

**Technical Assistance for increased agriculture production
of smallholders in South Sudan:**

“Extension Support mission”

To

Hope Agency for Relief and Development (HARD) South Sudan

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Acronyms

Abbreviations	Meaning
APC	Agro-Processing Centres
BEAD	Bahr el Gazal Effort Agricultural Development
CBEW	Community Based Extension Workers
CIIS	Community Intervention Information System
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
DFID	Department Foreign and International Development
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EU Delegation	EU Delegation
EUR	Euro (currency)
FAO	Food Agriculture Organization
FAW	Fall Army Worm
FFS	Farmer Field School
Ha	Hectares
HARD	Hope Agency for Relief and Development
IP	Implementing Partners
Kg	Kilogram
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MLFI	Ministry Livestock and Fisheries Industries
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
PERS	Productivity Enhancement and Resilience Strengthening (PERS) Project
PLEP	Pastoral Livelihoods and Education Project
RRC	Rehabilitation and Recovery Commission
SORUDEV	South Sudan Rural Development
SoSFAAS	South Sudan Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
SSP	South Sudanese Pound
TA	Technical Assistance
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNHAS	UN Humanitarian Air Services
UNIDO	United National Industrial Development Organization
UNOPS	United National Operations
USD	US Dollars
VSF	Vétérinaires Sans Frontières-Germany
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WVI	World Vision International
ZEAT	Zonal Effort for Agricultural Transformation

Background

HARD received funding from the European Union to implement the Productivity Enhancement and Resilience Strengthening (PERS) Project (FED/2013/333-492). Project location is the former Western Bahr el Gazal. Implementation of PERS started in September 2019 and will end in August 2022. Within the inception period the project is expected to commence the start-up process, recruit staff, identify communities and direct beneficiaries, register communities on the CIIS, carry out baselines and launch the project to a greater stakeholder. The project inception report was written, and a baseline report submitted. These two are pending approval.

An extension support mission was carried out by the TA Agronomist Extension Services KE2 from 4th – 8th March 2019. This is the first TA visit of any kind to the project since it started.

The purpose of the mission is divided into two broad categories:

1. To ascertain the extent of work done by HARD in the inception period with particular reference to extension-related activities.
2. To hold a harmonization meeting with partners in Western Bahr el Gazal and Warrap States where ZEAT BEAD partners are actively implementing projects.

Specifically, the mission objectives covered the following:

- To provide extension services support to staff of HARD implementing the PERS Project including work on the log frame
- To visit HARD project locations and observe progress on selection of beneficiaries and locations with the information on CIIS as a guide
- To ascertain the implementation of work in preparation for the rain fed farming session and check on progress with the dry season production
- To discuss methodology of implementation with a view to properly understand how - for instance - seeds and tools distribution will be carried out (harmonization of method with all ZEAT BEAD partners is needed)
- To convene a session for the harmonization of seed production training manuals and the 3rd revision of the Seed Production Manual currently in draft. This draft is already out for use by partners for training of farmers (this is a coordination and harmonization element of all ZEAT BEAD, SORUDEV and Trust Fund Projects). Please note that no printing of manuals should be done before the final approval.
- To convene a meeting for the coordination of project locations, synergy and territoriality among NRC, WVI, UNOPS, UNIDO, VSF-Germany and HARD. This will take place on Thursday 7th March 2019.

This report detailed the observations made during the mission and proposes some recommendations for the improvement of the PERS Project implemented by HARD. It covers the update shared by the project staff on activities and achievements; the proceeding for the meetings on harmonization of project locations and the resolutions agreed to. The report also covers an extended period of follows recommended by the IPs we met with and the discussions held with FAO in Juba on seeds acquisition. In addition, it documents the feedback from participants who took part in reviewing the draft technical guide on Seed Production. The bulk of the feedback was sent via internet and on telephone three weeks after the meeting took place in Wau.

Overview

The intention as articulated in the purpose and objectives of the mission is to support HARD in the discharge of the extension function and to check the level of achievement over the inception period. This is expected to be done mainly through an on-the-field observation and to hold discussions with both the direct beneficiaries and the government all through Tuesday to Thursday. However, the mission could not visit the fields nor hold discussion with the Ministry of Agriculture officials for two reasons:

1. On Tuesday the President of the Republic of South Sudan paid an unscheduled visit to Wau town, this meant that all government functionaries were busy attending official functions. For this reasons offices were preoccupied, senior officials were busy and other officials were not available. The NGOs were also advised to reduce all movements to those essentials and to avoid travelling out of the city.
2. On Wednesday it was reported that a staff of HARD died on Tuesday (overnight). He was the DRR Office who was also in the first meeting held on Monday when project updates were shared and the mission objectives was explained. This unfortunate incident threw the entire staff and the organization into confusion. Office was officially closed and accompanying the staff we met with the family of the late staff and paid condolences. His remains was later transported to his home some kilometres from Wau where his body was laid to rest.

As a result of the President's visit and the unfortunate demise of the partner's staff, the mission practically had only Thursday to interact with the partners on both the harmonization of project locations and the revision of the Seed Production technical Guide.

Desk review of the actions and previous recommendations

Prior to the mission a number of relevant documents on the PERS project and HARD were reviewed. These includes the following: Logical Framework analysis, Analysis from relevant previous evaluations, monitors and baselines, verification of correct Capacity4Dev and registration of the Interventions in CIIS, and the recommendations to HARD during the QRM are documented in the section below.

Logical Framework analysis

Led by the TA ROM expert and on the recommendation from the QRM 10 in Aweil, the IPs logical frame work were reviewed to make them SMARTer and to ensure that the recommendation by the evaluators of the SORUDEV/ZEAT BEAD programme were reflected in the current HARD ZEAT PERS project. The following shows the outcome and output level formulation before and after the harmonization.

