



Monitoring Report	
Country Name:	Republic of South Sudan
Report Date:	24/08/2018
Project Title:	Enhanced Knowledge and Education for Resilient Pastoral Livelihoods in South Sudan
I. INTERVENTION DATA	
Status:	4 th Interim Narrative Report expected July 2018
Monitoring Report Type:	On-going
Aid Modality:	Project Approach
Project:	Zonal Effort for Agricultural Transformation – Bahr el-Ghazal Effort for Agricultural Development (ZEAT-BEAD)
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:	Enhanced Knowledge and Education for Resilient Pastoral Livelihoods in South Sudan
Domain:	EDF - Rural Development Programme
DAC-CRS Sector:	Agriculture
Additional DAC-CRS Code:	
Geographical Zone:	Counties of Wulu, Rumbek Central, Yirol East , Yirol West, and Awerial in Lakes State
Keyword:	
Date Financing Agreement/Financing	GCP/SSD/008/EC
Decision/Contract signed:	FED/2014/349916
Responsible at Headquarter:	Stefano Ellero (Head of Cooperation)
Responsible at EUD:	GIRLANDO PAOLO
ROM Expert:	Constantine Bitwayiki
Project Authority:	DEVCO D
Start Date – planned:	13/12/2014
End Date – planned:	12/12/2017
Start Date – actual:	01/02/2015
End Date – likely:	12/06/2018, Extended (no costs)to 12/12/2018
Monitoring visit date:	14 th – 18 th August 2018
II. FINANCIAL DATA	
Primary Commitment (EC funding):	EURO 5,000,000
Budget allocated for TA:	
Secondary Commitment (funds contracted of EC contribution):	EURO 5,000,000
Other Funding (government and / or other donors: NILE HOPE	
Total Budget of Operation: Total EU budget disbursed:	EURO 5,000,000
Financial data as at:	





1. Project Background:

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) project entitled "Enhanced knowledge and education for resilient pastoral livelihoods in South Sudan" falls under the Zonal Effort for Agricultural Transformation – Bahr el-Ghazal Effort for Agricultural Development (ZEAT-BEAD) initiatives. The purpose of the project is to contribute to; improved pastoral livelihoods, food and nutrition security in South Sudan. The expected results (outcomes) of the project are (1) improved livelihood security and empowerment of pastoralist households and communities, and (2) strengthened institutional capacity to provide sustainable and accountable skills transfer, strategy and education services to pastoralist communities.

Result Areas (Outcomes) and Outputs:

Result Area 1: Improved livelihood security and empowerment of pastoralist households

- Output 1.1: Household and community capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is enhanced
- **Output 1.2**: Livelihoods and income sources among the target communities are diversified and enhanced
- **Output 1.3**: Skills, strategies and education essential for resilient pastoral livelihoods acquired by target communities

Result Area 2: Strengthened institutional capacity to provide sustainable and accountable skills transfer, strategy and education services to pastoralists communities

- **Output 2.1**: A replicable model for enhancing skills, strategies and education for resilient pastoral livelihoods is jointly developed with the relevant institutions
- **Output 2.2**: Ability of relevant institutions to effectively coordinate service delivery system is enhanced

Project Beneficiaries

The number of direct beneficiaries on the different components of the project is estimated at 86,130. Of these, 36,000 persons are expected to benefit through PFS, 50,000 through the literacy and community engagement in Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) process, and 130 persons through leaderships and awareness forum activities.

Project Baseline Study Summary Findings

Before the commencement of the project, the percentage of households that were engaged in off-farm economic activities was found to be 8.3% and people perceived to influence decisions in their locality 32%. All communities surveyed did not have any Disaster Risk Reduction Community Action Plan. In addition, there were no Pastoral Field Schools (PFS) groups enabling members to engage in income-generating activities (IGAs) with no Village Community Banks (VICOBA) in the project target area. There were no skills for hygienic milk processing, handling and marketing, quality honey processing packaging and marketing and animal health products. The adult literacy level rates were found at 24.5% male and 12% female. None of the pastoralist children and youth had access to any type of education in the cattle camps.





In regards to the availability of institutional capacity to provide sustainable skills transfer, strategy and education services to pastoralist communities, there were neither facilitators (government staff, animal health service providers, educators, etc.) nor any delivery model among institutional and non-institutional stakeholders.

2. Project Intervention Logic (Results Chain):

The FAO developed a results matrix stipulating the result chain, indicators, indicator baseline, indicator target, indicator means of verification and assumptions for the impact, outcome (results) and outputs (Refer to Annex 1).

