

GRANT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT

HOPE AGENCY FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT (HARD)

SORUDEV PROJECT

FEBRUARY 2015

1. Project 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	21 to 23 February 2015
Location	Selected Payams in Jur River, Raja and Wau Counties, Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State
Monitoring Officers	Emmanuel Minari and Tayo Alabi
Start date	15 February 2014
End date	14 February 2017

2. Financial Data

Total EC contribution	€2,000,000 (equivalent to 90% of € 2,222,222)
Total spent by project to date (EUR)	€427,180
Balance of funds released to date	€331,911
Anticipated date of next request/release of funds	June 2015
Anticipated amount of next request/release of funds	€1,000,000

3. Monitoring data

3.1 Background

- The Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD) is an indigenous South Sudanese non-governmental organisation (NGO) that was formed in the 1990s. It is implementing the South Sudan Rural Development (SORUDEV) project in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal with funding from the European Union (EU) and co-funding from Christian Aid. SORUDEV will be implemented over 36 months from February 2014 until February 2017 and is designed to build on a previous HARD-implemented, EU-funded Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP) project titled "Food Security and Rehabilitation Programme (FSRP)" and implemented in Jur River County, Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State, from April 2010 to July 2013.
- Prior to the SORUDEV project, HARD implemented a number of similar projects including the FSRP. The project activities covered 14 villages in four of the six payams in Jur River County and targeted 2,690 households (1,614 of them female-headed), including 1,310 returnee-headed households). As indicated in the most recent monitoring report, some of these beneficiaries (and their communities) are targeted under the new SORUDEV project. For additional background information about previous projects implemented by HARD, please refer to previous report of the monitoring mission conducted in September 2014.
- It is evident that HARD has continued to maintain the momentum enjoyed during the life of their late Executive Director Mr. Joseph Garang. With a stable cadre of programme management staff led by Mr. Cleto Kunda and Programme Manager Mr. Evans Owino, the implementation of the SORUDEV project is on course.
- It is the view of the monitoring team that the leadership and management of HARD is performing well after the demise of the founder and Executive Director. The programme is now housed in a bigger and more spacious office in Wau with reasonable access to power and the internet.

- All SORUDEV programme extension staff have been employed; however, it was discovered at the general meeting held with staff that only 3 of the 10 of them have the minimum required training in agriculture. This presented a major concern but the team was assured that an adequate training programme has been put in place to strengthen the technical capacity of staff in the areas of extension services, animal traction, Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) facilitation and overall project cycle management.

3.2 Key findings/notes on project development

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, RocRoc 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, Animal Resources and Cooperatives (MAARC), Community-Owned Resource Persons (CORPs), Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), farmer groups and cooperatives and village committees
Final beneficiaries ⁴	370,294⁵ 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 through integrated fruit trees, vegetables and cassava farming R4 – Improved post-harvest handling and management, increased adoption of post-harvest storage facilities and marketing of surplus farm produce
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 County

3.3 Early indications versus progress observed

Recruitment of project staff:

Technical staff recruited comprise: a Programme Manager, an M&E Manager/Deputy Programme Manager, 4 Project Officers, 5 Project Assistants and 1 Animal Traction Officer. All staff are currently operating from the HARD office in Wau.

- The staff referred to above are already deployed in the field and were seen to be very active in the implementation of the project. The only drawback is that 7 of the 10 extension staff do not have basic agricultural training let alone college certificates. To compensate for this, an in-house capacity building plan was developed and discussed with the monitoring team. Some of the staff will be sent to the National Training Centre or Crop Training Centre in Yei, with this secondment staggered in a way that it does not compromise field supervision. In-house training of trainers (ToT) is also planned on extension packages and a trainer from a training institute in Uganda is expected to provide the initial training. The understanding is that with the basic training and field experience, the staff will not find the training in Yei overly technical and as such will be able to cope in real time.
- The relationship between HARD and the MAARC remains cordial and strong. During a visit to the Ministry, the Acting Director General Mr Louis Aikata confirmed that HARD is working very closely with his office. He confirmed that HARD delivered three motorbikes for use by his extension staff in the State. However, one of the bikes is yet to be fully deployed because of an internal procedural dispute between an assigned staff member and the Ministry. The staff member has been assigned an old bike which he is meant to return and exchange for the new one, but he has so far refused to do so.

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 society or sector at large

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

- The MAARC mentioned that they have employed 44 graduates as Ministry extension staff to be posted to County and Payam level with a few more in the State capital. All of the staff are university graduates and are keen to join the Ministry. They will be on the Government payroll and County commissioners have been instructed to build accommodation for the newly-posted extension staff. In total there are 55 extension staff in the Ministry (44 of which are new). This is considered by the monitoring team to be a very positive development as it completely eliminates issues of understaffing (at least for now) and the increased number of extension workers will reduce the ratio of extension staff to farmers served. Therefore their deployment should boost extension delivery and complement the activities of NGOs.
- Of the planned five satellite bases, one has been constructed and an additional four are expected. The motive behind their construction is to ensure that extension staff are placed very close to the operational areas and to reduce travel costs.

Procurement of project equipment:

- There was an initial request for two vehicles to be used for this project. An additional vehicle has been requested in the inception rider to increase the number of vehicles in the pool and ease the burden on those already procured. This is because the project is being implemented in nearly all Counties and thus requires very heavy travel.
- This request is yet to be approved as the HARD inception rider is still being reviewed.

Implementation of Activities:

- Overall, HARD has made very significant progress in operationalising the SORUDEV implementation approach. This is markedly different from the previous 3 months when it struggled to understand the approach as designed in Wau. Nearly all aspects of the Wau Resolution are being implemented and the level of understanding shown and explanations given by the various groups visited is a testimony to the effectiveness of the awareness-raising activities being carried out by HARD field staff. Beneficiaries clearly understood SORUDEV as a development project and de-emphasised the distribution of free inputs.
- 30 Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups have been formed and all are very actively saving and meeting. The groups are fully integrated and a plan is already in place to commence training in agronomic practices for the members that will be involved in farming.
- In line with the SORUDEV approach, plans have already been instituted and are in the process of being implemented to link agro-dealers with the groups while HARD provides the letter of credit.
- With 30 groups formed, there are still 70 more groups to be set up in line with the project target. HARD will have to speed up if it is to ensure that all groups meant to be formed in the first year are fully trained, equipped and operational. Some groups were set up without proper training as is the case with the youth group in Jur River County. Training in savings and loan methodology is essential for all groups.
- Access to Jur River County and access to markets by beneficiaries/target communities within the county is very difficult. The road is already earmarked for rehabilitation by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). HARD will need to collaborate with the UNOPS team and facilitate their work as much as possible in the assessment of the roads.

3.4 Challenges likely to adversely impact implementation and action to be taken to address problems

Nº	Challenges	ACTION TAKEN or to be taken by HARD	
		Action Taken During the EU Field Mission in October 2014	Action taken/recommended during the EU Field Mission in February 2015
1	Slow pace of progress of the consultation, review and harmonisation process between the various SORUDEV implementing partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The consultation, review and harmonisation process between SORUDEV and implementing partners has been rather slow so far, placing limitations on full-scale roll-out of the project and the implementation of some activities (e.g. extension training, visibility etc.). – The HARD project implementation team has been arguably the most responsive of the four implementing partners to calls for closer co-ordination and has pressed ahead with activities not subject to controversy or debate, such as some training activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – This challenge has been addressed in the past 3-5 months. – Consequently, changes to be made to the project to align/ harmonise it with the development objectives of SORUDEV have been agreed on. – However, the delay in approving the rider is likely to slow down the pace of implementation.
2	Lack of staff with both technical and local language skills and weak or inadequate Government capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To further complicate matters, 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. – Staff capacity development training is planned and the project will work in close partnership with whichever CAD staff are available. – To compensate for the absence of Government/CAD staff, HARD will establish its own extension service made up of 24 community-owned resource persons (CORPs) to act as both local mobilisers and community mentors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The State MAARC has recruited graduates to fill staff gaps at County level. – The newly recruited staff have yet to be deployed to the Counties. – A two-week capacity building and training programme was organised for project and CAD officials. – 48 CORPs have already been recruited, trained and facilitated to support farmers.

		Unfortunately, these CORPs suffer from the same lack of technical capacity as Government staff.	
3	Deteriorating road conditions across most of the State make it difficult to travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project plans to establish satellite bases in different locations (possibly in Bazia in southern Wau County and Kangi in northern Jur River County). A third site may be considered at Dem Zubeir in Raga County. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 satellite bases have already been established while the remainder are under construction.
4	Shortage of fuel on local markets lasting for a period of almost two months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuel was stocked before the shortage/crisis began but is now running low as the protracted length of the shortage was not anticipated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
5	Delayed completion of baseline survey report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Inception Report final logical framework (logframe) indicators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final baseline report was finally submitted and the inception report submitted by the deadline of 29 November 2014.
6	Inadequate co-ordination among agencies and donors working in the food security sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different policies, approaches and implementation modalities employed by other, locally active NGOs often contradict the implementing modalities imposed on HARD by the EU (by mutual consent). In particular, policies relating to the distribution of farm inputs, the payment of staff incentives and attitudes to food-for-work programmes differ between agencies. Other NGOs operating in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State include the Agency for Technical Co-operation and Development (ACTED), the Christian Agenda for Development, Dorcas Aid International, the International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO), Intermón Oxfam, Save the Children, Trócaire and the Women's Development Group (WDG). Ultimate responsibility for ensuring consistency between different programme approaches lies with the County and State authorities. Unfortunately, co-ordination mechanisms are inadequate (including open but non-binding debate between parties involved in Food Security and Livelihoods cluster meetings) and policies thus remain largely disjointed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State MAARC continues to organise co-ordination meetings, bringing together all food security and livelihood actors. However, the harmonisation of approaches has not been achieved.
7	Access to animal traction inputs (primary equipment and spares) and the relationship between use of animal traction equipment and on-farm demand for labour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A problem that affects all EU-funded FSTP animal traction programmes (and is not resolved by any of them) is that increased land under cultivation, through use of animal-drawn (in this case ox and donkey-drawn) ploughs, does not reduce the demand for manual labour (especially among single parent or female-headed households) but rather creates an imbalance between the area that can be ploughed and the area that can be weeded. As such, increased land under cultivation does not automatically result in increased yields, because animal traction covers only one aspect of the crop production cycle, leaving other aspects dependent on the availability of finite quantities of traditional hand labour and hand tools. 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). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two agro-dealers have been recruited to supply donkey and ox ploughs and their spare parts. Trials of other equipment such as weeders and donkey carts will be carried out, mostly through demonstration farms and farmer field schools (FFS).
8	Uncontrolled movement of livestock, results in the destruction of agricultural crops, especially cassava and long-term sorghum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free (wet-season) movement of livestock through farmland under long-term crop cultivation, and 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). Fencing of gardens is the preferred solution of most 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project team has engaged in dialogue with traditional leaders and local government officials to address the issue of uncontrolled movement of livestock. In areas where activities such as vegetable production are being

		<p>farmers, but budgetary constraints mean project support for this action is largely non-viable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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. However, these are all yet to be put in place. 	<p>carried out, fencing was prioritised and constructed as a measure to keep livestock away.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Farmers are also being encouraged to fence off their own farms, especially farms where they grow perennial crops such as cassava.
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Additional Challenges

Nº	Challenges	Action taken/recommended during the EU Field Mission in February 2015
1	Delay in approval of the rider to enable implementation	– All documents have been submitted to the EU Delegation for review.
2	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.
3	Farmer buy-in	– Low interest in the project has prompted the escalation of awareness and sensitisation campaigns, encouraging farmers to work through groups and VSLAs.
4	Agro-dealership	– Potential agro-dealers are reluctant to supply inputs (ploughs) and need contracts. 1-year guaranteed should be provided as explained above and farmers linked to agro-dealers.
5	Limited staff numbers at CAD	– Currently there is 1 staff member per County. Commitment has been made by the State MAARC to employ additional staff to the Counties.
6	Vast project area and sparse population	– Devolution of services to different areas will enable staff to serve farmers more easily. Plans to purchase an additional vehicle have been included in the rider.

3.5 Further actions required

The mission recommends that HARD should:

1. Submit a more recent rider addressing all comments immediately. It's important not to spend money on the creation of new lines until the rider is approved.
2. Prioritise the establishment and training of all remaining VSLA groups to reach planned targets.
3. Ensure the recruitment of agro-dealers is completed in good time to facilitate prepositioning of farming inputs (seeds and appropriate tools) by agro-dealers and timely access to farm inputs by farmers before the planting season. There is need to ensure better/clearer understanding of the purpose of the agro-dealership arrangement by both parties (agro-dealers and VSLAs/farmer groups) and the link between them should be established promptly before the rainy season starts.
4. Consider a special arrangement to secure the 400 donkey-ploughs already produced by blacksmiths. This is important because, as agro-dealers explained, it could take months for any of the ordered ploughs to reach Wau and shifting them will become nearly impossible when the rains come (given that all major roads leading to Wau (from Juba via Rumbek and Tambura and from Sudan via Abyei) are impassable during the rainy season).
5. Prioritise timely training of its staff in agronomic practices in order to increase the chances of implementing the project efficiently and professionally. Such training could be planned on the job but also through short training done within the country and in a "staggered" manner (that is, not all staff should be sent for training at the same time).
6. A plan for the conversion of existing vegetable garden plots into FFS should be clearly worked out and staff fully briefed.
7. Attend the 1st State-Level Technical Workshop on crop production technical guidelines in Rumbek in early March 2015.
8. Attend the 2nd State-Level Technical Workshop on animal husbandry and animal traction in Wau in late March 2015 and support EU technical assistants to set up logistical arrangements and other support for the workshop.

In addition, HARD should endeavour to implement the following activities in the next two months:

Nº	Activities	March				April			
		Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4
1	Continue with the registration of farmers in 24 Bomas								
2	Train 11 project staff and 3 CAD extension staff in; FFS approach, the principles of crop production with focus on crops being promoted and other extension methods								
3	Conclude agro-dealership contracts for ploughs, implements and spare parts								
4	Continue with the training of VSLA groups								
5	Complete the establishment of satellite bases in Marol								

	Akec, Kangi, Bazia and Deim Zubeir								
6	Establish Animal Traction Centres (ATCs) in four locations; Acumcum, Marol Akec, Marial Bai and Kangi								
7	Recruit Animal Traction trainers								
8	Identify and train FFS facilitators								
9	Develop protocol and select farmers for seed production (staple crops, cassava and fruit tree seedlings)								
10	Convene Steering Committee meeting								
11	Hold/attend internal and external quarterly planning and co-ordination meetings								
12	Facilitate a thematic workshop to harmonise guidelines on Animal Traction (in Wau from 25 to 27 March 2015)								

3.6 Progress toward achieving project objectives

The following progress has been made toward achieving project objectives since the last monitoring visit in October 2014:

- *Training of CORPs and local extension workers:* 48 CORPs have received 3 days' training, been provided with basic equipment and are participating in project activities, e.g. the registration of farmers.
- *Targeting:* The following requisite criteria have been developed: 1) financial capacity (of individuals and VSLAs); 2) participation in training activities; and 3) the ability to cultivate at least 3 feddan of land in the 2015 agricultural season.
- *Animal Traction:* Animal Traction Officers have been trained in the use of donkey-ploughs by one of the agencies (WDG).
- *Registration of farmers:* This is on-going, and 200/5000 farmers registered to participate in project activities.
- *Devolution of centres:* 4 devolved centres are currently being established in Marial Bai, Bazia, Marol Akec and Diem Zubeir.
- *Vegetable production:* 5 dry-season vegetable gardens are established, totalling 9 feddan and supporting 143 farmers (70% of which are women).
- *Training of farmers:* 143 farmers in the 5 gardens have been trained in vegetable production.
- *VSLA ToT training:* 12 Project staff; 3 CAD staff and 1 staff from the State MAARC have been trained in VSLA.
- *Community training in VSLA processes:* 470 people (185 men and 285 women) have been trained in VSLA processes.
- *VSLA groups:* 30 VSLA groups have been formed, are operational and have total cumulated savings of 28,670 South Sudanese pounds (SSP) or an average of 60 SSP/member.
- *VSLA equipment:* Cash boxes, padlocks and stationery have been provided to 30 VSLA groups. The design of the first set of boxes does not reflect "classic VSLA design" and subsequent boxes will be designed to make sure the locks are placed on three sides of the box. This way the boxes look more secure.
- *Official launch:* This official launch was conducted in December 2014, presided over by the Hon. State Minister for Agriculture, Animal Resources and Cooperatives and attended by about 450 persons.
- *Agro-dealership:* Invitations to tender for agro-dealer partnerships have been launched to competitively recruit agro-dealers. The partnership will have the following key provisions; 1) the agro-dealer will sign a contract with HARD to bring ploughs and spare parts; 2) HARD will pay for ox-ploughs within year 1; 3) HARD will mobilise and register farmers; 4) farmers will purchase directly from the agro-dealer. Market prices in February 2015 are: 1 ox-plough = 1,100 SSP and 1 donkey-plough = 800 SSP.
- *Visibility:* Stickers, banners and signboards have been produced.
- *Quarterly meeting:* HARD participated in the second quarterly co-ordination meeting in Aweil.

(Please see details in Annex 1 below.)

3.7 Cross-cutting and other issues

EU Visibility: There was clear evidence of tarpaulin banners on display during all meetings. Due to high winds some of the handles have been torn but the information remains very clear. The banners are moveable.



There are clearly marked signboards at project sites

Gender issue: Almost 70% of the Village Savings and Loan Association groups visited are made up of women, many of which are the Chair of their respective groups and also the key-holders of the saving boxes. However, none of the project staff involved in VSLA activity facilitation are female.

4. Summary of Follow-up Actions and Responsibility

	Action to be taken	Responsible	Deadline
1.	Circulate the draft monitoring report	Emmanuel Minari	20 March 2015
2.	Submit revised inception rider report	HARD	28 February 2015
3.	Attend the 1 st State-level expert panel on crop production technical guidelines	HARD	4-6 March 2015
4	Submit first interim report	HARD	30 March 2015
5	Contact the Catholic University and other key stakeholders and facilitate the State-level workshop on Animal Traction	HARD	22 March 2015

Signature: Emmanuel Minari

Date:

Annex 1: Progress toward achieving project objectives

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVIs)	Achievement to date
Overall objective To contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods of rural households in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State (WBG)	OO Indicator 1: Supported WBG households are food self-sufficient (i.e. have adequate food to last till the next harvest) by 2017 OO Indicator 2: The level of distress sale of livestock and other household assets to meet food needs during "hunger gap" period is reduced by at least 50% in targeted areas in WBG OO Indicator 3: WBG households have reduced their expenditure on food from 65% of their total income to only 35% by the end of the project	Too early to assess at this stage of project implementation. However, the OVIs will be verified by external independent consultants during the mid-term evaluation
Specific objective (SO) Increased agricultural production and income of smallholder farmers in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State	SO Indicator 1: At least 3,000 households demonstrate a 50% increase in yield for the three main crops (sorghum, groundnuts and maize) per feddan (1 feddan =1.038 acres) by 2017. (Annual targets: Y1: 900 households; Y2: 1,300 households, Y3: 800 households) SO Indicator 2: At least 900 households demonstrate a 40% increase in income by 2017. (Annual targets are as follows: Y1: 100 households; Y2: 300 households, Y3: 500 households)	Too early to assess at this stage of project implementation. However, the OVIs will be verified by external independent consultants during the mid-term evaluation
Expected results R1 – Increased area of land cultivated using animal traction without a corresponding decrease in crop yields	1.1 At least 3,000 farmers have acquired knowledge and skills in the use of draught animal power for cultivation by 2017 (Y1: 200; Y2: 400, Y3: 600) (R1) 1.2 At least 2,720 farmers using animal traction in cultivation demonstrate a 50% increase in land area cultivated by 2017 (Y1: 800; Y2: 1,200, Y3: 720) (R1)	While it is still too early to assess this in full, the project has so far registered a total of 300 farmers eligible to acquire animal traction equipment 40 ox-plough trainers have also been identified to participate in a ToT training programme
R2 – Increased promotion and adoption of appropriate agricultural practices for 1,500 smallholder farmers	2.1 There is a County-based extension delivery system supporting at least 3,000 farmers by 2017. (Y1: 900 households; Y2: 1,300 households, Y3: 800 households) (R2) 2.2 At least 3,000 farmers demonstrate increased knowledge and skills in good agricultural practices and conservation agriculture by 2017 (Y1: 900 households; Y2: 1,300 Households, Y3: 800 households) (R2) 2.3 At least 800 farmers practise at least two conservation agriculture practices by 2017 (Y1: 150; Y2: 300, Y3: 350) (R2).	1.1 County-based extension system exists and is composed of CORPs (at the frontline level), CAD officials and project staff 1.2 143 farmers demonstrate knowledge and skills in good agricultural practices, especially in vegetable production 1.3 Too early to assess at this stage of project implementation
R3 – Increased diversification of crops grown through the use of integrated fruit trees, vegetables and cassava farming	3.1 At least 1,000 farmers are cultivating diversified crop types (fruit trees, vegetables and cassava) by 2017 (Y1: 200; Y2: 400, Y3: 400) (R3) 3.2 At least 120 farmers demonstrate an 80% increase in income from the sale of vegetables by 2017 (Y1: 30; Y2: 40, Y3: 50) (R3) 3.3 At least 1,000 farmers demonstrate increased understanding of the need for livelihood diversification by 2017 (Y1: 200; Y2: 500, Y3: 300) (R3)	3.1 143 farmers are already cultivating diversified crop types (mainly vegetables) 3.2 At least 87 farmers have demonstrated a 50% increase in income from sale of vegetables 3.3 200 farmers demonstrate understanding of the need for livelihood diversification

R4 – Improved post-harvest handling and management and increased adoption of post-harvest storage facilities and marketing of surplus farm produce	<p>4.1 At least 400 farmers adopt effective post-harvest practices by 2017 (Y1: 100; Y2: 180, Y3: 200) (R4)</p> <p>4.2 At least 400 households demonstrate a 20% reduction in post-harvest losses by 2017 (Y1: 100; Y2: 180, Y3: 200) (R4)</p> <p>4.3 At least 2500 households have a 20% increase in income from sale of surplus farm produce by 2017(Y1: 800; Y2: 1000, Y3: 700) (R4)</p>	<p>4.1 Too early to assess at this stage of project implementation. Progress should be recorded in the first Interim Report</p> <p>4.2 Too early to assess at this stage of project implementation. Progress should be recorded in the first Interim Report</p> <p>4.3 Too early to assess at this stage of project implementation. Progress should be recorded in the first Interim Report</p>
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Annex 2: Location, people met and activities visited

Date	Location	Organisation	Name or activity
23 February	HARD Wau office	HARD	Meeting with the Programme Manager, SORUDEV field staff and the Executive Director
23 February	MAARC Wau office	MAARC	Meeting with Acting Director General Mr Louis Aikata
23 February	Mboro	HARD	Meeting with VSLA group (est. Dec 2014 with 25 members). The group meets every 2 weeks and contributes 20 SSP at every meeting (40 SSP per month)
23 February	Abushaka	HARD	Meeting with VSLA group (est. Dec 2014 with 30 members and now has 22 active members). The group meets every 2 weeks and contributes 25 SSP at each meeting (50 SSP per month)
24 February	Kayango Jur River County	HARD	Meeting with three VSLA groups combined: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women's Group (37 members): Mary Libian Chairlady 2. Giryango Group (25 members): Deng Will Chairman 3. Youth Group (25 members): Pauline Maikwe Chairlady All three groups save 5 SSP per week (20 SSP per month)
24 February	Women's Vegetable Group, Chuncok	HARD	Visit to the garden and sharing of technical ideas on the cultural practices of vegetable growing

See Annex 3 for details of persons met.

Annex 3: Detailed list of participants

A. HARD PROJECT STAFF (SORUDEV)

Nº	Name	Sex	Position
1	Evans Owino	M	Programme manager/team leader
2	Phillip Drichi	M	M&E/Deputy programme manager
3	Abraham Andrea	M	Animal traction officer
4	Peter Andrea	M	Project officer
5	Dominic Albino	M	Project officer
6	Morris Akol	M	Project officer
7	Carlos Gilingere	M	Project officer
8	Opio Orasio	M	Project assistant
9	James Andrea	M	Project assistant
10	Joseph Chan	M	Project assistant
11	Bakote Egidio	M	Project assistant
12	Robert Louis	M	Project assistant

B. CHUNCOK VEGETABLE GROUP, JUR-RIVER NORTH

Nº	Name	Sex	Position
1	Akok Wek Ariench	F	Chairperson
2	Aman Wiou Lual	F	Deputy chairperson
3	Akuol Rng Majok	F	Member
4	Marko Alol Agiu	M	Member
5	Anyang Deng Agou	F	Member
6	Angelo Alol Akook	M	Member
7	Adhieu Mayar Majok	F	Member
8	Nyanut Madut Akol	F	Member
9	Aleu Liu Aleu	M	Member
10	Athuc Geng Puot	F	Member
11	Aluol Majok Mayar	F	Member
12	Gabriel Agiu Akook	M	Member
13	Asunta Adut Akook	F	Member
14	Phillip Akook Akot	M	Member
15	Luka Dut Agiu	M	Member
16	Ajak Akuei Achuil	F	Member
17	John Majok Anyar	M	Member
18	Deng akot akook	M	Member
19	Akok Agui Riing	F	Member
20	Ajak Agem Diing	F	Member
21	Simon Dor Riak	M	Member
22	John Lual Chan	M	Member
23	Zackeria Mabior Mawien	M	Member
24	Adau Manyuat Mawien	F	Member
25	Adut Madding Agiu	F	Member
26	Agool Agiu Akech	F	Member
27	Aman Guot Akol	F	Member
28	Margret Atong Agou	F	Member
29	Madut Akook Wol	M	Member
30	Angelo Awar Akot	M	Member
31	Thiep Dhal Wol	M	Member
32	Abuk Wol Ngor	F	Member
33	John Akot Bol	M	Member
34	Ajak Dhal Wol	F	Member
35	Awut Baak Jook	F	Member
36	William Wol Aleu	M	Member
37	Akuac Ayok Ayok	F	Member
38	Akuac Ayok Ayok	F	Member
39	Achan Anyar Majak	F	Member
40	Akech Dhal Wol	F	Member
41	Angello Athian Giem	M	Member
42	Marry Nyanut Muong	F	Member

43	Marry Ayak Longar	F	Member
44	Angelo Deng Akook	M	Community-owned resource person (CORP)

C. MBORO VSLA GROUP

NAMES OF MBORO VSLA MEMBERS

S/N	NAMES	SEX	POSITION
1	John Tartiszio	M	Member
2	Angelo Tartizio	M	Member
3	Joseph David Kamillo	M	Member
4	Albert Phillip	M	Treasurer
5	Angela Andrea	F	Chairperson
6	Mary Abdalla	M	Member
7	Santino Phillip	M	Member
8	Gaitano Biringi	F	Secretary
9	Rose Peter	F	Member
10	Julliata Margoni	F	Member
11	Lucia Samuel	F	Member
12	Natalina Abdalla	F	Member
13	Rosetha Samuel	F	Money Counter
14	Gloria George	M	Member
15	Juma Clement	M	Member
16	Dominic Bona	F	Money Counter
17	Christina John	M	Member
18	Romana Tartizio	F	Key Holders
20	Angelina Angelo	M	Key Holder
21	Poulina Margoni	M	Member
22	Enariko Jochino	M	Member
23	Monica Bomu	F	Key Holder
24	Mary Kalisto	F	Member
25	Teresa Hassan	F	Member
26	Ferdinando Karlo	M	Member
27	Martha Sigin	F	Member

D. ABUSHAKA VSLA GROUP

NAMES OF ABUSHAKA VSLA

MEMBERS

S/N	NAMES	SEX	POSITION
1	Louis Kpoku	M	Chair person
2	Gabriel Terab	M	Secretary
3	Andrea Mansur	M	Treasurer
4	Remijo Rial	M	Member
5	Angelina Marko	F	Money Counter
6	Shimira Osman	F	Money Counter
7	Arnesta Albino	M	Member
8	Veronica Albert	F	Member
9	Joseph John	M	Member
10	Angelo Andun	M	Member
11	Khamis Fodul	M	Member
12	Hassan Ibrahim	M	Member
13	Moses Kumboy	M	Member
14	Khamillo Willy	M	Key Holder
15	Asunta Ali	F	Key Holder
16	Angelina Louis	F	Member
17	Angelina Mario	F	Member
18	Angela Arkangelo	F	Member
19	Martha Juma	M	Key Holder
20	Hellen Louis	F	Member
21	Christina Francis	F	Member
22	Koleta Khamis	F	Member
23	Amjuma Gabriel	F	Member
24	Koleta Salim	F	Member
25	Daniel Juma	M	Member

Annex 4: Picture Gallery



Photo 1: Meeting with Mboro VSLA Group in Wau County



Photo 2: Meeting with Mboro VSLA Group in Wau County



Photo 3: Meeting with Abushaka VSLA Group in Wau County



Photo 4: Abushaka VSLA member making her bi-weekly remittance to the box



Photo 5: Meeting with the VSLA Group (mostly women) in Jur River County



Photo 6: Vegetable Garden/VSLA Group in Chuncok



Photo 7: Vegetable Garden/VSLA Group in Chuncok



Photo 8: Vegetable Garden/VSLA Group in Chuncok

GRANT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT

HOPE AGENCY FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT (HARD)

– SORUDEV PROJECT

OCTOBER 2014

1. Project 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	6 th – 9 th October 2014
Location	Selected payams in Jur River, Raja and Wau Counties, Western Bahr el Ghazal State
Monitoring Officer	Steven Hind
Start date	15 / 02 / 2014
End date	14 / 02 / 2017

2. Financial data

Total EC contribution	€ 2,000,000 (equivalent to 90% of € 2,222,222)
Total spent by project to date (Euro)	Info to be provided by IP
Balance of funds released to date	€ 759,091
Anticipated date of next request / release of funds	Final quarter 2015
Anticipated amount of next request / release of funds	€ 1,040,909

3. Monitoring data

3.1 Background

- HARD is an indigenous South Sudanese NGO formed in the 1990s during the civil / liberation war period, which (unlike many of its peers) has survived and prospered into the CPA and post-independence era. The organisation currently implements projects on behalf of WFP (Food for Assets), DfID (Girls Education South Sudan) and peace building and human rights projects funded by CORD Aid and Christian Aid, in addition to the EU (SORUDEV).
- For the 39 months from April 2010 until July 2013 (inclusive a 3-months non-cost extension period) HARD implemented an EU-funded FSTP project titled "Food Security and Rehabilitation Programme" in Jur River County, Western Bahr el Ghazal State. This project was generally favourably viewed and reviewed, scoring highly in both TA monitoring reports and in its own mid-term review (see below).
- Project activities covered 14 villages in four of the six payams in Jur River County and targeted 2,690 households (1,614 of them female headed), including 1,310 returnee headed households. Some of these beneficiaries (and / or their communities) are targeted in / by the new SORUDEV project.
- Actual project activities comprised a wide variety of interventions, from provision of training in use of ox ploughs, together with purchase and distribution of ploughs, combined with provision of seed, tools and extension services, delivered through 16 local extension workers called CORPs (community owned resource persons), to vegetable production for home consumption and income, cassava multiplication, bee keeping, poultry and small ruminant re-stocking of vulnerable households and promotion of improved, energy saving cooking stoves. Again, a number of these tried and tested activities reappear in the SORUDEV project design.

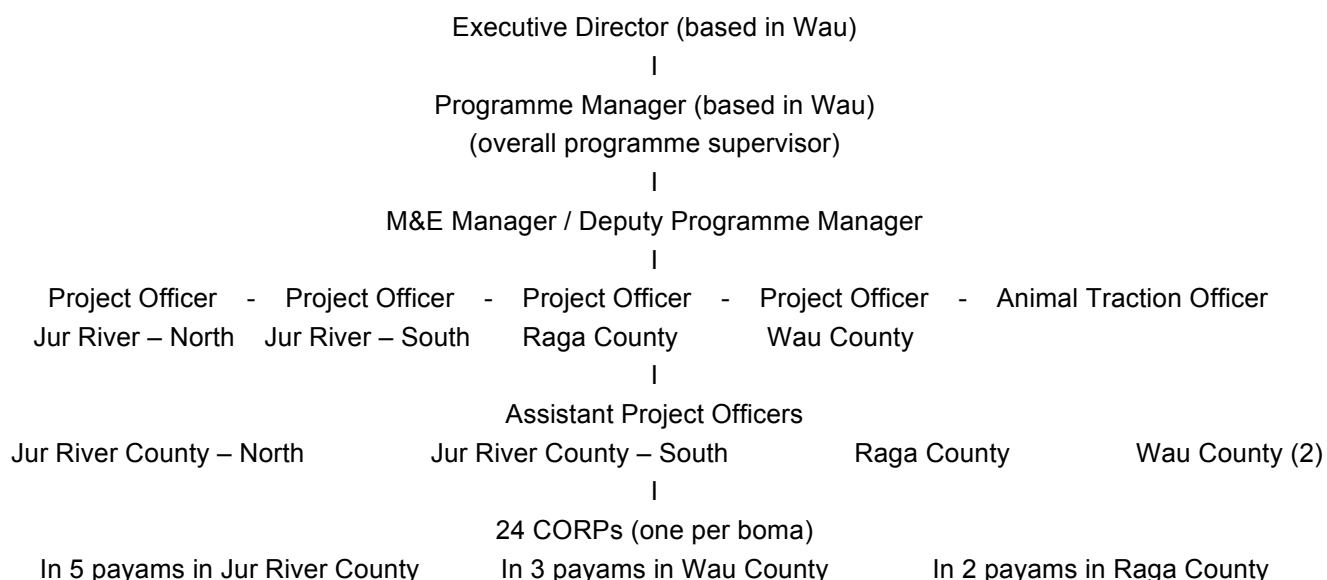
- Within the target group the project had a clear though modest impact. Land under cultivation increased and with it production and yields of key crops such as short-maturing sorghum and groundnuts (the first mainly for home consumption, the second a cash crop mainly for sale); income among vegetable producers increased and home nutrition improved; small ruminants distributed among vulnerable households multiplied and permitted occasional off-take that could be reinvested in agriculture and / or for resolution of social issues etc.
- The FSTP project mid-term review (conducted by Kenyan consultancy company Inscap Associates in March 2012), concluded that “the project addresses the needs, challenges and potential of Jur River County by strengthening the livelihoods and resilience of targeted communities through the improvement in farm outputs” In specific terms it noted, “the project seeks to increase the availability of household food through improved agricultural production and productivity as well (as) strengthen resilience through livelihood diversification and IGAs. It implements a number of actions aimed at increasing availability and access to food at the household level, while also increasing incomes and reducing vulnerability to disasters”. Overall it scored the project as follows:
 - o Relevance and quality of design: A (very good)
 - o Efficiency of implementation: B (good)
 - o Effectiveness to date: B (good)
 - o Visibility: B (good)
 - o Impact to date: B (good)
 - o Effect on alleviating poverty: B (good)
 - o Potential sustainability: C (inadequate)
 - o Reporting: B (good)
- With respect to sustainability, the MTR categorisation may be considered harsh, as prospects for long term sustainability in the HARD project were (by the nature of the organisation and the activities undertaken by the project) probably higher than in most similar FSTP programmes. For example, most CORPs are still operational (on voluntary basis) despite the termination of project activities in July 2013.
- EU visibility in the FSTP project was generally adequate though sign boards were not always of the highest quality.
- The HARD organisation suffered a serious blow in February 2014, with the sudden, cancer-related death of its Executive Director (and one of its founders) Joseph Garang. A new Executive Director (Mr. Cleto Kunda) was appointed in March 2014 from among the existing staff.
- Had the death of Mr. Garang occurred a little earlier, before the decision was made to award the Western Bahr el Ghazal State SORUDEV contract to HARD, it is possible the award decision might have been made differently. Mr. Garang had an extremely good reputation; his management was viewed as solid and HARD was seen as a reliable partner. To some extent the new HARD management may be considered to be still “on probation”.

3.2 Key findings / Notes on project development

- The overall objective of the HARD SORUDEV project is “To contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods of rural households in Western Bahr el Ghazal State”. The specific objective is “Increased agricultural production and incomes of smallholder farmers in Western Bahr el Ghazal State”.
- The planned results of the HARD SORUDEV project are:
 - R1 - Increased area of land cultivated using animal traction.
 - R2 - Increased promotion and adoption of good agricultural practices.
 - R3 - Increased diversification of crops grown through integrated fruit trees, vegetables and cassava farming.
 - R4 - Improved post harvest handling and management (PHH&M) and increased adoption of post harvest storage facilities and marketing of surplus farm produce.
- Main planned activities include the following:
 - A1- Promotion of animal traction and draught power.
 - A2- Improvements in agricultural extension and training.
 - A3- Promotion of fruit tree farming and vegetable cultivation.
 - A4- Improved post-harvest handling / management and marketing
- The target group(s) for the project are smallholder farmers (men, women, youth, lead farmers), county officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Animal Resources, Community Owned Resource Persons (CORPs), Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), farmer groups / cooperatives, village committees etc. The estimated number of final beneficiaries is 370,294 inhabitants of rural farming area communities in all or

part of Jur River, Wau and Raja counties. Namely communities in Marial Wau, Roc Roc Dong, Kuajina, Wan Bai, Kangi and Udici payams in Jur River County; Bessilia, Baggari and Kpaile payams in Wau County and Ujuku and Sopo payams in Raja County.

