



Investing in rural people

Report to the President

Proposed additional financing to

South Sudan for scaling up of South Sudan Livelihood and Resilient Project

Project ID: 2000002869

Technical questions:

Caroline Mwongera

Country Director

ESA

e-mail: c.mwongera@ifad.org

Esther Kenyi

Country Programme Officer

ESA

e-mail: e.kenyi@ifad.org

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Project/programme delivery team

Regional Director:	Sara Mbago-Bhunu
Country Director/Country Programme Manager:	Caroline Mwongera
Technical Lead:	Robert Delve
Finance Officer:	Claude Kodzo Sokpor
Climate and Environment Specialist:	Paxina Chileshe
Legal Officer:	Felister Munyua

Financing summary

Initiating institution:	IFAD
Borrower/recipient:	Government of South Sudan
Executing agency:	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Total SSLRP cost (US\$ '000):	33,160
Amount of original IFAD [DSF Grant and Loan] (US\$ '000):	9,800
Terms of original IFAD financing:	Grant (80 percent) and Loans (20 percent) on highly concessionary term
Amount of additional financing (from GAFSP) (US\$ '000):	14,500
Terms of additional financing:	Grant
Financier(s):	GAFSP
Amount of co financing (US\$ '000):	18,660
Terms of co financing:	Grant
Contribution of Kingdom of the Netherlands	7.038
Contribution of borrower/recipient (US\$ '000):	780
Contribution of beneficiaries ('000):	1,042
Amount of original IFAD climate finance (US\$ '000):¹	1,030
Amount of additional IFAD climate finance:²	0
Cooperating institution:	Directly supervised by IFAD

³ [South Sudan Development Plan \(2011-2013\)](#)

³ [South Sudan Development Plan \(2011-2013\)](#)

I. Background and project description

A. Background

1. Additional Financing has been requested to scale up the South Sudan Livelihood and Resilience Project (SSLRP). The AF will be financed by the grant from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP), with IFAD acting as the Supervising Entity (SE). SSLRP was approved by IFAD's Executive Board (EB) in May 2021 and - and was launched in August 2021. The project completion and closure dates are 30 June 2027, and 31 December 2027, respectively.
2. The total project financing, before the additional financing, amounts to US\$ 18.66 million, with IFAD financing of \$9.80 million, comprising a Debt Sustainability Framework grant of US\$ 7.90 million and a highly concessional term loan of US\$ 1.9 million, counterpart funding from the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) of US\$ 780,000, a beneficiary contribution of US\$ 1.042 million and US\$ 7.038 million in co-financing from the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The expected parallel financing from AfDB did not materialize because of the challenges to synergize the implementing modalities and financial arrangements because of the delays in startup of SSLRP activities.
3. SSLRP overall goal is to "contribute to improved and resilient livelihoods for the targeted rural communities". Whereas the programme Development Objective is to "empower communities to participate in decision-making processes that will recover agriculture livelihoods, build household resilience and promote stability". The project provides opportunity for re-engagement of IFAD in the Country after many years and to build on learn lessons experience from South Sudan Livelihood Development Project (SSLDP), which ended in 2016.
4. The project (SSLRP) has three main technical components: Component 1: Community Driven Development Planning; Component 2: Agriculture and Rural Livelihood Support; and Component 3; Project Management, Coordination and Capacity Building.
5. Through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), the GoSS requested an additional financing from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) with an eye to scaling up the above referenced SSLRP's interventions. The request was based on consultative process within the country that prioritized the proposed interventions to meet the worsening conditions.
6. An allocation of US\$ 14.5 million (US\$ 14.5 million was confirmed conditionally by the GAFSP in March 2023. The funds are presented as an opportunity to bridge the gap in the humanitarian development nexus by supporting recovery activities anchored in the agriculture sector aimed at promoting livelihood improvements, peace, and stability to boost and expand the ongoing SSLRP investments.
7. The activities to be funded under the additional GAFSP financing are designed to run for five years with the expected approval date being Feb 2024 and its end date June 2029. The parent project (SSLRP) end date is June 30, 2027, when implementation of GAFSP supported activities would not have been completed. Therefore, there will be a no cost extension request submitted for SSLRP project to harmonize the end dates of the parent and the GAFSP projects. In addition, as per the GAFSP request, a reallocation request is being prepared to reallocate IFAD funds to the activities directly benefitting the government, subject to approval of the GAFSP financing and signature of the amended SSLRP financing agreement.

B. Original project/programme description

8. The Project overall goal is to “contribute to improved and resilient livelihoods among the targeted rural communities”. Whereas the Project Development Objective is to “empower communities to participate in decision-making processes that will recover agriculture livelihoods, build household resilience and promote stability”. SSLRP has three main components and a Component Zero for disaster’s response.
- Component 1: Community Driven Development Planning
 - Component 2: Agriculture Production and Rural livelihood Support.
 - Component 3: Project Management, Coordination and Capacity Building

II. Rationale for additional financing

A. Rationale

9. GAFSP funding will complement and reinforce the existing efforts and fill in some of the financing gaps in the country led policies such as the South Sudan Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plan (June 2022) and other existing government policy instruments such as the South Sudan Development Plan (SSDP)³ ; including priorities identified by the Agriculture and Livelihoods Donor Working Group (ALDWG) and other key donors in South Sudan such as the World Bank (*Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Project; Emergency Desert Locust Response Project; South Sudan Productive Safety Nets Project*); AfDB (*Building Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security in the Horn of Africa- South Sudan Component; Agricultural Market Value Addition and Trade Project; South Sudan Emergency Food Production Project*), etc.
10. Within the country, investments in agriculture are guided by the Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan/Irrigation Development Master Plan (CAMP/IDMP) 2015–2040. The GAFSP funding will fit into investments in agriculture by supporting medium to longer term elements (agricultural practices, opening feeder roads for market linkages) at the County and Payam levels. Further, the additional financing is in sync with IFAD’s Country Strategy Note (2021-2022) through which the parent project has been resourced. As such the funding will not finance new standalone projects. It will contribute to the achievement of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goal (SDG2) and the priorities of the UN’s Development Cooperation Framework (UNDCF-2023-2025) respectively.
11. The relationships between the Additional Financing (AF) and the Rural Enterprise for Agricultural Development (READ)—the GAFSP grant to South Sudan currently under preparation—hinges on their complementary approaches to addressing the prevailing community development challenges. The main design process for READ was conducted in 2022, and the grant was designed to be highly complementary with SSLRP and given that this AF will be used to scale-up SSLRP activities, the AF is also well aligned to the READ grant. Specifically, the AF will scale up the community driven development (CDD) approach which empowers grassroots communities to identify agricultural production and productivity constraints; and collectively identify potential solutions and allow communities to take the lead in guided discussions focused on developing implementation plans and strategies in a conflict-sensitive and gender-responsive approaches. In providing substantial support to cooperatives, rural finance, access roads and value addition, also applying a CDD approach, READ activities will therefore be highly complementary. MAFS choice of the same supervising entity (IFAD) for the two projects will ensure harmonization of coordination and other oversight activities: ultimately translating to cost saving as well as higher value for money. Furthermore, MAFS will ensure appropriate liaison and linkages with all other relevant programmes funded by World Bank, and AfDB being managed by MAFS in the country.
12. In scaling up selected SSLRP activities, the AF grant will support the medium- to long-term elements of national agriculture and food security strategies, and food crisis response action plans and priorities. South Sudan, as a low-income country, has food

³ [South Sudan Development Plan \(2011-2013\)](#)

security and strategies in place that contribute to the GAFSP development priorities. South Sudan's investment in agriculture is guided by the Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan/Irrigation Development Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) priorities to increase access to adequate food, end hunger and support national programs for food security for increased production and productivity.

13. Poverty levels remain extremely high in South Sudan at the rate of 6.4% with 98.44% of the population earning less than 10\$ per day⁴. South Sudan poverty index ranked first among the poorest. The United Nation Development Programme Human Development Index ranks South Sudan 191 out of 191 countries. This is attributed to widespread poverty, long-time civil war, and 85% reliance on small scale agriculture. The nutrition situation is critical, an estimated 1.4 million children under 5 years are suffering from acute malnutrition in 2021 while 15.6% suffer from chronic malnutrition, mainly due to conflict that resulted to displacement, hence food insecurity, poor sanitation and limited access to basic health and nutrition services. With the additional funding, scaling up SSLRP interventions to other new locations is essential as this will spread project benefits across South Sudan.

Special aspects relating to IFAD's corporate mainstreaming priorities

14. In line with IFAD's mainstreaming commitments, SSLRP has been validated as:

Including climate finance Nutrition-sensitive Youth-sensitive

15. The additional financing will build on SSLRP's ambitions to equitably engage and empower women, youth, and marginalized people, including persons with disabilities, returnees, and internally displaced people, through meaningful participation in SSLRP's investment activities. Thereby, socio-economic, and cultural barriers will be addressed to promote youth and women's economic and social empowerment, including access to employment, assets, improved decision-making power, and improved division of labor to be well mainstreamed across SSLRP's components. That said, SSLRP will allocate significant resources for (i) social inclusion, empowerment of target groups through on-and off-farm activities, (ii) improvement of food and nutrition security by increasing availability and accessibility to diversified and nutritious foods, and (iii) sustainably addressing climate vulnerability.

Description of geographical area, target groups and targeting strategy

16. Initially, SSLRP is implemented in three (out of 10) States and five counties: Eastern Equatoria (Magwi and Torit); Central Equatoria (Kajo Keji and Terekeka) and Jonglei (Bor). The Project directly targets 38,800 poor households (17 percent of the combined population of the three project States), which is approximately 225,504 people, of which 60 percent (135,302) will be women, and 70 per cent youth (157,852). It is estimated that nearly 10 percent of the target population (22,504) will be returnees and that 24 percent of the households reached (9,312) will be women-headed.
17. With the additional financing, the project will target a total of 54,900 poor rural smallholder households (60 percent will be women, 40 percent male, and 60 percent youth) disaggregated as 39,767 households (241,750 people) in the existing five SSLRP counties; and 15,133 households (87,650 people) in the three new targeted counties of Awerial, Wau and Jur River. The total number of the individual household covered by AF is estimated at 329,400 which is 21 percent of the total population of the States covered.
18. With the additional financing the project will operate in eight counties including Magwi and Torit (Eastern Equatoria State), Kajo Keji and Terekeka (Central Equatoria State),

⁴ <http://worldpopulationreview.com>

Bor South (Jonglei State), Awerial (Lakes State), Jur River and Wau (Western Bahr El Ghazal State). The targeted areas were selected by the GoSS based on predetermined criteria that considered access, vulnerability to climate change, poverty, food insecurity and regional balance. The selected areas are also important food production counties with high numbers of returnees and IDPs. In addition, they have great potential to build on ongoing projects and programmes funded by IFAD and other key institutional donors. They are stable and with low risk of protracted conflict.

19. The additional financing will target rural poor smallholder producers engage in mainly three livelihood activities: crop farmers, agro pastoralists/pastoralists, and fisher folks with a goal to improve their livelihoods by enhancing productivity, soil and water conservation, water for production, access to inputs and services, postharvest infrastructure, improved access to markets and storage. Beneficiaries will benefit from diversified foods of high nutritional value, reduced post-harvest losses and maintaining the nutritional quality of the food and nutrition education targeting both men and women.
20. Targeting strategy for the AF is like that in the parent project. This includes self-targeting, direct and community targeting approaches. Direct targeting will ensure social inclusion of women, youth, and vulnerable groups (particularly returnees and persons with disabilities) and communities through quotas. Self-targeting will ensure that project interventions respond to the needs and priorities of the target groups especially women. This information will be disseminated to the communities through communication and awareness campaigns. The AF will support a range of enterprises that will be attractive to the different target groups e.g., Labour-Intensive Public Works (LIPW) for the returnee youth, nutrition interventions targeting pregnant and lactating women and children under 2 years. Special considerations will be made to address the inclusion of the most vulnerable social categories, such as returnees and persons with disabilities. Community participatory wealth ranking will be applied in the selection of vulnerable households for participation in the cash for work scheme under LIPW.
21. The additional financing will support an estimated 197,640 rural women (60 per cent of the total reach), and these will include 24 per cent women headed households, and 10% returnees. GAFSP funding will be geared towards women's collective agency and improving their access and control of development resources and will ensure a) promotion of women to leadership and their representation in decision-making roles in community institutions; b) ensure 30 percent of all grants are awarded to women only groups; c) use of gender sensitive approaches to trainings on literacy, financial literacy and community mobilisation; d) promote technologies that reduce the burden on women and enterprises that allow for self-targeting of women through the CDPs; and e) create awareness on gender-based violence.
22. The GAPSP funding will support the strengthening of an additional 600 CBOs already in existence as well as the establishment of new ones in locations without existing CBOs. This is a significant benefit because CBOs are the building blocks of rural communities' social capital, used as conduits for facilitating economic empowerment at the household and community levels. This subcomponent will target and strengthen existing producer groups/CBOs even as new ones are established, including, a) agro-pastoral field schools; b) Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA); c) youth enterprise groups; and d) community development committees, which all be key proponents in the design, contracting, supervision and management of social and productive infrastructure as well as other development activities. CBOs will establish gender sensitive subproject committees which will be the main conduits to deliver training and capacity building, including entrepreneurship, gender training and nutrition education. The project will ensure that members of the CBOs will be diverse and representative of the different categories of people considered vulnerable found

- within the communities (women, youth, PLWD, IDPs, Returnees and vulnerable households, etc.).
23. Selection of existing CBOs and formation of new ones, both through guided facilitation processes that will ensure that selected CBOs conform to the guidelines of the Project. The community facilitators and local leaders will generate baseline data on the community, their institutions, and CBOs; identifying, prioritizing & planning for capacity needs; identifying new groups of vulnerable communities and profiling them for actions; and identifying targeted public CBOs and private CBOs based on memberships.
 24. Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), which have about 90% women membership, will be considered as CBOs in the Community Driven Development (CDD) process. CBOs will provide an entry point to train members in GALS and to improve the performance of the groups themselves and develop common areas of interest, address inequalities and strengthen mutually beneficial linkages. This will be achieved through empowering women and men, improving relationships, helping households harness their collective potential, and negotiating gender equitable decision making and workloads, and improving nutrition.
 25. Although women are allowed to participate in farming and managing assets, land rights remain a critical barrier to women's empowerment. Access to critical resources such as land for women will be key targeting criteria and a pre-requisite to community selection. Through the CDD process, communities will be facilitated to make collective commitments to safeguard not only access to land but also security of tenure, to incentivise women enterprises. This will be monitored over time.
 26. The additional financing will support vulnerable households particularly women and girls have equal and better access and ownership of productive resources including land and livestock. Although the South Sudan Land Act of 2009 and the Constitution give women the right to own property, the operationalization of this right is weak, especially in the rural areas. This enhances the supremacy of customary laws that do not allow women and girls to own property (land, cattle, and other productive assets). The project at the lower levels will promote through local administrators, the signing of land leasing agreements and the use of voluntary land donation consent. In addition, the project will promote civic education and public awareness-raising on women rights to own land, cattle and other productive assets as enshrined in the constitution and The Land Act.
 27. As with the parent project, with the additional financing women will benefit from investments in vegetable gardening, small livestock and processing, and short-term income through Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW). Technical support will be provided to the entire implementation team, including implementing agencies, to develop a gender operational plan. Women will be provided with nutrition support, including training and awareness about nutrition, mentoring and support on Integrated Homestead Food Production (IHFP) to increase dietary diversity, and focus on nutrient rich foods, such as legumes, fish, meat, and poultry.
 28. The additional financing targets about 197,640 rural youth (60 percent of the project reach) aged between 15 and 35 years. These are unemployed youth and with low educational levels. This target group will include returnees (10%). The youth will be provided with second chance learning opportunities and job relevant skills to support start-up farming activities and service provision. The interventions will include a) capacity building through entrepreneurship training, business skills and formal courses in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP); b) access to capital through investment grants; c) cash injection through participation in the LIPW; and d) voice through representation on decision-making and coordination bodies, such as community committees.

29. Through GASFP funding consideration will be given to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) who mostly are women, children, elders, and persons with disabilities. These IDPs live in extremely fragile contexts with high need for humanitarian assistance, very poor connectivity, and infrastructure. The project will work closely with local authorities, UNCHR, FAO, WFP, and IOM to identify areas of synergies and complementarities. Most importantly UNCHR will provide statistical data on IDPs presence in the project areas of operation as well as linkage with areas hosting high numbers of IDPs. In communities where there is easy access to communal land for production, the project will collaborate with local authorities to put in place system for smooth access to land and this could include signing memorandum of understanding detailing use of land and duration. While in areas where access to productive land is a challenge, the IDPs will be engaged in nonfarm initiatives. Through the CDD approach, investment plans for the IDPs will be identified and grants provided to facilitate their operations. This will be complimented with capacity building initiatives for smooth running and management of the investment.
30. With the additional GAFSP funding, the project will replicate the criteria of the parent project, collaborating with government administration at lower level to identify new Payams and Bomas through a county profiling process, including benchmarking existing CBOs and county strategic plans. The community development committees will use Project Targeting Guidelines, County profiles and other relevant information for geographical area targeting within the Counties; The community facilitators will identify the vulnerable, prepare engagements with Payams, Bomas and with existing CBOs and facilitate formation of new and inclusive CBOs. The community facilitators and local leaders will generate baseline data on the community, their institutions, and CBOs; identifying, prioritizing & planning for capacity needs; identifying new groups of vulnerable communities and profiling them for actions; and identifying targeted public CBOs and private CBOs based on memberships.

B. Components, outcomes, and activities

31. **Component 1: Community Driven Development Planning.** Under the original financing, this Component aims to: a) build strong and inclusive Community Based Organization (CBOs) that will serve as promoters and managers of socio-economic change; b) work with CBOs to develop climate and gender responsive Community Development Plans (CDPs), and c) identify strategic productive investments to enhance the effectiveness of the CDPs.
32. Over the course of the Project to date, the following has been achieved: 38,880 households have been identified and registered; 542 CBOs identified and registered; 15 community facilities trained; developed and printed manuals for community facilitators to use for training communities; consultative workshop organized at grass root levels in the five counties; 15 orientation workshops organized and roles and responsibilities of the community identified and streamlined; Country Profiles for the five counties developed and project management team established with six specialists to support project implementation.
33. Under the scaling up, the Project will identify an additional 54,900 households (corresponding to 329,400 household members) in the existing (39,767) and new (15,133) areas will benefit from services promoted by the project. The AF will establish and strengthen an additional 600 CBOs, including 183 women focused CBO to develop Community Development Plans on areas including planning, prioritization, and investment plans. CBOs and community facilitators will also be identified in the new areas.
34. **Component 2: Agriculture Production and Rural livelihood Support.** The overall outcome for Component 2 is 'improved access to productive assets, services, and climate resilient infrastructure'. Based on investments identified through the County Profiles and the CDPs, under the original financing, the planned activities

include a) labour intensive community civil works; b) agriculture production and increased productivity of households; c) off-farm income generating activities such as processing; d) strategic infrastructure for increased market linkages; and e) skills enhancement for young people to provide agriculture advisory services. For the non-farm livelihoods, support may include enhancing productivity of local employment, improving artisanal skills, improvement in rural infrastructure, reducing postharvest losses, promoting market linkages, etc. Under the original financing, SSLRP is expected to provide grants to support CDPs developed in Component 1. The expected results from these targeted investments and services articulated in the CDPs include a) increased physical access to markets, processing, and storage facilities; and strengthened environmental sustainability and climate resilience of poor rural people's economic activities; c) land brought under climate-resilient management; and d) communities receive nutrition support.

