

**South Sudan Rural Development (SORUDEV)
Smallholder Component Programme
1st Quarterly Review Meeting**



Meeting Report

**Venue: Hill View Hotel Rumbek Lakes State.
South Sudan
30th October 2014**



SORUDEV is funded by the European Union

Background and Objective of the meeting

The first SORUDEV Quarterly Review Meeting was held on 30th of October 2014 in Rumbek, Lakes State. The meeting, hosted by NPA, brought together SORUDEV, Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP) and ZEAT BEAD partners to discuss progress on implementation of SORUDEV activities and progress made in the implementation of the 15 elements of the Wau Resolution. The meeting also provided a platform for discussing challenges encountered in the implementation process. Partners presented their planned activities for the next quarter. The facilitation team led by Tayo Alabi, The Programme Coordinator of SORUDEV comprise of Steve Hind the Technical Assistant to the EU and Emanuela Burello The Assistant Country Director of Concern Worldwide. Logistic arrangement was done by Samuel Deng of NPA and his team.

A total of 29 participants attended the meeting with representatives from the government Ministry of Agriculture, all SORUDEV NGO Partners (HARD, NRC, NPA and CWW) along with their national NGO partners. VSF-G and ICCO from the FSTP; the UN agencies represented are FAO and UNOPS.

The objectives of the review meeting are to:

- 1) Review the progress made in implementing the SORUDEV smallholder program during the inception period
- 2) Evaluate the progress made in integrating all the elements of the WAU resolution into the programs

Opening session: *Director General, Ministry of Agriculture (David Paul Machok)*

The **Director General, Ministry of Agriculture Lakes State, David Paul Machok** officially opened the 1st Quarterly Review Meeting in Rumbek on 30th October.

In his the opening remarks, the DG referenced the two main objectives of the meeting. He mentioned the long working relationship with NPA, having worked with the organisation since '94 prior to taking up a position with the ministry. On behalf of the Government of Lakes State the DG emphasized that this is the right phase and time for SORUDEV. The meeting is a tool for the monitoring and evaluation and hopefully recommendations will be a way forward to guide us for future development he concluded. On this note he declared the meeting officially opened.

Welcome remarks by the hosting organization NPA: *Ezana Kassa*

Ezana the Rural Development Programme Manager of NPA welcome all participants on behalf of the management of NPA. In his remark he mentioned the significance of this first review meeting in Rumbek as an opportunity to reflect on SORUDEV accomplishments since the Harmonization Workshop in Wau. On the security situation in Rumbek, he allayed participants' fears, saying Rumbek town is calm and peaceful. Though there are communal clashes in communities in Lakes State but for those who have known the state for a long time, this is not unusual, he continued that that it is a normal occurrence that should not affect our deliberation in Rumbek. On this note, he assured all participants that NPA is in constant touch with all the security focal points in the State monitoring the situation.

Opening remarks by European Union, Delegation: *Steve Hind*

Steve Hind in his capacity as a Technical Assistant to the EU, gave the opening remark on behalf of Paolo Girlando who was unavoidably absent.

- He stated that Paul Simmons corrected us on some of the things that were misinterpreted during the 3 day workshop in Wau. SORUDEV was written in 2011 and in 2014 some of the key points were almost already forgotten, it seems. The NGOs have the institutional memory: road component, agricultural component were linked. SORUDEV is very much a development programme and following Paul's corrections, it is now clear what the programme is supposed to do.
- The collaboration between SORUDEV with FSTP is also very critical. We have to avoid doing the same things in different ways in the same places. Hopefully deliberations during this meeting today will be as successful and useful as the one in Wau. If we continue in that spirit, we will be fine.
- Road development and market component go together. Zeat Beat (which is pretty much SORUDEV2) hasn't been signed yet. Same things, same area, ensure that it complies with Wau elements. WFP will implement two elements: 1) rehabilitation of roads; 2) working with communities along the roads.
- The need for different kind of interventions aimed at different categories of people is recognised. This is why we have FSTP implementing partners present in this meeting: SORUDEV is building on FSTP programmes. FSTP is expected to be the transition to development. There are grants that cover relief, such as ECHO and others.
- A key component of both SORUDEV and FSTP is to work together with the Government. I hope that the presentations made here today will capture how we work together with the Government.

Presentation by HARD and Plenary Discussion: *Evans Owino*

Evans Owino Programme Manager – Food Security and Philip Drichi - Monitoring and Evaluation Officer presented the key achievements, challenges and planned activities of HARD. Some of the key achievements are: The Recruitment and Induction of all project staff with positions filled including 12 technical staff. Procurement of all major project equipment is on course with delivery of 2 Toyota land cruiser vehicles. Household Baseline Survey conducted and the draft report is ready. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with state Ministry of Agriculture. The MOU has been signed, employment of 45 new staff by SMOAARC is underway, the new staff will deploy in the Counties and Payams to support extension work. Staff training needs assessment was conducted, it shows that the staff need their capacity strengthened in the following areas: FFS, general extension methods, basic principles of crop production, group dynamics and VSL. Some of the challenges encountered during the period are: Slow pace of harmonisation, consultation & review process; Deteriorating conditions of most roads in the state impeding access to this *the project is planning to set up satellite bases in different locations*. Worsening economic situation, e.g. shortage of fuel and escalating prices– *stock rapidly running low and might affect implementation of activities*; Traders/agro-dealers are reluctant to participate in the supply of inputs unless on contract (guaranteed market) and unwilling to operate in rural areas – *further dialogue is needed to make them participate in the market, recruit local entrepreneurs and farmers groups*.

