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**Support to Implementing Partners
of SORUDEV, ZEAT-BEAD and
FSTP**

Draft Monitoring Report: HARD

**Period covered:
03 to 05 October 2015**

Prepared by Angus Graham
and Omotayo Alabi
on behalf of

**Cardno Emerging Markets (UK) Ltd
Lead Member of Cardno Consortium**



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KEY DATA

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Report Quality Controlled by
Michael Gutteridge, Framework Contractors'
Project Director



Signature: _____

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The views expressed herein are those of the consultants and therefore in no way
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Support to Implementing Partners of SORUDEV, ZEAT-BEAD and FSTP Monitoring Report: HARD

Period covered: 3 October to 5 October 2015

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFOD	Action for Rural Development
CAD	County Agricultural Department
CAHW	Community Animal Health Worker
CORP	Community-Owned Resource Person
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FFS	Farmer Field School
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Technical Cooperation)
HARD	Hope Agency for Relief and Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MTE	Mid-Term Evaluation
(S)MAFCRD	(State) Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development
SORUDEV	South Sudan Rural Development Programme
SSP	South Sudanese pound
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WBG	Western Bahr-el-Ghazal
WFP	World Food Programme
ZEAT-BEAD	Zonal Effort for Agricultural Transformation – Bahr-el-Ghazal Agricultural Development

Project Data

General Data

Contract beneficiary	Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD)
Project title	"Smallholder Food Security and Livelihoods Project, 2014-2017"
Project ref. CRIS	FED/2013/333-492
Date of visit	3 to 5 October 2015
Location	Selected Payams in Jur River, Raja and Wau Counties, Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State
Monitoring Officers	Angus Graham and Tayo Alabi
Start date	15 February 2014
End date	14 February 2017

Financial Data

Total EC contribution	€2,000,000 (equivalent to 90% of € 2,222,222)
Total spent by project to date (EUR)	€806,691
Balance of funds released to date	€721,000
Anticipated date of next request/release of funds	June 2015
Anticipated amount of next request/release of funds	€272,310

1 Summary of Field Visits

Over the period 3 to 5 October the project team met with: 1) Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD) project staff in Wau; 2) a Farmer Field School (FFS) located in Khorjamus and an ox-plough farming group located in Achum-chum; 3) agro-dealers in Wau; 4) the Wau State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development (SMAFCRD); and 5) the Agricultural Bank of South Sudan.

Farming Groups

The FFS visited is located in Khor Jamus Boma, Rocrocdong Payam, Jur River County. The group has 18 members (14 male and 4 female). Formed in June 2015 with support from HARD field extension staff and the national MAFCRD, its learning areas are a) Improved agronomic practices; and b) Seed multiplication. Group members are in the process of adopting early row planting, regular weeding and timely harvesting of groundnuts through learning by doing on a group plot. The group uses seeds and locally made hand tools such as jembeh (hoes) and axes supplied by HARD. The group plot will most likely be planted with sorghum next year, while the groundnut crop harvested from it this year will be used as seed next year.

The meeting and learning activities take place on a feddan of land (70m x 60m). Groundnuts and hard beans (Bambara nuts) are grown on two demonstration plots, one using rows with 60 x 40 inter- and intra-row spacing and one traditional. The groundnut varieties are known locally as Berbeta and the hard beans as Foul Abugawi. Berbeta is a short-variety groundnut while Foul Abugawi is a long duration-variety of hard bean. The demonstration plot is well kept and well laid out. At the end of the season, the farmers expect to harvest the groundnut in late October 2015 immediately after a good rainfall. The hard beans will be harvested in December or early January 2016.

Each group member has also planted sorghum (both short- and long-duration), groundnut, cassava and sesame on their own farmsteads. All of the farmers interviewed said that they had harvested their short-duration sorghum and groundnut. HARD has also provided virus-free cassava cuttings to these farmers. The cassava plants appear to be healthy and will be harvested in June 2016 after a year of cultivation. The group appreciates the support provided by HARD and expressed the need for an ox-plough to expand planting. As a result of their meeting with the project team the group agreed to start a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), for which HARD will provide them with the required training and regular supervision.

HARD started providing loans to 298 farmers in February 2015 (a total of 255,275 SSP). The Adri Pin Ngog ox-plough farming group visited in Achum-chum received a 19,700 SSP loan from HARD, to be paid back in three instalments between November 2015 and February 2016. The loan was used to procure 2 ox-ploughs and 4 bulls. The ox-ploughs are kept with their chairperson (Bol Gor) and the bulls graze in highland areas in Warrap during the dry season. The group ploughed and planted a 2-feddan demonstration plot with groundnut that will be harvested in late October after a good rainfall. They also use draught-plough sets for the land preparation of their homesteads (2-8 feddans of sorghum and groundnut). This group attempted to register as a cooperative in 2014 in order to qualify to open a bank account and access bigger loans where possible, but was unsuccessful.

Agro-dealers in Wau

The mission visited four main agro-dealer shops in Jur Market, Wau (Abdalla Ahmid store, Taha-A Gadar Agricultural Services, Kampala Hardware and a veterinary drug shop) as well as blacksmiths in Souk Wau. The Abdalla Ahmid store is the largest seller of seeds and agrochemicals in Wau, but it does not stock ploughs. Seeds and agrochemicals are reported

to come from Sudan. Many of the seeds on display are from the northern hemisphere and have expired. The Taha-A Gader Agricultural Services store also stocks local and imported seeds. The shop stocksox-ploughsata current price of 1,150SSP. The exchange rate is a major challenge to the survival of the businesses. Proceeds from items procured from Wau in SSP and sold in Khartoum in Sudanese pounds are used to buy stocks. The exchange rate in Khartoum is 1SSP to 0.5SP. Kampala Hardware stocks agricultural tools such as ox-ploughs, treadle pumps, hoes, axes, knapsacks, sprayers, raincoats and gumboots. They won a bid to pre-position 400 ox-ploughs and spare parts for HARD. The current price of an ox-plough set from the Kampala Hardware store is 2,500 SSP, more than twice that of the Taha-A Gader Agricultural Services store. The veterinary drug shops visited (3 in a row) are well patronised. There are many brands of antibiotics, deworming tablets and salt licks on display, the majority of which are sourced from Sudan.