35. In terms of achievements to date, preparatory activities such as County Profiles have been accomplished as well as awareness creation to the communities on the CDD approach. More so, Terms of Reference (ToRs) for a baseline survey to gather community data and feasibility for feeder road rehabilitation has been developed and received no objection from IFAD. Recruitment of service providers for these ToRs is expected to be completed soon. Action Africa Help International (AAHI) is currently supporting the communities to identify constraints and investment priorities.
36. The AF is expected to integrate, leverage and layer on Component 2. The financing shall be geared toward supporting agricultural production systems; promotion of sustainable use of land and water resources to optimize productivity and reduce dependence on fossil-based fertilizers; support diversification in food production systems to enhance resiliency and household incomes and in partnership with the private sector facilitate increased access to the market and better post-harvest and handling management. Some of the expected targets with the additional funds include:
 - Supporting 197,640 women and same number of youths will receive services promoted or supported by the project with the additional financing
 - Supporting an additional 32,940 households to adopt environmentally sustainable and climate resilient technologies and practices.
 - 43,920 households reporting an increase in production.
 - 111 additional markets, processing and storage facilities will be constructed or rehabilitated.
 - 118, 584 women reporting minimum dietary diversity (MDDW)
37. **Component 3: Project Management, Coordination and Capacity Building**
Under the original financing, the objective of this component is two-fold: a) to manage SSLRP in an efficient and effective manner by providing overall coordination to planning and implementation, financial management and control, procurement support, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), knowledge management, and progress reporting. It will ensure liaison with other relevant projects/programmes being implemented in the country that seek to address similar or related constraints; this would be aimed at taking advantage of existing synergies and avoiding duplications; and b) augment the capacity of government institutions to facilitate participatory planning and development processes. Accordingly, the component has two subcomponents: a) Subcomponent 3.1: Third Party Implementation Arrangements; and b) Subcomponent 3.2: Institutional Capacity Building and Policy Support.
38. So far, a total of four staff (two from government and two from Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany, VSF-G) have been trained on IFAD's procurement process and procedures. In addition to that, financial management and other technical training especially on CDD has been conducted.

39. The AF will contribute to seven trainings provided to GoSS staff at central and decentralized levels; based on a Capacity Needs Assessment, to facilitate participatory planning and development processes; the development of Cooperative Development Policy, Rural Agriculture Finance Policy, and review and dissemination of land tenure policy. These capacity building activities will not only contribute to effective project implementation but will also increase the likelihood of sustaining successful project interventions. The project will support policy analysis work that will help to strengthen the national policy framework for agriculture and rural development especial attention will be given to land tenure policy and other sector related policy that directly affect women. While more consultations on this issue will be made, preliminary indication suggests the need for the operationalization of relevant existing policies and regulations. 3 policy-relevant knowledge products will be completed with the additional financing.

C. Costs, benefits, and financing

Project costs

40. With the AF, total project costs are estimated at US\$ 33.160 million over a 5-year period. IFAD is funding 30 percent of the project costs through an investment of US\$9.8 million. Component 1 accounts for 10 percent of baseline costs (US\$ 3.319 million). Component 2 accounts for 64 percent of baseline costs (US\$ 21.172 million). Lastly Component 3 accounts for 26 percent of baseline costs (US\$ 8.668 million).
41. As per the multilateral development banks' methodologies for tracking climate change adaptation and mitigation finance, the total amount of IFAD climate finance for this project is estimated at US\$ 4,061,000.
42. The GAFSP Steering Committee review required that the proposal be restructured such that funding flows solely to non-governmental entities. Therefore, GAFSP funding will go to supporting Components 1, 2 and 3.1. A reallocation of IFAD financing will be requested to allow provision of additional funds to component 3.2 (Institutional Capacity Building and Policy Support), managed by the Single Project Coordination Unit (SPCU).
43. The total amount of additional financing proposal is estimated as US\$14.5 million and will be distributed across the components as per Table 2.

Table 1 Original and additional financing summary (Thousands of United States dollars)

	<i>Original financing*</i>	<i>Additional financing</i>	<i>Total</i>
IFAD loan	1,900		1,900
IFAD grant	7,900		7,900
Other financiers- Kingdom of the Netherlands	7,038		7,038
Beneficiaries	1,042		1,041
Borrower/recipient	780		780
GAFSP (net of 5% management fee of 725,000)		14,500	
Total	18,660	14,500	33,160

* See tables 2, 3, and 4 in document for detailed breakdown.

Table 2: Additional financing project costs by component (and subcomponent) and financier (Thousands of United States dollars)

South Sudan Livelihoods and Resilience Project (SSLRP)

Components by Financiers

(USD '000)

	GoSS		GAFSP AF		IFAD Grant		IFAD Loan		Beneficiary Contribution		Dutch Fund		Total		For. Exch.	Local (Excl. Taxes)	Duties & Taxes
	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%			
A. Community Driven Development Planning																	
Build strong and inclusive Community Based Organizations (CBOs)	159	8	995	49	585	29	286	14	-	-	-	-	2 025	6	480	1 386	159
Development of Community driven development plans (CDPs)	-	-	1 077	83	-	-	217	17	-	-	-	-	1 294	4	325	968	-
Subtotal Community Driven Development Planning	159	5	2 072	62	585	18	503	15	-	-	-	-	3 319	10	805	2 354	159
B. Agriculture Production and Rural livelihood Support																	
Investments for Increased Climate-Sensitive Agriculture Production and Rural Livelihoods	-	-	3 027	93	-	-	163	5	54	2	-	-	3 244	10	-	3 244	-
Community Infrastructure to Support Production and Marketing	438	2	8 698	49	-	-	768	4	987	6	7 038	39	17 928	54	-	17 490	438
Subtotal Agriculture Production and Rural livelihood Support	438	2	11 725	55	-	-	930	4	1 041	5	7 038	33	21 172	64	-	20 734	438
C. Project Support and Capacity Building																	
Third Party Implementation Arrangements	87	4	703	32	1 222	56	157	7	-	-	-	-	2 169	7	474	1 695	-
Institutional Capacity Building and Policy Support	96	2	-	-	6 093	94	310	5	-	-	-	-	6 499	20	341	6 063	96
Subtotal Project Support and Capacity Building	183	2	703	8	7 315	84	467	5	-	-	-	-	8 668	26	815	7 757	96
Total PROJECT COSTS	780	2	14 500	44	7 900	24	1 900	6	1 041	3	7 038	21	33 160	100	1 621	30 846	693

Table 3: Additional financing: costs by expenditure category and financier (Thousands of United States dollars)

South Sudan Livelihoods and Resilience Project (SSLRP)

Expenditure Accounts by Financiers

(USD '000)

	GoSS		GAFSP AF		IFAD Grant		IFAD Loan		Beneficiary Contribution		Dutch Fund		Total		For. Exch.	Local (Excl. Taxes)	Duties & Taxes
	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%			
I. Investment Costs																	
A. Grants and subsidies (includes community works)	438	2	10 328	57	-	-	930	5	1 041	6	5 483	30	18 220	55	-	17 782	438
C. Goods, Services and Inputs	233	3	2 342	33	3 540	51	782	11	-	-	105	2	7 003	21	1 165	5 604	233
D. Consultancies	88	3	541	19	2 008	70	104	4	-	-	131	5	2 872	9	397	2 474	1
E. Training	14	1	128	11	1 001	84	25	2	-	-	26	2	1 195	4	42	1 139	14
Total Investment Costs	773	3	13 340	46	6 550	22	1 841	6	1 041	4	5 745	20	29 291	88	1 604	27 000	686
II. Recurrent Costs																	
A. Salaries and allowances			1 016	29	1 310	37	52	2	-	-	1 160	33	3 537	11	-	3 537	-
B. Operations and Maintenance	6	2	144	44	41	12	7	2	-	-	133	40	332	1	16	309	6
Total Recurrent Costs	6	0	1 160	30	1 350	35	59	2	-	-	1 293	33	3 869	12	16	3 846	6
Total PROJECT COSTS	780	2	14 500	44	7 900	24	1 900	6	1 041	3	7 038	21	33 160	100	1 621	30 846	693

Table :4 Project costs by component and project year (PY)

Project Components by Year -- Totals Including Contingencies

(USD '000)

	Totals Including Contingencies						Total
	PY1	PY2	PY3	PY4	PY5	PY6	
A. Community Driven Development Planning							
Build strong and inclusive Community Based Organizations (CBOs)	278	262	803	392	206	86	2 025
Development of Community driven development plans (CDPs)	6	62	342	252	318	314	1 294
Subtotal Community Driven Development Planning	284	324	1 145	644	524	400	3 319
B. Agriculture Production and Rural livelihood Support							
Investments for Increased Climate-Sensitive Agriculture Production and Rural Livelihoods	6	62	2 292	252	318	314	3 244
Community Infrastructure to Support Production and Marketing	389	2 345	7 054	5 541	2 600	-	17 928
Subtotal Agriculture Production and Rural livelihood Support	395	2 407	9 346	5 793	2 918	314	21 172
C. Project Support and Capacity Building							
Third Party Implementation Arrangements	398	274	948	184	199	164	2 169
Institutional Capacity Building and Policy Support	1 190	1 522	1 491	1 587	356	355	6 499
Subtotal Project Support and Capacity Building	1 587	1 796	2 439	1 771	555	519	8 668
Total PROJECT COSTS	2 267	4 526	12 930	8 207	3 997	1 233	33 160

Table 5: Project detailed cost tables

SSLRP Project Cost
Tables with GAFSP Fir

Financing and co-financing strategy and plan

44. With the additional GAFSP funding, the IFAD grant will finance up to 30 percent of the project costs. This is split into a loan on highly concessionary terms (20%) and a grant (80%). The GAFSP will fund 44 percent of the total project costs amounting to USD 14.5 million. Kingdom of the Netherlands co-financing constitutes 21 percent and domestic co-financing constitutes 5 percent of the total project costs. This includes the GoSS contribution (2%) which will be exclusively in the form of tax reimbursements and Beneficiary in-kind contribution (3%).

Disbursement

45. Funds will flow directly from IFAD to the designated account held by VSF-G for SSLRP. The funds will be disbursed from IFAD on the Revolving Account Mechanism for the IA. VSF-G maintains a designated account in USD to receive funds from IFAD and an operating account in South Sudanese pounds (SSP), the same banking structure will be used to receive funds from the GAFSP grant. Funds held in the SSP denominated bank accounts will be reviewed from time to time, minimising the amounts held in the account as much as possible with a view of mitigating against value erosion arising out of a volatile exchange rate.

Exit strategy and sustainability

Sustainability

46. As the AF will be used to scale-up the planned activities of SSLRP, the original sustainability strategy of SSLRP applies to the strategy under the AF. As such, sustainability will particularly be strengthened through Component 3, which will provide the GoSS with key policy tools to sustain their efforts in the long term as well as essential capacity at the level of MAFS to implement them. The project will strengthen the policy, institutional, and coordination framework for the MAFS particularly to supervise, monitor, and evaluate programs and provide technical support in priority areas including food safety, inputs, and market development effectively and efficiently. The project will equip the MAFS with the necessary resources to effectively play its mandated role and to eventually manage the government-led food and nutrition security programs.
47. **Exit Strategy**– As with the sustainability strategy, the exit strategy originally devised for SSLRP will apply to the scaled-up project under the AF. As such, by virtue of the CDD approach, beneficiary communities will be in full control of the entire process right from the formative stages; from identifying the factors constraining productivity and livelihood improvement, to prioritizing interventions and to overseeing the process of implementing the agreed activities meant to address the limitations. They will be capacitated to plan, implement/operate, and monitor subprojects, and eventually assume total responsibility for all infrastructure. In addition, beneficiaries will provide in-kind contributions towards CDPs financing income generating activities. Government structures at the National, State and County levels will be fully involved from the onset in AWPB preparation activities, overseeing activities and monitoring progress. Capacity of government institutions will be strengthened to ensure effectiveness, and the process of institutionalizing the project activities have been initiated from the very beginning of project implementation. The integration of Government extension agents will also serve as part of the exit strategy at project completion.

III. Risk management

Risks and mitigation measures

A. Project risks management

48. Based on IFAD's experience and successes in South Sudan, it is expected that very similar results can be achieved and that the risks to achieving project outcomes may be regarded as moderate.

49. The most significant risks to successful project implementation and achievement of the stated objective are linked to: (i) the challenges of logistics/procurement in the country, (ii) the harsh economic environment; (iii) high fragility of the country (iv) a cultural environment that tends to discriminate with respect to age and gender, giving greater weight to the views and preferences of men and elderly people. Over the years IFAD have found practical solutions of communication and use of participatory approach to mitigate these risks to achieve Project outcomes.
50. To address the root causes of fragility SSLRP focuses on building capacity at the local level and collaboration with humanitarian partners and development actors on the ground, and importance of robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for effective implementation. Promoting prominence of women as leaders and members of economic and community groups, gives them greater voice in local development, magnifying their role as a source of resilience against fragility and conflict. Additionally, provision of employment opportunities for the youth, may dissuade them from engaging in conflict activities. Project supervision missions will ensure full compliance with Minimum Operational Security Standards (MOSS) & partnership with other IFIs and/or UN agencies for implementation.
51. The major fiduciary risk is posed by the economic environment as well as the nascent status of the public financial management system currently in the country. This automatically creates a high Project Inherent risk. Project management and coordination implementation arrangements with a greater part of the Project FM functions being performed by a third-party implementation agency with adequate FM systems is planned. The foreseen disbursement arrangements i.e., ring fenced bank accounts; use of revolving account disbursement mechanism that will further serve to reduce exposure of large project fund to possibilities of ineligible expenses; given that next releases of funds from IFAD will be dependent on adequate accountability of the previous funds that will be based on quarterly budgets tagged to the overall AWPB. Other internal control mechanisms will be applied during the implementation period such as low Statement of Expenditure thresholds, frequent use of the direct payments disbursement mechanisms where it meets IFAD guidelines. Overall, the various mitigation measures are expected to lower the risk to Moderate.

B. Environment and social category

52. Based on a rescreening using the SECAP 2021 screening tool, the project's Environmental and Social categorisation is now Substantial; this is based on the expected activities under each of the two technical components, considering the AF. Some of the activities that could have environmental and social implications include a) construction and/or rehabilitation of water infrastructures; b) rehabilitation/upgrade/construction of rural access roads; c) construction and/or rehabilitation of processing and storage facilities; d) application of agricultural inputs; etc. The Environmental and Social Management Framework prepared for the SSLRP is revised to incorporate the additional counties. Besides other assessments triggered by the categorization will be prepared.

C. Climate risk classification

53. Considering the AF, SSLRP's climate risk classification is upgraded from Moderate to Substantial. Over the last few decades, the country has experienced variation in its climate with temperature increasing and rainfall decreasing, and this trend is anticipated to continue at least over the life of the Project. Since the mid-1970s, South Sudan has experienced a decline of between 10 percent to 20 percent in average precipitation as well as increased variability in the amount and timing of rainfall from year to year (USAID, 2016). In addition, seasonal rainfall trends are highly variable across the country. Analyses undertaken suggest that there has been a shift in the start and cessation of rainfall, leading to more erratic and unpredictable rainfall patterns (WFP, VAM 2014). The climate risk analysis and climate vulnerability

assessments that were prepared for SSLRP is updated to include the three additional counties added under the AF.

IV. Implementation

A. Compliance with IFAD policies

54. The procurement of goods, works, and services will be carried out fully in accordance with IFAD's Project Procurement Framework using IFAD's Project Procurement Guidelines, Procurement Handbook and Standard Procurement Documents, which exclude any national system.
55. External audit: Arrangement is made for the project to follow IFAD external audit requirements such as the standard ToR for audit engagement spelt out in the IFAD Handbook for auditing and financial management for projects. The ToR is subject to IFAD clearance. Financial statements of the Implementing Agency are subject to audit on annual basis.
56. With the additional geographical areas to the parent project, the SECAP Review Note has been reviewed and updated. Through the restructuring to be undertaken for the parent project, current positions especially for Environmental and climate specialist and others will be made permanent so that the staff can provide full implementation support to the project. These staff are assigned at the VSF-G to oversee overall implementation of these tools and backstop the implementing agency. Compliance with design guidelines
57. The project restructuring is done in accordance with IFAD's approved policy on project restructuring and operational manual including presentation on project restructuring, which qualifies SSLRP as level 2 restructuring.
 - The new targets supported through the additional financing is more than 50% change in targeting and outreach of beneficiaries as indicated in paragraph 34.
 - Geographical scaling up of project to include additional areas (Aweil, Wau and Jur River County)'
 - There will be need to request for no cost extension of parent project as its end date is on June 2027 before the completion of GAFSP activities in May 2028. This will ensure harmonization of completion dates of funding arrangements from GAFSP and parent project.
 - The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security requested that additional GAFSP financing support component 1 (Community Development Driven) and 2 (increase agriculture production and value chains). While IFAD's funding support component 3 (Project support and capacity building) managed by the Single Project Coordination Unit. This has central implementation role for the consortium of the international non-governmental organization led by VSF-G. The reallocation of funds will enable the SPCU to play its supervisory role including monitoring and evaluation of the project.
58. With the scaling up using GASFP financing, the project will identify additional areas of collaboration with FAO and WFP. Potential areas include institutional support at national and state levels, capacity strengthening of local responders, rural producer support to access markets, post-harvest handling and targeted investment to prevent food crisis and protect livelihood. These interventions will be carried out collaboratively in the areas of operation.

B. Organizational framework Management and coordination

59. The Supervising Entity (SE, IFAD) of the parent project will continue to play the same supervisory role in this project. The Implementing Agency (VSF-G) also has well established systems and procedures that guide financial management, program delivery, personnel management as well as procurement procedures, all underpinned by specific organizational policies. All the necessary assessments and due diligence checks were undertaken as a basis of the ongoing parent project.
60. With the AF, the annual work plan, budget, and log frame have all been revised and updated to reflect GAFSP funding. VSF-G is designated to ensure implementation of Components 1 and 2 in consortium. VSF-G will be responsible for the financial management, procurement, M&E and meeting all reporting requirements of IFAD. VSF-G will work closely with the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) in conjunction with the targeted States and Counties during activities planning and implementation to ensure consistency with the State and County agendas. Conversely it will reach out to the local partners and service providers as well as local government frontline officers to ensure effective implementation of the project. IFAD will equally provide Technical Assistance to the PCU to ensure adequate capacity to provide the coordination role and to meet IFAD's reporting requirements in a timely manner and ensure VSF-G is fully compliant with IFAD's and GAFSP reporting and operating systems.
61. Considering the additional GAFSP financing, the collaboration agreement between the Government and Implementing Agency (VSF-G) will be revised. The main responsibilities of the Implementing Agency will be to: a) prepare and execute the Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPBs), implementation progress and financial reports for submission to the PCU for review, comment and onward forwarding to the oversight body (National Technical Committee (NTC) and National Advisory Committee (NAC)); b) M&E, fiduciary and procurement systems and capacities and undertake relevant project-related fiduciary functions in compliance with IFAD Guidelines; c) work closely with the PCU and the target States and Counties during planning and implementation to ensure consistency with State and County development agendas. To strengthen implementation effectiveness and coherence, the Implementing Agency has put in place mechanisms and strategies to actively involve various actors at different levels of the decentralized governance institutions e.g., Boma Development Committees, Payam Level Committees, County Committees and State Level Committees in addition to the national level structures.

Financial management, procurement, and governance

Financial Management,

62. The GAFSP funding shall flow solely to the non-governmental entities and shall not be administered by the GoSS. The Funds will flow from GAFSP to the SE, which is IFAD. The SE will then disburse the funds to the designated account of the Implementing Agency, which is the contracted NGOs as per the cash forecast and withdrawal application that has been approved by MAFS. This will entitle submitting quarterly IFR with two quarter cashflow forecast advance requirements and justification of the quarter actual expenses.
63. The project financial management will be in line with the agreed implementation arrangement, managed directly by Implementing Agency. The Project will continue to use the international accounting standards and the accounts will be maintained using IPSAS cash accounting. The implementing agency will provide full financial management for the project. The project financial management inherent risk is assessed as high, and the residual risk is mitigated to Moderate. This is mainly made possible using the implementing agency that has been assessed to have systems in place taking management of over 90% of the funds and, hence overseeing the fiduciary aspects.

Staffing and Organizational arrangements

64. VSF-G has operations in South Sudan, with an established office in Juba and field offices in the countryside. The established structure includes a Head of Finance who supervises a Senior Accountant, Field Finance and Administration Officer and Administrative Assistant.

Accounting and Financial Reporting

65. At Implementing Agency level, a computerised accounting system will be run based on an off shelf package accounting software for the day-to-day functions of the project in line with the requirements of IFAD for easy tracking reporting. The accounting will comply with the Government adopted accounting standards. The policies and systems including the detailed internal control mechanisms are detailed in the PIM.

Procurement

66. IFAD will equally provide Technical Assistance to the PCU to ensure adequate capacity to provide the coordination role and to meet IFAD's reporting requirements in a timely manner and ensure VSF Germany is fully compliant with IFAD's operating systems.

