

GRANT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT

CONCERN WORLDWIDE – FSTP PROJECT

JUNE 2015

1. Project General Data

Contract beneficiary	Concern Worldwide
Project Title	“Improved household income for returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host populations in Aweil Centre, Aweil North and Aweil West Counties, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State through income generation and improved market access”
Project ref. CRIS	DCI-FOOD/2014/352-381
Date of visit	2 to 9 June 2015
Location	Aweil Centre, Aweil West and Aweil North Counties, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State, Republic of South Sudan
Monitoring Officer	Emmanuel Minari
Start date	1 January 2015
End date	1 December 2016

2. Financial Data

Total EC contribution	€ 940,000 (equivalent to 90% of total budget = € 1,044,444)
Total spent by project to date (EUR)	€ 000,000 out of € 619,467 disbursed (Info to be provided by IP)
Balance of funds released to date	€ 000,000 out of € 619,467 (Info to be provided by IP)
Anticipated date of next request/release of funds	December 2015
Anticipated amount of next request/release of funds	€ 224,373

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 (which is responsible for the implementation of the South Sudan Rural Development (SORUDEV) programme);
- The FSTP project titled “Improved household income for returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host populations in Aweil Centre, Aweil North and Aweil West Counties, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State through income generation and improved market access” targets vulnerable populations (mainly poor and extremely poor who may be internally displaced (IDP) or returnee households) and the wider subsistence farming community in three Counties (Aweil Centre, Aweil North and Aweil West) of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State, South Sudan;
- The **Overall Objective** of the Project is to “Empower returnees, IDPs and vulnerable populations to improve food security, enhance livelihoods and increase their resilience to disasters”. The **Specific Objective** is to “Improve the food, nutrition and income security of returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host populations in Aweil Centre, Aweil North and Aweil West Counties, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State and reduce their vulnerability to malnutrition, shocks and hazards”.

The performance of the Project toward achieving the above will be measured against 3 results:

1. Enhanced and diversified food production and utilisation among returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host populations through improvements in farming (and food-processing) techniques, access to agricultural and veterinary services and knowledge of nutrition;
2. Improved household income for returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host populations in Aweil Centre, Aweil North and Aweil West Counties, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State through income generation and improved market access;
3. Reduced vulnerability of returnees, IDPs, poor households and their communities to shocks and hazards.

Some of the activities to be implemented during the life of the Project include:

- Ensuring improved food production through the establishment of community-based extension and veterinary services and access to agricultural inputs through the use of vouchers;
- Conducting of training in infant and young child feeding (IYCF), nutrition counselling/referral and hygiene promotion;
- Ensuring improved incomes through the provision of cash and/or vouchers for work and the establishment (and provision of support to) marketing groups to enhance market engagement;
- Facilitating community-led hazard mapping and disaster risk reduction.

Summary of key findings

This project is co-implemented by Concern Worldwide (CWW) and Welthungerhilfe (WHH). In addition, Langich United Youth Development (LUYDA) is an associate implementer to CWW.

This European Union (EU) Technical Assistance (TA) monitoring mission is the second to be conducted since the Project was signed and launched in October 2014. The mission was conducted from 2 to 9 June 2015 in order to i) review progress made to date; ii) discuss and provide technical advice on the Inception Rider before it is submitted to the Delegation of the European Union (EUD) at the end of June 2015; and iii) provide other technical and advisory support to the implementing team as deemed appropriate.

The mission established that:

1. As regards progress of implementation:

- All key staff have now been recruited and are in position;
- The Project team has 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 demonstration farms are being established and farmers are undergoing training in best agronomic practices;
- Concern Worldwide has established Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with its CBO/NGO partners (WHH and LUYDA) according to which it will supervise their relationship throughout the Project implementation period and prescribe the roles and responsibilities of each partner;
- Inception meetings were held at all levels of Government to introduce the project at County, Payam and Boma levels. The aim of these meetings was to secure both understanding and ownership of the Project among actors from Government, local administration and communities. Where Project management committees were present at Project sites, they assisted in the identification of project beneficiaries (later verified by Project staff). Where committees were not present, Project staff established them with the help of local administration;
- All other activities planned for the Inception period have been implemented satisfactorily.

2. On the Inception Rider and other technical and advisory support:

- Each relevant document (narrative report, budget and logical framework) was thoroughly discussed and recommendations and technical inputs provided. These informed the final draft of the Inception Rider which was submitted to the EUD at the end of June 2015;
- Most of the concerns raised and subsequent recommendations made during this mission was thoroughly discussed during the mission debriefing meeting which was attended by the Deputy Country and Programme Director. These concerns and recommendations are summarised under section 3.4 of this report (Further action required).

3. On progress against specific results:

Specific Result 1: Enhanced and diversified food production and utilisation among returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host populations through improvements in farming (and food-processing) techniques, access to agricultural and veterinary services and knowledge of nutrition

- The total number of beneficiaries of the FSTP project is 1,550 households in the three Counties of Aweil Centre, Aweil North and Aweil West. The beneficiary numbers per County are as follows: 519 households in Aweil North, 346 in Aweil

West and 692 in Aweil Centre. The majority of these beneficiaries have been identified with the assistance of Project Management Committees and Boma Development Committees in different Payams and Bomas within the Project area;

- 20 lead farmers and 10 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) have been selected in the different Project areas in partnership with relevant Ministries and Project Management Committees. Training in extension methods is scheduled to take place in June. CAHWs will be equipped with bicycles for visits to farmers and livestock owners and CAHW kits are also being procured (and should be delivered to the site by the end of the month).

Specific Result 2: Improved household income for returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host populations in Aweil West, Aweil North and Aweil Centre Counties, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State through income generation and improved market access

Activities have not started under this result but should begin once the selection and verification of beneficiaries is completed by the end of June.

Specific Result 3: Reduced vulnerability of returnees, IDPs, poor households and their communities to shocks and hazards

Activities have not started under this result but should begin with training of trainer (ToT) activities in June.

Main strengths

The mission established that:

- CWW and WHH continue to enjoy excellent relations with the County and Payam authorities which have been built over many years through continuous presence and regular consultation and cooperation. However, at State level 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 a meeting with the EU monitoring mission which was also attended by the Programme Manager and his team;
- The Project is well designed and highly relevant at all levels and is based on a clear intervention logic;
- Careful selection has been made of beneficiaries, such as members of production groups (which were partly selected by traditional leaders and local authorities). Most beneficiaries appear genuinely interested in the activities in which they have been shortlisted to participate, thereby improving the potential for long-term sustainability of the Project;
- Despite a late start, Project performance appears to be on track despite difficult conditions, such as poor roads and road access, conservative community attitudes and occasional insecurity as a result of tribal clashes;
- Field staff (particularly the Programme and Project Managers from CWW, the Project Manager from WHH and national 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;
- The Project design is attractive to beneficiaries, combining increased agricultural production with the need to conserve the environment and building on initiatives (groups and methodologies) that have already been successfully trialled under programmes in previous years;
- No baseline survey needed to be conducted, as it was agreed that the baseline survey conducted by WHH and People in Need (PIN) was up-to-date and was thus used to inform the process of preparing the Inception Rider;
- 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.

Main weaknesses

- The Cash for Assets component may present challenges, especially as the cost of labour has recently skyrocketed due to hyperinflation and depreciation of the SSP against the USD. The Project team is contemplating payments in USD, but the mission advised that the advice of the EUD be sought before this is done as it may present challenges to other projects or agencies operating in the same State or County;
- 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 but does not always focus on the role to be played by Government, target groups or Concern Worldwide in monitoring, implementation and ownership;
- Data should be collected and analysed more regularly in order for the Project to better fulfil its M&E function;
- No exit or sustainability strategy has been developed for the Project. The preparation of this should be prioritised over the next few months and completed by the end of the year;
- Donor visibility is good and should be maintained.

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

Challenges	Action taken (or to be taken) by CWW and WHH
To provide Project inputs to target beneficiaries in a manner that will not compromise the SORUDEV project being implemented in the same area	This FSTP project is intended to complement the SORUDEV project that is also being implemented by CWW. However, there is need to ensure maximum care is given to targeting so that only vulnerable groups are supported (as stipulated in the Project proposal). Project mapping was done to avoid overlap with other EU-funded food security projects in Warrap State in close consultation with Government partners at different levels.
Lack of proactivity in ensuring the timeliness of procurement, despite thorough experience and full knowledge of the operating environment in South Sudan	CWW and WHH management based in Juba should support the team by ensuring procurement is done in good time.
High prices of project inputs and labour exacerbated by depreciation of the SSP	This is beyond the control of CWW and WHH, but there is there is need to proactively manage it and hold regular consultations with the EUD.
Delay in the approval of the Inception Rider	All documents have been submitted to the EUD for review.
Insecurity in some Bomas in Aweil West and Aweil North Counties	There is need to monitor and update the EUD of any changes in the security situation for further advice in case the security situation does not improve.
Limited numbers of staff at the County Agricultural Department	The Project should work with State Authorities to ensure they address this over time.
Vast Project area and a widely distributed population	The devolution of services to different areas will enable staff to serve farmers more easily. The Project plans to position staff at Aroyo in Aweil Centre Country to save on time spent travelling from Nyamlell.

3.4 Further actions required

- Prioritise the completion of the Inception Rider and its submission to the EUD by the end of June 2015;
- Prioritise the mending of a fractured relationship with the State Authorities. This is important 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 a meeting with the EU monitoring mission which was also attended by the Programme Manager and his team;
- 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 refresher training of County-level staff in agronomic practices 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;
- Increase the coordination and sharing of information with the Danish Refugee Council and People in Need/CESVI (both of which are FSTP implementing partners) to harmonise the methodologies used in Farmer Field School (FFS) activities and other approaches;
- Strengthen and broaden the coordination and sharing of information sharing with other implementing agencies in the State and other SORUDEV projects in order to harmonise the methodologies of extension service delivery and Cash for Asset activities, among other approaches;
- Develop a Project exit and sustainability strategy 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, input supply, data and information management, linkage to markets and value chains) will be sustained after the Project ends.

3.5 Progress toward achieving project objectives

As indicated above:

- All key staff have now been recruited and are in position;
- The Project team has 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 demonstration farms are being established and farmers are undergoing training in best agronomic practices;
- Concern Worldwide has established MoUs with its CBO/NGO partners (WHH and LUYDA) according to which it will supervise their relationship throughout the Project implementation period and prescribe the roles and responsibilities of each partner;
- Inception meetings were held at all levels of Government to introduce the project at County, Payam and Boma levels. The aim of these meetings was to secure both understanding and ownership of the Project among actors from Government, local administration and communities. Where Project management committees were present at Project sites, they assisted in the identification of project beneficiaries (later verified by Project staff). Where committees were not present, Project staff established them with the help of local administration;
- All other activities planned for the Inception period have been implemented satisfactorily.

(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 issue: The Project is gender-mainstreamed. However, given the 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	26/06/15
2	Prioritise the completion and submission of the Inception Rider to the EUD by the end of June 2015	Concern Worldwide	Immediate
3	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	Concern Worldwide	Immediately and for the duration of the Project
4	Prioritise the holding of regular meetings and the sharing of project documents with the State Authorities by the Programme Manager and his team in order to update them of any plans, progress and challenges affecting project implementation	Concern Worldwide	Immediately and for the remainder of the Project
5	Prioritise the establishment and operationalisation of a State-Level Steering Committee which 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 refresher training of County-level staff in agronomic practices 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
7	Strengthen the M&E function of the Project by ensuring that data is collected and analysed regularly. All data collected and analysed should be shared with the AFIS team at 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
8	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 Cash for Assets activities	Concern Worldwide	Regularly
9	Develop a Project exit and sustainability strategy 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, input supply, data and information management, 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 June 2015 Monitoring Visit
Overall Objective	Empower returnees, IDPs and vulnerable populations to improve food security, enhance livelihoods and increase their resilience to disasters	% of children wasted (acute under-nutrition) Household Dietary Diversity Score (number of individual foods or food groups consumed by target households in the past 24 hours) Average coping strategy index score during the hunger gap for targeted households	Too early in the life of the project for this to be assessed
Specific Objective	To improve the food and income security of returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host populations in Aweil West, Aweil North and Aweil Centre Counties of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State and reduce their vulnerability to malnutrition and natural disasters	Indicator 1: Average number of months during which a targeted household meets its minimum daily food requirements in a calendar year Indicator 2: Average household asset score Indicator 3: Seasonal workload of women (proportion of targeted women reporting a reduction in their productive work because of programme interventions)	Too early in the life of the project for this to be assessed
Expected Result 1	Enhanced and diversified food production and utilisation among returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host populations through improvements in farming (and food-processing) techniques, access to agricultural and veterinary services and knowledge of nutrition	Average yields (sun-dried) of Sorghum, Groundnuts, Simsim (Sesame) and Rice % of targeted households with an agricultural surplus to trade Percentage of households consuming 4 or more food groups (minimum dietary diversity) % of beneficiaries who, if needed, could have accessed veterinary services in the last 12 months	Too early in the life of the project for this to be assessed
Expected Result 2	Improved household income for returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host populations in Aweil West, Aweil North and Aweil Centre Counties of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State through income generation and improved market access	Average yearly income of targeted households % of targeted households engaging in income-generating activities % of targeted beneficiaries who are members of marketing groups	Too early in the life of the project for this to be assessed
Expected Result 3	Reduced vulnerability of returnees, IDPs, poor households and their communities to shocks and hazards	Proportion of community disaster risk reduction plans fully implemented Number and/or km of community infrastructure improved to reduce vulnerability to hazards (dykes, market stalls etc.) % of beneficiary households surveyed using the infrastructure constructed	This activity will start with Training of Trainer (ToT) sessions. Trainees shall then in turn go out to train community members and design disaster risk reduction (DRR) plans
Activities to produce Expected Result 1	A1.1 Project Management A1.1.1 Staff recruitment A1.1.2 Project inception meeting/training for partners A1.1.3 Establish and train project management advisory committees at State and Payam level A1.1.4 Conduct project management advisory committee meetings at State	Means <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Resources • Equipment • Training kits • Cash • Office space • Furniture • Logistical support • Stationery • Agricultural inputs • Transport 	Recruitment of staff has been completed Inception meetings at County, Payam and Boma level have been conducted and a State-level meeting is planned for June Project management committees at Payam level have been identified and should be trained in the current quarter Meetings are yet to be held with the State Project Management Committee To be done in the current quarter since

	<p>and Payam level</p> <p>A1.2 Improved access to agricultural extension and livestock health services</p> <p>A1.2.1 Assess existing capacity of Lead Farmers and CAHWs</p> <p>A1.2.2 Train and equip Lead Farmers and CAHWs</p> <p>A1.2.3 Facilitate Lead Farmers and CAHWs to establish demonstration sites, train poor farmers and provide livestock health services</p> <p>A1.2.4 Conduct exchange visits and farmer field days</p> <p>A1.2.5 Establish a peer monitoring system of extension workers</p> <p>A1.2.6 Provide support supervision to lead farmers and CAHWs</p> <p>A1.2.7 Support the State Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperatives and Rural Development (SMAFCRD) to supervise and monitor extension and livestock health service provision</p> <p>A1.3 Improved hygiene and nutrition</p> <p>A1.3.1 Provide training materials for nutrition and IYCF</p> <p>A1.3.2 Conduct nutrition and IYCF training and support referrals</p> <p>A1.4 Improved and diversified access to seed and agro-veterinary inputs</p> <p>A1.4.1 Identify and support farmers interested in seed multiplication</p> <p>A1.4.2 Identify farmers and private agro-veterinary input dealers to participate in agro-veterinary input fairs</p> <p>A1.4.3 Conduct seasonal seed and agro-veterinary input fairs at Payam level and in selected Bomas</p> <p>A1.4.4 Establish collaboration with private sector input dealers to establish input outlets where none yet exist</p>		<p>identification has been completed</p> <p>Training is scheduled to take place in June</p> <p>it is planned for lead farmers to be assisted to establish the demonstration sites this month once training is done. CAHW kits are in the process of being procured</p> <p>Supervision support to be provided by Project staff and Government extension staff</p> <p>SMAFCRD staff have been supported with motorbikes and laptop computers by SORUDEV to facilitate the supervision of activities</p> <p>Discussions have been held with the Nutrition Team to support this activity</p> <p>Training to be conducted by the Nutrition Team (dates and times to be agreed)</p> <p>Groups are undergoing formation and once this is completed, those interested should be encouraged to request support</p>
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Activities to produce Expected Result 2	<p>A2.1 Temporary employment through CfW/VfW</p> <p>A2.1.1 Identify and prioritise infrastructure to be repaired or built</p> <p>A2.1.2 Identify beneficiaries for CfW/VfW activities</p> <p>A2.1.3 Execute the repair or construction of prioritised infrastructure</p> <p>A2.1.4 Establish an MoU for maintenance of the infrastructure with State and local Governments</p> <p>A2.2 Business skills, savings, marketing and small business development</p> <p>A2.2.1 Conduct Value Chain Analysis and select value chains</p> <p>A2.2.2 Establish Marketing Groups and support value chain addition</p> <p>A2.2.3 Form and train Marketing Groups in business skills</p> <p>A2.2.5 Support the establishment of village savings and loans associations (VSLAs)</p>		<p>Some Project areas have identified infrastructure for repair or construction while in other locations this has not started</p> <p>CfW and VfW activities should start in June after identification by community members</p>
Activities to produce Expected Result 3	<p>A3.1 Community-led Disaster Risk Reduction</p> <p>A3.1.1 Facilitate Community Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) and risk mapping</p> <p>A3.1.2 Facilitate the development and implementation of community disaster reduction and preparedness plans</p> <p>A3.1.3 Monitor the implementation of community disaster reduction plans</p>		<p>A value chain analysis has been conducted under SORUDEV and the Project intends to use the findings to roll out these activities (starting in the current quarter)</p> <p>ToT is being organised to train project staff to undertake CRVA</p>

Annex 2: List of Persons Met

Briefing/Introductory Meeting with Project Staff – Concern Worldwide Office, Nyamiell, Aweil West County				
Date	S/N°	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/N°	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/N°	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/N°	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/N°	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	Aduai 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/N°	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/N°	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/N ^o	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/N ^o	Full Name	Gender	Age	Title	Occupation
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/N^o	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

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 farmer	SORUDEV
			Aguat	Meeting with VSLA/Focus group/Lead farmer	
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



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



Meeting with the 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

PEOPLE IN NEED/CESVI – FSTP PROJECT

APRIL 2015

1. Project General Data

Contract beneficiary	People in Need (PIN)/CESVI
Project Title	“Resilient Agriculture for Improved Nutrition” (RAIN)
Project ref. CRIS	DCI-FOOD/2014/337-931
Date of visit	17 to 21 April 2015
Location	Aweil North and Aweil West Counties, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State
Monitoring Officer	Emmanuel Minari
Start date	12 September 2014
End date	11 November 2016

2. Financial data

Total EC contribution	€ 1,360,000 (equivalent to 85% of the total budget of € 1,600,000)
Total spent by project to date (EUR)	€ 565,000
Balance of funds released to date	€ 754,837
Anticipated date of next request/release of funds	Final quarter of 2015
Anticipated amount of next request/release of funds	€ 469,163

3. Monitoring data

3.1 Key findings/summary of progress

The project “Resilient Agriculture for Improved Nutrition” (RAIN) was designed to address food security among the poor and vulnerable in fragile situations. The project is implemented in Aweil West and North Counties in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State.

Overall Objective: Strengthened resilience, food and nutrition security of 6,040 vulnerable, hosting and returnee households (including 32,070 women, youth and children) living in conflict-affected areas of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State, South Sudan.

Specific Objective: Improved food production, utilisation and marketing capacity among poor livestock- and crop-producing households achieved through the more effective performance of agricultural service and input providers.

Target beneficiaries: vulnerable, hosting and returnee households, as follows:

- 1,000 households benefiting from Farmer/Pastoralist Field Schools;
- 2,000 households benefiting from vaccination campaigns;
- 1,200 households benefiting from the extension services of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs);
- 1,400 households benefiting from improved access to agricultural/veterinary inputs;
- 300 households benefiting from fishing support;
- 140 households benefiting from animal traction programmes.

This was the second monitoring mission to this project (following a first visit in October 2014). The mission is satisfied with the overall performance of the project in terms of work with project groups, local government authorities and the level of achievement of project targets. The mission was pleased to note that nearly all the key recommendations of the previous monitoring mission have either been addressed or are on course to being addressed. During this mission, the Inception Rider (which was submitted prior to the visit) was discussed with the Project Manager and his team and comments will be sent separately to the Task Manager at the Delegation of the European Union (EUD) for formal submission to PIN/CESVI.

The achievements under each result area can be summarised as follows:

Preparatory Activities

- The baseline survey has been carried out;
- Project inception/familiarisation workshops with key project stakeholders have been held.

Result 1: Sub-national officials, CAHWs, agricultural extension workers and private sellers have sufficient capacity to effectively respond to the needs of at least 5,600 (agro)pastoral households (including 29,700 women, youth and children).

- A Participatory Gaps and Strengths Assessment of the services provided by CAHWs, agricultural extension workers (AEWs) and staff of the State Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (SMoAF) and State Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (SMoARF) has also been conducted;
- Training, materials and logistical support have been provided to 70 CAHWs, AEWs and SMoARF and SMoAF staff focusing on increasing the proficiency and nutritional impact of their extension services:
 - 40 CAHWs and 30 AEWs have been trained;
 - 70 bicycles for CAHWs and AEWs have been purchased and distributed;
 - 6 motorcycles have been procured and provided to the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries departments of Aweil West and Aweil North Counties;
 - At the request of the SMoAF and following authorisation by the EUD, 2 County officials from Aweil North and West Counties are now being trained in agroforestry at the National Forestry Training Centre in Yei;
 - One laptop has been procured and provided to the SMoAF.
- The first phase of support to vaccination campaigns for averting animal losses has been completed and the second phase has been planned for November and December 2015. During the mission, the County Authorities from both Counties requested the project to support a vaccination campaign planned to be held in May 2015 with support from the national and State Government and the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). However, the Project Manager argued that there would not be enough time to organise the logistics and other activities;
- As regards technical and material support to existing and new shops selling agricultural inputs in underserved areas, a Market Assessment was conducted from December 2014 to February 2015 as a result of which shops in Udhum (veterinary services), Wedweil (agriculture), Marial Bai (agriculture), Pamat (agriculture), Nyamlell (agriculture and veterinary services) and Gok Machar (agriculture and veterinary services) were identified. In addition, the selection of shops in Ariath, the verification of supplies, a series of meetings with potential shop suppliers and agreements between key stakeholders will be completed during the next quarter. The mission was informed that security issues in Aweil West and Aweil North have impacted on this activity. As such, any further delays to promotion campaigns may necessitate the postponement of activities to September or October 2015. However, such delays are unlikely to affect supplies to the shops (expected to be completed by the end of June);
- The drafting and printing of vouchers that aim to enable 1,000 farming households (from Result 2) to access the agricultural (and veterinary) inputs sold by the shops is on-going. Distribution will be done according to agreement with the shop suppliers.

Result 2: 1,000 poor households have the means to improve the resilience, productivity, diversity, processing and marketing of their crop and livestock-based food production, especially during the lean period.

- The first phase of training of Farmer/Pastoralist Field Schools to increase the productivity, diversity and nutritional quality of their production (especially during the lean season) has been completed (12 training sessions for 25 FFS and 15 PFS). According to the team, the monitoring of production and income is on-going. The second phase of training will be held in October and November 2015. The main challenge is that some of the members lack initiative and practical experience, meaning some of the training will have to be repeated several times in order for them to become confident;
- The third cycle of promotion of animal traction for increased crop productivity has been completed in Aweil West while in Aweil North, the second cycle is on-going. Following the training, ploughs will be distributed provided that the cost-sharing conditions have been agreed between the project and the target groups (to be summarised in a signed contract). Most group members already have the initial down payment (SSP 300) which they will pay when they receive the ploughs. The agreement allows for payment by instalment;
- Over the next few months, the project will follow up on the distribution of the funds collected and agree on their use;
- Cash crop linkage between producers and markets is being encouraged and promoted;
- The provision of fishing equipment and know-how to the poorest households has been completed. The provision of training and material support to informal women's groups in food processing and preservation is on-going.

Result 3: 1,000 households that include women aged 15-49 and/or children under 2 have improved their hygiene and nutritional practices and reduced the risk of nutrient malabsorption.

- A series of participatory "Healthy Child Feeding Sessions" focusing on the application of good nutritional practices, a community-based behavioural change campaign on safe hygienic practices that reduce the risk of nutrient malabsorption and the process of

selection of 4 hygiene promoters are all on-going. In addition, the process of assessing beneficiary practices and training hygiene promoters will be undertaken after the assessment.

