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Peacekeeping and Clean Energy: Can Climate and Development Goals Align in Fragile States?

Case Studies: Central African Republic, Democratic
Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan

By Victoria K. Holt and Anaïse Boucher-Browning

Powering Peace Initiative

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Abbreviations

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
CAR	Central African Republic
DOS.....	United Nations Department of Operational Support
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EU	European Union
GHG	greenhouse gas emissions
GWh/y	Gigawatt hours per year
IRENA.....	International Renewable Energy Agency
MINUSCA.....	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MONUSCO.....	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
NGO.....	non-governmental organization
PKO	UN peacekeeping operation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMISS.....	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UN.....	United Nations
UNSCAP.....	United Nations Secretariat Climate Action Plan
USAID.....	United States Agency for International Development
USD.....	United States dollars

Executive Summary

This report, a desk review, explores the potential for United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions to collaborate with national governments and international partners to expand access to renewable energy sources in conflict-affected countries with UN peace operations. Worldwide, nations seek to expand their economic development, meet climate goals, and live in peace. In conflict-affected countries, national governments and international partners, including UN peacekeeping missions, support lasting stability by working toward political solutions and greater security. Peace operations require a significant amount of energy to deploy forces and work effectively. Missions often operate in countries affected heavily by conflict, as well as by climate change and low access to electricity — worldwide, more than 700 million people lack access to electricity.

Peacekeeping Missions and Renewable Energy Sources

In 2019, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for UN operations to shift to renewable energy, launching a new UN Secretariat Climate Action Plan (UNSCAP) to transition UN Secretariat operations to obtain 40% of their energy from renewable sources by 2025 and 80% by 2030. UN peace operations represent the bulk of the UN Secretariat’s emissions. Missions are highly reliant on diesel generators for their electricity and power supplies. The push by the United Nations to adopt more renewable energy sources reflects concrete goals: greater use of renewable energy for the missions can improve security, support their mandates, save costs, and provide an opportunity to work with host nations on development and climate goals, thus supporting a positive legacy.

The only way to meet those goals is by changing how peacekeeping missions source their electricity. Owing to the dramatic worldwide growth in renewable energy capacity, renewable energy is now an affordable option for consumers. In pushing to transition their own operations to renewable energy sources, UN peacekeeping missions have tried to establish partnerships that would support this transition in local communities. These projects have not yet moved forward, even as access to clean energy has accelerated — almost 30% of the world’s energy is now generated from renewable sources. That transition remains aspirational for the peacekeeping missions serving in conflict-affected states.

Mutual Goals, New Partners?

Given the opportunity to shift to renewable energy for UN operations, this report asks: Do host governments and other international actors share the ambition to expand access to renewable energy? In asking this question, this inquiry explores whether access to energy is already part of efforts to meet the goals of sustainable development, climate, and peacebuilding and if so, where partnerships exist with the UN missions to meet these goals.

To start, this study considers whether host governments and international actors have stated a shared goal for developing greater access to renewable energy sources, focusing on the Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and South Sudan. These countries host UN peacekeeping missions and are nations where electricity access is significantly limited. This report considers potential partners such as national governments, UN Country Teams (UNCTs), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the United States government, and the European Union’s (EU’s)

International Partnerships, and what all these partners identify as priorities pertaining to renewable energy access. Those goals may stem from seeking peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, and economic development, as well as supporting humanitarian efforts. The authors of this study explore whether expanding renewable electricity access is cited as meeting core goals of the host nation or aligning with the organization’s stated priorities. In doing so, the authors developed energy scorecards that summarize relevant data and facilitate comparisons across organizations and countries — and thus provide the potential to identify partnerships that can be a force for change.

Findings: Strategic Alignment

The comparison here finds that the national governments of CAR, DRC, and South Sudan prioritize expansion of renewable energy access. The UN Country Teams vary in prioritizing support for national renewable energy goals and do not cite UN peacekeeping mission transitions or purchasing power as an opportunity to support national renewable energy goals. The UNDP broadly supports national renewable energy goals and provides financial, technical, and legal support for general energy sector development. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. State Department support renewable energy goals in DRC, but they do not prioritize them in CAR or South Sudan. The EU’s International Partnerships for development cooperation include ongoing or planned initiatives to support specific renewable energy development projects in CAR, DRC, and South Sudan.

Country-Specific Findings

- **Central African Republic:** The national government, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), UNDP, and the EU emphasize renewable energy access. The UNCT and U.S. agencies, however, prioritize other areas such as humanitarian concerns, peace, and climate change without focusing on renewable energy.
- **Democratic Republic of the Congo:** The national government, United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), UNDP, U.S. agencies, and the EU all prioritize renewable energy. The UNCT, however, does not.
- **South Sudan:** The national government, United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), UNCT, and the EU prioritize renewable energy access, while UNDP and U.S. agencies focus more on peace, security, and economic development, with limited attention to renewable energy.

Comparative Findings Across Three Countries

- **Consistent National Goals:** All three countries have national strategic frameworks for expanding access to renewable energy sources.
- **UN Peacekeeping Operations:** A gradual shift toward renewable electricity is occurring within peacekeeping operations; current use remains low at around 7%. Initiatives to support local renewable energy access are emerging but have not yet been fully realized. Efforts by peace operations are under way to create partnerships to support a transition to renewable energy for local communities, but these projects have not moved forward.

- **UN Country Teams:** Support for renewable energy goals varies among these teams and is inconsistently aligned with national priorities. UNCTs do not cite UN peacekeeping mission transitions or UN purchasing power as an opportunity to support national renewable energy goals.
- **UN Development Programme:** The UNDP focuses on general energy sector development and supports national renewable energy goals, though specific initiatives vary by country. The UNDP views renewable energy access as linked to climate goals and as a lever for development.
- **U.S. Agencies:** Support for access to renewable energy sources is inconsistent, with a stronger focus in the DRC compared to CAR and South Sudan.
- **European Union:** The EU engages in renewable energy projects across all three countries, with varying focus areas such as rural electrification, hydropower, and support for specific sectors.

These alignments suggest a **fertile ground for collaboration** to advance development, climate, and peace objectives. This potential for partnerships among UN missions and other UN organizations, national governments (including host nations), international actors and other entities is underutilized, however. Given the benchmarks in each country, this inquiry is also time-sensitive, and should accelerate to link potential partners to support access to renewable energy sources in fragile states. Further evaluation is needed to determine whether the stated goals, initiatives, and aspirations pertaining to renewable energy access could lead or have led to progress in the field and the potential for additional partnerships.

Recommendations to Expand Partnerships, Renewable Energy Access

Given the strategic alignment in the CAR, DRC, and South Sudan for expanding access to renewable energy sources, an opportunity exists to accelerate the transition to renewable energy — provided that effective partnerships are formed. The authors of this report make six recommendations:

- **Bridge National and UN Entities Works:** Strengthen collaboration among national governments, UN peacekeeping missions, UNCTs, and UNDP to boost renewable energy access (which will also meet development, peace, and climate goals). Despite mutual goals, there is little to indicate that host governments, the UNCTs, and the UNDP recognize peacekeeping missions as potential partners to catalyze development/use purchasing power.
- **Build on UN Peacekeeping Role:** Leverage the purchasing power of UN peacekeeping missions to support national renewable energy goals, while encouraging other UN entities to take a more active role. While UN missions are more able to support renewable energy and replace diesel with alternatives, national governments do not necessarily recognize their potential as partners to expand demand. Moreover, other UN entities, including the UNCT and UNDP, apparently do not perceive UN peacekeeping mission transitions or UN purchasing power as opportunities to strengthen their own work to support national renewable energy goals, or more broadly, specific development, peace, and climate goals.
- **Strengthen UN Transition Planning:** Integrate renewable energy goals into the transition planning of UN peace operations, especially in the DRC and CAR. This will enable national governments to prepare a long-term strategy for using and maintaining the energy infrastructure that is installed. With the missions in DRC and CAR currently planning their transitions, this is the time to evaluate how the missions are including energy goals in the handoffs to the nation.

