

**Ministry of Gender Child and
Social Welfare**

Biennial Report

2009-2011

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I. ACRONYMS

BFCI	Barefoot College India
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CGA	Comprehensive Gender Assessment
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
ERW	Explosive Remnant of War
FATO	African Federation of orthopaedic Technologist
GSDP	Gender Support Development Project
GOSS	Government of Southern Sudan
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPEC	International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour
JDT	Joint Donor Team
KHI	Kigali Health Institute
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MDTF	Multi-Donor Trust Fund
MGCSW	Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare
MSD	Ministry of Social Development
NCCW	National Council for Child Welfare
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
PRRC	Physical Rehabilitation Reference Centre
RSS	Republic of South Sudan
SCREAM	Support Children's Rights through Education Art and Media
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SPSC	Sub-project Selection Committee
SPSSC	Sub-project State Selection Committee
SPU	Special Protection Unit
SSRRC	South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission
SSDA	South Sudan Demining Authority
SSWGA	South Sudan Women General Association
TATCOT	Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologies
UNFP	United Nations Fund for Population
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Fund for Women
UNMAAC	United Nations Mine Action Centre
UNMAO	United Nations Mine Action Office
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAW	Violence against Women

II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Biennial report covers the period between 2009 and 2011. The report comprises activities of all the five Directorates of the Ministry.

The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare would like to first acknowledge all the Directorates and their staff members for providing invaluable information about the executed plans, programs and activities of the Ministry.

Secondly, the Ministry would like to acknowledge the technical expertise of the Gender Advisor, Joy Mukanyange seconded to the Ministry by the UNWomen and the Director of Planning, Training, Research and Documentation, Mr. Stephen Wiw Bichiok who prepared the first draft of the report.

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Finally, special acknowledgement to the Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Hon. Agness Kwaje Lasuba who tirelessly exerted effort and gave her time to edit this report page by page.

Ms. Esther Ikere Eluzai,
Undersecretary,
Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare

III. FOREWORD

The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW) has the mandate to promote Gender Equality, Social Welfare as to safeguard the rights of women, men, children, vulnerable groups and persons with disabilities. The Ministry is composed of five Directorates namely:

- Gender
- Child Welfare
- Social Welfare
- Planning, Training, Research and Documentation
- Administration and Finance

Each Directorate is charge with responsibilities to respond and deliver. The Directorates work closely with government institutions, National Legislative Assembly (NLA), UN Agencies, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations, (CBOs), Civil Society groups and all concerned.

It is a great privilege on behalf of the Ministry and my own behalf to present to you this Biennial Report. It is to enlighten the reader about the Ministry's work, its activities, achievements and challenges over the two years 2009-2011.

When the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed in 2005, it was regarded heaven by the people of South Sudan (SS) having experienced several years of war, misery and impoverishment. Since then the people's expectations for better social services remain high. The people need social welfare support and basic needs. Most destitute, vulnerable and persons with disabilities turn to the Ministry for assistance.

The Ministry is aware that every citizen should have basic needs as peace dividend to improve their social welfare. In normal economic conditions, the Ministry should provide welfare to the people in need. Unfortunately the annual budget ceiling put by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning on the budget of the MGCSW is a major constraint to its planned activities.

During the period covered by this report the Ministry endeavoured to put in place appropriate policies and legal frameworks to ensure social justice and equity in the provision of social welfare and in Socio-Economic Development to empowerment women in the ten States. Concerted efforts were made to review the gender policy 2008 to promote women effective participation in political and socio-economic initiatives.

On poverty reduction, the Women Economic Empowerment Program to the ten States started in 2009 with 108 beneficiaries and currently it has 7,600. It is worth mentioning that this program is achieving its objective and should be sustained.

In the same poverty cycle through Social Protection Pillar (SPP), the Ministry is putting in place mechanism to improve the welfare of vulnerable groups and Children Without Parental Care (CWPC). Next year 2012, the Ministry intends to have programs to empower poor households to narrow poverty gap by conditional and non conditional Cash Transfer.

On institutional and human capacity building the Ministry focused on building critical mass of capable staff not only in the National Ministry but in the ten States as well. So far the Ministry trained 122 social workers. It will continue to train more until there are enough social workers and counsellors to transform people who are traumatized, alcoholic, depressed, stigmatized to name a few.

To safeguard the rights of children with disabilities, the Ministry is constructing Educational Center, Boarding at Rajaf. The construction is expected to be completed by late 2012. Regarding the Children Without Parental Care (CWPC) or Children on the street, the Ministry budgeted in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 to construct drop in centers one each State to care for the children. For the two consecutive years the budget was not approved, we hope it will be in 2012/2013 budget. SS being a post conflict nation, it has enormous challenges. Some which are facing the Ministry are reported under each directorate.

The Ministry is under staff due to lack of office accommodation but the situation will be overcome when the construction of the MGCSW building is completed by late 2012 or early 2013. Despite the heavy workload, all the Directorates have determination, commitment and conviction to attain all the goals each set itself to execute in accordance to its strategic plan.

I would like to acknowledge the Deputy Minister, Dr. Pricilla Nyanyang Joseph, the Advisor Mr. Peter Sukole Buni, all the staff of the Ministry and all the Ministries of Gender and Social Development in the ten States for their dedication, commitment and adherence to the National Ministry's Vision and Mission to serve all citizens responsibly with courtesy, integrity, transparency and a degree of social justice. Without their cooperation and collaboration it will not have been possible to produce this report.

Finally, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all development partners, UN Agencies, government institutions for their support to the Ministry. I applaud the Leadership of the Democratic of Republic of South Sudan for their commitment to inclusiveness, unity, peace, justice and respect for the rights and dignity of all people as reflected in the Transitional Constitution of SS 2011.

I believe all our efforts will promote development, progress and prosperity. May you find the Biennial Report informative and useful.

Agnes K. Lasuba
The Minister,
Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare
Republic of South Sudan

IV. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare has the mandate to promote gender equality, safeguard women and children's rights, as well as the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups. In collaboration with State Ministries of Social Development, the ministry seeks to ensure social justice, equality, and equity in the distribution of resources and provision of services to all citizens. One of the top priorities of the Government of South Sudan is to reduce poverty and reduction and the ministry has the responsibility to ensure that proper mechanisms for poverty reduction are put in place by all institutions.

To achieve these objectives, the Ministry works closely with the United Nation Agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to **ascertain** that all government and private sector policies and programmes are gender-sensitive and take into consideration the needs and rights of all sectors of society.

In a post conflict country, the Ministry faces enormous challenges, given its broad mandate covering some of the most critical areas of social development. In spite of these challenges, a lot has been accomplished. During the period covered by this report, the ministry developed and promoted the adoption of policies and legal frameworks to guide other sectors in developing appropriate programmes and allocating necessary resources for gender equality, empowerment of women, protection and safeguarding of the constitutional rights of children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. The ministry was also instrumental in mobilizing citizens, especially women, to participate fully and effectively in the processes that shaped the future of South Sudan including the 2010 elections and the 2011 referendum which resulted in the Independence of the Republic of South Sudan. Gender equality and social welfare principles were entrenched throughout these processes. It is the commitment of the Ministry to promote the political, economic and social empowerment of both women and men, in partnership with all stakeholders in the public and private sectors.

Vision

Attain a peaceful, inclusive and equitable society.

Mission

The Ministry strives to promote gender equality and equity, child and social welfare, advocates for and protects the rights of all people without any discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, political or religious affiliation. The Ministry is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all the citizens, with special attention to the disadvantaged including the very poor and persons with disability.

Based on this mission the Ministry will work closely with other Ministries and agencies to ensure equitable and effective participation of all social groups in the development of the country.

Core Values

- Service with courtesy, integrity, transparency and accountability at all times.
- Mindful of the welfare of citizens without favour or discrimination.
- Committed to the rule of law and social responsibility.
- Compassion, empathy, tolerance and understanding.
- Commitment to the welfare of staff and respect to cultural diversity.
- Trust, team spirit among staff and genuine collaboration with all stakeholders in the social development and other sectors.

Core Functions

- Develop policies and programmes for the promotion of gender equality, child and social welfare.
- Mainstreaming gender equality, and disability into national development.
- Ensure the welfare and respect of the rights of persons with disabilities and socially vulnerable groups.
- Manage programmes and institutions for children and social welfare.

The Ministry is composed of five Directorates as follows:

- The Directorate of Gender.
- The Directorate of Child Welfare.
- The Directorate of Social Welfare.
- Directorate of Planning, Training, Research and Documentation.
- The Directorate of Administration and Finance.

This report covers the Ministry's programmes and activities during the 3-year period, 2009, 2010, 2011, arranged according to the above five directorates.

V. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The three years covered in this report, 2009-2011, were crucial in the emergence of the new nation of South Sudan, marking the end of the interim period. It was a period when the Government of Southern Sudan needed to consolidate the peace dividend and strengthen appropriate systems and institutions for democratic governance and sustainable development.

The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW), is mandated to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and to promote child and social welfare in an inclusive and equitable manner. In a post-war situation, this is a heavy mandate. Experience has shown that women, children and the most vulnerable members of society are disproportionately affected by conflict and resulting poverty, violence, disease and social dislocation. In spite of these challenges, the Ministry set about achieving its mandate with determination and resilience. This report comprises six chapters covering activities undertaken by the five directorates of the Ministry and a chapter on partnerships. It is arranged thematically, based on programmes, rather than chronologically according to the year in which activities were implemented, as some of the programmes span periods of one, two and sometimes the entire three-year period.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women

In the area of gender equality, the Ministry focused on setting a firm basis for gender-responsive policy and legal framework and entrenching gender equality principles in national planning and governance systems. A national gender policy was developed and passed with amendments in 2008. Due to changes which led to independence of South Sudan, the policy is under review. The Ministry collaborated with civil society and other partners to ensure that women were encouraged and facilitated to participate fully and effectively in good governance.

Women's economic empowerment is a key to poverty reduction, sustainable food security and social protection. With the support of Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) and the World Bank, in 2009 the Ministry launched an extensive women economic empowerment project that provided grants to 109 CBOs to undertake income-generating activities throughout the 10 States. The beneficiaries of the economic empowerment are over 6,700 families.

In order to support the development of evidence-based and informed policies and programmes, the Ministry carried out a number of studies and assessments, including a Comprehensive Country Gender Assessment that assessed all aspects of gender equality in South Sudan from social, legal, economic, cultural and political perspectives. The report also summarizes many initiatives to protect women's human rights and address the scourge of gender-based violence (GBV)

Child welfare

With regard to child welfare, the Ministry spearheaded a number of initiatives to protect the rights and safeguard children's welfare, including putting in place mechanisms for tracing and reunification of children without parental care, prevention of child labour and early marriages, as well as taking steps to improve the situation in juvenile justice. A draft policy on children without parental care is being developed by the Ministry and a country-wide campaign on birth registration is being carried out, to give an opportunity to every child born in South Sudan to receive birth certificates, basic social services, facilitate cash transfer and to provide a baseline for planners and policy makers to develop more informed plans and policies. The Child Act 2008 was disseminated widely and training and awareness programmes undertaken. It is viewed that the Child Act should be summarized in the local languages in order for rural communities to understand and utilize this important instrument for the protection of children's rights.