C. Monitoring and evaluation, learning, knowledge management and strategic communication

Monitoring and Evaluation

67. With the GAFSP financing, the project logical framework has been revised and updated to include additional target beneficiaries from the existing and new locations. Impact indicators such as food security has been included in the project results framework and will be measured using Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). While households' nutrition status will be measured using Food Consumption Score (FCS) to track progress on dietary diversity. For individuals especially women and youth, nutrition status will be assessed using Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD). IFAD will ensure that standard methodologies for FCS, MDD-W and MDD-Y are used. The implementing agent is at preparatory phase to engage an institution that will ensure quality baseline data is collected for measuring project results.
68. The Implementing Agency will coordinate the different service providers and counties and ensure that the AWPBs are realistic, reasonable and results oriented. The AWPB shall be initiated before the fiscal year ends. The Financial Management Specialist and Procurement Specialist will be part of the entire process. The Procurement Plan and capacity building plan will be prepared together with the AWPB and sent to IFAD for No-Objection.
69. IFAD's Core Outcome Indicator Guidelines will be the methodological tool used to measure Project outcomes and undertake the baseline, MTR, and completion surveys. The project will collect data on project inputs/activities and the resulting outputs. Data on the project's intended outcomes will be collected annually through outcome surveys. Higher level project outcomes and impact data will be collected through outsourced surveys, and they will be carried out at baseline, midline and end-line periods. The M&E team will also collect, or facilitate the collection of, data on mainstreaming themes and grievance redress mechanism. These will be incorporated into annual outcome and impact surveys. Data on community indicators will also be collected annually from the second year of Project implementation through community monitoring surveys. The data to be collected will include quantitative data, to measure the Project's tangible output and outcomes, and qualitative data, to complement the quantitative data and capture intangible results of the Project.
70. The collection of M&E data will be done using sound procedures and standard data collection templates which will be developed. The Implementing Agency's M&E officer will consolidate data and reports from states and validate the information. The officer

will prepare progress reports linking physical achievements to the financial progress and estimating overall achievement of Project objectives.

71. The M&E strategy will also contribute towards monitoring risks against the IPRM. The SSLRP monitoring plan will identify the most significant risks likely to have the highest cost on the Project and its beneficiaries. Some of these were risks identified in the EFA and applied in the sensitivity analysis such as the risk of the potential resumption of conflict.

Knowledge Management and Learning (KM&L)

Knowledge management and learning is critical to document experiences and lessons learnt throughout the project implementation period. With the additional funding, the SSLRP knowledge management strategy will be reviewed updated to include the additional new areas.

Communication

72. The project will develop a strategic communications plan for targeted groups. Since the target groups for the products will vary, the nature of the products and the channel through which communication is to be done will also vary to suit the needs of the information recipients. For primary beneficiaries, awareness raising campaigns will be used to promote issues pertinent to the Project, such as environment and natural resource management, climate change, nutrition, gender, and use of modern agricultural technologies. The messages will be disseminated through various forums, such as radios, religious gatherings, community groups and schools. For ease of transmitting the messages, the information will be communicated in local languages applicable to the recipients. Technical information will be shared with GoSS, IFAD and other stakeholders. This will be in the form of technical reports on results and lessons learnt. These will be disseminated through publishing results, success stories and programme innovations using various media, organizing stakeholder workshops or seminars, and conducting review meetings. For this reason, knowledge sharing will form a crucial part of KM&L because it will be the platform for scaling up, exchange of ideas and experiences.
73. Scaling-up of Results – With relatively limited resources, scaling up will be of paramount importance to the Project to ensure that the successfully demonstrated interventions can be implemented in other parts of the country or even within the same Counties but extended to other Payam.
74. Government ownership – although SSLRP will be implemented by a Third-party implementing agency, governments at all levels will be part of the process. That way, government would be able to promote the extension of successful results to other parts of the County/State/Country either using own resources or by securing funding from GoSS' other development partners.

D. Proposed amendments to the financing agreement

75. The Financing Agreement will be revised in terms of the amount GASFP will be contributing in accordance with category allocations outlined in table 2. There will be a restructuring of the IFAD funding to reallocate additional financing to support component three (3). There are no other changes in the Financing Agreement.

V. Legal instruments and authority

76. IFAD will constitute the legal instrument for extending the proposed additional financing to the borrower/recipient. A copy of the negotiated financing agreement will be tabled at the session.
77. The GoSS is empowered under its laws to receive financing from IFAD.

Recommendation

78. According to the delegation of authority procedure approved by the Executive Board at its 126th session and detailed in document EB 2019/126/R.48/Rev.2, the President is invited to approve the proposed financing in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: Please accept the use of additional GAFSP financing in the form of a grant of US\$14.5 million to for scaling up SSLRP and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.

Alvaro Lario
IFAD President

Annex I: Updated logical framework incorporating the additional financing

Results Hierarchy	Original End- of - Project Target				GAFSP- End of-project -Target				Revised EOP Cumulative target with GAFSP AF	Means of Verification			Assumptions (A) / Risks (R)
	Indicator				Indicator					Source	Frequency	How	
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target					
Outreach	1. Number of persons receiving services promoted or supported by the Project				1. Number of persons receiving services promoted or supported by the Project					Progress	Six monthly, AOS; Project M&E System	IA and contracted teams undertaking surveys	Political Stability prevails Government commitment to peace processes 70 percent of the rural population are considered as youth
	Males - Number	0	45,101	90,202	Males - Number	0	65,880	131,760	221,962				
	Females - Number	0	67,651	135,302	Females - Number	0	98,820	197,640	332,942				
	Youth - number	0	78,926	157,853	Youth number	0	98,820	197,640	355493				
	1a. Corresponding number of households reached ****				1a. Corresponding number of households reached ****					reports			
	Households - Number	0	19,440	38,800	Households - Number	0	27,450	54,900	93,700				
	1b. Estimated corresponding total number of household members				1b. Estimated corresponding total number of household members								
	Total number of HH members	0	112,752	225,504	Total number of HH members	0	164,700	329,400	554,904				
			157,853										

Project Goal	<u>Indicator 1: Increase in household asset index [2]</u>				<u>Indicator 1: Increase in household asset index [2]</u>					National statistics, household poverty, and gender studies	Baseline, mid-term, completion	MAFS, IA	Investments in climate resilient infrastructure and agricultural technologies promote increased production (A) Increased income is used on household improvements (A)
	Percentage	0	25	60	Percentage	0	25	60	60				
	Household number	0	9,700	23,280		0	13,725	32,940	56,220				
	Total number of HH members	0	56,376	135,302		0	82,350	197,640	332,942				
Development Objective	1.2.8 Women reporting minimum dietary diversity (MDDW)				1.2.8 Women reporting minimum dietary diversity (MDDW)					COI survey	Baseline, Mid Term, Completion	Service Providers	
	Women (%) - Percentage (%)	0	25	60	Women (%) - Percentage (%)	0	25	60	60				
	Women (number of HH) -	0	5,820	13,968	Women (number) - Females	0	8,235	19,764	33,732				
	Women (total number)	0	33,825	81,181	Women (total number)	0	49,410	118,584	199,765				
	<u>Indicator 3: No. of HH reporting improved food security measured by the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) [3] ****</u>				<u>Indicator 3: No. of HH reporting improved food security measured by the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) [3] ****</u>					National statistics, household poverty, and gender studies; FIES Survey Module (FIES-SM) COI survey	AOS, Baseline, midline and completion	IA	Effectiveness of local government structures to support the Project interventions – Community Development
	Percentage	0	25	60	Percentage	0	25	60	60				
	Number of households reporting increase in yields of over 25% above baseline (design adoption rate 60%)				Number of households reporting increase in yields of over 25% above baseline (design adoption rate 60%)								
Number	0	6,960	23,328	Number	0	13,725	32,940	56,268					

implement investments that stabilize livelihoods and build assets at the household and community levels	Percentage of women - Percentage (%)	0	30	30	Percentage of women - Percentage (%)	0	30	30	30				Intra-communal dynamics facilitate social inclusion and cohesion Communities plays their roles.
	Number of Community development plans financed				Number of Community development plans developed	0	75	150	150				
	Indicator 7: Percentage of households reporting they can influence decision-making of local authorities and Project-supported service providers (CI SF 2.2)				Indicator 7: Percentage of households reporting they can influence decision-making of local authorities and Project-supported service providers (CI SF 2.2)								
	Households (%) - Percentage (%)	0	40	80	Percentage	0	40	80	80				
	Household members - Number of people	0	93,120	186,240		0	131,760	263,520	449,760				
	Households (number) - Households	0	15,520	31,040		0	21,960	43,920	74,960				
Output 1.1 County profiles compiled	Indicator 8: Number of County profiles prepared # of county profiles				Indicator 8: Number of County profiles prepared # of county profiles					Service provider report	Annual	IA, Service Providers	
Output 1.2 CBOs established or strengthened	Indicator 9: Number of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) established and strengthened				Indicator 9: Number of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) established and strengthened					M&E Reports	Annual	IA, Service Providers	
Total # of CBOs established	0	159	542	Total # of CBOs established	0	176	600	1,142					
# of women CBOs out of the total	0	48	163	# of women CBOs out of the total	0	53	180	343					

Outcome 2 Improved access to productive assets, services and climate resilient infrastructure	Indicator 10: Households reporting improved access to markets, processing and storage facilities (CI. 2.2.6) ***, ****				Indicator 10: Households reporting improved access to markets, processing, and storage facilities (CI. 2.2.6) ***, ****				COI survey	Baseline, Mid Term, Completion	Service Providers	Strategic infrastructure identified, implemented and maintained by the communities Changes in weather patterns will not considerably vary from predictions, both in type & magnitude of change Peace prevails			
	Households reporting improved physical access to markets - Percentage (%)	0	40	80	Households reporting improved physical access to markets - Percentage (%)	0	40	80					80		
	Household members - Number of people	0	93,120	186,240	Household members - Number of people	0	131,760	263,520					449,760		
	Households (number) - Households	0	15,520	31,040	Households (number) - Households	0	21,960	43,920					74,960		
Indicator 11: Volume of agricultural produce sold to the market (%)				Increased volume of produce in markets (%)				0	20	40	40				
Indicator 12: Percentage of households reporting adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices (CI 3.2.2) **, ****				Indicator 11: Percentage of households reporting adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices (CI 3.2.2) **, ****											
Households - Percentage (%)	0	25	60	Households - Percentage (%)	TBC	25	60	60							
Households - Households	0	9,700	23,280	Households - Households		13,725	32,940	56,220							
- Total number of household members - Number of people	0	56,376	135,302	- Total number of		82,350	197,640	332,942							

					household members - Number of people													
	Indicator 13: Percentage of households reporting an increase in production (CI1.2.4) ***, ****				Indicator 12: Percentage of households reporting an increase in production (CI.1.2.4) ***, ****													
	Households - Percentage (%)	T0	40	80	Number of HHs	0	40	80	80									
	Total number of household members - Number of people		93,120	186,240			131,760	263,520	449,760									
	Households - Households		15,520	31,040			21,960	43,920	74,960									
	Number of temporary jobs created for youth				Number of temporary jobs created for youth													
	Number - Number	0	1,000	2,600	Number - Number	NA	NA	NA										
Output 2.1 Repair or rehabilitate existing rural access roads	Indicator 14: Number of kilometres of roads constructed, rehabilitated or upgraded (CI.2.1.5)				Indicator 14: Number of kilometres of roads constructed, rehabilitated or upgraded (CI.2.1.5)					Service provider report M&E Reports	Annual y	IA, Service Providers						
	Kilometres	0	30	95	Kilometres	0	12	57	152									
	Market, processing, or storage facilities constructed or rehabilitated (CI.2.1.6)				Market, processing, or storage facilities constructed or rehabilitated (CI.2.1.6)													
	Total number of facilities - Facilities	0	15	46		21	65	111	176									
	Processing facilities constructed/rehabilitated - Facilities	0	15	46		21	65	111	176									
	Number of community-based water infrastructure constructed, rehabilitated or upgraded.				Number of community-based water infrastructure constructed, rehabilitated or upgraded													

	Number of structures - Number	0	11	22	Number of structures - Number	NA	NA	NA						
	Households reporting farm access to new water facilities constructed/rehabilitated/upgraded (%)				Households reporting farm access to new water facilities constructed/rehabilitated/upgraded (%)	0	25	50	50					
	Area provided with improved irrigation services (Ha)				Area provided with improved irrigation services (Ha)	0	500	1000	1000					
Output 2.2 Increased access to marketing, processing and storage facilities, and water & soil conservation structure.	Groups supported to sustainably manage natural resources and climate-related risks (CI.3.1.1)	Groups supported to sustainably manage natural resources and climate-related risks (CI.3.1.1)												
	Groups supported - Groups		159	542	Groups supported - Groups		176	600	1,142					
	Total size of groups Number of people		2,385	8,130	Total size of groups Number of people		2,640	9,000	-17,130					
	Males Males		954	3,252	Males Males		1,056	3,600	6,852					
	Females Females	0	1,431	4,878	Females Females	0	1,584	5,400	10,278					
	Young Young people	0	1670	5690	Young Young people	0	1,848	6,300	11,990					
	Groups headed by women Groups	0	48	163	Groups headed by women Groups	0	53	180	343					
Output 2.3 Strengthened environmental sustainability and climate resilience	Rural producers accessing production inputs and/or technological packages (CI.1.1.3)	Rural producers accessing production inputs and/or technological packages (CI.1.1.3)									Service provider report	Annual	IA, Service Providers	
	Males - Males	0	22,550	45,101	Males - Number	0	32,940	65,880	110,981	M&E Reports	y			
	Females - Females	0	33,825	67,651	Females - Number	0	49,410	98,820	166,471					

of poor rural people's economic activities													
	Young - Young people	0	39,463	78,926	Youth - number	0	49,410	98,820	177,746				
Output 2.4 Communities receive nutrition support	Indicator 18: Households provided with targeted support to improve their nutrition (CI 1.1.8)	Indicator 18: Households provided with targeted support to improve their nutrition (CI 1.1.8)			Indicator 18: Households provided with targeted support to improve their nutrition (CI 1.1.8)								
	Total # of households	0	11,600	17,400	Total # of households	0	16,356	24,534	41,934				
	# of women out of the total	0	11,600	17,400	# of women out of the total	0	16,356	24,534	41,934				
	# of youth of the total	0	4,640	11,600	# of youth of the total	0	6,542	16,356	27,956				
	Total persons participating - Number of people	0	17,400	26,100	Total persons participating - Number of people		24,534	36,800	62,900				
	Males - Males	0	5,800	8,700	Males - Males		9,178	12,266	20,966				
	Household members benefitted - Number of people	0	69,600	104,400	Household members benefitted - Number of people	0	98,136	149,004	253,404				
Output 2.5 Land brought under climate-resilient management	Indicator 17: Number of hectares of land brought under climate-resilient management (CI.3.1.4)	Indicator 17: Number of hectares of land brought under climate-resilient management (CI.3.1.4)			Indicator 17: Number of hectares of land brought under climate-resilient management (CI.3.1.4)								
	hectares of land	0	301	476	hectares of land	0	424	671	1,147				

Annex II: Social Environment and Climate Assessment (SECAP) Review Note

Introduction

The Social Environment and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP) Review Note details the analysis of the social and environmental and climate change of SSLRP. It outlines the contextual background, risk factors and recommendations of how they can be reduced. To improve the terms on which people take part in society means to enhance their ability, opportunity, and dignity. The review has been achieved through literature review of social, environment and climate related strategies, policies and programs of various stakeholders operational in South Sudan and where possible in target states. Other sources included the Country Strategic Note (CSN) and reports/assessment prepared by international organizations, accessed from web or sourced directly from partners. The State of the Environment and outlook report for South Sudan (2018) and National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) for South Sudan provided an environment and climate change context.

The main constraint was unavailability of up-to-date data on policies and legal frameworks and county specific context. In some cases, due to unavailability of data, the national overview has been extrapolated to the state level. Nevertheless, the SECAP does provide a strong basis to inform the project design given the similarity in vulnerability factors across the country (conflicts, gender inequalities, youth, nutrition, and food security situation) although local adaptations will need to be made. Further assessments will need to be done on the state of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and returnees in the target counties to establish localised challenges and explore opportunities to engage them in the project.

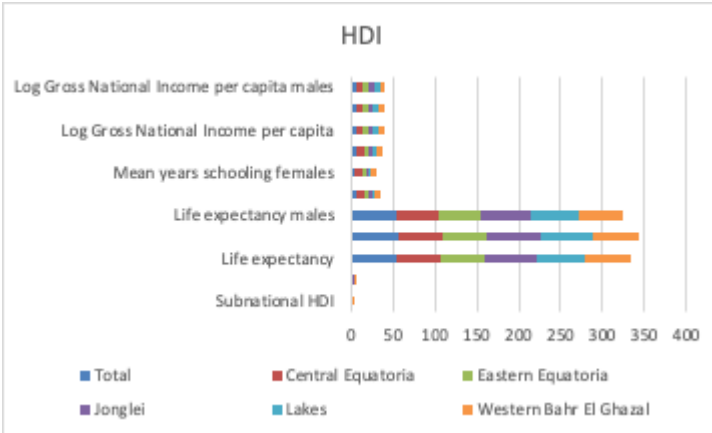
The project target areas are Central Equatoria (Terereka and KajoKeji counties), Eastern Equatoria (Torit and Magwi Counties), Lakes (Awerial) and Western Bahr El Ghazal (Jur River and Wau). The target beneficiaries are rural households overwhelmingly reliant on agriculture and livestock with extremely low human capital.

Situational analysis and potential project impacts

Overall poverty situation

South Sudan emerged from the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and independence as a relatively wealthy country, with oil revenues and foreign aid contributing to public expenditures many times larger than those of its neighbours. Yet, in a country where the vast majority depend on rural livelihoods, only 4% of land is under cultivation and levels of livestock production were well below their potential. It is one of the poorest countries in terms of monetary poverty ranking high among the poorest countries in the world in terms of multidimensional indicators of welfare deprivation (HDR 2015). It is ranked 181 out of 188 countries in the Human Development Index. The most serious loss in human development in the three states arises from gender inequality and conflict summarized⁵ in Figure 1.

⁵ UNDP 2015: South Sudan Human Development Report



<https://globaldatalab.org/shdi/table/2021/shdi+sgdi+lifexp+lifexpf+lifexpm+msch+mschf+mschm+lgnic+lgnicf+lgnicm/SSD/>

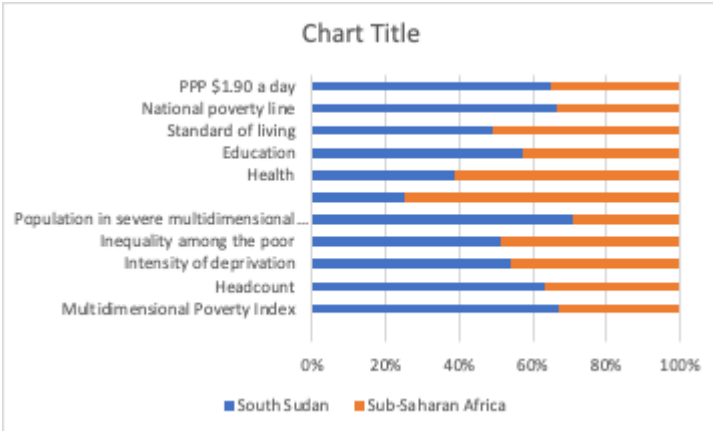
	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Jonglei	Lakes	Western Bahr el Ghazal
Gender %	16.65	17.16	17.95	23.8	21.2
Inequality %	40.9	34.8	32.9	33.5	36.0
Conflict %	36.5	41.4	38.8	72.2	56.5

UNDP HDR 2015

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)¹ of Central Equatoria is 75.6 percent with a poverty intensity of 51.7 while that of Eastern Equatoria is 92.5 percent with a poverty intensity of 60.7. Jonglei on the other hand has an MPI of 98 with over 80 percent in severe poverty⁶. It is among states with extremely high levels of population in severe poverty.

Table 1: Multidimensional Poverty Index

⁶ Population 'in severe poverty' is the proportion with a deprivation score of 50 per cent or more



<https://hdr.undp.org/content/2022-global-multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi#/indicies/MPI>

South Sudan is one of the most underdeveloped countries in the world, with structural poverty especially in rural areas. Rural poverty is characterized by a general lack of access to services, infrastructure, and opportunities beyond basic agricultural production. Rural population is often isolated across large swathes of land with extremely poor infrastructure. South Sudan has the lowest road density in Sub-Saharan Africa with only about 200 kilometers of paved roads in rural areas, accounting for an estimated 2 percent of all roads. Seasonal weather and floods often leave much of the country totally inaccessible for months at a time according to World Development indicators (WDI).