- **Align EU and U.S. Efforts:** Encourage better alignment of EU and U.S. projects with national and UN renewable energy priorities, particularly in CAR and South Sudan. Identify obstacles that may impede progress.
- **Evaluate Real Actions:** Conduct evaluations to ensure that stated renewable energy goals are leading to tangible progress and partnerships.
- **Recognize Additional Partners:** Identify and engage other potential partners — including international financial institutions, humanitarian actors, and private sector players — to expand access to renewable energy. Evaluation of whether the stated objectives for access to renewable energy sources have led to progress in the field is needed, as is exploration of additional partnerships.

Future Research

This report aims to identify areas where renewable energy access in conflict-affected countries could be accelerated and invites further input and collaboration. What is the best approach to align national goals, UN peacekeeping mission funding leverage, and potential international partners to support accelerated access to renewable energy in fragile states? What will accelerate potential partnerships in the short term? Next steps for research and engagement could include:

- **Assess in the field.** From this review, assess the actual on-the-ground collaborations in CAR, DRC, and South Sudan and how the UNDP and UNCT are coordinating to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) pertaining to energy, climate, and peace.
- **Consider other actors.** Examine the role of additional UN programs and international financial institutions in supporting renewable energy access, such as the World Bank, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), African Development Bank, and UN Environmental Programme. Explore the potential of national plans and IRENA’s Renewable Readiness Assessments.
- **Review climate finance, other partners.** Investigate climate finance availability and mechanisms for fragile states, including financial support. Consider what other funding and support from development, NGO, and private sector actors are available to support national goals.
- **Align timelines.** Given the UNSCAP’s goals, consider accelerated timelines for UN missions and renewable energy projects. Do UN missions view expanded access to local renewable energy as part of their positive legacy? Under what conditions would renewable energy projects developed by or for the UN missions be viable sources of energy for local communities over time?
- **Use report framework.** Apply this assessment framework to other country settings with UN field missions. If useful, this framework could be used to assess potential partnerships in other country settings where UN field missions are deployed.

This report aims to help jumpstart these next steps, to support progress, as well as to spur insights, corrections, and comments from the entities considered here. The authors appreciate inquiries and efforts to move collaboration forward and accelerate the United Nations transition to renewable energy sources.

Introduction

Peacekeeping and Building Bridges with Partners

Worldwide, nations seek to expand their economic development, meet climate goals, and live in peace. In conflict-affected countries, these aims are supported by national governments, as well as international partners, including UN peacekeeping missions that support political solutions, governance, and long-term security to create the conditions for a stable peace. Increasingly, the United Nations has recognized the potential of using renewable energy to meet its mission goals and improve efficiency, lower costs, reduce local pollution, enhance security, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.¹ In 2019, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for UN operations to shift to renewable energy, launching a Secretariat Climate Action Plan to transition UN Secretariat operations to obtain 40% of their energy from renewable energy sources by 2025 and 80% by 2030.² UN peace operations account for the bulk of UN emissions. The only way to meet the UNSCAP goals is to change how peacekeeping missions source their electricity. The dramatic worldwide growth in renewable energy capacity makes the use of renewable energy an affordable option.³

Given the renewable energy aims for UN peace operations, the question is: Do host governments and international actors share a commitment to expanding access to renewable energy sources (as this is linked to meeting goals of sustainable development, climate, and peacebuilding), and could they become partners with the United Nations in seeking to meet these goals?

This report is a desk review that looks at that question. This inquiry stems in part from a *Powering Peace* workshop convened at Dartmouth College in May 2023. Experts there discussed the potential for UN peacekeeping forces to work with other actors to support renewable energy. The workshop participants recognized, however, the limits of peace operations’ mandates and capacities in this area, as well as the boundaries of conventional international financing options for expanding access to renewable energy sources.⁴ The workshop recognized that more effective partnerships would create an opportunity to accelerate the renewable energy transition for UN missions and expand access to renewable energy in host countries.

The authors considered whether selected international and national actors have mutual aims for expanding renewable energy access in three countries that host UN peacekeeping missions.⁵ The specific goal is to help identify existing or potential partnerships across organizations to highlight where incentives and mandates align and where cooperation could accelerate access to renewable energy in countries with UN peacekeeping operations. The assumption is that where there are common goals, there are opportunities to meet these goals through strategic cooperation. This report seeks to complement previous Powering Peace research studies, help inform a new case study on the Central African Republic

and build on the leadership and work led by the United Nations, peace operations, IRENA, the private sector, and researchers to image better collaborations.⁶

The authors considered strategic plans for three countries: the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan — three of the least-electrified countries in the world.⁷ This report looks at potential partners such as the national governments, UN peacekeeping missions, UN Country Teams, the UN Development Programme, the United States government, and the European Union’s International Partnerships for development cooperation. These actors have consistently set clear goals and developed strategies involving renewable energy. (The authors recognize that other significant players in this space could also play major roles.) The report is based on publicly available strategic planning documents, summarized in a scorecard to identify how the actors’ aims might align with expanding access to renewable energy sources. Future research could include additional UN organizations, other development funders, humanitarian actors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector actors.

Supporting Peace and Renewable Energy

Currently, most electricity needs of UN missions are met by diesel generators. The shift toward using more renewable energy sources for UN peace operations is under way at organizational and practical levels, and identified as a priority by the UN Department of Operational Support (DOS) in its strategy for 2030. The UN mandates for the peacekeeping operations in CAR, DRC, and South Sudan reference this environmental strategy and the goal of transitioning to renewable energy as part of a positive legacy for the host country.⁸ The use of renewable energy for UN peacekeeping missions has expanded, but is far from reaching the goals set by the Secretary-General and outlined in the UNSCAP. That shift is moving slowly, as cited by the latest UN DOS Environmental Strategy for 2030.⁹ Moreover, the use of renewable energy for UN missions is unlikely to meet the call for 40% usage by 2025.¹⁰

UN peace operations would benefit from an opportunity to buy energy locally from renewable sources such as solar or hydropower where they are deployed, rather than building infrastructure for themselves inside their compounds. In turn, leveraging the funding and reliable electricity demands of peacekeeping missions could bolster access to renewable energy for local populations in host countries. The UN peacekeeping transition to renewable energy has the potential to support local populations and host nations to meet their development and climate-related goals by shifting to purchasing local electricity or helping to support local infrastructure for clean electricity production and distribution. Such collaboration requires partnerships among the United Nations and other key actors, such as governments, the private sector, and international organizations to foster the development, production, and distribution of renewable energy. Such partnerships could also support longer-term peace goals and leave a positive legacy for the mission.¹¹ Benefits to host nations from a UN transition to renewable energy are anticipated, but these benefits have not yet been assessed and are still largely hypothetical.

In the three countries considered — CAR, DRC and South Sudan — national access to electricity is rated very low, ranging from 7.7% to 20.8% in 2021.¹² In comparison to national electricity consumption in these countries, UN peacekeeping missions consume large amounts of electricity (see *Country Electricity Profiles* below).¹³ In each country, most of the mission’s electricity is produced through the mission’s own diesel generators.¹⁴ As of 2024, 7% of UN peacekeeping’s electricity came from renewable sources.¹⁵

Country Electricity Profiles for CAR, DRC, and South Sudan (2021-23)

	Central African Republic	Democratic Republic of the Congo	South Sudan
Population (2022) ¹⁶	5,579,140	99,010,210	10,913,160
GDP per capita (2022, USD) ¹⁷	\$427.10	\$653.70	\$1,701.80
Share of population with access to electricity (2021) ¹⁸	15.7%	20.8%	7.7%
National electricity generation (2023, GWh/y) ¹⁹	150	11,040	620
National electricity consumption (2021, GWh/y) ²⁰	140	8,920	550
UN peacekeeping operation electricity consumption (2021, GWh/y) ²¹	56	39	92

The DOS is pressing for a transition to bring peace operations in line with the UNSCAP goals. In 2019, the United Nations was at 4% usage of renewable energy for its missions.²² DOS urged in its 2023 Environmental Strategy that missions move faster and reach “closer to the global share of renewables in power generation, which currently stands at around 29%.”²³ This goal represents a substantial transition, particularly given the challenging operational context, though it is below the stated UNSCAP goals of 40% by 2025. Unless the large UN peacekeeping missions change their dependence on fossil fuels, the Secretary-General’s climate goals, particularly for relying upon renewables for 80% of the missions’ electricity needs by 2030, cannot be met. Collaborating with other partners could provide an opportunity for UN missions to reach these renewable energy goals.