Wau State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development

The mission met with Mr Sebit Ibrahim (0927313623), Director of Extension and Dr Hassan Moh Ali (0913101320), Director of Administration and Livestock. Collaboration with partners from both SORUDEV (the South Sudan Rural Development Programme) and ZEAT-BEAD (the Zonal Effort for Agricultural Transformation in Bahr-el-Ghazal) was described as cordial. The ministry participates in all HARD-organised trainings for farmers and has participated in the State-level planning conducted by the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). There is a need for more technical training of Ministry staff. The FAO Sudan Productive Capacity Recovery Programme has mainly trained staff in management and organisational development.

The National Union of Farmers is expected to visit the State with a view to establishing a State chapter. Currently there are about 20 cooperatives and 40 registered Farmers 'Associations. These will form the initial membership of the Wau Farmers 'Union. The Department of Cooperatives has been transferred to the Ministry of Trade. The SMAFCRD will assist in facilitating the formation of willing farming groups into cooperatives.

The Agricultural Bank of South Sudan

Mr Cleto Kunda, the Executive Director of HARD, joined the mission to visit the Wau branch of the Agricultural Bank of South Sudan. The mission met the Bank Manager, Mr Makur Maciek Kuor Dhour (0955006622) in his office. The bank was originally owned and operated from Khartoum before independence. It is now registered with the South Sudan Ministry of Finance (7 million SSP liquidity) and operates alongside the MAFCRD. The head office is in Juba and the Bankhas three regional branch offices in Wau, Malakal and Maridi. The Wau branch services the four States of Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal. It has 24 staff, three of which are qualified agricultural credit officers.

The Agricultural Bank mainly provides cooperatives (of various types) and individuals with small loans of up to 50,000SSP (cash and in-kind). In 2015 the Bank distributed 90 tractors nationwide on behalf of the MAFCRD, with6 given to each State in the Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal region. In the past, the Bank has distributed ox-ploughs, water pumps and seeds to farmers. The Bank plans to open branch in each State across the country starting in 2016.

2 Key Findings/Notes on Project Development

Overall level of progress on implementation

HARD has engaged effectively in the project harmonisation process and has aligned its project proposal with the development objectives of SORUDEV. This has however caused some delay and uncertainties. Overall, the programme is progressing steadily, including the mobilisation and formation of FFS/farming groups and VSLA/loan groups. There are a number of areas of concern related to: 1) direct beneficiary interest/participation; 2) uptake of ox-ploughs to increase areas under cultivation; 3) linkage of the project to other value-chain segments and marketing; and 4) capability and capacity development processes, which together are causing some drag in performance potential. HARD appears to have spent appreciable time explaining the principle of “no free input distribution” to beneficiaries. Inconsistencies related to the provision of some (but not all) critical inputs with the on-farm demonstration of improved practices are apparent. The immediate utility of some provisions foreseen to ensure longer-term sustainability of the programme requires review against the programme’s logical framework. Some strategic prioritisation, rationalisation and pragmatism will likely be necessary as events unfold on the ground if the project is to meet its objectives.

On the recommendations of the previous TA Monitoring Report

The project management team has integrated the recommendations made by the previous monitoring visits. It has been successful in retaining staff that are knowledgeable about the programme and its strategic and technical requirements. HARD has also developed good working relationships with the SMAFCRD and is active in bringing organisations together for coordination purposes. The SMAFCRD continues to organise coordination meetings for all food security and livelihood actors. A monthly coordination meeting is held (on the third Tuesday of each month) with Government and ZEAT-BEAD partners and is led by HARD and Action for Rural Development (AFOD).

The SMAFCRD has recruited graduates to fill staff gaps at County level; however, since the previous monitoring reports the new recruits have yet to be engaged in fieldwork. HARD will send 4 project staff and 4 MAFCRD County-level staff for a one-month training course at the Crop Training Centre (CTC) in Yei. The HARD Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) officer will undertake additional training, with a view to training SMAFCRD staff in M&E operations. HARD has also partnered with the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) under ZEAT-BEAD and further integration to support the work of German technical cooperation (GIZ) and the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) is anticipated.

HARD has established 4 operational satellite compounds (Achum-chum, Marial Bai, DeimZubeir and MarolAkec). A fifth is ready but is not yet in use due to problems of insecurity in Basia. Through these bases HARD continues to support a cadre of community-owned resource persons (CORPs), who act as community mobilisers and mentors. HARD has retrained an active 45 of the planned 48 CORPs. Pre-positioning of fuel for project activities is now effective (4,000 litres at any given time) and good and stable relationships have been established with fuel stations.

HARD has scaled up its awareness and socialisation campaigns and on-farm trials of equipment to encourage farmers to participate in the project through working in groups and village savings and loan associations (VSLAs). However, expanded farmer buy-in to animal traction equipment and spares uptake is not developing well. While the demand in principle for ox-ploughs is high, it would seem that their procurement from the market by farmers is yet to take off to any significant level. Effective demand for ox-ploughs as such remains very low.

HARD has sought the cooperation of traders as agents for inputs in an effort to improve the availability of agricultural inputs in local markets. Under the current setup, targeted traders have been reluctant to supply inputs such as ploughs without some guarantee of demand (e.g. contracts/1-year guarantee). HARD has engaged two general dealers to supply ploughs (for oxen and donkeys) and their spare parts (such as plough blades) and is making efforts to link farmers to these dealers.