- On signature of the SORUDEV implementation agreement, HARD moved its headquarters from Acumcum in eastern Jur River County (where it had been based since the 1990s) to an office in Wau Municipality (approximately 42kms distant).
- Relations with state, county and payam authorities, including the three County Agriculture Departments of the State Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Animal Resources are good and characterised by a high degree of understanding and co-operation.
- All programme staffing positions have already been filled. The proposed staff structure is as presented below:



- A total of 24 bomas in 10 payams were selected on the basis of selection criteria that included: location in relation to proposed WFP / SORUDEV feeder roads; population density; absence of other actors doing similar activities and accessibility. Bomas were selected together with CADs. Executive Chiefs of the bomas and Payam Administrators were also consulted. Finally, the list of selected bomas was presented to and approved by the State Food Security and Livelihood cluster meeting that met on September 26th, 2014.

3.3 Early Indications

- Recruitment of project staff: As noted above, all staff positions related to project implementation have now been filled as per initial planning, with staff starting work from July 1st 2014. Technical staff recruited comprise: a Programme Manager, M&E Manager / Deputy Programme Manager, 4 Project Officers, 5 Project Assistants and 1 Animal Traction Officer. All staffs are currently operating from the HARD Wau office, however, plans are in hand to establish a number of small satellite offices / compounds where Project Assistant level staff will be based. (possibly in Bazia in the south of Wau County and in Kangi in the north of Jur River County), close to animal traction centres and demonstration plots.
- Procurement of project equipment: Office and transport equipment has been procured in accordance with plans. The project has, so far, procured 2 Toyota Land Cruiser vehicles (a pick-up and five door passenger vehicle), 14 motorcycles, 8 laptop computers, 2 laser jet printers, 1 photocopier and 5 digital cameras. These assets have been allocated to project staff for use in project implementation, except for 3 motorcycles which are to be handed over to the County Agriculture Departments (CADs) after signing of MoUs.
- Induction workshop for project and CAD staff: An induction workshop was held for newly recruited project staff and the staff of the three CADs. The purpose of the workshop was to attain a shared understanding of the purpose of the project by discussing the project rationale, objectives, planned activities, expected results and working collaboration with CADs for effective implementation. The participants were also informed about the relationship between the SORUDEV and ZEAT-BEAD programmes and how the two are inter-related.
- Household Baseline Survey: During the month of August 2014, a baseline survey was conducted which lasted for three weeks. The survey was led by an external consultant. The Concern Worldwide contracted “general” SORUDEV inception period consultant, Mr. Tayo Alabi, was also present and provided technical support during development of the tools for data collection. The draft baseline report was submitted (by the consultant) in mid-October 2014.

- Selection of Community Owned Resource Persons (CORPs) / Local Extension Workers: 24 CORPs have already been selected, one from each of the 24 bomas in which the project will be implemented. Criteria for selection of CORPs included: willingness to participate in project implementation on voluntary basis; being resident in the boma; possessing existing farming experience; acceptance by the community; willingness to try out new farming technologies and possession of basic reading and writing skills.
- Conducting an agro-dealers survey (in Wau): In the month of September, the project carried out a survey of agro-dealers based in Wau Municipality, with the aim of understanding their operations, capacity and possible participation in the project. The findings indicate that, there are only seven agro-dealers in Wau town, none of whom have received prior training in handling agro-inputs. These dealers mainly stock vegetable seeds and agricultural hand tools. None have operations outside Wau town and only one was willing to set up operations at payam level, if provided with a grant.
- Setting up a Project Secretariat: As noted above, a “project secretariat” has been established (based in the state capital, in Wau Municipality) and is fully operational. Apart from the technical staff (noted above), the project is also supported by a Logistics Officer, full time Accountant, two drivers and the Executive Director.
- SORUDEV partners’ coordination meeting: In July, the project organised and hosted the inaugural SORUDEV partners’ coordination meeting in Wau. The aim of the meeting was to develop and agree a harmonised approach to project implementation and to explore mechanisms for collaboration among the different SORUDEV projects in the four states. It was during this meeting that key points were agreed, now commonly referred to as the “Wau Resolutions”.
- Co-ordination with the Agriculture and Food Information System (AFIS): Close partnership is expected between the SORUDEV smallholder project and the FAO-led SORUDEV AFIS component. Consequently, the HARD Project Manager attended a meeting, convened by FAO in Juba on September 25th 2014, for both SORUDEV and non-SORUDEV implementing partners. The meeting reviewed the proposed list of identified markets from which market data will be collected and the draft data collection tool. In Western Bahr el Ghazal State, 5 market centres have been proposed: Wau town, Bazia, Kangi, Mapel and Raja. FAO also informed the meeting that AFIS plans to operate a centralised data analysis system, after which market information will be disseminated to all interested parties.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Ministry of Agriculture: An MoU was drafted, discussed and agreed with the Ministry of Agriculture for signature in October 2014. The Ministry has committed itself to employ 45 extension officers (30 agricultural extension officers and 15 livestock extension officers) who will be deployed to work in the CADs. At a minimum each CAD is supposed to comprise, an Inspector of Agriculture, plus officers specialised in Extension, Horticulture, Plant protection and Mechanisation. Currently, the Wau County CAD has only two staff, both based in Wau Municipality (though they are supposed to be devolved to the County headquarters at Baggari and to Bessilia on the Raga road, respectively).
- Information sharing with other food security actors in coordination meetings: The HARD Project Manager prepared a brief on the project which was shared with other food security partners and actors operating in the state via the Food Security and Livelihoods cluster meeting. The aim of the briefing was to inform other actors about the SORUDEV project and to explore ways of collaborating with other, on-going projects. A partnership is already being developed with FAO and the Halima Research Station on bulking improved cassava varieties.

3.4 Challenges likely to adversely impact implementation and action to be taken to address problems

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN by (or to be taken by) HARD
Slow pace of progress of the consultation, review and harmonisation process between the various SORUDEV implementing partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The consultation, review and harmonisation process (between SORUDEV implementing partners) has been rather slow thus far, placing limitations on full-scale roll out of the project and on implementation of some activities e.g. extension training, visibility etc. - The HARD project implementation team has been arguably the most responsive among 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.
Lack of staff with both technical skills and local languages skills and weak or inadequate government capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To further complicate matters, the three County Agriculture Departments (in Jur River, Raga and Wau counties) are all understaffed and have no field-based extension workers (to assist with group formation and training). - Staff capacity development training is planned and the project will work in close partnership with whatever CAD staffs are available. - To compensate for the absence of government / CAD staff, HARD will establish its own extension service made up of 24 CORPs (community-owned resource persons) to act as both local

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN by (or to be taken by) HARD
	mobilisers and community mentors. Unfortunately, these CORPs suffered from the same deficiency as among government staff: lack of technical capacity.
Deteriorating road conditions across most of the state, making it difficult to travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project plans to establish satellite bases in different locations (possibly in Bazia in southern Wau County and Kangi in northern Jur River County. A third site might be considered at Dem Zubeir in Raga County.
Shortage of fuel in the local markets lasting for a period of almost two months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fuel was stocked before the shortage / crisis began but is now running low as the protracted length of the shortage was not known.
Delayed completion of baseline survey report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 Inception Report final log frame indicators.
Inadequate co-ordination among agencies and donors working in the food security sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different policies, approaches and implementation modalities employed by other, locally-active NGO bodies often contradict the implementing modalities imposed on HARD by the EU (by mutual consent). In particular, policies relating to distribution of farm inputs, payment of staff incentives and attitudes to food for work programmes differ between agencies. Other NGOs operating in Western Bahr el Ghazal State include, ACTED, Christian Agenda for Development (CAD), Dorcas Aid International, ICCO, Intermón Oxfam, Save the Children, Trocaire and the Women Development Group. - Final responsibility for ensuring consistency between different programme approaches lies with the County and State authorities. Unfortunately, co-ordination mechanisms are inadequate (inclusive open but non-binding debate between involved parties in FSL cluster meetings) and policies, therefore, remain largely disjointed.
Access to animal traction in-puts (primary equipment and spares) and the relationship between use of animal traction equipment and on-farm demand for labour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A problem affecting all EU-funded FSTP animal traction programmes (and not resolved by any of them) is the dilemma that increased land under cultivation, through use of animal-drawn (in this case ox and donkey-drawn) ploughs, does not reduce the demand for manual labour (especially among single parent or female headed households) but, rather, creates an imbalance between the area that can be ploughed and the area that can be weeded. As such, increased land under cultivation does not automatically result in increased yields, because animal traction covers only one aspect of the crop production cycle, leaving other aspects dependent on availability of finite quantities of traditional hand labour and hand tools. - 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 promotion of agro-dealers as agents of improved market availability of all agricultural in-puts).
Uncontrolled livestock movements, resulting in destruction of agricultural crops, especially cassava and long-term sorghum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free (wet season) movement of livestock through farmland under long-term crop cultivation and dry season movements 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). - Fencing of gardens is the preferred solution of most farmers, but budgetary constraints make project support for the action largely non-viable. - The long-term solution would appear to be State and County-level demarcation of livestock migration corridors, designated grazing areas and punitive fines for law transgressors. However, these are all yet to be in place.

3.5 Further actions required

- Nil at this time, with the exception of the following:
 - o HARD should endeavour to fulfil the short-term Work Plan which includes the activities presented below:

GRANT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT

CONCERN WORLDWIDE – SORUDEV PROJECT

JUNE 2015

1. Project General Data

Contract beneficiary	Concern Worldwide
Project title	"Implementation of SORUDEV Smallholders' Component in Aweil West, Aweil North and Aweil Centre, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State"
Project ref. CRIS	FED/2013/333-510
Date of visit	2 to 9 June 2015
Location	Selected Payams (14) in Aweil Centre, Aweil North and Aweil West Counties, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State
Monitoring Officer	Emmanuel Minari
Start date	1 June 2014
End date	31 May 2017

2. Financial data

Total EC contribution	€ 2,000,000 (equivalent to 90% of € 2,222,222)
Total spent by project to date (EUR)	Information to be provided by IP
Balance of funds released to date	€ 1,117,900
Anticipated date of next request/release of funds	August 2015
Anticipated amount of next request/release of funds	€ 682,100

3. Monitoring data

3.1 Background

- Concern Worldwide (CWW) has worked continuously in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State since 1998 and has managed a number of European Union (EU)-funded food security projects over this period, including the RRP programme and a Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP) project which ended in 2013. Over the years, CWW has contributed significantly to local food production through the promotion of agronomic practices and animal traction among agro-pastoral communities in the State;
- The largest component of the CWW structure is its Food, Incomes and Markets (FIM) section (responsible for the implementation of the South Sudan Rural Development (SORUDEV) programme);
- The SORUDEV Smallholders' Component in Aweil Centre, Aweil West and Aweil North Counties, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State has the overall objective of contributing to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods among rural households in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal. The specific objective is to sustainably increase agricultural production and income among smallholder farmers via the setup of functional agricultural and livestock advisory and extension services that effectively reach smallholder farmers.

The Specific Objective is to be achieved through the realisation of the following two results:

- Improved provision of and access to sustainable extension services for poor, young and/or female farmers so as to improve their knowledge and capacity to enhance food production and productivity;
- Improved market access, access to inputs and agricultural income for rural poor active smallholder farmers in Aweil Centre, Aweil North and Aweil West Counties of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State.

The Technical Assistance (TA) monitoring mission conducted in June 2015 was the second visit to this project following a previous visit conducted in November 2014.

3.2 Key findings

The June 2015 mission was the second EU monitoring visit undertaken to this project following a previous visit in November 2014. During this visit, the TA team met with key stakeholders at State, County and community levels including Government officials, agro-dealers, staff of the implementing partners (Concern Worldwide, the Agency for Pastoralist Development (APAD) and Langich United Youth Development (LUYDA) and target beneficiaries.

The main aim of the mission was to assess the progress made toward implementing SORUDEV activities since the end of the inception period. In addition, the mission sought to understand any challenges related to the operating environment and overall project management. The mission also sought to establish whether the key recommendations and suggestions made by the previous EU monitoring visit had been/were being implemented. During the mission, appropriate technical and advisory support was provided with the aim of ensuring the project was on track and using the right approaches.

In brief, the mission established that:

- A baseline survey was conducted across the three Counties by the three implementing agencies of the SORUDEV smallholder component, thus facilitating the finalisation of the logical framework (logframe) and monitoring tools and providing useful data to inform project implementation. The inception report was also submitted to the Donor after six months, taking note of the changes made since the baseline survey and the Wau Resolution of July 2014;
- 36 staff from CWW, APAD and LUYDA were trained in extension packages covering various selected topics. Existing extension workers and Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) from Aweil West, Aweil North and Aweil Centre Counties were surveyed, identified, trained, equipped and given training in numeracy and peer monitoring;
- Training of trainers (ToT) in animal traction was conducted in all three Counties after which the trainers went on to train farmers in their groups. A total of 219 farmers were trained as ToTs. Capacity assessment of both Government and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) working with SORUDEV was conducted and capacity-building activities are on-going;
- A market assessment and value chain analysis were conducted, resulting in the issuance of recommendations and the selection of core value chains. 14 potential agro-input dealers were pre-selected and six recommended to work with SORUDEV. However, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has not been signed after farmers pointed out that the proposed price of ploughs was higher than on the market, leading farmers to feel that the dealers were taking advantage of them. Some farmers thus chose to procure the ploughs themselves and this has happened in a number of Bomas;
- A Call for Proposals to conduct community mobilisation, sensitisation and capacity building activities for the Mayom Angok-Gok Machar feeder road project implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) was responded to and is now awaiting feedback from UNOPS. This road connects two of the Payams in which SORUDEV is working;
- At the Nyamlell Agricultural Demonstration and Learning Centre (ADLC), management and steering committees have been formed, have held several meetings and are working toward self-sustainability. A season of trials of sorghum, cassava, cowpea, Egyptian bean, pigeon pea and green gram varieties was conducted in 2014 and a second season of trials of various improved vegetable and staple crop varieties is on-going;
- Over 90 Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) groups have been formed, trained and have started saving and lending activities in the three Counties. 94,000 SSP have been saved so far and the collective membership of these groups is over 1,800.

Preparatory Activities

Inception meetings were held at all levels of Government (State, County, Payam and Boma) so as to introduce the Project and encourage understanding and ownership by Government, local administration and the communities. Where project management committees (PMCs) existed at Project sites, they assisted in the identification of beneficiaries and this was followed by verification by Project staff. Where there were no PMCs, Project staff established them with the help of local administration.

Specific Result 1: Improved provision of and access to sustainable extension services for poor, young and/or female farmers so as to improve their knowledge and capacity to enhance food production and productivity

For the current production year, a total of 4,050 households have been targeted to benefit from Project activities. A total of 14 Payams are covered by Project activities although the number of Payams varies from One County to the next (with 1,950 households targeted in Aweil West County, 900 households in Aweil Centre County and 1,200 households in Aweil North County). At time of writing, the rainy season has just started and the smallholder farmers have begun receiving training from lead farmers at the different project sites. Each lead farmer works with two groups of 25 members for easy management and training in the various technologies. The training will intensify as the rainy season progresses as the primary aim is for the smallholder farmers to learn by doing.

Data collection is on-going during the current cropping season as there is need to ascertain the number of crops that the farmers have planted in their farms and the amount of land cultivated. This will continue for the remainder of the Project so as to determine which crops farmers like best and which give them good returns on their investment.

At the ADLC, a management committee and steering committee have been formed and are working toward the self-sustainability of the Centre by actively avoiding dependence on Government and NGOs for support. A business plan has been developed and shared with different stakeholders for suggestions and forward planning. Further various implements for use in conservation agriculture (including solar

energy and drip irrigation systems) have been procured for training at the ADLC in order to fully equip it to provide training to extension workers and farmers throughout the region.

81 lead farmers and 56 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) were selected with support from relevant Ministries and have been trained in various extension methods so that they may in turn go out to train farmers (for which each lead farmer and CAHW also received a bicycle). CAHW kits are undergoing procurement and should be delivered to the Project sites in the coming months. This should enable them to reach more farmers.

Specific Result 2: Improved market access, access to inputs and agricultural incomes for rural poor active smallholder farmers in Aweil Centre, Aweil North and Aweil West Counties of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State

The project beneficiaries have been sensitised to the need to increase the amount of land under production via the use of animal traction (an issue that has been emphasised during community mobilisation meetings). 219 farmers have been trained as trainers of trainers (ToTs) based on the selection of two farmers per group plus their lead farmer, resulting in a ratio of six trainers per group of 50 farmers. Once trained as ToTs, farmers return to the field to train other farmers in their groups in the use of animal traction.

In order to secure access to ploughs by farmers, the Project intended to identify agro-dealers in different locations. 14 agro-dealers were identified across different markets but only six qualified to work with the project. However, the prices they offered for donkey ploughs were high compared to the average market price (as pointed out by the farmers themselves), which led the Project to go back to the drawing board to identify another approach to ensure that farmers are not exploited. For example, two traders identified in Aweil North County were selling donkey ploughs at between 250 and 400 SSP, yet were found to have bought them at identical prices from a market in Sudan. Farmers pointed out that the actual market price of a donkey plough was 200 SSP and this was later proven by the number of farmers who went on to buy the ploughs themselves in Aweil North and Aweil West Counties.

In order to find out which animal traction implements were actually owned by farmers, the Project team worked with lead farmers and group leaders to ascertain which implements were available on the market and at what price. Based on data collected it was concluded that some groups had a huge number of implements (e.g. the Mathiang group in Aweil North had 37 donkey ploughs among 50 members).

Lack of financial services in the rural areas of South Sudan is one of the challenges faced by smallholder farmers. In order to provide farmers with the resources to acquire agricultural inputs, VSLAs were established for the farmer groups working with SORUDEV. So far over 90 VSLA groups have been formed, trained and started saving and lending activities in the three Counties and more than 94,000 SSP has been saved. The collective membership of these groups is over 1,800 and more groups continue to be formed as the beneficiaries continue to learn the importance of saving and lending.

Key Lessons Learnt

- The legacy of many years of relief work in the project areas has led many beneficiaries to continue to expect that CWW and its implementing partners (IPs) will provide inputs for free under SORUDEV as was the case in previous years. This has delayed a number of Project activities, but is a positive reminder of how the SORUDEV project design has helped address some of the challenges associated with the need to change this mindset;
- Even following repeated insistence to the agro-input dealers that neither CWW nor its IPs would be buying inputs for farmers, the dealers still quoted plough prices as if the NGOs were buying them. This discouraged some farmers from participating but also encouraged other farmers, who went out of their way to get the ploughs for themselves without having to buy from the selected dealers;
- It is important to introduce some income-generating activities for the project beneficiaries in order to allow them to meet financial expenses such as savings and loan repayment.

Main strengths

- The Project is equipped with excellent staff at all levels. The new Programme Manager is very good and has settled quickly into his role. The mission was informed that an Area Coordinator had also arrived from Juba, which is good news for the Project team in Nyamlell;
- The Project design is both relevant and appropriate to local conditions. The logframe indicators are SMART, but the Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs) may need to be reviewed during the mid-term evaluation to ensure the targets are still achievable;
- The Project has a very good relationship with the County authorities (although the State authorities expressed dissatisfaction and unhappiness with the performance of the two EU-funded projects (FSTP and SORUDEV) at a meeting with the EU monitoring mission that was also attended by the Programme Manager and his team);
- Planning and implementation is carried out jointly with the County Government at all levels, leading to solid understanding of Project activities among key County officials;
- Targeted farmers are receiving quality extension services in crop and animal traction. Most Project staff are highly trained and experienced in supporting farmers in animal traction throughout the crop production cycle;
- Targeting of Project groups has been done very well. The mission established that most of the farmers visited are smallholder (and not subsistence) farmers and that there is also a clear sense of ownership of the Project by the Government, targeted smallholder farmers, agro-dealers and other stakeholders;
- The target groups, particularly the smallholder farmers (most of whom use animal traction) and agro-dealers, clearly appreciate the activities being carried out and are motivated to use the support of the Project to improve their livelihoods;

- The key principle of the Project as “a non-relief project where inputs are not provided for free” and the importance of ownership and sustainability have been explained to Project groups;
- Linkage between agro-dealers (such as ox-plough dealers and blacksmiths) has been established and is working well, despite the persistent challenge of insecurity which hampers access to raw materials for the fabrication of implements and other farming tools. The Project will need to improve such access to ensure it is truly sustainable;
- There is need to prepare simple terms of reference that clarify the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder throughout Project implementation. A key function of stakeholders should be joint monitoring and review, including a quarterly Project review meeting at which progress and challenges are discussed and plans for the next quarter agreed;
- The Project provided excellent technical support and other contributions throughout the development of the draft extension guide;
- Donor visibility is good.

Main weaknesses

- Generally, Project performance has fallen below expectations. Most targets for Year 1 have either been partially met or not met at all. As a result, the Minister of Agriculture and Director General were both unhappy and dissatisfied with the performance of the two EU-funded projects (SORUDEV and FSTP). This was clearly expressed during the meeting held with the EU monitoring mission which was also attended by the Programme Manager and his team;
- Most of the weaknesses identified during the previous monitoring visit were not addressed in good time. For example, the procurement of most project inputs was either done late or remains to be done at all (the solar equipment for the ADLC being a good example). This was partly because the Project did not receive the report of the previous monitoring mission until two weeks before the mission in June;
- While a new Programme Manager and Area Coordinator have now been appointed, the positions were left vacant for more than three months. This has had a negative impact on the overall performance of the Project;
- All of the smallholder farmers (4,500) are being targeted during the first year. This is highly unrealistic given the vast project area to be covered logistically and most importantly, the impossibility of supporting all farmers with quality services (VSLAs, linkage to agro-dealers and best agronomic practices) at the same time. There is a need to revise the targeting strategy;
- While the project has a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) function, project data are not collected or analysed regularly. Most Project staff lack confidence in basic information, with many showing ignorance even of the number of farmers they should be in charge of;
- More emphasis is currently placed on groups than on individual farmers. This can be addressed by ensuring that Project officers and extension workers set individual objectives with each farmer in each group in terms of i) VSLA-related activities; ii) targets for agricultural production and income; and iii) any challenges/needs that they expect the Project to help them address over the next 2-3 years;
- There is still confusion among staff as to whether SORUDEV is a development (i.e. not a relief) project. There is need for Project management to clarify the nature of the Project to all staff;
- Linkage between agro-dealers (e.g. ox-plough dealers and blacksmiths) has not yet been fully established. While it is promising that most farmers have been able to procure inputs (including ox-plough parts) on their own, there is need to document lessons learnt and facilitate an environment in which a workable and sustainable mechanism for each County is agreed and adopted;
- The Project does not yet have an exit or sustainability strategy. The preparation of this should be prioritised over the next few months and completed by the end of the year.

3.3 Challenges likely to adversely impact implementation and action to be taken to address problems

Challenges	Action to be taken by Concern Worldwide	Update as of the monitoring visit of June 2015
Continued absence of Government-approved extension materials, including training modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to its original design, the SORUDEV smallholder programme was intended to consist of four State programmes implemented by four State-level implementing NGOs (CWW being selected in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State) and supervised by a single, centrally located coordinating body (GIZ International Services), which would provide harmonised extension materials (appropriate for all States, suitable for all State conditions and approved by all levels of Government including national and State Ministries); overall liaison and coordination with individual State Ministries of Agriculture; and supervision of individual State-level programmes. - This version of the programme was dismantled before it ever came into effect due to concerns following the security incidents of December 2013, as GIZ personnel were withdrawn from South Sudan in December 2013 and never returned, resulting first in the suspension, followed by the termination (by the EU) of the GIZ service contract. At the same time (March-June 2014), four State-level project implementation grant contracts were signed with four NGOs (Concern Worldwide in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State, the Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD) in Western Bahr-el-Ghazal State, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) in Lakes State and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Warrap State). - In the absence of GIZ, the various management and coordination functions entrusted to GIZ (including the provision of extension materials) were no longer available to NGOs. As an immediate response, the Delegation of the European Union convened a meeting of the four State-level project implementing partners in late April 2014 to request said organisations to each volunteer to perform at least one coordinating task. - Specific identified areas of action were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost-recovery mechanisms and approaches with respect to oxen, seed, tools etc.; • Information systems, including the use of the Agricultural and Food Information System (AFIS), disease control surveillance, market information and other technology (hardware and software); • Extension packages (including their composition and implementation); • Government relations and working modalities with relevant State Ministries, Counties and public service providers. - Of these topics, CWW volunteered to work on extension packages. - Accordingly, a consultant was hired who arrived in early July 2014. However, for reasons that remain unclear, but were perhaps related to the absence from the CWW country office of a settled, full-time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over the years CWW has developed a number of training manuals for FIM activities into which it has continued to tap. - The EU, in collaboration with implementing partners, has held a rotating technical workshop in the different States in which the SORUDEV implementing partners are based. Each workshop is organised by the implementing agency operating in that State and their main purpose has been to develop and blend the training manuals of the different agencies into a common document that can be used across South Sudan. So far, CWW has had representatives at two of the workshops.

	<p>Country Director, the consultant ToR were geared toward the provision of organisational support during project inception planning rather than toward the production of extension materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thus, while the inputs provided by the consultant have been invaluable in assisting the various implementing NGOs to prepare inception reports, the production of extension materials is still pending with limited progress made toward their eventual finalisation, despite the urgent need for extension materials for training lead farmers and working with Farmer Field Schools, among others activities. 	
<p>Danger of diverting EU/SORDEV funds into short-term support for a still-unsustainable Nyamlell Agricultural Demonstration and Learning Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In its current form, the Nyamlell Agricultural Demonstration and Learning Centre is non-viable (see the comments above). Without support from national Government (the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development) it is unlikely to achieve viability (especially since bigger, long-established institutions such as the Crop Training Centre in Yei function largely without operational budgets or development funding - As such, there is a risk that CWW will continue to pour EU/SORUDEV funding into the running of an institution that has limited usefulness and a very uncertain future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some funding has been set aside in the revised budget (inception rider) to support the running costs of the ADLC. - The Centre's hall is usually rented out at a small fee for trainings or meetings, which generates a little income for the Centre. - A business plan was developed for the Centre to guide it toward self-sustainability. However, much remains to be done to ensure that the business plan is rolled out and is able to generate sufficient income to make it sustainable.
<p>Additional challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The prices at which the identified agro-input dealers were selling the ploughs were perceived as high by farmers and discouraged the farmers from buying them. Though the MoUs had not been signed with them, it became clear that the agro-dealers believed that it was the NGO, and not the farmers, who were buying the ploughs at a cost. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once the Project team received the prices of the ploughs from the agro-dealers, the information was shared with the farmers who saw instantly that the prices were very high compared to those in their respective locations. The farmers said that the average price of a donkey plough across different locations was about 200 SSP and that they would buy only from dealers selling at that price. Faced with this roadblock, the Project team agreed to use lead farmers as a source of information on how many farmers in their groups owned ploughs. One interesting case involved a group of 50 people that had 37 ploughs (and should therefore be urgently encouraged to increase the amount of land under cultivation).

3.4 Further actions required

- Prioritise support to the project team in Nyamlell through the timely procurement of project items. Senior management in Juba should ensure that this support is sustained throughout project implementation;
- Prioritise the mending of a fractured relationship with the State Authorities. This is crucial as both the Minister and the Director General of Agriculture expressed their dissatisfaction and unhappiness with the performance of the two EU-funded projects (SORUDEV and FSTP) at the meeting with the EU monitoring mission which was also attended by the Programme Manager and his team;
- Prioritise the sharing of project documents with the State Authorities and the holding of regular meetings at the State Offices (by the Programme Manager and his team) in order to update the authorities of the plans, progress and challenges affecting Project implementation;
- Prioritise the establishment and operationalisation of a State-Level Steering Committee. The committee should meet regularly to discuss overall Project performance, progress and challenges. County-level meetings involving all key stakeholders (including implementing agencies and beneficiary representatives) should also be held monthly;
- Prioritise the provision of refresher training to all key staff in VSLA methodology and ensure they train all VSLA groups;
- Prioritise the provision of refresher training in i) VSLA concepts and methodologies, ii) business skills and iii) financial literacy to all target groups;
- Prioritise the refresher training of County-level staff in agronomic practices in order to increase their chances of implementing the Project efficiently and professionally. Such training could be planned on the job but also through short training courses carried out within the country (although not all staff should be sent for training at the same time);
- Strengthen the M&E function of the Project by ensuring that data is collected and analysed regularly. The crop assessment tools developed and circulated by the EU to all SORUDEV programmes should be a starting point. All data collected and analysed should be shared with the Agricultural and Food Information System (AFIS) team within the State Ministry. The capacity of local IPs and Government actors should be built as part of this process;
- Facilitate and strengthen the linkages between smallholder farmers and agro-dealers to enable the prepositioning of farming inputs (seeds and appropriate tools) by agro-dealers and guarantee timely access to farm inputs by farmers before the planting season. There is need to ensure better/clearer understanding of the purpose of the agro-dealership arrangement by both parties (agro-dealers and VSLAs/farmer groups) and to establish a link between them before the onset of the rainy season;
- Strengthen and broaden the coordination and sharing of information with other implementing agencies in the State and other SORUDEV projects in order to harmonise the methodologies of extension service delivery and VSLA activities;
- Develop a Project exit and sustainability strategy jointly with Government and stakeholders in order to ensure each component of the Project is discussed and clearly understood. Most importantly, the document should clearly spell out how each component (extension services, animal traction, VSLAs and input supply, data and information management and linkage to markets and value chains) will be sustained after the Project ends.

3.5 Progress toward achieving project objectives

(See details in Annex 1 – below)

3.6 Cross-cutting and other issues

EU Visibility: Project and donor visibility is good, with FSTP project signboards in evidence at most Project sites.

Gender: The Project is gender-mainstreamed. However, given the prevailing male-dominated culture, there is need to ensure that female members of target groups are adequately represented at decision-making levels (e.g. the Steering Committee and other committees) and empowered to use their own assets.

4. Summary of follow-up actions and responsibilities

	Action to be taken	Responsible	Deadline
1	Circulate draft monitoring report	Steven Hind	26 June 2015
2	Prioritise support to the project team in Nyamilell through the timely procurement of project items. Senior management in Juba should ensure that the support is sustained throughout project implementation	Concern Worldwide	Immediately and for the remainder of the Project
3	Prioritise the mending of a fractured relationship with the State Authorities. This is crucial as both the Minister and the Director General of Agriculture expressed their dissatisfaction and unhappiness with the performance of the two EU-funded projects (SORUDEV and FSTP) at the meeting with the EU monitoring mission which was also attended by the Programme Manager and his team	Concern Worldwide	Immediate
4	Prioritise the sharing of project documents with the State Authorities and the holding of regular meetings at the State Offices (by the Programme Manager and his team) in order to update the authorities of the plans, progress and challenges affecting Project implementation	Concern Worldwide	
5	Prioritise the establishment and operationalisation of a State-Level Steering Committee. The committee should meet regularly to discuss overall Project performance, progress and challenges. County-level meetings involving all key stakeholders (including implementing agencies and beneficiary representatives) should also be held monthly	Concern Worldwide	Immediately and for the remainder of the Project
6	Prioritise the provision of refresher training to all key staff in VSLA methodology and ensure they train all VSLA groups	Concern Worldwide	Immediately and continuously
7	Prioritise the provision of refresher training in i) VSLA concepts and methodologies, ii) business skills and iii) financial literacy to all target groups	Concern Worldwide	Immediately and for the remainder of the Project
8	Prioritise the refresher training of County-level staff in agronomic practices in order to increase their chances of implementing the Project efficiently and professionally. Such training could be planned on the job but also through short training courses carried out within the country (although not all staff should be sent for training at the same time	Concern Worldwide	Immediately and for the remainder of the Project
9	Strengthen the M&E function of the Project by ensuring that data is collected and analysed regularly. The crop assessment tools developed and circulated by the EU to all SORUDEV programmes should be a starting point. All data collected and analysed should be shared with the Agricultural and Food Information System (AFIS) team within the State Ministry. The capacity of local IPs and Government actors should be built as part of this process	Concern Worldwide	Immediately and for the remainder of the Project
10	Facilitate and strengthen the linkages between smallholder farmers and agro-dealers to enable the prepositioning of farming inputs (seeds and appropriate tools) by agro-dealers and guarantee timely access to farm inputs by farmers before the planting season. There is need to ensure better/clearer understanding of the purpose of the agro-dealership arrangement by both parties (agro-dealers and VSLAs/farmer groups) and to establish a link between them before the onset of the rainy season	Concern Worldwide	Immediately and for the remainder of the Project
11	Strengthen and broaden the coordination and sharing of information with other implementing agencies in the State and other SORUDEV projects in order to harmonise the methodologies of extension service delivery and VSLA activities	Concern Worldwide	Regularly
12	Develop a Project exit and sustainability strategy jointly with Government and stakeholders in order to ensure each component of the Project is discussed and clearly understood. Most importantly, the document should clearly spell out how each component (extension services, animal traction, VSLAs and input supply, data and information management and linkage to markets and value chains) will be sustained after the Project ends	Concern Worldwide	Within 3-6 months

Signature: Emmanuel Minari

Date: 26/06/2015

Annex 1: Progress toward achieving project objectives

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement as of September 2014 Monitoring Visit	Achievement as of June 2015 Monitoring Visit
Overall objective Contribute to the empowerment of rural women and vulnerable groups to increase food security, reduce vulnerability to malnutrition and natural disasters and enhance livelihoods in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal	% of children under 5 who are suffering from global acute malnutrition (GAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) during the hunger season (July- August) disaggregated by target area Average number of months in the past year during which targeted farmers struggled to feed their families from any food source	Alternative source required (given that GIZ is no longer involved)	GAM: <15% and SAM: <2% during the hunger season Baseline Values Aweil West: GAM: 17.0% (14.0 – 20.6 95% C.I.) SAM: 1.8 % (0.9 – 3.5 95% C.I.) Aweil North GAM:- 15.8% (12.8 – 19.4 95% C.I.) SAM : 1.4% (0.7 – 2.9 95% C.I.) Aweil Centre GAM: 21.1% (17.1 – 25.9 95% C.I.) SAM: 5.7% (3.8 – 8.6 95% C.I.) Target: <1 month Baseline Value: 2 months for both female- and male-headed households
Specific objective Sustainably increase agricultural production and income among smallholder farmers via the setup of functional agricultural and livestock advisory and extension services that effectively reach smallholder farmers	Increase in the average monthly income of targeted households from all sources disaggregated by gender of household head Average yields (kg/ha sun-dried grain) of Sorghum, Groundnut and Simsim among targeted smallholder famers for the last completed cropping season Average household asset index score of targeted households disaggregated by gender of household head Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS): 1) Average number of food groups consumed by targeted households in the previous 24 hours 2) % of households consuming food from more than 4 food groups in the previous 24 hours % of targeted farming households consuming at least 2 meals in the previous 24 hours	Too specific to be an “objective”. A more general OVI is required as this is too specific, relating to actual income A baseline survey is currently under formulation and development. The age classification could be deleted as few know their actual age Does this imply “progress”?	Target: SSP 160 Baseline Value: 195 SSP (107 SSP for female-headed households and 212 SSP for male-headed households) for October 2014 Target: Sorghum: 1,200 kg/ha Groundnuts (unshelled): 1,200 kg/ha Sesame: 500 kg/ha Baseline Values (based on farmer recall): Sorghum: 520.2kg/ha Groundnuts: 602.9kg/ha Sesame (Simsim): 493 kg/ha Target: 20/60 Baseline value: 11 of a maximum of 60 Target: 8 Baseline value: 7 of a maximum of 12 food groups Target: 80%
Result 1 Improved provision of and access to sustainable extension services for poor, young and/or female farmers so as to improve their knowledge and	50% of the general population has access to extension and advisory services, disaggregated by gender of household head, age and wealth quintile 80% of those accessing extension/advisory services are satisfied with the quality of the services they receive, disaggregated	Again too general. Should refer to the part of the population served by the project. In addition, age should again be deleted Measured how? Specify a method and sample size or eliminate. Delete reference to age Vague. Specify either a target	81 lead farmers and 56 CAHWs have been identified, selected, trained and equipped to offer extension services to farmers. All have been provided with bicycles to facilitate movement Management and steering committees for the ADLC have been established and are working toward self-sustainability

capacity to enhance food production and productivity	<p>by gender of household head, age and wealth quintile</p> <p>Nyamlell ALDC established and functional as an extension worker support system</p> <p>Average yields (sun-dried) of targeted crops equal to or exceeding after average rains: Sorghum: 1,200 kg/ha; Groundnut (unshelled): 1,200 kg/ha; Simsim: 500 kg/ha; Rice (rain-fed, unhusked): 800 kg/ha</p>	<p>number of persons to be trained, days utilised for demonstration or the number of workshops/courses to be convened</p> <p>This is more a performance indicator than an impact indicator and can be valid only if current production data is included in the baseline</p>	Solar power, drip irrigation and soil testing equipment, among other items, have been procured to make the Centre operational
	<p>Year-on-year reduction in livestock mortality and morbidity among cattle, oxen, poultry, shoats and donkeys</p> <p>Soil fertility and soil structure in ox-ploughed fields (soil texture, bulk density, infiltration rates, Soil Organic Matter (SOM), Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC), NPK, pH)</p>	<p>Measured against what? Is there a baseline figure? Can (then) never be measured, unless CAHWs provide the data. Is this likely? Are they literate, numerate and disciplined enough to prepare monthly reports? Better to look at increased levels of treatment and morbidity management (though this is also dependent on data from CAHWs)</p> <p>What is the objective? What is the OVI?</p> <p>Delete and replace</p>	
<p>Result 2</p> <p>Improved market access, access to inputs and agricultural income for rural poor smallholder farmers in Aweil North, Aweil West and Aweil Centre Counties of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State</p>	<p>20% of marketing groups supported by the project achieve financial sustainability within the project period</p> <p>70% of marketing groups supported by the project achieve operational sustainability within the project period</p> <p>Increase in the number of months during which villages are accessible by road</p>	<p>A rather modest target</p> <p>What is "operational sustainability"? Specify/set criteria</p> <p>Initially related to a "cash for assets" component which is no longer included in the programme. Delete and replace with an OVI measuring "improved access to inputs via market sources" or similar</p>	
<p>Activities under Result 1</p> <p>A1.1 Strengthening of the network of community-based extension workers</p> <p>A1.1.1 Training of staff in extension packages</p> <p>A1.1.2 Surveillance of existing extension workers and CAHWs</p> <p>A1.1.3 Identification, training and equipping of lead farmers and CAHWs</p> <p>A1.1.4 Establishment of demonstration sites by lead farmers</p> <p>A1.1.5 Conducting of exchange visits and</p>	<p>Means</p> <p>Joint field surveys (NGOs, CBOs and Government)</p> <p>Community shortlisting of new candidates</p> <p>Field assessment of shortlisted candidates</p> <p>Provision of bicycles</p> <p>Community selection of beneficiaries according to project criteria</p> <p>Verification of beneficiaries by project staff</p> <p>Beneficiary registration</p> <p>Setup of complaints mechanisms to handle disputes over selection</p>	<p>Concern will deploy one Extension Officer per Payam (14 in total) and one "lead farmer" per Boma (84). Lead Farmers should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 18 years of age Resident in the Boma Of good standing Literate and numerate Approved by community members Cultivating more than 2 feddan Willing to hold demonstrations on their own plot Willing to be trained and to train peers in turn <p>Lead farmers will be paid an incentive of 30 SSP for every training session conducted. Selection will require a</p>	<p>36 staff (CWW and partners) were trained in agricultural extension packages. Areas of training include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult learning and facilitation skills Agronomic practices of key crops and vegetables Soil and water conservation practices Agricultural extension concepts Agro-forestry and nursery management Animal traction technology Reporting, record keeping and action planning <p>A survey was carried out of existing extension workers and CAHWs in partnership with the SMAFCRD</p> <p>81 lead farmers and 56 CAHWs were identified and trained. All lead farmers and CAHWs have been provided with</p>

