

United Nations Development Programme



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31 October 2019

Your Excellency,

Subject: Submission of the final report for the project "Facilitating Grassroots Peace Initiative Conducive to an Inclusive and Credible National Dialogue Process".

Reference is made to the Government of Japan's contribution to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the 2018 Japan Supplementary Budget towards the project "Facilitating Grassroots Peace Initiative Conducive to an Inclusive and Credible National Dialogue Process" No. 000102663.

Further to Article 4 of the UNDP Partnership Fund Policies and Procedures, we are pleased to share with you the final narrative report for the abovementioned project. The report summarizes project progress for the period 23 March 2018 to 31 July 2019 and provide an overview of the achievements, challenges, lessons learned and interim financial status.

We greatly appreciate the support of the Government of Japan to UNDP South Sudan and look forward to continuing a fruitful partnership.

Sincerely,

Kamil Kamaluddeen
Resident Representative
UNDP South Sudan



Attached: Final narrative and provisional financial report for Facilitating Grassroots Peace Initiative Conducive to an Inclusive and Credible National Dialogue Progress.

Ambassador Seiji Okada

Embassy of Japan

Juba South Sudan

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Empowered lives.
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Facilitating Grassroots Peace Initiative Conducive to an Inclusive and Credible National Dialogue Process

Project Number: 000102663

Final Narrative Report

23 March 2018 to 31 July 2019

Prepared for the Government of Japan

October 2019



The National Dialogue Steering Committee chair shares a light moment during the official opening of the Greater Upper Nile Regional Conference in Juba City on 20 May 2019



From
the People of Japan



**Project
Summary**

Country: South Sudan

Project Budget: US\$600,000

Provisional expenditure: US\$595,298.01

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Responsible Parties: South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission, and Civil Society Organizations



Students entertain delegates of the Greater Upper Nile Regional Conference, Juba City, 20 May 2019.

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Acronyms

ARCSS	Agreement Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DDR	Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration
FDs	Former Detainees
GREDA	Grassroots Relief and Development Agency
NCF	National Consensus Force
ND	National Dialogue
NDSC	National Dialogue Steering Committee
R-ARCSS	Revitalized Agreement on Resolution for Conflict in South Sudan
SPLM	Sudan People's Liberation movement
SSOA	South Sudan Opposition Alliance
SSR	Security Sector Reform
SPLO-IO	Sudan People Liberation Organization in Opposition
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Executive Summary

In December 2016, President Salva Kiir called for a new National Dialogue (ND) to; end all forms of violence; redefine and establish stronger national unity; strengthen social contract between state and citizen; address issues of diversity; agree on a mechanism for allocating and sharing resources; settle historical community conflict; set the stage for an inclusive development strategy and economic recovery; prepare the terrain for elections in 2018; define a modality for safe return of IDPs; and promote further reconciliation and healing. On 19 December 2016, the President issued a Republican decree establishing a National Dialogue Steering Committee (NDSC) comprising of 42 representatives.

The ND process presents an opportunity to set the country on the path to sustained peace and development. Funded by the Government of Japan and informed by the UN Joint Position on the National Dialogue, the “Facilitating Grassroots Peace Initiative Conducive to an Inclusive and Credible National Dialogue Process” project aims to facilitate an inclusive, credible, transparent, and accountable implementation of the ND process. Signatories to the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) have committed to support the ND process as there is growing consensus that the ND process and R-ARCSS are complementary. In this regard, it is important to ensure and sustain achievements of the ND process to increase trust levels amongst signatory to the agreement and facilitate its implementation.