- Hygiene promoters will be trained in the following main topics:
 - The provision of boiled (sterilised) water to children and the use of hand-washing stations with soap;
 - The promotion of methods for the safe treatment of diarrhoea;
 - A significant increase in the number of infant and young child feeding (IYCF) sessions;
 - Support to the diversification of household food production and a reduction in external aid dependency;
 - Support to more effective screening and referral.

Result 4: At least 500 of the poorest households have prevented a deterioration of their food intake and created community assets for the strengthening of longer-term food security.

- The first phase of selection/verification of both beneficiaries and assets is on-going for water harvesting, flood protection and other Cash for Assets (CfA) works that aim to enhance the long-term food security and resilience of communities;
- Unconditional cash transfers for extremely vulnerable households are being put in place;
- The first phase of the beneficiary selection process has started and verification will be done by the end of the next quarter.

Main strengths:

- The design of the project is relevant and appropriate to local conditions;
- The project has an excellent relationship with the Local County/Government authorities;
- The local authorities have intimate knowledge of the project's activities and plans and a clear sense of ownership of the project. They are involved in the planning, supervision and monitoring of implementation (although this is sometimes coincidental, as to a large extent the project fills the space vacated by Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) Suisse whose FSTP project closed in April 2014;
- The target groups, especially the vegetable growers and animal traction groups, clearly appreciate the project activities and are motivated to use the support of the project to improve their livelihoods;
- The notion of project ownership and sustainability has been explained to project groups. In particular, the animal traction groups clearly understand that the ploughs will be given to them on a cost-recovery basis;
- Targeting of the project groups has been done very well, although the need remains to ensure that the groups clearly understand the aim of each activity;
- A County-level Project Steering Committee (PSC) has been formed and is operational. There is need to prepare some simple Terms of Reference that clarify the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder throughout the duration of project implementation. One of the key functions should be a quarterly project joint monitoring and review meeting at which progress and challenges are discussed and plans agreed for the next quarter;
- The project implementation is on track.

Main weaknesses:

- Working with the target beneficiary groups, who are mainly vulnerable, may present challenges (especially as regards project sustainability);
- As indicated in the previous monitoring report, the target of 5,000 beneficiary households is perhaps a little ambitious and both Implementing Partners (IPs) and the EUD will need to assess (at the end of the 6-month inception period) whether this is a manageable number;
- Some of the project indicators (as presented in the project logical framework) are vague and lack clarity and/or will be difficult to measure. This has been discussed with the project team and will be revised in the version of the logframe to be submitted with the Inception Rider;
- CfA works and unconditional cash transfers may present challenges during implementation. The project should approach these cautiously;
- Unconditional cash transfers for the target group of "extremely vulnerable households" are unlikely to generate any improvement in the financial circumstances of such households unless a percentage of the cash provided can be invested in goods and inputs other than consumables;
- While most vegetable growers are making a lot of cash, especially during the dry season, there are currently no Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) or income-generating activities (IGAs) included in the project. This was discussed with the Project Manager and due to budgetary implications, will subsequently be discussed with the leadership of PIN and CESVI to consider its inclusion in the Inception Rider;

- The Project has not developed an exit or sustainability strategy. There is need to develop this over the next few months.

The main conclusion of the mission is that the project is being managed well and that if the current momentum continues and the situation remains calm in terms of security, the project will achieve most of its targets and hopefully, will have a positive impact that may be sustainable. The mission however noted that while some of the project groups have understood the concept of cost sharing and/or cost recovery and most groups involved in vegetable production are generating income, they have not yet been introduced to the VSLA model. The mission has thus recommended to the Project Manager to consider introducing VSLAs (as a sustainability and exit strategy) to be incorporated into the Inception Rider.

3.2. Challenges which may adversely impact implementation and action taken to address problems

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by PIN/CESVI	Update to date (April 2015 Monitoring Visit)
<p>Harmonising implementation policy, particularly policy related to the provision of inputs, between PIN/CESVI and Concern Worldwide (IP for the South Sudan Rural Development project), whose methodology is based on the provision of inputs at a cost</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PIN/CESVI FSTP project and the Concern Worldwide (CWW) SORUDEV project cover the same geographical area (Aweil West and North Counties) and began operations three months apart (CWW in June 2014 and PIN/CESVI in September 2014), although each has a slightly different constituency and target group (with CWW targeting better off, small-scale farmers and PIN/CESVI targeting vulnerable subsistence farmers). - The SORUDEV project methodology is based on the provision of inputs at a cost, while PIN/CESVI wish to assist their partners through the provision of inputs either free of charge or at a subsidised rate. - While the two projects have a different target constituency it is unlikely that participating (or benefiting) farmers will be able to see or understand the nuanced difference between the two categories. The two projects are thus in danger of contradicting each other and in particular, PIN/CESVI may be perceived to undermine CWW with respect to the provision of inputs at a cost. - To address this issue, a meeting between senior staff of PIN/CESVI and CWW was organised (by EU Technical Assistance) at the CWW compound in Nyamlel, on 23 September 2014. Unfortunately, while the EU TA emphasised the need for harmony and stressed that only PIN/CESVI were in a position to exercise flexibility (as CWW are under clear instruction to supply all project inputs via the private sector and at full cost), PIN/CESVI could not be persuaded to follow suit. Instead, the two parties agreed to avoid conflict by operating, as far as possible, in different Bomas and to remain in contact with each other (including attendance at periodic coordination meetings convened on a regular basis). - It is not clear if this commitment will be honoured by the two organisations, but history and past experience suggest that contact and coordination will not occur without external prompting (from the EU). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A meeting on the “harmonisation of market support” was held on 14 April 2015 and attended by representatives of CWW, PIN/CESVI and Welthungerhilfe (WHH). - The findings were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently an overlap of shops supported by the SORUDEV and Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP) projects; • A list of traders to be supported will be shared; • Standardisation is required of the final criteria for the selection of shops between the two projects; • A means of mitigating the risks associated with investment by traders must be identified by the two projects (partial reimbursement, etc.); • Both PIN/CESVI and CWW are making an effort to sensitise beneficiaries, communities and authorities to the concept of shifting from relief to development. - The market support implemented by PIN/CESVI will focus not only on the distribution of vouchers (to vulnerable farmers), but also on the a wider promotion and marketing of agro-veterinary inputs. As such, for a small portion of households in Aweil West (575) and Aweil North (425), the real goal of this activity is the provision of inputs at a cost (as done by SORUDEV). - Other inputs provided by PIN/CESVI to beneficiary farmers consist mainly of training materials (with the big exception of the distribution of ox-ploughs, which will take place on a cost-recovery basis).
<p>Lack of experience in the area coupled with inadequate infrastructure and operational capacity on the ground</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unlike Concern Worldwide, which has been present on the ground in the northern areas of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State since the mid-1990s, PIN/CESVI have no history, track record or existing facilities in the area. This is not necessarily a problem as each organisation has to start somewhere; however, of potential significance are the lack of personal relationships with key Government officials and the absence of own facilities and infrastructure that could otherwise be used both at the discretion of the implementing consortium and to leverage recognition and acceptance from said Government officials and institutions. - With Welthungerhilfe (German Agro-Action) also seeking to expand the scale of its operations in Aweil West and Aweil North Counties (and thus to require full use of its Nyamlel compound facilities), it is likely that PIN/CESVI will be required to seek alternative accommodation and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PIN has since established (next to the German Agro-Action compound) its own facilities independently of FSTP funds. - The assets/items bought under the FSTP project will be handed over to partner bodies.

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by PIN/CESVI	Update to date (April 2015 Monitoring Visit)
	<p>an alternative base of operations in the area, sooner rather than later.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No FSTP funds can be used for this purpose (fencing, building construction etc.), while any compound assets bought for use during project implementation (such as generators and the V-Sat system) will be categorised as project assets and must be surrendered to partner bodies (e.g. the SMOAF and/or SMOARF) at project closure. The question thus arises as to whether PIN/CESVI have the commitment and resources to establish their own facilities independent of FSTP funding. 	
Weak capacity of local government (SMoAF and SMOARF) with respect to involvement in the planning and provision of extension services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An express objective of the RAIN project is for “sub-national officials, CAHWs and AEWs ... [to] have sufficient capacity to effectively respond to the needs of at least 5,180 (agro)pastoral households”, while project indicators include “a 30% increase in the average number of clients served by ... AEWs and suppliers”. Both of these suggest that the project will seek to strengthen the capacity of existing extension systems. - Unfortunately, the prevailing reality is that neither the SMOAF nor the SMOARF has enough staff to meet the needs of two development projects operating concurrently (FSTP RAIN and SORUDEV). As such, both projects may be compelled to establish extension systems that operate independent of local government, with all the consequences that this will entail as regards sustainability, funding, viability and longevity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The selection of new staff and the implementation of these activities are in complete coordination and are initially decided (and later verified) by the SMOAF and SMOARF. - The new CAHWs and AEWs are under direct supervision of the SMOAF and SMOARF.
Any new/additional challenges encountered since the last EU monitoring visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beneficiaries are not responsive without “participation allowances”. - Challenges have been raised to the daily CfA rate of 15 SSP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These may be kept as a “lunch refund”. - The rate may be adjusted to 25 SSP.

Key lessons learnt to date

A strongly rooted dependency syndrome exists and presents a challenge which can be addressed only through long-term integrated development projects that use a multi-sectoral approach with strong Government involvement in planning and implementation. In the short term the project will attempt to address this through sensitisation and continuous dialogue with the beneficiaries and members of the wider community. In addition, reinforcement of Government capacities will be undertaken in order to ensure that they clearly understand the meaning of the interventions and support and monitor the long-term process.

Exit and Sustainability Strategy

The high level of coordination and involvement of the authorities and other organisations working simultaneously in the area is working well and makes an effective contribution to project operations. While this is a good foundation for potential ownership and sustainability of the action, the project has not yet developed an exit or sustainability strategy. The mission thus advised the Project Manager and his team to prioritise this over the next six months.

Main Challenges:

- A strongly rooted dependency syndrome exists. RAIN primarily works with a single core target group of beneficiaries throughout the project period and is gradually changing their attitudes and practices;
- Beneficiaries are disorientated and do not clearly understand the objectives and mandate of non-Governmental organisations (NGOs). RAIN puts great effort into careful sensitisation and mobilisation;
- Beneficiaries insist on being paid a high “participation allowance”. Currently, RAIN contributes only 5 SSP per beneficiary for lunch during training sessions;
- There is poor coordination between NGOs and other agencies in the field. RAIN implementing agencies are members of all coordination mechanisms in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal.

3.3. Further actions required

- Increase coordination and the sharing of information with CWW (implementing partner of FSTP and SORUDEV) and the Danish Refugee Council (FSTP project) in order to harmonise FFS and VSLA methodologies and avoid the duplication of activities.

- Strengthen the capacity of the PSC to examine and review the current project design (including its logframe, work plan and budget), identify possible anomalies among planned results and indicators, and propose changes to the design in a project Inception Report to be submitted within 6 months of the date of project start-up.
- In line with 1 (above), prepare a simple set of ToR for the PSC that clarifies the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder throughout the duration of project implementation. One of the key functions should be a quarterly project joint monitoring and review meeting at which progress and challenges are discussed and plans agreed for the next quarter.
- Ensure that regular consultation and effective coordination meetings are convened between CWW and Welthungerhilfe who are implementing FSTP and SORUDEV projects in the same).
- Introduce VSLA activities into the project as a means of reducing dependence on free inputs and laying the foundations for the sustainability of some of the activities/services being provided by the project, as well as facilitating access to finances for IGAs and other socio-economic needs. This was discussed with the Project Manager and due to budgetary implications, will in turn be discussed with the leadership of PIN and CESVI to consider its inclusion in the Inception Rider.
- Strengthen the role of the PSC via increased coordination with State and County governments, especially on joint planning and monitoring, during the remaining period of implementation.
- Conduct refresher training courses and mentorship for national staff, project groups and relevant Government personnel as appropriate.
- Prioritise the development of a simple and clear exit and sustainability strategy. This should be done jointly by PIN/CESVI, County authorities, Government and each project group and should aim: a) to ensure that each activity has been/is owned by the project group; b) identify which activities have the best chance of becoming sustainable (in addition to the support required to ensure such sustainability); and c) identify potential areas of weakness and/or need for technical support (e.g. extension services, VSLA groups and IGAs) which must be addressed by Government or other agencies (such as local partners of SORUDEV and FSTP).
- Revise Inception Rider, (including the logframe, narrative proposal and the budget) in line with comments made during the monitoring mission and other comments that will be formally submitted by EUD

3.4 Changes to project context

2014 was characterised by economic instability and unprecedented levels of inflation (largely due to limited access to foreign currency, deteriorating road conditions and the consequent shortage of essential supplies), especially in “up-country” locations (e.g. Aweil and Wau) from which the majority of inputs destined for Nyamlel and Aweil West and North Counties are sourced. If current economic conditions continue, fixed exchange rates and rampant inflation will quickly undermine project budgets and erode purchasing power (providing further justification for the urgent preparation of a project “Inception Report” and contract addendum request).

3.5 Progress toward achieving project objectives

(See details in Annex 2 – below)

Nearly all the activities planned for implementation during the inception period have been implemented successfully.

3.6 Cross-cutting and other issues

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

Gender issues: Nothing to report this early in the project cycle.

4. Summary of follow-up actions and responsibilities

	Action to be taken	Responsible	Deadline
1.	Circulate a draft monitoring report	Emmanuel Minari	15 May 2015
2.	Strengthen the capacity of the PSC to examine and review the current project design (including its logframe, work plan and budget), identify possible anomalies among planned results and indicators, and propose changes to the design in a project Inception Report to be submitted within 6 months of the date of project start-up.	PIN/CESVI	Within the next 6 months
3.	In line with 3 (above), prepare a simple set of ToR for the PSC that clarifies the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder throughout the duration of project implementation. One of the key functions should be a quarterly project joint monitoring and review meeting at which progress and challenges are discussed and plans agreed for the next quarter.	PIN/CESVI	Within the next 4 months
4.	Ensure that regular consultation and coordination meetings are convened between CWW and Welthungerhilfe (FSTP and SORUDEV projects).	PIN/CESVI	Continuous and regular
5.	Introduce VSLA activities into the project as a means of reducing dependence on free inputs and laying the foundations for the sustainability of some of the activities/services being provided by the project, as well as facilitating access to finances for IGAs and other socio-economic needs. This was discussed with the Project Manager and due to budgetary implications, will in turn be discussed with the leadership of PIN and CESVI to consider its inclusion in the Inception Rider.	PIN/CESVI	Immediate

6.	Increase coordination and the sharing of information with CWW (implementing partner of FSTP and SORUDEV) and the Danish Refugee Council (FSTP project) in order to harmonise FFS and VSLA methodologies and avoid the duplication of activities.	PIN/CESVI	Regular
7.	Strengthen the role of the PSC via increased coordination with State and County governments, especially on joint planning and monitoring, during the remaining period of implementation.	PIN/CESVI	Regular
8.	Conduct refresher training courses and mentorship for national staff, project groups and relevant Government personnel as appropriate.	PIN/CESVI	Immediate
9.	Prepare a clear exit and sustainability strategy. This should be done jointly by PIN/CESVI, County authorities, Government and each project group and should aim: a) to ensure that each activity has been/is owned by the project group; b) identify which activities have the best chance of becoming sustainable (in addition to the support required to ensure such sustainability); and c) identify potential areas of weakness and/or need for technical support (e.g. extension services, VSLA groups and IGAs) which must be addressed by Government or other agencies (such as local partners of SORUDEV and FSTP).	PIN/CESVI	Within the next 4 months

Signature: Emmanuel Minari

Date: 25 May 2015

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

Animal Traction and Pastoral Field School - Adhal Village, Adhal Boma, Malual North Boma, Aweil North County				
Date	No	Name	Sex	Designation
18/04/2015	1	Dut Ariath Tong	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	2	Majak Piol Angang	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	3	Akech Gau Gau	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	4	Dut Garang Piol	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	5	Ayai Manydeng Kuom	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	6	Yar Garang Chimam	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	7	Atak Diang Wal	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	8	Deng Yar Majok	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	9	Duk Achuth Kuot	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	10	Ayai Kuot Ayai	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	11	Atak Ajech Kuany	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	12	Akot Wal Kuach	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	13	Makom Dut Thuc	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	14	Lual Bol Deng	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	15	Dut Kuol Akok	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	16	Majok Majok Lual	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	17	Bol Amwien Wal	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	18	Deng Athian Ayai	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	19	Lual Deng Yuot	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	20	John Garang Agiu	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	21	Wieu Deng Wal	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	22	Lual Ngor Ater	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	23	Deng Jor Deng	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	24	Mabior Noon Deng	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
18/04/2015	25	Dut Ariath Ariath	M	Member – Pastoral Field School

Vegetable Production Group. Ngapakot Village, Ngapakot Boma, Ariath Payam, Aweil North County				
Date	No	Name	Sex	Designation
18/04/2015	1	Mary Apiou Abuoth	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	2	Kuol Baak Kuol	M	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	3	Deng Nhomchot	M	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	4	Mel Deng Yout	M	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	5	Deng Mawien Mawein	M	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	6	Akon Chan Akech	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	7	Agok Kuot Dau	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	8	Abang Diing Malong	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	9	Anger Akot Kur	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	10	Nyibol Garang Chiech	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	11	Abuk Chan Hou	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	12	Aluat Piol Ngong	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	13	Agueer Chan Mathet	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	14	Aweng Mawein Dut	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	15	Angueech Majak Dut	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	16	Abang Deng Majak	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	17	Achok Diing Deng	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	18	Achol Bol Kawach	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	19	Abuk Barjok Akoon	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	20	Aguak Dut Keyang	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	21	Arek Akot Garang	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	22	Abuk Kuach Anei	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	23	Abuk Dut Anyuon	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	24	Ayok Thiep Akech	F	Member – Horticulture Field School
18/04/2015	25	Awien Deng Anei	F	Member – Horticulture Field School

County Agriculture Department Staff, Aweil North County				
Date	No	Name	Sex	Designation
18/04/2015	1	Peter Bol	M	Acting Senior Agriculture Inspector
18/04/2015	2	James Garang	M	Vet Senior Inspector
18/04/2015	3	Francis Kuol	M	Senior Inspector of Fisheries

Mapertit Village, Akewic Boma, Gomjeu Center Payam, Aweil West County				
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Date	S/No	Name of beneficiary	Sex	Designation
20/04/2015	1	Ayii Deng Ayii	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	2	Ungom Chan Majak	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	3	Dut Tong Luar	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	4	Yel Yel Yel	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	5	Deng Thiel Deng	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	6	Chan Madut Anyau	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	7	Malek Noon Tong	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	8	Malek Kuot Ayii	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	9	Majok Maduok Waya	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	10	Ajang Akuar Angara	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	11	Ayii Aciber Ayii	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	12	Achol Bol Tong	F	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	13	Anyang Angon Mayuol	F	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	14	Abuk Mou Mou	F	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	15	Abuk Alich Deng	F	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	16	Ahok Duang Yor	F	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	17	Kur Garan Ayii	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	18	Ater Piol Aluat	F	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	19	Deng Luar Autiak	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	20	Nyibol Anguei Aguer	F	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	21	Abuk Akok Akok	F	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	22	Deng Tong Duang	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	23	Mou Kuac Mou	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	24	Majok Deng Wieu	M	Member – Pastoral Field School
20/04/2015	25	Warweng Deng Warweng	M	Member – Pastoral Field School

Cholcinthok Village, Cholcinthok Boma, Gomjuer Payam, Aweil West County

Date	No	Name of beneficiary	Sex	Designation
20/04/2015	1	David Garang Ngong	M	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	2	Achala Wol Machol	f	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	3	Bol Gop Deng	f	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	4	Abuk But But	f	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	5	John Akech Akol	M	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	6	Ahok Deng Machak	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	7	Najuo Agel Diing	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	8	Mary Adut Manyang	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	9	Mary Abuk Kuot	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	10	Garang Akot Kuol	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	11	Akejeng Buolo Door	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	12	Mary Ahok Aguer	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	13	Ameel Maleek Uchan	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	14	Aluad Deng Akok	M	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	15	Abuk Awech Baak	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	16	Ngong Akol Ngong	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	17	Alual Rang Malek	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	18	Akuny Aken Majok	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	19	Ayok Kuac Kuac	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	20	Arek Majak Dut	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	21	Nyanut Majok Majok	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	22	Akuol Dhum Ghop	M	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	23	Agol Mel Akol	F	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	24	Achur Apiin Apiin	M	Member – Horticulture FFS
20/04/2015	25	Nyibol Deng Luar	F	Member – Horticulture FFS

County Agriculture Department Staff, Aweil West County

Date	No	Name	Sex	Designation
20/04/2015	1	Augustino Aguoth Lueth	M	Senior Inspector of Livestock and Fisheries
20/04/2015	2	Peter Akol	M	Agriculture Officer
20/04/2015	3	James Amei Matiok	M	Inspector of Fisheries

Project Staff – PIN & CESVI

Date	No	Name	Sex	Designation
17 to 21 April 2015	1	Michel	M	Project Manager (Incoming)

	2	Matthew	M	Field Coordinator – Aweil West County
17 to 21 April 2015	3	Peter	M	Field Coordinator – Aweil North County
17 to 21 April 2015	4	Angelo Majak Antiek	M	PIN – Extension Officer

Annex 2: Progress toward achieving project objectives

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement to date(April 2015 Monitoring Visit)
<p>Overall Objective Strengthened resilience, food and nutrition security of 5,580 vulnerable, hosting and returnee households (including 29,630 women, youth and children) living in conflict-affected areas of Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State, South Sudan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduction in the proportion of assisted households in the highest Coping Strategy Index score category: by 40% 	<p>No data available</p>
<p>Specific Objective Improved food production, utilisation and marketing capacity among poor livestock- and crop-producing households achieved through the more effective performance of agricultural service and input providers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % of households participating in Farmer Field Schools which began growing at least two or more promoted nutrient-rich crops: 70% ▪ Average increase in the individual dietary diversity of women and children under 5: 1 score 	<p>Roughly 90% of households still cultivate at least two or more promoted nutrient-rich crops No data available. OVI relates mainly to Result 3 (not yet started)</p>
<p>Results R1: Sub-national officials, CAHWs, agricultural extension workers and private sellers have sufficient capacity to effectively respond to the needs of at least 5,180 (agro)pastoral households (including 27,500 women, youth and children) R2: 1,000 poor households have the means to improve the resilience, productivity, diversity, processing and marketing of their crop and livestock-based food production, especially during the lean period. R3: 1,000 households including women aged 15-49 and/or children under 2 have improved their hygiene and nutritional practices and reduced the risk of nutrient malabsorption R4: 800 (as per revised figure in inception rider) of the poorest households have prevented a deterioration of their food intake and created community assets for the strengthening of longer-term food security.</p>	<p>1.1 % of trained officials, extension workers and suppliers who passed conducted practical post-tests: 70% (R1) 1.2 Increase in the average number of clients served by extension workers and suppliers: 30% (R1) 2.1 % of households which know where to locally purchase seeds and veterinary drugs: 75% (R2) 2.2 % of trained households which passed the practical post-tests: 75% (R2) 3.1 % of caretakers reporting to follow at least 3 of 5 promoted key nutrition practices: 60% (R3) 3.2 % of child caregivers and food preparers practising appropriate hand-washing behaviour has increased: by 20% (R3) 4.1 % of households which used 70% or more of the earned cash for purchasing essential food items: 90% (R4)</p>	<p>1.1 100% of the trainees passed the practical post-tests 1.2 Data not available (collection of data on-going) 2.1 Baseline data: 8.8%. Market support and voucher distribution will start in the coming months 1.2 Test to be conducted at the end of the second phase of training Data not available. Result 3 activities will start in the coming months 3 % of child caregivers and food preparers practising appropriate hand-washing behaviour has increased by 20% (R3) Data not available. Result 3 activities will start in the coming months 4 % of households which used 70% or more of the earned cash for purchasing essential food items: 90% (R4) Data not available. Result 4 activities will start in the coming months</p>
<p>Activities A1.1 Participatory gap and strength assessment of the services provided by CAHWs, AEWs, SMoARF and SMoAF officials (R1) A1.2 Training, material and logistical support to CAHWs, AEWs, SMoARF and SMoAF officials focusing on increasing the proficiency and nutritional impact of their extension services (R1) A1.3 Support to vaccination campaigns (R1)</p>	<p>Required Means: <u>National Staff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Area Coordinators (2 x 100%) ▪ Field Officers (9 x 100%) ▪ Health and Hygiene Extension Officers (4 x 100%, 7 months only) ▪ Finance Officer (2 x 40%) ▪ Finance and Administration Officers (2 x 80%) ▪ Logisticians (2 x 40%) ▪ Drivers (2 x 80%) 	<p>Activities completed/on-going: A1.1: Completed A1.2: Training of 40 CAHWs and 30 AEWs Distribution of 70 bicycles to CAHWs and AEWs Distribution of 6 motorcycles to Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in Aweil West and North Support to 2 SMoAF/County officials for training in Yei Distribution of 1 laptop to SMoAF A1.3: First phase completed A1.4: Market Assessment conducted from December 2014 to February 2015 Udhum (vet), Wedweil (agro), Marial Bai (agro), Pamat (agro), Nyamlel (agro/vet) and Gok Machar (agro/vet) were identified</p>