Before harmonization

Outcome 1: To increase agriculture production and productivity and income 3,200 of smallholder farmers; Outcome 2: Increased uptake of good quality and affordable farm inputs and extension services; and Outcome 3: Increased household income through marketing of surplus produce, participation in cash for work, value addition and functional value chains increased

After harmonization

Outcome 1: Increased sustainable crop production and productivity; Outcome 2: Enhanced conflict resolution mechanisms; Outcome 3: Diversified livelihood sources; and Outcome 4: Enhanced community resilience to natural disasters

Before harmonization

Output 1.1. Increased access to seeds and tools; Output 1.2. Increased access to extension services; Output 1.3. Increased participation of service providers in farmer outreach activities; Output 2.1. Increased participation in wage labour opportunities including cash-for-work; Output 2.2. Increased sales of surplus produce; Output 2.3. Increased value addition activities; Output 3.1. Increased promotion of improved agronomic practices and Output 3.2. Increased promotion of animal traction.

After harmonization

Output 1.1: access to inputs and tools improved; Output 1.2: Knowledge on agronomic and animal husbandry good practices improved; Output 1.3: access to markets and market information improved; Output 1.4: access to nutrition boosting innovations improved; Output 2.1: access to conflict engagement tools improved; Output 2.2: access to community institutions for conflict resolution; Output 3.1: Knowledge on livelihoods diversification opportunities enhanced. Output 4.1: Knowledge on post-harvest management improved; Output 4.2: knowledge on environmental management improved; Output 4.3: access to community assets improved.

Analysis from relevant previous evaluations, monitors and baselines.

The PER Project is in its sixth month of implementation. A baseline study was commissioned and the report already submitted to the EUD awaiting comment. No monitoring visit to the project location has taken place, as a result there is no report to review. However, as the project is expected to build on the past SORUDEV implemented by HARD, it is important that the project takes into account the observations made by the evaluations of the HARD project at the time. The evaluator's comments include the following below: Despite the good rating on extension, several challenges were faced on the extension approaches used hence affecting its effectiveness. These include:

- Number of trainings days set aside for training extension workers were inadequate
- Poor attendance of training sessions by beneficiaries due to various reasons
- Lack of some inputs (e.g. ox- or donkey ploughs and seeds)
- Low capacity of lead farmers (due to the literacy levels, training levels, etc.),
- Few extensions staffs and timing of extension services
- Lack of knowledge on how to use some of tools
- Farmers resistance towards the project – emergency vs development
- Lateness of rainfall – rains start late/ drought and flooding
- Insecurity due to conflict thus activities suspended and extension officers not available to offer extension services

Main deliverables	HARD
Access to inputs (number of beneficiaries)	Ox-plough – 600 Donkey plough – 200 Local seeds – 450 (1,029 households in 2016 – repaid the seeds)

Monitoring, evaluation and management by results for “Increased smallholder agricultural production projects”

Performance indicators	HARD
Measurability of outcomes (<i>high, medium, low</i>)	Measure of change; baseline missing
Quality of logical framework, indicators and targets	Outcome indicators available (some monitored routinely - for field crops);

Verification of correct Capacity4Dev and registration of the Interventions in CIIS

HARD PERS project has a total of 63 activities in Western Bahr el Gazal on Improved Livelihoods registered on the CIIS. The interventions and activities are in 61 villages, 28 Bomas, 7 Payams and 3 Counties. Among these 25 are completed while 38 are ongoing. A broad classification of the activities shows that they are animal traction, awareness raising, conditional cash transfer, Fishing and Fishing kits support, Horticulture, Post-Harvest, Value chains and markets, Rain fed cropping and VSLAs. Over 60% of the activities registered are on awareness. The map below shows the location of the PERS project interventions in Western Bahr el Gazal as registered on the CIIS online data base <http://www.ciissouthsudan.org/CIIS/private/survey/finder.xhtml>

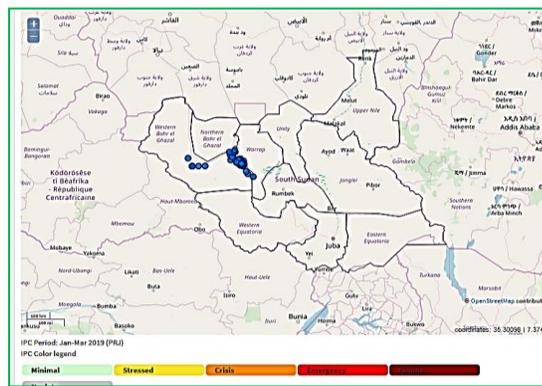


Figure 1: Map of South Sudan showing registered interventions of HARD PERS project on the CIIS platform

Recommendations to HARD during the QRM

The presentation at the QRM number 10 in Aweil highlights the achievements during inception period. These include the recruitment of 11 staff, organization of two government stakeholder workshops, procurement of equipment—vehicles—household baseline information has been produced, CIIS registration, engagement with national level actors, survey of agro-dealers and community mobilization and sensitization have been done (QRM 10 Report). There was no specific recommendation for HARD PERS Project to address.

Update shared by the project staff on activities and achievements

The mission activities started with the review of the activities recently undertaken by the project within the inception period. As per the description of action, the following are the extension-related actions planned: To recruit and train of 110 Community-Based Extension Workers (CBEWs); To train 9 13 project staff and 10 County Department staffs of agriculture, fisheries, livestock, cooperative and forestry. The training will cover the following: basics of Farmers Field School (FFS), Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Extension Approaches. The staff who will participate in the training are those who will be directly involved in the provision of day-to-day extension support services to farmers; and plans to train of 3,200 smallholders in post-harvest management. At National level the project action plans to engage with food security cluster agricultural working group including providing support to the South Sudan Agricultural Advisory Services and Agricultural Extension Day activities; to provide support and participate actively in the development of new extension guidelines; to promote the use and publication of current guides and to continue participating in project review meetings organised for EU funded projects

The table below summarizes the description of activities, location where the activities took place and the status of the achievements.

