South Sudan gained independence in 2011 after an extended peace process that followed decades of civil war. The challenges facing the new state are daunting, as decades of underinvestment brought development initiatives to a near standstill. Within this context, IOM South Sudan’s Transition and Recovery programme works directly with vulnerable communities to address the root causes of conflict and instability.

Transition and Recovery initiatives are designed to promote dialogue and boost local economies by facilitating trade and income generation, constructing or rehabilitating key infrastructure and raising awareness on the benefits of peace. IOM actively encourages the participation of beneficiaries, stressing the importance of peace for development and the necessity of assuming responsibility for the sustainability of projects, within a framework of cooperation with government institutions. Furthermore, Transition and Recovery activities ensure the continuity of humanitarian interventions and an effective, sustainable transition to recovery and development.

Nearly two million people have returned to South Sudan since 2007, straining the country’s already limited resources and creating tensions with host communities. By focusing interventions on parts of the country that have experienced the highest levels of return and improving access to basic services for both returnees and host communities, Transition and Recovery activities help create an environment for the successful reintegration of returnees.

IOM’s Transition and Recovery initiatives currently have an operating budget of over USD 18 million, with activities being carried out in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, Jonglei, Lakes and Unity states, as well as in the Abyei area.

IOM’s Global Transition and Recovery Capacity

Identifying, mitigating and addressing the root causes of forced migration is a core component of resolving displacement, promoting peace, ensuring a sustainable recovery and building resilience.

IOM’s Transition and Recovery Division (TRD) is responsible for overseeing programming to assist in reducing and preventing the impacts of, and recovering from, the longer-term consequences of crises, in particular its effect on human mobility and displacement and in ensuring conditions are conducive to meeting the complex needs of a sustainable return and reintegration.

TRD activities are all considered within the Migration Crisis Operational Framework, endorsed by IOM’s Member States in 2012.
**Reconstruction and Rehabilitation**

Competition over scarce resources is one of the main drivers for inter-communal violence in South Sudan, and has also been identified as a leading barrier to the successful reintegration of returnees. To improve access to resources for both returnees and host community members, IOM works with communities and local authorities to identify priority needs in infrastructure repair and rehabilitation.

In particular, improved access to water and education have been identified as a key priorities for communities, particularly those with high numbers of returnees. IOM is working to construct and/or rehabilitate water systems and schools in these areas, benefitting both returnees and the host communities.

**Community Outreach**

To further enhance the impact of reconstruction and rehabilitation work, all of IOM’s Transition and Recovery initiatives have integrated community outreach components to engage local stakeholders and help ensure project sustainability. IOM works with communities to identify priority infrastructure needs, and establishes management committees responsible for the maintenance and day-to-day management of the improved infrastructure. Community outreach also includes health and gender promotion activities to ensure that interventions have equitable and wide-reaching impact.

**Vocational Training and Employment Generation**

Lack of livelihood opportunities and market services is a major obstacle to the successful reintegration of returnees in South Sudan. IOM provides vocational training and business start up kits to help returnees and host community members build their skills and subsequently improve local economic opportunities. These activities are developed in close coordination with community representatives to ensure balanced representation and that the needs of local markets are met.

**Capacity Building for Civil Society**

A strong civil society is essential for community stability and longer-term development. Through the Peace and Stability Quick Impact Fund (PSQIF), IOM supports the implementation of peacebuilding projects by community-based organizations and NGOs. The project assists communities prone to insecurity by providing targeted and immediate peacebuilding support, and improves their overall capacity to apply for, develop and implement small grants by offering training and close partnership throughout the grant implementation period.

**Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)**

IOM supports the South Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commission in the roll-out of its pilot DDR project. IOM is currently leading the implementation of the community support component of the project, working with communities that have absorbed a large number of ex-combatants to identify and implement infrastructure rehabilitation projects that will contribute to the successful reintegration of ex-combatants.