

Terms of Reference

Celebration of the World Teachers Day 2023

Background

Established by UNESCO in 1994 to commemorate the signing in 1966 of the UNESCO/ILO recommendations concerning the status of teachers, the World Teachers Day (WTD) has served over the years as an instrument to honour teachers and teacher organizations making vital contributions to the education and development of people. The UNESCO/ILO recommendation sets forth the rights and responsibilities of teachers as well as international standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, teaching, and learning conditions. Since its adoption, the recommendation has been considered an important set of guidelines to promote teachers' status in the interest of quality education. South Sudan will join the rest of the world to celebrate the WTD under the theme "The teachers we need for the education we want: The Global imperative to reverse the teacher shortages".

The Situation of Teachers in South Sudan

South Sudan suffers from acute shortage of qualified teachers. Only 49% of the 60,711 teachers are trained, and of this only 9.2% are of degree-level training, 8.3% diploma level, and a whopping 82.5% trained at certificate level. This translates to a large number of learners per qualified teacher – ranging from 46 to over 100 in some states. The low rate of teacher training and development, deployment and retention has made lack of teachers the second largest contributor after insecurity to school closure. Only 27% of teachers are on the government payroll and the irregular pay of salaries coupled with the depreciation of the national currency means that teachers generally struggle to meet basic needs of their families making the teaching professional becoming less and less attractive. The work environment for teachers in some cases is another matter of concern. For example, 42% of the schools across the country do not have toilets.

This is attested to by the dwindling number of students in the colleges of education in the public universities, the national teacher training institutes and the County Education Centres. In 2021, only 1,157 students attended the various teacher training institutes in the country. To reverse the acute shortage of teachers in general and qualified teachers in particular, the country needs to demonstrate commitment to the various pronouncements about education. The WTD 2023 would serve the cause of the teachers if used to advocate for attention to the status of teachers in the country. Entry points already exist for the advocacy, and these are highlighted below.

Advocacy on the Status of the Teachers

Under the leadership of the National Teachers Union, the State Teachers Union, and Teaching Staff Associations in the universities, and in collaboration with the two Ministries of Education (General and Higher) and partners, advocacy for expeditious endorsement of the policy frameworks relating to teachers will be carried out and fast tracking their implementation. These policies include the National Teacher Education Policy (2023-2030), the National TVET Teachers/Instructors Policy, the Higher Education Policy, the ICT in Education Policy, and the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy.

There will also be a call to serious consideration for implementation of the resolutions of the National Economic Conference relating to human capital development, and the provisions of the General Education Act, 2012, and the resolutions of the General Education Annual Review (GEAR) Conference, 2020 (MoGEI, 2020), related to pay and additional allowances for teachers to increase teacher pay, improve teacher morale and motivation, and improve the conditions of service for teachers to ensure

the teaching profession is attractive and can attract the best. The recently convened National Economic Conference has five resolutions with clear implication for considerations for teachers:

- Wages/salaries of civil servants and organized forces need to be increased.
- The Ministry of Finance and Planning should set aside student support fund managed by the Ministries of Education.
- The Ministry of General Education should introduce technical and vocational schools for skills enhancement.
- Increase public expenditure on capital sectors, primarily health and education.
- In order to attain practical skills for productive business for women, the government should provide capacity building through technical and vocational training.

Purpose and objective

The main objective of the WTD commemoration is to provide a platform for education partners including the government and various stakeholders to advocate and create awareness about the importance to celebrate how teachers are transforming education but also to reflect on the support they need to fully deploy their talent and vocation, and to rethink the way ahead for the profession. It is a day to focus attention on "The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage".

Expected outcome.

- An increased platform for advocacy and awareness on the importance of how teachers are transforming education and contribute to human capital development for nation building.
- Create platform and opportunity to celebrate and thank teachers for the contributions and inspirations they have given to enable us to become much successful.
- Mobilize support and political will of diverse range of leaders, influencers, relevant partners, and stakeholders and public to support policies and practices that promote and transform teachers' status in the country.
- Perspectives, knowledge, lessons, and interests shared by local education group members on the status of teachers and teachers' welfare.

Strategies and scope for the Advocacy through the WTD

The national Teachers Union and the Associations of Teaching Staff in the universities will be mobilized to lead the preparation of the WTD celebrations. The key partners will be the two Ministries of Education (General Education and Higher Education). Key activities will include:

- Cover and publish Joint Press Release to be issued by MoGEI, UNESCO and UNICEF in collaboration with other education partners on 5th October 2023.
- Host radio and/or TV talk shows or airing of pre-recorded WTD round table discussion on 9th October 2023
- Cover WTD commemoration event to take place at Rombur Teachers' Training Institute and featuring testimonies of teachers – 9th October 2023
- Playing of WTD jingles
- Community sensitization through the community radios on importance of teaching profession and ***"the teachers we need for the education we want: The Global imperative to reverse the teacher shortages"***. using pre-recorded messages, including some inspirational quotes from

leading personalities – Malala Yousafzai, Arne Duncan, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Azad, Aristotle, Albert Einstein, etc.

- Public lecture in honour of the day will be organized in the University of Juba in collaboration with the two Ministries of Education. This will take place on the eve of the WTD (Wednesday, on the 5th October 2023).

Through the above activities, the critical role teachers play in the development of the country will be highlighted.

Date and Venue

The World Teachers Day commemoration event will be celebrated on 9th October 2023, at Rombur Teachers Training Institute. Kindly send directly to email procurement.juba@unesco.org **not later than 2 October time, 12 PM**