Safeguarding the welfare of all citizens

The Directorate of Social Welfare's core function is to protect the rights of the vulnerable members of society and ensure that their needs and concerns are addressed. The report outlines programmes geared at providing support for the most destitute, needy families and individuals, mine victims assistance and persons with disabilities. The directorate also collaborated with other directorates in developing, disability, social security, and the National Health Insurance Fund Policies. A lot of effort was invested in training and building institutional capacity for the two main support centres for persons with disabilities, the Physical Rehabilitation Reference Centre (PRRC) and the Rejaf Educational Centre for the Blind and Deaf.

Planning, capacity development, research and documentation

Among the Ministry's major constraint is the limited human resource capacity both in numbers and technical expertise. The Directorate of Planning worked closely with other directorates and with support from partners embarked on an extensive capacity development programme which included in-house training of all staff in their different areas of operation. One key component of this programme was the training of social workers through a collaborative programme with the University of Juba, St Mary's Catholic University and UNICEF. The Directorate played a leading role in developing Ministry's guidelines and procedures, including an overall ministry framework, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), a draft social and the National Health Insurance Fund policy. The directorate also oversees the Ministry's contribution to key national documents and reports including the Sudan Household Health survey 2010.

Administration and resources management

The Ministry has been facing serious challenges of working space, as it does not have its own office building. In addition to the regular financial, human resource and assets management responsibilities, however, with the support from Multi Donor Trust Fund, World Bank and the government were able to fund construction of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare at Yei Road. Since 2009, the Directorate of Administration and Finance has been managing the MDTF project with three components: women economic empowerment project, institutional capacity building and the construction of the Ministry. The directorate also managed the reconstruction of the Rejaf Educational Centre for the Blind and Deaf. The directorate works closely with the directorate of Planning in the development and management of the capacity development and training programmes carried out in the Ministry.

Conclusion

In spite of enormous challenges and limited resources, MGCSW has maintained its determination to advance the welfare of all the people of South Sudan, in a gender-responsive, inclusive and equitable environment. The three years covered by this report were crucial in shaping the future of the nation. MGCSW is privileged to have played a part in laying a firm foundation for a peaceful, modern and prosperous South Sudan.

VI. BIENNIAL REPORT

1. DIRECTORATE OF GENDER

The activities of the Directorate of Gender are divided into four sections: gender-responsive governance; economic and social empowerment; promotion and protection of women's rights; and capacity development for gender mainstreaming. In the area of governance, the Ministry focused on laying a firm base for a policy and legal framework and strategic direction for mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women in the government institutions, programmes and national laws. A national gender policy was developed and passed with amendments in 2008. It is now being reviewed in line with recommended amendments and the vision and priorities of independent South Sudan.

In the run-up to independence, the Ministry worked with partners, civil society and other government departments to ensure that women were facilitated to play their rightful role in the historical events shaping the nation, including the 2010 elections and the 2011 referendum. The Directorate of Gender participated actively in the formulation of the first post-independence South Sudan Development Plan (SSDP 2011-2013) which recognizes gender equality as one of the 7 cross-cutting pillars. Efforts continue to ensure that sector-specific policies and strategies are gender-responsive and equitably take into consideration the concerns of women, men and children.

The Ministry encouraged and supported the formation and capacity building of women's civil society organizations as partners in advocating for and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The ministry collaborated with partners to undertake a number of studies, and assessments including a Comprehensive Country Gender Assessment, a survey on the status of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) and a GBV prevalence and protection survey. Efforts to address the scourge of GBV included the establishment of Special Protection Units (SPUs) in police stations throughout the country, development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and the construction of multi-purpose women's centres in the States. Initiatives to empower women economically and build their organizational capacity included the Women Economic Empowerment project, an Adolescent Girls' empowerment initiative and support to the formation of the South Sudan Women Entrepreneurs Association (SSWEA). A summary of programmes and activities during the 2009-2011 period is given below.

1.1. Gender Responsive Governance and Women's Participation

1.1.1. Development of Draft Gender Policy

A national Gender Policy framework for Southern Sudan was developed in 2008 to guide policy and programme initiatives designed to hasten positive change in the gender equality and empowerment of women agenda. Particular attention was paid to the empowerment of women at various levels, as available indicators showed that women in South Sudan endure gender-based discrimination and violation of some of their rights. The draft gender policy emphasised the need for ratification of international instruments, such as CEDAW, as well as comprehensive legal reform as a basis for entrenching gender-responsive legislation and protection of fundamental human rights. The draft policy also pointed to the urgent need for judicial reform and the inculcation of gender equality principles in formal and informal education syllabi and curricula, as well as in the training in the judicial and law enforcement sectors. This policy has now been updated in line with recommended amendments and the national development vision.

1.1.2. Assessment of Sudanese laws in relation to International Instruments and women's rights

In 2010, MGCSW, in collaboration with the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development and UNIFEM, carried out a comparative assessment of Sudanese laws and the Penal Code (2003) in relation to the CPA and the Bill of Rights. The main purpose of this assessment was to examine the effects of the laws on women's rights and their compliance with international human rights instruments. This was part of a UNIFEM-supported study of the legal frameworks of seven African countries. The assessment revealed considerable contradictions between the Sudanese Penal Code (2003) and many laws, with the Interim Constitution 2005 and international instruments including CEDAW, with regard to women's human rights. The findings from this assessment will be informative to the Ministry in future efforts to promote a gender-responsive legal framework in South Sudan.

1.1.3. Support to women's participation in the 2010 elections and referendum

A priority in the Ministry's mandate is to support and enhance women's leadership capacity, ensure their full effective participation in decision-making at all levels, in political, economic and social sectors. The 2010 national elections were a watershed in the political history of South Sudan, for the first time most women were able to exercise their democratic rights to vote. The Ministry took the lead in advocacy and

raising awareness of the general public on women's rights and the importance of their full participation in the elections and the referendum.

Extensive gender-responsive voter education and awareness raising campaigns were carried out, mainly targeting women, youth and community opinion leaders. Capacity building initiatives for women political aspirants were carried out throughout the 10 States. As a result, women turned out in large numbers to vote in both the 2010 elections and the 2011 referendum. Fifty five (55%) of all registered voters were women and 52% voted. Women also stood as candidates for various elective positions, on women's list, party and geographical constituency lists. The 2010 elections and the referendum significantly changed the political landscape of South Sudan and demonstrated the critical role women play in democratic governance. There is one woman State Governor; women's representation in Parliament is currently 33%, including the position of Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. This puts South Sudan among the top 30 countries in the world in terms of women's representation in the legislature.

In the run-up to the referendum in November 2010, the Ministry organized an international women's conference to rally women together to ensure a successful referendum process. The conference brought together some 300 women leaders from all over Southern Sudan, as well as some from the diaspora. The conference set up a "Women's Task Force" to spearhead the participation of women in the referendum, in collaboration with the Office of the President and to work out a post-referendum action plan for women. Women from all walks of life demonstrated their commitment and provided personal financial and other contributions to ensure a successful referendum process.

1.1.4. Engendering national planning processes

The Ministry participated fully in the preparation of the first post-independence South Sudan Development Plan (SSDP 2011-2013) to ensure that gender equality and social justice considerations were fully addressed. Gender equality is one of the 7 cross-cutting pillars in South Sudan development plan. MGCSW co-chaired the Social and Human Development Pillar, composed of the Health, Education, Water Resources and Irrigation, Youth & Sports, Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management. All government institutions are required to mainstream gender equality and equity in their policies, plans and programmes. The Directorate of Gender has been following up on all sector plans and policy development processes to ensure that gender equality principles are taken into consideration.

1.1.5. International Engagement Conference for South Sudan

As part of on-going development planning initiatives, an International Engagement Conference (IEC) for South Sudan was held in Washington D.C. in December 2011, under the auspices of the Government of the United States of America.

At the conference, H.E. the Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Hon. Agnes K. Lasuba, speaking for the Social Development Pillar, quoted the purpose statement “ the Government of Republic of South Sudan is committed to ensure the well being and dignity of all people of South Sudan by progressively accelerating universal access to sustainable basic social services.” The goals of the social development pillar to name four are as follows:

Health: to equitably increase the utilization of quality basic health, HIV/AIDS services, reduction of infant and maternal mortality rate, and to implement the reproductive health strategy (2011- 2015).

Education: to ensure equitable participation in rapidly expanding quality education system; to recruit 23,402 qualified primary teachers so as to bring the teacher/ pupil ratio to 1:50, and also to recruit 1,400 secondary teachers.

Gender, Child and Social Welfare: to progressively reduce the risk, vulnerability, poverty, economic and social exclusion through advocacy, sensitization for the design of social protection framework and cash transfer scheme that reaches 20% of eligible population.

Water and Sanitation: to increase access to safe water and halt transmission of Guinea worm in remaining 304 villages and also to improve sanitation by constructing public latrines in the 10 states.

Key issues

In order to deliver basic services it will be vital to:

- Strengthen the government’s owned institutions and service delivery systems.
- Allocate more public resources for basic service delivery.
- Boost institutional capacity in the service Ministries through the IGAD, and AU mentoring initiatives, integration of civil servants from the Republic of Sudan, and diaspora for placement.
- Roll out the Local Service Support Aid Instrument as a mechanism for funding integrated service delivery at the local level.

The presentation also recognized the need to leverage women’s human and intellectual capacities as a key in dealing with the short and long-term development challenges.

On the eve of the IEC, a **Gender symposium** was organized, as a collaborative initiative between the Ministry, UNWOMEN and the Institute for Inclusive Security, to provide women with an opportunity to define their specific priorities. Eight South Sudanese women representing civil society and the Government, including the Deputy Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Dr. Pricilla Nyanyang Joseph, participated in the symposium. The women developed 37 specific recommendations guided by five overarching themes that can be applied to all of the six areas of focus of the IEC.

- **Women's Participation**, as equal citizens, in all public decision-making in the public and private sectors in the RSS.
 - **Legal and Policy Framework** to enhance women's protection and secure their rights.
 - **Earmarked Spending**: The UN and other development partners are required to meet their commitments to allocate minimum of 15 % of program funds to women's empowerment and gender equality.
 - **Capacity Development**: Adequate financing for MGCSW and women's civil society organizations and networks.
 - **Gender-responsive Security**: focusing on community security and proactively addressing specific security threats faced by women and girls.
 -
- The women prioritized the following four recommendations for urgent action by the RSS and the international community:
- Double national functional literacy rates amongst women to 25 % by 2014.
 - Establish a Women's Bank with start-up capital of a minimum of US\$10 million, providing women with accessible, low-interest loans, using social collateral.
 - Women must receive 25 % of all investment in agriculture and commercial livestock, increasing their food productivity, entrepreneurship skills, and access to markets.
 - Ensure half of the resources in the Community Development Funds, financed through oil revenues, are allocated to women's health, education, economic and physical security.

1.1.6. Assessment of the implementation of UNSCR 1325

In preparation for the development of a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325, an assessment of progress in the implementation of this crucial resolution in South Sudan was carried out towards the end of 2011, with support from the Joint Donor Team. The results of this assessment will provide valuable baseline data for a national action plan to implement this key UN resolution on women, peace and security as well as a road map for addressing related issues in the economic, social and political sectors. In the same vein, in collaboration with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), by the end of 2011, some 20

senior government and CSO officials from South Sudan were trained on the resolution to form a core groups to steer the development of the national action plan forward so as to promote sustainable peace and security.

