I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report is a joint submission by twenty five Civil Society Organisations to inform South Sudan’s second Universal Periodic Review particularly on the implementation of the UPR recommendations received by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (Nov 2017) in preparation for the 3rd cycle. The report considers the state’s performance with regards to its obligations under international human rights conventions and international customary law. It highlights key human rights concerns affecting the citizens of South Sudan alongside legal and policy measures intended for the promotion and protection of human rights presenting developments from the past 4 years in form of successes, challenges and recommendations to the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. Informed by the previous review, this report contains three thematic areas on Peace and reconciliation reflecting the status of the implementation of the Peace Agreement 2018, Women and Girls describing the steps taken by the government in addressing Sexual & Gender Based Violence and the Right to Education broadly elaborating measures that the government has taken to ensure access to education as aligned to the recommendations received.

2. The milestones recorded depict the efforts taken by the government of the Republic of South Sudan in improving the human rights situation in the Country, however more effort is required in implementing available laws & policies and strengthening relevant institutions to fulfil their roles and responsibilities as mandated. Since the 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS)¹ collapsed in 2016, most of the information provided herein in the area of peace and reconciliation are solemnly directed to the Revitalized Agreement on Resolution of Conflict in south Sudan (R-ARCSS).The slow implementation of the (R-ARCSS) has affected the enactment of some laws relevant to promoting and protection the rights of the people of South Sudan a crucial step towards ensuring sustainable peace.

II. METHODOLOGY

3. This report is based on information gathered by three teams from the South Sudan Civil Society Coalition on the UPR assigned according to the three thematic areas as presented below. The firsthand information provided herein was obtained through meetings, dialogue with duty bearers, interviews, official statements made by key government officials during functions such as human rights forums, legal texts, police and court records, In addition to the above, a total number of 16 Focus Group Discussions (comprising of women, men, youth, children, community leaders) were conducted in the three states of Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, and Western Bahr el Ghazal in

¹ Annex I contain all the acronyms.
a 2 weeks national consultation exercise in the year 2020. Furthermore, secondary data was obtained from civil society reports (progress reports on the Implementation of the UPR recommendations), policy briefs and reliable media reports. A five member committee was set up to develop and review report to ensure consistency and compliance with OHCHR guidelines.

III. STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UPR RECOMMENDATIONS

PEACE & RECONCILIATION

Recommendation no: 126.4, 126.5, 126.7, 126.9, 126.12, 126.14, 126.15, 126.17, 126.18, 126.19, 126.20, 126.25

4. The 2015 Agreement of the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS) collapsed on the 8\textsuperscript{th} July 2016 and this was followed by the signing of the Revitalised Agreement of the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) on September 12\textsuperscript{th} 2018 to replace the ARCSS as an attempt to dealing with and ending the violent conflict / the five-year civil war in South Sudan. The R-ARCSS contains attractive provisions but there is lack of political will by the parties in implementing the agreement. The Reconstituted Government of National Unity (R-TGONU) is now in its third year of the Transitional period with most of the provisions not fully implemented whereas others are not yet started. The executive organ of the government was formed by the parties to the agreement in 2019, state governors appointed in February 2020 and subsequently followed by state ministers and county commissioners. Furthermore, the 35% affirmative action for women representation in the executive is not fully adhered to by the parties to the agreement. The parties to the R-ARCSS have reached a consensus on the structures and allocation of positions in the three administrative areas including Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA), Abyei Administrative Area (AAA) and Ruweng Administrative Area (RAA).

