storm forced the communities of Payinjiar to resettle in limited dry space. This resulted in congestion and high cases of rape, forced marriages, poor hygiene and increased disease outbreaks. The issue of rape and forced marriage did not have a major impact on implementation as most of the rape cases reported were forwarded to the relevant partners, health facilities and the police, and most perpetrators were arrested and serving their sentence in prison. The forced marriage cases were referred to the ABC courts for litigation and the Psychosocial Focal Persons counselled the victims.

Gender dynamics

The patriarchal culture in South Sudan continues to marginalise women. Although women are appointed in different offices, they are not included in most of the decision-making places compared to the male counterparts. Several women have been relieved from their ministerial positions, like the minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, and replaced by a male, though she was later appointed to another ministry.

In Nimule in 2023, relationship between boys and girls changed greatly through the weekly Champions of Change (CoC) program and dialoguing on gender issues with boys and girls. Boys stand for their fellow sister in household responsibilities and sharing common roles that some community think is for girls. Some male champions started speaking out the negative cultural norms that affect women and girls. However, gender inequality is still in practice within some communities where LoP is being implemented, despite campaigns and awareness raising sessions. Support for youth led programs, for example, CYPP and CoC program in schools created safe spaces for young girls/ women to interact freely with their fellow boys and men. The program for inter-generational dialogues for youth and elderly people, children and young people and CoC have created an enabling environment for effective coordination and participation in communities and in national development.

In Terekeka, the couple engagement program that trained 40 families played a pivotal role in bringing about new perspective into the gender dynamic in Terekeka. Members are encouraged to freely discuss between different gender groups to resolve rift among the group as quick as possible. If conflict breaks out in one of the families in the community, the males encounter with their male counterparts and female their female counterparts for easy problem solving. The selection of the couple is to promote gender equality and balance.

The LoP program initiates grassroots advocacy on GBV, girl child education, peace mitigation and peace building. It empowered indigenous women and men to use locally practiced skills to manage conflicts within the communities and to advocate for GBV, early child marriage, Girl child education and peaceful co-existence within their communities and the neighbouring counties. One major task was to combat cattle rustling and to encourage hard work and business among the communities to enable those who are poor to have opportunity to buy their own cattle instead of stealing from a neighbouring county. This initiative resulted to decrease in gender-based violence in the communities where such groups exist and peaceful resolution of conflict within the family circles and the neighbours. The initiative encouraged men and women to work together for the welfare of their family. As a role model and a point of reference for other families, couples were encouraged to avoid fights as this could undermine their ability to help other families settle problems.

Changes within the LoP consortium

Generally, there were no changes in the power dynamics in the LoP consortium, as the partners continued with their assigned roles. The Consortium Desk had highly improved coordination through enforcing monthly program committee meetings, field visits for support, one on one meeting with the partners and technical lead visits.

PAX has experienced two important changes due to staff turnover at both the country office in Juba as well as at the head office in the Netherlands. These comprised of the country project lead for South Sudan based at head office whose role was programme steering committee member, while the gender and advocacy officer was the programme coordinator for the LoP programme.

PAX successfully recruited a passionate, dedicated and hardworking staff at the position of a senior project officer and a Deputy Country Director to PAX South Sudan Office who is member of the Steering Committee.

As for AMA, the Executive Director and Programs Manager left the organization. An interim Executive Director is acting and the Gender Officer who is familiar with the project is managing the project.

3. Theory of Change and progress of the programme

The Leaders of Peace programme aims to achieve a more empowering and inclusive environment in South-Sudan, where women and girls feel safer and better enabled to realize their rights, so they can play an influential role towards conflict prevention and sustainable peace. To achieve this, a gender transformative multifaceted human rights-based approach is needed. Consequently, the overall strategic objective of Leaders of Peace contributes to SDG5 and UNSCR1325:

A more empowering and inclusive environment in South-Sudan, where W/G feel safer and better enabled to realise their rights, so they can play an influential role towards conflict prevention and sustainable peace.

To achieve the overall strategic objective, three result areas have been developed, closely aligned to the three previously mentioned WPS grant instrument sub-objectives:

1. Improved implementation of policies and regulations on GBV and protection of W/G including psycho-social support and self-care,
2. Changed attitudes and beliefs of civil society (CS) to facilitate inclusion of W/G and promote gender equality (GE),
3. Increased and effective participation of W/G in leadership and peacebuilding.

The three result areas are mutually reinforcing each other: Improving knowledge/uptake of GBV/protection policies/regulations deters harmful gender norms; this is necessary to ensure that W/G equally participate. Equal participation of W/G in leadership and peacebuilding is key to sustainable /inclusive peace processes, and to protecting marginalized groups during (post-) conflict situations. The Gender Transformative Approach is interwoven in all strategies and activities, as addressing root causes such as gender discriminatory norms and the engagement of boys and men as agents of change are key to achieve gender equality and equal participation of girls and women in the peace process.

The Mid Term Evaluation took place during June – August and concluded that the LoP programme

implementation over the last two and half years has continued to achieve the desired programme outputs and outcomes, despite the COVID-19 disruptions in 2020-2021, environmental risks such as floods and droughts that affected Lakes and Unity States, sporadic intercommunal and political conflicts, and social-economic challenges with high inflation and decline in South Sudanese Pound against the dollar. Recommendations were included during the Annual Review and Planning Meeting (ARPM) in August to finetune planning for the coming years. The ARPM was evaluated very positive as it had created better understanding of each other's activities and capacity, how all activities contribute to the outcomes and how the quality of the programme can be further strengthened, synergy created and partners can support each other. After an in-depth discussion and reflection on the TOC the members agreed to no major changes are required in the TOC and all assumptions are still valid. As outcomes were extensively assessed and described in the MTE report, focus in this annual report will be more on output level for the year 2023.

Monitoring outcomes in the Leaders of Peace programme

Result area 1: Improved implementation of policies and regulations on GBV and protection of W/G incl. access to PSS & self-care

Under result area 1 the LoP identified 2 output areas:

- 1.2.1.** Community groups have improved knowledge of available PSS services and legal protection/GBV services including strengthening case management
- 1.2.2.** Formal and traditional authorities are informed on existing legal protection framework for W/G including GBV survivors' rights.

These outputs are contributing to the following short/medium term outcomes:

CS strengthened community based (MHPSS) support mechanisms- and referral pathways

Planning for 2023 was to overcome the hesitance of W/G to make use of the services due to gender norms and shortcomings in the mechanisms. It can be concluded that there has been a notable improvement in the effort to combat GBV cases in the program locations. There was increased awareness of stakeholders (community & religious leaders, w/y groups, CSO/CBOS women and girls, police) on psychosocial and GBV concepts.

LoP activities such as psychosocial support, GBV awareness and women empowerment are gradually changing the landscape of cultural beliefs and practices. Even within the civil authorities, similar changes were visible and are evidenced by appointment of some women to the council and chieftaincy.

In Terekeka women were for the first time appointed as counselors in the ABC Courts. This is a significant development, which is gradually going to change the status quo. Hence, a clear recipe for expansion of civic space and conducive enabling environment for women and girls to air their views without fear of reprisal.

LoP has trained a cadre of psychosocial care givers known as Psychosocial Focal Points (PFPs) to address the issue of violence against women and girls. Increased efforts were done on changing gender norms (see outcome 2), refreshers trainings for PFPs, monitoring of PFPs and follow up of reported cases. In addition, training of GBV survivors on self-care and Peer to Peer Psychosocial Support (PSS) continued. Through the referral services, survivors were supported to obtain a sustainable access to income by managing small-scale livelihood projects. Through targeted community awareness sessions, the PFPs have empowered women by providing information about their rights and available services. The PFPs have also been trained to recognize and manage the stressors and psychosocial needs of their clients and themselves.

HNTPO conducted a session with youth at the Scenius Hub on Conflict and Anger management and how anger and different cultures can affect people, society, and peacebuilding processes. This has created a big discussion amongst the youth on how best one can manage his/her anger, and how anger if not dealt with appropriately can lead to negative emotions and coping. The link between unresolved anger and the vicious cycle of violence was discussed. During the month of May, mental health conversations with youth were organized through three consecutive sessions, and radio talks were held on specific mental health topics on stress and its management; grief, loss and suicide and conflict and anger management.

PFPs under the LoP in Juba conducted a session on 'loss and grief', explaining how culture can affect people when it comes to losing and grieving dear ones; "Culture has made it look like crying and being in a position of emotional and mental breakdown is only for women, who are seen as weak". South Sudanese should normalize the fact that men can also get hurt, depressed and even cry during such adversities.

With sustained advocacy, the development partners and Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MoGCSW) have constructed a safe house in Juba to provide shelter for GBV survivors. This, in addition to the case management efforts of the PFPs and other referral partners, has resulted in a better-quality response to GBV, as shown in some examples below.

In March 2023, four perpetrators were arrested in Ganyliel for forcing a woman into inheritance through violent ways. Following the death of the husband, the tradition of Nuer allows the widow to be inherited by one of the late husband's brothers. However, this woman having attended gender equality and women rights sessions refused to be inherited and consequently the late husband's brothers organised and beat her, then the police intervened and arrested them. It is a sign of changed behaviour since previously the normal practice would be for the police to refer the case to be settled traditionally at a family level.

The paramount chief of Terekea County remanded GBV perpetrators for a period of six months thereafter their final verdicts was decided upon. After the training on the gender equality and the rule of law the police in Terekeka opened a case against two brothers who brutally beat their sister to medical level. They charged the brothers of committing GBV and a women activist who is

also the police gender officer in Terekeka County opened cases against two GBV perpetrators and transferred these cases to the C Court for judgment.

In Payinjiar, the commissioner appointed a woman as the head of his advisory body in the county. On the other hand, ABC court appointed two women to the C court, which is the highest governing body of the traditional court system. These positive changes have highly boosted the morale of all stakeholders involved in the advocacy for implementation of GBV laws and policies, human rights and gender equality such as the CBOs and the women groups. The young people are positively changing and can at least accord some degree of respect to women. The male allies from the male engagement group are changing some of the community norms and are promoting gender equality, some of the male allies from religious backgrounds have started incorporating gender issues into their scriptural interpretation and preaching.

Formal/ traditional authorities demonstrate capacity and willingness to work on legislation against GBV and W/G protection

There has been an increase in advocacy efforts aimed at addressing issues affecting women in program locations. The capacity of the ABC courts in CES, WES, and EES has been strengthened through training. The paramount chief of Juba County has reported that “the Chief no longer handles GBV cases but instead refers them to the civil courts (especially physical violence)”. Additionally, new women and youth groups have been established and equipped to conduct advocacy on GBV prevention and management at the state level.

Men and boys were given regular sessions on gender equality, UNSCR1325 and on debating gender issues in the community in order to transform negative attitudes and beliefs towards women and girls, and to promote gender equality and involvement of women in leadership and the peace building process. The males engaged have started demonstrating changes in behaviour.

The head Chief of one of the Payams in Payinjiar, during ABC Court Focus Group discussion, said that ABC Court members should take responsibility to solve GBV with seriousness that the society is now modern and men should respect and value women rights and not harass them. He also added that ABC court sessions need to be gender sensitive to include women chiefs as discussed in the training of ABC Courts. It contributes strongly to this outcome because a male chief is spearheading the advocacy on the need to protect and promote women rights and gender equality.

The Male Engagement groups in Terekeka have identified cases/issues of GBV within the community and have also started educating other members of the communities who perpetuate GBV. The Male Engagement groups have also mobilized social support and facilitated community and family dialogues, peace brokering within the communities within their own payam, Boma and communities. As a result, there has been an improvement in awareness and management of GBV. During one of the male engagement activities, a reverend of one of the churches in Nyal said that he is really touched, having understood the role that men can play in supporting women and that he has also incorporated protection and promotion of women rights in his sermons. This is a sign of

positive change towards gender equality and promotion of women rights by religious leaders that may influence more males to advocate for gender equality.