To meet the UN goal for increased renewable energy usage, options include UN missions connecting to local grids, where available; installing on-site renewable energy systems; and/or financially supporting new investments in local renewable energy by outsourcing the mission’s renewable energy supply.²⁴ DOS notes that the option to anchor new investment could be the most rewarding for a mission to minimize capital outlay and contribute to a positive legacy wherein investment supports renewable electricity access for a nearby community. DOS is considering this approach for missions in CAR, South Sudan, and Somalia, emphasizing that this approach requires partnership with host governments and others that can play a leading role.²⁵

To spur renewable energy projects, the *Energy Compact on Renewable Energy for United Nations Peacekeeping* was launched in 2022 to match specific projects with partners to expand renewable energy for missions, identifying specific sites where renewable energy options exist:²⁶

Some of the countries that are presently hosting peacekeeping missions have among the lowest energy access rates. At the same time, the UN is often among the largest single consumers of energy (and sources of greenhouse gas emissions) in the host country, potentially providing an anchor client for energy providers in the local market.²⁷

To move that partnership ahead, the International Renewable Energy Agency organized a January 2023 ministerial meeting with the United Nations, Norway, the United Arab Emirates, and Denmark, inviting energy ministers, UN and peacekeeping leaders, member states, financial institutions, and researchers.

The participants recognized the opportunity to use UN peace operations as an anchor client to strengthen existing renewable energy suppliers or attract new investments for renewable energy projects in their host nations.²⁸ (See *Annex 2* for maps of UN missions in CAR, DRC and South Sudan.²⁹)

Linking Electricity Access, Development, and Climate Goals

The United Nations has already encouraged peacekeeping missions to use renewable energy for security and environmental reasons,³⁰ even noting that green energy increases the safety in the field.³¹ The authors of this report thus asked whether host nations also supported greater access to renewable energy and would therefore be natural partners for the UN missions. In turn, the authors asked whether other international partners already provide support to bridge the UN’s renewable energy goals with the energy access goals of the host nations. Natural partners to bridge these goals would be those pursuing greater renewable energy access as part of meeting national and international goals for sustainable and economic development, addressing climate change, and supporting peace.

An additional motivation for all actors is the international attention and commitment to the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, adopted by all UN member states, as a framework for countries and the United Nations. The UN has committed to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which identifies multiple goals that would be served by increased access to renewable electricity.³² These include:

- **Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG7)** – which addresses access to clean and affordable energy, including electricity, renewable energy, energy efficiency, technology, and energy infrastructure.³³
- **Goal 13: Climate Action (SDG13)** – which addresses climate mitigation, resilience, and adaptation, and implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (which includes nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, and funding for developing countries).³⁴
- **Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG16)** – which addresses promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice, and accountable and inclusive institutions.³⁵

Countries have also committed to meet the goals of the **2015 Paris Agreement** and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Those commitments and associated actions are identified by each nation in their nationally determined contributions, which are public and expected to be updated every five years.³⁶ The UN Secretary-General, who forcefully argues for nations to meet these obligations, used the same goals in setting climate targets for the United Nations and UN Secretariat functions, as noted above.³⁷

Identifying partners matters. Operationally, UN missions could find it easier or faster to install renewable energy sources on-site, such as using UN-owned equipment, or UN-procured power purchase agreement models, rather than waiting for other actors to develop projects. Tradeoffs may emerge between achieving internal UN operational objectives to increase renewable energy usage and attaining broader UN and national objectives on development, SDG and climate priorities. The decisive element could be whether other partners take advantage of the opportunity to work with UN peace operations to expand local access to renewable electricity.

Inquiry and Methodology

Key Organizations

To understand national and international priorities and projects pertaining to renewable energy access in countries with UN peacekeeping missions, the authors reviewed high-level, public planning and reporting documents for the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan. The authors selected a core subset of international organizations that support fragile states to meet goals linked to peace, sustainable and economic development, and climate mitigation efforts. The organizations covered in this initial research include host governments, UN peacekeeping missions, UN Country Teams, the UN Development Programme, the U.S. government, and European Union’s International Partnerships for development cooperation (discussed below). Additional partners, such as IRENA, the UN Environmental Programme, World Bank, African Development Bank, and other national partners, were not included in the scope of this initial research.

Presumably, in-country UNCT and UNDP offices work with each host government to meet its goals and plans pertaining to the SDGs. The United Nations, as well as the European Union and the United States, has called for climate mitigation and a greener economy and supports meeting national goals for SDG 13 Climate Action, such as nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, and funding for developing countries.³⁸

Each **UN Country Team**, led by a UN resident coordinator, brings together the major UN agencies operating in a country. They primarily work on development and humanitarian goals to ensure coordination and deliver tangible results in support of the development agenda of the country’s government.³⁹ Such work includes development of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.⁴⁰ When a UN peacekeeping mission is in the country, the resident coordinator role is usually played by a Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General within the UN peacekeeping mission.

The **UN Development Programme**, the lead UN agency on international development, is funded to support economic development, working with national governments and within the SDG framework. UNDP aims to “help countries develop policies, leadership skills, partnerships and institutional capabilities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”⁴¹ In particular, UNDP’s strategic plan (2022-2025) identifies energy as one of its six “signature solutions,” specifically aspiring to accelerate energy access for “those furthest behind” with a transition to renewable energy.⁴² The UNDP strategy points out that globally 759 million people lack access to electricity and that energy is essential to meet the SDGs and to lift people out of poverty and inequality. The plan highlights affordable and reliable energy as

being “fundamental to achieving prosperity for all” and cites the need for UNDP to work with the IRENA, other UN entities, and the private sector to close the “energy access gap.”⁴³

The aim is high. Further, the ambition suggests that the renewable energy “revolution” will not only reduce emissions but offer energy access to millions. UNDP sees decarbonizing the world economy as potentially adding \$98 trillion to gross domestic product by 2050.⁴⁴ The UNDP plan also highlights the urgency of working in conflict-affected countries:

Nearly half the global poor live in conflict-affected countries. There were 82.4 million forcibly displaced people by the end of 2020, 86 per cent of them hosted in developing countries. Conflicts have become more complex and protracted, increasingly driven by non-traditional security threats like economic stagnation, irregular migration and displacement, environmental degradation, competition for natural resources or rapid growth in cities. As these risks accumulate, marginalized populations find themselves trapped in a cycle of vulnerability. Those displaced through conflict suffer further shocks. An integrated approach that links development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and sustaining peace is needed to build resilience and strong foundations for sustainable development and human security. Risk-informed development is key to prevention, recovery and stabilization.⁴⁵

The UNDP strategy includes goals related to energy access, climate mitigation, economic development, and conflict management. The UNDP also makes a commitment to work with UN Country Teams,⁴⁶ especially to establish United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, which are the basis for working with national governments and developing UNDP country programs. As part of that approach, UNDP commits to partnerships, saying that it “...will sharpen its offer of integrated support, providing demand-driven services to the system, under the overall coordination of resident coordinators, that meet Governments’ policy and programming priorities.”⁴⁷

The **United States government** provides funding and programs to support peace, development, climate mitigation, and the SDGs, among other goals, many of which highlight access to renewable energy. The **US Agency for International Development** details country development cooperation strategies and collaborates with the **U.S. Department of State** to set priorities via integrated country strategies. USAID categorizes CAR, DRC, and South Sudan as very fragile countries. Fragility is considered high when a state faces pressures that overwhelm its capacities across political, social, and economic indicators.⁴⁸ Datasets for CAR, DRC, and South Sudan demonstrate that their environments are insecure, with weak governance and economic policies.⁴⁹ As a result, the United States focuses on mitigating the effects of conflict and instability, such as population displacement, humanitarian concerns, protection of civilians, and other urgent matters. In South Sudan, for example, USAID’s strategic framework points out that more than half of the population “still depends on emergency aid to survive,” even after decades of aid.⁵⁰ The emphasis on emergency-focused aid may affect USAID’s collaboration with organizations on meeting longer-term development goals.