Questions/Comments:

- (UNOPS Project Manager): Q: Agro-dealers were mentioned. Do we have importation laws for seeds and pesticides in South Sudan? In other countries, some pesticides are prohibited. We need to work closely with the Government on the laws.
- Evans: Q: I cannot speak for the Government but according to my experience in Western Bahr el Ghazal State, the law and the framework is very weak. In our project we are not expecting agro-dealers to provide those inputs. Agro-dealers

should be certified by the Government.

- C: Considering plough by animal and specifically by cows is very effective
- C: We need to consider promoting and producing ploughs only where the communities have livestock
- Q: Need also to consider that increasing the area of land for cultivation, we will damage the environment cutting more trees.
- R: When we increase activities/land cultivations we also improve agricultural practices. We encourage farmers to expand and at the same time we improve practices
- Q: What is the closest harvest? How do they use it?
- R: Farmers use a lot of their harvest. We work a lot on how to stock and to improve harvest use. Findings on this will be available in the baseline studies.
- C: It was considered that farmers are not eager to have seeds from abroad
- Q: Regarding animal traction, how would ploughs finally reach beneficiaries?
- R: This has not yet been decided. At the 1st stage we will provide them in Wau, at the State level and then mobilize the community at county level and distribute to other farmers.
- Tayo: We have clarified how we are going to work with the agro-dealers in the implementation guideline already. We have to remember to be guided by the procurement guidelines from the EU.
- Q: How do we link FSTP (relief) to SORUDEV (development)?
- Steve: R: We tried to create some linkages between FSTP and SORUDEV and we need to continue providing support.
- Q: How do you prepare to ensure that demand and supply remains constant in the all system of agro-dealers?
- R: There is a bigger plan to engage the agro dealership scheme through the Zeat Bead programme component to be implemented by the FAO. Once the programme commences we will have a clearer direction.

Presentation by NPA followed by plenary discussion: *Samuel Deng*

Samuel Deng the SORUDEV Project Coordinator presented on behalf of NPA. The SORUDEV programme was officially launched in Lakes State. Baseline survey carried out between July-August 2014. 35 (08 women/27 men) extension staff identified from the state MAF. 4 extension agents, per county and 3 supervisors at the state level. 16 of them received basic agriculture training for three months at YATC. Site for animal traction centre and blacksmith workshop is identified in Rumbek central County. The traction centre will be used for training local blacksmith. The centre will also be used to demonstrate animal drought (animal pulled implements) like planters, weeders, and groundnut lifters etc. Challenges experienced are the prevalence of insecurity (inter-tribal fights/cattle raids) in the Counties; Poor road infrastructure; Lack of fuel

Questions/Comments:

- Q: Looking at the ox-ploughing picture in the presentation we can see 3 people, 2 cows and 1 plough. What are they doing?
- R: 1 person is holding the plough, 2 people are watching the cows going to the right line. When you are well trained you do not need all these people. The issue of quality of training is also very important.
- C: Firstly the farmer should be trained for at least one month. Secondly, train the bulls.
- C: It should consider the energy of cows and how it is supposed to go on deep.
- R: In the Animal Traction Center (ATC) run by NPA we go to village level with the capacity to train farmers (COT) at village level. From village level, we are able to reach the HH level. There is a lot of technicalities farmer should be aware of. The farmer should be trained on how to use the oxen and to command the bulls. Through the ATC we want to move training

capacities to COT and we want households to be aware of this. Quality is very important.

- C: when we hook ox-Plough, there is always the tendency to have more than one person: 1 person drives the oxen and the other spread the seeds.
- Q: During the Wau workshop we discussed the issue of engaging extension workers. Originally NPA wanted to second staff.
- R: Extension staff members have been identified and now they are working together with us as counterpart and the staff are not seconded. NPA office is located within the Ministry of Agriculture compound.

Presentation by CWW followed by plenary discussion: *Richard Ofwono*

Richard Ofwono the FIM Programme Coordinator presented on behalf of Concern Worldwide (CWW). CWW has hired most of staff required. Conducted programme inception meetings at: State, County, Payam and Boma levels. Conducted capacity assessment of SMOAF and SMOARF at state and County levels. Procurements for most capital items are in process, nearing conclusion. Conducted two day staff project inception meeting. Conducted VSLA TOT training for staff. Boma level inception meeting with smallholder farmers 914 female and 2,163 males participated. Needs assessments of smallholder farmers conducted in 78 Bomas. Identification of Lead Farmers (LFs), and CAHWs. As far as working with other organizations, CWW collaborated with FAO in harmonising market information collection tools and sites. Consultation with FAO on the use of mobile phone for market data sharing. A conscious effort was made to share information about target areas and implementation approaches with PIN/CESVI. Plan to train CAHWs together with PIN/CESVI, the three organizations plan to conduct a market assessment together.

Questions/Comments:

- Evans: Q: 1) Why the procurement, equipment for VSLA was completed before mobilization? 2) With regard to agro-dealers. Where you are already meeting with them and what was their reaction to the programme?
- R: In the programme equipment and items were planned before 2) at State level as long as you have a guarantee, they are positive. Donkey ploughs are brought from South Sudan. Dealers would be willing to work with us. For sure there is demand.
- Q: How many people are willing to buy a donkey plough?
- Sher: C: 1) Donkeys are not tropical friendly animals. If we want to have cows we need strong extension practices. 2) Regarding the achievements I was observing that most are at activities level.
- R: This is an inception period and those presented are the real outcomes of this phase. Talking about donkeys, the oxen are strong animals and the communities have a very strong attachment to animals in the communities. They will be able to compare how cow and donkeys work through demonstrations.
- Steve: R: NBeG State has semi-arid conditions, not tropical. It cannot be generalized between the areas. It is a combination of culture and environment. Defining which is best in which areas.
- C: Regarding the inputs provided by local dealers, this is a completely new approach. We might need to concentrate on the training aspects. This can raise the supply, demand and we need to be careful.
- Q: MoUs with ministries: when did you sign the MoUs with the Gov?
- R: This was discussed in the Wau resolution. It is about rates.
- C: About approaches and identifying the target groups: challenges can be faced when other agencies with different approach undermines your approach. Through encouraging stakeholder forum, all stakeholders will have the opportunity to sit and discuss. Farmers should take part in the forum and they will be able to understand the different approaches

used. Initiating some State forum will allow discussing issues and will enable a better understanding of harmonized approaches.