Result area 2: Civil Society (CS) has changed attitudes and beliefs that facilitate inclusion of W/G and promote gender equality

Under result area 2 the LoP identified 2 output areas:

2.2.1 Community groups are gender aware and committed to W/G protection, gender equality and W/G's meaningful participation in peacebuilding

2.2.2 W/Y/men are empowered as Agents of Change through rights-based leadership knowledge

These outputs are contributing to the following short/medium term outcomes:

W/Y groups, men and boys jointly advocate for Gender Equality and participation through W/Y led platforms

The establishment of a women's L&A group in Torit has had a significant impact on the lives of women in Eastern Equatoria State (EES). The group is comprised of numerous women-led organizations that aim to unify advocacy efforts and address issues that affect women in the region. Through their advocacy efforts, the group has been able to bring attention to a range of issues affecting women, including GBV, access to healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. This has led to increased discussion and dialogue around these topics, creating a space for women's voices to be heard and their experiences to be acknowledged. One of the most significant impacts of this group has been the increased awareness and visibility of women's issues in EES. The group has also been successful in advocating for policy changes that benefit women. They have lobbied for the inclusion of gender-sensitive policies in the state.

The Children and Young People Parliament (CYPP) strengthening took place and regular parliamentary sessions organized on what affects young people's lives, like awareness raising on early marriage and mental, physical and emotional consequences of early marriage on the adolescent girls and boys. The CYPP has shown to be a clear testimony of a positive change towards gender equality. As opposed to the previous years where girls could not easily express themselves in public and the boys could not support girls' leadership, the CYPP leadership was female dominated and they won the seats through free and fair elections. Also during the election of the CYPP leaders in Nyal and Ganyiel in March, the girls stood up and campaigned for leadership roles. These girls merged out to be members of the Champions of Change (CoC) club. It is a sign of positive change of behaviour towards girls and women since girls are culturally shy to express their potential as well as boys expressed positives behaviour by voting girls into leadership positions.

In Juba, a group of empowered members of CYPP has registered as an NGO (called Generation 711) with the focus on issues that affect the lives of young persons within a society.

The consortium has recognized men's role in ending GBV and promoting gender equality. By engaging men in a systematic empowerment process, it will impart knowledge and impetus

to help mobilize men to end GBV. Male Engagement groups were established and trained in areas of GBV, Peace Building & Conflict Resolution, emotional and economic abuse, early and forced marriage and gender roles. Of these groups, representatives were trained to mobilize other community members. The Male Engagement groups were encouraged to report all rape cases to the chiefs, police and health facility, to enable survivors get medical attention and the perpetrator gets punished for the crime committed. Male Engagement groups discourage parents from marrying off their daughters to their rapists to avoid more mental and emotional trauma to the victim.

The Terekeka police special protection unit together with the council of chiefs have handled two cases of forced and early marriages; one case was handled perfectly within Terekeka while the other one was transferred to Juba due to its complexity. The chiefs have confirmed their determination to handle GBV especially rape, forced and early marriages with support from the special police unit at Terekeka police station and the Department of Gender and Social Welfare in the county. Two women were selected members of the council and B court, this is a huge milestone in 2023, though the paramount chief said with the high level of violence within the Mundari community, it is hard for men to accept women as judges and decision-makers. This was the beginning of a process that Mundari men become enlightened to have more women appointed to key positions.

Result area 3: Increased, effective participation of women and youth (W/Y) in leadership and peacebuilding

Under result area 3 the LoP consortium identified 2 output areas

3.2.1 Gatekeepers including policy makers are activated to promote WPS agenda and create space for W/G in leadership positions

3.2.2 CSOs have resources and capacity to lobby on WPS agenda,

These outputs are contributing to the following short/medium term outcomes:

International governmental bodies (AU/EU), diplomats and media lobby and advocate to widen civic space

LoP supported CSOs to participate in a lobbying meeting with the UNHRCA in which the council was urged to influence the South Sudan government to provide safe civic space, protect women and ensure the implementation of the 35% affirmative action. As well a lobbying meeting was conducted with IGAD on the situation of WPS in South Sudan and called for the implementation of R-ARCSS and women's quota.

The African Union Liaison Office (AULO) extended invitation and supported the LoP consortium to participate in the 39th GIMAC Pre-summit Meeting in February 2023 in Addis Abeba under the theme Implementation of the "Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area" (AfCFTA): breaking trade barriers of African Women and ensuring their inclusion. A total 13 young girls and women attended the summit, 3 in person accompanied by the Consortium Manager, and 10

virtually. The meeting provided a platform for CSOs to discuss opportunities in which the AfCFTA can create a gender-inclusive implementation plan, and inspire commitment for action from the African Union (AU) mechanisms responsible for the implementation of the AfCFTA. The network's eight thematic clusters guided the key topics discussed during the meeting, and addressed questions that included: what are the main trade barriers that African women and youth face, the specific impacts of the AfCFTA on the human rights of women and girls, possible challenges in achieving inclusive implementation and how can women, youth and girls can participate in both the formal and informal sectors benefit from the AfCFTA. There was recognition of the need for intergenerational spaces where women and youth can address issues about their mental health. This is evident in South Sudan where people are living with trauma from the liberation struggle through the recent conflicts, with totally no help, leading to bitterness, depression, stress and even madness.

CSOs consult local and national actors to build legitimacy

To increase effective implementation of GBV policies and frame works to facilitate increased women participation, the technical consortium lead on policies (PAX) developed a strategy last year and organized a two-days' workshop to discuss the L&A strategy to ensure that L&A is effective and more inclusive. HNTPO contributed by bringing in to light the aspect of increased implementation of GBV laws and service for mental health and psycho-social support issues.

There have been strong women's movements across the program locations. This has contributed to the increase in women's representation in the recently reconstituted peace mechanism: women received 33% representation in the National Constitution Review Commission, 22% in the National Electoral Commission, and 50% in the Political Parties Council. The South Sudan Women Coalition has four members appointed in these mechanisms. In Payinjiar county, a woman was appointed as the head of Commissioner's advisors. The advisory body is composed of 3 members. This is a high-level positive change at the County level and it can be linked to the outcome 3.1 (Gatekeepers including policy makers are activated to promote WPS agenda and create space for W/G in leadership positions).

On 8 March 2023, A group of women in Nimule Town council invited the minister of gender child and social welfare EES, to discuss how women can take up leadership roles towards peace building within their state. Subsequently, the minister promised to appoint gender focal points within Nimule Town council office.

With contribution of LoP, EVE organisation in collaboration with the National MoGCSW, the 3rd Annual National Conference on WPS was organized, under the theme "Building Inclusive Democracy: Women's Leadership and Political Participation". This two-day annual event brought together 200 women from South Sudan to discuss women's leadership and political participation in building inclusive democracy. It exposed women from grassroots to share their grievances and experiences with high positioned women at the national level and to address issues affecting women jointly. The program focused on strategizing for the forthcoming general elections in

South Sudan. A final communiqué was developed by the conference attendees and was shared with all the stakeholders. It's important to note that certain members of the Women Coalition who participated in the conference, earned their appointments through sustained advocacy and engagement with various peace actors. It is believed that their participation will enhance women's involvement and safeguard their interests in the upcoming election. HNTPO participated in the two-days annual woman gathering under the theme "Building inclusive democracy": Women's leadership and political participation. The conference aims to empower and celebrate the extraordinary role of women in promoting peace, security, and sustainable development. Women at national and state ministries, embassies, international organizations, civil society, and women-led organizations attended and participated in the deliberation of issues affected women.

To influence and activate policy makers and gatekeepers to promote the NAP 1325/WPS agenda, LoP engaged parliamentarians, ABC court chiefs – customary law makers- and peace committee leaders to discuss on WPS agenda, specifically on the implementation of the 35% affirmative action on representation and meaningful involvement of women in leadership and in peace building in all the leadership structures in the community and in the government. The leaders were also informed on the priorities of women groups so as to support them in advocating for the changes they want in regard to the WPS agenda. The action contributes also to outcome 2, including linking and learning as women groups are enabled to lobby for changing the situation.

Realization of Outputs per Result Area

Result area 1: Improved implementation of policies and regulations on GBV and protection of W/G incl. access to PSS & self-care

1.2.1. Community groups have improved knowledge of available PSS services and legal protection/GBV services including strengthening case management

1.2.2. Formal and traditional authorities are informed on existing legal protection framework for W/G including GBV survivors' rights.

HNTPO continued the support to PFPs to engage with local community leaders, communities, women and girls' men and boys directly and created awareness on different topics such and GBV, psychosocial impact of early and forced marriages, alcohol and drug abuse, stress among others. In 2023, refresher trainings and onsite mentor-ship was given to 50 PFPs for all the project areas. The role of the PFPs includes a.o. to provide mentor-ship, develop care skills, community education and facilitation skills and to provide support to PFPs who are themselves struggling with their own mental health and psycho-social problems or those who are overwhelmed and stressed in due course of providing psycho-social support in the communities.

Combining the total individuals reached with key messages as well as those who received training in case management and psychosocial care by PFPs and CSOs/groups have reached the total of 12228 (7646 f / 4582 m) individuals with different key advocacy messages and awareness on GBV, mental health and psychosocial issues, child abuse, early/forced marriages, the right to education, alcoholism and drug abuse and gender equality (See also Result area 2) . 50 PFPs were mentored and supported to provide case management and PSS. 386 survivors from the community received case management (services) and were provided with age appropriate GBV and MHPSS services by PFPs in all the project locations.

30 ABC court chiefs from Juba and Terekeka Counties were trained on the UNDP GBV pocket guide by EVE and were organised to lobby jointly to implement GBV legislation. The impact of these activities is significant for the target groups. The training on the UNDP GBV pocket guide for the court chiefs has equipped them with the knowledge and skills to effectively handle cases related to gender-based violence in their respective counties. This will help to ensure that victims of GBV receive justice and that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. The joint lobbying effort to implement GBV legislation will also contribute to creating a more supportive environment for the victims of GBV.

30 police and prison officers from Juba and Terekeka Counties were trained in Juba on GBV legislation, human rights and gender equality. This training is crucial and will help the officers to identify and respond appropriately to cases of GBV. It will also help them to understand the importance of human rights and gender equality in their work. This will ultimately contribute to reducing the incidence of GBV and promoting a more equal and just society.

In the AMA project area, the training of ABC Courts on the UNDP Pocket guide resulted in inclusion of two women in the ABC Court, adding to the total of 3 women of the 12 ABC court members. It contributes also to outcome 1.2 and clearly reflects their commitment towards gender equality and willingness to streamline the customary laws with the national laws as well as human rights and GBV Laws. Since these women understand fellow women issues better and including them in the court will improve protection and promotion of women and girls' rights in the local courts.

The number of cases recorded was higher compared to previous years, partly because of the awareness sessions; the community now understands where to report cases. Also, the storm in Tayar resulted to high number of GBV cases within the resettlement period. From the case register, the GBV cases recorded included: rape, forced marriage, child marriage, domestic violence and denial of family resources for the widowed women and in some cases child trafficking and kidnapping. Prevalence of firearms in the hands of the public is one of the major causes of rape cases, as most women are threatened with guns before they are raped. In addition, patriarchal cultural norms contribute to almost all the different forms of SGBV as women and girls are perceived as vulnerable and inferior beings with no power in presence of men. Inflation coupled with prolonged droughts within East African region and floods in unity state of South Sudan has also contributed to forced and child marriage cases as the families look at bride price as the only alternative for livelihood.

GBV survivor user groups involved grouping GBV survivors together and training them on peer to peer Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services (MHPSS). Because the activity was conducted in a period of cultivation and in Yirol, 5 participants did not turn up for the training. Training of CBOs on lobby and advocacy of MHPSS and prevention of GBV and laws continued in 2023. Representatives/leaders of various CBOs were trained on MHPSS and prevention of GBV related topics. The CBOs have demonstrated increased awareness on MHPSS and on GBV laws. Some of the evidences are documented in the Outcome harvesting.

The training of the police was successful and improved their skills how to handle GBV cases especially on confidentiality and treating victims with empathy and respect. This is evident from the outcomes harvesting and direct observation. For example, all the police stations now have women police officers who handle GBV cases and there is a book specifically for GBV cases.

Plan International – supported by HNTPO- mentored 11 PFPs (7f/ 4m) in Nimule to equip them with skills and knowledge for case management, referrals and case follow up to bridge the gap of fear for GBV survivors. The mentorship enabled the PFPs created awareness on PSS, stress management, drugs and alcohol abuse which are contributing factors for GBV and mental health. The 11 PFPs registered and supported a total of 53 GBV survivors (49f/4m) with age and gender appropriate PSS and GBV services. The project has supported three referral pathway's update and printed and distributed 396 copies of the updated referrals to community leaders, women groups, youth groups and schools for GBV survivors to access services in timely manner.

