



SOUTH SUDAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NEWS LETTER - 2025 SECOND QUARTER

HELLO!

**WELCOME TO THE SECOND
QUARTER OF OUR
NEWSLETTER,**

**THE CHURCH, THE LENS OF
COMPASSION, WHERE
GOD'S LOVE COMES INTO
FOCUS.**

**THROUGH OUR STORIES,
ACTIVITIES AND
ENGAGEMENTS, WE
WITNESS HOW FAITH TAKES
ACTION, HOW SERVICE
BECOMES WORSHIP, AND
HOW COMMUNITY GROWS
STRONGER IN CHRIST,"**

***"HAPPY ARE THE PEACE MAKERS,
FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED
CHILDREN OF GOD.***

MATTHEW 5:9



SOUTH SUDAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NEWS LETTER - 2025

South Sudan Marks 14 Years of Independence in Faith and Unity

South Sudan Marks 14 Years of Independence in Faith and Unity

As the nation continues its 70 days of prayer and fasting, which began on June 10, 2025

faithful citizens gathered under the powerful

Theme: "Fulfil Your Good Promises, Oh Lord" (Jeremiah 29:10).

On July 9, a moment of reflection and unity was held as South Sudan commemorated its 14th Independence Anniversary.

Member churches of the South Sudan Council of churches, alongside peace partners, stood together in solidarity and faith during a special mass at All Saints Cathedral in Juba.

The service drew hundreds of congregants from various denominations and communities, all seeking peace, healing, and national transformation through prayer.

The event was graced by Vice President Josephine Lagu, who leads the Service Cluster, as the special guest speaker. Her address emphasised the importance of unity, faith, and the Church's role in shaping a peaceful and prosperous South Sudan.



SSCC General Secretary Rev. Tut Kony, Chair, Archbishop Rev. Justine Badi Arama, Primate of the ECSS stood side by side with church leaders and the Vice President of the Service Cluster Josephine Lagu During a special prayer service held on 9, July, 2025 at all Saints Cathedral. Juba south Sudan.



Worshippers during prayer and fasting - all saints Cathedral Juba, South Sudan.

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Tue, July 1, 2025 three-day Inter Church Committee workshop has commenced in Juba, South Sudan

South Sudan Council of Churches, through its Action Plan for Peace (APP), has been at the forefront of promoting peace through advocacy, mediation, and grassroots engagement.

Thanks to Mission 21, the Training of Trainers workshop focused on conflict resolution and mediations for members of the Juba Inter-Church Committee is ongoing, and we couldn't be more grateful to have the support needed to carry out these crucial activities

What are ICCs?

The Juba Inter-Church Committee is a critical ecumenical body mandated to foster peace and unity among churches and communities in Juba and its surrounding areas. However, many of its members have had limited access to structured training in conflict mediation and peacebuilding.

This capacity gap hinders their ability to respond effectively to local conflicts and reduces the impact of their peace efforts. TOT aims to fill that gap by equipping the committee members with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to serve as trainers and peace mediators within their respective communities and the churches



Maurice Okwera, Peace, Justice, and Neutral Forum Coordinator, giving orientation to members of the ICCs during a TOT workshop held in Juba, South Sudan



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Computer literacy training targeting youth from SSCC member Churches.

Under the FCA South Sudan APPEAR Project, the Youth Desk of the South Sudan Council of Churches launched a two-month computer literacy training program targeting 30 youth from its member churches.

The first batch of training officially commenced on Friday, July 11, 2025, and is scheduled to conclude on August 30, 2025.

Thanks to FCA Finn Church Aid for the generous support and continued partnership

The training aims to address the digital skill gap among young church members

Equip them with tools that will enhance their contributions to church life, particularly in evangelization, documentation, and communication

Build confidence in preaching the Gospel accurately and fearlessly amidst conflicting doctrines and theological misinformation.



First day of orientation with SSCC senior staff.



Gabriel Duar, SSCC Youth Coordinator delivering Speech to learners

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Women's Desk Entrepreneurial Initiative

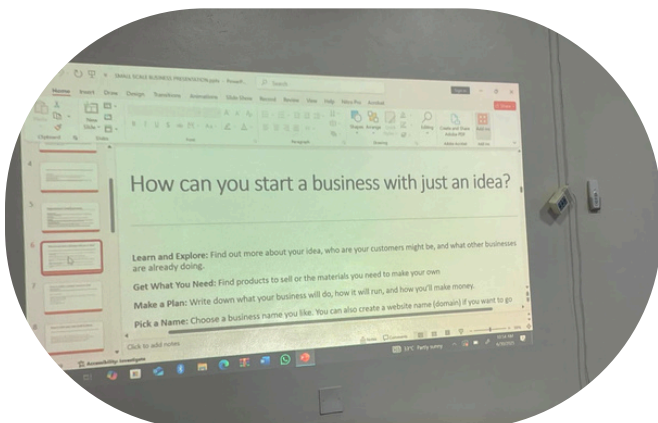


With generous support from Mission 21 the South Sudan Council of Churches, the Women's Desk Entrepreneurial Initiative trains vulnerable women in business planning, Management, and Sustainability.