The ND process has provided a country-wide opportunity for citizen voice and engagement, thanks to Japan’s support. Since its inception in December 2016, the ND has engaged more South Sudanese than any post-independence peace process. The conversations and emerging recommendations from the regional consultations are far reaching and represent the views of the ordinary citizens of South Sudan. Below is a summary of key project achievements:

Key achievements:

- **Promoted inclusiveness of the ND process:** Six political parties (Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM), South Sudan Opposition Alliance (SSOA), National Alliance, National Agenda, Former Detainees (FDs), and Other Opposition Parties) participated in the ND process, thanks to UNDP’s support. The opposition participated in the Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile regions conferences which were attended by more than 700 delegates.
- **Increased access to real-time information on the ND process** through the project-established [website](#) and other social media platforms. Over 47,000 people actively follow and engage in the ND process through the website, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.
- **Increased voice and participation of citizens** without fear of persecution. There have not been reports of imprisonment of citizens due to their involvement and comments during the regional conferences.

- **Produced four technical notes** on economic, governance, social cohesion and security context and **two background documents** a) Reflections on the National Dialogue and b) The people have spoken which have contributed to, and shaped discussions on the ND process.
- **Strengthened local conflict management mechanisms** in Yei county following training of 57 peace committees' members in transformational leadership, conflict management and women peace and security.
- **Promoted youth engagement in peacebuilding** by enabling over 600 youth to participate in social cohesion activities like sports, theatre and community work, such as cleaning the street of a local town in Nimule.
- **Reduced resource-based conflicts through the provision of community-prioritised assets.** For instance, a borehole provided by the project in Aweil is providing water for humans and livestock along cattle migration routes, thus reducing conflicts over water.

Challenges:

- The timelines for the ND process have been affected by the political context. The delayed formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) has resulted in postponement of the national ND and related processes until the the R-TGoNU.

Lessons learned:

- Progress on the political front incentivizes inclusion and participation of parties in the ND process. The signing and implementation of the R-ARCSS accelerated opposition's commitment to participate in the ND.
- Engaging the youth at grassroot level in social and peacebuilding activities is transformational, as the youth become agents of peace instead of perpetrators of violence.
- Peace committees are instrumental in managing local level tensions and disputes which, if not addressed can trigger communal violence.

Budget:

The total project budget is US\$600,000 and the total expenditure was US\$ 595,298.01 representing 99.22% delivery.

1. Project Background

The Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) signed in September 2018 brought hope of setting South Sudan on the path towards peace and development. However, South Sudan remains highly fragile and the risks of relapsing into conflict are present and persistent. Whilst the ceasefire is holding, overall progress on implementation of the peace agreement has been slow and there is a risk that the positive momentum is stalling, and frustration is creeping in.

The National Dialogue (ND) was conceived as a homegrown initiative to resolve the political crisis in South Sudan following the stalled 2015 ARCSS. Cognizant of its potential the Government and Japan and UNDP committed to support the initiative. The “Facilitating Grassroots Peace Initiative Conducive to an Inclusive and Credible National Dialogue Process” project seeks to build on the results of the initial support to facilitate inclusive participation in a transparent national conference and ensure that the process is consistent with the operating principles and benchmarks outlined in the UN Joint Position paper, and the outcomes are aligned to the R-ARCSS.

2. Project Achievements and Results

2.1 Project Results

Project Output 1: Stakeholder engagement and participation in the National Dialogue Conference increased.

Summary achievement against project output target

Output Indicator	Indicator Target	Summary achievement
1.1 No. of participants in the National Dialogue Conference (disaggregated by sex, age, political affiliation, ethnicity).	900	The national ND conference was postponed ¹ . However, 700 delegates participated in Bahr el Ghazal - Wau (300) and Upper Nile - Juba (400) regional consultations. participating in the ND.
1.2 No. of people with access to proceedings and deliberations of the National dialogue conference.	2,000	The national conference has not taken place. However, over 47,000 people are actively following and engaging the ND process through its various social media platforms (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and website)
1.3 No of reports of the National Dialogue Conference publicity available and accessible.	5	Four thematic notes and two background documents were prepared to inform the ND process. 13 reports were published by end of February 2019.
1.4 No. of political oppositions, armed opposition and former detainees who participated in the National Dialogue Conference.	3	Six political parties (SPLM, SSOA, National Alliance, National Agenda, FDs and OPPs) are now participating in the ND process.
Overall status		

¹ After consultation between the Embassy of Japan, National Dialogue Leadership and UNDP, this activity was reprogrammed.

