SOUTH SUDAN COUNTRY STATEMENT

ADDRESSING MIGRANT SMUGGLING AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN EAST AFRICA

September 2017

This report is one of 10 country statement reports covering: Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Yemen













South Sudan Country Statement:

Addressing Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking in East Africa



This report is one of a series of ten country statements, produced as part of the project 'Addressing Mixed Migration Flows in Eastern Africa', funded by the European Commission (EC) and implemented by Expertise France.

The overall project consists of three components:

- Assisting national authorities in setting up or strengthening safe and rights-respectful reception offices for migrants/asylum seekers/refugees.
- Supporting and facilitating the fight against criminal networks through capacity building and assistance to partner countries in developing evidence-based policies and conducting criminal investigations, most notably by collecting and analysing information about criminal networks along migration routes.
- Supporting local authorities and NGOs in the provision of livelihoods and self-reliance opportunities for displaced persons and host communities in the neighbouring host countries.

As part of the second component, Expertise France contracted the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) in Nairobi to implement the project 'Contributing to enhanced data collection systems and information sharing on criminal networks involved in facilitating irregular migration in the Eastern Africa region.' This project aims to provide updated knowledge on migration trends and related issues, as well as technical assistance to partner countries on data collection, analysis and information sharing. In all the country statements, the focus is on human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

These country statements are the output of this project. They provide a technical appraisal of existing data related to mixed migration, including data on trafficking; insight on routes and *modi operandi* of criminal networks involved in facilitating irregular migration; and an assessment of existing national data collection systems and government capacity to address migrant smuggling and human trafficking. The analysis highlights technical capacity gaps and challenges faced by officials in responding to such phenomena, aiding the identification of capacity building needs in the areas of data collection, analysis and information sharing.



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The research was commissioned by Expertise France, in the wider context of the EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (the "Khartoum Process"). The research was conducted in 2016 by an international consultant, in cooperation with national researchers under the operational management and technical oversight of RMMS in Nairobi.

The lead researcher and author of this report was Mr. Peter Tinti (an international consultant). The final English editor was Mr. Anthony Morland.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The organised smuggling of migrants is far less prevalent or developed in South Sudan than in many other states in East Africa and the Horn of the Africa, even though the country is a major source of refugees and asylum seekers. As of the end of October 2016, 1.73 million South Sudanese had been internally displaced by a civil war that started in December 2013, when fighting erupted between Dinka and Nuer elements within the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). In addition, more than 1.18 million people sought refuge in the neighbouring states of Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Kenya. South Sudan is also a destination country for refugees and asylum seekers, with over 260,000 refugees registered by UNHCR, 92 per cent of whom are from neighbouring Sudan.¹

Since 2011, when South Sudan gained independence following a national referendum, the government and its international partners have struggled to build functioning state institutions, many of which were either weak or non-existent before independence. The outbreak of civil war in December 2013 disrupted, and in some cases completely halted, the development of these fledgling institutions.

Against this backdrop, migrant smuggling into South Sudan takes place within a context of mixed migration flows and porous borders. However, the smugglers facilitating irregular flows of migrants in South Sudan lack the organization and sophistication seen in neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya, in part because there is relatively little demand for their services since irregular entry into the country is relatively easy. South Sudan is currently not a major destination country and is not located along the primary mixed migration transit routes out of the region. Hardly any South Sudanese are among the migrants and refugees in smuggler-facilitated mixed migration flows along these routes.

Human trafficking into and out of South Sudan is reported to be widespread. Men, women, and children are trafficked for the purposes of unpaid labour and forced prostitution. Aside from the recruitment of child soldiers and the kidnapping of women and children by armed groups, human trafficking (like migrant smuggling) has garnered little attention from South Sudanese authorities or the international community. This is partly because other humanitarian imperatives, including food insecurity, public health, and protection of civilians have taken priority and absorbed the bulk of available resources.

In the absence of an effective comprehensive peace agreement that delivers the stability necessary to build durable state institutions, the international community cannot expect dramatic improvement in South Sudan's ability to manage mixed migration flows and combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking through building capacity and providing technical assistance. Nevertheless, there are several opportunities for intervention.

¹ RMMS (2016). RMMS Monthly Summary October 2016. Available at: http://regionalmms.org/ monthly summary/RMMS%20Mixed%20Migration%20Monthly%20Summary%20October%20 2016.pdf



Ongoing border control and migration management programmes funded by foreign donors and implemented by the United Nations NGOs could be strengthened, expanded and extended. Gaps in existing legal and institutional frameworks could be addressed through advisory support and technical assistance. Training specific to migrant smuggling and human trafficking could be incorporated into ongoing capacity building programmes for local police forces and the judiciary. And information campaigns that seek to familiarise and train government officials as well civil society groups on issues pertaining to migrant smuggling and human trafficking could be developed. Taken together, these measures would constitute critical first steps in improving South Sudan's ability to combat criminal actors engaged in migrant smuggling and human trafficking.



METHODOLOGY This report is a qualitative study combi

This report is a qualitative study combining fieldwork in South Sudan with a comprehensive desk review of existing literature on issues of migrant smuggling and human trafficking in South Sudan. In addition to research conducted outside South Sudan by an international consultant, fieldwork was carried out by local consultants in Juba, South Sudan.

