

# SOUTH SUDAN

## OUR WORK IN SOUTH SUDAN

### STATUS OF WOMEN IN SOUTH SUDAN

THE WOMEN OF SOUTH SUDAN STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE VIOLENCE, DISPLACEMENT, AND ABDUCTION, AS THEY ALSO CARE FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES DURING PERIODS OF RECURRING CONFLICT AND INSTABILITY IN THEIR YOUNG COUNTRY.

Discriminatory practices, such as early and forced marriage, alongside the effects of conflict, continue to limit women's ability to access their rights. In 2010, only 16 percent of women over the age of 15 could read and write, and only 37.1 percent of girls were enrolled in primary school. Women also struggle to gain access to health care, and, in certain regions, sexual violence is on the rise. Still, women continue to use their voices to shape their young nation: in 2013, women held 27 percent of the seats in parliament.

### WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL IN SOUTH SUDAN

JOB SKILLS ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH TO EMPOWER WOMEN: THEY MUST KNOW THEIR RIGHTS, BE ABLE TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT THEM, AND HAVE RESOURCES TO HELP THEM MAKE DECISIONS BEFORE THEY CAN USE VOCATIONAL SKILLS TO CREATE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC STABILITY IN THEIR LIVES.

Women for Women International expanded our program to South Sudan in 2006, and since then has trained 11,012 women. Initially, our work was concentrated in Rumbek, Lakes State, and reached over 9,000 women there. In 2013, Women for Women International began operations in Yei River County in Central Equatoria state.

In 2014 an estimated 2,085 women will be served in the Women for Women International Program in Yei and the surrounding area.

STRONGER  
WOMEN,  
STRONGER  
NATIONS

#### OUR MISSION

In countries affected by conflict and war, Women for Women International supports the most marginalized women to earn and save money, improve health and well-being, influence decisions in their home and community, and connect to networks for support. By utilizing skills, knowledge, and resources, she is able to create sustainable change for herself, her family, and community.

## WHAT WE DO: OUR PROGRAM

WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL'S 12-MONTH TRAINING PROGRAM PROVIDES POLITICALLY, ECONOMICALLY, AND SOCIALLY EXCLUDED WOMEN IN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE WITH THE VOCATIONAL SKILLS, HEALTH INFORMATION, AND RIGHTS EDUCATION THEY NEED TO OVERCOME POVERTY, MAKE HEALTHY DECISIONS, AND BUILD LOCAL NETWORKS TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR RIGHTS.

When women are able to sustain an income, be well, make decisions, and have social networks to support them, they develop the confidence they need to transform their lives, families, and communities. Our program promotes women's social and economic empowerment as the key to building more peaceful and stable societies.

Program participants are assigned to a group of 25 women who meet bi-weekly to engage in learning together. They receive life skills training, including lessons in health awareness, decision-making, negotiation, and civic participation. Women also learn business and vocational skills and gain access to income-generating activities that enable them to move towards economic self-sufficiency.

All of the trainings are led by local trainers and tailored to local contexts and markets. Prior to vocational training, numeracy training covering fundamental arithmetic skills is offered to participants identified as innumerate.

Every month during the training program, each participant receives a small cash transfer as a condition of participating in the program. Participants are free to use these funds however they wish. Many use them to purchase medicine, food, clothing, or transportation, to pay tuition fees for children, or to invest in starting a small business. Women for Women International also encourages participants to save a portion of their monthly training stipend.

## SOUTH SUDAN COUNTRY OFFICE

STARTED: 2006

HEADQUARTERS: Yei

PROGRAMS IN:

Central Equatoria

## ABOUT WOMEN IN SOUTH SUDAN

PARLIAMENTARY SEATS HELD

BY WOMEN: 27 percent

UNATTENDED BIRTHS:

81 percent

ILLITERATE: 84 percent

## VOCATIONAL SKILLS & TRAINING

Bread-making

Agriculture

Small Business

## BUILDING PEACE THROUGH WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL'S ACTIVITIES ARE BASED IN YEI RIVER COUNTY IN CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE, WHICH, LIKE THE REST OF SOUTH SUDAN, IS STILL RECOVERING FROM DECADES OF CIVIL WAR, VIOLENT INTERTRIBAL CONFLICT OVER LAND AND PROPERTY, AND THE INFLUX OF INTERNALLY-DISPLACED PERSONS FLEEING CONFLICTS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

While Yei has been relatively calm, violence broke out in Juba in December and spread to different parts of the country. A large refugee camp in Lasu Payam, in southeastern Yei River County, has been growing steadily.