<p>farmer field days</p> <p>A1.1.6 Establishment of a peer monitoring system for extension workers</p> <p>A1.1.7 Provision of support supervision to lead farmers and CAHWs</p> <p>A1.1.8 Mass-media promotion (radio, posters and others)</p>		method of verification	<p>bicycles to aid movement and the procurement of CAHWs kits is underway</p> <p>This is on-going and demonstration sites have been established in lead farmers' fields for the training of farmers</p> <p>Support supervision is being provided to lead farmers as the planting season starts. For lead farmers involved in the testing of improved seed varieties, demonstrations are being conducted of different methods of planting (such as planting in rows)</p>
<p>A1.3 Development of the Nyamlell ADLC as a focus for extension service training, technology trials and demonstration</p> <p>A1.3.1 Establishment of a management committee and business plan</p> <p>A1.3.2 Capital investment</p> <p>A1.3.3 Conducting of trials and demonstrations for selected staple crop varieties, new crops and vegetables</p> <p>A1.3.4 Conducting of farmer field days and centre open days</p> <p>A1.3.5 Conducting of extension worker review meetings at the centre</p>	<p>Solar power</p> <p>Tank</p> <p>Solar pump</p> <p>Dormitories</p> <p>Tukuls</p> <p>Toilets</p> <p>Chairs and tables</p> <p>Research equipment</p> <p>Attendance at regional research conferences</p>	Underway	<p>A management committee and steering committee for the ADLC have been established and have held 5 and 3 meetings respectively. Membership includes CWW, Welthungerhilfe and the Minister and Director General of Agriculture and Forestry</p> <p>A business plan has been developed and shared with the Ministry</p> <p>Solar power and drip irrigation equipment have been procured for the ADLC and are awaiting installation</p> <p>Soil testing equipment has been procured for the ADLC and delivered to the site</p> <p>The following local staple crop varieties were tested in 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local sorghum (good) Local cassava (good) Pigeon pea (failed due to poor rains) Cowpea (good) Green gram (good) Egyptian bean (failed due to poor rains) <p>A number of improved seeds are slated for trial at the Centre and in selected lead farmers' fields in 2015. These include sorghum, maize, finger millet, simsim (sesame), amaranthus, aubergine, tomato, papaya, soybean, bush bean and pearl millet</p>
<p>A1.4 Promotion of animal traction, including minimum tillage equipment</p> <p>A1.4.1 Identification and training of trainers for animal traction</p> <p>A1.4.2 Distribution of ploughs and rippers</p>	<p>Transport</p> <p>Vouchers</p> <p>Collaboration with VSF Suisse</p> <p>Jab planters, ox-drawn rippers, ox-drawn direct drill seeders, weeders</p> <p>Metal stock</p> <p>Forge and fuel</p>		<p>This has been done in the 3 Counties as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aweil North: 115 farmers (109 men and 6 women), 108 donkeys and 10 pairs of bulls trained Aweil West: 85 farmers (65 men and 20 women), 51 donkeys and 10 pairs of bulls trained Aweil Centre: 19 farmers (13 men

<p>A1.4.3 Animal traction adaptive research at the ADLC</p> <p>A1.4.4 Training of blacksmiths</p>	<p>Anvils</p> <p>Arc/gas welder and consumables</p> <p>Trainers</p> <p>Hacksaws, cold chisels, angle grinder</p> <p>Generator</p>		<p>and 6 women), 18 donkeys and 1 horse trained</p> <p>No distribution has been made of ploughs or rippers</p> <p>The following animal traction implements procured for testing at the ADLC are awaiting delivery to the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 ox-drawn rippers • 2 donkey-drawn ripper • 3 ox-drawn seeders/planters • 5 Li seeders/planters • 2 donkey-drawn planters • 3 ox-drawn weeders • 2 donkey-drawn weeders
<p>A1.5 <i>Strengthening of Government capacity to support extension services</i></p> <p>A1.5.1 Conducting of capacity/training needs assessment of the SMAFCRD and CBOs</p> <p>A1.5.2 Procurement of equipment for the SMAFCRD and NGOs</p> <p>A1.5.3 Conducting of capacity training to address capacity gaps</p>	<p>IT equipment and training</p> <p>Bicycles and motorbikes</p> <p>Running costs (ownership issues)</p> <p>Animal health equipment</p> <p>Soil-testing equipment</p>		<p>Capacity assessments have been conducted of the State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development (SMAFCRD) and reports produced</p> <p>Motorbikes, laptop computers and internet modems have been procured and are awaiting handover to the Ministries. CBOs will only receive motorbikes</p> <p>Capacity building is on-going</p>
<p>A1.6 <i>Development and rollout of a mobile phone-based remote support system for County Extension Workers, Lead Farmers and CAHWs</i></p> <p>A1.6.1 Development of Frontline SMS-based management tools</p> <p>A1.6.2 Modification of Livestock Guru or similar software for Android OS and to suit the South Sudanese context</p> <p>A1.6.3 Mobile phone-based livestock epidemiology/disease-tracking software</p> <p>A1.6.4 Training of Government and NGO technical staff to use and manage ICT and mobile phone-based tools</p> <p>A1.6.5 Development</p>	<p>Mobile phones</p> <p>Software</p> <p>IT officer and technical support (from Dublin IT)</p> <p>Technical support from Frontline software developers (optional).</p> <p>Tablet computers and solar chargers</p> <p>Software development costs</p> <p>Field testing and evaluation</p> <p>SIM cards</p> <p>Cheap smartphones with GPS capability/tablets</p>		<p>Mobile phones are being procured and extension staff will be trained in how to use them once the phones are available</p> <p>Tablets were bought and used to conduct the baseline survey</p>

of online numeracy training for agriculture and livestock staff			
Activities under Result 2 <i>A2.1 Support to the marketing of agricultural and livestock products</i> A2.1.1 Establishment of marketing groups and value chain addition A2.1.2 Value Chain Analysis and selection of value chains A2.1.3 Formation and training of Marketing Groups in business skills A2.1.4 Provision of micro-grants for marketing groups	Registration of members (DDG) In-house training in Value Chain Analysis through Concern Worldwide's Interaction with Markets Advisor		<p>Given that this is the first production season under SORUDEV, marketing groups have not yet been formed and no value chain addition has been done</p> <p>A market assessment was undertaken in January 2015 according to which some core value chains were identified and recommendations made</p> <p>The following VSLAs have been formed, trained and supported with saving boxes and accessories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 groups in Aweil Centre (savings of 6,374 SSP) • 54 groups in Aweil West (savings of 55,350 SSP) • 21 groups in Aweil North (savings of 32,040 SSP)
<i>A2.2 Repair and improvement of critical points in the feeder road network</i> A2.2.1 Discussion with the State Ministry of Works, SMAFCRD, WFP and GIZ to prioritise the repair of culverts, bridges and road sections and agreement with WFP to provide food/cash for work for repairs A2.2.2 Execution of road repair using FfW or CfW	Hand tools Vibrating roller Truck hire	Beyond the direct scope of the project (FfW and CfW)	<p>This is being done by UNOPS through a Call for Proposals for community mobilisation, sensitisation and capacity-building activities for the Mayom Angok-Gok Machar feeder road in Aweil North County</p> <p>The proposal has been submitted to UNOPS</p>
<i>A2.3 Creation of a diverse and commercially sustainable seed supply</i> A2.3.1 Seasonal seed fairs at Payam level to support seed producer groups and private seed suppliers A2.3.2 Adaptation trials of new vegetable and crop varieties at the ADLC	Provision of basic seed Training Quality control Storage facilities Marketing skills Drip irrigation equipment	Encourage local traders to procure and stock essential agricultural inputs	<p>New vegetable and staple crop varieties have been procured and are being tried at the ADLC and in the fields of 31 selected lead farmers</p> <p>A seed store has been constructed at the Centre with funding from Welthungerhilfe</p> <p>A drip irrigation set has been bought for the Centre and is awaiting installation</p>
<i>A2.4 Development of private sector agricultural and</i>	Initial stock on credit Training materials	This should not be done by the community but rather by an entrepreneur or company	14 potential agro-input dealers were identified and 6 of them recommended for the signature of an MoU with SORUDEV:

<p><i>veterinary inputs and suppliers of plough spares</i></p> <p>A2.4.1 Identification of existing and potential agro-veterinary input and plough dealers</p> <p>A2.4.2 Testing of a community-run agro-input shop</p> <p>A2.4.3 Provision of business start-up loans for wholesale agro-veterinary input dealers through banks and microfinance institutions</p> <p>A2.4.4 Training of agro-veterinary input dealers in business skills and agriculture</p> <p>A2.4.5 Technical support to the registration of agro-veterinary input dealers</p> <p>A2.4.6 Technical support to the SMAFCRD for quality control of inputs</p> <p>A2.4.7 Provision of subsidised initial stock to agro-veterinary retail dealers</p>		<p>Traders' licence will be needed</p> <p>Reconsider. Subsidies cannot be extended to farmers; hence this approach would entail increased profits for traders. The justification given is that traders need to be encouraged to enter the market, e.g. by stocking animal traction equipment. Unfortunately, this logic is flawed</p>	<p>1 each in Awada and Aroyo (Aweil Centre), 2 in Wedweil (Aweil West) 01 each in Pamat and Gok Machar (Aweil North)</p> <p>The criteria for the selection of agro-dealers were agreed with other partners implementing FSTP projects (People in Need/CESVI, Welthungerhilfe)</p> <p>Activities 2.4.2 and 2.4.3 are not being done</p> <p>This should be done once the MoUs are signed</p> <p>The CAHW kits are being procured and CAHWs will be trained in how to run their activities as a business</p>
<p><i>A2.5 Creation of a network of fruit and tree nurseries in Aweil North and Aweil West</i></p> <p>A2.5.1 Selection of nursery managers and sites</p>	<p>Transport</p> <p>Market analysis</p>		<p>Nursery managers and sites have been identified in Aweil North and Aweil West: 2 sites in Wedweil and Ayat (Aweil West County) and 1 site in each of Mayom Adhal, Maper Deng Acuil, Nyin Ameth (Malual West Payam) and Malual North Payams in Aweil North County</p>
<p>A2.5.2 Training of new nursery managers by existing nursery managers</p> <p>A2.5.3 Selection of sites and provision of start-up kits for nurseries</p> <p>A2.5.4 Linkage of nurseries to agro-input shops and Government nurseries</p> <p>A2.5.5 Conducting of trials at the ADLC of new species and production methods</p>	<p>Visiting trainers and researchers</p> <p>Supply chains for seeds, saplings and cuttings</p>		<p>The identified nursery managers have not been trained but the training is scheduled to take place in the current quarter</p> <p>Nursery sites have been identified but no nursery starters have yet been provided</p> <p>Selected varieties (including Papaya and some local seeds) are being tested at the Centre in the current cropping season</p>

<p><i>A2.6 Challenging of the current status of women farmers through community consultation and support to female Lead Farmers to mentor female beneficiary farmers</i></p> <p>A2.6.1 Training of staff in community consultation methodology</p> <p>A2.6.2 Conducting of community consultations with beneficiaries</p> <p>A2.6.3 Documenting of the consultations</p> <p>A2.6.4 Action plans</p> <p>A2.6.5 Follow-up</p>	<p>Transport</p> <p>Staff training</p>		<p>Community consultation is scheduled to take place in the current quarter</p> <p>The training will also involve some lead farmers who will go out to the community to conduct and document community consultations</p> <p>The training manual is ready and preparation for training is on-going</p>
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Annex 2: List of Persons Met

Briefing/Introductory Meeting with Project Staff – Concern Worldwide Office, Nyamiell, Aweil West County				
Date	S/Nº	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
03/06/2015	1	Lewis Karienyel	M	Programme Manager in charge of Livelihoods Portfolio
03/06/2015	2	Chol Abuol Chol	M	FSTP Project Manager
03/06/2015	3	Irongu Stella	F	Project Officer
03/06/2015	4	Achier Garang	F	Assistant Project Officer
03/06/2015	5	Acidri Henry	M	M&E Officer
03/06/2015	6	Garang Ayang	M	Assistant Project Officer
03/06/2015	7	William Wol Yel	M	Payam Team Leader
03/06/2015	8	Anthony Hassan Rhamy	M	Community Supervisor
03/06/2015	9	Kenyi Robert Kenedy	M	Project Officer
03/06/2015	10	Wol Deng Akeen	M	Assistant Project Officer
03/06/2015	11	Abraham Kuol Mathet	M	Assistant Project Officer
03/06/2015	12	Joseph Aguer Aguer	M	Assistant Project Officer
03/06/2015	13	Bida Emmanuel Mono	M	Agribusiness Advisor
03/06/2015	14	Moses Ngor Garang	M	Assistant Project Officer
03/06/2015	15	Dudeng Mathew Amet	M	Assistant Project Officer
03/06/2015	16	Andrew Deng Deng	M	Assistant Project Officer
03/06/2015	17	Achai Deng Kuac	M	Payam Team Leader
03/06/2015	18	William Mawien	M	Assistant Project Off
03/06/2015	19	Michael Piol Ngor	M	Ex-Director – APAD
03/06/2015	20	John Bosco Kimama	M	Project Officer – WHH
03/06/2015	21	Jomas Grahc	M	Area Coordinator –WHH
03/06/2015	22	Dominic Garang Dut	M	Project Officer
03/06/2015	23	Isaac Yual Tong	M	Project Officer
Meeting with Wedweil VSLA/Farmer Group Members – Aweil West County				
Date	S/Nº	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
03/06/2015	1	William Deng Anei	M	Lead Farmer and Member – VSLA Group
03/06/2015	2	Akol Dut Akol	M	Chairperson – VSLA/Farmers' Group
03/06/2015	3	Debora Ayuen	F	Secretary – VSLA/Farmers' Group
03/06/2015	4	Mary Akuyo	F	Leader – VSLA/Farmers' Group
03/06/2015	5	Rebbena Laang Deng	M	Member – VSLA/Farmers' Group
03/06/2015	6	Awuk Madut Yel	F	Member – VSLA/Farmers' Group
03/06/2015	7	Garang Akol Kual	M	Member – VSLA/Farmers' Group
03/06/2015	8	Atak Kual Kwot	F	Member – VSLA/Farmers' Group
Meeting with County Authorities – Aroyo, Aweil Centre County				
Date	S/Nº	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
05/06/2015	1	Achor Garang	M	County Agricultural Extension Officer
05/06/2015	2	Abraham Baak Maral	M	County Livestock Inspector
05/06/2015	3	Ukuano Jackson	M	Community Supervisor – SORUDEV
05/06/2015	4	Dut Deng Matthew	M	Assistant Project Officer – SORUDEV
Meeting with Members of Payam and Boma Development Committees – Awada Payam, Aweil Centre County				
Date	S/Nº	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
05/06/2015	1	Matthew Ayaka	M	Payam Administrator
05/06/2015	2	Lino Jala Ayakei	M	Member – Payam Development Committee
05/06/2015	3	Mathiang Kang	M	Member – Payam Development Committee
05/06/2015	4	John Thomas Awet	M	Member – Payam Development Committee

05/06/2015	5	Tom Dickon Chol	M	Member – Boma Project Committee
05/06/2015	6	Wol Uman Wol	M	Lead Farmer
05/06/2015	7	Madhiu Kor Madhiu	M	Member – Boma Project Committee
05/06/2015	8	William Ajang Chou	M	Member – Boma Project Committee
05/06/2015	9	Akot Samuel Upoth Malo	M	Payam Training of Trainers
05/06/2015	10	Bol Lok Machol	M	Member – Boma Project Committee
05/06/2015	11	Arol Bol Mayen	M	Member – Boma Project Committee
05/06/2015	12	Akol Bol Majok	M	Member – Boma Project Committee
05/06/2015	13	Tong Lual Tong	M	Member – Boma Project Committee
05/06/2015	14	Mali Mali	M	Member – Boma Project Committee
05/06/2015	15	Agor Agor	M	Member – Boma Project Committee
05/06/2015	16	Uchalla Ager	M	Member – Boma Project Committee
05/06/2015	17	Patrick Pinou Atok	M	WHH – Field Officer
05/06/2015	18	Santino Agany Chan	M	WHH – Project Focal Person, Awada Boma

Meeting with Akuchemad and Akuchegam VSLA/Farmer Group Members – Aroyo Payam, Aweil Centre County				
Date	S/Nº	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
05/06/2015	1	Monica Osman	F	Group Leader
05/06/2015	2	Akwar Aweu	M	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group
05/06/2015	3	Pinow Wol	M	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group
05/06/2015	4	James Ajang	M	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group
05/06/2015	5	Garang Akol	M	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group
05/06/2015	6	Peter Deng	M	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group
05/06/2015	7	Michael Mayon	M	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group
05/06/2015	8	William Deng	M	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group
05/06/2015	9	Akual Chan	F	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group
05/06/2015	10	Anam Okelo	F	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group
05/06/2015	11	Abur Uchu	F	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group
05/06/2015	12	Akeno Uchan	F	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group
05/06/2015	13	Atong Uponi	F	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group
05/06/2015	14	Adual Bol	F	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group
05/06/2015	15	Adhel Deng	F	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group
05/06/2015	16	Elizabeth Angeth	F	Member – VSLA/Farmer Group

Meeting with KOC LIER POUTH VSLA GROUP: Guem Village, Maduany Boma, Mariam East Payam						
Date	S/Nº	Full Name	Gender	Age	Title	Occupation
07/06/2015	1	GARANG PIOL GARANG	M	38	Chairperson	Farmer
07/06/2015	2	JOHN NOON KIIR	M	34	Secretary	Farmer
07/06/2015	3	AWENG GUOT DUT	F	32	Treasurer	Farmer
07/06/2015	4	GARANG MAKUEI MAKWEI	M	36	Money Counter	Farmer
07/06/2015	5	ACHUIL MALEK GARANG	F	26	Keyholder	Farmer
07/06/2015	6	ADUT LUAL AKOK	F	22	Keyholder	Farmer
07/06/2015	7	AGEL ATAK DENG	F	25	Keyholder	Farmer
07/06/2015	8	ABUK MALUAL ANEI	F	30	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	9	AGAR DENG WOL	F	31	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	10	ANGONG TONG AKOL	F	25	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	11	AMIN MAYEN KUOT	F	33	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	12	ANGUET TONG TONG	F	24	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	13	AJANG UNGOM ALATH	F	34	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	14	AWIT MADUOK CHUOR	F	32	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	15	ADENG DUT NGOR	F	27	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	16	GARANG AKECH MAKWEI	M	40	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	17	ANEI MAKUEI MAKWEI	M	30	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	18	MALONG AKOL ATAK	M	32	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	19	LUAL WOL DUT	M	38	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	20	NOON MALEK GARANG	M	34	Member	Farmer

07/06/2015	21	APIU PIOL NGOR	F	23	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	22	NYANJOK DENG YAK	F	28	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	23	DUT KHER MOU	M	30	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	24	NGOR GARANG WIEU	M	32	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	25	AJOK AJIING ABEK	F	33	Member	Farmer

Meeting with KOC LIER PUOTH VSLA GROUP: Giem Village, Maduany Boma, Mariam East Payam

Date	S/Nº	Full Name	Gender	Age	Title	Occupation
07/06/2015	1	WOL DENG WOL	M	36	Chairperson	Farmer
07/06/2015	2	GEORGE DENG LUOL	M	23	Secretary	Farmer
07/06/2015	3	ABAK WOL YAI	F	31	Treasurer	Farmer
07/06/2015	4	AKOL KIIR DIING	M	37	Money Counter	Farmer
07/06/2015	5	GARANG ATAK GOP	M	24	Keyholder	Farmer
07/06/2015	6	ABAK DIING AHER	F	22	Keyholder	Farmer
07/06/2015	7	TONG MAWIEN DIING	M	34	Keyholder	Farmer
07/06/2015	8	NYANUT GARANG TONG	F	30	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	9	GARANG ADIM AKOON	M	29	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	10	WOL DENG MOU	M	28	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	11	AMOI MALONG TONG	M	25	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	12	DUT GARANG AJIER	M	40	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	13	GARANG WOL DIING	M	39	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	14	NGOR WOL AMOI	M	22	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	15	GARANG MABIOR THUCH	M	33	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	16	JAMESCO AKOT BOL	M	34	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	17	BENSON CHAN MAJAK	M	27	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	18	PHILIP AGUER MABUOCH	M	28	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	19	GARANG ALUAT AMOI	M	26	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	20	DIING GARANG DIING	M	34	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	21	PETER DENG LONGAR	M	32	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	22	Name Missing				
07/06/2015	23	Name Missing				
07/06/2015	24	Name Missing				
07/06/2015	25	Name Missing				

Meeting with AKEK ROOT VSLA: Malou Dut Village, Malou Dut Agany Boma, Mariam East Payam

Date	S/Nº	Full Names	Gender	Age	Title	Occupation
07/06/2015	1	AKOT GARANG DENG	M	36	Chairperson	Farmer
07/06/2015	2	DUT MAWIEN NGOR	M	26	Secretary	Farmer
07/06/2015	3	NYANUT NGONG BAK	F	28	Treasurer	Farmer
07/06/2015	4	DUT GARANG DENG	M	30	Money Counter	Farmer
07/06/2015	5	DENG ATAP AKEN	M	32	Keyholder	Farmer
07/06/2015	6	ANOK ARIATH DENG	F	40	Keyholder	Farmer
07/06/2015	7	TONG DENG GARANG	M	22	Keyholder	Farmer
07/06/2015	8	ADUOL LUAL ATAK	M	23	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	9	MAJOK ADUT MAJOK	M	24	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	10	WILLIAM NGOR MANYUOL	M	40	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	11	AKOT DUT TONG	M	27	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	12	DENG GARANG GARANG	M	33	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	13	DENG ANEI AYOK	M	32	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	14	AKOT DENG DENG	M	28	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	15	GARANG GARANG DUT	M	27	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	16	TONG MADUOK AKOT	M	25	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	17	MAROL BOT BOT	M	23	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	18	GARANG GARANG GARANG	M	26	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	19	GIIR DENG TONG	M	35	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	20	NOON AKOL DENG	M	32	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	21	ABUK AYUEL KUOL	F	30	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	22	DUT MAJOK AKOT	M	22	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	23	DENG DUT DENG	M	26	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	24	DENG AKOT CHIER	M	31	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	25	ANOK ARIATH DENG	F	24	Member	Farmer

Meeting with RAMDA KEBAAI VSLA GROUP: Rualngol Village, Rualngol Boma, Mariam East Payam

Date	S/Nº	Full Name	Gender	Age	Title	Occupation
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07/06/2015	1	JOHN MAJOK DUT	M	34	Chairperson	Farmer
07/06/2015	2	MARKONI MAK GARANG	M	23	Secretary	Farmer
07/06/2015	3	JOHN MALUAL DUT	M	21	Treasurer	Farmer
07/06/2015	4	TONG AKOL TONG	M	38	Money Counter	Farmer
07/06/2015	5	GENG TONG DENG	M	32	Keyholder	Farmer
07/06/2015	6	MALONG DENG MALONG	M	40	Keyholder	Farmer
07/06/2015	7	AREK PIOL GAU	F	32	Keyholder	Farmer
07/06/2015	8	ABUK YOM AKOT	F	34	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	9	ABUK MEL LUAL	F	37	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	10	TONG TONG AKOL	M	34	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	11	ALEK LUAL AKOK	F	23	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	12	WOL WOL WOL	M	32	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	13	ACHAI YUEL KUACH	F	25	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	14	AYAK LUOL AJOU	F	29	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	15	GARANG ATAK DUT	M	30	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	16	ADHEL DENG MAYEN	F	22	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	17	AKOT BOL DENG	M	27	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	18	ALUEL LUAL MADUT	F	34	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	19	AHOK DENG MANUT	F	40	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	20	JOHNSON MANUT WOL	M	34	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	21	ADIING MALONG DENG	F	30	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	22	DENG AGUOT TONG	M	34	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	23	WOL DENG WOL	M	31	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	24	AKECH ACHIEK AJANG	M	29	Member	Farmer
07/06/2015	25	GARANG TONG KUAN	M	34	Member	Farmer

Debriefing/Exit Meeting with Project Staff: CWW Office – Aweil Town					
Date	S/Nº	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation	
08/06/2015	1	Lewis Karienyel	M	Programme Manager (in charge of Livelihoods)	
08/06/2015	2	Chol Abuol Chol	M	FSTP Project Manager	
08/06/2015	3	Irongu Stella	F	Project Officer	
08/06/2015	4	Achier Garang	F	Assistant Project Officer	
08/06/2015	5	Acidri Henry	M	M&E Officer	
08/06/2015	6	Garang Ayang	M	Assistant Project Officer	
08/06/2015	7	William Wol Yel	M	Payam Team Leader	
08/06/2015	8	Anthony Hassan Rhamy	M	Community Supervisor	
08/06/2015	9	Kenyi Robert Kenedy	M	Project Officer	
08/06/2015	10	Wol Deng Akeen	M	Assistant Project Officer	
08/06/2015	11	Abraham Kuol Mathet	M	Assistant Project Officer	
08/06/2015	12	Joseph Aguer Aguer	M	Assistant Project Officer	
08/06/2015	13	Bida Emmanuel Mono	M	Agribusiness Advisor	
08/06/2015	14	Moses Ngor Garang	M	Assistant Project Officer	
08/06/2015	15	Dudeng Mathew Amet	M	Assistant Project Officer	
08/06/2015	16	Andrew Deng Deng	M	Assistant Project Officer	
08/06/2015	17	Achai Deng Kuac	M	Payam Team Leader	
08/06/2015	18	William Mawien	M	Assistant Project Off	
08/06/2015	19	Michael Piol Ngor	M	Ex-Director – APAD	
08/06/2015	20	John Bosco Kimama	M	Project Officer – WHH	
08/06/2015	21	Jomas Grahc	M	Area Coordinator –WHH	
08/06/2015	22	Dominic Garang Dut	M	Project Officer	
08/06/2015	23	Isaac Yual Tong	M	Project Officer	
08/06/2015	24	Button Twisa	M	Deputy Country Director/Programme Director	

Annex 3: Programme Schedule

Itinerary for EU Monitoring Visit SORUDEV and FSTP Projects Implemented by Concern Worldwide

Dates: 2 to 9 June 2015

Locations: Aweil Centre, Aweil North and Aweil West Counties

Day/Date	County	Payam	Boma	Activity	Project
Tuesday 2 June 2015	Aweil West			Arrival in Nyamlell/Planning/Briefing	
Wednesday 3 June 2015	Aweil West	Gumjuer Centre	County HQ	Meeting with County Authorities/Department of Agriculture and Livestock	SORUDEV, FSTP
		Gumjuer East	Wedweil	Meeting with VSLA/Focus group/Lead Farmers	SORUDEV
			Aguat	Meeting with VSLA/Focus group/Lead Farmers	
Thursday 4 June 2015	Aweil West	Mariam West	Mariam	Animal traction training	SORUDEV
		Aweil Town	Aweil Town	Meeting with the Minister and DG of the Ministry of Agriculture	SORUDEV
		Gumjuer Centre	Akewic	Meeting with beneficiaries	FSTP
Friday 5 June 2015	Aweil Centre	Aroyo	County HQ	Meeting with County Authorities/Department of Agriculture and Livestock	SORUDEV, FSTP
			Aroyo	Meeting with VSLA/Focus group/Lead farmer	SORUDEV
		Awada		Meeting with Payam Development Committee, Boma Project Committee, Lead Farmers, ToTs and CAHWs	FSTP
Saturday 6 June 2015	Aweil West	Whole day working with Project Team on discussion of Project implementation and progress			
Sunday 7 June 2015	Aweil West	Day of rest			
Monday 8 June 2015	Aweil North	Malual North	County HQ	Meeting with County Authorities/Department of Agriculture and Livestock	SORUDEV, FSTP
			Marol Deng Geng	Meeting with VSLA/Focus group/Lead farmer	SORUDEV
		Jaac	Jaac	Meeting with Payam authorities	FSTP
				Meeting with FSTP beneficiaries	
	Aweil West	Nyamlell		Debriefing with the Project team	SORUDEV, FSTP
Tuesday 9 June 2015	Aweil Town			Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture Departure of the monitoring team	

Annex 4: Picture Gallery



Meeting with Wedweil VSLA/Farmer Group Members – Aweil West



Above: Farmers at Mariam East Payam receiving ox plough training by LUYDA Animal Traction Trainers



Above: Photos during meeting with LUYDA VSLA/ Farmer Groups in Mariam East Payam



Above: Meeting with FSTP Payam Project Committee at Awada Payam, Aweil Centre County



Above: Meeting with VSLA Group in Aroyo Centre



Above: Beautiful scenery along the way from Aroyo to Awada



Hon. Minister (left) and Director General (centre) of Agriculture

GRANT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT

CONCERN WORLDWIDE – SORUDEV PROJECT

SEPTEMBER 2014

1. Project General Data

Contract beneficiary	Concern Worldwide
Project Title	"Implementation of SORUDEV Smallholders' Component in Aweil West, Aweil North and Aweil Centre, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State"
Project ref. CRIS	FED/2013/333-510
Date of visit	21 st – 25 th September 2014
Location	Selected payams (14) in Aweil Centre, Aweil North and Aweil West Counties, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State
Monitoring Officer	Steven Hind
Start date	1 / 06 / 2014
End date	31 / 05 / 2017

2. Financial data

Total EC contribution	€ 2,000,000 (equivalent to 90% of € 2,222,222)
Total spent by project to date (Euro)	Info to be provided by IP
Balance of funds released to date	€ 1,117,900
Anticipated date of next request / release of funds	Final quarter 2015
Anticipated amount of next request / release of funds	€ 682,100

3. Monitoring data

3.1 Background

- Concern Worldwide (CWW) has worked continuously in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State since 1998 (a period of 16 years).
- The Food, Incomes and Markets (FIM) section of the CWW local structure (responsible for implementation of the SORUDEV programme) is its largest component.
- Prior to securing the SORUDEV contract (in 2014), CWW was an EU implementing partner in two earlier "rural development and food security projects": as an implementing partner under the EU-funded, UNDP-managed, NGO-grant fund known as RRP (the Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme), launched by the EU in mid-year 2003 and running up to 2009, and as beneficiary of a subsequent FSTP (Food Security Thematic Programme) project called "Food Security and Livelihood Enhancement through Consolidation of RRP Project (RRP2)", which ran from April 2010 until the end of March 2013 (a total duration of 36 months, without recourse to a no-cost extension period).
- Perhaps because of its status as a follow-on project to an earlier, larger programme, the design of the RRP2 project was quite poor, lacking both clarity and a clear purpose. This was best illustrated in its log frame, which was, at once, extremely difficult to follow and even harder to measure. For example, OVs 3 and 8 of Result 1 were, respectively, "feeder road access for target population from 30 to 45%" and "increase in utilisation of community animal health worker services from 15 to 20%", when the RRP2 project contained neither a feeder road nor a livestock component.
- FSTP TA monitoring reports made repeated reference to concerns about project design. For example in late June / early July 2012 the then TA, Carine Malardieu, stated:

“Overall, the sustainability of the activities is the main challenge. This is quite alarming when some groups with some from RRP 1 still have not reached adequate self-reliance (vegetable group continue to receive seeds season after season, tree nursery established with RRP 1 (6 years ago) continues to receive inputs and are still dependent on Concern)”.

While the current TA in his visit to the project in October 2013 (more than six months after its closure) noted:

“The impact of training and consumable investments (such as seeds and tools) becomes more difficult to measure over time, while infrastructure, having higher visibility, retains its position as a more obvious measure of achievement and, therefore, tends to overshadow all other indicators. For this reason the most immediate manifestation of the Concern RRP2 project (six months after its termination) is the Agricultural Demonstration and Learning Centre, which is currently unused and largely ill equipped to provide a meaningful service. The title of the facility encapsulates the confusion surrounding its current purpose. As a “demonstration centre” (presumably for crop trials of new crop varieties and agricultural techniques) the Centre requires qualified and specialised staff and basic equipment, which it doesn’t appear to have, and as a “learning centre” it should have been built with residential capacity (accommodation, kitchen and dining facilities), which, unfortunately, weren’t included. Finally as a “research centre” it will require qualified and specialised staff and basic equipment and absorption into a national research policy framework emanating from central Ministry level. This is not in place because the Centre idea was conceived, discussed and implemented at State level only. As such, it is difficult to see how the Centre can actually be used; lacking as it does, specialised staff, research equipment, teaching aids and basic classroom equipment, residential facilities for ‘overnighting’ students and running costs (or any form of administrative budget)”.

- On the other hand:

“A number of project activities, such as vegetable production among women groups were successful, both in productive terms and in orienting women beneficiaries towards sales and a market approach”.