The project team has engaged in dialogue with traditional leaders and local government officials to address the issue of uncontrolled movement of livestock, which can result in the destruction of agricultural crops (especially cassava and long-term sorghum) as well as tension and occasional conflict between farming and pastoral communities, particularly in Jur River County. This is an on-going problem in the absence of a dedicated legal framework, control measures, designated livestock migration corridors and grazing areas. Targeted killings of chiefs by militia and subsequent revenge assaults are not uncommon in Wau.

HARD anticipates support from EU-funded Technical Assistance (TA) on land and related resource issues. Apparently, NIRAS was expected to have initiated a process of community land use mapping. HARD is eager to learn of progress in this regard and any potential role it may play in supporting such an activity.

Main strengths

The relationship of HARD staff with Government at all levels appears to be very good and on-going training is being conducted together with Government extension staff. This is highly appreciated by both SMAFCRD officials and the direct beneficiaries. The majority of HARD personnel are local and well adapted to the cultural and operational environment. HARD is a growing organisation (staff retention is very stable, with 75 staff members in mid-2015) and the number of projects it is implementing has increased in recent years. These are funded by UNOPS (community sensitisation for road rehabilitation), EU (SORUDEV), the World Bank (food security safety net), Christian Aid (food security), CordAid (Community Disaster Risk Reduction) and Johanniter (food security). As a result HARD has an extensive pool of vehicles to support logistics: 5 land cruiser 4x4 off-road vehicles (2 vehicles for SORUDEV) and 30 motorbikes (15 for SORUDEV).

Main weaknesses

Visibility and gender issues have not been sufficiently prioritised by HARD. Limited Internet bandwidth and poor connectivity of communications are affecting project efficiency and performance.

Challenges identified during the TA mission in October 2015

HARD bought 400 ox-ploughs and 200 donkey-ploughs. Of these, 50 were used for training and the rest positioned with the abovementioned two dealers. So far the dealers report to have sold only 11 ploughs and it is unclear whether these were sold to the targeted farmers (or indeed whether this occurred at the recommended price of 930SSP). HARD proposes to increase awareness and further encourage farmers in the use of these agricultural tools.

Further actions required

HARD should:

- Address the gender balance among its staff and the beneficiaries it reaches;
- Improve its efforts to increase EU visibility among its project activities;
- Continue to set the agenda and lead coordination meetings with the SMAFCRD;

- Establish (together with the SMAFCRD) a number of working briefs in the fields of: a) Geographical Information System (GIS)-referenced registration of activities by various partners; b) human resource development; c) the formation of producer groups and cooperatives; d) Value Chain points of leverage; e) post-harvest production, management and marketing; and f) Crop and food supply forecasts;
- Circulate to the monitoring team its:
 - First interim report
 - M&E framework
 - Detailed work schedule with quarterly targets
 - Breakdown of funding expenditure to date
 - Procurement Plan and quarterly expenditure forecasts
 - List of other projects/partners and main activities
- Commission an external mid-term evaluation (MTE) as foreseen under the project;
- Ensure to collect relevant project information against its baseline; and
- Proceed with planting and harvest forecasts and crop production estimates.

Changes to project context

The deteriorating economic situation in South Sudan has adversely affected the socio-economic situation of beneficiaries, with high inflation and price volatility affecting farmers.

Progress toward achieving project objectives in summary

- Overall objective: To contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods among rural households in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State;
- Specific objective: Increased agricultural production and incomes among smallholder farmers in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State.

There are early indications that supported households have increased their area under cultivation, which should lead to a relative increase in the production of key staple crops. Erratic rainfall experienced at the peak of the growing season (May-August) may negatively impact on the yield potential for 2015. To date, HARD activities have focused on supporting programme beneficiaries with the expansion of areas under cultivation and the adoption of improved cultivation practices. Key areas include the use of animal traction and the formation of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). These activities are reported to be progressing well. The project is supporting some 5,000 active farmers, among which some 40 VSLA groups have been formed, consisting of 870 active group members (450 women and 420 men). The amount saved within the first cycle amounts to 392,360 SSP. Estimation of the production of Sorghum, Groundnuts and Sesame by supported farmers is still underway. The FFS site visited showed active participation of members and the crops are well established. There has also been increased extension support to farmers through the County-based extension system.

On achievements against each specific result

- *R1: Increase in the area of land cultivated without a corresponding decrease in crop yields*

There has been significant increase in the land area cultivated. A total of 325 farmers (278 men and 47 women) were trained in animal traction. On average they cultivated 3.5 feddans each (some 75% more than the 2 feddan per farmer baseline). These 325 farmers own a total of 250 ox-ploughs, mainly received from previous distributions. Typically, 5 households share one ox-plough per season, amounting to 1,250 farmers using ox-ploughs.

- *R2: Increased adoption of appropriate agricultural practices*

The adoption of improved agricultural practices has increased, although farmer buy-in is low. A total of 318 farmers (160 men and 158 women) have adopted at least one practice; mainly row planting, correct spacing, use of dung manure and soil erosion control. HARD reports to have reached a total of 2,780 farmers through different extension methods (farm visits, FFS, demonstration farms and group trainings).

- *R3: Increased diversification of crops grown (fruit trees, vegetables and cassava)*

The project is integrating the cultivation of vegetables, cassava and fruit trees. A total of 100 farmers (37 men and 63 women) have been trained in cassava propagation and are growing disease-resistant cassava. A total of 143 farmers (36 men and 107 women) were supported to cultivate vegetables. Vegetable growers earned an average of 320 SSP per month during the vegetable production season (December to April) compared to the 77 SSP per month established during the baseline survey. Three fruit tree nurseries have been established with 1,500 seedlings of lime, guava and mango. Cassava cuttings and fruit trees will be ready for transplanting in the next agricultural season (2016).

- *R4: Improved post-harvest management and marketing of surplus farm produce*

Support in this area is just starting up as of October 2015. The project has not yet made any significant progress in this regard and requires some further thought and planning.