<p>A1.4 Technical and material support to existing and new shops selling agricultural (including veterinary) inputs in the most underserved areas (R1)</p> <p>A1.5 Provision of vouchers to familiarise 1,400 farming households with how to access the agricultural (including veterinary) inputs sold by the shops (R1)</p> <p>A2.1 Farmer/Pastoralist Field Schools focusing on increasing the productivity, diversity and nutritional quality of farmers' produce, especially during the lean season (R2)</p> <p>A2.2 Promotion of animal traction for increased crop productivity (R2)</p> <p>A2.3 Promotion and support to the collective marketing of cash crops (R2)</p> <p>A2.4 Provision of fishing equipment and know-how to the poorest households (R2)</p> <p>A2.5 Training and material support to women's groups in food processing and preservation (R2)</p> <p>A3.1 Series of participatory "Healthy Child Feeding Sessions" focusing on the application of good nutritional practices (R3)</p> <p>A3.2 Community-based behavioural change campaign on safe hygienic practices that reduce the risk of nutrient malabsorption (R3)</p> <p>A4.1 Cash-for-assets (CfA) works enhancing communities' long-term food security and resilience (R4)</p> <p>A4.2 Unconditional cash transfers for extremely vulnerable households (R4)</p>	<p>Expatriate Staff (largely existing staff):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Manager (1 x 80%, 1 x 50%) ▪ Finance Manager (1 x 40%, 1 x 20%) ▪ Country Director (2 x 20%) ▪ HQ security, finance, compliance and technical staff <p><u>Logistics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 vehicles in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal (new) ▪ 2 vehicles in Juba (existing) ▪ 10 motorcycles (8 new, 2 existing) <p><u>Offices:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shared office in Juba (40%) ▪ Shared office in Nyamlel (60%) <p><u>Studies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline survey ▪ Participatory market survey ▪ Participatory hazard mapping ▪ Mid-Term and Final Evaluations 	<p>A1.5: Drafting/printing of vouchers on-going</p> <p>A2.1: First phase completed (12 training sessions in 25 FFS and 15 PFS) Monitoring of production/income on-going</p> <p>A2.2: Aweil West: third cycle completed Aweil North: second cycle on-going</p> <p>A2.3: Linkage between producers and markets encouraged</p> <p>A2.4: Completed</p> <p>A2.5: On-going</p> <p>A3.1-A3.2: Selection of 4 hygiene promoters on-going</p> <p>A4.1: First phase of asset selection/verification on-going First phase of beneficiary selection/verification on-going</p> <p>A4.2: First phase of beneficiary selection</p>
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Annex 3: Programme Schedule

FSTP Project
RESILIENT AGRICULTURE FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION

FIELD VISIT PROGRAMME

Day		Tentative programme
Friday 17 April 2015	Morning	Flight
	Afternoon	Small introductory meeting/rest
Saturday 18 April 2015	Morning	AWEIL NORTH Majakbaai: Animal Traction Adhal: Pastoralist Field School Ngapakot: Farmer Field School Nyinameeth: Farmer Field School
	Afternoon	Meeting with Aweil North Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock departments
Monday 20 April 2015	Morning	AWEIL WEST Akewic: Animal Traction Akuakrel: Farmer Field School Langaken: Farmer Field School Cholcintok: Farmer Field School
	Afternoon	Meeting with Aweil West Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock departments
Tuesday 21 April 2015	Morning	Meeting and discussion of the Inception Rider
	Afternoon	
Wednesday 22 April 2015	Morning	Flight

Annex 4: Picture Gallery



Above: Vegetable garden by Ngapakot Horticulture Group



Below: Members of Ngapakot Vegetable Production Group during a meeting with EU monitor



Above: 2nd and 3rd Photos (centre and far-right) member of Pastoral Field School at Adhal Village.
In 1st Photo (far left) are: Michel (Project Manager); Emmanuel (EU Monitor); Mathew (Field Coordinate- Aweil North County)



Above: Photos taken during visit at Akewic Village, Aweil West County



GRANT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT

PEOPLE IN NEED / CESVI – FSTP PROJECT

SEPTEMBER 2014

1. Project General Data

Contract beneficiary	People in Need (PIN) / CESVI
Project Title	“Resilient agriculture for improved nutrition” (RAIN)
Project ref. CRIS	DCI-FOOD/2014/337-931
Date of visit	19 th – 21 st September 2014
Location	Aweil North and Aweil West Counties, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State
Monitoring Officer	Steven Hind
Start date	12/09/2014
End date	11/11/2016

2. Financial data

Total EC contribution	€ 1,360,000 (being equivalent to 85% of the total budget of € 1,600,000)
Total spent by project to date (Euro)	Info to be provided by IP
Balance of funds released to date	€ 754,837
Anticipated date of next request/release of funds	Final quarter 2015
Anticipated amount of next request/release of funds	€ 469,163

3. Monitoring data

3.1 Summary of progress / key findings

- “People in Need” is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation based on the ideas of humanism, freedom, equality and solidarity, that considers human dignity and freedom to be its core values and believes that people anywhere in the world have a right to make decisions about their lives and to share in the rights expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- The “People in Need Organization” was established in 1992 by a group of war and foreign correspondents who were no longer satisfied simply reporting world events at home in the Czech Republic. Under the leadership of Jaromír Štětina, a group of journalists from the Lidové noviny daily decided to form a humanitarian team called ‘Epicentrum’, who organised a charity collection to alleviate the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh (the ethnic Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan). The aid was transported to Karabakh’s hospitals, while an eyewitness testimony about the war was brought back to the Czech Republic by a group of volunteers.
- By the end of the year (1992) the relief programme had become a part of the Lidové noviny Foundation, which then initiated the “Week for Bosnia” campaign and sent out the first Czech humanitarian supplies to that war-ravaged country.
- Gradually, over the years, the “People in Need Organization” became established as a professional humanitarian organisation striving to provide aid in troubled regions and supporting adherence to human rights around the world.
- “People in Need” strives for an open, informed, engaged and responsible society able to address problems at home as well as in the world. It wishes to actively participate in shaping a society, where cultural, ethnic, racial and other differences are a source of enrichment rather than conflict.

- “People in Need” (PIN) has, therefore, positioned itself as an intrinsic part of civil society, working through the personal initiative and activity of hundreds of employees and volunteers both in the Czech Republic and in dozens of other countries, using financial and moral support obtained from individuals, businesses, governments and international institutions.
- The scope of PIN activities, e.g. particular areas of intervention and priorities, are determined with respect to the level of urgency and PINs capacity to deliver change and impact.
- PIN has chosen to get involved in South Sudan, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal State in particular, because it feels that its actions can “make a real difference” to current conditions.
- PIN’s partner Cesvi was established in Italy in 1985.
- Cesvi is a secular, independent association, working for global solidarity.
- In the acronym Cesvi, the words *cooperazione e sviluppo* (co-operation and development) underline the fact that Cesvi bases its philosophy on the idea of giving the recipients of aid a leading role in its application, working together for their own benefit. The values that guide Cesvi include the moral principle of human solidarity and the ideal of social justice, transformed, in this instance, into humanitarian aid and development, reinforcing an affirmation of universal human rights.
- Cesvi believes strongly that helping the underprivileged in developing countries, or those in difficulty due to war, natural calamities and environmental disasters, does not help only those who suffer, but contributes also to the well-being of all on the planet. It is for this reason that Cesvi is strongly committed to making sure that international aid does not become mere charity, nor influenced by the self-interest of the donor.
- Cesvi assistance to people in need around the world can be divided into three main categories:
 - Provision of immediate assistance to ensure survival and to overcome emergencies;
 - Rehabilitation and reconstruction of systems destroyed by war or natural calamities;
 - Co-operation programs and projects for development of underprivileged social groups and poor communities.
 The RAIN project might be said to fit into all these categories.
- In Italy and Europe as a whole, Cesvi carries out educational programs to develop global solidarity awareness, to increase the pool of donors and volunteers and to influence private companies and public institutions to support co-operation projects for development.
- To attain its objectives, Cesvi follows a set of guiding principles:
 1. “To recognize the needs and aspirations of local communities; respecting their culture, traditions and customs and to look for dialogue and collaboration with their organizations (partnership)”.
 2. “To work impartially for the needs of others, without distinction of sex, race, culture, or creed, but paying greatest attention to those most at risk: children, women, the elderly and the underprivileged”.
 3. “To promote forms of development leading to economic independence: environmental sustainability and respect for human rights”.
 4. “To act pragmatically at all times, critically assessing the appropriateness and efficiency of its efforts to reach its defined objectives, also taking into account the satisfaction of the beneficiaries and of all those involved”.
 5. “To ask for private donations, giving as much information as possible about fund-raising objectives and the results obtained (self-financing)”.
 6. “To manage funds as efficiently as possible, keeping organisational costs within acceptable limits and sending as much as possible of the funds to the beneficiaries (efficiency)”.
 7. “To audit and publish its annual accounts, clearly reporting on the objectives proposed; results obtained and any corrective action taken (transparency)”.
 8. “To recognize the value of volunteer work and to provide information and training such as to allow collaborators and volunteers to reach their full potential (motivation)”.
 9. “To assess collaborators on the basis of their sense of responsibility and their merit”.
- The FSTP “RAIN” project constitutes the first time that PIN and the PIN / Cesvi partnership have received funding from the EU Delegation in South Sudan.
- At the time of the TA monitoring visit the project was a mere few days old (in the first month of a scheduled 26 months of project implementation), so the main purpose of the visit was to assess PIN / Cesvi’s operational preparedness and to broker discussions with Concern Worldwide, EU implementing partner for the related SORUDEV programme.

Main strengths

Under the circumstances it may be premature to comment on main strengths and weaknesses, however, preliminary indications suggest the following:

- Project design is relevant and appropriate to local conditions (whether coincidentally or accidentally), as, to a large extent, the project fills the space vacated by VSF Suisse whose FSTP project closed in April 2014.

- For example: PIN / Cesvi were advised to allow the project contract to come into force in October or November (2014) in order to ensure that the 26-months project operational period would encompass two full agricultural growing seasons (2015 and 2016). However, the consortium requested the EU Delegation for permission to commence operations in September (2014) in order to initiate veterinary services and to participate in livestock vaccination campaigns and to be ready to engage in dry season vegetable production (on river banks) and in fishing activities from the outset of the 2014 / 2015 dry season (November to May): much the same activities as previously implemented by VSF Suisse.
- Given the timing of the agreed starting date for the PIN / Cesvi RAIN project, the implementing consortium has ample time to prepare (e.g. to recruit staff, organise activities, preposition inputs etc.) before the start of the next rain-fed agricultural season in April 2015.
- Expected results from the RAIN project are as follows:
 - o “Result 1: Sub-national officials, community animal health workers (CAHWs), agricultural extension workers (AEWs) and private sellers have sufficient capacity to effectively respond to the needs of at least 5,180 (agro)pastoral households (incl. 27,500 women, youth and children)”.
 - o “Result 2: 1,000 poor households have the means required for improving the resilience, productivity, diversity, processing and marketing of their crop and livestock-based food production, especially during the lean period”.
 - o “Result 3: 1,000 households with women of reproductive age and children under 2 have improved their hygiene and nutritional practices and reduced the risk of nutrient malabsorption”.
 - o “Result 4: 800 poorest households have prevented a deterioration of their food intake and created community assets for strengthening longer-term food security”.
- As of the time of the monitoring visit the following initiatives are either planned or have already been realised:
 - o A temporary (joint) project base (PIN / Cesvi) has been established in the Welthungerhilfe (German Agro-Action) compound in Nyamlel (to be replaced, in due course, by a PIN / Cesvi base, most likely situated in the plot a-joining the current German Agro-Action compound).
 - o Selection of payams (12) and bomas has already commenced, taking into consideration the operational area (payams and bomas) selected by Concern Worldwide under the EU-funded SORUDEV project.
 - o Recruitment of project staff is almost complete, comprising a cross section of programme personnel (who will participate in project implementation) and administrative personnel (who will be responsible for project management).
 - o A baseline study is planned (and will be conducted in 15 target and 15 comparison villages). The baseline report is expected to be published in February 2015. The results of the baseline survey will, presumably, be used to shape a revised and measurable project log frame.
 - o Familiarisation workshops are also planned (to be conducted in Aweil, Gok Machar and Nyamlel in October 2014).
 - o An assessment of participatory gaps and strengths in the services provided by CAHWs, AEWs, State Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (SMoAF) and State Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (SMoARF) officials, will be undertaken before the end of 2014 (for CAHWs in Aweil West; CAHWs in Aweil North, AEWs from Aweil West and AEWs from Aweil North).
 - o Training, material and logistics support will be provided to specific CAHWs, AEWs, SMoARF and SMoAF officials (25 CAHWs and 15 AEWs from Aweil West and 15 CAHWs and 15 AEWs in Aweil North), focusing mainly on technical issues, the FFS / PFS approach and facilitation and increasing the proficiency and nutritional impact of the extension services provided in the two counties.
 - o Support will be provided to vaccination campaigns, supervised by County-level Animal Resources Depts. (vaccines to be provided by FAO).
 - o 25 FFSs and 15 PFSs will be established in 25 villages across 12 payams, focusing on increasing the productivity, diversity and nutritional quality of farmers’, especially off-season, production.
 - o Promotion of fisheries (on Lol River, as water levels begin to fall in the period between November and February) will be a priority dry season activity. Fishing equipment (fishing kits) and know-how will be provided to 300 poor households (150 hhs in Aweil West and 150 hhs in Aweil North counties). “Know-how” will comprise 3-days training, focusing mostly on sustainable fishing practices, fish preservation and marketing.
 - o Mobilisation and selection of beneficiaries to participate in promotion of animal traction for increased crop productivity will be organised in advance of the start of the 2015 agricultural season, starting (preparation stage) in April / May.
 - o A county-level Project Steering Committee will be formed.

Main weaknesses

- The target beneficiary group of more than 5,000 households is, perhaps, a little on the high side and both the IP and EU Delegation will need to assess (at the end of the six-months inception period) if this is a manageable number.

- As far as possible, in order to be fully consistent with the input strategy to be promoted under the SORUDEV programme (implemented in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State by Concern Worldwide), project inputs should be made available to target beneficiaries through private, agro-vet dealers; which is likely to be a major challenge (to PIN / Cesvi and Concern Worldwide alike), given that the main urban centres in the project area (Nyamlel, Gok Machar, Wedweil etc.) are small and largely lacking formal, organised input suppliers. Provision of “technical and material support to existing and new shops with agricultural (incl. veterinary) inputs in the most underserved areas” will therefore, be difficult in the extreme.
- The existing extension system currently in place in Aweil West and Aweil North counties is weak, largely due to chronic under-funding / under-staffing. This is unlikely to change during the period of project implementation, meaning that any extension systems created by the project will be established outside the government system, prompting concerns that they will be artificial, temporary and unsustainable in the long run.
- A number of project indicators (as presented in the project log frame) are vague and lack clarity or will be difficult to measure. For example:
 - o “increase in the average number of clients served by the extension workers and suppliers: 30%”. Is this “government extension workers”, whose number is unlikely to increase during the duration of the project, or project-specific extension workers, whose existence will, presumably, be contingent on project implementation and funding and who will, therefore, cease to function at project closure?
 - o “% of trained households which passed practical post-test: 75%”. What is the “post-test”?
 - o “% of child caregivers and food preparers with appropriate hand washing behaviour has increased: by 20%”. How will this be measured?

As such, a review and revision of the project log frame may be advisable at the end of the inception period.
- No information is provided on how the project nutrition component will interact with existing health systems.
- Finally, implementation of “cash-for-assets works” may fail to enhance “communities’ long-term food security and resilience” unless mechanisms are put in place to ensure that distributed “cash-for-assets” is “invested” in “family-assets” rather than merely spent on the satisfaction of immediate needs.
- Similarly, “unconditional cash transfers for extremely vulnerable households” are unlikely to generate any improvement in the financial circumstances of “vulnerable households” unless a percentage of the cash provided can be invested in goods and inputs other than consumables!

3.2. Challenges which may adversely impact implementation and action taken to address problems

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by VSF Germany
<p>Harmonising implementation policy, particularly policy related to provision of inputs, between PIN / Cesvi and Concern Worldwide (IP for the SORUDEV project), whose methodology is based on provision of inputs at cost.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PIN / Cesvi FSTP project and the Concern Worldwide SORUDEV project cover the same geographical area (Aweil West and North counties) and commenced operations three months apart (CWW in June 2014 and PIN / Cesvi in September 2014), though each with a slightly different constituency and target group (CWW targeting better off, small-scale farmers and PIN / Cesvi targeting vulnerable subsistence farmers). - The SORUDEV project methodology is based on provision of inputs at cost while PIN / Cesvi wish to assist their partners through provision of inputs either free of charge or at a subsidised rate. - Though the two projects have a different target constituency it is unlikely that participating (or beneficiary) farmers will be able to see or understand the nuanced difference between the two categories. The two projects are, therefore, in danger of contradicting each other and, in particular, PIN / Cesvi may be perceived as undermining CWW with respect to provision of inputs at cost. - A meeting between senior staff of PIN / Cesvi and CWW was organised (by the EU TA) in the CWW compound, Nyamlel, on 23rd September (2014) to address the issue. Unfortunately, while the EU TA emphasised the need for harmony and stressed that only PIN / Cesvi were in a position to exercise flexibility (as CWW are under clear instructions to supply all project inputs via the private sector and at full cost), no agreement was reached with PIN / Cesvi to follow suite. Instead, the two parties agreed to avoid conflict by operating, as far as possible, in different bomas and to remain in contact with each other; attending periodic co-ordination meetings, convened on a regular basis. - It is not clear if this commitment will be honoured by the two

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by VSF Germany
	organisations, but history and past experience suggest that contact and co-ordination will not occur without external prompting (from EU).
Lack of experience in the area coupled with inadequate infrastructure and operational capacity on the ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unlike Concern Worldwide, who have been ever present, on-the-ground, in the northern parts of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, since the mid-1990s, PIN / Cesvi has neither history, track record nor existing facilities in the area. This isn't necessarily a problem as each organisation has to start somewhere. However, of potential significance are lack of personal relationships with key government officials and the absence of own facilities and infrastructure, that may be used both at the discretion of the implementing consortium and to leverage recognition and acceptance from said government officials and institutions. - With Welthungerhilfe (German Agro-Action) also seeking to expand the scale of its operations in Aweil West and Aweil North counties (and therefore to require full use of its Nyamlel compound facilities), it is likely that PIN / Cesvi will be required to seek alternative accommodation and an alternative base of operations in the area, sooner rather than later. - No FSTP funds can be used for this purpose (fencing, building construction etc.), while any compound assets bought for use during project implementation, such as generators, VSat system etc. will be categorised as project assets and must be surrendered to partner bodies (e.g. SMoAF and / or SMoARF) at project closure. The question, therefore, arises; does PIN / Cesvi have the commitment and resources to establish its own facilities, independent of FSTP funding?
Weak local government (State Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and State Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries) capacity, with respect to involvement in planning and provision of extension services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An express project objective of the RAIN project is "sub-national officials, CAHWs, agricultural extension workers have sufficient capacity to effectively respond to the needs of at least 5,180 (agro)pastoral households", while project indicators include "increase in the average number of clients served by extension workers and suppliers: 30%": both of which suggest that the project will seek to strengthen the capacity of existing extension systems. - Unfortunately, the prevailing reality, is that neither the SMoAF nor SMoARF has staff numbers sufficient to meet the needs of two development projects operating concurrently (FSTP RAIN and SORUDEV). As such, both projects may be compelled to establish extension systems that operate independent of local government, with all the consequences that this will entail with respect to sustainability, funding, viability and longevity etc.

3.3. Further actions required

- A functional and effective Project Steering Committee should be established as quickly as possible, in order both to involve local government institutions (SMoAF and SMoARF and possibly the SRRC) in project planning and management and in order to establish the development model on which PIN / Cesvi will operate in the area during the project lifetime.
- One task of the Steering Committee should be to examine and review the project design, including the project log frame, work plan and budget, to identify possible anomalies and other weaknesses (among planned results, indicators etc.) and to itemise these and the changes proposed to address them (making all indicators SMART and measurable on a continuous basis), in a project Inception Report to be submitted within six months of the date of project start-up.
- The Inception Report should also define the relationships that will be established between PIN / Cesvi and its RAIN project and other, formal actors operating in the health and nutrition sectors, viz. PIN / Cesvi's role in provision of "participatory 'Healthy Child Feeding Sessions' focusing on application of good nutritional practices" and implementation of a "community-based behavioural change campaign on safe hygienic practices reducing the risk of nutrient malabsorption". These actors should include, both county-level health Departments in Aweil

West and Aweil North and Concern Worldwide, who are local currently one of the main providers of primary health care and nutrition services within the area.

- The EU Delegation should endeavour to ensure that regular consultation and co-ordination meetings are convened between PIN / Cesvi (FSTP RAIN project) and Concern Worldwide (SORUDEV project). It might be beneficial to both parties if CWW were to be offered ex-officio status on the RAIN project Steering.

3.4 Changes to project context

- 2014 has been characterised by economic instability and unprecedented levels of inflation (largely due to limited access to foreign currency, deteriorating road conditions and the consequent shortage of essential supplies), especially in “up-country” locations such as Aweil and Wau, where most inputs destined for Nyamlel and the Aweil West and North Counties are sourced. If current economic conditions continue; fixed exchange rates and rampant inflation will quickly undermine project budgets and erode purchasing power (providing further justification for urgent preparation of a project “Inception Report” and contract addendum request).

3.5 Progress in achieving project objectives

(See details in Annex 2 - below)

PIN / Cesvi are currently something of an unknown quantity among FSTP implementing partners. With no previous project history to refer to, few (if any) indications are available concerning how the RAIN project might unfold and develop. The more so, as the September monitoring visit comprised office / compound level discussion only, with no trips to the field included.

It is not readily apparent why PIN / Cesvi failed to organise any field work as part of a monitoring visit arranged several weeks in advance. The ostensible reason given was poor road conditions occasioned by recent rains, but this did not prevent DRC from organising field trips to project sites in Aweil Centre and Aweil North Counties in the days immediately prior to the visit to PIN / Cesvi nor Concern Worldwide (also based in Nyamlel) in the days immediately after. Perhaps the PIN / Cesvi management were concerned for the sensibilities of the TA and doubted this field credentials. Perhaps, there was nothing to visit or see at that material moment.

What is clear is that the content of this report is based on information gathered in discussions rather than on activities witnessed first hand in the countryside. A visit to the PIN / Cesvi project should, therefore, be a priority in the FSTP 2015 monitoring timetable.

At this point, so early in the project implementation cycle, it would be premature to make any general or binding statements about the character and / or quality of project progress. As such, PIN / Cesvi may be given the benefit of the doubt and the consortium can be judged to have passed the first monitoring test without major qualification (though requested to follow the few recommendations included here above, according to the timetable provided).