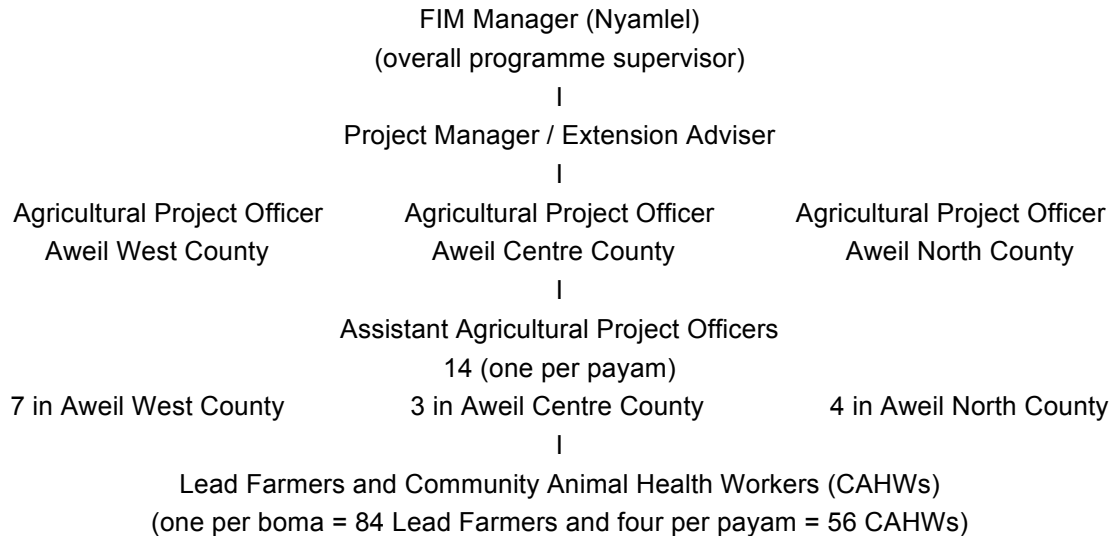
- Under RRP2, CWW established a total of 90 Boma / Village Development Committees in Aweil West County.
- CWW also made effective use of local partners APAD and LUYDA (Aweil Programme for Agricultural Development and Langich United Youth Development Association) during implementation of earlier EU-funded activities.
- APAD and LUYDA were the beneficiaries of CWW capacity building activities under these earlier programmes, both in terms of staff capacity and hardware. In addition, both organisations have access to a limited amount of independent financial resources: one from member subscriptions (being membership-based) and the other from sales from commercial agricultural activities. Both enjoy good relations with and support from the target communities from which they emerged. Both community-based organisations (CBOs) are now on board to implement elements of the SORUDEV programme in Aweil West County (Mariam East and Mariam West in Aweil West and Barmayen in Aweil Centre in the case of APAD and Ayat East and Centre Payams in the case of LUYDA)
- CWW currently implements programmes in the target area with funding from Irish Aid and WFP. New programme funding is expected shortly from the UK Department for International Development (DfID).
- The CWW South Sudan programme has been without a permanent Country Director since the departure of Elke Leidel (who oversaw development of the successful SORUDEV proposal) at the end of March (2014). During the interim six months the position has been occupied by a series of “acting” heads (three to date) while awaiting the arrival of a new, full time Director.

3.2 Key findings / Notes on project development

- With an unbroken presence in Aweil West County stretching back to the war years during the 1990s CWW has a long track record of commitment to the counties in the north of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State which makes it both a highly regarded and respected partner, by both local authorities and in the community.
- Institutional / organisational infrastructure, at both the main CWW base in Nyamlel and at the smaller, satellite base at Marial Bai, is both extensive and impressive. The CWW compound in Nyamlel currently accommodates more than 20 resident international and “relocatable” staff and is the work-base for more than 60.
- CWW enjoys excellent working relations with the local authorities (particularly the County Commissioner for Aweil West County, for whom it constructed an office building in Nyamlel, and with the Aweil West County Agriculture Department of the State Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry).
- The Aweil West County Agriculture Department currently comprises just three staffs: one Department head and two extension workers. Some staffs are former CWW employees, employed under the FSTP project. All other county, payam and boma level “extension workers” are employed by NGOs and CBOs.
- The CWW SORUDEV project covers three out of the five counties in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State (Aweil North, West and Centre and excluding Aweil South and East) and 14 out of 20 payams (7 out of 9 in Aweil

West, 4 out of 5 in Aweil North and 3 out of 6 in Aweil Centre). The SORUDEV programme will cover 6 bomas per payam, making 84 bomas in total.

- The programme structure will be as follows:



- Other CWW staff will comprise an M&E Officer, Adaptive Research Officer, Business Adviser and IT Officer, making a total of 22 dedicated SORUDEV staff (most of whom, with the exception of the Project Manager) have already been recruited.
- The Nyamlel Agricultural Demonstration and Learning Centre now has both a functional Steering Committee and a Management Committee. The Steering Committee meets quarterly and deals with strategic issues, such as policy, functions and usage etc. Members comprise, the State Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (Chair), Director General SMOAF, Director General SMOARF, Assistant Country Director Concern Worldwide (Committee Secretary), Coordinator County Agriculture Department, Representative of FAO, Representative from the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Representative of Welt Hunger Hilfe / German Agro-Action (GAA) and the County Commissioner of Aweil West county. The role of the Management Committee is, as the name implies, the day-to-day management of the centre. Members of the Management Committee comprise the FIM Manager and Adaptive Research Officer representing Concern Worldwide; a representative from GAA; a representative from the County Agriculture Department (CAD); the County Executive Director; the chief representing the "host" community / land owner; County RRC Secretary and the head of department, County Animal Resources Department.
- The Agricultural Demonstration and Learning Centre still has no government budget or staff but has been pressed into use in 2014 as a venue for miscellaneous training workshops and for field trials and demonstration, with four feddans planted (by CWW) with a combination of local sorghum varieties, green grams, cow peas and vegetables (see photos in the Photo Gallery at Annex 3).
- The construction cost of four units of staff housing has been budgeted in the initial SORUDEV budget, together with funds for purchase and installation of desks, a solar electricity and drip irrigation system and soil testing equipment. Meanwhile, a seed store will be constructed on the site by GAA.
- Efforts are currently underway to develop relationships with international research institutions such as ICRISAT in Kenya and with private seed (supplier) companies, such as Simlaw Seeds in Kenya and Victoria Seeds in Uganda.

3.3 Early Indications

- As noted above: most of the 22 dedicated SORUDEV staff positions have already been filled.
- Payams and bomas (14 payams and 84 bomas) have already been selected and community mobilisation is planned or underway in each of these locations.
- Local partner organisations, APAD and LUYDA, are already actively involved in community mobilisation in their respective payams.
- Each boma is projected / expected to contain 50 target farmers. 84 bomas x 50 farmers and one Lead Farmer = 4,284 participant farmers in the programme area.
- Criteria for selection of Lead Farmers were developed early and will be used in the Lead Farmer candidate vetting process.
- Lead farmers will receive training and will then function as facilitators in the training of target farmers (300 progressive farmers and 6 Lead Farmers per boma), who will be trained in farmer field school (FFS) groups of 25 persons each (i.e. 2 FFSs per Lead Farmer).

- Data gathering for the SORUDEV baseline survey has been completed and collation and tabulation of findings is now underway.
- Further expansion of activities at the Nyamlel Agricultural Demonstration and Learning Centre are planned in 2015, including adaptive research on animal traction, such as testing animal-drawn weeders etc.
- CWW senior staffs (such as the current FIM Manager) are aware of deficiencies in earlier programme log frames and are conscious of the need to avoid a repeat of the same under the SORUDEV programme.
- Despite earlier misgivings (even opposition), CWW has now fully embraced the idea of targeting progressive / entrepreneurial farmers rather than poor and vulnerable farmers and of providing project inputs at cost rather than free or at a subsidised rate.
- Community members (at least those visited) are already aware that SORUDEV inputs will be provided at cost.
- No official programme launch has been organised to date.
- Programme implementation appears to be on track and no areas of concern are evident.

3.4 Challenges likely to adversely impact implementation and action to be taken to address problems

Challenges	ACTION to be TAKEN by CONCERN WORLDWIDE
Continued absence of government-approved extension materials, including training modules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In its original, planned formulation, the SORUDEV Smallholder programme was supposed to consist of four state programmes implemented by four state-level implementing NGOs (CWW being selected in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State) supervised by a single centrally-located co-ordination body (GiZ International Services), who would provide harmonised extension materials, appropriate for all states; suitable for all state conditions and approved by all levels of government (national and state ministries); overall liaison and co-ordination with individual State Ministries of Agriculture and supervision of individual state-level programmes. - This programme formulation was dismantled before it ever came into effect due to security concerns in the period after the security incidents of December 2013, as GiZ personnel were withdrawn from South Sudan in December 2013 and never returned, resulting first in suspension, followed by termination (by the EU) of the GiZ service contract. At the same time (March – June 2014), four state-level project implementation grant contracts were signed with four NGOs (Concern Worldwide in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, HARD in Western Bahr el Ghazal State, NPA in Lakes State and NRC in Warrap State). - In the absence of GiZ, the various management and co-ordination functions entrusted to GiZ were no longer available to NGOs, including provision of extension materials. As an immediate response, the EU Delegation convened a meeting of the four state-level project implementing partners in late April 2014 to request said organisations to each volunteer to perform at least one co-ordination task. - Specific, identified tasks were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cost-recovery mechanisms and approaches with respect to oxen, seed, tools etc. o Information systems, including use of AFIS, disease control surveillance, market information, use of technology (hardware and software) etc. o Extension packages: composition and implementation issues. o Government relations and working modalities with relevant State Ministries, Counties and public service providers. - Of these topics, CWW volunteered to work on extension packages. - Accordingly, a consultant was hired who arrived in early July 2014. However, for reasons that remain unclear, but perhaps related to the absence from the CWW country office of a settled, full-time Country Director, the consultant ToR were geared toward provision of organisational support during project inception planning rather than towards production of extension materials. - Thus, while the inputs provided by the consultant have been invaluable in assisting the various implementing NGOs to prepare Inception Reports, production of extension materials is still pending

Challenges	ACTION to be TAKEN by CONCERN WORLDWIDE
	with limited progress made toward their eventual finalisation, despite the urgent need for extension material for training Lead Farmers, in FFSs etc.
Danger of diverting EU / SORDEV funds into short-term support for a still unsustainable Nyamlel Agricultural Demonstration and Learning Centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In its current form, the Nyamlel Agricultural Demonstration and Learning Centre is non-viable (see comments above). Without support from the national government (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development) it is unlikely to achieve viability (and bigger, long established institutions like the Crop Training Centre in Yei function largely without operational budgets or development funding. - As such, there is a risk that CWW will continue to plough EU / SORUDEV funding into the running of an institution that has limited use and a very uncertain future.

3.5 Further actions required

- Nil at this time, with the exception of the following:
 - o A Project Manager should be appointed ASAP.
 - o CWW should contact SSADP (the South Sudan Agri-business Development Project) based in Juba to inquire after the availability and / or contact details of agri-business advisers trained by SSADP (given that CWW advertisements for candidates to be interviewed for the post of business adviser, failed to yield any suitable candidates). Contact the SSADP Team Leader at janhendrik@ssadp.com.
 - o The Project Inception Report should be submitted on time in November 2014, inclusive a revised Log Frame (see Annex 2 below).
 - o The project should receive an official launch in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State at the earliest possible date.

3.6 Progress in achieving project objectives

(See details in Annex 2 - below)

Too early in the project cycle to comment. Suffice it to say: Concern Worldwide is well established and well respected in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State and in Aweil West County. By virtue of its longevity in the area it has excellent facilities (in Nyamlel and Marial Bai –roughly 20kms apart) from which to implement programmes.

Its recently completed FSTP project was a solid, reasonably effective, reasonably well managed but unspectacular action that achieved many of its targets, despite being encumbered with a project design and project log frame that should never have received official approval.

A number of project activities, such as vegetable production among women groups were successful, both in productive terms and in orienting women beneficiaries towards sales and a market approach. FFSs were poorly realised under RRP2 and resulted in the methodology being unfairly discredited and prematurely abandoned.

Project implementing partners (APAD and LUYDA) are solid and worthy of inclusion in the SORUDEV programme.

SORUDEV project implementation is underway and appears to be on track. Obvious constraints on project development and progress, such as the continuing absence of extension packages, are not, fundamentally, of CWWs own making.

3.7 Cross-cutting and other issues

EU Visibility: Nothing to report. Too early in the project cycle.

Gender issue: Nothing to report. Too early in the project cycle.

4. Summary of follow-up actions and responsibility

	Action to be taken	Responsible	Deadline
1.	Circulate draft monitoring report	Steven Hind	17 / 10 / 14
2.	A Project Manager should be appointed	Concern Worldwide	31 / 10 / 14
3.	Project Inception Report submitted on time in November 2014	Concern Worldwide	15 / 11 / 14
4.	Project given an official launch in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State	Concern Worldwide	30 / 11 / 14

Signature: Steven Hind

Date: 16/10/2014

Annex 1: Location, people met and activities visited by TA FSTP

Date	Location	Organisation	Name or activity
21/09/14	Nyamlel and selected project locations	Concern Worldwide	Emanuela Burello: Assistant Country Director, South Sudan
" "	Nyamlel and all project locations	Concern Worldwide	Richard Ofwono: Programme Manager - Food, Income and Markets (FIM) Project
" "	Nyamlel Concern office	Concern Worldwide	Rebecca Grogan: Programme Support Officer
" "	Nyamlel and selected project locations	Concern Worldwide	Amin Bright: SORUDEV Project Officer – Agric.
" "	Nyamlel and selected project locations	Concern Worldwide	Kenya Robert Kennedy: SORUDEV Project Officer – Agric.
" "	Nyamlel Concern office	Concern Worldwide	Kozoa Lillian: SORUDEV M&E Officer
" "	Nyamlel Concern office	Concern Worldwide	Dilla Theophelus Simon: SORUDEV IT Officer
22/09/14	Matuic Boma, Malual Centre Payam, Aweil North County	Concern Worldwide	Wol Deng: SORUDEV Assistant Agric. Project Officer
" "	Matuic Boma, Malual centre Payam, Aweil North County	Community members	Garang Angok, Mon Deng, Mayar Bojok, Garang Ajak, Malong Mayar, Malie Mou, Kwach Deng. Abuk Deng, Adeng Gum, Abuk Wol, Achuil Malie, Aweng Tong, Adeng Dhal, Asanta Alei, Mary Adhel, Noon Garang, Dut Dhieu, Mon Ngor, Nyanjok Angok, Achet Deng, Wol Garang, Kawach Bol, Bol Wol, Kuach Kawach, Achol Anei, Garang Akok: Community members Matuic Boma
23/09/14	Nyamlel and selected project locations	Concern Worldwide	Irongu Stella Nakiru: SORUDEV Project Officer – Agric. Aweil West
" "	Nyamlel and selected project locations	Concern Worldwide	Garang Ayang Yum: SORUDEV Assistant Project Officer – Achana
" "	Marial Bai, Ayat East Payam and project locations in Marial Bai	LUYDA (CBO)	Gabriel Gai Majok: Project Manager
" "	Mayom Akuacrek Boma, Ayat Centre Payam, Aweil West County	Local Government	Apath Deng Apath: Payam Administrator
" "	Mayom Akuacrek Boma, Ayat Centre Payam, Aweil West County	Community members	Kudu Mou Kuol, Garang Kuol Kuol, Tito Girik Kuol, Daniel Deng Nyang, Akot Akot Atem, Garang Tong Wieu, Dhieu Dut Kwach, Santino Garang Akot, Nyang Mong Atem, Deng Akot Yel, Madhok Kuol Kuch, Ngong Kuach Thiop, Wal Malek Yai, Deng Ateny Gar, Garang Akoon Bak, Yuot Udual Yak, Deng Angara Gar, Dut Dut Akot, Mou Mou Mou, Lual Yel Mathiang, Wal Kenyang Dut, Garang Lual Akuar, Kuek Mou Dut, James Dut Mayen, Achuor Akuei Duang, Ken Angara Ateny, Luka Dut Deng, Puol Malong Thiik, Banson Bol Nyang, John Garang Garang, Mary Abuk Lual, Ajok Akoon Bak, Abuk Angara Majook, Amou Ajiech Lual, Abuk Deng Anyuon, Abuk Akech Mawien, Abuk Deng Adim, Adut Guot Akoot, Abuk Akot Lual, Atong Mariau Dut, Nyuon Aguar Mawien, Abuk Wol Wol, Amouk Akech Anyuon, Abuk Nyang Anei, Lida Adut Akot, Elizabeth Adeng Mou, Maria Majook Anei, Luka Dut Angara, James Malek Yai: Community members Mayom Akuacrek Boma
24/09/14	Nyamlel Concern Office	APAD (CBO)	Michael Piol: Director
" "	Nyamlel Concern Office	Concern Worldwide	Andrew Deng Deng: FIM Assistant Project Officer

Date	Location	Organisation	Name or activity
" "	Nyamlel Concern Office	Concern Worldwide	Joseph Aguer Aguer: FIM Assistant Project Officer
" "	Nyamlel Concern Office	Concern Worldwide	William Wol Yel: PTL
" "	Nyamlel Concern Office	Concern Worldwide	Angelo Deng Awech: SORUDEV Assistant Agric. Project Officer
" "	Nyamlel Concern Office	Concern Worldwide	James Lonyo: SORUDEV Assistant Project Officer
" "	Nyamlel Concern Office	Concern Worldwide	Abraham Kuol: SORUDEV Assistant Agric. Project Officer
" "	Nyamlel Concern Office	Concern Worldwide	Wol Deng Akeen: SORUDEV Assistant Agric. Project Officer

Annex 2: Progress in achieving project objective

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
Overall objective Contribute to the empowerment of rural women and vulnerable groups to increase food security, reduce vulnerability to malnutrition and natural disasters, and enhance livelihoods in NBeG	To be provide by the EU / GIZ based on the EU's results framework indicator	Alternative source required (given that GIZ no longer involved)
Specific objective Sustainably increase agricultural production and income of smallholder farmers through the setup of a functional agricultural and livestock advisory and extension services that effectively reaches smallholder farmers, particularly female, youth and vulnerable farmers	<p>SO Indicator 1: Increased Return to household labour (RTHL), SSP / person-day for the targeted crops: Sorghum, Groundnuts, Sim sim, Rice (rainfed)</p> <p>SO Indicator 2: 2,000 targeted smallholder farmers achieve at least 20% increase in income from agriculture related activities. Disaggregated by gender of HH, age and wealth group</p> <p>SO Indicator 3 >50% of targeted beneficiaries (extreme poor, women and youth) are members of marketing groups and / or value additional for agricultural and livestock produce by end of project</p> <p><i>NB: The target figures here are estimates based on the rapid assessment information, more accurate targets will be identified after the baseline survey.</i></p>	<p>Too specific for an "objective". A more general OVI is required, as this is too specific, relating to actual income</p> <p>Baseline survey currently under formulation and development. The age classification could be deleted as few know their actual age</p> <p>Does this imply "progress"?</p>
Result 1 Improved provision and access to sustainable extension services for poor, young and female farmers to improve knowledge to enhance food production and productivity	<p>50% of general population have access to extension and advisory services, Disaggregated by gender of hh head, age and wealth group.</p> <p>80% of those accessing extension advisory services are satisfied with the quality of the services they receive, Disaggregated by gender of hh head, age and wealth group</p> <p>Nyamlel Centre established and functional as extension worker support system</p> <p>Average yields (sun dried) for the targeted crops equal to, or exceeding after average rains: Sorghum: 1,200 kg/ha; Groundnuts (unshelled): 1,200 kg/ha; Simsim: 500 kg/ha; Rice, rain-fed, unhusked: 800 kg/ha</p>	<p>Again too general. Should refer to the part of the population served by the project. In addition, age should also be deleted</p> <p>Measured how? Specify a method and sample size or eliminate. Delete reference to age</p> <p>Vague. Specify either a target number of persons to be trained, days utilised for demonstration or workshops / courses convened</p> <p>This is more a performance indicator than an impact indicator and valid only if current production data is included in the baseline</p>

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
	<p>Year on year reduction in livestock mortality and morbidity for: Cattle, Oxen, Poultry, Shoats, Donkey.</p> <p>Soil fertility and soil structure in ox-ploughed fields</p> <p>Soil Texture Bulk density Infiltration rates Soil Organic Matter (SOM) Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) NPK pH</p>	<p>Measured against what? Is there a baseline figure? Can (then) never be measured, unless CAHWs provide the data. Is this likely? Are they literate and numerate and disciplined enough to prepare monthly reports. Better look at increased levels of treatment and morbidity management (though this is also dependent on data from CAHWs) What is the objective? What is the OVI? Delete and replace</p>
<p>Result 2</p> <p>Improved equality for market access, access to inputs and agricultural incomes for rural poor smallholder farmers in Aweil North and Aweil West and Aweil Centre Counties</p>	<p>20% of marketing groups supported by the project achieve Financial Sustainability within the project period</p> <p>70% of marketing groups supported by the project achieve Operational Sustainability within the project period</p> <p>Increase in the number of months that villages are accessible by road</p>	<p>A rather modest target</p> <p>What is "operational sustainability"? specify / set criteria</p> <p>Initially related to a "cash for assets" component which is no longer included in the programme, Delete and replace with an OVI measuring "improved access to inputs via market sources or similar</p>
<p>Activities for Result 1</p> <p>A1.1 Strengthen the network of community based extension workers</p> <p>A1.1.1 Train staff in extension packages A1.1.2 Survey existing extension workers & CAHWs A1.1.3 Identify, train and equip lead farmers & CAHWs A1.1.4 Establishment of demonstration sites by lead farmers A1.1.5 Exchange visits and farmer field days A1.1.6 Establish peer monitoring system of extension workers A1.1.7 Provide support supervision to lead farmers and CAHWs A1.1.8 Mass-media promotion (radio, posters)</p> <p>A1.2 is missing presumably through a numbering error</p>	<p>Means</p> <p>Joint field surveys (NGO, CBO, and government) Community shortlisting of new candidates Field assessment of shortlisted candidates Bicycles Community selection of beneficiaries according to project criteria Verification of beneficiaries by project staff Beneficiary registration Complaints mechanisms in place to handle disputes over selection</p>	<p>Concern will deploy one Extension Officer per payam (14 in total) and one "lead farmer" per boma (84). Criteria for selection of lead farmers include: Over 18 years of age Resident in boma Of good standing Literate and numerate Approved by community members A farmer cultivating >2 feddans Willing to conduct demonstrations on own plot Willing to be trained and train peers in turn Lead farmers will be paid an incentive of SSP 30 for every training session conducted. This will require a method of verification</p>

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
A1.3 Development of the Nyamlel Agriculture Demonstration and Learning Centre as a focus for extension service training, technology trials and demonstration A1.3.1 Establish management committee and business plan A1.3.2 Capital investment A1.3.3 Conduct trials and demonstrations for selected staple crop varieties, new crops and vegetables A1.3.4 Conduct farmer field Days / open days for centre A1.3.5 Conduct extension workers review meetings in centre	Solar power Tank Solar pump Dormitories Tukuls Toilets Chairs and tables Research equipment Attendance at regional research conferences	Underway
A1.4 Promotion of animal traction, including minimum tillage equipment. A1.4.1 Identification and ToT for animal traction A1.4.2 Distribution of ploughs, rippers A1.4.3 Animal traction adaptive research at the NADLC A1.4.4 Training of blacksmiths	Transport Vouchers Collaboration with VSF Suisse Jab planters, ox drawn rippers, ox drawn direct drill seeders, weeders Metal stock Forge and fuel Anvils Arc / gas welder and consumables Trainer Hacksaws, cold chisels, angle grinder Generator	
A1.5 Strengthen capacity of government to support extension services A1.5.1 Conduct capacity / training needs assessment for SMoAF, SMoARF and CBOs A1.5.2 Procure equipment for SMoAF, SMoARF and NGOs A1.5.3 Conduct capacity training to address capacity gaps	IT equipment and training M / cycles Running costs (ownership issues) Animal health equipment Soil testing equipment	
A1.6 Develop and roll-out mobile phone based remote support system for County Extension Workers, Lead Farmers and CAHWs A1.6.1 Develop Frontline SMS based management tools A1.6.2 Modify Livestock Guru or similar software for android OS and the South Sudan context A1.6.3 Mobile phone based livestock epidemiology / disease tracking software A1.6.4 Train government and NGO technical staff to use and manage ICT and mobile phone-based tools A1.6.5 Development to on-line Numeracy skills lessons for agriculture and livestock staff	Mobile phones Software IT officer and technical support from Dublin IT Technical support from Frontline software developers (optional). Tablet computers + solar chargers Software development costs Field testing and evaluation SIM cards Cheap smart phones with GPS capability / tablets	

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
A2.5 Create a network of fruit and tree nurseries in Aweil North and Aweil West. A2.5.1 Selection of nursery managers and sites	Transport Market analysis	
A2.5.2 Training of new nursery managers by existing nursery managers A2.5.3 Select sites and provide start-up kits for nurseries A2.5.4 Link nurseries to agro-input shops and government nurseries A2.5.5 Trials at ADLC of new species and production methods	Visiting trainers / researchers Supply chains for seeds, saplings, cuttings	
A2.6 Challenge the current status of women farmers through <i>community conversations</i> and support female Lead Farmers to mentor female beneficiary farmers A2.6.1 Train staff in community conversation methodology A2.6.2 Conduct community conversations with beneficiaries A2.6.3 Document the conversations A2.6.4 Action plans A2.6.5 Follow-up	Transport Staff training	

Annex 3: Picture Gallery



Above: Meeting with chiefs, community leaders, farmers and women at “boma’ level in Ayat Centre Payam, Aweil West County as part of the initial programme sensitisation and community mobilisation process.
Below: Office and staff residential facilities at Marial Bai, Ayat East Payam, Aweil West County (unused since 2012), soon to be reopened and reactivated for use by staff deployed on the SORUDEV Smallholders project.





Above: Nyamlele Agricultural Demonstration and Learning Centre, Nyamlele town (constructed by Concern in 2013 using FSTP funds) and now in use as a multi-purpose training venue (in this case for primary health care workers). Below: Seed trials at the Nyamlele Agricultural Demonstration and Learning Centre: green grams (foreground) and local sorghum varieties (background).





Above: Tree seedling nursery (with mango, guava and lucaena seedlings) at the Nyamlel Agricultural Demonstration and Learning Centre, Nyamlel town.

Below: Sign board for Nyamlel Agricultural Demonstration and Learning Centre at Nyamlel, Aweil West County, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State.



GRANT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT

NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NRC)

– SORUDEV PROJECT

JULY 2015

1. Project General Data

Contract beneficiary	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Project Title	"Increased agricultural production and income for small holder farmers affected by displacement in Warrap State of South Sudan"
Project ref. CRIS	FED/2014/333-511
Date of visit	14 to 16 July 2015
Location	Four counties in Warrap State: Gogrial East, Gogrial West, Tonj South and Twic
Monitoring Officer	Emmanuel Minari
Start date	1 May 2014
End date	31 January 2017

2. Financial data

Total EC contribution	€ 2,000,000 (equivalent to 90% of € 2,222,222)
Total spent by project to date (EUR)	€ 758,032
Balance of funds released to date	€ 1,137,872
Anticipated date of next request / release of funds	August 2015
Anticipated amount of next request / release of funds	€ 662,128

3. Monitoring data

3.1 Background

- The project titled "Increased agricultural production and income for smallholder farmers affected by displacement in Warrap State of South Sudan" is a three year project which was designed to target smallholder farmers to increase agriculture production and productivity. The overall objective of the South Sudan Rural Development (SORUDEV) project implemented by NRC is to contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods of rural households in South Sudan. The project is implemented in four (4) Counties (Twic, Tonj South, Gogrial East and Gogrial West) of Warrap State. If managed well and if the operating environment remains calm, the success of the project would be measured against four specific results which the project team will attempt to achieve:
 1. Strengthen the agriculture extension systems of the targeted counties so that they can support smallholder farmers throughout the farming season, hopefully sustainably;
 2. Facilitate for smallholder farmers to have improved access to inputs, improve knowledge and skills in diversified crop production and in post-harvest management and environmental protection;
 3. Promote and facilitate smallholder farmers to have access to and adopt animal traction technology and other improved farming implements;
 4. Facilitate for smallholder farmers to have increased access to markets and other value chain actors.
- Each specific result represents a specific constraint faced by either the smallholder farmers or the government agriculture departments at state, county and payam levels. Generally, the four expected results are inter-related, thus if one of them is not realised then it may not be feasible to have a functional extension system, let alone strengthening it.
- While the objective of the project is to leave behind a more functional agricultural extension department, the challenge is whether it will be sustainable given the economic and political challenges that have hit the country so hard that the government is not able to even undertake routine monitoring and extension visits to farmers.

- While it may be possible to improve extension capacity of state government through training of key personnel and by providing some logistical and office supplies to the county and state departments during the course of implementing SORUDEV, the ambition of the project to strengthen an **agriculture extension system** may not be realistic given that it takes a lot to have a functional agriculture extension system. The project will need to re-examine this during the mid-term evaluation.
- There are some positive prospects for the smallholder farmers: to gain access to agricultural inputs through the establishment of strong linkages with agro dealers and the wider agriculture markets; to gradually and increasingly adopt improved agronomic practice and diversified crop production; and to adopt animal traction and other appropriate technologies that will eventually gain wider acceptability. However, the sustainability of actions taken under each specific result may not be realistically achieved during the life of this project. Hence, there is a need to develop a clear exit and sustainability strategy as soon as possible with specific focus on how each component (specific result) and each approach (e.g., Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA), Extension, Development vis-à-vis Relief etc.) can be adopted sustainably.

3.2 Key findings / Notes on project development

This European Union (EU) Technical Assistance (TA) monitoring mission is the second to be conducted since the project was signed and launched in May 2014. The mission was conducted from 14 to 16 July 2015 in order to: i) review progress made to date; ii) assess whether the project has/is addressing the concerns/recommendations of the previous TA monitoring reports; and iii) to discuss and provide technical advice on the project design and implementation as deemed appropriate by the team on ground.

The mission established that:

1. Overall level of progress on implementation:

- All key national staff have now been recruited and are in position. The Project Manager (international staff), left the position two weeks before the mission was conducted. The mission learnt that the position had been advertised a week before start of the monitoring mission.
- The project team, despite challenges, has facilitated the establishment of VSLA groups, has encouraged the groups to purchase inputs and has prepositioned inputs on site, some of which have been distributed;
- All target groups have been identified/registered, screened, sensitised and trained in preparation for the farming season;
- All other activities planned for the past 1 year have been implemented satisfactorily although the true picture will be clearer at the end of the 2015 farming season.

2. On the recommendation of the previous TA Monitoring Report:

- The project team did not receive the previous monitoring report. Despite this fact, most concerns and subsequent recommendations raised in the previous monitoring report have been addressed satisfactorily;
- The concerns and recommendations which were not addressed were mainly about the need to develop monitoring tools and to train staff to use them. This mission recommends that this issue must be prioritised in future.

3. On achievement against each specific result, the mission established that:

On Specific Result 1:

County and Payam level agricultural extension systems strengthened and providing support to smallholder farmers throughout the farming season.

- Transfer of transport and office assets to the State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development (SMAFCRD) and Implementing Partners was done: 12 motorbikes, 64 bicycles, 11 desktops, 5 printers, desks, chairs, and filing cabinets.
- 31 agricultural extension workers trained in Farmer Field School Approach. Technical facilitation was provided by FAO which organized facilitators from its own national and state offices.
- Formation of the SORUDEV State Technical Committee occurred in February 2015. The committee is chaired by SMAFCRD. NRC provides the secretariat while the Ministry for Animal Resources and Fisheries, SMARF, (including the different departments of SMARF and SMAFCRD) and local partners - LCAD¹ and OFA² - are members.
- Four County extension officers sent to Yei Crop Training Centre for a nine month Agribusiness course. The training started in March 2015 and will end in November 2015.
- Installation of solar system at Twic Agricultural County offices. Three more offices are to be fitted with solar power. The contracted company started working on 20 June 2015. The budget which was meant for supporting solar installation in six offices can now only cover four so the Technical Committee met to prioritize the four to be targeted. The four selected were two partner offices and two County Agricultural Extension offices in Tonj South and Twic. This decision might be revisited since complaints have been received already from Gogrial West County.
- Payment of monthly allowances for running, repair and maintenance cost to support government extension workers who received project motorbikes.

¹ Lukluk Community Association for Development

² Ox plough Farming Agency

On Specific Result 2:

Targeted households have improved access to inputs, knowledge and skills in diversified crop production, post-harvest management and environmental protection.

- The action registered 4,725 farmers for support through this project.
- Trained 3,945 farmers (153 Farmer Groups) from the four operational counties in Warrap state on Leadership skills and Village Savings and Loan modalities as a strategy to build the community's internal capacity to access agricultural inputs and extension services by themselves.
- VSLA money boxes and stationery were procured and distributed to all trained VSLA groups. VSLA groups will be introduced to Farmer Field Schools (FFS) this season, an approach which was agreed at the SORUDEV Inter State coordination meetings.
- Training of 50 farmers at a land use planning workshop.
- 225 persons attended environmental protection training sessions.

On Specific Result 3:

Smallholder farmers have access to and adopt animal traction technology and other improved farming implements.

- Recruitment and training of 40 ox plough trainers from four counties (two weeks training) was conducted by the OFA technical team.
- Training of 260 teams of oxen and farmers in ox plough farming. This was 130% of the target. Overwhelming numbers of farmers are interested in receiving direct training from ox plough trainers.
- The project will continue monitoring transfer of the ox ploughing skills from the trained farmers to other farmers through FFSs and direct extension by the field staff.

On Specific Result 4:

Smallholder farmers have increased access to markets and other value chain actors.

- No achievements yet under this result as activities have been planned for implementation in the second and third years.
- Although a number of reasons were provided, the mission is of the view that not enough effort was made by the team in this result area which means working with local farmers' cooperatives to facilitate access to seeds or with local blacksmiths, say in Luonyaker, to facilitate access to ox plough implements.

Main strengths

The mission established that:

- NRC enjoys excellent relations with all levels of government within Warrap State as a result of close collaboration and regular consultations over the past few years.
- The government, including the Minister and all other officials within the state have understood and internalised the project. They know the objectives and the specific results very well and were updated on progress and challenges affecting the project. It is clear that they "own" the project.
- The operational structure of the project and the decision making functions are well integrated in the government.
- The project was well designed and remains highly relevant with clear intervention logic.
- Most of the preparatory activities planned to be conducted during the Inception period have been implemented.
- The project has recruited all key positions and a number of training and refresher courses for staff have been conducted over the past six months.
- Although the team did not receive the previous monitoring report until the last week of June 2015, most of the recommendations and concerns raised by the previous TA monitoring mission have been addressed by the team – except the one about developing monitoring and evaluation tools and system within the project operational plan.
- With exception of expected result 4, the project performance appears on track despite difficult conditions, e.g. poor roads and road access, conservative community attitudes and occasional insecurity as a result of tribal clashes between two clans in Gogrial East and Gogrial West where the project operates.
- Field staff are experienced and technically knowledgeable. They know and understand the communities in which they work and in which they are, in turn, well known and respected by those with whom they interact on a regular and informal basis.
- Although NRC is largely a relief NGO, by mandate, it has done well in adopting a development approach through SORUDEV. The project staff understand the concept and approach and have also helped the target groups to consider this as a development project.
- NRC has also tried to implement most of the WAU resolution, despite the challenges posed by some target groups, especially those who are clearly not smallholders.
- A baseline survey was conducted and the results were used to inform the process of preparing the Inception Rider. The Inception Rider has been approved and is being operationalised

- The project has workable Technical and Steering Committees which are hosted by the State Minister and chaired by the Director General and Hon Minister respectively. The State government has a dedicated a focal person who follows all the SORUDEV activities and reports regularly to the ministry authorities.

Main weaknesses

- One of the pre-conditions of SORUDEV is that the farmers to be targeted must be smallholder farmers – not subsistence or vulnerable farmers – with capacity to cultivate at least 5 feddans and should be able to raise funds (via VSLA) to finance the cost of agriculture inputs over the 3 years. To achieve this, there was need to ensure that there was a clear selection criterion including profiling of potential farmers. During the mission, it was evident that a significant percentage of the target group members are not smallholder farmers.
- NRC decided not to procure a new vehicle for the project. This was an oversight, given the reality in South Sudan, and there will be logistical challenges to effectively support implementation over the remaining two years as it may be very expensive to repair and/ or maintain the existing fleet of vehicles.
- The development of an exit or sustainability strategy was supposed to be done by the project team (both government and project implementing partners) but has not occurred to-date. During the meeting with the Steering Committee – chaired by the Hon Minister – the EU monitoring mission mentioned that this was an omission which needs to be addressed over the next 2-3 months. The Minister recognized that was indeed important and an omission.
- A key co-applicant, LCAD, is in charge of implementing all activities in some Counties. While this is acceptable, especially if NRC is satisfied with their technical and project management capacity, there is need for NRC to ensure that the quality of process for introducing the approaches and new concepts to the target groups is consistently monitored and where necessary technical backstopping is provided. In other words there is need for quality assurance of process and outcome throughout the project cycle.
- While some of the weaknesses identified during the previous monitoring visit have been/are being addressed by the project team (even though they did not receive the monitoring report until the end of June 2015); the project does not have a simple and workable M&E System. While the project has a position for Data Entry, the project staff admitted during the mission debriefing that the staff does not have the capacity to undertake a full M&E function.
- The project does not have a Project Steering Committee. Instead it relies on the monthly food security information-sharing mechanism which is a platform for engagement with Government and other agencies. This does not always focus on the role to be played by the Government, the target groups and the World Vision in monitoring, implementation and ownership.
- The mission established that there was over-emphasis on VSLA activities at the expense of supporting farmers to access quality extension services. Given that it is now the middle of the farming season, there is need to prioritise this issue of access to extension services over the next two months. If this is not done, the project may find it difficult to achieve the required impact of the intervention/ inputs that have been provided to support the target groups over the past year:
- The mission also established during discussion with government, NRC and LCAD staff in the field that while it is commendable that farmers have been targeted/ registered and organised into VSLA groups, the project officers and extension agents do not know the area under cultivation by each individual farmer nor the types of crops they have planted. This is a red alert as it is extremely important that each extension worker and project officer in charge of each farmers' group should know each farmer, their farm size, their needs for inputs and extension services and to estimate what crops yield should be expected at the end of the harvest period. If this not done then NRC is likely not to know exactly how much increase in crop produce is attributed to the inputs and efforts of the project team.
- There is more emphasis on groups rather than on individual farmers. It is important that the project officers and the extension workers set individual objectives with each farmer in each group both in terms of VSLA related activities and targets for agriculture production and income and challenges/needs they expect the project to help them address in the 2-3 years of the project.
- While there is an effective Technical and Steering Committee meeting that occurs monthly, the same is not true of meetings at the country level.
- Donor visibility was not evident at project sites visited, perhaps because most of the groups visited were remote. There is need to address or improve on visibility over the next 3-6 months.