To improve the knowledge of formal and traditional authorities on existing legal protection framework for W/G including GBV survivors' rights, a three days training was conducted for 25 police staff and prison wardens (16m / 9f) in Nimule. The training focused on GBV, referrals, roles of police in handling GBV cases, understanding GBV root causes and contributing factors to GBV, consequences of GBV on individuals, children, families, communities and it explored different laws in South Sudan for protecting human rights. The inspector of police supported the mobilization of police and requested for follow up of police in their office to work as a team in handling cases of gender based violence.

Mentorship was procured for a total of 75 traditional authorities (45m / 25f) The coaching and mentorship was particular on roles of traditional authorities and how to refer cases of GBV at their community. The project staff supported the Head chiefs and Boma chiefs in Pageri and Nimule with the L&A strategy manual and L&A on the importance of legal protection for women and girls, including GBV survivors.

The Advocacy Forum (Annual Chiefs Forum) was organized in Magwi in November for two days, spearhead by the County Commissioner and attended by 33 chiefs (26m / 6 f) The participants came from eight payams of Magwi county in EES. The chiefs discussed the roles to be played by A courts, B court and C court. The meeting resolved and passed the unified designed case referral form and unified courts fee from A to C court based on the legal provision.

Social saving groups (fellow GBV survivors solidarity groups) have allowed GBV survivors to obtain a sustainable access to income by managing small-scale livelihood activity, reducing their vulnerability and allowed them to restore self-confidence.

Result Area 1	Output indicator	Output target 2023	Output actual 2023	Comment on deviation
1.2.1 Community groups have improved knowledge of available PSS services and legal protection/GBV services incl. case management	# Case workers/PFPs have refreshed training in age (children / adult), gender-appropriate PSS, GBV, legal protection information and are suitable to cultural context	50	50	18m / 32f case workers/PFPs were given follow up training. HNTPO supported the other partners in this. Actuals per partner are counted separate for Plan and AMA, but are out of these 50.
	# of members of community groups capacitated	770	750	433f/317m members of the community groups were trained on basic GBV and PSS knowledge and skills
	# Community groups capacitated, resourced and coached on PSS, legal protection services and lobby & advocacy on these topics	34	34	34 community groups had been mobilized and provided training GBV/ PSS topics
	# Number of persons who are provided with age and gender appropriate PSS and GBV services	382	395	297f/98m were provided with services. Training and support of HNTPO supported partners to increase interventions in other areas.
1.2.2 Formal and traditional authorities are informed on existing legal protection framework for W/G including GBV survivors' rights	# of traditional authorities reached with L&A on the importance of legal protection for women and girls, including GBV survivors	285	281	ABC court members (142f/139m) were trained on important GBV regulations and laws
	# of traditional authorities with strengthened capacities to develop/ adjust/ implement regulations related to protection of W/G	175	169	ABC court members (76f/98m) were able to develop /adjust/implement regulations to increase protection for W/G
	# of trained formal authorities e.g. police and prison staff on GBV legislation, human rights and GE	155	156	Formal authorities (80f/76m) have been

Result area 2: Civil Society (CS) has changed attitudes and beliefs that facilitate inclusion of W/G and promote gender equality

Output 2.2.1: Community groups are gender aware and committed to W/G protection, gender equality and W/G's meaningful participation in peacebuilding.

Output 2.2.2.: Women and youth, men are empowered as agent of change through rights-based leadership knowledge and organized into advocacy group.

HNTPO reached 12228 (4582 m/b, 7646 w/g) from the different communities with key advocacy messages on ending GBV and promotion of gender equalities. The CSO's TAYA and Sernum were trained by HNTPO and conducted 36 lobby and advocacy meetings on forced marriage, GBV and women leadership and reached 2,530 people with these key messages. To facilitate attitude change, 80 men from Male Engagement groups were trained to support the fight against GBV, early child marriage and girl child education. 5 Male Engagement groups were established and trained in areas of GBV, Peace Building & Conflict Resolution, emotional and economic abuse, early and forced marriage and gender roles. In each Payam, 20 participants (10 m / 10 f) were trained to mobilize other community members.

EVE conducted in April a three-day workshop to activate women's L&A groups in Torit. It brought together 26 participants comprising CBOs, women's rights network organizations and women groups from the different Payams of Torit County. The workshop established a L&A working group (They named it 'Beat the Drum and Keep the Whistleblowing'). The group members elected 6 people to coordinate L&A activities at the State and created a What's App group to facilitate communication with EVE. On the margin of the Torit mission, The Ministry of Gender and EVE had a conversation about a range of issues (e.g. the situation of women in EES, GBV, safehouse issues and the cluster meetings) after which the Ministry accepted to host EVE's suggestion box to improve community feedback.

EVE conducted a two-day training in November in Torit, inaugurated by the Minister of Youth, Culture and Sports of EES. The training aimed to empower men and boys to promote gender equality. It brought together 25 men, highlighting the UNSCR 1325 and the South Sudan NAP on WPS. Following the training, the men formed a group called Adams Group and elected an executive body to lead it. The group organized a radio talk show on Torit FM to educate people about the impact of GBV in their community. Another two-day training on gender equality and women's peace and security was organized for CBO's and women's rights organisations in WES and was officially opened by the MoGCSW of WES, in which 25 participants attended. The women's groups committed themselves to amplifying issues that affect women in their community.

4 CBOs (1 from EES, one from WES, and two from CES) were coached and mentored for three months on project and finance management, L&A, safeguarding and the WPS agenda. The targeted CBOs exhibited an astonishing capacity to conduct L&A by themselves. They conducted some activities in their geographical areas.

AMA involved men and boys in weekly sessions by training them on gender equality, UNSCR1325 and on debating on gender issues in the community in order to transform negative attitudes and beliefs towards women and girls so as to promote gender equality and involvement of women in leadership and peace building. The participants demonstrated changes in behaviour, for example, some of the religious leaders from the Male Engagement groups have incorporated gender equality into interpretation of scripture and some influential persons now freely talk about gender equality. Some of the evidences are documented in the outcome harvesting.

The training and on the job coaching of CBOs/CSOs was successful. Leaders of the women groups, youth groups, ABC court chiefs, peace committees, the police and prison staff were trained on advocacy for WPS, group registration modalities, financial reporting and developing advocacy action plans. The aim was to build their capacity for sustainability purposes after the end of the project. After being trained, the different groups showed to be successful with their advocacy, reflecting at the same time their understanding of the subject and their mandate. Most groups have already registered with the local authorities.

The Champions of Change training involved in- school youth and children on various topics including gender equality, human rights and mentorship for them to be assertive in advocating for gender equality in their communities. This strategy for changing the negative attitudes and beliefs and social norms that are against women and girls' emancipation at a tender age worked out well.

On organizing youth groups into CYPP, the target was surpassed by 5. The members of the CYPP were selected from the Champions of Change (COC) clubs and representatives of the community. As opposed to the previous years, the CYPP leadership was female dominated and they won the seats through free and fair elections.

In the three project locations women advocacy groups were linked with women leaders and other leaders in the government and in the society, including the parliamentarians, ABC court chiefs, the police and prisons. The linkage enabled the women groups to build strong relationships and strengthen networks to support their advocacy work and to build allies who can help them in advocating for the changes they want in the leadership structures, in the society and in the government.

Plan International reached a total of 7 communities' groups that were capacitated on gender equality, protection and W/G meaningful participation in Nimule payam, Pageri Payam and Mugali payam. The awareness sessions on GBV was conducted through support of 11 PFPs (see result area 1) , traditional authorities , women groups and CSOs who participated earlier in the training on mobilization and awareness raising conduction. A total 4330 people (1850m/2480f) reached with awareness raising on gender equality, human rights and UNSCR1325. These awareness raising sessions were conducted by 5 CSOs, supported with seed-grants in four Payams of Magwi County, Nimule, Pageri, Mugali and Kerepi.

65 Boys and 66 girls from three schools underwent three years' CoC weekly sessions training and graduated in November during '16 days of activism'. The champions conducted three radio

talk shows on ending child marriage and drugs abuse, four inter- school's debates and two inter-schools football matches in 2023. Most of the CoC members were assertive to conduct hooks activities such as awareness, debate, drama on teachable topics within community.

The members of parliament for CYPPs conducted two parliamentary sessions in 2023 April and August 2023 as preparation process for the State CYPP Forum in August. The members of the CYPP were mentored in conducting the parliamentary debate with a high clarity and understanding of different procedures and comprehensive understanding of the critical issues affecting the holistic growth of the children. During this platform a communique as equivalent of a draft bill was developed and presented to the real policy makers for actions.

Examples of the two communiques submitted so far by the CYPP to Eastern Equatoria State Transitional Legislative Assembly:

- Since expensive education has fuelled school drop out of children especially the vulnerable children, the CYPP was calling for the Government to regulate fees payment in private schools and to make education in public schools free and compulsory for all children up to 18 years of age.
- Since acquisition of national certificate is very difficult for youth and women due to the distance and cost implications, the CYPP is calling the Government through the Ministry of Interior to decentralize the issuance of the nationality certificate by creating a mobile team that can move from Counties to Counties and reduce the cost if not completely free.

Result Area 2	Output indicator	Output target 2023	Output actual 2023	Comment on deviation
2.2.1: Community groups are gender aware and committed to W/G protection, gender equality and W/G's meaningful participation in peacebuilding	# of community groups capacited on gender equality, protection and W/Gs meaningful participation	55	50	50 community groups had been mobilised and provided training GBV/ PSS topics. Not all communities were reached due to bad road condition
	# of members of community groups capacitated on gender equality, human rights and UNSCR1325.	275	267	During reporting period 267 members of community groups were capacitated on gender equality, human rights and UNSCR1325. See above.
	# of people reached with awareness raising on gender equality, human rights and UNSCR1325.	5300	5093	5093 persons (2480f/1850m) were reached with awareness raising. See above.
2.2.2: W/Y, men are empowered as agent of change through rights-based leadership knowledge and organized into advocacy group	# Key persons/youth in community trained as Agents of Change.	270	253	253 CoC members (127f/136m) underwent weekly sessions on different topics in the designed modules and subsequently graduated in November.
	# of trained youth organized in groups, platforms or CYPP parliament	300	318	318 children and young people(155f/163m) are trained and organised in groups, platforms / CYPP parliament in Nimule and AMA programme areas.
	# of action plans of community groups on male engagement and intersectionality developed and implemented	40	36	Community groups have developed action plans and implemented these with male engagement and taking into account the intersectionality.

Result area 3: Increased, effective participation of women and youth (W/Y) in leadership and peacebuilding

3.2.1 Gatekeepers including policy makers are activated to promote WPS agenda and create space for W/G in leadership positions

3.2.2 CSOs have resources and capacity to lobby on WPS agenda

Plan International mentored a total of 3 girls for the leadership track during the International Girls Days. The selected girls took symbolic office of county leadership: office of County commissioner Magwi County, office manager for the county and office secretary for commissioner Magwi county.

As part of empowering youth in leadership, 6 girls under LoP were mentored and assigned for high level take-over during international girls day 2023 in six offices both at national and state level. The take-over was to strengthen young girls in leadership and have hope for future leadership to address WPS agenda for effective participation of women and girls in all level. The selected girls appreciated the chance given to participate in leadership roles testifying that they have learnt from the symbolic take over and addressed the issues affecting young people, for example early and force marriage, child neglect and insecurity that affect young people.

A total of 5 CBOs/CSOs with increased capacity to lobby on HR, GE, UNSCR 1325 and 5 CSOs in Nimule with seed grants (1,380 USD per CSO). The CSOs were trained on finance management, reporting, SEHA and were involved fully in the project cycle - downward accountability was conducted.

EVE provided mentorship to 10 young women from October to December. They were trained in various areas, including WPS, leadership, safeguarding, communication, debate skills, the Status of R-ARCSS, and mental health for women. After completing their training, they were deployed to different organizations as interns. Thanks to their exceptional performance, some of these young women were offered permanent positions by the organizations where they interned. Furthermore, they established communication platforms to share information among themselves.

4 CBO's (1 from EES, 1 from WES, 2 from CES) were provided with seed grants to support their L&A activities.

One of the CBO's, the Women Advocacy and Lobbying group, was formed in April 2023 with 8 members from different women's organizations in EES. Torit has developed its strategic plan, with its main actors being the line ministries of Education, Gender, and community leaders. On November 22nd, the first forum on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) was held at the Vision Hotel with 21 participants, including 3 female members of parliament, 4 female head teachers, 6 women-led organizations, 6 girls' forums, and two ADAM groups. Participants expressed interest in contributing to the National Action Plan (NAP) and making it a reality. The MPs emphasized the importance of women joining hands and working together and expressed their willingness to

include them in community meetings extend this knowledge to grassroots women. The second forum discussion took place on December. Twenty girls participated in the discussion and talked about issues related to WPS after which the participants discussed the challenges and barriers that hinder women and girls.