- Tinega: *C*: in Wau we were talking about having a policy.
- Richard: *R*: in Wau we talked about having a common approach, not a policy.
- UNOPS: *C*: Do we have an agricultural annual plan, in that which everybody wants to support agricultural activities should apply?.
- Mary: *R*: In some States they have agriculture strategy plans. In Warrap we have a 5 year strategic plan for agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture in Warrap had already a policy in place.
- Tayo: *C*: There is an excellent example of support from the Ministry of Agriculture of Warrap State. At national level there are policies that also address some of these issues.
- Evans: *C*: This should start at level state. If there is a stakeholder forum they can discuss there.
- Steve: *C*: This is a chicken/egg situation, where do you start? Some idea will come through Zeat Bead. The idea of having this forum comes as having an umbrella. This is an attempt to have coordination among ourselves.
Seat Bead has a Technical Assistance element working with government on strategic planning (such as government plans, specific legal frameworks, positions of animal traction, pesticides, etc.) to have some legislations. Laws are drafted. Zeat Bead aims to support this legislation framework.
- Tinega: *C*: suggestion to present a SORUDEV programme at Food Security Clusters (FSC).
- Ezana: *R*: FSC clusters discussions are mostly on Emergency issues and lifesaving related. It would be stronger if it is done at the State level. National or even at the county level.
- Richard: *C*: In Wau it was discussed to have a National launch.
- Tayo: *R*: the plan for National plan is on. We need to finish the state launch first.

Presentation by NRC followed by plenary discussion: *Mary Khozomba*

The SORUDEV program was successfully launched in Kuajok in September – Including signing of MoU with Ministry of Agriculture. It was covered by the media, including airtime on Southern Sudan Television. SORUDEV Coordinator provided on the ground support for the launch. Conducted Baseline Survey – Regional Development Consultants (RDC – Nairobi based). Signed contracts with 2 Implementing Partners (IPs) and first funds transfer was done. Most of the equipment and assets for the program have been procured, but awaiting transfer procedures to IPs and government. Supporting and monitoring Field visits from SORUDEV Coordinator and Technical Advisor. Re-sensitization of stakeholders, especially on the “No free inputs” principle. Widely accepted by stakeholders. Held a Review workshop with project staff in September and this was supported by SORUDEV Coordinator. The elements of the Wau resolutions were re-emphasized. Change of project staff mindset is very important the SORUDEV Coordinator facilitated a workshop on managing change for staff and partners. Identification of group leadership (a committee of 5 people per farmers’ group). 485 farmers trained in leadership skills which included conflict resolution strategies. On challenges: Process of IP contract signing was long within NRC due to internal and external reasons. Poor road conditions and general insecurity have affected not only access to project areas, but also the transportation of market commodities creating price increases of food and other commodities. (The latter will have an impact on program running costs if it continues)

Questions/Comments:

- *Q*: With “No free inputs” it is good we are introducing cost recovery.
- *R*: it depends on how we are going to plan this cost recovery issue. Our plan is to work with agro-dealers to link with farms. Farmers will buy directly from the dealers.

- Paolino: C: Regarding environmental issues, the farmers are using the land. When you tell and equip farmers to expand cultivation, this can facilitate environmental disaster. It is important to raise awareness on how to keep the soil well as well as on ways to use land, land protection, soil erosion.
- R: This comes from Ministry of Agriculture: we are going to share all the ideas with them and the farmer will understand the environmental issues
- FAO: C: FAO will facilitate the training for farmer field schools, conducted by trained people.
- Evans: C: I went to FAO in Wau, they were busy. It was a long process and they referred me to Juba. FAO should help us on how to improve the process to identify the master trainers.
- Tayo: C: with ZB we will have more resources for these trainings.
- C: CWW and NRC, both of you are planning to use the lead farmers approach, we request you send the training manual in order to share and to know what is the curriculum

Feedback from field monitoring trip to SORUDEV partners: *Steve Hinds*

Feedback to SORUDEV IPs (NPA was not visited yet):

CWW: long history and involvement in the area. Continuity doesn't mean being in the area, but also having institutional memory. There is a heavy dependence on external staff with some attempts to raise some of local staff capacities. Very good relationship with government authorities, good infrastructures. The target areas clearly identify 14 Payams; 84 Bomas, 86 lead farmers; 56 farmers groups; 22 staff.

Some concerns are about the Agricultural Centre in Nyamlllel that still doesn't have government staff there.

Local partners were involved in the community mobilisation which is good.

With 16 years of history, they do not have Farmers Field Schools. We also had a meeting earlier in the year. During the visit it was not clear whether everybody knows that inputs are not for free. Maybe this was because it was mobilisations meetings.

HARD:

Field staff positions are filled. The logistics were done and everything was in place. Excellent relationship with Bahr el Ghazal Government authorities. An attempt was made for targeting the right group. In this case we were looking for progressive farmers with an entrepreneurial spirit.