3.4 Challenges likely to adversely impact implementation and action to be taken to address problems

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by NRC During EU Monitoring Visit in Oct 2014	Updates of ACTION TAKEN or to be taken During EU Monitoring Visit in July 2015
Integrating SORUDEV into a largely relief-oriented NRC programme implementation ethos.	- In essence NRC is an "emergencies" NGO, not a development NGO. Its implementing structure is geared towards short-term interventions (e.g. short-duration staff contracts and a high turn-over of staff), so it is perhaps surprising that it elected to bid for the SORUDEV contract in Warrap when its sister organisation, the Danish Refugee Council,	Despite being an emergency organisation, NRC seeks to provide durable solutions to target beneficiaries under projects it implements. Beside lifesaving interventions, NRC also supports freedom of choice and self-reliance of displaced persons and to promote durable solutions to programme beneficiaries.

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by NRC During EU Monitoring Visit in Oct 2014	Updates of ACTION TAKEN or to be taken During EU Monitoring Visit in July 2015
	<p>decided not to bid (as one of four short-listed NGOs) in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial consternation with and reluctance to endorse the "Wau" protocols, e.g. point #8 "there will be no free distribution of project inputs (no voucher systems except in case of full cost recovery). Project inputs will be availed at cost. Project implementers will examine delivery options per state, based on careful target group selection (farmers with existing financial capacity), group-based asset ownership and credit options, such as VSLAs, village banks, commercial bank lines of credit etc." has since been transformed into an "uneasy" acceptance. However, it seems clear that this is not the preferred modus for NRC and might be diluted by the NRC management if the NGO and its programme are not kept under constant close scrutiny. - In the wider context, NRC is not alone in pursuing (or preferring) a relief strategy, as elements of this are present in the programmes of GOAL, Intermón Oxfam, WFP, World Vision and others. There is, therefore, a danger that the purely development-based principles promoted by SORUDEV will be at odds with policy and practice utilised in / by other implementing bodies operating in the same counties. Both NRC (and the EU as donor-body) will need to be conscious of possible contradictions and confusion among beneficiary communities, when faced with different NGOs / EU-funded organisations (EU / ECHO) pursuing totally different agendas in the same geographical area. 	<p>The "Wau" resolutions were agreed on by all the partners point by point and that led to a massive revision of the project after the inception period. The project currently does not have any activity dealing with distribution of inputs or use of vouchers but the option of linking farmers with the potential to purchase the agro-inputs to agro-dealers is being explored currently. For farmers to be able to access credit for procuring the agro inputs they need, they are all engaged in the VSLA component of the project and with this, there is hope for a stronger linkage being created between farmers and agro dealers.</p> <p>The SORUDEV project implemented by NRC is purely a development programme with no relief strategy. The Wau workshop was able to clarify the relief strategy in the programme and all the revision in the inception rider captured the development dimension of the program.</p>
Overly optimistic assessment of government (SMAFCRD and SMARF) staffing (numbers and capacity) viz. provision of improved extension services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The initial NRC concept note proposed training and improvement of 100 government extension workers, while the revised "full proposal" suggested a slightly more sober 80+. - In reality, public service recognised extension staff are generally inadequate in number and poorly distributed in all the counties and payams across South Sudan. - Warrap State is no different. It is highly unlikely that 100 extension workers (or even half that number) are present in the State. Twic County, for example, has only six in theory and even less in practice, given that some are physically absent. As such, it will be difficult for NRC to meet current targets and these targets should, therefore, be subjected to downward revision (to a more realistic number) in the project six-months Inception Report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Action targeted all extension workers supporting the programme in Warrap State. These includes, NRC extension workers (10), LCAD extension workers (10), OFA extension workers/ox plough trainers (40) and Government extension workers (22)
Inadequate support for field operations and programme implementation at state-level from the NRC country office in Juba.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over the first six months of project preparation and implementation (April to October 2014) NRC has been consistently the least responsive and, therefore, the most difficult of the four SORUDEV IPs. NRCs failure to communicate and to finalise arrangements with Intermón Oxfam as regards use of the IO Luonyaker base (mentioned in the footnote on page 2 above), is symptomatic of this situation. - More worrying has been the (off the record) suggestion (if not complaint) from the NRC SORUDEV Project Manager that the SORUDEV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NRC has been implementing the SORUDEV project and other projects with equal support from top management however, it is only in the SORUDEV partners' quarterly review workshops that NRC top management finds difficult to attend and the top management has not attended any of the meetings in other programmes as well though just handful of such programmes that have this kind of coordination mechanism. The Intermón Oxfam compound was handed over to the local authorities as this was what was in the agreement signed when the compound was established. The local

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by NRC During EU Monitoring Visit in Oct 2014	Updates of ACTION TAKEN or to be taken During EU Monitoring Visit in July 2015
	<p>management isn't receiving adequate logistical and administrative support, when compared with emergency operations in other parts of the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In context of the comments above, about the fundamental nature of NRC as an "emergencies" NGO, this may be true. Again, both NRC and its programme should be placed under close observation to ensure that the SORUDEV intervention is accorded the priority support and attention to which it is entitled by virtue of significance. 	<p>authorities later offered the compound to NRC and a local NGO (SMARD) to share the compound. However, due to the hostilities between the two clans (Apuk) of Gogrial East and (Aguok) of Gogrial West, NRC has not been able to settle in the compound.</p>
Data collection with which to measure project progress and achievement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to report (on a quarterly basis) against indicators taken from the project log frame, NRC must first put in place a functional data collection system. - This will, likely, be based on the presence of field-based extension staff (whose number and capacity, as noted above, is seriously limited). - Data collection tools will need to be developed and staff will need to be trained in the use of those tools in order for the system to function. However, a few, possibly over-worked, extension workers per county may be insufficient to gather a large enough quantity of basic but essential data. NRC might, therefore, find preparation of indicator-based quarterly reports both challenging and disruptive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NRC food security programme has a fully employed Data Entry Officer (DEO) whose basic role is to collect data and enter it into the system. However, time will be needed to offer some training on data collection tools that have been developed. Besides, extension staff from each County have been pivotal in data collection and sharing the information with the DEO.
Deteriorating road conditions across most of the state and shortages of fuel in local markets (on this occasion lasting for a period in excess of two months).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disruption of road travel and breakdowns in delivery of essential supplies are an annual occurrence and therefore predictable. - NRC will need to preposition essential supplies, including fuel for vehicles and generators in Alek (and possibly in Luonyaker and Tonj) in advance of periods of shortage (August – November) and (equally importantly) should advise, guide and assist its private sector partners on the same strategy (pre-positioning fuel, tools, seed, etc.) in advance of periods of transport-provoked commercial inertia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experience with this context is that you can never be prepared enough. Sometimes, NRC runs short of fuel even given the fact that there is a fuel tank that is usually filled when it runs empty. The security situation on the road is unpredictable and it quite often possess a bigger threat to fuel shortages than the bad roads
Inflation	New Challenge identified after the TA Oct Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Price of project items rising against the budget.
Inter-communal conflicts	New Challenge identified after the TA Oct Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This led to suspension of activities in some areas of Warrap state (Gogrial West, Gogrial East and Tonj South Counties). - NRC invited its Security advisor from the country office who conducted a security assessment in early July 2015 and the report is yet to be shared. - OCHA also led another security assessment of the whole affected area and the report is also yet to be shared. NRC had to evacuate staff that had been relocated to Gogrial East from Gogrial West. - In order to continue with project activities in Gogrial East NRC is in the process of recruiting two project Assistants who will preferably be residents of Gogrial East. The Ministry of labour has already approved the process.
Harmonisation with IP OFA	New Challenge identified after the TA Oct Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harmonization of activities with local partners especially with Ox plough Farming Agency has not been smooth even with capacity building efforts. - NRC has shared the challenge with SMAFCRD and its Country office management which is now

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by NRC During EU Monitoring Visit in Oct 2014	Updates of ACTION TAKEN or to be taken During EU Monitoring Visit in July 2015 handling the issues

3.5 Issues to Address and Further Actions required

1. NRC should expedite the process of recruiting a suitable successor of the Project Manager and, given that it normally takes longer to recruit for management positions in South Sudan, NRC should make a temporary deployment to support the quality of implementation until the position is filled. Due to existing Project Management and Leadership needs following the departure of the Project Manager this should be prioritised.
2. NRC should prioritise intensifying extension service delivery to the farmers over the next few weeks. The mission established that there was over-emphasis on VSLA activities at the expense of supporting farmers to access quality extension services. Given this is the middle of the farming season, there is need to prioritise access to extension services over the next two months. If this is not done, the project may find it difficult to achieve the required impact of the intervention/ inputs that have been provided to support the target groups over the past year.
3. NRC should prioritise establishment of a simple, but robust and systematic/ consistent data collection tool and train staff on its use. Focus should be on data on farm size and types of crops and all related issues on the production cycles. The mission also established during discussion with the project staff (both NRC and LCAD) that while it is commendable that farmers have been targeted/ registered and organised in VSLA groups, the project officers and extension agents do not know the total area under cultivation nor what area each individual farmer has cultivated and the types of crops they have planted. It is also not common knowledge where the farmers obtained the inputs (seeds) which they planted. It is extremely important that each extension worker and project officer in charge of each farmers' group should know each farmer, their farm size, their needs for inputs and extension services and to estimate what crops yield should be expected at the end of the harvest period. If this not done then NRC is likely not to know exactly how much increase in crop produce is attributed to the inputs and efforts of the project team.
4. NRC should prioritise the preparation of an exit and sustainability strategy for the project. There is need for the project to work with all the key stakeholders (implementers, target groups representatives and the government, especially the Steering and Technical Committee) to develop the strategy in a participatory manner. For example, this could be done jointly by NRC, LCAD, the Government and other stakeholders and should aim: i) to ensure each activity is owned by the project group; ii) to identify which activities have the best potential for sustainability and what type of support is required to achieve this; and iii) to identify potential areas of weakness or need for technical support (e.g. extension services, VSLA groups and income-generating activities) to be addressed by the Government or other agencies (such as SORUDEV or FSTP partners in the area).
5. NRC should write to EUD to request for permission to use the fund originally planned for procurement of six new motor bikes. The funds were re-allocated to the operational budget line for supporting government extension personnel seconded to the project This is in line with the need and request from the Steering Committee which was expressed during the TA monitoring mission.
6. NRC should revise the budget to consider procurement of additional solar equipment for the two counties offices – Gogrial West and Gogrial East. The budget, which was originally planned for the four county offices, but under-budgeted and only equipment for county offices was procured. This issue was raised during the meeting with the Steering Committee and the argument is that the solar equipment are a necessity given all the offices were supported with computers and printers which cannot be operated without source of power. Prior to this, however, NRC should discuss with VSFG to ascertain the exact needs for Gogrial East and Gogrial West.
7. NRC should prioritise a review of all the VSLA groups with aim to establish how many of the members are actually smallholder farmers and how many are subsistence/ vulnerable farmers. The exercise should include visiting each farmers field with aim to measure/ estimate and record the size of the area under cultivation and the crops planted and to determine how many of them have at least 5 feddans or have potential to reach that target with the scope of this project. The exercise should also be done within the next 1-2 months using the crop assessment tools developed and circulated by EUD over the past few weeks. If the exercise reveals that some of the farmers are indeed subsistence farmers, then the project should assist them to graduate into smallholder farmer category during the next farming season.
8. NRC should consider project exchange visit to projects implemented by: 1) HARD in Wau to learn and share ideas on VSLA and agro-dealers for supply of inputs; 2) NPA in Rumbek to learn and share lessons and ideas on animal traction and how to establish a sustainable supply chain through local production involving local vendors and local manufacturing of ox plough parts by local blacksmith; and, 3) VSFG and World Vision (all operating within Warrap) to learn and share ideas on how to better provide sustainable extension services.
9. NRC project management and the government Steering Committee should consider having quarterly (not monthly) meetings. Instead, there should be regular monthly meetings at the county levels - chaired by the County Agriculture Director and attended by other key county personnel, NRC, LCAD and State focal person. The aim should be to review progress against the monthly work plan, undertake joint monitoring, agree the work plan for next month and identify/ resolve challenges affecting the project.
10. Donor visibility for the project needs to be improved

3.6 Progress in achieving project objectives

The mission established that:

On Specific Result 1:

County and Payam level agricultural extension systems strengthened and providing support to small holder farmers throughout the farming season.

- Transfer of transport and office assets to SMAFCRD and Implementing Partners was done: 12 motorbikes, 64 bicycles, 11 desktops, 5 printers, desks, chairs, and filing cabinets.
- 31 agricultural extension workers trained in Farmer Field School Approach. Technical facilitation was provided by FAO which organized facilitators from its own national and state offices
- Formation of the SORUDEV State Technical Committee occurred in February 2015. The committee is chaired by SMAFCRD. NRC provides the secretariat while SMARF (including the different departments of SMAFCRD and SMARF) and local partners - LCAD and OFA³ are members.
- Four County extension officers sent to Yei Crop Training Centre for a nine months Agribusiness course. The training started in March 2015 and will end in November 2015.
- Installation of solar system at Twic Agricultural County offices. Three more offices are to be fitted with solar power. The contracted company started working on 20 June 2015. The budget which was meant for supporting solar installation in six offices can now only cover four so the Technical Committee met to prioritize the four to be targeted. The four selected were two partner offices and two County Agricultural Extension offices in Tonj South and Twic. This decision might be revisited since complaints have been received already from Gogrial West County.
- Payment of monthly allowances for running, repair and maintenance cost to support government extension workers who received project motorbikes.

On Specific Result 2:

Targeted households have improved access to inputs, knowledge and skills in diversified crop production, post-harvest management and environmental protection.

- The action registered 4,725 farmers for support through this project.
- Trained 3,945 farmers (153 Farmer Groups) from the four operational counties in Warrap state on Leadership skills and Village Savings and Loan modalities as a strategy to build the community's internal capacity to access agricultural inputs and extension services by themselves.
- VSLA money boxes and stationery were procured and distributed to all trained VSLA groups. VSLA groups will be introduced to FFSs this season, an approach which was agreed at the SORUDEV Inter State coordination meetings.
- Training of 50 farmers at a land use planning workshop.
- 225 persons attended environmental protection sessions.

On Specific Result 3:

Smallholder farmers have access to and adopt animal traction technology and other improved farming implements.

- Recruitment and training of 40 ox plough trainers from four counties (two weeks training) was conducted by the OFA technical team.
- Training of 260 teams of oxen and farmers in ox plough farming. This was 130% of the target. Overwhelming numbers of farmers are interested in receiving direct training from ox plough trainers
- The project will continue monitoring transfer of the ox ploughing skills from the trained farmers to other farmers through FFSs and direct extension by the field staff.

On Specific Result 4:

Smallholder farmers have increased access to markets and other value chain actors.

- No achievements yet under this result as activities have been planned for implementation in the second and third years.
- Although a number of reasons were provided, the mission is of the view that not enough effort was made by the team in this result area which means working with local farmers cooperatives to facilitate access to seeds or with local blacksmiths, say in Luonyaker, to facilitate access to ox plough implements.

(See details in Annex 2 - below)

3.7 Cross-cutting and other issues

EU Visibility:

Time constraints prevented the monitoring mission from visiting most of the planned project sites. At the sites visited, however, it is clear that NRC needs to improve on EU visibility.

Gender issues:

The project is gender-mainstreamed. However, there is need to ensure that female members of target groups are adequately represented at decision-making levels (e.g. the PSC and other committees) and empowered to use their own assets.

³ Ox plough Farming Agency

4. Summary of follow-up actions and responsibility

	Action to be taken	Responsible	Deadline
1	Circulate TA Monitoring Report	Emmanuel Minari	21 July 2015
2	There is a gap in Project Management and Leadership. NRC should expedite the process of recruiting a suitable successor of the Project Manager and, given that it normally takes significant time to recruit for management positions in South Sudan, NRC should make a temporary deployment to support the quality of implementation until the position is filled.	NRC	Immediate
3	The mission established that there was over-emphasis on VSLA activities that are prioritised at the expense of supporting farmers to access quality extension services. Given this is the middle of the farming season, there is need to prioritise access to extension services over the next two months. If this is not done, the project may find it difficult to achieve the required impact of the intervention/ inputs that have been provided to support the target groups over the past year.	NRC	Immediate and over the project life
4	The mission also established during discussion with the project staff (both NRC and LCAD) that while it is commendable that farmers have been targeted/ registered and organised in VSLA groups, the project officers and extension agents do not know the total area under cultivation nor what area each individual farmer has cultivated and the types of crops they have planted. It is also not common knowledge where the farmers obtained the inputs (seeds) which they planted. It is extremely important that each extension worker and project officer in charge of each farmers' group should know each farmer, their farm size, their needs for inputs and extension services and to estimate what crops yield should be expected at the end of the harvest period. If this not done then NRC is likely not to know exactly how much increase in crop produce is attributed to the inputs and efforts of the project team.	NRC	Immediate and over the project life
5	Project has no exit and sustainability Strategy. There is need for the project to prioritise this and to work with all the key stakeholders (implementers, target groups representatives and the government, especially the Steering and Technical Committee) to develop an exit and sustainability strategy for the project. This should be done jointly by NRC, LCAD, the Government and other stakeholders and should aim: i) to ensure each activity is owned by the project group; ii) to identify which activities have the best potential for sustainability and what type of support is required to achieve this; and iii) to identify potential areas of weakness or need for technical support (e.g. extension services, VSLA groups and income-generating activities) to be addressed by the Government or other agencies (such as SORUDEV or FSTP partners in the area).	NRC and State Government	Within 3-6 months from August 2015
6	Donor visibility for the project needs to be improved	NRC	Immediate and over duration of project
7	NRC should write to EUD to request for permission to use the funds originally planned for procurement of six new motor bikes. The funds were re-allocated to the operational budget line for supporting government extension personnel seconded to the project This is in line with the need and request from the Steering Committee which was expressed during the TA monitoring mission.	NRC	Immediate
8	NRC should write to seek clarification from EUD on the request by Government to the purchase of new motor bikes and additional solar equipment which were originally budgeted for in the original budget. According to the revised budget the procurement of additional solar equipment for two counties offices – Gogrial West and Gogrial East - was not possible due to inflation and partly because it was under-budgeted. This issue was raised during the meeting with steering committee and the argument is that the solar equipment is a necessity given all the offices were supported with computers and printers which cannot be operated without source of power. Prior to this, however, NRC should discuss with VSFG to ascertain the exact need for Gogrial East and Gogrial West.	NRC	Immediate
9	NRC should prioritise a review of all the VSLA groups with the aim of establishing how many of the members actually are smallholder farmers and how many are subsistence/ vulnerable farmers. The exercise should include visiting	NRC	Immediate and should be completed by September 2015

	each farmers field with the aim to measure/ estimate and record the area under cultivation and the crops planted and to determine how many of them have at least 5 feddans or have potential to reach that target with the scope of this project. The exercise should also be done within the next 1-2 months using the crop assessment tools developed and circulated by EUD over the past few weeks. If the exercise reveals that some of the farmers are indeed subsistence farmers, then the project should assist them to graduate into smallholder farmer category during the next farming season.		
10	There is a gap in Project Management and Leadership. NRC should expedite the process of recruiting a suitable successor of the Project Manager and, given it normally takes a significant time to recruit for management positions in South Sudan, NRC should make a temporary deployment to support the quality of implementation until the position is filled.	NRC	Immediate
11	The mission established that there was over-emphasis on VSLA activities at the expense of supporting farmers to access quality extension services. Given this is the middle of the farming season, there is need to prioritise extension service delivery over the next two months. If this is not done, the project may find it difficult to achieve the required impact of the intervention/ inputs that have been provided to support the target groups over the past year.	NRC	Immediate and throughout this farming season
12	NRC should consider project exchange visit to projects implemented by: 1) HARD in Wau to learn and share ideas on VSLA and agro-dealers for supply of inputs; 2) NPA in Rumbek to learn and share lessons and ideas on animal traction and how to establish a sustainable supply chain through local production involving local vendors and local manufacturing of ox plough parts by local blacksmith; and, 3) VSFG and World Vision (all operating within Warrap) to learn and share ideas on how to better provide sustainable extension services.	NRC	December 2015 Or Jan 2016 Security permitting
13	NRC project management and the government steering committee should consider having quarterly (not monthly) meetings. Instead, there should be regular monthly meetings at the county levels - chaired by the County Agriculture Director and attended by other key county personnel, NRC, LCAD and State focal person. The aim should be to review progress against monthly work plan, undertake joint monitoring, agree the work plan for next month and identify/ resolve challenges affecting project.	NRC and State Government	Immediate

Signature:

Emmanuel Minari

Date: 21/07/2015

Annex 1: Progress in achieving project objective

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement as at EU Visit in Oct 2014	Achievement as at EU Visit in July 2015
Overall objective To contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods of rural households in Warrap State.	O1.1 % change in number of HH with an acceptable Food Consumption Score- (Baseline average: 36.7% . Target value: 50%) O1.2 % change in number of HH which are able to generate enough food/cash incomes to meet the livelihood protection threshold (HEA Analysis)- Target: At least 50% from Baseline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A baseline has been conducted as part of the Inception Report preparation process. However, OVIs need to be measurable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No assessment has been conducted to find this out but through estimation 40% of the HH have an acceptable Food Consumption score and this is mainly as a result of the VSLA activities. • End of year 1 estimation through observation, 10% of the targeted HH are able to generate enough cash income to meet the livelihood protection threshold.
Specific objective SO1 – Smallholder farmers in Warrap State have increased sustainable and diversified agricultural production and income.	SO1.1 % of targeted HH with increased income from agricultural production. Target 60%. SO1.2 % of targeted HH with increased production per unit area compared to previous years. Target 60%. SO 1.3 % target HH practising diversified farming. Target 60%. SO 1.4 % of farmers who report reduced post-harvest losses compared to the previous year. Target 50%.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This indicator can be measured better at the end of 2015 farming season. • So far 20% of the targeted HHs are estimated to have increased production per unit area. • 40% of the targeted HH observed are practicing diversified farming • This indicator is to be captured appropriately at the end 2015 farming season.
Expected results R1 – "County and Payam level agricultural extension systems strengthened and providing support to small holder farmers throughout the farming season".	1.1 Number of extension staff trained in specific improved agricultural production and marketing techniques. Target 82. 1.2 Number of extension review workshops conducted. Target 6 (2 per year x 3 years). 1.3 Number of farmers receiving at least two extension support visits by trained SMAFC&RD extension staff in each farming season. Baseline: 196, 3.9%. Target 2,000, 40%		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 78 extension staff from NRC, LCAD, OFA and government received specific trainings on agricultural production and marketing techniques. • So far 3 extension review workshops have been conducted (2 in the first year and 1 in the second year) • The measurement of this indicator is still in progress since the season has not ended. So far 1,525 farmers have received at least two extension support visits by trained government extension workers.
R2 – "Targeted HH have improve access to inputs, knowledge and skills in diversified crop production, post-harvest management and environmental protection".	2.1 Number of farmers trained in production of crops, vegetables and fruit trees. Target 5,000 (3,825 women, 925 men, 125 girls (youth) and 125 boys (youth)).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the trainings on crop production are to be administered through FFSs. • The process of establishment 50 FFSs is ongoing (as the main farming season is also still ongoing).
	2.2 Number of farmers trained in diet diversification and food hygiene. Target: 100 FFSs community facilitators		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All these activities have been planned for the second and third years. This is explained in detail in the interim report.

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement as at EU Visit in Oct 2014	Achievement as at EU Visit in July 2015
	<p>2.3 Number of farmers trained in improved post-harvest management technology. Target: 100 FFSs community facilitators</p> <p>2.4 Number of trees planted by communities: Target 25,000 (5 trees per target beneficiary).</p>		
R3 – “Smallholder farmers have access to and adopt animal traction technology and other improved farming implements”.	<p>3.1 Number of farmers trained in ox ploughing techniques : Target 400</p> <p>3.2 Number of feddans cultivated using ox ploughs and jembes / hoes. Target (5 feddans x 5000 farmers - 2000 using ox-plough and 3000 jembes) = 25,000 feddans.</p> <p>3.3 Number of ox ploughs subsidised for farmers: Target 1000.</p> <p>3.4 Number of Jembes / hoes subsidized for farmers: 4000.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The training of 260 teams was conducted. Each team consists of 2 farmers. This makes the total number of farmers trained on ox ploughing techniques to 520 No records have yet been made on this indicator as the agricultural season started late.
R4 – “Smallholder farmers have increased access to markets and other value chain actors”.	<p>4.1 Number of farmers trained in market analysis. Target 5,000 (3,825 women, 925 men, 125 girls (youth) and 125 boys)).</p> <p>4.2 Number of farmers receiving market pricing information regularly. Target 50% of farmers: 2,500 (1,913 women, 463 men, 63 female youth, and 63 male youth)).</p> <p>4.3 Number of small enterprises trained in production of and sale of farm implements and spare parts. Target 8.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No achievement under this result area. Staff just received training on market information dissemination from FAO. The full implementation of activities under this activity area will occur in the second year.
Activities A1.1 Development of Extension Training Manuals. A1.2 Technical Training of 82 agricultural extension staffs. A1.3 Training extension staff at local Agricultural Institutions. A1.4 Equip County Agricultural extension Support offices with office equipment. A1.5 Distribute transport equipment to extension staff. A1.6. Extension Support Visits to Farmers. A1.7 Extension support review meetings.	Means: Staff: Local and international technical and support staff from NRC and 2 local implementing partners Equipment: Motor bikes and bicycles and land cruiser hardtops (hired) and contributed too by NRC, Oxploughs and other farm implements Training: Training costs for both field staff and beneficiaries. Training materials.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of extension training manuals is closer to completion spearheaded by EU TA in collaboration with a number of partners. 78 extension staff trained on specific agricultural production techniques. Government extension staff sent to Yei for 9 month agribusiness course. All the office equipment supplied. Transportation equipment supplied 1525 farmers visited and visits continue during the agricultural season

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement as at EU Visit in Oct 2014	Achievement as at EU Visit in July 2015
<p>A1.8 Documentation of lessons and experiences.</p> <p>A1.9 State Food Security and Livestock Cluster and SORUDEV Partner Coordination Meetings</p> <p>A2.1 Formation of farmers' groups and identification of lead farmers.</p> <p>A2.2 Training farmers in improved agricultural production techniques.</p> <p>A2.4 Train 400 farmers in dry season small scale irrigation farming and establishment of the small-scale irrigation schemes.</p> <p>A2.5 Hold Farmer field days/trade shows</p> <p>A2.6 Post-harvest management training and construction of improved granaries.</p> <p>A2.7 Diet Diversification and Food Hygiene sessions.</p> <p>A2.8 Environmental Conservation (EC) Awareness campaigns.</p> <p>A2.9 Planting of 25,000 fruit trees.</p> <p>A3.1 Identification and selection of 1,000 farmers with access to oxen.</p> <p>A3. 2 Training of trainers and farmers in animal traction.</p> <p>A3. 3 Linking ox plough/weeder traders with farmers.</p> <p>A3. 4 Establish ox plough/weeder spare parts fabrication and sale.</p> <p>A3.5 Show casing ox ploughs/weeder cultivation.</p> <p>A3.6 Promotion and Showcasing use of Jembe/Hoe.</p> <p>A4.1 Creation and training of smallholder farmers' leadership and representation.</p> <p>A4.2 Hold value chain actors' consultative sessions.</p> <p>A4.3 Housing, Land and Property (HLP) awareness sessions.</p> <p>A4.4 Set up a market information dissemination system.</p> <p>A4.5 Train smallholder farmers and other value chain actors in small scale business management skills.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessons and experiences shared during SORUDEV quarterly review workshops and also during implementation of activities. NRC participated actively in the Coordination meetings. 183 Farmer groups formed and 1000 lead farmers trained. FFSs (50) for farmer trainings. 50 farmers trained on vegetable production during dry season. Farmer field days will be held in year 2 and 3. Improved granaries will be constructed in year 2 and 3 Diet diversification and food hygiene sessions will be provided in year 2 Environmental conservation - 225 farmers trained and awareness campaigns to continue. Planting of trees are planned for year 2 520 farmers trained on ox ploughing (260 teams) 40 trainers trained on animal traction. <p>Activities for linking farmers with traders are planned for Years 2 and 3</p> <p>Establishment of ox plough spare part fabricators planned for year 2</p> <p>Show casing ox plough cultivation is ongoing in the farmer field schools</p> <p>Showcasing use of Jembe hoe is ongoing</p> <p>Planned for year 3</p> <p>Planned for year 2</p> <p>Planned for year 2</p> <p>Planned for year 2</p> <p>Planned for year 2</p>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">

Annex 2: List of Persons Met

Briefing/ Introductory Meeting with Project Staff: NRC Office – Rumbek Town				
Date	S/No.	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
14/07/2015	1	Taban Kaps Roberts	M	Project Coordinator
14/07/2015	2	Mario Mayar	M	Project Officer – Gogrial West County
14/07/2015	3	Dilla Iyu Cyrus	M	Project Officer – Gogrial West County
14/07/2015	4	Wol Wol Dor	M	Extension Officer – Alek North & Riau Payam, Gogrial West
Meeting with Mayom Totin and Malek Ngok VSLA/ Farmer Group: Alek North Payam – Gogrial West County				
Date	S/No.	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
14/07/2015	1	Majok Wol	M	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	2	Rina Nene Kenyi	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	3	Deng Garang	M	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	4	Kual Garang	M	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	5	Rebecca Abuk	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	6	Malong Wol	M	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	7	Deng Wol	M	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	8	Ayok Madut	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	9	Amet Madut	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	10	Adut Mayar	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	11	Wol Wol Wol	M	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	12	Aguer Nyang	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	13	Madio Majang	M	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	14	Mary Adut	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	15	Atong Matoo	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	16	Achuar Anei	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	17	Atur Majok	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	18	Akuech Bol	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	19	Christina Nayanyai	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	20	Akual Deng	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	21	Akual Barac	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	22	Rebecca Arual	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	23	Achal Yel	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	24	Mary Abuk	F	Member – VSLA Group/ Deputy Payam Administrator
14/07/2015	25	Elizabeth Nyibol	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	26	Manyuot Mayuen	M	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	27	Nyamin Mading	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	28	Deng Ranyi	M	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	29	Debora Aluk	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	30	Peter Giir	M	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	31	Adhel Kuel	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	32	Peter Piol	M	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	33	John Arang	M	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	34	Baak Angok	M	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	35	Maria Amer	F	Member – VSLA Group
14/07/2015	36	Anyout Akol	F	Member – VSLA Group
Meeting with State Authorities – Minister's Office, Rumbek Town, Lakes State				
Date	S/No.	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
15/07/2015	1	Majok Bol Kur	M	Minister – State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development (SMAFCRD)
15/07/2015	2	Martin Maduk Chan	M	Director General – SMAFCRD
15/07/2015	3	Atem Majok Mawien	M	Director of Forestry – SMAFCRD
15/07/2015	4	Madut Majak Malim	M	D/ Director of Community Development – SMAFCRD
15/07/2015	5	Rual Aluak Maluil	M	D/Director of Cooperatives – SMAFCRD
15/07/2015	6	Andrea Adup Akoc	M	D/ Director of Extension and Training – SMAFCRD
15/07/2015	7	Martin Athian Mathiek	M	Extension Officer - State Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (SMARF)
15/07/2015	8	Dr Michael Michael Dena	M	Acting Director of Veterinary Services – SMARF
15/07/2015	9	Duer Ben Duer	M	Acting Director General – SMARF
15/07/2015	10	Samuel Reec Madut	M	Official – SMARF
15/07/2015	11	Machok Malual Chok	M	Officer Manager, Minister's Officer – SMAFCRD
15/07/2015	12	Andrea Dut Akot	M	
15/07/2015	13	Peter Maduk	M	SORUDEV Focal Person – SMAFCRD

15/07/2015	14	Taban Kaps Roberts	M	Project Coordinator - SORUDEV
Meeting with Ametic and Loidit VSLA Group – Ametic Village, Pariang Boma, Kuac North Payam, Gogrial West				
Date	S/No.	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
15/07/2015	1	Adeng Makwei Majok	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	2	Atong Majak Mayar	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	3	Akuac Bol Atoto	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	4	Adut Kur Alen	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	5	Abuk Ngong Bak	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	6	Ajok Akol Mawien	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	7	Akuor Amother Diing	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	8	Aruop Achuil Angok	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	9	Nyibol Aker Goch	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	10	Arek Madut Lual	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	11	Adeng Alen Akeen	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	12	Adut Makuach Ayany	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	13	Elizabeth Achol Madut	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	14	Akuol Akier Achuil	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	15	Nyankiir Nyang Achuol	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	16	Abuk Kuol Tomoj	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	17	Aluel Deng Alek	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	18	Mary Akual Mayar	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	19	Mary Agok Jual	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	20	Athieng Mawien Kuaac	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	21	Aman Abiem Akot	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	22	Adut Abiem Akot	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	23	Martha Abiem Mayar	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	24	Mary Awien Manyiel	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	25	Aguok Kurac Akol	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	26	Abuk Majok Mawien	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	27	Anger Abiem Akot	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	28	Akuac Akol Deng	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	29	Elizabeth Akuok Garang	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	30	Mary Anoon Madeng	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	31	Asunta Chan Deng	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	32	Agol Deng Akol	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	33	Akook Chan Deng	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	34	Achan Angeth Achuil	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	35	Akuol Akech Angui	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	36	Duluka Ajak Ayom	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	37	Debora Nyinu Madut	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	38	Aluet Deng Akol	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	39	Achol Kuol Akeen	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	40	Abiem Bol Arol	F	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	41	Mayook Liai Aker	M	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	42	Kuol Aken Chiman	M	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	43	Manyuat Chiman Diing	M	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	44	Emmanuel Alich Ayany	M	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	45	Reuben Ayany Akol	M	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	46	Aker Abiem Akot	M	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	47	Joseph Akoon Aor	M	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	48	Bona Bol Madut	M	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	49	Akol Akot Ayok	M	Member – VSLA Group
15/07/2015	50	Nyaul Mayor Deng	M	Member – VSLA Group
Debriefing/ Exit Meeting with Project Staff: NRC Office – Alek, Gogrial West				
Date	S/No.	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
16/07/2015	1	Taban Kaps Roberts	M	Project Coordinator
16/07/2015	2	Mario Mayar Major	M	Project Officer – Gogrial West County
16/07/2015	3	Dilla Iyu Cyrus	M	Project Officer – Gogrial West County
16/07/2015	4	Wol Wol Dor	M	Extension officer – Alek North & Riau Payam, Gogrial West
16/07/2015	5	Adekbeny Malang Bol	F	Project Officer – Gogrial West County
16/07/2015	6	Noi Yak Noi	M	Project Officer – Twic County
16/07/2015	7	Peter Akec	M	Project Coordinator – LCAD
16/07/2015	8	Angelo Owen	M	Extension Agent – LCAD
16/07/2015	9	Daniel Ungok	M	Extension Officer – LCAD
16/07/2015	10	Arkanjelo Abel	M	Programme Manager – LCAD

Annex 3. Programme Schedule

EU TA Monitoring Visit program (NRC)

Day	Time	Event	Responsibility
Tuesday 14/7/2015	2:00p.m.-2:30p.m.	Meeting NRC management and Food Security Staff	Taban (Project Coordinator)
Tuesday 14/7/2015	3:00p.m – 4:30p.m	Field Visit - Mayom Farmer/VSLA group in Alek North	Mario/ Dilla
Tuesday 14/7/2015	4:30p.m – 5:00p.m	Travel back to Base	Taban
Wednesday 15/7/2015	8:30 a.m. – 10:30a.m.	Travel to Kuajok	Taban
Wednesday 15/7/2015	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Meeting with SMAFCRD, SMARF and LCAD	Peter- SMAF&CRD
Wednesday 15/7/2015	2:00 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.	Field visit to LCAD Groups in Kuac-North	Abel/Simon/ Peter Aketch
Wednesday 15/7/2015	3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Travel back to Alek	Taban
Thursday 16/7/2015	9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.	Feed back to NRC team	Emmanuel Minari
Thursday 16/7/2015	-	Departure to Juba	Deng Edward

Annex 4. Picture Gallery



Above: Set of photos taken during meeting with Mayom Totin and Malek Ngok VSLA Group at Alek North Payam, Gogrial West County



Above: Photos taken during meeting with Ametic and Loidit VSLA Group in Ametic Village, Kuac North Payam in Gogrial West County



Below: Photos taken during meeting with members of the Steering Committee at the Office of the Hon Minister of Agriculture

First on photo (left row) is Taban Kaps Robert - SORUDEV Project Coordinator listening to the Minister to the right).

