



Government of South Sudan Pledges Global Refugee Forum



Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in Action THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



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South Sudan GRF 2023 Revised and New Pledges

BACKGROUND:

The government of the Republic of South Sudan in 2019 made five (5) pledges, to enhance services to refugees and host communities in the country and foster conditions for returns. Such commitments were made in the areas of Education, Jobs and livelihoods, Environment, Solutions, and statelessness. In preparation for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF), the government of South Sudan completed a stocktaking exercise of its previous commitments, achievements and challenges. In view of the Global Refugee Forum in December 2023, the government further strengthen its pledges in existing and new areas The processes were led by the National Technical Committee on Durable Solutions (NTC), an entity in charge of Durable Solutions and GRF coordination in the country, co-led by the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) and Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) both in charge of Refugees and Stateless, Returnees and IDPs respectively with support from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

The GRF pledges are in line with the country's vision, commitment, and strategic focus to include refugees and other forcibly displaced populations and stateless persons in national systems, planning, and services through participatory and area-based approaches. These pledges are drawn from and embedded in the overarching frameworks of the Government such as:

- **The Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCISS):** addressing root causes of displacement is an integral part of Chapter III, and other provisions of Chapter IV, V, and VI covers the need for inclusive participation and engagement of the displaced population as well as inclusion in economic planning.
- **Revised National Development Strategy (R-NDS) 2021 - 2024:** The country's strategic document which sets the goals and objectives to achieve the R-ARCISS with an overall aim to **consolidate peace** and **stabilize the economy** through key development and peacebuilding milestones.
- **National Durable Solution Strategy (NDSS) 2023:** The main strategy approved by the government in October 2023 alongside the R-NDS will cater to the specific challenges of the displaced population. It advances Chapter III, GRF Pledges and SDGs.
- **The IDP Protection Bill** is a work in progress pending final approvals and enactment.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The country is advancing the 2030 Agenda through (R-NDS, NDSS, UNSDCF, and GRF Pledges. . .

SOUTH SUDAN GRF PLEDGES -2023

The pledges for the GRF in 2023 express the commitment of the Government to the objectives of the Global Compact for Refugees. The country maintains an open-door policy for refugees and is working towards creating peace and stability for future returns of South Sudan.

1. Solutions and Peace building



The National Durable Solutions Strategy (NDSS), Peace Agreement (R-ARCISS), and the National Strategy (R-NDS) all prioritize finding durable solutions not only to displacement but also by creating a conducive environment suitable for returns,. Ministries of Peace building, Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (including RRC), Land Housing and Urban Development, and the Interior (including Refugee Affairs) work together to achieve sustainable peace, pursue protection and durable solutions, and enhance build a conducive environment for the returnees and foster integration amongst IDPs, refugees and stateless persons and local communities where basic services and economic empowerment opportunities are equitably accessed by all.

Pledge 1 Text:

The Government of South Sudan commits by 2027 to Creating enabling conditions for sustainable returns of South Sudanese, enhancing peace building, and provision of basic services through inclusive re/integration and participation of refugees, returnees, IDPs, and host communities, removing access to justice barriers for women and other vulnerable groups through:

- a. Roll-out of the National Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action 2023 by 2024, capacitating the local governments, engaging the private sector and development actors, and building the resilience capacities of refugees, returnees, IDPs, and host communities.
- a. Improving **inclusive housing, land, and property rights and governance policies by 2027-** through capacity sharing with formal and customary land administration structures to strengthen inclusive local dispute resolution mechanisms, land restitution, and establishing the Reconstruction Fund with an underpinned by equitable support to returnees and host communities.
- b. **Enhancing the integrated refugee-host settlements planning in refugee-hosting areas, building on peaceful coexistence, and resilient capacities among the refugees and hosting communities by 2027**–This includes but is not limited to conducting assessments to identify risks (such as protection, environmental, or security, etc.) through community engagement/participation and taking proactive measures/activities to strengthen local resilience capacities.
- c. Creating an **enabling environment** for sustainable integration of the displaced population through improved, equitable, and safe access to basic services including comprehensive health, education, and economic opportunities by 2027.
- d. Enhancing **Reconciliation and Peace building Activities by 2027**–by reinforcing efforts to implement national and local, formal peace building and reconciliation mechanisms for truth-seeking, accountability, and reparations for past and ongoing human rights breaches. This includes specific measures to enhance the safety and ensure the inclusion of victims of internal displacement, refugees, and refugee returnees.
- e. Improving **access to justice and the rule of law by 2027-** Strengthen formal and customary justice mechanisms at state, county, and/or local levels, including traditional



dispute resolution mechanisms, and mobile courts possible, to expand effective access to justice for refugees, refugee returnees and other forcibly displaced and host communities.