No.	Activity Description	No.	Where (Bomas)	Status	Remarks
1.	construction of improved granaries	5	Mapel, Madhuk, Acumcum, Kollo, Lul	Complete	post-harvest management
2.	establishment of vegetable gardens	3	Malwuil, Mapel, Alelthony	In progress	income & nutrition diversification
3.	establishment of fruit tree nurseries	3	Malwuil, Mapel, Alelthony	In progress	NRM, Fruit trees
4.	formation of DRR committees	3	Acumcum, Khorjamus, Agur	Complete	Conflict resolution
5.	construction of shallow wells	2	Bar Madier and Aleldong	In progress	Cash for Work Activity
6.	assessment of Kangi-Bar Urud road	28km	Kangi, Bar Urud, Ajugo, Bartie,	In progress	Cash for Work Activity
7.	CIIS		All	In progress	Data upload on going
8.	acquaintance with extension Manuals	10 staff	Project Staff	In progress	Improve Ext. Service delivery
9.	procurement of ox-ploughs	300	All-except Kuru county	In progress	Increase area under cultivation
10.	TOR for Input & extension service delivery - Consultancy	1	Wau State	Await TA comments	Input & extension delivery strategy
11.	VSLA trainings	55	All bomas	In progress	Enhance SHOs

12.	Training of CAHWs and CBEWs	110	All bomas	In progress	Improve CORPs capacity
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The proceeding for the meetings on harmonization of project locations and the seed distribution strategy

The following are the issues and proceedings from the meeting held to discuss the issues of harmonization of locations, harmonization of seed strategy and the review of the draft seed production guide. The following organizations took part in the meeting NRC, WVI, UNOPS, UNIDO, VSF-Germany, MAFS, Dorcas and HARD.

Harmonization of locations

Feeder roads should be used as the main focal point in the selection of the villages, where smallholder component of the programme is implemented. This is because roads were constructed in high agricultural production areas and will ensure improved access to markets by smallholders. The feeder roads constructed or under-construction are as follows:

- Lot 1: Kangi – Bar Urud-Kayongo-Gette Feeder Road: The road is located in the former Western Bahr Ghazal State and current Wau State. The road is 70.33 Km long and part of it has been completed. HARD, NRC and Dorcas will support communities along this road.
- Lot 2: Achol Pagong – Ayien Market Feeder Road: Under construction with estimated completion by first quarter of 2018. The road is 25.82 Km long and 7 meter wide. This road passes through 2 new states of Gogrial and Twic.
- Lot 2.1: Ayien Market – Panlieth Feeder Road: Under construction with estimated completion of the construction works by end of 2018. The road is 18.2 Km long and 4.5 meter wide. The road is located in the former Warrap State and current Gogrial and Twic states. NRC will support communities along this road.
- Lot 3: Gok Machar – Mayom Angok Feeder Road: Under defects liability period, which is estimated to close by 21 May 2019. The road is located in the former Northern Bahr Ghazal and current Lol State. The road is 35.31 km long and 7 m wide. VSF-Suisse will support communities along the feeder road.
- Lot 4: Aluakluak – Mapourdit –Aguran Feeder Road: Under procurement for works with estimated completion of the construction works by end of March 2019. The road is located in the former Lakes State and current Eastern Lakes State. The road is 26.75km long and 4.5m wide. NPA will support communities along this road.
- Kangi-Kuajok-Luanyaker road constructed by WFP, which is 94.75 km long. The road is located in the former Western Bahr el Ghazal state (currently Wau state) and Gogrial State. VSF-Germany will support communities along this feeder road.
- UNOPS reported that they conducted feasibility studies to identify where other EU-funded interventions were being implemented before the construction of the feeder roads. For instance, for the Kangi-Barurud road, HARD, GIZ and UNIDO were already implementing activities near the feeder road.
- HARD is implementing a nutrition complementary project along the Kangi-Barurud road.

- The partners should also select villages near the agro-processing centres (APC), so farmers can make use of them for value addition. APCs were built by UNIDO and are located in Kangi, Gok Machar and Ayet.
- During the final evaluation of the ZEAT-BEAD programme, it was found that APCs were the weakest component of the programme. This could be partly due to the fact that they were not in use at the time of the evaluation.
- Partners were challenged to use effective approaches and demonstrate the results of their interventions. However, there are factors such as worsening macro-economic situation, lack of market for some produces, conflict and low adoption of technologies that negatively affect the livelihoods of the communities.
- The recent evaluation indicated that partners did not plan well to address some of these issues. Therefore, having measures in place to address and/or mitigate the impact of these issues should be done as a matter of priority. Specifically, the four themes of women empowerment, climate change, conflict and nutrition must be addressed in the current projects.

Resolutions on the selection of villages.

- HARD will share with the NRC the list of 57 villages that they work in so that they don't select them. These include the villages along the feeder roads.
- Dorcas worked in Kayango last year but in the new selection of the villages, they will also take into account the villages that HARD is already working in to avoid duplication of support.
- Partners to submit to the TA, a list of communities (villages) that they work or propose to work in.

Complementarities of interventions are encouraged. For instance, HARD DFID-funded nutrition project will undertake WASH activities in some of the villages such as Ajugo and Barurud along the feeder road where there are EU-funded food security project.

During the discussions for harmonization of locations, VSF-G, NRC and World Vision shared their sites and discussed into details the Payams, Bomas and Villages where they are implementing projects. It was found that there are no areas where the organisations are in the same Boma/village. VSF-Germany is the only organisation working along the Feeder road from Luonyaker to Kuajok constructed by WFP covering 3 villages along the road.

The table below captures project sites for the three organisations.

County	Payam	Organisation
Gogrial West	Kuach South	VSF-G
	Kuach North	VSF-G
Gogrial East	Pathuon West	VSF-G
	Pathuon East	World Vision
	Toch North	VSF-G
	Toch East	VSF-G
	Toch West	World Vision
Tonj North	Aliek	VSF-G
	Manalor	VSF-G
	Awul	VSF-G

Twic	Pan-Nyok	NRC
	Turalei	NRC
	Aweng	NRC
	Ajak Kuach	NRC
	Wunrok	WV

The 3 organisations have agreed to continue working in the above locations where they do not conflict in terms of area targeting.