The performance monitoring and evaluation is being carried out by the FAO field offices within the project area. A Project Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) tool kit developed in 2013 under an earlier FAO project is being used for this project.

III. GRADINGS	
1. Relevance and quality of design	А
2. Efficiency of implementation	А
3. Effectiveness	А
4. Impact prospects	Α
5. Potential sustainability	В
Note: $\mathbf{a} = \text{Very Good}; \mathbf{b} = \text{Good}; \mathbf{c} =$	= Problems; and \mathbf{d} = Serious deficiencies
IV. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSION	ONS
1. Relevance and Quality of Design	The project results as reported and observed to date directly contribute to the South Sudan Development Plan (SSDP) specific objective of increasing crop and livestock production, education and disaster management.
	The project is in line with the Zonal Effort for Agricultural Transformation – Bahr el-Ghazal Effort for Agricultural Development (ZEAT-BEAD) initiatives in South Sudan.
	Strengthening of institutional capacity for Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Rural Development, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Ministry of Education, Science and Technology at national and state levels by training key technical staff on the integrated PFS approach, including the new and adapted materials and their integration into AES / ALP.
	FAO and UNESCO providing combined support for the review of the current regulatory framework to improve policy regarding both livelihood and educational needs of pastoral communities.
	The project addresses food security concerns by improving the livelihoods of vulnerable pastoralist populations and strengthening crop and livestock extension services.





The interventions are in line with FAO's Country Programming Framework (CPF) supporting Outcome 1- "sustainable increases in production, productivity and nutrition security realized" by increasing availability and access to productive assets among farmers, livestock keepers and fishers, promoting improved practices and technologies for increasing production and productivity of livestock, enhancing capacity of national and state level extension services and creating an enabling environment for sustainably increasing production, productivity and nutrition.
The project also supports the CPF Outcome 2- Resilience of households to food and nutrition insecurity by diversifying, strengthening and securing the livelihood resource bases.
At global level, the project is supporting 2 of FAO's 5 Strategic Objectives (SOs) in particular SO 3- "reduce rural poverty" and SO 5 "increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises" by providing target communities with access to new livelihood opportunities and institutional stakeholders with enhanced capacity to ensure service delivery.
The project design takes cognisance of cross-cutting issues of gender, environment, donor coordination and collaboration and governance, amongst others. It was observed that females (women and girls) are freely mixing up with males (men and boys) during learning and business ventures.
From the interactions with the pastoralists, it is evident that they have been supported to undertake food production and access agricultural inputs supplied by FAO. The ongoing provision of inputs to PFS for use to train and demonstrate to the extension workers and farmers is laudable.
There is support to management of natural resources and land at community level through the Pastoralist Livelihood and Education Field School (PLEFS) approach addressing resilience to environmental management, and climatic change was a good innovation in the project.
Inclusion of religious and peace building lessons in the pastoral education curriculum is highly commendable for it has reduced the rate of tribal and clan conflicts and attacks in Yirol East (the project location visited).
 The project design emphasised a close working relationship between FAO, UNESCO, the National and State Governments, and international community based





	opponisations (IIDD and NDA) with slass relations
	organisations (IIRR and NPA) with clear roles and responsibilities during project implementation.
	Alignment and joint programming of the project activities implementation with other projects implemented under the EU, FAO and UNESCO support, and other donors to bridge the unfunded gaps is commendable.
2. Efficiency in implementation	A bigger percentage of the project funds budget (more than 50%) has been allocated to the implementation of the identified project activities.
	A requisite baseline study for the project was conducted at the start of the project to facilitate the assessment of performance over the implementation period.
	There is full participation of the National and State Governments and international community-based organisations officials in the project planning process and development of the learning materials with the Ministry tutors (teacher trainers and master trainers) participating in master Training of Trainers (ToTs) and in the end carrying out the trainings themselves.
	During the no cost project extension period, as part of the exit strategy, the project stakeholders have been provided an opportunity to participate in a workshop to review the project successes and challenges to be documented as best practices and lessons learned. The best practices and lessons learned are to be used as a guide during the extension of the project activities in the current cattle camps, roll out to new cattle camps by FAO or by other implementing partners with similar or related project intentions in other parts of South Sudan or elsewhere in the world with pastoralist communities.
	There is a robust M&E system used in the internal monitoring and evaluation of the project outcomes, outputs and attendant activities. The periodic monitoring and evaluation in Yirol East is carried out by regional FAO PM&E officers supported by the FAO/UNESCO Project team, National and State Government project management committee, and the implementing partner, the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA).
	By reviewing the 4 th interim report and interaction with the project team, it is evident that periodic reporting on the project activities in Yirol East is taking place. This demonstrates a good practice in project implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. FAO and UNESCO have shared reports widely including meetings with partners, other donors, and