3.6 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	12/12/14 (submitted late)
2.	Establish a functional, effective Project Steering Committee comprising SMoAF and SMoARF and possibly the SRRC and Concern Worldwide, to involve local government institutions in project planning and management.	PIN / Cesvi	31/01/15
3.	Via the Project Steering Committee, examine and review the current project design, including the project log frame, work plan and budget, and identify possible anomalies among planned results and indicators etc., and propose changes to the design in a project Inception Report to be submitted within six months of the date of project start-up.	PIN / Cesvi	12/03/15
4.	Define the relationships that will be established between PIN / Cesvi and other, formal actors operating in the health and nutrition sectors, viz. PIN / Cesvi's role in provision of “good nutritional practices” and implementation of a “behavioural change campaign	PIN / Cesvi	12/03/15

	on safe hygienic practices”.		
5.	Ensure that regular consultation and co-ordination meetings are convened between PIN / Cesvi (FSTP RAIN project) and Concern Worldwide (the SORUDEV project).	EU Delegation	31/03/15

Signature: Steven Hind

Date: 19/12/2014

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

Date	Location	Organisation	Name or activity
19/09/14	Nyamlel (PIN / Cesvi office)	PIN	Aneta Brzostek: Country Director
" "	Nyamlel (PIN / Cesvi office)	PIN	Pavel Muron: PIN Project Manager
" "	Nyamlel (PIN / Cesvi office)	Cesvi	Marie Mohlerova: Cesvi Project Manager and Acting Country Director
23/09/14	Nyamlel (Concern Worldwide office)	Concern Worldwide	Emanuela Burello: Assistant Country Director, South Sudan
" "	Nyamlel (Concern Worldwide office)	Concern Worldwide	Richard Ofwono: Programme Manager - Food, Income and Markets (FIM) Project
" "	Nyamlel (Concern Worldwide office)	Concern Worldwide	Rebecca Grogan: Programme Support Officer
" "	Nyamlel (Concern Worldwide office)	Concern Worldwide	Amin Bright: SORUDEV Project Officer – Agric.
" "	Nyamlel (Concern Worldwide office)	Concern Worldwide	Kenya Robert Kennedy: SORUDEV Project Officer – Agric.

Annex 2: Progress in achieving project objective

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
<p>Overall Objective</p> <p>Strengthened resilience, food and nutrition security of 5,580 vulnerable, hosting and returnee households (incl. 29,630 women, youth and children) living in conflict affected areas of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, South Sudan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduction in the proportion of assisted households in the highest Coping Strategy Index score category: by 40% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the timing of the visit (just a few days after signature of the grant contract and shortly after the formal commencement of project implementation, little can be said about either the viability of project targets or achievement of results.
<p>Specific objective</p> <p>Improved food production, utilization and marketing capacity of poor, livestock and crop-producing, households achieved through more effective performance of agricultural service and input providers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % of households participating in Farmer Field Schools which started growing at least two or more promoted nutrient-rich crops: 70% ▪ Average increase in the individual dietary diversity of women and children under 5: 1 score 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ditto (as above).
<p>Results</p> <p>R1: Sub-national officials, CAHWs, agricultural extension workers and private sellers have sufficient capacity to effectively respond to the needs of at least 5,180 (agro)pastoral households (incl. 27,500 women, youth & children).</p> <p>R2: 1,000 poor households have the means required for improving the resilience, productivity, diversity, processing and marketing of their crop and livestock-based food production, especially during the lean period.</p> <p>R3: 1,000 households with women of reproductive age and children under 2 have improved their hygiene and nutritional practices and reduced the risk of nutrient malabsorption.</p> <p>R4: 800 poorest households have prevented a deterioration of their food intake and created community assets for strengthening longer-term food security.</p>	<p>1.1 % of trained officials, extension workers and suppliers which passed conducted practical post-tests: 70% (R1)</p> <p>1.2 Increase in the average number of clients served by the extension workers and suppliers: 30% (R1)</p> <p>2.1 % of households which know where to locally purchase seeds and veterinary drugs: 75% (R2)</p> <p>2.2 % of trained households which passed practical post-test: 75% (R2)</p> <p>3.1 % of caretakers reporting to follow at least 3 out of 5 promoted key nutrition practices: 60% (R3)</p> <p>3.2 % of child caregivers and food preparers with appropriate hand washing behaviour has increased: by 20% (R3)</p> <p>4.1 % of households which used 70% or more of the earned cash for purchasing essential food items: 90% (R4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the other hand it may be asked, “how will these indicators be measured on a regular basis?” The EU will no longer accept periodic or interim reports where there is no connection between OVIs and reporting. PIN / Cesvi, therefore, need to consider “can the OVIs presented here (in the log frame) be measured on a quarterly basis?”
<p>Activities</p> <p>A1.1 Participatory gaps and strengths assessment in the services of CAHWs, AEWs, SMoARF and SMoAF officials (R1)</p> <p>A1.2 Training, material and logistics support to CAHWs, AEWs, SMoARF and SMoAF officials focusing on increasing the proficiency and nutritional impact of their extension services (R1)</p> <p>A1.3 Support to vaccination campaigns (R1)</p>	<p>Required Means:</p> <p><u>National Staff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Area Coordinators (2 x 100%) ▪ Field Officers (9 x 100%) ▪ Health & Hygiene Extension Officers (4 x 100%, 7 months only) ▪ Finance Officer (2 x 40%) ▪ Finance and Admin Officers (2 x 80%) ▪ Logisticians (2 x 40%) ▪ Drivers (2 x 80%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comment required.

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
<p>A1.4 Technical and material support to existing and new shops with agricultural (incl. veterinary) inputs in the most underserved areas (R1)</p> <p>A1.5 Provision of vouchers accustoming 1,400 farming households to accessing agricultural (incl. veterinary) inputs sold by the shops (R1)</p> <p>A2.1 Farmer / Pastoralist Field Schools focusing on increasing the productivity, diversity and nutritional quality of farmers', esp. off-season, production (R2)</p> <p>A2.2 Promotion of animal traction for increased crop productivity (R2)</p> <p>A2.3 Promotion and support to collective marketing of cash crops (R2)</p> <p>A2.4 Provision of fishing equipment and know-how to the poorest households (R2)</p> <p>A2.5 Training and material support to women groups on food processing and preservation (R2)</p> <p>A3.1 Series of participatory 'Healthy Child Feeding Sessions' focusing on application of good nutritional practices (R3)</p> <p>A3.2 Community-based behavioural change campaign on safe hygienic practices reducing the risk of nutrient malabsorption (R3)</p> <p>A4.1 Cash-for-assets works enhancing communities' long-term food security and resilience (R4)</p> <p>A4.2 Unconditional cash transfers for extremely vulnerable households (R4)</p>	<p><u>Expatriate Staff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Manager (1 x 80%, 1 x 50%) ▪ Finance Manager (1 x 40%, 1 x 20%) ▪ Country Director (2 x 20%) ▪ HQ security / finance / compliance +/- technical staff <p><i>(largely existing staff)</i></p> <p><u>Logistics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 vehicles in NBeG (new) ▪ 2 vehicles in Juba (existing) ▪ 10 motorbikes (8 new, 2 existing) <p><u>Offices:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shared office in Juba (40%) ▪ Shared office in Nyamlel (60%) <p><u>Studies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline survey ▪ Participatory market survey ▪ Participatory hazard mapping ▪ Mid-term Review, Final Evaluation 	

GRANT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT

WORLD VISION GERMANY – FSTP PROJECT

MAY 2015

1. Project General Data

Contract beneficiary	World Vision Germany
Project Title	“Improving food and nutrition security for vulnerable groups in Warrap State through the adoption of more productive, sustainable and resilient agricultural livelihood strategies”
Project ref. CRIS	DCI-FOOD/2014/337-933
Date of visit	15 to 19 May 2015
Location	Gogrial East and West, Tonj North and South and Twic Counties, Warrap State
Monitoring Officer	1. Emmanuel Minari, Team Leader/Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist. 2. Tayo Alabi, Extension Services Specialist
Start date	1 November 2014
End date	31 October 2017

2. Financial data

Total EC contribution	€ 1,200,000 (being equivalent to 80% of the total budget of € 1,500,000)
Total spent by Project to date (EUR)	€ 233,736
Balance of funds released to date	€ 489,794
Anticipated date of next request/release of funds	Final quarter of 2015
Anticipated amount of next request/release of funds	€ 590,206

3. Monitoring data

3.1 Summary of progress/key findings

The Project titled “Improving food and nutrition security for vulnerable groups in Warrap State through the adoption of more productive, sustainable and resilient agricultural livelihood strategies” is a 36-month, 1.2 million EUR project implemented by World Vision and the Health Support Organisation (THESO) in Warrap State in South Sudan.

The **overall objective** of the Project is to improve the food security and nutrition of vulnerable groups in South Sudan and the **specific objective** is to build the capacity of smallholder farmers, community institutions and social networks in order to improve food production and nutritional status. The project targets 9,000 farmers (5,000 women and 4,000 men) with a focus on internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and vulnerable households from host communities as the primary target groups. The following 3 results are set out in the Project documents to be used as a measure of achievement:

1. Strengthened community-level institutions and social networks;
2. Increased productivity, profitability and reliability of agricultural production; and
3. Improved utilisation of food, particularly by pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under the age of 2.

World Vision is directly responsible for implementing activities under Results 1 and 2 and its co-implementer (THESO) for implementing activities under Result 3 under the supervision of the State Ministry of Health and World Vision Germany.

This European Union (EU) Technical Assistance (TA) monitoring mission is the second to be conducted since the Project was signed and launched in October 2014. The mission was conducted from 13 to 18 May 2015 in order to i) review progress made to date; ii) assess whether the Project is addressing the concerns/recommendations of the previous TA monitoring reports; and iii) discuss and provide technical advice on the Inception Rider which was submitted to the Delegation of the European Union (EUD) before the monitoring mission.

The mission established that:

1. As regards progress of implementation:

- All key staff have now been recruited and are in position (except for those who were meant to be recruited by THESO);
- The Project team has 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 demonstration farms have been established and farmers are undergoing training in best agronomic practices;
- All other activities planned for the Inception period have been implemented satisfactorily.

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

- Most concerns and subsequent recommendations raised in the previous monitoring report have been addressed satisfactorily;
- The concerns and recommendations which were not addressed (including additional issues identified during this mission) are summarised under section 4.2 (Required Action).

3. On the Inception Rider:

- Each relevant document (narrative, budget and logical framework) was thoroughly discussed and appropriate recommendations and technical inputs were provided.
- Following further discussion of the above at the EUD, a summary of responses was prepared by the TA and formally submitted to World Vision. This is also attached to this report for reference.

Main strengths

The mission established that:

- World Vision enjoys excellent relations with the State, County and Payam authorities which have been achieved over many years through continuous presence, regular consultation and co-operation;
- The Project was well designed and highly relevant at all levels and had a clear intervention logic (as noted in the previous TA monitoring report);
- Most of the recommendations and concerns raised by the previous TA monitoring mission have been addressed by the team;
- Careful selection was made of beneficiaries, such as members of production groups (partly selected by traditional leaders and local authorities). Most of them appear genuinely interested in the activities in which they have been shortlisted to participate, thereby improving the potential for long-term sustainability of the Project;
- Programme 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;
- Field staff (particularly the Project Manager) 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;
- The Project design is attractive, combining increased agricultural production with nutrition education and building on initiatives (groups and methodologies) that have already been successfully trialled under other programmes;
- A baseline survey was conducted and the results used to inform the process of preparing the Inception Rider;
- 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.

Main weaknesses

- While the number of Counties targeted and the number of beneficiaries has now been reduced from 5 to 4 Counties and from 9,000 to 7,000 households, the targets remain high and will continue to be challenging to the Project team;
- While this is being addressed through the Inception Rider, the proposal was not well written. Some of the sections were not clearly explained and some inconsistencies were identified between the information in the narrative and that contained in the logical framework;
- No exit or sustainability strategy has been developed for the Project;
- A key co-applicant, The Health Support Organisation (THESO) was intended to implement activities under Result 3 (Nutrition) but was expelled by the State and Country Authorities. As such this activity has not been implemented and World Vision is in the process of assuming responsibility for its implementation;

- While they recognise that State Authorities were consulted by World Vision, the local County Authorities (of Gogrial West County in particular) expressed dissatisfaction with World Vision for not having consulted them during the design of the Project (including in the selection of the local implementing partner, hence their difficulty operating in the area);
- Some of the weaknesses identified during the previous monitoring visit have been/are being addressed by the Project;
- 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 other Government and other agencies, but 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;
- Donor visibility was not evident at project and should be improved.

3.2. Challenges which may adversely impact implementation and action taken to address problems

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by World Vision	Update as of 30 April 2015
<p>To provide Project inputs to target beneficiaries in a manner compatible with the input strategy to be promoted under SORUDEV (also likely to be run, in part, from a base in Luonyaker)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The World Vision Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP) project and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) South Sudan Rural Development (SORUDEV) project cover the same geographical area (Gogrial East and West, Tonj South and Twic Counties) and commenced operations in the same year, albeit six months apart (NRC on 1 May 2014 and World Vision on 1 November 2014), though each with a slightly different constituency and target group (with NRC targeting better off, small-scale farmers and World Vision targeting vulnerable subsistence farmers). - The SORUDEV project methodology is based on the provision of inputs at a cost, while World Vision wish to assist their partners through the provision of inputs either free of charge or at a subsidised rate. - Despite the two projects having a different target constituency it is unlikely that participating (or beneficiary) farmers will be able to see or understand the nuanced difference between the two categories. The two projects are thus in danger of contradicting each other and in particular, World Vision may be perceived as undermining the NRC (and to some extent Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) Germany, who also intend to use commercial agro-dealers in the implementation of their FSTP project) with respect to the provision of inputs at a cost. - World Vision has been requested to establish direct channels of communication with the NRC to discuss this issue. It is important that EU-funded projects operating in the food security sector, in roughly the same geographical area, be perceived to be in harmony rather than in conflict with each other. In this regard, it is largely up to World Vision to try to accommodate NRC and SORUDEV rather than vice versa. - It is not clear if World Vision will heed the request made of them to take the initiative in this matter or if NRC will respond in kind. The EU Delegation/FSTP TA should provide appropriate follow-up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project mapping was done to avoid overlap with other EU-funded food security projects in Warrap State in close consultation with Government partners at different levels. - Even though the target groups of SORUDEV and FSTP are different, efforts were made to draw a roadmap of the transition from free handouts to cost recovery within the Project period in close consultation with VSF Germany.
<p>Overly ambitious Project design (inclusive of too many project beneficiaries and an unrealistically large project area)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The total budget for the intervention is 1.5 million EUR, of which 1.2 million FSTP grant money and the 20% balance of 300,000 EUR is World Vision's own contribution. - Subsequent discussion of the subject (in Kwajok) indicates that World Vision misunderstood the terms of the Call for Proposals (CfP) Guidelines, erroneously presuming that the specified 1.5 million EUR referred to the maximum size of the Project rather than the maximum size of the EU grant. Had World Vision requested 1.5 million EUR from the EU and added 300,000 EUR as a counterpart contribution (16.66%), the value of the Project would have been 1.8 million EUR. - Available funds (1.5 million EUR) appear small compared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The application of a lower budget was taken as a lesson learnt to read the Guidelines properly and consult the donor contact person on time. - Two actions were taken to amend the ambitious Project design: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To reduce the Project operation area by one County and the number of targeted households by 2,000 (a request for this amendment was already submitted to the EUD); and 2. To limit Project operations to two Bomas per Payam and reach the targeted households

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by World Vision	Update as of 30 April 2015
	with Project objectives: particularly the size of the target area and the projected number of direct beneficiaries (9,000). Under the circumstances, it would be sensible for World Vision to request a reduction in programme scope. A reduction in the number of counties covered would logically translate into a reduced number of target beneficiaries. It would thus be wise for World Vision to request a reduction in the size of the operational area from five to four Counties in the Inception Report (to be presented to the EUD six months into Project implementation) and the request for an Inception Rider that will result automatically from acceptance of the Inception Report.	through farmers' groups.
The involvement of a lengthy process in the obtaining of permits for importing planting materials for orange-fleshed sweet potato, onions and tomatoes	- Not identified during this mission.	- The import of orange-fleshed sweet potato was postponed for a second year and the best available variety in South Sudan was instead used in Western Equatorial State for the establishment of a "mother garden".

3.3. Further actions required

- Revise the proposal, logical framework and budget included in the Inception Rider in line with discussions held during the field monitoring mission and comments from the EUD (attached). This process should be fast-tracked to ensure approval by the EUD (thus providing the Project team with the authority to spend against the approved budget and activities);
- Involve the World Vision Nutrition Team to discuss, reprioritise and sharpen activities under Result 3 (as recommended during the TA monitoring mission and a meeting with the EUD Programme Manager);
- Address the pending issue of ending the contractual arrangement with THESO and recruiting professional staff to handle the implementation of activities under Result 3 without further delay;
- Strengthen communication with both the NRC (EU SORUDEV implementing partner in Warrap State) and VSF Germany (EU FSTP implementing partner in Gogrial East and West Counties, Warrap State) to harmonise (or at least avoid conflict, viz.) input distribution methodologies implementation approaches and policies;
- Facilitate the formation of a Project Steering Committee (PSC) in the other three Counties and collaborate with VSF-G to strengthen the role of the PSC in Gogrial East County;
- Increase coordination with State and County governments, especially on joint planning and monitoring of Project implementation;
- Develop an exit and sustainability strategy for the Project. This should be done jointly by World Vision, the Government and each group 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, village savings and loan association (VSLA) groups and income-generating activities) to be addressed by the Government or other agencies (such as SORUDEV or FSTP partners in the area).

3.4 Changes to Project context

- A general hike in market prices that has been much higher than the planned budget, leading to:
 - Cost of seeds, tools, land transportation services, meals and refreshments;
 - Acute shortage of fuel (and high fuel costs on the black market) during the majority of the last six months.
- Exchange rate loss in the last six months (1.05 USD:EUR) as compared to the time of Project design (1.3 USD:EUR) will have significant impact on the Project (even though such loss will not be covered by the EU, as per the contract);
- Project implementation according to plan is likely to be affected by incidences of insecurity due to the border with Unity State, as well as to sporadic inter-clan conflict in Warrap.

3.5 Progress toward achieving Project objectives

Due to the limited possibility during the mission to visit the Project area, the TA monitoring team cannot make a conclusive statement on the level of performance of the Project on the ground.

Based on discussion with the Project team and the few visits made to Project locations, it was evident that all required preparatory work had been done. Notably:

- All key staff has now been recruited and are in position (except for those who were meant to be recruited by THESO);
- All concerns and subsequent recommendations raised in the previous monitoring report have been addressed satisfactorily;
- The Project team has 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 demonstration farms have been established and farmers are undergoing training in best agronomic practices.

As indicated in the previous TA monitoring report, it is clear that World Vision should do an excellent job with the implementation of their new project. The only current point of concern is that the scale of the Project (particularly the size of the Project area) may be too large for available logistical and financial resources. An urgent review of the Project proposal is therefore recommended and a possible reduction in coverage area strongly suggested.

(Please see details in Annex 1 below.)

3.6 Cross-cutting and other issues

EU Visibility:

Insecurity prevented the monitoring team from visiting most of the planned Project sites. However, those visited showed evidence that World Vision needs to improve on EU visibility (which for example was absent at the demonstration site in Gogrial Centre).

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.

4. Summary of follow-up actions and responsibilities

	Action to be taken	Responsible	Deadline
1.	Circulate draft monitoring report	Emmanuel Minari	20 June 2015
2.	Revise the proposal, logical framework and budget included in the Inception Rider in line with discussions held during the field monitoring mission and comments from the EUD (attached). This process should be fast-tracked to ensure approval by the EUD (thus providing the Project team with the authority to spend against the approved budget and activities)	World Vision	July 2015
3.	Involve the World Vision Nutrition Team to discuss, reprioritise and sharpen activities under Result 3 (as recommended during the TA monitoring mission and a meeting with the EUD Programme Manager)	World Vision	July 2015
4.	Address the pending issue of ending the contractual arrangement with THESO and recruiting professional staff to handle the implementation of activities under Result 3 without further delays	World Vision	July 2015
5.	Facilitate the formation of a Project Steering Committee in the other three Counties and collaborate with VSF-Germany to strengthen the role of the PSC in Gogrial East County	World Vision	September 2015
7	Improve the relationship with County authorities to facilitate a working environment conducive to the promotion of ownership and sustainability of the action		
8	Strengthen communication with both the NRC (EU SORUDEV implementing partner in Warrap State) and VSF Germany (EU FSTP implementing partner in Gogrial East and West Counties, Warrap State) to harmonise (or at least avoid conflict viz.) input distribution methodologies and policies	World Vision	Immediately and for the remainder of implementation
9	Increase coordination with State and County governments, especially on joint planning and monitoring of Project implementation	World Vision	Immediately and for the remainder of implementation
10	Prepare a clear exit and sustainability strategy. This should be done jointly by World Vision, the Government and each group 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, village savings and loan association (VSLA) groups and income-generating activities) to be addressed by the Government or other agencies (such as SORUDEV or FSTP partners in the area)	World Vision	Immediately and for the remainder of implementation

Signature: Emmanuel Minari

Date: 20 June 2015

Annex 1: Progress toward achieving Project objectives

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Update as of 30 April 2015
<p>Project Objective</p> <p>To improve the food security and nutrition of vulnerable groups in Warrap State, South Sudan</p>	<p>50% of households have year-round access to sufficient food to meet family needs</p>	<p>The implementation of the first-year plan, specifically the food security component, together with input provision shows that the Project is on the right track to improve food security even though it is too early for indicator verification</p>
<p>Specific Objective</p> <p>Capacity building of smallholder farmers, community institutions and social networks in order to improve food production and nutritional status</p>	<p>SO1: % of smallholder farmers who report improved capacity for food production: 75 % SO2: % of farmer group members who report improved skills to support mother and child nutrition: 75 %</p>	<p>All first-year agricultural training and preparation for field work (including group formation) has been completed aside from the nutrition component</p>
<p>Result 1</p> <p>Strengthened community-level institutions and social networks</p> <p>Output 1.1 – Farmer networks trained and supported</p>	<p>1.1: Number of community groups with functioning farmer networks: 50 (R1) 1.2: % of surveyed household members who report a perceived sense of improved social cohesion during the lifetime of the Project: 40% (R1) 1.3: Number of case studies (most significant reports of change) collected to demonstrate social impact: 4 (R1)</p>	<p>236 farmer groups have voluntarily formed based on common interest and geographical proximity Some groups have developed their own by-laws and begun regular weekly or fortnightly meetings</p>
<p>Result 2</p> <p>Increased productivity, profitability and reliability of agricultural production</p> <p>Output 2.1 – Improved knowledge of climate-smart agricultural practices Output 2.2 – Promotion of high-value and drought-tolerant crops Output 2.3 – Improved access to farming inputs Output 2.4 – Improved knowledge and practices in sustainable natural resource management (NRM) and disaster risk reduction (DRR)</p>	<p>2.1: % increase in agricultural production: 40% (R2) 2.2: % of households using at least one new crop production method: 20% (R2) 2.3: % of households with improved access to farming inputs: 40% (R2) 2.4 % of households showing improved dietary diversity: 75% (R2) 2.5: Number of extension workers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) utilising the Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology: 40 (R2) 2.6: % of vulnerable households reporting increased income: 50% (R2) 2.7: % increase in the number of farmers who report 2 or more annual visits by MoAF extension workers: 75% (R2) 2.8: % of households employing improved food storage techniques: 30% (R2) 2.9: Number of Community Disaster Committees with disaster preparedness plans: 5 (all) (R2) 2.10: % of farmers who have adopted one or more farming strategies that will reduce the risk of disaster and climate change: 60% (R2) 2.11: % of farmers that have adopted at least one NRM methodology: 40% (R2)</p>	<p>40 farmer demonstrations have been made of three important farming practices (good land preparation, line planting and proper and timely weeding) 38 groups have been trained in business development and market linkage 40 farmers' groups have been trained in seed multiplication and the preparation of communal land for seed production Training of trainers was conducted for 13 World Vision and 6 Government staff members in farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR) to build their capacity</p>
<p>Result 3</p> <p>Improved utilisation of food, particularly</p>	<p>3.1: % increase in the number of referrals to health facilities of children aged 6-23 months identified as having diarrhoea, pneumonia,</p>	<p>Identification of Boma Health Workers and CNVs has been done and a barrier assessment has been conducted of five nutrition and WASH</p>