Finally, nations within the **European Union** fund development cooperation and humanitarian assistance programs worldwide. The EU’s development policy includes implementing the objectives of the UN 2023

Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁵¹ The EU’s International Partnerships with CAR, DRC, and South Sudan focus on priorities linked to peace and stability, human development, and green transitions;⁵² green transition priorities can focus on environmental protection, renewable energy, and/or resilient economies.⁵³

Research Questions

- ▶ What do each country’s national policy documents reveal about priorities, plans, and actions pertaining to renewable energy access and electrification?
- ▶ Do the priorities, plans, and actions of selected international organizations and partners align with national governments’ priorities regarding renewable energy access and electrification? If so, are renewable energy access ambitions seen as part of climate, development, or peace goals?
- ▶ Where is progress occurring on efforts to collaborate to increase access to renewable electricity? Which countries are not making progress in this area?
- ▶ Which entities are best placed to help create a sustained energy partnership with local communities “outside the fence” of UN peacekeeping missions by leveraging the peacekeeping operation’s purchasing power through mechanisms like power purchasing agreements?

Methodology

This analysis is based on what each organization’s current public plans identified as priorities pertaining to renewable energy access (including peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, economic development, and humanitarian efforts) and whether expanding access to renewable electricity sources is cited as meeting core goals of the host nation or aligning with the organization’s stated priorities. A mix of overlapping goals and priorities were found, summarized in renewable energy scorecards to provide relevant data, facilitate comparisons across organizations and countries, and enable policymakers to identify potential partnerships (see Annex 1).

Renewable Energy Scorecard Key (see Annex 1 for country scorecards):

- ▶ **Green** indicates the actor discusses renewable energy access as a priority and discusses the status of specific renewable energy projects.
- ▶ **Yellow** indicates the actor either broadly discusses renewable energy access as a goal without mentioning specific projects, or that the actor mentions specific projects but does not include renewable energy access as a priority.
- ▶ **Red** indicates the actor discusses goals that are linked to renewable energy access (such as peace and security, climate and the environment, economic development, basic services, and infrastructure) but does not discuss renewable energy access goals or projects or how renewable energy access relates to those other goals.

The chart below outlines the documents reviewed for this report across the organizations working in CAR, DRC, and South Sudan. The renewable energy scorecards are a useful but limited tool. The

information is time-bound and reflects only the documents cited.⁵⁴ Additional information may not be publicly available, may be available in documents published since the authors undertook this review, or be known by an organization that supports renewable energy access initiatives not reflected in the reviewed documents. Conversely, an organization could have stated renewable energy access aims and initiatives that have not been enacted or led to progress in the field.

Organization	Documents Reviewed
National Government	National development and recovery plans Nationally determined contributions (Paris Agreement climate action plans) Voluntary National Reviews (SDG progress update) (when available)
UN Peacekeeping Operations	UN websites for peacekeeping missions UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, budget performance reports for UN peacekeeping missions
UN Country Team	Annual UN Country Team reports UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UN and country partnership to further SDG objectives)
UN Development Programme	Country documents from the UN Development Programme
US Agency for International Development and US Department of State	US Department of State’s US Country Strategies US Agency for International Development’s country strategy documents and programming factsheets (when available)
European Union’s International Partnerships for development cooperation	European Union’s Multiannual Indicative Programme documents (when available) European Commission websites

Findings

Summary Charts

Central African Republic	Priorities	Renewable Electricity Access
National Government	Sustainable Development Goals Economic Development Climate Change	Priority; references specific initiatives
Peacekeeping operation (MINUSCA)	Peace & Security	Priority; references specific initiatives
UN Country Team	Economic Development Peace & Security Climate Change Sustainable Development Goals	Not a priority but references specific initiatives
UN Development Programme	Peace & Security Climate Change Sustainable Development Goals	Priority; references specific initiatives
U.S. Agency for International Development and US Department of State	Humanitarian Issues Peace & Security Climate Change	Not a priority
European Union’s International Partnership	Sustainable Development Goals Peace & Security	Priority; references specific initiatives

Democratic Republic of the Congo	Priorities	Renewable Electricity Access
National Government	Economic Development Climate Change	Priority; references specific initiatives
Peacekeeping operation (MONUSCO)	Peace & Security	Priority; references specific initiatives
UN Country Team	Peace & Security Sustainable Development Goals Economic Development	Not a priority
UN Development Programme	Sustainable Development Goals Climate Change Economic Development	Priority; references specific initiatives
U.S. Agency for International Development and U.S. Department of State	Sustainable Development Goals Climate Change Economic Development	Priority; references specific initiatives
European Union’s International Partnership	Economic Development Sustainable Development Goals	Priority; references specific initiatives

South Sudan	Priorities	Renewable Electricity Access
National Government	Economic Development Climate Change	Priority; references specific initiatives
Peacekeeping operation (UNMISS)	Peace & Security	Priority; references specific initiatives
UN Country Team	Economic Development Peace & Security Climate Change	Priority; references specific initiatives
UN Development Programme	Sustainable Development Goals Climate Change Peace & Security	Priority but no references to specific initiatives
U.S. Agency for International Development and U.S. Department of State	Peace & Security Economic Development	Not a priority
European Union's International Partnership	Economic Development Climate Change Sustainable Development Goals Peace & Security	Priority; references specific initiatives

Country-Specific Findings

- In the **Central African Republic**, the national government, MINUSCA peacekeeping mission, UNDP, and the EU are united in prioritizing renewable energy access, including reference to specific initiatives. The UNCT mentions specific renewable energy projects but does not include renewable energy access as a priority. USAID and the U.S. State Department prioritize humanitarian efforts, peace and security, and climate change but do not discuss renewable energy access as a related priority.
- In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the national government, MONUSCO peacekeeping operation, UNDP, USAID, the U.S. State Department, and the EU include renewable energy access as a priority, discuss specific initiatives, and are aligned on working to strengthen the energy sector via funding and technical assistance. The UNCT prioritizes peace and security, sustainable development, and economic development, but it does not discuss renewable energy access as a related priority.
- In **South Sudan**, the national government, UNMISS peacekeeping operation, UNCT, and EU include renewable energy access as a priority and discuss specific initiatives. UNDP discusses renewable energy as a priority broadly in relation to sustainable development, peace and security, and climate change goals, but it does not reference specific initiatives. The USAID and U.S. State Department prioritize peace and security and economic development but do not discuss renewable energy access as a related priority.

Comparative Findings Across All Three Countries

- **Renewable Energy Access: A Consistent National Goal.** The national governments in CAR, DRC, and South Sudan provide strategic frameworks for expanding access to renewable energy sources. All three governments focus on projects related to renewable energy production and distribution.

► **UN Peacekeeping Operations: Slowly Shifting to Renewable Electricity.** Peacekeeping operations are pushing to transition their own operations to renewable energy. In DRC and South Sudan, MONUSCO and UNMISS are taking ad hoc measures to expand access to renewable energy sources to local community organizations by donating solar panels. In some cases, peacekeeping missions have been endeavoring to create partnerships to support a transition to renewable energy for local communities, but these projects have not moved forward. In South Sudan, UNMISS explored directly leveraging its buying power to expand renewable electricity access for the local community via a renewable solar power purchase agreement pilot project for its Malakal field office. In CAR, MINUSCA might connect its UN offices in Bangui to a new government solar farm. In DRC, MONUSCO identified UNDP and UN Environment Programme as partners for work related to energy access and climate change. The percentage of renewable energy use by UN peacekeeping missions, however, remains very low at roughly 7%.⁵⁵

► **UN Country Teams: Mixed Support of Renewable Energy Goals.** In general, UNCTs vary in prioritizing support for national renewable energy goals. They do not cite UN peacekeeping mission transitions or purchasing power as an opportunity to support national renewable energy goals. In South Sudan, the UNCT lists specific initiatives that would support national renewable energy goals and views expanding renewable energy access as part of its peace and development priorities. In CAR, the UNCT mentions specific renewable energy access initiatives but does not link renewable energy access with its broader priorities. In DRC, the UNCT focuses on peace and development priorities but does not outline how it could support country goals for expanding renewable energy access or discuss any specific renewable energy projects.