‘Change Makers for Humanitarian Aid and Development’ is a small women-led CSO that received also seed grant. The organization conducted an advocacy activity to empower the communities of Jebel Dinka and Jebel Timan in Luri Payam - these are conflict areas in CES. through peace-building conflict resolution and the WPS agenda. The participants gained knowledge and skills in dialogue, peacebuilding and fundamental citizen rights, including those of women, girls, boys, and men. As a result, they are now equipped to participate in peacebuilding and securing women’s rights within their communities.

AMA worked with peace committees and border committees. In this activity the participants were trained on UNSCR1325 specifically on the localization of the WPS agenda and the importance of including women in peace building and leadership, human rights and gender equality. The number of women in the peace committees has increased across the three project locations.

The development of the L&A strategy for female leaders on local and national level involved female leaders – women Church leaders, women police officers, female ABC court chiefs, female leaders in the local government and parliamentarians – through the participatory learning and action (PLA) approach to come up with issues affecting women in regard to the WPS agenda. They came with an action plan to lobby and advocate for the changes that contribute towards addressing the issues.

All the 12 CBOs – youth groups, women groups, ABC courts, Peace Committees in the 3 AMA locations – were supported with seed grants to facilitate them in the implementation of their L&A plans on the different issues on WPS agenda, increased implementation of GBV laws, human rights and gender equality.

On linking/platform building of CBOs to lobby jointly on WPS agenda, 45 representatives of the different CBOs were targeted and the four different groups worked together on a joint L&A plan. The advocacy plan is usually implemented in different spaces including during 16 Days of Activism, International Women’s Day (IWD) and other selected events by the CBOs as deemed important.

PAX successfully engaged 44 members of parliaments of the Revitalised Transitional National Legislative Assembly (RTNLA) on the LoP strategy and as a result, each member of the specialised committee was issued with the L&A strategy document to support the WPS agenda. More than 30 women parliamentarians of the RTNLA from the women caucus were engaged to reinforce and enhance their roles on the WPS agenda. This enabled the women parliamentarians to undertake an inventory of the achievements of the WPS as well as the challenges experienced by women in the subnational level, especially at the states.

A L&A working group was formed being responsible to conduct lobby activities with the partners and the partners’ working group in the states. Additionally, this L&A working group is responsible

for development of policy briefs on L&A and press statements on these themes.

The MoGCSW was supported to commemorate the IWD in Wau, Western Bahr el Gazal, by provision of 200 visibility materials to create awareness to the public about LoP. Moreover, PAX was invited by the MoGCSW to participate in a press conference prior to celebration of the International Women's Day (IWD) on the Theme of IWD, "Promote Gender Equality through Innovative Technology towards a Better South Sudan". This recording was shared on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/zRSAhCayxhA>

PAX engaged Internationally on L&A at the side events of the WPS week in October of 2023. PAX, CordAid and WO=MEN co-curated a policy discussion which convened panellists from the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan among other countries to discuss the challenges and tools for engaging women in post-conflict elections. PAX senior project officer who represented the LoP was a panellist during this event. Over 50 policy makers and activists attended this side event, asked meaningful questions and shared more resources that could be leveraged by the LOP consortium to further the WPS agenda.

Support to the mentorship of the young girls through the African Union GIMAC sessions was continued. Five youth (3 f / 2m) attended the Session on "Redefining the role of leadership and the governances on implementation of amongst other things the MAPUTO protocol."

7 women and CSOs attended the annual women forum in Juba where they shared experience with other state women and they were taken through roles of women in election and leadership skills, trauma healing and coordination and networking of women in leadership and grass root level. The state leadership and national government has created safe space for the women to share their challenges and address their needs to key stake holders. Some of the action points during Annual Women forum:

- The Ministry of Justice and MoGCSW should fast-track the finalization and passing of the Women Enterprise Fund Bill, the Anti GBV Bill, the Women's Empowerment Bill which are crucial for prevention and protection of women's rights, including violence from before, during, and after election.
- The Ministry of Interior to facilitate and provide avenues for women at national and grassroots to acquire national IDs ahead of the elections.

Result Area 3	Output indicator	Output target 2023	Output actual 2023	Comment on deviation
3.2.1 Gatekeepers including policy makers are activated to promote WPS agenda and create space for W/G in leadership positions	# of gatekeepers incl policy makers coached, capacitated, and resourced to lobby & advocate on the WPS agenda incl female participation in leadership positions.	140	208	208 Gatekeepers have been coached in 2023. Target setting in the beginning did not take into account all areas, therefore actuals are higher..
	# of leadership tracks for young women provided, mentored by female politicians or business leader	11	11	11 leadership tracks have been developed
3.2.2: CBOs/ CSOs have resources and capacity to lobby on WPS agenda	# of CBOs/CSOs with increased capacity to lobby on HR, GE, UNSCR 1325	26	23	CSOs/CBOs have been trained in L&A skills. For the training of CBOs/CSOs in lobby on HR, GE, UNSCR 1325, a lobby and advocacy strategy has been developed by the LoP consortium. Training efforts will be increased in 2024.
	# of female activists/CBOs/ CSOs with increased resources (sub granting)	77	76	76 female activists/CSO/CBO's have been provided resources through sub granting.
3.2.3.: International gatekeepers are activated to promote WPS agenda and civic space	# International gatekeepers reached with lobby and advocacy to promote WPS agenda and civic space	6	7	WPS meeting New York, CSW, GIMAC*2, EPLO, AU, MHPSS working group

	Output indicator	Output target 2023	Output actual 2023	Comment on deviation
Involvement of the targeted CSOs and CBOs in program cycle management - downward accountability	# of CSOs and CBOs which have been meaningfully involved by the LoP Consortium in project cycle management	22	22	All the targeted number of CSOs were met in 2023. Out of these were 2 women-led, 2 youth-led and 1 CSO comprised of people with disabilities.

Summary of L&A Actions contributing to NAP 1325 / WPS Agenda by LoP and/or the CBOs/CSOs supported by LoP

The LoP programme has proved to be highly effective in advocating and lobbying at both national and international levels. The annual Women's Conference has been a particularly successful platform for the LoP to connect with a wide range of people and gives women a voice. The national chief forum and annual women's gathering are also commendable practices that have helped to amplify grassroots voices at the national and international level.

International/National:

- ▶ In November, meeting with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) officials in Addis Ababa to encourage the implementation of the peace agreement and adherence to the 35% affirmative action.
- ▶ In October 2023, lobby meetings with government officials and international partners during the Women, Peace and Security week in New York. The participation of a PAX staff at the side event in New York ensured that the international actors are activated to continue supporting the WPS agenda in South Sudan. An outcome document was prepared following this meeting featuring key considerations for government and policy makers to keep in mind for meaningfully engaging women in elections in conflict and post-conflict countries. This outcome document has been disseminated across international stakeholders. Furthermore, the PAX staff encouraged the WPS Working Group of the UNSC to meet more women's groups during their visit to South Sudan in December 2023. This nudging facilitated their meeting with the South Sudan Council of Churches which engages women of faith in peacebuilding processes.
- ▶ Lobby meeting with the UNHRC in Juba, emphasizing the urgent need for peace agreement implementation.
- ▶ Annual Chief's forum at state level was one of the advocacy ask to County/state leadership. The county commissioner and ministry of local government gave commitment to support the chief's forum every year to discuss challenges chiefs are facing and fix the gaps. The chief's forum enabled them to understand roles they are to play in addressing GBV within community and agreed on creating safe space for women councillor in decision taking and effective referral services.
- ▶ The reporting period also saw the Women's Association and the Department of Gender and Social Development, with support from HNTPO and other partners, organize and lead the celebration of 16 days of women's activism. HNTPO's lobbying and advocacy efforts led to positive outcomes, which included the celebration of International Women's Day in Terekeka in 2023. During the celebration, women marked the day with key advocacy actions and messages to all stakeholders in the county. The celebration was a result of successful efforts made by HNTPO and other partners to promote gender equality and encourage women's rights in the community.
- ▶ PAX's engagement with the members of specialised committees in the RTNLA as well as the women caucus was a result of the LoP L&A Strategy after which they were activated to support the WPS Agenda. The women parliamentarians were in position to identify the pending policies that support gender equality and that require legislation during their deliberation in the parliament. However, it is worth noting that even if the female parliamentarians were able to take

note of these pending policies, their legislation was delayed as the president put an order to the Ministry of Justice to only prioritise policies that are stipulated in the RoadMap of the RARCSS.

Local:

- ▶ Plan International has organized events with support from CSOs who got seed-grants. (f.e. State children and young people forum, International Girls Day, women day , 16 days of activism). The events enabled policy makers to take the lead in spearheading Gender Equality to ensure accountability on UNSCR1325/WPS agenda. The key stakeholders targeted were the State speaker of parliament, State members of parliament, Minister of Gender and local government and law enforcement, director for gender and social welfare at state level, county commissioner and traditional authority. The targeted stakeholders have all shown commitment to support implementation of UNSCR 1325 and to create civic space by taking the lead in the campaigns.
- ▶ In line with the 'Gender is my Agenda Conference' (GIMAC), AMA supported participants to organise virtual gender equality and human rights awareness sessions in three different secondary schools in Nyal, Ganyiel and Yiol respectively. Their main theme was "Girls have equal rights with boys to participate in all spaces at schools, community and other levels". Their action contributed to improved knowledge on gender equality and human rights among the school teachers and students.
- ▶ On 25th September 2023, the CYPP conducted an advocacy campaign against high rates of girls' school dropouts due to unplanned pregnancies in Nyal. Relevant stakeholders including chiefs and women leaders were present in the meeting and they agreed to join the team in lobbying and advocating against these practices to ensure girl child right to education is fully respected and promoted.
- ▶ HNTPO conducted 36 L&A meetings during the reporting period with the purpose to promote and encourage the implementation of various LoP activities. The meetings targeted various groups, including youths in cattle camps, civil authorities, youth groups, and other gatekeepers.
- ▶ The symbolic takeover of key Local government offices at national level and state level by young girls helped girls to be assertive and prepared them for leadership roles and decision taking. The project staffs targeted the office of Vice president Wani Igga, Vice President Mama Rebecca, Police commissioner at state level. His willingness to have office to taken over by young girls was a sign of changes that enable youth especially girls to take up leadership roles and effectively participate in decision making position and the peace building process.

4. Leaders of Peace learning Agenda

The Leaders of Peace consortium and its stakeholders have jointly developed a learning agenda. The learning agenda helps the consortium to collaborate with peers and colleagues, fill gaps in knowledge and generate new evidence that the consortium uses to adapt its work. It also helps guide performance management planning by setting knowledge and information priorities. The learning agenda assists with prioritizing evaluations and research activities as well as in determining key indicators. The 3 learning questions are closely related to the assumptions in our Theory of Change and to our Vision on the partnership.

While reviewing the Theory of Change in 2021, the consortium has determined how learning takes shape at the level of context, programme (thematic), policy and the partnership itself. LoP's learning vision assumes that learning is strongly connected to monitoring, and it will inform the consortium how to alter, adapt, and steer the programme implementation based on the lessons learnt during the programme cycle. The LoP consortium designed a complete monitoring, evaluation and learning system including methodologies to monitor and evaluate both quantitative and qualitative results.

In 2022, the LoP consortium received refresher training on Outcome Harvesting (OH) as one of the methods to learn from and reflect on successes and challenges in implementation, achieved results or lack thereof and regular qualitative reviews based on developmental evaluation practices. The implementation of the learning agenda was characterized by putting the infrastructure, processes and budget in place to make learning across the programme possible. It was also observed by the consortium that next to the three learning questions the implementation process provided rich other learnings and it was decided to explore how to structure and document these better. The consortium developed an open and learning mind to exchange the lessons learned, to share challenges and invite others for input and improvement. Partners gained clear understanding on the responsibilities of each partner in the roll out of the three learning questions. The learning agenda is coordinated through the PMEL working group. Throughout the year 2023, the Learning agenda and mid-term review was conducted that greatly contributed to informed strategies on engaging the different stakeholders in the project and the priority areas of focus.

The learning agenda has three learning questions and therefore proposes three studies (one comparative and two action researches), while the lead over the three questions has been divided over the partners.

