



UNYDA Launch a construction for women empowerment Centre in Wadakona town, Manyo County.

Wadakona, Manyo County – May 19, 2026,

Upper Nile Youth Development Association (UNYDA), in collaboration with UNMISS Civil Affairs, launched the official ceremony for the construction of a women's training and empowerment centre in Wadakona, Manyo County, with stakeholders from county authorities, Police, community leaders, CSOs, youth and women's groups.

The launch was aimed to promote gender equity and inclusion by supporting women's active participation in economic and community development, and to strengthen community resilience through the creation of locally available services and economic activities.

Voices from the Ground

During the event, the Executive Director of Manyo County, Mr Ayong Pyab, thanked and appreciated the role played by UNYDA and its partner, UNMISS Civil Affairs, in supporting women and building the Women's Empowerment Centre in Wadakona. He also appreciated the role of the Commissioner in coordinating such an important initiative in the area. He encouraged women to collaborate and unite to promote peace and development in the area.

The Director of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission in Manyo County, in his speech, asserted the importance of constructing a women's empowerment centre in Wadakona as a positive step towards changing women's lives. He further stated, "When we train women in tailoring, it means we are teaching them self-reliance and encouraging behavioural change."



This process and the launch followed extensive coordination with both UNYDA and UNMISS Civil Affairs, with the actual launch originally scheduled for March 2025.

He thanked and appreciated the role of UNYDA and UNMISS Civil Affairs for fulfilling their commitments.

The representative of the Upper Nile Youth Development Association (UNYDA), Mr Odong Mayik Kur, outlined the background of UNYDA and the purpose of the launch, stating, “The objective of the launch is to inform stakeholders about the initiative and the planned timeline for project implementation.

The project was initially designed in collaboration with the UNMISS Civil Affairs Department to establish and construct a Women’s Training Centre measuring 8 metres by 5 metres, an administration room measuring 4 metres by 5 metres, and a sanitation facility (pit latrine) measuring 1.5 metres by 1.5 metres.

In addition, the project will equip women with marketable vocational skills through structured tailoring training programmes and further enhance economic self-reliance among female returnees by providing access to 20 sewing machines and start-up resources.

The project is also expected to promote gender equity and inclusion by supporting women’s active participation in economic and community development.

He urged women and other stakeholders to coordinate and collaborate with UNMISS and UNYDA to ensure the successful completion of the project.

The chairperson of the women's group in Wadakona, Rita Chol, in her speech, said that they are very thankful to the UNMISS Civil Affairs Department and its partner UNYDA for their commitment and for reaching this stage of launching the project for the construction of the women's empowerment centre. She further stated, “We signed the memorandum of understanding with UNMISS in September 2025, and we are pleased to see this happening. This building is not for me as chairperson, but for all women in Wadakona town, regardless of their background. I expect to



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see all women and other stakeholders collaborating and uniting to ensure the construction process starts and is completed very soon.”

The representative of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) commented that when the guns fall silent, people begin to initiate development, and by development, we mean human capacity development.

I believe the importance of the centre will include building women's technical capacities and providing literacy programmes, including English and Arabic languages, to enhance women's abilities.

As CSOs, we will work hand in hand with women. I know war and conflict have led to women's suffering, and we will ensure we support women and stand with them to alleviate this suffering.

When the centre is completed, NGOs will no longer need to search for women in their homes; they will go directly to the centre and request specific women from there. Let the centre be the reason for our togetherness and unity at the Manyo County level.



Charles Onak Judo

Executive Director – UNYDA

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Event Photos



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