Interview subjects included government officials, representatives from international organizations, foreign diplomats, local experts, and representatives from local NGOs, and migrants themselves. Due to the sensitive nature of the subject, interviewees were granted anonymity on request. Fieldwork for this report was interrupted several times due to the outbreak of violence in Juba in July 2016. Interviews which had been arranged with government officials and key interlocutors were postponed and in some cases cancelled altogether.²

This report uses the terms "migrant smuggling" and "human trafficking" according to the definitions outlined in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). Article 3 of the convention's Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (the Migrant Smuggling Protocol) defines migrant smuggling as "the procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a state party of which the person is not a national."³

The convention's Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines human trafficking as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation."⁴

² Due to the current situation in South Sudan, a 'gap analysis' workshop could not be organized. Contrary to most other reports in this series, this report therefore does not include an annex with outcomes of the workshop with government officials.

³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2004). United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20 Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf



2.0

INTRODUCTION

From the mid-1950s, the area encompassing what is now South Sudan experienced several decades of violent conflict, mainly civil war between the Sudanese government in Khartoum and rebel groups in the south. In 2005, the Government of Sudan and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement/ Army (SPLM/A) signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement which established a national unity government and provided for a referendum to be held on the political status of the south. When the referendum took place in 2011 almost 99 per cent of voters opted for full independence. In July of that year, the Republic of South Sudan was born.

Barely two years later, in December 2013, a power struggle between President Salva Kiir and former vice president Riek Machar degenerated into a fresh civil war. This has had catastrophic humanitarian consequences, including widespread killings of civilians - often simply because of which community they belong to. The war has displaced almost three million people, or nearly one in every four South Sudanese citizens - either internally or to neighbouring countries.⁵

More than 3.6 million people were estimated to be severely food insecure in 2016, with an estimated 4.6 million people projected to fall into that category in the first quarter of 2017.⁶ Despite the presence of a United Nations peacekeeping mission (UNMISS), sexual violence, according to the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, has reached "epic proportions."⁷ The UN envoy on genocide prevention has warned that the conflict in South Sudan risks degenerating into "an outright ethnic war," with factors present that could provide "fertile ground" for genocide.⁸ Parties to the conflict stand accused of widespread human rights abuses, including arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, enforced disappearances, rape and other forms of sexual violence, forced displacement, recruitment of child soldiers, and attacks on civilians.⁹

⁵ UNHCR (2016). Flight across border achingly familiar for some South Sudan families. Available at: http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2016/7/5790cb554/ flight-across-border-depressingly-familiar-south-sudan-families.html

⁶ World Food Programme (2016). WFP South Sudan Food and Nutrition Update. Available at: http://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/wfp_south_ sudan_special_report_on_food_and_nutrition_security_1_dec_2016_0.pdf

 ⁷ United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2016). UN Experts call for UN special investigation into epic levels of sexual violence in South Sudan.
 Available at: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.
 aspx?NewsID=20979&LangID=E

⁸ UN News Centre (2016). Risk of 'outright ethnic war' and genocide in South Sudan, UN envoy warns. Available at: http://www.un.org/apps/news/story. asp?NewsID=55538#.WE9gCcMrJAY

⁹ Human Rights Watch (2016). South Sudan: New Abuses of Civilians by Both Sides. Available at: https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/11/22/ south-sudan-new-abuse-civilians-both-sides



Meanwhile, conflict and civil unrest in neighbouring Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic, and Ethiopia have driven refugees and asylum seekers into South Sudan, making the country both a source and destination for mass mixed migration flows in East Africa and Central Africa. As of the end of October 2016, there were over 260,000 refugees registered by UNHCR in South Sudan, 92 per cent of whom are from neighbouring Sudan.¹⁰

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), "South Sudan inherited one of the weakest border and migration management regimes in Africa following its independence in 2011." After conducting an overall evaluation of South Sudan's migration management systems and carrying out 16 border assessments from 2011-2014, IOM concluded that "South Sudan suffered from a chronic lack of infrastructure, equipment, training, policies, processes and coordination" which together "significantly affect the country's capacity to promote humane and orderly migration."¹¹

Within this context of porous borders, weak state capacity, and armed conflict, migrant smugglers are able to facilitate irregular flows of men, women, and children into and out of South Sudan. As will be discussed in the next section, unlike other states in the region, where formidable political, physical, and natural barriers have fuelled demand for smuggler services and spurred the development of organized smuggling networks, migrant smuggling into and out of South Sudan is less developed in part because there is considerably less demand.

Human trafficking also takes place within mixed migration flows into and out of South Sudan. People from neighbouring countries are trafficked into Sudan, often under the pretence of employment opportunities, for the purposes of unpaid labour and forced prostitution. South Sudanese men, women and children are also trafficked abroad to neighbouring states for unpaid labour and sex work. Instances of human trafficking of South Sudanese citizens within Sudan have also been reported.¹² Trafficking of South Sudanese women and children has been widely documented within the context of the current civil war, most notably in the form of child soldiering.¹³

The goal of this report is to update the knowledge base regarding migrant smuggling and human trafficking into and out of South Sudan, with a particular emphasis on government capacity to tackle these phenomena, by assessing its capacity to collect, analyse, and share information in order to carry out investigations and prosecute smugglers and traffickers.