► **UNDP: Support for Country Renewable Energy Goals and General Energy Sector Development.** The UNDP focuses on strengthening the general energy sector with financial, technical, and legal support. For all three countries, UNDP supports country goals to expand access to renewable energy. UNDP views renewable energy access as a lever for development and as linked to climate goals. In CAR and DRC, UNDP outlines specific initiatives it is taking to support country renewable energy access goals; UNDP does not mention specific initiatives in South Sudan.

► **United States: USAID and State Department Support for Country Renewable Energy Goals Varies.** USAID and the U.S. State Department support renewable energy goals in DRC, but they do not prioritize them in CAR or South Sudan. Their CAR priorities include security and climate issues, but CAR country goals for renewable energy access were not discussed or linked to these priorities. Similarly, their South Sudan priorities include development and peace, but South Sudan country goals for renewable energy access were not discussed or linked to these priorities. In contrast, their DRC priorities include renewable energy as part of development and strengthening the energy sector via funding and technical assistance, thereby aligning with the DRC country goals for renewable energy access.

► **The EU: Support for Specific Renewable Energy Projects.** The EU International Partnerships for development cooperation are involved in expanding renewable energy access in CAR, DRC, and South Sudan. Their CAR priorities are sustainable development and security, and they plan to conduct studies on rural electrification and micro power plants. Their DRC work focuses on supporting renewable energy production for the mining sector, local population, and regional distribution by providing financial and technical assistance for private sector hydropower and solar power development. Their South Sudan priorities include climate change mitigation, sustainable development, and peace, and they plan to support renewable energy in the agricultural sector and potentially in education and health care.

Conclusion

Recommendations

National governments, UN peacekeeping missions, international actors, and UN organizations are strategically aligned to expand access to renewable energy sources in CAR, DRC, and South Sudan. This alignment should enable the United Nations and host nations to build partnerships that accelerate efforts to develop such access. Given the benchmarks in each country, this inquiry is also time-sensitive, and should accelerate to link potential partners to support access to renewable energy sources in fragile states.

- **Bridge national and UN entities to boost renewable energy access and meet development, peace, and climate goals.** The national governments, UN peacekeeping operations, UNCTs, and UNDP have mutual, overarching goals. At least three of the four entities prioritize renewable energy access in each country, signaling an opportunity for deeper collaboration and connection. Although the aims of these organizations vary across development, climate mitigation, and peace initiatives, their renewable energy access goals largely align.
- **Recognize the role of UN peacekeeping missions – but add others to lead or expand.** At a time when peacekeeping missions are more able to support expanded renewable energy by replacing their own use of diesel for alternatives, governments do not necessarily recognize UN missions as potential partners to expand renewable energy demand to catalyze production. Perhaps more surprisingly, other UN entities, including UNCTs and UNDP, do not seem to identify a connection between the purchasing power of UN peace operations and their own work in support of increased access to renewable electricity or broader goals pertaining to development, peace, and climate.
- **Strengthen UN Transition Planning.** Efforts to strengthen and integrate transition planning between UN peace operations and UN Country Teams should include greater planning around meeting SDG goals for increased energy access.⁵⁶ With the missions in DRC and CAR in transition planning, this is the time to evaluate how the missions are including energy goals in the transition and planning handoffs to the nation, UNCT, and UNDP.
- **Push EU and U.S. efforts to align better with national and UN entities to accelerate change.** The EU and U.S. have differing levels of engagement with supporting access to renewable energy sources in CAR, DRC, and South Sudan. Where EU and U.S. priorities include expanding access to renewable energy, an opportunity exists for EU and U.S. projects to further align and cooperate with the work of host governments and the United Nations. In the cases of CAR and South Sudan, where Washington does not prioritize renewable energy access, U.S. aims could be better met by also supporting expanded access to renewable energy. The EU and the U.S. do not cite the potential leverage of UN peacekeeping missions’ purchasing power to expand local access to renewable energy and further host-nation goals.

- **Compare stated objectives to real actions.** An evaluation is needed to determine whether the stated goals, initiatives, and aspirations linked to renewable energy access could lead or have led to progress in the field and the potential for additional partnerships.
- **Recognize additional partners.** Beyond the actors considered in this initial inquiry, additional, potential partners, other UN organizations, international financial institutions, humanitarian actors, additional governments, NGOs, and private sector actors, could spur and coordinate efforts to expand access to renewable energy.

Future Research Considerations

Exploring opportunities to expand partnerships to accelerate renewable energy access in conflict-affected countries includes areas for additional research and engagement.

- **Evaluate actual coordination of goals and work plans in each country.** Following up on the findings of this inquiry, more work is needed to see what on-the-ground collaboration is occurring in CAR, DRC, and South Sudan to meet the goals of host nations and peacekeeping missions, and how the UNDP and UNCT are coordinating to achieve the SDGs pertaining to energy, climate mitigation, and peace initiatives.
- **Align transitions and timelines.** Given the UNSCAP goals, how can the timelines for developing renewable energy projects better match up with the timelines of UN missions, given their need to move quickly? What will accelerate potential partnerships in the short-term? Do UN missions view expanded access to renewable energy for local communities as part of their positive legacy? Under what conditions would renewable energy projects developed by or for the UN missions be viable sources of energy for local communities over time?
- **Assess the role of other UN programs and international financial institutions.** Do the priorities, plans, and actions of the World Bank, IRENA, African Development Bank, and UN Environmental Programme support national government priorities regarding renewable energy access and electrification? If so, are renewable energy access and electrification seen as part of climate, development, or peace goals?
- **Consider the role of national plans/IRENA.** To develop and coordinate action plans for expanding renewable energy access, can the governments of CAR, DRC, and South Sudan work with IRENA to complete Renewable Readiness Assessments?
- **Review climate financing needs.** How much of the climate action funding needs outlined in nationally determined contributions have been met? What funds are needed for expanding access to renewable energy in fragile states? What funds are available, and what are the mechanisms for accessing these funds?
- **Build bridges.** What other funding from development, NGOs, the private sector, and climate mitigation sources could support national goals to expand renewable electricity production, transmission, and distribution?
- **Use this report’s framework in other country settings.** This report’s framework could be used to assess potential partnerships in other country settings where UN field missions are deployed.

This report aims to help jumpstart these next steps, to support progress, as well as to spur insights, corrections, and comments from the entities considered here. The authors appreciate inquiries and efforts to move collaboration forward and accelerate the United Nations transition to renewable energy sources.

Annex 1: Renewable Energy Scorecards

I. Central African Republic: Actors Renewable Energy Scorecard

Central African Republic	Energy Access Goals Sources for this chart were published in 2016-2023.	Renewable Energy Access Scorecard
National Government Priorities: Sustainable Development Goals, Economic Development, Climate Change	Energy goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop energy independence, increased access to affordable electricity.⁵⁷Increase energy reliability.⁵⁸Reduce carbon emissions via renewable energy and energy efficiency.⁵⁹ Production: Rehabilitate and expand existing production capacities. ⁶⁰ <ul style="list-style-type: none">Create new hydroelectric capacity on the Lobaye or Sangha rivers.⁶¹Build micro hydropower plants (40 potential sites of 5-180 MW).⁶²Restart the Boali hydroelectric power station (increase electricity access for main cities).⁶³Introduce solar power plants, solar stoves, and solar lighting.⁶⁴ Distribution: Invest in the distribution network with an emphasis on rural electrification and renewables. ⁶⁵ Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reinforce the political, regulatory, and institutional framework for electricity networks.⁶⁶Develop hydraulic infrastructure management, regulation, and policies.⁶⁷Harmonize regional/national/international legal and programmatic tools.⁶⁸	Priority; references specific initiatives
Peacekeeping Operation: MINUSCA Priority: Peace & Security	Solar projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">2018-19: “installation of solar streetlights and photovoltaic systems.”⁶⁹2020-21: installing hybrid diesel-solar systems with “+\$300,000 anticipated savings once completed.”⁷⁰2021: 300kW new solar-diesel hybrid electric system at the MINUSCA Logistics Base in Bangui (Return on Investment in 2 years after completed in 2023, will cut generator use and fuel consumption by 3540%, \$168,000 USD annual fuel savings).⁷¹2021: multiple proposals related to renewable energy<ul style="list-style-type: none">“proposed acquisition of three diesel hybrid solar systems to be installed in Birao, Obo and Bangassou.”⁷²“extend the renewable energy roll-out to other locations... with Birao, Berbérati and Obo next in line; sector headquarters in Kaga-Bandoro, Bouar and Bria are also under consideration.”⁷³2023: CAR government constructing a major solar farm in Bangui that MINUSCA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and the electrical power agency (ENERCA), may connect to for its headquarters and locations in Bangui.⁷⁴ Fuel consumption <ul style="list-style-type: none">2020: “despite the ongoing use of power generation systems with solar energy, the fuel consumption of generators has been increasing, with significant over expenditure reported.”⁷⁵2021: “The Board of Auditors noted significant irregularities in fuel consumption at the Mission” (including fuel consumption exceeding tank capacity, exceeding energy produced, and exceeding standard fuel consumption unit, as well as refueling with no odometer records).⁷⁶	Priority; references specific initiatives