5. Most of the institutions tasked to implement the agreement including the National Transitional Committee (NTC), Joint Defense Board (JDB), Strategic Defense and Security Review Board (SDSR-B), Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (R-JMEC), Joint Military Ceasefire Commission (JMCC), National Constitution Amendment Committee (NCAC), Ceasefire & Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM) and Joint Transition Security Committee (JTSC) have been formed as scheduled and are functional
except the Reconstituted Transitional National Legislative Assembly (RTNLA), the council states, state legislatures and the county legislative councils. It is worth noting that the R-TGoNU is operating behind schedule of the R-ARCSS, now in its third year of the Transitional period. Despite the continuous and consistent demand, engagements and calls from the Civil Society, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the international Community, the implementation of the R-ARCSS remains critically slow, selective, inconsistent and less responsive to addressing the dire situation of the country. The reconstitution of the RTNLA, council of states and the state Parliaments has been delayed till the third year of the Transitional period, hence raising doubts if these institutions can fully execute their mandate in implementing the provisions of the R-ARCSS before the end of the Transitional period. The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) as signed by the parties during the High Level Revitalization Forum (HRLF) and subsequently the Permanent Cease Fire as provided in the chapter II of the R-ARCSS is largely holding. However the Cease Fire monitoring body CTSAMVM, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) particularly the voluntary taskforce on Peace Implementation Monitoring Initiative (PIMI) and UNMISS reported clashes between the South Sudan People’s Defense Forces (SSPDF) and the Sudan People’s Liberation Army-In Opposition (SPLA-IO) especially within the Central Equatoria (CE) region as well as in other parts of the country in the first and the second years of the Transitional period.

6. The 83,000 Necessary Unified Forces (NUF) as provided by the R-ARCSS are yet to be graduated from their respective cantonment sites and deployed. It is not clear when they will be graduated and subsequently deployed. More so, the cantonment sites are reportedly not functioning as provided by the agreement. There are significant reports of lack of basic needs including but not limited to food, medicine and proper shelter. These constraints have led to a large number of the forces deserting the cantonment sites in search for better living conditions.

7. Chapter V of the R-ARCSS provides for Transitional Justice (TJ), Accountability, Reconciliation and Healing. In pursuit of these, a Cabinet-level decision was made and the Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affair (MoJCA) acknowledged that it would take lead in all the processes of the TJ as provided by the agreement. Recently (in June 2021) MoJCA issued a ministerial order for the appointment of members of the technical committee on the Commission of Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH). The technical committee comprises of members of the parties to the R-ARCSS, Civil Society, and Academia. This was subsequently followed by the launching of the technical committee Commissioned by the First Vice President Dr. Riek Machar Teny on 30th June, 2021. However, the national consultation process on the CTRH is yet to start and it is not clear when it will come to effect. The national transitional justice processes have continued to lag behind, Chapter V of the peace agreement remains the least implemented. In addition to this, the citizens have less or no understanding of the Transitional Justices process. For instance, at the state level the understanding of it has
remained substantially very low among citizens. Consultations on drafting a legislation for the formation of the Transitional Justice mechanisms has not picked up to date. For this process to be effective and realistic, the government should ensure that the consultative process is inclusive in nature such that no single section of the community is left out. The three Transitional Justice mechanisms in Chapter V of the R-ARCSS (CTRHR, Compensation and Reparation Authority (CRA), and Hybrid Court for South Sudan (HCSS) requires the views of the citizenry for the enactment of their legislations. Therefore, the MoJCA is urgently required to carry out a wide range of stakeholder’s consultation especially with the citizens so that their views are incorporated into the legislations during the enactment process. Chapter VI of the R-ARCSS provides for and mandates the R-TGONU to initiate and oversee a Permanent Constitution-making process during the twenty-four (24) months of the transitional period. This provision has not been implemented due to the fact that the commencement of the constitution-making processes including the enactment of legislations to govern the process and Reconstitution of the National Constitution Review Committee (NCRC) has been delayed.

8. Due to the slow implementation of the R-ARCSS, there has been no initiative by the government to document and investigate alleged human rights violations. The delay in documenting and investigating alleged human rights violations would negatively affect the Transitional Justice processes because it is likely that the available evidences and testimonies of human violations would disappear hence justice would not be served. The R-TGoNU is required to urgently expedite and operationalise the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the African Union (AU) in order to pave way for the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan (HCSS) being one of the three mechanisms of Transitional Justice as provided for by the R-ARCSS.