¹⁰ RMMS (2016). RMMS Monthly Summary October 2016. Available at: http://regionalmms.org/ monthlysummary/RMMS%20Mixed%20Migration%20Monthly%20Summary%20 October%202016.pdf

International Organization for Migration South Sudan (2015). Programmes: Migration
 Management. Available at: http://southsudan.iom.int/programmes/migration-management

¹² US State Department (2016). Trafficking in Persons Report: South Sudan. Available at: http:// www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2016/258861.htm

¹³ Human Rights Watch (2015). "We Can Die Too": Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers in South Sudan. Available at: https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/12/14/we-can-die-too/ recruitment-and-use-child-soldiers-south-sudan



3.0 MIGRANT SMUGGLING AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH SUDAN

Migrant smuggling into and out of South Sudan

South Sudan emerged as a destination country for migrants from East Africa, the Horn of Africa and Central Africa following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord with Khartoum in 2005. The official end of decades of civil war gave rise to real and perceived economic opportunities that attracted migrants from throughout the region.¹⁴

Labour migration into the territory accelerated after South Sudan became an independent state in 2011. A perceived oil-driven economic boom, combined with a near-absence of state regulation, attracted entrepreneurs and labour migrants from neighbouring Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia, as well as migrants and asylum seekers from Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The newcomers brought comparatively higher levels of education and skills to an economy seeking skilled labour to meet increasing demand for goods and services.¹⁵ In the period between independence and the outbreak of civil war in December 2013, between 500,000 and 1.2 million labour migrants were estimated to be living in South Sudan.¹⁶

(From the end of 2013, many migrant workers returned to their home countries in response to the unpredictable security climate and the deteriorating economy. Following renewed violence in July 2016, the governments of Kenya and Uganda evacuated large numbers of their nationals from South Sudan.¹⁷)

Few migrants used smugglers to get to South Sudan; most migrated legally, obtaining visas at the border or in advance. Those who lacked proper documents could migrate irregularly by avoiding formal border crossings, paying bribes to border officials, or obtaining false documents somewhere along their migrant journey, or upon arrival in South Sudan.¹⁸

 ¹⁴ International Organization for Migration South Sudan (2015). Programmes:
 Migration Management. Available at: http://southsudan.iom.int/programmes/
 migration-management

¹⁵ RMMS (2016). Country Profile: South Sudan. Available at: http://regionalmms. org/index.php/country-profiles/south-sudan#_edn1

¹⁶ Greenidge, K.S. (2015). To and From the Horn of Africa: the Case of Intra-Regional Migration in South Sudan. Available at: http://life-peace.org/hab/to-andfrom-the-horn-of-africa-the-case-of-intra-regional-migration-in-south-sudan/

¹⁷ RMMS (2016). Country Profile: South Sudan. Available at: http://regionalmms. org/index.php/country-profiles/south-sudan#_edn1

¹⁸ Key informant interview in South Sudan, August 2016.



This continues to be the case: economic migration into South Sudan still takes place, but there is little evidence that smuggling networks facilitate the flows. Certain actors or groups of individuals may work in collusion with some government officials to obtain fake documents or ease the movement of goods and people irregularly, but interviews and research conducted for this study identified no definable networks or *modi operandi* to indicate organized criminality on a large scale.¹⁹

The same is true of outward flows, again for lack of demand. The only instances in which researchers for this report heard of migrant smuggling activity were during interviews with Eritrean and Ethiopian migrants in Juba. In both cases, however, smuggling services only came into play once the migrants crossed into Sudan and arrived in Khartoum.²⁰

Although more than 1.18 million South Sudanese nationals have fled to neighbouring Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Kenya to escape violence, very few have sought onward migration to Europe or South Africa, journeys which would require the services of a migrant smuggler. As a June 2016 article by RMMS highlighted, "only 515 South Sudanese asylum applications have been lodged in the 28 countries of the European Union, plus Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein between 2012 and April 2016. Taking into account the scale of South Sudanese displacement, these numbers are negligible. Over more than four years, just 0.02 per cent of displaced South Sudanese applied for asylum in Europe."²¹ In the absence of a ready market, migrant smuggling networks have not coalesced or matured around South Sudanese refugees living in neighbouring states.

Human trafficking

According to the US State Department Trafficking in Person's Report for 2016, South Sudan is a source and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.²² The report states that South Sudanese women and girls, particularly those from rural areas or who are internally displaced, are vulnerable to being trafficked into forced labour and prostitution in urban areas, while South Sudanese girls, some as young as 10 years old, are "subjected to sex trafficking in restaurants, hotels, and brothels" in urban centres.²³

Women from throughout the region, according to the same report, most notably Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea and the DRC become victims of human trafficking in South Sudan after being deceived by illicit employment agencies into relocating to urban areas such as Juba with the promise of paid work. Upon arrival, these women and girls are forced to work

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ RMMS (2016). Out of sight, out of mind: Why South Sudanese refugees are not joining flows to Europe. Available at: http://regionalmms.org/index.php/research-publications/feature-ar-ticles/item/13-out-of-sight-out-of-mind-why-south-sudanese-refugees-ar

²² US State Department (2016). Trafficking in Persons Report: South Sudan. Available at: http:// www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2016/258861.htm



in the sex trade.²⁴ The sex industry in South Sudan, which exploded post-independence to meet demand reportedly driven by a sharp increase in foreign aid workers, UN troops, employees of NGOs, and workers in foreign owned companies, is rife with different forms of involuntary slavery and human trafficking.²⁵

Male migrants also fall victim to trafficking. A South Sudanese official in charge of criminal investigations said some had reported cases of ostensibly legitimate recruitment in which job seekers were forced on arrival in South Sudan into labour that was entirely unpaid or from which wages were withheld until employers' travel and accommodation costs were paid off.