Harmonization of Seed Distribution Strategy

The background to this is that all six ZEAT BEAD II partners (HARD, VSF-Germany, NPA, VSF-Suisse, NRC and World Vision) with exception of NPA plan to promote improved seed production through supporting seed producing groups. They will do this by Identifying progressive farmers, conducting intensive trainings using the Seed Production Guide produced by the TA and with experience facilitators. However, given that farmers would commence planting in a couple of months, this strategy is only visible in year two of their projects. Therefore, in order to bridge the gap in the first year, we would like to hold a discussion how FAO can provide seeds (within your current seed distribution plan) to these partners in their various states.

Objectives of the strategy are: 1) to produce high quality seeds and ii) to improve access to good quality seeds based on affordability, availability, sustainability and adaptability

Seed strategy should take into consideration the following:

- Not all farmers should be seed producers.
- Work with progressive/lead farmers
- Increase the number of extension staff to support farmers.
- NGOs/UN Agencies should be involved in promotion of improved seeds and linkages across the seed chain.
- Government should provide regulation/policy guidelines.
- NGOs/UN agencies should work with government to develop capacity and input needed.
- Seed security is a long-term process and it involves a lot of investment.

The development of seeds from seed producers to the farmers is shown below:

Breeder's seeds → foundation seeds → certified seeds → farmers' seeds.

- The aim is to ensure that farmer's plant certified seeds to increase agricultural yields.
- World Vision International (WVI) has been doing adaptive seed trials in Tonj North and other partners can learn from them.
- There is need for crop diversification through distribution of non-traditional seeds such as pulses.

Proposed seed provision and development strategy.

Partners agreed to use the strategy below to provide seeds to general farmers and support local seed development:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In year 1, certified seeds will be given to all farmers. Also, progressive/lead farmers who can engage in seed production will be identified. - The source of seeds could be from the Republic of Sudan, Ministry of Agriculture, and FAO or any other countries listed in the seed production manual. - A list of approved seeds recommended in South Sudan is contained in the draft seed production manual. - The seed producers should be given rigorous training in seed production. - The meeting was informed that it takes about one month to import seeds from Sudan. - The quantities of the seeds to be given per farmer were suggested as follows: 5kg sorghum, 3 kg cowpeas, 5 kg maize and 15 kg groundnuts (unshelled). - The seeds should be open pollinated varieties (OPV) - The seeds will be supplied and recovered at the ratio of 1:1. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beneficiaries of year 1 certified seeds are to repay the same quantities of seeds to be given to the same number of farmers. - Train progressive farmers as seed producers and supply them with foundation seeds, which they will sell as certified seeds. - In year two, beneficiaries will provide seeds to vulnerable farmers in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is envisaged that seed producers will have certified seeds, which they will sell to the market. - The NGOs/UN agencies support them with marketing, labelling, branding.

Resolutions on seed strategy.

- FAO representative in the meeting promised to send information about the call for proposal to all partners using the contacts in the signed attendance lists.
- Partners to explore the options of importing seeds following the protocols developed by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Partners to review the seed production guide and give their feedback by Wednesday, March 14, 2019.

Discussion on Community Intervention Information System (CIIS) for south Sudan

The participants in the meetings on strategy requested more additional explanation on the use of CIIS. A demonstration was done on the site and especially for the new participants the following response was made to the questions asked.

- CIIS is an online information-sharing platform created by donors in South Sudan but currently, the EU is mainly using it.
- Users need to be registered to access information on the CIIS.
- Users can be registered as guests either with read-only access or with data entry authority in which case, they can key in the information and register the interventions.
- Some of the things to note on the CIIS include the difference between the donor and contracting agency. This applies in cases, where the donor and the contracting agency are different, e.g. when FAO receives funds from the EU and contracts another NGO to implement the project. The EU is the donor and FAO is the contracting agency.
- Through CIIS, information on the interventions are available at the village (community level), thus, results, activities, number of beneficiaries, and funds spent in a particular village are shown.
- Project information such as, project number registered in the CIIS is permanent and cannot be changed.
- The information shared on the CIIS is based on 5Ws (Where, What, Who, by Whom and When) used by the clusters.
- It is also important to differentiate whether the project is funded through Humanitarian Response Programme (HRP) or it seeks to improve livelihoods
- Information on CIIS can be filtered to show issues of interest, produce maps and reports

The proceeding for the revision of extension guide

Comments or recommendations made by the participants reviewing the Technical Guide on Certified Seed Production include the following:

A. First set of comments:

NRC: Augustine Namanda Area Manager and Chol Abuol Chol the Livelihood & Food Security Projects' Manager Northern Region

On Types of Seeds: It includes Farmers' seeds or farmer own seeds

On Farmers' seeds: Are seeds produced continuously or owns by farmers in their locality? This needs to be included as fourth types of seeds.

On Soil types and climate: It includes a brief outline of different soils type in various agro-ecological conditions of South Sudan. This should also include a brief outline of soil formation processes and effect of climate on soils formation.

On types of soils include the types of soils such as Clay soil, sandy soils, loam soils or silt soils; Different type of crops that flourish well in different soils; Develop simple template recommending crop types that do well in each soils of various agro-ecological zones of South Sudan.

Seed coating is also a process of seed dressing where colours are applied to the seeds to save them from the birds. These colours make them invisible to the birds.

Seeds Packaging and Storage

There is a need to include qualities of good storage facility for reference in this manual. In addition briefly outline qualities of good storage facility. Should have ample or adequate space to allow ventilation. Should have a rat guards to minimize rodents from gaining access to store. Leak proof or no damping off from rain water. Should be clean before and after storage of seeds.

