

Context

South Sudan remains one of the most severe protection crises in the world with official records indicating that about 7,000 to 19,000 minors remained in combat roles in 2020. In some communities in South Sudan, children as early as 10 years old are initiated into activities using guns to acquire skills needed to defend their communities.

While some children reported to have voluntarily joined armed forces and groups, the reasons behind this are complicated and are linked to difficult circumstances. These include a lack of livelihoods, lack of parental care and support, and lack of security and protection in the community. Girls remain vulnerable and are at a high risk of being linked with armed groups because of entrenched power imbalances and gender inequality. This normalizes girls being seen as resources within the community.

In February 2020, the Government of South Sudan signed the Comprehensive Action Plan to End Grave Violations Against Children, but lack of funding and technical expertise to resource the action plans has hindered the process.

Project Location	Akobo and Bor South counties in Jonglei State; Greater Pibor Administrative Area
Donor	Gobal Affairs Canada, Peace and Stablization Operations Program
Budget	\$2,000,000 CAD
Duration	March 2022- August 2023

Objectives

Through this project, Danish Refugee (DRC) Council together with War Child Holland (WCH) and Community Initiative for Development Organisation (CIDO) aims to achieve increased protection for boys and girls affected by, and associated with armed forces and groups in Bor, Akobo, and Pibor by;

- Enhancing the protective environment by community-based child protection structures to reduce children’s exposure to harmful practices including SGBV, to prevent recruitment and support reintegration.
- Strengthening women and youth inclusion, representation and participation in decisionmaking regarding protection and peacebuilding.
- Supporting increased progress by the South Sudan Government on county and state-level implementation of the Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) to address the recruitment of boys and girls



A participant during a focus group discussion shows off a conflict tree in Dengjock payam of Akobo County



A group of women attending a focus group discussion on links between conflict dynamics and child recruitment in Nyandit Payam of Akobo County.



Pupils in Hai-Lagachot primary school attend a session on putting school first and ending early child marriages.

Achievements

Between March 2022 and April 2023, DRC and implementing partners have managed to

- Provide case management and Mental Health/ Psychosocial support services to 3598 children.
- Provide training on GBV concepts to 24 child protection case management service providers
- Provide training on core child protection concepts to 100 members of community-based child protection networks.
- Facilitate 7 community forums on women’s role in peace(building).
- Provide trainings and start-up kits for alternative livelihoods training to 260 caregivers and 200 adolescent youth.
- Support local authorities in the development of 2 county-level Comprehensive Action Plans.
- Trained 143 individuals from local authorities and other relevant stakeholders on child protection Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms.

Implementing Partners