There is a building constructed for the Agricultural department that was never used. This building is not in a very practical location to reach and by consequence, not useful. It has also been burned out for bees. It was suggested to them to use a different location.

The target areas clearly identify 24 bomas, 11 paymas, 48 community health people.

The major concern is the lack of management experience.

NRC

Good relationship with state authorities. They have sub offices, mobilisation is under way.

One area of concern: they were not able to go very far because there was no fuel and the field work was limited to the lack of fuel. The group met said they have been selected by the sub-chief. You can tell people that this is what we want. After 25 years of relief mentality they might want to give you some problems because they are used to NGOs and their approach. Good idea to re-verify.

They lack sufficient support from head office. Like other emergency organizations they get lost with the emergency. They need more support.

VSLAs are common practice and well understood. They have a selected mechanism to try to create capital, but needs proper management and establishment. It was very good to be there during the opening day of the box. 26 members were there, one person was missing and he was treasurer. All these people know each other. There was 26,000ssp in a year in the box. They didn't follow the

organization rules: they allowed other people to borrow money. Starting properly and constant supervision is very important.

- We still do not have **extension packages** even though we have identified extensionists;
- **Retail access:** some locations are better than others, particularly the rural areas. To find outlets are going to be extremely difficult. How can this be resolved? For traders, it is also lack of sources of capital.
- **We need to build things in chronological order.**
- **Do not be over ambitious in term of capacities.** Part of the idea is to try to develop the market. Mary mentioned the resistance from dealers without the guarantee. Better to build things slowly and in chronological order rather than too quickly.
- **Absence of government counterparts.** There is a lot of instances of understaffing and this need to be resolved. For example, there are only three people in Bahr el Ghazal.
- **Research component:** the Catholic University in Wau is looking at opportunities for field works. If you require, some capacity for writing up documentations. This would be a good experience for the students and the organizations.

Reaction:

- Tinge: C: Speaking about counterparts, this is not only for WBG. They are very demanding.
- Q: What are the control and coordination mechanisms in place?
- R: At the end of the inception period each organization will submit the proposed changes and log-frames. Log-frame need to be measurable and practical. A lot depends on the quality of the baseline. The quality aspects of the project were not mentioned because it is too early for that. Regarding relationship, it is also in progress.
- Tayo: C: Just to mention that we are also working on a harmonised logical framework for the SORUDEV programme. The suggestion at the beginning was to have a common logframe, but it was too late. Through the common log-frame we will identify common indicators from the baselines which could be used as a proxy and hopefully could also be used during a joint midterm review.
- C: In producing the inception report is important to refer to the logframe, showing progress with some tables
- C: The Ministry has been in partnership with NRC for a long time. This needs to be mentioned. The ministry has committed to support the project.
- Steve: C: recently someone from the EU went to Wau to talk about roads. The response from the Ministry was that it is taking a long time for these things to take place. Where the structure is in place, then we can make plans. The government is going to take the moment, but it is also a matter when it would happen

Presentation and feedback on SORUDEV implementation Model: *Tayo Alabi*

Tayo Alabi, the SORUDEV Smallholder Programme Coordinator presented the draft implementation guide for the programme. The content of the guide covers essential areas such as the Agricultural Extension Packages (pg4), Guideline for developing extension material (pg5), Six essential steps to developing extension material (pg5), Agricultural Extension Guide Outline (pg6), Farmer Field Schools (pg7), Pastoralist Field Schools (pg7), Cost Sharing Model (pg9), Developing Agro-dealership (pg11), Sourcing input from Agro dealers (pg14), Farmer's Network (pg14), Market and Market Development (pg15), Understanding Village Saving and Loans Association (pg17), Participants (Beneficiaries) Selection (pg18), Forming Committees (pg20), Cropping Calendar (pg22), Operational timeline for SORUDEV field activities (pg23). These documents along with others can be found on African Forum For Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) website where we have created a page for the SORUDEV Learning Platform. The link to the site is <http://networking.afaas-africa.org/sorudev.org/>. On the need to standardize the different extension packages. Going

forward, as we agreed in Wau we will convene a technical group to check and validate the extension guides we have. This group will comprise of University of Juba, Catholic University Wau; Director of Extension from both Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Animal Resources.

Questions/Comments:

Presentation of the model we agreed on in Wau and what we have done so far:

- Looking at the Agricultural Extension Guide Outline, a team will be put in place. This is the technical committee in charge to validate packages already selected and shared with all partners.
- For the training in VSLA and FFS, which was proposed we have to fund by ourselves.
- Looking at the list of Institutions on page 6 of the proposed model, for the validation of the extension packages, we need to find out if they are interested. Tayo will send out the ToR. Any suggestion for the list? Only correction is that the Yei Training Center should be written as the Yei Agriculture Training Center.
- C: Suggestion to include farmers' representative on the list of validators.
- C: Maybe would be beneficial to include some farmers from the Farmers Union.
- C: Suggestion to include Agricultural Seeds Bank.
- Q: Any representative from FAO to add? Response: We will contact FAO to name a representative.
- Steve: C: There is a set of tools for training not already approved. The question was whether to use them even though are not yet approved. And time is running out.
- Tayo: C: Even though IPs do not have validated manual to use for now, but we can all use the selected set of training material shared. Technical validation will take place, but it is a process.
- Steve: C: Most organizations have their own manual at the state level. Now that a set of manual has been selected and shared for use, The EU Delegation needs to be aware that this is what has to be used now. IPs are free to go ahead with this material.
- Ezana: C: This committee should work more on the extension approach, not only on methodology and approach.
- Evans: C: All technical materials are there. What the committee should do is to reference the material. We should focus more on the approach.
- Tayo: C: What was the original approach for farmers? We agreed on the use Farmer Field Schools. We also agreed that the Lead Farmer approach to go ahead. It is still a participatory approach to Extension delivery. The FFS methodology for instance is very well documented and FAO has agreed to make their expertise on this available.
- Sher: C: Regarding the Agricultural Extension Package (AEP), we should adapt what we have in each State.
- Tayo: C: AEP that was sent out to you are for crops. We have it for cassava, maize, sorghum, sweet potatoes. As it is now, we do not have the packages on common livestock reared in the country. If any of you has developed one, please share with us.
- Q: What we are doing to this document is browsing: it is not only about 1 section, but it is broad. There is a section on how to introduce ox plough in areas where this is new.
- Tayo: C: For the cost sharing, it needs to be calculated how it would cost for a farmer. We are going to have national adverts for agro-dealers for farmers who need them. The idea is to provide this business for the agro-dealers. Expression of interest to bring ploughs, etc.