Sustainability of the Action

It is evident that HARD works very closely with the SMAFCRD. HARD has established 4 project staff in each County together with at least 4 County Agricultural Department (CAD) staff headed by a Director. Planning of activities takes place together with CAD staff and the project has also availed motorcycles for County staff to use for extension activities. Similarly, HARD has supported the SMAFCRD with four motorbikes to improve extension.

The SMAFCRD is finding it difficult to retain the 44 graduate extension staff recruited in January 2015. While this is not the responsibility of HARD as an organisation, HARD should nonetheless consult with the SMAFCRD on how to engage CAD staff together with other actors. This could also be an agenda item in the SORUDEV and ZEAT-BEAD coordination meeting involving FAO, UNIDO, GIZ, HARD, the World Food Programme (WFP) and AFOD at State level.

Cross-cutting and other issues

- *EU Visibility*

Unlike the visit in February when EU visibility was very apparent (with banners and sign-boards at every location visited), on this occasion no EU visibility was apparent at any point of contact with HARD except for a SORUDEV sticker on the project vehicle. The visibility of the EU as donor and of HARD as a SORUDEV implementing partner was completely absent at the two sites visited and the farmer group members consulted could only faintly remember having been informed about the programme being funded by the EU.

The visibility of EU-funded actions should be seen as an accountability issue, especially considering that HARD presently has an additional three resource partners (Johanniter, Christian Aid and the World Bank) which are funding food security programmes in the same State (Western Bahr-el-Ghazal).

- *Gender issues*

Efforts should be doubled to expand the inclusion of women in the programme. All of the groups visited included female members. This should be further encouraged and awareness rose of the importance of including women in all activities. All staff members of the HARD SORUDEV programme are male and HARD should endeavour to improve the recruitment of women as staff.

Summary of key lessons learnt (as per discussions with the project team)

The strength and cohesion of groups are often hinged on common self-interest, identification and close relations. HARD should thus ensure that the groups are properly formed and have clear identities, leadership, objectives and constitutions. Some of the groups supported are keenly interested in becoming cooperatives. HARD should thus strengthen its efforts to form cooperatives and develop its activities for the improvement of post-harvest management and the marketing of surplus farm produce.

The diversification of production is an important strategy when developing the resilience of livelihoods and household food security. The introduction and promotion of mosaic-resistant cassava varieties should be expanded and HARD should look at additional crop options to widen the food basket. Possibilities include papaya, mangoes, tamarind (Ardeb), shea butter (Lulu) and sour plum (Abu camera).

HARD should also strengthen its working relationship with UNIDO in order to develop the post-harvest, value addition and marketing components of the project. This is essential if the value chain activity suggested by UNIDO for Western Bahr-el-Ghazal is to benefit the farmers HARD is currently supporting. The first step is to actively prepare for and participate in the validation meeting that UNIDO has planned for 13 October.

The planned external MTE of the programme should be commissioned immediately in order to ensure measures are being developed against the baseline and identify issues of concern that may need to be addressed by the programme. HARD is requested to share the Terms of Reference (ToR) with the EU Delegation programme management team for their input.

The project envisaged from its outset to have all Farmer Field Schools (FFS) incorporate the concept of VSLAs into their activities. The two groups met by the mission did not understand VSLAs and should thus be urgently introduced to the required methodology and supported in the establishment and running of VSLAs.

HARD should inform all FFS and VSLA groups of the availability of both ox-and donkey-drawn ploughs which could be used in the coming planting season. Since HARD has already pre-positioned these items, efforts should be stepped up to increase farmer uptake of this technology. The total of only 11 ploughs taken up out of the 350 made available this season is extremely low.

The planned training of SMAFCRD and HARD staff at the Crop Training Centre (CTC) is very important and must be taken forward. Structured competence training is important for both individual empowerment and organisational development. HARD must budget for and participate in the joint printing of extension guides (scheduled to take place in November in cooperation with the FAO).

3 Programme Schedule

Day	Time	Event	Responsibility
Saturday 3 October	8.30-17.00	Visit FFS and Ox-plough Loan Groups in Kho rjamus and Achum-chum	HARD (Morris and Abraham)
Monday 5 October	8.30-17.30	Meeting with the HARD Executive Director. Visits to Agro-dealers, Blacksmiths, the SMAFCRD and the South Sudan Agricultural Bank	HARD (Dominic and Abraham)
Tuesday 6 October	9.30-15.00	Meeting with HARD staff to review programme update and for feedback	Angus and Tayo

4 People Met and Activities Visited

HARD Staff		
Names	Position	Telephone
Cleto Kunda	Executive Director	0955466301
Evans Owino	Programme Manager	0955198433
Dominic Kparivuru	M&E Officer	0955510228
Morris Akol	Project Officer	0954210626
Abraham Andrea	Animal Traction Officer	0914051513
Lino Edward	Administration/Logs	0955044075
James Urayo	Driver	0956182547

Farmers' Field Group Members in Khorjamus		Animal Traction' Farmers Group in Achum-chum	
Names	Gender	Names	Gender
Abraham Majok Majok	M	MadorAthian	M
James Anou Akot	M	Malang Madut Longar	M
Gabriel Madut Mel	M	Bol Agiu	M
Mary Abuk Akuar	F	Machor Akol Aquek	M
Peter Madut Akok	M	Amel Deng Aher	F
Gabriel Majok Mabuok	M	Mabuang Goor Mabuang	M
Samuel Majak Majak	M	Luka Lual Aleu	M
Marko Madut Mabek	M	Manut Thiep Thiep	M
Peter Manyuat Mabek	M	Amel Anyuan Arol	F
William Anyuan Anyuan	M	Aman Akuei Mawien	F
John Unguech Lueth	M	Achol Bahl Akol	F
Anyuat Umuor Uraya	M	Akumo Ghor Mabuong	F
Marko Majok Mabek	M	Anyuon Deng Lueth	M
Akur Madut Uyu	F	Amol Dor Ayau	M
Areng Madut Uyu	F	Akol Bol Mabior	M
Arkangelo Akech Akot	M	Ahok Manyuat Majok	F
John Madut Manyuat	M		
Lina Mayen Majak	F		

