



# EU-TAPPING Potential

Building Capacity in Public Financial Management



## PROGRESS OUT OF "CONFLICT"

Bor, Jonglei State., South Sudan 29/9/2015



*"The local government act, is where you will find information about getting your money for service delivery".* That statement was only a small part of the guidance provided during an intensive, 2 day State Budget Workshop presented to 150 participants at the South Sudan Hotel in Bor.

The two day seminar, organized by the Jonglei State Ministry of Finance, supported by the EU TAPP program, also provided a forum for county financial administrators to meet face to face with state level leadership such as the John Deng, DG of Finance, Tuong Majok Deng, Acting Minister of Finance and DG of Local Government, Peter Wal Thiew.



The candid, give and take between participants addressed questions about local government, public service and finance policy. The presentations throughout the 2 day workshop provided information to continue to improve on the levels of budgeting and reporting that these finance administrators and staff have already attained. Participants were also provided information to help them further understand the process and role of the existing state (STMC) and county (CTMC) transfer monitoring committees.

John Max Bwetunge, Regional Senior, Public Finance and Payroll Advisor for EU TAPP in Jonglei State said "the biggest problem at the county and state level has been to plan and spend within the budget ceilings" part of what is addressed in the EU TAPP capacity building effort. The project also supports the establishment and operation of County Transfer Monitoring Committees in each state.



After the workshop, the State Ministry of Finance will present the budget ceilings to the council of ministers for approval allowing spending agencies to begin working on their individual budgets which will impact areas such as salary and wages, health, education and WASH programs among others.

DG, John Deng, Jonglei State, Minister of Finance believes the workshop was beneficial to all who attended. *"I believe it is this type of capacity building that is going to be crucial to the future of Jonglei State".*

### ■ What's the story?

Despite the crisis over past months, the previously "conflict affected" Jonglei State Finance Administrators have remained focused and to a very large extent, continue to fulfill their responsibilities under the Public Finance Management and Human Resource Management Manuals, a challenge under normal circumstances.

### ■ By The Numbers

**150 participants** attended the State Budget Workshop in Bor.

The PFM Manual was issued in **May 2013** by the National Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and the Local Government Board. The **195 page** manual was developed to provide guidelines to ensure efficient, fast, accurate and complete local government finance information to local government management teams and stakeholders.

The UN estimates the "crisis" in Jonglei has affected the lives of over **140,000**. Jonglei is the largest of South Sudan's **10** states with an area of **nearly 123,000** square kilometers.

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