Description of results:

Indicator 1.1: 900 participants in the National Dialogue Conference (disaggregates by sex, age, political affiliation, ethnicity). [Baseline: 0]

The national conference has not been convened to allow time for the participation of opposition and formation of the Transitional Government of Nation Unity (TGoNU). Two regional conferences were held: a) Greater Bahr el Ghazal conference held in Wau and attended by 300 delegates (30% women) from 23 counties of the four former states of Bahr el Ghazal Region, including Abyei; b) Greater Upper Nile convened in Juba due to insecurity in Malakal. More than 400 delegates (30% women) from 33 counties of the three former states of Upper Nile Region, and the former Pibor Administrative Area participated in the conference.



A section of the delegates attending the Greater Upper Nile Regional Conference in Juba on 20 May 2019. Photo@NDSC

Key recommendations from the conferences were:

- Presidential powers over the states should be limited;
- The president should have a maximum of two consecutive five-year term limits;
- 2010 elections should be recognized as the first term for the incumbent and the next election be the second term.

Indicator 1.2: 2,000 people with access to proceedings and deliberations of the National dialogue conference. [Baseline: 0]

Over 47,000 people actively follow and engage the ND process through its various social media platforms (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and website). The establishment of [the website](#), as a transparency and accountability tool, has improved transparency of the ND process as documents and proceedings are in the public domain. The website provided a platform for the opposition groups to contact the leadership of the national dialogue steering committee (NDSC) regarding their participation in the ND process.

Indicator 1.3: Five reports of the National Dialogue Conference publicity available and accessible. [Baseline: 0]

Thirteen reports of the local consultations were published on the [ND website](#). In addition, media coverage and reporting on the ND has improved and, in the process, protected the

integrity of the process as the sharing of real time information has reduced the probability of reports being censored and edited.

Indicator 1.4: Three political oppositions, armed opposition and former detainees participate in the National Dialogue Conference (Baseline:0).

Six opposition political parties (SPLM-IO, SSOA, National Alliance, National Agenda, FDs and OPPs) are participating in the ND process. This participation is the outcome of sustained advocacy and negotiations facilitated by the project. Three meetings facilitated by UNDP and UNMISS between the opposition parties' umbrella organization known as the National Consensus Forces (NCF) and ND Steering Committee (NDSC) secured the participation of the latter in the ND process. At the last meeting, a 16-member committee (2 members from each of the 8 political parties) was established to reach consensus on the opposition's participation in leadership of the ND, consultations in areas held by opposition and timelines of the ND process.

The NDSC continue to call for the release of political detainees, and freedom of speech as ingredients for creation of a conducive environment for participation in ND process.² As a result, 71 political prisoners (including the former Governor and Deputy Governor of Wa) were released as a gesture to building trust in the ND and R-ARCSS.

Project Output 2: Outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference implemented

Summary achievement against project output target

Output Indicator	Indicator Target	Summary achievement	Status:
2.1 A documentation and archiving mechanism in place	Yes	Documentation and archiving systems are in place - website, camera, and printer	Accomplished
2.2 No. of services provided, and policy support provided by UNDP to the ND process	55	55 services, including both technical and policy advisory services were provided to the ND process.	Accomplished
2.3 No. of people at the local communities who are aware of the outcome of the ND conference.	3,000	The national ND conference did not take place. However, more than 47,000 people have been reached with information on regional ND conferences.	Partially Accomplished
Overall status			Accomplished

Description of Results:

Indicator 2.1: Documentation and archiving mechanism in place. [Baseline: 0]

The archiving, documentation and dissemination system of the National Dialogue Secretariat has markedly improved and in the process access to information on the ND has improved,

² [South Sudan Announces Release of 'Prisoners of War and Detainees'](#)

thanks to UNDP's support. Most of the ND process documents are available online and delegates are provided with working documents in a timely manner. Support for strengthening the archiving system included: development of a website as a repository of information, video camera to capture and protect the integrity of the proceedings and engagement of a web manager/editor.