1.2.ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

1.2.1. The Gender Support and Development Project

In 2009 the Ministry initiated the Gender Support and Development Project, funded by the MDTF through the World Bank. The project's objective is to achieve peace dividend for rural women by improving their social welfare to live above poverty line. This was in line with the Sudanese Women's Priorities and Recommendations to the Oslo Donors' Conference on Sudan, 2005.

The project has three components:

1. Women's Economic Empowerment
2. Institutional Capacity Development
3. Construction of the Ministry's headquarters

1.2.2. Women's Economic Empowerment project

The women's economic empowerment component of the project is aimed at supporting income-generating sub-projects for women's community-based organizations. Most of the sub-projects are within the agricultural, fisheries and livestock sectors, but a few are in other areas such as tailoring, grinding mills and micro-credit schemes. Projects were selected on the basis of criteria developed through a consultative process as likely to translate into poverty reduction and rapid development for South Sudan in general and to improve the levels of food security.

About 109 women CBOs were awarded funds for various income generating activities, to a total amount of \$ 4 million, divided equally among the ten states. Before the disbursement of funds, successful CBOs were trained in procurement processes and procedures, records keeping, financial management, reporting and were presented with copies of the official operations manual. The number of beneficiaries is over 6,700 across the different States, including some widows and orphans. In addition to direct beneficiaries, the projects have indirect positive impact. Many people's livelihoods improved in the broader spectrum of the community, including members of the extended families and others have found employment opportunities in these projects.

The first 54 projects selected after the initial call for proposals were presented with their contracts by Hon. Agnes Kwaje Lasuba, at an historic occasion at Nyakuron Cultural Centre in July 2010. During the presentation, the Minister remarked that "most women particularly those living in the rural areas have waited for too long to

get the peace dividends. These awards mark the beginning of their peace dividend...to reduce the burden of poverty on women and their families.” A total of US\$ 1,943,736 was disbursed in this tranche. The second group of 55 contracts were awarded their contracts in September 2010, with a total disbursement of US\$ 1,907,340.

1.2.3. Institutional Capacity Development

The institutional capacity development component of the GSDP comprised of two main activities: development of an institutional capacity programme, including in-house and on-the job training for the Ministry staff, at national and States’ level¹ and a Comprehensive Country Gender Assessment to provide baseline information and guidelines for future gender mainstreaming.

The Comprehensive Country Gender Assessment (CGA) was commissioned by the Ministry in 2011 to provide baseline information for future institutional capacity and policy development, in order to strengthen gender equality mainstreaming systems in the country. The assessment evaluated the socio-economic, legal and policy environment that impact the lives of women and men and hinder or promote their full participation in development. The outcome of this assessment is expected to enable the Ministry to develop appropriate evidence-based strategies, policies for development, legal reform, put in place programmes that will enable women and men to benefit fully and equitably from development efforts.

A preliminary report² of the assessment reveals that significant steps have been taken to promote gender equality and equity but that considerable challenges remain. The report came out with a comprehensive set of recommendations with a focus on the following areas:

- Mobilizing support and accountability for gender equality commitments
- Gender-responsive legal and regulatory reform, and Building capacity to deliver services and enforce laws.

Construction of women’s centres in the states

In line with the recommendations of the Oslo Donors Conference for South Sudan in 2005, the Ministry initiated a collaborative programme with partners, including Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA), in 2009, to establish at least one multi-purpose Women’s Centre in each of the ten states. This programme is designed to address

¹ Reported on under the Directorate of Planning, Research and Documentation

² Draft report of the Comprehensive Gender Assessment, 2012, MGCSW

the challenges women face in the rural areas, including illiteracy, poverty and lack of access even to the limited education and health services. The multi-purpose centres are intended to support women's economic and social empowerment by providing them with a space for income-generating activities, integrated and functional literacy, protection and safe space for survivors of GBV.

Out of the 10 centres to be constructed, one was completed in Bor, Jonglei State, in November 2011. The centres will also provide an outreach facility for development partners wishing to reach out to women in remote rural areas. They will be run by the local Women's Association, under the supervision of the State Ministries of Social Development.

Rural Solar Electrification (Women Barefoot Solar Engineers)

South Sudan is participating in a global project aimed at electrifying villages in Africa by training rural, illiterate women to become solar engineers. Between July and August 2011, MGCSW and UNWOMEN, with assistance from State ministries of Social Development and local communities, identified 7 women to go for solar electrification training at the Barefoot College in India (BFCI).

Without language or written word, only using signs language, these women have become the first female solar technicians in South Sudan. In the six months they spent in India, they have learnt how to use the tools to fabricate, repair and maintain solar systems. They have learnt how to use solar charge controllers, invertors and solar lanterns using only the colour code to identify electronic parts. These women have already made lantern circuits and circuits for chargers and Light Emitting Diode (LED) lamp chargers.

South Sudan rural women in the Barefoot College solar engineering workshop

The women will be provided with the necessary equipment, materials and technical support to fabricate, install and maintain solar lighting installations in their villages by UNWOMEN. The project will also establish simple in-country rural training centres for women solar engineers. The communities where the women come from are expected to participate in the project implementation by contributing a small amount of money or in kind per household to maintain these installations. In addition this project will contribute greatly to rural electrification in South Sudan, where by reducing women's labour burden by providing easier access to services such as cooking without firewood.

Adolescent Girls Initiative

The Adolescent Girls' Initiative Project is to support girls who dropped out from School for various reasons e.g. pregnancy, lack of school fees, forced marriages etc. It started in 2009 with the support of the World Bank and is implemented through BRAC³ in collaboration with the Ministry in four states: Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei and Lakes the remaining six states will eventually be covered. The objective of the project is to empower adolescent girls socially and economically, impart them with leadership, life skills, and increase awareness on reproductive health. So far 100 clubs and safe places for adolescent girls have been created in 5 counties from the four states. Each club includes 30 beneficiaries of selected income-generating activities, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 3000. One hundred adolescent leaders have been identified through this project and trained to run the clubs.

This project has contributed significantly to building confidence and attitude change among adolescent girls and young people. It has increased their day-to-day knowledge and coping mechanisms. Communities around the location of the clubs also support the initiative by participating in life skills training for the adolescents.

1.3.PROMOTING AND PROTECTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

1.3.1. Ending Gender-Based Violence and Violence against Women

1.3.1.1. Setting up Special Protection Units

GBV remains a challenge in South Sudan as it is in other countries. One strategy for addressing this challenge has been the setting up of Special Protection Units where women and children who are victims or are threatened with violence can seek protection and justice.

The Directorate of Gender also co-chairs the GBV Cluster meetings. These clusters and task forces make it possible to pull resources and maximize results through joint initiatives and programmes, such as the GBV prevalence and protection survey.

Since 2009, with support of a number of partners, nine SPUs have been established at police stations across the country: in Juba, Yei, Yambio, Maridi, Torit, Rumbek, Malakal, Aweil, Bentiu, Wau, Nassir and Kwajok. To support the programme, over 900 police officers have been trained to investigate cases of GBV and provide protection and services to the victims. The training covers concepts of gender and human rights, the nature and effects of violence against women, policing in relation to GBV and understanding women's rights as stated in the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan and other international instruments. The SPUs have

³ BRAC

contributed significantly to the management of GBV; however, reports have revealed considerable challenges in their operation and effectiveness. To overcome the problems, remedies are proposed to make gender equality and GBV protection a compulsory component. The police and other law enforcement personnel training curriculum should include SPUs and GBV protection integral parts of the South Sudan Police Service institutional framework.

1.3.1.2. Survey on the prevalence of Gender-Based Violence

With a view to developing a policy and eventually a GBV law, a baseline survey on its prevalence and protection concerns was launched in 2010. The long period of war and insecurity, economic and devastation have led to the breakdown of social and cultural norms and intensification of a culture of violence. The survey revealed that in spite of the relative peace since the CPA, extreme forms of violence against women persist, sometimes made worse by the proliferation of small arms in the communities and problems such as attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in some states.

There are also forms of structural violence linked to poverty, lack of education, lack of access to economic opportunities and widespread insecurity in the home. This survey was a joint activity with the National Bureau of Statistics, UNHCR and other UN agencies as well as NPA, intended to systematically collect data and document evidence of the prevalence of different aspects of GBV to inform policy makers and contribute to more effective advocacy and protection. It was intended to identify the prevalence of GBV and also to identify and available remedial services and opportunities for new interventions, so as to improve protection mechanisms and fortify programmes to address GBV.

Some recommendations from the survey include amendment to the 2008 Penal Code, especially on offences involving domestic issues, which tend to be relegated to customary courts, thereby decriminalizing VAW and GBV. Another key recommendation pointed to the need to increase awareness of GBV among law enforcement agents, and to address issues of traditional practices that fuel violence, such as high bride wealth.

MGCSW, in collaboration with line Ministries, UN agencies, and international development partners, produced Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for GBV prevention and response, as guiding principles for all actors in preventing GBV and bringing perpetrators to justice.

1.3.1.3. Commemorations of International Women's Day

The Ministry has used the opportunity of celebration and commemoration of international days and events to rally women's groups and civil society behind key issues in the promotion of gender equality and women's rights. The commemoration

of International Women's Day and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence were prominent. These are valuable occasions for acknowledging the progress made by women over the years struggling for their liberation and strategizing for the future. Celebrations of International Women's Day in 2010 were particularly significant marking women's emancipation, the Centenary (100 years) and included the following actions:

1.3.1.4. Recognizing and celebrating women's contributions

During the commemoration of International Women's Day in 2010, twenty women from all the 10 States of South Sudan were awarded **Certificates of Appreciation** in acknowledgement of their contribution throughout the liberation struggle and continued leadership in their communities and the country as a whole. The awards were presented to the women by the Guest of Honour the Vice President, H. E. Dr Riek Machar Teny, and the Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Hon. Agnes Kwaje Lasuba. The occasion was attended by many other dignitaries including Ministers, Members of Parliament, and Members of State Legislative Assemblies, senior government officials, academia and development partners.

Overarching messages on the day included the importance of investing in girls education as a way of reducing inequality, empowering women, contributing effectively to poverty reduction; increasing women's participation at all levels of decision making; mitigating and redressing harmful traditional practices like early marriages that affect girls' education, just to mention a few. The women continue to demonstrate their commitment and demanded from the Government of Southern Sudan quick ratification of international legal instruments that protect women's rights such as CEDAW.

1.3.1.5. Workshops and symposia on GBV and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)

During the 2010 commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the ministry organized workshops and symposia on the prevention and protection against GBV, and awareness campaigns on SEA in six states: Jonglei, Greater Equatoria, Upper Nile and Lakes. The workshops also provided training on SOP for protection and prevention of GBV. The two workshops held in Jonglei and Upper Nile brought together 53 participants from the government, women's organizations, INGOs and UN agencies operating in the two states. The participants had the opportunity to identify referral pathways, inter-sectorial service providers, establish roles, responsibilities and introduce SEA concepts to service providers.

Recommendations from the workshops included the following:

- Coordination between the government and development partners on GBV and SEA cases.
- Accelerated awareness raising on GBV at State levels.
- Accelerate the establishment of SPUs throughout the country and train the police, local leaders and all law enforcement agents.