5 Picture Gallery

Project Site Visit at Khorjamus

Bambara bean (*Vigna Subterranea*), Peanut (*Arachis hypogaea*), Cassava (*Manihot esculenta*),
Beneficiaries



Project Village Walk-through at Khorjamus

Purple witchweed parasite (Striga hermonthica), Sorghum (Sorghum bicolor), Groundnuts (Arachis hypogaea), Sesame (Sesamum indicum)



Project Site Visit at Achumcum
Peanut (Arachis hypogaea)

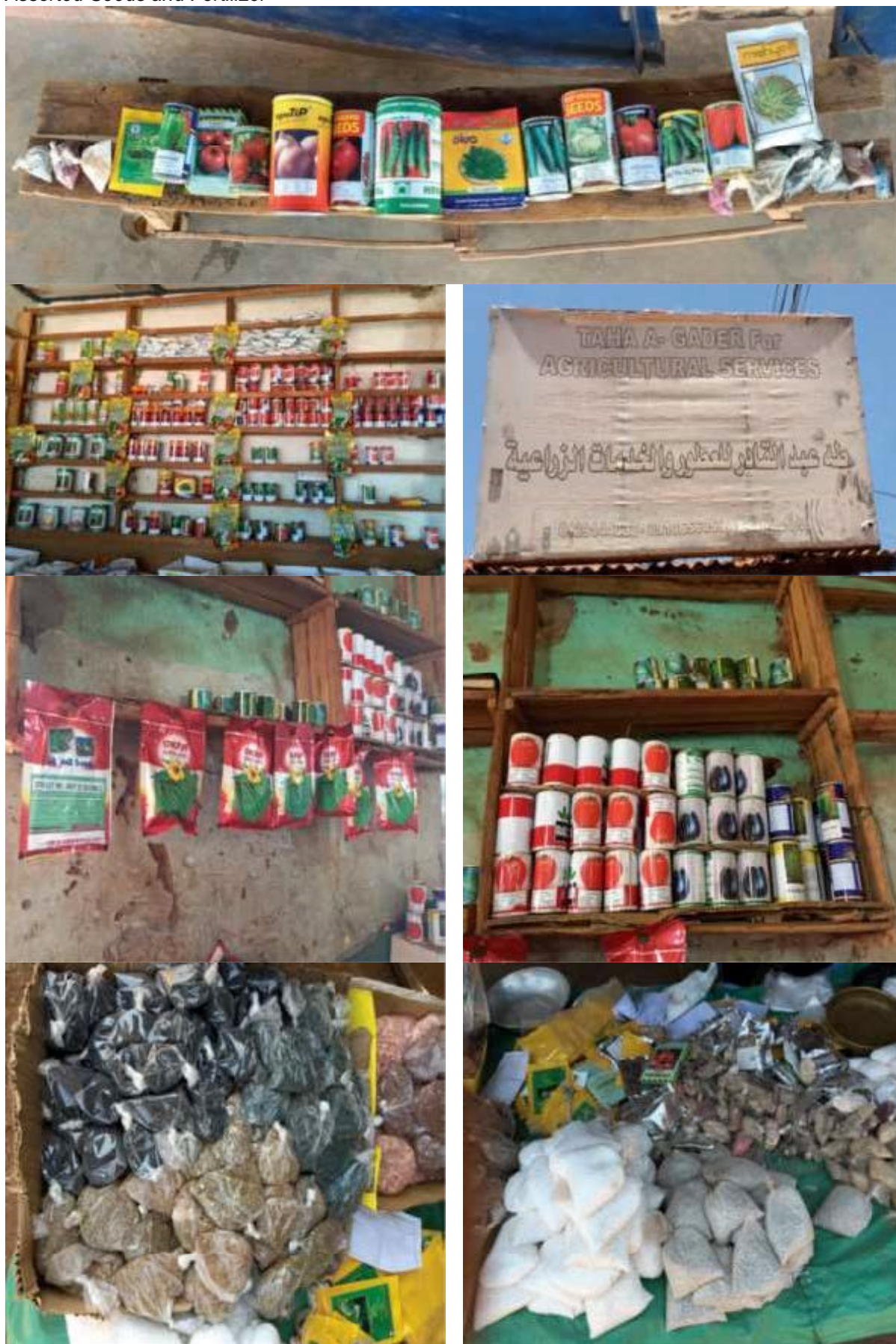


Agro-dealers Visit at Wau Market

Ox-Ploughs and Spares (HARD – Kenya/Uganda), Hoes without handles (FAO-DEN-NOR-USA), Local hoes (Locally forged), Other farm tools (Imported – Kenya/Uganda)