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Update as of 30 April 2015
<p>by pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under 2</p> <p>Output 3.1 – Improved food utilisation knowledge and practices among community members</p> <p>Output 3.2 – Support to the early identification of malnourished individuals using community systems</p> <p>Output 3.3 – Participatory health and hygiene education</p>	<p>malaria, anaemia, malnutrition and/or other diseases by CNVs (R3)</p> <p>3.2: % increase in the exclusive breastfeeding of children under 6 months of age: 10% (R3)</p> <p>3.3: % increase in the number of children aged 6-23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet: 40% (R3)</p> <p>3.4: % of women reporting increased food consumption during their most recent pregnancy: 40% (R3)</p> <p>3.5: % of households reporting increased frequency of hand-washing: 60% (R3)</p> <p>3.6: Number of people trained in participatory health and hygiene promotion: 5,000 (R3)</p> <p>3.7: Number of functional PDH support groups: 250 (R3)</p>	<p>behaviours together with a baseline survey</p>
<p>Activities</p> <p>Activity 1.1.1 – Hold inception workshops for staff and Government extension worker representatives (R1, 2, and 3)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.2 – Conduct a baseline survey (R1, 2 and 3)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.3 – Meet with State-level ministries and County and Boma leadership to introduce the implementation plan and timeline and make arrangements for the selection of farmers (R1, 2 and 3)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.4 – Train extension workers in new extension approaches (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.5 – Conduct 50 Boma-level consultations to select farmers to form groups (R1)</p>		<p>Project launches have been conducted at State level (4) and County level (4)</p> <p>A Start-up/Planning workshop has been held</p> <p>A baseline survey has been conducted and Project monitoring and evaluation tools developed.</p> <p>48 Boma consultations have been conducted to select farmers and form groups</p>
<p>Activity 1.1.6 – Organise and agree on the schedule for group formation and training times and locations with Boma leadership (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.7 – Group development and training for 50 groups (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.8 – Develop training materials, identify trainers and agree on a timeline to train 20 groups (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.9 – Conduct training in “Farming as a Business” (for 50 groups) including markets, understanding supply and demand and an introduction to the principles of Local Value Chain Development (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.10 – Identification and selection of community facilitators to receive training of trainers in Farmer Field School and NRM technologies (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.11 – Provision of training of trainers to 50 community facilitators in a</p>		<p>Group development training has been conducted for 236 groups</p> <p>Business development and market linkage training has been conducted for 38 groups</p> <p>25 farmer groups and FFS community facilitators have been identified</p> <p>FFS training has been conducted at two levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Master training (a refresher for 8 Government staff members and 8 World Vision field assistants) ○ Training of Trainers for 25 FFS facilitators <p>40 sites have been identified for the use of climate-smart agricultural package demonstration plots</p> <p>Improved groundnut, sorghum and sesame seeds have been provided to 40 seed multiplication groups, 40 demonstration plots and 25 Farmer</p>

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Update as of 30 April 2015
<p>package of climate smart NRM technologies (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.12 – Provision of training of trainers to 50 community facilitators in FFS methodology (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.13 – Identification of sites for demonstration plots with FFS community facilitators and extension workers (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.14 – Promotion of a climate-smart agricultural package using 50 demonstration plots (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.15 – Identification of farmers and sites for annual field visit days (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.16 – Hold 50 annual field visit days (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.17 – Request the procurement of supplies, including work with Boma and FFS leadership to identify beneficiary households for seed distribution (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.18 – Provision of seed for 2,250 kitchen vegetable gardens (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.19 – Selection of beneficiaries for treadle pumps and provision of 100 treadle pumps (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.20 – Provision of training in kitchen water conservation (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.21 – Agree on arrangements for the location and timing of training (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.22 – Train 3,000 farmers in vegetable care, cultivation practices and fencing (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.23 – Request the procurement and delivery of seeds and agree with community leadership on the distribution process (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.24 – Provision of improved seed to 9,000 farmers for 3 improved climate-smart crops (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.25 – Preparation of 40 extension staff from all States for the review of the South Sudan Extension strategy (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.26 – Hold a national symposium to review the extension strategy (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.27 – Train 50 groups in seed multiplication and selection procedures and improved storage practices (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.28 – Identification of farmers for granary demonstrations, plans and materials (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.29 – Construction of 10 improved demonstration granaries with local materials</p>		<p>Field Schools</p> <p>Training has been conducted for 40 groups in seed multiplication</p>

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Update as of 30 April 2015
(R1)		
<p>Activity 2.1.1 – Identification of beneficiaries with access to low-lying land (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.2 – Establishment of 100 mother gardens of low-cyanide cassava and orange-fleshed sweet potato with seed multipliers (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.3 – Agree with group leaders on the timing and location of training (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.4 – Train farmers in post-harvest technologies and techniques and construct improved granaries (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.5 – Mobilise and establish Community Disaster Preparedness Committees in 5 Counties (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.6 – Develop community disaster preparedness plans in 5 Counties (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.7 – Train 25 farmer groups in FMNR and NRM (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.8 – Strengthen forest policy enforcement by the Government and local communities (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.9 – Establish 25 FMNR protected areas (R2)</p>		<p>The establishment of 25 (of a planned 50) mother gardens has been completed</p> <p>Training of trainers has been conducted for 19 staff members (6 from the Government and 13 from World Vision) in FMNR</p>
<p>Activity 3.1.1 – Mobilise farmers to identify Positive Deviant Health (PDH) support groups, health workers, Community Nutrition Volunteers (CNVs) and Boma Health Workers (R3)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.2 – Establish 250 PDH support groups (R3)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.3 – Train 2 health staff per health facility, 50 Boma health workers and 250 CNVs in the integration of food security and nutrition, infant and young child feeding; post-harvest handling and storage, nutrition assessment and counselling and the making of tippy taps (R3)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.4 – Hold monthly group meetings for PDH support groups facilitated by the 250 CNVs (R3)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.5 – Hold monthly household follow-up visits by CNVs to pregnant and breastfeeding women and households containing children under 2 (R3)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.6 – Hold cooking demonstrations and nutrition fairs for PDH support groups (R3)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.7 – Conduct barrier assessments of three (3) nutrition behaviours and one (1) water, sanitation and hygiene behaviour (R3)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.8 – Assist the referral of severely</p>		<p>Only the selection of Boma health workers and CNVs has been completed</p> <p>A barrier assessment has been conducted to identify 3 nutrition and 2 WASH behaviours</p>

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Update as of 30 April 2015
malnourished children to the Government health system (R3)		

Annex 2: List of Persons Met

Briefing/Introductory Meeting with Project Staff				
Date	S/N°	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
15/05/2015	1	Hailu Tolasa	M	Programme Manager – Acting Head of Office
15/05/2015	2	Berhanu Wolde	M	FSTP Project Manager
15/05/2015	3	Eric Nimungu	M	Quality Assurance Coordinator
15/05/2015	4	Damaris Wanjiku	F	Nutrition Project Advisor
Meeting with Lang Village Farmers Group – Lang Village Gogrial Boma, Gogrial Payam, Gogrial West County				
Date	S/N°	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
18/05/2015	1	Nyalang Malual	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	2	Apol Aleu	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	3	Adut Majok	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	4	Adhol Bol	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	5	Nyibol Aguer	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	6	Ator Mayar	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	7	Agith Abiem	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	8	Akwac Ajang	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	9	Adut Madut	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	10	Adior Akol	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	11	Nyanut Madel	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	12	Amath Thel	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	13	Akual Diing	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	14	Maluang Lual	M	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	15	Madut Kwec	M	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	16	Deng Madual	M	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	17	Anchan Mayuen	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	18	Wol Ayom	M	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	19	Bol Wol	M	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
18/05/2015	20	Aluel Lueth	F	Member – Natural Resource re-generation Farmers Group
Meeting with Thok Rial Farmers Group – Gogrial Town, Gogrial Payam, Gogrial West County				
Date	S/N°	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
18/05/2015	1	Adut Deng Kon	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	2	Rebecca Amel Tong	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	3	Riabina Abuk Garang	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	4	Adhel Nyuon Deng	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	5	Debora Ayen Bol	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	6	Mary Awien Akot	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	7	Rejina Akon Dut	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	8	Asunta Angong Athian	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	9	Rebecca Adut Thiep	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	10	Rebecca Adut Dhupieu	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	11	Mary Abuk Dhel	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	12	Monica Tigrum Mou	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	13	Asunta Aliok Garang	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	14	John Dut	M	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	15	Andrew Makak Wol	M	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	16	Luka Akec	M	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	17	Adior Mathiang	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group

18/05/2015	18	Anok Marol	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	19	Majok Garang	M	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	20	Adut Mayen	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	21	Abuk Matet	F	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
18/05/2015	22	Aleiu Bol	M	Member – Staple Crop and Horticulture Farmer Group
Meeting County Authority. County Head Office, Gogrial Town, Gogrial Country				
Date	S/N°	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
18/05/2015	1	Joseph Deng	M	Head – County Health Department
18/05/2015	2	Simon Mel	M	Coordinator – County RRC Officer
18/05/2015	3	Angelo Akuith	M	Deputy Coordinator – County RRC Officer
18/05/2015	4	Samuel Maker	M	Inspector – County Agriculture Department
18/05/2015	5	Angelo Diing	M	Deputy Inspector – County Agriculture Department
18/05/2015	6			
Debriefing/Exit Meeting with Project Staff				
Date	S/N°	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
19/05/2015	1	Hailu Tolasa	M	Programme Manager – Acting Head of Office
19/05/2015	2	Berhanu Wolde	M	FSTP Project Manager
19/05/2015	3	Eric Nimungu	M	Quality Assurance Coordinator

Annex 3: Programme Schedule

EU Field Monitoring Visit to FSTP Project Implemented by World Vision						
Time	13 May 2015	14 May 2015	15 May 2015	16 May 2015	17 May 2015	18 May 2015
		Twic County, Wunrok and Turale Payams: 2.5 hours from Kwajok	Gogrial West County, Gogrial and Akon South Payams: 1.5-2.5 hrs from Kwajok	Saturday	Sunday	
8 am to 1 pm	Travel from Wau to Kwajok (Vehicle arranged by World Vision)	Farmer Field School, Farmer demonstration plots, Farmer Group for Seed Multiplication	FMNR, Mother Garden Development, Farmer Field School and demonstration plots, Farmer Group for Seed Multiplication	Desk review and discussion and debriefing on the monitoring visit	Rest	Travel from Kwajok to Wau (vehicle arranged by World Vision)
1 pm to 2 pm						
2 pm to 5 pm						
	Optional: Start-up briefing on Project progress to date (Berhanu)					

Annex 4: Picture Gallery



Above: Assorted photos during meeting with Thok Rial Farmer Groups at the demonstration site in Gogrial Town, Gogrial West County. Looking on (at the center wearing hat) is Mr Tayo Alabi – Extension Services Experts





Above: Three Assorted Livestock breeds taken during Live Auction at Kwajok – State Capital of Warrap State



Far Right: Berhanu Wolde (FSTP Project Manager) and Far Left: Tayo Alabi– during meeting with farmers at Resource Regeneration Project Site in Lang Village, Gogrial Boma, Gogrial West County.

GRANT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT

WORLD VISION GERMANY – FSTP PROJECT

OCTOBER 2014

1. Project General Data

Contract beneficiary	World Vision Germany
Project Title	“Improving food and nutrition security for vulnerable groups in Warrap State through the adoption of more productive, sustainable and resilient agricultural livelihoods strategies”
Project ref. CRIS	DCI-FOOD/2014/337-933
Date of visit	26 th – 29 th October 2014
Location	Gogrial East and West, Tonj North and South and Twic Counties, Warrap State
Monitoring Officer	Steven Hind
Start date	1/11/2014
End date	31/10/2017

2. Financial data

Total EC contribution	€ 1,200,000 (being equivalent to 80% of the total budget of € 1,500,000)
Total spent by project to date (Euro)	Info to be provided by IP
Balance of funds released to date	€ 489,794
Anticipated date of next request/release of funds	Final quarter 2015
Anticipated amount of next request/release of funds	€ 590,206

3. Monitoring data

3.1 Summary of progress / key findings

- The World Vision southern / South Sudan programme has been functional since the late 1980s. The main areas of concentration have been present day Upper Nile State, Warrap State and Western Equatoria State.
- World Vision currently employs 880 staff in its South Sudan programme, of which 80 are international staff.
- The country organisational structure comprises six resident directors (the South Sudan Country Director, Finance Director, Programme Development and Resource Acquisitions Director etc.), presiding over a number of Zonal Programmes, of which the Warrap Zonal Programme is one, and seven sectoral clusters: Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL), Non-food Items (NFI), WASH, Nutrition, Health, Education and Protection and Peace Building.
- The World Vision Warrap Zonal Programme covers all six counties (Gogrial East and West, Tonj East, North and South and Twic), plus Aweil East and Aweil South in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, and implements 12 different projects in FSL, WASH, health care, nutrition, peace building and marketing.
- World Vision is implementer of the donor-supported Health Pooled Fund in Gogrial West and Tonj North and is the lead agency in managing Kuajok Hospital. It implements WFP programmes across the “zonal area”, in Warrap State and the two counties in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, which include Food for Education and Food for Assets.
- World Vision implements programmes in South Sudan as “World Vision” without any reference to national identity. However, different country programmes fund different projects. For example, WV Netherlands

supports a peace building project; WV USA supports health in Western Equatoria, while WV Germany is signatory for the FSTP project and will provide counterpart funding for the project together with WV Australia.

- This first monitoring visit occurred at a time when the project contract had already been signed, but before the official project start date, on 1st November 2014. The purpose of the visit was, therefore, to inspect World Visions' operational facilities (in Kuajok), witness first hand activities already undertaken under other programmes, meet identified project staff and discuss the project design, including proposed FSTP activities and methodologies (rather than monitor on-going activities).

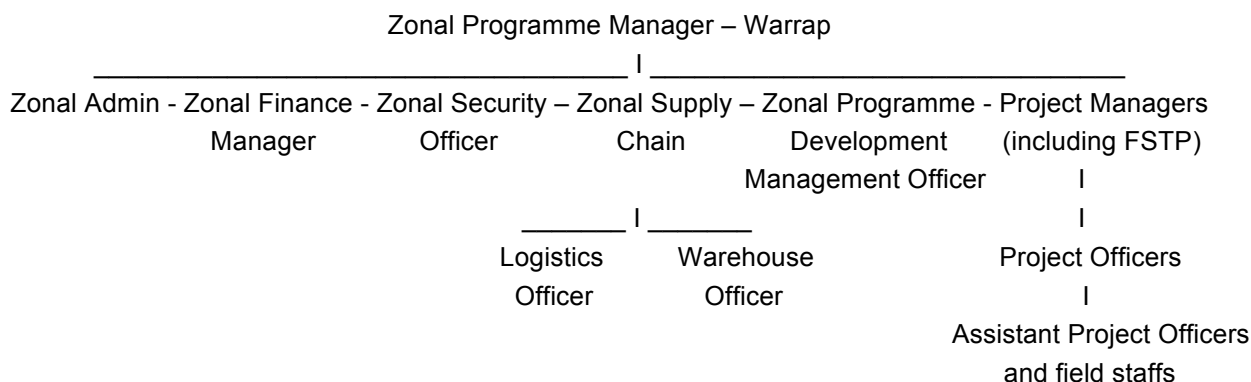
Main strengths

Under the circumstances it would be premature to comment on main strengths and weaknesses, however, preliminary indications suggest the following:

- Project design is attractive, combining increased agricultural production with nutrition education and building on initiatives (groups and methodologies) already successfully trialled under other programmes.
- By virtue of its starting date (1st November 2014), the project has ample preparation time (to organise an official project launch ceremony, recruit staff, organise activities, preposition inputs etc.) before the start of the next rain-fed agricultural season in April 2015. The project will also cover three complete agricultural cycles / growing seasons (2015 - 2017).

Note: A one day project launch workshop is planned for 9 December 2014, with the participation of key stakeholders, including state and county level government officials; staff from the World Vision Support Office (in Germany) and EU Liaison Office (in Brussels); WV South Sudan staff from the Juba and Warrap field offices, and other recipients of EU food security funding. A 2-day project start-up / planning workshop is then planned for 10th to 11th December 2014, with participants drawn from WV and its local partner, THESO, attending the workshop. During the workshop, planned project activities will be discussed and finalised; monitoring and evaluation plans will be updated; strategies will be devised, viz. possible project operational challenges; appropriate seed varieties and technologies will be suggested and possible integration and coordination mechanisms, for successful achievements of the project objective, will be considered.

- World Vision has constructed both a spacious office complex and a staff compound in Kuajok on land / plots provided for the purpose by the local authorities. It also has a compound in Luonyaker, Gogrial East County.
- The staff structure of the WV Warrap Zonal Programme (in which the FSTP project will fit) is as presented below:



- The recruitment process for the following positions is either complete or ongoing:
Project Manager
Project Officer - Food Security
Project Officer - Business Development
8 Field Assistants for Tonj North, Gogrial East and West and for Twic
1 Nutrition Manager and 1 Nutrition Trainer (THESO)
- Selection of target bomas and payams (and of target households within those bomas and payams), will commence immediately after project activation in November 2014.
- A baseline survey (for which preparatory work includes preparation of ToR, preparation of an advertisement inviting expressions of interest and tenders from consultants and consulting firms and collection of bid documents from interested parties) is already under planning / preparation.
- Other activities planned within the “inception” period are preparation of a project M&E plan; preparation of an input “purchase plan”; preparation of a cash flow projection and various staff training (including wealth community ranking techniques and project internalisation).
- Short term outputs will include formation of 50 farmer field schools (FFS) and 50 demonstration plots; formation of 250 “positive deviant health support groups” and training of 50 Boma Health Workers.
- Longer term outputs will include training of 1,832 households on integration of food security and nutrition; training 250 Community Nutrition Volunteers (CNVs) and distribution of vegetable seed to 5,250 households.

- World Vision enjoys excellent relations with the state, county and payam authorities: achieved over a period of many years through continuous presence, regular consultation and co-operation.

Main weaknesses

- The target beneficiary group of 9,000 households is very (perhaps “over”) ambitious. Especially as it will also entail provision of seed packages for 9,000 households.
- The 9,000 beneficiary households are distributed across five counties. The programme will operate from bases in Kuajok (the World Vision Warrap Zonal Programme headquarters) and Luonyaker, where current planning suggests the Project Manager will be based. These two sites provide ready access to Gogrial West and Twic (from Kuajok) and Gogrial East and to some extent Tonj South (from Luonyaker). Access to Tonj North is likely to be tenuous and difficult, especially during the wet / agricultural season between May and November. It might, therefore, be wise to review the selection of counties with a view to the possible de-selection of Tonj North via the proposed Inception Report / Inception Rider, six months after the start of project implementation.

3.2. Challenges which may adversely impact implementation and action taken to address problems

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by World Vision
<p>To provide project inputs to target beneficiaries in a manner compatible with the input strategy to be promoted under SORUDEV: also likely to be run, in part, from a base in Luonyaker.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The world Vision FSTP project and the NRC SORUD EV project cover the same geographical area (Gogrial East and West, Tonj South and Twic Counties) and commenced operations in the same year, albeit six months apart (NRC on 1/05/2014 and WV on 1/11/2014), though each with a slightly different constituency and target group (NRC targeting better off, small-scale farmers and WV targeting vulnerable subsistence farmers). The SORUDEV project methodology is based on provision of inputs at cost while World Vision wish to assist their partners through provision of inputs either free of charge or at a subsidised rate. Though the two projects have a different target constituency it is unlikely that participating (or beneficiary) farmers will be able to see or understand the nuanced difference between the two categories. The two projects are, therefore, in danger of contradicting each other and, in particular, World Vision may be perceived as undermining NRC (and to some extent VSF Germany who also intend to use commercial agro-dealers in the implementation of their FSTP project) with respect to provision of inputs at cost. World Vision was / is requested to establish direct channels of communication with NRC to discuss the issue. It is important that EU-funded projects operating in the same “food security” sector, in roughly the same geographical area, be seen as “in harmony” and not in conflict with each other. In this regard, it is largely up to World Vision to try to accommodate NRC and SORUDEV rather than vice versa. It is not clear if WV will heed the request made of them to take the initiative in this matter or if NRC will respond in kind. The EU Delegation / FSTP TA should provide appropriate follow-up.
<p>Overly ambitious project design (inclusive too many project beneficiaries and an unrealistically large project area).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total project budget for the intervention is € 1,500,000, of which € 1,200,000 is FSTP grant money and the 20% balance of € 300,000 being World Vision’s own contribution. Subsequent discussion of the subject (in Kuajok) indicates that WV misunderstood the terms of the CfP Guidelines, erroneously presuming that the maximum size of the project was € 1,500,000 rather than the maximum size of the EU grant. Had WV requested € 1,500,000 from the EU and added € 300,000 as a counterpart contribution (16.66%), the value of the project would have been € 1,800,000. Available funds (€ 1,500,000) appear small by comparison with project objectives: particular the size of the target area and the projected number of direct beneficiaries (9,000). Under the circumstances, it might be sensible were WV to request a reduction in programme scope. In this regard, a reduction in the number of counties covered would logically translate into a reduced number of

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by World Vision
	target beneficiaries. It might, therefore, be wise if WV were to request a reduction in the size of the operational area from five to four counties in the Inception Report (to be presented to the EU Delegation six months into project implementation) and in the request for an Inception Rider that will result automatically from acceptance of the Inception Report.

3.3. Further actions required

- Complete project planning and start-up activities, as scheduled, including selection of target bomas, payams and beneficiary households and staff training activities. This can be the subject of an early TA monitoring exercise, to be conducted no later than March 2015.
- Establish direct communication with both NRC (EU SORUDEV implementing partner in Warrap State) and VSF Germany (EU FSTP implementing partner in Gogrial East and West Counties, Warrap State) to harmonise (or, at worst, avoid conflict, viz.) input distribution methodologies and policies.
- As part of a process of self-reflection, review and revise project objectives, including the proposed size of the project area and number of beneficiaries) and propose adjustment to the project log frame accordingly (in addition, making all project indicators SMART and measurable, on a continuous basis).
- As suggested in other fora (e.g. the EU Procedures Workshop of 6/11/2014) prepare an “inception report” (as noted above, containing suggested revisions to the accepted proposal, inclusive the work plan and budget), to be submitted to the EU Delegation six months after the project start date, i.e. by 30th April 2015.

3.4 Changes to project context

- The final months of 2014 have been characterised by economic instability and unprecedented levels of inflation, especially in “up-country” locations such as Wau and Kuajok (where most inputs destined for locations in Gogrial West and East and the Tonj Counties etc. are sourced) due to deteriorating road conditions and road closures and the consequent shortage of essential supplies. This aside, fixed exchange rates and rampant inflation will quickly undermine project budgets and erode project purchasing power (constituting another justification for preparation of an inception report and contract addendum request with a budget revision).

3.5 Progress in achieving project objectives

(See details in Annex 2 - below)

At the time of the TA monitoring visit to Kuajok in late October, the World Vision (Germany) FSTP project wasn't yet operational. Given that the previous WV FSTP project (in Western Equatoria State) was borderline disastrous, the purpose of the visit was, primarily, to assess the level of preparedness of the IP to implement the new project, inclusive: staffing, management and logistics capacity and viability of project design, including proposed FSTP activities and methodologies.

Early indications suggest there is every likelihood that World Vision will do an excellent job with the implementation of their new project. The only point of concern, at this point, is that the scale of the project, particularly the size of the project area, may be too large for available logistics and financial resources. An urgent review of the project proposal is, therefore, recommended and a possible reduction in its coverage area strongly suggested.

Other than this, the project and the implementing partner can be considered to have passed this first monitoring test without major qualification (though requested to follow the few recommendations included here according to the timetable provided).