- f. Enhancing **youth engagement** through **peace building and alternative conflict resolution mechanisms** as change agents to achieve **sustainable peace by 2027**. Support youth to participate in community-led initiatives including community organization, civil society engagement, empowering community leadership on early warning, conflict management, resolution, and mitigation and awareness raising on critical issues affecting communities such as inter communal violence, cattle raiding, GBV, abductions and exclusion.

2. Education

South Sudan has developed a comprehensive education policy in line with other national policies, and regional declarations such as the Djibouti Declaration on Education, and in its 2019 GRF pledge committed to enhance education access to the refugees and strengthening the education management system including promoting psychological wellbeing of the children and enhancing the enrollment to reduce the out-of-school children among the refugees and hosting communities. The pledge has been reformulated with additional outputs to enhance the delivery and contribute to the integration of refugees into the national system effectively by 2027.

Pledge 2 Text:

The Government of South Sudan pledges to increase access to inclusive quality education for refugees and host communities, enhance access to tertiary education, and reduce the out-of-school children rate by 2027 through.

- a. Improving 300 school infrastructure (construction or rehabilitation)
- b. **Training 1400 teachers** in refugee-hosting areas, leading to certification and promoting the psycho-social well-being of students and teachers.
- c. Strengthening the Education Management Information System (EMIS) to include refugee data in the national system.
- d. Ensuring enrollment of 700 refugee students to national universities including through scholarships and or subsidized fees.
- e. Increasing access to digital learning through technological access to refugees and host communities.
- f. Improving the availability of **educational materials** including printing and dissemination of education materials and textbooks to all schools.

3. Jobs and Livelihoods

The Country has a favorable policy (enshrined in the Refugee Act 2012) for refugees to move and work anywhere, albeit its impracticality in some circumstances but contributes to the country's open-door policy in receiving refugees which allows refugees to seek productive opportunities for their livelihoods such as small businesses and agricultural production among others. Both agriculture and businesses are the backbone of refugee livelihoods in the country as well as returnees, IDPs, and local communities. The country has a policy of enhancing integration



and developing its agriculture sector to improve food security to which the refugees would benefit as well as the local communities. The initial pledge on this has been reformulated with additional outputs to capture the new policies and also the areas to improve policy-wise.

Pledge 3 Text:

The Government of South Sudan pledges to expand economic opportunities and equitable economic development in refugee-hosting areas through refugee-friendly policies and empowerment/social protection schemes by 2027 through:

- a. Enabling to certified market-driven vocational skills training for **10,000** refugees and host community (at a 50/50 ratio) **youth**.
- b. Including refugees in the Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP) and agricultural TVET development initiatives.
- c. Expanding access to **arable land for refugees** from 15,000 to 50,000 acres and promote the use of improved and **climate-smart agriculture techniques**.
- d. Ensuring refugee inclusion in **financial services and access other wide range of services** by removing policy barriers that may exist especially on recognition of **refugees' identifications**.
- e. Enhancing **connectivity solutions and digital skills** development for refugees.
- f. Providing a conducive environment for private-sector development and employment generation for refugees, returnees, and host communities and create robust **market linkages** by promoting agricultural **value chain development**.
- g. Enabling job opportunities through agricultural value addition and facilitate the establishment and growth of agricultural cooperatives/VSLAs/RPOs/APGs/MSEs that bring together both refugees and host community members.

4. Climate/Environment

Environmental Protection and climate response are among the major focus of the government of South Sudan spearheaded by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the Early Warning Plans among key policies underway create a pathway to developing a robust system of climate and environmental protection and response, achieving greening solutions in the country. The government has improved on the initial pledge to include the climate pledge and enhance the planning and response in the sector with support from partners as below.

