

END OF PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT



BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH ASSET CREATION AND ENHANCEMENT PHASE II (BRACE II) END OF PROJECT EVALUATION CONDUCTED BY Q&A MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD 15TH JULY 2020 TO 14TH MAY 2022.

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DISCLAIMER

The report does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of World Vision South Sudan (WVSS). Correctness of the information presented herein is bound to the Evaluation outcomes of this report.

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LIST ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS




BPMC	Boma Project Management Committees
BRACE II	Building Resilience through Asset Creation and Enhancement Phase II
CAD	County Agriculture Departments
CAMP	Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBPP	Community Based Participatory Planning
CDR	Crude Death Rate
CFM	Complaints Feedback Mechanisms
CMAM	Community Based Management of Acute Malnutrition
CND	County Nutrition Departments
CNV	Community Nutrition Volunteer
F	Female
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FBO	Faith Based Organization
FCDO	Agency Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office
FCS	Food consumption score
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FSL	Food security and livelihoods
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Score
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
IGA	Income Generating Activities
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
ITT	Indicator Tracking Tool
KII	Key Informants Interviews

LEAP	Learning through Evaluation with Accountability and Planning
M	Male
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOH	Ministry of Health
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NNGO	National Non-Governmental Organization
RIMA	Resilience Index Measurement and analysis
SAADO	Smile Again Africa Development Organization
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPEDP	Support for Peace and Education Development Programme
SSRRC	South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Overview

The presented report is the End Evaluation Report for the project “Building Resilience through Asset Creation and Enhancement Phase II (BRACE II)” funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO). The evaluation was conducted in three States of Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap and Eastern Equatoria. Q&A Management Consultancy Firm Ltd conducted the evaluation in April-May, 2022 with support from World Vision South Sudan (WVSS).

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to strengthening food and nutrition security and resilience among food insecure households and communities in Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal and Equatoria Regions in South Sudan. The BRACE II project aimed to build self-sufficiency among project beneficiaries by supporting households to sustainably meet their ongoing food needs, increase household income and subsequently be able to run livelihoods that can empower them overcome future shocks.

The project ensures building of physical and/or natural assets as a condition upon which most participants receive payments while SDC component provided unconditional payments to labor constraint household with the potential to sustainably improve their productivity, resilience and profitability (income).

To enhance agricultural production, BRACE-II engages participants in asset rehabilitation and/or construction with the activities addressing key knowledge, skill and resource gaps among male and female farmers, emphasizing sustainable and climate-smart practices and techniques, and principles of nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

With the project participants under the UKAID component, they are recruited in cohorts and graduated after a year and half period (cohort A in 2018-2019, B 2019-2020 and cohort C 2020-2021). The SDC component of support (unconditional) was introduced and implemented on the same timeline with Cohort C. The SDC funded unconditional component of the project provides labour-constrained households, not targeted with FCDO funding with unconditional cash transfers and ensures most vulnerable members of the community are supported and no conflict exists among the targeted communities.

The overall objective of this action is to contribute to strengthening food and nutrition security and resilience among food insecure households and communities in Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal and Equatoria Regions in South Sudan.

Below is a summary of the project's overall objectives and results.

Goal: Strengthen food and nutrition security and resilience among food insecure households and communities in Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal and Equatoria Regions

Outcome 1: Improved food security and better community relationships among the most food insecure.

Outcome 2: Immediate hunger gaps reduced through conditional and unconditional cash transfers

Outcome 3: Increased capacity to anticipate, adapt, and absorb changes in climate and disruptive events including natural disasters and conflict, including adapting to climate change and COVID -19 Awareness

Evaluation Purpose

The main purpose of the evaluation was to determine project achievements and progress towards meeting the objectives and targets and to assess the impact, relevance, efficiency, coherence effectiveness and sustainability of the project and to generate lessons learned to inform any future interventions. Towards this end, the evaluation responded to key evaluations as detailed in the Terms of Reference (ToR).

Methodology

Various data sources of collection methods were combined, analyzed and compared in an objective manner, acknowledging possible bias and other methodological limitations, in order to build a comprehensive, credible and nuanced picture of the situation on ground.

A mixed approach of quantitative and qualitative methods was used to collect the required. The quantitative data was collected using household survey and to achieve a representative sample of potential beneficiaries with the potential to disaggregate the sample by county, the sample was stratified disproportionately at the county level with a number of household interviews allocated per county for the quantitative portion of the evaluation. As such, the anticipated margin of error for the full sample was approximately 5%, at a confidence level of 95%.

For KIIs and FGD the evaluation team adopted purposive sampling of the Key informants targeted by the project; and mixture of purposive and random sampling of targeted Payams in each county.

- A total of 1,247 (887 Female headed HH, 360 Male headed households) respondent Households were reached in Magwi (213F, 185M), Gogrial West (385F, 63M) and Aweil North (289F, 112M) Counties using the Household survey tool
- 29 (24M, 5F) Key Informant Interviews were administered with community leadership (chief, women and youth leaders), Government's Departments of Agriculture and Nutrition, Complaints Feedback Mechanisms (CFM) Focal persons at Boma levels, Joint Aid Mission (JAM) and United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (UN-FAO) and the implementing partners project staff and Complaint feedback mechanism (CFM) focal persons.
- A total of 12 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with Farmers groups, Boma Project Management Communities (BPMC), attracting 69 (35F, 34M) participants.

Key Outcome Indicators Level Findings

1. Relevance

The project is highly relevant as it is well aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly Goal 1, Goal 2, and Goal 8. The project is also aligned with the South Sudan government policies and strategies including the South Sudan Vision 2040, the South Sudan National Development Strategy-July 2018-June 2022, the South Sudan Vision 2040 Strategic Goal; the South Sudan Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan 2015–2040 and the South Sudan WASH Strategic Framework (2011-2015). Similarly the project is relevant to people's needs and priorities, from individual responses, the assessment found that the project was a priority need for 91.5% of households.

The design of the project was based on assessment of the food and nutrition security situation in Gogrial West County in Warrap State, Aweil North County in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State and in Magwi County in Eastern Equatoria State. The project targeted areas facing the highest levels of food insecurity and nutritional need. In September 2017, Gogrial West was classified as experiencing severe (IPC 4) levels of food insecurity whilst Aweil North and Magwi were classified as experiencing crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC 3).

2. Efficiency

The government institutions involved in the implementation and monitoring of the project included the State Ministry of Agriculture/County Agriculture Directorates, State ministry of Gender and social welfare and the State/County Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) as well as the local community

leadership structure. Targeted communities have been engaged at the beginning through CBPP (Community Based Participatory Planning) where they participate in the project design, planning and decision making.

BRACE II project undertook monitoring throughout the project implementation through onsite visits, on-spot checks and supervision and post distribution monitoring (PDM) to generate key lessons learnt and recommendation for further improvement during all the phases of the project. BRACE II has been informed by studies such as the Research, Mid-Term Evaluations, and PDMs.

In Magwi, BRACE II project was implemented in a context affected by the insecurity such as the cattle raiding and attacks on the host community. However, project sites in Gogrial West and Aweil North were accessible to the project staff and beneficiaries. The local community structures involved in project implementation were the Boma Project Management committee (BPMC) and the Peace Committees.

COVID - 19 pandemic greatly affected some of the community engagement activities, such as awareness meetings, sensitization and health education. COVID - 19 preventive measures, such as social distancing, ban of physical contact, use of facial masks and availing of hand washing facilities that were issued by the MOH and COVID - 19 taskforce was adhered to.

3. Effectiveness

Outcome 1: 36.9% of the total respondents have acceptable FCS with 28.7% in Aweil North compared to 12% at baseline, 24.1% in Gogrial West compared to 7% at baseline and 45.4% in Magwi compared to 35% at the baseline. The significant improvement in the FCS could be attributed to the project interventions such as distribution of agro-inputs (tools & seeds) from the project and both cash and non-cash interventions

Outcome 2: 69.1% of the total respondents (64.4% females and 79.2% males) consumed more than 5 food groups with the highest percentage in Magwi at 100% compared to 43% at baseline, followed by Gogrial West at 58% compared to 17% baseline finding and Aweil North at 20.8% compared to 24%.

Outcome 3: In terms of the coping Strategy Index, 74.5% of households fall within the “Low Coping Strategy Index” with higher percentages recorded in Magwi and Aweil West. Only 0.10% of total respondents reported to have a high coping strategy index and 25.4% reported have “medium coping strategy index”. The proportion of HHs implementing crisis and emergence strategies has reduced by 64%

in Magwi, 68.8% in Gogrial West and 50% in Aweil North; this could be attributed to the project interventions.

Outcome 4: Only 29.3% of respondents mentioned there was a disaster early warning system in place, with Aweil North, Gogrial West and Magwi at 10.2%, 24.6% and 53.8% respectively. While only 37.5% of respondents in Aweil North, Gogrial West and Magwi mentioning the availability of community disaster reduction strategies at 21.9%, 35.5% and 55.5%, respectively. The presence of community disaster reduction strategies implies that there is reduced vulnerability to climate risks and shocks

Outcome 5: Only 30.5% of total respondents mentioned that they experienced any violence in the past 6 months and 52.6% of the total respondents mentioned that they have functional structures (such as a peace committee) in their community for conflict resolution with the highest percentage response at 79.6% in Magwi compared to other counties and less female at 48.7% than male who mentioned they have functional structures (such as a peace committee) in their community.

Outcome 6: 94.7% of respondents mentioned that the project had improved the food and nutrition security and resilience in their household a “great deal” with high percentage responses found across all the counties and similarly mentioned by both male and female compared to 0% baseline finding across all the counties.

Outcome 7: Majority of 70.6% of respondents adopted good nutrition practice of eating variety (eat foods that contain vitamins and minerals) and 72.5% eating regularly

Outcome 8: On Smart Agricultural practices and technology, 85.1% of total respondents mentioned the use of crop rotation; 47.5% mentioned the adoption of crop diversification, 38.3% mentioned row planting of crops, while 35.1% mentioned the use of certified seed varieties.

Outcome 9: On social cohesion, 65.8% of respondents gave support to other households, while 65.1% received support from other households in the past 6 months.

Outcome 10: 63.4% of total respondents mentioned that there is a mechanism in their location for dispute resolution.