	beneficiaries promoting vertical and horizontal
	communication on the project performance.
	Market linkage opportunities for selling milk and its products, and vegetables for pastoralists to the neighbouring trading centres and towns have been established. The beneficiaries are utilising the income from the sales to make contribution to the VICOBAs within their communities. VSLA members are taking loans to establish small businesses such as milk trading and vegetables growing.
	The education programme has improved the writing, numeracy and counting skills within the pastoral communities reducing the rate at which they were being cheated while selling their livestock products and vegetables to other communities and among themselves.
	The project monitoring and evaluation round held in June 2018 was completed in 11 cattle camp and targeted 504 beneficiary households comprising of children, youths and adults.
3. Effectiveness	The review of project implementation progress reports and meetings with the stakeholders show a good implementation progress of the project activities. Below is the summary of the achievements to date for each of the result area (outcome) indicators.
	Result Area 1: Improved livelihood security and empowerment of pastoralist households
	- 600 vegetables kits have been distributed to 600 households in 11 cattle camps by NPA and IIRR (<i>a vegetable kit comprised of 6 types of vegetables each is 50 g per sachets</i>).
	- Under the Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) actions to control livestock diseases, FAO in collaboration with State Governments in the greater Lakes has conducted a vaccination campaign in 11 cattle camps in 5 counties targeting 4,100 households and vaccinated 210,000 heads of cattle, 55,000 Shoats and 500 dogs against diseases such as CBPP, BQ, HS, Anthrax, CCPP, Goat pox, PPR, and Rabies.
	- A TOT training on fish handling and preservation has been provided by an FAO Senior Fisheries Officer in 3 cattle camps (attended by 73 [male 31 and female 42] fisher folks. The training has been replicated by NPA and IIRR in 8 cattle camps not covered by the FAO expert. After training, 898 fishing kits were





	11 cattle camps [Fishing kit comprises of 2 spools of twines, 1 roll of mono filament and a 1 box of fishing hooks 100 pc].
	- 22 VSLA groups of 25-30 members per group have been established by NPA (14 groups) in cattle camps in Yirol East, Yirol and Awerial Counties. Part of the sale proceeds from the milk, milk products, and vegetables are being utilised by the members to promote and participate in the VICOBA activities.
	- NPA has conducted training on local mineral lick production in cattle camps. The locally produced mineral lick is currently on high demand because is cheaper compared to that sold in the shops.
	Result Area 2: Strengthened institutional capacity to provide sustainable and accountable skills transfer, strategy and education services to pastoralists communities
	- Under the delivery model for the enhancement of skills, strategies and education, comprehensive PLEFS curricula with the requisite implementation manuals for children, youth and adults have been developed and fully owned by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.
	- 23 County facilitators (21 males, 2 females) have attended a one-week refresher training facilitated by FAO, UNESCO and Government consultants on integrated Pastoral Livelihoods and Education Curriculum.
	- Of the targeted 45 community facilitators, 56 (124%) with an additional 4 NGO partner staff have been trained in the delivery model (PLEFS curriculum).
	- 150 radios have been distributed in 6 cattle camps for radio listening groups. In collaboration with Radio Good News in Rumbek, 8 radio program episodes have been produced and broadcasted on a bi-weekly basis.
	- 32 bicycles have been distributed to community facilitators to support transportation of learning materials in the 11 cattle camps.
	- A total of 1,340 (883 male and 457 female) have sat for the literacy assessment and 945 (637 male and 308 female) passed the examination in the 11 learning centres.
4. Impact Prospects	- Within the 3 years of implementation, the project has motivated the pastoralist communities because by interacting with them they exhibited high enthusiasm