Pledge 4Text:

The government of South Sudan pledges to enable access to sustainable and green energy solutions for refugees and host communities and strengthen the climate resilience of refugees' host communities, and other displaced persons by 2027 through:

- By 2025, enhancing the **inclusion** of refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless people, and their hosts in **early warning systems** including through:
 - a) Systematic Data collection and risk assessments to identify climatic hazards and vulnerabilities.
 - b) Building national and community response capabilities to prepare and react to early warnings and climatic conditions.



- c) Developing hazard monitoring and early warning services covering displacement settings.
- d) Communicating risk information and early warnings in a way that is clear, usable, and accessible for forcibly displaced, stateless, and host communities.
- By 2027, **promoting environmental protection and rehabilitation** in refugee hosting areas through **agroforestry** and **afforestation (including planting 100 million trees)** in line with national policies.
- By 2027, **Creating access to and promote sustainable and green energy solutions** for refugee and host community households with access to improved cooking technologies, renewable energy, and cooking fuels.

5. Statelessness:

South Sudan has started the accession process for the 1954 and 1961 conventions as part of integrating international policies into its national laws and aligning the national legislation with the international and regional policies. One of the key policy documents is the National Action Plan on the Eradication of Statelessness where the government commits to actualize and robustly roll out registration for its nationals, issuing needed documentations per the nationality and Civil Registry Acts among others. The country pledges to speed up the process of accession initially which is in the pipeline.

Pledge 5 Text:

The Government of South Sudan pledges by 2027 to adopt into its national laws, policies, and operational practices, all international standards relevant to the prevention of statelessness, through:

- By 2024, acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- By 2025, through legislative amendments, include specific provisions on the prevention of statelessness and protection of stateless people in national legislation, and review/amend the nationality legislation to ensure **full compliance with the 1954 & 1961 Conventions**.
- By 2026, completing the Civil Registry Legal/Policy framework, and finalize the establishment of a **comprehensive Civil Registry and Vital Statistics (CRVS)** system, ensuring access to birth registration and other vital events.
- By 2027, improving and accelerate **access to nationality documentation** services for persons at risk of statelessness.
- By 2027, ensuring adequate funding and resources to the Directorate of Civil Registry, Nationality, Passport and Immigration (DCRNPI) in the state budget to enable DCRNPI structures to effectively implement nationality legislation and related procedures in the country.



6. Protection capacity- Strengthening Asylum System and Documentation:

South Sudan has an open-door policy to the refugees in the region. Support for the asylum system is needed to improve documentation at all levels of the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) and the Eligibility Board among others. The government recognizes the need to improve its asylum system and protection capacity to enhance efficient service delivery to the refugees and management system. The government has made this new pledge to include but not limited to the overall protection capacity and asylum system strengthening but equally improving on the documentation for the refugees to effectively translate the freedoms granted to the refugees by the Refugee Act 2012.

Pledge 6 Text:

The Government of South Sudan pledges by 2027 to strengthen the capacity of South Sudan's National Asylum Processes through:

- By 2024, fully **operationalizing the Appeal Process** (Refugee Appeals Board) as provided in the Refugee Act and Regulations.
- By 2025, promoting the **consistent accessibility of the national asylum procedures** through coordination with the Directorate of Civil Registry, Nationality, Passport and Immigration (DCRNPI) and relevant Law Enforcement agencies to build the capacity of border/immigration officials and infrastructural interventions.
- By 2025, developing **interoperability between asylum case management systems and refugee identity card processing systems** to enhance the efficiency of document issuance, including the introduction of biometric refugee IDs and **Machine-Readable Conventional Travel Documents (MR-CTD)**.
- By 2025, increasing the funding of the CRA through the national budget, review the human resources policy, and develop a government **'scheme of service' for the CRA's effectiveness and efficiency**.
- By 2026, implementing **digital solutions** in the asylum procedures for reception, identification, registration, and scheduling to allow for more efficient case management and to address the backlog through data gathering to support the triaging and tracking of asylum claims.
- By 2026, initiating the production of data on Displaced and Stateless Persons through its **National Statistical Systems** (surveys, census, etc.) to be used in national planning and inclusion in service provision by the government and stakeholders as part of multistakeholder pledge on statistical inclusion.