Outcome 11: About 52.1% of respondents mentioned that the yield and production of the main crops they planted from the seeds provided by the NGOs were very good, 31.4% mentioned that they were good, while 7.80% and 8.7% described the yield and production as moderate and poor respectively.

Outcome 12: About 49.7% of the total respondents think the number of sources they used to obtain their household income increased at the time of the evaluation compared to two years ago. With the highest increase in Magwi at 75.4% compared to baseline finding of 1.7%, followed by Gogrial West at 54.5% compared to baseline findings of 1.7% and Aweil North at 19% compared to baseline finding of 1.7%.

Outcome 13: 32.6% of the total respondents earned between 5,000 and 10,000 SSP, with an average income of 7,500SSP per month. About 18.0% of households earned 10,000-less than 15,000 SSP whereas 17.8% and 16.2% earned below 5,000 SSP and 15,000-less than 20,000 SSP respectively.

4. Impact

Personal Perspective on the Project.

As high as 95.7% of respondents reported that the project provided adequate services for communities in their location and 64.6% of the total respondents mentioned that they were very satisfied with the services that were provided. While 29.6% and 3.90% of total respondents mentioned they were satisfied and somewhat satisfied, respectively.

Communities experience of improved food and nutrition security and resilience

65.8% and 11.0% of total respondents mentioned that the training had improved Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition practices in their household a great deal and improved somewhat respectively

83.7% of households mentioned that the improved seeds, tools, and equipment contributed a great deal to increase food production and food security in their households

Hunger gaps reduced through conditional cash transfers for work/assets

77.6% of total respondents (80.0% females and 68.8% males) mentioned that the cash assistance enabled them a great deal to meet their food and nutrition security with the highest score in Gogrial West at 86.9% compared to Magwi and Aweil North. In terms of gender, more females at 80.0% than males mentioned that the cash assistance actually enabled them a great deal to meet their food and nutrition security.

Communities benefitted from the project asset creation intervention

In a FGD with the male farmers group in Aweil North County one of the participants stated that “...the community has indeed benefited from the feeder road because traders of food crops from Warrap state used to face difficulties of reaching to our community to buy our produce but now any type of motorist can come here being a lorry, motorbike, car etc. and people can also access the main market in Gokmachar.”

“...these access roads are connecting people to service centers (schools, markets, health facilities, farms etc.) and to the main road to Kuajok, transportation of produces from farms to the households’ storage facilities and markets has also been made possible with these access roads,” a chief in Gogrial West County stressed.

Similarly, during a focus group discussion with mixed group of male and female farmers in Magwi County, the participants said that road enabled the movement of agricultural produce with limited accidents. However, before the rehabilitation of the roads, vehicles (car and motorcycles/Bodaboda) used to breakdown and also there was rampant accident hence making transportation of the agricultural produce very difficult

Capacity to anticipate, adapt and absorb changes in climate and disruptive events (natural disasters and conflict)

Reduced vulnerability of communities/farmers to climate risks and shocks

In a KII with Acting Director for Agriculture, Environment and Forestry, the County Department of Agriculture in Magwi mentioned that, in the months of July and August when farmers are planning to harvest their produce, sometimes it rains abruptly, therefore disrupting the harvest hence they incur losses. He also added that, “...last year, there was flooding in the Bomas of Agata and Omeyo forcing the communities to relocate to a higher location hence their farms were destroyed by flood waters”. He also noted that, this year (2022) from April till date, there has not been sufficient rainfall therefore people cannot go for cultivations. When further asked whether there was reduced vulnerability to climatic risk and shock now compared to 12 months ago, he said there was no reduction in vulnerability to climatic risk and shock compared to 12 months ago since this year, farmers couldn’t cultivate on time as a result of limited rainfalls.

Majority (88.3%) adopted improved agricultural management practices or technology with Aweil North at 84.3% compared to baseline finding of 10%, Gogrial West at 83% compared to baseline finding of 33% and Magwi at 98.2% compared to baseline finding of 95%. The improvement could be attributed to the interventions of the project of training farmers and provision of farming tools

Experience of violence and mechanism or local structures to deal with them

Only 30.5% of total respondents mentioned that they experienced some violence in the past 6 months and 52.6% of the total respondents mentioned that they have functional structures (such as peace committees) in their community for conflict resolution with the highest percentage response at 79.6% in Magwi compared to other counties

On perception of community members, about 94.9% of respondents mentioned that community relations have improved now compared to before the project. There is improvement of 82.2% in Magwi, 72.3% in Gogrial West and 79.8% in Aweil North. The improvement in community relations implies reduced vulnerability to communal conflicts and this could be attributed to the project component of community cohesion.

30.9% of respondents mentioned that the community structure for conflict resolution structures within the community are very effective, while 40.7% said they were somewhat effective.

During a KII with a women leader in Aweil North County she indicated there are peace committees formed by the Boma administrators to solve and reconcile disputes among households which are related to water points and domestic violence.

A youth leader in Aweil North County said that there are peace committees established within the youth associations to address violence caused by individual youths such as fighting, theft and domestic violence as a result of alcoholism and drug abuse.

The project has also established complaints feedback desk to monitor the activities of the project beneficiaries.

Extent to which members of household changed their social behavior about COVID-19 prevention and control

About 91.3% of respondents believe that members of their household changed their social behavior after listening to radio programs about COVID-19 prevention and response.

5. Sustainability

KII with a women leader in Aweil North County revealed that the implementation of project activities such as the provision of cash grants, training of the farmers and distribution of agriculture inputs have encouraged people to take farming activities seriously.

Farmers now support one another as they share the farming tools and advise each other on how to practice the skills and knowledge gained to improve food production.

Sometimes with the support of the chief, farmer groups contribute food items to support the elderly and critically sick households in the communities which reflect a good sense of kindness and solidarity

KII with a project staff revealed that, as an exit strategy, beneficiaries who have graduated and are in VSLA activities and continue to practice seasonal vegetable gardening are able to continue enhancing project results.

To support the beneficiaries further, the project has supplied them with some tools such as watering cans and treadle pumps allowing them to continue cultivation all year round as a way of sustainability.

The project has left good capital assets that the community will continue to use for years to facilitate continuous implementation of activities that BRACE II was doing with them if funding ceases.

Lessons Learnt

- Alternative livelihood is a pull factor for migrating communities to stay in their homes, for example community members in Northern Bahr El Ghazal State, who used to migrate to seek work in Juba reportedly enrolled for asset creation cash transfer motivating them to get engaged on their farms and do other income generating activities
- The community based approach adopted during project implementation such as the formation of the Boma Project Management Committees (BPMCs) facilitated project implementation and instilled the spirit of community ownership of the project.
- Mechanization and modern agricultural techniques become very necessary if production is to increase, the introduction of the animal traction and related trainings led to horizontal expansion of land under crops and the farming practices potentially contributed to high crop production and productivity.
- The construction/rehabilitation of community access roads facilitated improved access to markets, farms, schools, health facilities and other basic services for communities.
- Cash grants as compared to in-kind provide opportunities for diversification and as such particularly for this project the Cash grants have helped the beneficiaries improve their nutrition, reduced food

insecurity at households and encouraged women to engage in income generating activities and/or small-scale businesses.

- The Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA) component is a clear indicator for increased incomes and as such for this project the VSLA component was successful beyond expectations. The VSLA's have really contributed towards household income and community social cohesion within the shortest time possible, it also encouraged farmers to avoid laziness and reduced abuse of alcohol.
- Before the project, the communities used to work individually therefore making them not to achieve their targeted goals, the project-initiated formation of farmer groups hence the lazy farmers became active enabling them to achieve common goals.
- Provision of groundnuts and/or peanut butter processing machine /facility to add value to the raw groundnuts produced by farmers for improved product shelf life and market value of the processed product was a very profitable technology.

Recommendations.

Project Design

- Consider changing the project design by increasing each cohort from two to three years, because it takes time for the beneficiaries to adopt the acquired knowledge and skills to their lives and livelihood practices and strategies
- A future project could include agro-forestry (fruit tree planting), poultry production, goats and piggery for the vulnerable farmers based on the environment, physical, social and economic context of the targeted County.
- Any future food security and livelihoods project should well be advised to mainstream gender in its activities as in most of the target locations there are cases of sexual and gender violence such as forced and/or early marriages, rape and domestic violence against girls and women.
- In any future intervention, ensure that the procurement and distribution of inputs like seeds to farmers both individuals and groups should be done early enough to dovetail with the planting season. This is important because it allows farmers to embark on early land preparations and planting to suit the cropping calendar.
- Consider the local procurement of groundnuts and sorghum seeds for distribution to farmers in the communities. The local procurement through seeds fairs will also generate some income to the farmers and encourage the production of local seeds.

- There is need to integrate other livelihoods components in food security for the farmer groups to diversify their livelihoods portfolio. These include, fisheries, restocking of livestock, including poultry and bee keeping.

Food and nutrition security and resilience

- More training for farmer groups and individual farmers on climate smart agricultural practices and provision of simple irrigation equipment such as treadle foot pumps.
- Training for communities on improved nutrition including maternal, infant and young child nutrition practices.
- Provision of more ox-ploughs to farmers so as to reduce the sharing ratio to at least 1:4 households to ensure early and timely land preparation and planting by all households and/or farmers for increased crop production and productivity and enhanced food security.
- Build the capacity of farmers to gradually graduate from subsistence to commercial farming and link them to input supplies, formal credits and markets for their produce.
- Construction of storage facilities in the communities to reduce post-harvest losses and preserve the quality of produce/seeds.
- Train farmer groups and individual farmers on integrated pest management (IPM) and biological diseases control methods.
- Support more vulnerable farmers with crops and vegetables seeds, farming tools and implements including treadle foot pump and watering cans.
- Train more farmer groups in value chains and value additions and provide value addition machinery and equipment for food processing and enhanced marketing.
- Nutrition and WASH promotion messages to be disseminate and delivered to mothers/women and to husbands/men.

Conditionall/unconditional cash transfers and food for work

- For future food and nutrition security and livelihood interventions, WVSS should consider Cash Based programming as it has a lot of benefits for both direct indirect beneficiaries.
- The Asset based cash programming to be accompanied with un-conditional cash transfers for the most vulnerable members of the community who are not able to work.
- Food for Work transfer modality should be added to the assets creation interventions especially in locations where there are perennial low and deficit agricultural production on account of climatic and human-induced risks.

