

Country Brief

# South Sudan

A better quality of life for all in  
an urbanizing world



# A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL IN AN URBANIZING WORLD

We promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.



**UN-HABITAT**

# Table of Contents

02

Urban Context and Trends

04

UN Habitat in South Sudan

05

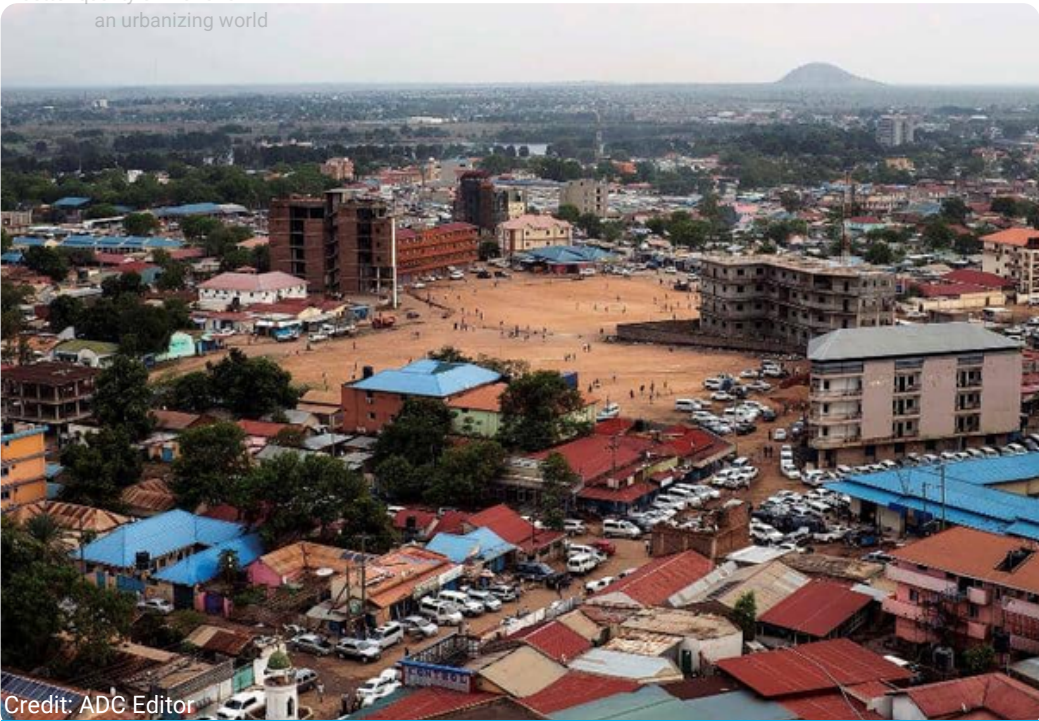
Thematic Focus

06

Our Projects

09

Achievements



Credit: ADC Editor

# URBAN CONTEXT AND TRENDS

The current population of South Sudan is 11,567,898 according to Worldometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data with 21% of them living in the urban areas. South Sudan is currently facing the worst humanitarian crisis since independence due to continued conflict and climate change. Four years of unprecedented floods have led to massive displacement and crop destruction. 9.4 million people (76%) of the population (including almost 5 million children) require humanitarian assistance in 2023.

The South Sudanese refugee population, more than 65% of whom are children, remains extremely vulnerable. Over 2.3 million refugees hosted in neighboring countries live in often precarious conditions, exacerbated by various factors such as the extreme drought and food insecurity situation in the region and the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. 90,000 South Sudanese have fled to neighboring countries since the beginning of 2022, while 87,000 returns have been recorded.

The situation at hand is worsening as many refugees are coming from Sudan to South Sudan, and the government is yet to figure out where to settle them.

Urban development is a major challenge in South Sudan due to the pace of urban growth in the face of destroyed infrastructure and services from decades of war and marginalization of the South. The development of infrastructure and amenities to support livelihoods in South Sudan has not been proportionate to the rise in urban population. At the same time, sustainable peace could foster economic growth and increased international development assistance and investment, and a chance to visualize a new development strategy founded on peaceful relations within the country and also with its neighbors.

The key urban challenges in South Sudan are:

- Displacement of people and collapse of infrastructure and basic services caused by recent armed conflict
- Inadequate policies, legal and institutional frameworks for land mediation, governance, and administration
- Lack of proper data and indicators on the state of cities as well as a sustainable urban development plan
- Housing and basic services shortage in major cities
- Lack of enabling conditions for sustainable livelihoods and urban economic development.



