



<b>Monitoring Report</b>	
Country Name:	Republic of South Sudan
Report Date:	02/03/2018
Project Title:	Enhancing the Food Security and Disaster Resilience of vulnerable communities in Upper Nile State, South Sudan
<b>I. INTERVENTION DATA</b>	
Status:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Interim Narrative Report expected March 2018
Monitoring Report Type:	On-going
Aid Modality:	Project Approach
Project:	Pro-Resilience Action (PRO-ACT)
Report:	
Project Management:	Technical Assistance (TA) for increased agriculture production of smallholders in South Sudan
Financed via a thematic budget line	EDF
CRIS Number:	
Project Title according to Financing Agreement/Financing Decision/Contract:	Enhancing the Food Security and Disaster Resilience of vulnerable communities in Upper Nile State, South Sudan
Domain:	EDF - Rural Development Programme
DAC-CRS Sector:	Agriculture
Additional DAC-CRS Code:	
Geographical Zone:	Counties of Malakal, Fashoda and Manyo, Upper Nile State
Keyword:	
Date Financing Agreement/Financing Decision/Contract signed:	EUROPEAID/136723/DD/ACT/SS
Responsible at Headquarter:	Stefano Ellero (Head of Cooperation)
Responsible at EUD:	Charles Rukusa
ROM Expert:	Constantine Bitwayiki
Project Authority:	Mahteme Fekadu (Cordaid)
Start Date – planned:	09/12/2015
End Date – planned:	08/12/2018
Start Date – actual:	01/01/2016
End Date – likely:	30/06/2019
Monitoring visit date:	19 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2018
<b>II. FINANCIAL DATA</b>	
Primary Commitment (EC funding):	EURO 2,388,941
Budget allocated for TA:	
Secondary Commitment (funds contracted of EC contribution):	EURO 2,388,941
Other Funding (government and / or other donors: Cordaid (10%))	EURO 265,438
Total Budget of Operation:	EURO 2,654,379
Total EU budget disbursed:	
Financial data as at:	



### **1. Project Background:**

The CORDAID project entitled “Enhancing the Food Security and Disaster Resilience of vulnerable communities in Upper Nile State, South Sudan” falls under the Pro-Resilience Action (PRO-ACT) initiatives. CORDAID is collaborating with the South Sudan Development Agency (SSUDA), a national non-governmental organization, to implement the project.

It is important to note that over the time, the Upper Nile State has experienced both natural hazards and conflicts in an on and off spanning manner since 2013 to September 2017. The security situation in the Western Bank of River Nile-the project site, became worse from late 2016 till September 2017 which directly affected project implementation.

The purpose of the project is to improve the food security and disaster resilience of vulnerable population groups in the conflict affected counties of Malakal, Fashoda and Manyo, in the Upper Nile State. The expected results of the project are (i) improved knowledge and capacity of 8 communities, 4 county government departments and 3 local NGO’s to enhance food security and disaster resilience in an integrated manner (including peace building and disaster prevention), and (ii) enhanced food security of 8 communities (3,000 households) through the implementation of food security and disaster resilience measures.

The project is expected to contribute to the reversal of the trend of thousands of people moving to the UN protected areas in the Upper Nile State to access services such as medication, food and clean water, which the project aims to address in the target communities. The project is also employing a multi-pronged approach to improve food security and empowering vulnerable households and communities as well as strengthening institutional capacity to provide sustainable skills transfer in various agricultural production disaster reduction practices.

#### **Expected key outputs under the 2 result areas:**

**Output 1.1:** Community Managed Disaster Risk (CMDRR) ToT carried out

**Output 1.2:** Community members trained to participate in PDRA

**Output 1.3:** Community Level Action Plans (CLAPs) initiated

**Output 1.4:** Farmer Field Schools (FFS) set up and operationalised

**Output 1.5:** Agri-business opportunities identified and developed

**Output 1.6:** Training in peace building and reconciliation undertaken

**Output 1.7:** Community based monitoring and impact measurement of FFS undertaken

**Output 1.8:** Food Security and Fragility Analysis carried out

#### **Project Beneficiaries:**

The number of direct beneficiaries is estimated at 18,000 persons. The number of HH directly targeted is 3,000 food insecure and conflict affected rural households in 8 communities, 3 counties (Manyo 1,000, Malakal/Westbank 1,000, and Fashoda 1,000) in Upper Nile. Other beneficiaries include: 50 staff from State/County Governments and Civil society (30 from 4 involved Ministries and 20 from 3 local NGOs).