1.4. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry is mandated to ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed in all government policies and programmes. This requires staff of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, all Ministries and State Ministries of Social Development/Gender to have the necessary capacity and skills to identify gaps and entry points of gender equality and equity concerns are taken into consideration, in the formulation of respective sector policies and plans. It is also important to train all other stakeholders including members of the legislature and civil society so as to enable them to advocate for gender equality from an informed point of view. Between 2009 and 2011, the Ministry, with support from various partners implemented a broad training program in gender mainstreaming and concepts of gender-responsive budgeting, for ministry staff, staff of ministries of Social Development/Gender at state level, line ministries and other relevant government departments.

1.4.1. Training in Gender Mainstreaming

In November 2011, the ministry, with the support of UNFPA, organized a comprehensive 5-day training session for Director Generals in Ministries of Social Development, Directors of Gender and chairpersons of South Sudan Women General Association (SSWGA) from the 10 states of South Sudan. Over 50 staff from these departments as well as staff of the Directorate of Gender attended this workshop that covered all the concepts involved in mainstreaming gender in government planning, programming and implementation. This was a very practical training and the staff acquired skills to enable them to incorporate gender in all their planning and programming processes. Participants recommended that this training should be carried out on a 6-monthly basis to upgrade staff in time for the planning and budgeting sessions.

1.4.2. Gender-responsive budgeting

A good budget is the most important policy tool for a government, as a system of analysing and allocating the necessary resources for successful implementation of policies. Combining technical knowledge and gender-responsive budgeting ensures that the needs and interests of different social groups are effectively addressed. Training in gender-responsive budgeting will also be extended to Members of Parliament, at national and states levels, and to civil society.

In December 2011, the Ministry organized a series of training workshops to introduce the concept of gender-responsive budgeting to senior government officials involved in planning and budgeting. The first workshop targeted Undersecretaries and Director Generals from all the ministries at central level. The second set targeted Directors of planning, the Budget Circular Committee, Directors of budget, and Directors of Gender, and the third one was tailored specifically for budget and planning officers. Altogether 70 senior staffs were trained. It was recommended that this training be repeated in 2012 to cover all Undersecretaries and other officials and that the training should be extended to other arms of government including parliamentary committees.

1.5. COORDINATION

1.5.1. The Gender Coordination Forum

In 2011, the Ministry established a Gender Coordination Forum to bring together all stakeholders involved in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The purpose of the forum is to facilitate more effective coordination and information sharing, to consolidate efforts and promote collaboration and coherence, in order to maximize results in this area. The Ministry chairs monthly meetings of this coordination forum so as to ensure that activities undertaken by stakeholders are aligned with national priorities as identified in the SSDP 2011-2013 and future development instruments.

1.6. CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

In spite of the government's acknowledgement of the central role of gender equality in sustainable development, understanding of gender equality is still limited to some senior officials. The country is predominantly patriarchal and traditional beliefs and customs are the norms. Despite the Ministry's endeavours to promote gender equality, alas the multiple challenges South Sudan faces as a new nation are constraint. As a result, the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare and the whole national gender machinery are among the least resourced sectors in RSS. A lot of effort needs to be invested in effecting a change of mind-set to strategically position gender equality and the empowerment of women among the government's top priorities.

2. DIRECTORATE OF CHILD WELFARE

The Directorate of Child Welfare has the responsibility to ensure the protection of children, formulate policies and develop programmes that promote children's rights and their protection from violence and abuse. The Ministry, in collaboration with national and international partners, has sought to address these issues through a three-pronged approach: Child Protection; Policy and Legal Framework; and Child Welfare.

During the three years covered by this report (2009-2011), efforts were intensified to trace, provide assistance and reintegrate children without parental care, whose numbers have increased throughout South Sudan as a result of the decades of war and social dislocation. Efforts to safely repatriate and to reintegrate South Sudanese children without parental care left in the Republic of Sudan are in process.

Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) for dealing with children without parental care were approved by the Child Protection Working Group at the national level and are being implemented in the States. In anticipation of the return of children, every State has to make temporary measure for the children while the government seeks permanent alternative drop-in centres. It should be noted that the government of South Sudan considers the family to be the best environment for a child to grow and develop. The setting up of permanent residential institutions such as orphanage is discouraged.

Another key area of focus during this period was to develop strategies and systems for preventing vulnerable children from falling victims to the worst forms of child labour, including being recruited into armed groups and militia. In order to ensure sustainable prevention of child labour, a programme of awareness raising and training of law enforcement agents on child labour was developed, comprising international modules such as the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and Tackle Child Labour through Education (TACKLE).

In the area of policy and legal framework, Child Act was passed in 2008 by the National Legislative Assembly. It is disseminated widely and a draft policy on children without parental care is being developed. Training and awareness-raising on the legal rights of children was carried out by training stakeholders on juvenile justice. In 2010, Southern Sudan submitted a report, to the African Union Commission, on the status of the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child, which is a key instrument for the protection of the rights of children in Africa.

2.1. CHILD PROTECTION

2.1.1. Tracing and reunification of children without parental care and Reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups.

As a result of war and growing numbers of internally displaced populations (IDP), many children have been separated from their families. Children associated with armed groups, abducted or associated with these groups in any other way, are some of the most vulnerable members of the South Sudanese society. With the support of national government and international partners namely UNICEF and Save the Children. The Ministry has made a lot of efforts to put in place appropriate mechanisms for tracing and reunification of the children with their families.

In January 2009 the Ministry in collaboration with Save the Children UK conducted a workshop on tracing and reuniting IDPs children, children associated with armed groups, other formerly abducted children and their families in Juba. Following the recommendations made at the workshop, a Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) program and guidelines were developed. The Ministry, the State Ministries of Social Development and Save the Children are jointly to implement the FTR program. In 2010, 150 children released from armed groups and 879 other vulnerable children such as orphans and children on the streets benefited from reintegration assistance supported by UNICEF. In Upper Nile State, 135 children who had been arrested by police were integrated into community-based diversion schemes, while 31 boys and 3 girls in the same situation in Warrap State were also integrated. In the same year 240 children (193 boys and 47 girls) were placed in family-based or alternative care and benefited from psychosocial counselling.

In 2011, the Ministry in collaboration with the SPLA Children Protection Unit, UNMISS, and UNICEF made an effort to build sustainable mechanism for protecting children from falling victims to armed groups. A three-day workshop on protection of children associated with armed forces and other groups was held in Juba. Participants discussed the process of delisting SPLA from the list of armed forces and South Sudan from Countries recruiting children in armed conflict. Other issues discussed were the reintegration of children and the new DDR policy on children associated with armed forces and groups.

The Ministry will continue to work with partners towards ensuring that no South Sudanese children are associated with armed groups currently and in the future by setting up firm protection mechanisms, putting in place relevant laws and raising awareness in the communities.

2.1.2. Prevention of Child labor

After decades of armed conflict, many children have lost parental care and are depending on other children or themselves for their livelihoods. This makes them vulnerable to engaging in the worst forms of child labour. In order to address this problem, the Ministry has undertaken a number of initiatives to set up prevention mechanisms and to find alternative livelihoods for children at risk. In 2009, a joint MOU was signed between the MGCSW, Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Human Resource Development and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

2.1.2.1. Support Children's Rights through Education Art and Media (SCREAM)

The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and the TACKLE started in South Sudan in 2008. The objective of this ILO-supported project is to help reduce poverty and vulnerability by providing access to education and skills training for disadvantaged children and youth. It also aims to strengthen the capacity of national and local authorities in the formulation, implementation and enforcement of policies to tackle child labour. In the framework of this project, a training workshop was organized in Juba, from 16 to 20 August 2011, to introduce a SCREAM module to South Sudan. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Contribute to sharing of knowledge through SCREAM campaign against child labour
- Test and monitor the application of the activities of the new module through pilot experiences.
- Learn from the advanced and established experiences with traditional SCREAM methodology for launching the new SCREAM module in a controlled environment.
- Contribute to the finalization of the new module with suggestions arising from the experiences of Uganda.

During the training, several causes of the worst forms of child labour and suggestions for their prevention were identified and discussed. Experiences and remedies from other countries were shared. The module is useful for educational institutions, organizations and community workers in conflict-affected areas as a tool to prevent recruitment of children by armed groups. The methodology also can be used as a tool for planning within current institutional framework.

2.1.2.2. Training law enforcement agents on child labor

A workshop on the prevention of child labour for law enforcement agents was held between 26 and 27 September 2011. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness on issues of child labour among law enforcement agencies (police, prisons and judicial officers) and other stakeholders. It was organized in partnership with ILO and the Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Human Resources Development. The workshop provided an opportunity to examine the role of law enforcement agents in eliminating child labour, as well as to familiarize them with the ILO Conventions 138, 182, the UN Children's Rights Convention and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child. The workshop also examined the connection between national legislation and policies with international obligations, especially the Child Act 2008 which prohibits child labour. South Sudan legislation and the Interim Constitution were assessed to explore entry points for mainstreaming international child protection instruments into the legal framework, police, prison rules and regulations.

Participants recommended that a follow-up workshop on the elimination of the worst forms of child labour involving a broader range of stakeholders, including teachers and social workers, should be organized and that similar workshops should also be organized at States levels.

2.1.3. Repatriation of South Sudanese children without parental care from the Republic of Sudan

After the declaration of independence and the return of most South Sudanese, a number of children without parental care were left in the north. Some of these children are found in children's institutions, others live on streets while others are unaccompanied minors separated from their parents during the conflict or separated while their parents were returning to the south after the result of the referendum. Since early 2011, the Ministry has been in consultation with officials of the Sudan Ministry of Welfare and Social Security and National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) to coordinate the repatriation of these children. A joint strategy for identification, registration and repatriation was developed and an MOU signed between the two governments. The Government of South Sudan also set up a repatriation technical committee composed of Ministries of Gender, Humanitarian Affairs, Justice, Education, Health, plus the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) and Development Partners, UNICEF and Save the Children.

Consultations have taken place between MGCSW and State Ministries of Social Development to strategize on the smooth reception and integration of these children. Whenever they arrive in their respective states, appropriate social welfare support should be rendered.

2.1.4. Development of Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines for working with children without parental care

As part of preparations for receiving the children and safeguarding their welfare and safety, minimum standards and guidelines for working with children without parental care were developed. The guidelines require all organizations that implement child-friendly space and programs to:

- have a clear statement setting forth the purposes of the child-friendly spaces they operate in and the services provided for that purpose.
- ensure that these are clearly communicated through participatory consultations and discussions with the community, parents, and the children themselves.
- have a clear defined child protection policy which reflects the standards set forth by national and international laws, which provide guidance on procedures for the staff to follow when or if they discover or suspect a child has been or is being abused or neglected.
- display their child protection policy in each of the main spaces including the entrance. All parents/primary caregivers and staff should be made aware of its existence and contents.

In order to safeguard the well-being of children who will be in the transit centers, the Ministry wishes to ensure that everyone who takes part in the activities, as staff or volunteer, understands the applicable standards and ethics for people working with children and ensure that they adhere to them. These standards are designed to give guidance to all staff, social workers, counselors, police officers, care givers, and community leaders who will be working with children at interim care centers in the ten states.

2.1.5. Addressing the problem of early marriages

In 2010, the Ministry partnered with UNICEF to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the situation regarding early marriages, practice and attitudes in South Sudan, in order to provide a baseline for a strong and evidence-based policy for addressing this problem which impinges greatly on the rights of a girl-child in South Sudan.