1. Learning question one: Community based psychosocial support with specific context and thematic learning question. What can we learn from the experiences of WPS in South Sudan and Colombia on the intersection between mental health, psychosocial recovery and peacebuilding efforts?

HNTPO prepared a detailed activity planning and road map for 2022 and 2023 to implement the learning question. The assessment (KAP survey) about MHPSS needs, capacities and resources at community-level was led by HNTPO and consisted of a desk-based review, site visits, key informant interviews, and focus groups discussions. After the analysis a consortium reflection session took place on assessment findings and a joint action plan was developed to improve community members' and local CSOs' knowledge and capacity on MHPSS, to advocate for better MHPSS and to disseminate lessons learned and key MHPSS advocacy messages with identified external stakeholders. On 21 September 2023, HNTPO head office organized a webinar drawing key speakers from HNTPO South Sudan and Columbia as part of an ongoing series by the MHPSS and Peacebuilding Working Group of the IASC MHPSS Reference Group, to share best practices and approaches for linking the two fields. The webinar presented an opportunity for the team to speak about the LoP programme, its involvement with the community, and its impact in South Sudan. The webinar was also a lobby and advocacy opportunity for the team to present their findings and research to a wider audience.

2. Learning question two: Partnership/collaboration with learning question. How does the collaboration of the consortium partners lead to added value of the partnership?

The collaboration of the consortium partners was addressed in the MTR report. Discussion was started how EVE's research with the above question, can be combined, prevent duplication and increase outcome to generate optimal learning. Finally, it was decided that this research will seek to determine quantitative and qualitative values for the outcome indicators for partnership and collaboration, understand the validity and extent to which recommendations from the data sources have been employed in the programme and develop concrete recommendations for the for future.

It was concluded that LoP consortium partners have gained tremendously from each other in term of joint coordination and cooperation including planning, contiguous consultations among consortium members, good leadership from the consortium desk including joint related policy review in country, and support, communication and encouragement among consortium members. The partnership and collaboration under LoP consortium members was seen as very relevant considering the humanitarian context to ensure the WPS agenda in protecting women and girls, bringing together all the LoP partners, while technical leads have played their role well. Collaboration provided an opportunity for creating linkages and partnerships with likeminded stakeholders, governments and donors' community. The consortium approach to programme implementation and the complementarity brought in a wealth of experiences and expertise and as such joint activities had yielded fruits. It is recommended that joint interventions should be encouraged more and strengthened within the consortium arrangement.

3. Learning question three: Role of CSOs and Sustainability with a specific thematic and policy learning question. How do formal and informal CSOs (especially women, and youth-led groups) become sustainable lobby and advocacy allies jointly influencing the WPS agenda?

In 2023 PAX conducted an action research that resulted in a report and policy brief on how formal and informal (CSOs) can influence the WPS agenda in South Sudan through joint L&A in a sustainable way. This resulted in recommendations and actions to enhance L&A by LoP consortium partners as well as the capacitated CSOs. These recommendations address the identified challenges and aim to enhance the overall effectiveness and impact of CSO efforts. Since the policy brief intends to share actionable recommendations for strengthening CSO engagement in advancing the WPS Agenda in South Sudan, they are shared in this report as below.

A key recommendation is to decentralize activities and actively involve rural communities in project design and implementation. This will ensure that projects are tailored to address the specific needs and contexts of these communities.

Secondly, prioritizing peace and reconciliation initiatives within projects can foster more sustainable peace in South Sudan. By addressing underlying causes of conflict and promoting healing within communities, CSOs can contribute to lasting peace and security.

Thirdly, it is important to invest in capacity building for CSO members. This includes training on conflict resolution, project management, and gender issues. Equipping CSO members with these skills will enable them to work more effectively in promoting the WPS Agenda, advocating for women's rights, and managing projects more efficiently.

Additionally, developing sustainable funding models to reduce reliance on a single donor is another crucial recommendation. Diversifying funding sources can provide greater financial stability for CSOs and allow them to plan their work for the long term. This can be achieved through a combination of strategies such as grant applications, fundraising initiatives, and partnerships with the private sector.

Furthermore, the brief recommends implementing robust data management and reporting systems. These systems will enable CSOs to collect, analyse, and utilize data effectively. This data can then be used to inform decision-making, improve accountability, and demonstrate the impact of their work to stakeholders and potential funders.

Lastly, launching continuous awareness campaigns on the WPS Agenda and gender equality is recommended. These campaigns, targeting both urban and rural communities, are crucial for raising awareness and changing attitudes and behaviour. By consistently disseminating information and promoting dialogue, CSOs can contribute to a societal shift towards a more equitable and peaceful future for South Sudan.

Conclusively, the policy brief highlighted the critical role that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play in promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in South Sudan. Through their advocacy, capacity building efforts, and collaborations with various stakeholders, CSOs have contributed significantly to achieving gender equality and lasting peace in the nation. The research presented in the brief underscores the positive changes in gender approaches witnessed in recent

years, largely due to the unwavering efforts of CSOs. However, the research also acknowledges the challenges that CSOs face and provides valuable recommendations for strengthening their engagement. By implementing these recommendations, CSOs can continue to be a driving force in advancing the WPS Agenda and ensuring a more peaceful and equitable future for all South Sudanese citizens.

Good Practices

The LoP project team has registered many good practices and lesson learnt during leaders of peace project implementation 2023.

- Plan International project teams' strategies of using of existing structures such as youth/ women groups, traditional authorities enable project acceptance and ownership. The project participants were fully involved during inception meeting and regular engagement during annual planning meeting.
- Joint activity implementation, mutual capacity strengthening, and strengthening local leadership appeared to be all good practices that can lead to successful outcomes in various projects and initiatives. EVE and HNTPO were able to pool resources, share expertise, and leverage each other's strengths to achieve common goals (Training of ABC and Police, Prisons).
- The Champions of Change program is also a good practice as it aims at transforming social norms, attitudes and beliefs of the current and future generations by engaging children in promoting gender equality and human rights at a tender age.
- Training the customary courts and the police and prisons on formal laws including the GBV laws is a good practice as it influences reforms on the customary laws by revising or deleting customary laws that are against rights of women and girls. Because customary courts are the most present in South Sudan, when they protect the rights of women and girls, they are likely to be safer from harm resulting from GBV.
- HNTPO has observed that the frontline psychosocial care givers suffer from psychological effects of stressful circumstances. The self-care trainings, individual support, and skill-building activities have helped both the PFPs and their clients with healing, conflict resolution, and peaceful co-existence. The module on self-care has been particularly useful and should be adapted to include content that addresses the security concerns of PFPs and community advocates as they carry out their activities.
- Use of visibility materials during major events like the commemoration of International Women Day both at National and State level promoted the work of LoP and resulted in access to relevant spaces for LoP to intervene in their activities with support from the concerned institutions.
- Production of video clips for sharing in the social media reaches a big audience and promotes broadly the activities of the leaders of peace.

5. Crosscutting Themes: Gender, Youth, Climate

Gender

Remedial action has been undertaken through the annual review meetings and ToC review redressing any gender inequalities in the project implementation. For this purpose the Gender Transformative Marker was used as a useful tool to assess the potentiality of the programme to be or become gender transformative.

During 2023 activities have been adjusted and finetuned in line with the six components of the GT Marker.

The project team focuses on gender transformative approaches that use right gender lenses throughout the project cycle, from project identification, design, planning and implementation to project closure.

Working with males (men and boys) as allies in advocating for changed attitudes and beliefs on women and in promoting gender equality is a good practice as men in patriarchy societies like in South Sudan are more likely to be easily influenced by fellow males than by women and girls.

In October 2023, AMA finalized the development of the Male Engagement Strategy and shared it with the consortium partners and provided bi-lateral trainings on how to use the manual. The partners have already been applying some of the concepts of the strategy and updated it, using the criteria for the engagement of their male groups in transforming negative masculinity, attitudes, beliefs and social norms that are against women and girls' emancipation.

In addition, CSOs and male engagement groups demonstrated their capacity to create and execute L&A strategies aimed at ending early marriages, promoting girls' education, and advancing gender equality. The male engagement group, comprising couples in Reggo, Tombek, Muni, Kuda, and Terekeka, showed their dedication to applying the knowledge they have gained through the LoP project. This program has been crucial in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the region,

HNTPO's innovative approach for male engagement, known as the couple approach, has proven to be highly effective in creating change agents who lead by example and inspire others within their communities. This successful couple approach will continue to be implemented in all five Payams of Terekeka county in 2024.

All partners continuously made conscious efforts to promote gender balance in staff and are committed to promote a professional work environment free from any form of discrimination based on gender or other identity markers. All staff, contractors and volunteers have signed

safeguarding policies and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policies. In communication LoP tries as much as possible to be gender sensitive, illustrations are made that depict equality between men and women.

Clear gender-sensitive selection criteria for their PFPs/caseworkers are developed. While prioritizing female representation, there is also involvement of community leaders and partners in the selection process. As a result, 64% female PFPs are trained, making significant strides towards gender equality.

Youth

Individual youth and youth groups have a huge role to play in LoP as they are important in the WPS agenda. The project is working with them as leaders of tomorrow by starting to influence them at an early age for a future inclusive society. LoP works with youth in CYPP to strengthen their participation in (public) decision-making processes. LoP works with youth who are out of school, in school and in cattle camps. For example, young people were very active in advocacy and instrumental in resolving the conflict between the cattle camp youth and the local government authorities in Payinjar county. 20% of EVE staff are youth, which shows that EVE recognizes the importance of involving the next generation in its efforts to create positive change.

In LoP the CoC training plays an important role and the CoC training sessions intensively target young girls and boys in schools, enabling them to acquire the necessary skills and competencies needed to live healthy and responsible lives. The goal is to shape them into change agents who promote gender equality and women's human rights.

Climate change

LoP is engaged to promote a fair, sustainable, and equitable world. Waste management remains a significant challenge in Juba and other major towns in South Sudan, as waste (plastic and polythene) litters the streets and drainage systems. This poses a significant threat to the environment. The LoP program aims to protect the environment by incorporating environmental awareness activities into its program. At the women's annual (national) conference in Juba and other regular community events, environmental awareness was a key topic for discussion. A significant step towards reducing waste and promoting sustainability is the reduction of using plastic bottles.

Climate change had a huge impact on the implementation of LoP. In 2023, the community had poor harvest due to lack of rain for example. During the reporting period LoP project staff had engaged the community on climate change as an integrated awareness through meetings/ awareness on following country weather update, advise them in tree planting and linked them to AFEDA for seedling support.

Payinjar county was 90% flooded for the past 3 years and this affected mobility and cost of implementation. AMA together with South Sudan Coalition in Natural Resources had an Integrated Risk Management Intervention about dealing with flooding and how it is likely to affect communities. Unfortunately, other than dyking most of the interventions and recommendations

require concerted efforts and long-term plans. Also, due to climate change, prolonged droughts have been experienced within East Africa for the past two consecutive years. This has resulted to high cost of food items within the regions including in South Sudan which mostly depends on food from Uganda and Kenya with exacerbated food insecurity.

6. Partnership Reflection and Collaboration within the Leaders of Peace Consortium

The collaborations within the consortium have been quite impactful. The LoP consortium desk in South Sudan coordinated well and there was good communication between the consortium members. This has helped in the identification of gaps as well as in cutting down duplication of resources, e.g. supporting joint activities such as annual women day. Examples are given below.

The consortium assigned key interventions and geographical locations among the consortium members limiting the overlap and duplication of services to the beneficiaries under LoP project.

Establishment of regular project committee and PMEL working group meetings and consultations enriched the implementation of the project, coupled with online meetings among partners. This contributed greatly in addressing the need of the participants during reporting period.

Mutual capacity strengthening involved building skills and knowledge of all parties involved in a project or initiative. It helped to ensure that everyone is equipped to contribute effectively and efficiently and contributes to sustainability long term. Consortium M&E staff strengthened EVE's M&E team, and Plan International shared UNDP pocket guide training materials with EVE. EVE and Plan strengthened local leadership by selecting and empowering grassroots women leaders to take the lead in driving change and implementing solutions. For example, some local partners attended LOP planning meetings and enabled some afterwards to participate in GMAC.

Plan International as a technical lead in strengthening ABC courts, CoC roll out and capacity building for CYPP, supported the alliance partners in all this. AMA CYPP joined the CYPP in Nimule to observe and share knowledge on conducting CYPP sessions and this was tremendous since the CYPP went back with new strategies of conducting their sessions.

