



**UNMISS**  
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## UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN PERCEPTION SURVEY 2024

A Perception Survey, commissioned by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, was conducted between 12 April and 20 May 2024 to understand public sentiment and key trends on the economic and security situation, political, peace and electoral processes, the mission's mandate and impact, the information landscape and civic space. The survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews with 2,231 people across the 10 states.

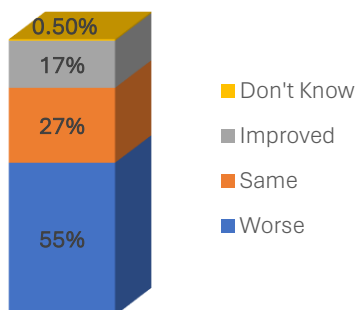
In terms of demographics, respondents were 45% male and 55% female. Most were married (76%) and aged between 18-49 years (84%), reflecting South Sudan's youthful population. Around 47% reported having no formal education and 24% attended only primary school. A further 20% had secondary-level education, 4% vocational training and 5% had university degrees. Most respondents (87%) described themselves as citizens or residents and 67% lived in rural areas. In 35% of households, a member was reported to have a disability. Most households (68%) had between three and eight members while 28% had nine to 12 and 8% had 13 or more people living at their residence.

### KEY FINDINGS

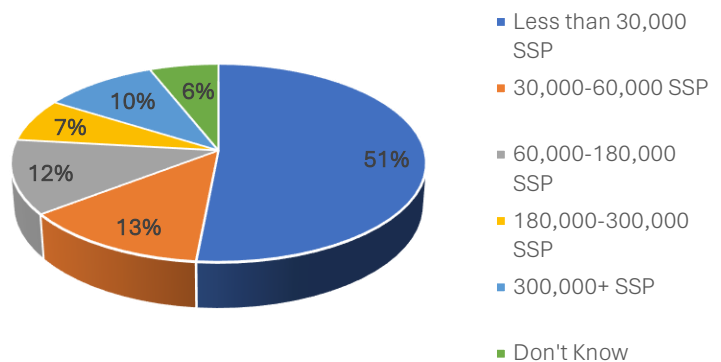
#### Economy

- 51% of respondents earned less than 30,000 South Sudanese Pounds (approx. USD\$6) a month, 25% between 30,000 and 60,000, and 17% made more than that.
- Farming, unskilled labor and self-employment were the main sources of household income.
- 55% reported that economic conditions worsened over the past year, while 27% said it was the same and 17% felt the situation had improved.
- Strongest economic concerns were reported in Western and Eastern Equatoria while the greatest sense of improvement was felt in Western Bahr El Ghazal.

#### ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OVER PAST YEAR

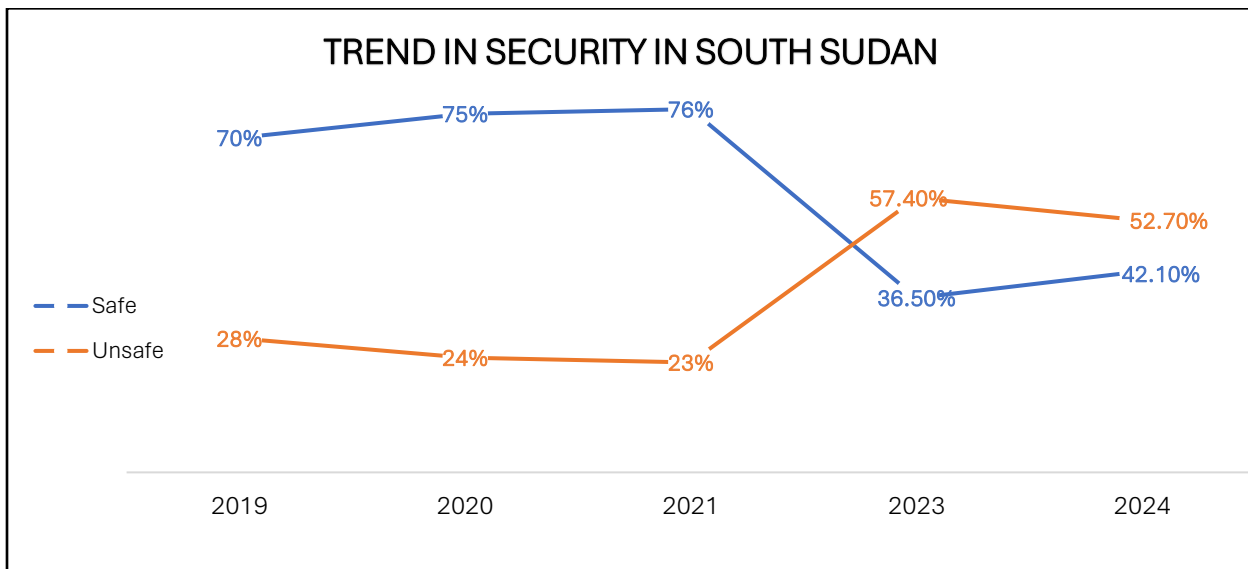
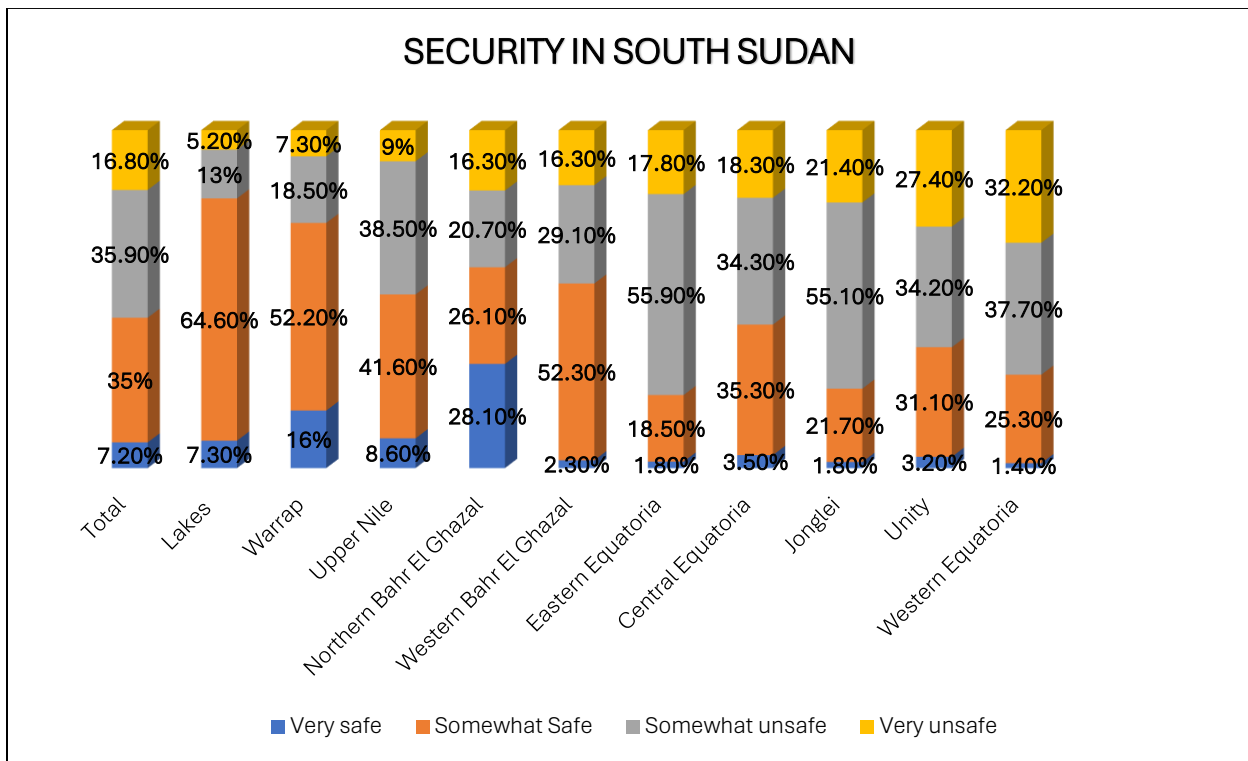


#### MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME



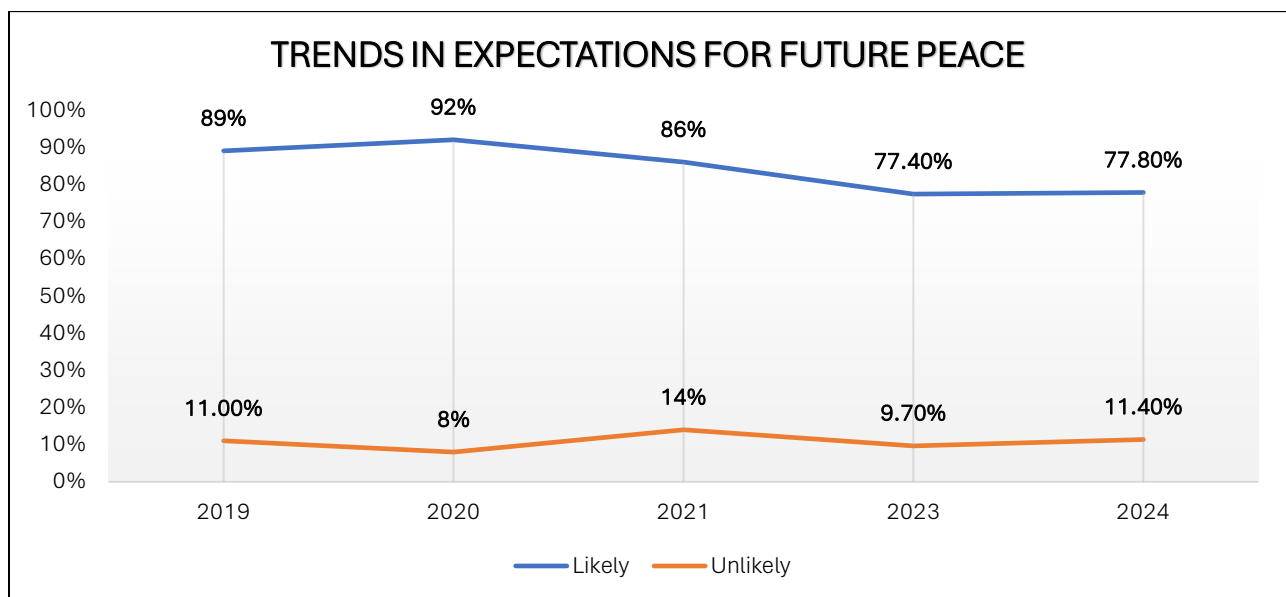
## Security

- 54% of respondents reported security in their immediate area was very (23%) or somewhat safe (31%), while 29% said it was somewhat unsafe and 16% very unsafe.
- Looking at security across South Sudan, 42% felt it was somewhat (35%) or very safe (7%) while 53% reported it to be very (17%) or somewhat unsafe (36%).
- There was a sharp spike in feelings of insecurity in 2023 which reversed slightly this year.
- Areas reported to be most unsafe were Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, and Western Equatoria.
- Hunger was the main threat to security although, for the first time, intercommunal violence eclipsed armed conflict involving organized forces and disease as the next biggest threat.
- 34% reported a death in their household, most from disease and intercommunal conflict, and 25% said that at least one household member had been displaced, mostly due to intercommunal conflict and hunger.