The same official reported that corruption among police officers makes it easy for traffickers to pay for protection from arrest or prosecution.²⁶ The US State Department report included a similar finding, asserting that some corrupt law-enforcement officials are involved in the sex trafficking of children in urban areas. The report also referred to some border guards colluding with traffickers who subject women and girls to domestic servitude.²⁷ Such collusion, coupled with a fear of retribution at the hands of their traffickers, goes some way to explaining why victims rarely report their exploitation to law enforcement officials or withdraw their cooperation soon after making a report.²⁸

In South Sudan, it is widely reported that government forces and their armed allies and opponents have children in their ranks and continue to recruit them, despite having agreed to end the practice.²⁹ While such recruitment of children does not necessarily constitute trafficking in persons, it does in cases where they are *forcibly* recruited. According to a 2015 report by Human Rights Watch, thousands of children have fought in the current conflict, with tens of thousands more at risk of recruitment.³⁰ According to UNICEF, more than 650 children were recruited into armed groups in South Sudan in the first seven months of 2016, and an estimated 16,000 children have been recruited since December 2013.³¹ In January 2017, the UNMISS Human Rights Division (HRD) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported children were still associated with

²⁴ Sykes, B.V. (2013). Whore or Homemaker? The Rocky State of Illegal Prostitution in the Newly-Formed South Sudan and a Practical Resolution to Curtail the Epidemic. Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law, Vol. 42. Available at: http://digitalcommons. law.uga.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1098&context=gjicl

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Key informant interview in South Sudan, August 2016.

²⁷ US State Department (2016). Trafficking in Persons Report: South Sudan. Available at: http:// www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2016/258861.htm

²⁸ Key informant interview in South Sudan, August 2016.

²⁹ Human Rights Watch (2015). "We Can Die Too": Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers in South Sudan. Available at: https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/12/14/we-can-die-too/ recruitment-and-use-child-soldiers-south-sudan

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ UNICEF (2016). Hundreds of children recruited by armed groups in South Sudan, as violations against women and children increase. Available at: https://www.unicef.org/media/ media_92549.html.



armed groups and forces in South Sudan. UNMISS HRD observed the use of child soldiers during the July 2016 fighting. Children were seen on the streets of Juba in military vehicles, and at some checkpoints.³²

³² UNMISS and OHCHR (2017). A report on violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law in the context of the fighting in Juba, South Sudan, in July 2016.Available at: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/SS/ ReportJuba16Jan2017.pdf.



4.0 THE SOUTH SUDANESE GOVERNMENT'S FRAMEWORK TO RESPOND

4.1 Legal and institutional frameworks

In South Sudan, the issue of human trafficking has long been overshadowed by what were deemed more pressing humanitarian and state-building priorities stemming from decades of conflict and underdevelopment. The outbreak of civil war in 2013 pushed the issue further to the periphery, and at present, the country does not have a national strategy or action plan to combat human trafficking.³³

Legal instruments

South Sudan is not a party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime or its protocols against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.

Several instruments of domestic legislation do address trafficking in persons:

- The 2008 Child Act prohibits child trafficking and provides for up to 10 years imprisonment for offenders.³⁴
- Under Clause 282 of South Sudan's Penal Code,³⁵ "Whoever procures, entices or leads away, even with his or her consent, any person for sale or immoral purposes to be carried outside Southern Sudan, commits an offence, and upon conviction, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years or with a fine or with both."
- Clause 276 of the code prohibits "buying or selling or disposal of a minor for purpose of prostitution" and imposes prison terms of up to 14 years for offenders.

US State Department (2016). Trafficking in Persons Report: South Sudan.
 Available at: http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2016/258861.htm

³⁴ Child Act (2008). Accessible at: http://www.gurtong.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=6zJnrx9nF8 S%3D&tabid=342

³⁵ The Southern Sudan Gazette No. 1 Volume I (2009). The Penal Code Act, 2008. Available at: http://www.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/en/ss/ss014en.pdf



- Clause 277 states that whoever "unlawfully compels any person to labour against the will of that person, commits an offence, and upon conviction, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or with a fine or with both."
- Clause 278, outlines the crime of "Kidnapping or Abducting in Order to Subject to Unlawful Compulsory Labour." It asserts that "whoever kidnaps or abducts any person with intent that such person may be unlawfully compelled to labour against his or her will... shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding seven years or with a fine or with both."
- Clause 279, covers "Transferring Control of a Person with Intent to Subject him or her to Unlawful Confinement or Unlawful Compulsory Labour." It stipulates that "whoever, for money or value, transfers or purports to transfer the possession or control of any person to another with the intent to enable such other person to confine such person unlawfully or to compel him or her unlawfully to labour against his or her will," can be punished with a prison term "not exceeding seven years or with a fine or with both."
- Clauses 280 and 281 respectively outlaw obtaining "possession or control [of a person] outside South Sudan that would have constituted a crime within Southern Sudan," and transferring "the possession or control of such person in any manner that would constitute an offence if such transfer or purported transfer took place within Southern Sudan."
- Section 15 of Chapter IV of the 2011 Passport and Immigration Act dictates that a visa shall not be granted to any alien who is reasonably suspected to be entering South Sudan for the purposes of "human trafficking." Those found guilty of entering the country illegally, or obtaining fraudulent passports, visas, and residence permits, or other documents are fined 2,000 South Sudanese Pound (SSP) and sentenced to no more than two years in prison.³⁶ (The value of the SSP has plummeted in recent years; in 2011 this was the equivalent of around USD 570, but in January 2017, 1 USD sold for 105 SSP, meaning this fine would currently be the equivalent of roughly USD 20³⁷)
- Neither the Penal Code nor the Passport and Immigration Act specifically refer to "migrant smuggling", but the latter instrument does dictate that "any person, who facilitates the illegal entrance of or shelters an alien in South Sudan is guilty of an offence, and, on conviction, shall pay a fine not exceeding 500 SSP and/or imprisonment not exceeding six months."³⁸

