

EN

ANNEX

Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe

Exceptional Assistance Measure regarding South Sudan

1. IDENTIFICATION

Action: Support to the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) for monitoring the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement

Action Reference: NDICI CR 2025 / 04 / ACT-63047

Cost: EUR 1 500 000 (European Union (EU) contribution).

Budget Line: 14 02 03 10

Duration: Maximum 18 months. The authorising officer responsible may decide to extend this period twice by a further period of up to six months, up to a total maximum duration of 30 months, under the conditions laid down in Article 23(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

Lead service: FPI

2. ACTION SUMMARY

South Sudan's peace process is at a critical juncture. The elections planned in December 2024 were postponed due to general lack of preparedness and the extension of the transition period for two more years has contributed to South Sudan's fragility. The already very volatile situation of the country is further impacted by the ongoing conflict in Sudan.

This action aims at supporting the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) whose primary role is to monitor and oversee the implementation of the peace agreement and the tasks of the transitional government. RJMEC's central role in the South Sudan peace process is critical as it provides an inclusive and impartial platform that brings all peace stakeholders together.

The EU and its Member States are closely following the situation in South Sudan, also in view of the impact on the broader Horn of Africa region and recognise the importance to maintain support for South Sudan's monitoring and verification mechanisms during this critical extended transition period.

3. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

3.1 BACKGROUND

The peace process in South Sudan is at a critical juncture. The elections planned in December 2024 that should mark the end of the transition period were postponed. This was due to a general lack of preparedness to hold credible elections and also the lack of political will among South Sudan's leaders to implement the necessary provisions of the 2018 peace agreement. The transitional period was extended for another two years until March 2027. The repeated extensions have led to frustration and fatigue among the South Sudanese population, who are eager for a stable and democratic government. The Sudan crisis further impacts the already very volatile situation in South Sudan due to massive population movements, disruption of trade routes and economic activities as well as spillover of violence and instability.

Since 2018, South Sudan's transition has been guided by the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). It sets out an ambitious reform program towards a peaceful, stable and democratic country. The agreement outlines a power-sharing arrangement among the parties involved in the conflict and established the Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU), which includes representatives from various factions.

The Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC) is constituted under Chapter VII of the R-ARCSS. Its mandate includes i) monitor and oversee all aspects of the implementation of the peace agreement; ii) monitor and oversee the mandate and tasks of the RTGoNU, including the adherence of the parties to the agreed timelines and implementation schedule; iii) oversee all work of the pre-transitional and transitional institutions and mechanisms created by the R-ARCSS; iv) request status reports from any of the pre-transitional or transitional institutions, as it deems necessary; and v) break deadlocks within the RTGoNU.

RJMEC's central role in the South Sudan peace process is critical as it provides an inclusive and impartial platform that brings all peace stakeholders together, namely the parties to the R-ARCSS, civil society actors and other regional and international peace partners for constructive engagements on the progress, to identify challenges to the peace implementation and to discuss the way forward.

In order to fulfill its strategic mission, RJMEC has a board and an independent secretariat. The Board consists of 43 members drawn from the parties to the R-ARCSS, other South Sudanese stakeholders and adherents, regional guarantors and international partners and friends of South Sudan, including one representative from the EU. The RJMEC Board is supported by a Secretariat that consists of international experts and administrative staff. RJMEC reports directly to the Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), supported by the secretariat.

The EU and its Member States are closely following the situation in South Sudan, also in view of the impact on the broader Horn of Africa region. Member States provided the EU with a strong mandate to support the South Sudanese peace process in the COAFR meeting of 14 November 2024. They specifically emphasised the need to maintain support for South Sudan's monitoring and verification mechanisms during this critical extended transition period.

3.2 RATIONALE FOR CRISIS RESPONSE ACTIONS UNDER THE RAPID RESPONSE PILLAR OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTRUMENT

The renewed extension of the transition period for two more years and the impact of the Sudan crisis further exacerbated the already volatile situation of South Sudan. The peace process is now at a critical juncture and the continued monitoring and oversight of the implementation of the R-ARCSS is essential, constituting an exceptional and unforeseen situation in the sense of Article 4(4) (a) of the NDICI Regulation. An adequate response cannot be provided under any other European Union Instrument due to the urgency with which the funds are required and due to available resources already being firmly committed.

Annex IV, paragraph 1, second paragraph, points (a), (c) and (q) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 specifically provides for the use of the NDICI rapid response pillar to (a) support, through the provision of technical and logistical assistance, for the efforts undertaken by international, regional and local organisations and by State and civil society actors in promoting confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation, transitional justice, women's and youth empowerment, in particular with regard to community tensions and protracted conflicts; (c) support for the establishment and functioning of interim administrations mandated in accordance with international law, and (q) support for measures to promote the development and organisation of civil society and its participation in the political process, including measures to enhance the role of women in such processes and measures to promote independent, pluralist and professional media.

3.3 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Lack of political will and trust among the different parties to adhere to the implementation of the Revitalised Peace Agreement	High	RJMEC leadership will ensure continuous engagement with all parties to the R-ARCSS on all issues relating to the implementation of the agreement. The RJMEC secretariat will identify major challenges and recommend remedial measures to the IGAD Special Envoy and the IGAD representatives in Juba.
Failure by IGAD to act on the various recommendations submitted by RJMEC	Medium	The current agreement mandates the IGAD Special Envoy to facilitate discussions as soon as a problem is identified by RJMEC. The RJMEC Secretariat is closely following up recommendations with the IGAD Office of the Special Envoy. EU, its Member States and other international or regional partners will use their leverage to advocate for the implementation of the peace agreement.