3.6 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	29/11/14 (not realised)
2.	Complete project planning and start-up activities, including selection of target bomas, payams and beneficiary households and staff training activities.	World Vision	31/01/15
3.	Conduct a first TA monitoring mission to assess progress against initial implementation plans.	EU Delegation	15/03/15
4.	Establish direct communication with NRC and VSF Germany to harmonise input distribution methodologies and policies.	World Vision	15/03/15
5.	Review and revise project objectives, including the size of the project area and number of beneficiaries and propose adjustments to the project log frame accordingly (in addition, making all project indicators SMART and measurable, on a continuous basis).	World Vision	30/04/15
6.	Prepare an "inception report" containing suggested revisions to the accepted proposal, inclusive the work plan and budget.	World Vision	15/05/15

Signature: Steven Hind

Date: 16/01/2015

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

Date	Location	Organisation	Name or activity
26/10/14	Kuajok (WV office) and all project locations	World Vision	Jacobus Koen: Programme Development and Resource Acquisitions Director
“ ”	Kuajok (WV office) and selected project locations	World Vision	Jenipher Onyango: Zonal Programme Manager
“ ”	Kuajok (WV office) and all project locations	World Vision	Berhanu Wolde: Project Manager
27/10/14	Kuajok (WV office) and all project locations	World Vision	Damaris Wanjiku: Nutrition Officer
“ ”	Kuajok (WV office) and all project locations	World Vision	Joseph Tong: Security Officer
“ ”	Kuajok (WV office)	World Vision	Peter Onak: Zonal Administrator
“ ”	Kuajok (WV office)	World Vision	Loding Joseph Dagma: Project Coordinator, HPF Project, Gogrial East County
“ ”	Kuajok (WV office)	World Vision	Clement Baria: Supply Chain Officer
“ ”	Kuajok (WV office) and selected project locations	World Vision	Mach Michael Deng: Agronomist and Livestock Officer
“ ”	Kuajok town	Local Government	Martin Madut Chan: Director General, State Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
“ ”	Gumel village, Kuac North Payam, Gogrial West County	WV beneficiaries (non-FSTP)	Piiryam Group and First Try Group

Annex 2: Progress in achieving project objective

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
<p>Project Objective</p> <p>To improve food security and nutrition of vulnerable groups in Warrap State, South Sudan</p>	<p>50% households will have year-round access to sufficient food to meet family needs</p>	<p>• Nothing yet to report</p>
<p>Specific Objective</p> <p>Capacity building of small holder farmers, community institutions and social networks in order to improve food production and nutritional status</p>	<p>SO1: % small holder farmers who report improved capacity for food production: 75 % SO2: % of farmer group members who report improved skills to support mother and child nutrition: 75 %</p>	<p>• As above. Nothing yet to report</p>
<p>Result 1 Strengthened community-level institutions and social networks</p> <p>Output 1.1 - Farmer networks trained and supported</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1: Number of community groups with functioning farmer networks: 50 (R1) • 1.2: % of surveyed HH members who report perceived sense of improved social cohesion during life of project: 40% (R1) • 1.3: Collection of case studies (most significant change stories) to demonstrate social impact: 4 (R1) 	<p>• As above. Nothing yet to report</p>
<p>Result 2 Increased productivity, profitability and reliability of agricultural production</p> <p>Output 2.1 - Improved knowledge on climate smart agriculture practices</p> <p>Output 2.2 - Promotion of high value and drought tolerant crops</p> <p>Output 2.3 - Improved access to farming inputs</p> <p>Output 2.4 - Improved knowledge and practice in sustainable natural resource management (NRM) and disaster risk reduction (DRR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1: % increase of agricultural Production: 40% (R2) • 2.2: % of households using at least one new crop production method: 20% (R2) • 2.3: % of households have improved access to farming inputs: 40% (R2) • 2.4 % of households have improved diet diversity: 75% (R2) • 2.5: Number of MoAF extension workers utilising the farmer field school methodology: 40 (R2) • 2.6: % of vulnerable households report increased income: 50% (R2) • 2.7: % increase in the number of farmers who report 2 or more visits per year by MoAF extension workers; Target value 75% (R2) • 2.8: % of households employing improved food storage techniques: 30% (R2) • 2.9: All Community Disaster Committees have disaster preparedness plans: 5 (R2) 	<p>• As above. Nothing yet to report</p>

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.10: % of farmers have adopted one or more farming strategies that will reduce risk to disaster and climate change: 60% (R2) • 2.11: % of farmers have adopted at least one NRM methodology: 40% (R2) 	
<p>Result 3 Improved utilisation of food, particularly for pregnant and lactating mother and children under 2</p> <p>Output 3.1 - Improved food utilisation knowledge and practices of community members</p> <p>Output 3.2 – Support early identification of malnourished individuals members using community systems</p> <p>Output 3.3 - Participatory health and hygiene education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1: % increase in referrals to health facilities for children (aged 6-23 months) identified with diarrhoea, pneumonia, malaria, anaemia, malnutrition and other childhood diseases by community nutrition volunteers (R3) • 3.2: % increase in exclusive breastfeeding of children under 6 months of age: 10% (R3) • 3.3: % increase of children (aged 6-23 months) receiving a minimum acceptable diet (MAD): 40% (R3) • 3.4: % of women report increased food consumption during most recent pregnancy: 40 % (R3) • 3.5: % of households report increased frequency of hand-washing: 60% (R3) • 3.6: Number of people trained in participatory health and hygiene promotion: 5000 people (R3) • 3.7: Number of functional positive deviant hearth support groups: 250 PD Hearth support groups (R3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above. Nothing yet to report
<p>Activities</p> <p>Activity 1.1.1 - Hold Inception workshops for staff and Government extension worker representatives (R1, 2, 3,)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.2 - Conduct a baseline survey (R1, 2, 3)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.3 - Meet with State level ministries, County and Boma leadership to introduce implementation plan and timeline, and make arrangements for process of selecting farmers (R1, 2, 3,)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.4 - Train Extension workers on new extension approaches (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.5 - Conduct 50 Boma consultations to select farmers to form groups (R1)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No indicators required

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
<p>Activity 1.1.6 - Organise and agree on schedule for group formation and training times and locations with Boma leadership (R1)</p> <p>Activity.1.1.7 - Group development and training for 50 groups (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.8 - Develop training material, identify trainers and agree on timeline to train 20 groups (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.9 - Conduct Farming as a business training (50) groups) on (markets, understanding supply and demand, introduction to principles of LVCD- Local Value Chain Development) (R1)</p> <p>Activity.1.1.10 - Identification and selection of community facilitators to take TOT on FFS and NRM technologies (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.11 - TOT for 50 community facilitators on package of climate smart NRM technologies (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.12 - TOT for 50 community facilitators in FFS methodology (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.13 - Identify sites for demonstration plots with FFS community facilitators and extension workers (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.14 - Promote a climate smart agriculture package using 50 demonstration plots (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.15 - Identify farmers and sites for annual field days (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.16- Hold 50 annual field days (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.17 - Request procurement of supplies; work with Boma and FFS leadership to identify beneficiary HHs for seeds (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.18 - Provide seed for 2,250 kitchen vegetable gardens (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.19 - Select beneficiaries for treadle pumps and provide 100 treadle pumps (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.20 - Provide training in kitchen water conservation (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.21 - Agree on arrangements for training location and timing (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.22 - Train 3000 farmers on vegetable care, cultural practices, and fencing (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.23 - Request procurement and delivery of seeds and agree with community leadership on distribution process (R1)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No indicators required

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
<p>Activity 1.1.24 - Provide improved seed to 9000 farmers for 3 improved climate smart crops (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.25 - Prepare 40 extension staff from all states for the review of South Sudan Extension strategy (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.26 - Hold a national symposium on to review extension strategy (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.27 - Train 50 groups in multiplying seed, seed selection procedures, and improved storage practices (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.28 - Identify farmers for granary demonstration, plans and materials (R1)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.29 - Construct 10 improved demonstration granaries with local materials (R1)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No indicators required
<p>Activity 2.1.1 - Identify beneficiaries with access to low lying land (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.2 - Establish 100 mother gardens of low cyanide cassava and orange fleshed sweet potato with seed multipliers (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.3 - Agree with group leaders on timing and location for training (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.4 - Train farmers on post-harvest technologies and techniques, and construction of improved granaries (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.5 - Mobilise and establish Community Disaster Preparedness Committees in 5 counties (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.6 - Develop community disaster preparedness plans in 5 counties (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.7 - Train 25 farmers groups in FMNR and NRM (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.8 - Strengthen government & community local forest policy enforcement (R2)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.9 - Establish 25 FMNR protected areas (R2)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No indicators required
<p>Activity 3.1.1 - Mobilise farmers to identify positive deviant Hearth support groups and for the identification health workers, CNV, and Boma Health Workers (R3)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.2 - Establish 250 Positive</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No indicators required

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
deviant Hearth support groups (R3)		
<p>Activity 3.1.3 - Train 2 health staff per health facility, 50 Boma Health workers and 250 CNV on integration of food security and nutrition; CIYCF; PHHE, Nutrition assessments and counselling and making of Tippy taps (R3)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.4 - Hold monthly group meetings for Positive deviant Hearth support groups facilitated by the 250 CNV (R3)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.5 - Hold monthly household follow up visits of PLW and HH with under 2 by the Community Nutrition Volunteer (R3)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.6 - Conduct cooking demonstrations and nutrition Food fairs for PD Hearth support groups (R3)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.7 - Conduct barrier assessments on three (3) nutrition behaviours and one (1) WASH behaviours (R3)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.8 - Assist severely malnourished children to be referred into the government health system (R3)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No indicators required

Annex 3: Picture Gallery



Above: Vegetable garden of the “First Try” group (newly prepared for dry season cultivation / production) at Gumel village, Kuac North Payam, close to Kuajok town, Gogrial West County, Warrap State. Funding from USAID / OFDA CHESSE programme.

Below: Vegetable garden (largely exhausted of produce at the end of the rain-fed growing season) near Kuajok town, Gogrial West County, Warrap State. Funding from WFP.





Above and below: Primary Health Care Unit (close to Kuajok town, Gogrial West County, Warrap State) with evidence of earlier EU (ECHO) funding.



GRANT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT

VSF GERMANY – FSTP PROJECT

FEBRUARY 2015

1. Project General Data

Contract beneficiary	Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany
Project title	“Food security through Enhancing Sustainable Agricultural Production (FESAP)”
Project ref. CRIS	DCI-FOOD/2014/337-937
Date of visit	24 to 27 October 2014
Location	Gogrial East and West Counties, Warrap State
Monitoring Officer	Emmanuel Minari (Team Leader) and Tayo Alabi (Team Member)
Start date	8 August 2014
End date	7 August 2017

2. Financial Data

Total EC contribution	€1,500,000 (equivalent to 90% of the total budget of €1,666,666)
Total spent by project to date (EUR)	€185,161
Balance of funds released to date	€358,561
Anticipated date of next request/release of funds	August 2015
Anticipated amount of next request/release of funds	€806,279

3. Monitoring Data

3.1 Mission Objective

The objective of this monitoring visit was to follow up on progress made since the last EU field visit conducted in October 2014 with specific focus on whether the project team addressed the concerns and recommendations made by the previous missions, to provide technical and advisory support and to make recommendations as deemed appropriate.

3.2 Project Overview

Food security through Enhancing Sustainable Agricultural Production (FESAP) is a 36-month project which aims to build on the achievements of the recent EC-funded Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and Productive Asset Recovery and Institutional Strengthening (PARIS) projects, to be implemented with specific focus on areas not well covered in the past. It also proposes to use the core principle of the Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP) (i.e. the Linking Rehabilitation, Relief and Development (LRRD) approach) to strengthen livelihoods, protect and rebuild productive assets and create opportunities to revitalise economic activities along the value chain with emphasis on providing a platform for sustainable impact. The project proposes to incorporate lessons learnt from previous projects (e.g. the promotion of drought-resilient varieties, animal traction, access to markets, etc.) and to help target communities to address structural shocks.

The Overall Objective is to contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods among rural communities through support to household subsistence farmers in the target areas by addressing chronic problems such as low crop production and productivity, low income for smallholder farmers, lack of access to credit and agricultural inputs and technologies, and weak capacity and capability of target groups to respond to vulnerability and shocks caused by climatic, environmental and other factors (including manmade conflicts).

The project aims to achieve its specific objectives through the following results:

- R1: Increased agricultural production and productivity through strengthened extension services and innovative farming;

- R2: Adoption of animal traction as a viable, cost-effective and sustainable technology that contributes to an annual increase in farmed land, improved tillage and increased productivity per acreage;
- R3: Increased household income as a result of access to microfinance and local markets and linkages to value chain actors;
- R4: Increased resilience to shocks in the form of climatic/environmental changes and man-made disasters such as conflict.

The project proposes to i) increase access to farm inputs; ii) support and strengthen an effective extension service (public and private); iii) replicate and promote the adoption of animal traction techniques as a comprehensive strategy to increase agricultural production and productivity per acreage; iv) promote dry-season vegetable production and poultry farming as a means of supporting vulnerable groups (largely women) to earn income; v) replicate and promote sustainable access to credit by establishing (and operationalising) Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) activities in groups; and vi) facilitate access to markets by linking target groups with agro-dealers (private suppliers of farm inputs) and markets where they can sell surplus produce.

FESAP proposes to target 3,000 households in total – 2,000 of which are vulnerable farming households while the remaining 1,000 are smallholder farmers.

Overall, the project expects to achieve increased food and nutrition security and income as necessary preconditions for improved livelihoods and ability to respond to shocks.

3.2 Summary of progress/key findings

- As indicated in the previous monitoring report, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) Germany has successfully managed a number of EU-funded projects, the most recent of which is the “Productive Asset Recovery and Institutional Strengthening” (PARIS) project in October 2013, which was rated as one of the best managed FSTP projects;
- The new project contract came into effect in mid-August 2014. At the time of the monitoring visit (late February 2015), the project was little more than a month and a half old and was not fully functional;
- Additional Information (feedback on some concerns raised in the October 2014 monitoring report):
 - o The partnership between VSF Germany and its local implementing partners (INFRAID and SEDA) remains cordial and appears to the mission to be built on mutual respect among the partners. VSF Germany sees national NGOs as strategic partners and as part of its institutional exit strategy in the area;
 - o With respect to the transfer of previous assets from PARIS, SEDA and INFRAID, the mission established that there was indeed some misunderstanding as was highlighted in the previous mission report. VSF Germany informed the mission that the previous EU Technical Assistance team that visited the project was misinformed by the field staff of the two national NGOs, who had in turn failed to receive accurate information from their leadership in Juba about the agreement reached on how to handle the handover of assets;
 - o As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by both parties, it was agreed (after a series of meetings between VSF Germany and SEDA Managing Director (Dr. Madhel) in Juba and the Project Coordinator (Mr. Rimon Jok) in Luonyaker) that all key assets (vehicles, generators etc.) will be repaired, maintained and managed by VSF Germany and all implementing partners will have equal access to them in line with the work plan. However, other assets (motorbikes, laptops, printers etc.) will be handed over to the national NGOs for management;
 - o Accordingly, the misunderstanding has now been resolved.
- Progress made in implementing activities under each specific objective

Result 1: Increased agricultural production and productivity through strengthened extension services and innovative farming

- The baseline survey on Agricultural Production and Marketing was completed in February despite challenges and a late start, and the final report (and data) were to be submitted before the end of March 2015;
- The identification of target beneficiaries (2,000 vulnerable households and 1,000 smallholder farmers) was to be done using the participatory rural appraisal (PRA) approach and community wealth ranking, disaggregated by gender. The monitoring mission was informed that:
 - o An inception planning workshop was conducted for key stakeholders. In attendance were Government officials (mainly from the departments of agriculture and livestock), Payam and Boma administrators, Women and Youth representatives and project staffs from VSF Germany, SEDA and INFRAID;
 - o Three community dialogue meetings were held jointly with key officials from the County Authority including the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (RRC) and the two County Agriculture and Livestock Directors who accompanied the project staff. The communities were represented by their leaders including Chiefs, Youth and Women leaders, farmers and target beneficiaries;
 - o One of the outputs of the community dialogue was the formation of five (5) beneficiary selection committees in each Payam. Membership is composed of representatives of the County Agricultural and Livestock Departments (CAD and CLD), the RRC and their office, youth groups, women’s groups and 3 Chiefs per Payam;
 - o Training of the beneficiary selection committees (which are in place and awaiting training) was planned for 27 February to 5 March 2015;

- An MoU with national NGOs has been finalised;
- Beneficiary Selection Criteria were developed in a participatory manner and adopted by the committee;
- Community dialogue with leaders and other stakeholders is complete;
- A workshop was planned for 11 March 2015 with State Ministers and Commissioners to brief them on the project (objective, targets and approaches) and to solicit their support and collaboration.
- On the facilitation of access to agricultural inputs (for crop and livestock production) from community and private agro-dealers:
 - The Bills of Quantities and Procurement Plan are complete;
 - Consultation with blacksmiths is in progress;
 - 40 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) have been trained;
 - 7181 heads of animals (239 households) have been vaccinated and two agro-veterinary shops identified;
 - Agro-veterinary dealers have a limited supply and diversity of drugs due to low capital bases, meaning mass vaccinations are still not possible.
- Finally, the process of establishing a community Seed Bank will be accomplished by the end of the 2015 cropping season.

Result 2: Increased farm size and better tillage and productivity per acreage attributed to the adoption of animal traction by smallholder farmers as a viable, cost-effective and sustainable technology (targeting 600 vulnerable farming households)

- On the identification of target areas and direct beneficiaries (who will act as agents for change in the adoption of animal draught cultivation techniques), the 5 project locations (Kuac North and South, Pathuon West, Toch North and Nyang Payams) that were mentioned in the proposal have been endorsed by the local authorities;
- On the provision of support to 600 farmers to access ox-ploughs and spare parts through private dealers, initial consultation with the potential ox-plough suppliers has been initiated and is on-going;
- In particular, negotiation is on-going for the possible involvement of village banks and cooperatives in both Counties, established and supported by VSF Germany through the RRP and PARIS projects in the procurement process. VSF Germany will support the initiation of this process;
- Other value chain actors and microfinance players in Kwajok and Liethnolm were also consulted for possible participation in the channel. In addition, consultation with local artisans who have additional skills in the fabrication of spare parts and the repair and maintenance of farm tools is on-going;
- The team had planned to develop and produce extension materials. However, the EU monitoring team advised the project team (during this mission) not to proceed. This is because the EU TA responsible for developing a harmonised extension package is already working on this. Instead, the project staff were advised to actively participate in the process of developing extension packages and wait until the materials produced are endorsed by the Government before producing copies for use in the project area;
- On the plan to organise animal traction training (including Training of Trainer (ToT) training) for 30 Master Trainers (drawn from the community): This process has started and plans are underway to finalise the process of identifying the Master Trainers and conducting the ToT training before the start of the farming season.

Result 3: Increased household income as a result of access to microfinance and local markets and linkages to value chain actors

- The planned Value Chain Analysis (including a rapid House Economy survey) is yet to be done. At the time of the monitoring, the mission was informed that plans were underway to recruit a suitable consultant to undertake VC analysis.
- With regard to the facilitation of access to credit through Accumulated Savings and Credit Associations (ASCAs, which perform the same function as VSLAs) and the strengthening of 20 ASCAs (or VSLAs) in the two Counties, the mission established that the project team is currently discussing how best to approach this activity;
- On the facilitation of linkages between local value chain actors (including cooperatives, associations, agro-veterinary dealers and entrepreneurs), the mission was informed that these linkages already exist but will need to be formalised and strengthened.

Result 4: Increased capacity and resilience among target groups to respond to and manage climatic and environmental changes, conflict and other shocks as a result of disaster risk reduction initiatives.

- The planned vulnerability assessment and mapping exercise had not yet been done at the time of the EU monitoring mission. However, the assessment tools have been developed and as indicated above, the assessment committee has been formed and will be trained prior to the exercise;
- With regard to the identification of 1,600 target beneficiaries in vegetable production, poultry and fishing activities, the mission was informed that:
 - A total of 77 households have been identified and registered for dry-season vegetable farming in Pathuon West and Kuac North Payams;

- A total of 250 poultry beneficiaries have been selected, registered and validated in Pathuon West Payam.
- On the plan to support target beneficiaries with relevant extension services including training in better animal and crop production techniques, the project team informed the mission that a total of 85 farmers were trained. Please see the table below for details:

Group	F	M	Total
Titachuol	15	8	23
Ok	11	10	21
Malual	19	2	21
Maker Jok	19	1	20
Total	64	21	85

- With regard to support for 400 beneficiaries with appropriate tools and seeds for the production of assorted vegetables:
 - 77 vegetable farmers have been registered, organised into four groups and supported with assorted seeds and tools for dry-season vegetable farming;
 - The 77 farmers were then supported to set up 77 plots (one plot each) which were then sub-divided into 4 plots each (measuring 2x2 metres);
 - The farmers were supported with 2.6 kg of Okra, 5 kg of Rijla, 10 kg of Kudra and 10 kg of Jir Jir. Although ranked first, cowpea seeds were not distributed due to their unavailability in both Wau and Kuajok where other seeds were procured;
 - The farmers were supported with tools at group level in each of the four groups based on availability and on the needs assessment conducted for each group. Tools distributed included 79 hoes, 71 shovels, 59 watering cans and 4 treadles as specified in the table below.

Group	F	M	Total
Titachuol	15	8	23
Ok	11	10	21
Malual	19	2	21
Maker Jok	19	1	20
Total	64	21	85

- With regard to supporting vulnerable groups:
 - The process of identifying the 600 vulnerable households who will receive fishing equipment is underway. The target households will be provided with inputs and supported throughout the fish value chain as soon as the process of their identification is complete.
- The process of identifying the 600 women-headed households whose poultry will be restocked has also started and so far, a total of 250 poultry beneficiaries have been selected, registered and validated in Pathuon West Payam. In addition, 5,000 chickens (distributed during the implementation of PARIS) have been vaccinated against Newcastle disease. Once the women receive the chickens, the project staff will provide the relevant extension services.

Additional Information (feedback on some concerns raised in the October 2014 monitoring report):

- The partnership between VSF Germany and its local implementing partners (INFRAID and SEDA) remains cordial and appears to the mission to be built on mutual respect among the partners. VSF Germany sees national NGOs as strategic partners and as part of its institutional exit strategy in the area;
- With respect to the transfer of previous assets from PARIS, SEDA and INFRAID, the mission established that there was indeed some misunderstanding as was highlighted in the previous mission report. VSF Germany informed the mission that the previous EU TA team that visited the project was misinformed by the field staff of the two national NGOs, who had in turn failed to receive accurate information from their leadership in Juba about the agreement reached on how to handle the handover of assets;
- As per the MoU signed by both parties, it was agreed (after a series of meetings between VSF Germany and SEDA Managing Director (Dr. Madhel) in Juba and the Project Coordinator (Mr. Rimon Jok) in Luonyaker) that all key assets (vehicles, generators etc.) will be repaired, maintained and managed by VSF Germany and all implementing partners will have equal access to them in line with the work plan. However, other assets (motorbikes, laptops, printers etc.) will be handed over to the national NGOs for management;
- Accordingly, the misunderstanding has now been resolved.

Main strengths

Under the circumstances it may be premature to comment on the main project strengths and weaknesses; however, preliminary indications suggest the following:

- Most of the points highlighted as strengths in the previous monitoring report (October 2014) still hold;
- Nearly all project staff have now been recruited and all are actively engaging in the planning and implementation of the project. Notably, most local staff (over 20 people) are recruited by the two local implementing partners: INFRAID (an associate) and SEDA (a co-implementer);
- VSF Germany has an excellent administrative record (viz. EU funding), in both financial management and reporting, which it will hopefully carry into the new FESAP project;
- The excellent working relationship between VSF Germany, local authorities (Government, Chiefs and elders) and communities remains an important asset that will facilitate successful implementation of the project (as was the case with previous projects).

Main weaknesses

- No project exit or sustainability strategy has been developed;
- Other than the above, there are no major weaknesses within the control of VSFG that was identified as a major concern during this mission.
- Finally, most of the weaknesses identified during the previous monitoring visit have been/are being addressed by the project.

3.2. Challenges which may adversely impact implementation and action taken to address problems

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by VSF Germany	Status as at February 2015 Monitoring Visit
<p>Ensuring the sustainability of project outputs and outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As already noted, FESAP will borrow extensively from (and be based firmly on) experience gained under PARIS. However, while this has many positive connotations (continuity with earlier interventions, involvement of existing third parties such as institutions, communities and target groups etc.) it also increases the likelihood of aid-induced dependence and poor sustainability among target beneficiaries, as well as the risk of further entrenching or compounding errors already committed under previous actions. - For example, major investments have been made in community infrastructure development under earlier projects, including the construction of Government offices and agricultural “demonstration and research” facilities. Since project handover, these facilities have (in general) been un- or under-utilised and poorly maintained by receiving bodies, which in most cases were financially ill-prepared to receive them. To some extent this includes VSF Germany’s local partners in the form of NGOs and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs). - Care should be taken not to implement activities that encourage or promote dependence. Equally, VSF Germany should avoid investing heavily in the rehabilitation of facilities (perhaps due to a sense of guilt) that have already been tried and failed in earlier projects, such as the idea of establishing a functioning “Farmers’ Centre” in Luonyaker. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mission established that the project team is aware and conscious of the need to address the reality of aid-induced dependence. - FESAP was designed to target both vulnerable household farmers and less vulnerable smallholder farmers. - During discussion with the project team, the mission advised that better targeting of the various categories of beneficiary under each specific result (and related activity) is a necessary pre-condition that will increase the chance of identifying and separating vulnerable groups from smallholder farmers. - Ideally, vulnerable groups, such as subsistence household farmers, should primarily be targeted through activities under results 1 and 4. Similarly, smallholders (mainly progressive crop farmers and livestock owners) should be primarily targeted through activities under results 2 and 3 by linking them to agro-dealers so they can access veterinary drugs and ox-ploughs. - To successfully address this, it is imperative that the project carefully plan and execute activities under result 1 as stipulated: <i>The identification of target beneficiaries (2,000 vulnerable households and 1,000 smallholder farmers) by means of PRA and community wealth ranking, disaggregated by gender.</i> - In order to ensure that aid dependence is addressed through this project, VSF Germany and other partners should immediately develop a simple and clear exit and sustainability strategy for the project before the end of the second quarter of 2015. - The exit and sustainability strategy should address the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Continuation of Proposed Activities:</i> Each proposed activity should have a clear sustainable exit/phase out strategy, e.g. Access to: 1) Farm Inputs (seeds, basic tools);

2) Extension Services (crop, livestock, poultry, fisheries); 3) Technologies (ox-ploughs, implements and related services); 4) Other support (VSLA, and Cooperative groups), etc.