Presentation by UNOPS on Road rehabilitation: UNOPS

Sher Hussaini the UNOPS Project Manager supported by Fitsumberhan Weldelibanos, presented the update on the Zeat Bead component implemented by UNOPS. The target group to benefit from the project are the Rural smallholders and small-scale private individuals, small-scale agro dealers,

private individuals, farmers, groups, Community Based Organisations, cooperatives and association. The expected results are: 1) Around 120 km of roads upgraded to virtually year-round access standards; 2) Improved stakeholder capacity (State Ministries of Physical Infrastructure, contractors, communities, labour) to plan and maintain feeder roads. Activities for Result 1: (Roads selection, design and tendering, Road construction and Roads maintenance); Result 2: (Capacity building of the State Ministries of Physical Infrastructure and local contractors, Community sensitization and labour intensive support activities)

States, Roads Kilometre and priority

<p>Warrap State Akop - Marial Lou – Romic (60.2 Km) Warrap - Aliek - Majak Juer (74.6 Km) Mayom Tiotin - Achol Pagong - Makuac – Ayien (39 Km) Lakes State Luakluak to Mapourdit (24Km)</p>	<p>Northern Bahr el Ghazal Wanyjok - Rum Aker (79Km) Gok Machar - Jor Beauc (73Km) Matuic - Kiir Ajowak (74Km) Western Bahr el Ghazal Kangi - Bar Urud - Kayango – Basillia (73.15 Km) Kuajina – Nyinakok (29.4Km) Bazia - Namatina (32Km)</p>
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The initial Tasks to undertake are Topographical surveys. Producing road strip map drawings. Producing typical cross section, drainage schedules, structural drawings, including culverts and bridges. Locating materials sources (borrow pits, water bore holes). Production of design reports. Producing bills of quantities and engineering estimates. Producing tender documents.

The major risks identified at the feeder road component level are: - Security, Inclement weather, Financial risks and additionally there are long term risks regarding sustainability beyond the life of the project.

Questions/Comments:

- C: The agreement with EU for ZEAT BEAD has not been signed yet.
- C: Timeline of the project = 3/4 years.
- C: The cost of 1km is on average \$200,000.
- C: The roads have been selected with the Ministries of Infrastructures.
- C: The selection can also be influenced by the personal opinions. UNOPS takes precautions on assessing the roads for the selection.
- C: Labour intensive, but with a lot of machineries.
- C: The maintenance part is very key to sustainability, but it has never worked. We should come with a model on how to engage the community. Something can be generated to maintain them. Otherwise, we will we need another contract from the donor to build another road after three yrs. We need to think how to build ownership of the road.
- C: We provide tools and machineries to support the sustainability of road maintenance. This is our strategy.
- Tayo: WFP is again conspicuously absent for the second time, they did not participate in the harmonization workshop in Wau and they are not here in Rumbek to update us on progress made so far. We hope they will attend future meetings to allow partners develop ways of working together. The report of this meeting will be shared with them.

FSTP Partners update and on areas of cooperation with SORUDEV: FSTP partners presentation

Discussion:

- Tinega of VSF Germany: C: We do not buy vaccines, because the government are providing them for free. We pay community animal workers.
We need to run activities clearly. SORUDEV and FSTP have a lot in common. We need coordination and to communicate very well to beneficiaries. People will question project proposals, approach uses, target beneficiaries, wt. Shall we change the proposal? Some of the target groups are very vulnerable, but they are in the same poems. We need to try to balance “no free inputs”. We work with the vulnerable in FSTP.
Common understanding and sharing approaches are the key for us now.
- Steve: C: Regarding re-writing the proposal, it makes sense to try to harmonise approaches. If you are not working in the same areas there is no possibility of conflict. Where we are working in the same area, there is a difference between the people vulnerable and better off. Need to ensure that different policies for different categories of people are clear to all people and endorsed by the authorities and with full participation of the authorities.
- Tinega: C: We put a lot of energies and efforts to coordinate SORUDEV partners and this is very beneficial to the programme. Can this be extended to the FSTP projects?
- Steve: C: There is not a coordination and sharing mechanism in FSTP because they were scattered in 8 out of 10 countries. We do not really need to do it. You know who you are there and that you can share resources and expertise. You can coordinate and organize meetings between FSTP partners.
- Tayo: C: other FSTP partners were invited to this SORUDEV meeting, but many couldn't make it. We hope they will find this platform useful and make an effort to attend always.
- Kalisco: C: in WBG we organize meetings between SORUDEV and FSTP.
- Paulino: C: We have been working on food security in Lakes State in collaboration with NPA and we are happy with the chairperson. Food security in the Lakes and the market situation is bad. All commodities in the markets are imported from Kenya, Uganda and Northern Sudan. What can be availed are groundnuts, meat and not much more. FAO, WFP through other organizations provided food to displaced people and returnees. People coming from other states are providing shelters, food and other humanitarian assistance. NGOs are helping us a lot on food security. Three counties were badly affected by poor harvest. Crops were totally destroyed. NGOs are also distributing seeds and tools.
There is no proper market accessible now because the roads are badly maintained. The commodities available are sold at very high prices. There is a shortage of commodities in the markets.
There are a lot of trainings organized jointly with the government for farmers on agricultural activities. Question of insecurity can be problematic sometimes in the Lakes.
Regarding the relationship and coordination between Government and NPA, a MoU was signed by Paulino on behalf of the Ministry.
The recruitment was completed and we are in the process of doing trainings.
Discussions with team, communication and relationship are good and much appreciated. We meet once a month with the State Coordinator and we discuss progress of all activities including food security activities.
- Mary: C: Interested to sit with IPs of FSTP in the same area (Tinega) present at the meeting to see how they work with the Government.
- FAO: C: Regarding the issue of seeds, a number of NGOs supporting the Ministry of Agriculture bring seeds from outside. Groundnuts can be sourced locally. Many others come from outside. What direction should we take?