Life expectancy at birth in 2015 was estimated to be 56 years, which is much lower than the global average of 72 years and placing South Sudan among the bottom 10 countries. In some parts of the country, three in four children are out of school. Deprivation of schooling is the most serious source of overall deprivation. Supply of education opportunities is a key constraint in most cases and the demand side is a significant issue especially in traditional pastoralist settings. Education levels are extraordinarily low with three out of four household heads having completed no formal education (World Bank 2011). Poverty rates are especially highest for those living in households whose head has no formal education or only some primary level education. Female-headed households (28.6 percent) have higher poverty rates of 56.9 percent compared to 48.1 percent of households headed by men⁷.

Population projection in SSLRP counties

State	Eastern Equatoria		Central Equatoria		Western Bahr El Ghazal State		Jonglei	Lakes
	Magwi	Torit	Kajo-Keji	Terekeka	Wau	Jur River	Bor South	Awerial
Population	248,107	58,644	221,902	246,483	314,949	273,118	327,583	132,875

⁷ World Bank analysis of NBHS 2009. Percentages represent individuals below the poverty line, by education of their household heads.

Displacement Figures	15,312 IDPs and 68,971 returnees (Q1 2020)	2,499 IDPs and 8,295 returnees (Q1 2020)	17,273 IDPs and 33,671 returnees (Q1 2020)	23,165 IDPs and 22,352 returnees (Q1 2020)	46,555 IDPs and 149,010 returnees (2019)	16,838 IDPs and 32,777 returnees (2019)	29,063 IDPs and 51,117 returnees (Q1 2020)	51,410 IDPs and 3,331 returnees (Q1 2020)
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Conflict context

- Conflicts in South Sudan is attributed to political insurgency with isolated inter-communal and inter-ethnic clashes over cultural and dwindling resources exacerbated by climate variability and change. South Sudan was drawn into a devastating conflict in 2013 following political disputes that overlapped with ethnic tensions. The crisis reflects the underlying tensions and mistrust that date back to the civil (1983 to 2005). In the Equatoria region, the increasing presence of different opposition factions since 2016 has contributed to growing insecurity in the county. Clashes between government forces and different armed factions has led to the mass exodus of population back into Uganda.
- Ethnic violence in South Sudan has a long history among the varied ethnic groups notably between Dinkas and Neurs. Social exclusion from political and economic participation due to ethnicity in has inflamed conflict, promoted violent confrontations resulting in loss of human life.
- Widespread communal conflicts cause human and livestock displacement and disruption of crop production activities making households to be perpetually food insecure with weak resilience. Markets and trade routes are disrupted and large portions of the population in the conflict affected states are either minimally or completely unable to undertake agricultural activities in a particular season due to displacement, violence and uncertainty. Severe challenges in protracted conflict areas include early depletion of household food stocks, dysfunctional markets, loss of livelihoods, and displacement.
- Disagreements over administrative boundaries is common in Kajo keji and Magwi who share the border with Uganda. Communities in Kajo Keji have a history of boundary related disagreements with neighbouring communities (Kuku and Moyo). In Magwi, tension between the Madi and Acholi communities erupted into violence in 2011 relating to ownership and demarcation of land arising from the border between Madi-dominated Pageri Payam and Acholi-dominated Magwi Payam, and the location of the county headquarters and Ame road junction. The high bride price encourages cattle raiding especially in Terekeka and Bor. Bor has especially been host to some large cattle raids and intercommunal tensions. Also, tensions between the Bor Dinka and neighbouring Murle community of Pibor have been long-standing and is reflected in cattle raids and the abduction of children, with attacks being reported as late as December 2019.
- Poverty also plays in the vicious violent ethnic conflicts in South Sudan as amongst the marginalized ethnic groups, communities clash over access to water and grazing lands. Conflicts based on ethnicity have retarded development and contributed to food insecurity as people abandon their farms for safer areas. Conflict is often aggravated among nomadic groups over the issue of cattle and grazing land and is part of the wider nomadic conflicts. In Terekeka, intercommunal conflicts are common between the Mundari and Bari and Dinka involving local armed militias. While in Torit its tensions between cattle keepers and farmers. Community defence groups in Torit, such as the monyomiji among the Otuho, have

played an ambivalent role in the conflict. Whilst they have cooperated with – and in some cases deterred – both government and opposition forces to improve security in the area, they have also been a key player in cattle raids and revenge killings.

Gender

6. Women account for over 60% of the population in South Sudan as a direct result of over 39 years of conflict since Sudan's Independence. Years of conflict have deprived women of their dependents, husbands and sons, coupled with discriminatory cultural traditions and abject poverty. These factors undermine the promotion of equal rights and the ability of women to actively participate in the development initiatives. Women work extra hours in a day, tending to their families and their responsibilities are not only physically challenging and time consuming but emotionally draining. This leaves them with barely enough time to take care of themselves or participate actively in community initiatives.

7. Violence against women and the lack of recognition of women's rights as a human right is a key feature that exacerbates this situation Gender Based Violence (GBV). Gender inequality and GBV is pervasive and has been propagated by the conflict and used as a weapon. Although the prevalence is unknown, close to 57 percent of women who experience sexual and gender-based violence do not report it or share it with others. Societal acceptance of domestic violence is widespread amongst both women and men. Research also shows that women are just as likely as men to believe violence can solve conflicts. These factors, combined with a lack of access to legal recourse, and customary practices, further marginalize women.

8. A large percentage of women in South Sudan are illiterate, with 50 percent of girls under the age of 18 are married. While the number of girls enrolled in school has increased over the last few years since the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement in 2005, it remains low compared to boys. This number severely declines for education past primary school level. The male literacy rate is 40 percent and females' are 28 percent, showing a big gap between the sexes (UNESCO, 2018). The primary school gross enrolment rate is 67 percent for males and 55 percent for females (World Bank, 2015). Girls' enrolment decreases at higher grades. The gross intake ratio into the last grade of primary was 35 percent for males and 19 percent for females (UNESCO, 2011). Girls' primary school completion rates are low because of gender norms, customs and cultural beliefs, insecurity, poverty, and poor learning environments. Girls are also expected to help with housework, or they are forced to early marriages and early pregnancies. Long distances to school and lack of sanitation facilities hinder schooling for girls. There is also the risk of sexual harassment in schools or when girls travel long distances to reach schools

9. Women constitute 60.2 percent of agricultural workforce and account for 80 percent of agricultural labor force. However, they have limited control over crops produced for sale. They face insurmountable challenges like limited access to productive assets. The Local Government Act (2009) and the Transitional constitution addresses property rights for women however, there is no regulation in place to make it operational. Moreover, customary laws refuse to grant property ownership to women: women's access to land is permitted only by their husbands and male family members. This limits women's participation in extensive agriculture and hinders their access to credit and loan funding. The only assets they can acquire and manage includes small ruminants like goats and chicken, sale of vegetables and fishing during the dry season. The use of any profits from their economic activities must be approved by their husbands (ACTED). Agricultural extension services are targeted to male farmers (88.7 percent) with women (9.7 percent) expected to receive information second-hand from their husbands or male relatives. One of the reasons for this imbalance is lack of women extension workers due to women's low literacy (JICA Gender Profile 2018). Furthermore, women lack skills, facilities, and tools for labor intensive agricultural activities.

10. Women have been accorded equal status in the law, and the transitional constitution that guarantees equality between the two sexes. It further promotes women's participation in public life and their representation in the legislative and executive organs by at least 25 percent to redress imbalances created by history, customs, and traditions. While there have been legislative reforms aimed at eradicating gender inequality and discrimination against women, due to discriminatory traditional practices, the situation of women and girls has not substantively improved. Furthermore, while quotas have helped to boost women's representation in South Sudan's public sphere, women are often limited to low-level roles due to the presence of structural barriers such as low literacy and the lack of opportunity (Institute of Security Studies 2019). These are obstacles to women's empowerment and their inclusion in decision making. On property ownership, the Constitution (2011) guarantees the rights of women to share in the estates of their deceased husbands together with any surviving legal heir of the deceased (Article 16.5). In practice, the deceased's property remains within the deceased husband's family and is generally dispersed among his male relatives. Widows are therefore vulnerable and at the mercy of their deceased husbands' families for support. (Gender Index.org). Supporting women in agriculture can strengthen the economy by diversifying their sources of income.

Youth

11. South Sudanese youth are defined as between 18-35 years and consist of 70 percent of the population. 72 percent of are under 30 years of age, and 51% under 18 years. The youth literacy rate is 27% (NBS Census 2010). An exceptionally large share of the active population is found in non-wage, low-productivity employment concentrated in the agriculture sector. These youths have grown up and survived in a hostile environment without protection due to the long civil war in the country and inter-and intra-communal fighting.

12. Culturally created social norms continue to be one of the impediments for the youth to realise their potential. Female youth face challenges in obtaining education due to early pregnancies and forced marriages. The male youth on the other hand are expected to look after livestock which exposes them to insecurity such as cattle raids and abductions (UNICEF 2015). Conflicts propagated by youth are due to lack of employment opportunities and the need to gain resources such as cattle for dowry payment. Another motivation is the pride people take in being 'warriors' as the community respects people who defend the community. These factors combined with existence of politically motivated ethnic tensions threaten to prolong conflict in South Sudan and make it even harder for youth to pursue a productive and non-violent future. The lack of training and education opportunities, marketable skills, and experience favors recruitment by armed militias, further exposing households to violence, displacement, and limited productive labor (Institute of Security Studies 2019). While there are youth structures and organizations, many are politicized or organized along ethnic lines, limiting their potential to help build peace. Unlike women's inclusion, which by law requires at least 25% of women representation in political institutions and related activities, South Sudan laws do not specify youth representation in programmes / activities. Hence, they are always under-represented and their needs ignored, with decisions being made.

13. While empowerment and livelihood programs are needed for both male and female youth, there is urgent need for the engagement and empowerment of male youth to foster a greater sense of responsibility. Male youth can play a vital role in fostering peacebuilding, but the level of participation is also influenced by the level of education. Education is among the factors influencing whether someone has a peace dividend. This means that it is generally schooled youths who have an incentive to be involved in peace efforts because they are aware of the benefits peace and stability can bring for their future. Less educated

youth on the other hand, the cattle camp youth, might have different perceptions about peace and conflict, and might regard conflict as the only option to access resources and establish their position within society. Young women are less involved in community-level peacebuilding efforts as many positions of power, both at customary as well as state level, are held by men. Given that peace and gender equality are intricately linked, this calls for more gender-responsive conflict resolution programming. Therefore, any youth-related interventions will be implemented with a view to not contributing to increased tensions between communities and considering the risk management.

14. Agriculture and livestock production remain sectors that youth continue to engage in, given their high potential to provide essential livelihoods opportunities and expansion of productive markets. It is necessary to give more attention to the potential roles that young people can play within these two sectors. Productive and empowered youths will keep a household and a community together in times of conflict-related shocks and in the case of natural hazards such as droughts, floods, or disease outbreaks. In the face of so many other economic and social stressors, the role of youth as part of the solution rather than the problem is an important transformative capacity that promotes resilience.

Child labour

15. Children in South Sudan engage in the worst forms of child labour, including in armed conflict and cattle herding. Levels of child involvement in economic activity are remarkably high affecting almost half of 10-14-year-olds (45 percent) according to BILA⁸ (2018). These children spend at least some time each week performing economic activity. Most of these economic activities constitute child labour in a legal sense. South Sudan Child Act of 2008 has set the minimum age for the admission of a child to paid employment at 14 years but set a lower minimum age of 12 years for light work (AfDB 2015). Children's involvement in economic activity is associated with compromised education. Although school attendance is low for all children in South Sudan, this is especially the case for working children. Their school attendance rate of 24 percent is only half that of their nonworking peers. And the negative educational impact of work of course extends well beyond school attendance, as the time and energy required by work can impede school performance among those who manage to attend school.

16. In rural areas where subsistence farming and pastoralism are labour intensive, it is common that children under 15 years old assist their parents at work. Poverty is also negatively correlated with schooling and positively correlated with girls' labour reinforcing the danger of a vicious circle with the persistence of uneducated generations of children. Also, if the household head works in agriculture, children are more likely to work in agriculture as well. Although the government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labour, the exceptionally low number of worksite inspections conducted at the national level impedes the enforcement of child labour laws.

Vulnerable Groups

17. **Returnees:** According to UNHCR data on returnee flows, more than 126,800 refugees have spontaneously returned to South Sudan since January 2019 with 55 percent being female headed households and 1.3 percent child headed. The highest number of spontaneous refugee returnees was recorded in Kajo-Keji of Central Equatoria. Although

⁸ Bureau of International Labour Affairs 2018

most returnees have settled in Eastern Equatoria and Central Equatoria states, these may or may not be their places of origin. Returning families have challenges of shelter and NFIS5 because they are not able to return with any items thus end up fully dependent on sharing items with hosting families which strain resources and relationships. Lack of comprehensive health services in the places of returns has a huge impact for the returning families. Although many returnees have land for farming, they lack seeds and tools. Reliable livelihoods opportunities are scarce and although they may have capacity, they lack start-up capital. House, land and property issues is another challenge for returning families because they cannot return to their places of origin as their land/houses and properties have been occupied by the cattle keepers from other states. While a marked increase in displaced people deciding to return would be an indication of greater stability and prospects for prosperity and potentially reinforce these in the long term, high volumes of returns could in the short to medium term worsen vulnerable people's well-being and living conditions and erode community resilience. This could be due to greater competition over limited food and livelihoods, pressures put on already stretched basic services, or problems related to housing, land and property. The current level of service provision in areas of return is estimated to be unsustainable for higher rates of return

18. **Internally displaced persons (IDPs):** In the context of recurring ethnic conflicts and consequences of climate change, a large number of South Sudanese are pushed to move in order to seek better opportunities. In November 2021, there were around 1.6 million⁹ IDPs in the country, 55 percent of whom were women and girls. Among SSLRPs counties, Aerial in Lakes counts the most IPDs while Wau in Western Bahr El Ghazal State has the largest proportion of returnees (see figure on populations).

19. **Persons with Disabilities:** Households that have members with persons with disabilities have a reduced capacity to generate adequate resources for food and other basic needs than those with able-bodied members. They face significant social and political exclusion and are among the most marginalised in society. They tend to be more illiterate, unemployed and less productive than their peers without disabilities. According to the South Sudan Annual School Census (ASC) in 2012, 1.37 % of all school enrolled pupils are children with disabilities¹⁰. Households headed by an individual with disability are 38 percent more likely to live in poverty than households headed by an individual without disability. The National Disability Assessment indicated that 89.3 percent of respondents with disabilities were unemployed, 4.5 percent had been employed and 6.2 percent were engaged in business¹¹. Persons with disabilities are confronted with poor infrastructure and stigma and prejudice, hindering their ability to fully contribute to the country's economic growth. Limited capacity within the government structures to respond to medical, educational and mobility needs of PWDs and very few social safety net programs aggravate existing insecurities and vulnerabilities. According to the South Sudan Union for Persons with Disabilities, girls and women with disabilities are particularly at risk as they face challenges in accessing basic needs, including personal hygiene kits, and are more likely exposed to GBV.

Indigenous Peoples

20. South Sudan is socially diverse and comprises more than 70 different language

⁹ The World Bank in South Sudan. Overview. October 2021. Accessible here:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/southsudan/overview#1>

¹⁰ ^[1] Report Education for All 2015. National Review of South Sudan. UNESCO, Available at

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000231645_eng

¹¹ ^[1] Ministry of Gender, Child, Social Welfare (2013). South Sudan National Disability and Inclusion Policy (2013)

groups dominated by Juba Arabic, Nilotic, Nilo-Hamitic and Sudanic languages such as Dinka, Azande, Nuer and Shiluk¹². However, there is no official demographic data in South Sudan since the 2008 census was rejected and a post-independence census has not yet been undertaken¹³. Western Nilotes, including Dinka and Nuer (with their associated subgroup Atuot) are the largest groups in the country. They traditionally live in the North and East areas of South Sudan¹⁴. Dinka are a Nilotic people and seasonal migrating agro-pastoralists. Nuer are divided into several independent groups organised in clans, lineages and age groups. For both Dinka and Nuer, cattle are essential to social structures, and can be a source of conflict when herds are competing over limited grazing resources during transhumance. Some Western Nilotes peoples are settled crop farmers such as Shiluk and Anuak. Other groups live in the Southern parts of the country, such as the Azande, Bari, Latuka, Madi, Moru, Taposa and Turkana, who are a mixture of Sudanic and Eastern Nilotes peoples.

21. The civil war which erupted in 2013 was mostly driven by ethnic dissents. Fights between Dinka and Nuer militias, among others, have led to widespread human right violations, large population displacements of indigenous peoples and increased tensions on land rights. Additionally, traditional rule of law and resolutions mechanisms that are deeply anchored into the tribe institutions and the areas in which the peoples have long resided, are being disrupted by the recurring displacements, the non-planned livestock migrations and the introduction of weapons. The concept of "Indigenous peoples" and its interpretation in the context of South Sudan are extremely sensitive. Identifying some groups as "indigenous" would imply that other groups don't belong to the social and cultural identity of the country and would therefore drive unjustified inequalities and potential injustice. In a country which is 11 years old and still trying to forge a common framework for a unified people, identifying and targeting indigenous peoples is a major challenge.

Distribution of ethnic groups across SSLRP counties

State	Eastern Equatoria		Central Equatoria		Western Bahr El Ghazal State		Jonglei	Lakes
County	Magwi	Torit	Kajo-Keji	Terekeka	Wau	Jur River	Bor South	Aweri al
	Acholi Madi	Otuho Lakoya	Kuku	Mundari	Balanda Viri, Balanda Bor, Luo/'Jur Chol', Dinka (Marial Bai)	Balanda Bor, Luo/'Jur Chol'	Bor Dinka	Dinka (Aliab)

Food Security

22. Nearly 6.4 million people or 54 per cent of the population are acutely food insecure

¹² Cullis A. (2021). Strengthening South Sudan's Livestock Sector, Discussion Paper, March 2021. UKaid, East Africa Research Fund, Tana

¹³ Minority Rights Group International (2018) South Sudan Minorities and Indigenous Peoples.

¹⁴ As well as parts of Sudan Kordofan and White Nile, and Ethiopia Gambella region.

according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis. UNOCHA estimates that nearly 7.5 million people need some type of humanitarian assistance or protection in South Sudan. Of the 78 counties in South Sudan, 45 are in severe need and 33 are in extreme need. Some 21 per cent of the counties in extreme need are in Jonglei and 15 per cent in Eastern Equatoria. These include 5.2 million people from host community, 1.4 million IDPs, nearly 600,000 returnees and about 300,000 refugees. Within these population groups, there are vulnerable groups with specific needs, and they include children, women headed households, the elderly, people with disabilities, single-headed household members, and the extremely poor.

23. Food insecurity in South Sudan is highly seasonal and largely influenced by recurrent and frequent shocks and conflict. Since the conflicts started in December 2013, households have not managed to produce enough even during the main cultivating seasons. Instead the minimal harvest realized does not take households long enough before they fall into food insecurity. For instance, the 2019 cropping season production met only 63 percent of the 2020 national cereal needs. Despite a 10% increase in cereal production the demand outstripped supply mainly because of flooding, low number of farming households and small planted area. Insecurity and disrupted livelihoods are some of the bottlenecks to households' access to other food sources like wild foods, fish and livestock products. Currency depreciation and high food prices have affected the purchasing power of vulnerable households who rely on markets for food and basic needs. It is expected that the food security situation will continue to deteriorate due to the seasonal food scarcity along with a reduction in humanitarian assistance.

24. The food insecurity situation however has not varied significantly between cropping seasons in the last 5-years as households have not managed to produce enough even during the main cultivating seasons. Consequently, for majority of households' cereal stocks last for up to 3 months. Given persistently low food and income sources among at least half of the national population, humanitarian food assistance continues to play a pivotal role in mitigating food gaps at the household level and preventing more extreme food insecurity outcomes at the county level. Most households have been supported through humanitarian assistance that may not be adequate to meet all their needs (WFP 2018). Based on the imminent refugee returns and large cereal deficits, it is anticipated that additional pressure will be exerted on local market supply of staple foods in both Eastern Equatoria and Central Equatoria, where large returnee populations exist and insecurity and banditry periodically disrupt trade flows and household movement (IPC 2020). The two main seasons that influence food insecurity in a normal year are in: May-September when most households go through the lean season with minimal food stocks to consume; and October – April that marks the harvest and post-harvest period when households have available food stocks to consume from own production.