- Due to high inflation, consider increasing the cash value of unconditional cash grants to an average range of 36,000 - 40,000 South Sudanese Pounds only per beneficiary so as to adequately meet food and other basic needs of the food and nutrition insecure households.

Community assets creation

- The construction and/or rehabilitation of additional community feeder roads in areas that were not served by the project for improved access to basic services, inputs and outputs markets.
- The construction and/or rehabilitation of flood protection dykes to protect dwellings and public structures.

Reduced vulnerability of communities/farmers to climate risks and other shocks

- Incorporate community managed disaster risks reduction, planning and response to mitigate and/or prevent and reduce the impact of disasters on community livelihoods in disaster prone areas.
- Training for the local peace committee on conflict mitigation to ensure that they are effective in dispute resolution process.
- Build the capacity of Boma Project Management Committees through training in conflict mitigation and provision of means of transport and some cash incentives.
- Establish disaster early warning system and educate communities and create awareness initiatives on the application of Early Warning System and Early Response (EWERs) to provide warnings and information on disaster.
- Train the Community Based Disaster Management Committee (CBDMC) to prepare disaster risk reduction plans and initiate community or volunteer activity related to disaster preparedness or prevention, mitigation, response, rehabilitation and coping.

Capacity building for the State/County Department of Agriculture

- Consider building the physical, institutional and human capacity of the State/County Departments of agriculture through provision of vehicles, office communication equipment (computer, printers and photocopiers, etc.) and refresher training for extension staff to enable them to provide effective outreach services to farmers.
- Focus on capacity building to Payam or Boma level extension staff to facilitate the monitoring of the beneficiaries at community level for project ownership and sustainability.

Extent to which complaints were addressed

- About 69.8% of respondents mentioned that their complaints were addressed by project management, with more females than males saying that their complaints were addressed after raising them. However, 17.2% mentioned that their complaints were somewhat addressed and 12.8% of total respondents mentioned that their complaints were not addressed after raising them.

COVID 19 prevention and control

- Continual awareness, sensitization and health education of communities on COVID - 19 preventive measures, such as social distancing, ban of physical contact. Awareness should now be geared towards encouraging communities to get vaccinated.
- Avail hand washing facilities in public places such as schools and health centers.
- Promote the use of facial masks among the communities.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

Section one of this report provides an overview of Building Resilience through Asset Creation and Enhancement Phase II (BRACE II) and its activities in South Sudan specifically while underlining the overall and specific objectives of the End of Project Evaluation Study. This section goes on to highlight the background of the evaluation, description of the project, project background, goals (purpose) and objectives.

1.2 Background and Description of the Project¹

Building Resilience through Asset Creation and Enhancement Phase II (BRACE II) started in January 2018 and ends on 31st March 2022. The project is co-funded by the UKAID through its agency Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office (FCDO) from January 2018 to 31st March 2022 and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) from 1st June 2020 to 14th February 2022 with the aim of addressing food insecurity in Greater Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria. The primary purpose is to enable 21,396 rural households (128,376 individuals) improve their food security and empower them to cope with environmental volatility².

The BRACE II aims to build self-sufficiency among project beneficiaries by supporting households to sustainably meet their ongoing food needs, increase household income and subsequently be able to run livelihoods that can empower them overcome future shocks. The project ensures building of physical and/or natural assets as a condition upon which most participants receive payments while SDC component provided unconditional payments to labor constraint household with the potential to sustainably improve their productivity, resilience and profitability (income). To enhance agricultural production, BRACE-II engages participants in asset rehabilitation and/or construction with the activities addressing key knowledge, skill and resource gaps among male and female farmers, emphasizing sustainable and climate-smart practices and techniques, and principles of nutrition-sensitive agriculture. Household livelihood assets (crop farms) enhance farmers' capacity to produce food for consumption and marketing thereby strengthening their resilience to climate-induced shocks. Through group production the target groups are

¹ Extracted from the ToR

² The FCDO have continued funding the project beyond March 2022.

trained in co-existence, team work and skills transfer. They support each other for sustainable social cohesion as that social capital in the areas already prone to communal conflicts.

With the project participants under the UKAID component, they are recruited in cohorts and graduated after a year and half period (cohort A in 2018-2019, B 2019-2020 and cohort C 2020-2021). The SDC component of support (unconditional) was introduced and implemented on the same timeline with Cohort C. The SDC funded unconditional component of the project provides labor constrained households, not targeted with FCDO funding with unconditional cash transfers and ensures most vulnerable members of the community are supported and no conflict exists among the targeted communities.

The overall objective of this action is to contribute to strengthening food and nutrition security and resilience among food insecure households and communities in Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal and Equatoria Regions in South Sudan.

Below is a summary of the project's overall objectives and results.

Impact: Strengthen food and nutrition security and resilience among food insecure households and communities in Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal and Equatoria Regions

Outcome 1: Improved food security and better community relationships among the most food insecure.

Outcome 2: Immediate hunger gaps reduced through conditional and unconditional cash transfers

Outcome 3: Increased capacity to anticipate, adapt, and absorb changes in climate and disruptive events including natural disasters and conflict, including adapting to climate change

2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

2.1 Introduction

This section covers the purpose of the evaluation and the scope in terms of geographic coverage and programmatic outlook looking at desired outcomes and outputs.

2.2 Main Purpose

The main purpose of this assignment was to evaluate project achievements and progress towards meeting the objectives and targets and to assess the impact, relevance, efficiency, coherence effectiveness and sustainability of the project and to generate lessons learned.

2.3 Evaluation Question

1. *Effectiveness*

- To what extent have the planned objectives in the project log frame been reached, per indicator, disaggregated by gender, age and disability, when appropriate, by residential status?
- To what extent have the project activities and outputs contributed to the overall project goal? What were the major endogenous (internal to the project) and exogenous (external to the project, such as Covid- 1 9, Climate Change etc.) factors influencing the achievement of the objectives of the project?
- Does the project have a complete M&E system which is regularly updated to track the progress of the project for both participants of conditional and unconditional cash or food transfers? Were there any observed weaknesses or strengths in this system?
- What opportunities for collaboration have been utilized and how have these contributed to the project effectiveness?
- Were the underlying project theories and assumptions valid (theory of change, identified risks and mitigations etc.)? Have proper accountability and risk management framework(s) been in place to minimize risks on program implementation?
- How effective has the consortium approach with SAADO and SPEDF, including the related structures been in delivery of the project?

2. *Reach:*

- To what extent have the project beneficiaries been reached and what mechanisms were in place to improve coverage?

3. *Quality:*

- The end-line evaluation should assess the overall quality of the implementation. It is important to include beneficiaries' opinions on the quality of the services received.
- What mechanisms have been in place to track implementation of the project? (i.e., internal monitoring, evaluation, accountability, learning (MEAL)) and quality assurance mechanisms)?
- Did the quality of the outputs delivered by the project meet the needs and expectations of the beneficiaries? What do beneficiaries feel could be improved for enhancing local capacity?
- To what extent have project outputs contributed to build long-term community capacity?
- To what extent the project was participatory throughout the project cycle?

4. Efficiency:

- How efficient was the delivery of project not only in terms of expenditure, but also in terms of timely implementation of activities and delivery of outputs? To what extent is the relationship between inputs and outputs timely and cost-efficient?
- Was the project activity implementation (modality) cost-efficient, while not compromising quality?
- What would have been opportunities within the project implementation to reach more beneficiaries with the available budget or reduce costs while reaching at least the same number of beneficiaries without compromising quality?
- Were alterations made to the program design in terms of collaboration during the implementation phase based on the reality on the ground?
- What were the outcomes of these choices for effective and efficient program implementation?
- Was the project design timely in responding to the needs on the ground?
- Were the activities timely implemented when compared to the project work plan
- Were funds available in time during implementation of the activities to respond to new developments?
- To what extent has the collaboration between WV, Consortium partners and line ministries and other stakeholders contributed to efficient and timely coordination of logistic activities and processes?

5. **Relevance**

- Comparison between the relevancy of both conditional and unconditional cash in building household resilience
- How relevant were the objectives and activities, implemented by the project, in addressing humanitarian needs in the project locations?

- How well has the project prioritized vulnerable farm households (smallholder, including able and labor constrained) and gender (women and men in different groups), and government priorities?
- How do beneficiaries perceive the relevance of the project and how have the activities implemented improved their lives?
- Are there any successful stories of change?
- To what extent was the project able to adapt and provide appropriate responses to context changes (e.g., climate shocks, covid-19) and emerging local needs, and the priorities of beneficiaries?

6. Impact

- What positive and negatives changes occurred due to the project beyond initial plans? What were the factors behind these changes?
- How did the project impact on various beneficiaries such as women, men, household type such as Male and female headed household, ages and disability?

7. Learning:

- Is there any substantial evidence on how project learning was generated and applied to improve the implementation, effectiveness and efficiency of the project?
- Who benefited from shared learning experiences (e.g., joint meetings, joint field visits, workshops provision on best approaches and methodology), mainly the NGOs or also the local sector, community members and beneficiaries?
- How did the different actors learn from these experiences?
- The evaluation should at least include one lesson learned and recommendation per evaluation category, i.e., effectiveness, efficiency, relevance etc.
- What are the key lessons learnt so far per project objective? To what extent has the delivery of response activities contributed to effective, efficient, relevant and timely delivery of aid and enhanced impact for the beneficiaries?

8. Coherence:

- Are there any concrete examples of successful models of collaboration of the project with other NGO partners on geographic level, not just in terms of avoiding duplication but increasing complementarity and integrated programs affecting the reach and impact on beneficiaries?
- To what extent were the activities of the project complementary to the work of other South Sudan?

9. Visibility:

- How visible is UKAID/SDC and partner's logo at project sites?
- What measures have been taken to create visibility of the project's added value towards government line ministries and other INGOs?

10. Sustainability:

- What strategies are in place for the sustainability of the project? Are the strategies being put into action?
- What mechanisms have WV and partners put into place in order to sustain the key program Outputs and Outcomes?
- How has the program worked with local partners to increase their capacity in a sustainable way?