EVE partnered with HNTPO to conduct a joint activity that involved the training of ABC court chiefs and the police. This activity was aimed at enhancing their knowledge on how to handle cases of gender-based violence effectively.

HNTPO has participated in a community feedback orientation meeting organized and facilitated by the consortium PMEL unit. In this meeting, HNTPO received clear and step-by-step guidance on the documentation of feedback, the structure of the community feedback mechanisms, reporting procedures, and the framework for handling feedback. HNTPO supported other partners with mentoring PFPs, PSS toolkits and visits to check the filing of the PFPs cases and documentations. The support visit equipped the volunteers in handling difficult case and how they can refer to other service providers. HNTPO has also supported inter-sectoral collaboration at the national level and collaboration with individual organizations supporting humanitarian responses in South Sudan to strengthen the MSP project and has used the experience from the MSP for the

MHPSS project to strengthen coordination efforts of MHPSS and GBV within and across sectors in all the LOP program locations. This has led to easier integration and coordination of MHPSS and GBV interventions in South Sudan.

At the international level, HNTPO has strengthened its participation in the IASC MHPSS working group “MHPSS and peacebuilding” led by UNDP. This working group has provided a platform for HNTPO to incorporate global lessons learned, best practices, tools, etc. within its programming. HNTPO has actively participated in the development of a guidance note on how to integrate mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) into peacebuilding as members of the IASC working group. The recognition of MHPSS as an integral part of peacebuilding provides HNTPO with a solid foundation to drive forward more joined-up, system-wide, and harmonized efforts in this area and drive its advocacy efforts toward further integration of MHPSS within the WPS policy framework.

PAX as the technical lead for lobby and advocacy has supported some partners with resource materials, for example, presentation materials to be used by partners on lobby and advocacy.

In another collaboration, EVE partnered with Plan International, HNTPO, AMA, and PAX to organize the AWG, an annual event that brings together various stakeholders from different sectors to discuss issues affecting women and girls. Additionally, Plan International and EVE partnered to send some delegates for the GIMAC summit in Addis Ababa. This partnership was aimed at giving young girls a platform to voice their opinions and contribute to the global conversation on gender equality.

Since needs and gaps were witnessed additional training on project cycle was given to make the project team (especially new staff) to understand the ToC and project implementation and training on UNSCR1325 linked with NAP South Sudan. Regular internal and external exchange visits to project sites was increased to share experience amongst each other and other MoFA funded alliances in order to adopt new skills and knowledge in implementing the LoP.

Involvement of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) or the Dutch Embassy in South Sudan in the implementation of the programme

The Dutch Embassy supported coordination at international level, linking LoP project with other MoFA funding projects. The Dutch Embassy was always available and responsive to attend any invitation towards scheduled workshops organised by any partner of the leaders of peace consortium. For instance, the Gender Advisor of the Embassy attended the workshop which was organised with more than thirty women parliamentarians from RTNA which was to reinforce and enhance their roles on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in South Sudan. The LoP partners were participating in capacity strengthening online sessions organised by the Dutch MoFA. This ensured that partners are empowered with various skills and capacities e.g., on programme monitoring, evaluation and learning. The round table discussions that have been organised by the Dutch Embassy to share the results and experiences of the MTR of the programme has enabled

the consortium lead partners to borrow and learn best lessons and practices from other partners.

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign affairs and the Dutch embassy in South Sudan was involved especially following the visit of LoP focal person Ms. Anneke Zwetsloot where the consortium partners visited Terekeka and interacted with the different stakeholders involved in the LOP project.

7. Sustainability and Exit Strategy

The LoP has divided technical leads in the consortium who support other partners in the LoP Alliance to build local capacities. Based on feedback documented regularly from project beneficiaries, actions are adjusted and finetuned to increase impact and contribute to suitability by 2025. Beneficiaries are made aware already about the approaching end of the project and asked to contribute to the development of an exit strategy.

To achieve sustainability, the program will focus on strengthening the capacities of CSOs, institutions, local/traditional authorities, and community groups. The program will use a hybrid training approach that combines training for informal and formal authorities. This approach will foster greater interface and dialogue between chiefs (informal authorities) and formal authorities, including the Boma health workers (BHWs) and PFPs.

The resourcing of CSOs was combined with capacity building on resource mobilization, registration, financial management, project management and safeguarding to become more efficient and effective in their work towards sustainability.

Discussions were started with community leaders and health facilities in a bid to link the PFPs with existing community structures and with school management to adopt CoC as a school club including the modules used for training.

Another remarkable initiative was the mentoring and deploying ten young women on the WPS agenda. The mentorship programme offered participation in the African Union GIMAC sessions resulting in ensuring that the beneficiaries will replicate the gained knowledge and support the WPS agenda to other the spaces of influence. This not only helped in empowering the young women but also contributed towards creating a more sustainable and peaceful environment in the community.

Strengthening the coordination and networking with key local government from low level county, state and national level through meetings and joint events such as line ministries taking lead in chief's forums, 16 days of activism and peace days will contribute to continuation of these activities after 2025. The strong link between the LoP partners and the policy makers, particularly the parliamentarians from the women caucus, will ensure that partners continue to engage with the policy makers for legislation of pending policies and bills.

Joint advocacy strategy and targeted CSOs and partners in addressing the need of project participants engage other stakeholders to support their need.

8. Safeguarding

All LoP partners conduct safeguarding training for new staff and refresher training for old staff, have a zero tolerance policy, complaints and feedback mechanisms (CFBM) and all staff have signed commitment to adhere to safeguarding and PSEA. No safeguarding concerns were reported.

A support system for GBV survivors is established and men are engaged to play an active role in supporting women. Furthermore, there is regular coordination with UN and INGOs on safeguarding and PSHEA through coordination meetings, including local authority and ensuring that the Safeguarding policy is child-friendly and translated to local languages, and that illiteracy considered in information and reporting mechanisms.

Regular communication is undertaken with community leaders and those carrying influence to understand their hesitation to start dialogues and to guide them to find solutions to implement safeguarding policies.

Safeguarding measures include clear guidelines on the use of images. It is prohibited to take pictures or photos of children and youth without explicit prior consent and clear explanation of their use and purpose. Images of program participants can never represent power inequalities. For instances relating to SGBV survivors' international guidelines are followed and shared with all partners at the start of the programme. Names, location and all other information that may lead to the identification of individual program participants must always be removed from images.

9. Risks

As all risks related to the programme assumptions have been mitigated and covered by activities in the programme. See also the annex in the annual plan 2024.

10. Budget

The LoP project activities implementation for 2023 started right in January and were executed according to planning.

The total budget submitted for 2023 was EUR 1.064.528. However, we noticed some errors in the document. The planned budget for 2023 actually is EUR 1.164.972 (based on the a correct consolidation). The difference is EUR 444.

Due to an unexpected irregularity situation of the consortium partner AMA, the partner was asked to put on hold its project activities since October 2023. The Ministry was informed about the situation and action and measurements were taken accordingly to investigate and solve the situation. Due to this, expenditure on activities of AMA resulted in a realization of 79%. Also for this reason the coordination actuals of LoP had an overspending of 7% due to raise of Dutch staff hours.

The overall deviations on budget lines are a result of:

- Direct staff costs: a turnover of staff of one of the local partners resulted in lower expenditures in staff costs. Replacement staff has been recruited.
- Consultants and advisors: One partner realised the consultancy activities for the years 2022 and 2023, which resulted in an overspending. However, the partner that was put on hold has not been able to realise the activities for this category. Overall this resulted in an underspending for 2023.
- Costs of consortium partners: overspending due to an unplanned increase of Coordination staff hours combined with a raise of hourly rates, a 10% increase of local staff salary and an international travel to Sout Sudan.
- M&E: the research part developed by the partners had some delays. The final reports are expected in the first quarter of 2024.

Other than explained above reallocation of some budget lines were minimal and done to improve smooth implementation of the activities. Overall there is an underspending of 4% which is within the margins.

Annex 1 Results framework

Logic	Results	Indicators	Link to MFA basket indicators	Baseline value	Target value 2021	Actual 2021	Target value 2022	Actual 2022	Target value 2023	Actual 2023	Target value 2024
Result Area 1: Improved implementation of policies and regulations on GBV and protection of W/G including psychosocial support and self- care.											
1.0 Long term outcome	W/G feel safer and better protected in targeted locations	% W/G reporting improved feeling of safety and protection in targeted locations.		20%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	35,50%	n/a
1.1 Outcomes	Community-based support mechanisms (MHPSS) have effectively promoted and influenced the protection rights of women and girls.	# and description of advocacy initiatives carried out by user-groups, CBO's and CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency on the protection of women and girls' rights		On Average, 1-2 advocacy campaigns/awareness mechanisms focused on enhancing protection & psychosocial support capacity for SPU's, Chiefs ABC courts, Council of Elders, but none on Mental Health	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	n/a
	1.1.2 Formal/traditional authorities demonstrate increased knowledge and changed attitudes to implement legislation against GBV and W/G protection	# formal/traditional authorities (except government bodies) at all levels adhering to UNSCR 1325 and the provision of 35% women representation in RPA	4.3 # of targeted actors (disaggregated by type, age and gender) with improved knowledge, attitudes and practices on promoting women's meaningful participation and leadership in conflict prevention, peace- and state-building and protecting women's and girls' rights in crisis and (post-) conflict situations	23% (4 out of 22 traditional authorities demonstrated knowledge and changed attitude to implement GBV/ and W/G legislation and protection	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	28	n/a

	1.1.4 Formal/traditional authorities implement laws and policies against GBV and protect survivors	Extent to which authorities take action to address GBV and protect the rights of survivors		23% (4 out of 22 traditional authorities demonstrated knowledge and changed attitude to implement GBV/ and W/G legislation and protection	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Limited extent but improvement in # of cases documented due to programme implementation	n/a
		# of laws, policies and strategies implemented to promote women's meaningful participation and leadership in conflict prevention, peace- and state-building and protect women's and girls' rights in crisis and (post-) conflict situations.		NAP on UNSCR 1325 (sporadic implementation) Penal Code- sporadic implementation Local Government (2009)- Sporadic Implementation Child Act (2008)- Sporadic implementation Bill of Rights (Transitional Constitution) – Sporadic implementation National Gender Policy (2013)- Sporadic Implementation	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	n/a
1.2 Outputs	Output 1.2.1 Community groups have improved knowledge of available PSS services and legal protection/GBV services incl. case management.	# community groups capacitated, resourced and coached on PSS, legal protection services and lobby & advocacy on these topics		0	25	67	58	53	34	34	52
		# of members of community groups capacitated		0	50	60	110	105	770	750	700
		# case workers provide trained in age (children / adult), gender-appropriate PSS, GBV, legal protection information and are suitable to cultural context		0	40	20	50	50	50	50	50
		# number of persons who are provided with age and gender appropriate PSS and GBV services		0	30	358	290	642	382	395	495

	1.2.2 Formal and traditional authorities are informed on existing legal protection framework for W/G including GBV survivors' rights	# of traditional authorities reached with L&A on the importance of legal protection for women and girls, including GBV survivors		0	30	45	225	225	235	281	255
		# of trained formal authorities e.g. police and prison staff on GBV legislation, human rights and GE		0	100	75	243	164	155	156	155
Result Area 2: Changed attitudes and beliefs of civil society to facilitate inclusion of W/G and promote gender equality											
2.0 LT Outcome	2.0.1 W/Y groups, men and boys successfully advocate for gender equality, equal participation through W/Y-led platforms	Number of advocacy sessions by W/Y groups, men and boys on Gender equality, equal participation through W/Y-led platforms		On Average, 1-2 advocacy sessions had been conducted by W/Y groups, M/Bs on gender equality, and participation through W/Y-led platforms. The advocacy sessions were sporadic, done by various CSOs over different periods	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	n/a
2.1 Outcomes	2.1.1 W/Y groups, men and boys advocate for gender equality, equal participation through W/Y-led platforms	# youth-led or women-led platforms established by communities		(1). Activism on Gender equality (2). Women Equality Leadership Programs (3). Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Programs (4). Women Peace Committees (5). GBV response programmes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	n/a
	2.1.2 Formal and Informal CSOs actively initiate advocacy actions to influence the WPS agenda, including linking and learning'	# and description of advocacy initiatives/actions initiated by formal CSOs and informal CSOs (men and boys/(religious & community) leaders and W/Y-led platforms) promoting the inclusion of W/G and GE		On average, 3-4 advocacy initiatives had been initiated by formal and informal CSOs leaders promoting the inclusion of W/G and GE: Description of initiatives included: girls' access to education; women in leadership and politics; advocacy on elimination of GBV; advocacy on inclusion of W/G in development decision making	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a