³⁶ The Laws of Southern Sudan (2011). Passport and Immigration Act, 2011. Available at: http:// www.refworld.org/pdfid/4e9432652.pdf

³⁷ Sudan Tribune (2017). S. Sudanese Pound further weakens against U.S. dollar. Available at: http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article61328.

³⁸ The Laws of Southern Sudan (2011). Passport and Immigration Act, 2011. Available at: http:// www.refworld.org/pdfid/4e9432652.pdf



A disjointed judiciary

Research points to South Sudan inheriting at independence a disjointed justice system.³⁹ The Transitional Constitution and other legislation lacks clarity on several key issues relating to the judiciary.⁴⁰ The legal system of South Sudan consists of a complex web of various forms of jurisprudence. While statutory law has started to replace customary law, primarily in urban areas, both forms, despite sometimes contradicting one another, continue to inform court rulings.

Jurisdiction on many subjects remains squarely in the hands of the chiefdom hierarchy.⁴¹ Judicial structures are also under developed, suffering from a lack of physical, institutional, and human capacity, as well as from an inability to act independently.⁴² According to a 2013 report by the International Commission of Jurists, the following key processes were incomplete: "the institutionalization of the separation of powers; the establishment of sufficient numbers of adequately resourced courts; law reforms; the building of an independent judiciary and the establishment of an independent legal profession, in sufficient numbers throughout the country; as well as the establishment of a functioning nation-wide legal aid system."⁴³

Many members of the judiciary received their training before independence in Khartoum and do not speak English, having been educated in Arabic and according to the Islamic jurisprudence that is the basis for Sudanese law. South Sudan's laws, however, have not been translated into Arabic, and many judges currently operating in South Sudan have not received formal training on South Sudanese law.⁴⁴ The Transitional Constitution of 2011 calls for a decentralized system of governance,⁷⁴⁵ but the relationship between state and

42 Geneva Centre for the Control of Armed Forces (2016). South Sudan SSR Background Note. Available at: http://issat.dcaf.ch/Learn/Resource-Library/Country-Profiles/ South-Sudan-SSR-Background-Note#18A

³⁹ Ajo Noel Julius, K. (2015). Reform of South Sudan Judiciary: where to start? Sudan Tribune. Available at: http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article55609

⁴⁰ Ajo Noel Julius, K. (2015). The mythos of judicial independence in South Sudan. Sudan Tribune. Available at: http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article55523

⁴¹ Mennen (2017). Customary law and land rights in South Sudan. Available at: https://www. flyktninghjelpen.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/customary-law-and-land-rights-in-southsudan.pdf.

⁴³ International Commission of Jurists (2013). South Sudan: An Independent Judiciary in An Independent State. Available at: http://icj.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/ uploads/2013/12/SOUTH-SUDAN-CIJL-REPORT-elec-versionFsmallpdf.com_.pdf

⁴⁴ Mertenskoetter, P. and Luak, D.S. (2012). An Overview of the Legal System and Legal Research in the Republic of South Sudan. Available at: http://www.nyulawglobal.org/ globalex/South_Sudan.html#_edn10

⁴⁵ Constitution of South Sudan (2011). Available at: https://www.constituteproject.org/ constitution/South_Sudan_2011.pdf



national governments remains unclear, and new and existing laws are not adequately communicated throughout all levels of government.⁴⁶

Recruitment and use of Child Soldiers

As stated above, the forced recruitment of a child for the purpose of participation in armed conflict falls under the ambit of trafficking in persons as per the definition given by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.

Within the SPLA, there is a Child Protection Unit and Military Justice Section, set up to prevent the recruitment of minors, monitor barracks, assist in the identification and release of children from the army, and hold accountable senior officers with minors under their command. According to a 2015 report by Human Rights Watch, no commanders have been charged with offences related to the use of child soldiers. The same report concluded that the SPLA's Military Justice Section and Child Protection Unit are in disarray, "under-supported by the army and presently without technical or logistics support from the UN or donors."

Under a 2015 peace agreement between President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar, the warring parties agreed to the "immediate and unconditional release" of all child soldiers under their command or influence. Those responsible for overseeing and monitoring this process include UNICEF, the International Committee of Red Cross, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Monitoring and Verification Mechanism.⁴⁷

The SPLA-IO (the forces under Riek Machar's command) did not appoint an official to work with the UN on monitoring and ending child soldiering. According to Human Rights Watch, UNMISS and UNICEF, the practice is still believed to be widespread, within the ranks of both factions of the SPLA and various rebel groups.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ Mertenskoetter, P. and Luak, D.S. (2012). An Overview of the Legal System and Legal Research in the Republic of South Sudan. Available at: http://www.nyulawglobal.org/ globalex/South_Sudan.html#_edn10

⁴⁷ Intergovernmental Authority on Development (2015). Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. Available at: http://www.sudantribune.com/IMG/ pdf/final_proposed_compromise_agreement_for_south_sudan_conflict.pdf

⁴⁸ Human Rights Watch (2015). "We Can Die Too": Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers in South Sudan. Available at: https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/12/14/we-can-die-too/ recruitment-and-use-child-soldiers-south-sudan; UNICEF, 2016. Hundreds of children recruited by armed groups in South Sudan, as violations against women and children increase. Available at: https://www.unicef.org/media/media_92549.html; UNMISS and OHCHR, 2017. A report on violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law in the context of the fighting in Juba, South Sudan, in July 2016.Available at: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/SS/ ReportJuba16Jan2017.pdf.



