Livelihoods of more than 700,000 vulnerable South Sudanese have been transformed as ECRP I, a World Bank funded Project comes to end in July 2024.

Press Release

JUBA, June 25, 2024—The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of South Sudan through the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Local Government Board, is pleased to announce the official closure of the Enhancing Community Resilience & Local Governance Phase 1 Project (ECRP 1), a $45 million project funded by the World Bank after a successful implementation by UNOPS and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on behalf of the Government of South Sudan.

The implementation of ECRP I was launched in August 2020, covering 20 selected counties across the country, and is expected to officially end in July 2024 with a handover of one of the 31 well-furnished health facilities to the Government in Lokiliri Payam of Juba County, in Central Equatoria state. The handover ceremony will be on Tuesday, 25 June, followed by a grand end-of-project closure event on Wednesday, 26 June, at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Juba. Both events will unite donors, key development partners, the government, and all stakeholders who have played a crucial role in the project completion to share their experiences and celebrate the project's success in South Sudan.

The project results have brought about significant positive change, benefiting over 700,000 community members in all ten states of South Sudan. They have improved access to basic infrastructure, strengthened community institutions, and transformed livelihoods in the communities. The 20 counties so far reached with this project include Pibor, Leer, Rubkona, Pariang, Wau, Raja, Jur River, Maban, Renk, Fashoda, Baliet, Kapoeta North, Rumbek Centre, Wulu, Aweil East, Aweil North, Tonj North, Ezo, Ibba, and Juba.

“The completion of the different physical infrastructures has left impactful traces of services and development in many communities across South Sudan. I want to thank UNOPS, IOM, and the World Bank for making this possible; most of the communities in the target areas have access to agricultural farms, education, health, clean water, economic transformation, and employment”, said Mr. Malony Anei, Acting Chairperson of the Local Government Board in South Sudan.

According to Firas Raad, the World Bank Country Manager for South Sudan, the project has addressed the immediate need for essential services and strengthened local institutions' capacity across the country. The project has also contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals, mainly by responding to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the communities across South Sudan.

Despite some challenges, John Nyerenda, the overall Senior Project Manager from UNOPS, said the ECRP 1 project met its set objectives and handed over 345 complete physical infrastructure to the government, benefiting thousands of community members in the 20 South Sudan locations, primarily women. Nyerenda stressed that UNOPS and IOM completed the construction of 33 primary school blocks, 31 health facilities, 258 water facilities, 11 market sheds, nine community access roads, and four community youth centers and built the capacity of 453 Development Committees at Boma and Payam level.

After completing each project in every location across the country, UNOPS and IOM handed over all infrastructure to the Government at different intervals.
To complement the ECRP I project as it comes to an end, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan has unveiled the South Sudan Enhancing Community Resilience and Local Governance Project Phase II (ECRP-II) as a successor project, which is a five-year $US120 million Government led project that will benefit as many as 920,000 people in 12 of the country’s 79 counties with improved access to basic infrastructure to strengthen community institutions and to enhance flood resilience.

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For further information
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