Agro-dealers Visit at Wau Market
Assorted Seeds and Fertilizer



Agro-dealers Visit at Wau Market
Veterinary Medicines



Annex 1: Project Summary

Title of the Project	Smallholder Food Security and Livelihoods Project, 2014-2017
Implementing Agency	Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD)
Location(s) of the action: specify country(ies) and region(s) that will benefit from the action	State: Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State (WBG), South Sudan Counties ¹ : Jur River, Wau and Raja Counties Payams ² : Marial Wau, Roc Roc Dong, Kuajina, Wan Bai, Kangi and Udici in Jur River County, Bessilia, Baggari and Kpaile in Wau County and Ujuku and Sopo in Raja County
Total duration of the action (months)	Thirty-six (36) months from 15 February 2014 to 14 February 2017
Objectives of the action	<u>Overall objective</u> : To contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods among rural households in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State <u>Specific objective</u> : Increased agricultural production and incomes among smallholder farmers in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State
Target group(s) ³	Smallholder farmers (men, women, youth and lead farmers), County officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development (MAFCRD), Community-Owned Resource Persons (CORPs), Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), farmer groups and cooperatives and village committees
Final beneficiaries ⁴	370,294 ⁵ inhabitants of rural farming communities in Jur River, Wau and Raja Counties
Estimated results	R1 – Increased total area of land cultivated using animal traction R2 – Increased promotion and adoption of good agricultural practices R3 – Increased diversification of crops grown (fruit trees, vegetables and cassava) R4 – Improved post-harvest handling and management, storage facilities and marketing
Main activities	A1 – Animal traction and draught power A2 – Agricultural extension and training A3 – Fruit tree farming and vegetable cultivation A4 – Post-harvest handling/management and marketing
Number of technical staff	12 technical staff: Programme Manager, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer, 2 staff Jur River North, 2 staff Jur River South, 2 staff Wau South, 2 staff Wau North and 2 staff Raja Counties

¹ County: an administrative unit in South Sudan immediately below the State

² Payam: an administrative unit in South Sudan immediately below the County, equivalent to a District

³ "Target groups" are the groups/entities who will directly benefit from the action

⁴ "Final beneficiaries" are those who will benefit from the action in the long term at the level of the community or sector at large

⁵ Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFAM) in South Sudan, FAO/WFP, February 2013

Annex 2: Project Staff

Name	Gender	Position	Telephone	Email
Evans Owino	M	Programme manager/team leader	0955198433	evans_agola@yahoo.com
Dominic Albino	M	M&E/Deputy programme manager	0924961810	Kparivurud@yahoo.com
Abraham Andrea	M	Animal traction officer	0914051513	abrahamandrea@ymail.com
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Annex 3: Work Plan: February 2015 to September 2015

Work Plan since last monitoring visit Activities	2015							
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Animal traction								
Establish 5 animal traction training centres	X	X	X					
Train 80 animal traction ToTs			X	X				
Allocate 600 farmers to be trained by ToTs				X				
Recruit agro-dealers to supply animal traction equipment		X	X					
Register farmers interested in animal traction equipment			X					
Avail 600 items of animal traction equipment (400 ox ploughs +200 donkey-ploughs) to farmers through agro-dealers			X	X	X			
Conduct trials on ox- and donkey-drawn carts			X	X	X			
Extension and training								
Establish 4 demonstration farms				X	X	X		
Establish 10 FFS			X	X	X	X	X	X
Conduct second-round training for project staff and CAD officials								X
Provide training to VSLAs		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Disburse loans to VSLAs				X	X	X		
Hold 2 field days in each Payam								X
Produce extension materials (posters and manuals)							X	X
Recruit agro-dealers to supply seeds				X				
Select local seed producers			X					
Avail seeds and tools to farmers				X	X			
Train and visit at least 2000 farmers and farmers 'groups			X	X	X	X	X	X
Liaise with the land governance component of SORUDEV						X		
Conduct participatory planning meetings with farmers							X	X
Fruit tree farming								
Identify and select 3 nursery sites			X					
Procure nursery materials				X				
Develop nursery visibility materials				X				
Train 8 nursery attendants and 200 farmers in fruit tree management					X			
Undertake nursery management activities, e.g. grafting, etc.						X	X	X
Promotion of improved cassava varieties								
Identify 2 cassava bulking sites			X	X				
Provide fencing materials				X				
Establish 3 cassava bulking farms				X				
Train 160 farmers in cassava farming				X	X			
Procure and bulk cassava cuttings					X			
Propagate cassava					X			
Marketing								
Identify Payam-level farmers' groups and cooperatives								X
Train farmers' groups and cooperatives in good leadership and group dynamics						X	X	
Hold a workshop with value chain actors								X
Planning and coordination								
Coordination and monitoring	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Organise and participate in Project Management Unit meetings		X						
Organise and participate in quarterly meetings		X						
Organise and participate in monitoring visits		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Organise and participate in Steering Committee meetings			X					

Annex 4: Progress toward Achieving Objectives

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVIs)	Achievement at February 2015	Achievement at September 2015
Overall objective To contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods of rural households in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State (WBG) by 2017	Supported households in WBG are food self-sufficient (i.e. have adequate food to last until the next harvest) The level of distress sale of livestock and other household assets to meet food needs during the "hunger gap" period is reduced by at least 50% in targeted areas Households have reduced their expenditure on food from 65% of their total income to 35% by the end of the project	Too early to assess at this stage of project implementation. OVIs will be verified by external independent consultants during the mid-term evaluation	Too early to assess at this stage of project implementation. The deteriorating economic situation in South Sudan has adversely affected the socio-economic situation of beneficiaries
Specific objective Increased agricultural production and incomes among smallholder farmers in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State by 2017	At least 3,000 households demonstrate a 50% increase in yield for the three main crops (sorghum, groundnut and maize) per feddan (900 in Year 1, 1,300 in Year 2 and 800 in Year 3) At least 900 households demonstrate a 40% increase in income (100 in Year 1, 300 in Year 2 and 500 in Year 3)	Too early to assess at this stage of project implementation. OVIs will be verified by external independent consultants during the mid-term evaluation	There are early indications that some supported households have increased their area under cultivation. This should lead to a relative increase in the production of key staple crops. Erratic rainfall experienced at the peak of the 2015 growing season (May-August) may have negative impact on yields
Expected results R1 – Increase in the area of land cultivated using animal traction without a corresponding decrease in crop yields by 2017	At least 3,000 farmers have acquired knowledge and skills in the use of draught animal power for cultivation (200 in Year 1, 400 in Year 2 and 600 in Year 3) At least 2,720 farmers using animal traction in cultivation demonstrate a 50% increase in land area cultivated (800 in Year 1, 1,200 in Year 2 and 720 in Year 3)	The project has so far registered a total of 300 farmers wishing to acquire animal traction equipment 40 ox-plough trainers have been identified for the ToT training programme	There has been significant increase in the land area cultivated 325 farmers (278 men and 47 women) who were trained in animal traction cultivated an average of 3.5 feddans, 75% more than the baseline of 2 feddans per farmer. These 325 farmers owned 250 ox-ploughs, mainly from previous distributions and purchase on the market. On average 5 households use one ox-plough in a season, amounting to <u>1,250 farmers using ox-ploughs</u>
R2 – Increased promotion and adoption of appropriate agricultural practices by 1,500 smallholder farmers by 2017	There is a County-based extension system supporting at least 3,000 farmers (900 in Year 1, 1,300 in Year 2 and 800 in Year 3) At least 3,000 farmers demonstrate increased knowledge and skills in good agricultural practices and conservation agriculture (900 in Year 1, 1,300 in Year 2 and 800 in Year 3) At least 800 farmers observe at least two conservation agriculture practices (150 in	A County-based extension system (CORPs, CAD officials and project staff) is in place 143 farmers show good agricultural practices, especially vegetable production Too early to assess conservation agriculture at this stage of project implementation	Adoption of improved agricultural practices has increased, although farmer buy-in is low. 318 farmers (160 men and 158 women) have adopted at least one practice (mainly <u>row planting, correct spacing, use of dung manure and soil erosion control</u>) 2,780 farmers have been reached through different extension methods (farm visits, FFS, demonstration farms and group trainings)