In 2012 the SPLA and the UN agreed on a Joint Action Plan to Combat the Use of Child Soldiers.⁴⁹ This aims "to ensure that a transparent system is in place for disciplinary action against those in command who recruited children within the SPLA" and to institutionalise child protection within the national army. It also aims to improve communication among commanders to halt the recruitment of child soldiers and to ensure that responsibility for child protection is understood at all levels of the SPLA. The 2012 plan builds on a previous plan agreed in 2009 with the SPLA, before it had the status of a national army.

4.2 Government structures to collect, analyse and share information

Various organizations, bodies and agencies within the Government of South Sudan are directly engaged in countering human trafficking, and to a lesser extent, human smuggling.

The Ministry of Interior is tasked with enforcing criminal laws to combat human trafficking and maintains a database on crime statistics.⁵⁰ South Sudanese law enforcement and government officials interviewed for this report, including those within the Ministry of Interior, indicated that very few crime statistics are collected outside Juba, and that information is not currently gathered or collected in a systematised manner.⁵¹ Very few personnel are familiar with, or have received training on, domestic and international laws related to human trafficking, although training and capacity building exercises are under way.⁵²

Within the Ministry of Interior, the Directorate of Nationality, Passport and Immigration (DNPI) has authority over all movements in and out of the country. The DNPI has a Border Management Information System, installed with the help of IOM at Juba International Airport and 10 land border points,⁵³ but it was unclear to what extent this system was fully functioning at the time of research.⁵⁴ Interviews indicated that the use of bribes to gain entry into South Sudan by migrants with inadequate documents, coupled with the absence of the state's presence in large parts of the country, hamper exhaustive record keeping and data collection. South Sudan's porous border allow irregular migrants to enter the country

- 51 Key informant interviews in South Sudan, August 2016.
- 52 Ibid.

⁴⁹ Office of the Special Representative for the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (2012). South Sudan commits to making the national army child-free. Available at: https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/press-release/ south-sudan-commits-to-making-the-national-army-child-free/

⁵⁰ United States Department of Labor: Bureau of International Labor Affairs (2015). Child Labor and Forced Labor Reports: South Sudan. Available at: https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/ files/images/ilab/child-labor/SouthSudan.pdf

⁵³ International Organization for Migration South Sudan (2015). Programmes: Migration Management. Available at: http://southsudan.iom.int/programmes/migration-management

⁵⁴ Ibid.



undetected; some may pay non-state armed groups in control of border areas to gain entry. $^{\rm 55}$

According to interviews its officials, the DNPI works closely with other national agencies such as the police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Military Intelligence (MI), the National Security Services (NSS), and the South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS). Cooperation between the various agencies includes carrying out joint activities in gathering security intelligence, and various operational tasks such as border and highway patrols. Interviews with DNPI officials indicated that the biggest impediment to data collection and sharing information were budgetary constraints that prevent them carrying out their mandate.⁵⁶

Collaboration and information sharing between the DNPI, MI, and NSS takes place on an ad-hoc basis, and there are no formal mechanisms for collecting, analysing, or sharing information on human trafficking or migrant smuggling.⁵⁷ Roles and responsibilities are blurred by the tendency of the SPLA and NSS to frequently carry out duties nominally under the purview of the police.⁵⁸ The NSS in particular, which enjoy broad powers to arrest, detain and monitor people,⁵⁹ and which, under a recent National Security Bill,⁶⁰ are unaccountable to civilian institutions, collect considerable amounts of information. In theory, they have the capacity to collect information on human trafficking, but the focus of their attention appears to be on perceived threats to the government. A recent report by Amnesty International provided a litany arbitrary detention of political dissidents, activists, and journalists who fall foul of the government.⁶¹

The SSNPS, which largely consists of former SPLA members, lacks the basic skills necessary to conduct police investigations and has been criticized since independence for alleged corruption and ineffectiveness. To fulfil its mission the NSS also lacks a presence outside certain key areas. It is widely reported that both security and police services are distrusted because of human rights violations.⁶² Interviews with law enforcement officials indicated that human traffickers are known to collude with or pay off law enforcement officials in

⁵⁵ Key informant interviews in South Sudan, August 2016.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Geneva Centre for the Control of Armed Forces (2016). South Sudan SSR Background Note. Available at: http://issat.dcaf.ch/Learn/Resource-Library/Country-Profiles/ South-Sudan-SSR-Background-Note#18A

⁵⁹ Human Rights Watch (2014). South Sudan: Abusive Security Bill. Available at: https://www. hrw.org/news/2014/10/15/south-sudan-abusive-security-bill

⁶⁰ Laws of South Sudan (2014). National Security Bill 2014. Available at: http://www.icnl.org/ research/library/files/South%20Sudan/nssbill.pdf

