

Overview of services available to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse in South Sudan

United Nations entities in South Sudan provide assistance to victims through their existing capacities and resources, and also refer victims to available service providers. Referral pathways for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse which provide access to services available to victims of gender-based violence (GBV) have been developed. A mapping of service providers available for cases of gender-based violence has been conducted. Gaps in services relate to shelter, and legal services. Assistance and support are rarely available in areas outside Department capitals.



Street scene at the market in Yambio, South Sudan. 10 July 2018, Yambio, South Sudan. UN Photo/Nektarios Markogiannis

Findings and recommendations on United Nations assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse

- A **Field Victims' Rights Advocate (FVRA)**, designated by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in September 2017, sought to **guarantee that victims of sexual exploitation and abuse are referred to service providers**, and receive appropriate assistance and support in a timely manner. The FVRA has assisted in the **resolution of paternity claims**, and related issues, such as **payment of child-support**. In March 2020, a dedicated Senior Victims' Rights Officer entered into function.
- UNMISS' facilities and resources, although not designed for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, are available to them if required. **The Mission utilizes its internal resources (medical care, legal services and psychosocial support) to provide immediate support to victims**, facilitating support through petty cash in line with the Secretary-General's instruction (A/70/729, para 77).
- **IOM medical clinics** are reported to assist victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- **United Nations entities provide assistance to victims through their facilities and resources and refer victims to implementing partners** offering GBV services identified in the mapping of GBV services.
- **Gaps in assistance** relate to **safety and protection, legal services**, support for training directed to capacity-building for **livelihood support** for victims. Few services are available outside Department capitals.
- **The Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate recommends reinforcing victims' assistance**, including through **follow-up**, informed by **victims' feedback**.
- United Nations entities **should consider** exploring the **creation of specific budget lines for victims' assistance** to address the specific particular needs of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse that cannot be met through existing services.
- The adoption of a **system-wide tracking and monitoring mechanism for victims' assistance** that is consistently used and updated **is recommended**. Such a mechanism should include details on referrals for assistance, assistance received and information on service providers.