Five of the 25 women participants will receive start-up capital to help them bring their business ideas to life.

South Sudan depends on oil as the main source of revenue, which has been largely affected by the war in Sudan, and the fluctuations in oil prices all over the world have taken a toll on the country, which has been gripped by corruption within the government system, hindering the country's development

The economic situation has worsened over the years, coming to its peak this year, 2025, with the market prices rising every single day. More often than not, in the face of all these challenges, women and children are the most affected as they are less economically empowered, and the sociocultural and traditional beliefs and practices place them in vulnerable situations.



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WOMEN OF FAITH MONTHLY PRAYER AND MEETINGS.

Theme: "If they pray to me and repent and turn away from the evil they have been doing, then I will hear them in heaven, forgive their sins and make their land prosperous again."

— 2 Chronicles 7:14

Date: 14th June 2025

Venue: African Inland Church (AIC),

Gudele 1 - Buoba

INTRODUCTION

The South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), in partnership with Finn Church Aid (FCA), continues to spearhead the Women of Faith Monthly Prayer and Fasting initiative within the Equatoria Region. This interdenominational program provides a vital spiritual space for women to gather, reflect, pray, and intercede for national peace, unity, reconciliation, and healing in South Sudan.

Amidst the ongoing implementation challenges of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), such faith-based, grassroots activities have emerged as powerful tools for fostering ecumenical fellowship, local peacebuilding



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THE ISOHE PARISH COMMUNITY PEACE DIALOGUE HELD IN AKIL CENTRE FROM THE 26TH- 30TH JUNE-2025

BACKGROUND:

In March 2025, four villages of Burung and Loyoro, Woroworo and Olianga witnessed violent conflict, where people were shot dead, wounded, and property looted. This created fear and lack of safety along the major roads to Isohe Centre. This conflict has greatly affected vulnerable women, children and sick patients from other villages as well. Many people could hardly or not ever able to access basic services in the Isohe Mission area - including health facilities, schools and the market.

The situation then called for an urgent solution to bring an end to the escalating conflicting triggers within the communities in Isohe Parish.

The Isohe Parish Community Peace Dialogue, initiated and facilitated by the parish pastoral office, funded by the South Sudan Council of Churches initially targeted 35 active participants, to come together and dialogue for two days to resolve the issues in the conflict.

Under the Theme: "Father, I pray that all may be one" Lk. 17, the Isohe Parish Community Peace Dialogue was held from June, 26th - 30th 2025. In attendance was more overwhelming with more than 76 – 100 active participants, for peace seeking coming from the Chapels and villages of Burung, Loyoro, Woroworo, Iloli, Oguruny, Hiriafit, Chahari, Ofi and Isohe. The participants included Members of the Peace Caravan, Village Chiefs, Youth, Women, Elders, Teachers, Community Health personnel, Chapel Catechists and the County Commissioner, respectively. The people of Olianga blessed the Peace Dialogue by sending the Chief of Imatari to represent their intention, as they apologized for inconveniences as not sending invited representation.



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COMMUNITY PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PEACE DIALOGUE PROCESS IN CAMP15, LORIOK PAYAM BUDI COUNTY 30TH JUNE – 1ST OF JULY 2025

South Sudan Council of Churches' (SSCC) Equatoria Regional Office facilitated a two-day community people-to-people peace dialogue meeting at Camp 15, Loriok Payam, Budi County. The meeting was organised in collaboration with Interchurch Committee members coordinated by the Parish Priest of St Joseph the Worker at Camp 15 Parish of Loriok Payam, who mobilised and coordinated the invitation of representatives of the community of the area.

The meeting was attended by the different categories of community members, including church leaders, community Chiefs, opinion leaders, elders, clan chiefs, women, youth and kraal youths, businessmen, a total of 37 participants attended the peace meeting that included (10 female, 27 male).

The dialogue meeting aimed to establish and address community concerns and issues that have affected the people through this church-led people to people peace dialogue where a safe space was created for the community leaders of the areas to dialogue and address existing issues between the people of Buya and other community living in Camp 15, Loriok Payam so that the peace and stability continue to prevail in the area. The two-days community people to people peace dialogue was successful. It was held from 30th of June to 1st of July 2025 at Camp 15, Loriok Payam, Budi County.

The following key factors that emerged in the discussions among the participants: thus, to de-escalate and avoid/end cattle raids, stop attacks and killing along road ambushes, discouraged idleness amongst the young men that easily drags them too much drinking and drug abuses, that easily trigger them to criminal acts.

From the understanding of the ground context situation at Camp 15 the overall objectives – strengthening the efforts of community leaders for social cohesion and



Group photo after the two-day peace dialogue at St. Joseph the Worker, Parish

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CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS IN BENTIU July 31st to August 2nd, 2025

Introduction

The SSCC Advocacy Taskforce convened for a meeting with 20 members on 4th July 2025 at SSCC secretariat to discuss messaging for the 14th independence of South Sudan and brainstorm on the position of the church on the Review of the Status of the Implementation of the critical pending tasks of the R-ARCSS and Proposal for an Expedited Approach to the end of the Transitional period. One of the key action points from this meeting was for church leaders and members of the SSCC task force to embark on solidarity visits to conflict hotspots. The Upper Nile region was identified as one of the areas to be visited.