*Millions of people in  
South Sudan were  
displaced as a result  
of civil war*



## UN HABITAT IN SOUTH SUDAN

To address the Country's urban challenges the UN-Habitat Country Office for South Sudan proposes five priorities "The urban sector should be regarded as a social economic entity with many sub-systems that are interlinked and work together to consolidate peace and stimulate economic growth that results in inclusive, resilient and livable cities and towns." areas of intervention with the overall objective to build peace and stimulate economic growth through sustainable urban development in post-conflict South Sudan. The priority areas and their intended results are:

1. Re-settlement, reintegration of IDPs and returnees, and building their resilience: The anticipated outcome is IDPs, returnees, and the host communities living peacefully together and accessing basic services. Enhancing the resilience of communities and strengthening social services for the most vulnerable.
2. Land mediation, land governance, and land administration: The anticipated outcome is to have land mediation and secure land tenure supporting peaceful co-existence and development in line with strengthening peace and governance.

# Our Thematic Focus

We contribute to the achievement of sustainable urban development in South Sudan through the following areas:

## Urban planning and management

We work with the government and other partners to develop and implement urban planning and management programmes. This includes promoting participatory planning processes and consultative workshops.

## Access to basic services

We support the provision of basic services such as water, sanitation, and energy in urban areas in South Sudan, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized populations.

## Housing and slum upgrading

UN-Habitat works to improve access to adequate housing for all, including the urban poor and vulnerable populations in slums and informal settlements as well as issues related to Land.

## Capacity building, institutional strengthening, and Legislation

We provide technical assistance and capacity building support to national and local institutions to strengthen their capacity to plan, manage and govern urban development.



# About Our Projects



## COVID-19 RESPONSE IN POOR URBAN AREAS OF JUBA CITY IN SOUTH SUDAN.

**Donor:** SIDA

**Project Duration:** 6 Months

**Project Value:** USD 220,000

**Location:** Juba

**Partners:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Juba Municipality, Voice for Change (VFC)

The main objective of this project was to contribute to knowledge and improvement of public health through solid waste management and provision of WASH in selected markets and poor urban areas of Juba to control the transmission of COVID-19 and other diseases like cholera.

The project is in line with the UN-Habitat Result Framework for COVID-19 Response. Activities are tailored to Response Area 1 of the Result Framework: 'Support local governments and community-driven solutions in informal settlements' – including other thematic entry-points in urban areas - and Response Area 2: 'Incremental profiling of urban contexts: urban data, mapping and knowledge for informed decision making'.

The project component includes:

- Clean up campaigns
- Installation of Hand wash facilities
- Community Capacity Building
- Profiling of Juba City



## ENHANCING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO LAND TO CONSOLIDATE PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

**Donor:** United Nations Peace Building Fund (PBF).

**Project Duration:** 2018-2020

**Project Value:** 1,500,000 USD

**Location:** Western Bha-El-Gazal State Wau town

**Partners:** FAO

The Project aimed to contribute to consolidating peace and conflict prevention through the promotion of women's land rights at the state and community level and support traditional authorities and leaders (female and male) to enhance skills and knowledge on gender responsive land dispute resolution/mediation.

The project was aimed to also improve land management and administrative systems at the state and county levels.



# About Our Projects



## JUBA STRATEGIC PLAN

**Donor:** Booyoung Funds

**Project Duration:** Ongoing

**Project Value:** \$100,000.

**Location:** Juba

**Partners:**

The main objective of a Strategic Plan is to support the local governments to clearly understand the main constraints and strengths of their city's context. Establish a prioritization of these challenges and opportunities to facilitate the decision-making process regarding potential urban development interventions and capital investments. To support this task, a set of multi-scalar and multi-dimensional maps are elaborated to build the narrative and establish a comprehensive vision of the city's current situation in a larger frame. The process is rooted in an evidence-based approach, building upon both, primary and secondary data collection and analysis.

Juba Strategic Plan aims to anticipate and guide sustainable urban development for the future city's expansion over the next years. The plan was presented to the Municipality and Ministry of Lands on February 2023 and it is currently under revision.

# JUBA

## Strategic Plan



# Anticipated Concept Projects

- The urban profiling which is aim at taking services close to the returnees from the IDP camps and refugee camps.
- The waste management which is upscaling from the COVID-19 response in poor urban areas in Juba city that aims at mounting containers for garbage collection in the busy areas of the city.



Clean-up in Munuki

# Our Achievements

- Development of Juba City profile
- A Total of 30 People were trained on the COVID 19 pandemic
- Conducted Clean up that collected more than 160 Tonnes of waste from Markets and Main road in Gudele region and installed 20 Hand wash facilities during the COVID 19 period
- 200 women headed Households were enhanced with access to land by obtaining land occupancy certificates
- Through participatory planning and land allocation 1000 women headed households received access to land, many of the women were from IDPs and refugee returnees.







## Contact Us

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**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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