The assessment revealed that although the Child Act 2008 stipulates the minimum age of marriage is 18 years; it is not followed or enforced in most parts of South Sudan. In some areas, particularly among the pastoralist communities, the younger the girl, the more cows will be paid for her dowry. Other reasons for early marriages include fear that the girls may get pregnant or being eloped. Early marriages also contribute to the high rates of girls dropping out of school and decrease their opportunities to improve their livelihoods.

2.2. POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

2.2.1. Dissemination of the Child Act

The Child Act 2008 provides all stakeholders with an essential legal instrument for developing appropriate policies and programmes to promote and protect children's rights and welfare. Between 2009 and 2011 the Ministry has ensured that this Act reaches as many users as possible, distributing a large number to ministries at central and States level, to CSOs and CBOs, as well as international organizations and NGOs throughout the country. It is estimated that up to 230,000 government officials and community members were reached with information about the Child Act and how they can use this framework to enhance the legal protection of children. The Ministry plans to simplify the Child Act and translate into local languages for improve access to all communities.

2.2.2. Draft Policy on Children without Parental Care

The policy on the protection and welfare of children without parental care is being developed by the Ministry. This policy seeks to practically enhance the application of provisions in national and international instruments on children's human rights, including the Interim Constitution of South Sudan and the Child Act. It also provides a basis for applying existing knowledge and experience, relating to the rights, interests, well-being and protection of children, to the development of the necessary programmes and projects.

As part of an integrated national child protection policy, it supports all efforts to keep children within, or return them to their families, where possible, or to identify and provide the most suitable forms of alternative care such as foster families, under conditions that promote the child's full and harmonious development. As a temporary measure, while efforts are being made to trace families and make other arrangements for reintegration, the government supports the establishment of at least one drop-in centre for these children in each of the 10 states. The policy is also designed to provide guidance to all concerned with child care, in both the public and private sectors, including civil society, and is to be taken into account in all policies, activities and decisions.

2.2.3. Juvenile Justice

In 2009, in collaboration with the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development and UNICEF, the Ministry commissioned a comprehensive assessment of the prevailing justice system in the country and its effect on juveniles, from the perspective of child rights. The objective of this study was to provide proper baseline for all primary stakeholders on which to base their efforts in improving juvenile justice and strengthening mechanisms for child protection. The data and

information from the survey will also provide a critical baseline for developing laws and setting up child rights protection services.

Findings from this assessment showed significant gaps in the juvenile justice system in South Sudan. It was found that there was no standard juvenile justice system across the country and that there are divergences between the law and its application. Other constraints include limited knowledge and awareness of the law, and the Child Act, even in the judicial sector. There are no special measures for juvenile justice and no separate courts or facilities for children in both statutory and customary law context. The assessment revealed that children have very little protection in law. Although the age of criminal responsibility is provided in the Criminal Code, it is not adhered to and children have no legal representation and are not accompanied by social workers. This situation is aggravated by lack of training in juvenile justice for law enforcement agents and social workers.

One major issue that needs urgent attention is that of juvenile detention. Children are being detained in the same facilities as adult criminals convicted of serious offences and may develop criminal tendencies and practice them, once released into the community. Existing laws need to be reviewed in order to address issues of juvenile justice, such as the differentiation between 'prison' and 'reformatory'. There is a big gap to be bridged between primary legislation and the practicality of applying it. The Ministry plans to follow up on the findings of this assessment by developing a juvenile justice policy and legal framework by at least the end of 2012.

2.3. CHILD WELFARE

Children have been among the greatest victims of the prolonged war and instability which have eroded the social service sector, thereby denying most children access to basic social services including education and health. Many children are living in extreme poverty and a large number without parental care. The Ministry has undertaken a number of initiatives to address some of these challenges, by working closely with the African Union's Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

In 2010, the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare commissioned the first report on the status of implementation of the Charter, to be included in the general Sudan report to the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. In addition to fulfilling the commitment to provide a report to the African committee, this report provided an opportunity for the government to take stock of what has or has not been done well in the implementation of laws related to the protection of children's rights in the country. It was an opportunity to highlight achievements and drawbacks in the implementation of the provision of the Charter.

The report concluded that the Government of Southern Sudan has the political will and commitment to protect the rights of children, as illustrated in the legislative

framework and the Child Act 2008 that is in place, including the Interim Constitution which are considered very progressive legislations for promoting the interests of children. Despite the significant progress made, some laws are not being effectively enforced and children continued to suffer lack of protection and violation of their rights. Resources for the protection of children's rights remain limited and there is limited understanding of the laws. Cultural beliefs and attitudes also constrain the application of laws and regulations for the protection of children's rights.

2.3.1. Birth registration campaign

Birth registration provides essential accurate estimates of annual births to enable states to plan for poverty reduction and social service programmes. It also ensures children's access to legal protection. The rate of birth registration in South Sudan remains very low, at an average of about 5%. There are many reasons for this low rate including the fact that many parents and guardians, especially in the rural areas, are not aware of the necessity for registering the birth of a child or where to register. Another problem is that birth registration is centralized in major regional towns which are too far and too costly for many parents to reach.

In 2010 the Ministry organized a workshop to raise awareness and strategize on how to promote birth registration in Southern Sudan in collaboration with UNICEF and Plan International. Participants included MGCSW, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education and other social service Ministries and Commissions. A Steering Committee and Technical Committee were formed to spearhead the campaign for birth registration in the country. Subsequently, a Pilot Birth registration campaign was launched by the Ministry of Health in Central Equatoria, Lakes and Upper Nile States.

2.3.2. Survey on street children in Juba

In 2009, a pilot survey on street children in Juba was carried out as a sample to determine the scope of the problem and to complement previous studies that had been conducted in other states in Southern Sudan. The purpose of the survey was to assess the magnitude of the problem and to identify possible means of returning the children to their families or finding alternative forms of care. The survey revealed that many children had come to the streets because of various reasons such as having no parents or running away from abuse and ill treatment. Juvenile children released from prisons also often return to the streets because of lack of rehabilitation programs. It was found the majority of these children were male (94%) and that at least 58% of them had been to school and had dropped out.

The survey included the need to provide more family-oriented social services, family strengthening, and providing care and rehabilitation facilities for children and social protection for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged families. It was also recommended to carry out a full-scale social survey on street children throughout the country and to establish drop-in centres as a temporary solution while encouraging the integration of these children into the extended family structure.

2.4. COORDINATION AND ADVOCACY

The Directorate co-chairs the monthly Child Protection Working Group with UNICEF. This Working Group was created so as to bring together all stakeholders involved in supporting and promoting child protection and to ensure effective coordination of activities and consolidation of efforts and resources. The working group ensures coherence in identifying child protection priorities, concerns, and developing policies as well as programmes in line with national development goals and priorities. It also provides an opportunity for developing common assessment tools, strategies and interpreting new policies.

3. DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE

The Directorate of Social Welfare has the responsibility to ensure access to social services and welfare for all the people of South Sudan in a fair and equitable manner. The directorate is committed to developing appropriate social policy and promoting its mainstreaming in all government policies and programmes. Special focus is placed on advocating and raising awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities, and mainstreaming the disability concept in government policies and programmes, in accordance with the national development vision and international obligations.

The Ministry is in the process of developing a social welfare policy to guide and streamline social protection activities in the country, while working closely with State Ministries of Social Development to identify and provide social protection to the most disadvantaged families and persons. Other key activities of the Directorate included carrying out an inventory of social welfare and child care facilities as a basis for future planning and programming. The Directorate is developing mechanisms for providing assistance and rehabilitation to the large numbers of victims of mines and others who maimed as a result of the prolonged war. It also covers activities of two important institutions run by the Ministry which provide critical assistance to persons with disabilities; the Physical Rehabilitation Reference Centre, on Yei Road, and the Rejaf Educational Centre for the Blind and Deaf.

3.1. Support to needy families and other vulnerable groups

The Directorate of Social Welfare coordinates work in the area of social work, mainly through casework to identify persons with special needs who require assistance to enable them to earn a living. The work is carried out by inspectors of social work and social workers. In the period 2009/2010 over 8,000 needy people received assistance of various kinds, including financial and counselling.

3.1.1. Mine Victims Assistance

The Directorate of Social Welfare collaborated with the United Nations Mine Action Organization (UNMAO) and the Southern Sudan Demining Authority (SSDA) to manage a programme of assistance to mine victims; the Mine Victim Assistance (VA) project.

During the period 2009-2011, there were a total of 8 victim assistance projects funded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through the United Nations Mine Action Centre (UNMAAC). Implementation is done by both national and international NGOs. Six projects focused on economic empowerment and community-based rehabilitation, while another project supports a centre for the production of mobility devices in Rumbek, Lakes State. Others projects are run by local NGOs and associations of disabled persons such as Rapid Farmers, Christian Women Empowerment Project and Equatoria State Association of Disabled Persons.

As from 2009, capacity building and refresher courses have been organized regularly for the team of victim assistance workers from the MGCSW and SSSDA staff to reinforce their capacity to coordinate existing services for mine/ victims and persons with disabilities.

Other initiatives included promoting self-reliance among persons with disabilities and organizing sports events in collaboration with states associations of persons with disabilities and States Ministries of Youth and Sports. These have included several football tournaments in Juba and Yei. Also sports activities were carried out in other parts of the country.

Figure 3.1.A wheelchair race during the celebration of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities.

3.1.2. Draft Disability Policy

Experience has shown that when persons with disabilities are accorded respect for their human rights, they can live full and productive lives and make significant contribution to national development. In this regard, in 2010, the Ministry embarked on the development of a policy on disability in order to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure that they are taken into consideration in all programmes and sectors of national development.

In preparation for the development of this disability policy, extensive research and consultations were carried out both internally and externally. Senior ministry staff, including the Director General for Administration and Finance and the D/Director for Disabilities visited neighbouring countries such as Kenya to gather information and learn from the experiences. In 2011, with support from UNMAO, a workshop was organized to formulate the disability policy. The Ministry intends to have the second consultative conference to finalize the draft disability policy in 2012.

3.1.3. Physical Rehabilitation Reference Centre

The Physical Rehabilitation Reference Centre (PRRC) on Yei Road in Juba was opened in 2009. The construction of the centre was funded by the ICRC, while the government provided land and personnel. The centre manufactures moving appliances and equipment for the physically disabled, such as artificial limbs, callipers, crutches, walking sticks, wheel chairs, artificial hands and legs. The centre also provides in-patient orthopaedic services, physical rehabilitation and psycho-social counselling.

Since its opening in 2009, there has been a lot of improvement in the management and production activities at the centre. The equipment production unit, the physiotherapy division and the maintenance teams are supported by technical experts provided by ICRC. In 2011, a wheelchair assembly workshop was added to the centre and this has greatly improved the services the centre can provide to the physically disabled. In 2011, a ramp was constructed at the entrance gate to provide easier access for persons with disability and securities for the offices have also been upgraded.