Upper Nile has been affected by several precarious inter and intra-communal conflicts, clashes between armed youth groups and the national army, which has made it difficult for sustainable peace to be achieved in the Greater Upper Nile. It is important to facilitate localised engagements with Inter-Church Committees, local government and community leaders to lay a foundation for peaceful co-existence in the region.



In the month of July 2025, selected members of the Advocacy taskforce with support from staff of SSCC secretariat conduct solidarity visits to Bor, Bentiu and Malakal to meet with local government officials, ICCs, and community leaders to consult on local peace efforts and recommendations to establish a foundation for peaceful co-existence.

Objectives:

- To provide space for spiritual renewal and personal reflections, encourage church leaders to form ICCs at the local level to mediate peace in the community.
- To foster common ground for promoting dialogue among the neighbouring communities for sustainable peace in the Upper Nile region



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project Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts that have long run since 2007, a helping hand has been extended to South Sudan.

With generous support from Samaritan's Purse, through its project Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts that have long runs since 2007, a helping hand has been extended to South Sudan.

With funding from Samaritan Pursue, SSCC has further enhanced support services for education and capacity-building units by receiving seven containers full of scholastic materials to support children in Central Equatoria and Lakes states, this is not only amplifying the program's impact on helping the beneficiaries. This collaborative approach reflects the Ecumenical members' commitment to leveraging partnerships for greater effectiveness and sustainability of the education provided by the Council.

Shoebox gifts are filled with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items and are delivered to children in need around the world.



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YOUTH ENGAGEMENT REGIONAL FORUM – KUAJOK, WARRAP STATE

Sudan Council of Churches, with support from Norwegian Church Aid NCA will conduct a two – day engagement with the youth in Kuajok, Warrap State. This activity is aimed at convening youth who are influential in conflict resolution in communities to identify the root causes of communal conflicts. They will jointly develop practical solutions within their communities as well as develop a strategy to mobilize the stakeholders and duty bearers to support youth in peacefully resolving communal conflicts. The conference is intended to bring together 20 participants.

The slow and inconsistent implementation of the R-ARCSS has brewed an environment for communal conflicts characterised by revenge killing and cattle raids in Warrap State, especially Gogrial East and the Greater Tonj County (namely Tonj North, Tonj East and Tonj South), as well as other parts of the country.

1.2 Concept of the Activity

This activity was planned to bring together five influential youth in conflict resolution from the four SSCC member churches in Kuajok, Warrap State, to identify the root causes of communal conflicts and develop strategic plans for addressing the identified root causes and driving factors.

1.3 Methodology.

Youth engagement was a golden opportunity for refreshing the youth on topics peace and reconciliation and finally, the primary objective of the activity which was the identification of the root causes and action plans for addressing identified root causes was conducted on the second day. This was done by dividing the 20 participants into two groups of ten members who discussed and analyzed their findings shared with others during the group presentation.



Achievements.

The participants identified the following as primary root causes of communal conflict and driving factors:

- Poverty
 - Injustice, misuse of power and lack of accountability
 - Favouritism and prejudice
 - High dowry
 - Girls' elopement
 - Culture of refusal to accept mistake, apologize and forgive
 - Superficial Christian life (spiritual illiteracy)
- Identified actions at the youth capacity:
- Youth office establishment
 - Youth monthly meeting
 - Peace awareness (Peace building)
 - Grass root Bible crusade and prayer rallies
 - Inter-communities' sports for peace and reconciliation
 - Visiting the needy
 - Youth garden for strengthening unity and income generating activity

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARTNERS AND THE GOVERNMENT:

- Vocational training Centre (VCT) (for equipping youth for the future because now some youth who dropped out of the school are breaking the shops in the market at night)
- Pastoral mobile school (this is to enlighten the youth the cattle camp)

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International Youth Day, August 12,

Ahead of the International Youth Day on August 12,

a platform for young people to voice their concerns and aspirations while fostering community and empowerment

The South Sudan Council of Churches youth desk with support from FCA South Sudan, Norwegian Church Aid South Sudan assisted youth leaders from the 10 member churches in organizing a one-day city clean-up.

The initiative aims to strengthen the spirit of working hand in hand with local communities, promoting peace, unity, and shared responsibility for a cleaner, healthier environment.

As a youth, how do you intent to make Sudan Sudan a better place to live in?

On the occasion of the International Day of Youth, a number of community members joined young people from SSCC member Churches in cleaning parts of Juba City.

The initiative drew praises from many residents, with several expressing that such activities should take place more frequently to keep the city clean and foster community spirit.

A big thank you to everyone who participated and supported the cause, let's carry this spirit forward.

South Sudan Council of Churches



a school girl, collecting Rubbish to keep the street clean! keep Juba neat and clean. always throw waste in dustin or trashCans.



General Secretary Rev. Tut kony, Joins a group of youth of faith to commemorates International Day of Youth.

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