#### **Project Baseline Study Summary Findings:**

The purpose of the baseline study was to mine baseline data for tracking PRO-ACT project progress, however, this was undertaken mid-way the project implementation period. Most of the training activities were at zero as a baseline (starting) figure at the beginning of the project.



## 2. Project Intervention Logic:

Cordaid developed a logframe with an intervention logic clearly stipulating the overall objective, specific objectives, result areas, activities, objectively verifiable indicators and assumptions (Refer to Annex 1).

## III. GRADINGS

1. Relevance and quality of design	A
2. Efficiency of implementation	C
3. Effectiveness	C
4. Impact prospects	B
5. Potential sustainability	B

**Note:** a = Very Good; b = Good; c = Problems; and d = Serious deficiencies

## IV. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

1. Relevance and Quality of Design	<p>The project is in line with the Pro-Resilience Action (PRO-ACT) EU/EC supported initiatives in South Sudan.</p> <p>Strengthening of institutional capacity for Ministries of Agriculture, Cooperatives, Rural Development, Livestock and Fisheries at national, state and county levels by training key technical staff on the FFS and the CMDRR approaches is commendable as is aligned to the overall national capacity building efforts for the people of South Sudan.</p> <p>Building of capacity through training of partners' staff, local authorities and facilitators in CMDRR (using different tools to analyze hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities of people) is relevant in the disaster prone project area.</p> <p>Promotion of Community Level Action Planning by prioritisation of identified capacity gaps, development of contingencies (disaster preparedness) plans, disaster risk reduction plans and assessment of scenarios on how to act in cases of disasters. This presents an opportunity for the beneficiaries to identify their own solutions remedies instead of being imposed. This promotes ownership of the interventions within the communities.</p> <p>Supporting of Agriculture extension services through the Farmers Field School Approach (FFS) and peace building facilitating access to productive assets among farmers and fishers promoting improved practices and technologies for increasing production and productivity. This is in line with the National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Policy (NALEP).</p>
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	<p>Linking relief rehabilitation and development by providing relief for PROACT project beneficiaries to begin livelihood restoration and protection using the SHO humanitarian and the EU/EC funding in parallel. The humanitarian aid levels the environment for the PROACT development activities within the vulnerable households and communities.</p> <p>The introduction of the Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning System (MEALS) concept emphasizing the ability to learn from events and activities to further enhance resilience among the households and communities is a good innovation.</p> <p>The project design takes cognisance of cross-cutting issues of gender, environment, donor coordination and collaboration and governance, amongst others.</p> <p>The project design ensures a good working relationship between Cordaid, the National and State Governments and national community based organisations (SSUDA) with clear roles and responsibilities during project implementation. This leads to future sustainability of the project results.</p> <p>Alignment and joint programming of the project activities implementation with other implementing partners of related projects supported by the EU/EC and other donors to bridge the unfunded gaps is commendable.</p> <p>Introduction of conditional and unconditional cash transfers through the SHO grant enhanced market stimulation, rehabilitation of market facilities, cleaning of debris and rehabilitation of community infrastructures was a well thought idea to encourage and motivate returnees in the project area.</p> <p>Inter-communal peace dialogues was carried out with radio peace messages due to difficulty in bringing the members of different communities face to face. Using communication media instead of face to face dialogue was a well thought design change.</p>
2. Efficiency in implementation	<p>A bigger percentage of the project budget (more than 50%) has been allocated to the implementation of the identified project activities. However, the budget execution rate is still low at about 45% as reported by the Project Manager. The low budget execution is due to the previous occurrences of security threats, conflicts and displacements in the project area resulting into repeated project implementation interruptions from late 2016 until September 2017. This culminated into a loss of 6 months implementation period.</p>



