

# Second cohort of Policy Makers graduate with skills on judicial reforms, lobbying and advocacy

More than 50 policymakers from the Revitalized Transitional Legislative National Assembly (RTNLA), the Council of States, Central Equatoria State (CES) and representatives from both the National and CES Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare gathered in Juba for a vital workshop focused on Judicial Reforms, Lobbying, and Advocacy. This event took place from 28th to 30th October 2025, aimed to enhance skills related to legal Laws and international instruments designed to mitigate Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and promote gender equality.

The initiative was organised by the Peace Movement Netherlands Foundation (PAX) under its project, the Empowered Women Influence (EWI), and fully funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO). This is the second cohort of female lawmakers and their male allies graduating for the period 2025. According to officials from PAX, the objective is to empower parliamentarians to effectively influence legislation and judicial reforms in South Sudan.

In his closing remarks, the Country Director for PAX Emmanuel Ira emphasized the importance of utilizing the skills gained for public benefit. He stated: "I can't express my joy. I want to congratulate you for this big achievement as our second



Participants in a group photo after the closing session. Photo Credit: Silvano Yokwe

cohort of parliamentarians. Thank you very much to our facilitators; this has been incredible." Emmanuel highlighted the significance of the project, attributing its success to the efforts of six South Sudanese women who lobbied for funding from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. He noted:

"You can imagine the power of women in lobbying and thus, bringing 3.5 million euros which is helping us do this work." He further encouraged participants to focus on specific advocacy areas instead of attempting to tackle everything at once. "With this, there are service Ministries,

especially health and education which is serving the biggest needs of the people, that you need to advocate for to ensure adequate support."

On her part, the Project Officer for PAX, who is responsible for the Empowered Women Influence Project, Martina Kani, commended policymakers for their dedication: "No one came late. I believe it was wonderful... Even me, I've learned a lot, and I'm ready to go to the parliament." Furthermore, Martina also announced that third cohort will be trained next year under the same initiative.

Notably, the workshop facilitator

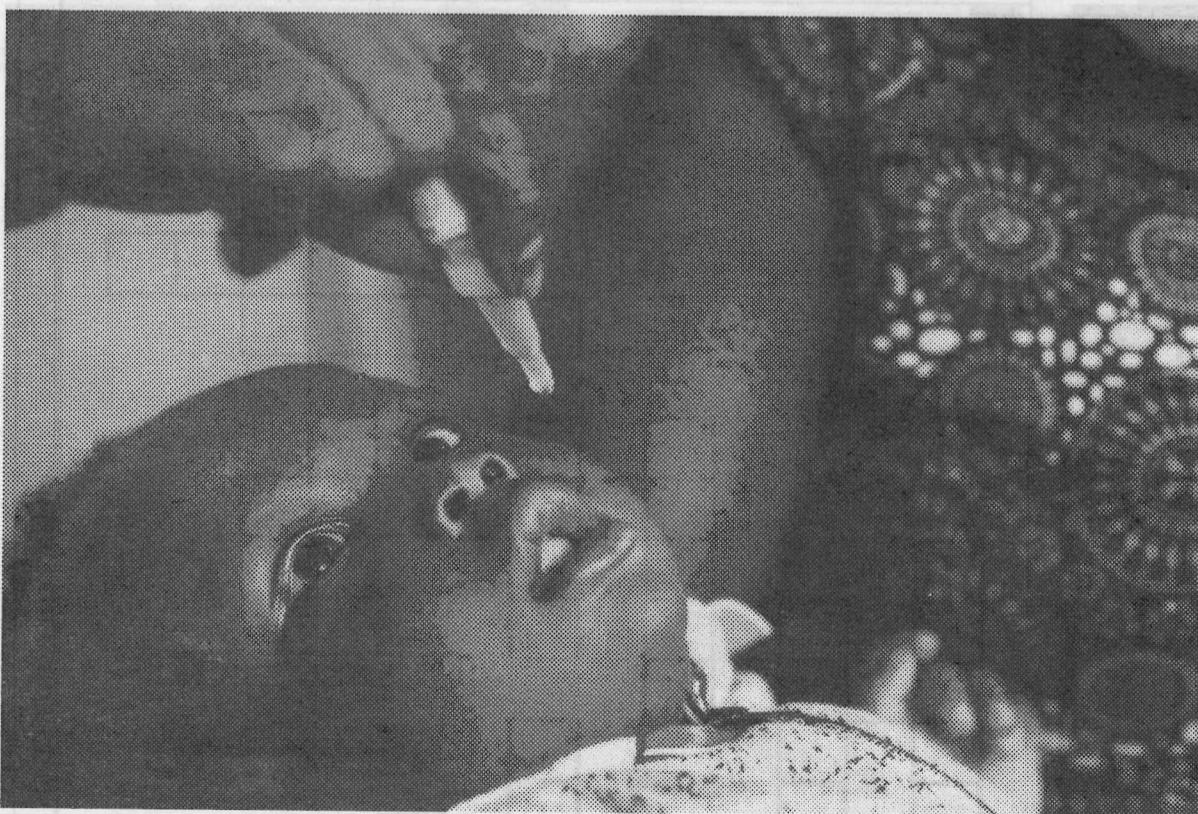
Counsel Amany Joseph urged lawmakers to continue advocating for issues impacting citizens: "You need to utilize this knowledge through this training and work hard for the people because you are representing them."

Peter Buteli Farajallah, Director General at the Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare in Central Equatoria State, expressed gratitude for the training: "This training has opened our eyes... we have learned something." He praised the facilitators and highlighted the importance of raising relevant issues in parliament: "With the knowledge acquired, do not fear anything but raise issues that affect the people."

On behalf of PAX, Emmanuel Ira, extended his gratitude to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for the unwavering support to the EWI and the people of the Republic of South Sudan, particularly for making this impactful event possible, stating: "This will contribute towards ensuring policymakers have the capacity to legislate Policies and Laws to end gender-based violence and to promote gender equality."

The training was concluded with the awarding of certificates to participants, marking a significant step towards enhancing legislative efforts in South Sudan.

## Jonglei to launch Polio Vaccination Campaign for children under five years



A child being given oral vaccination (photo: courtesy)

By Peter Kuol Kuch

Jonglei State Ministry of Health together with its partners have set to launch Polio Vaccination

Campaign for Children under five years today.

According the health Official, the campaign will also involve administering Bilharzia drugs.

In an interview with this outlet,

the deputy director for health Promotion at the Ministry of health in Jonglei State, Malual Abijok stated that the Vaccination targeted Bor South, adding that the outreach will be conducted at the inland areas.

"We want to this vaccine to taken seriously in order to vaccine many children. The goal of the Ministry is to take care of the health of the people. Once the children are allowed to be vaccinated. It can easily protect immune system against Polio" Malual said.

Mr. Malual stated that the vaccinators will move door to door to in order to achieve

comprehensive vaccination for the targeted group across the state.

He stressed the vaccine is safe and urged the parents to allow their children access the vaccine in order to protect them against Polio virus.

"In the Community there are a lot of myths about the vaccine, but that false information. This vaccine is safe; it can't harm anyone. Let children get vaccinated. I am urging people to stop listening to any myths that are being circulated. Those are baseless" he said.

He added that the Polio Vaccination Campaign would be concluded for seven days starting on Nov 4th 2025.

In September this year, a similar routine polio Vaccination Campaign was carried out the areas of Bor South and Awerial targeting large number of Children to get vaccinated.