3 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation was conducted in the three states and three counties in South Sudan as indicated in table I below:

Table I: Targeted counties per State

States	County
Warrap	Gogrial West
Northern Bahr el Ghazal,	Aweil North
Eastern Equatoria	Magwi

3.2 Approach

A mixed approach of quantitative and qualitative methods were used to collect the required data. The quantitative data was collected using household survey and to achieve a representative sample of potential beneficiaries with the potential to disaggregate the sample by county, the sample was stratified disproportionately at the county level with a number of household interviews allocated per county for the quantitative portion of the evaluation. As such, the anticipated margin of error for the full sample shall be approximately 5%, at a confidence level of 95%.

For KII and FGD the evaluation team adopted purposive sampling of the Key informants targeted by the project; and mixture of purposive and random sampling of targeted Payams in each county.

The evaluation information was collected using a mixed approach method, which included household interviews using questionnaires, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) involving different categories of project participants, and Key Informants Interviews (KII) with County Department of Agriculture, County Department of Nutrition, and Community leaders (religious, traditional, youth and women).

For the achievement of maximum participation of the groups examined, participatory projective techniques were employed. Such techniques allowed a deeper exploration of participants' knowledge and

needs, and ensured a greater sense of ownership of the evaluation process and consequently any associated future programming.

3.3 Pre-field activities (Inception Phase)

A comprehensive desk review was conducted at inception phase to understand the local dynamics and to provide a basic context and foundation for data collection and sample design. The results of this review contributed to the development of the Inception report including the data collection tools.

One inception meeting was conducted with WVSS staff in Juba to discuss the Inception Report including the methodology and the tools. This provided a platform for reviewing and submitting a revised inception report that was then approved by WVSS.

3.4 Sampling

HH Questionnaire were administered in all the 3 counties. In order to achieve a representative sample of potential beneficiaries with the potential to disaggregate the sample by payam, the sample was stratified disproportionately at the payam level with a number of household interviews allocated per payam for the quantitative portion of the evaluation. As such, the anticipated margin of error for the full sample shall be approximately 5%, at a confidence level of 95%.

The boma served as the primary sampling unit (PSU) for the sample draw. In order to achieve a favorable allocation ratio, the sample draw involved drawing Primary Sampling Unit (PSUs) randomly from each payam. Each selected boma-PSU was then be assigned per payam. Boma-PSUs were then be selected randomly (with replacement) with probability proportionate to the estimated beneficiary size of the bomas, such that larger bomas had a proportionately larger probability of being selected into the sample, and the largest bomas had the potential to be selected more than once (which helped to maintain a sample that is as close to being precisely self-weighting as possible).

3.5 Data collection (Field Phase)

Before administering the questionnaire, the enumerators were trained to ensure that data collected was in line with WVSS's requirements. The primary objective of the training was to enable enumerators to understand data collection methods/tools to ensure quality data collection, administer household questionnaire/data collection tablets and gain skills of conducting successful interviews as well as, raising their awareness on WVSS's safeguarding principles as well as ethical issues in conducting research.

The sample was stratified disproportionately at the county level with a number of household interviews allocated per county for the quantitative portion of the evaluation. As such, the anticipated margin of error for the full sample shall be approximately 5%, at a confidence level of 95%.

For KIIs and FGD the evaluation team adopted purposive sampling of the Key informants targeted by the project; and mixture of purposive and random sampling of targeted Payams in each county.

The following formula suggested by Cochran (1963:75) was used to derive the sample size for

$$n_0 = \left[\frac{Z^2 pq}{e^2} \right] * deff$$

Where:

n_0 : Sample size,

Z : Value corresponding to a given confidence level
(1.96 for a confidence level of 95%-value commonly used),

p : Estimated proportion of an attribute that is present in the population

q : 1-p

e : Desired level of precision (0.05)

deff. Design Effect, (1.5)

the evaluation to ensure a 95% confidence interval.

3.5.1 Qualitative data collection

A comprehensive desk review was conducted to understand the local dynamics and to provide a basic context and foundation for data collection and sample design. The Evaluation Team reviewed and analyzed several project documents including the project proposal, Mid-Year reports, inception meeting report, and Log frame, ITT, Success stories and annual reports, other related literatures from WFP, FAO, Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), the local IPC, IPs, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and national bureau of statistics (NBS), World bank & UNFPA to obtain latest available market data on Household Dietary Diversity Score and Food consumption score (FCS), data/or information on Coping Strategy Index (CSI), & Crude Death Rate (CDR) among the key indicators.

- 29 (24M, 5F) Key Informant Interviews were administered with community leadership (Chiefs, Women and Youth leaders), Government's Departments of Agriculture and Nutrition, Complaints Feedback Mechanisms (CFM) Focal persons at Boma levels, Joint Aid Mission (JAM)

and United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (UN-FAO) and the implementing partners project staff and Complaint feedback mechanism (CFM) focal persons.

- A total of 12 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with Farmer groups, Boma Project Management Communities (BPMC), attracting 69 (35F, 34M) participants.

3.5.2 Quantitative household survey

Respondents Reached		
County	Male	Female
Magwi	185	213
Gogrial West	63	385
Aweil North	112	289
Subtotal Male-Female	360	887
Total		1,247

3.6 Data Quality Assurance

WVSS supervised the evaluation process. Specifically, the team of consultants coordinated with the field team. While in the field, all enumerators were trained to assist in data collection. The enumerators sought permission (consent) to collect information and explained to respondents their right to withdraw or disengage at will and at any time during the interviews.

The questionnaire had a statement on how to address ethical considerations in the process of data collection, analysis and presentation. This included consideration for any risks related to the assessment and how these would be mitigated. Voluntary compliance from the respondents to participate in the assessment was also sought before they were requested to participate in the survey.

The consultants provided on-the-ground quality assurance checks and oversight throughout data collection checking through all completed responses (on a daily basis) was done to address any inconsistencies in time, hence adding value to quality assurance. Before data analysis, data quality checks through synthesis

and content analysis were carried out for consistency and correlation of internal logic between related variables.

3.7 Data Analysis and Reporting

All the HH information collected using Kobo platform³ was edited to ensure correctness, accuracy and consistency as per the responses and observations made. These were discussed with the interviewers during a consolidation meeting prior to report writing. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was used for data analysis because it is fast, consistent, and able to handle many variables simultaneously. At bivariate level, descriptive statistics was used particularly to test relationship between dependent and independent variables.

The qualitative data collected through open-ended questions in the questionnaires and interviews were categorized, summarized, organized and analyzed according to the themes mentioned in the ToR.

3.8 Study limitations

- In all the study areas COVID-19 preventive measures such reducing number of people gathered in one place, meant that the team reduced numbers per each FGD to between 3-5, but ensured that the interviews were undertaken under trees with good aeration and provision was made for hand washing while ensuring distance among other preventive measures. The Survey coordinators were equipped with masks and hand sanitizers as additional measures.
- The insecurity in Magwi County delayed the data collection process, however, the WVSS team in the field coordinated with the team in Juba to provide critical security updates ensuring data collection was only approved after assessing the security situation to ensure safety and security of staff and study participants.
- Appointment with government officials for KIIs was very challenging as they were engaged in other activities.
- In some instances, the male youth were not willing to attend the FGDs, and requested to be paid for their participation in the interviews. However the Survey Coordinators took more time to explain the objective of the assessment and the importance of their participation in the survey

³ Kobo Toolbox is a free open-source tool for mobile data collection. It allows to collect data in the field using mobile devices such as mobile phones or tablets.

4 KEY FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This section presents findings of the final evaluation for the Project “Building Resilience through Asset Creation and Enhancement - Phase Two (BRACE II)” implemented by WVSS, SAADO, SPEDP in Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and East Equatoria in South Sudan.

4.2 Demographic Information

A total 1,247 of respondents were reached with female respondents accounting for 71.1% of total respondents and 28.9% for male respondents. In terms of county distribution, 401 respondents were reached in Aweil North (72.1%F, 27.9%M) 448 respondents were reached in Gogrial West (85.9%F, 14.1%M) and 398 respondents were reached in Magwi (53.5%F, 28.9%M).

As revealed, more women were reached than men, this could be attributed to the fact that more women stayed at home to carry out household chores including looking after children as men went out to do other jobs to gain an income including looking after animals in areas Aweil North and Gogrial West.

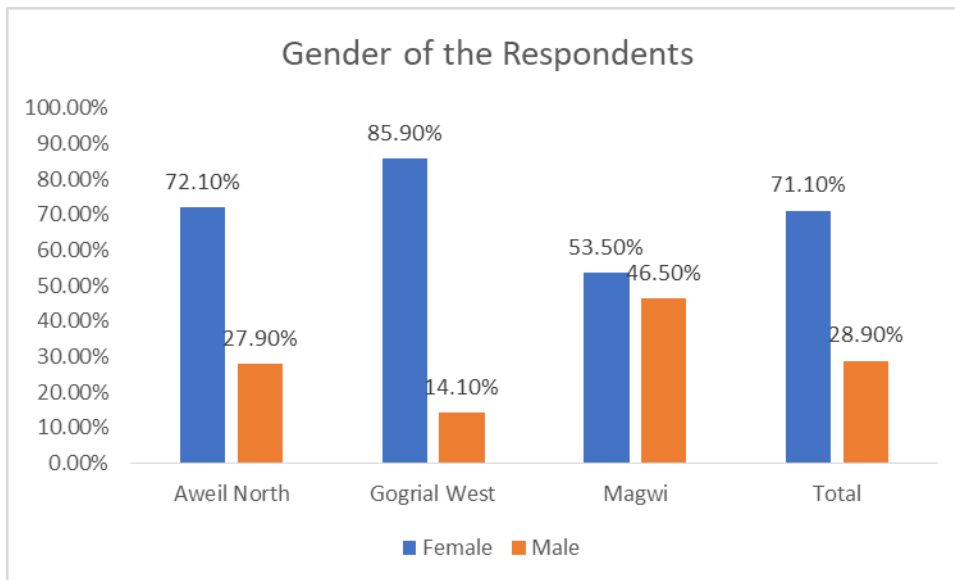


Figure 1: Gender of Respondent

In terms of age disaggregation, majority of total respondents are between the ages of 18-55 years. However, there are more female, at 50.8% within the age bracket of 18 - 35 years compared to males in

the same age bracket and similarly, more females in Magwi were within the same age bracket compared to other counties. However, there were more male at 47.5% within the age bracket of 36-55 compared to the female with Gogrial West recording a higher percentage of male respondents at 58.7% compared to other counties. In totality, 44.3% of total respondents fall in the age bracket of 18 - 35 years, 41.0% of total respondents are within the age bracket 36-55 years, 9.80% are within 56 - 64 years, 2.90% are 65 years and above and only 2.50% accounted for children below the age of 18 years.

