



Presbyterian Mission

Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations

SOUTH SUDAN

The United Nations in South Sudan

United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in South Sudan: The UNCT is responsible for coordinating 20 U.N. organizations working in the country, including UNICEF, UNAIDS, and the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). They provide overall leadership and partner closely with the government and other humanitarian and development actors. Their key areas of work include:

- **Community Resilience:** UNCT has supported projects that strengthen the agricultural system along with infrastructure improvements meant to reconnect communities previously blocked by violence. The newest project in South Sudan will address the needs of 630,000 people in 2021.¹
- **Social Services:** More than 1 million people have received life-saving assistance through 82 joint emergency missions in South Sudan. U.N. organizations have also provided education for students unable to access their schools and professional support for maternal health and those living with HIV.
- **Peace and Governance:** The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) supports work intended to encourage political participation among women and youth in peacemaking. Additionally, UNDP provides vocational training for prisoners to promote reintegration into their communities.
- **Local Economy:** The International Organization for Migration (IOM) works to address the root causes of instability by boosting local economies and promoting poverty reduction and diversification. The International Development Association is part of the world bank which aims to economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve lives in South Sudan.
- **Women and Youth:** The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provides support for the 2.3 million refugees currently living in South Sudan with particular attention to women and youth.² UNHCR provides training in beadwork as well as basic literary skills and professional connections needed for women and youth to become economically sufficient. The UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) also provides training to women and youth that desire to pursue a professional career.³

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) & South Sudan

Presbyterian Mission: The PC(USA) is in partnership with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS), the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC), and the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC). Their common work centers on peace-building and strengthening education from primary school through adult theological education. In 2004, the SSCC founded the Resource Center for Civil Leadership (RECONCILE) to equip communities with skills for trauma healing and conflict resolution. The Church supports six mission-coworkers to facilitate these partnerships.⁴

Sudan & South Sudan Mission Network: The mission network is made up of people involved in partnerships in South Sudan and the United States with the intention of creating a common mission strategy while the region continues to experience instability and leadership changes. The group focuses on relief, education, teacher training, women's concerns, and reconciliation.⁵

PC(USA) General Assembly Policy on South Sudan: During the 223rd General Assembly (2018) in St. Louis, the General Assembly directed the Stated Clerk to take specific actions meant to create a lasting peace in South Sudan, including public advocacy meant to encourage militia groups to adhere to a ceasefire and ensure unhindered passage of humanitarian aid. The Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN) and The Office of Public Witness (OPW) were directed to do the same while promoting policy that promotes democracy and human rights in South Sudan.⁷ The South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church was invited to participate in the 225th General Assembly in June 2022.⁸

Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN)

Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations is called to act on an issue when it meets three criteria: the PC(USA) has a policy regarding the topic, partner churches are in favor of action, and it appears on the UN agenda. In the case of South Sudan, PMUN has interpreted its ministry through ecumenical advocacy, education, and by serving partner churches.

PMUN hosted an event to teach members of the UN community about the Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency's ongoing work in South Sudan. As part of the Red Hand Campaign to end the use of child soldiers, PMUN encouraged the government of South Sudan to sign the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict*.⁹ Additionally, PMUN has connected church partners to the UN Department of Political Affairs, the Permanent Mission of South Sudan to the United Nations, and the UN's in-country Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The Ministry also participates in Thursdays in Black in solidarity with the women of South Sudan facing violence as part of this awareness campaign by the World Council of Churches about resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence in around the world.⁹

NGO Working Group on the Security Council: The NGO Working Group was founded in 1995 to promote dialogue between the NGO community with foreign officials, policy experts, and members of the Security Council. PMUN involvement in the working group creates an exchange of information and perspective between the PC(USA) and the Security Council which is responsible for the peacekeeping activities of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).¹⁰

¹ <https://southsudan.un.org/en/115313-un-agencies-partners-government-south-sudan-implement-project-enhancing-community-resilience>

² <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/south-sudan/>

³ <file:///C:/Users/PCUSA/Downloads/Hope-Recovery-and-Resilience-Stories-from-South-Sudan.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/global/south-sudan/>

⁵ <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/sudansouth-sudan-mission-network-meets-louisville/>

⁶ <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000243>

⁷ <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/child/no-child-soldiers/>

⁸ <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search>

⁹ <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/get-involved/thursdays-in-black>

¹⁰ <https://www.globalpolicy.org/ngo-working-group-on-the-security-council-4-24.html>