to diversify cattle keeping with vegetable production, fisheries, and business enterprise development. They are engaged in vegetable production, buying and selling various livestock products, inculcating religious values through religious education, and participating in VICOBA groups for economic and social empowerment.
- There are observable project outcomes within the cattle camps visited including reading, counting and writing skills demonstrated to me by the children, youth, and adults through face to face practical assessments I personally conducted.
- The beneficiary community members are requesting and in some cases demanding for semi-permanent school structures with education facilitators dedicated to teach the children, youth, and adults staying at home outside the cattle camps. The learners who leave the cattle camps have no opportunities to continue with the learning when they go to their homes because of the lack of education facilities in the localities. They give testimonies how some of their sons and daughters that have acquired high education are living well and are support their other relatives to attain better education that is improving their standards of living.
- The farmer group members confidently spoke to me about various aspects on vegetable growing improving their diets and level of income, detesting warrior way of life and promoting peaceful co- existence, supporting girl-child education, adult literacy skills, and value addition to the livestock products, among others. Some beneficiary groups are requesting inputs like ox-ploughs and tractors to be able to increase the agriculture production.
- Holding FDGs with the youth, it was vivid there is appreciable reflection about the bad habits of attaching fellow youth other than participating in self and community empowering initiatives. The youth enrolled in the PLEFS programme regretted previous bad habits of drinking alcohol and plans to raid other areas to steal cattle in most cases causing lose of human lives. Currently, the youth attending the PLFS programme are convincing friends to abandon bad groups and instead join groups growing vegetables, small businesses, joining the PLEFS programmes, etc.
- In a meeting with the mothers, they testified that boys had changed their bad behaviours and were able to listen to advice from parents and elders which were



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	not the approx hafare the project estimities
	not the case before the project activities were introduced.
	- In separate FDGs with women and girls, they testified that social cohesion among the men and women had greatly improved. They confirmed that the two opposites sex freely interact and discuss development ideas, something that was not possible before the project. There existed high level gender discrimination within the communities which has now reduced considerably.
	- The PLEFS training and supporting pastoralists in crop husbandry, pest and disease control, business development, animal community healthcare, literacy and numeracy and VICOBAs has raised awareness to improve their livelihoods and education.
	- Testimonies by the beneficiaries about the reduction of mother mortality rate, children malnutrition and mortality rates, and animal mortality rates arising from the food security, education and animal health initiatives is a sign of a perspective impact.
	- More than 56 pool of trained community facilitators, community animal health workers on the PLEFS in the project area now exist demonstrating a positive effect.
	- The vegetable gardens visited looked very promising with many beneficiaries expressing gratitude because their livelihoods have been changed through feeding, selling the surplus to diversify household agricultural activities, paying for other social services like health and education, amongst others. Some indicated had joined VICOBAs where they contribute and borrow money for different purposes notably small business and buying of food stuffs for households.
5. Potential Sustainability	Technical Capacity
	- FAO is strengthening agricultural extension service provision by supporting traditional state government extension staff and community lead farmers as UNESCO implements the education programmes. This presents an opportunity for project sustainability within the pastoral communities under the project.
	- Under the delivery model, comprehensive PLEFS curricula with the requisite implementation manuals for children, youth and adults have been developed in a participatory manner involving all key stakeholders and are now fully owned by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.





- The teaching and learning materials are co-owned by the MAFCRD, MLFI and MoEST and widely shared with partners via web-based tools, tablets, teaching and learning material databases currently in use in South Sudan.
- The planned National and State levels technical working groups (TWGs) to coordinate the PLEFS programmes were formed and fully functional. A joint State and National TWG meeting of Pastoral Livelihoods and Education Project was organised by FAO in Rumbek in Feb 2018 and reviewed 2017 progress and work plan for 2018. There is deep rooted involvement of both the National and State Government officials in the project implementation.
- Relevant line ministries have benefitted from working closely with FAO and UNESCO in the design and roll-out of the PLEFS. The Ministry tutors have also benefitted from improved training skills and knowledge regarding the relevant components of the PLEFS.
- A total of 11 pastoral communities have qualified community facilitators, facilitating PLEFS activities and are to continue even when the project ends. By interacting with the learners including the children, youth and the adults, they demonstrated to have appreciable numeracy, reading, speaking, and writing skills. This is linked to how well the facilitators are performing their roles.
- There is full participation of the National and State Governments, and international community-based organisations in the PLEFS whereby the ministry tutors (teacher trainers and master trainers) have participated in master Training of Trainers (ToTs).
Social Cohesion and Resilience to Natural Disasters
- Community members (children, youth and adults) benefiting from the roll-out of the PLEFS are improving their functional literacy skills, life skills (health, HIV, gender, climate change and conflict mitigation), ecosystem processes, livestock and fisheries management, health, soil and water conservation, range and water management and pastoral livestock production.
- The communities in both cattle camps visited expressed concern about lack of education facilities within their villages yet they stressed to have fully embraced educating their children like other parts of the world. They said those owned by government or