- Sher: C: It would be good if we consider seed Production Company, already adapted to this environment. Whether seeds come from outside, they can come with diseases.
- Paulino: C: This question of seeds was brought up in a meeting in Juba. The research institutes should be renovated in order to source seeds internally and NGOs should encourage farmers to have a storage system.
- Richard: C: It will take some time to provide seeds internally. Something we are showing in Nyamlell demonstration centre is the testing of different seeds.
- Evans: C: With regard to the inception report, it needs to be clear what we need to write. Is it a 6 months report? What are we going to do with the agro dealers? We need to reach a consensus. We also need to discuss issues of the reporting together with terms and conditions of the contract. About the revision of the project, some of the conditions are no longer applicable.
- Steve: C: Regarding the flexibility in re-formulating the project, we are legally bound by the original project proposal. If you want to change it, you get permission to change and you will be able to justify the changes, but it is a time consuming. Any change would be understood and as long as it is sensible. For example justified changes affected by the security situation, the increase in the prices, etc. It will take 45 day turnaround for the EU to give your response. It is important to submit the documentation in the right format.
An example of the inception rider formula is: *we were requested to increase the area effectiveness*. Formats for reporting are in the agenda of the 6th November in Juba. We suggest you bring all questions relating to contract management and reporting to that meeting.
- Mary: Q: In terms of changing activities we are conducting activities that there were not in the budget.
- Steve: R: In most of budgets, there is flexibility. A lot of budget lines are training. If you have a budget line meant for training of staff, nobody is going to penalise us. You cannot create new budget lines because we are bound by the contract.

EZANA presentation of Yei Agriculture Training Centre (YATC) activities

The NPA FSL Program has been involved in Agricultural training for farmers and extension workers since 1995 in different location of Southern Sudan. Following the positive impact of the initial training of farmers and extension workers, NPA in collaboration with SSRRC had started a training program for extension workers after re-establishing the Yei Agriculture Training Center (YATC) in 1999.

The YATC training program started with a main objective of *improving agriculture, food security and nutritional knowledge and skill* of South Sudanese agriculture extension workers.

This started through three different three-month agriculture-training programs; and a tailor made short courses.

Aims at introducing basic agriculture principles and practices for community based extension workers. Targets newly identify community based extension workers that had little or no background in agriculture and transform them to extension agents. Used as a refresher course for the former agriculturist in the Sudan that stayed away from their profession for more than a decade. Courses offered include: Agronomy, Horticulture, Agroforestry, Environmental protection, Nutrition, and participatory agriculture Extension, Farm tools & Appropriate technology. Course duration is three months.

Contact: Principal Salah Edward: 0955030403

Email: salahe@npaid.org,

Crop Training Centre (CTC) in Yei

The CTC representatives could not attend this meeting, but wishes that both the SORUDEV and FSTP partners know about their programmes. This brief was presented on their behalf by Tayo Alabi. Established in 2004 by South Sudan Agriculture Revitalization Programme (SSARP), with funding from the USAID implemented by CRS, CTC trains agricultural/agribusiness extension workers.

The centre is awarded a grant by The Netherlands Government through NICHE/NUFFIC programme for a period of 5 years (2011-2015) to upgrade it to a full fledged TVET Centre under the Ministry of Agriculture. There are courses for 3 months and for 9 months. There is a collaboration agreement with two Colleges of Agriculture each in Kenya and Uganda; there is also collaborating with the Wageningen University Netherland.

Currently, the courses offered are Soil & water conservation/management, Principles of crop production, Crop production, Agro forestry, Principles of Animal production, Cattle, Sheep and Goats, small animal Production, Farmers' Organizations, Extension Research and Communication, Farm Engineering and Appropriate Technology, Agribusiness and Marketing, Nutrition & Food Processing, Integrated Farm Management, Project in a community/farm, Daily activities on an innovative farm.

The fee structure for the 9 months course is SSP 8,400 or USD 2000 per student which covers tuition, feeding, stationery, medical, protective wear/field gear, laundry, tools and inputs/ seeds. For the short course fees can be negotiated.

Contact Phone number: +211955045978 Contact email: ctcyei@yahoo.com

Questions/Comments:

Q: rate of ox-plough in the logo.