GRANT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NRC) – SORUDEV PROJECT

OCTOBER 2014

1. Project General Data

Contract beneficiary	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Project Title	“Increased agricultural production and income for small holder farmers affected by displacement in Warrap State of South Sudan”
Project ref. CRIS	FED/2014/333-511
Date of visit	23 rd – 26 th October 2014
Location	Four counties in Warrap State: Gogrial East, Gogrial West, Tonj South and Twic
Monitoring Officer	Steven Hind
Start date	1 / 05 / 2014
End date	31 / 01 / 2017

2. Financial data

Total EC contribution	€ 2,000,000 (equivalent to 90% of € 2,222,222)
Total spent by project to date (Euro)	Info to be provided by IP
Balance of funds released to date	€ 1,137,872
Anticipated date of next request / release of funds	Final quarter 2015
Anticipated amount of next request / release of funds	€ 662,128

3. Monitoring data

3.1 Background

- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is both a well-funded and well-respected non-governmental organisation specialising in emergency, refugee and post-emergency interventions.
- The organisation is relatively new to South Sudan and to Warrap State and generally lacking the war-time experience and long-term involvement of many other European non-governmental organisations, including high-profile compatriots, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA).
- The extensive NRC base in Alek (in Gogrial West County), situated just over the fence from the NCA compound and combining a mixture of permanent and pre-fabricated buildings, was constructed as recently as 2011 and was developed on the basis of the availability of generous funding for post-independence resettlement of ethnic South Sudanese returning to their “home areas” from (northern) Sudan and IDPs fleeing conflict in Abyei, a few kilometres to the north. An even larger and more impressive NRC compound was developed in Aweil town to host a sister “resettlement programme” in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State.
- Most NRC programme activity to date has targeted the northern counties of Gogrial West and Twic. NRC is new to Gogrial East and Tonj South Counties.
- Perhaps contrary to expectations (given the scale of earlier funding options and investment) over the period 2013 / 2014 funding sources addressing “traditional” NRC programmes largely dried up, resulting in major cut backs in both programme staffing and activities, especially in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, where programme activity has largely come to an end.

- NRC applied for funding under the 2014 FSTP Call for Proposals for a proposed action targeting operational areas in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State and was greatly disappointed when their proposal was subsequently disqualified on grounds that their local NGO partner was listed as “co-applicant” on two different Concept Notes, in contravention of the CfP Guidelines, which stated “a co-applicant may not submit more than one application under this Call for Proposals”. The failure of the FSTP application resulted in the partial closure of the Aweil base and the amalgamation or merging of the two programmes into one zone and one management structure headed by a single Area Manager, with each of the core competences (e.g. Food Security and Livelihoods, Education, Shelter etc.) represented by a single Project Manager.
- Despite its newness in the area, NRC enjoys cordial relations with the South Sudan government at all levels (with national, state, county and payam authorities).

3.2 Key findings / Notes on project development

- The overall objective of the NRC SORUDEV project is “to contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods of rural households in South Sudan”.
- There are four expected project results:
 1. County and payam level agricultural extension systems strengthened and providing support to smallholder farmers throughout the farming season.
 2. Smallholder farmers have improved access to inputs, knowledge and skills in diversified crop production, post-harvest management and environmental protection.
 3. Smallholder farmers have access to and adopt animal traction technology and other improved farming implements.
 4. Smallholder farmers have increased access to markets and other value chain actors.
- In general terms, the four results seek to ensure the existence of a functional agricultural extension service at payam level; that smallholder farmers have access to agricultural inputs to engage in improved and diversified crop production; that there is increased up-take of animal traction and other appropriate technologies and establishment of strong linkages with markets.
- The programme is unequivocally developmental hence the need for appropriate approaches, most importantly selection of active farmers who are willing to engage in agricultural development through use of sustainable agricultural extension systems and by building farmers capacity to save and generate income in order to meet the full cost of agricultural inputs (as opposed to receiving inputs free of charge).
- A number of proposed activities appearing under the four result areas in the original project proposal are likely to be revised in the six-month Inception Report, to emphasise approaches that are less relief-oriented in nature, as stated above. This is particularly so for activities under Result 2, where subsidies on agricultural inputs will be replaced by approaches that assist farmers to promote sustainable income generating activities and promote savings and loan schemes, in order to raise income for procurement of agricultural inputs.
- The Action was originally expected to cover all 26 payams in the four counties but two payams have since been dropped due to insecurity and population displacement.
- NRC will implement the project with two local partners, Ox Plough Farming Agency (OFA) and Lukluk Community Association for Development (LCAD), both based in the State capital at Kuajok.
- Partnership Agreements were signed with OFA and LCAD on 10th October 2014. The agreements specified the implementation procedures to be used by the three respective IPs, budgets, work plans, reporting schedules, reporting and resolution of disputes procedures etc.
- As noted above: NRC is new to Gogrial East and Tonj South. As such, the Commissioner of Tonj South County (based in Tonj town) offered NRC a building in need of renovation. Development of the facility would provide NRC and partners (inclusive OFA and LCAD) with a base of operations in Tonj South. Staff of the NRC “Shelter” core competence subsequently drew up BoQ for the renovation process (unfortunately, the outcome of this initiative isn’t known).
- Similarly, in September / October 2014, NRC entered into discussion with Intermón Oxfam to take over the IO compound in Luonyaker, post-termination of the IO FSTP project, scheduled to end on 30th November 2014. Use of the Luonyaker facility would provide NRC and partners with a base of operations in Gogrial East County¹.
- Given the (over) abundance of unused or under-utilised NRC project vehicles currently available in the northern region (Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap States), NRC do not intend to procure any new vehicles for SORUDEV project implementation, but will rather hire existing vehicles for the project from the NRC motor pool.

¹ As of early January 2015 it remains unclear whether NRC intend to move in to and take over the IO base (IO report that NRC have failed to provide adequate follow up and communication on the matter).

- Unfortunately, the TA visit coincided with a severe fuel shortage, caused by disruption of supply routes from Juba via Rumbek and Wau, by flooding and impassable roads. Virtually no field work was possible.

3.3 Early Indications

- In brief, the project seeks to increase and diversify agricultural production and income among smallholder farmers and addresses the many inter-related problems that underpin low agricultural production leading to persistent food and income insecurity at household level. It also focuses on inadequate capacity and the various vulnerabilities that determine the ability of smallholder farmers to cope with shocks.
- This project message was presented to the target communities soon after signature of the grant contract, when the NRC SORUDEV Project Manager organised a stakeholder mobilisation and sensitisation meeting with the State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development (SMoAFC&RD) in Kuajok and continued to county level in the four operational counties. These discussions included choice of target areas and implementation modalities.
- A “project secretariat” has been established, based in the NRC compound at Alek in Gogrial West County. The project secretariat comprises a combination of project and administrative staffs but doesn’t yet include a Ministry-appointed counterpart to the NRC SORUDEV Project Manager.
- A state-level technical committee was formed, composed of the Director of Agriculture (SMoAFC&RD), Director of Animal Resources (State Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries), NRC FSL Programme Co-ordinator and the two Programme Managers from the two local implementing partners. The process is still continuing with formation of County Technical Committees in the four counties. NB: In Twic County, there is an existing technical committee serving another EU-funded project and there is possibility of absorbing this committee into the SORUDEV programme structure. NRC is checking the existence of similar committees in the other counties for ease of coordination.
- Regional Development Consultants (RDC) successfully conducted a baseline survey throughout the target area (Gogrial East, Gogrial West, Tonj South and Twic Counties) in September 2014. The baseline output will form an impact-level benchmark to measure change at the household, institutional and market levels while forming a platform for future evaluations.
- A Review Workshop was held on 17th and 18th September among the implementation team to take stock of what had been achieved since project launch on 1st May 2014.
- The project has mobilised, sensitised and registered 2,425 out of a planned target 5,000 farmers in 97 out of 200 farmers groups, each group made up of approximately 25 farmers. The groups will eventually become individual farmer field schools (FFSs).
- Each potential FFS group identified a committee of 5 persons, making a total of 485 persons trained in leadership skills to facilitate good management. This activity targeted the area accessible from Kuajok: namely parts of Gogrial West and East and Twic Counties.
- As part of the programme harmonisation agreed between the four state-level IPs and EU during the project inception phase, NRC hired an expert in village saving and loans associations (VSLAs) who provided training of trainers orientation targeting 40 NRC, local IP partners and government extension staffs. The one week training was conducted from Monday 20th to Friday 24th of October 2014 (coinciding with the period of the TA visit).
- 19 VSLA groups were then established and trained.
- The project received an official launch presided over by the Deputy / Acting Governor of Warrap State on 25th September 2014. The launch received good media coverage at national level.
- NRC participated in both SORUDEV Coordination meetings (in Wau from 22nd to 24th July and in Rumbek on 30th October 2014): each co-ordination meeting comprising the four SORUDEV implementing partners, together with their local government counterparts, SORUDEV-affiliated UN agencies and observer FSTP project implementers. The aim of the October meeting was to assess progress in development of a harmonised approach to project implementation and to gauge the level of compliance with previously agreed policy positions, now commonly referred to as the “Wau Resolutions”, in the three months since the inaugural co-ordination meeting in Wau in late July 2012.
- Concern Worldwide will host the third planned quarterly meeting in Aweil at the end of January 2015 and NRC will host the fourth meeting in Kuajok in April 2015.
- With technical support from SMoAFC&RD and SMAR&F, NRC is currently organising an FFS Master Trainer training for a total of 31 extension workers, which will run from 17th November to 10th December 2014. The training will be provided by FAO. NB: Each Master Trainer will then be tasked to support the establishment and management of 2 farmer field schools.
- Final selection of market centres and selection / formation of farmer groups situated along feeder roads to be rehabilitated / constructed by WFP / UNOPS under the SORUDEV and ZEAT-BEAD road construction components, will be completed only when selection of concerned roads has been finalised

- An Inception Report is under preparation and is expected to be submitted on time in November 2014.

3.4 Challenges likely to adversely impact implementation and action to be taken to address problems

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN by (or to be taken by) HARD
Integrating SORUDEV into a largely relief-oriented NRC programme implementation ethos.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In essence NRC is an “emergencies” NGO, not a development NGO. Its implementing structure is geared towards short-term interventions (e.g. short-duration staff contracts and a high turn-over of staff), so it is perhaps surprising that it elected to bid for the SORUDEV contract in Warrap when its sister organisation, the Danish Refugee Council, decided not to bid (as one of four short-listed NGOs) in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State. - Initial consternation with and reluctance to endorse the “Wau” protocols, e.g. point #8 “there will be no free distribution of project inputs (no voucher systems except in case of full cost recovery). Project inputs will be availed at cost. Project implementers will examine delivery options per state, based on careful target group selection (farmers with existing financial capacity), group-based asset ownership and credit options, such as VSLAs, village banks, commercial bank lines of credit etc.” has since been transformed into an “uneasy” acceptance. However, it seems clear that this is not the preferred modus for NRC and might be diluted by the NRC management if the NGO and its programme are not kept under constant close scrutiny. - In the wider context, NRC are not alone in pursuing (or preferring) a relief strategy, as elements of this are present in the programmes of GOAL, Intermón Oxfam, WFP, World Vision and others. There is, therefore, a danger that the purely development-based principles promoted by SORUDEV will be at odds with policy and practice utilised in / by other implementing bodies operating in the same counties. Both NRC (and the EU as donor-body) will need to be conscious of possible contradictions and confusion among beneficiary communities, when faced with different NGOs / EU-funded organisations (EU / ECHO) pursuing totally different agendas in the same geographical area.
Overly optimistic assessment of government (SMoAFC&RD and SMAR&F) staffing (numbers and capacity) viz. provision of improved extension services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The initial NRC concept note proposed training and improvement of 100 government extension workers, while the revised “full proposal” suggested a slightly more sober 80+. - In reality, public service recognised extension staff are generally inadequate in number and poorly distributed in all the counties and payams across South Sudan. - Warrap State is no different. It is highly unlikely that 100 extension workers (or even half that number) are present in the State. Twic County, for example, has only six in theory and even less in practice, given that some are physically absent. As such, it will be difficult for NRC to meet current targets and these targets should, therefore, be subjected to downward revision (to a more realistic number) in the project six-months Inception Report.
Inadequate support for field operations and programme implementation at state-level from the NRC country office in Juba.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over the first six (6) months of project preparation and implementation (April to October 2014) NRC has been consistently the least responsive and, therefore, the most difficult of the four SORUDEV IPs. NRCs failure to communicate and to finalise arrangements with Intermón Oxfam as regards use of the IO Luonyaker base (mentioned in the footnote on page 2 above), is symptomatic of this situation. - More worrying has been the (off the record) suggestion (if not complaint) from the NRC SORUDEV Project Manager that the SORUDEV management isn’t receiving adequate logistical and administrative support, when compared with emergency operations in other parts of the country. - In context of the comments above, about the fundamental nature of

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN by (or to be taken by) HARD
	NRC as an “emergencies” NGO, this may be true. Again, both NRC and its programme should be placed under close observation to ensure that the SORUDEV intervention is accorded the priority support and attention to which it is entitled by virtue of significance.
Data collection with which to measure project progress and achievement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to report (on a quarterly basis) against indicators taken from the project log frame, NRC must first put in place a functional data collection system. - This will, likely, be based on the presence of field-based extension staff (whose number and capacity, as noted above, is seriously limited). - Data collection tools will need to be developed and staff will need to be trained in the use of those tools in order for the system to function. However, a few, possibly over-worked, extension workers per county may be insufficient to gather a large enough quantity of basic but essential data. NRC might, therefore, find preparation of indicator-based quarterly reports both challenging and disruptive.
Deteriorating road conditions across most of the state and shortages of fuel in local markets (on this occasion lasting for a period in excess of two months).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disruption of road travel and breakdowns in delivery of essential supplies are an annual occurrence and therefore predictable. - NRC will need to preposition essential supplies, including fuel for vehicles and generators in Alek (and possibly in Luonyaker and Tonj) in advance of periods of shortage (August – November) and (equally importantly) should advise, guide and assist its private sector partners on the same strategy (pre-positioning fuel, tools, seed, etc.) in advance of periods of transport-provoked commercial inertia.

3.5 Further actions required

- Prepare and submit a project Inception Report, complete (where required) with revised results, activities and indicators and a log frame, work plan and budget.
- EU Delegation should ensure that the NRC SORUDEV project receives regular and close supervision, to ensure that project staff and administrative structures receive adequate support from the NRC country office and to prevent slippage from agreed operational procedures, based on development principles, into a more “emergency” type programme approach.
- As part of Inception Report preparation, determine the actual number of available field-level agricultural extension workers available for in-service training.
- As part of Inception Report preparation, decide on the number and location of project base facilities (e.g. Luonyaker and Tonj) and provide timely notification of the parties concerned, including EU Delegation, SMoAFC&RD and SMAR&F, (Intermón Oxfam), etc.

3.6 Progress in achieving project objectives

(See details in Annex 2 - below)

NRC were selected as the SORUDEV project implementer in Warrap State on the basis of a well written project proposal, which promised close ties with, and strong support for, the Warrap State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development and the State Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, and in preference to an equally strong proposal from a recent grant implementing partner with a proven “track record”.

The NRC proposal, while fully consistent with SORUDEV implementation requirements, such as staff training and capacity development of ministry extension personnel, was also based on normal NRC implementation procedures and NRC probably expected to implement the programme as a quasi-emergency intervention among communities still in relief-mode.

EU insistence on project implementation among better off community members (rather than among the poor and vulnerable) and involving the private sector and market forces, came as a surprise to NRC staffs and was initially resisted (as it was by Concern Worldwide in Northern Bahr el Ghazal), so it is both gratifying and encouraging that NRC have since adopted and endorsed this policy (and others outlined in the Wau Resolution) as intrinsic and

fundamental to the programme. Still, the suspicion remains that SORUDEV implementing staff in the Alek base are able to apply the policies contained in the Wau Resolution because NRC headquarters staff in Juba are distracted by other more pressing issues and, therefore, not fully conversant with the objectives and practices of a programme that is less known and understood.

Admittedly, this may be an erroneous and unfair accusation, but the “off the record” remarks of the Project Manager that SORUDEV doesn’t receive the support it requires, coupled with the poor performance of the NRC Juba office, with respect to communication, follow-up and problem-solving, hardly constitutes a convincing rebuttal of the allegation.

To be fair: project field staff appear to have done a good job to date and there are few if any indications at field level that the project is in serious danger of failing in its objectives. What is a concern (and a danger) is that staff turn over at national and possibly at field level will disrupt, dislocate and ultimately derail the programme and that inadequate hands-on back-stopping at Juba country-office level will prevent staffing transitions from being smooth and without consequence.

Overall, the NRC SORUDEV project is and should remain “a concern” to the EU. It should, therefore, receive regular supervision and be placed under greater scrutiny than other SORUDEV Actions, which appear more assured and confident.

3.7 Cross-cutting and other issues

EU Visibility: Nothing to report. Too early in the project cycle.

Gender issue: Nothing to report. Too early in the project cycle.

4. Summary of follow-up actions and responsibility

	Action to be taken	Responsible	Deadline
1.	Circulate draft monitoring report	Steven Hind	26 / 11 / 14 (not accomplished)
2.	Prepare and submit a project Inception Report, complete (where required) with revised results, activities and indicators and a log frame, work plan and budget.	NRC	30 / 11 / 14
3.	Determine the actual number of available field-level agricultural extension workers available for in-service training.	NRC	30 / 11 / 14
4.	Decide on the number and location of project base facilities (in addition to Alek) and provide timely notification to the parties concerned, including EU Delegation.	NRC	30 / 11 / 14
5.	Ensure that the NRC SORUDEV project receives regular and close supervision, to ensure that project staff and administrative structures receive adequate support from the NRC country office and is implemented in line with agreed operational procedures.	EU Delegation	15 / 03 / 15

Signature: Steven Hind

Date: 16/01/2015

Annex 1: Location, people met and activities visited by TA FSTP

Date	Location	Organisation	Name or activity
23/10/14	NRC base, Alek	NRC	Mary Khozomba: FSL (SORUDEV) Project Manager
" "	NRC base, Alek	NRC	Nathan Chelimo: Education Project Manager and Acting Area Manager
" "	NRC base, Alek	NRC	Damenaw Yohannes Woldermariam: Shelter and WASH Programme Manager
24/10/14	NRC base, Alek and all locations	NRC	Taban Kaps Robert: FSL Project Coordinator
26/10/14	Ngap Athian Boma, Alek South Payam, Gogrial West County	Beneficiaries	James Majok Akol, Thong Mayar Chok, Bol Matong Mayar, Thong Ngor Bol, Deng Madut Majok, Deng Majok Deng, Nyandeng Deng Ayom, Aluet Ngor Akol, Adeng Chan Wol, Biong Majok Yel, Deng Chok Thong Agang Akol Arol, Achuil Aron Achien, Aluet Ngor Kuony, Nyakiir Nyuol Thiep, Simon Akot Bol, Alang Angwei Deng, Awut Madut Lual, Marko Ngor Yel, Santino Aleck Aleck, Mou Thiek Mou, Thiek Akot Bol, Lual Akeen Run, Adut Ngor Akech, Achuil Atak Kuol, Thong Mayar Thong, Bol Matong Mayar, Abuk Wol Yel, Santino Athian Athian, Dilla Ayu Cyril: Members of incipient FFS groups

Annex 2: Progress in achieving project objective

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
Overall objective To contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods of rural households in Warrap State.	O1.1 % change in number of HH with an acceptable Food Consumption Score- (To be determined after baseline). O1.2 % change in number of HH which are able to generate enough food/cash incomes to meet the livelihood protection threshold (HEA Analysis)- Target: At least 50% from Baseline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A baseline has been conducted as part of the Inception Report preparation process. However, OVIs need to be measurable.
Specific objective SO1 – Smallholder farmers in Warrap State have increased sustainable and diversified agricultural production and income.	SO1.1 % of targeted HH with increased income from agricultural production. Target 60%. SO1.2 % of targeted HH with increased production per unit area compared to previous years. Target 60%. SO 1.3 % target HH practising diversified farming. Target 60%. SO 1.4 % of farmers who report reduced post-harvest losses compared to the previous year. Target 50%.	
Expected results R1 – “County and Payam level agricultural extension systems strengthened and providing support to small holder farmers throughout the farming season”.	1.1 Number of extension staff trained in specific improved agricultural production and marketing techniques. Target 82. 1.2 Number of extension review workshops conducted. Target 18 (6 per year x 3 years). 1.3 Number of farmers receiving at least two extension support visits by trained SMAFC&RD extension staff in each farming season. Target 5,000 (3,825 women, 925 men, 125 girls (youth) and 125 boys).	
R2 – “Targeted HH have improve access to inputs, knowledge and skills in diversified crop production, post-harvest management and environmental protection”.	2.1 Number of farmers trained in production of crops, vegetables and fruit trees. Target 5,000 (3,825 women, 925 men, 125 girls (youth) and 125 boys (youth)). 2.2 Number of farmers that have received production input package. Target 5,000 (3,825 women, 925 men, 125 girls (youth) and 12 boys (youth)).	
	2.3 Number of farmers trained in diet diversification and food hygiene. Target	

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
	<p>5,000 (3,825, women, 925 men, 125 girls (youth) and 125 boys (youth)).</p> <p>2.4 Number of farmers trained in improved post-harvest management technology. Target 5,000 (3,825 women, 925 men, 125 girls (youth) and 125 boys).</p> <p>2.5 Number of trees planted by communities: Target 25,000 (5 trees per target beneficiary).</p>	
R3 – “Smallholder farmers have access to and adopt animal traction technology and other improved farming implements”.	<p>3.1 Number of farmers trained in ox-ploughing techniques : Target 1000 – (500 women and 500 men).</p> <p>3.2 Number of feddans cultivated using ox ploughs and jembes / hoes. Target (5 feddans x 5000 farmers - 2000 using ox-plough and 3000 jembes) = 25,000 feddans.</p> <p>3.3 Number of ox-ploughs subsidised for farmers: Target 1000.</p> <p>3.4 Number of Jembes / hoes subsidized for farmers: 4000.</p>	
R4 – “Smallholder farmers have increased access to markets and other value chain actors”.	<p>4.1 Number of farmers trained in market analysis. Target 5,000 (3,825 women, 925 men, 125 girls (youth) and 125 boys)).</p> <p>4.2 Number of farmers receiving market pricing information regularly. Target 50% of farmers: 2,500 (1,913 women, 463 men, 63 female youth, and 63 male youth)).</p> <p>4.3 Number of small enterprises trained in production of and sale of farm implements and spare parts. Target 8.</p>	
Activities A1.1 Development of Extension Training Manuals. A1.2 Technical Training of 82 agricultural extension staffs. A1.3 Training extension staff at local Agricultural Institutions. A1.4 Equip County Agricultural extension Support offices with office equipment. A1.5 Distribute transport equipment to extension staff. A1.6. Extension Support Visits to Farmers. A1.7 Extension support review meetings.	Means: Staff: Local and international technical and support staff from NRC and 2 local implementing partners Equipment: Motor bikes and bicycles and land cruiser hardtops (hired) and contributed too by NRC, Oxploughs and other farm implements Training: Training costs for both field staff and beneficiaries. Training materials.	

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
<p>A1.8 Documentation of lessons and experiences.</p> <p>A1.9 State Food Security and Livestock Cluster and SORUDEV Partner Coordination Meetings</p> <p>A2.1 Formation of farmers' groups and identification of lead farmers.</p> <p>A2.2 Training farmers in improved agricultural production techniques.</p> <p>A2.3 Conduct seed and tool fairs.</p> <p>A2.4 Train 400 farmers in dry season small scale irrigation farming and establishment of the small-scale irrigation schemes.</p> <p>A2.5 Hold Farmer field days/trade shows</p> <p>A2.6 Post-harvest management training and construction of improved granaries.</p> <p>A2.7 Diet Diversification and Food Hygiene sessions.</p> <p>A2.8 Environmental Conservation (EC) Awareness campaigns.</p> <p>A2.9 Planting of 25,000 fruit trees.</p> <p>A3.1 Identification and selection of 1,000 farmers with access to oxen.</p> <p>A3. 2 Training of trainers and farmers in animal traction.</p> <p>A3. 3 Linking ox-plough/weeder traders with farmers.</p> <p>A3. 4 Establish ox-plough/weeder spare parts fabrication and sale.</p> <p>A3.5 Show casing ox-ploughs/weeder cultivation.</p> <p>A3.6 Promotion and Showcasing use of Jembe/Hoe.</p> <p>A4.1 Creation and training of smallholder farmers' leadership and representation.</p> <p>A4.2 Hold value chain actors' consultative sessions.</p> <p>A4.3 Housing, Land and Property (HLP) awareness sessions.</p> <p>A4.4 Set up a market information dissemination system.</p> <p>A4.5 Train smallholder farmers and other value chain actors in small scale business management skills.</p>		

GRANT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT

NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID (NPA)

SORUDEV PROJECT

JUNE 2015

1. Project General Data

Contract beneficiary	Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
Project title	"Strengthening Smallholder Animal Traction Capacity and Extension Services in Lakes State"
Project ref. CRIS	FED/2013/333-512
Date of visit	9 to 12 June 2015
Location	Eight Counties in Lakes State: Greater Rumbek (Cueibet, Rumbek Centre, Rumbek East, Rumbek North and Wulu) and Greater Yirol (Awerial, Yirol East and Yirol West).
Monitoring Officer	Emmanuel Minari
Start date	15 February 2014
End date	14 February 2017

2. Financial Data

Total EC contribution	€ 2,000,000 (equivalent to 90% of € 2,222,222)
Total spent by project to date (EUR)	Info to be provided by IP
Balance of funds released to date	€ 885,736
Anticipated date of next request/release of funds	Final quarter of 2015
Anticipated amount of next request/release of funds	€ 914,264

3. Monitoring Data

3.1 Background

- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) has close to 20 years of continuous presence in South Sudan and in Lakes State in particular. It is one of the few organisations that has invested in agricultural development in South Sudan even during the war, including a significant contribution to training in agricultural extension through its Agricultural Training Centre based in Yei (which has seen hundreds of extension workers trained over the last two decades);
- Through its programme in Lakes State, NPA has contributed significantly to the promotion of sustainable animal traction among agro-pastoral communities. Because of this, the adoption of animal traction within Lakes State is more widespread compared to other States of Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal;
- The overall objective of the NPA South Sudan Rural Development Programme (SORUDEV) project is *"to contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods among rural households in South Sudan"*. The specific objective is *"increased agricultural production and income among smallholder farmers in Lakes State through the strengthening of extension services that effectively reach smallholders"*.

The expected results of this SORUDEV project are:

- Increased adoption of good practices that increase production and reduce productive losses through the strengthening of the extension services delivery system in the 8 Counties of Lakes State**

Main Activities

- Conducting of a baseline survey of smallholders;
- Identification, training and deployment of 32 extension workers;

- Development and adaption of extension packages to 8 Counties with location-specific needs in consultation with State Ministries;
- Identification and organisation of 3,200 smallholder farmers into extension groups;
- Provision of extension services and training to 320 smallholder extension groups based on extension packages identified;
- Conducting of an annual State-level Project review.

2. Increased adoption of animal traction among smallholder farmers in the 8 Counties of Lakes State in order to increase the area under cultivation and improve crop production

Main Activities

- Identification, training and deployment of 2 animal traction supervisors and 4 trainers;
- Identification, training, equipping and deployment of 138 community ox-plough trainers (COTs);
- Identification, training and equipping of 48 local blacksmiths;
- Identification, mobilisation and training of 1,200 smallholder farmers interested in animal traction;
- Provision of equipment and raw materials to two blacksmith workshops for the production of animal traction implements;
- Establishment of two Animal Traction Centres to provide training and technical backstopping to COTs and smallholder farmers;
- Promotion of nursery development/tree planting at the animal traction centres.

3. Improved market access and linkages among value chain actors and producer groups in the 8 Counties of Lakes State

Main Activities

- Identification, organisation and provision of training in technical and organisational development skills to 24 producer groups, 12 agro-processing groups, 8 veterinary pharmacies and 12 input/output market actors;
- Facilitation of the formation and operationalisation of 8 County-level farmers' associations and 1 State-level farmers' union;
- Facilitation of the formation of Community-Based Loan Schemes in 8 Counties;
- Facilitation of business plan development and the provision of revolving grants to 48 agribusiness groups;
- Organisation of a State-level annual stakeholder forum with a view to promoting lobbying and advocacy.

Each specific result represents a specific constraint faced by smallholder farmers and Government agricultural departments at State, County and Payam levels. Generally, the 3 expected results are inter-related; i.e. if any one result is not achieved, the others will suffer.

While the objective of the Project is to build a better-functioning agricultural extension department, the challenge remains of how to ensure its sustainability, given the economic and political challenges that have hit the country so hard that the Government is not presently able even to undertake routine monitoring or extension visits to farmers.

While NPA has laid a good foundation over several years and has made a significant contribution toward improving the extension capacity of State Governments through i) the training of key personnel; and ii) the provision of logistical and office supplies to both County and State departments throughout SORUDEV implementation, the objective of strengthening the **agricultural extension system** of the State may not be achieved within the scope of SORUDEV given the considerable effort that would be required to make such a system functional. The Project will need to re-examine this during the mid-term evaluation.

3.2 Key findings/notes on Project development

This European Union (EU) Technical Assistance (TA) monitoring mission is the second to be deployed to this project and was conducted from 9 to 12 June 2015 with the main objectives of: i) reviewing progress made to date; ii) assessing whether the Project has addressed/is addressing the concerns/recommendations of the previous TA monitoring reports; and iii) discussing and providing technical advice on the design and implementation of the Project as deemed appropriate by the team on the ground.

The monitoring mission established that:

1. On the overall level of progress on implementation:

- All key national staff have now been recruited and are in position. Some international staff, as well as the Project Manager, left their positions two weeks before the mission was conducted and the positions were re-advertised a week before the mission;
- The Project team has, despite challenges, facilitated the establishment of Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups and encouraged them to purchase from procured and prepositioned inputs on site, some of which have been distributed;
- All target groups have been identified/registered, screened, sensitised and trained in preparation for the farming season;
- A number of smallholder farmers have been trained and some continue to undergo training in best agronomic practices;
- All other activities planned for the past year have been implemented satisfactorily and, despite the widespread insecurity within Lakes State and the unpredictable pattern of rainfall, there is optimism that farmers will have increased their yields by the end of the 2015 farming season.

2. On the recommendations of the previous TA Monitoring Report:

- The Project team received the previous monitoring report;

- Most of the concerns and recommendations of the previous EU monitoring reports have been addressed satisfactorily.

3. On achievement against each specific result:

Specific Result 1: *Increased adoption of good practices that increase production and reduce productive losses through the strengthening of the extension services delivery system in the 8 Counties of Lakes State*

- All 32 of the planned Government extension personnel, along with an additional 2 supervisors, have been identified and deployed to the 32 target Payams. 22 of the 32 extension workers has been trained for 3 months in basic agricultural courses at the NPA-supported Yei Agricultural Training Centre (YATC). 26 of the 32 extension agents were trained in the use of various Training Manuals, group dynamics and skills facilitation. 6 of the 22 will graduate in July 2015. 32 of those trained are extension agents, 3 are supervisors and the remaining 8 are the Directors of County Agricultural Departments (CADs);
- Induction training has been provided to 42 counterparts at State and County levels;
- 3,060 smallholder farmers have been identified, registered and organised into 122 Farmer Groups across the 32 target Payams;
- Various training needs of the 122 groups (3,060 individuals) have been identified and 65 groups (1,575 individuals consisting of 980 women and 595 men) have so far been trained based on the identified training needs;
- 32 bicycles were procured and delivered to extension agents in each of the 22 targeted Payams and 8 motorbikes were also procured and delivered to each of the 8 Counties of the State in order to facilitate the movement of staff during extension service delivery and routine monitoring. In addition, computers and multipurpose printers have been procured for each of the 8 Counties;
- Capacity assessment of the 8 CADs has been done. The Project was in the process of sharing the findings of the assessment with the State Ministry of Agriculture;
- Monthly review meetings are being regularly conducted;
- In addition 70 T-shirts were printed and given to Project staff as part of Project visibility requirements. The Project also supported the State Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with 149 T-shirts;
- No farmers were trained in Rumbek North County due to prevalent insecurity. One motorbike meant for Rumbek North was not dispatched to the County. Training of farmers in Yirol County is on-going.

On Specific Result 2: *Increased adoption of animal traction among smallholder farmers in the 8 Counties of Lakes State in order to increase the area under cultivation and improve crop production*

- 2 animal traction supervisors have been identified and deployed in Greater Rumbek and Yirol Counties. 8 ox-trainers have been identified and deployed to the Mabui and Matangai Agricultural Training Centres and another 8 have been identified for the two workshops at the Mabui and Matangai blacksmith centres;
- 136 community ox-plough trainers (COTs) have been identified, 15 of which were trained in Mabui for 21 days;
- 48 local blacksmiths have been identified, 14 of which were trained in Mondikolok, Keji-Keji County for 21 days;
- 18 pairs/teams of oxen have been trained with 36 male smallholder farmers at the Mabui ATC and 7 pairs/teams of oxen have been trained with 21 smallholder farmers (2 women and 19 men) at the Matangai ATC. In total 25 pairs/teams of oxen and 57 smallholder farmers have been trained at the two centres. This training is on-going;
- The purchasing of raw materials (mild steel plates) is on-going in Uganda for the Mabui blacksmith centre. 4 artisans and 2 COTs are currently undergoing a 3-week training course in Namelere (AETRI) Uganda in the fabrication of ox-drawn implements;
- 2 animal traction centres have been established at the Mabui and Matangai ATCs;
- 80 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) have been identified and retrained for 5 days. A business plan for the CAHWs has been developed;
- Tree nurseries are yet to be established at the ATCs, although the identification of species to be grown and the establishment of nursery attendance requirements are both on-going.

Specific Result 3: *Improved market access and linkages among value chain actors and producer groups in the 8 Counties of Lakes State*

- Most of the 24 producer groups, 12 agro-processing groups, 8 veterinary pharmacies and 12 input/output market actors have been identified and organised and are now being equipped with technical and organisational development skills;
- 9 loan committees have been formed and given an induction workshop along with terms of reference for the committee. A project appraisal checklist has also been developed;
- Preparations have been made for the formation of farmers' associations (cooperatives) for which the Project team is working with the State Authorities;
- Project staff have been trained in how to prepare business plans in order that they may in turn provide the same training to the VSLA and other groups;

- 7 business plans are awaiting submission while another 2 are incomplete. A simple business plan template has been developed for the two blacksmith centres;
- The annual stakeholders' forum has not yet been conducted;
- Training has been conducted of 36 staff (29 men and 7 women) in VSLA principles and management;
- Two major awareness-raising workshops on VSLA methodology have been conducted for all target groups. To ensure better understanding by all groups, the concept of VSLAs is being integrated into all Project training and activities, including agricultural extension, animal traction, value chain and business skills;
- 50 VSLA groups have started saving. At the time of the mission, the total membership stood at 371 and cumulative savings had reached 50,980 SSP. In support of the groups, 10 savings boxes of a planned 92 have been distributed to VSLA groups together with stationery and locks for immediate use. The boxes were made by local blacksmiths at the Matangai Blacksmith Centre (who are also manufacturing the ox-plough parts and implements);
- Producers' groups, agro-dealers and agro-processors lost interest when they ceased to receive loans after the Wau Resolution. The Project has since decided to reconsider capacity development and the provision of small loans;
- One loan committee per County and one at State level have been established and are being operationalised. The team informed the mission that this activity was delayed due to the need for Payams to establish active farmer groups before the committees could be set up. The team now plan to complete the process by November 2015 (by which time farmers' associations at County and State level should all be active);
- Despite persistent insecurity (among other challenges), the VSLA concept is being earnestly adopted by smallholder farmers and farmer/producer groups.