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	 private sector were very far, some expensive, hence not easily accessible by the children who are at home and in poor families. They requested for assistance for establishment of semi permanent classroom for a start with desks and roofed tents. Access of Agriculture Inputs/Financial Capacity Accessibility of agricultural inputs using loans from the VICOBAs is leading to the culture of self-reliance and personal savings. Some members of the pastoralist community testified increase in incomes by growing and selling vegetables, selling added value livestock products, modern bee keeping, among others. This presents an opportunity for future sustainability of the project results.
V. KEY OBSERVATIONS AND	RECOMMENDATIONS
Key Observations (successes)	- The project is bringing socio- and economic self- esteem among the members of pastoralist communities.
	- There is high level of optimism among the beneficiaries to diversify food production for improved livelihoods and incomes of the pastoralists.
	- The National and State Government senior officials are happy with the project interventions, evidenced by the support to the extension staff and pastoralist communities to improve their standards of living and the overall wellbeing.
	- The VICOBAs enabling internal financial capacity within the vulnerable households to pay school fees, hospital expenses, buy food and other necessities for food security and improved incomes.
	- Promotion of social cohesion and gender in the project is creating an enabling environment for the empowerment and self-reliance of the girl-child and women in the communities.
	- The training of pastoralist to locally produce cattle mineral lick in cattle camps has been highly appreciated with a request for additional training to enable improvement of quality to making it more appetising to the cattle.
Key Observations (not worked well)	- To date, there is no provision of pads to the girl child attending mobile schools to minimize absence from classes during their menstrual periods.
	- Community based participatory monitoring approach tools have been developed by IIRR but not yet fully in use in the field.





	 Beneficiaries expressed concern about the lack of market linkages to enable access of agriculture inputs including seeds, farm implements like watering cans, water pumps, and pesticides. On asking the Yirol East beneficiaries whether they knew about EU and the role it is playing in the project, they were ignorant. In addition, there are no sign posts for visibility erected in the project area by the NPA. However, in some other project locations visited before, there were some project visibility materials issued that included t-shirts, overalls, gumboot, soldier boots had been distributed to community facilitators, CAHWs and CMC members in cattle camps to create visibility of the project.
	- The concern about the emerging animal diseases for which the project is not able to provide vaccines or guidance on reaching out to the drug shops
	- Poultry disease outbreaks also reported for which the project had not covered (although outside the current project coverage)
	- It is evident the beneficiaries are not yet fully sensitised on the capitalisation of the VICOBAs to grow and increase the loan portfolios.
	- Is some cases, drought and crop pests have destroyed some of the crops leading to low or at times no yields at all
	- Rain has on some occasions destroyed learning materials due to the fact that classes are conducted under trees within the cattle camps.
	- The Community facilitators met expressed reservations on the current honoraria paid to them as inadequate due to the high inflation in South Sudan. The morale was found to be low as they executed their duties.
Recommendations	 There is a need for the National and State Governments to vigorously market to other donors to adopt the ongoing FAO's PLEFS approach that incorporates literacy, numeracy life and basic skills training and learning in most parts of South Sudan. There is need to roll out the community based participatory monitoring tool developed by IIRR in the project monitoring and evaluation activities at the grassroots levels. There is need to undertake EU visibility activities especially in the project areas implemented by the NPA and additional activities in the IIRR supported areas.





-	Additional training for members of the VSLA to
	create more awareness on aspects including
	inflation, market linkages, business enterprise
	development initiatives, among others.
-	Modalities currently being explored by FAO and
	Government to increase motivation for the
	community PLEFS facilitators need to be fast
	tracked to reduce the attrition.
-	The documented project exit strategies need to be
	shared widely with other EU supported
	implementing partners and other development
	partners to inform the adoption and application of
	the PLEFS best practices and lessons learned to
	inform future similar projects.
-	There is need to facilitate establishment of market
	linkages between agriculture inputs suppliers and
	the agro pastoralist groups to ease access of both
	crop seeds and animal drugs
-	There is need to link the communities to other
	agencies supporting rural education, water, and
	health initiatives among others currently affecting
	communities in the project areas
-	There is need to explore possibilities of handling
	emerging livestock diseases and poultry inclusive
-	There is need to consider provision of water
	resistance educational materials for the pastoralist
	mobile school learners
-	There is a need to train more community
	facilitators, CAHWs and CMC members in cattle
	camps as the demand for their services by non-
	benefiting cattle camps increase