9. The R-ARCSS provides for the Reconstitution of a competent and independent National Elections Commission (NEC) to conduct free, fair, periodic and credible elections before the end of the Transitional period with the outcome of the election reflecting the will of the electorate. The NEC was supposed to be reconstituted within seven (7) months of the Transitional period which has elapsed and there seems to be no plans underway to conduct elections any time soon as stipulated by the agreement. The government should put in place mechanisms to create an attractive and conducive environment including creation of a safe political and social environment to foster effective and timely elections for the citizens to choose their leaders through the ballot. In the forefront of the above, the government should quickly reconstitute a competent and independent NEC to immediately start all the necessary preparations required to conduct free, fair, periodic and credible elections. The other preparations required of the government is to create a conducive environment for the conduct of elections include but not limited to implementing the security arrangements provisions of the agreement, promulgation of the Political Parties act, Elections Act, conducting a national housing and population census,
resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), repatriation of refugees, public awareness and allocation of enough resources. Till date, these provisions of the R-ARCSS have not been dealt with. As provided by the R-ARCSS, the period of the NCAC expired on 22 February 2021, yet there are laws which the NCAC is required to review as mandated by the agreement. In order for the NCAC to continue with its work, its mandate and tenure should be renewed, this is because a number of laws (the transitional constitution and all the available acts) are required to be amended as per the R-ARCSS.

10. The high prevalence of inter-communal violence, kidnaping, cattle raiding and revenge killings especially in Lakes, Jonglei, Unity and Warap states being perpetrated by armed youth constitute a major threat to the security fragility in the country with hundreds of lives lost and property destroyed or looted and the government (R-TGoNU) is paying less attention to it yet the rights of the citizens are being violated on a daily basis. More so, the occupation of civilian property such as house, schools and worship places by various armed groups has been persisting which scare away civilians from returning to their communities. In addition to the above, the movement of armed cattle herders with their animals especially in the Equatoria region has caused a huge security threat to the native farmers and the farmlands in the region. The armed cattle keepers have reportedly killed, raped, tortured, displaced dozens of people from their farmlands as well as destroyed or looted their property particularly in Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria. The government's effective, systemic and timely intervention on this security threats seems to be minimal at the moment especially in enforcing the 2017 presidential order urging pastoralist communities to leave farmlands within the Equatoria Region as well as the disarmament attempt of the armed civilians in Lakes and Warap State. It is worth mentioning that Community peace conferences intended to promote peace and reconciliation have been happening between farmers and pastoral communities in the country particularly in Eastern Equatoria and Western Bahr-el-Ghazal States facilitated by the local government.

11. There is a perpetual claim by the government that it lacks finances to fund the implementation of the R-ARCSS yet the agreement mandates the R-TGoNU to be the major funder. This claim has contributed to the slow implementation of the agreement. The Covid-19 has to a lesser extent also contributed to the slow implementation and dissemination of the R-ARCSS especially during the lockdown in the first quarter of 2020.

12. In general terms, knowledge on the R-ARCSS remains low among South Sudanese especially at the Sub-national level, evidence suggests limited access to information on the peace agreement with no or limited copies provided to some states and their governments. Much of the efforts on this has been made possible through civil society engagement and the media. The Parties to the agreement have limited strategies for reaching out to communities and speaking about the peace agreement. In an attempt to
bringing the views of the citizens together, a national dialogue was called for by the president in 2017. It was received with mixed reactions as its timing was not appropriate with some parties to the R-ARCSS refusing to take part in the whole process. However, its resolutions reached during the national conference are yet to be adopted by the RTNLA.

**Recommendations to the Government of the Republic of South Sudan.**

- Allocate enough resources for the implementation of the agreement without further delay.
- Expedite the graduation and the deployment of the NUF to lessen the risk of desertion and potential insecurity to citizens,
- Investigate and document all alleged human rights violations in all parts of the country.
- Engage citizens in all the implementation process including but not limited to reconciliation, constitutional development and monitoring of the peace agreement.
- Enhance the process of reforming the judiciary as a way of promoting justice and confidence of citizens to accessing the justice system.
- Initiate fresh consultation processes and ensure the inclusion of areas that were previously left out due to the conflict.
- Promote civilian and military relations to build confidence and promote peaceful co-existence.
- Consider disarming the civilians all over the country and put in place appropriate measures to controlling the flow and movement of firearms.