3.1.3.1. Equipment production

Tables 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 show progressive increases in the number of equipment produced and the services provided to persons with disabilities at the PRRC between 2009 and 2011. It is clear from the tables that the quantity of equipment produced and the number of beneficiaries has increased progressively. New types of equipment have also been introduced in the production workshops. Over the last 3 years services provided both to out and in-patients have improved

3.1.3.2. In-patient and referral services

The bed capacity of the dormitory for in patients at the centre has increased from 50 in 2010 to 60 2011, but it is still insufficient. A referral system for PWD has been set up with support from Handicap International to refer patients from operational locations and satellite centres such as Wau and Malakal. Field assessment trips are regularly carried out to locations with concentrated numbers of PWD for pre-selection of patients to receive service and to review the situation of minor treatments such as foot replacements which can be carried out at these centres.

Table 3.1. Number of patients and type of services provided at PRRC in 2009

Number patients receiving services	733
Number of amputees receiving services from the centre	552
Number of patients fitted with prostheses	57
Number of prostheses delivered	257
Number of prostheses delivered to mine/ERW victims (included above)	63
Number of non-amputees receiving services from the centre	181
Number of patients fitted with orthoses	45
Number of orthoses delivered	86
Number of crutches and sticks delivered	297

Table 3.2. 2010 equipment production and services

	Adults		Children > 15 years		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Number of patients receiving services	839	238	28	34	1137
Number of amputees receiving services	694	168	16	16	894
Number of patients fitted with prostheses	48	10	2	0	58
Number of prostheses delivered	176	40	7	4	227
Number of prostheses delivered to mine/ERW victims	55	16	2	1	74
Number of non-amputees receiving services	145	68	12	18	243
Number of patients fitted with orthoses	11	9	1	0	21
Number of orthoses delivered	42	18	8	5	73
Number orthoses delivered to mine/ERW victims	0	1	0	0	1
Number of crutches and sticks delivered	438	64	14	11	527
Number of wheel chairs delivered	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3.3. Yearly equipment production and patient services in 2011

	Adult		Children < 15		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Total number of patients receiving services	521	143	24	45	733
Number of amputees receiving services	427	89	7	29	552
Number of patients fitted with prostheses	43	12	0	2	57
Total number of prostheses delivered	192	51	3	11	257
Number of prostheses delivered for mine victims (included in the total number of prostheses delivered)	47	14	0	2	63
Number of non-amputees receiving services	94	54	17	16	181
Number of patients fitted with orthoses	21	13	6	5	45
Total number of orthoses delivered	45	24	10	5	84
Number of orthoses delivered for mine victims (included in the total number of orthoses delivered)	2	0	0	0	2
Total number of crutches distributed (pairs)	242	49	1	5	297
Total number of wheelchairs distributed	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of patients receiving physiotherapy	73.39	21.3	2.22	3.06	718
Number of patients receiving physiotherapy	71.25	20	2.5	6.25	80
Number of mine/ERW victims receiving physiotherapy	75	23.61	1.38	0	72

Table 3.4. Comparative rate of equipment production and services provided between 2010 and 2011.

Services	2010	2011	% increase
Number of patients receiving services from the centre	1,137	1,380	21.3
Number of amputees receiving services from the centre	894	988	10.5
Number of patients to PRRC fitted with prostheses	58	61	5.7
Number of prostheses delivered	227	303	33.4
Number of prostheses delivered to mine/ERW victims	74	90	21.6
Number of non-amputees receiving services from the centre	243	392	61.3
Number of patients fitted with orthoses	21	26	23.8
Number of orthoses delivered	73	132	80.2
Number of orthoses delivered for mine/EWR victims	1	1	0
Number of crutches and sticks delivered	527	594	12.7
Number of wheelchairs delivered	0	89	100

3.1.3.3. Wheelchair services

In 2010, a decision was taken to avail a container to serve as workshop room to assemble wheelchairs at the PRRC. The clinical aspect of this service can be carried out in the physiotherapy department. The Motivation Charitable Trust is funding the wheelchairs project for three years (2010-2012) and will provide 240 wheelchairs of seven different types each year. The programme of wheelchairs provision started at the centre in May 2011. A total of 101 wheelchairs of different types were delivered to patients between May and December 2011. All wheelchairs are fitted individually to best fit the patients' diagnosis and needs. In cooperation with

USRATUNA, Juba, a referral system was put in place to provide supportive seating systems (Moti Start and Moti Go) to children with Cerebral Palsy.

The national basketball team for persons with disabilities was provided with special fast-moving sports wheelchairs which are specifically designed to facilitate fast movement and sports activities. The sport wheelchairs are available according to demand and delivered by PRRC twice a year.

During the year 2011, the following equipment were produced and distributed to patients.

Type	Description	Quantity
WM3	Three Wheeler	27
WM4X	4 wheeler active folding	18
WM4SX	4 wheeler standard folding	4
WM4SP	Basketball	12
WMTR	Tricycle	21
WMTRCO	Tricycle clip-on	15
Moti S	Moti Start CP	0
Moti G	Moti Go CP	4
Total		101

The Ministry in partnership with ICRC hired a wheelchair technologist who works hand in hand with PRRC physiotherapists to provide this service. The demand for wheelchairs and tricycles is big and the centre is not meeting all the demand. Standard Working Procedures for wheel chair provision have been developed.

3.1.3.4. Training

Staff members of the centre received training and higher education in various institutions as follows:

2009

- 2 students were undertaking the 3-year Tanzania Training Center for Orthopaedic Technologies (TATCOT) Diploma course in Moshi, Tanzania
- 2 students were in the 3rd year of a 4-year physiotherapy degree course at the Kigali Health Institute in Rwanda.
- 3 students were undertaking a 3-year SDPO training course in Khartoum

2010

- All TATCOT and KHI students mentioned above successfully completed their courses during 2010. One technician was nominated the best overall student at TATCOT.

- Three staff members continued the 3- year SDPO/ICRC training in Khartoum and graduated in February 2011.
- Two physiotherapists attended half-time physiotherapy degree courses at St. Mary Catholic University Juba.
- 1 physiotherapist attended a Lower Limb Amputee physiotherapy treatment course for 1 month at the ICRC Special Fund for Disabled (SFD) Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

2011

- In 2011 Motivation Wheelchairs Service carried out on-job training for 2 technicians and 1 physiotherapist.
- One technologist has been sponsored by ICRC to attend Bsc degree course, another one is undertaking a 3-year diploma course, both at TATCOT in Tanzania.

In order to ensure smooth running of the new Rejaf Educational Centre for the Blind and Deaf, more staff need to be trained or upgraded.

3.1.4. Rejaf Educational Centre for the Blind and Deaf

The Rejaf Educational Centre for the Blind and Deaf is under construction and will contribute significantly to the empowerment of persons with visual and hearing impaired from all over South Sudan through education and rehabilitation services. It has demonstrated that disability does not condemn a person to inability to live a full and productive life.

Figure ... Rejaf School choir

Services provided include formal education and vocational training, teaching aids and materials, rehabilitation, placement in mainstream education systems and identifying employment opportunities for graduates from the centre. Between 2009 and 2011 significant progress has been made in the following areas.

3.2. Education Services

Basic and Senior Secondary Education

The School of Blind and Deaf in Buluk, in 2009-2010 enrolled (16) visually impaired pupils to primary school, while 32 with hearing impaired were doing alternative

education. Two deaf and 2 blind students attended Senior Secondary school in 2009 and 2010. In 2011, 16 visually impaired students were enrolled in primary schools and 3 in Senior Secondary. Twenty three with hearing impaired were also enrolled in primary school. Above students from Buluk have passed basic school leaving exams and have been admitted into secondary education. Two blind students and one deaf are now in second year University.

Integration of children in mainstream schools and rehabilitation

In 2011, sixty one (61) students were enrolled in various schools; 59 in primary schools, 1 in senior secondary, 1 in technical school. Three (3) visually impaired were trained in Brail, abacus, mobility and orientation and provided with cane for mobility facilitation. A community rehabilitation program for the elderly with visual impairment was designed and 1 person in Munuki Payam trained in education for the hearing impaired. Some materials have been donated by the Leonard Chesire Foundation, including 2 Perkin Brailleurs and paper, 2 audio calculators, an Abacus, clock faces, slates and styluses.

University Education

In 2010, 3 former Rejaf students graduated from the College of Communication and Public Relations. In 2011, more students graduated from Universities of Juba and Gezira. Four (4) visually impaired girls were admitted to Juba University, College of Community Studies and Rural Development.

In 2009 and 2011, a total of 10 former students of Rejaf graduated from Juba and Gezira universities.

3.2.1. Employment

In 2010, one Rejaf graduate was employed by the Central Equatoria State Ministry of Social Development as a social worker in one of the schools. In 2011, the Ministry of Education Science and Technology employed 5 visually impaired persons as teachers and others are now working in various institutions.

The above achievements have boosted public understanding that persons with disabilities can live productive lives, if they are provided with opportunities and support and disability is not inability.

3.2.2. Reconstruction of the Rejaf Education Centre for the Blind and Deaf

During the 21 years of war, the Rejaf centre was moved from Rejaf to Buluk where it is still operating. In the meantime the centre at Rejaf was run down and needs rehabilitation. Construction of a new building for the Centre started in 2010 and is almost complete. The new building comprises of 9 classrooms and a workshop, a library and resource centre, an administration block, kitchen and dining room, dormitories for boys and girls plus teachers' accommodation. When completed, the centre will accommodate at least 350 students from all the ten states of South Sudan.

Figure 3.2. New Rejaf Educational Centre for the Blind and Deaf

3.3. ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

The Ministry chairs monthly coordination meetings of the Victim Assistance and Disability working groups. Senior staff of the directorate also attended international conferences including the Inter-sessional Welfare Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2011. The Ministry also takes the lead in regular celebration of the International Mine Awareness Day and the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. The 6-days African Federation for Orthopaedic Technologists (FATO) Congress held in Arusha, Tanzania in 2011 was attended by the Director General for Social Welfare and PRRC Senior Orthopaedic Technologist.

4. DIRECTORATE OF PLANNING, TRAINING, RESEARCH AND

4.1.DOCUMENTATION

The Directorate of Planning, Training, Research and Documentation has the responsibility of coordinating the Ministry's planning and policy formulation in line with the national vision and priorities. All policies and programmes are developed in full consultation with stakeholders, including government institutions, and other national and international partners. During the period covered by this report, the directorate facilitated the development of the draft policies and guidelines of the Ministry. The Directorate also participated in the development of the National Pension Scheme Policy and the National Health Insurance Fund Policy.

As the directorate responsible for putting in place appropriate mechanisms for human and institutional capacity development, the directorate supervised the development and partial implementation of a comprehensive capacity development programme. The capacity development is in various areas including gender mainstreaming, management, database and the extensive training of social workers.

In order to track progress and impact of the Ministry's interventions for a more informed future planning and programming, a monitoring and evaluation policy and guidelines for the Ministry were developed. The directorate coordinated a country-wide evaluation in 2010. Research and documentation initiatives included contributions to the National Human Development Report 2009, the Second Sudan Household health survey, and pilot social survey in 2010. The Directorate also carried out a gender-disaggregated analysis of the Ministry's staff structure and made a lot of effort to upgrade the Ministry's information and communication technology services.

The publicity and Information Unit is responsible for communicating the ministry's activities, developing brochures, coordinating, monitoring multimedia and advocacy strategies and interventions. The unit handles all public relation and the Information communication Technology.