25. Devaluation of the South Sudanese Pound in December 2015 has seen the cost of market commodities (white maize grain, white sorghum, cooking oil, petrol) increase over the years. Commodity prices have generally been above 5-year averages, a situation attributed to continued depreciation of the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) against the US dollar, interrupted supply by conflicts/insecurity, the inability of traders to import adequate amount of food given the shortages in US dollars in the market and increasing transportation cost as fuel prices go up and the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on imports. The ongoing economic crisis and effects of conflict continue to make it difficult for majority of households to access food from markets. Access to markets also gets worse during the rainy season when road conditions deteriorate and cut off supplies. Below is a summary of food security situation by state.

26. **Central Equatoria State:** Food consumption gaps outcomes have persisted in the state due to high food prices, localized insecurity limiting food access, increased returnees,

in addition to flood-induced crop losses especially in Terekeka. The proportion of households with poor food consumption is 40 percent and consumption gaps are high during the lean season due to depleted household food stocks and high food prices which usually limit their access to foods through markets in addition to seasonal reduction in livestock products. Livestock movement is seasonally practiced by pastoralists from Terekeka County starting from May, moving to the uplands of Juba, Lainya and Yei counties and then returning home between September and November. The number of animals in Kajo Keji has decreased significantly in recent years mainly due to the prevailing insecurity. The situation sharply deteriorated due to increased conflict, resulting in the displacement of several farming households to neighbouring countries of Uganda and Kenya. This meant that farmers in these areas were unable to cultivate far-fields and were limited to homestead areas. There is heavy reliance on fresh cassava, but access to cassava fields is still limited by insecurity, especially in farfields. Abandoned cassava fields in Kajo Keji remain unharvested due to insecurity and the poor state of feeder roads used to transport harvested cassava (CFSAM 2020). There has however been an improvement in security situation with the signing of the peace agreement. Other than conflicts, farming household experience shocks ranging from drought, flood, crop diseases, pests, and the death or theft of livestock. Individuals living in rural areas are more likely to experience these shocks, particularly drought or flood.

27. **Eastern Equatoria State** has experienced improvements in food security in the last year with reduced number of the population classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). An estimated 31.9 percent (340,000) are in Crisis compared to 56 percent at the same time last year with 37 percent of households with poor food consumption. The improvements in food security conditions are driven by improved security, availability of food stocks at household level, livestock products, game meat, and market access. As with Central Equatoria, February to April marks the period when the food security situation deteriorates due to an increase in food prices, depletion of household food stocks, seasonally limited availability of wild foods, and reduction in livestock products as livestock migrate to dry season grazing areas. From May to July, marginal improvement in the food security situation is usually expected as livestock return near homesteads, and some green harvest and wild foods become seasonally available to households.

28. Food assistance contribution is significant in Great Equatoria. The commonly cultivated cereals include sorghum, cassava and maize; Sorghum is the main cereal grown. Cassava is significant contributor to households' food consumption. Farmers mainly use own local seeds carried over from the previous harvest or purchased in the market with dry planting being common, especially in the areas where rains have a comparatively later onset. In the absence of a widespread adoption of ox-ploughing, hand-digging is the normal method of cultivation, with labour provided by the family in most areas. Ox-ploughs are mainly used by farmers in Magwi County. There are about 20 Government tractors and 12 private tractors in Eastern Equatoria State. The hiring rate for Government tractors is SSP 10 000/feddan in Torit and SSP 7 500 in Magwi. These few functional tractors and ox-ploughs have contributed to the cultivation of more land during the 2019 season. However, efficient utilization of existing tractors is highly constrained by shortage of spare parts and high fuel prices (CFSAM 2020).

29. **Jonglei:** Cereal and food security assessment in Jonglei have been constrained by insecurity except for Bor South County. According to CFSAM assessment, farming in Bor South in 2019 was limited to areas around the homesteads compared to previous years due to insecurity in far fields. The food insecurity rose to unprecedented levels during the post-harvest period of January 2020 because of extensive flooding, at a time when food would 'normally' be the most abundant. An estimated 1.26 million people, representing 65 percent of the state population were facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food

insecurity in January 2020. Floods damaged homes and public infrastructure, destroyed crops, increased post-harvest losses, restricted the gathering of wild foods, resulted in considerable population displacement, disrupted market supply, and increased commodity prices, and led to significant losses of livestock due to disease and starvation. This also resulted in widespread contamination of water supplies, unhygienic environment, and deteriorating health conditions, exacerbating the vulnerability of an already impoverished and asset-stripped population. Additionally, the macro economic crisis has continued to result in high food prices even at a time of the year when they would seasonally decline. Cattle raiding and intercommunal conflict, involving revenge killings, have continued to result in deaths, loss of livestock, disrupted livelihoods and restricted access to wild foods and fish. Livestock raiding is also prominent. Raiding is traditionally common amongst the Nuer, Murle and Dinka tribes, but it is now increasingly exercised by the Murle tribes.

30. **Lakes:** 80 percent of Households face severe food insecurity with 61 percent of Lakes projected as IPC3+ (period of April 2022-July 2022)¹⁵. Generally, the proportion of households with access to land for cultivation is relatively high amounting to 84.2 percent with a proportion above the overall country's estimate. Despite high access to land, Lakes is one of the states with the highest prevalence of households receiving general good distribution¹⁶. In terms of crop production, crops grown in the state include sorghum, groundnuts, maize, sesame, green gram and cowpeas. The main cereal grown is sorghum. Groundnuts, cassava, sesame, green gram and cowpeas are usually intercropped. The main seed sources are savings from the previous harvest or market purchase. The common pests and diseases reported during the 2021 season include millepedes, porcupines, red monkeys, rodents, termites, groundnuts rosette virus, sorghum smut, etc. While damage levels were reported to be mild, weed infestations remain a serious challenge for the cultivation of all crops across the state. According to FAO and WFP, no control measures were undertaken for any of the pests nor do farmers apply fertilizers in the state, except for localized use of manure on maize and vegetables fields around the homesteads. The 2021 gross cereal production is estimated at about 152 000 tonnes, 10.5 percent below the 2020 levels, reflecting a reduction from 2020 of 8.6 percent and 2.1 percent of yields and harvested area, due to the impact of floods and dry spells. The groundnut output is estimated at about 51 100 tonnes of unshelled product, 7.1 percent below the 2020 level, due to the impact of floods and waterlogging. Though the agroecology of the Lakes state would support the cultivation of cassava, cattle-keeping practice is preventing its expansion in all counties¹⁷s. According to the FSNMS+, an unusually high food price was one of the most pervasive shocks, affecting 45 percent in Lakes. Apart from crop production, Lakes is recording a high livestock ownership of 69 percent. Intercommunal raids were highly reported in Lakes (40 percent), which may be one of the reasons for livestock decrease¹⁸.

31. **Western Bahr El-Ghazal:** 57 percent of Households face severe food insecurity with 30 % of Western Bahr El Ghazal projected to be IPC3+ (period of April 2022-July 2022)¹⁹. However, there was some improvement from 2020 to 2021. According to the CCM reports, the amounts of rainfall during the 2021 season were average to above average and higher than 2020, resulting in a yield increase of cereals (maize and sorghum) and groundnuts in 2021 from the previous year. The majority of the small holder farmers use hand tools for land preparation and the related cultural practices, along with ox ploughs

¹⁵ <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/es/c/1155527/>

¹⁶ Government of South Sudan, WFP, FAO, UNICEF et al. (2022), Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System – Plus Round 27 (FSNM+)

¹⁷ FAO and WFP (2022). Special Report – 2021 FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) to the Republic of South Sudan. 9 June 2022

¹⁸ Government of South Sudan, WFP, FAO, UNICEF et al. (2022), Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System – Plus Round 27 (FSNM+)

¹⁹ <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/es/c/1155527/>

and few tractors. Hand tools are usually purchased from the market, include maloda, axe, hoe, panga and rake. Family and communal labor (nafeer) are normally used for weeding and harvesting, while better-off farmers are able to hire daily workers for digging and weeding. Sorghum is the most grown and consumed cereal in the state and seed sources are mainly own seeds of local varieties carried over from the previous harvest. Better-off farmers have adjusted to improved sorghum varieties to mitigate the transhumant livestock that would return home and destroy sorghum fields on their way back. In terms of soil fertility, smallholder farmers would use alternative methods of manuring, such as composting and shifting cultivation²⁰.

32. The gross cereal production in 2021 is estimated at 73 600 tonnes, about 12 percent up from 2020, because of a 1.3 percent increase in yields and a 11 percent increase in harvested area. The increase may be due to the security improvements and the subsequent return of displaced households. Further, with improved security, farmers may have been encouraged to expand plantings to fields far from the homesteads²¹. Around 82.1 percent of households in Western Bahr el Ghazal have access to land for cultivation. Beyond crop production, 23 percent of households own livestock in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal, primarily small ruminants, such as goats and sheet that graze or are tethered around homesteads to prevent them from intruding into crop fields. The average livestock in 2021 for both cattle and small ruminants was 3-4, higher than 2020 due to improved availability of pasture and water. Yet, according to the latest FSNM+ the highest prevalence of households receiving general food distribution was found in states such as Western Bahr el Ghazal²².

Nutrition

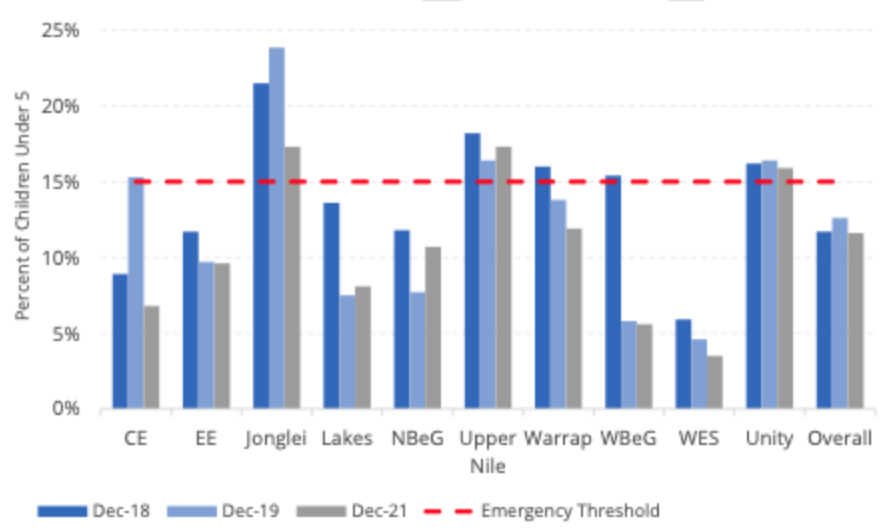
33. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) among children increased from 13 per cent in 2018 to 16 per cent in 2019, exceeding the global emergency threshold of 15 per cent. The under-5 mortality rate is 106 per 1,000 births and maternal mortality rate sits at about 789 deaths per 100,000 live births, noting regional variations of 523-1,150. In 2022, 2 million people, including 1.4 million children under five years old and 676,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) are expected to be acutely malnourished[2]. According to the latest Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System report from 2022, 13.5 percent of children under age five were stunted. Only 8.3 percent of children can attain the Minimum Acceptable Diet required for growth and development (FSNMS+). Only 68 per cent of infants less than 6 months old are exclusively breastfed and 4 percent of children 6-23 months old receive a minimum acceptable diets[3]. Acute malnutrition is attributed to the persistent high food insecurity, poor quality and diversity of food, low water quality as well as high morbidity due to a weak health system. Moreover, heavy workloads among women, cultural beliefs and traditions also play a big role in malnutrition. The situation is further compounded by effects of conflicts and insecurity. The highest GAM rate was recorded in Jonglei (17.3 percent), which is above emergency threshold as per WHO classification. Though still alarmingly high, there is a decline from 23.9 percent recorded in 2019. Based on the last three seasons, the prevalence of acute malnutrition in Eastern Equatoria, Lakes, Western Bahr el Ghazal, and Western Equatoria is stable.

²⁰ FAO and WFP (2022). Special Report – 2021 FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) to the Republic of South Sudan. 9.June 2022

²¹ FAO and WFP (2022). Special Report – 2021 FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) to the Republic of South Sudan. 9.June 2022

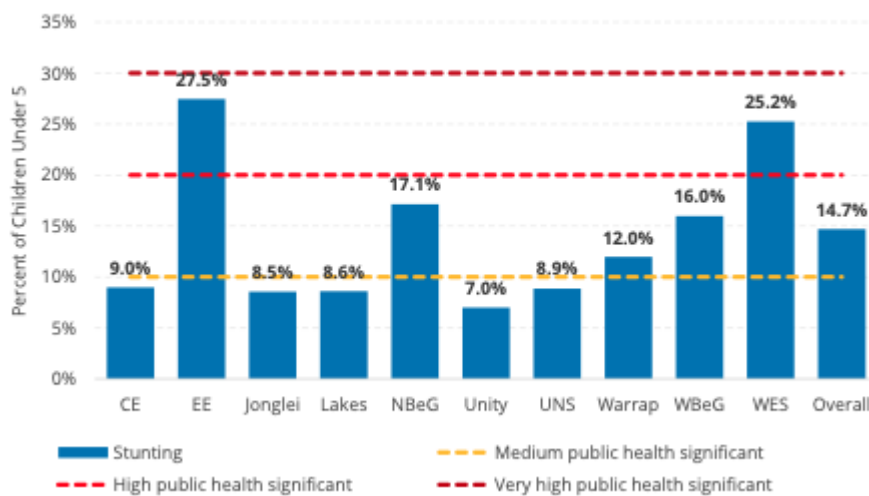
²² Government of South Sudan, WFP, FAO, UNICEF et al.(2022), Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System – Plus Round 27 (FSNM+)

Figure 26. Prevalence of General Acute Malnutrition (Post-Harvest) Among Children Under 5 by State and Time



FSNMS+ Round 27 Report, 2022

Figure 27. Prevalence of Stunting Among Children Under 5 by State



FSNMS+ Round 27 Report, 2022

34. The highest Stunting rate was recorded in Eastern Equatoria (27.5 percent), followed by Western Equatoria (25.2 percent), Northern Bahr el Ghazal (17.1 percent) and Western Bahr el Ghazal (16 percent). Stunting, unlike wasting is not affected by rapid food shortage or diseases experienced in certain seasons. It however causes irreversible physical and mental damage to children and is associated with an underdeveloped brain, with long-lasting harmful consequences, including diminished mental ability and learning capacity, poor school performance in childhood. Performing below average in these areas may also limit their future productivity and reduced earnings and increased risks of nutrition-related chronic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity. This cycle could threaten the health of their future children.

35. The status of complementary feeding of children 6 to 23 months remains poor due

to poor Minimum meal frequency, low timely introduction of solid and semisolid foods, low minimum acceptable diet across all states. Intake of the recommended food groups (Minimum Dietary Diversity – MDD) is very low in all states at 14 percent. Unexpectedly high morbidity during the post-harvest season, poor complementary feeding practices contribute to the high level of acute malnutrition. This suggests that malnutrition may be related to behaviour and/or lack of awareness of child feeding practices among caregivers (IPC 2020). At national level, 35.2 percent of women aged between 15 to 49 were found to be underweight with the highest malnutrition rates in Warrap, Jonglei, Unity and Northern Bahr El Ghazal. The prevalence of wasting among women of reproductive age is 19.8 percent with highest prevalence reported in Jonglei (33.3 percent) and Warrap (27.5 percent). Maternal nutrition is linked with poor child nutrition outcomes; hence child nutrition status may be affected adversely if the maternal nutrition status continues to worsen.

36. Overall dietary diversity among women of childbearing age is at 30, 37 and 21 percent in Central, Eastern Equatoria and Jonglei respectively. This is as result of poor access to food and the intra-household dynamics that mean women are the last to eat in times of food stress. Women suffer greater food insecurity, due to their cultural and social roles as care givers of children and older people, meaning that they may refuse or pass on food within families, especially in female-headed households where there may be a concentration of needs (Oxfam 2016). Maternal undernutrition contributes to neonatal deaths through small for gestational age births; stunting, wasting, and micronutrient deficiencies are estimated to contribute to child deaths annually (Lancet 2010). Heavy women's workload and limited childcare options are factors compounding child malnutrition. Additionally, early age at marriage and age at first birth is significant and contributes to foetal growth restriction, which increases the risk of neonatal death and for survivors, of stunting by 2 years of age.

Table 3: Prevalence of Malnutrition

Acceptable	Alert	Serious	Critical
<5%	5- <10 %	10 to <15% or >usual and increasing	15-30% Or >usual and increasing

37. Malnutrition is associated with multiple immediate and underlying causes including WASH, care practices, poor quality of diets (as evidenced by the low MAD and WDD) and morbidity. Access to health services is poor and leads to high incidences of diseases. This is further compounded by the chronic nature of waterborne diseases, low use of latrines, poor personal hygiene and living environments, and limited access to hygienic materials. An estimated 60 per cent of the total population either rely on unimproved or surface water sources; or must walk more than 30 minutes to reach the improved water sources or face protection risks even if they could access the improved sources. About half of the population must walk 1 and more hours to the nearest operational marketplace. Flooding also contributes to internal displacements causing disruptions to livelihoods and water. Insufficient food consumption is a primary cause of malnutrition. Generally, 52 percent of households had poor food consumption and an additional 29 percent had borderline food consumption, with high prevalence rates of poor consumption in Western Bahr El Ghazal (73 percent), Western Equatoria (65 percent), and Jonglei (64 percent)²³. Food consumption was dominated by the consumption of staples like maize, sorghum, cassava, rice, millet with 78 percent of Households consuming these items in the past 24 hours. Around 48 percent of households consumed vegetables and 42 percent of households consumed condiments in the past 24 hours. Fish, fruit, meat, and eggs were generally consumed infrequently.

²³ FSNMS+ Round 27 Report (2022)

Table 4 Average days of consumption by different food commodities

	Cereal	Pulses	Milk	Meat Fish Eggs	Vegetables	Fruits	Oil	Sugar	Condiments
CES	4.65	1.74	0.26	0.37	3.39	1.50	1.35	0.97	2.75
EES	6.06	1.18	1.90	0.86	3.68	0.87	2.56	0.87	4.16
Jonglei	4.74	0.76	1.55	0.87	1.18	0.58	1.74	0.74	0.95

38. Over 50 percent of households in CES and EES consume food obtained through their own production especially cereals, tubers, and pulses, while market purchase constitutes the second most important source of food. Jonglei has a mixture of own production, markets, and food assistance. Households are generally dependent on market purchases for their consumption of meat/fish and eggs. For fruits, gathering from the wild is the primary source of consumption in Jonglei (70 percent), while own production constitutes the main source of fruit consumption in Eastern and Central Equatoria. Poor households generally spend a higher proportion of their already meagre incomes on food especially on cereals and tubers. In target states, the household expenditure for food varies by state with the highest rates for high and very high food expenditures in Eastern Equatoria (36 percent), Lakes (32 percent), Jonglei (25 percent) and lowest in Western Bahr el Ghazal (22 percent) and Central Equatoria (16 percent)²⁴.

39. The unstable food security situation has led households to resort to food based and livelihood coping strategies. The prevalence of coping strategies involving a decrease in food intake (eating less expensive and preferred foods, limiting portion size, reducing adult consumption, and eating fewer meals) around the harvest period remain high. This peaks during the lean period as household food stocks decreased and market prices increased). This is worst in Central Equatoria where 85 percent employ coping strategies in agreement with the worsening in severe food insecurity. The recent FSNMS (2020) also found a significant association between coping behaviour scale and malnutrition rates. Households practising highest coping behaviour (maximum coping) contributed to 45% of the overall malnourished cases.

⁷ *Food consumption score* is a proxy indicator of household caloric availability, the high proportion of household with poor and borderline food consumption was an indication that households consumed less nutritionally dense diets consisting mostly of cereals and vegetables

⁸ *Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)* on the other hand provides a picture on quality of household diets in terms of access and socio-economic status.

⁹ *Household hunger scale measures households' experience of food deprivation.*

2.2 Implications of COVID-19

40. The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered an unprecedented global health, humanitarian, socio- economic and human rights crisis, exacerbating the vulnerabilities of affected populations. In South Sudan, the pandemic is putting significant pressure on already overburdened health and social service delivery systems, exacerbating the vulnerabilities of affected populations. The rural poor, internally displaced persons, and refugees are especially at risk as they tend to live in overcrowded settings where it is difficult to practice physical distancing and water and sanitation services are lacking. Many

²⁴ FSNMS+ Round 27 Report

people live in informal, clustered settlements and in big households, with some homes housing about 30 people or more at a time, an environment favourable for the transmission and spread of COVID-19.