R: It was a traditional plough made locally

Comments on food security and relation with SORUDEV by Government (MOA and MOAR): Lakes State MoA representative

Presentation by Paolino: We have been working on food security in Lakes in collaboration with NPA and we are happy with the relationship. Food security in the Lakes State and the market situation is bad. All commodities in the markets are imported from Kenya, Uganda and Northern Sudan. What can be availed are groundnuts, meat and not much more. FAO, WFP through other organizations provided food to displaced people and returnees. People coming from other states are providing shelters, food and other humanitarian assistance. NGOs are helping us a lot on the food security front. Three counties were badly affected by poor harvest. Crops were totally destroyed. NGOs are also distributing seeds and tools.

There is no proper market accessible now because the roads are badly maintained. The commodities available are sold at very high prices. There is a shortage of commodities in the markets.

There are a lot of trainings organized by the government for farmers on agricultural activities. Question of insecurity can be problematic sometimes in the Lakes.

Regarding the relationship and coordination between Government and NPA, an MoU was signed by me Paulino on behalf of the Ministry. The recruitment was completed and we are in the process of doing trainings. Discussions with team, communication and relationship are good and much appreciated. We meet once a month with the NPA Coordinator and we discuss progress of all activities including food security activities.

Questions/Comments:

- Mary: C: Interested to sit with IPs for FSTP in the same area (Tinaga) present at the meeting to see how they work with the Government.
- FAO: C: Regarding the issue of seeds, a number of NGOs supporting the Ministry of Agriculture bring seeds from outside. Groundnuts can be sourced locally. Many others come from outside. What direction we should take?
- Sher: C: It would be good if sometime we consider seed production company, already adapted to this environment. Whether seeds come from outside, they can come with diseases.
- Paulino: C: This question of seeds was brought up in a meeting in Juba. The research should be renovated in order to source seeds internally and NGOs should encourage farmers to have a storage system.
- Richard: C: It will take some time to provide seeds internally. Something we are showing in Nyamlell it the testing of different seeds.

Discussion:

- Evans: C: With regard to the inception report, it needs to be clear what we need to write. Is it a 6 months report? What are we going to do with the agro dealers? We need to reach a consensus. We also need to discuss issues of the reporting together with terms and conditions of the contract. About the revision of the project, some of the conditions are no longer applicable.
- Steve: C: Regarding the flexibility in re-formulating the project, we are legally bound by the original project proposal. If you want to change it, you get permission to change and you will be able to justify the changes, but it is a time consuming. Any change would be understood and as long as it is sensible. For example justified changes affected by the security situation, the increase in the prices, etc. It will take 45 day turnaround for the EU to give your response. It is important to submit the documentation in the right format.
An example of the inception rider formula is: *we were requested to increase the area effectiveness*. Formats for reporting are in the agenda of the 6th November in Juba. Suggesting bringing questions to that meeting.
- Mary: Q: In terms of changing activities we are conducting activities that there were not in the budget.
- Steve: R: In most of budgets, there is flexibility. A lot of budget lines are training. If you have a budget line meant for training of staff, nobody is going to penalise us. You cannot create new budget lines because we are bound by the contract.

Programme Inception Raider: Tayo Alabi

On behalf of Paolo Girlando I present a preliminary guide to the inception rider due in the end of November.

1. Only a short update on progress made so far in the implementation of the programme during the inception period is required (maximum three pages).
2. A covering letter is expected
3. The actual project proposal should be completely revised. By this we mean that the following sections of the proposal should be revised
 - Background is reflecting the move from emergency to development
 - The methodology takes account of all the discussions and the elements in the Wau resolution. This will also include approaches to how the programme will work with WFP and UNOPs on roads and FAO on ZEAT BEAD.

- Activities and Activity Plan showing both new and ongoing project activities
 - Logical framework: This should reflect the actual indicators based on the baseline figures obtained from the baseline survey conducted.
 - The budget reflects and accommodating all changes in activities
4. The inception rider should be submitted by partners' 29th of November 2014.

Discussion:

- *Tayo:* The next opportunity to review the proposal would be for the midterm review. Baseline indicators should be there by that period. Changes have to be indicated through track changes.
- *Tayo:* Regarding the agro-dealers. See the part on Developing Agro-dealership in the implementation guide.
- *NPA: C:* What was proposed in the proposal corresponded to what we believe it works. We will identify agro-dealers and we will give them the loan in order to enable them to expand. In this way they will be able to provide more inputs. This is the idea.
- *Steve: C:* Nothing is going out for free. It is ok if it is a loan. The reason for having VSLs is for having cash. Giving the agro-dealer a loan the IP will be playing the role of a bank getting back the loan (back-borrower relationship). You need to have an intermediary that is a community based organisation. It should work, giving a grant to the community organisation; they will provide the loan to agro-dealers and will be giving back to the organization.
The other option is through setting-up VSL groups: if we have 4 farmers, each farmer can save an amount of money and will be able to buy a plough. The next year, another farmer will get one.
- *Richard: C:* People are able to sell same assets in order to buy ploughs, if dealers are available. Savings groups should be able to save money. At the moment there are no dealers in the community or they are far from the community. Regarding the VSLs it needs to be clear that the group will provide a loan, otherwise it will kill the VSL groups.
- *Mary: C:* Organizations should be innovative and propose their own approach.
- *Tayo: C:* We are not prescribing, but if something is not documented, it can be misunderstood or open to all kinds of interpretation. Everything in the implementation guide, are what we have discussed in meetings training workshops.
- *C:* What happens when the money comes back in the box? It was suggested that the money comes back to the community to implement a project for the benefit of the community like a cattle dip, a seed store or a dry store etc.
- *Steve: C:* More money you have more risk you take. When people make a profit without passing through NGOs hands.
- *Sher: C:* Ploughs tools are very easy. It is a very simple mechanism we can introduce it and train farmers.
- *Steve: C:* This is what has been done in Lakes and we want to be implemented in the other State. Capital is needed to buy raw material that comes from outside.
- *Sher: C:* Suggestion to use the iron from the roads.
- *NPA: R:* Raw materials are already being exhausted. It is a challenge because it needs capital.
- *Tayo:* We need to follow carefully the **Operational Calendar**. If three farmers come together buying 1 plough they can rent to other farmers. It was very important to avoid for farmers to lose the next season.
Encouraging speed-up what we are doing, we need to train groups in VSL now in order to set up the group now. FFS or LF training has to speedup because VSLs have to begin now. It

takes time to train groups themselves. It is expected savings to start, to continue and also to have a payment back time.