4.2.PLANNING AND POLICY FORMULATION

The Planning Unit is responsible for coordinating the planning and development of policies and strategies for the Ministry's interventions. In collaboration with other directorates, the unit oversees the development and review of policies and plans to promote integration of gender equality and social welfare components in all development programmes at national and states levels. It also enhances the capacities of States to integrate gender equality, child and social welfare variables into their plans.

4.2.1. Development of Ministry Policies and Guidelines

The policy framework for the Ministry was developed, and adopted in 2007. From 2011, the Directorate initiated a process to review and update this policy in line with the national development vision. As the leading advocate for the rights of vulnerable members of society, the Ministry signed an MOU with the Southern Sudan HIV/AIDS Commission in 2010 to collaborate in advocacy activities and to mainstream prevention and protection of people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Internally, the Ministry has adopted a workplace policy aimed at maintaining a safe, healthy and non-discriminatory work environment that does not tolerate discrimination or stigmatization of those living with or affected by HIV/ AIDS.

The Directorate also worked closely with other directorates in the development and review of several policies, and guidelines in the Ministry's area of operation, such as the development of Minimum Standards and Guidelines for the Drop-in Centers for Children without Parental Care. The Directorate represents the Ministry on various national processes such as the Country Coordinating Mechanism overseeing the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in order to ensure that these processes fully integrate gender equality, child welfare and social inclusion.

4.2.2. Draft Social Security Policy

The social security vision of the Government of South Sudan is to “attain a better life for all”. This presupposes inclusive protection from social risks, as a major component of sustainable social development. Poor South Sudanese households are particularly vulnerable to social and economic risks that undermine their social stability and well-being.

In 2009, the Ministry embarked on the development of a Social Security Policy to provide a framework and guidelines for programmes and mechanisms to address social protection issues, narrow the gaps in social security and eliminate them over time. The draft policy document addresses the following areas of coverage: pension; occupational hazard benefits; family benefits; maternity benefits and unemployment benefits. In 2011, a steering committee was formed to follow up on this process to finalize the policy and take it through the necessary legal and other approved processes.

4.2.3. National Health Insurance Fund Policy

A National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) scheme existed throughout Sudan before independence, but collapsed in most parts of Southern Sudan during the interim period. This poses a great risk, especially as medical and health services have deteriorated during the war and costs are beyond the means of the majority of

people. The Ministry has been working hard to reinstall the health insurance scheme to enable both public and private sector employees to be covered.

In 2010, the Ministry brought together, in a workshop, 6 Executive Directors of the National Health Insurance Fund from each of the States with staff of the Ministry to develop a proposal for a new national health insurance fund scheme for South Sudan. The team drew up a concept and structure for the fund, developed a draft policy and chart, as well as a draft South Sudan Health Insurance Bill. This process continued throughout 2011 and culminated in preparations for a National Health Insurance Conference to review and finalize the above documents. The policy and bill are expected to be completed by 2012.

4.2.4. National Pensions Fund policy

In 2010 the directorate represented the Ministry throughout the process of developing the National Pension Fund policy and legislation by the Ministry of Labor, Public Service and Human Resource Development. The Ministry's representative was to ensure that gender, child and social welfare dimensions were fully taken into consideration in both processes. The pension policy that was adopted addresses how pension benefits affect men, women, and other social categories differently, including the elderly and persons with disabilities. The national pension legislation also embraces gender equality. As a result, it is progressive and contains provisions that effectively address all social spectrums.

4.3. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

As a nation emerging out of decades of war, South Sudan faces considerable human resources and institutional capacity challenges. Between 2009 and 2011, efforts to strengthen the ministry's human and institutional capacity included in-house training sessions for staff and technical training in different areas relevant to the Ministry's mandate. This capacity building and institutional development process was also extended to State Ministries of Social Development, especially to Directors General, Directors, and social workers to enhance their ability to render services to the people.

4.3.1. In-house Capacity Development Program

In 2010, the Ministry commissioned the development of a comprehensive capacity building programme for the Ministry staff, together with the requisite training manuals. The programme comprised the following main components:

- Project cycle management.
- Finance and strategic planning.
- Procurement and logistics.

- Human resource management.
- Integrity and ethics.
- Gender mainstreaming.
- Child protection.

The Institutional Capacity Development programme began with pilot training programme for the Ministry's staff at the Headquarters, followed by Directors General and Directors from Ministries of Social Development, as well as Gender Focal Points from Ministries of Agriculture, Local Government and Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. Training content included the seven subjects mentioned above and a training manual was developed for each of the subjects to be used for continuous in-house capacity development. Forty five (45) senior staff members from Ministries of Social Development and the line Ministries benefited from this important training.

Figure 4.1. Participants from Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal States at the Capacity Development Training Session in Wau,

Other capacity development processes included the following: Staff of the Directorate of Gender undertook several training courses in advocacy for gender equality, GBV and VAW, mentoring and coaching, strategic planning, leadership, and management. In addition to this, in 2010, 8 senior staff members attended different training sessions in Kenya, and the PALAMA Executive Capacity Development Programme. Accounts staffs also were trained on the new pay roll preparation system by the Ministry of Public Service and Labour.

Three IT professionals attended training on database management facilitated by the National Bureau of Statistics and one Senior IT Professional attended VSAT installation training in Nairobi, Kenya. Seven Clerical Officers attended a one-week training conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Public Service, while two clerks from the Ministry were trained in basic computer applications in 2010.

4.3.2. Training on Data Base

During 2010, six members of staff were trained on Data Base system. The training served a great purpose to the Ministry because the staff members are now able to input data for analysis without difficulty. The training is essential to enable staff to collect data from beneficiaries of projects that the ministry is running.

4.3.3. Training of social workers

One of the major challenges prevailing in South Sudan is the provision of adequate and equitable social services. The prolonged war destroyed people's basic livelihoods and disrupted the foundation of social cohesion. It took a toll on many families, especially affecting children who have become victims of all forms of deprivation, exploitation and abuse. In addition to this, the country faces a serious shortage of trained counsellors and social workers who can effectively handle the delivery of services to the communities.

In an effort to tackle this challenge, in 2009, the Ministry signed an agreement with the College of Community Studies and Rural Development, University of Juba. Twelve weeks in-service training programme for social workers from the 10 States of Southern Sudan was carried out with support from UNICEF. The training aimed to promote and strengthen the competencies of the Directorates of child welfare, social welfare and gender.

The first training session took place in 2009, involved 55 social workers from State Ministries of Social Development. A follow-up training session for those social workers took place in 2010. One of the requirements of the agreement was that the Ministry of Gender, University of Juba and the UNICEF would regularly assess the relevance of the training and its impact, in terms of trainees' efficiency and effectiveness. All 55 social workers graduated and are now working in their respective states. Before that 72 social workers from all ten States had previously been trained between 2008 and 2009, in partnership with UNICEF. This brings the total of trained social workers in the States to 122. This was a remarkable boost to the Ministry's ability to accomplish its mandate in institutional capacity building of social workers.

4.4.MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The goal of Monitoring and Evaluation Unit is to safeguard transparency and accountability in the implementation of all the Ministry's programmes and projects. It is to ensure that all policies, programmes and activities are efficient, effective and meet the rights and needs of the targeted beneficiaries. The unit monitors and evaluates policies and programmes and disseminates project-related information, lessons learned and good practices. It keeps staff abreast of performance engagements and supports all directorates.

4.4.1. Monitoring and Evaluation policy for the Ministry

In 2009, the Directorate developed a draft Monitoring and Evaluation policy for the Ministry, with the following objectives:

- to enhance the capacity to monitor and evaluate results and impact of MGCSW activities.
- to provide a basis for decision-making on amendments and improvements of policies, strategies, programme management, procedures and project to promote accountability for resource use against objectives.
- to facilitate the documentation, feedback and dissemination of results and lessons learned.
- to ensure that monitoring and evaluation functions are established and operating effectively within the implementing and executing agencies, and other partners.

The policy contains standard criteria for measuring performance, results and impact. Guidelines for undertaking special evaluation studies related to the MGCSW wide interests and responsibilities were considered. These guidelines are on policies, operations, definition of system for feedback, dissemination of experiences and good practices. The policy acts as a system for evaluating timely information data to assist the Ministry in providing accurate information to the State Ministries of Social Development, Gender and other partners.

4.4.2. Evaluation Tour of the ten South Sudan States

In 2010 and 2011, the Minister of Gender, Child and Social Welfare led a delegation of staff from various directorates on a country-wide evaluation tour of the Ministry's activities and projects in all the 10 States of Southern Sudan. This was first such country wide tour by a National Minister to the States and was commended by many people.

The purpose of the tour was to engage the rural women on economic empowerment, poverty reduction and to improve coordination between the Ministry at national level and State Ministries of Social Development and Gender. The tour also provided an opportunity to engage with the community leaders, partners in the field to meet stakeholders in the women economic empowerment project as well as other Ministries' initiatives. It also enabled the Ministry to consolidate its information base so as to provide a basis for more informed future formulation of policies and programmes.

4.5. RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

The research unit supports the effective implementation of the Ministry's mandate and mission by carrying out necessary studies and surveys. It is to ensure access to relevant literature and policy documents. The unit keeps abreast of all new trends, practices and research findings of relevance to the Ministry and maintains close link

with institutions working in the same field. The documentation unit ensures the highest standard of management and storage of the Ministry's documentation. It is endeavouring to develop efficient information and archive management system.

4.5.1. National Human Development Report 2009

In 2009, the Directorate participated in the development of the Sudan National Human Development Report. The report is a useful tool for assessing the country's socio-economic and human development status. It is an instrument for planning, expanding human capabilities to the fullest and putting these competences to use in all spheres of economic, social, cultural and political development.

The report was developed as an integrated Sudan report and this was the first time the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) was able to make an input reflecting the specific situation of Southern Sudan. As the Ministry responsible for the welfare of the most vulnerable members of the society, this was an important opportunity to ensure that specific Southern Sudan human development indicators and concerns were taken into account.

4.5.2. Second Sudan Household Health Survey

Round two of the Sudan Household Health Survey was conducted throughout Sudan between March and April 2010, with the Ministry of Health as the lead. MGCSW participated fully as one of the primary stakeholders and contributed key information on issues such as domestic violence, child labour, concerns on disabilities, illiteracy, maternal and child mortality among others.

4.5.3. Pilot Social Survey

Southern Sudan emerging from war faces a lot of challenges in providing assistance to many socially vulnerable groups. Many children are on the streets and the number of disabled people requiring social assistance has increased over the years. There are many families living below poverty line, others have been affected by different changes in the environment which have destroyed their livelihoods. In order to provide the Ministry with concrete data for more effective development of appropriate responses, the Directorate of Planning, in collaboration with Directorates of Social Welfare and Child Welfare developed a questionnaire on pilot social survey in 2011. That was in preparation for a more comprehensive national social survey to cover all the 10 states of South Sudan in 2012.

4.5.4. Gender disaggregated data of the MGCSW

The Ministry is mandated to ensure the mainstreaming of gender equality principles in all government institutions, policies and programmes. Before the Ministry can

advocate for the promotion of gender equality in other government institutions, the private sector and civil society, it is imperative to examine its own internal structure for gender-responsiveness. In 2011, the directorate of Planning and research undertook a gender-disaggregated analysis of the staff in the Ministry. The following are the findings.