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVIs)	Achievement at February 2015	Achievement at September 2015
	Year 1, 300 in Year 2 and 350 in Year 3)		
R3 – Increased diversification of crops grown through the use of integrated fruit tree, vegetable and cassava farming	<p>At least 1,000 farmers are cultivating diversified crop types (fruit trees, vegetables and cassava) by 2017 (200 in Year 1, 400 in Year 2 and 400 in Year 3)</p> <p>At least 120 farmers demonstrate an 80% increase in income from the sale of vegetables by 2017 (30 in Year 1, 40 in Year 2 and 50 in Year 3)</p> <p>At least 1,000 farmers demonstrate increased understanding of the need for livelihood diversification by 2017 (200 in Year 1, 500 in Year 2 and 300 in Year 3)</p>	<p>143 farmers are already cultivating diversified crop types (mainly vegetables)</p> <p>87 farmers have demonstrated a 50% increase in income from the sale of vegetables</p> <p>200 farmers demonstrate understanding of the need for livelihood diversification</p>	<p>The project has integrated the cultivation of vegetables, cassava and fruit trees. 100 farmers (37 men and 63 women) have been trained in cassava propagation and are growing disease-resistant cassava varieties</p> <p>143farmers (36 men and107 women) were supported to cultivate vegetables and 3 fruit tree nurseries have been established with 1,500 seedlings of lime, guava and mango. Cassava cuttings and fruit trees will be ready for transplanting in the next agricultural season (2016)</p> <p>Vegetable growers earned an average of 320 SSP per month during the vegetable production season (December-April) compared to the 77 SSP per month established during the baseline survey.</p>
R4 – Improved post-harvest handling and management and increased adoption of post-harvest storage facilities and marketing of surplus farm produce by 2017	<p>At least 400 farmers adopt effective post-harvest practices (100 in Year 1, 180 in Year 2 and 200 in Year 3)</p> <p>At least 400 households demonstrate a 20% reduction in post-harvest losses(100 in Year 1, 180 in Year 2 and 200 in Year 3)</p> <p>At least 2,500 households have a 20% increase in income from the sale of surplus farm produce (800 in Year 1, 1,000 in Year 2 and 700 in Year 3)</p>	<p>Too early to assess at this stage of project implementation. Progress should be recorded in the first Interim Report</p>	<p>This is too early to assess. Interventions under this result began only in October 2015 as the agricultural season comes to an end</p>

Annex 5: Challenges and Follow-Up Actions

	Observations during the EU Field Mission in October 2014	Action taken/recommended during the EU Field Mission in February 2015	Action taken/recommended during the EU Field Mission in September 2015
Slow progress of the consultation, review and harmonisation process between the various SORUDEV implementing partners	The HARD project implementation team has been arguably the most responsive of the four implementing partners to calls for closer coordination and has pressed ahead with activities not subject to controversy or debate, such as some training activities.	This challenge has been addressed in the past 3-5 months and changes to be made to the project to align/harmonise it with the development objectives of SORUDEV have since been agreed on.	Integration with ZEAT-BEAD and UNOPS is on-going. It has been decided not to participate in the FAO VSLA call for proposals. Will work and support GIZ and UNIDO, especially in the promotion of awareness and information on hides and skins.
Vast project area and sparse population Lack of staff with both technical and local language skills Weak or inadequate Government capacity Limited staff numbers at CAD	The 3 County Agricultural Departments (CADs) in Jur River, Raga and Wau are all understaffed and have no field-based extension workers to assist with group formation or training. Currently there is one staff member per County. Commitment has been made by the SMAFCRD to deploy additional staff to the Counties Devolution of services to different areas will enable staff to serve farmers more easily.	The SMAFCRD has recruited graduates to fill staff gaps at County level. The new recruits have yet to be deployed to the Counties. A two-week capacity building and training programme was organised for project and CAD officials. HARD will establish its own extension service made up of community-owned resource persons (CORPs) to act as local mobilisers and community mentors. 48 CORPs have been recruited, trained and facilitated to support farmers.	2 weeks of training have been completed. HARD will send 4 project staff and 4 MAFCRD county staff for a one-month training course at the Yei CTC. The M&E officer will undertake additional training, with a view to training SMAFCRD staff in M&E operations. HARD plans to retrain the active 45 of the planned 48 CORPs.
Deteriorating road conditions across most of the State make it difficult to travel	The project plans to establish satellite bases in different locations (possibly in Basia in Wau South County and Kangi in Jur River North County). A third site may be considered at Dem Zubeir in Raga County.	2 satellite bases have already been established while the remainder are under construction.	The Achum-chum satellite compound was renovated and three others are newly constructed: Marial Bai, Deim Zubeir and Marol Akec. Basia is not in use due to insecurity.
Shortage of fuel on local markets lasting for almost two months	Fuel was stocked before the shortage/crisis began but is now running low since the protracted length of the shortage was not anticipated.	Fuel shortages have eased with the onset of the dry season. Early planning, procurement and pre-positioning will be done to mitigate fuel shortages in future.	Pre-positioning has been effective. HARD has a good and stable relationship with the fuel station and ensures the storage of 4,000 litres at any given time.
Delayed completion of baseline survey report	The consultant failed to submit the baseline survey report (for which the field work was conducted in August) until mid-October 2014, leaving a limited amount of time for survey findings to be translated into	The final baseline report was finally submitted and the inception report submitted by the deadline of 29 November 2014.	The Crop Estimate Table is expected to be completed by end October with a forecast of the long-duration sorghum harvested in December.