41. Mitigation measures designed to reduce virus transmission have reduced access to wider services, loss of household income for the poor and vulnerable and is affecting capacities of households to access nutritious, safe, and affordable foods and basic social services. This has been caused by disruption to livelihoods including closing of markets to trading except for items deemed essential like food and medicine. The closing of borders has also reduced the number of cereals imported into the country. Importation of maize from Uganda to South Sudan has reduced by 30 percent prompting an increase in the price of maize and sorghum by 20 to 25 percent and that of wheat surged by 40% (FEWSNET 2020). In Magwi, market prices of maize increased between February and April by 25 and 85 percent, respectively. Screenings implemented in the framework of the measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 has also significantly slowed down the commodity movement

42. Should the government impose restrictions on people's movements through community quarantines, markets will become more disrupted, leading to less available food, less diversity of options, and higher prices, especially on more scarce foods. As the COVID-19 pandemic is still evolving, it is difficult to predict with precision the geographic reach and degree of impact on food production and distribution systems.

43. Public health measures such as social distancing that restrict movements to reduce COVID-19 transmission are also heightening protection risks and vulnerabilities for already at-risk groups including children, women, and crisis-affected families. Households with limited resources are bearing the full brunt of these measures and the resulting stressors and socio-economic impacts. The restrictions on movement place a higher risk on women to experience Gender Based Violence, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, because women are confined in their homes or camps with abusers. These measures may also increase youth's vulnerability to recruitment and use by armed forces or armed groups. Women and girls are especially vulnerable to the impact of the COVID-19 response due to the additional care burden they bear for their families and the risk of sexual violence as they struggle to meet their daily needs in the context of lock downs and curfews (SUD Institute 2020).

44. Adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services are essential to infection prevention and control. Good handwashing and hygiene practices are also essential to reducing transmission and exposure to the coronavirus. However, across the South Sudan, 70 percent of people, lack access to safe water at home, and 80 percent people, lack access to safely managed sanitation (REACH 2019).

2.3 Environment and climate context, trends, and implications

a. Environmental assessment

45. South Sudan is covered by extensive grasslands, wetlands and tropical forests. Its natural assets include significant agricultural, mineral, timber and energy resources. The climate is mostly hot and dry, with seasonal rains that allow for two or three harvests a year in the country's green belt. Apart from oil, however, its natural resources are largely unexploited and only 4.5 per cent of its potential arable land is cultivated (State of The Environment, 2018).

46. **Agriculture:** In South Sudan about 80 per cent of the population lives in rural areas where subsistence agriculture is the mainstay of people's livelihoods. The agriculture sector is characterised by small, hand-cultivating household units belonging to larger family aggregations practising different combinations of rain-fed agriculture, livestock

grazing and pastoralism, wild food harvesting and fishing (MOAF, 2013); (EU, 2016). About 81 per cent of households cultivate land, 74 per cent own livestock and 22 per cent engage in fishing (RSS, 2015). Although agriculture is the backbone of the subsistence economy of South Sudan (BRACED, 2016a), production is very low. In 2009, the agriculture sector contributed one-third of the country's GDP (UNDP, 2012).

47. South Sudan's agricultural potential is immense, but largely unrealized. It has about 33 million hectares of land across six agro-ecological zones that are suitable for agriculture (see Appendix 3), but only about four percent is currently cultivated. The livestock sector is not commercialized and suffers from high incidence of disease, rustling, and resource-based conflict. This has impacted negatively on nutritional status of households particularly children under 5. Limited use of productivity-enhancing technologies, capacity constraints, high Labour costs, and poor infrastructure hinder progress and constrain production, productivity and the competitiveness of South Sudan's agriculture relative to its neighbors. Sorghum is the main cereal crop (70% of the cereal area) followed by Maize (27%). (Country Strategy Note, 2019).

48. Individual households cultivate an average of between 0.84 and 2.4 hectares of cereals and other crops (UNDP, 2012). Crops are usually grown in mixed and/or sequential plantings (mixed cropping and interplanting). Sorghum and millet, the main cereal crops, are usually grown with sesame, while root crops such as cassava are often inter-planted with groundnuts, maize, pumpkins or other vegetables. This practice conserves biodiversity; mitigates weather, pest and disease risks; provides optimal ground cover and prevents soil erosion; conserves soil nutrients; and saves on labour (MOAF, 2013); (Dima, 2006). The practice of irrigated agriculture is insignificant in South Sudan. Individual farmers use simple water-lifting techniques like hand pumps and other low-technology methods such as storage ponds and drains in flood plains to irrigate small plots of crops and vegetable gardens (Fernando & Garvey, 2013). Given the many permanent, large and small rivers, seasonal water courses, groundwater reservoirs and vast areas of wetlands, there is a huge potential for expanding irrigation and introducing medium and large-scale irrigation projects to boost agricultural products.

49. **Soils:** are important in influencing the potential for agriculture. There are 34 soil types in South Sudan. Vertisols are a type of clay known as "black cotton soils" that are potentially highly productive but are prone to erosion; they are mostly found in the eastern part of the country (RSS, 2015). Fluvisols, a lowland soil in semi-arid zones that is moderately-to-highly fertile, is found along rivers, lakes and alluvial plains (FAO, 1993). Other soil types include Leptosols, Lixisols, Regosols, Cambisols etc. Spatial patterns of agricultural potential and population density of the two selected states showed that, the majority of geographic areas of the two states have high agricultural potential with high to medium population density and some areas have high to medium agricultural potential with medium to low population density.

50. **Forests:** Forests and woodlands of various types cover a large proportion of South Sudan's vast territory (RSS, 2015). Its natural forests have high levels of biodiversity and wildlife habitat, and generate important ecosystem goods and services. These include provisioning of goods (shelter, timber, fuel, food, medicines etc.) and services, carbon sequestration, hydrological cycling, soil stabilisation and cultural services. More than 90 per cent of the country's population directly depends on forests for fuelwood and charcoal production, timber for construction, and non-timber forest products for food and nutrition security; however, this resource is fast disappearing with an annual deforestation rate estimated at between 1.5 and 2 per cent (FAO, 2016). A menu of infrastructures has already been identified and during the CCD, the community will select the appropriate infrastructures that best fulfil their requirements: Such as feeder roads, storage facilities, irrigation schemes etc. Therefore, some tree clearance might be required to prepare land

for the infrastructure development. However, given the resource allocated for infrastructure, significant tree clearance is not expected. SSLRP will also positively contribute to forest sector in the country through the planned soil and water conservation activities aimed at ensuring sustainability of the infrastructures.

51. **Biodiversity:** South Sudan is endowed with a natural environment rich in biological resources. These include a large variety of ecosystems, a vast array of globally important species of flora and fauna and an unknown lode of genetic diversity. It is home to the Sudd swamp, one of the world's largest tropical wetlands, and to one of the greatest circular migrations of wildlife on the planet. Sudd swamp has been declared a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Most of the population live close to the natural environment, directly depending upon forests and woodlands for fuel and food products, local soils in which to grow their crops, pastures for their livestock and nearby water sources for household needs. These ecosystem goods and services constitute the foundation of South Sudan's socioeconomic development (MOE, 2014). South Sudan has 14 national parks or protected areas and is home to the world's second largest animal migration after the great Serengeti-Maasai Mara wildebeest migration; this epic migration of antelopes offers tremendous opportunity for the development of ecotourism; The country harbours an immense diversity of wildlife species, many of which face threats from human activities, including wildlife poaching and trafficking; deforestation; settlements, cropland and livestock expansion; road construction; mining and oil development; and climate change impacts. SSLRP is not expected to have significant impact on biodiversity loss. Watershed approach of interventions added with the conservation activities will enhance the biodiversity of the project site.

52. **Water resources:** South Sudan's water resources are unevenly distributed both spatially across the country, and temporally, since water quantities vary substantially between years depending on periodic major flood and drought events. The Nile River hydrological basin covers most of the country. Water is held in perennial rivers, lakes and wetland areas, in seasonal pools, ponds, rivers, streams and extensive floodplains. Water demand is still low given the country's relatively small population, density and the lack of industrial development, but it is expected to increase rapidly in the future with projected population growth and economic development. In 2007, the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation reported that the impact of human activities on the availability and quality of water resources was already evident and a growing concern. There is increased pollution, reduced river flows, declining water tables in urban areas and both surface and ground waters are becoming contaminated (MWRI, 2007). For the environment and resilient assessment, two types of zonation are considered from different source. These are: agro-ecological zones which divide the republic of South Sudan into seven agro-ecological zones (NAPA, 2016) and the other one is based on livelihood which categorizes the country into twelve livelihood zones (WFP/VAM, 2014).

Agro-ecological zonation

53. South Sudan has been classified into seven agro-ecological zones (NAPA), which have been determined taking into account the following considerations: livelihood patterns (crop production, livestock rearing, off-farm income generation), physical geography, agro-ecology and market access.

54. These are:

- I. **Greenbelt (Western Bahr el Ghazal; Western, Central and Eastern Equatoria):** Rely almost exclusively on agriculture. Smallholder rural and urban/peri-urban livestock keeping is focused on poultry and goats – few cattle. Traditional and modern

- beekeeping and wild gathering of honey are additional sources of income.
- II. **Ironstone Plateau (Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal; Warrap; Lakes; Western, Central and Eastern Equatoria):** Heavily dependent on crop production. Parts are largely agro-pastoral with livestock production the predominant source of income. During periods of distress, the sale of livestock is a source of income.
 - III. **Hills and Mountains (Central and Eastern Equatoria; Jonglei):** Both agriculture and pastoralism are practiced. Reliance on cattle increases during difficult years
 - IV. **Arid/Pastoral (Jonglei; Eastern Equatoria):** Driest zone, with one cropping season. Swamps are used for grazing during the dry season. Characterised by nomadic pastoralism with a strong reliance on livestock. Small-scale crop production supplements livestock production.
 - V. **Nile and Sobat Rivers (Jonglei; Unity; Upper Nile):** Abundance of water resources and good vegetation for grazing but flooding hampers access. An important dry season grazing area. Crops are also grown
 - VI. **Western Flood Plains (Northern Bahr el Ghazal; Lakes; Warrap):** Main source of income is agro pastoralism, which is supplemented by fish and wild foods. Livestock are important for both food and income
 - VII. **Eastern Flood Plains (Jonglei; Upper Nile):** Inhabited by both pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. Low-lying terrain and black cotton soils pre-dispose the area to flooding.

55. The project will be implemented in Eastern and Central equatorial and Jonglie states of the republic of South Sudan and the two states have experienced almost all of the agro-ecological zones with various degree of geographic coverage. Preparation of PDR should take these considerations into account during the identification of intervention and CDD processes. For example: the Nile and Sobat Rivers zone which includes one of the SSLRP target country, Jonglie, is characterized by the abundance of water, including good cover of vegetation for grazing, excess flooding usually hampers access. Therefore, the CDD/CDP and project interventions in the Jonglie county need to plan to exploit the water and grazing resources and consider climate (flood) resilient infrastructures.

Livelihood Zonation

56. South Sudan is categorized in to twelve livelihood zones (FEWS NET, 2018). This kind of characterization on livelihood provides useful information to better identify food security and resilience patterns and inform programmes to support the most vulnerable populations. The beneficiary states, Eastern and Central Equatoria and Jonglie, for the SSLRP are laid under three livelihood zones namely: Equatorial maize and cassava zone, highland forest and sorghum zone, eastern semi-arid pastoral and eastern plain sorghum and cattle. Typical characteristics of the livelihood zones are described as follows:

Equatorial maize and cassava zone

57. This livelihood zone is bordered by Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Central African Republic (CAR). It covers the former counties of Tambura, Ezo, Nzara, Yambio, Ibba, Maridi, Yei, Lainya, and parts of Mundri, Kajo-Keji, Magwi, and Ikotos. Livelihood patterns are agriculture focused but supplemented by livestock, fishing, hunting, and gathering of a range of wild foods and bush products. In a normal year, the zone is highly productive and considered a surplus area due to good soils and reliable rainfall, and market access, both local and cross-border, is relatively good. The zone is largely found in the Greenbelt agro-ecological zone. With fertile soils, it is considered one of South Sudan's highest potential cereal producing areas. The zone's topography is mostly a mix of mountains, hills and valleys which form the plateau in the southern reaches along

the border. The area further inland is primarily flat plainlands with an estimated altitude between 800 – 1200 meters (m) above sea level. Soil types vary from the lowland to highland areas with a mixture of fertile loamy clay and sandy soils that are most suitable for agricultural production.

58. The zone has a bi-modal rainfall pattern with two reliable seasons and average annual precipitation of 1100-1600 millimeters (mm); although the seasonal averages range 600-900 mm each season. Rains typically start in March to June with a break in late June then restart in July to November. The temperatures are relatively warm throughout the year, especially in lowlands, and cooler in highlands averaging between 27-30° Celsius in January to February and 30-35° Celsius from December to March. This zone is one of the most naturally endowed areas in the country with diverse vegetation cover including dense deciduous equatorial rain forests to the south that become less dense bushes towards the north. The major forests Nabanga, Sakure, Kpatuo, Bangangayi, Gilo, Hatire, Imilai, Kalisoni, Upper Talanga, and Lumarati are found in this zone and provide a source of hunting, plentiful timber materials for housing and fuel, and a broad variety of naturally occurring uncultivated foods and fruits such as wild yams, shea butter, tamarind, wild lemon, and wild vegetables (Luge and Lugutalang). Chronic hazards have led to the decline in agricultural and livestock production in the zone. The main chronic hazards include: insecurity, inflation (high prices), resource-based conflicts (farmers versus pastoralists), localized seasonal floods, crop pests and livestock diseases.

Highland forest and sorghum zone

59. This zone is located along the mountain ranges of the Greater Equatorial region and administratively extends across Juba, Magwi, Torit, Budi, and parts of Ikotos. The southeastern part of the zone shares a border with Uganda. This is an agricultural zone with minor dependence on livestock. The zone is a cereal deficit area characterized by low production output due to low rainfall and dependence on one growing season. The presence of Kidepo National Reserve, and parts of Bandingilo National Park provide access to a range of naturally-occurring foods and bush products that are exploited by the inhabitants for consumption and cash income. The zone's topography is characterized by highlands and foothills along border areas with Uganda where altitude ranges from 1200 – 2000 m above sea level, while the valley and floodplains in the northeast and northern parts range 600 – 900 m above sea level. Soils are relatively fertile and suitable for crop production as compared to the neighbouring South-Eastern Semi-arid Pastoral zone.

60. The zone has a unimodal rainfall pattern with an average annual precipitation of 900 – 1000mm. There are two distinct seasons: a rainy season from April to November and a short dry season from December to March. There is one major growing season from April to July although localized areas in the highlands have a second growing season for groundnuts and sesame from September to December. Average temperatures reach a maximum of about 42° Celsius in February and minimum of 30° Celsius in December and January. Land cover is a mixture of forest, bush shrubs and grasslands punctuated by agricultural land. Kidepo National reserve, parts of Bandingilo National park, Imatong and Nimule forests are found in this zone and provide a source of natural resources such as wild honey, game meat, wild foods, and fruits, especially shea butter and nut trees. Inhabitants exploit natural resources as part of their normal livelihoods as well as to cope with limited access to food and cash income. The forests and national parks present the potential for tourism, but this is not active due to insecurity.

61. Livelihood constraints facing household in this zone are consistent with risks associated with agro-climatic shocks affecting agro-pastoral areas elsewhere in South Sudan. Chronic hazards include insecurity (*insurgencies and clan related looting*), inflation over the past three years (*high prices*), cattle raiding and presence of migratory cattle

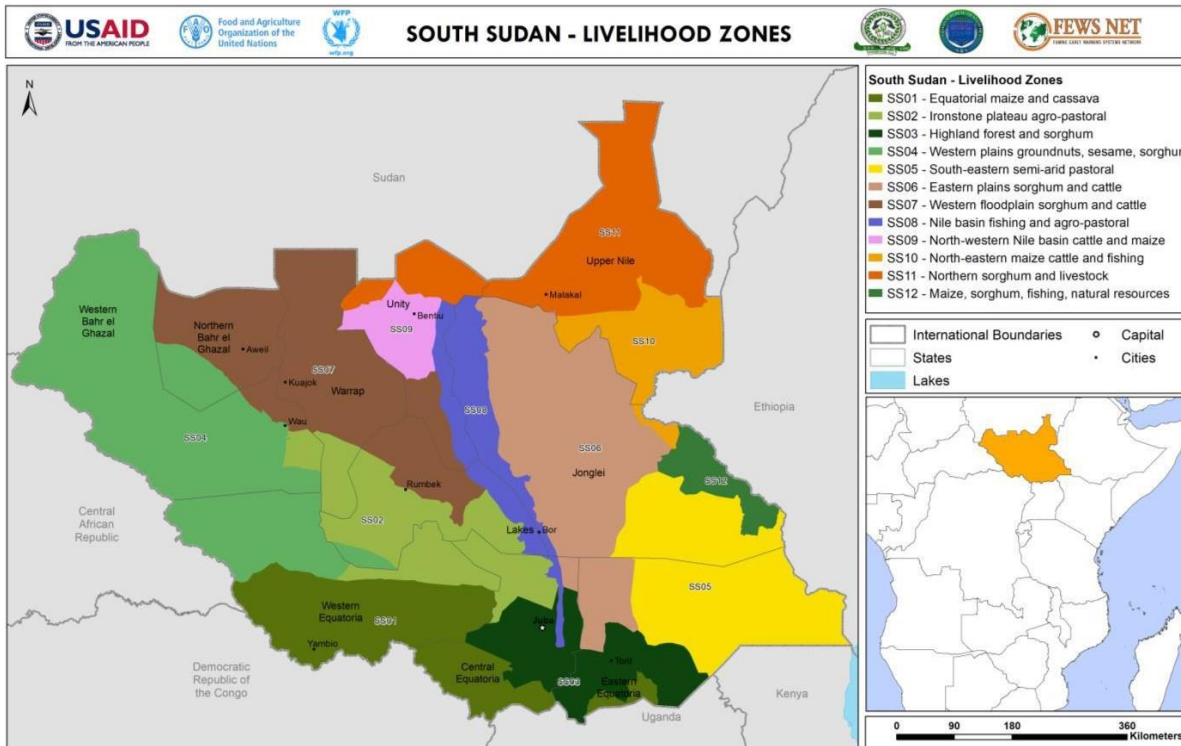
during growing season, as well as pests (*rodents, termites, armyworm, monkeys, birds*), diseases and weeds (*striga*) which limit agricultural productivity in the zone.

South-Eastern semi-arid pastoral

62. This semi-arid livelihood zone lies at the south-eastern tip of southern Sudan within former Eastern Equatoria and Jonglei States, covers many parts of Pibor and Greater Kapoeta and is bordered by Kenya and Ethiopia. Local livelihoods are typically pastoral with very limited crop production but supplemented with wild food consumption and sales. Access to food is predominantly through market purchase and exchange with other zones and grains from Kenya and Ethiopia. The zone is characterized by vast plains which stretch towards the foothills of the mountain ranges near the Ethiopian border. Altitude ranges between 400-1100 m above sea level. The soils are predominantly sandy loam with presence black cotton clay tending to be higher in the north, west, and east of the zone. Though soils are suitable for crop farming, semi-arid conditions severely limit crop production. The zone is typically a dry Sahelian savannah, with rainfall that averages 200 - 600mm per annum. The rains start in June and end in October. Average temperatures are 38-40° Celsius, with a minimum of 20° Celsius in December and January and a maximum of 42° Celsius in March.

63. Livestock rearing drives the zone's economy. The zone is inhabited by almost pure pastoralists who survive in a very harsh, drought-prone environment. Livestock kept include cattle, camels, goats, and sheep and, to lesser extent, poultry (mainly for household consumption). In the dry season, herders usually move into Ethiopia and Kenya in search of water and pasture. There is limited crop production, including sorghum and small-scale vegetable production (e.g., okra).

64. The rainy season starts in June and ends in October. Although this area is mainly suitable for rearing livestock, small quantities of sorghum and some vegetables are grown. Cultivation starts with land preparation in February to March, followed by wet sowing in April and weeding in June



b. Climate trends and impacts

65. South Sudan lies within the tropical zone between latitudes 3°N and 13°N and longitudes 24°E and 36°E. The climate ranges from Tropical Semi-Humid with a short rainy season in the north, to Tropical Wet-Dry and Tropical Rainy climates with longer wet seasons in the south. South Sudan receives ~1 billion m³ of rain annually, which can be classified into two major rainfall regimes – unimodal and bimodal. The unimodal rainfall regime occurs in the north with a six month wet season from May to October. The southern part of the country has a bimodal rainfall regime with high rainfall for 7-8 months a year, which ranges from 500-600 mm annually to 1500 mm annually. Rainy seasons are influenced by the annual shift of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone and the shift to southerly and south westerly winds, which leads to higher temperatures and humidity as well as increased cloud cover. There are prominent variations in rainfall and the length of the dry season. However, there is little temperature variation over the country or within season. Mean annual temperatures vary between 26°C and 32°C (NAPA, 2016).