UN Country Team Priorities: Economic Development, Peace & Security, Climate Change, Sustainable Development Goals	UN Country Team Annual Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">2022: Prioritizes peace, security, and economic recovery.⁷⁷2020: Mentions rural electrification and micro power plants.⁷⁸ 2023-27 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework with CAR <ul style="list-style-type: none">Priorities include environmental sustainability, resilience to climate change, peace, security, access to basic social services, and sustainable economic growth.⁷⁹Planning to build 5 micro solar power stations and 4 micro hydro power stations by 2027.⁸⁰	References specific initiatives
UN Development Programme Priorities: Peace & Security, Climate Change, Sustainable Development Goals	UNDP CAR Country Programme 2023-27 ⁸¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none">Supports policy and institutional changes to improve access to energy.Prioritizes environmental, energy, climate change, and peacebuilding.Will work with key NGOs to accelerate the transition to renewable energy.Seeks innovative climate financing opportunities/mechanisms to support green recovery.Indicators: 1) Number of functional micro hydroelectric or solar power stations installed (4 hydro, 5 solar), 2) Increase (in megawatt) in installed renewable energy capacity.	Priority + references specific initiatives
US Agency for International Development & US Department of State Priorities: Humanitarian, Peace & Security, Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prioritizes increased stability and delivering humanitarian assistance.⁸²Mentions climate change in relation to protected areas in CAR and the Congo Basin.⁸³Developing specific projects linked to security, conflict reduction, and environmental management.⁸⁴	Not a priority
European Union’s International Partnership with CAR Priorities: Sustainable Development Goals, Peace & Security	EU CAR Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-27 ⁸⁵ <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prioritizes green transition, sustainable development, peace and security, human development.Aims to strengthen rural electrification, conduct studies on rural electrification in peripheral parts of protected areas.Promotes feasibility studies and data collection for micro power plants.	Priority + references specific initiatives

II. Democratic Republic of the Congo: Actors Renewable Energy Scorecard

Democratic Republic of the Congo	Renewable Electricity Access Goals Sources for this chart were published in 2019-2023.	Renewable Energy Access Scorecard
National Government Priorities: Economic Development, Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seeks electrification using renewable energy.⁸⁶Wants to develop domestic and export electricity markets.⁸⁷Promotes private sector financing and decentralized production of electricity.⁸⁸Aims to reform state-owned electricity company and utility sector regulation.⁸⁹Developing projects to expand electricity transmission and distribution network, improve existing hydroelectric power stations, construct new power stations, facilitate energy-efficient cooking.⁹⁰	Priority; references specific initiatives

Peacekeeping Operation: MONUSCO Priorities: Peace & Security	Renewable energy projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2017-21: 4 MONUSCO solar power farms installed in Goma.⁹¹• Annual electricity cost saving of “\$182,000” or “ranging from 19 to 33 per cent.”⁹²• In 2019 reported installation of 650 kilowatt-hour solar power farm in Goma⁹³• 2022: 14 sites connected to hydropower, with 5 additional sites to be connected in the next year.⁹⁴• 2019-20: plan to connect Mission’s sites in Kalemie to the national grid (annual cost savings of \$200,000 under generator fuel and spare parts), 2022: Kalemie field office closed.⁹⁵• 2017-22: solar powered lighting for rural public areas and streets (security, protection of civilians, and economic benefits).⁹⁶• Solar panel donations to radio stations, courts, and a hospital.⁹⁷ Partners and future: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNDP and UN Environmental Programme working as partners on the goal of providing people “access to modern energy services and clean energy” and developing “the capacity to adapt to climate change.”⁹⁸• UNDP is a partner on the goal of providing “people in rural and semi-urban areas [with] modern energy services.”⁹⁹• Planned transition, drawdown, and withdrawal of MONUSCO by the end of 2024.¹⁰⁰	Priority; references specific initiatives
UN Country Team Priorities: Peace & Security, Sustainable Development Goals, Economic Development	2022 UN Country Team Annual Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Priorities do not directly refer to energy or climate change.¹⁰¹• Related priorities include peace, economic revival and growth, basic social services.¹⁰² 2020-24 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework with DRC <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broadly references energy, electricity, and climate change impacts.¹⁰³	Not a priority
UN Development Programme Priorities: Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change, Economic Development	UNDP DRC Country Programme 2020-24 ¹⁰⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support development, financial inclusion, and formalization of economic actors in renewable energies and modern energy services.• Facilitate technology transfer and technical support to mobilize climate funding.• Improve access to clean, affordable, and sustainable energy (hydropower, household cooking/fuel/renewable energy).	Priority; references specific initiatives
US Agency for International Development & US Department of State Priorities: Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change, Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote sustainable development and renewable energy.¹⁰⁵• Invest to bolster private sector companies in the energy sector (grid, decentralized mini-grid, and off-grid companies).¹⁰⁶• Strengthen energy sector through technical, legal, and financial assistance, improving the business/regulatory environment, and vocational training.¹⁰⁷• Promote climate change mitigation and rainforest preservation.¹⁰⁸	Priority; references specific initiatives

European Union’s International Partnership with DRC Priorities: Peace & Security, Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support renewable energy production (for mining sector, population, and regional electricity distribution among DRC, Uganda, and Zambia).¹⁰⁹• Contribute to hydropower at Virunga National Park and the Ruzizi River and contributed to solar power in eastern DRC.¹¹⁰• Provide technical and financial assistance and incentivize private sector investments from major private electricity consumers.¹¹¹• Ensure local people can provide input on renewable energy projects as well as benefit from increased electricity access.¹¹²	Priority; references specific initiatives
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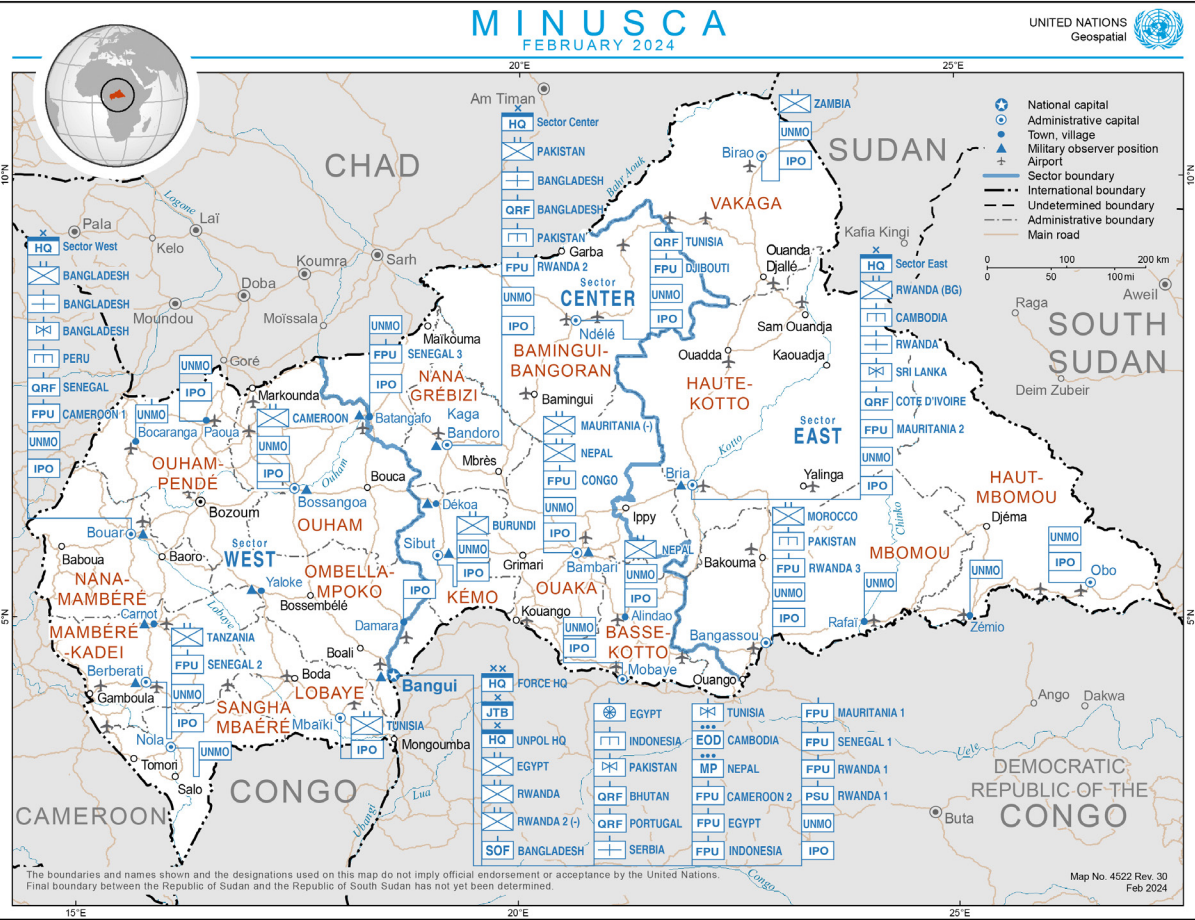
III. South Sudan:
Actors Renewable Energy Scorecard