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Security constraints, including collapse of the permanent ceasefire and return to conflict	Medium	Monitoring of the security situation. RJMEC leadership will continue to meet frequently with high level defence actors to resolve problems related to the ceasefire.
Disruption of funding of RJMEC Secretariat	Low	Continuation of funding will be ensured through the bilateral EU-South Sudan Multi-Indicative programme, 2025-27 envelope.

4. OBJECTIVES

4.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the action is to enhance an enabling environment for peace and reconciliation in South Sudan.

4.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific objective of the action is to support oversight, monitoring and implementation of the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS).

5. ACTION COMPONENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The main expected results/outcomes include:

Expected Result (1): Effective and efficient oversight, monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of implementation of the R-ARCSS are strengthened.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.1.1 Provide advisory support to the R-ARCSS institutions¹ at both technical and leadership level to expedite the implementation of the provisions of the peace agreement;
- 5.1.2 Analyse progress of the implementation of the peace agreement and assess ongoing progress or lack thereof;
- 5.1.3 Provide legal and constitutional advice through the RJMEC Legal Advisory Group that plays a crucial role in ensuring that the legal aspects of the peace agreement are properly understood and adhered to by all parties involved;

¹ Key institutions include the RTGoNU, the National Constitutional Amendment Committee, the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission, the National Elections Commission and the Economic and Financial Management Authority.

- 5.1.4 Convene working committees for all chapters of the peace agreement that acts as an inclusive platform for the monitoring and evaluation of the peace agreement;
- 5.1.5 Convene monthly plenary meetings of RJMEC and its working committees on the state of implementation of the peace agreement.

Expected Result (2): Actionable recommendations to R-ARCSS stakeholders are implemented through shuttle diplomacy, quality reporting and raised awareness and understanding of the R-ARCSS.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.2.1 Provide detailed actionable recommendations for issues that have to be resolved at IGAD level;
- 5.2.2 Regularly brief the partners and national/international stakeholders on the status of implementation of the peace agreement and on its violations;
- 5.2.3 Proactively engage with the regional guarantors and their leadership to build synergies and advocate for the implementation of the peace process, including on the constitution-making and electoral processes;
- 5.2.4 Raise public awareness on the R-ARCSS provisions and its implementation with key institutions, civil society and like-minded partners.

Expected Result (3): Opportunities for women to meaningfully participate in broader political, peace and security processes are increased.

- 5.3.1 Provide technical and advisory support to the Ministry of Gender on the implementation of gender provisions of the peace agreement;
- 5.3.2 Consult with women's groups on the inclusion of the gender perspective in the peace agreement;
- 5.3.3 Facilitate the participation of women's groups to meaningfully participate in the broader political, peace and security processes.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES

The Commission will ensure that the appropriate EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures².

6.1.1 Grant: direct award (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant

The grant will contribute to achieving the objectives and results presented in sections 4 and 5.

² www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website, it is the OJ version that prevails.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Potential applicants for funding are non-governmental organisations and/or public or private entities with public mission objectives with consolidated experience in crisis affected contexts in South Sudan, including with extensive experience to achieve the specific objective and expected results.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified as **the action entails crisis management aid as referred to in Article 198 (a) and as defined in Article 2(22) of the Financial Regulation** at the date of the Financing Decision.

6.2 INDICATIVE BUDGET

The total European Union contribution under this Financing Decision **will not exceed EUR 1 500 000**. A breakdown among components is provided hereunder, and is indicative.

Indicative budget breakdown

Components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
Expected results 1-3, composed of		
6.1.1 – Direct grant (direct management)	1 500 000	n/a
Total	1 500 000	n/a

6.3 ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The action shall be implemented under direct management. It will be managed by the Commission, with the support of the European Union Delegation to South Sudan for the monitoring of the action.

6.4 PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS MONITORING AND REPORTING

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final report. Each report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the Logframe matrix. The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent

monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

6.5 EVALUATION

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

6.6 AUDIT

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, based on a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6.7 COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle adopted a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union’s support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU Member States.

7. COMPLEMENTARITY, COORDINATION AND FOLLOW-UP

This measure will complement cooperation activities and humanitarian actions implemented by the European Union in South Sudan. Specifically, it will contribute to the EU's political and policy dialogue and its commitment to promoting peace and stability in South Sudan and the region. The EU Delegation in South Sudan will play a central role in coordinating support by engaging directly with RJMEC and the South Sudanese stakeholders to the R-ARCSS. The EU will work closely with the international and like-minded partners, including the Troika, the AU and IGAD, and use its leverage to advocate for a unified and coordinated approach to supporting RJMEC and the peace process. The EU funding will also complement other donors who have announced contribution to the RJMEC 2025-2027 budget, namely China and Japan.

Close coordination will be ensured for an EU integrated approach and operationalisation of the Humanitarian, Development and Peace (HDP) nexus among different EU actions and actors. A close exchange of information will also be ensured with the European Union Special Representative for the Horn of Africa team.