The total numbers of staff employed in the Ministry is 107, among whom 73 are male and 34 are female. It should be noted that the gender imbalances that exist in the staffing structure are no caused by lack of will or awareness, but often by historical imbalances in access to resources such as education and some prevailing cultural attitudes and perceptions.

Table 4.1 the Ministry’s Directorates in 2009 and 2011

Directorate	Percentage		Comments
	Male	Female	
Gender	33%	67%	The directorate is headed by the D.G. Gender and Child Welfare who is a female and has 1 Acting Director for Gender who is also female. Out of the remaining 4 staff members, two are male and two are female.
Child Welfare	0%	100%	The Director for Child Welfare is a female. The directorate has only 3 female staff. Recruitment for the 9 vacant positions is under process.
Social Welfare	82 %	18%	The directorate is headed by a male DG, and has two male D/Director. The directorate has the largest number of staff because of the two institutions under it, the PRRC and the Rejaf Educational Centre for the Blind and Deaf.
Planning, Training, Research and Documents.	80%	20%	The directorate has 10 staff, 1 male Director, 1 male A/ Deputy Director, 1 male senior IT professional. The directorate responds to the DG of Administration and Finance who is male.
Administration and Finance	37%	63%	The DG is a male, the D Finance female. The directorate has 16 staffs out which 10 are female.
Support staff: drivers, messengers, guards	76%	24%	All 12 drivers are male; all 11 messengers are female and all 10 security guards are male. The total number of support staff is 33.

4.6. INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Communication Technology Unit is responsible for maintenance and operations of the Ministry’s ICT networking system, website and personal computers. This involves installation, maintenance, troubleshooting computer hardware and software. In 2010, the IT Unit acquired important equipment intended to service computers and other equipment for proper functioning of the Ministry’s activities. The following equipments were purchased:

S/NO	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
1	Windows Vista Original	1
2	Windows XP Professional Original	1
3	File Recovery Software	1
4	Multimedia Software	1
5	Microsoft Office 2007	1
6	Microsoft Office 2003	1
7	UPS APC 450 V	10
8	Kaspersky Antivirus 10 Users	20
9	Dust Blowers – Hover	2
10	Network Tool Kit	1
11	IT Tool Kit	1
12	External Hard Disk 1 TB	5
13	Computer Cleaning Towels	10
14	Electric Extension Cable 5 m	20
15	Cable Cat 6 Roll	1
16	RJ 45	100
17	Mouse	10
18	Keyboard	10
19	Mouse pads	50
20	Computer cleaning liquid	10
21	Patch Cord 5 m	50
22	Computer Dell 760	4
23	CD blank	50
24	DVD blank	50
25	CD R/W	50
26	DVD – R/W	50
27	Flash 4 GB	2
28	Printer HP coloured 1515N	2
29	Hard Papers	5
30	External DVD (super/multi)	1

Four new computers were configured with genuine Windows 7 operating system, genuine Microsoft Office, licensed Kaspersky antivirus and Adobe Reader Acrobat and distributed as follows:

S/NO	ITEM DESCRIPTION	DIRECTORATE
1	Dell 760 and APC Smart 450V	Office of the U/S
2	Dell 760 and APC Smart 450V	Office of D/Admin & Fin
3	Dell 760 and APC Smart 450V	Religious Affairs
4	Dell 760 and APC Smart 450V	DG Social Welfare
5	Printer HP Colour 1515N	Director Planning
6	Printer HP Coloured 1515N	DG Admin & Fin

The remaining UPS were distributed to the Clerical Section, Directorate of Planning, Directorate of Gender, and Directorate of Social Welfare.

The IT Unit also services all IT equipment on a regular basis, including reformatting and installation of new software. The Unit ensures regular maintenance of all the hardware and other peripherals including printers and photocopiers.

Challenges

There was a great risk of damage to equipment because of instability in the flow of electricity in Juba Nabari and Prefab offices. Most of the equipments are old and costly to repair. The temporary prefabs offices need to be cabled with a network to provide access to internet from the VSAT installed in the GSDP Office. This will make it easier to update software, e-mail, network printers, web search and many more installations to improve the efficiency of the Ministry's operations. A VSAT is needed at the PRRC to facilitate networking at the centre. There are plans to develop Ministry ICT system, e.g. website, database, dedicated domain and social media.

5. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The Directorate of Administration and Finance is responsible for the management of the Ministry's financial, physical and human resources. It manages the Ministry's budgeting and operations and is in charge of safeguarding the welfare and benefits of all staff. During the period of reporting, the Directorate has endeavoured to establish appropriate staffing levels, promote efficient and effective utilization of the Ministry resources and assets, create a conducive and productive environment for the Ministries activities.

5.1. PLANNING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Between 2009 and 2011, the directorate undertook measures to streamline operation procedures and put in place efficient systems for processing claims from service providers and vendors in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. This included also training Directorate's staff to improve their skills in financial and operation management. This includes developing mechanisms to ensure that other directorates keep setting budget lines and refraining from unplanned capital expenditures that complicate and increase the work load of the Directorate.

The Directorate leads the preparation of the Ministry's annual and quarterly budgets, procurement plans and other operational tools. It manages all the financial transactions, including the payroll, procurement, supplies and ensures that all payments to service providers and vendors are made timely and in accordance with set government rules and regulations. The Directorate also handles disbursement of financial assistance to the needy, in collaboration with the Directorate of Social Welfare.

5.2. HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The Ministry is facing a lot of human resources challenges. All the Directorates are understaffed, placing heavy workload on the few staff. In the Directorate of Administration and finance, only 17 out of the planned 30 positions are currently filled. In the Directorate of Gender, 6 out of 12 positions are vacant, while in Child Welfare, only 3 positions are filled out of the planned 9. Seven positions out of 12 positions are vacant in the Directorate of Planning Training, Research and Documentation. Out of the total 123 classified staff, only 66 positions are filled. The directorates embarked on the recruitment process to fill the vacant positions started in 2009, it is almost completed. The reason for the long delay in the recruitment was due to lack of office space.

5.3. OPERATIONS AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

5.3.1. Construction of the Ministry Headquarters

The Directorate of Administration and Finance is responsible for overseeing construction of the MGCSW buildings. For the last 6 years since it was created, the Ministry has been facing a serious challenge of lack of office space.

In 2009, the Ministry negotiated with the World Bank to support the Ministry in Capacity Building. Brief review of the Ministry revealed that there is a need for Women Empowerment and Office Space. The response from the World Bank under Gender Support and Development Project included three components: Institutional Capacity Development, Women Economic Empowerment and Construction of the Ministry Building funded by the Multi-Donor Trust Fund in collaboration with the Government of Southern Sudan. A plot for this building has been acquired in Yei Road and the construction of the building started in November 2011 and is going on and maybe completed in 2012.

Figure 5.1. The building of the Ministry Gender, Child and Social Welfare

5.3.2. Rejaf Educational Centre for the Blind and Deaf

As reported under the Directorate of social Welfare, construction of a new building for the Rejaf Educational Centre started in 2010 is almost completed. The directorate of finance and administration handled all the logistical and operation management of this activity.

6. DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

The Ministry works in close collaboration with other institutions including Ministries and Commissions, the Judiciary and the National Legislative Assembly. The Ministry is grateful for the support and cooperation extended to the Directorates by UN Agencies, other International and National Partners. The list of partners mentioned below is by no means exhaustive.

GENDER

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN) and its predecessor, UNIFEM, has provided invaluable support and collaboration with the Ministry in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women; promoting women's effective participation in democratic governance, especially during the elections and referendum periods; create awareness on GBV and violence against women; setting up SPUs in police stations in collaboration with the Ministry; capacity building and training; and coordinating gender and women empowerment activities.

The World Bank has supported the Ministry in a number of initiatives to support gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the Adolescent Girls Initiative under BRAC.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has worked very closely with the Ministry to support efforts to achieve gender equality and ensure prevention and response to GBV, including the development of SOP for the prevention of GBV. UNFPA has also provided significant support in capacity building and training in Gender Mainstreaming for Ministry's staff, as well as staff of State Ministries of Social Development. UNFPA also supported the training of three sectors?? of GOSS Ministries in the concept of gender and the establishment of focal points in all line Ministries.

Joint Donor Team (JDT) has supported the Ministry's activities in many ways, including the assessment of the implementation of UNSCR 1325. It supported other awareness and advocacy initiatives such as the annual commemoration of the International Women's Day and the 16 days of Activism against GBV.

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) has been an invaluable partner for the Ministry and the women of South Sudan. NPA has contributed to the development of the SOP towards prevention of GBV, supports the MGC&SW in the annual celebration of the International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Activism against GBV. The NPA committed itself to construct one Women's Centre in each of the 10 States. It has completed the construction of one centre in Bor, Jonglei State.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR) supported the establishment of nine Special Protection Units at police stations in the following states; Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Western Bahar-el Ghazal, Upper Nile, Warrap and Lakes and took the lead in the GBV baseline survey. UNHCR is a key partner in many other protection areas, including child protection, VAW, GBV and protection of human rights, especially in conflict and emergency situations.

CHILD WELFARE

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has played a key role in child protection and promotion of children’s rights in South Sudan. UNICEF co-chairs with the Undersecretary the quarterly Child Protection sub-Cluster meetings. UNICEF has also supported initiatives in Juvenile Justice System and advocacy for the prevention of harmful customary beliefs and practices such as early marriages. It also supported the repatriation of Children without Parental Care from the Republic of Sudan.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) collaborates with the Ministry in protecting the rights and welfare of children, especially in tackling child labour through education and implementation of international child protection instruments.

Plan-International – has assisted the Ministry in carrying out capacity building of the staff, process of pilot project on birth registration and awareness raising in schools on the rights of the child.

Save the Children South Sudan – supported the Ministry of Gender in database management of Children without Parental Care, Family Tracing and Reunification.

War Child Holland

SOCIAL WELFARE

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)-This organization is the main partner of the Ministry in supporting persons with disabilities. ICRC helped to fund the construction and equipment of the Physical Rehabilitation Reference Centre on Yei Road. It also trained the orthopaedic technicians and physiotherapists.

The United Nations Mine Action Office (UNMAO) works in collaboration with the Directorate of Social Welfare in advocating projects which would support persons with disabilities and providing assistance for mine victims. The organization and the Ministry are currently running a joint income-generating project for mine victims and training them on effective management of projects. UNMAO and the Ministry co-chair the Mine Victim Assistance Working Group.

Juba University and St. Mary Catholic University has assisted the Ministry in training social workers and physiotherapists, both in part time and full time courses.

USRATUNA collaborates with the Ministry in the care and education of children with any form of disability and runs community-based rehabilitation activities for children with disabilities.

RSS line Ministries and State Ministries of Social Development.

The Ministry is mandated to mainstream gender equality, child welfare and social welfare in all government policies and programmes and the development of relevant

policies and laws. In order to effectively accomplish its mandate, the Ministry works closely with all the line ministries in developing gender sensitive policies and programmes and advocating for the adoption of the necessary policies. In the same regard the Ministry works with all other arms of the government including the Judiciary and Parliament, as well as law enforcement agencies.

National and International NGOs and CSOs

The Ministry collaborates with all national, international NGOs and CSOs in the accomplishment of gender equality. Their contributions to the promotion of gender equality, child welfare and equitable social welfare to the Ministry were invaluable.