South Sudan	Renewable Electricity Access Goals Sources for this chart were published in 2017-2024	Renewable Energy Access Scorecard
National Government Priorities: Economic Development, Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase renewable energy production and trade carbon offsets.¹¹³• Transitioning from an oil economy to a green economy.¹¹⁴• Projects: Constructing a national grid and interconnected transmission lines and decentralized solar grids for rural areas; supporting Fula hydropower project, promoting energy-efficient appliances.¹¹⁵	Priority; references specific initiatives
Peacekeeping Operation: UNMISS Priority: Peace & Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2015-16: “UNMISS purchased a 1-megawatt solar panel system for the United Nations House in Juba and a 0.2-megawatt solar panel system for each of six other mission locations” (once installed, represented 10% conversion of UNMISS power from diesel to renewables).¹¹⁶• UNMISS Field Office in Torit:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 2018: hybrid solar project to provide alternative power for telecommunications transmission and UNMISS Radio Miraya (“UNMISS will also extend the hybrid solar project to field Offices in Malakal, Bor, Wau, Rumbek, Bentiu, Warrap, and Juba”).¹¹⁷• 2019: implementation of its energy infrastructure management plan.¹¹⁸• UNMISS UN House base in Juba:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 2020: new solar panel farm that generates 60% of electricity consumed, saves 3,000L diesel, down to 2 generators from 5 (unclear if also added at Wau base).¹¹⁹◦ 2024: new 100kW solar-powered water treatment plants and pump stations system, on-grid solar power supply integrated with UN House main power grid (solar plant also added at Wau base).¹²⁰• 2021-23: exploring a renewable solar power purchase agreement pilot project for Malakal field office, under solicitation in 2023, that would provide 85% of energy requirements.¹²¹• Seeks energy efficiency: solar water heaters, solar streetlights, energy-efficient appliances.¹²²• Donated solar panel power systems to hospitals, health care centers, courts, and radio stations.¹²³	Priority; references specific initiatives

<p>UN Country Team</p> <p>Priorities: Economic Development, Peace & Security, Climate Change</p>	<p>2023 UN Country Team Annual Report¹²⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support renewable energy adoption as part of economic development.• Invest in renewable energy solutions for health care systems.• Assess solar power for agricultural Aggregation Business Centers in Terekeka, Torit, and Magwi.• Pilot renewable energy solutions for UN operations for efficiency and sustainability. <p>2023-25 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework with South Sudan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Related priorities: peace and governance, economic recovery/growth/diversification, reduce deforestation, climate adaptation.¹²⁵	<p>Priority; references specific initiatives</p>
<p>UN Development Programme</p> <p>Priorities: Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change, Peace & Security</p>	<p>UNDP South Sudan Country Programme 2023-25¹²⁶</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Renewable energy for sustainable livelihoods.• Will support the implementation of the host government’s climate action goals as outlined in the Nationally Determined Contribution and National Adaptation Plan.• Related priorities: climate resilience, peacebuilding, and state-building.	<p>Priority, but no reference to specific initiatives</p>
<p>US Agency for International Development & US Department of State</p> <p>Priorities: Peace & Security, Economic Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not discuss energy/electricity but does mention climate change impacts.¹²⁷• Related priorities: economic development, governance, peace.¹²⁸	<p>Not a priority</p>
<p>European Union’s International Partnership with South Sudan</p> <p>Priorities: Economic Development, Climate Change, Sustainable Development Goals, Peace & Security</p>	<p>EU South Sudan Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-27¹²⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritizes green and resilient economy (including combatting climate change), human development (education and health), good governance, peace, and rule of law.• Relates climate adaptation efforts to conflict prevention and resolution.• Aims to support sustainable electrified agriculture via off off-grid renewable energy systems.• Might consider supporting renewable energy efforts for schools and health care facilities, including for settlements of refugees and internally displaced people.	<p>Priority; references specific initiatives</p>