While the 12-month curriculum remains the core engagement with women in Yei River County, Women for Women International plans to initiate a peace and women's rights component to the training. This will play a key role in consolidating the gains of an empowered constituency and providing continuous presence and a sustainable impact in the community.

Some of the graduates of the 12-month program will be engaged in the peace-building program and linked with local community-based organizations in creating awareness and spearheading advocacy. The women will be trained on issues of peace-building, conflict resolution, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and relevant laws, human rights, advocacy, and leadership.

Women for Women International will partner with other organizations and consultants with expertise on issues related to peace-building and conflict resolution with the goal that the women trained under this peace-building module will become "peace advocates" in their communities. Forums with other key stakeholders, including community leaders, men in the community, police, and medical personnel will be held to better support the initiative. This will help to create a group of male advocates for peace who will work hand-in-hand with the women, with the ultimate aim of creating a unified peace movement within the community.

## IMPACT

LEARNING & CONNECTING ARE  
FOUNDATIONS FOR CHANGE:

73 percent of women participate in community activities after graduation, compared to 9 percent at enrollment.

68 percent of women know their rights at graduation, compared to 28 percent at enrollment.

88 percent of women participate in social networks after graduation, compared to 11 percent at enrollment.

These dramatic and positive changes create new opportunities for women to take action for peace.

## OUR IMPACT

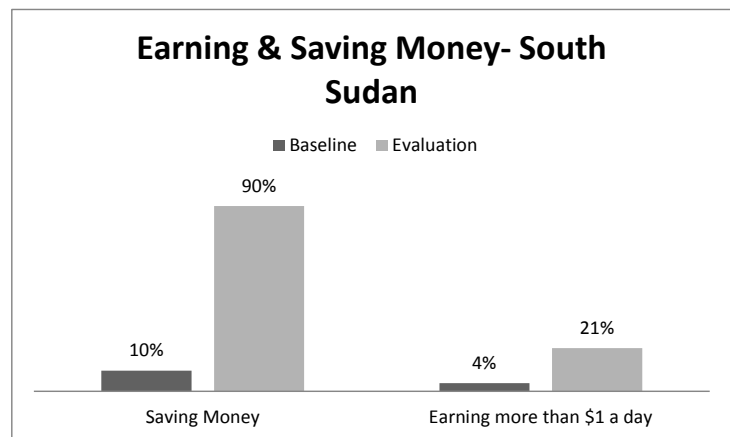
OUR PROGRAM IS FOCUSED ON HELPING WOMEN ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING FOUR KEY OUTCOMES:

### 1 WOMEN EARN AND SAVE MONEY

When women earn an income, they reinvest a much higher portion in their families and communities, compared to men.

In South Sudan, women demonstrate the ability to increase their daily income and savings after graduating from our program. 90 percent of graduates save a portion of their income at graduation, compared to 10 percent at enrollment.

(See footnote 1)

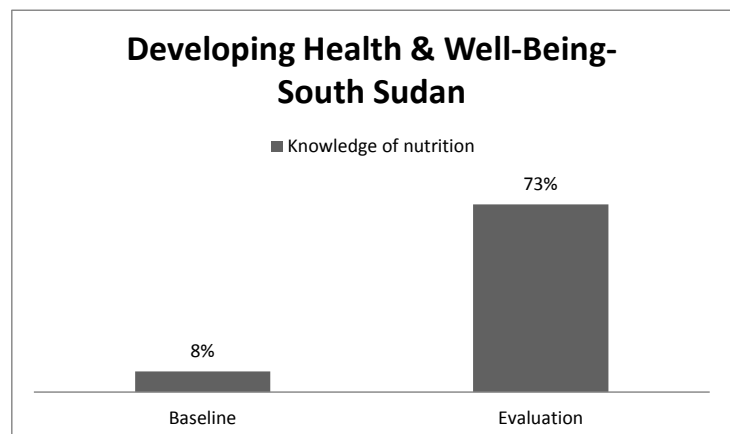


### 2 WOMEN DEVELOP HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Access to affordable and accessible healthcare – as well as training in disease prevention – significantly reduces preventable deaths.

Women learn how to improve the health and well-being of themselves and their families. 73 percent of graduates report having knowledge of good nutritional practices, compared to 8 percent at enrollment.