Main strengths

The mission established that:

- The Project design is relevant and appropriate to local conditions. The logical framework is clear and its indicators are SMART;
- A baseline survey was conducted and the results used to inform the process of preparing the Inception Rider. The Inception Rider has since been approved and is being operationalised;
- The Project has an excellent relationship with the State and County Government authorities;
- The Project team conducts planning and implementation jointly with Government at all levels, meaning that key officials within the State and County offices are extensively familiar with Project activities and plans and are involved in the planning, supervision and implementation of the Project;
- Targeted farmers are receiving quality extension services in crop and animal traction. Most Project staff are highly trained and experienced in supporting farmers in animal traction throughout the crop production cycle;
- Targeting of Project groups has been done very well. The mission established that most of the farmers visited are smallholder (and not subsistence) farmers and that there is also a clear sense of ownership of the Project by the Government, targeted smallholder farmers, agro-dealers and other stakeholders;
- The target groups, particularly the smallholder farmers (most of whom use animal traction) and agro-dealers, clearly appreciate the activities being carried out and are motivated to use the support of the Project to improve their livelihoods;
- The key principle of the Project as "a non-relief project where inputs are not provided for free" and the importance of ownership and sustainability have been explained to Project groups;
- Linkage between agro-dealers (such as ox-plough dealers and blacksmiths) has been established and is working well, despite the persistent challenge of insecurity which hampers access to raw materials for the fabrication of implements and other farming tools. The Project will need to improve such access to ensure it is truly sustainable;
- Foundations for the sustainability of the different components of the action have been laid. The Project team has developed an exit and sustainability strategy which will need to be reviewed jointly with Government and stakeholders in order to ensure that each component is discussed and clearly understood. Most importantly, the Project team and Government will need to clearly spell out how each component (extension services, animal traction, VSLA, and input supply) will be sustained after the Project ends;
- While a State Project Steering Committee has not been formed, the close working relationship between the Project and the Government is a good foundation. During the debriefing meeting at the office of the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister and acting Director General both expressed strong support for the TA team's recommendation to establish a Steering Committee (which should meet quarterly to review overall progress and monthly at County level to review Project planning and implementation in each of the Counties);
- There is also need to prepare simple terms of reference that clarify the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder throughout Project implementation. A key function of stakeholders should be joint monitoring and review, including a quarterly Project review meeting at which progress and challenges are discussed and plans for the next quarter agreed;

- The Project provided excellent technical support and other contributions throughout the development of the draft extension guide;
- Donor visibility is good.

Main weaknesses

Some of the weaknesses identified during the previous monitoring visit have been/are being addressed by the Project team (even though they did not receive the monitoring report until the end of June 2015). The main weaknesses are:

- Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is weak. The Project does not have a simple or workable M&E system. This is recognised as an issue and there is a need for senior management in Juba to support the Project to develop such a system over the next few months;
- The proposed animal traction centre in Matangai Payam in Rumbek Centre County has double ownership. During the mission, it was observed that the property has two signposts: one installed by SORUDEV indicating an Animal Traction Centre and the other by the County Authority indicating a designated site for the County Agricultural Department office. While the Project has been asked to use the land as an animal traction centre, the TA advises that ownership of the land be clarified and a land title secured as the animal traction centre belongs to the State and not the County. This issue was raised with the State Minister and Director General who have promised to support the Project team to resolve it;
- More emphasis is currently placed on groups than on individual farmers. This can be addressed by ensuring that Project officers and extension workers set individual objectives with each farmer in each group in terms of i) VSLA-related activities; ii) targets for agricultural production and income; and iii) any challenges/needs that they expect the Project to help them address over the next 2-3 years;
- The Project team needs to ensure that the Project Coordinator is supported to lead the team and strengthen team spirit, thereby minimising emphasis on individual components. Senior management should support the Project Coordinator where appropriate;
- It is unclear whether the target groups should be called *smallholder farmers* or *farmer/producer groups*. The Project documents use these phrases interchangeably. The mission recommends that the beneficiaries be referred to as smallholder farmers in line with the standard SORUDEV definition.

3.4 Challenges likely to adversely impact implementation and action to be taken to address problems

Challenges	Action taken (or to be taken) by NPA as per October 2014 Monitoring Visit	Action taken (or to be taken) by NPA as per June 2015 Monitoring Visit
Integrating SORUDEV into a largely relief-orientated NPA Lakes State programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NPA currently implements five (5) projects other than SORUDEV in Lakes State; all of them predominantly relief-orientated. These are a DRR (disaster risk reduction) project, funded by the Norwegian Agency for Relief and Development (NORAD) in all 8 Counties in the State, which seeks to strengthen the Government RRC (Relief and Rehabilitation Commission); an Emergency Operations project, comprising food distribution on behalf of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Yirol East and Yirol West Counties; a Food for Assets programme (including a food for agriculture component) also funded by WFP in Cueibet and Yirol East Counties; an FCR (Food Crisis Response) project funded by the Government of South Sudan in Yirol East and a second Crisis Response project, funded by NORAD in Yirol East and Yirol West. - In this context there is a danger that the purely development-based principles promoted under SORUDEV will be at odds with the policy and practices utilised by other NPA projects operating in the same Counties. NPA will need to be conscious of possible contradictions and confusion among beneficiary communities when faced with an organisation possibly pursuing totally different agendas in the same geographical area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mission established that SORUDEV has been well integrated into NPA programming in Lakes State. - The Emergency Relief programme is implemented by a different team in locations where the need for emergency intervention arises (especially as Lakes State has been experiencing persistent internal insecurity over the past 2 years).
How to privatise and fully commercialise the existing blacksmiths' workshop at Mabui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The six trained blacksmiths/metal workers currently working at the Mabui Centre are self-supporting in the sense that they are paid from their own sales and also contribute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mission established that the SORUDEV Project in Lakes has (as follow-up to previous projects) established and supported a private-led, commercialised blacksmith operation in

	<p>toward generator fuel costs from the same source. However, all workshop buildings, machine tools and equipment and raw materials used at the workshop either belong to or are provided by NPA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A meeting was convened by NPA management in Yei in 2013 to discuss mechanisms by which control of the workshop and production facility could be transferred to local ownership. This does not appear to have resulted (yet) in any tangible change of status. As of the time of the TA monitoring visit in November 2014 only three blacksmiths were still working at the workshop due to shortages of generator fuel and other raw materials, which were still being supplied by NPA. - Some earlier NPA-supported cooperatives and enterprise groups (specifically a farmers' cooperative and a women's enterprise group) were formed and subsequently collapsed (in 2005 and 2014 respectively). It will thus be a challenge to NPA to identify a mechanism through which the Mabui blacksmiths can be rendered both genuinely independent and commercially and financially viable. 	Rumbek Town.
How to establish an ox-plough production facility in Rumbek that is based on commercial/market principles and avoids experiencing the same problems as Mabui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The same applies to the blacksmiths and metal workers in Rumbek. - At the outset (of SORUDEV), NPA intended to provide all required project inputs (facilities, machine tools, raw materials and training) to the Rumbek group for free. In light of the Wau Resolution, NPA was forced to revisit this strategy and while it accepts that inputs can no longer be distributed free of charge, it is yet to elaborate/finalise a convincing alternative approach. - It is essential that commercial enterprises, such as ox-plough manufacturing units, be established on the basis of sound commercial principles (failing which they are no more sustainable in the long term than the current situation, in which agricultural inputs are imported from neighbouring countries by NGOs and distributed to farmers free of charge or at a heavily subsidised price). - The development of local ox-plough manufacturing capacity should not stop with the training of blacksmiths in improved metal fabrication techniques and the use of machines and tools. It is also dependent on the existence of business management capacity in i) logistics (given the long supply lines running from East Africa to Rumbek); ii) finance management; and iii) marketing, none of which are currently present among the blacksmiths of Mabui or Rumbek or in the NPA business development plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mission established that a dedicated market for blacksmiths has been set up as blacksmiths are not only operational, but are actually making a profit. According to blacksmith Gabriel Maturdiit, the total cost of the materials and labour for making a VSLA savings box is 200 SSP and he sells it at 300 SSP. - Nearly all parts of the ox-ploughs, VSLA boxes and other local agricultural and household tools are being made by blacksmiths supported by the Project. - The Project has sent six artisans to Namelere in Uganda for specialised training. 4 of them are specialising in ox-plough spare part fabrication while the other 2 are being trained to make ox-plough implements (e.g. weeders and planters). - With Mabui and Rumbek ox-plough production centres now operational, the potential for local ox-plough manufacturing capacity in Lakes is promising. - The mission advised the team to enhance the management capacity of the group and to encourage them to become a cooperative. This should include a functional VSLA activity to facilitate access to credit.
Data collection on behalf of NPA/the Project, state authorities and third parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to report (on a quarterly basis) against the indicators in the Project logframe, NPA must first put in place a functional data collection system. - This will likely be based on the presence of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The team has put together a simple tool for data collection. However, the Project Coordinator acknowledges that they will need support to sharpen the tools and improve their analytical capacity.

	<p>the 32 field-based extension staff (deployed at a rate of 4 per County). Data collection tools will need to be developed and staff trained in their use in order for the system to function. However, a total of 4 data collectors per County may be insufficient to gather a large enough sample size. It may therefore be necessary to co-opt other actors into the system, either from other local Government departments or other NGOs operating in the food security sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be examined and considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mission strongly recommends that senior management in Juba support the Project team to improve their technical and management capacity in M&E.
Deteriorating road conditions across most of the state and shortages of fuel in local markets (on this occasion lasting for over two months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disruption to road travel and breakdowns in the delivery of essential supplies are an annual occurrence and therefore predictable. - NPA will need to preposition essential supplies, including fuel for vehicles and generators, in Lakes in advance of periods of shortage (August to November) and to advise, guide and assist its private sector partners with the same strategy (pre-positioning fuel, raw materials, packaging equipment etc.) in advance of periods of transport-provoked commercial inertia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This has remained a major challenge in the State and has been further exacerbated by prevailing insecurity across most parts of Lakes. The main negative impact is reduced access to some of the Project areas, for example Rumbek North County. - Given several years of experience in the country and the State, NPA is managing the challenges well (albeit at significantly increased operational cost).
Access to animal traction inputs (primary equipment and spares) and the relationship between the use of animal traction equipment and on-farm demand for labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A problem that affects all EU-funded animal traction programmes (and has not been resolved by any of them) is that increasing the area of land under cultivation through the use of animal-drawn (in this case ox- and donkey-drawn) ploughs does not reduce the demand for manual labour (especially among single parent- or female-headed households). Instead it creates an imbalance between the area that can be ploughed and the area that can be weeded. As such, increasing the land under cultivation does not automatically result in increased yields, because animal traction covers only one aspect of the crop production cycle, leaving other aspects dependent on the availability of finite quantities of traditional hand labour and hand tools. - NPA will trial and promote the use of draught planters, weeders and carts in order to mechanise additional areas of the crop cycle. The success or otherwise of this initiative should be closely monitored. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This also remains a challenge, mainly due to insecurity and rainfall (which affects frequency of travel to Wau or Juba, from where the blacksmiths normally source their scrap metal). However, the blacksmiths remain able to procure at least some of their raw materials.
Uncontrolled livestock movements, resulting in destruction of agricultural crops, especially long- and short-term varieties of sorghum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free (wet-season) movement of livestock through farmland under long-term crop cultivation and dry-season movements to riverine areas also used for horticultural activities often results in tension and conflict between farming and pastoral communities (particularly in Wulu County). - Fencing of gardens is the preferred solution of most farmers, but budgetary constraints make Project support to this action largely non-viable. - NPA, together with State- and County-level authorities, should consider the viability of demarcating livestock migration corridors through settled areas, designating grazing areas and ensuring the imposition (by local courts) of punitive fines for law transgressors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is a familiar challenge given that most farmers in Lakes State are agro-pastoralists. The situation is being managed, although the main challenge remains the internal insecurity within the State, which can flare up at any time or location. - The Project team should be commended for their determination to continue implementing the Project in such an unpredictable and insecure operational environment without resorting to suspension. The team is largely encouraged and motivated to do this by the resilience and determination of the target groups (smallholder farmers and agro-dealers) in Lakes State. In addition the support of the State and County authorities is highly commendable.

3.5 Further actions required

- Prioritise the establishment and operationalisation of a Steering Committee at State Level. The committee should hold regular quarterly meetings. County-level meetings by representatives of all key stakeholders should also be held monthly;
- Work with relevant authorities within the State and Rumbek Central County to process a land title for the existing Animal Traction Centre located in Matangai Payam. If the land cannot be released by the County Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture should secure a permanent land title including deeds before construction work begins;
- Strengthen the functioning of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) within the Project. There is need for senior management in Juba to support the Project team to do this over the next few months. Data collection and analysis should be undertaken regularly. The crop assessment tools developed and circulated by the EU to all SORUDEV programmes should be used as a starting point;
- As recommended in the previous TA monitoring report, NPA should follow up with the Juba office of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) to reach a consensus on shared data collection requirements and mechanisms (FAO has already proposed a list of identified markets from which data will be collected and have designed a draft data collection tool);
- Share all data collected and analysed with the Agricultural and Food Information System (AFIS) team within the State Ministry;
- Prioritise the establishment and training of all remaining VSLA groups in order to achieve planned targets;
- Ensure that the recruitment of agro-dealers is completed in good time to facilitate the prepositioning of farming inputs (seeds and appropriate tools) by agro-dealers and guarantee timely access to farm inputs by farmers before the planting season. There is need to ensure better/clearer understanding of the purpose of the agro-dealership arrangement by both parties (agro-dealers and VSLAs/farmer groups) and to establish a link between them before the onset of the rainy season;
- Prioritise timely training of County-level staff (NPA and Government) in agronomic practices in order to increase the chances of implementing the Project efficiently and professionally. Such training could be planned on the job but also through short training courses carried out within the country (although not all staff should be sent for training at the same time);
- Conduct refresher trainings in i) VSLA methodology for all groups; and ii) business skills and financial literacy for VSLA and agro-dealer groups;
- Strengthen and broaden the coordination and sharing of information with other implementing agencies in the State and with other SORUDEV projects in order to harmonise the methodologies of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and VSLAs;
- Review the Project exit and sustainability strategy jointly with Government and stakeholders in order to ensure each component of the Project is discussed and clearly understood. Most importantly, the Project team and Government will need to clearly spell out how each component (extension services, animal traction, VSLAs and input supply) will be sustained after the Project ends;
- Increase coordination and collaboration between the SORUDEV smallholder farmer project and EU-funded ZEAT-BEAD project (implemented by various UN agencies and GIZ) and the FAO-managed AFIS component of the larger SORUDEV programme.

3.6 Progress toward achieving Project objectives

In terms of progress against objectives and overall performance during the first year of implementation, the mission established that:

- SORUDEV has been well integrated into NPA programming in Lakes State;
- The Emergency Relief programme is implemented by a different team in locations where the need for emergency intervention arises (especially as Lakes State has been experiencing persistent internal insecurity over the past 2 years);
- The SORUDEV Project in Lakes has (as follow-up to previous projects) established and supported a private-led, commercialised blacksmith operation in Rumbek Town;
- A dedicated market for blacksmiths has been set up as blacksmiths are not only operational, but are actually making a profit. According to blacksmith Gabriel Maturdiit, the total cost of the materials and labour for making a VSLA savings box is 200 SSP and he sells it at 300 SSP;
- Nearly all parts of the ox-ploughs, VSLA boxes and other local agricultural and household tools are being made by blacksmiths supported by the Project;
- The Project has sent 6 artisans to Namelere in Uganda for specialised training. 4 of them are specialising in ox-plough spare part fabrication while the other 2 are being trained to make ox-plough implements (e.g. weeders and planters);
- With Mabui and Rumbek ox-plough production centres now operational, the potential for local ox-plough manufacturing capacity in Lakes is promising. However, the Project team will have to enhance the management capacity of the group and encourage them to become a cooperative. This should include a functional VSLA activity to facilitate access to credit;
- While the team has put together a simple tool for data collection, the Project Coordinator acknowledges that they will need support to sharpen the tools and improve their analytical capacity. The mission strongly recommends that senior management in Juba support the Project team to improve their technical and management capacity in M&E;
- Road access remains a major challenge in the State and has been further exacerbated by prevailing insecurity across most parts of Lakes. The main negative impact is reduced access to some of the Project areas, for example Rumbek North County;
- Given several years of experience in the country and the State, NPA is managing the challenges well (albeit at significantly increased operational cost);

- Access to animal traction inputs also remains a challenge, mainly due to insecurity and rainfall (which affects frequency of travel to Wau or Juba, from where the blacksmiths normally source their scrap metal). However, the blacksmiths remain able to procure at least some of their raw materials;
- Conflict resulting from livestock movement is a familiar challenge given that most farmers in Lakes State are predominantly agro-pastoralists. The situation is being managed, although the main challenge remains the internal insecurity within the State which can flare up at any time and location;
- The Project team should be commended for their determination to continue implementing the Project in this unpredictable and insecure operational environment without resorting to suspension. The team has largely been encouraged and motivated to do this by the resilience and determination of the target groups (smallholder farmers and agro-dealers) in Lakes State. In addition the support of the State and County authorities is highly commendable.

(See details in Annex 2 – below)

3.7 Cross-cutting and other issues

EU Visibility:

Donor visibility is good and NPA should keep it up.

Gender issue:

The Project is gender-mainstreamed. However, there is need to ensure that female members of target groups are adequately represented at decision-making levels (e.g. the Steering Committee and other committees) and empowered to use their own assets.

4. Summary of follow-up actions and responsibilities

	Action to be taken	Responsible	Deadline
1	Circulate draft monitoring report	Emmanuel Minari	27 June 2015
2	Prioritise the establishment and operationalisation of a Steering Committee at State Level. The committee should hold regular quarterly meetings. County-level meetings by representatives of all key stakeholders should also be held monthly	NPA	Immediately. Must be both operational and effective
3	Work with relevant authorities within the State and Rumbek Central County to process a land title for the existing Animal Traction Centre located in Matangai Payam. If the land cannot be released by the County Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture should secure a permanent land title including deeds before construction work begins	NPA	Immediately and for the duration of the Project
4	Strengthen the functioning of M&E within the Project. There is need for senior management in Juba to support the Project team to do this over the next few months. Data collection and analysis should be undertaken regularly. The crop assessment tools developed and circulated by the EU to all SORUDEV programmes should be used as a starting point	NPA	Within 3-6 months
5	As recommended in the previous TA monitoring report, NPA should follow up with the Juba office of the FAO to reach a consensus on shared data collection requirements and mechanisms (FAO has already proposed a list of identified markets from which data will be collected and have designed a draft data collection tool)	NPA	Immediately and for the remainder of the Project
6	Share all data collected and analysed with the AFIS team within the State Ministry	NPA	Immediately and continuously
7	Prioritise the establishment and training of all remaining VSLA groups in order to achieve planned targets	NPA	Immediately and for the remainder of the Project
8	Ensure that the recruitment of agro-dealers is completed in good time to facilitate the prepositioning of farming inputs (seeds and appropriate tools) by agro-dealers and guarantee timely access to farm inputs by farmers before the planting season. There is need to ensure better/clearer understanding of the purpose of the agro-dealership arrangement by both parties (agro-dealers and VSLAs/farmer groups) and to establish a link between them before the onset of the rainy season	NPA	Immediately and for the remainder of the Project
9	Prioritise timely training of County-level staff (NPA and Government) in agronomic practices in order to increase the chances of implementing the Project efficiently and professionally. Such training could be planned on the job but also through short training courses carried out within the country (although	NPA	Immediately and for the remainder of the Project

	not all staff should be sent for training at the same time)		
10	Conduct refresher trainings in i) VSLA methodology for all groups; and ii) business skills and financial literacy for VSLA and agro-dealer groups	NPA	Immediately and repeat as appropriate
11	Strengthen and broaden the coordination and sharing of information with other implementing agencies in the State and with other SORUDEV projects in order to harmonise the methodologies of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and VSLAs	NPA	Immediately and for the remainder of the Project
12	Review the Project exit and sustainability strategy jointly with Government and stakeholders in order to ensure each component of the Project is discussed and clearly understood. Most importantly, the Project team and Government will need to clearly spell out how each component (extension services, animal traction, VSLAs and input supply) will be sustained after the Project ends	NPA	Within 3-6 months from August 2015
13	Increase coordination and collaboration between the SORUDEV smallholder farmer project and EU-funded ZEAT-BEAD project (implemented by various UN agencies and GIZ) and the FAO-managed AFIS component of the larger SORUDEV programme	NPA	Immediately and for the remainder of the Project

Signature:

Emmanuel Minari

Date: 27/06/2015

Annex 1: Progress toward achieving Project objectives

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement as of EU Monitoring Mission in June 2015
Overall objective To contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods among rural households in South Sudan	20% increase in household food security in Lakes State (baseline 8%)	A baseline study has been conducted as part of the Inception Report preparation process. OVIs are now based on baseline data As per the Inception Rider, the baseline data was used to revise and clarify the OVI
Specific objective Increased agricultural production and income among smallholder farmers in Lakes State through the strengthening of extension services that effectively reach smallholders	50% increase in the agricultural production/yield of target groups in Lakes State (baseline 0.7 tonnes per household) 50% increase in the average household income of target groups in Lakes State (baseline 876 SSP per annum)	Ambitious. How will/can this be measured on a regular basis? Sorghum only or all crops? As per the Inception Rider, the baseline data was used to revise and clarify the OVI As per the revised logframe, the OVI is now clearer As most of the target groups are actually smallholder farmers, the OVIs are not ambitious and should be achievable. However, if the insecurity within the State does not improve, there will be need for the Project to revise the OVI during the mid-term evaluation
Expected results R1: Increased adoption of good practices that increase production and reduce productive losses through strengthening of the extension services delivery system in the 8 Counties of Lakes State	1.1 75% of targeted smallholder farmers adopt good practices from the defined extension packages (baseline 25%) 1.2 85% reduction of post-harvest losses among targeted smallholder groups (baseline loss 50%). 1.3 50% increase in the number of smallholder farmers accessing extension services (baseline 12%)	Baseline conducted 32 targeted Payams identified as per EU selection criteria 122 farmer groups identified for support 32 extension workers and 2 extension supervisors identified and deployed to the Payams 16 of the 32 extension workers already trained on a 3-month basic agricultural course at Yei ATC Induction training conducted of 42 counterparts (extensionists, supervisors and CAD Directors) As per the Inception Rider, the baseline data was used to revise and clarify the OVI As per the revised logframe, the OVI is now clearer As most of the target groups are actually smallholder farmers, the OVIs are not ambitious and should be achievable. However, if the insecurity within the State does not improve, there will be need for the Project to revise the OVI during the mid-term evaluation
R2: Increased adoption of animal traction among smallholder farmers in the 8 Counties of Lakes state in order to increase the area under cultivation and improve crop production	2.1 20% increase in the number of smallholder farmers using ox-ploughs (baseline 45%) 2.2 75% increase in the average area cultivated by targeted smallholder farmers (baseline 2 feddan per household) 2.3 20% increase in the number of smallholder farmers using animal traction for other farming activities in addition to cultivation (baseline none)	2 ox-plough training centres will be established at Mabui (existing) and in Rumbek for training trainers (COTs). 138 COTs will be trained over 3 years. 189 trainees already identified Specify: as a result of the use of animal traction For example, ox- or donkey-drawn carts, weeders, groundnut lifters etc. As per the Inception Rider, the baseline data was used to revise and clarify the OVI As per the revised logframe, the OVI is now clearer As most of the target groups are actually smallholder farmers, the OVIs are not ambitious and should be achievable. However, if the insecurity within the State does not improve, there will be need for the Project to revise the OVI during the mid-term evaluation

R3: Improved market access and linkages among value chain actors and producer groups in the 8 Counties of Lakes State	<p>3.1 25% increase in the number of targeted smallholder farmers accessing inputs from local input suppliers (baseline 2%)</p> <p>3.2 25% increase in the marketing of produce through local markets (baseline 31%)</p> <p>3.3 50% increase in smallholder farmer participation in farmers' institutions (baseline 7.5%)</p>	<p>Meaning agro-dealers, agro-processors, producer groups, etc. in the case of activity 3.1 and co-operatives and unions in the case of activities 3.2 and 3.3. OVIs should be clear. What is the expected outcome of organising 8 County-level farmers' associations? What services will they provide?</p> <p>3.1 Progress is being made toward achieving the 25% target</p> <p>3.2 Some progress has been made toward achieving the target</p> <p>3.3 So far a level of 20% has been achieved</p> <p>Overall, the team will need to collect, and analyse the Year 1 data and estimate the percentage achieved</p>
Activities 4.1	Result statement: <i>Increased adoption of good practices that increase production and reduce productive losses through the strengthening of the extension services delivery system in the 8 Counties of Lakes State</i>	As above. What are "good practices"? Specify
4.1 continued	<p>4.1.1. Conducting of a baseline survey of smallholders</p> <p>4.1.2. Identification, training and deployment of 32 extension workers</p> <p>4.1.3. Development and adaption of extension packages to 8 Counties with location-specific needs in consultation with State Ministries</p> <p>4.1.4. Identification and organisation of 3,200 smallholder farmers into extension groups</p> <p>4.1.5. Provision of extension services and training to 320 smallholder extension groups based on extension packages identified</p> <p>4.1.6. Conducting of an annual State-level Project review</p>	<p>Most planned activities are performance-based rather than qualitative or impact-based. It is desirable that some impact-based activities and related OVIs be included</p> <p>4.1.1 Baseline survey of smallholders conducted</p> <p>4.1.2 32 extension agents have been identified and 26 of the 32 trained in the use of draft extension packages. 22 were trained for 3 months in basic agriculture at Yei ATC</p> <p>4.1.3. NPA has participated fully in the on-going development of the extension package</p> <p>4.1.4. Training needs identification of 3,060 individuals (1,438 men and 1,624 women) organised into 122 groups has been carried out</p> <p>4.1.5. 1,575 smallholder farmers (980 women and 585 men) organised into 65 groups have been trained according to their identified training needs</p> <p>4.1.6. The Project carried out monthly review meetings with both NPA staff and counterparts from the Ministry</p> <p>4.1.7. 32 bicycles and 8 motorbikes have been procured and distributed to extension agents in the Payams</p> <p>4.1.8. Capacity assessment of CAD offices was carried out to ascertain which Counties required computers and multipurpose printers</p> <p>4.1.9. 70 T-shirts have been printed and given to Project staff and counterparts. In addition, the Project supported the State Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with 149 T-shirts to launch the farming and tree-planting season</p>

4.2	<p>Result statement: <i>Increased adoption of animal traction among smallholder farmers in the 8 Counties of Lakes State in order to increase the area under cultivation and improve crop production</i></p> <p>4.2.1. Identification, training and deployment of 2 animal traction supervisors and 4 trainers</p> <p>4.2.2. Identification, training, equipping and deployment of 138 community ox-plough trainers (COTs)</p> <p>4.2.3. Identification, training and equipping of 48 local blacksmiths</p> <p>4.2.4. Identification, mobilisation and training of 1,200 smallholder farmers interested in animal traction</p> <p>4.2.5. Provision of equipment and raw materials to two blacksmith workshops for the production of animal traction implements</p> <p>4.2.6. Establishment of two Animal Traction Centres to provide training and technical backstopping to COTs and smallholder farmers</p> <p>4.2.7. Promotion of nursery development/tree planting at the animal traction centres</p>	<p>For example, use of ox- or donkey-drawn carts, weeders, groundnut lifters etc.</p> <p>As 4.1.1 above 4.2.1. 2 animal traction supervisors have been identified and deployed in Greater Rumbek and Yirol Counties and 8 ox-trainers identified and deployed to Mabui and Matangai ATCs. 8 blacksmiths have been identified for the two workshops at the Mabui and Matangai blacksmith centres</p> <p>4.2.2. 136 community ox-plough trainers have been identified, 15 of which were trained in Mabui for 21 days</p> <p>4.2.3. 48 local blacksmiths have been identified, 14 of which were trained in Mondikolok, Kajokeji County for 21 days</p> <p>4.2.4. 18 pairs/teams of oxen have been trained with 36 male farmers at the Mabui ATC and 7 pairs/teams of oxen have been trained with 21 farmers (2 women and 19 men) at Matangai ATC. In total 25 pairs/ teams of oxen and 57 smallholder farmers have been trained at the two centres. This training is on-going</p> <p>4.2.5. Purchasing of raw materials (mild steel plates) is on-going in Uganda for the Mabui blacksmith centre. 4 artisans and 2 COTs are undergoing training in Namelere (AETRI) Uganda for 21 days in the fabrication of ox-drawn implements</p> <p>4.2.6. 2 animal traction centres have been established at the Mabui and Matangai ATCs</p> <p>4.2.7. 80 CAHWs have been identified and retrained for 5 days and a business plan for the CAHWs developed</p>
4.3	<p>Result Statement: <i>Improved market access and linkages among value chain actors and producer groups in the 8 Counties of Lakes State</i></p> <p>4.3.1. Identification, organisation and provision of training in technical and organisational development skills to 24 producer groups, 12 agro-processing groups, 8 veterinary pharmacies and 12 input/output market actors</p> <p>4.3.2. Facilitation of the formation and operationalisation of 8 County-level farmers' associations and 1 State-level farmers' union</p>	<p>No mention is made of any community committee activities that will administer credit to agribusinesses. Can this be included?</p> <p>As 4.1.1 above</p> <p>4.3.1 Identification/application forms have been designed and groups are now being selected</p> <p>4.3.2. 9 loan committees have been formed and given an induction workshop along with terms of reference for the committee. A project appraisal checklist has also been developed</p> <p>4.3.3. Preparation has been made for the formation of these farmers' associations</p> <p>4.3.4. Staff have been trained in the preparation of business plans</p> <p>4.3.5. 7 business plans have been prepared and are awaiting submission while a further 2 are incomplete. A simple business plan template has been developed for the two blacksmith centres</p> <p>4.3.6. No annual stakeholders' forum has been held</p> <p>4.3.7. 36 staff (29 men and 7 women) have been trained in VSLA principles and management</p>

	4.3.3. Facilitation of the formation of Community-Based Loan Schemes in 8 Counties	2 major awareness-raising workshops on VSLAs have been conducted for all target groups
	4.3.4. Facilitation of business plan development and the provision of revolving grants to 48 agribusiness groups	The VSLA methodology has been integrated into all Project training and activities (extension, animal traction and value chains)
	4.3.5. Organisation of a State-level annual stakeholder forum with a view to promoting lobbying and advocacy	50 groups have started to implement the VSLA methodology, with 371 members and a total of 50,980 SSP saved so far
		10 of a planned 92 savings boxes have been distributed to VSLA groups together with stationery and locks for immediate use
		The remaining VSLA boxes are being produced at the Matangai Blacksmith centre

Annex 2: List of Persons Met

Briefing/Introductory Meeting with Project Staff: NPA Office – Rumbek Town				
Date	S/Nº	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
09/06/2015	1	Samuel Deng	M	Project Coordinator – Head of Office
09/06/2015	2	Peter Majur	M	Senior Project Officer – Value Chain and Markets
09/06/2015	3	Abraham Mading	M	Senior Project Officer – Extension Services
09/06/2015	4	John Makur	M	Senior Project Officer – Animal Traction
09/06/2015	5	Rose Dawa Martin	F	Agribusiness Supervisor – Greater Rumbek Counties
09/06/2015	6	Jeobani Makoi	M	Agribusiness Supervisor – Greater Yirol Counties
09/06/2015	7	Arob Ateny	M	Extension Services Supervisor – State Government counterpart
09/06/2015	8	Barnaba Chol Makoi	M	Director of Animation Traction – State Government counterpart
09/06/2015	9	Manyang Chol	M	Senior Project Officer – Emergencies
09/06/2015	10	Philip Majok	M	Senior Project Officer – Disaster Risk Reduction
Meeting with Animal Traction Trainer/Trainees: Animal Traction Centre – Matangai Payam, Rumbek Central				
Date	S/Nº	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
10/06/2015	1	Martha Ayen	F	Trainee – Animal Traction Lead Farmer
10/06/2015	2	Mangar Marial	M	Trainer – Animal Traction Centre
10/06/2015	3	Makol Kidiit	M	Trainer – Animal Traction Centre
10/06/2015	4	Malong Kwac Bol	M	Trainer – Animal Traction Centre
10/06/2015	5	Arob Ateny	M	Extension Officer – CAD, Rumbek Centre County
10/06/2015	6	Samuel Deng	M	Project Coordinator – Head of Office
10/06/2015	7	Abraham Mading	M	Senior Project Officer – Extension Services
10/06/2015	8	Rose Dawa Martin	F	Agribusiness Supervisor – Greater Rumbek Counties
Meeting with Blacksmith and Ox-plough Agro-dealers – Rumbek Centre, Rumbek Central County				
Date	S/Nº	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
10/06/2015	1	Samuel Madding Ring	M	Blacksmith Trainer – Rumbek East County
10/06/2015	2	Paolino Majok	M	Blacksmith Trainer – Rumbek Centre County
10/06/2015	3	Matur Malok	M	Blacksmith Trainer – Rumbek Centre County
10/06/2015	4	Gum Dut Majok	M	Blacksmith Trainer – Rumbek Centre County
10/06/2015	5	Maker Malieng	M	Blacksmith Trainer – Rumbek North County
10/06/2015	6	Gabriel Kuol Makuac	M	Blacksmith Trainer – Rumbek North County
10/06/2015	7	Chol Achiek	M	Ox-plough Dealer – Rumbek Town
10/06/2015	8	Friday William Majok	M	Ox-plough Dealer – Rumbek Town
10/06/2015	9	John Makur	M	Senior Project Officer – Animal Traction
10/06/2015	10	Samuel Deng	M	Project Coordinator – Head of Office
Meeting with Puonmet Staple Crop Farmer Group Members – Matangai Payam – Rumbek Central County				
Date	S/Nº	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
10/06/2015	1	Abraham Deng Malieny	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	2	Abraham Mabok	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	3	Mayom Deng Gop	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	4	Tal Duor Manguth	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group

10/06/2015	5	Magaar Mading Ajuong	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	6	Madol Deng Mayundi	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	7	Amal Kachuol Ater	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	8	Devorah Yar Deng	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	9	Daniel Marial Liec	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	10	Mayak Meen Chor	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	11	Malong Mading Chol	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	12	Abraham Mangar Kachuol	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	13	Rebecca Agum Ater	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	14	Devorah Yar Deng	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	15	Mary Achol Tuol	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	16	Monica Amakou Akol	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	17	Akoi Majok Ajak	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	18	Rebecca Achol Dut	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	19	Elizabeth Akum Madol	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	20	Devorah Awal Machut	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	21	Amok Makur Mading	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	22	Mary Ajok Malual	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	23	Mary Awut Malual	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	24	Deborah Yar Mathiang	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	25	Amer Makot Machuot	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	26	Amer Deng Kooch	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	27	Mator Marop Lual	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	28	Dut Malou Kuol	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	29	Daniel Machiek Lat	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	30	Manyuon Chol	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	31	Nyanthoi Mangui Koch	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	32	Adut Makuek Ater	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	33	Dut Kuol Peithok	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	34	Rebecca Kucjur Mayom	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	35	Monica Alual Gop	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	36	Elizabeth Amak Maketh	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	37	Akuchjur Manyang	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	38	Apen Makuei Kau	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	39	Yar Buot Chuol	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	40	Thora Machuei Machiek	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	41	Nyiwai Machiot Aduel	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	42	Tabisa Arun Mith	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	43	Mary Yar Dol	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	44	Manyang Dhol Apap	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	45	Awet Jalapa Mathiang	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	46	Monydhel Machiek Jogndit	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	47	Buong Mabor	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	48	Bith Meen Apet	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	49	Marier Leth	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	50	Majak Machot	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	51	Adel Mawut Mapuot	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	52	Madol Akol	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	53	Bol Dhal	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	54	Gordon Mayak	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	55	Ajong Chimir	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	56	Abraham Mabor	M	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	57	Mary Amakou Kachuol	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	58	Athen Mabor Machol	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	59	Aluong Cier	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	60	Akol Machuot	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group
10/06/2015	61	Amakou Hei	F	Member – Staple Crop Farmer Group

Meeting with State Authorities – Minister's Office, Rumbek Town, Lakes State

Date	S/N°	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
11/06/2015	1	Hon	M	Minister – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
11/06/2015	2	Ezekiel Magok	M	General Director – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

11/06/2015	3	Arob Ateny	M	Extension Services Supervisor – State Government counterpart
11/06/2015	4	Barnaba Chol Makoi	M	Director of Animal Traction – State Government counterpart
11/06/2015	5	Samuel Deng	M	Project Coordinator – Head of Office
11/06/2015	6	Peter Majur	M	Senior Project Officer – Value Chains and Markets
11/06/2015	7	Abraham Mading	M	Senior Project Officer – Extension Services
11/06/2015	8	Rose Dawa Martin	F	Agribusiness Supervisor – Greater Rumbek Counties
Meeting with County Authorities – County Office, Wullu Centre – Wullu County				
Date	S/N°	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
11/06/2015	1	Benjamin Akol	M	Commissioner – Wullu County
11/06/2015	2	Thon Raymond	M	Director General – Wullu County
11/06/2015	3	Salah Idris	M	Deputy Director General – Wullu County
11/06/2015	4	Daniel Manger	M	Director of Agriculture and Forestry – Wullu County
11/06/2015	5	Isaac Luka Manga	M	Inspector of Forestry
11/06/2015	6	Isaac Molu	M	Extension Worker – Wullu County
11/06/2015	7	Juma Makoi	M	Inspector of Livestock and Fisheries – Wullu County
Meeting with Magobele Veterinary VSLA Group Members – Wulu Boma, Wulu County				
Date	S/N°	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
11/06/2015	1	James Apual Ateny	M	Chairperson
11/06/2015	2	John Ateng	M	Secretary
11/06/2015	3	Diing Kao	M	Member – Key Holder
11/06/2015	4	Rebecca Nyibo	F	Member – Key Holder
11/06/2015	5	Jacob Gai	M	Member – Key Holder
11/06/2015	6	Chinde Makoi	F	Member
Debriefing/Exit Meeting with Project Staff: Palm Tree Hotel – Rumbek Town				
Date	S/N°	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
12/06/2015	1	Samuel Deng	M	Project Coordinator – Head of Office
12/06/2015	2	Peter Majur	M	Senior Project Officer – Value Chains and Markets
12/06/2015	3	Abraham Mading	M	Senior Project Officer – Extension Services
12/06/2015	4	John Makur	M	Senior Project Officer – Animal Traction
12/06/2015	5	Rose Dawa Martin	F	Agribusiness Supervisor – Greater Rumbek Counties
12/06/2015	6	Jeobani Makoi	M	Agribusiness Supervisor – Greater Yirol Counties
12/06/2015	7	Arob Ateny	M	Extension Services Supervisor – State Gov't counterpart
12/06/2015	8	Barnaba Chol Makoi	M	Director of Animal Traction – State Gov't counterpart
12/06/2015	9	Manyang Chol	M	Senior Project Officer – Emergencies
12/06/2015	10	Philip Majok	M	Senior Project Officer – Disaster Risk Reduction

Annex 3: Picture Gallery



Above: Photo taken during meeting with Magobele Veterinary VSLA Group Members – Wulu Boma, Wulu County



Above: Photos taken during meeting with Wullu County Commissioner (taken notes above). At the left is the Executive Director



Bove: Photos taken with local ox plough suppliers in Lakes State

Below: Assorted Photos taken during a tour at the Matangai Blacksmith Workshop/ Market in Rumbek Town



Seated (in Red T-Shirt) is Gabriel Maturdiit a black smith who made some of the boxes used by VSLA groups in Greater Rumbek.