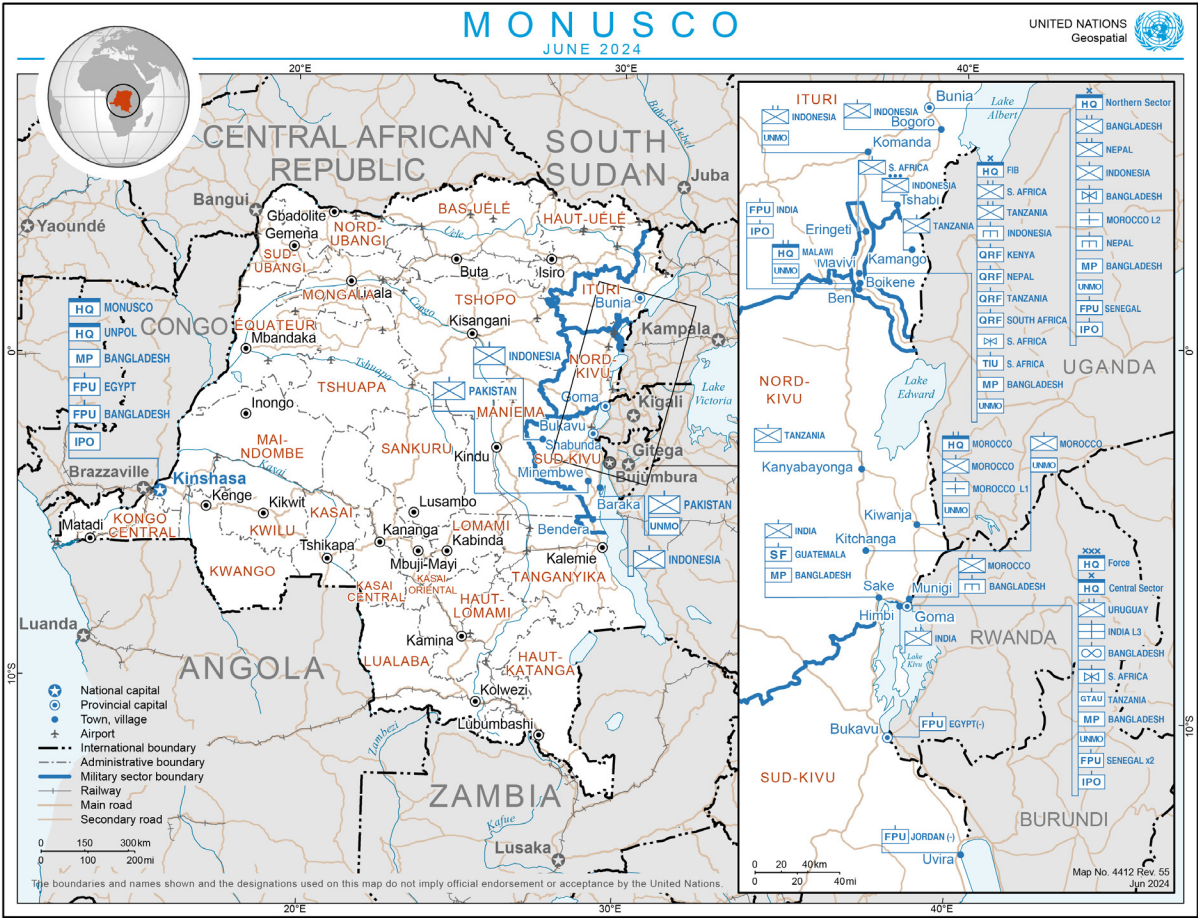
Annex 2: Peacekeeping Mission Maps

I. Central African Republic: MINUSCA Map



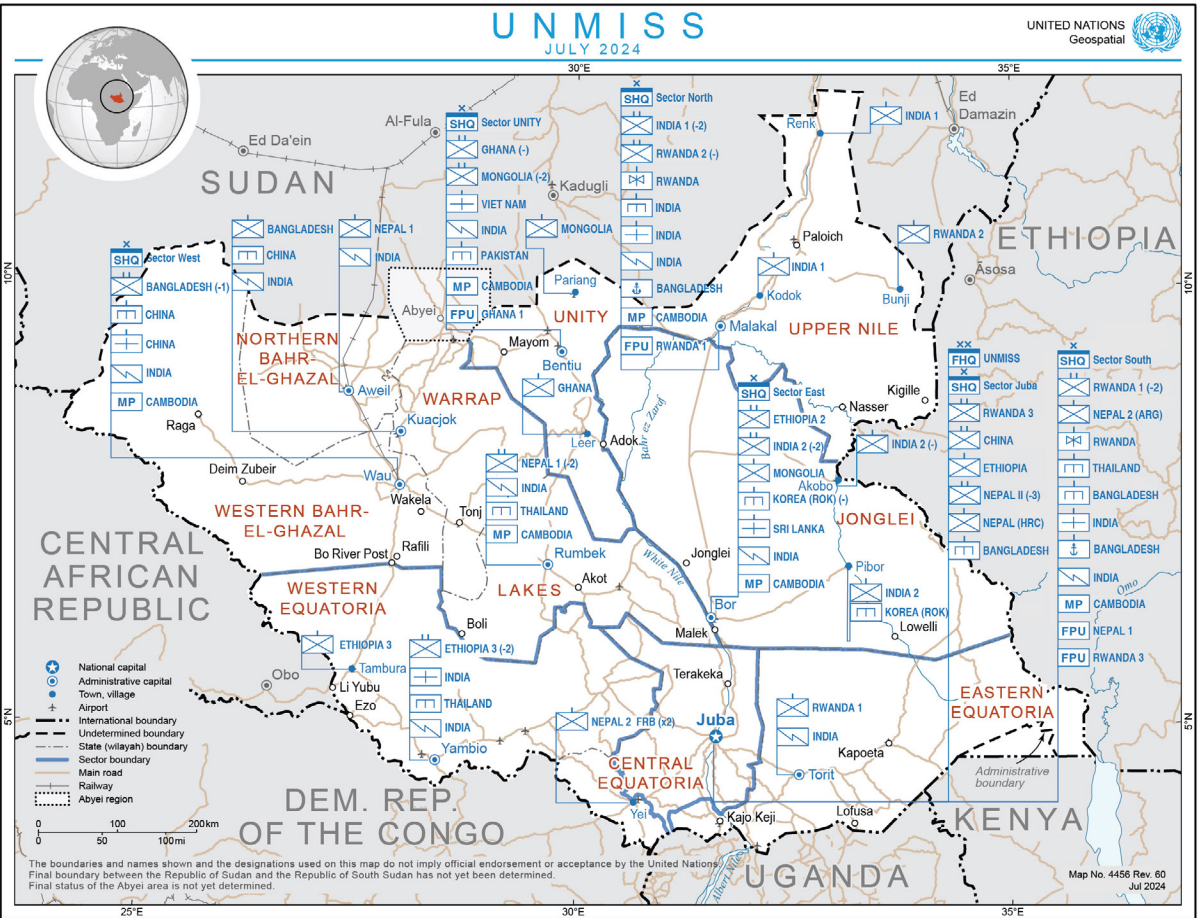
From the United Nations Geospatial Services, February 2024.¹³⁰

II. Democratic Republic of the Congo: MONUSCO Map



From the United Nations Geospatial Services, June 2024.¹³¹

III. South Sudan: UNMISS Map



From the United Nations Geospatial Services, July 2024.¹³²

Endnotes

¹ United Nations Department of Operational Support, “Way Forward: Environment Strategy 2023-2030,” (July 16, 2023). Assesses progress and challenges in increasing use of renewable energy in peace operation. operationalsupport.un.org/sites/default/files/the_way_forward_-_environment_strategy_2023-2030.pdf. Victoria K. Holt and Alexander Hopkins, with David Mozersky and Sherwin Das, “SHIFTING POWER: Transitioning to Renewable Energy in United Nations Peace Operations,” Stimson Center and Energy Peace Partners, 2021, www.stimson.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Shifting-Power_Transitioning-to-RE-in-UN-Peace-Ops_January-2021.pdf. Eugene Chen, Flora McCrone, and David Mozersky, “Renewable Energy and the United Nations: A Green Spark for Peace in South Sudan,” Stimson Center, 2023, www.stimson.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Stimson_RenewableEnergy_Feb13.pdf. Abdi Aynte, Eugene Chen, and David Mozersky, “POWERING AHEAD: The United Nations and Somalia’s Renewable Energy Opportunity,” Stimson Center and Energy Peace Partners, March 2022. Dirk Druet, Rida Lyammouri, and David Mozersky, “FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY TO PEACEBUILDING IN MALI: MINUSMA’s Opportunity to Bridge the Gap,” Stimson Center and Energy Peace Partners, 2021, www.stimson.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Stimson_FinalRelease_June25.pdf. United Nations Energy, “Energy Compact on Renewable Energy for Peacekeeping,” (2021), www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/11/energy_compact_template_version_renewables_for_peacekeeping.final_.pdf.

² United Nations Secretariat, “United Nations Secretariat Climate Action Plan 2020-2030,” (September 2019), www.un.org/management/sites/www.un.org.management/files/united-nations-secretariat-climate-action-plan.pdf.

³ International Energy Forum, *The remarkable rise of solar power*, (26 January 2024), www.ief.org/news/the-remarkable-rise-of-solar-power, (accessed July 2024). International Energy Agency, “Hydroelectricity,” www.iea.org/energy-system/renewables/hydroelectricity#programmes, (accessed July 2024).

⁴ John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College, “Powering Peace: Dartmouth Workshop,” May 2023, sites.dartmouth.edu/poweringpeace/powering-peace-workshop-schedule/ (accessed July 2024). Stimson Center, “Powering Peace,” www.stimson.org/project/powering-peace/, (accessed July 2024).

⁵ Large missions include MINUSCA in Central African Republic (personnel: 22,523 total including 16,546 troops and police); MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (personnel: 17,761 total including 13,399 troops and police); and UNMISS in South Sudan (personnel: 18,125 total including 14,797 troops and police). UN Peacekeeping, “MINUSCA FACT SHEET,” peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusca, (accessed July 2024). UN Peacekeeping, “MONUSCO FACT SHEET,” peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/monusco, (accessed July 2024). UN Peacekeeping, “UNMISS FACT SHEET,” peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unmiss, (accessed July 2024).

⁶ This report builds upon work led by many actors to argue for the UN leveraging its energy needs to support wider access, rather than making that full case here. These actors include officials in the UN system, governments, peacekeeping missions, host nations, private sector actors such as Kube Energy, researchers, and the Powering Peace initiative.

⁷ The World Bank, “Access to electricity” (*% of population*), data on *Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report*, data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.ACCS.ZS, (accessed May 2024).

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