66. The meteorological service of South Sudan suffers from inadequate weather and climate- forecasting equipment (BRACED, 2016). Available data show that temperatures in South Sudan are rising and the weather is becoming drier (USAID, 2016). It is likely that these changes are related to global climate change. According to Richardson (2011), there has been an increase of temperature by 1.3°C and rainfall reduced by 20% between 1900 and 2009. In the 2000s, much of South Sudan was over 2 °C warmer on average than in the 1970s, with the central and southern regions registering an increase of as much as 0.4 °C per decade – one of the highest increases in the world. By 2060, South Sudan will get warmer by about 1 °C over and above 2020 values. Rain in South Sudan has declined by 10-20 per cent since the mid-1970s. Average rainfall is expected to decline by 10-20 per

cent for any observed warming of more than 1 °C. A general trend of delayed and shortened rainy seasons over the years has been reported in many places

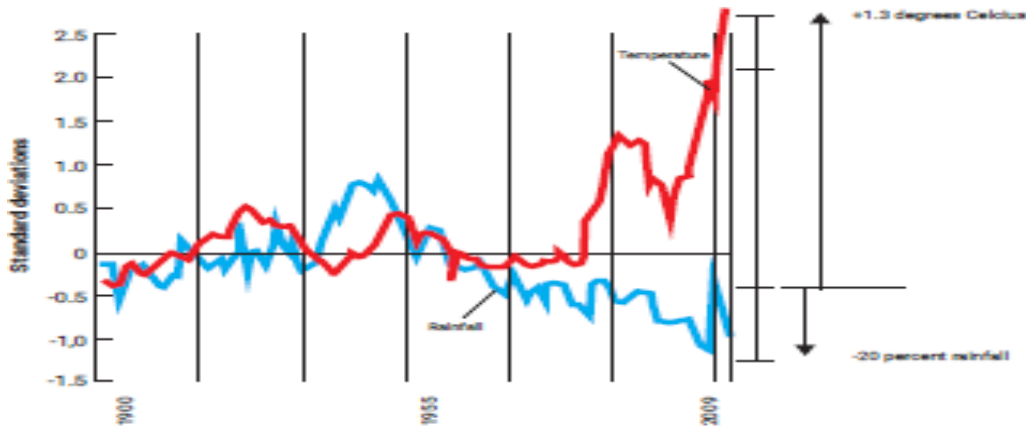


Figure 2: Trend in temperature and rainfall, 1900-2009. Richardson (2011) (11).

67. Climate change has long been affecting agriculture and water sector in South Sudan. Most of the people, being dependent on rainwater, the delayed onset of rainy season and prolonged dryspell changes the seasonal calendar of the country, which in turn affects the production system.

68. Although South Sudan contributes very little to global greenhouse gas emissions, it is highlyvulnerable to the impacts of rising temperatures and increased rainfall variability due to climate change, since pastoralists and farmers rely heavily on seasonal rains. Indeed, according to the 2017Climate Change Vulnerability Index, South Sudan ranks among the five countries in the world mostvulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The others are the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Haiti and Liberia (Reliefweb, 2017). Climate change is thus a significantdriver of environmental change in South Sudan.

69. In addition to the scientific evidence of climatic change in South Sudan, agro-pastoralists and farmers have noticed the delayed onset of rains, prolonged dry spells at the beginning of the wet season and an increase in the intensity of rainfall events, resulting in more erratic and heavy flooding (Murray, 2016).

70. The population of South Sudan is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of increased warmingand unpredictable and reduced rainfall, given its fragile state and its extreme dependence on rain-fed subsistence agriculture. A warmer climate and drier weather have food security implications, reducing crop harvests and pasture availability and intensifying the impacts of droughts and floods.If the current climate change trend continues, rain-fed agriculture may become untenable.

71. **Green House Gas emission:** The state of conflict, insecurity, limited capacity and lack of financial resources in South Sudan have made collecting data on greenhouse gas emissions challenging. Given the low level of industrial development, however, they are likely to be relativelysmall, with most emissions derived from land use, land-use change and forestry, as well as the agriculture sector (RSS, 2015). Diesel generators for energy

and the transportation sector also contribute to overall emissions. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that in 2013, South Sudan emitted 1,448 kilotonnes of CO₂ and per capita emissions were 0.1 metric tonnes (FAO, 2016).

2.3 Poverty and targeting profiles (*full integration of all themes*)

72. **Poverty** is a multidimensional issue that is underpinned by conflict and vulnerabilities from a range of factors. The MPI poverty is based on the number of deprivations a population suffers. These deprivations are in Health, Education and Living Standards. Poverty intensity in both states is higher. Vulnerabilities are not constant and are affected by the ever-changing relationship between politics, localised conflicts, natural and climatic shocks. Thus, targeting for the project will have an objective of reducing the vulnerabilities in: Climate change, Gender dynamics, Food Security, and Livelihoods. Flexibility should be built within the targeting strategy to ensure that it remains responsive to the ever-changing needs of the communities and the beneficiaries. Based on the socio-economic profile, return on investment would be higher if women and youth are prioritised and the agricultural sector (through smallholder farmers) strengthened to ensure stable incomes and food and nutrition security.

73. **Cultural Diversity:** South Sudan has 64 tribes with the largest being the Dinkas, who constitute about 35% of the population. The second largest are the Neurs. Dinkas and Neurs account for almost half of the population and dominate the government and the army.

Distribution of ethnic groups across SSLRP counties

State	Eastern		Central		Western		Jongl	Lake
	Equatoria		Equatoria		Bahr El Ghazal State		ei	s
County	Magwi	Torit	Kajo-Keji	Terekeka	Wau	Jur River	Bor South	Awerial
	Acholi Madi	Otuho Lakoya	Kuku	Mundari	Balanda Viri, Balanda Bor, Luo/'Jur Chol', Dinka (Marial Bai)	Balanda Bor, Luo/'Jur Chol'	Bor Dinka	Dinka (Aliab)

Target Profiles

74. The target counties consist of smallholder pastoral and agro-pastoral communities and households. Agro-pastoral HH cultivate staple food and cash crops as well as own small herd of livestock, but have limited access to inputs, assets, and services. The project has a strong focus on the inclusion of women and youth, returnees, and persons with disabilities. Their characteristics are described below.

75. **Agro-pastoral households.** The target agro-pastoral HH usually grow food and cash crops in fields located both close and far from their homestead. The women members of the HH have land located close to the homestead where they are grow vegetables for consumption or sale. The main crops grown are sorghum, maize, cassava, and pulses. Major

challenges of smallholder agro-pastoral HH include low agricultural productivity due to the limited availability of good quality seeds, erratic rainfall, pest infestations, and declining soil fertility. Furthermore, the lack of adequate access to sufficient productive assets prevents smallholder agro-pastoral HH from making maximum use of the land (draught power/machinery, good quality seeds, fertilizer, and labour). Agro-pastoral HHs usually receive low prices from the sale of their products due to absence of organized commodity markets and the fact that the smallholder agro-pastoral HHs need to sell their products as quickly as possible after harvest to gain cash and therefore weaken their bargaining power. Lack or limited access to credit together with poor savings is one of the main constraints that prevents agro-pastoral HH from purchasing inputs and accessing hired machinery and labour for the more expensive and labour-intensive farming activities - weeding and harvesting. As a result, HH leave more than half of their available land uncultivated and engage in off-farm wage labour. Traditionally, Livestock keepers did not sell their animals because they used them against future losses, wealth status within the community and due to lack of integration into the cash economy.

76. **Women, including women headed households.** Gender equality and empowerment of women is vital as evidence demonstrates that in economies where gender equality is greater there is economic growth and better quality of life. Rural women in South Sudan face constraints that hamper their productive potential. They have fewer opportunities than men to benefit from education, training, and productive agricultural employment due to traditional gender patterns in allocation of household labour, early marriages, and restriction of their movement. This has seen women constrained in terms of employment opportunities and their involvement in on farm activities is less skilled and less financially rewarding. Although they contribute substantial proportion of agricultural labour, they get lower wages. Furthermore, women and girls are less healthy, poorer, more food insecure and less educated; and suffer the highest maternal mortality rate in the world and one of the highest rates of child marriage. In the pastoral and traditional rainfed sector, women provide a remarkable contribution to the household's wellbeing and food security. Women's specific responsibilities include: (i) farming, both on the HH fields together with their husbands and on small household plots where they mainly grow green vegetables both HH consumption and sale; (ii) all HH work, which includes preparing food, collecting fire wood and fetching water; (iii) childcare; (iv) rearing small animals; and (v) petty trade. The varied tasks mean that women generally work longer hours than men. In spite of their responsibilities, women have access to smaller plots of land and generally can control cash income coming from petty trade and poultry rearing, but are rarely involved in decisions concerning key productive assets, such as land and livestock sale. Women also have limited decision-making power in the household or within the community. Their empowerment is hindered by a high rate of illiteracy, persisting gender inequalities perpetuated by the customary law, and early marriage. Compared to men, women earn lower incomes, but tend to allocate more of their earnings to buy food items for their HH. *Women headed households* are particularly vulnerable, are socially, culturally, and economically disadvantaged but are responsible for ensuring the wellbeing of their families by securing a large part of the household income from agricultural activities. Households headed by women face higher risks of food insecurity and malnutrition exacerbated by larger consumption gaps compared to male headed households.

77. **Rural youth:** The target youth will be those aged between 18-35 years, (although the official government definition ranges from 15-35 years). Youth are an important element in achieving stability and reducing insecurity. Under-employed youth are frustrated and idle and contribute to social unrest and armed conflicts. While agriculture offers opportunity to create employment, young women and men face constraints to participate and thrive in the sector (access to land, extension services and linkage to markets). The majority of the young people live in rural areas with no access to basic services or sustainable livelihood

opportunities, limited or no employment opportunities, as well as limited access to capacity building or microfinance services that would enable them to establish their own businesses. Conflict in the country has prejudiced the chances of a whole generation of youth for educational and developmental opportunities. Thus, initiatives that improve the opportunities for them to participate in decent agricultural and non-agricultural work could provide benefits for social harmony. The project will facilitate youth to take advantage of opportunities arising along the traditional value chain (seed supply, storage, technology etc), strengthen their capacity in enterprise development through skills-based training and support linkages for markets.

78. **Persons with Disabilities:** Adopted from the UNCRPD, the South Sudan Disability and Inclusion Policy defines persons with disabilities as those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and equal participation in society on an equal basis with others. Faced with manifold structural challenges, such as access to education, employment, health care services, persons with disabilities tend to live below the poverty line. As part of SSLRP, the project will engage persons with disabilities that can be economically active in CBOs and ensure they can actively engage in livelihood activities and participate in communal decision-making processes.

79. The project will be implemented in the Greater Equatoria region (Central and Eastern), Lakes State, Western Bahr El Ghazal and Jonglei state. Selection of the states is based on criteria that considers poverty level, political stability to enable sustainable investment in smallholder agriculture, community development, rural youth and poor women. The five states are Central Equatoria (Terekeka and Kajo-Keji Counties), Eastern Equatoria (Magwi and Torit Counties), Jonglei (Bor South County), Lakes (Awerial) and Western Bahr El Ghazal (Jur River and Wau). There are various studies (reports) issued on the status of climate change and its impact, poverty level, livelihood zonation, vulnerability, distribution of natural resource, aggregated land use by state etc. Therefore, geographical targeting (selection of beneficiary sites) will adequately consider these parameters/indicators in order to ensure IFAD's engagement in South Sudan meets its objective and also to ensure the neediest rural small holders are reached.

80. **Central Equatoria:** This livelihood zone is considered to have high resilience due to moderate exposure to hazards and low food insecurity level. Although most household's income is highly climate-sensitive, seasonal rains rarely fail. Poorer households subsist from their own crop and livestock production supplemented by food obtained from hunting and fishing and wild foods, and food purchased with income from agricultural and casual labour. The main constraints to market access include long distances, poor road conditions, seasonal flooding and insecurity.

81. **Eastern Equatoria:** This livelihood zone is low in resilience due to over reliance on rain fed crop farming and sedentary cultivation with less reliance on livestock. Due to favourable climatic conditions, households have good harvest but lack access to local markets but have good trade linkages with neighbouring zones. Household incomes are constrained by a lack of roads, hilly and mountainous terrain and poor road conditions, which limits access to markets.

82. **Jonglei:** This is one of the zones with relatively poor resilience. The poor resilience stems from being highly exposed to hazards, high food insecurity with low livelihood diversity. Being one of areas prone to civil unrest with intercommunal conflicts, livelihood activities are adversely affected. The constraints to market access for households are insecurity, livestock diseases and a lack of feeder roads in the most rural parts of the zone.

83. **Lakes:** With focus on Awerial County, around 60 percent of households engage in agriculture. They herd cattle and goat and mainly grow sorghum, groundnuts, maize,

pumpkin and beans. People living near the white Nile, engage in cattle keeping, agriculture and fishing, whereas residents in the Ironstone Plateau with open savannah woodland and porous soils, rely on farming, mainly growing sorghum and maize. Despite fertile ground, 80 percent of Households face severe food insecurity, which is further aggravated by high numbers of IDPs. According to a REAC report in 2019, IDPs constituted at least half of the population in 66 percent of assessed settlements. Additionally, 81 percent of assessed settlements were benefitting from food distributions. OCHA's Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for 2020 estimated that nearly 72,000 people (43 percent of Aerial population) have significant humanitarian needs, with over 80 percent of them being children. Further, the county struggles with far to reach markets, unaffordable local transportation, and lack of supplies. Intercommunal clashes are often characterized by cattle raids and driven by competition over pasture/water sources during the dry season, unclear border demarcation, high prevalence of small arms, and associated breakdown in 'traditional' mechanism for settling disputes. By 2025, Aerial became the primary displacement location for livestock from neighboring Bor South County, which has led to a spread of locally contained diseases to new herds, and may have exacerbated competition over scarce resources and incidence of violent cattle raids.

84. **Western Bahr El Ghazal:** Wau county – Around 57 percent of households rely on subsistence farming, with a small proportion of farmers able to sell their produce commercially in local markets. Cassava and Sorghum, as well as groundnut are the most popular crops. Fishing and livestock are also key livelihoods within the county. Wau is strategically positioned. As such, imported goods from neighboring countries are available due to trade routes going through the county. Therefore, Wau Town has a major market in the central area of town and smaller markets. Insecurity is besetting good conditions, making it difficult for farmers to maintain their crops, particularly during key planting and harvesting periods. According to OCHA's Humanitarian Needs Overview for 2020, 204,700 people are estimated to be in need of significant humanitarian needs. Conflicts have led a large number of IDPs fleeing to Wau town, which puts additional strains on resources, infrastructure and services available for the population. Security situation stabilized in early 2019, however, there are still reports on occasional clashes between armed cattle keepers and farmers. Jur River – the County is rich in natural resources allowing residents to engage in a variety of livelihoods, including agriculture, cattle-keeping, and fishing. Around 75 percent of households are estimated to be farmers in 2017. Groundnut, sorghum and maize are commonly grown in the county, with more limited cultivation of sesame. There is a greater presence of cattle in Jur River compared to Wau. According to OCHA's humanitarian Needs Overview in 2020, Jur River has one of the highest number of people in need, around 191,000, including those who had been forcibly displaced to the area, with a significant portion of these being children. This is equivalent to 267 percent of the total projected population of Jur River County. Ongoing insecurity and displacement, means one of the highest needs in terms of shelter, protection, and gender-based violence prevention and response. In terms of insecurity, cattle raiding and disputes between pastoralists in neighboring states occur frequently with key drivers being the destruction of crops by livestock and contested access to grazing land and water sources.

85. **Institutional analysis** (*most important institutions and their capacities; policies and frameworks relevant for project*)

86. **National Development Strategy (2018 NDS):** The overarching objective of the new NDS is to Consolidate Peace and Stabilize the Economy. It also provides the medium-term framework for implementing of the Vision 2040, focusing on Justice, Liberty and Prosperity. The NDS is articulated around six interconnected priorities: (i) Creation of enabling conditions for and facilitate the return of displaced citizens; (ii) Developing and

enforcing the rule of law; (iii) Ensuring secure access to adequate and nutritious food; (iv) Silencing the guns; (v) Restoring and expanding the provision of basic social services.

3.1. Gender

87. Below are a number of gender policy frameworks in South Sudan. In practice, many gender-oriented policies in South Sudan have not been implemented or remain in draft form. Gender FocalPoints or departments created by the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare in various government institutions are inadequately funded (Edward, 2014). The general political and public attitude and indifference to gender issues, the low prioritization of gender issues, as well as the institutional and organizational weakness of the governance institutions continue to be a challenge(GenderIndex.org South Sudan 2019)

- **The comprehensive draft National Gender Policy (NGP):** Developed by the Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs, to which advocates for programmes that have specific impact on the gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment.
- **National Gender Policy (2013):** The Policy provides an overall context for mainstreaming gender equality in all national development processes and a framework to address existing inequalities and remedy historical imbalances.
- **The National Social Protection Policy Framework of the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare (MGCSW).** The overall goal of this framework is to address multiple vulnerabilities and secure livelihoods as well as access to social services for the most vulnerable. An integrated set of approaches, including cash transfers, are directed at vulnerable groups including orphans, widows, persons with disabilities and the poorest households. It coordinates all social protection initiatives nationwide and therefore an important backbone of resilience in South Sudan, the Framework's six objectives are: 1) Inclusive social protection: ensuring access to basic social services for all; 2) Protective environments for children; 3) Strengthened linkages among social protection, economic development and sustainable livelihoods; 4) Improved livelihoods for women; 5) A systems approach to social protection; and 6) Progressive realisation of coverage.
- **Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP)** This is a gender sensitive policy that recognises the importance of gender in agriculture and provides ways of mainstreaming gender in agriculture. It has set gender analysis and gender mainstreaming planning as objectives of Planning Department, and gender mainstreaming as an objective of Extension Department. CAMP is a national agriculture development plan set to guide agricultural development in the country for 25 years(2015-2040). It is an investment plan developed to align with national development policies and objectives such as Vision 2040 and National Development Strategy (NDS). It covers five subsectors (crops, livestock, fishery, forestry and institutional development) for effective and efficient agricultural development by all stakeholders engaged in agricultural development in South Sudan
- **International and regional legal framework on gender:** South Sudan is a signatory to the Geneva Conventions, the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. South Sudan ratified the CEDAW in 2014. However, it has yet to ratify the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. South Sudan is part of the

African Union (AU) and is obliged to observe international and regional agreements, but it is the only country of the AU that has not ratified the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (1986) prohibiting discrimination against women and articulating the protection of women's rights, and its supplementary protocol, the Protocol on the Rights on Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol). Maputo Protocol was signed in 2013 and ratified in 2014. The ratification of the Maputo Protocol inclusively recognizes women's rights such as the right to peace and the right to protection in situations of armed conflict. It also addresses violence against women, FGM, and the situation of women in polygamous marriages. Some think that the articles dealing with marriage and reproductive health go against the traditions of South Sudan.

3.2. Youth

88. **South Sudan Youth Development Policy of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.** This policy is intended to empower youth to influence democracy and peacebuilding in the country, and to include youth in the peaceful and productive nation-building and development agenda which cannot exist without them. Given the proportion of youth in South Sudan's population and the risks associated with them, ones which have been exacerbated since the recent conflict, this is a policy of critical importance. Amid calls for concrete and timely implementation are cautions that 'youth' be considered in its broadest sense to include rural, female and minority group youth who often risk being overlooked by youth-oriented policy initiatives. The policy has been under review since 2006-2007 and is yet to be unveiled.

- **The Youth Strategy and Operational Plan** presents an ambitious vision that is underpinned by nine pillars, including Peace and Security, Human rights, Globalization, Political, Health, Education, Economic, Social and Climate Change. While resources are scarce, the strategy is proposing the establishment of a National Youth Service Program and the Youth Enterprise Fund.
- **The South Sudan Youth Forum (SSYF)** is a platform of the national youth councils and non-governmental youth organisations in South Sudan. It strives for youth rights in national institutions. The Forum works in the fields of youth policy and youth work development.