On Seed multiplication group evaluation form: It Includes crop planting date
On Evaluation form on the vegetative phase of growth. The rating will be in score of 1 to 5 (Very good: 5, Good: 3 & Not good: 1)

Insert column for land size cultivated per crop type

S/No.	Name of the group	Crop type	Planting standard (date, line planting & Spacing)	Land size cultivated per crop type	Isolation (Geographic or planting time)	Crop management(harrowing, weeding,	Pest & Disease control	Total Score

B. Second set of comments

Yosief Asegedum Consultant and a part time staff of Wau Catholic University:

1. On page 24 concerning weeding on 3rd week after emergence is too early very small to uproot them, so better the first weeding 4th week and the second 6th week. The reason is that critical period (where competition start between the crop and weeds for scarce resources) for weeding is around 6th week in most cereal crops.
2. In the same page 24 concerning insect pests one of the vicious is stalk borer /stem borer is not listed. Moreover, compacted head smut is a very important disease in seed production particularly in sorghum.

3. In the same page 24 regarding fertilizer applications particularly the inorganic one, the type and amount better to put as blanket recommendation. For instance, Urea or DAP (Di-ammonium-phosphate) or NPK.

Oscar Ondeng-HARD, Project Manager, FSL contribution:

1. This guide is generally technical for CBEWs from my observation. But I have made some comments which I have always raised with Tayo even during proposal revision yet no constructive answer.
2. My belief is that in a post conflict context as South Sudan and more so, Bahr el Gazal, local seed is highly adapted to the prevailing conditions still remain better option since they are less input (e.g. fertilizer...) intensive. Most of our eligible beneficiaries have low literacy levels and capacity to handle foundation seed and that's why I talked of 'seed for all 3200 farmers in Yr. 1, then seed production in Yr. 2 with few progressive farmers that can be supervised closely or managed through the required protocols. Then the seed producers will form Seed production Committee (SPC) and supported to construct seed bank for seed access by other farmers in Yr. 3 and even after phase out!

Reference to Oscar's comment the following response was given by the TA:

1. There is no problem with farmers using their local or traditional varieties. However, there is a good reason for also using Certified Seeds. Right from the outset, it was never intended that all farmers will grow Foundation Seeds. The idea is to develop a set of specialized seed producing group who can now be introduced to Foundation Seeds and progressively supported to market good quality seeds.
2. On the technical level of the guide: The guide is meant for Extension Workers as a resource. It is not meant to be used directly by farmers because we of course do know that our famers are most illiterate. The extension staff and training officers can use the information in the guide to prepare their teaching materials.

Sebit Ibrahim, Director of Extension, Wau State Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources

On Annex 1: List of Seed Varieties Officially Released for Use in South Sudan, I can add Super Strain B Tomato variety. (Well noted)

Main Challenges in Implementation

The following are the main challenges expressed by HARD in the implementation of the PERS project over the 3 months of inception period.

- Hyperinflation leading to higher costs of operations, materials and services
- Continued splitting of administrative units
- Pockets of insecurity in some areas
- Dependency syndrome still high
- Road network has deteriorated leading to higher maintenance costs on vehicles and motor bikes
- Inadequate water sources due to the prolonged drought

Recommendations

Following the observations, discussions, review of the project documents and interaction with a cross section of HARDs PERS staff, during the meeting and at the workshop on strategy development, the following are the recommendations made by this mission:

Peace and conflict: Conflict is an issue in many parts of Wau and Raja. The project should as a matter of urgency collect baseline information on the various conflicts to inform their programmes and to make their activities conflict sensitive.

Management issue: Expansion of HARDs operation as it is becoming large with many programmes funded by many donor implemented concurrently. This mission is of the opinion that the capacity to properly manage the projects efficiently may be stretched. As a consequence, the management of the PERS Project may be affected. This problem is made more apparent with the recent resignation of the Head of Food Security Programme. As the most knowledgeable and oldest management staff with a good knowledge of how the other projects were implemented, his resignation will constitute a big gap and could pose a risk to proper implementation of the project. Therefore, the management of HARD should immediately put mechanism in place to replace him with a very capable hand and equally or more experience staff. We recommended that EUD should be updated on the recruitment process and for an assurance that a capable person to manage PERS project will be employed. The new person appointed should be officially introduced to the EUD upon commencement of work.

Training on increasing the number of visits conducted by Extension officers. The strategy should be to engage with and facilitate the county level extension staff of the MAFFS in large number paying the incentives for field visits to ensure proper interaction with the farmers. The locations of operations of HARD Project are very diverse and too far apart for a few 3 staff to be responsible for extension. The planned training for MAFS staff and 110 CBEW should commence immediately. The training should be facilitated by an experience institution.

There is the need for training in crop /yield assessment for project staff and partners to increase and harmonise skills across the projects. Yield is a major outcome of PERS project and a measure of productivity. HARD should send competent staff to the training to be coordinated by TA and FAO on this subject in the course of the year.

Coordination: FSL cluster coordination interventions in the state is said to be inactive. The danger is except if there is a proactive means, partners will work without coordination. The reality is that government capacity to hold such meeting is still very weak. The reason for the current low-level participation is that there seems to be a pattern where water and soda is provided for every meeting. This provision is said to be expensive. HARD should liaise with the FSL Cluster Coordinator.

Complementarity: Building block approach is lacking in the explanation and understanding of most of the explanation made by staff implementing PERS. This project is building on the accomplishment of the previous project SORUDEV (2014-2017). This lack of desire to build on the past SORUDEV project also came across very clearly in the recent baselines where many baseline current values, even in the areas where SORUDEV was implement, were said to be naught without reference to the end of project values. For instance, it should be noted that under SORUDEV that the Ox-plough – 600; Donkey plough – 200 were distributed, including 1,029 households in 2016, who received and repaid the seeds, are still in the same location.