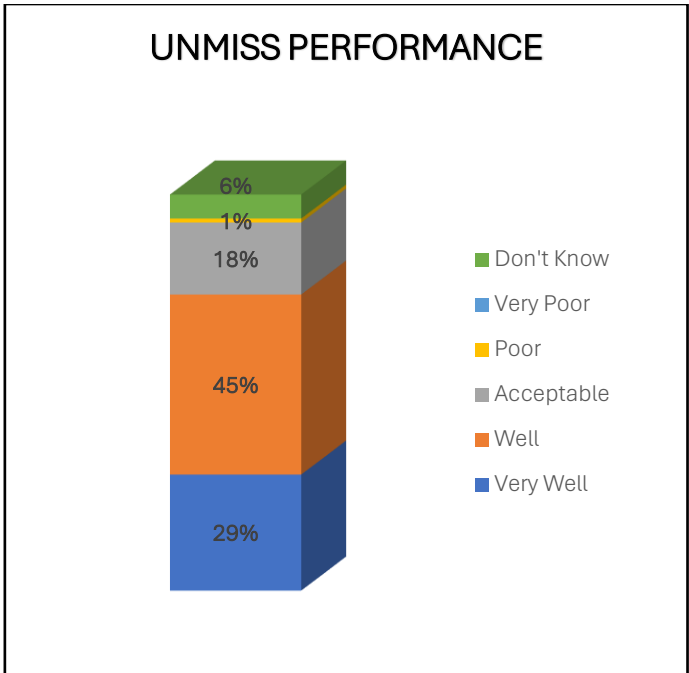
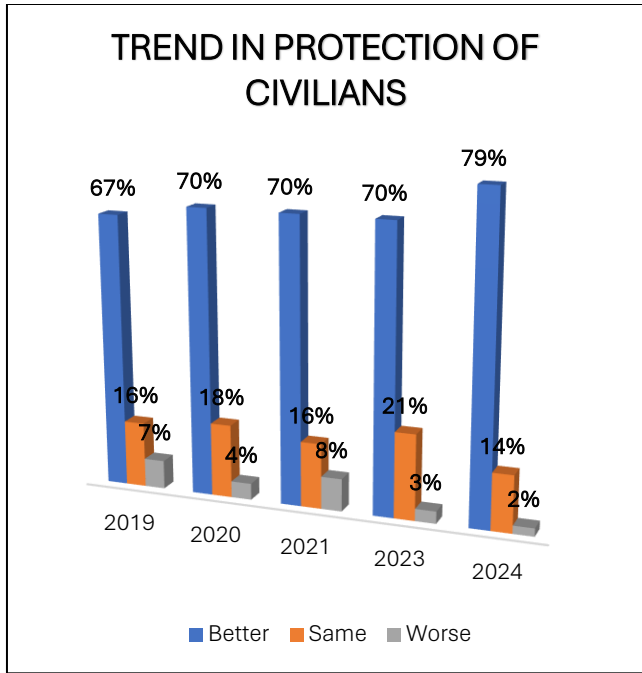
## Political, Peace and Electoral Processes

- 88% of respondents identified the Government as primarily responsible for maintaining peace and stability and 73% for protecting civilians.
- 70% of respondents felt South Sudan is somewhat peaceful and an additional (10%) regarded the country very peaceful.
- 33% expect the situation to remain the same, 44% feel it will improve, and 11% predict it will worsen in the next year.
- Those most optimistic were predominantly from Western Bahr El Ghazal and Northern Bahr El Ghazal while those who feared a worsening situation were mostly from Western Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria.
- Positive expectations for peace peaked at 92% in 2020 and declined to around 77% in the past two years.
- 91% believe it is important for elections to be held and 88% intend to vote.
- In terms of barriers to elections, 36% identified lack of security, 29% political cooperation, 20% preparations, and 9% funding.
- 78% reported that international support would be needed for elections, down from 86% in 2023.



## Role and Impact of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

- 84% of respondents felt UNMISS was performing very (46%) or somewhat well (28%) overall while 18% described the mission's performance as acceptable and 1% poor.
- 87% reported that the presence of UNMISS peacekeepers made them feel safer.
- 79% perceived UNMISS was performing much better (24%) or better (55%) in protecting civilians, an increase of 10% compared to the 2023 survey, while 14% said there was no difference and 2% felt it was worse.
- 88% felt UNMISS' work to monitor, investigate, verify and report on human rights had a significant (32%) or at least a little impact (56%) in preventing violence and abuse of civilians, while 12% said it made no difference.
- 87% reported UNMISS' efforts to prevent and resolve intercommunal conflict had made very much (31%) or at least a little difference (56%) while 13% said there was no impact.
- The same number (87%) felt that UNMISS' contribution towards durable peace was significant (41%) or made at least a little difference (46%), while 8% said it had no impact.



### Information Landscape and Civic Space

- The main sources of news and information for respondents were radio (62%) and in-person engagement (27%), while social media (6%), television (2%) and newspapers (0.4%) fell far behind.
- 43% of respondents reported being aware of incidents of misinformation, disinformation or hate speech being spread with the intent to cause tension or incite violence, with the sources cited as mostly radio (51%), in-person engagement (25%) and social media (19%).
- While 57% of respondents believed media could report freely on the situation in South Sudan, 69% feel that same freedom does not extend to members of the public expressing their opinions.
- 32% reported that a member of their household had been intimidated, threatened, arrested or attacked for publicly sharing their opinions.