3.3. Marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities:

The National Social Protection Policy Framework of the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare (MGCSW) aims to address multiple vulnerabilities and secure livelihoods as well as access to social services for the most vulnerable.

- South Sudan has signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which sets a clear sign of commitment to promote human rights for persons with disabilities and to eliminate forms of discrimination. The South Sudan Disability and Inclusion Policy serves as the national legal framework and lays out its commitment to address and respond to the vulnerabilities faced by persons with disabilities, and to promote and protect their rights and dignity. Further, the Ministry of Education, Sciences and Technology in partnership with Light for the World, are in the process of developing a policy on inclusive education, which shall facilitate access to education for persons with disabilities. These are vital steps to

ensure persons with disabilities are well integrated in the society and will pave the way for enhanced participation in social, economic, and political decision-making processes.

3.4. Child Labour

89. **Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS):** Replaced all components of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan signed in 2015, including the Joint Action Plan with the UN to Combat the Use of Child Soldiers, and reaffirms commitments made under the 2017 Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities. Establishes the structure of a Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity and outlines actions to be taken by signatories, including prohibiting the recruitment and use of child soldiers by armed forces or militias.

General Education Strategic Plan (2017–2022): Aims to improve access and quality of education by providing capitation grants, teacher salaries, and cash transfers to girls in upper primary and secondary schools.

3.5. Food Security and Nutrition

90. Food Security Council (FSC) was established to ensure the overall alignment and harmonization of food security initiatives of the various line ministries and commissions, and to provide guidance for national food security policies and programmes. It is also a platform for enhanced coordination and fostering linkages among the nine ministries that deal with various aspects of food security.

- A Resilience Technical Working Group established to coordinate the current analytical efforts and programming efforts. Recognises that building resilience requires a multi-sector approach and a long-term commitment to flexible programming aimed at reducing the risk and strengthening capacities; and it also requires a partnership approach to the development of a common resilience building agenda.
- Scaling Up Nutrition: South Sudan joined the SUN Movement in 2013²⁵
- National Health Policy 2016-2026: Includes nutrition as a component with the Basic Package of Health and Nutrition Services (BPHNS). It provides guidance on nutrition, therapeutic feeding, and control of malnutrition in special and vulnerable groups.
- Food Security Policy 2012: Supports policy measures and strategies meant to mitigate the adverse effects and impacts from climate change in the medium and long-term. These include the development of community adaptive capacity for climate change through the development of crops that can resist droughts and floods.

3.6. Environment and Climate

91. **Draft Environmental Protection Policy 2013:** Provides policy guidance on how to address climate change issues by developing a national strategy and climate change policy, and mechanisms for adaptation and mitigation. It encourages the formulation and enactment of laws that maintain and preserve ecological functions and the integrity of forests that conserve biological diversity and, water and soil resources in fragile

²⁵ ¹⁰ Scaling Up Nutrition South Sudan <https://scalingupnutrition.org/sun-countries/south-sudan/>

ecosystems and that promote passive and non-invasive forest management activities as alternative sources for income generation (livelihood improvement).

- **Draft Environmental Protection Bill 2013:** Aims to protect the environment in South Sudan and to promote ecologically sustainable development that improves quality of life. It provides for the preparation of a National Environmental Action Plan and designation of Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) for the actual or prospective habitat of any environmentally sensitive species required to be protected for the purpose of meeting the government's international obligations under any of the Multilateral Agreements (MEAs).
- **The Agriculture Sector Policy Framework for 2012-2017:** Provides for the protection of plants, seed management and development of a plant genetic resources conservation programme and a biosafety framework. This includes promoting in situ and community conservation and management and creating awareness of plant genetic resources.
- **Policy on Agriculture and Livestock 2012:** Aims to transform agriculture and livestock from traditional/subsistence systems to achieve food security, wealth creation and national economic growth through science based, market oriented, competitive, and profitable agricultural systems.
- **Fisheries Policy 2012 – 2016:** Aims at responding to climate change and natural disaster through research and development of strategies. Provides a framework to manage fisheries resources to maximise production and avoid overfishing and to prevent destruction of wetlands and promote their conservation.
- **Draft Policy on Wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas 2012:** Recognises climate change as a global reality with serious implications for natural ecosystems and wildlife resources. The policy calls for designing coping strategies to address the impacts of climate change on habitats and populations of wildlife species.
- **Forest Policy 2014:** Recognises the critical role played by forests in providing "critical environmental services, water catchment and in mitigating climate change." The forestry policy proposes the ratification of the UNFCCC so that the country can benefit from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). It also proposes establishing a designated national authority "to facilitate the flow of climate change benefits to South Sudan." The policy also emphasises the need for measures "so that South Sudan can access financing under REDD." (REDD refers to Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation). It calls for delineation and gazettement of forests to attain a national forest cover of 20 per cent of land area.
- **The Water Bill 2013:** Aims to provide mechanisms to protect water sources from pollution, erosion, or any other adverse effects by creating protected zones within a catchment draining to, or above, any water facility forming part of a water supply or any catchment, lake, reservoir, aquifer, wetland, spring, or any other source of water. It also aims to conserve available water resources, to manage water quality and to prevent pollution of ground and surface waters; manage floods and droughts and mitigate water-related disasters and establish appropriate management structures, including mechanisms for inter-sectoral coordination and stakeholder participation.

3.7. Potential Partner Government Institutions

- **Ministry of Environment and Forestry:** Tasked with developing policy and regulatory frameworks on environment and forestry. The Directorate of Climate Change and Meteorology in the Ministry develops and implements programmes to address climate change issues and coordinates the implementation of South Sudan's obligations under the UNFCCC and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD).
- **Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security:** Its mandate is to develop and

implement policies, objectives and strategies for South Sudan's agricultural sector to improve food security and contribute to economic growth and environmental sustainability, and to facilitate and encourage the equitable and sustainable development of improved livelihoods. It exercises its role through the Directorate of Research and Training and the Directorate of Agriculture and Extension services.

- **Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation:** Responsible for managing water resources and developing water policies, strategies, and plans, such as the Irrigation Development Master Plan and the Water Resources Utilisation and Development Master Plan.
- **Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries:** Charged with livestock and fishery policy development. The Directorate of Veterinary Services is responsible for preparing and enforcing laws governing livestock diseases control/eradication and the safety of food of animal origin. This includes safeguarding public health by tracking animal diseases transmissible to humans as well as domestic animal disease control

IV. Environmental and social category

92. The main activities that could have environmental and social concern are; construction and/or rehabilitation of water infrastructures, rehabilitation/upgrading/construction of road, construction of processing and storage facilities and some agricultural inputs. The project will apply the Community Driven Development (CDD) approach at all beneficiary counties. Thus, selection of infrastructure per county will be based on the need of the community and this will be included in the Community Development Plan (CDP). However, taking the budget allocated for infrastructure development into consideration, Infrastructures with huge environmental and social impacts are not as such expected. Some of the anticipated impacts are pollution of environmental media such as water, soil, land clearance/deforestation, occupational health hazard, water use conflicts, temporary/permanent displacement of people, conversion and/or loss of physical cultural resources during construction of infrastructures etc. Most of the impacts are localized to the project site, short term and most importantly can be avoided/reduced or mitigated by properly applying mitigation measures. The planning, design and implementation as well as Monitoring and Evaluation of the sub-project infrastructure development will be subjected to environment and social screening, and preparation of sub-project level Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). ESMPs will ensure that adverse impacts are addressed and the infrastructures are not located in sensitive areas. In case, physical, and economic resettlements are inevitable, appropriate compensation and livelihood restoration should be affected as per the available national law and methodologies.

93. Therefore, the environmental and social category of the project is "Substantial" and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be updated to incorporate the additional counties. The ESMF should be mainstreamed in the project design and implementation process and also some budget for the mitigation measures is secured as for other project components. The ESMF should also guide the type and scale of infrastructure to be chosen during the Community Development Plan preparation. Assessments triggered based on environmental and social categorizations will be prepared.

V. Climate risk category

94. Climate classification is based on the anticipated climate scenario in South Sudan and nature of the project. Generally, temperature has been increasing and rainfall decreasing in South Sudan since the last decades, and this is set to continue (forecasted) for coming decades (SOE, 2018). According to other source rainfall will

decrease in the north and increase in the south. Seasonal rainfall trends are highly variable across the country. Recent rainfall data showed that increasing trends particularly in the northern parts of the country and declining rainfall in the western and southern parts of the country. In addition, analyses suggest that there has been a shift in the start and cessation of rainfall, leading to more erratic and unpredictable rainfall patterns (WFP, VAM 2014). Since the mid-1970s, South Sudan has experienced a decline of between 10 to 20 per cent in average precipitation as well as increased variability in the amount and timing of rainfall from year to year (USAID, 2016). South Sudan is highly vulnerable to the impacts of rising temperatures and increased rainfall variability due to climate change since pastoralists and farmers rely heavily on seasonal rains. Indeed, according to the 2017 Climate Change Vulnerability Index, South Sudan ranks among the five countries in the world most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Climate change is thus a significant driver of environmental change in South Sudan. As far as SSLRP is concerned, Climate Change will affect the agricultural production and infrastructure development in the beneficiary counties through delayed onset of rain, prolonged dry spell, and flood. The climate classification is therefore **Substantial**, and the Climate Risk and vulnerability assessment report will be updated to incorporate the additional counties. Furthermore, climate resilience interventions are mainstreamed in the PDR. Furthermore, during CDD and preparation of CDP, adaptation options that have been identified in the climate risk and vulnerability analysis reports will be considered taking into consideration the impact of climate change at the community/county level. Although GHG counting is difficult for this project, the soil and water conservation as well as afforestation activities will enhance carbon sequestration.

VI. Recommendations for project design and implementation

95. **Nutrition:** SSLRP has identified the following pathways to reach the desired nutrition outcomes. These will require a comprehensive situation analysis on nutrition context including nutrient gaps of the targeted beneficiaries. SSLRP aims to improve household food security and community nutrition practices to adopt nutritious foods intake through the following nutrition pathways: (i) Integrated Homestead Food Production for diet diversification and income generation; encouraging and supporting households to adopt kitchen gardens for production of nutrient-rich and nutritious foods, such as fruits and vegetables; and increase consumption of animal-sourced foods, including fish and dairy products. Promotion of livelihood diversification at household level by promoting or introducing fast maturing indigenous crops. This will be done through the VSLAs women group who will also be provided training on improved farming methods to enhance crop yield to ensure household resilience. (ii) Reduce post-harvest losses. SSLRP will explore suitable technologies and innovations for food preservation to increase shelf life for nutrition. This will include training farmers to equip them with knowledge on safe home storage, home processing, food preservation to increase shelf-life. The cost of food increases drastically during lean season, causing these low-income households to spend over half of their income on food. This leads them to prioritise their food security spending on less nutritious staple crops (iii) Increased food production for own consumption and local markets. This will include promotion of household consumption of safe and nutritious and dissemination of agricultural practices/ technologies for increased production and productivity of nutritious food both for own consumption and sale of surplus; and promotion of agricultural practices to increase year-round availability of food for the households and in local markets. This will be coupled with social marketing campaigns to increase community awareness and create demand for the food surplus in the markets. (iv) Targeted nutrition education for household members and communities will be integrated through the programme interventions. Nutrition education for extension

workers and integration of nutrition modules will be integrated within extension workers' modules. Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) campaigns (where there will be Rehabilitation and maintenance of water sources). Social Behaviour Communication (SBCCC) campaigns will seek to demystify socio cultural practices and myths associated with foods and encourage adoption of nutritious foods amongst key populations such as pregnant and lactating mothers, children under 5 years and adolescents.

96. Women Empowerment: Women empowerment and attitude towards women: program will promote women as individuals capable of being productive in ways that have the potential to mitigate effects of shocks and stress and enhance food and livelihood security through: (i) Economic empowerment for enhanced access to and control of productive resources, finance, and services. (ii) Access to information, knowledge and extension services will be promoted through business skill training, and access to extension services. (iii) Balanced workloads due to increased resilient crop yields through use of labour and time-saving technologies to encourage shifts towards equitable sharing of workload burden within the households. (iv) Support to women's voice in decision-making power at household and community level will be implemented through leadership trainings and mentorship of women in groups and enforcing 50 percent representation of women in committees, (v) Other gender related interventions such as awareness raising on issues related to prevention of early marriage and GBV, importance of adolescent girls' education, will be integrated through the GALS methodology.

97. Youth Empowerment: Youth face financial, educational, gender-based, and social barriers, which effectively limit the opportunities available. The project will be designed to address these barriers by integrating business, literacy, and life skills training and creating links to specific value chain opportunities for youth (both women and men) who do not have formal education, in combination with more market-focused activities. A strong focus on creation of employment opportunities for the youth will be advanced through the following activities: (i) capacity building, apprenticeship, entrepreneurship training, business skills and formal courses in animal husbandry (ii) access to capital through grants, (iii) voice through representation on decision-making in entrepreneurship groups. Youth will therefore be engaged in a wide variety of off-farm activities at production level and at other points in the value chains (iv) Inclusive community planning and Conflict management through entrepreneurship groups by integrating the training of communities in conflict mediation and dialogue, through providing peace building training to youths and facilitating communal peace dialogue. SSLRP will promote greater youth affirmative action to ensure participation of youth in public life dialogue.

98. Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction: Mobilisation of community to collectively address disasters caused by natural hazards especially climate change, which has a multiplier effect on natural resources, water, and land (common source of conflict). The interventions will include: (i) Support establishment of local community groups to address issues of conflict, drought, gender issues and peace building (ii) Build capacity of these community groups to identify risks and hazards early enough and to disseminate information to communities. (iii) Optimize community preparedness for early action e.g. weather predictability through identification of traditional/ community early warning indicators and linking them with modern early warning information system. Additionally, weather/climate data/information is lacking in South Sudan and institutions are not well equipped with the appropriate infrastructure and expertise. Therefore, weather information dissemination to end users should be considered as a priority for adaptation of Disaster Risk Reduction

99. **Partnerships** will play a key role in enabling resilience building given the communities face varied challenges that require a mix of interventions (humanitarian and development) and how they are implemented. Thus, the project will use multi-sector coordination mechanisms geared towards building sustainable systems. The project will seek partnerships with Organisations for Persons with Disabilities for adequate targeting and disability-inclusive designing of interventions.

100. **Integrate peace building approach:** SSLRP will adopt a conflict sensitive programming as a cross cutting approach and integration across all levels of the interventions by implementing context specific actions. This entails a detailed analysis of the drivers of conflict in the project area and identification of mitigation actions to be mainstreamed in the project. This will also ensure that the project interventions minimize negative impacts and maximize positive impacts on peace building. For example, at the community level, the following entry points will be used to promote horizontal social cohesion:

- Through the CDD create mechanisms for joint planning and management of the delivery of social services and resources
- Strengthening or establishing inter-group mechanisms for conflict resolution and decision-making (traditional, legal, mediation, etc.)
- Supporting community mechanisms for protection of children and young people

101. **Child labour:** Promote use of strategies that prevent unfavourable conditions in labour market instead of relying on child labour this could be adoption of modern and labour-saving agricultural technologies. Enhanced productivity in agriculture can release the pressure on child labour. Additionally SSLRP will actively strive to reduce risks of child labour through: (i) Increase awareness on legislation by training to project staff to ensure compliance with regulations (ii) sensitization on the importance of addressing child labour issues within the community, (iii) To increase the school enrolment rate of children by sensitizing community leaders, elders, parents, and especially the girls on the merits of education. (iv) Child labour related risks adequately reflected in all safeguards instruments, contracts with suppliers and other third parties to be funded with IFAD funds.

102. **COVID-19:** The program will conduct an assessment of the impact of COVID in the target area and use the findings to prepare a COVID-19 response plan that is grounded in knowledge of gender dynamics, gender relations, sex and age disaggregated data that takes into account the differing experiences of all vulnerable groups (IDP's women and children, women and children in refugee camps), the gendered roles, needs, responsibilities and dynamics.

103. **Conflicts:** SSLRP will consider a livelihood systems approach to ensure that project activities do not become potential source of conflicts given the spill over nature of development projects (compared to humanitarian). To do this effectively, the program will develop a probability matrix of how program interventions could become conflict drivers and how to mitigate that. A risk- and conflict-sensitive analysis will be done to develop an approach that will inform the selection of communities, households, and activities especially for interventions involving infrastructure, land and water.

104. **Climate Information:** Climate information has been the prioritized adaptation option for SSLRP. Climate information is comprising of Weather infrastructures such as weather station and dissemination of an up to date weather information to end users. For SSLRP, taking the budget availed for the project into consideration, weather infrastructures cannot be considered. However, partnership/collaboration with other

developmental partners, engaged in South Sudan in general and the target counties in particular, is important to make sure that the target beneficiaries receive up to date and credible weather information.

105. **Irrigation:** There is huge potential for irrigation but this practice is insignificant. Therefore, taking the surface and ground water resources in the selected states, construction of small to medium scale irrigation schemes can be considered to benefit smallholder farmers. Therefore, the community and other stakeholders should be aware of these things during CDD and also preparation of CDPs.

106. **Promotion of clean energy:** More than 90% of the South Sudanese depend on forest for fuelwood and charcoal production (FAO, 2016). Therefore, it is highly recommended that provision of clean and renewable energy source as well as energy saving technologies is crucial in maintaining the forest cover and the goods and services it provides. The community should be aware of the renewable energy technologies during CDD and CDP preparation.

107. Outcomes of the climate risk analysis and also IFAD's climate adaptation framework should be made available during CDD and preparation of CDP. Identification and implementation of sub- projects (after the CDD and CDP) should adhere to SECAP requirements such as preparation of ESMP, RAP, Indigenous people plan, FPIC etc.

VII. Further studies needed (including timeline and costs)

1. Youth assessment specific to the counties to identify vulnerabilities, capacity gaps and potential avenues for engaging them in agribusiness.
2. Gender audit (including gender sensitive value chain analysis) to identify factors that hamper and those that could support the engagement of women in profitable agribusiness.
3. More information is needed for a complete picture of children employment and identify the types of work that pose the greatest threat to children's health and safety.
4. Feasibility Studies for Infrastructure assessment especially for markets and access roads
5. Livelihood patterns (Migrations etc) especially for livestock communities in Eastern Equatoria
6. As per SECAP's procedure and depending on scale and type of activities, project/site specific ESIA, ESMP and other studies may be required. Although the climate classification is moderate, basic climate risk analysis is prepared. These studies will be undertaken during implementation and thus will be included in the project costs.

VIII. Monitoring and evaluation (what and who monitors and at what cost?)

108. Day to day monitoring of implementation progress will be the responsibility of the project team, based on the project's Annual Work Plan and its indicators. During the first months of the project, the project team will complete and fine-tune baseline data for each indicator and will define and fine-tune performance. Specific targets for the first year of implementation, progress indicators and their means of verification will be developed at the Start up Workshop. IFAD supervision and Implementation Support missions shall rate RLDP's effectiveness and provide recommendations to enhance the programme's performance

109. The M&E system will give strong emphasis to monitoring of targeting

performance. All implementing Agencies (IA) will be required to provide disaggregated data on women and youth participation, in relation to overall project targets, including further disaggregation by IDPs/Returnees/Host community. The M&E system will collect and analyse information about project outreach, effectiveness of the targeting strategy and specific benefits for women and youth. This requires strong coordination and collaboration between the M&E responsible person and the Gender and Social Development experts/Focal Points at all levels. Impact will be assessed on the basis of methodologically gender sensitive baseline, mid-term and completion surveys which will use key indicators to measure women's empowerment

110. **Gender indicators:** Outreach disaggregated by gender. Proposed Indicators shall consider:

- (i) number of women members in groups, (ii) number of women in leadership positions (iii) number of women accessing grants and livelihood packages. Disaggregation by IDPs/Returnees/host community.

Nutrition indicators:

- **Outcome level indicator:** No. of HH reporting improved food security as measured by the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)²⁶
- **Outcome level indicator:** Percentage of women reporting improved quality of their diets¹²
- **Output level indicator:** Number of persons/households provided with targeted support to improve their nutrition¹³

111. **Youth Indicators:** Outreach disaggregated by age. Proposed indicators shall consider: (i) Youth members of groups and (ii) number of youth accessing grants and livelihood packages. Disaggregation by IDPs/ Returnee/ host community.

112. **Persons with Disabilities:** To the extent possible, all person-based indicators should be disaggregated by disability.

113. **Environment and Climate:** The M and E will be done in two ways: (1) with the project M and E system in which specific indicators are included for measurement and follow-up and (2) based on the indicators and activities indicated in the ESMP. In either case general indicator are 100% execution of ESIA/ESMP

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