- Richard: *Q*: How do we procure blacksmiths?
- Tayo: *R*: It is necessary to be creative. Suggestion is to compare notes with colleagues in the Lakes State.
- Steve: *C*: In terms in budgeting, some of the IPs are reluctant to spend money on training that was not originally included in the budget. IPs need to be creative on this: they can be able to pay these things in advance. It is also possible to contact finance and find a solution. Suggested to come back to the EU, similarly if any internal problem.

Closing remarks: *Steve Hind*

The last meeting in Wau was very crucial for setting up the scene. It produced a lot of surprises and it was very good that it lasted 3 days because we could come up with an agreement. We reached some of the assumptions this time, which was a hard sell during the meeting in Wau. Though there are some concerns, but by and large satisfied with what I have seen in the field with the progress to date. Especially now with the dry season coming, it is important to speed up, in order so that things were ready for the next season. Pre-positioning of materials is also a very good idea. It is also a risk having a large stock (such file). Overall, this meeting has been very reassuring. Me and Tayo can go away feeling that all organizations here are looking at creative solutions. Overall, we are very happy with your contribution and today's outcome.

Announcements

1. The 2nd SORUDEV Quarterly Review Meeting will be hosted by Concern Worldwide in Aweil. As a symbol of preparedness, the hosting baton was passed on to Emanuela Burello the Assistant Country Director programmes of Concern Worldwide present in the meeting.
2. All FSTP and SORUDEV implementing partners are invited to attend the Contract Management Question and Answer meeting to be held on 6th November 2014. This meeting is organised by the EU Delegation in their meeting room in Juba.
3. The inception rider should be submitted by partners' 29th of November 2014.

Key Action Point

- Draft and circulate the TOR for technical committee for the validation of extension packages (Tayo)
- Discuss the launch date of the SORUDEV Programme at national level and inform partners (Tayo)
- Compile meeting report and circulate (Tayo and Emanuela)
- Ensure WFP is invited and participate in the 2nd review meetings in Aweil (Paolo)
- Contact Sher Husaini of UNOPS if you need further support of food security (opened to all partners)

List of Participants:

The First SORUDEV Quarterly Review Meeting

Date 30/10/2014
Hosted by Norwegian People's Aid

Venue Hill View Hotel
Rumbek

S/No	Name	Organization	E-mail address	Cellphone	Signature
1	Edna Kasa	NPA	Edna@nps.org	095912161	[Signature]
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5					
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28	JAMES JAMES	UNPAO	James@unpao.org	0955177077	[Signature]
29	MAJOR AROL	NDA	arol@nda.or.ke	092232800	[Signature]
30					

Programme Sheet

29.10.2014	Activities	Responsible
Evening	Arrival and Lodging arrangements in Rumbek by participants	Participants and Samuel Deng (NPA)
	Networking meeting between partners (as necessary)	Partners
30.10.2014	Activities	Responsible
8:30–8:45am	Opening courtesies and Climate Setting (Registration, Introduction and Workshop Objectives)	Tayo Alabi/ Facilitator
8:45-8:50am	Welcome remarks by the host (NPA)	Ezana Kassa
8:50-9:00am	Opening remarks by European Union Delegation	Paolo Girlando
9:00-9:30am	Presentation by HARD and Plenary Discussion	Evans Owino
9:30-10:00am	Presentation by NPA followed by a plenary discussion	Samuel Deng
10:00-10:30am	Tea Break	
10:30-11:00am	Presentation by CWW followed by a plenary discussion	Richard Ofwono
11:00-11:30am	Presentation by NRC followed by a plenary discussion	Mary Khozomba
11:30-11:45am	Presentation and feedback on SORUDEV implementation Model	Tayo Alabi
11:45-12:00pm	Feedback from field monitoring trip to SORUDEV partners	Steve Hinds
12:00-12:30pm	Progress on Zeat Bead and issues arising	Isaac Bazugba /FAO
12:30-1:00pm	Presentation by WFP on Road rehabilitation	WFP
1:00-2:00pm	Lunch	
2:00-2:30pm	Presentation by UNOPS on Road rehabilitation	UNOPS
2:30-3:15pm	FSTP Partners update and on areas of cooperation with SORUDEV	FSTP partners present
3:15-3:45pm	Comments on food security and relation with SORUDEV by Government (MOA and MOAR)	Lakes State MoA representative
3:45-4:00pm	Presentation by Yei Crops Training Center and their role in training extension staff	John Fox
4:00-4:45pm	Identification of Joint activities between SORUDEV partners and Next Plans	Tayo and Paolo
4:45-5:00pm	Closing Remarks, Next Meeting Date and Announcement Wrap up	Tayo Alabi
31.10.2014	Activities	Responsible
Morning	Networking meetings between Organizations (as necessary)	Participants
	Departure from Rumbek	
8:30–8:45am	Opening courtesies and Climate Setting (Registration, Introduction and Workshop Objectives)	Tayo Alabi/ Facilitator

Workshop photographs



Photo Credit: Sher Hussaini