Indicator 2.2: Fifty-five services provided, and policy support provided by UNDP to the National Dialogue process (regional conference, National conference and implementation phase). [Baseline:15]

Fifty-five logistical, technical and policy advisory services were provided to the ND leadership, NDSC and secretariat, bringing the cumulative total to 70. This support enabled the development of four thematic papers on social cohesion, economic development, governance and security and two background papers (Reflection on the ND and The people have spoken) that are shaping discussions at the regional conferences. UNDP also provided technical support to the NDSC in strengthening the complementarities between the ND and the R-ARCSS; developing the methodology and agenda of the regional and national conferences; facilitating regional conferences and developing concept notes to guide the engagement with opposition and traditional chiefs.

Indicator 2.3: 3,000 people at the local communities are aware of the outcome of the ND conference. [Baseline: 0]

Community awareness on outcomes of the ND is pending convening of the national ND conference, planned for early December 2019. However, more than 47,000 have been reached with information on community consultations and regional conferences through ND's media platforms.

Project Output 3: Local and traditional mechanisms to support grassroots implementation of the National Dialogue outcomes strengthened.

Summary achievement against project output target

Output Indicator	Indicator Target	Summary achievement	Status:
3.1 No. of people benefiting from community interdependency initiatives	1,500	Over 3,000 youth in Nimule and 100 women in Pibor and Kapoeta are benefiting from social and economic interdependencies.	Accomplished
3.2 No. of local and traditional leaders, community mediators/ peace committee members trained on dialogue, mediation and peaceful settlement of disputes	40	67 peace committee members were trained in transformational leadership, peace building and women peace and security issues in Yei River state.	Accomplished
3.3 No. of youth/women who facilitated implementation of the outcomes of the National Dialogue	200	600 people were engaged in community sensitization activities on the regional ND and peace process.	Accomplished
3.4 No. of community interdependency projects undertaken to promote social cohesion.	4	Two solar powered boreholes were drilled and are providing water to 3,500 people and two groups of women with water to undertake vegetable farming. Cattle keepers are also benefiting from the water.	Partially accomplished as resources could not allow for completion of target (4)
Overall status			Accomplished

Description of Results:

Indicator 3.1. 1,500 people benefiting from community interdependency initiatives. [Baseline:0]

Over 3,000 people and especially youth and women benefitted from community interdependency and social cohesion initiatives:

- Over 3,000 youth from various ethnicities in Nimule Central, Jelei, Anzara and Olikwipayam were reached with key peace messages;
- Three youth theatre-for-peace groups were formed, trained and supported to convene monthly youth-led public forums to raise awareness on peace;
- Ten school-based peace clubs formed and actively engaged in on-going community peace processes reaching over 1,000 students;
- Twelve sports tournaments for both males and females facilitated and held and 12 radio programmes on youth and peace broadcasted on Radio Miraya and publicized on UNDP social media.

- Twenty women from Lafon and Pibor counties were trained in production of soap and reusable sanitary towels, peacebuilding and psychosocial counselling. Over 1400 women and girls have benefitted from these initiatives:
 - Improved hygiene at home due to increased access to soap and reduced absenteeism of girl in school during menstrual periods due to increased availability of locally made reusable sanitary towels.
 - Increased monthly household income for participating women from just below 5,000 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) to between 30,000 -50,000 SSP.
 - Improved conflict mediation skills. For example, in Pibor women diffused tensions between Kachipo and Murle communities following violent cattle raids that had taken place earlier in Pibor.