Table 2: Age of the respondent

Gender	County	Age group				
		Less than 18 years	18 - 35 years	36 - 55 years	56 - 64 years	65 years and above
Female	Aweil North	2.10%	48.4%	36.7%	10.7%	2.10%
	Gogrial West	1.00%	50.1%	41.6%	7.30%	0.00%
	Magwi	0.90%	55.4%	34.7%	7.50%	1.40%
	Total	1.40%	50.8%	38.3%	8.50%	1.00%
Male	Aweil North	2.70%	22.3%	32.1%	23.2%	19.6%
	Gogrial West	0.00%	25.4%	58.7%	14.3%	1.60%
	Magwi	5.40%	33.0%	53.0%	6.50%	2.20%
	Total	3.60%	28.3%	47.5%	13.1%	7.00%
Total	Aweil North	2.20%	41.1%	35.4%	14.2%	7.00%
	Gogrial West	0.90%	46.7%	44.0%	8.30%	0.20%
	Magwi	3.00%	45.0%	43.2%	7.00%	1.80%
	Total (County)	2.50%	44.3%	41.0%	9.80%	2.90%

The assessment found more household heads who are male at 93.1% as generated from the total number of respondents compared to 73.1% of total respondents who said they were head of household. Important to note is that there is a higher percentage of female headed households in Aweil North compared to other Counties.

In terms of marital status, more males at 91.1% reported to be married compared to females recorded at 82.3%. More females are widows compared at 14.4% compared to only 4.20% of widowers reported across the Counties. More widows were reported in Magwi at 24.4%. In general, 84.8% of total respondents mentioned they were married, 11.5% said they were widowed, 1.00% divorced, 1.30% separated-living apart not divorced and 1.30% mentioned that they were not Married/Single.

Table 3: Marital Status

Gender	County	Marital Status				
		Married	Widow or widower	Divorced	Separated-living apart not divorced	Not Married/Single
Female	Aweil North	85.5%	12.1%	0.00%	1.00%	1.00%
	Gogrial West	88.8%	10.6%	0.00%	0.50%	0.50%
	Magwi	66.2%	24.4%	4.70%	0.90%	0.90%
	Total	82.3%	14.4%	1.10%	0.80%	0.80%
Male	Aweil North	93.8%	0.00%	0.00%	6.20%	6.20%
	Gogrial West	95.2%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%	1.60%
	Magwi	88.1%	7.60%	1.10%	0.50%	0.50%
	Total	91.1%	4.20%	0.80%	2.50%	2.50%
Total	Aweil North	87.8%	8.70%	0.00%	2.50%	2.50%
	Gogrial West	89.7%	9.40%	0.20%	0.70%	0.70%
	Magwi	76.4%	16.6%	3.00%	0.80%	0.80%
	Total (County)	84.8%	11.5%	1.00%	1.30%	1.30%

Regarding age of the household head 46.7% of total respondents who are household heads were aged between 36 - 59 years, 37.8% were aged 25 - 35 years with other age brackets recording lower percentages.

In terms of education status, 61.1% of total respondents have no schooling, of which women reported a higher percentage at 69.9% compared to their male counterparts at 39.4%. Only 20.7% of total respondents mentioned to have received some primary education with males recording a higher percentage at 31.4% compared to their female counterparts recorded at 16.3%. Similarly, only 6.80% of total respondents mentioned to have completed primary, 6.70% had some secondary education, 3.60% completed secondary education, 0.40% had Vocational Training, 0.40% had some University and lastly only 0.30% of total respondents completed College/University.

When asked about residential status, plurality of 96.6% of total respondents mentioned that they were residents with higher percentages of both male and female mentioning they are residents across all the assessed Payams. Only 2.50% of the total respondents mentioned they were IDPs with a slightly higher percentage of IDPs recorded in Magwi County at 5.90% compared to other Counties and only 0.90% mentioned that they were returnees.

4.3 Relevance

As noted by responses from the target beneficiaries, the project and all its components remained highly relevant throughout the implementation period. Components such as enhanced community resilience to shocks by increasing access to health, nutrition, food security and livelihoods services in Aweil North, Gogrial West and Magwi counties of Republic of South Sudan were deemed the immediate needs of the people in the assessed counties.

4.3.1 Alignment to International Mandates and Obligations

Globally the project embraced components of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly Goal 1, Goal 2 and Goal 8

Goal 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere” and its corresponding targets especially target 1.5: “By 2030, “build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters”.

Goal 2: “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” and its corresponding targets especially targets 2.1: “By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round”. Target 2.3: “By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.”. Target 2.4: “By 2030, By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality”.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. BRACE II project is focusing to improve livelihoods and expand employment opportunities by supporting households in the target areas to recover from shocks caused by violent conflict while improving their food production through and strengthen livelihoods. Trained beneficiaries to improve diversity agricultural production as well as Bomas Project Management Committee to mitigate and resolves conflicts in the community.

4.3.2 Alignment with government policies and strategies

The project is in line with the economic development objective of the Republic of South Sudan National Development Strategy (SSNDS) July 2018-June 2021 which is “Diversified private sector-led economic growth and sustainable development that improves livelihoods and reduces poverty”, and especially with the natural resources sector objective which seeks “To ensure food security and improve livelihoods and income generation for the people of South Sudan, through sustainable use of natural resources and land management”.

The project is in line with the South Sudan Vision 2040 Strategic Goal (6) which is to build a safe, secure and healthy nation and some of its key objectives include; (a) to provide access to safe drinking water; and (b) to improve sanitation and hygiene. Similarly, the evaluation findings are that the project is in line with the South Sudan National Development Strategy (July 2018-June 2021) in particular, with the Economic Cluster Goal which is to improve food security and livelihoods, and revitalize the national economy.

The project is also in line with the South Sudan Vision 2040 Strategic Goal (2) that seeks to build a prosperous, productive and innovative nation and some of the key objectives to address these challenges are: (a) to increase agricultural productivity to enhance food security; (b) to improve livestock and fish production; and (c) to promote sustainable environment.

Similarly, the project is in line with the South Sudan National Development Strategy (July 2018-June 2021) in particular, with the Economic Cluster Goal, which is to improve food security and livelihoods, and revitalize the national economy.

South Sudan Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan 2015–2040: The Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan is the first national agriculture development plan of South Sudan and includes a set of technical documents to guide the country to achieve agricultural transformation in 25 years. The Plan’s primary focus is to achieve the vision of “food security for all the people of the Republic of South Sudan, enjoying improved quality of life and environment”.

The project is also consistent with Partnership for Recovery and Resilience in South Sudan, which is a multi-actor and cross-sector collaboration initiative with UN agencies, donors and non-governmental partners to jointly reduce vulnerability and build resilience through addressing the Partnership’s four pillar objectives: 1) rebuild trust in people and institutions; 2) (re-)establish access to basic services; 3) restore and build productive capacities and economic opportunities, and 4) nurture effective partnerships.

South Sudan had WASH Strategic Framework (2011-2015) with the vision of sustainable and accountable management of water resources to respond to water related public health needs and livelihoods development to meet the aspirations of the people of South Sudan in an equitable manner.

4.3.3 Alignment with Community Needs/ Relevance to People’s Priorities

From individual responses, the assessment found that the project was a priority need for the households as mentioned by plurality of 91.5% and for those who mentioned that the project was a priority.

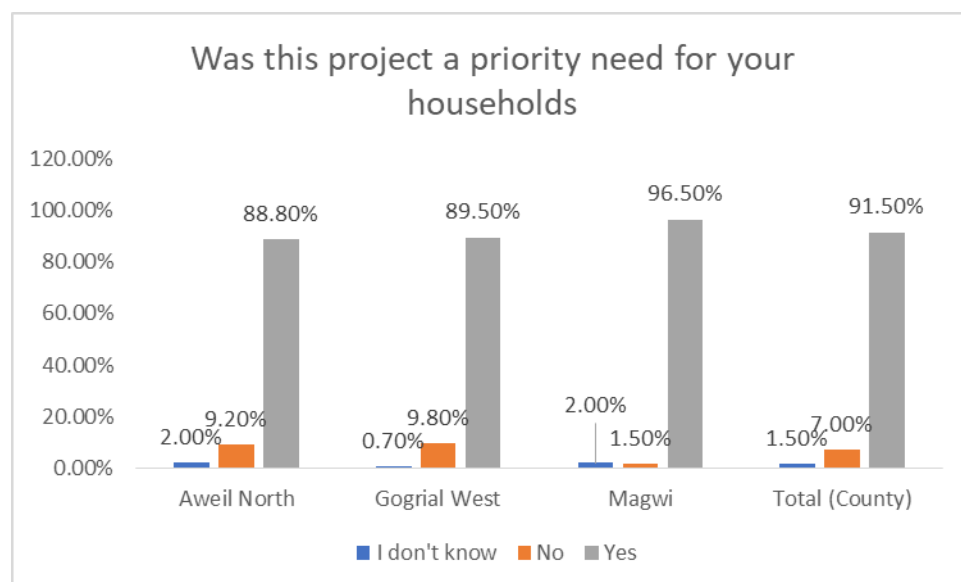


Figure 2: Project Priority for HHs

During a KII with WVI Project Staff in Aweil North, he said that:

“.....some households who used to go to Sudan to look for a job in order to earn a living have now resorted to staying within and take part in community initiatives such as farming to support their family members. Moreover, households who had migrated to other locations due to food insecurity have been resettled back with their families after seeing the support provided by the project through cash for Assets/work, and the learning was integrated into the project programming.”