**WOMENS RIGHTS**

| Recommendation no 126.2, 126.3, 126.40, 126.42, 126.44, 126.45, 126.46, 126.47, 126.58, 126.59, 126.60, 127.34, 127.35, 127.36, 127.37 |

**Sexual & Gender Based Violence**

13. A number of commendable steps have been taken by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in addressing women human rights particularly on Sexual and Gender Based violence (SGBV) since the last review on the UPR in 2016. Policies and actions plans have been put forward while others are in the pipeline by a number of line ministries with the aim of reducing cases of SGBV as explained below.

14. **Gender Based Violence (GBV) Court.** The GBV court was officially inaugurated on the 3rd of December 2020 with funding from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands a commitment to ending impunity for Gender Based Violence. Since its establishment, more than 21 cases of SGBV inclusive of perpetrators from the armed forces (Police & South Sudan Peoples Defense Forces) have been prosecuted with Jail terms of not more than 14 years as per the provisions of the South Sudan Penal Code 2008 247(1 ) & the
South Sudan Child Act 2008, 22(4) The GBV court is only based in the Capital Juba thus limiting its jurisdiction within the capital city.

15. The family protection centre/one-stop centre:A family reference centre was established in 2013 and launched in 2017 funded by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Rescue International (RI) under the auspices of the Ministry of Gender Child & Social Welfare (MGCSW) in collaboration with other line government institutions. The centre receives and treats all forms of SGBV cases. It is central and serves the entire country including cases received from across the 10 states. The centre receives an average of 7 SGBV cases per day and sometimes beyond this average with most of whom are victims of rape. The centre provides medical, psychosocial, legal aid and social services to survivors of SGBV. SGBV survivors are accorded protection only in their treatment (Gynaecology) wards in Juba Teaching Hospital where only serious cases that can medically be admitted. Currently, there are only two safe homes in Torit and Juba, this therefore only favors SGBV survivors in Juba and Torit. These institutions are equally challenged, their ability to operate depends solely on funding from International agencies/partners, the safety and protection of survivors while in hospital is minimal and can easily be compromised by perpetrators whereas those accessing services from the Out Patient Department still go to the community where perpetrators roam and finally late reporting of SGBV cases by survivors and those close to them hampers the management of emergency treatment and testing hence compromising the health and lives of survivors. In addition to the above, the MGCSW launched a helpline (6-6-2) in May 2020, for purposes of reporting GBV cases and other forms of violence against women and girls. In June 2020 another toll free National helpline (6-2-3) was unveiled by UNFPA to support victims of GBV throughout the country.

16. Special Protection Units (SPUs): The South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS) set up 16 Special Protection Units (SPU’s) in the country and trained over 50 officers on investigating cases of sexual violence and counselling. However, the SPUs only exist in Juba, Yambio, Wau & Torit. In the capital Juba there are SPU’s in 6 police stations. Recently (March 2021) 20 police officers were trained in Juba as Trainers of Trainees (TOTs) on SGBV, 4 of the trained officers will soon travel to other states and train other officers on management of SGBV cases. Despite all the efforts made, the cases of SGBV are still on the rise, between the months of February and March 2021, 90 cases of SGBV cases were registered in only one police station, the central police division in juba all of which were perpetrated against women by men. Full operationalization of the SPUs still remains a challenge with reports on continued mismanagement of cases and inadequate measures for protecting survivors. Most of the SPU offices in the 5 of the six police stations are either demolished, closed or put to use by another unit within the SSNPS and therefore not adequately functional, furthermore there is a critical lack of information on the availability and the importance of SPUs by the public. In addition to the above some officers trained on SGBV have migrated to
other units within the police such as traffic, immigration and customs service and therefore untrained police offices are left to handle SGBV cases compromising confidentiality.