Above: Photos taken during meeting with VSLA women group in, Rumbek Town



Above: assorted photos during a meeting with Puonmet Staple Crop Farmer Group Members – Matangai Payam – Rumbek Central County



Above: Assorted photos during meeting with Animal Traction Trainer at the Animal Traction Centre in Matangai in Rumbek

Below: Farmers being receiving ox plough at Animal Traction Centre in Matangai Payam, Rumbek Central



Below: Photos taken during meeting at officer of the Hon Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. In the first photo from left are: Director General, Hon Minister (in Grey Suit), Mr. Minari and in white shirt (at the right) is Samuel Deng (Project Coordinator)



GRANT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT

NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID (NPA)

– SORUDEV PROJECT

NOVEMBER 2014

1. Project General Data

Contract beneficiary	Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
Project Title	"Strengthening Smallholder Animal Traction Capacity and Extension Services in Lakes State"
Project ref. CRIS	FED/2013/333-512
Date of visit	11 th – 13 th November 2014
Location	Eight counties in Lakes State: Greater Rumbek (Cueibet, Rumbek Centre, Rumbek East, Rumbek North and Wulu counties) and in Greater Yirol (Awerial, Yirol East and Yirol West counties).
Monitoring Officer	Steven Hind
Start date	15 / 02 / 2014
End date	14 / 02 / 2017

2. Financial data

Total EC contribution	€ 2,000,000 (equivalent to 90% of € 2,222,222)
Total spent by project to date (Euro)	Info to be provided by IP
Balance of funds released to date	€ 885,736
Anticipated date of next request / release of funds	Final quarter 2015
Anticipated amount of next request / release of funds	€ 914,264

3. Monitoring data

3.1 Background

- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) has been continuously present in Lakes State since 1995, commencing operations during the civil / liberation war period, when it was primarily involved in relief activities targeting (in particular) communities in present day Rumbek East and Yirol West Counties.
- Initial programme activity was centred around Akot in Rumbek East County, where NPA still maintains an extensive compound complete with residential quarters, communal kitchen and dining facilities, office space, storage capacity and rudimentary vehicle workshop facilities. This initial NPA base was located adjacent to a bush airstrip which still exists but which is no longer in use.
- The Mabui Centre (near Mapordit in Yirol West County, close to the border with Mvolo County in Western Equatoria State) was established in January 1995 as a relief centre. NPA started using the site as a crop training centre in 2001 and commenced seed multiplication activities there in 2005 (for tomato and other vegetable seed preparation).
- In 2009 the Mabui Centre became a hub for animal traction activities, as both an ox training centre and as the site for a blacksmith's workshop. With respect to the latter, six local blacksmiths were sent to Uganda for training (in 2009); commencing metal fabrication activities on their return to Yirol West nine months later.
- In 2011, NPA constructed the workshop facilities / buildings which comprise the base for ox plough manufacture up to the present time.

- A year earlier, in 2010, NPA began a seed multiplication scheme on 42 feddans of land at Mabui, for, primarily cultivation and bulking of groundnut seed and specifically, imported Red Beauty variety and local “misterlek” (“Mr. Lake”) variety seed, on an average 10 feddans per year (due to the need for fallowing and because of constraints on availability of labour).
 - From September 2008 until March 2012 (inclusive a seven month no-cost extension period between September 2011 and March 2012) NPA implemented an EU / NORAD-funded FSTP project (reference DCI-FOOD/2008/160-537) titled “Post Conflict and Recovery Project in Mvolo County (Western Equatoria) and Yirol West County (Lakes State)”.
 - This project had a total budget of € 1,666,668 of which € 1,499,997, or just under 90%, was EU funding.
 - The overall objective of the project was to:

“Contribute to livelihood recovery of vulnerable residents and returnees in Southern Sudan, with a special emphasis on women”.
- The specific objective of the Action was:
- “To improve livelihoods of vulnerable residents and returnees by promoting diverse strategies to be food secure, improve the nutritional quality of food stuffs and meet their socio-economic needs through group based interventions; by supporting women’s self help groups and farmer’s groups involved in various livelihood activities in the two counties”.
- The project comprised three main components (agriculture development, livestock development and group enterprise development) with the following planned activities and specific outputs:
 - o Improved nutritional quality of women and their families during the hunger gap.
 - o Increased food consumption of target beneficiaries through own production and diversified livelihoods.
 - o Increased income of target beneficiaries through group based and diversified livelihood activities.
 - A TA monitoring visit to the project location (by TA Emmanuel Minari) in late September / early October 2010 concluded that:

“Overall, the progress on implementation is very satisfactory. The quality of implementation is good. Few activities are lagging behind due to ethnic conflict between the two communities” (in Mvolo and Yirol West).
 - In its final (external) evaluation (conducted by the African Development Torch consultancy group from Kampala, Uganda) project achievements were ranked as follows:
 - o Relevance and quality of design: A
 - o Efficiency of implementation: A
 - o Effectiveness to date: A
 - o Visibility: A
 - o Impact to date: A
 - o Effect on alleviating poverty: A
 - o Potential sustainability: B
 - o Reporting: A

A = very good; B = good; C = inadequate; D = serious deficiencies E =catastrophic.
 - The NPA SORUDEV project builds on a number of initiatives begun either directly under the FSTP project or coincidentally during the period and in the area of its implementation. These include: promotion of animal traction through training and support of Community Ox-plough Trainers (COTs) and local manufacture of ox-plough technology and equipment; establishment of a community-based agricultural extension system of Community Based Extension Workers (CBEW) at boma and village levels to support the production capacity of local populations (realised through provision of training support in improved agronomic practices to women and farmer groups) and through group formation and development in both agriculture and enterprise.

3.2 Key findings / Notes on project development

- The overall objective of the NPA SORUDEV project is “to contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods of rural households in South Sudan”. The specific objective is “increased agricultural production and income of smallholder farmers in Lakes State through strengthening extension services that effectively reaches smallholders”.
- The planned results of the NPA SORUDEV project are:

R1 – “Increased adoption of good practices that increase production and reduce production losses through strengthened Extension services delivery system in the 8 Counties of Lakes State”.

R2 – “Increased adoption of animal traction amongst smallholder farmers in 8 Counties of Lakes state to increase cultivation area and crop production”.

R3 – “Improved market access and linkages among value chain actors and producer groups in 8 Counties of Lakes state”.

- Main planned activities include the following:

For Result 1:

- Conduct baseline survey of smallholders.
- Identification, training and deployment of 32 extension workers.
- Develop and adapt extension packages to 8 counties with location-specific needs in consultation with State Ministry.
- Identify and organise 3,200 smallholder farmers into extension groups.
- Provide extension services and training to 320 smallholder extension groups based on extension packages identified.
- Conduct an annual state-level project review.

For Result 2:

- Identification, training and deploying 2 animal traction supervisors and 4 trainers.
- Identification, training, equipping and deploying 138 community ox plough trainers (COTs).
- Identification, training, equipping 48 local blacksmiths.
- Identification, mobilisation and training of 1,200 smallholder farmers interested in animal traction.
- Facilitate the supply of equipment and raw materials for the production of animal traction implements from two blacksmith workshops.
- Establish 2 Animal Traction Centres to provide training and technical backstopping to COTs and smallholder farmers.
- Promotion of nursery / tree planting in the animal traction centres.

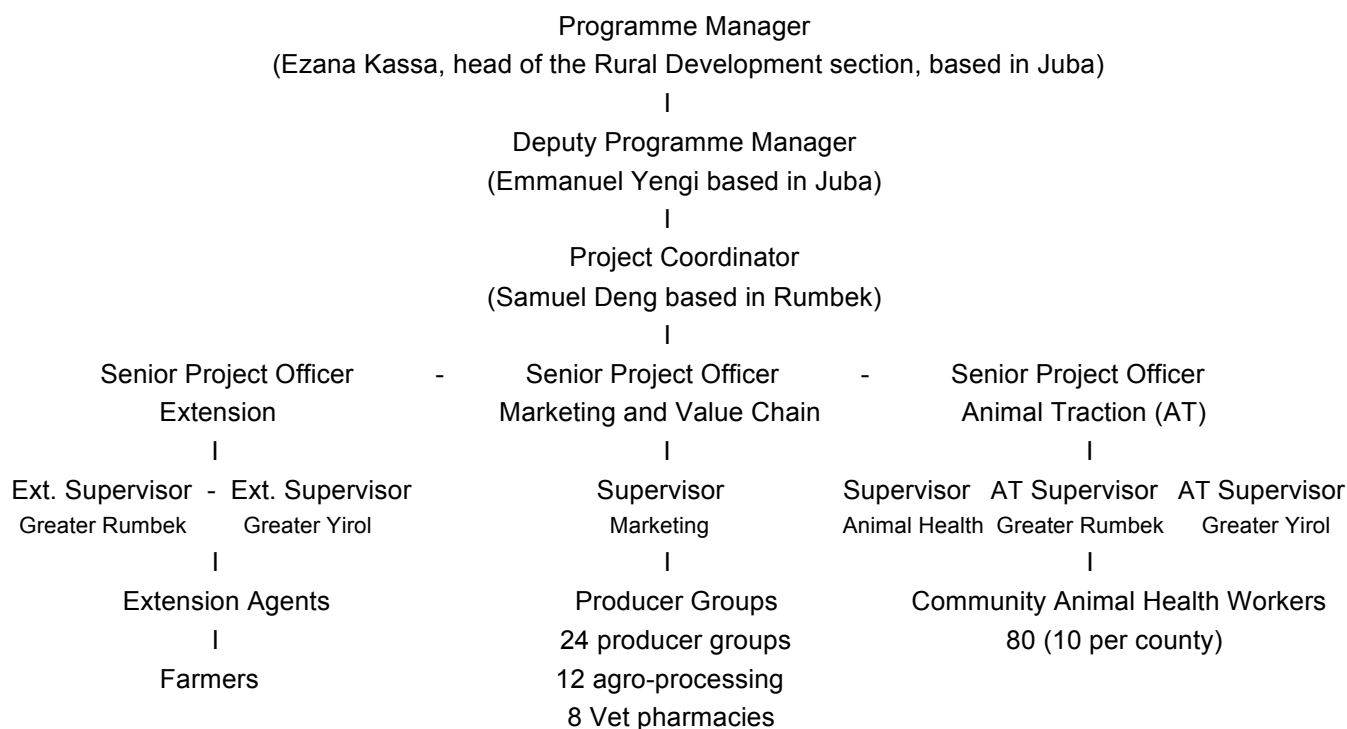
For Result 3:

- Identify, organise and provide technical skills and organisational development skills to 24 producer groups, 12 agro-processing groups, 8 vet pharmacies and 12 input / output market actors.
- Facilitate the formation and operationalisation of 8 county level farmers’ associations and 1 state level farmers’ union.
- Facilitate the formation of Community-based Loan Schemes in 8 counties.
- Facilitate business plan development and provision of revolving grants to 48 agri-business groups.
- Organise state-level annual stakeholder forum with a view to launch lobbying and advocacy.
- The key stakeholders in planned project activities are Lakes State smallholder farmers, diverse value chain actors, County Agriculture Departments (CADs), Payam Agriculture offices (PAOs) and the Lakes State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Resources and Fisheries.
- Payams selected for project implementation thus far are all in the Greater Rumbek area and comprise:

County	Payams
Rumbek Centre	1. Among-piny
	2. Matangai
	3. Malek
	4. Jiir
Rumbek North	5. Meen
	6. Malueth
	7. Madol
	8. Wurieng
Rumbek East	9. Atiaba
	10. Cueichok
	11. Aduel
	12. Pacong
Cueibet	13. Ngap
	14. Abiriu
	15. Duony
Wulu	16. Malonpec
	17. Domoloto
	18. Wulu

	19. Bhar-el-Gel
	20. Makundi

- Identification and selection of payams was realised, through a participatory process, at an “induction workshop” for extension agents from the Greater Rumbek counties. Selection criteria comprised:
 - o Location of the payam (in relation to main roads and particularly roads to be rehabilitated under SORUDEV);
 - o Payams with high population density;
 - o Prevalence of agriculture activities (already taking place);
 - o Proximity to existing extension service providers.
- An “induction workshop” for extension agents from the Greater Yirol counties (and selection of participating payams in Greater Yirol) is scheduled to take place in mid-November 2014.
- Other activities already underway or completed include:
 - o Identification of community oxen trainers (COTs) and local blacksmiths in the Greater Rumbek counties.
 - o Identification of farmer groups (on-going in all counties).
 - o Establishment of loan mechanisms (with one committee to be established at state level and one per county).
 - o Preparation of training workshops on VSLA (village savings and loan associations) / FFS (farmer field schools), to be conducted in the third week of November 2014.
- NPA has never operated an office in Rumbek (operating to date from Akot and Yirol). Since signing the SORUDEV implementation agreement in May 2014 NPA has rented a temporary office / guest house in Rumbek and is currently assisting the State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Resources and Fisheries to complete the construction of a new office block in one of the Ministry compounds in Rumbek, in which three large rooms will be allocated to NPA free of charge for better coordination and harmonisation of project activities.
- The proposed staff structure of the NPA SORUDEV project is as presented below:



- All programme staffing positions (above the level of extensions agents and community animal health workers (CAHWs)) have already been filled.
- Relations between NPA and the South Sudan government are excellent at all levels (with national, state, county and payam authorities). It is not by accident that NPA vehicles carry the registration plate number “NGO 1” (an explicit acknowledgement, on the part of government, of the role played by NPA supporting South Sudan and the SPLM / A during the liberation struggle).

3.3 Early Indications

- Recruitment of project staff: As noted above, all staff positions related to project implementation, above the level of extension agents and CAHWs, have already been filled, with the Rumbek-based Project Coordinator taking up his position in July 2014.
Senior Project Officers (for the “extension services”, “animal traction” and “marketing and value chain” sub-programmes) will divide their time between Rumbek and Yirol while field-based “supervisor” level staff will be divided between two bases in Rumbek, covering Greater Rumbek, and Yirol covering Greater Yirol. A number of supervisory positions, such as those of the Extension Supervisors in Greater Rumbek and Greater Yirol, are filled by government staff on “attachment” to the SORUDEV project.
- Procurement of project equipment: Office and transport equipment has been procured, though in some cases not yet delivered. For example, three Toyota Land Cruiser vehicles (one to be based in Yirol and two to be based in Rumbek) are currently in Juba, awaiting delivery to Lakes State when road conditions improve. In the meantime, project activities are being undertaken using vehicles borrowed from other programmes.
- Setting up a Project Secretariat: As noted above, a “project secretariat” has been established (based in the State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Resources and Fisheries compound) in the state capital, in Rumbek. The project secretariat includes a Ministry-appointed counterpart to the NPA SORUDEV Project Coordinator, currently the Director of Forestry.
- Project launch: NPA was the first SORUDEV implementing organisation to officially launch its programme, in a ceremony in Rumbek in late June 2014.
- Household Baseline Survey: A baseline survey was conducted in the period immediately after the formal project launch. The survey was led by an external consultant and produced a baseline survey report that has since been used to shape the inception period reformulation of the basic project design, including a revised project log frame.
- Induction workshop for project and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Resources and Fisheries staff: An induction workshop was held for newly recruited project staff and staff of the MoAFAR&F working in the five counties of Greater Rumbek, to highlight project objectives, planned activities, expected results and working arrangements between NPA and Ministry / CAD counterparts for effective implementation. The participants in this workshop selected the 20 payams in Greater Rumbek in which programme activities will be focused.
A similar induction workshop will be convened in Yirol, for the three counties in Greater Yirol, in November (2014).
- Selection of extension staffs: 32 extension workers have been identified, combining a mix of government (CAD) staffs and volunteers. 16 are existing extension workers already trained at the NPA-supported and managed Agricultural Training Centre in Yei (YATC) in Central Equatorial State.
Similarly, candidates for training as COTs (community ox trainers) have also been identified. These will eventually comprise 138 in number.
Only the expected 80 community animal health workers (government and volunteers) are still to be selected.
- Establishment of a second blacksmiths workshop in Rumbek: Preliminary discussions have already been conducted with approximately 30 blacksmiths and metal workers engaged in rudimentary metal fabrication activities (manufacture of cooking stoves and cooking wok’s, metal trunks and boxes, agricultural hand tools such as “maloda’s” etc.) under trees in one of the market areas in Rumbek town. NPA intend to form these independent individuals into a cooperative and to assist them to up-grade the quality and variety of their output.
Land for construction of proper workshop facilities has been allocated to the group by the town authorities. The blacksmiths group has already collected or saved SSP 500 (to date) to pay a surveyor to carry out a formal demarcation of the site.
Four blacksmiths will eventually be provided with specialised training (in use of machine tools, fabrication of mouldboard ox ploughs etc.) at the NPA-supported blacksmiths workshop in Mabui. An additional three individuals already received training in Mabui in 2012 (though with little visible impact, either on their own operations or on those of their peers).
- SORUDEV partners’ coordination meeting: The second (October 2014) co-ordination meeting of the four SORUDEV implementing partners, together with their local government counterparts, SORUDEV-affiliated UN agencies and observer FSTP project implementers, was organised and hosted by NPA at Hill View Hotel in Rumbek on Thursday 29th October. The aim of the meeting was to assess progress in development of a harmonised approach to project implementation and to gauge the level of compliance with previously agreed policy positions, now commonly referred to as the “Wau Resolutions”, in the three months since the inaugural co-ordination meeting in Wau in late July 2012.

3.4 Challenges likely to adversely impact implementation and action to be taken to address problems

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN by (or to be taken by) HARD
Integrating SORUDEV into a largely relief-oriented NPA Lakes State programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NPA currently implements five (5) projects other than SORUDEV in Lakes State; all of them predominantly relief-oriented. Namely: a DRR (disaster risk reduction) project, funded by NORAD in all eight counties in the state, which seeks to strengthen the government RRC (Relief and Rehabilitation Commission); an EMOP (emergency operations) project, comprising food distribution on behalf of World Food Programme (WFP) in Yirol East and Yirol West counties; a Food for Assets programme (inclusive a food for agriculture component), also funded by WFP in Cueibet and Yirol East counties; an FCR (Food Crisis Response) project, funded by the Government of South Sudan in Yirol East and a second Crisis Response project, funded by NORAD in Yirol East and Yirol West. - In this context there is a danger that the purely development-based principles promoted under SORUDEV will be at odds with the policy and practice utilised in / by other NPA projects operating in the same counties. NPA will need to be conscious of possible contradictions and confusion among beneficiary communities, when faced with an organisation possibly pursuing totally different agendas in the same geographical area.
How to privatise and fully commercialise the existing blacksmiths workshop at Mabui.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The six (6) trained blacksmiths / metal workers currently working at the Mabui Centre are self-supporting, in the sense that they are paid from their own sales and also contribute towards generator fuel costs from the same source. However, all workshop buildings, machine tools and equipment and raw materials used in / at the workshop belong to / are provided by NPA. - A meeting was convened by the NPA management in Yei in 2013 to discuss mechanisms by which control of the workshop and production facility can be transferred to local ownership. This does not appear to have resulted (yet) in any tangible change of status. As of the time of the TA monitoring visit in November 2014 only three (3) blacksmiths were still working at the workshop due to shortages of generator fuel and other raw materials, which were still being supplied by NPA. - A number of earlier NPA-supported cooperatives and enterprise groups (specifically a farmers cooperative and a women's enterprise group) have been formed and subsequently collapsed (in 2005 and 2014 respectively), it will therefore be a challenge to NPA to identify a mechanism through which the Mabui blacksmiths can be rendered genuinely independent while at the same time commercially and financially viable.
How to establish an ox-plough production facility in Rumbek that is based on commercial / market principles and doesn't experience the same problems as Mabui.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Similarly metal workers in Rumbek. - At the outset (of SORUDEV), NPA intended to provide all required project inputs (facilities, machine tools, raw materials and training) to the Rumbek group gratis. In light of the Wau Resolutions, NPA was forced to revisit this strategy and, while accepting that inputs can no longer be distributed free of charge, is yet to elaborate / finalise a convincing alternative approach. - It is essential that commercial enterprises, such as ox-plough manufacturing units, are established on the basis of sound commercial principles (failing which they are no more sustainable in the long term than the current situation, in which agricultural inputs are imported from neighbouring countries by NGOs and distributed to farmers free of charge or at a heavily subsidised price). - Development of local ox-plough manufacturing capacity doesn't stop with training blacksmiths in improved metal fabrication techniques and use of machine tools, it also depends upon the existence / presence of business management capacity in

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN by (or to be taken by) HARD
	logistics (given the long supply lines running from East Africa to Rumbek), finance management and marketing, none of which is currently present among the blacksmiths of Mabui and Rumbek or in the NPA business development model / plan.
Data collection on behalf of NPA / the project, state authorities and third parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to report (on a quarterly basis) against indicators taken from the project log frame, NPA must first put in place a functional data collection system. - This will, likely, be based on the presence of the 32 field-based extension staff (deployed at a rate of 4 per county). Data collection tools will need to be developed and staff will need to be trained in the use of those tools in order for the system to function. However, four data collectors per county may be insufficient to gather a large enough sample size. It may, therefore, be necessary to co-opt other actors into the system, either from other local government departments or other NGOs operating in the food security sector. - To be examined and considered.
Deteriorating road conditions across most of the state and shortages of fuel in local markets (on this occasion lasting for a period in excess of two months).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disruption of road travel and breakdowns in delivery of essential supplies are an annual occurrence and therefore predictable. - NPA will need to preposition essential supplies, including fuel for vehicles and generators in Lakes in advance of periods of shortage (August – November) and (equally importantly) should advise, guide and assist its private sector partners on the same strategy (pre-positioning fuel, raw materials, packaging equipment etc.) in advance of periods of transport-provoked commercial inertia.
Access to animal traction in-puts (primary equipment and spares) and the relationship between use of animal traction equipment and on-farm demand for labour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A problem affecting all EU-funded animal traction programmes (and not resolved by any of them) is the dilemma that increased land under cultivation, through use of animal-drawn (in this case ox and donkey-drawn) ploughs, does not reduce the demand for manual labour (especially among single-parent or female-headed households) but, rather, creates an imbalance between the area that can be ploughed and the area that can be weeded. As such, increased land under cultivation does not automatically result in increased yields, because animal traction covers only one aspect of the crop production cycle, leaving other aspects dependent on availability of finite quantities of traditional hand labour and hand tools. - NPA will trial and promote the use of draught planters, weeders and carts, in order to mechanise additional areas of the crop cycle. The success or otherwise of this initiative should be closely monitored.
Uncontrolled livestock movements, resulting in destruction of agricultural crops, especially long and short-term variety sorghum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free (wet season) movement of livestock through farmland under long-term crop cultivation and dry season movements of livestock to riverine areas also used for horticultural activities, often results in tension and occasional conflict between farming and pastoral communities (particularly in Wulu County). - Fencing of gardens is the preferred solution of most farmers, but budgetary constraints make project support for the action largely non-viable. - NPA, together with state and county-level authorities, should consider the viability of demarcating livestock migration corridors through settled area, designated grazing areas and imposition (by local courts) of punitive fines for law transgressors.

3.5 Further actions required

- Consider / reconsider options available for activation of two ox-plough manufacturing enterprises as fully independent commercial businesses, able to operate without direct support from NPA, viz. provision of fuel and raw materials etc.

- Formulate / negotiate a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Lakes State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Resources and Fisheries that defines the relationship and mutual obligations between the signatory parties. For example staffing: as an absolute minimum each County Agriculture Department is supposed to comprise, an Inspector of Agriculture, plus officers specialised in Extension, Horticulture, Plant protection and Mechanisation. The Lakes State MoAFAR&F should commit to fulfilment of this staffing demographic within the lifetime of SORUDEV programme implementation.
- Close co-ordination is expected between the SORUDEV smallholder project and the EU-funded, FAO-managed Agriculture and Food Information System (AFIS) component of the larger SORUDEV programme. NPA should follow up with the FAO Juba office to reach an understanding on shared data collection requirements and collection mechanisms (FAO has already proposed a list of identified markets from which market data will be collected and have designed a draft data collection tool).

3.6 Progress in achieving project objectives

(See details in Annex 2 - below)

The NPA SORUDEV project appears to have made good progress since the signing of the grant contract in May 2014. As such, the project is generally on track and there are no major concerns with project implementation at this time. On the other hand, a number of potential issues are already visible that can be “flagged up” for immediate or future attention. E.g.:

The NPA programme methodology contains a certain lack of clarity and conviction. As alluded to above: there are areas of the proposed programme in which NPAs suggested approach fails to inspire confidence. For example: cooperatives and enterprise groups that have been tried and seen to fail under previous projects are, again, suggested for use in SORUDEV, as are investments in “community infrastructure” such as ox training centres, despite the fact that the “community training” section of the Mabui Centre is currently dilapidated because NPA has not been able to maintain it while the local authorities either can’t or won’t provide any financial support.

Best practice suggests that productive assets are most productive when privately owned and not “community-owned”, which generally equates to “not owned / maintained at all” or “personalised” by a single influential individual.

Similarly, investment in community facilities such as ox training centres should be kept to an absolute minimum as their usefulness is likely to last only as long as the programme that constructed and utilised them. I.e., they will never be maintained.

Enterprise groups, whether blacksmiths making sophisticated machinery or women’s groups turning groundnuts into peanut butter / groundnut paste, need more than technical training to survive in a commercial environment such as that in Lakes State (characterised by shortages and uncertainty). The role of the Senior Project Officer - Marketing and Value Chain and the Supervisor - Marketing are, therefore, vital to the eventual success of the project. Where necessary, NPA should consider reinforcing these positions with business advisors attached to specific flagship enterprises, such as the two ox-plough fabrication workshops, to assist with planning, book keeping, logistics and sales / marketing.

The purpose or objective of forming county-level farmers’ cooperatives and a state-level farmers union should be clearly elaborated. Will these be producer co-operatives or marketing cooperatives? Who will manage them, NPA? Nothing should be created that is artificial, unsustainable or based purely on development jargon.

Finally, NPA should revisit the project log frame (for a third time) to assess if all proposed OVIs are “SMART” and measurable on a regular basis.

3.7 Cross-cutting and other issues

EU Visibility: Nothing to report. Too early in the project cycle.

Gender issue: Nothing to report. Too early in the project cycle.

4. Summary of follow-up actions and responsibility

	Action to be taken	Responsible	Deadline
1.	Circulate draft monitoring report	Steven Hind	17 / 11 / 14
2.	Project Inception Report submitted on time in November 2014	NPA	30 / 11 / 14
3.	Review the options available for running ox-plough manufacturing enterprises as fully independent commercial businesses	NPA	15 / 12 / 14
4.	Formulate / negotiate a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Lakes State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Resources and Fisheries	NPA	15 / 12 / 14

Signature: Steven Hind

Date: 17/11/2014

Annex 1: Location, people met and activities visited by TA FSTP

Date	Location	Organisation	Name or activity
10/11/14	NPA Rumbek office and all project locations	NPA	Samuel Deng: SORUDEV Project Coordinator
" "	NPA Rumbek office and selected project locations	MoAFAR&F	Barnaba Chol Makoi: Animal Traction Supervisor - Greater Rumbek
" "	Ministry office, Rumbek	MoAFAR&F	David Bol: Director General, Agriculture and Forestry
" "	Rumbek town	Potential beneficiaries	Gordon Mayok, John Makoor Guen, Samuel Maker Ater, Matur Makuer Dut, Michael Majok Lueth, Panchol Ngor Acieny, Gabriel Kuol Makuac, James Mapuor Gorjok, Aliap Akol Makuac, Matur Malok Kerjok: Rumbek metal workers
11/11/14	NPA Rumbek office and selected project locations	NPA	Abraham Mading: Senior Project Officer - Extension
" "	NPA Rumbek office and selected project locations	NPA	Dawa Rose: Supervisor (Marketing) - Greater Rumbek
" "	NPA Rumbek office and selected project locations	MoAFAR&F	Priscilla Ngacida: Supervisor (Extension) - Greater Yirol
" "	NPA Rumbek office and selected project locations	MoAFAR&F	Arop Ateny Lual: Supervisor (Extension) - Greater Rumbek
" "	Mabui, Yirol West County	NPA	Maijier Telaar: County Agriculture Supervisor - Yirol
" "	Mabui, Yirol West County	NPA	Khamis Jananer: Animal Traction Supervisor – Greater Yirol
" "	Mabui, Yirol West County	NPA	Daniel Madol Telar: Community Facilitator
" "	Mabui, Yirol West County	NPA	Dardit Mayor (Workshop Manager), Adut Dhal (Treasurer), Mabor Gok (salesman), Joseph Mabor Ijong: Blacksmiths at Mabui Blacksmiths Workshop
13/11/14	NPA Rumbek office	MoAFAR&F	Paulino Mading Meen: Director of Forestry

MoAFAR&F: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Resources and Fisheries. The Ministry has one Minister, but two Directors General, one for Agriculture and Forestry and one for Animal Resources and Fisheries, who sit in different compounds in different parts of Rumbek, reflecting the fact that the ministries were once separate.

Barnaba Chol Makoi, Priscilla Ngacida and Arop Ateny Lual are all Agriculture and Forestry staffs largely seconded to the SORUDEV project and paid incentives according to their input.

Annex 2: Progress in achieving project objective

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
Overall objective To contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods of rural households in South Sudan.	20% increase in house holds rating of Food security situation in Lakes State. (Baseline 8%).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A baseline has been conducted as part of the Inception Report preparation process. OVIs now based on baseline data.
Specific objective Increased agricultural production & income of smallholder farmers in Lakes State through strengthening extension services that effectively reaches smallholders.	50% increase in agricultural production / yield of target groups in Lakes State. (Baseline 0.7ton/hh). 50% increase in Average HH Incomes of target groups in Lakes state (Baseline: 876 SSP / Annum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambitious. How will / can this be measured on a regular basis? Sorghum only or all crops?
Expected results R1 – Increased adoption of good practices that increase production & reduce production losses through strengthened Extension services delivery system in the 8 Counties of Lakes State.	1.1 75% of targeted smallholder farmers adopted good practices from the defined extension packages (Baseline: 25%). 1.2 85% reduction of post-harvest losses by targeted smallholder groups (Baseline loss: 50%). 1.3 50% increase of smallholder farmers accessing extension services (Baseline: 12%).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to define what is meant by “good practices”, in order to be able to measure them. • Training manuals already available but no extension packages (inclusive post-harvest crop handling). • 32 extension workers identified (government and volunteers). 16 already trained at YATC Yei.
R2 – Increased adoption of animal traction amongst smallholder farmers in 8 Counties of Lakes state to increase cultivation area and crop production.	2.1 20% increase of smallholders farmers using ox plough (Baseline 45%). 2.2 75% increase in average area cultivated by targeted smallholder farmers (Baseline 2 feddan/hh). 2.3 20% increase of smallholders using animal traction for other farming activities in addition to cultivation. (Baseline: none).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 ox training centres will be established at Mabui (existing) and in Rumbek, for training trainers (COTs). 138 COTs will be trained over 3 years. 189 trainees already identified. • Specify: as a result of use of animal traction. • For example, ox / donkey drawn carts, weeders, groundnut lifters etc.
R3 - Improved market access & linkages among value chain actors & producer groups in 8 Counties of Lakes state.	3.1 25% increase in number of targeted smallholder farmers accessing inputs from local input suppliers (Baseline: 2%) 3.2 25 % increase in marketing of produce through local marketers. (Baseline: 31%) 3.3 50% increase of small holder farmers' participation in farmers institutions (Baseline: 7.5%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning agro-dealers, agro-processors, producer groups, etc. in the case of the result and activity 3.1 and co-operatives and unions in the case of activity 3.2 and 3.3. OVIs should be clear. What is the expected outcome of organising 8 county-level farmers associations? What service will they provide?
Activities 4.1	Result statement: Increased adoption of good practices that increase production & reduce production losses through strengthened Extension services delivery system in the 8 Counties of Lakes State.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above. What are “good practices”? Specify.

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
4.1 continued	<p>4.1.1. Conduct baseline survey of smallholders.</p> <p>4.1.2. Identification, training and deployment of 32 extension workers.</p> <p>4.1.3. Develop and adapt extension packages to 8 counties with location specific needs in consultation with State Ministry.</p> <p>4.1.4. Identify & organize 3,200 smallholder farmers into extension groups.</p> <p>4.1.5. Provide extension services & training to 320 smallholder extension groups based on extension packages identified.</p> <p>4.1.6. Conduct an annual State-level project review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most planned activities are performance-based rather than qualitative and impact based. It is desirable that some impact-based activities and related OVIs are included.
4.2	<p>Result statement: Increased adoption of animal traction amongst smallholder farmers in 8 Counties of Lakes state to increase cultivation area and crop production:</p> <p>4.2.1. Identification, training and deploying 2 Animal traction supervisors & 4 trainers.</p> <p>4.2.2. Identification, training, equipping and deploying 138 community ox plough trainers (COTs).</p> <p>4.2.3. Identification, training, equipping 48 local blacksmiths.</p> <p>4.2.4. Identification, mobilisation and training of 1200 smallholder farmers interested in animal traction.</p> <p>4.2.5. Facilitate the supply of equipment & raw materials for the production of animal traction implements for two Blacksmith workshops.</p> <p>4.2.6. Establish 2 Animal Traction Centres to provide training and technical backstopping to COTs and smallholder farmers.</p> <p>4.2.7. Promotion of nursery / tree planting in the animal traction centres.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example, use of ox / donkey drawn carts, weeders, groundnut lifters etc. • As 4.1.1 above.
4.3	<p>Result Statement: Improved market access & linkages among value chain actors & producer groups in 8 Counties of Lakes state.</p> <p>4.3.1. Identify, organize and provide technical & skills and organisational development skills to 24 producer groups, 12 agro-processing groups, 8 vet pharmacies and 12 input / output market actors.</p> <p>4.3.2. Facilitate the formation & operationalisation of 8 County level farmers' associations and 1 State level farmers' union.</p> <p>4.3.3. Facilitate the formation Community-based Loan Schemes in 8 Counties.</p> <p>4.3.4. Facilitate business plan development and provision of revolving grant to 48 Agri-business groups.</p> <p>4.3.5. Organise state-level annual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mention made in the activities of the community committees that will administer credit for agri-businesses. Can this be included? • As 4.1.1 above.

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
	stakeholder forum with a view to launch lobby and advocacy.	

Annex 3: Picture Gallery



Above: Newly constructed (by the Lakes State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Animal Resources and Fisheries) office block (with generator house behind) in the Ministry compound in Rumbek, soon to be occupied by NPA as the SORUDEV project office.

Below: Inside the new office / SORUDEV office in Rumbek, lakes State.





Above and below: Facilities at the Mabui Centre near Mapordit (inclusive mechanised blacksmith's workshop): Yirol West County Lakes State.





Above: Sign board outside the Mabui Centre for an earlier EU-funded FSTP project (implemented between 2008 and 2012).

Below: Project visibility for the new SORUDEV project (T-shirts provided to NPA Yirol and Rumbek-based staffs).





Above: Outside the NPA base at Akot, established in 1995 and situated adjacent to a bush airstrip used during the liberation war years (with the detritus of war still visible).
Below: Inside the NPA base at Akot in Rumbek East County, Lakes State.