During a KII a local government authority in Aweil North said that *“...the project led to improvement of food and nutrition security among vulnerable households who were food insecure as well as empowered them to become resilience .Through the delivery of cash for food/assets beneficiary households met their priority food needs and continued to do farming activities to subsequently be able to improve on their livelihoods and resilience. Moreover, the project has constructed community structures which enable them to access social services such as health facilities, market etc.”*

KII with Project Staff with a women leader in Aweil North County revealed that the project met the priority needs of the community through the provision of cash for assets simply because before the project households had no food in their houses and could not managed to work in the farms. However, the distribution of the cash grants to the beneficiaries, enabled them to buy food and continued to work in the farm. In addition, the project built the capacity of the farmers in moderate farming practices such as planting in rows, crop rotation and diversification of seeds varieties so as to have enough food and sell the surplus to generate income for the households which was a very good thing about the project, hence somewhat there was improvement in food security among the households in Gok Machar.

4.3.4 Project Design

The design of the project was based on assessment of the food and nutrition security situation in Gogrial West, Aweil North and in Magwi. The project targeted areas facing the highest levels of food insecurity and nutritional need. In September 2017, Gogrial West was classified as experiencing severe (IPC 4) levels of food insecurity whilst Aweil North and Magwi were classified as experiencing crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC 3). According to the IPC projections, from February to May 2018 the situation was expected to deteriorate in Aweil North, from crisis level to humanitarian catastrophe levels of food insecurity. All three areas also have high levels of acute malnutrition above the World Health Organization threshold of 15 per cent.

Magwi was selected based on the area's potential to significantly contribute to local and national food security by increasing staple crop production and other nutrient rich crops. Parts of Magwi fall within the country's **Greenbelt** agro-ecological zone, more commonly termed the "breadbasket" of South Sudan due to its high agricultural potential. Given the importance of this livelihood zone on national food security levels, targeting it will also safeguard against future food insecurity inducing shocks and stresses linked to climate change.

Aweil North and Gogrial West was informed by their high levels of vulnerability to climate change related shocks and stresses. Both areas fall within South Sudan's Western Flood Plains agro-ecological zone, where both floods and droughts are common. In September 2017, croplands in parts of Aweil North were affected by flooding and waterlogging. Based on predicted changes to climate, the frequency and severity of these disasters is likely to increase. If left unaddressed, this will exacerbate existing food insecurity, which is already at crisis levels and predicted to increase.

At the impact level, the project aimed to strengthen food and nutrition security and resilience among food insecure HHs in former states of NBeG, Warrap and Eastern Equatoria in South Sudan. To achieve this, the project supported the immediate nutritional needs of vulnerable HHs through the provision of food and/or cash transfers. Using transfers, HHs accessed, either through direct distribution or via local markets, sufficient food to meet daily caloric and nutritional requirements. This helped to address the immediate impacts of food insecurity, reducing the incidence of malnutrition and malnutrition-related morbidity and mortality. Transfers were made conditional upon the completion of work to rehabilitate and/or construct communal assets (Category B) that have the potential to enhance longer term food security and livelihoods including physical assets such as dykes and roads, as well as natural assets.

To achieve its expected impact, the project was proactive and supportive (rather than reactive and focused on relief) in providing assistance for target communities to enhance its effectiveness. The project implemented three interrelated outcomes.

Outcome 1 will improve longer-term food security and nutrition among the most food insecure HHs. This outcome relates directly to objective two of the BRACE II programme, and aims to build self-sufficiency among project beneficiaries by supporting HHs to sustainably meet their ongoing food needs, and build rural livelihoods that are both prosperous and resilient.

Outcome 2 will address immediate food shortage through conditional cash and/or food transfers to rehabilitate and/or construct physical and/or natural assets. This outcome relates directly to objective one of the BRACE II program, and aims to address immediate food shortages among the most food insecure HHs in the project's target areas.

Outcome 3 will increase capacity to anticipate, adapt, and absorb changes in climate and disruptive events including natural disasters and conflict, including adapting to climate change. This outcome relates directly to objective three and four of the BRACE II programme, and aims to equip communities and HHs with the knowledge, skills, plans, and strategies necessary to foresee disruptive changes and risks, and take action to reduce their impact on food security and livelihoods

BRACE II Baseline World Vision, SAADO and SPEDP was conducted between May 20th and June 2018. Data was collected from project participants selected through CBPP in Aweil North, Gogrial West and Magwi counties. The data gathered through the baseline supported project target setting as well as benchmarks upon which monitoring was to be conducted, and project success was measured. During a KII with a SPEDP project manager in Nimule, he mentioned that, a baseline survey was conducted in

Magwi County to know the initial status of the beneficiaries before supporting them; this revealed their needs and helped in targeting them as the project has different phases.

Continually BRACE II has been adaptive to ongoing trends in the community, specific example showing adaption was the suspension of community assets during the peak of Covid-19 pandemic to avoid gathering and to prevent further spread of the virus during community asset creation activities. However during that period, the project participants continued to work individually.

4.4 Efficiency

Evaluating efficiency of the project requires assessing how the project performs in terms of planned schedules and allocated budget by looking at how the project has been using resources effectively to deliver its target results and objectives. The efficiency parameter evaluates whether the targeted project outputs were achieved within budget and schedule.

4.4.1. The project implementation approach

WVSS project staff in Aweil North during a KII revealed that the line Ministry or departments that were involved in the implementation and monitoring of the project included the State Ministry of Agriculture, the County Agriculture Directorate in Aweil North County, State/County Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) as well as the community leaders. The State Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, State ministry of Gender and social welfare and RRC have been involved since the kick-off of the project throughout the project stages.

Targeted communities have been engaged at the beginning through CBPP (Community Based Participatory Planning) where they participate in the project design, planning and decision making. The BPMCs are composed of members from Paramount Chiefs, women group, local authorities represented by Payam/Boma representative, teachers faith leaders and youths to ensure that community is represented at all levels.

Similarly, a project staff in Aweil North during a KII stated that the Local community is always consulted during the targeting of the beneficiaries to discuss the criteria, the methodology and approaches of the project. Thus, when choosing the site of the project, the community is consulted to ask them about their priority needs and they are also consulted to pick the sites that will not be rented for farming and the community should accept the ownership of the project and not the Organization which implement the project.

However, the Acting Director in the County department of Agriculture in Magwi said that, during the designing of the project, he was not consulted though he was involved during the implementation phase. He also said that his office was involved in the selection of the target locations and beneficiaries including provision of the technical support to the implementing partners regarding the government policies on good agricultural practices.

4.4.2 Monitoring of project activities and reporting

BRACE II Project undertook monitoring throughout the project implementation; this includes onsite visits, on-spot check and supervision followed by post distribution monitoring (PDM). The monitoring process did generate key lessons learnt and recommendation for further improvement during all the phases of the project.

Periodic monitoring and evaluation assessment was carried by M&E officers to assess the achievement of the indicators set out in the monitoring and evaluation plan. The project used a participatory monitoring in which the project beneficiaries were asked through informal interviews to provide feedback to the project management team regarding positive aspects and any shortcomings during the project implementation in relation to the cash assistance for food/ assets and how households commit themselves to building resilience through engaging in farming activities to improve food and nutrition security.

In addition, the monitoring was carried out with the support of the project team and community structures established by the project such as boma project management committee and complaint feedback mechanism to ensure quality assurance.

BRACE II has always been informed by studies such as the Research, Mid-Term Evaluations, and PDMs. The respective findings show that it's achieving its objectives, this alone assured quality programming.

4.4.3 Access to project sites

In Magwi, BRACE II project was implemented in a context affected by the insecurity such as the cattle raiding and attacks on the host community. However, the project continued with implementation and adopted strategies such as advising beneficiaries to move in groups while going to attend to their farms. Nonetheless, some areas were still not accessible during the time of evaluation. The locations of Gogrial West and Aweil North were accessible to the beneficiaries.

4.4.4 Community Structures Engagement

Through BRACE II intervention, local leaders have been included in Boma Project Management committee (BPMC) trainings, which have in a way contributed to improving leadership skills. This enabled them to effectively coordinate with partners, acting as voices for the communities they represent.

Boma Project Management Committees (PMCs) were established as a mechanism for enhancing community participation, ownership, and satisfaction. PMCs represents all sub-sets of society including marginalized groups, and is responsible for implementing the two-way Beneficiary Communication and Accountability (BCA) strategies identified in the project's BCA Plan. During a FGD with the Boma Project Management Committee they said that they are a body constituted by the beneficiaries and tasked with the monitoring and reporting of project activities at Boma level. The members to the committee were selected by the local authorities/ chiefs, community and the project staff.

During CBPP which is normally 2-3 days activity, participating communities are asked to define who is the vulnerable, middle class and well-off people as part of the discussed topics, hence communities easily identify the criteria of the most vulnerable HHs and how to ensure that they were selected for project support. The process ensured that the selection criteria were fair and the most vulnerable communities are targeted.

4.4.5 Partnership and Coordination arrangement

In a key informant interview with an Acting Director in the County Department of Agriculture in Magwi, he mentioned that, their relationship with the project implementing teams was very good, in a way that, they even attend FSL cluster and coordination meetings together. In .Magwi, the project closely coordinated with CARE and Base Net. In a KII with the Inspector of Agriculture in the County Department of Agriculture and Nutrition, he stated that he was not involved directly in the identification of the target locations and selection of beneficiaries. He said that it was the responsibility of the Payams Agriculture supervisors supported by the Boma chiefs and administrators. However, he provided technical advice about row planting and seed verification. In addition he rendered technical advice to project staff on early warning in relation to climatic changes. The inspector had this to say, "I commit myself to encourage farmers to plant their seeds early and use natural pesticides such as ash, powder soap mixed with green pepper for the plants to control pests."

In Gogrial West County, during FGD, the Boma Project Management Committees (PMCs) said they carried out community and beneficiaries' mobilization for project meetings and distribution of inputs. The PMC is a vital link between the project management team at WVSS and the beneficiaries on complaints

mechanisms and feedback. The participants stated that Boma PMC was very important during the project implementation; it resolved problems that emerged during project implementation, reporting beneficiaries' problems to the project management for example, issues of lost cards and replacement. In addition the Boma PMC undertakes monitoring of the project at Boma level and strives to build good relationships between the community and the WVSS.

4.4.6 Risk Management

COVID - 19 pandemic greatly affected some of the community engagement activities, such as awareness, sensitization, and health education. COVID - 19 preventive measures, such as social distancing, ban of physical contact, use of facial masks and availing of hand washing facilities that were issued by the MOH and COVID - 19 taskforce were adhered to.