17. **Policies/action plans/strategic plans/International and regional treaties**: The GBV bill developed by the MGCSW is still in the council of ministers awaiting endorsement and the MoJCA is yet to review it, It’s not clear when all the process required to pass the bill into law will happen. In addition to this, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as a national policy framework was formulated enshrining prevention, protection and response mechanisms as well as referral pathways for GBV is in use with copies available at the MGCSW. The Government developed a National Action Plan (NAP) 2015-2025 on the UNSCR 1325 on women peace and security, which works under 4 pillars: protection, participation, prevention and relief & recovery, it is currently under review and the MGCSW is yet to write a report on its successes and challenges. The SSNPS developed a four-year action plan (2019-2022) on addressing conflict -related sexual violence in the Country however its implementation has not materialised. Currently all legislations are geared towards the implementation of the R-ARCSS, the parliament lacks legitimacy hence hindering it from formulating and amending legislations or laws that protect the rights of women and girls. Furthermore there are no laws handling child marriages except the customary laws and there is no plan underway to legislating a marriage law. There is also a dilemma in interpreting and understanding the constitutional provision of “marriageable age,” it is against the Child Act 2008 and favors the customary practice of child marriage. In regards to the need to adhere to regional human Rights instruments, the status of the ratification of Maputo protocol is not clear.

18. International frameworks, such as Recommendation 30 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and UNSC Resolution 1325, remain inadequately implemented. For example, the constitutional provision within the 2018 R-ARCSS that 35% of all government roles should be filled by women is yet to be realised. The outbreak of Covid-19 has forced the government to impose lockdowns, which include restrictions such as the cessation of movement and curfew. These measures are reported to have spiked cases of domestic violence and intimate partner violence in households. Women, girls, elderly and persons with chronic illnesses are most affected.

**Recommendations to the Government of the Republic of South Sudan**

- Speed up the process of passing the Anti GBV law and put it to use.
- Enact a family law without further delay.
Ratify, Domesticate and implement the Protocol to the African Charter on Human & Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)

Establish safe homes for survivors of SGBV across all the 10 states and the 3 Administrative areas.

Take measures to ensure that SPU’s are functional in all the 10 states and the 3 administrative areas.

Strengthen local institutions to address cases of child marriage and early pregnancies.

Allocate adequate resources to relevant institutions that handle SGBV including those in the states,

Amend the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan by including the marriageable age.

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Recommendation no 126.72, 126.73, 126.74, 126.75, 127.41, 127.42, 126.49, 126.50

Access to Education

19. The Government through the Ministry of General Education & Instruction made efforts towards transforming the education sector by developing laws and policies notably the General Education Act 2012, the General Strategic Plan 2018-2022, the Technical and Vocational Education training (TVET) Strategic Action Plan 2013-2017, The National Inclusive Education System Policy, the South Sudan Female Teachers Affirmative Action 2018-2022 and the Alternative Education System (AES) (comprising of 6 programs: Accelerated Learning program ALP, Community Girls Schools CGS, Pastoralist Education Program PEP, Basic Adult Literacy Program BALP, Intensive English Course IEC and South Sudan Interactive Radio Instruction SSIRI) containing ambitious legal framework for implementing the right to education and largely remaining on paper without effective implementation. One of the major reasons as to why the educational policies have to a larger extent not been implemented is due to the limited budget allocated to the education sector (annual education allocation for 2019 was at 10% of the national budget). Minimal success has been recorded in relation to community girl’s schools particularly in Lakes states Rumbek where 4 community girls schools were constructed in the last five years as part of the AES and are functional. The girls are given food to encourage them attend school regularly and also encourage parents to send their children to school. In Torit County: Eastern Equatoria State, the school feeding programme has boosted enrolment both in lower and upper primary, it is worth noting that the school feeding programme is limited to specific parts of the country and only available to public schools.
20. The education sector is extremely donor dependent, the MOGEI has received tremendous support from International partners/stakeholders with the aim of improving the education sector. Funded by European Union, the Girls Education South Sudan (GESS) is one of the Governments initiative to increase enrolment and retention of girls in schools as one of the few interventions that have made a difference. The program currently in its second phase (May 2019 -March 2024) was developed with the aim of transforming the lives of children in South Sudan especially girls, through education by providing cash transfers and capitation grants to schools. School girls receive between 2300ssp - 3,300 South Sudanese pounds (SSP) twice a year to cater for indirect costs of education such as exercise books and sanitary towels as incentives for retaining them in school. Pupils in primary levels 4 –8 and secondary students are the direct beneficiaries of the cash transfer. More than 250,000 girls across the country have received the cash transfer since the inception of the Programme. This program is overseen by the government with Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) taking lead. The cash transfer has not only improved the status of girls especially those from disadvantaged families but it has also increased their enrollment.