Indicator 3.2. 40 local and traditional leaders, community mediators/ peace committee members trained on dialogue, mediation and peaceful settlement of disputes including on issues of SGBV and transformational leadership country. [Baseline: 0]

Sixty-seven youth, traditional and community leaders (peace committee members) were trained in transformational leadership, peace building and women peace and security issues. Post training assessments revealed improved trainees' skills and understanding in reconciliation, conflict mediation and leadership. For example, after completion of the training, participants indicated that they now perceive ethnic divisions among South Sudanese as the real danger that contributes negatively towards attaining durable peace.

"This [the training] tells why diversity is a sign of strength rather than of weakness," Trained Community Peace Committee Member

The Yei River State Government has officially recognized the Youth Peace Committees as peace agents and has tasked them with the responsibility to identify youth representatives to become part of the joint community policing teams.

Indicator 3.3. 200 youth/women who facilitated implementation of the outcomes of the National Dialogue. [Baseline: 0]

600 youth, women and leaders of faith-based institutions, academic institutions, students and pupils, diplomatic community, women and youth organizations were reached with awareness activities on the role of youth and women in the ND process and implementation of the R-ARCSS.

Indicator 3.4. Four community interdependency projects undertaken to promote social cohesion. [Baseline: Three]

Two community interdependency initiatives were undertaken around a water resource which was made available along the cattle migration route in Raildt Eastern Aweil state. A solar

powered borehole with water reservoir tank, a perimeter fence and a three-point outlet for community to fetch water was completed and is serving over 3,500 community members in Rialdit. The project was implemented to promote social cohesion among the communities of Misseriya, and Dinka Malual during the cattle migration period in Rialdit, Mangar Tong County, in Aweil East state. The borehole has also provided women with water to grow vegetables to supplement their domestic dietary requirement as well as sell some to improve their livelihood while promoting social cohesion.

Mrs. Ajok Kuol Dut, a female water management committee member said: “We are very happy for the water, now Japan and UNDP have saved us. We are now free, at least we can access clean water for our families. We have also started a small vegetable garden which will provide for the needs of women”.

According to the Executive Chief of Rialdit village, Mr. Akuen Adal Wek: “about 3,500 people and 1,000 cows now access water from the borehole provided by people of Rialdit through UNDP” he said.

3. Cross Cutting Issues

3.1. Publicity and Japanese Visibility

In almost all the public event of the National Dialogue, Japan has been afforded the opportunity to speak and highlight its commitment and support to the peace process in South Sudan. Furthermore, the leadership of the country, National Dialogue has in every event publicly acknowledge the support of Japan to the National dialogue. Lastly, promotional materials especially for the youth activities clearly show that Japan is supporting promotion of peace and reconciliation in South Sudan. Highlighting the support from Japan, UNDP highlighted the role of peace champions in South Sudan through social media:

- Twitter:
 - [Link 1](#),
 - [Link 2](#),
 - [Link 3](#).
- Facebook:
 - [Link 1](#),
 - [Link 2](#),
 - [Link 3](#).
- Website:
 - [Link 1](#),
 - [Link 2](#),
 - [Link 3](#)

3.2. Gender mainstreaming

As part of preparation for the regional phase of the National Dialogue, the quota for women participation has been fixed at 35 percent. 30 Percent of participants of the National Dialogue

consultations and the two regional dialogue conferences were women. Specific meetings were held with the secretariat to receive memoranda from women by the ND steering committee.

3.3 Partnerships

Overall technical and political coordination of the project is provided by the UN technical working Group on the National Dialogue. This group which brings together four UN agencies plus UNMISS has the mandate of ensuring that UN support to the National Dialogue is targeted at ensuring it meets certain standards with regards to the promotion of inclusion, participation and transparency. The group has also maintained close engagement with relevant stakeholders like the Government of Egypt to exchange information and perspectives on the dialogue process. Support has also been provided to facilitate information exchange between the National Dialogue leadership and development partners.