	<p>A late baseline study for the project was conducted in November 2017 to facilitate the internal and external monitoring of activity implementation as per the key indicators of result areas.</p> <p>There has been limited participation of the National and State Governments in the project activity planning and monitoring processes due to the insecurity situation in the project area. Most of the government offices were not functional due to the prevailing volatile political environment in the Upper Nile State between the government and opposition.</p> <p>The internal project monitoring and evaluation is led by a Cordaid Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEAL) Officer in collaboration with SSUDA staff stationed in the project implementation locations. There is very minimal participation in the monitoring by the government officials as the offices have just commenced operations after the cessation of hostilities between the government and opposition forces. However, the M&amp;E indicators in the logical framework do not meet the SMART criteria.</p> <p>Through a desk document review and interaction with the project team on the mandatory quarterly and annual reports, there is adequate reporting compliance. This demonstrates a good practice in project implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Cordaid and SSUDA have shared reports widely during meetings with other partners and donors. Vertical and horizontal communication about the project performance is promoted. However, there is minimal feedback mechanism to the beneficiaries.</p> <p>Clashes between opposition forces and influx of small arms slowed down the PRO-ACT activities in the project area. At the moment, most of key activities under result area 2 are at the initial stages of implementation and others not at all. The pending activities include: initiation of VSLA, Agribusiness opportunities, Small scale producer groups, Post-harvest facilities, access to clean drinking water, Construction of dykes and planting of trees.</p>
3. Effectiveness	<p>Under the FFS demonstration gardens, the supplied irrigation pumps had week parts rendering them ineffective to pump water to the vegetable plots. This has led to some vegetable seedlings drying and being attacked by pests and diseases. Also some FFS gardens have had the vegetable seedlings dry up and others destroyed by the pests and diseases. The Project</p>



	<p>Coordinator confirmed replacement of the ineffective pumps with a more durable and effective type.</p> <p>Fighting pests and diseases at the FFS demonstration gardens using non-chemical methods has been promoted through training by the trainers from the IIRR, a local community based international organisation. On interaction with the IIRR team, a number of issues were identified regarding the challenges facing the operationalisation of the FFS demonstration gardens. Key issues identified include: inadequate adherence to the instructions to fighting vegetable pests and diseases by the FFS facilitators, involvement of the FFS facilitators in other activities leaving little time to follow up the FFS activities, low levels of education for the selected community facilitators, inadequate follow up of the FFS facilitators by the SSUDA senior technical staff, and inadequate support supervision of SSUDA field staff by Cordaid project team.</p> <p>Through the review of project implementation progress reports and meetings with the various stakeholders exhibit an appreciable implementation progress of the project activities. Below is the summary of the achievements to date for each of the result area (outcome) indicators.</p> <p><b>Result Area 1: Improved knowledge and capacity of 8 communities, 4 county government departments and 3 local NGOs to enhance food security and disaster resilience in an integrated manner (including peace building and disaster prevention).</b></p> <p>Trainings are the major undertakings that have been implemented under result area 1. It is worth to note that at the start of implementation of result area 1, the baseline (starting) figure was 0.</p> <p>The training conducted covered areas of Farmer Field School Facilitators (34 participants), Crop Production (100 food crop farmers out of planned 3,000), Post-Harvest Handling (100 farmers, 71 female 29 male), Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction TOT (CMDRR – 12 trained out of targeted 50), Participatory Disaster Risk Analysis (PDRA - 122 trained out of targeted 270 community members), Peace building and Reconciliation (none trained out of 150 planned), agri-business (none trained out of planned 300).</p> <p>Distribution of seeds and tools - 129 farmers each received packages of vegetable seeds and tools, 195 fishermen received fishing gears in both Fashoda and</p>
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	<p>Malakal counties, 82 vegetable farmers out of planned 3000 received training.</p> <p><b>Result Area 2: Enhanced food security of 8 communities (3,000 households) through the implementation of food security and disaster resilience measures</b></p> <p>Most of the activities under result 2 listed below are at the initiation stages of implementation. The activities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Constructing/building of dykes and planting of trees on river banks to reduce flood risks</li> <li>ii. Supporting improved access to clean drinking water</li> <li>iii. Organizing small-scale producers (farmers, agro-pastoralists) into groups and support the implementation and monitoring of food security activities (agricultural recovery, Farmer Field Schools, post-harvest management)</li> <li>iv. Organizing women and adolescents into groups, and train them in implementing of economic opportunities (value chain development, agribusiness, savings &amp; loans), and</li> <li>v. Supporting 300 trained target group HH members (especially women and adolescents) to implement an agro-business</li> </ol>
4. Impact Prospects	<p>The project has created a high impetus among the beneficiaries to apply proper agronomic practices, and engage in dry season vegetable production.</p> <p>In a FDG with beneficiary groups, socio cohesion was vivid among the groups arising from working together to address common challenges and responding to different shocks affecting them as a community. The groups seek further support on the water for production and chemicals for pests and diseases challenges as they work hard to raise their agricultural productivity.</p> <p>Training and supporting beneficiary members in post-harvest handling technologies, pest and disease control has raised awareness in the adoption of modern innovative agricultural practices to improve future agriculture production and incomes.</p>
5. Potential Sustainability	<p><i>Technical Capacity</i></p> <p>The Cordaid/SSUDA project intends to strengthen the agricultural extension service provision by supporting traditional state government and county extension staff and local community workers. This presents an</p>