21. Teachers’ incentive: Through the Impact project the EU has supported the MoGEI in terms of paying teachers’ incentives complementing the little and delayed monthly salaries they receive from the government. The project was launched in April 2017 with each teacher receiving $40 (Usually converted into South Sudanese Pounds at the Central Bank Rate) on a quarterly basis, a total number of 30,000 teachers across the country have benefited from the Programme since its inception. The teachers’ incentive has contributed towards maintaining some teachers in schools. There are reports of delays in issuing the incentives to teachers and this has led to strikes, a case in point was in Jonglei where teachers went on strike over delayed payments and mismanagement of the funds, the teachers had not received their incentives since June last year (2020) a matter that prompted them to lay down their tools for about 2 weeks which affected learning of children. The State Ministry of Finance acknowledged receipt of the money however they spent it on other priorities and promised to refund the teachers. According to a joint statement by the EU and MOGEI, 33,000 primary teachers shall receive incentives at the end of the first term to be paid in August 2021 to cover the months between May-August 2021 subject to validation of teachers an exercise that has commenced.

22. Rehabilitation and construction of Schools: A number of International Non-Governmental Organizations have rendered their support in some locations notably In Torit where 3 vocational schools have been renovated by United Nations Development Fund & Humanity & Inclusion, in Yambio 3 schools have been renovated by UNICEF, UNMISS, World Vision, In Wau most of the schools have been renovated by government through the support of partners under the LOGOSEED project, In Unity state a total number of 9 primary and 3 secondary schools have been constructed by the Lutheran World Federation with funding from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (
UNHCR) to cater for the education needs of refugees from Sudan and the host community. Within the Central Equatoria region, 14 schools have been renovated with the support from EU. It is worth mentioning that many schools particularly in Central and Western Equatoria are still in a vandalized state thus not friendly for learning. MoGEI launched new textbooks based on the new curriculum in 2019 and with support from global partnership the ministry has started printing books to the ratio 1:2 to be distributed next year.

23. Amidst the support provided by partners/stakeholders, the challenges facing the education sector overshadow the successes. Untrained and low paid teachers continue to impact on the delivery of quality education to many schools across the country. More than 70% of teachers are untrained & unqualified, teacher motivation in general is very low, irregular and low pay, difficult working conditions, Unfriendly learning environment for children with disabilities impacting on their ability to access education, poverty levels curtailing parents from paying school requirements including school fees despite the fact that the General Education Act 2012 provides for free and compulsory education for every child, public schools still demand that parents pay school dues. Recently the MOGEI gave directives that, private and faith based schools should not charge school fees exceeding 80,000 SSP, insecurity and safety issues has also discouraged many children from going to school, the global pandemic has resulted into drop in enrolment rate especially in candidate classes, a total number of 450 cases of child pregnancies have been recorded since the break out of Covid19 early last year (2020), overcrowding due to limited classrooms continue to distract teaching and children’s level of concentration and finally there is limited liaison between the national and state institutions on information sharing and on the implementation of the country’s available laws. (relevant to education)

**Recommendations to the Government of the Republic of South Sudan**

- Implement all education policies and legal framework to ensure all children access education and remain in school.
- Increase the budget allocation for the education sector to 20% so as to ensure availability of teaching and learning resources for all primary and secondary schools.
- Establish a comprehensive national scholarship scheme for girls.
- Create a conducive environment (safety and security) for both teachers, learners and community.
- Increase teachers’ salary and ensure timely payment.
- Construct public boarding schools in all States.
- Take measures to ensure all teachers training institutes and TVET are functional and consider building more across the Country.
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