3.4 Environmental Considerations

All environmental considerations as per UNDP policy were given to the project's implementation activities in terms of procurement and delivery of services, for example for the procurement of the services and materials for the construction of the borehole. These measures helped in ensuring no form of environmental hazards took place in association with the project and the implementation of its activities. Issues of environment conversation have been raised during the ND local consultations.

4. Risk management

Risks	Mitigation Measures
Resuming of open hostilities and conflict in project areas.	Leverage UN support and participation in the monitoring mechanism of the R-ARCISS. Maintain close relationship with the security committee of the Steering Committee.
Factional capture and partisan interest in the ND.	Develop robust rules and procedure for facilitating the dialogue process and reaching decisions and consensus.
Increase deadlock between parties to the conflict and local communities.	Secure services of neutral person to mediate and break deadlock.
Inadequate funding and/or government hampering the implementation of planned National Dialogue activities.	Continuous advocacy and lobbying efforts to sensitize development partners in support of National Dialogue activities.

5. Challenges

The timelines for the ND process have been affected by the political context. The delayed formation of the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) have resulted in postponement of the national ND and related processes until the the R-TGoNU is formed.

6. Lessons Learned

The key lessons learned from the reporting period include:

- Progress on the political front incentivizes inclusion and participation of parties in the ND process. The signing and implementation of the R-ARCSS accelerated opposition's commitment to participate in the ND.
- Engaging the youth at grassroot level in social and peacebuilding activities is transformational, as the youth become agents of peace instead of perpetrators of violence. Forums created for sporting and theater activities are useful in reaching out to larger groups of youth spectators.
- Peace committees are instrumental in managing local level tensions and disputes which if not addressed can trigger communal violence.

7. Conclusions, recommendations and opportunities for follow-up

Thanks to support from Japan, the National Dialogue has been transformed from a concept to a truly first opportunity and framework for all South Sudanese, not just the elites, to voice and contribute to a new South Sudan. The commitment by the opposition (main opposition and other signatories to the R-ARCSS) to participate in the dialogue is testament to its potential and strong achievements being made.

Whilst there have been achievements, the ND is still a work in progress. As preparation of the conference is ongoing, there is need to build on secured achievements by investing more to expand opportunities for inclusion, sound management of the process and technical support to ensure the outcomes of the dialogue are not just aspirations, but practical expressions and actions that are embedded in the constitution of the country.

Opportunities for inclusion reside in the implementation of the R-ARCSS, as efforts are ongoing to engage the signatories. As implementation of the R-ARCSS unfolds, the ND will certainly provide opportunity to define practical aspects of some of the reforms which are local nature, such as for example issues of land. Moreover, decrease in fighting should allow for local consultations in those areas that cannot be accessed because of the conflict, especially in the former Upper Nile and Unity States.

8. Provisional Financial Report

Outputs / Activity Result	Initial Budget (US\$)	Expenses	Commitments	Total expenditures	Balance	% Expenditure (Cumulative)
	A	B	C	D=B+C	E=A-D	D/A*100
Facilitating Grassroots Peace Initiative Conducive to an Inclusive and Credible National Dialogue Process						
Increased Stakeholder engagement and participation in the National Dialogue Conference.	310,375.00	309,466.70	-	309,466.70	908.30	99.71%
Outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference implemented	103,343.00	103,342.99	-	103,342.99	0.01	100.00%
Local and traditional mechanisms to support grassroots implementation of the National Dialogue outcomes strengthened	116,640.00	115,728.45	3,417.76	119,146.21	(2,506.21)	102.15%
Project management and Communication	69,642.00	63,342.11	-	63,342.11	6,299.89	90.95%
Grand total	600,000.00	591,880.25	3,417.76	595,298.01	4,701.99	99.22%