- *Technical Sustainability:* What will the project do to position local government and local partners to continue providing technical support to the different groups (livestock and poultry owners, crops farmers, VSLA groups) and poultry?
- *Financial Sustainability:* How will local partners and institutions such as Cooperatives and Village Banks become financially capable of sustainably continuing to provide credit and services to the farmers and link them with agro-dealers and markets?
- *Institutional Sustainability:* What will the project do to ensure that local partners and centres do not collapse, but grow to become stronger?

- With regard to the proposed rehabilitation of the facility to be used as a farmers' resource centre, the mission established that the proposed facility was constructed by World Vision International (notably, not by VSF Germany) and had been handed over to the Gogrial East County Agricultural Department (CAD).
- The mission visited the site and following discussion with the field team, concluded that: 1) the proposal to rehabilitate the facility (funded by the EU) is good and should be commended; 2) the proposal to use the facility as a resource centre was requested by the CAD; and 3) the centre (after rehabilitation) will serve as a centre for information exchange where community and Government extension workers will share knowledge about agriculture and promote best practices. VSF Germany intends to use the centre to increase awareness of the importance of agriculture and its linkages to income and better livelihoods among youth, students and school pupils (through agricultural youth clubs), women, farmers and other agricultural value chain actors.
- The mission is convinced that if managed well, the centre has the potential to be used as a hub for the collection, analysis and timely dissemination of critical agricultural information (inputs, outputs and services) required by producers, value chain actors and consumers. The proposed centre has a direct link to the potential for achievement of specific result 1 (as Activity 1.4 intends to "*facilitate access and promote a Market-Orientated Extension service provided by community, Government and private agents*").
- It is the conclusion of the mission that the proposed rehabilitation of the centre will not be too expensive. However, the inception rider should better explain the rationale and strategy for proposing the rehabilitation and the intended positive impact on the specific and overall objectives of the action. If deemed appropriate, the inception rider should also include a reasonable estimation of the total cost and this should be reflected in the revised budget.

<p>Possible capacity deficits among local partner organisations (INFRAID and SEDA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEDA are listed as co-applicant of the FESAP project, while INFRAID are categorised as an “affiliated entity”. - According to the initial planning, SEDA will implement extension activities, dry-season vegetable production and the promotion of animal traction. Responsibility for the latter will be shared with INFRAID, who will provide the “hardware” (ox and farmer training, provided by the same Master Trainer employed under PARIS) while SEDA will provide the “software” (formation of parallel savings and loan mechanisms through the formation of ASCAs). INFRAID will also implement poultry activities, input distribution and Farmer Field Schools (FFSs) through the training of 20 Government extension staff who will then organise FFS groups - The operational capacity of SEDA and INFRAID is currently weak, partly because during the interim period between projects (PARIS and FESAP), VSF Germany negated to release equipment and other assets that had been officially handed over in order to guarantee the availability of the equipment for use under the new project (FESAP). - This is understood and appreciated (given the fact that no FSTP funds will be spent on the purchase of new vehicles and office equipment etc.). On the other hand, heavy reliance on the operational capacity of two organisations who lack capacity and whose development was deliberately impeded in order to serve the interests of VSF Germany is rather worrying. - VSF Germany will need to establish and maintain sufficient operational capacity of its own to both build the capacity of partner organisations and compensate for its absence at critical moments, as required. It is also obligated to leave INFRAID and SEDA in a stronger condition at project end than at project outset, where they are clearly incapacitated by 10 months of inactivity and lost opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mission concurs with the observation of the previous mission. - VSF Germany should consider FESAP as possibly the final FSTP project to be implemented in Gogrial East. - As part of the overall exit strategy and in order to address these concerns, VSF Germany should clearly identify and address the capacity gaps which are critical and deemed necessary preconditions for effective and successful implementation and sustainability of the action. - To avoid raising expectation of the target groups (e.g. local implementing partner or government), the project should prioritise only those capacity gaps that can be realistically be addressed within the scope of this project.
<p>Weak private sector, viz. the intention of providing essential inputs through private agro-dealers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An express project objective is the “promotion of market-orientated farming and the facilitation of access to credit, markets and linkages between value chain actors”. Details on how this will be achieved in an environment (particularly Gogrial East County) where the private sector is weak and ineffectual remain somewhat sparse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mission concurs with the observation of the previous mission that (based on clarification provided by the team) there is a need to revise this activity to make it less ambitious. - While the rationale behind the proposal to work with the two Cooperative groups and the Village Bank is linked to the idea of strengthening their capacity and ensuring they become financially sustainable, the project should consider how feasible and realistic it is for the Cooperatives and Village Bank to provide effectively and timely services to farmers and develop a clear relevant strategy.

	Challenge/Constraints	Possible solution
1	<p>Socio-economic challenges</p> <p><i>Inflation:</i> Current market prices of fuel, spare parts and agricultural inputs such as spades and tools have increased due to the high dollar-SSP exchange rate.</p> <p><i>Inertia:</i> Reluctance was observed among some of the selected households to adopt a full-cost idea for some items. At the same time, traders/suppliers remain sceptical as to their proposed buyers' commitment. This is slowing down implementation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amendment of the budget to fit the current market and context 2. Increased community dialogue and more awareness forums to encourage communities toward on self-reliance
2	<p>Climatic/environmental challenges: Some project areas remain inaccessible due to excess water as a result of the floods experienced in the previous season.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access the locations using alternative routes (though these can be very long) 2. Have focal points based in these locations to carry out project activities
3	<p>Political challenges: Cross-border misunderstandings between Western Bahr-el-Ghazal and Warrap States related to land demarcation and boundaries have on many occasions hindered smooth implementation of the project.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote peace and educate on better means of conflict resolution through training and awareness-raising avenues 2. Implement occasional cross-border joint activities such as mass vaccination that target both communities
4	<p>Operational challenges: These primarily concern vehicles, as VSF Germany undervalued the capacity of the cars handed over from the previous project. An in-depth assessment of their condition suggested that they may not survive the project period due to poor mechanics.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide sufficient spare parts 2. Buy a new vehicle to supplement the existing ones

3.3. Further actions required

- Revise the work plan for year 1 and ensure that each implementing partner is clear on their role and responsibility in the implementation, monitoring and review of the plan;
- Review and revise the project logical framework, ensuring that all indicators are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound (SMART) and measurable on a continuous basis;
- Prepare and submit an "inception rider", informed by baseline data/information and suggested revisions and amendments to the accepted proposal, inclusive of the work plan and budget (prompted by a reconsideration of the viability of individual project components) for submission to the EU Delegation no later than 31 March 2015;
- Conduct a capacity-gap assessment of SEDA in the areas of project management, financial management and budgeting and conduct relevant training by the end of 2015;
- Participate in the on-going process of preparing a revised extension package being led by the EU TA on extension services.

3.4 Changes to project context

- At the time of the field mission there was no significant change in the operational environment in Gogrial East or Warrap that could have the potential to negatively affect the implementation of the project. However, the economic instability characterised by hyperinflation and depreciation of the SSP and Euro to the US dollar may have both negative and positive effects on the project budget.

3.5 Progress in achieving project objectives and relevant specific results

(See details in Annex 1 – below)

3.6 Lessons learnt to date

- For a long time rural dry-season vegetable farming has been taken for granted and on many occasions, cosmetically used by implementing agencies as a means to promote better nutrition and prevent malnutrition. As such it is often resisted by some rural communities. However, vegetable production which has a two-pronged objective of improved nutrition and income has had a positive impact, especially on women, in terms of the instant cash they now make and the immediate positive impact on their ability to address other livelihood-related needs. With very limited farm inputs on miniature plots (2m by 3m), rural women have managed to earn as much as 700 South Sudanese pounds (SSP) in two months with limited farming hours. With proper timing,

sufficient farm inputs, ample farm size and adequate knowhow on innovative agricultural and saving skills, vegetable farming can turn tables and become a major livelihood boost for many rural vulnerable households;

- Working closely with staff of other implementing partners on common challenges and constraints at individual and organisational level tends to encourage better coordination and collaboration on programmatic and operational issues. The last three meetings held between EU implementing partners have resulted in breakthroughs to addressing many bottlenecks;
- Synchronising project activities such as livestock vaccination with national/State vaccination calendars makes coordination and implementation easier and contributes to meeting project targets in a cost-effective manner as at such times, the Government would normally facilitate logistics and support the process of positioning vaccines in all locations in States and Counties.

3.7 Cross-cutting and other issues

EU Visibility: It is too early in the project cycle to assess visibility, although it was noted that there was no visibility at the Vegetable Garden visited during the mission. The EU monitoring mission was informed that plans were underway to erect a notice board. Based on previous project performance, the mission is confident that VSF Germany will address this.

Gender issue: There are no gender issues to report. All planned activities under each of the specific results include both male and female beneficiaries (a trend VSF Germany has maintained in the past). There was a good gender balance among the national staff within VSF Germany, SEDA and INFRAID; however, the project has no field-based female staff from outside South Sudan.

4. Summary of follow-up actions and responsibility

	Action to be taken	Responsible	Deadline
1.	Circulate draft monitoring report	Emmanuel Minari	30 April 2015
2.	Revise the work plan for year 1 and ensure each implementing partner is clear on their role and responsibility in the implementation, monitoring and review of the plan	VSF Germany	31 March 2015
3.	Review and revise the project logical framework, ensuring that all indicators are SMART and measurable on a continuous basis	VSF Germany	On-going (1 August 2016)
4.	Prepare and submit an "inception rider", informed by baseline data/information and suggested revisions and amendments to the accepted proposal, inclusive of the work plan and budget (prompted by a reconsideration of the viability of individual project components) for submission to the EU Delegation no later than 31 March 2015	VSF Germany	31 March 2015
5.	Conduct a capacity gap assessment of SEDA in the areas of project management, financial management and budgeting and conduct relevant training by the end of 2015	VSF Germany	On-going (30 November 2015)
6.	Participate in the on-going process of preparing a revised extension package being led by the EU TA on extension services	VSF Germany	On-going (30 June 2015)

Signature: Emmanuel Minari and Tayo Alabi

Date: 30 March 2015

Annex 1: Summary of Progress Made under Each Specific Result

Results 1		Increased agricultural production and productivity through strengthened extension services and innovative farming	
Key Planned Activity		Achievement to date	
Conduct Baseline Survey on Agricultural Production and Marketing by 10 March 2015		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The survey exercise is complete and all project locations were visited. The Consultants are now finalising the report. - This exercise was delayed due to excess water on the roads and the emergence of a community border conflict. 	
Identify target beneficiaries (2,000 vulnerable households and 1,000 smallholder farmers) by means of PRA and community wealth ranking, disaggregated by gender		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 inception planning workshop was held for Government officials (Directors of Agriculture and Livestock), local administrators, women and youth representatives and project staff. - 4 community dialogues have been held at County level with the RRC, and CAD and CLD. - 3 meetings have been held with Chiefs and other community elders at Payam and Boma levels. - 5 beneficiary selection committees have been formed at Payam level consisting of representatives from the CAD, CLD, RRC (and their office), youth groups, women's groups and 3 Chiefs per Payam. - Training of the selection committees in the use of selection criteria is planned for 27 February to 5 March 2015. - A Memorandum of Understanding with National NGOs has been finalised. - A workshop on project objectives is planned to be held with State Ministers and Commissioners on 11 March 2015. - Excess water has hindered access to some project locations, e.g. Nyang. 	
Facilitate access to agricultural (crop and livestock) inputs from community and private agro-dealers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Bills of Quantities and Procurement Plan are complete. - Beneficiary Selection Committees are in place and awaiting training. - Community dialogue with leaders and other stakeholders has been completed. - Consultation with blacksmiths is in progress. - 40 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) have been trained. - 7,181 heads of animals have been vaccinated (239 households). - 2 agro-veterinary shops have been identified. - Agro-veterinary dealers have a limited supply and diversity of drugs due to low capital bases. - Mass vaccinations are still not possible. - The establishment of community Seed Banks will be accomplished by the end of the 2015 cropping season 	
Result 2		Increased farm size and better tillage and productivity per acreage attributed to the adoption of animal traction by smallholder farmers as a viable, cost-effective and sustainable technology (targeting 600 vulnerable farming households)	
Planned Activity		Achievement to date	
Identify target areas and direct beneficiaries who will act as agents for change in the adoption of animal draught cultivation techniques		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 project locations have been marked for this activity (Kwac North and South, Pathuon West, Toch North and Nyang Payams). 	
Support to 600 farmers to access ox-ploughs and spare parts through private dealers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation with potential ox-plough suppliers has been initiated and is on-going. - Value chain actors and microfinance players in Kwajok and Liethnolm have been consulted for possible participation. - Negotiation is on-going for the possible involvement of Village Banks and Cooperatives in both Counties in the procurement process. VSF Germany will help initiate the process. 	

Support local artisans who have additional skills in the fabrication of spare parts and the repair and maintenance of farm tools	- Consultation with artisans is on-going.																								
Source/develop extension materials and a dissemination strategy	- Based on the advice of the EU TA, the project staff will participate in the process of developing extension packages and will wait until the materials produced are endorsed by the Government before producing copies for use in the project area.																								
Organise animal traction training (including ToT training) for 30 Master Trainers drawn from the community	- Plans are underway to finalise the identification of Master Trainers and prepare the ToT training.																								
Result 3	Increased household income as a result of access to microfinance and local markets and linkages to value chain actors																								
Planned Activity	Achievement to date																								
Conduct a Value Chain Analysis (including a rapid House Economy survey)	- Plans are underway to recruit a suitable consultant to undertake the value chain analysis.																								
Facilitate access to credits through Accumulated Savings and Credit Associations (ASCAS), (strengthening 20 ASCAS in two Counties)	- The project team is currently discussing how to approach this activity.																								
Facilitate linkages between local value chain actors (cooperatives, associations, agro-veterinary dealers, entrepreneurs, etc.)	- Linkages already exist but are not yet formalised.																								
Result 4	Increased capacity and resilience among target groups to respond to and manage climatic and environmental changes, conflict and other shocks as a result of disaster risk reduction initiatives																								
Planned Activity	Achievement to date																								
Undertake vulnerability assessment and mapping for effective targeting	- This activity has not yet been implemented. However, assessment tools have been developed and a relevant committee has been formed																								
Identification of 1,600 target beneficiaries in vegetable production, poultry and fishing activities	- At total of 77 households have been identified and registered for dry-season vegetable farming in Pathuon West and Kuac North Payams. - A total of 250 poultry beneficiaries have been selected, registered and validated in Pathuon West Payam.																								
Support the beneficiaries with relevant extension services and training in better animal and crop production techniques	- A total of 85 farmers were trained. See the table below for details: <table border="1" data-bbox="837 1344 1252 1624"> <thead> <tr> <th>Group</th> <th>F</th> <th>M</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Titachuol</td> <td>15</td> <td>8</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ok</td> <td>11</td> <td>10</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malual</td> <td>19</td> <td>2</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maker Jok</td> <td>19</td> <td>1</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>64</td> <td>21</td> <td>85</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Group	F	M	Total	Titachuol	15	8	23	Ok	11	10	21	Malual	19	2	21	Maker Jok	19	1	20	Total	64	21	85
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Total	64	21	85																						
Support 400 beneficiaries with appropriate tools and seeds for vegetable production	- 77 vegetable farmers have been registered, organised into four groups and supported with assorted seeds and tools for dry-season vegetable farming; - The 77 farmers were then supported to set up 77 plots (one plot each) which were then sub-divided into 4 plots each (measuring 2x2 metres). - Farmers were supported with 2.6 kg Okra, 5 kg Rijja, 10 kg Kudra and 10 kg Jir Jir. Although ranked first, cowpea seeds were not distributed due to their unavailability in both Wau and Kuajok where other seeds were procured. - Farmers were supported with tools at group level in each of the four groups based on availability and an assessment of the needs of each group. Tools distributed included 79 hoes, 71 shovels, 59 watering cans and 4 treadles.																								
Support 600 vulnerable households with fishing equipment	- The process of identifying beneficiaries is underway.																								

Support 600 women-headed households with chicken restocking and related extension services

- A total of 250 poultry beneficiaries have been selected, registered and validated in Pathuon West Payam.
- 5,000 chickens have been vaccinated against Newcastle disease.

Annex 2: Progress toward achieving project objectives

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement as at October 2014	Achievement as at February 2015
Overall objective To contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods among rural communities by supporting household subsistence farmers in Warrap State of South Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15% of population improved their food security status. - 10% increased household productive assets for target beneficiaries. - Increase 20% food availability of the target beneficiaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How will these indicators be measured on a regular basis? The EU will no longer accept reports with no connection between OVIs and reporting /reporting only after submission of the final evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mission agrees with the comments of the previous TA - VSF Germany should address this and submit it with the Inception Rider
Specific objective SO#1: To increase sustainable food production and productivity through effective extension services and the promotion of animal draught technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 30% of targeted and supported farmers continue using animal traction (cultivation) without external support. - 40% of target private extension service providers continue function during and after the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presumably this can be measured yearly during the cultivation season by field monitoring and observation of a sample group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mission agrees with the comments of the previous TA - VSF Germany should address this and submit it with the Inception Rider
SO#2: To increase the income of subsistence farmers through the promotion of market-orientated farming and the facilitation of access to credit, markets and linkages between value chain actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15% of target beneficiaries increase and diversify loan and saving scheme access - 15% of target beneficiaries increase their household income. - 15% of target farmers have active linkages with traders at both local and regional (State) markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider: is the objective only increased access? - Will need a sample group to be assessed throughout the lifetime of the project - Define the meaning of "active" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mission agrees with the comments of the previous TA - VSF Germany should address this and submit it with the Inception Rider
SO#3: To improve and strengthen the capacity and capability of target groups to respond to vulnerability/shocks caused by climatic, environmental and other factors including man-made conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of institutions informed and with key staff trained in resilience, DRR and environmentally friendly practices - Food stock of vulnerable households increased by 15% - 50% of target beneficiaries have an improved diet according to the household dietary diversity score - N° of disputes related to the use of natural resources resolved amicably 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor English. Should be rephrased - Again a sample group will need to be pre-selected and followed throughout the life of the project - Vague and ambiguous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mission agrees with the comments of the previous TA - VSF Germany should address this and submit it with the Inception Rider
Expected results R1: Increased agricultural production and productivity through strengthened extension services and innovative farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50% of trained progressive farmers and extension workers (disaggregated by gender, community, private and Government) sharing their knowledge with other farmers in the community - 40% of farmers purchasing regular inputs (veterinary and agro-products) and services from agro-veterinary shops and other private dealers - 50% of targeted households practising improved farming methods (e.g. planting in rows) - 30% increase in the availability of quality seed at community level due to seed multiplication systems - 50% of farmers supported report reduced post-harvest losses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In simple terms this means (in the case of extension workers) "doing their job", in which case the percentage should be higher - How will this be measured? - Data can presumably be collected by extension workers - VSF Germany will supervise multiplication schemes and gather production data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See details in Annex 1 above

R2: Animal traction is adopted as a viable, cost-effective and sustainable technology that contributes to an annual increase in cultivated farmland, improved tillage and increased productivity per acreage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 70% increase in the number of animals used for traction by the end of the project in target locations - 50% increase in cropped land under production by the end of the project - 50% of farmers show increased understanding of ox-plough utilisation and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The first two indicators are sound (although the increase in number of animals used for ploughing is ambitious). The third indicator is ambiguous. What is the meaning of "increased understanding"? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See details in Annex 1 above
R3: Increased household income as a result of access to microfinance and local markets and linkages to value chain actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30% increase in levels of savings and borrowing through microfinance by the end of the project - 50% of subsistence farmers increase profit from the sale of agricultural products by 20% by the end of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will depend on the accuracy of baseline data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 40% of self-saving groups formed sustainably running and productive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meaning groups that survive? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See details in Annex 1 above
Result 4: Increased resilience to shocks in the form of climatic/ environmental changes and man-made disasters such as conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 40% reduction in the emergency selling of productive assets during the dry season by the end of the project - 3 seed banks supported and operational in target communities - 50% of subsistence farmers (disaggregated by gender) using improved harvest storage systems - 50% of supported households have a better nutritional balance due to improved diets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How will this be measured? Should specify that this will be "among the target group" - Presumes that a specific storage system will be introduced - Requires a specific sample group and regular follow-up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See details in Annex 1 above
Activities Result 1: Increased agricultural production and productivity through strengthened extension services and innovative farming	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Conduct a Comprehensive Baseline Assessment in two Counties 1.2 Identify 3,000 target households by means of PRA and community wealth ranking, disaggregated by gender 1.3 Promote Market-Orientated Extension services to 3,000 households (crops and livestock) 1.4 Facilitate access to agricultural inputs from community and private agro-veterinary dealers to 3,000 households (crops and livestock) 1.5 Facilitate access to extension services provided by community, Government and private agents (crop and livestock) 1.6 Build the capacity of local institutions and value chain actors in technical areas, business skills management and cross-cutting issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No indicators required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See details in Annex 1 above
Result 2: Adoption of animal traction as a viable, cost-effective and sustainable technology that contributes to an annual increase in farmed land, improved tillage and increased productivity per acreage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Identify target areas and direct beneficiaries who will act as agents for change in the adoption of animal draught cultivation techniques. 2.2 Facilitate access to appropriate inputs (equipment, tools etc.) and ploughs used for animal traction 2.3 Support extension services specific to animal traction provided by NGOs and private agents 2.4 Facilitate and establish a Farmers' Resource Centre (FRC) to facilitate learning and research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No indicators required. See comments above on the FRC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See details in Annex 1 above

<p>Result 3: Increased household income as a result of access to microfinance and local markets and linkages to value chain actors</p>	<p>3.1 Value Chain Analysis of crop and livestock products</p> <p>3.2 Facilitate access to credit through Accumulated Savings and Credit Associations (ASCAs) and strengthen 20 ASCAs in the two Counties</p> <p>3.3 Facilitate linkages between local value chain actors (cooperatives, associations, agro-veterinary dealers, entrepreneurs, etc.)</p>	<p>- No indicators required</p>	<p>- See details in Annex 1 above</p>
<p>Result 4: Increased resilience to shocks in the form of climatic/ environmental changes and man-made disasters such as conflict</p>	<p>4.1 Vulnerability assessment and mapping for effective targeting</p> <p>4.2 Support vulnerable groups (the elderly, women, youth, the disabled, etc.) with inputs and advisory services on crop and livestock activities</p> <p>4.3 Enhance the use of environmentally and conflict-sensitive approaches to natural resource management and agricultural production</p> <p>4.4 Capacity-building activities focusing on DRR, early warning systems and early response targeting local NGO staff, local authorities and key stakeholders (value chain actors)</p>	<p>- No indicators required</p>	<p>- See details in Annex 1 above</p>

Annex 3: Picture Gallery



Above: Cattle camp at Mayom Chuol between Luonyaker and Lietnhom, Gogrial East County, Warrap State.



Above: Asunta Ajak: Widow and beneficiary of poultry since 2014. She has so far used the income from the sale of chickens and cockerels to pay school fees for her grandchildren, meet medical expenses and buy food during the hunger gap. She has also used the proceeds to accumulate production assets (so far she has bought 4 female goats and 2 cows).



To the left (above): Vegetable farmers tending to their farm. To the left (below): The mission held meetings with members of the vegetable group.
To the right (above): Picture of Female Extension Worker from SEDA who works with the women in the vegetable garden.