	<p>opportunity for project sustainability within the project area.</p> <p>Existence of 34 FFS facilitators, 12 CMDRR TOTs that never existed in the communities before is a positive step in the right direction.</p> <p>There are appeals by the State and County Government officials (Governors, Ministers and Commissioners) for the Cordaid/SSUDA to start involving them in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the project activities so that synergies between the donor funded activities and those planned by the governments can be created. The State Government called for the donors to start aligning new project activities to the Agriculture Master Plan of the State.</p> <p><i>Enabling socio-political environment</i></p> <p>The support to peace building training key in strengthening socio cohesion among the communities to create an enabling peaceful environment for agricultural production, marketing and income generation.</p> <p><i>Adoption of modern agronomic practices promotion</i></p> <p>The farmers show enthusiasm and willingness to adopt post-harvest technology arising from training provided to them by Cordaid/SSUDA.</p> <p>There is a high demand for the water pumps to be able to irrigate their vegetable gardens during the dry season.</p> <p><i>Financing Capacity</i></p> <p>VSLA, marketing and agri-business activities not yet operationalised.</p>
<b>V. KEY OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
Key Observations (successes)	<p>For the restoration of beneficiary destroyed livelihoods and limited options through the Dutch SHO support, Cordaid/SSUDA initially focused the priorities to emergency lifesaving, livelihood protections and recovery to create an enabling environment for the implementation of the PRO-ACT initiative.</p> <p>There is high level of optimism among the beneficiaries to get engaged in agriculture to improve their livelihoods.</p> <p>The National and State Government officials are in full support of the project activities geared towards the improvement of the beneficiary food insecurity and disaster management levels.</p> <p>Promotion of social cohesion in the project is creating an enabling environment for the empowerment and self-</p>





	<p>reliance of the girl-child and women in the communities.</p> <p>Promotion of peaceful co-existence is being promoted within the benefiting communities.</p> <p>EU project visibility has been adequately promoted.</p>
Key Observations (not worked well)	<p>The original supplied irrigation pumps had weak parts rendering them ineffective. However, the supplier agreed to change them and has delivered a better type.</p> <p>Community based participatory monitoring approach is not yet entrenched in the overall project monitoring and evaluation processes.</p> <p>A baseline study was conducted in November 2017; almost at the same time a mid-term project evaluation should have taken place.</p> <p>Inadequate skills exhibited by the FFS community based facilitators, minimal follow up on FFS activities by SSUDA team and inadequate support supervision of SSUDA team by the Cordaid team to ensure proper implementation of the FFS approaches.</p> <p>Implementation of most of the result 2 activities not yet commenced.</p> <p>Inadequate M&amp;E reports dissemination and feedback mechanisms to the beneficiaries and other stakeholders</p>
Recommendations	<p>Feedback mechanisms to the beneficiaries need to be effected using different dissemination media.</p> <p>Cordaid needs to continuously follow up with SSUDA field team and ensure that there is adherence to the instructions for fighting vegetable pests and diseases, and select fairly educated community facilitators for the FFS.</p> <p>There is a need to expeditiously commence the implementation of result 2 activities.</p> <p>There is need to carefully scale up the number of coordination meetings and interface with the State and County Government officials to ensure ownership.</p> <p>The community based participatory monitoring approach needs to be fully entrenched in the overall project monitoring and evaluation practices.</p> <p>Refresher training programmes for the community FFS facilitators need to be considered.</p> <p>The project indicators within the logical framework need to be sharpened to make them SMART</p>