⁶¹ Amnesty International (2016). Denied Protection of the Law: National Security Service Detention in Juba, South Sudan. Available at: https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ afr65/3844/2016/en/

⁶² Geneva Centre for the Control of Armed Forces (2016). South Sudan SSR Background Note. Available at: http://issat.dcaf.ch/Learn/Resource-Library/Country-Profiles/ South-Sudan-SSR-Background-Note#18A



order to ensure that investigations are thwarted.⁶³ Criminal investigators in Juba suggested that a lack of training, as well as a lack of resources to enable those who have received outside training, are key impediments to building police investigative capacity.⁶⁴ Local NGOs and civil society organizations have limited knowledge of the crime of human trafficking. One law enforcement official in Juba, for example, stressed a need to raise public awareness so that local NGOs and civil society organizations can play a role in combating human trafficking by identifying cases, reporting them, and being a source of information.⁶⁵

The South Sudan Human Rights Commission (SSHRC) also has a role, at least in theory, in countering human trafficking. Established in 2009 by the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission Act, the SSHRC is an independent body designed to monitor the application and enforcement of human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution and in "ratified international and regional human rights instruments." It is also tasked with investigating complaints of human rights violations, to offer advice to government organs on issues relating to human rights, and to "formulate, implement and oversee programmes of research, education and awareness of citizens' rights and obligations to enhance respect for human rights."⁶⁶ The SSHRC has remained active throughout the outbreak of civil war in 2013, although its work is not specific to human trafficking. In June 2016, the SSHRC chairperson stressed, a "need to assess the government's willingness to address grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law."⁶⁷

Outside assistance

In recent years, a range of outside actors, most notably IOM, have worked with the South Sudanese government to improve its border management systems, and by extension, increase its capacity to counter migrant smuggling and human trafficking at its borders.

Since 2010 IOM has been working in South Sudan on issues of border management and began working directly with the Government of South Sudan in 2011 to address irregular migration through capacity building and training.⁶⁸

In 2012, IOM, as part of its UK-funded Capacity Building for Migration Management project, and through its own African Capacity Building Centre (ACBC), trained 20 border guards from DNPI on the detection of forged documents and imposters. The training concentrated

⁶³ Key informant interviews in South Sudan, August 2016.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

The Laws of Southern Sudan (2009). The Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission Act,
 2009. Available at: http://www.icnl.org/research/library/files/South%20Sudan/
 SSHumanRights%20CommissionAct2009.pdf

⁶⁷ United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2016). Human Rights Council holds enhanced interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in South Sudan. Available at: http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20160&LangID=E

⁶⁸ International Organization for Migration South Sudan (2015). Programmes: Migration Management. Available at: http://southsudan.iom.int/programmes/migration-management



on how passports are manufactured and on the use of forgery detection equipment provided by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office.⁶⁹

IOM also works in partnership with the Ministry of Interior, and specifically the DNPI, to "improve immigration and border management policies." Since 2012, this programme has received support from Japan via a USD 5.3 million multi-year grant funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.⁷⁰ Through this project, titled the "Border Control and Migration Management Programme," IOM states it has assisted in the construction/ rehabilitation of 10 land border posts; constructed an Immigration Training Academy; trained more than 1,000 law enforcement officials; and installed a Border Management Information System at Juba International Airport and 10 land borders.⁷¹

Also under this programme, the Government of Japan and IOM delivered two training manuals to the DNPI in March 2016. The first is a compendium of relevant law, policies and procedures designed to be used as a reference tool by immigration officers. The second, titled "Immigration Training Manual", includes chapters on law, entry procedures, refugees and stateless persons, fraud and security, departure formalities data collection and reporting.⁷²

In June 2016, IOM and DNPI conducted a one-day workshop for law enforcement and civilian agencies to improve security at Juba International Airport. The training aimed to "promote interagency cooperation as a means to enhancing safety, facilitating transport of persons and goods and enforcing border controls.⁷³

In October 2016, South Sudanese immigration officers took part in two three-day trainings in Juba, which aimed to improve border control and increase South Sudanese migration management capacity. The trainings were led by eight DNPI officers who had previously attended a "training of trainers" session at ACBC and who had learned to operate the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS). The eight trainers from DNPI

japan-and-iom-team-improve-border-management-south-sudan

73 International Organization for Migration South Sudan (2016). IOM and South Sudan Team Up to Promote Security at Juba International Airport. Available at: http://southsudan.iom.int/ media-and-reports/press-release/

iom-and-south-sudan-team-promote-security-juba-international-airport

⁶⁹ African Capacity Building Centre (2012). Capacity Building for Migration Management in SouthSudan.Availableat:http://acbc.iom.int/where-we-work/featured-iom-projects/26-featured-iomprojects

⁷⁰ Government of Japan (2015). Japan's Assistance to South Sudan. Available at: http://www. ss.emb-japan.go.jp/en/pdf_20151204.pdf

⁷¹ International Organization for Migration South Sudan (2015). Programmes: Migration Management. Available at: http://southsudan.iom.int/programmes/migration-management

⁷² International Organization for Migration South Sudan (2016). Japan and IOM Team Up to Improve Border Management in South Sudan. Available at: http://southsudan.iom.int/ media-and-reports/press-release/



trained 30 DNPI colleagues, marking the first time that such trainings were conducted independently by DNPI officials.⁷⁴