Harmonization approach to seed production is to be guided by the understanding that the in year one all beneficiaries will receive seeds from the project. Progressive farmers from among the beneficiaries of the seeds in year one will be spotted and further capacitated to progress into seed producing groups. The seed producing groups are the ones to be provided foundation seeds in Year two and worked with all through year three. It was agreed that the supply of certified seeds should not stop PERS project from procuring and supplying local seeds which may be desired by the target farmers.

CIIS: HARD, in the absence of the Head of programme, should appoint a dedicated staff to ensure that all PERS Project and Emergency food Security information on the CIIS are current, updated regularly and made active.

Conclusion

Though every effort was made by the mission to obtain information and cross check activities implemented as much as possible. Due to the two days that were lost, this mission is incomplete and could not achieve all what it set out to achieve. There is a need to visit HARD before the next Quarterly Review meeting. The week-long visit should be solely dedicated to on the field observation, meeting direct beneficiaries filed visits and holding discussions with government officials in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources.

Annex

1. Itinerary of the Mission (as was planned)

Monday 4 th March, 2019			
Time	Activity	Location	Focal point

8:00 to 12:00pm	❖ Travelling to Wau On UNHAS	Wau	❖ EU-TA
12:30 to 1:00pm	❖ Settling into the hotel.	Wau	❖ John OMAN – Logistics Officer
12:00pm to 1:00pm	Lunch	Safari Park Hotel	All
2:00pm to 3:30pm	❖ Introduction to PERS project staff. ❖ Project brief. ❖ Confirmation of the rest of the field programme	HARD's office, Wau	❖ Wycliffe-PERS Project Manager ❖ Evans- Head of Food Security
Tuesday 5th March, 2019			
9:00am to 9:30 am	❖ Courtesy call on the DG – Ministry of Agriculture. (Mr Joseph Richard)/ Livestock Mr Edward	Kodok	❖ Wycliffe – Project Manager
9:30am to 10:30am	❖ Visit to Maluil village where the establishment of vegetable garden is ongoing. ❖ Meeting with the beneficiaries	Maluil	❖ Wycliffe – Project Manager ❖ Mabor – Project Officer
10:30am to 12:00noon	❖ Visit the households with improved granaries ❖ Meeting with beneficiaries	Madhuk	❖ Wycliffe – Project Manager ❖ Mabor – Project Officer
12:00pm to 1:00pm	Lunch	Safari Park Hotel	All
2:00pm to 4:00pm	❖ Feedback from the field ❖ Discussions on project issues – logframe, farm input supply, extension etc.	HARD's office, Wau	❖ Wycliffe-PERS Project Manager ❖ Evans- Head of Food Security
Wednesday 6th March, 2019			
9:00am to 1:00pm	❖ Tavel to Kangi ❖ Visit to Kangi HARD's compound donated by UNOPS ❖ Meeting with the beneficiaries in Kangi	Kangi	❖ Wycliffe – Project Manager ❖ Tito Ker – Rural Infrastructure Specialist.
1:00pm to 2:00pm	Lunch	Kangi	All
2:00pm-5:00pm	❖ Travelling along Kangi-Barurud-Kayongo-Gette feeder road.	Wau-Shulluk	❖ Wycliffe – Project Manager

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Inspect the road maintenance works to be carried out through cash for work scheme. ❖ Meeting with the beneficiaries in Barurud ❖ Travelling back to Wau 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tito Ker – Rural Infrastructure Specialist.
Thursday 7th March, 2019			
9:00am to 1:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Coordination meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roads - Seeds distribution. 	Achongchong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Wycliffe – Project Manager ❖ Abraham Andrea – Rural Infrastructure Specialist-Project Officer
1:00pm to 2:00pm	Lunch	Achongchong	All
2:00pm to 4:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Visiting Malakal HARD's compound in Achongchong. ❖ Meeting with ox-plough beneficiaries in Achonchong ❖ Meet Community Based Extension Workers (CBEWs) ❖ Travel back to Wau. ❖ Wrap up, overall feedback. And way forward 	Wau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Wycliffe – Project Manager ❖ Abraham Andrea – Rural Infrastructure Specialist-Project Officer
Friday 8th March, 2019			
9:00am to 10:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Check in at Wau Airport 	Wau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ EU-TA ❖ John OMAN-Logistics Officer
11:00am to 1:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Travel back to back to Juba on UNHAS. 	Juba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ EU-TA

2. Minutes of follow up meeting with FAO on Seed Distribution Harmonization (20th March)

<p>From: Tayo ALABI - AGRER < ></p> <p>Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 6:18 PM</p> <p>To: Kerandi, Nicholas (FAOSS) ; Dzvurumi, Felix (FAOSS)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lopes, Mara (FAOSS) < >; Manni, Alemu (FAOSS)</p>

< >; Okidi, Joseph (FAOSS) < >; Muana, Francis (FAOSS)
< >
Cc: ANCILLOTTI Manuel (EEAS-JUBA) < >; Diego LOPEZ DEL RIO -
A.E.S.A. < >; GIRLANDO Paolo (EEAS-JUBA)
< >

Subject: Meeting on harmonization of seed distribution to ZEAT-BEAD IPs

Thank you very much for your time this morning. The meeting on harmonization of seed distribution to ZEAT-BEAD IPs and discussion on other issues went very well.

This is to confirm a few of the issues we discussed and the actions we agreed to take:

1. The strategy by IPS to work with and support Seed Producer groups in Year 2 is plausible. The need to provide certified seeds to a large group of farmers is essential and could be supported by FAO. The decision to coordinate with FAO Emergency and FSL cluster to avoid duplication is apt and appreciated.
2. FAO will consider the IPs in the Greater Bahr el Gazal for the distribution of Certified Seeds procured and already prepositioned by FAO for the next planting season. Specifically, these would be certified Sorghum seeds (from Sudan) and Maize, Sesame (from Uganda). FAO is not distributing Groundnuts so IPs will have to source Groundnuts by themselves.
3. That TA team (Tayo) should provide the names of IPS, location of implementation (State/County/Payam), type of seeds and number of beneficiaries to be supplied. The list should reach FAO next week.
4. That Joseph Okidi will share existing training module for seed production with TA and also send his comments on the draft Seed Production Manual before the end of March. FAO is prepared to facilitate a ToT for Partners and Government officials from the respective states on Seed Production.