2.2 Outputs	2.2.1: Community groups are gender aware and committed to W/G protection, gender equality and W/G's meaningful participation in peacebuilding	# of community groups capacited on gender equality, protection and W/Gs meaningfull participation		0	25	46	58	53	55	50	52
		# of members of community groups capacitated on gender equality, human rights and UNSCR1325.		0	150	305	60	50	275	267	785
		# of people reached with awareness raising on gender equality, human rights and UNSCR1325.		0	9000	21749	4500	4800	5300	5093	5530
	2.2.2: W/Y, men are empowered as agent of change through rights-based leadership knowledge and organized into advocacy group	# key persons/youth in community trained as Agents of Change.	5.2.2 # of individuals with strengthened competencies to advance women's rights and gender equality (disaggregated by type, age and gender)	0	420	363	310	272	270	253	450
		# of trained youth organised in groups, platforms or CYPP parliament		0	100	226	276	139	300	318	330
		# of action plans of community groups on male engagement and intersectionality developed and implemented		0	10	8	18	15	41	36	20
Result Area: 3: Increased and effective participation of W/Y in leadership and Peace building											
3.0 Long term outcome	3.0.1: W/Y carry out leadership roles at various levels and influence the WPS agenda jointly with male counterparts	# W/G in leadership positions at various levels influencing the WPS agenda jointly with male counterparts		10-15% women participation in leadership position influencing WPS agenda at state levels 28% women participation in leadership position influencing WPS agenda at National Level	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	116	n/a

Outcome	3.1.3: International governmental bodies (AU/ EU), diplomats and media lobby and advocate to widen civic space	# of actors at international governmental level promoting and protecting civic space		UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, UNMISS, UNHCR Royal Embassy of Netherlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	n/a
		Extent to which opportunities should exist for civil society to bring forward their needs and asks		Inter-Agency steering Committee /CSOs Discussions Humanitarian Actors Forum UNSCR 1325 Status Report (CSO Report) Donors /CSOs Round Table Discussions Peacebuilding Working Group Discussions GBV Sector Working Groups (National/State Level) Girl Education Challenge Forums (Donor/CSOs) UNMISS Protection & Communities Interaction Forum	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Limited extent	n/a
	3.1.4: CSOs developed and implemented their own multi-annual WPS-related strategies	# of CSOs/ CBOs who consult at least 2-3 time per year local and national actors to build legitimacy	4.4. # of times that CSOs (disaggregated by women-led, youthled or other and formal/informal) succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions on promote women's meaningful and equal participation and leadership in conflict revention and peace- and state-building and protecting women's and girls' rights in crisis and (post-)conflict situations, through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or movement building (link SCS3)	8 out of the 18 CSOs/CBOs assessed had some form of consultantion mechanisms- due to linkages with National CSOs, or being National CSOs themselves. CBOs had limited consultations-focused mainly on implementation of grassroot level initiatives under MoUs established by national CSOs (44%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	n/a
3.2 Outputs	3.2.1 Gatekeepers including policy makers are activated to promote WPS agenda and create space for W/G in leadership positions	# of gatekeepers incl policy makers coached, capacitated, and resourced to lobby & advocate on the WPS agenda incl female participation in leadership positions.		0	20	45	270	285	140	208	220

		# of leadership tracks for young women provided, mentored by female politicians or business leaders.		0	10	16	21	21	11	11	11
	3.2.2: CBOs/CSOs have resources and capacity to lobby on WPS agenda	# of CBOs/CSOs with increased capacity to lobby on HR, GE, UNSCR 1325.	5.2.1 # of organizations (disaggregated by women-led, youth-led or other) with strengthened capacity to advance women's rights and gender equality (link SCS5)	0	36	25	34	31	22	23	34
		# of female activists/ CBOs/CSOs with increased resources (sub-granting)		0	10	37	38	34	77	76	54
	3.2.3.: International gatekeepers are activated to promote WPS agenda and civic space	# international gatekeepers reached with lobby and advocacy to promote WPS agenda and civic space.			1	0	6	6	6	7	5
Safeguarding indicator											
Outcome	Safeguarding compliance	% GYW involved in the programme who have knowledge, access to and trust in the reporting mechanisms to report safeguarding concerns		0	25%	29%	n/a	n/a	n/a	37%	n/a
Collaboration											
Output	Involvement of the targeted CSOs and CBOs in program cycle management - downward accountability	# of CSOs and CBOs which have been meaningfully involved by the Leaders of Peace Alliance in project cycle management	SCS8 # of CSOs using a Gender and Social Inclusion lens during all phases of the programming cycle with specific attention to youth	0	9	14	22	19	22	22	26
COVID-19 indicators											
Output	w/G feel safer and better protected in targeted locations	# of people reached by COVID-19 awareness raising		0	10000	2856	12160	11404	560	486	690

Annex 2 Consolidated OH signs

Year	Links to outcome area 1, 2 or 3 of your ToC	Sign of change (I)	Contribution of the LoP program to the change	Significance rating	Explanation	Expected or unexpected change?	Positive or negative change?	Selected for substantiation?	Substantiation Plan	Substantiation Result
<i>In which year did the change happen? Please use the drop down menu for selection of the option.</i>	<i>To which of the pathways of the LoP ToC does this sign or outcome link? Please use the drop down menu for selection of the option.</i>	<i>Who does what differently, where and since when?</i>	<i>Which LoP actions, activities and/or output results could have plausibly contributed to the change? This may involve actions by several organisations and partners.</i>	<i>How significant is this change in light of the related expected intermediate outcomes in the LoP ToC, on a scale from 1 (Low significance) to 4 (very high significance)? Please use the drop down menu for selection of the option.</i>	<i>Why is this the case?</i>	<i>Was this change expected by your programme and deliberately aimed for? Or was the outcome/change unexpected?</i>	<i>Would you say this change has a positive impact on your LoP project and results or a negative impact?</i>	<i>Yes or no. Please use the drop down menu for selection of the option.</i>	<i>Which stakeholder(s) will be approached by whom to feedback on the sign and programme's contribution?</i>	<i>Confirmation/ disapproval of and feedback on the sign, LoP contribution and significance. Explain and/or refer to underlying documentation where relevant, include eventual follow-up.</i>
2023	Outcome 1	Akello a GBV survivor in Nimule after Joining fellow GBV survivors solidarity group called peace of mind in February 2023 through referrals received small businesses start- up capital from the group and is now generating an average income of 10,000SSP monthly.The Social saving group has allowed her to obtain a sustainable access to income by managing small-scale livelihood activity , which reduced her vulnerability, allowed her to restore self-confidence.	Training of GBV survivors on self-care and Peer to peer PSS. Through the referral services SURVIVORS were supported to obtain a sustainable access to income by managing small-scale livelihood projects. Conducting of the weekly and on site visit by the Psychosocial Focal Points the PFPs	Medium	Outcome 1.1 covers Community-based support mechanisms (MHPSS) that effectively promote and influence the protection rights of women and girls.	Intended	Positive	Yes	women leaders of Nimule	
2023	Outcome 1	On 27th April 2023, head Chief of one of the Payams in Payinjiar during ABC Court Focus Group discussion said that ABC Court members should take responsibility to solve Gender based violence with seriousness that the society is now modern and men should respect and value women rights and not harass them. He also added that ABC court sessions need to be gender sensitive to include women chiefs as discussed in the training of ABC Courts	A.1.2.2.1 Train ABC courts with the UNDP GBV pocket guide and organize ABC forums on local level to jointly lobby for increased implementation of GBV legislation	Medium	We linked this to a medium outcome because one male is taking action to work as an activist for women rights. This hs the potential to change more men.	Intended	Positive			
2023	Outcome 1	In May 2023, two women were included in the ABC Court to add their total to 3 of the 12 ABC court members	A.1.2.2.1 Train ABC courts with the UNDP GBV pocket guide and organize ABC forums on local level to jointly lobby for increased implementation of GBV legislation	High	It contributes to high outcome (Formal/traditional authorities implement laws and policies against GBV and protect survivors) since these women understand fellow women issues better and the idea of including them in the court is to contribute towards protection and promotion of women and girls' rights in the local courts.	Unintended	Positive			

Year	Links to outcome area 1, 2 or 3 of your ToC	Sign of change (1)	Contribution of the LoP program to the change	Significance rating	explanation	Expected or unexpected change?	Positive or negative change?	Selected for substantiation?	Substantiation Plan	Substantiation Result
2023	Outcome 1	In March 2023, Four 4 Pepetrators were arrested in Ganyliel for forcing a woman into inheritance through violent ways. Following the death of a husband, the nuer culture allows the widow to be inherited by one of the Late's brothers. This survivor, however having attended sessions on human rights and gender euality refused practice and she was resultantly beaten. the police took up the case and arrested the perpetrators.	Train police and prison staff on GBV legislation, human rights and GE	Medium	It is a sign of changed attitude since previously the normal practice would be for the police to refer the case to be settled traditionally at a family Level. Also the fact that the woman agreed to stand for her rights is a testimony of the impact of the training on them.	Intended	Positive			
2023	Outcome 1	March 2023 the two-days training on GBV legislation, human rights, and gender equality for ABC Court chiefs resulted to immideate implementation of the GBV legislation, human rights, and gender equality polies. The executive chief managed to prosecute 2 people who were involved in gender based violence. One was remnaded to prison and one was referred to Juba due to the complexity of his case.	Two-days training on GBV legislation, human rights, and gender equality, follow up meetings with ABC Courts members and the paramount chief on GBV laws and regulations	Low	This Action will scare perpetrators of GBV in the County	Intended	Positive	Yes		
2023	Outcome 1	August, 2023 indigenous women and men (male engagement groups/couple engagement groupd)use locally practiced skills to managed conflicts within the communities and to advocate for GBV, early child marriage, Girl child education and peaceful co-existence within their communities and the neighboring counties.	Trained Coupled engagement groups/ male engagement groups under the community awareness and lobby and advocacy objective	Low	This activity has provided environment where women feel safe and share experiences amongst themselves and also having access to other services.		Positive	Yes		
2023	Outcome 2	In July 2023 a young lady from Children and Young people's parliament in Nimule prevented early marriages in her close family by convincing her father not to force his daughter to marry after she slept outside with a man by informing him about the negative consequences of early marriage.This is the first time for a girl standing up in prevention of early marriage.	Strengthening of Children and young People parliament to have regular parliamentary sessions on what affect their lives and early marriage was one to raise the awareness about the topic, and increase women and men knowledge about mental, physical and emotional consequences of early marriage on the adolescent girls and boys.	Medium	2.1.1 W/Y groups advocate for gender equality, equal participation through W/Y-led platforms	Intended	Positive	Yes	The father of the young lady.	
2023	Outcome 2	In August, 2023, A group of empowered members of Children and young peoples' parliament (CYPP) have registered NNGO called Generation 711 that focuses mainly in addressing issues that affect the lives of young persons within a society	Strengthening of Children and young People parliament to have regular parliamentary sessions on what affect their lives and early marriage was one to raise the awareness about the topic, and increase women and men knowledge about mental, physical and emotional consequences of early marriage on the adolescent girls and boys.	High	2.1.1 W/Y groups advocate for gender equality, equal participation through W/Y-led platforms	Intended	Positive	Yes	Speaker of Children and young peoples' Parliament	