The budget was sufficient for project activities implementation, however the policy changes in the Central Bank of auctioning the exchange rates to commercial bank led to delays on agreement between cash working group and commercial banks on rates for cash distributions.

All agricultural/community assets inputs such as farming tools, seeds, assets creation tools and IGA machines (Graduation package) were all delivered on time and adequate for all participants in a coordinated manner with the involvement of community leaders and local authorities as well as RRC/ministry of agriculture presence.

In Aweil North, on Feb 2018 all project staffs were on board (1 Project Coordinator, Project Officer, M&E Officer, 7 CFA/FFA Field technicians and 1 driver) as planned. All were maintained except for 1 staff who passed away in September 2020, and 2 staffs who got employed elsewhere. However, all vacancies have been replaced within reasonable timeframe. The Project staffs in all the locations are experienced in their respective field of work such as agriculture, nutrition, engineering, natural resources and Monitoring and evaluation.

4.5 Effectiveness

This section looks at the project effectiveness in terms of the extent to which outcomes (short-term impacts/ immediate effects) were achieved.

4.5.1 Effectiveness in achievement of outcomes

Outcome 1: Prevalence of poor and borderline food consumption, disaggregated by sex of household head (Food Consumption Group)

The Food Consumption Score (FCS)⁴ is a composite score based on dietary diversity, food frequency (number of days during the past 7 days) and the nutritional importance of food groups consumed. The food groups are a) main staple (cereals and roots), b) pulses and legumes, c) vegetables, d) fruits, e) meat/fish, f) milk and milk products, g) sugar, h) oil and fats.

The evaluation found that 36.9% % of the total respondents have acceptable FCS with 28.7% in Aweil North compared to 12% at baseline, 24.1% in Gogrial West compared to 7% at baseline and 45.4% in Magwi compared to 35%. In Aweil North there is 16.7% improvement in acceptable FCS, while in Gogrial West, there is 17.1% improvement and in Magwi, there is 10.4% improvement in the acceptable FCS. The significant improvement in the FCS could be attributed to the project interventions such as distribution of agro-inputs (tools & seeds) from the project and both cash and non-cash interventions

Table 4: Food Consumption Score (FCS)

Gender	County	HH Food Consumption Score		
		Acceptable	Borderline	Poor
Female	Aweil North	26.3%	28.0%	45.7%
	Gogrial West	23.4%	36.4%	40.3%
	Magwi	60.1%	35.7%	4.20%
	Total	33.1%	33.5%	33.4%
Male	Aweil North	34.8%	23.2%	42.0%
	Gogrial West	28.6%	20.6%	50.8%
	Magwi	58.9%	37.3%	3.80%
	Total	46.1%	30.0%	23.9%
Total	Aweil North	28.7%	26.7%	44.6%
	Gogrial West	24.1%	34.2%	41.7%
	Magwi	59.5%	36.4%	4.00%
	Total	36.9%	32.5%	30.6%

⁴ The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is an index that was developed by the World Food Programme (WFP) in 1996. Based on this score, a household's food consumption can be further classified into one of three categories: poor, borderline, or acceptable. The FCS aggregates household-level data on the diversity and frequency of food groups consumed over the previous seven days, which is then weighted according to the relative nutritional value of the consumed food groups. For instance, food groups containing nutritionally dense foods, such as animal products, are given greater weight than those containing less nutritionally dense foods, such as tubers. A weight from 0-21 is considered poor, 21.5-35 is considered borderline and above 35 is acceptable.

Source. BRACEII End line Evaluation, 2022

The above findings are also confirmed by Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) Round 27 that reported that the acceptable FCS for Magwi is at 45.4%, Aweil North is at 24% and Gogrial West at 37.7%

Table 5: Food Consumption Score (FCS)

Food Consumption score				
		Food Consumption Score		
	Mean	Poor	Borderline	Acceptable
Magwi	39.55	5.0%	49.6%	45.4%
Aweil North	27.49	44.3%	31.7%	24.0%
Gogrial West	28.85	43.9%	18.4%	37.7%

Source: FSNMS Round 27

The project adopted the strategy of cash for food / asset for the elderly and vulnerable households with issues of food insecurity and the project provided seeds and tools and , trained them on moderate farming practices, supported them with seeds and farm tool to facilitate their farming activities in order to have their own food and become self-reliance. Furthermore, the project provided vegetables seeds to the project beneficiaries and many women got involved in production of vegetables for both nutrition supplement and to generate household's income which improved the FCS.

A chief in Gogrial West County had this to say "*...we benefited from the trainings, as we acquired new skills in farming and particularly how to grow vegetables like okra, kale, cabbages, amaranthus etc. which greatly improved our diet and nutrition.*"

Similarly, in a key informant interview with the community leader in Magwi County, he said that the community didn't know about balanced diet but when the project was established, the community were informed about the importance of having balance diet as a result, most of the beneficiaries established kitchen gardens around their households hence reducing cases of malnutrition in the community.

A Chief in Aweil North County during a KII said that before the project, households were suffering from lack of food, however, the project implemented by SAADO in their location provided cash grants which enabled households to buy enough food. People were also able to do their farming activities, and as a result they are eating food they have cultivated with the support of the project. However, the chief stated

that despite the hard work done by the farmers, most of them had low harvest because their field crops were either destroyed by millipedes especially in the area of Majak Bol or by floods. In particular, Malual Center was severely affected by floods last year. Furthermore, the chief said that before in 2020, one Malua (3.5 kg) of sorghum would cost 300 SSP only but currently it is costing between 1,200 SSP to 1,300 SSP indicating bad sign of food insecurity amongst the households in Gok Machar.

KII with the Acting Director for Agriculture, Environment and Forestry at the County Agriculture Department in Magwi revealed that, the production of food in Magwi County before the project was very low but when the project came in place, there was an increase in the production of food. Farmers formed groups and this has encouraged the lazy farmers to compete with the active once hence there was an increase in the farm production. However, he said that, sometimes production of farming has been interrupted by natural disasters such as drought, pest and diseases, which has disrupted the yield of some farm produce and reduced production.

Outcome 2: Diet diversity score of targeted households, disaggregated by sex of household head (HDDS)

Household dietary diversity can be described as the number of food groups consumed by a household over a given reference period, and is an important indicator of food security for many reasons. A more diversified household diet is correlated with caloric and protein adequacy, percentage of protein from animal sources, and household income. The HDDS indicator provides a glimpse of a household’s ability to access food as well as its socioeconomic status based on the previous 24 hours.

The evaluation found that, 69.1% of the total respondents (64.4% females and 79.2% males) consumed more than 5 food groups with the highest percentage in Magwi at 100% compared to 43% at baseline, followed by Gogrial West at 58% compared to 17% baseline finding and Aweil North at 20.8% compared to 24%. There is significant improvement in HDDs in Magwi at 57%, Gogrial West at 41% and Aweil North declined at 3.2%. The improvement in Magwi and Gogrial West could be attributed to the project interventions.

Table 6: Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

Gender	County	HDDS	
		< 5 Groups	> 5 Groups
Female	Aweil North	82.3%	17.7%
	Gogrial West	40.2%	59.8%
	Magwi	0.00%	100%
	Total	35.6%	64.4%
Male	Aweil North	70.6%	29.4%

	Gogrial West	51.5%	48.5%
	Magwi	0.00%	100%
	Total	20.8%	79.2%
Total	Aweil North	79.2%	20.8%
	Gogrial West	42.0%	58.0%
	Magwi	0.00%	100%
	Total (County)	30.9%	69.1%

When asked whether in the past 12 months they experienced shortage of food to meet their household consumption needs, 85.9% of households (86.5% females and 84.4% males) mentioned yes, with high percentage scores across all the counties and similarly both men and women equally experienced shortage of food to meet their house consumption needs.

Table 7: Experience shortage of food to meet your household consumption needs

Gender	County	Response	
		No	Yes
Female	Aweil North	9.39%	90.7%
	Gogrial West	13.5%	86.5%
	Magwi	19.2%	80.8%
	Total	13.5%	86.5%
Male	Aweil North	17.9%	82.1%
	Gogrial West	12.7%	87.3%
	Magwi	15.1%	84.9%
	Total	15.6%	84.4%
Total	Aweil North	11.7%	88.3%
	Gogrial West	13.4%	86.6%
	Magwi	17.3%	82.7%
	Total	14.1%	85.9%

When asked if in general, they thought there is enough food available in their household, 30.3% of total respondents (27.9 females and 36.6% males) with 55.9% in Magwi and 33.2% in Gogrial West compared to only 3.40% in Aweil North. On the other hand, 30.3% of households reported severe food shortages with more prominence in Magwi County (55.9%) as compared to Aweil North (3.40%) and Gogrial West (33.2%). While 55.3% of total respondents mentioned that there is not enough food available in their household with the largest proportion of 79.9% in Aweil compared to Magwi and Gogrial West.

Table 8: Status of food availability in the household

Gender	County	Response
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		There is sufficient food	There is not enough food	There are severe food shortages
Female	Aweil North	3.40%	79.8%	3.40%
	Gogrial West	34.2%	47.4%	34.2%
	Magwi	52.6%	41.0%	52.9%
	Total	27.9%	57.0%	27.9%
Male	Aweil North	3.30%	80.4%	3.30%
	Gogrial West	27.3%	36.4%	27.3%
	Magwi	59.6%	38.5%	59.6%
	Total	36.6%	50.8%	36.6%
Total	Aweil North	3.40%	79.9%	3.40%
	Gogrial West	33.2%	45.9%	33.2%
	Magwi	55.9%	39.8%	55.9%
	Total (County)	30.3%	55.3%	30.3%

For the respondents who said they thought there were food shortages, May, June and July were mentioned as the months during which they did not have enough food to meet their family needs. This was the same for all the assessed counties and there was no difference for either male or female, as regards the months in which respondents did not have enough food. Other months mentioned where they experienced food shortages included October, November and December.

Own agricultural production (crops and vegetables) was the main source of food for 81.5% of households, while 67.2% and 35.1% obtained their food from casual labor and livestock own production (meat, milk, eggs, poultry etc.), respectively. Other important sources of food were wild foods (plants, vegetables, fruits) at 28.5%, and market purchases at 21.8%.