Other issues discussed are:

1. FAO Cross Border Project baseline data collection using the harmonized log frame is complete, analysis is on and report should be ready in a couple of weeks. In this respect Nicholas Kerandi will share the data collection tool with TA this week.
2. Preparation for QRM 11 planned to be hosted in Rumbek by FAO PLEP/ NPA/EUTA should begin now. FAO to take the lead with the necessary logistic and arrangement. A planning meeting should be organized with the EUD to firm up the dates and arrangements as soon as convenient.
3. Preparation for the Agriculture Extension Day of June 15 (which was first celebrated in 2015 with funding from the EU and facilitation from FAO and the EU TA team) should commence now with a meeting involving FAO, MAFS, MLFI, SoSFAAS and TA. The possible focus will be on Resilience Agriculture, Seed Sector development, Agriculture as Business (lessons from large scale farming companies such as Green Horizons and others). The TA will facilitate this meeting. Time and location will be communicated. Given that 15 June this year falls on Saturday, the planning committee will decide on the most suitable date.

3. Project Information (Revised Project Information after Harmonization)

Project Title	Productivity Enhancement and Resilience Strengthening (PERS) Project
Project No	FED/2018/399900
Overall Objective	To contribute to improved food security and incomes of the population of South Sudan
Duration	Start Date: 09-10-18 End Date: 09-09-21
Location	Country: South Sudan. Region: Bahr el Ghazal. States: Wau and Lol States. Counties: Marial Bai, Wanbai, Kangi, Udici, Kangi, Alelthony, Kuajina, Alur and Rocrocdong Counties in Wau State and Kuru County in Lol State
Outcomes	Outcome 1: Increased sustainable crop production and productivity Outcome 2: Enhanced conflict resolution mechanisms Outcome 3: Diversified livelihood sources Outcome 4: Enhanced community resilience to natural disasters
Outputs	Output 1.1: access to inputs and tools improved Output 1.2: Knowledge on agronomic and animal husbandry good practices improved Output 1.3: access to markets and market information improved Output 1.4: access to nutrition boosting innovations improved Output 2.1: access to conflict engagement tools improved Output 2.2: access to community institutions for conflict resolution Output 3.1: Knowledge on livelihoods diversification opportunities enhanced. Output 4.1: knowledge on post-harvest management improved Output 4.2: knowledge on environmental management improved Output 4.3: access to community assets improved
Activities	A1.1.1 Field study (Related to Output 1). A1.1.2 Stakeholders' workshop (Related to Output 1). A1.2 Design strategy for private sector participation in supply of inputs and services (Related to Output 1). A1.3 Select and support community (local) input suppliers (Related to Output 1). A1.3.1 Select community (local) input suppliers and service providers based to agreed-upon criteria (Related to Output 1). A1.3.2 Support local input suppliers and service providers (Related to Output 1). A2.1 Provide training and market linkages to Smallholder Organisations (Related to Output 2). A2.2 Construct 275 improved local granaries Related to Output 2).

	A2.3 Facilitate cash-for-work rural infrastructure activities to support 1,410 persons (50% women) (Related to Output 2).
	3.1.2 Recruit and train 83 Community-Based Extension Workers (CBEWs), Village Agents (VAs) for VSLAs and Community Based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) (Related to Output 3).
	3.1.3 Train Project and County Department staff (Related to Output 3).
	A3.2 Training in post-harvest management Related to Output 2).
	3.3 Introduce new/appropriate technologies (Related to Output 3).
	3.3.1 Promote use of animal traction and other implements (Related to Output 3).
	3.3.2 Promote vegetable production for income and nutrition (Related to Output 3).
	3.3.3 Promote cassava propagation (Related to Output 3).
	3.3.4 Promote agro-forestry practices including establishment of tree nurseries and management of indigenous trees (Related to Output 3).
	3.3.5 Promote practical farmer-learning (Related to Output 3).
	3.3.6 Promote improved fishing practices (Related to Output 3).

4. Project summary to be provided by HARD along with the interim Report

HARD PERS PROJECTS TARGETS SUMMARY											
CROPS	No. of producing HH in target Counties	No. of producing HH supported (baseline)	No. of HH supported at (date)	% of total HH	No. ha/HH (baseline)	No. Ha/HH at (date)	% increase/decrease	no. of kg/ ha (baseline)	no. of kg/ ha at (date)	% change	Total Production at (date)
Sorghum											
Groundnuts											
LIVESTOCK		No. of producing HH supported (baseline)	No. of HH supported at (date)	% of total HH				No. of livestock sold at market (baseline)	No. of livestock sold at market (baseline)	% change	Total Production
FISH		No. of producing HH supported (baseline)	No. of HH supported at (date)	% of total HH				No. of kg sold/month (baseline)	No. of kg sold/month at (date)		

SAVINGS		No. of HH in VSLAs (baseline)	No. of HH in VSLAs at (date)	% change				Ave. no of SSP saved/ VSLs (baseline)	Ave. no of SSP saved/ VSLs at (date)	%change	Total amount of SSP

5. Result Framework Indicators to be filled by HARD and submitted along with Interim Report

EU RF Indicator	Baseline Value	Target Value	Present/Final Value
2.01 Number of food insecure people receiving EU assistance			
2.02 Number of women of reproductive age, adolescent girls and children under 5 reached by nutrition related interventions supported by the EU			
2.03 Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land			
2.04 Agricultural and pastoral ecosystems where sustainable management practices have been introduced with EU support (ha)			
2.13b Number of beneficiaries with access to financial services with EU support: a) individuals			
2.15 Number of people who have benefited from institution or workplace-based VET/skills development interventions supported by the EU			
2.16a Total length of road supported by the EU through construction (kms)			
2.28 Number of individuals directly benefiting from EU supported interventions that specifically aim to support civilian post-conflict peace-building and/or conflict prevention			

6. HARD'S response to the recommendations made

Following the observations, discussions, review of the project documents and interaction with a cross section of HARDs PERS staff, during the meeting and at the workshop on strategy development, the following are the recommendations made by this mission:

Selection: The community selection criteria used for the current communities is not very clear. The project needs to present documentation which explains the criterion used in selecting communities and the target beneficiaries.