South Sudan is also one of the countries included in the "Better Migration Management" project, funded by the European Union (EU) as part of the Khartoum Process. The EUR 46 million project, which draws EUR 40 million from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Stability and Addressing Root Causes of Irregular Migration and Displacement, and EUR 6 million from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, encompasses ten countries in East Africa, the Horn of Africa, and North Africa. The overall programme, covering the years 2016-2019, takes place with the cooperation of five EU states, (Germany, France, Italy, Malta and the United Kingdom) and institutions such as IOM and a number of UN agencies.⁷⁵ While activities in South Sudan had not yet started at the time of research for this report, the project aims to provide assistance and training in data collection and assistance in developing and implementing human trafficking regulations.⁷⁶

The Government of South Sudan receives support from UNMISS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to build the capacity of local law enforcement and the judiciary. In 2014, through its Justice Advisory Section, UNMISS, provided training to members of law enforcement and the judiciary at national and state levels, with the aim to create more confidence in the criminal justice system by making it more transparent and accountable.⁷⁷ Also within UNMISS, UN Police (UNPOL) currently provides training to the SSNPS to "strengthen capacities in areas like investigation of serious crimes and crime scene management, forensic science, and border management training." It also supports the development of specialist criminal investigations and operation units as well as training of SSNPS on security measures such as "small arms control; security for important events (such as elections), border management, intra-tribal conflicts and transnational organized crime."⁷⁷⁸

UNDP, through its "Support to Access to Justice and Rule of Law" project aims to increase access to justice to citizens of South Sudan, with a special focus on women and other vulnerable groups. The project also seeks to reduce case backlogs and prolonged arbitrary detention at the state level; harmonise the traditional and formal justice sectors; and strengthen the capacity of the police, prisons, Ministry of Justice, judiciary and legal aid services. The USD 8 million project, which began in 2013 and is set to finish in March of

- 75 GIZ (2016). Better Migration Management. Available at: https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/40602.html
- Furopean Union Action Fiche for the implementation of the Horn of Africa Window.
 Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/
 t05-eutf-hoa-reg-09-better-migration-management_en.pdf
- Geneva Centre for the Control of Armed Forces (2016). South Sudan SSR Background Note.
 Available at: http://issat.dcaf.ch/Learn/Resource-Library/Country-Profiles/
 South-Sudan-SSR-Background-Note#18A
- 78 A longer list of UMNISS/UNPOL activities are available here: http://unmiss.unmissions.org/ un-police

⁷⁴ International Organization for Migration South Sudan (2016). IOM, South Sudan Roll out Training for Immigration Officers Available at: http://southsudan.iom.int/media-and-reports/ press-release/japan-and-iom-team-improve-border-management-south-sudan



2017, is funded by the Government of Norway, the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the UNDP Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery, the UK Department for International Development, and the Government of Japan.⁷⁹

⁷⁹ United Nations Development Programme. South Sudan: Support to Access to Justice and Rule of Law. Available at: http://www.ss.undp.org/content/south_sudan/en/home/ourwork/ democraticgovernance/access_to_justice_rule_of_law.html



5.0

RECOMMENDATIONS

The ongoing civil war and humanitarian crisis in South Sudan severely limits the types of capacity building and technical assistance that outside actors can feasibly offer the Government of South Sudan. The recommendations below focus on specific measures that are ambitious but achievable in the short term, and represent realistic first steps in building the Government of South Sudan's capacity to develop evidence-based policies and conduct criminal investigations by collecting and analysing information about migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

- Encourage the Government of South Sudan to become a party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocols.
- Assist the Government of South Sudan in drafting legislation specific to migrant smuggling and human trafficking in line with the norms and standards outlined in the supplementary protocols of the United Nations Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime.
- Continue to build on the existing efforts by IOM and the Government of Japan to increase border control and migration capacity, particularly in relation to data collection systems (e.g. MIDAS).
- Develop a mechanism through which various agencies within the South Sudanese government, specifically those involved in information and intelligence gathering such as DNPI, NSS, MI, CID and local law enforcement, can share information on human trafficking.
- Develop a national action plan to combat human trafficking; create a government-led, multi-agency task force on human trafficking, modelled after those in other countries in the region.
- Incorporate training specific to human trafficking, including victim identification and protection, within ongoing SSNPS and JIP capacity building activities.
- Launch information campaigns on issues of migrant smuggling and human trafficking that are specifically developed to target local NGOs, civil society organizations and the media.
- Work with the government of South Sudan to develop a framework for collaborating with NGOs and civil society organizations to identify cases of human trafficking and provide support to victims of trafficking.
- Strengthen, expand, and extend ongoing programmes that seek to build the overall capacity and core competencies of civilian institutions such as law enforcement and judiciary.
- Continue and build off existing efforts to combat recruitment of children in armed forces; pressure the Transitional Government of Sudan to hold those responsible accountable.



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This report is one of a series of ten country statements, produced as part of the project *Addressing Mixed Migration Flows in Eastern Africa*. These reports provide an updated overview of migrant smuggling and human trafficking trends and dynamics and the modus operandi of criminal networks involved in facilitating irregular migration. The reports also highlight capacity gaps and challenges faced by governments in the region in responding to these phenomena, informing the identification of capacity-building needs in the areas of data collection, analysis and information sharing. The project is managed by Expertise France and is funded by the European Commission in the context of the EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (the Khartoum Process)

This report is one of 10 country statement reports covering: Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Yemen