(See footnote 1)



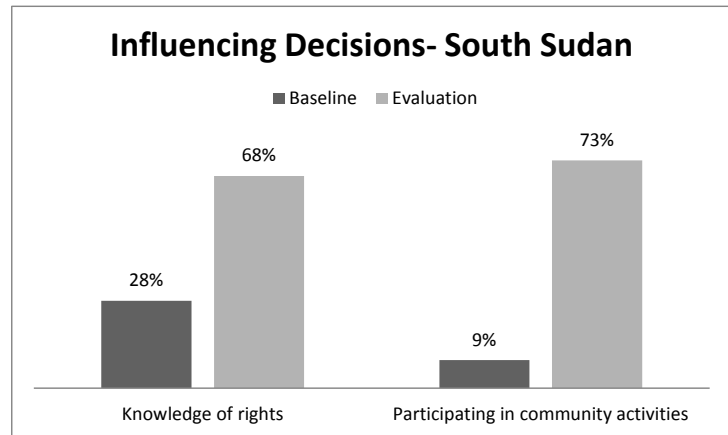
### 3

## WOMEN INFLUENCE DECISIONS IN THE HOME AND COMMUNITY

Studies show that women exercise greater decision-making power within their families when they are educated, earn a stable income, and have access to resources such as land and credit.

Women learn their rights and become increasingly engaged in public life. 73 percent report being involved in community activities, and 68 percent report knowledge of their rights.

(See footnote 1)



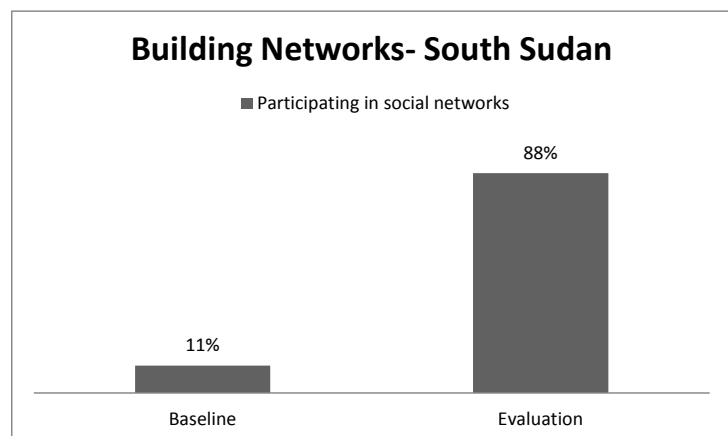
### 4

## WOMEN CREATE AND CONNECT TO NETWORKS FOR SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY

As program participants, women learn the importance of working together. By working in groups, they also benefit from a support system and social networks.

Women share what they learn about their rights with other women in their communities. 88 percent of women report participating in social networks at graduation, compared to 11 percent at enrollment.

(See footnote 1)



## FACTS ABOUT WOMEN IN SOUTH SUDAN

Only 4 percent of women aged between 15 and 49 who are married or in a union use contraceptives.<sup>2</sup>

The average South Sudanese woman will give birth to 5 children during her life.<sup>3</sup>

Only 40 percent of pregnant women in South Sudan receive prenatal care.<sup>4</sup>

An estimated 6 percent of women living with HIV receive antiretroviral treatment to prevent the transmission of HIV to their unborn children.<sup>5</sup>

Only 19 percent of births in South Sudan are attended by skilled health personnel.<sup>6</sup>

South Sudan's maternal mortality rate is 730 female deaths per 100,000 live births.<sup>7</sup>

79 percent of South Sudanese women feel that a husband beating his wife is a justifiable action.<sup>8</sup>

## LEARN MORE

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## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Data represents women who graduated from our program in South Sudan in 2012.

<sup>2</sup> "Contraceptive Prevalence (percent of women ages 15-49)." The World Bank. Accessed 4 June 2014. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.CONU.ZS>.

<sup>3</sup> "Fertility Rate, Total (births per woman)." The World Bank. Accessed 4 June 2014. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.TFRT.IN>

<sup>4</sup> "Pregnant Women Receiving Prenatal care (percent)." The World Bank Data. Accessed 3 June 2014. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.ANVC.ZS>.

<sup>5</sup> "WHO African Region: South Sudan statistics summary (2002-present)." Global Health Observatory Data Repository.

WHO. Accessed 3 June 2014. <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.country.country-SSD?lang=en>

<sup>6</sup> "Births Attended by Skilled Health Staff (percent of total)." The World Bank Data. Accessed 3 June 2014. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.BRTC.ZS>

<sup>7</sup> "Maternal Mortality Ratio (modeled estimate, per 100,000 live births)." The World Bank Data. Accessed 3 June 2014. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT>

<sup>8</sup> "The State of the World's Children 2014." United Nations Children's Fund. Accessed 4 June 2014. [http://www.unicef.org/sowc2014/numbers/documents/english/SOWC2014\\_In%20Numbers\\_28%20Jan.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/sowc2014/numbers/documents/english/SOWC2014_In%20Numbers_28%20Jan.pdf).