- The selection of the communities is based on EU principles that, the PERS project should build on the former SORUDEV project and the communities along the feeder road should be given priority.

As such if you look at the bomas in both Lol and Wau state these are the same communities which were targeted during the SORUDEV.

Peace and conflict: Conflict is an issue in many parts of Wau and Raja. The project should as a matter of urgency collect baseline information on the various conflicts to inform their programmes and to make their activities conflict sensitive.

- The base line data had been collected we are waiting for the report from the consultant to be shared with EU.

Management issue: Expansion of HARDs operation as it is becoming large with many programmes funded by many donor implemented concurrently. This mission is of the opinion that the capacity to properly manage the projects efficiently may be stretched. As a consequence, the management of the PERS Project may be affected. This problem is made more apparent with the recent resignation of the Head of Food Security Programme. As the most knowledgeable and oldest management staff with a good knowledge of how the other projects were implemented, his resignation will constitute a big gap and could pose a risk to proper implementation of the project. Therefore, the management of HARD should immediately put mechanism in place to replace him with a very capable hand and equally or more experience staff. We recommended that EUD should be updated on the recruitment process and for an assurance that a capable person to manage PERS project will be employed. The new person appointed should be officially introduced to the EUD upon commencement of work.

- The interim Senior project manager is appointed to oversee the implementation of the PERS project, he will be supporting the Project manager and M&E specialist. The appointed Senior FSL Program manager is an experience staff, who had managed a project of Euro 1,062,203 in HARD titled; *Integrated Food & Nutrition security program in Wau and Raja* funded by German Federal Government (BMZ) in partnership with the Johanniter International. He managed the project well and close it successfully 2015 -2018. At one point he had taken lead in ZEAT – BEAT/PERS Project proposal revision during the absence of Evans until its final approval.
- The position of HoFSL is based on HARD's internal policy, the position was created to offer guidance in the implementation of the food security programmes in HARD. It is funded 30% by the PERS project, so the resignation of the outgoing HoFSL should not worry you because we have the Project Manager for the PERS project.
- Evans is still on his active contract with HARD until 30th May 2019, I am wondering how you got the information, because I have not yet shared with EUD in Juba. I was going to share this information as from first of May 2019 with a detail plan for his replacement.

Training on increasing the number of visits conducted by Extension officers. The strategy should be to engage with and facilitate the county level extension staff of the MAFFS in large number paying the incentives for field visits to ensure proper interaction with the farmers. The locations of operations of HARD Project are very diverse and too far apart for a few 3 staff to be responsible for extension. The planned training for MAFS staff and 110 CBEW should commence immediately. The training should be facilitated by an experience institution.

- An MoU will be signed with the SMFFS to ensure that extension officers are facilitated to support farmers. The plan for the training is under way, and will be conducted very soon by an experienced institution and all information related will be shared with the EU TA.

There is the need for training in crop /yield assessment for project staff and partners to increase and harmonise skills across the projects. Yield is a major outcome of PERS project and a measure of productivity. HARD should send competent staff to the training to be coordinated by TA and FAO on this subject in the course of the year.

- HARD will appoint a staff to attend the training when the time comes

Coordination: FSL cluster coordination interventions in the state is said to be inactive. The danger is except if there is a proactive means, partners will work without coordination. The reality is that government capacity to hold such meeting is still very weak. The reason for the current low-level participation is that there seems to be a pattern where water and soda is provided for every meeting. This provision is said to be expensive. HARD should liaise with the FSL Cluster Coordinator.

This is to kindly notify you that HARD and other NGOs together with FAO/WFP as the FSL Cluster leads have succeeded to revive the FSL Cluster coordination forum. The first meeting was held on 7th February 2019. The coordination meetings are held fortnightly with the last one of each month being held at the state Ministry of Agriculture offices.

The names and geographical presence of partners is as attached.

The main agenda of the meetings has been;

- Partner's geographical presence in WBG
- Mapping of FSL projects to identify gaps
- Challenges and Opportunities
- Knowledge sharing on best practices

Complementarity: Building block approach is lacking in the explanation and understanding of most of the explanation made by staff implementing PERS. This project is building on the accomplishment of the previous project SORUDEV (2014-2017). This lack of desire to build on the past SORUDEV project also came across very clearly in the recent baselines where many baseline current values, even in the areas where SORUDEV was implement, were said to be naught without reference to the end of project values. For instance, it should be noted that under SORUDEV that the Ox-plough – 600; Donkey plough – 200 were distributed, including 1,029 households in 2016, who received and repaid the seeds, are still in the same location.

- Most of the staff implementing the PERS project did not participate in the SORUDEV project, they will be oriented to build the link between the two projects

Harmonization approach to seed production is to be guided by the understanding that the in year one all beneficiaries will receive seeds from the project. Progressive farmers from among the beneficiaries of the seeds in year one will be spotted and further capacitated to progress into seed producing groups. The seed producing groups are the ones to be provided foundation seeds in Year two and worked with all

through year three. It was agreed that the supply of certified seeds should not stop PERS project from procuring and supplying local seeds which may be desired by the target farmers.

- This is clear

CIIS: HARD, in the absence of the Head of programme, should appoint a dedicated staff to ensure that all PERS Project and Emergency food Security information on the CIIS are current, updated regularly and made active.

- The M&E specialist has taken the responsibility
- The other point to note is that most of the interventions were keyed into CIIS by Evans. The project manager and the M&E specialist are unable to view all the interventions when they log in. Please look into this.