



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



# Minister's Special Initiative

Assuring  
maternal and  
newborn health  
services in  
hard to reach  
locations

LAUNCHED AT  
SOUTH SUDAN  
HEALTH SUMMIT 2025



# The initiative

A flagship of the Government, aimed to assure maternal and newborn services are available for use in the most hard to reach facilities. All States and Administrative areas are part of the initiative to ensure lessons are applicable in all contexts.



# Background and Rationale

South Sudan continues to face one of the highest maternal and neonatal mortality rates globally. This crisis is driven by limited access to skilled birth attendants, inadequate healthcare infrastructure, and a critical shortage of essential medical supplies and trained personnel.

Women in remote and underserved areas are disproportionately affected, often lacking access to basic emergency obstetric care, resulting in preventable deaths and long-term health complications.

Current levels of investment in health, especially the Health Sector Transformation Project (HSTP), focus on assuring access to basic services to as many people as possible. This support is, however, inadequate to ensure appropriate reach to all mothers and newborns, particularly those in hard to reach areas.

The aim of this special initiative is to address this gap.



# The Minister’s Vision

To ensure mothers and newborns in selected hard to reach areas are having successful maternal health outcomes, similar to those in other areas of the country.

## Objectives

- 1. Ensure availability of all equipment and supplies needed to provide quality Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) services in line with norms
- 2. Reassign/recruit required staffing needed to provide quality Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) services in line with norms
- 3. Establish a monthly analytical and communication process to document continuously and share emerging lessons for other facilities to adopt emerging practices
- 4. Conduct continuous high-level advocacy on the feasibility and effectiveness of investing in maternal and newborn health, based on the emerging lessons from the Initiative

# The Process

01. Together with the state Ministries of Health, the Hon. Minister has identified targeted facilities. Depending on resource availability, the facilities will be brought on board sequentially.

Table of Health facilities identified for the Ministerial initiative on Maternal and Newborn health

No.	States / Administrative Areas	Priority Facilities for Pilot Maternal Health Care
1.	Central Equatoria State	1. Wonduruba Primary Health Care Center in Wonduruba Administrative Payam 2. Tali Primary Health Care Center in Terekeka County
2.	Western Bahr El Ghazal State	1. Besilia Primary Health Care Center 2. Ngodakala Primary Health Care Center
3.	Warrap State	1. Gogrial PHCC, Gogrial West 2. Warrap PHCC, Tonj North
4.	Lakes State	1. Anuol Payam in Yirol West County, Maternal Health Unit. 2. Malek Payam in Rumbek Centre, Maternal Health Unit
5.	Jonglei State	1. Pading Payam, in Nyirol County 2. Khorflus Payam, in Pigi County
6.	Northern Bahr El Ghazal State	1. Awoda PHCC, in Aweil Center 2. War-Apei PHCC, in Aweil North County.
7.	Upper Nile State	1. Kodok Hospital, in Fashoda County, on Western Bank. 2. Maiwut Hospihal, in Western Sobat Corridor of Upper Nile.
8.	Eastern Equatoria State	1. Kuron Health Center, Kauto administrative area. 2. Lafon PHCC, Lafon County.
9.	Western Equatoria State	1. Mideh Health Care Center, Watto Payam, Mundri East County 2. Andari Health Care Center, Andari Payam, Ezo County
10.	Unity State	1. Ruadhnyibol PHCU, Northern Unity State. 2. Chuk, Panyijiar Hospital, Southern Unity State.
11.	Ruweng Administrative Area	1. Biu Health Facility, in Lake No County.
12.	Abyei Special Administrative Area	1. Akechnial Maternity Health Facility, under Alal County of ASAA.
13.	Greater Pibor Administrative Area	1. Lekuangle Primary Health Care, situated in Lekuangle County- GPAA.

## 02. The commitments so far

- 12 month commitments to each participating facility
- Low cost, innovative internet connectivity assuring 24 hour access
- Equipment and supplies for basic emergency obstetric care
- Standardized emergency health services commodities and supplies, for addressing common medical emergencies
- Standard operating procedures and manuals plus orientation of health workers on innovations in maternal and newborn health, including management of NCDs.

## 03. Integration of the initiative

- Advocate to incorporate all these facilities into existing support initiatives, such as the health sector transformation project
- Engage with, and technically support the State to provide regular oversight
- Monthly catch up with the participating facilities together with State and National level teams for peer to peer learning
- Quarterly technical feedback sharing lessons and reviewing impact, to integrate lessons into the wider health sector.



## 04. Partnerships and stakeholder roles in the initiative

- National MOH: assignment of needed staff, plus the visibility, advocacy, and development of analytical products
- States/Administrative Areas / community: Any maintenance of physical infrastructure needed
- The initiative is technically and operationally supported by the UN in South Sudan under the coordination of WHO, and involving UNICEF and UNFPA.

## 05. Measure of success

- Reduced suffering and deaths for Mothers and newborns in the area of responsibility of targeted facilities,
- Innovative lessons on ensuring maternal and newborn survival in hard to reach areas.

---

# Visibility and Political Impact

This initiative aims to showcase the Minister's proactive leadership in addressing a critical public health challenge. The Ministry will position it as a cornerstone of its broader health reform agenda, and it will share regular updates through media, stakeholder briefings, and public engagements.

---