



# National Empowerment of Positive Women United (NEPWU)

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## ABOUT US:

The National Empowerment of Positive Women United (NEPWU) is a National Non-Governmental Organization, established in July 2013 by women and girls living with and affected by HIV from seven States of South Sudan. This was made possible with support from UN Women, UNAIDS and SSAC. From a humble beginning of 30 members to 1,592 NEPWU now has registered members in 10 states (Old) Western Bahr El Ghazal, Western Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria States, Northern Bahr El Gazaar, Lakes, Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei and Warrap States.

NEPWU administrative structure includes; General Assembly, Board of Directors, the Secretariat and States and County offices located in Eastern Equatoria State (Torit and Magwi counties), Central Equatoria State (Juba, Kajokeji, Yei) Western Equatoria State (Maridi, Yambio, Nzara), Western Bahr El Ghazal (Wau) and Upper Nile State (Malakal)



## VISION;

**A nation and a region of healthy women living in harmony, free from violence, discrimination, living their full potential and empowered to make decisions affecting their lives**

## MISSION;

**NEPWU exists to promote the health, rights, meaningful and active participation of women and girls in South Sudan especially those living with and affected by HIV**

### Core program areas

Women and girls in South Sudan are more vulnerable to HIV than their male counterparts due to biological factors, gender imbalances, and lack of skills to negotiate safer sex, the absence of sexual and reproductive health programs and service, Sexual and gender-based violence. No strategic advocacy interventions to improve a supportive social-cultural environment and youth friendly services. NEPWU was formed to address the issues highlighted above, the core program areas include among others;

- ✂ Advocacy, Coordination, Partnership and Networking
- ✂ Positive Health Dignity and Prevention.
- ✂ Empowerment
- ✂ Human rights and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights.

NEPWU is the only network of women and girls living with and affected by HIV, that is focusing on a strong community base service delivery, advocacy on rights, and empowerment. Some key areas of interventions include:

1. Establishment of national, state and county forum for coordinating members, programs, service delivery and resource mobilization to achieve NEPWU's mission statement.
2. Lobbying and advocating for women's' participation in policy discussions, legislative reforms, HIV programming as well as to address the specific needs of women and girls living with and affected by HIV.
3. Community program support and implementation to improve the health and social care of women, girls and children living with HIV and those directly affected by HIV, TB, Malaria
4. Providing continuous follow up and psychosocial support to women enrolled for prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) services and survivors of sexual and gender base violence through women community counsellors.
5. Community mobilisation for uptake of HIV counselling and testing, and PMTCT services; and social support for treatment adherence and disclosure to reduce self-stigma among women and girls living with and affected by HIV; and provision of education on positive health dignity and prevention.

### Core Values

**Accountability** – to members, beneficiaries, partners and donors in an open and transparent manner;

**Integrity** – undertaking work to the highest standards possible, and ensuring the confidentiality of personal information;

**Mutual respect** – working with and for beneficiaries, and catering for developing cultural and religious differences;

**Dynamism** – generating new ideas and developing the best ideas from around the world for the South Sudanese women and girls.





6. Referrals for STIs and TB screening, access to ART and social services.
7. Empowerment of women for meaningful and active participation in leadership and decision making in matters that affect them, including economic empowerment for long and productive lives.
8. Uniting families and neighbors for peaceful co-existence
9. Partnership and networking nationally and internationally with the aim of improving the lives of women and girls living with and affected by HIV.

NEPWU works in partnership with a number of national and community partners to implement her programs and is strongly aligned to the South Sudan Network of PLHIV

(SSNeP+). NEPWU is also strongly supported by the South Sudan HIV/AIDS Commission (SSAC), who provides leadership and policy guidance; and UNAIDS, who provide strategic and technical support. MOH HIV Department technical guidance. A list of partners and donors is provided below.

### **Progress Observed;**

Apart from specific program achievements, which can be provided upon request, NEPWU has been able to observe the following accomplishments:

- ✚ The spirit of unity and willingness to support and up lift each other in difficult circumstances.
- ✚ Voluntarism that has strengthened community support system for care and support for women, girls, orphans and vulnerable children.
- ✚ Reduced self-stigma among women and girls living with and affected by HIV, TB, Malaria and sexual Gender base violence
- ✚ Increased utilization of uptake of ANC, PMTCT, SRHR and HTS services.
- ✚ Changed behaviour to health seeking among the PLHIV and living positively.





## Challenges

- ⓧ Limited knowledge on Advocacy, Human Rights and gender issues, peace building since our work encompasses all.
- ⓧ No exposure to the countries that are mature in the related issues highlighted.
- ⓧ Gender inequalities in service access and utilization, men always do not accept easily.
- ⓧ Stigma and discrimination is great from all community and institutional sectors and this causes large numbers lost to follow up.
- ⓧ Rampart Gender based violence which increases the risk of HIV infection and creates conflict among families.
- ⓧ Poor adherence due to limited nutritional support.
- ⓧ Limited funding, we are not able to cover all our locations.
- ⓧ TB/HIV co-infection knowledge is low among the PLHIV. They are often discovered late.



**NEPWU Donors;**

**GLOBAL FUND, PEPFAR, USAID.**

**PARTNERS;**

SSAC, MOH HIV DIV, MIN. GENDER & SOCIAL WELFARE

UNAIDS UN Women UN Cares IOM, IMA,

TEAR FUND, UNICEF, WORLD VISION, CRS, INTRAHEALTH, ICAP, JAPHEIGO, ART, WEA,  
OXFAM

**NEPWU IS A MEMBER OF;** SSNeP+, NASOSS, PAPWC, NACWOLA, ICWEA, KENWA, STOP TB  
PARTNERSHIP

***We are united as one woman, one voice for a better solution”***

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