Annex 4: Location, people met and activities visited by TA FSTP

Meeting with Herdmen: Kwel Village Mayom Chol Boma, Toch Noth Payam				
Date	S/No.	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
25/02/2015	1	Loko Ring Kom	M	Livestock owner
25/02/2015	2	Thong Atem Angok	M	Livestock owner
25/02/2015	3	Kom Chan Kom	M	Livestock owner
25/02/2015	4	Jok Atem Angok	M	Livestock owner
25/02/2015	5	Matoc Alic Chok	M	Livestock owner
25/02/2015	6	Ben Akol Madut	M	Livestock owner
25/02/2015	7	Aduol Kwot Abur	M	Livestock owner
Meeting with Vegetable Garden Group: Malual Village.				
Date	S/No.	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
25/02/2015	1	Agen Anyith	F	Member
25/02/2015	2	Nyibol Ngot	F	Member
25/02/2015	3	Akon Akon	F	Member
25/02/2015	4	Nyibol Nyimot	F	Member
25/02/2015	5	Nhomot Wiyue	F	Member
25/02/2015	6	Aluel Achuil	F	Member
25/02/2015	7	Riang Mathiang	F	Member
25/02/2015	8	Ding Thik	F	Member
25/02/2015	9	Madut Achuil Lual	M	Deputy Chair Person
25/02/2015	10	Deng Kuol	M	Member
25/02/2015	11	Kual Mathiang	M	Member
25/02/2015	12	Amath Majok	F	Member
25/02/2015	13	Ayak Ring	F	Member
25/02/2015	14	Arach Kur	F	Chair Lady
25/02/2015	15	AGwer Chol	F	Member
25/02/2015	16	Ajok Dhar	F	Member
25/02/2015	17	Adut Mayik	F	Member
25/02/2015	18	Ateng Agai	F	Member
25/02/2015	19	Adeng Wol	F	Member
25/02/2015	20	Luel Maring	M	Member
25/02/2015	21	Abuk Kual	M	Member
25/02/2015	22	Koryom Goch	M	Member
25/02/2015	23	Alier Mathiang	M	Member
25/02/2015	24	Simon Achik	M	Agriculture Ext. Supervisor (SEDA)
25/02/2015	25	John Chol	M	Field Officer - SEDA
Meeting with Poultry Beneficiary: Lunyaker Centre.				
Date	S/No.	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
25/02/2015	1	Asunta Ajak	F	Poultry Owner
Debriefing Meeting with Project Staff VSFG, SEDA and INFRAID)				
Date	S/No.	Names of Participants	Gender	Designation
25/02/2015		<i>Please see the handwritten list attached</i>		

GRANT PROJECT MONITORING REPORT

VSF GERMANY – FSTP PROJECT

OCTOBER 2014

1. Project General Data

Contract beneficiary	Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany
Project Title	“Food security through enhancing sustainable agricultural production” (FESAP)”
Project ref. CRIS	DCI-FOOD/2014/337-937
Date of visit	5 th – 6 th October 2014
Location	Gogrial East and West Counties, Warrap State
Monitoring Officer	Steven Hind and Gabriel Dayre (Project Manager, EU Delegation)
Start date	08/08/2014
End date	07/08/2017

2. Financial data

Total EC contribution	€ 1,500,000 (being equivalent to 90% of the total budget of € 1,666,666)
Total spent by project to date (Euro)	Info to be provided by IP
Balance of funds released to date	€ 543,722
Anticipated date of next request/release of funds	Final quarter 2015
Anticipated amount of next request/release of funds	€ 806,279

3. Monitoring data

3.1 Summary of progress / key findings

- VSF Germany completed implementation of a 43 month FSTP project titled “Productive Asset Recovery and Institutional Strengthening” project (or PARIS) in October 2013, that was widely regarded as one of the best (if not the best and most successful) FSTP projects of recent times.
- Reviews of the project, over the period of its implementation, were consistently good to excellent. For example, a ROM monitoring mission conducted in February 2012 categorised the project as follows:
 - o “Relevance and quality of project design” – B.
 - o “Efficiency of implementation to date” – B.
 - o “Effectiveness to date” – B.
 - o “Impact prospects” – B.
 - o “Potential sustainability” – B.
- At € 3 million the PARIS project budget was more than 50% higher than the second largest FSTP budget of the period (which was € 1,979,946). Perhaps in consequence, PARIS also had the widest array of activities of any recent FSTP project, comprising support for the livestock sector (community animal health worker training and support, establishment and provisioning of veterinary drug pharmacies, construction of butchers facilities, etc.); fisheries development; poultry development; farmers’ field schools and a seed producer programme; formal village banking and support for rural co-operatives; capacity development of local government structures, including construction of office buildings; capacity development of local, indigenous non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations and enterprise groups, including blacksmiths.

- All these activities were implemented in just one county (Gogrial East). However, due to a combination of annual flooding and periodic insecurity, at least two of the six payams in the county, namely Nyang and Toich North, were largely excluded from participation in project activities. It is, therefore, these locations / payams that the new FSTP project will seek to target.
- Effective usage was made of local partners (INFRAID and SEDA), who clearly benefited from VSF Germany's capacity building activities, both in terms of staff capacity and hardware, and of its international partner, World Concern, (who were responsible for the various enterprise development, income generation and credit activities). Hindsight, therefore, appears to justify VSF Germany's decision to ignore the ROM recommendation proposing the expulsion of INFRAID from the implementing consortium. In the period after the ROM mission in February 2012, INFRAID became, arguably, the best of PARISs implementing partners. Both INFRAID and SEDA reappear in the new FSTP (FESAP) project.
- The overall project objective of the new project is "to contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods of rural communities by supporting household subsistence farmers in Warrap State of South Sudan".
- Specific Objectives are:
 1. "To increase sustainable food production and productivity through effective extension services and promotion of animal draught technologies".
 2. "To increase income of subsistence farmers through promotion of market oriented farming and facilitation of access to credit, markets and linkages between value chain actors".
 3. "To improve and strengthen the capacity and capabilities of target groups to respond to vulnerability / shocks caused by climatic, environmental and other factors including man-made conflicts".
- Expects results are:
 1. "Increased agricultural production and productivity through strengthened extension services and innovative farming".
 2. "Animal traction is adopted as a viable, cost-effective and sustainable technology and contributes to annual increase in cultivated farmed land, improved tillage and increased productivity per acreage".
 3. "Increase in household income as a result of access to microfinance, local markets and linkages to value chain actors".
 4. "Increased resilience to shocks in climatic / environmental changes and man-made disasters such as conflict".
- Selected project locations are:
Nyang, Pathuon West and Toich North payams in Gogrial East County and Kuac North and Kuac South payams in Gogrial West County.
- The new project contract came into effect in mid-August 2014. As such, at the time of the monitoring visit (in early October 2014), the project was little more than a month and a half old and not fully functional.

Main strengths

Under the circumstances it may be premature to comment on main strengths and weaknesses, however, preliminary indications suggest the following:

- Project design draws heavily on ideas already successfully trialled under the PARIS project, such as promotion of animal traction, formation of farmer field schools (FFSs) and ASCAs (accumulated savings and credit associations) and provision of support (through training and drug supply) of community animal health workers (CAHWs). For example 20 existing ASCAs will be assisted via recruitment and training of Animators.
- Both VSF Germany and the FESAP project have ample preparation time (to recruit staff, organise activities, preposition inputs etc.) before the start of the next rain-fed agricultural season in April 2015. For example, a baseline survey will be undertaken only in December (2014) and January (2015) when the main target area (Nyang and Toich North payams) in Gogrial East County is fully accessible. The results of the baseline survey will, presumably, then be used to shape a revised and measurable project log frame.
- The target beneficiary group of 3,000 households is a manageable number. Beneficiary households will be identified through a PRA (participatory rural appraisal) and community wealth ranking (disaggregated by gender) exercise scheduled to begin in January 2015.
- Extension services will be provided in currently under-served or unserved locations through promotion of a "market-oriented extension service" that will be put in place (through recruitment and training of extension officers) by February 2015.
- The extension system will include (and will provide refresher training to) CAHWs already trained under PARIS.
- As far as possible, project inputs will be made available to target beneficiaries through private, agro-vet dealers (which is not only a departure from accepted practice under PARIS but also fully consistent with the input strategy to be promoted under SORUDEV: which will also be run in part from a base in Luonyaker).

- Animal traction will be promoted through identification and training of “change agents” drawn from the target communities. The activity will be operational by the start of the next agricultural growing season in April 2015.
- A value chain analysis will be conducted as part of the baseline survey exercise in December 2014 / January 2015, as will a “vulnerability assessment” and mapping.
- Support for vulnerable groups (the elderly, disabled, women etc.) will emphasise dry season vegetable production rather than the goat restocking favoured under PARIS.
- The programme will also include a DRR (disaster risk reduction) component, comprising capacity building of local NGO staffs, local authorities, value chain actors and other key stakeholders, together with training in early warning system and early response mechanisms.
- The two local implementing partners (INFRAID and SEDA) expect to employ roughly 20 staffs between them.
- VSF Germany has an excellent administrative record (viz. EU funding), in both financial management and reporting, which it will, hopefully, carry into the new FESAP project.
- VSG Germany enjoys excellent relations with payam, county and state authorities: achieved over a period of years through transparency, regular consultation and co-operation (to the extent that Gogrial East County Commissioners use the VSF Germany compound as a base of operations when in Luonyaker).

Main weaknesses

- Almost two months into project implementation (as of the beginning of October 2014) a number of key staff vacancies still exist, including those of Project Officer (vet. services) / Deputy Project Manager (despite the fact that the main justification given by VSF Germany for signature of the grant contract in August 2014, mid-way through the rain-fed agricultural season, was to be able to provide veterinary services) and the Project Officer / Agriculture Specialist.
- A number of project ideas are vague and lack clarity; for example, the “market-oriented extension service”. It is unclear how this will actually operate and with what implication for local government and long-term project sustainability. Similarly a separate activity will seek to “build capacity of local institutions and value chain actors on technical areas, business skills management and cross-cutting issues”, but no target institutions are identified or the nature of the proposed training ever elaborated.
- A “Farmers Resource Centre” (FCR) will be established to “facilitate learning and research”. Though not specified, it is likely that the Centre will be based in the existing Farmers Centre, constructed by VSF Germany in Luonyaker using EU funds drawn from an earlier “development” programme (possibly RRP). Costs will include rehabilitation of an existing building handed over to the County Agriculture Department several years earlier but never utilised or maintained.
- Nyang Payam in Gogrial East County was included in the PARIS project but was then marginal to its implementation because it was frequently inaccessible due to flooding and insecurity. Nyang is specifically targeted again under FESAP, despite the fact that nothing has changed to improve accessibility or ease of movement.
- Tensions currently exist between VSF Germany and its local partners, INFRAID and SEDA (and especially with INFRAID) because of unresolved issues relating to disposal of assets from the PARIS project, which were handed over to INFRAID and SEDA in theory but not in practice in order to retain their availability for use in FESAP in the event of its selection. Meanwhile, in the intervening year (between the closure of PARIS in October 2013 and the active launch of FESAP in September 2014) INFRAID and SEDA have lost much of their human capacity due to lack of funding, resources and activities, which might have been mitigated had they had access to the transport and equipment, i.e. operational capacity, that was legally theirs.
- SEDA will be responsible for formation of ASCAs under FESAP, whereas responsibility for the same under PARIS lay with World Concern: an international NGO. It remains to be seen if SEDA has the necessary capacity to implement the activity with the same degree of know-how and professionalism as World Concern..

3.2. Challenges which may adversely impact implementation and action taken to address problems

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by VSF Germany
Ensuring the sustainability of project outputs and outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As already noted, FESAP will borrow extensively from (and be based firmly on) the experience gained under PARIS. However, while this has many positive connotations (continuity with earlier interventions, involvement of existing third parties, such as institutions, communities and target groups etc.) it also increases the likelihood of aid-induced dependence and poor sustainability among target beneficiaries and the risk of further entrenching or compounding errors already committed under previous Actions. - For example, major investments have been made in community infrastructure development under earlier projects, including

Challenges	ACTION TAKEN (or to be taken) by VSF Germany
	<p>construction of government offices and agricultural “demonstration and research” facilities. Post initiating / implementing project hand-over, these facilities have (in general) been un or under-utilised and poorly maintained by receiving bodies, which, in most cases, were financially ill-prepared to receive them. To some extent this includes VSF Germany’s local NGO / CBO partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care should be taken not to implement activities that encourage or promote dependence. Equally, VSF Germany should avoid investing heavily in rehabilitation of facilities (perhaps from a sense of guilt) that have already been tried and failed in earlier projects, such as the idea of establishing a functioning “Farmers’ Centre” in Luonyaker.
Possible capacity deficits among local partner organisations: INFRAID and SEDA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEDA are listed as co-applicant of the FESAP project, while INFRAID are categorised as an “affiliated entity”. - According to the initial planning, SEDA will implement extension activities, dry season vegetable production and promotion of animal traction. Responsibility for the latter will be shared with INFRAID, who will provide the “hardware” (ox and farmer training, provided by the same “master trainer” employed under PARIS) while SEDA will provide the “software” (formation of parallel savings and loan mechanisms through formation of ASCAs). INFRAID will also implement poultry activities, input distribution and Farmer Field Schools (FFSs), through training 20 government extension staff who will then organise FFS groups. - SEDA and INFRAID operational capacity is currently quite weak, partly because VSF Germany kept them so during the interim period between projects (PARIS and FESAP); by failing to release equipment and other assets that had been officially handed over, in order to guarantee the availability of that equipment for use under the new project (FESAP). - This is understood and appreciated (given the fact that no FSTP funds will be spent on purchase of new vehicles and office equipment etc.). On the other hand, heavy reliance on the operational capacity of two organisations who lack capacity and whose development was deliberately impeded in order to serve the interests of VSF Germany is also quite worrying. - VSF Germany will need to establish and maintain sufficient operational capacity of their own in situ to both build the capacity of partner organisations and compensate for its absence at critical moments, as required. It is also obligated to leave INFRAID and SEDA in a stronger condition at project end than at project outset, where they are clearly incapacitated by ten months of inactivity and lost opportunities.
Weak private sector, viz. the intention of providing essential inputs through private agro-dealers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An express project objective is “promotion of market oriented farming and facilitation of access to credit, markets and linkages between value chain actors”. Details on how this will be achieved in an environment (particularly Gogrial East County) where the private sector is so weak and ineffectual remain somewhat sparse.

3.3. Further actions required

- An extended project planning exercise, involving all implementing / consortium partners, was scheduled to begin in mid-October (2014) but was subsequently postponed until an unspecified later date. In order to clarify roles, review objectives, proposed outputs and outcomes (see log frame comments under annex 2 below) and to resolve disputes and differences between implementing partners, this planning meeting should be convened as soon and as quickly as possible.
- As part of this process of self-reflection, review and revise the project log frame making all indicators SMART and measurable (on a continuous basis).
- Again, as part of this process of self-reflection, VSF Germany should prepare an “inception report”, containing suggested revisions and amendments to the accepted proposal, inclusive the work plan and budget (prompted by a reconsideration of the viability of individual project components), for submission to the EU

Delegation not later than six months after the start date of project implementation, i.e. by 8th February 2015 at the latest.

- Assuming that, as project co-applicant, SEDA will be provided with and will manage their own “imprest” budget, provide SEDA accounting staff with training in financial and budget management and cost accounting.

3.4 Changes to project context

- The final months of 2014 have been characterised by economic instability and unprecedented levels of inflation, especially in “up-country” locations such as Wau and Kuajok (where most inputs destined for Gogrial East County are sourced) due to deteriorating road conditions and road closures and the consequent shortage of essential supplies. Fixed exchange rates and rampant inflation will quickly undermine project budgets and erode purchasing power (another reason for preparation of an inception report and contract addendum request with budget revision).

3.5 Progress in achieving project objectives

(See details in Annex 2 - below)

The VSF Germany ‘PARIS’ project had the largest budget among all recent FSTP projects and arguably achieved the best results (perhaps in consequence). In addition, VSF Germany contract (and financial) management, including reporting, were of consistently high quality and timely with respect to presentation.

Many of the same staff involved in the implementation of PARIS (including the Project Manager) are already involved, or will soon be involved, in the implementation of FESAP (both at Juba level and in the field in Warrap State). As such, there is every likelihood that VSF Germany will do an excellent job with the implementation of FESAP, just as it did with PARIS, and little reason for concern about the eventual outcome of the project.

At this point, so early in the project implementation cycle, it would be premature to make any general or binding statements about the character and / or quality of project progress. A few problems do exist (in form of staffing vacancies and issues between the implementing partners) but nothing of significance to cast a shadow over future prospects and progress toward a successful final outcome. As such, the project and the implementing consortium can be considered to have passed this first monitoring test without major qualification, but are requested to follow the few recommendations included here according to the timetable provided.

3.6 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	20/11/14
2.	Convene a project planning exercise, involving all implementing / consortium partners, to clarify roles, review objectives, proposed outputs and outcomes and to resolve any existing disputes and differences between implementing partners.	VSF Germany	15/12/14
3.	Review and revise the project log frame making all indicators SMART and measurable (on a continuous basis).	VSF Germany	15/12/14
4.	Provide SEDA accounting staff with training in financial and budget management and cost accounting.	VSF Germany	31/01/15
5.	Prepare an “inception report”, containing suggested revisions and amendments to the accepted proposal, inclusive the work plan and budget.	VSF Germany	8/02/15

Signature: Steven Hind

Date: 20/11/2014

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

Date	Location	Organisation	Name or activity
5/10/14	Luonyaker and all project locations	VSF Germany	Daniel Nondi Olang: Project Manager
“ “	Luonyaker and all project locations	SEDA	Raymond Jok Monybut: SEDA Programme Coordinator
“ “	Luonyaker and all project locations	INFRAID	Peter Arol Akuei: INFRAID Programme Coordinator
“ “	Luonyaker and all project locations	VSF Germany	Eunice Obala: Disaster Response Specialist (DRR) for the VSF-G Regional Office
“ “	Luonyaker and all project locations	VSF Germany	Tong Yohanna: Agricultural Officer
“ “	Luonyaker and selected project locations	VSF Germany	Angelo Kom Agoth: Vet. Assistant (Livestock)
“ “	Luonyaker, VSF-G office	State Government	Hon. Wol Anei Anei: Commissioner, Gogrial East County
“ “	Luonyaker, RRC office	State Government	Simon Akot Kuot : RRC (Relief and Rehabilitation Commission) Secretary for Gogrial East County
“ “	Mayom Chuol village	Beneficiaries	Reech Deng Reech (Executive Chief), Maduor Akol Maduor (Sub-chief), Manyuet Duor Ajuer, (headman), Deng Kuach Deng (Headman), Madhel Piol Majok (Headman), Abuk Wol Geng (woman representative), Albino Been Akoon (CAHW), Daniel Deng Anei, Ngor Cuor Wol, Mathiang Angok: members of Mayom Chuol community
6/10/14	Thok village, Atak Bei, Gogrial East County	MoARF	Riny Akech Cithiik: Deputy Director, Gogrial East County, State Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries
“ “	Thok village, Atak Bei, Gogrial East County	Beneficiaries	Deng Manyuet, Akondo Deng Athien, Chol Mathok Dau, Justin Kuol Lueth: CAHWs and Supervisor (Lueth) of Gogrial East County

Annex 2: Progress in achieving project objective

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
<p>Overall objective To contribute to increased food security, reduced vulnerability and enhanced livelihoods of rural communities by supporting household subsistence farmers in Warrap State of South Sudan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15% of population improved their food security status. 10% increased household productive assets for target beneficiaries. Increase 20% food availability of the target beneficiaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will these indicators be measured on a regular basis? EU will no longer accept reports with no connection between OVIs and reporting / reporting only after submission of the final evaluation.
<p>Specific objective SO#1: To increase sustainable food production and productivity through effective extension services and promotion of animal draught technologies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 30% of targeted and supported farmers continue using animal traction (cultivation) without external support. 40% of target private extension service providers continue function during and after the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presumably this can be measured yearly during the cultivation season by field monitoring and observation of a sample group.
<p>SO#2: To increase income of subsistence farmers through promotion of market oriented farming and facilitation of access to credits, markets and linkages between value chain actors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15% of target beneficiaries increase and diversify loan and saving schemes access. 15% of target beneficiaries increase household income. 15% of target farmers have active linkages with traders at both local and regional (state) markets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider: is the objective only increased access? Will need a sample group to be assessed throughout the lifetime of the project. Define the meaning of "active".
<p>SO#3: To improve and strengthen the capacity and capabilities of target groups to respond to vulnerability / shocks caused by climatic, environmental and other factors including man-made conflicts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of institutions informed and with key staff trained in resilience, DRR and environment friendly practices. Increased vulnerable HHHs' food stock by 15%. 50% of target beneficiaries have an improved diet according to the household diversity dietary score. Number of Natural Resource use related disputes resolved amicably. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor English. Should be rephrased. Again a sample group will need to be pre-selected followed through the life of the project. Vague and ambiguous.
<p>Expected results R1: Increased agriculture production and productivity through strengthened extension services and innovative farming.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of trained progressive farmers and extension workers (disaggregated by gender / community / private / government) sharing their knowledge with other farmers in the community. 40% of farmers purchasing regularly inputs (vet and agro products) and services from the agro-vet shops and other private dealers. 50% of HHHs targeted practicing improved farming methods (e.g. planting in rows). 30% increase of quality seed availability at community level due to seed multiplication systems. 50% of farmers supported report reduction of post harvest losses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In simple terms this means (in the case of extension workers) "doing their job", in which case the %age should be higher. How will this be measured? Data can presumably be collected by extension workers. VSF-G will supervise multiplication schemes and gather production data.
<p>R2: Animal traction is adopted as a viable, cost-effective and sustainable technology and contributes to annual increase in cultivated farmed land, improved tillage and increased productivity per acreage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% increase in number of animals used for traction by the end of the project in target location. 50% increase in cropped land in the farm (production) by end of the project. 50% of farmers increase understanding of ox-plough utilisation and management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first two indicators are good (though the increase in number of animals used for ploughing is ambitious). The third indicator is ambiguous. What is the meaning of "increase understanding"?
<p>R3: Increase in household income as a result of access to microfinance, local markets and linkages to value chain actors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30% increase in levels of savings / borrowings through microfinance by the end of the project. 50% of subsistence farmers increase profit from sale of agricultural products by 20% by end of the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will depend on accuracy of baseline data.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40% of the self-saving groups formed sustainably running and productive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaning groups that survive?

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Achievement
Result 4: Increased resilience to shocks in climatic / environmental changes and man- made disasters such as conflict.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% reduction in emergency selling of productive assets in dry season by the end of the project. • 3 seed banks supported and operational in target communities. • 50% of subsistence farmers (disaggregated data by gender) using improved harvest storage system. • 50% of the supported households have better nutritional balance due to improved diet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will this be measured? Should specify “among target group”. • Presumes that a specific storage system will be introduced. • Requires a specific sample group and regular follow up.
Activities Result 1: Increased agriculture production and productivity through strengthened extension services and innovative farming.	1.1 Comprehensive Baseline Assessment in two counties. 1.2 Identify 3000 target HHs by means of PRA and community wealth ranking, disaggregated by gender. 1.3 Promote Market Oriented Extension services to 3000 HHs (crop / livestock). 1.4 Facilitate access to agriculture inputs from community and private agro-vet dealers to 3000 HHs (crop / livestock). 1.5 Facilitate access to extension services provided by community, government and private agents (crop and livestock). 1.6 Build capacity of local institutions and value chain actors on technical areas, business skills management and cross cutting issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No indicators required.
Result 2: Animal traction is adopted as a viable, cost-effective and sustainable technology and contributing to annual increase in farmed land, improved tillage and increase productivity per acreage.	2.1 Identify target areas and direct beneficiaries who will be the change agents in adopting animal draught cultivation techniques. 2.2 Facilitate access to appropriate inputs (equipments, implements etc.) and ploughs and others used for animal traction. 2.3 Support extension services specific to animal traction provided by NGOs and private agents. 2.4 Facilitate and establish a Farmers Resource Centre (FRC) to facilitate learning and research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No indicators required. See comments above on FRC.
Result 3: Increase in household income as a result of access to microfinance, local markets and linkages to value chain actors.	3.1 Value Chain Analysis on crop and livestock products. 3.2 Facilitate access to credits through Accumulated Savings and Credit Associations (ASCAS), (strengthening 20 ASCAS in two counties). 3.3 Facilitate linkage between local value chain actors (cooperatives, associations, agro-vet dealers, entrepreneurs, etc.).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No indicators required.
Result 4: Increased resilience to shocks in climatic / environmental changes and man-made disasters such as conflict.	4.1 Vulnerability assessment and mapping for effective targeting. 4.2 Support vulnerable groups (elderly, women, youth, disabled, etc.) with inputs and advisory services on crop and livestock activities. 4.3 Enhance the use of environmentally and conflict sensitive approaches in natural resource management and agriculture production. 4.4 Capacity building activities focusing on DRR, early warning system, early response, targeting local NGO staff, local authorities, key stakeholders (value chain actors).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No indicators required.

Annex 3: Picture Gallery



Above: Dinka cattle camp at Mayom Chuol between Luonyaker and Lietnhom, Gogrial East County, Warrap State.

Below: Shared office facilities of VSF Germany's two local implementing partners, INFAID and SEDA, in Luonyaker, Gogrial East County, Warrap State.

