

How we add value to our partners' projects



Operational excellence for results that matter

Our partners request UNOPS support to supplement their own project planning, implementation and management capacities by improving speed and quality, reducing risks and increasing cost-effectiveness.

Our unique position, experience and approach allow us to add value to peacebuilding, humanitarian and development projects in South Sudan in a number of ways:

As a member of the United Nations family

UNOPS is able to work in the most hard-to-reach areas, despite considerable security and environmental challenges, by using United Nations security and transport services. We are also an active member of the United Nations country team, working closely with other UN organizations to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in South Sudan.



UNOPS often works in partnership with the United Nations mission to implement emergency road repairs to ease humanitarian access. **Photo:** UNOPS

UNOPS is a not-for-profit UN organization and ensures that any savings made during implementation are returned to the donor or reinvested to boost project impact.

Our management services meet the highest international standards of transparency and accountability. UNOPS recently became a member of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and we are now publishing data on more than 1,000 projects in the standardized format.

Providing local knowledge

The UNOPS office has existed in Juba since 2005 and runs projects across all 10 states, employing expert project



UNOPS Project Manager Alfred Wandera Kamure inspects work on the Magwi County Headquarters site.

Photo: UNOPS/Katy Laffan

managers and support staff who have been working in South Sudan for years. Out of our 200 staff, more than 130 are nationals.

UNOPS in South Sudan has developed strong relationships with local contractors and a deep understanding of local customs, standards and security conditions. Our managers and engineers have substantial knowledge of weather patterns, terrain and soil conditions.

Experts in infrastructure projects

UNOPS is a 'central resource' for the United Nations in infrastructure development and we have extensive experience designing, constructing, rehabilitating and maintaining physical infrastructure in all kinds of terrain, including in some of the world's most challenging conditions. Alongside construction we offer design services through our in-house Physical Infrastructure Design Unit and in partnership with international architecture firm Arup.

"UNOPS has consistently delivered its building activities within the agreed time period, to a high standard and within the budget. I highly recommend UNOPS for its civil and building engineering services and its delivery capacities."

- Graham Boyd, Chief Technical Adviser
UN/GOSS Joint Programme on Youth Employment
International Labour Organization

Our focus on quality means we use contracts for works which are of the highest international standard, in accordance with the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC). These include important safeguards such as performance bonds, retention payments and rules of arbitration – ensuring a high quality of contractor performance and partner protection. They also make sure sufficient funds are maintained to guarantee continued and completed construction of a high standard.

We use the latest sustainable design and construction techniques to ensure buildings are architecturally appropriate for the environment and culture. These also address issues such as electrical and fire safety, and energy efficiency. Our experts provide environmental impact assessments and mitigation measures and conduct regular site inspections to ensure the work method statement is being followed and work is progressing satisfactorily.

“We love working with UNOPS because they really treat us like a partner. When something goes wrong onsite, they take the time to show us how to avoid these problems in the future. This way my guys really learn from their mistakes and we keep getting better.”

- Dak Naidu

*Managing Director of South Sudanese company
Sun Investment, contracted by UNOPS
to construct a range of projects*

Developing the capacity of South Sudan

UNOPS helps local contractors improve key skills through on-the-job training and by assisting with the preparation of bids. Our procurement officers break tenders down into small packages to give experience to a larger number of construction companies of all sizes where possible and suitable. We ensure building designs are based on local materials and expertise while maintaining international standards for safety. We also work to build the capacity of a number of Government ministries, through direct training and close partnership during implementation.

Listening to the community

UNOPS ensures extensive consultations with local authorities, beneficiaries and other members of the community when implementing an infrastructure project. This helps ensure



UNOPS staff work closely with beneficiary communities to ensure local ownership and project sustainability.

Photo: UNOPS/Jonathan Buckingham

community needs are met and the impact and sustainability of the project is maximized. UNOPS also offer social impact assessments through the UNOPS Applied Research Unit.

Promoting gender equality

UNOPS is working to empower women and girls by considering the gender aspects of all the projects we implement. This includes incorporating gender concerns during community mobilization, contracting requirements, building design, etc.

Focused on quality

UNOPS vision is to always satisfy partners with management services that meet world-class standards of quality, speed and cost-effectiveness. In 2011, UNOPS quality management systems were certified as *ISO 9001* compliant – meaning processes relating to our core services are of the highest international quality. Also in 2011, UNOPS procurement processes were certified by the *Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply*. And our project managers and project staff are required to be certified in *PRINCE2™* project management methodology.

This focus on quality means completing our partners' projects on time, within budget and in line with their expectations. It means ensuring that the results we deliver really benefit the communities where we work.