	Observations during the EU Field Mission in October 2014	Action taken/recommended during the EU Field Mission in February 2015	Action taken/recommended during the EU Field Mission in September 2015
	the final logical framework (log frame) indicators included in the Inception Report.		
Inadequate coordination among agencies and donors working in the food security sector	Policies relating to the distribution of farm inputs, the payment of staff incentives and attitudes to food-for-work programmes differ between agencies.	The SMAFCRD continues to organise co-ordination meetings, bringing together all food security and livelihood actors. However, harmonisation has not been achieved.	A monthly coordination meeting (third Tuesday of each month) with Government and ZEAT-BEAD partners is led by HARD and AFOD.
Access to animal traction inputs, equipment and spare parts	HARD will trial and promote the use of draught planters, weeders and carts in order to mechanise additional areas of the crop cycle (in addition to the promotion of agro-dealers as agents of improved market availability of all agricultural inputs). Potential agro-dealers are reluctant to supply inputs (ploughs) and need contracts.	Two agro-dealers have been recruited to supply donkey- and ox-ploughs and their spare parts. 1-year guarantees should be provided and farmers linked to agro-dealers.	HARD bought 400 ox-ploughs (50 for training, 350 pre-positioned out of which 11 were sold) and spare parts such as plough blades. It is unclear if the ploughs sold went to the targeted farmers or indeed whether this occurred at the recommended cost of 930SSP. HARD has also pre-positioned 200 donkey-ploughs. This will increase awareness and encourage farmers to use them.
Farmer buy-in	Interest in the project is low. Use of animal traction to increase the area cropped can create an imbalance between the area that can be ploughed and the area that can be weeded.	There has been an expansion in awareness and sensitisation campaigns, encouraging farmers to work through groups and VSLAs. On-farm trials of equipment such as weeders and donkey carts will be carried out.	This is still a problem. HARD is using a diverse range of extension methods such as demonstration plots. HARD should continue to promote communal rotation labour groups, with host members providing food and beverages.
Uncontrolled movement of livestock, resulting in the destruction of agricultural crops, especially cassava and long-term sorghum	Free (wet-season) movement of livestock through farmland under long-term crop cultivation, as well as dry-season movement of livestock to riverine areas also used for horticultural activities, often results in tension and occasional conflict between farming and pastoral communities (particularly in Jur River County).	The project team has engaged in dialogue with traditional leaders and local government officials to address the issue of uncontrolled movement of livestock. Fencing of vegetable gardens and perennial crops such as cassava is being encouraged.	This remains a problem in Jur River County where adequate measures are not yet in place. The long-term solution would appear to be State- and County-level demarcation of livestock migration corridors, designated grazing areas and punitive fines for transgressors of the law.
Conflicts in some Bomas	Border disputes between WBG and Warrap States have affected 3 Bomas and caused insecurity in Raja County (Sopo and Mangayat areas).	The Governments of both States have committed to address the simmering conflict.	This is on-going. In Jur River there is inter-clan conflict. Wau county is also insecure. There are targeted killings of chiefs by militia and revenge killings are not uncommon.

Annex 6: Work Plan: October 2015 to October 2016

Work Plan: next 12-month period	2015			2016								
Activities	O	No	De	Ja	Fe	M	Ap	Ma	Ju	J	Au	Se
Result 1												
Training of animal traction ToTs							X	X	X			
Training of farmers in animal traction							X	X	X			
Sensitisation and awareness on availability of ploughs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Training of farmers in animal draught power (animal- drawn carts)	X	X	X									
Result 2												
Holding of field days	X	X	X									
Reproduction of extension materials (EU to		X										
Post-harvest training	X	X	X	X								
Support to farmers to construct improved		X	X	X								
Participatory land use planning				X	X	X						
Training of CORPs and CAHWs				X								
Support to seed producers							X	X				
Establishment of FFS							X	X	X	X		
Establishment of demonstration farms							X	X	X	X		
Staff training in Yei of M&E Officer		X			X	X						
Staff capacity building – visit by the trainer		X										
Training of VSLA members	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Result 3												
Training of farmers in nursery management	X	X	X									
Digging of wells in tree nurseries				X	X							
Fencing of tree nurseries		X	X	X	X							
Support to farmers to engage in vegetable			X	X	X	X	X					
Fencing of cassava bulking farms		X	X									
Distribution of cassava cuttings for planting from									X			
Establishment of cassava bulking farms									X			
Result 4												
Identification and training of farmer marketing		X	X			X	X	X				
Workshop with private sector players					X							
Coordination and M&E												
State food security cluster meetings	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SORUDEV and ZEAT-BEAD partner meetings	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SORUDEV and ZEAT-BEAD quarterly meetings				X			X			X		
Quarterly planning meetings		X			X			X			X	
Monitoring and data collection	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mid-term evaluation				X	X							