Year	Links to outcome area 1, 2 or 3 of your ToC	Sign of change (1)	Contribution of the LoP program to the change	Significance rating	explanation	Expected or unexpected change?	Positive or negative change?	Selected for substantiation?	Substantiation Plan	Substantiation Result
2023	Outcome 2	The Speaker for Children and Young People's Parliament in South Sudan, on 17th July 2023, left an indelible impression during Women Deliver Conference in Kigali. Eunice made the statements below during a Girls' Pre-Conference event where they discussed girls in humanitarian settings."Are we human beings, or are we property to be auctioned? Sometimes you feel like asking God I wish I was born a boy not a girl because as a girl, I don't feel like a human being more like property. It pains."	Strengthening of Children and young People's parliament through mentorship and coaching	High	Outcome 2.1.1 W/Y groups advocate for gender equality, equal participation through W/Y-led platforms	Unintended	Positive	Yes	Speaker of Children and young peoples' Parliament	
2023	Outcome 2	In March, During the election of the CYPP leaders in Nyal and Ganyliel, the girls stood up and campaigned for leadership role and in both locations, the speakers emerged out to be girls who are also members of the COC	Champions of Change training and organising CYPP	High	It is a sign of change of attitude towards girls and women since girls are culturally shy to express their potential as well as boys expressed positive attitude by voting girls into leadership positions	Intended	Positive			
2023	Outcome 2	During male engagement activity on the 28th August 2023, John Jal, A reverend in one of the churches in Nyal said that he is really touched having understood the role that men can play in supporting women and that he has also incorporated protection and promotion of women rights in his sermons because the issues at stake are actually supported by the bible.	Male engagement and intersectionality training.	Medium	We linked this to a medium outcome because one male is taking action to work as an activist for women rights. This has the potential to change more men.	Intended	Positive			
2023	Outcome 2	April 2023 The lobby and advocacy meetings conducted with ABC court Chiefs and the Police has created strong relationship between the police women desk and the ABC courts. Police now refer cases of forced marriage and Gender based violence for prosecution to the County Court.	The police, ABC court, and prison warden training	Low	This progress once sustained with expand civil space for gender equality and sustainability of the action once the LOP project ended		Positive	Yes		
2023	Outcome 2	March 2023 following the training of Chiefs, police and Prison warden at Panaroma Hotel resulted to two women for the first time appointed as counselors in the ABC Courts in Terekeka County.	On the 29th and the 30th of March, EVE Organization in a two-days training on GBV legislation, human rights, and gender equality. The two days workshop brought together over 50 representatives from the Police, Prison, and ABC court from different parts of Central Equatoria State	Low	The LOP promote gender Equality to ensure equal participation of women and girls in decision making.		Positive	Yes		

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2023	Outcome 2	March, 2023, The male engagement group in Nyori Payam played a very important role in the peacebuilding and reconciliation process that ended the intratribal and communal conflicts over grazing land that lasted for the whole reporting period. The conflict claimed lives of several young men, girls, and women. The male engagement group effort yielded positive results where the conflicting community leaders, government, and youth, concluded a peace and reconciliation meeting that brought over 500 community members to put an end to their difference.	Training of male engagement groups on peace building, mitigation, and community peaceful co-existence	Low	Create peace and tranquility within the community in the community					GBV/EE
2023	Outcome 2	on 29th april,2023,Beat the drum and keep the whistle blowing lobby and advocacy group conducted a radio talkshow on radio Tamazuj and 97.5 Torit Fm to educate women to participate in decision making and increase women quota.	Women advocacy groups are activated and linked	3= High significance	The women were able to establish L&A group and conduct L&A by their own.	Intended	Positive	Yes	chairlady of L&A group- Link to get the info. https://radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/e-equatoria-women-form-body-to-advocate-for-their-rights	This sign has been confirmed through reports from the L&A groups where they indicated that LOP contributed to their work.
2023	Outcome 2	on the 14th of July 2023, Beat the drum and keep the whistle blowing lobby and advocacy group conducted a meeting with the DG MOGCSW EES, to discuss the status of the implementation of the 35% affirmative action and how women could re-strategise for the general election.	Women advocacy groups are activated and linked		The women were able to establish L&A group and conduct L&A by their own.	Intended	Positive	Yes	Amal Jane, the chairlady of L&A group-	This sign has been confirmed through reports from the L&A groups where they indicated that LOP contributed to their work.
2023	Outcome 2	on the 1st of April, Redento Tongun the spokes person -NPSS, said that the national prison services have strengthened the protection measures for female offices and women inmates in the prisons.	Train ABC courts with the UNDP GBV pocketguide and organise ABC forums on local level to jointly lobby for increased implementation of GBV legislation/Train police and prison staff on GBV legislation, human rights and GE		The protection measures the NPSS spokes person spoke about is not clear.	Intended	Positive	Yes	Redento Tongun-spokes-person-NPSS	Verbal confirmation through field visit
2023	Outcome 2	on the 10, Oct, 2023, the Adams Group in Yambio developed a concept called "EMAP" by themselves that aimed at changing men's mindset towards women	Male engagement activities and the seed grant provision	High	the Adams group was able enough to develop the concept "EMAP" on their own after the several male engagement trainings	Intended	Positive	Yes	Joseph Ndandi	verbal field visit confirmation of the Adams groups members in Yambio that the development in the group was a result of the seed grant from LOP
2023	Outcome 2	on the 26th Oct 2023, the Adams group tasted and implemented the concept by sparing 1hr conversation on changing men's perception towards women with the boda boda youths at the stages in Yambio	male engagement activities and the seed grant provision	High	the Adams group took the initiative to meet the boda boda youth at their boda boda stages and talked to them about the EMAP concept	Intended	Positive	Yes	Joseph Ndandi	verbal field visit confirmation of the Adams groups members and the boda boda youths in Yambio that the change of mindset in them is as a result of the support from LOP

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2023	Outcome 2	on the 15th Nov 2023, Auma Rose, a member of the women advocay group afirmed that her community women group called Mary Go Round, (Sanduk Sanduk) learnt about their rights reporting pathways for GBV and also convinced their husbands to let them participate in the activity because it benefits their families.	Women advocacy groups are activated and linked	High	Auma used the knowleged gained from the serveral trainings from Eve Org to empower the women in her Mary Go Round group.	Intended	Positive	Yes	Auma Rose	Verbal field visit confirmation
2023	Outcome 2	on the 4th,Nov,223, Mrs Rita Lopidia ,the ED of Eve org was appointed as a member of the National constitutional Review Committee and Lona Loduro as the dupity chairperson ahead of the 2024 elections	National Annual Women Conferences	High	the efforts of the National Annual Conferences to achieve the recommendation on women inclusion is all bodies has been witness when the president Salver Kiir reconstitued the national elections commission.	Intended	Positive	Yes	https://thejubamirror.com/2023/11/04/kiir-reconstitutes-national-elections-com-mission-key-transitional-institutions-the-decrees-read-out-on-the-state-owned/	confirmation from Juba SSBC on the 4th,Nov, 2023,and Jubamirror newspaper
2023	Outcome 2	on the 10,2023 of august, Mrs. Jasinta knows how to address prevailing GBV cases in her community due to the intervention of Chad through the seed grant from Eve Org . As a result, she nominated herself as a local contact person for GBV cases in her community.	Job-Coarching and Seed grant support	High	through the seed grant, Chad changed the life of Mrs. Jascinta	Intended	Positive	Yes	Chad	Confirmation from Chad
2023	Outcome 3	On 8th of March 2023, A group of women in Nimule Town council invited the minister of gender child and social welfare EES, Hon Jenifer objectively to understand how women can take up leadership roles towards peace building within their state. Subsequently, the minister promised to appoint gender focal point within Nimule Town council office.	Annual women gathering to expose women on grass roots to share information with high position to share experience and address issues affecting women jointly.	Medium	Outcome 3.0.1 covers :Women and leadership roles at various levels and influence the WPS agenda jointly with male counterparts	Intended	Positive	Yes	women Leader, Nimule Town Council	
2023	Outcome 3	On 6th April 2023, a member of Peace Committeee During Peace Committee training said that her husband was completely against girl child education and refused her daughter to go to school, but because she had attended GBV trainings and understood the value of girl child education, she pleaded for the husband to send the daughter to school but the husband refused until she protested by refusing to cook for him meals and he finally accepted and when the girl passed her exams very well, the father became very happy.	A 3.2.1.2 :Work with Peace Committee boarder committee and peace task forces	High	The women were able to establish L&A groub and conduct L&A by their own.	Intended	Positive			

Year	Links to outcome area 1, 2 or 3 of your ToC	Sign of change (1)	Contribution of the LoP program to the change	Significance rating	explanation	Expected or unexpected change?	Positive or negative change?	Selected for substantiation?	Substantiation Plan	Substantiation Result
2023	Outcome 3	In April 2023, a woman was appointed the head of Commissioner's advisors. The advisory body is composed of 3 members	A.3.2.1.4 Develop L&A strategy for female leaders on local and national level (incl. female parliamentarians). Also Participation of women in the 16 days of Activism in 2022 in Ganyiel that was graced by the Commissioner	High	This is a high level change at the County level and can be linked to Gatekeepers including policy makers are activated to promote WPS agenda and create space for W/G in leadership positions	Unintended	Positive			
2023	Outcome 3	On 26th August 2023, during an on-the-Job training session, Joseph Raan 29 years old and leader of Kondial Youth in Ganyiel said that he used to think that if you empower women, they might leave you for a better man but the WPS trainings have changed his mindset. He now understands that women play a great role in peace building and as such he is willing to continue advocating for involvement of women in leadership as well as other empowerment programmes.	Training, and on-the-job coaching of women-led organizations, CSOs, W/Y groups on HR, GE, UNSCR1325, L&A	Medium	This is a sign of change of attitude towards inclusion of women and girls in political, social and economic processes. We link this outcome to CBOs/CSOs have resources and capacity to lobby on WPS agenda	Intended	Positive			
2023	Outcome 3	On 16 November 2023, the County Commissioner, George Wani, promised to hold accountable all perpetrators who are involved in forced and early marriages and rape. He called on the local authorities represented in chiefs, women leaders, youth leaders and Payam administrators not to cover such crimes committed against women and girls.	CSO and PFPs lobby and advocacy efforts and the Celebration of the 16 days of women activism brought the senior county authorities to recognise the dangers of GBV and other forms of violence perpetuated against women	Low	Create gender Equality and Justice for all in the county					
Outcome 3	In February 2023, the members of parliament of the specialised committees in the Revitalised Transitional National Legislative Assembly (RTNLA) were activated to promote women, peace and security agenda	This space of forum was created by the Chief whip of the Revitalised Transitional National Legislative Assembly (RTNLA) Hon Rebecca Joshua for LoP partners to conduct a workshop to specialised committees of RTNLA on lobby and advocacy strategy.	High	The space offered to LoP consortium is very instrumental for influencing policy makers in reviewing and updating of policies as well as lobbying to propose bills for lacking policies, Laws and Acts	Unintended	Positive	Yes	Chief whip of Government, Specialised committees in RTNLA		
Outcome 3	In May 2023, the lobby and advocacy meetings organised by PAX led to the creation of a lobby and advocacy working group for the LoP partners	The development of the Lobby and Advocacy Strategy for the LoP, as well as the lobby and advocacy meetings organised by PAX, and the several activities at the state level on lobby and advocacy by supported CSOs	High	This working group will be responsible for conducting activities of lobby and advocacy with the partners, as well as development of policy briefs and press statements for leaders of peace programme.	Intended	Positive	Yes	PAX & LoP Consortium partners		

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Outcome 3	On 8th of March 2023 during the preparation for the Commemoration of International women day, the Director General (DG) of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social welfare invited PAX staff to participate in the press conference on the Theme of International Women's Day (IWD).	PAX supported the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare with visibility materials for the celebration of the International Women's day in Wau, Western Equatoria state, of South Sudan	High	The press conference created a wider campaign and awareness to south sudanese all over the ten State as well as online viewers	Intended	Positive	Yes	Minstry of Gender, https://youtu.be/zRSAhCayxhA		
Outcome 3	In October 2023, PAX senior project officer, moderated a panel discussion during the side event of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) week in the New Work, USA	Technical role of PAX on Lobby and Advocacy at the National and International level, Previous advocacy trip of this person with different offices in the US in February of 2023	High	The International space for this one event ensures that the International actors continue to promote and support Women, Peace and Security agenda	Intended	Intended	Yes	PAX staff, Dutch Embassy in USA (New Work), reports		
Outcome 3	In October 2023, PAX drafted a learning report and policy brief on how formal and informal (CSOs) become sustainable in lobby and advocacy jointly influencing the WPS agenda in South Sudan	Action research led by PAX and involving the participation of the LoP consoritum partners on the learning agenda question three assigned to PAX. Moreover, PAX sourced for the expertise of a consultant to conduct the assignment.	High	The drafted learning report and policy briefs, provided actionable recommendations for enhance the work of the consortium partners on leaders of peace programme.	Unintended	Positive	Yes	Draft reports and policy brief		
Outcome 3	In October 2023, an outcome document was disseminated to the International stakeholders in New York by PAX, CordAid and Wo=Men organisation at WPS side event in New York.	Lobby and Advocacy at the International platform	High	Engagement at the UNSC event is amplilies advocacy efforts as this where resolutions for WPS agenda are formulated.	Intended	Positive	Yes	Report and outcome document		