Own agricultural production as a main source of food was reported by 99.5% females and 98.4% males in Gogrial West and in Magwi it was the main source for 95.3% females and 93.5% males. The sourcing of food through casual labor was more pronounced in Aweil North as reported by 80.3% females and 78.6% males compared to Magwi and Gogrial West. Reliance on wild food was cited by 35.6% females and 38.1% males in Gogrial West with lesser proportions in Magwi (31.0% females and 22.2% females) and Aweil North (31.8% females and 25.0% males)

In Gogrial West, there was no significant difference between men and women engaged in the three main ways HHs obtained food. They both engaged in agricultural production, livestock production and casual labour. This compared to Magwi, the assessment found that while the percentage of female engaging in livestock own production (meat, milk, eggs, poultry, etc.) was lower compared to that of men, the women equally engaged in casual labour and agricultural production as men. Generally, main ways in which HHs obtained food in the past months in all the assessed counties include - own agricultural production (crops and vegetables), livestock own production (meat, milk, eggs, poultry, etc.), casual labor, fishing and wild foods (plants, vegetables, fruits).

Outcome 3: Proportion of targeted households implementing crisis and emergency strategies, disaggregated by sex of household head (livelihoods CSI)

In terms of the coping Strategy Index, majority of total respondents at 74.5% fall within the “Low Coping Strategy Index” with higher percentages recorded in Magwi and Aweil west. There were more men at 83.3% reporting a lower coping strategy compared to females. Only 0.10% of total respondents reported to have a high coping strategy index and 25.4% reported have “medium coping strategy index”. The proportion of HHs implementing crisis and emergence strategies has reduced by 64% in Magwi, 68.8% in Gogrial West and 50% in Aweil North; this could be attributed to the project interventions.

Table 9: Coping Strategy Index

Gender	County	rSCI		
		High Coping	Medium Coping	Low Coping
Female	Aweil North	0.00%	23.5%	76.5%
	Gogrial West	0.30%	45.2%	54.5%
	Magwi	0.00%	7.00%	93.0%
	Total	0.10%	29.0%	70.9%
Male	Aweil North	0.00%	25.0%	75.0%
	Gogrial West	0.00%	36.5%	63.5%
	Magwi	0.00%	4.90%	95.1%
	Total	0.00%	16.7%	83.3%
Total	Aweil North	0.00%	23.9%	76.1%
	Gogrial West	0.20%	44.0%	55.8%
	Magwi	0.00%	6.00%	94.0%
	Total	0.10%	25.4%	74.5%

Similarly, majority of 68.7% of total respondents agreed that they reduced negative coping mechanisms such as reducing number /quantity of food which confirms that households implementing crisis and emergency strategies have reduced.

Table 10: Did your household reduce negative coping mechanisms such as reducing number /quantity of food

Gender	County	Response		
		I don't know	No	Yes
Female	Aweil North	3.10%	35.3%	61.7%
	Gogrial West	2.90%	32.7%	64.4%
	Magwi	0.00%	18.3%	81.7%
	Total	2.30%	30.1%	67.6%
Male	Aweil North	2.70%	38.4%	58.9%
	Gogrial West	6.30%	33.3%	60.3%
	Magwi	0.00%	17.3%	82.7%
	Total	1.90%	26.7%	71.4%
Total	Aweil North	3.00%	36.2%	60.8%
	Gogrial West	3.30%	32.8%	63.8%
	Magwi	0.00%	17.8%	82.2%
	Total (County)	2.20%	29.1%	68.7%

The major coping mechanisms adopted by 61.6%, of households was limiting portion size at mealtime, whereas 59.4% relied on less preferred and less expensive food and 56.5% reduced the number of meals eaten in a day. Other coping strategies used by 39.7% and 35.6%, households were the reliance on help from friends or relatives and borrowing food respectively.

Table 11: Coping strategies you practice in your family when you run out of food

Coping strategies (Multiple Response)	Gender	County							
		Aweil North	Gogrial West	Magwi	Total (Gender)	Aweil North	Gogrial West	Magwi	Total (County)
Limit portion size at mealtime	Female	53.3%	66.0%	67.6%	62.2%	52.4%	65.8%	66.1%	61.6%
	Male	50.0%	65.1%	64.3%	60.0%				
Rely on less preferred and less expensive food	Female	34.9%	74.5%	59.6%	58.1%	36.4%	76.1%	63.8%	59.4%
	Male	40.2%	85.7%	68.6%	62.8%				
Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	Female	55.0%	63.6%	53.5%	58.4%	52.4%	63.4%	53.0%	56.5%
	Male	45.5%	61.9%	52.4%	51.9%				
Rely on help from friends or relatives	Female	27.7%	55.6%	29.6%	40.2%	29.7%	56.9%	30.4%	39.7%
	Male	34.8%	65.1%	31.4%	38.3%				
Borrow food	Female	27.0%	38.2%	36.2%	34.0%	28.2%	41.1%	36.9%	35.6%
	Male	31.2%	58.7%	37.8%	39.4%				
Restrict adults and only small children to eat	Female	24.6%	11.9%	7.50%	15.0%	22.7%	13.2%	13.2%	14.1%
	Male	17.9%	20.6%	5.40%	11.9%	Male	17.9%	20.6%	5.40%

Outcome 4: Reduced vulnerability to climate risks and shocks

On whether there is a disaster early warning system in place such as hydro-meteorological observation in their community, only 29.3% of total respondents mentioned there was a disaster early warning system in place, with Aweil North, Gogrial West and Magwi reporting yes at 10.2%, 24.6% and 53.8%, respectively. On whether there are any community disaster reduction strategies in place in their location, only 37.5% of total respondents mentioned yes, with Aweil North, Gogrial West and Magwi mentioning there are community disaster reduction strategies in their place at 21.9%, 35.5% and 55.5%. The presence of community disaster reduction strategies implies that there is reduced vulnerability to climate risks and shocks.

Table 12: Presence of community disaster reduction strategies in place in your location

Gender	County	Response		
		I don't know	No	Yes
Female	Aweil North	23.9%	53.6%	22.5%
	Gogrial West	6.50%	60.3%	33.2%
	Magwi	6.10%	39.4%	54.5%
	Total	12.1%	53.1%	34.8%
Male	Aweil North	19.6%	59.8%	20.5%
	Gogrial West	1.60%	49.2%	49.1%
	Magwi	4.30%	38.9%	56.8%
	Total	8.60%	47.2%	44.2%
Total	Aweil North	22.7%	55.4%	21.9%
	Gogrial West	5.80%	58.7%	35.5%
	Magwi	5.30%	39.2%	55.5%
	Total (County)	11.1%	51.4%	37.5%

When asked if they were aware of functional Community Based Disaster Management Committees, 47.3% of total respondents mentioned “yes” with 43.1% mentioning that they were not aware.

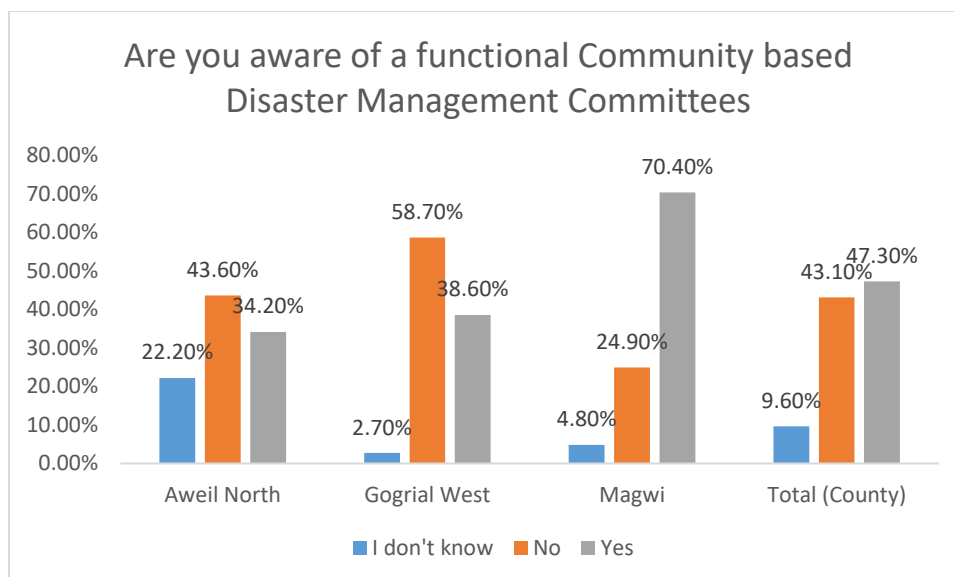


Figure 3: Availability of functional community-based Disaster Management Committee

On the types of natural and human induced disasters affecting the community, 67.8% of total respondents mentioned floods, whereas 64.4% mentioned drought, and 39.4% cited locusts. Wildfires and strong winds were mentioned by 32.0% and 31.3% of households respectively. Other hazards reported were cattle raiding (26.6%), livestock diseases epidemic (22.1%) and intercommunal conflict/fighting at 13.9%.

Gogrial West and Aweil North were heavily affected by floods as reported by 99.6% and 90.0% of total respondents compared to Magwi at only 9.5%. Drought was more experienced in Gogrial as cited by 78.1% of households compared to Magwi and Aweil North. Locust infestation was reported by 57.3% of households in Magwi and to lesser extent in Aweil North and Gogrial West. On the other hand 41.1% and 37.4% of households in Gogrial West and Magwi complained of wild fires respectively, whereas only 16.5% did so in Aweil North

Table 13: Types of natural and human induced disasters affecting the community

Disaster (Multiple Response)	Gender	County							
		Aweil North	Gogrial West	Magwi	Total (Gender)	Aweil North	Gogrial West	Magwi	Total (County)
Floods	Female	91.3%	99.5%	8.90%	75.1%	90.0%	99.6%	9.50%	67.8%
	Male	86.6%	100%	10.3%	49.7%				
Drought	Female	60.6%	77.1%	55.9%	66.6%	58.6%	78.1%	54.8%	64.4%
	Male	53.6%	84.1%	53.5%	58.9%				
Locusts	Female	19.7%	38.7%	52.1%	35.7%	21.2% [85]	39.7% [178]	57.3% [228]	39.4%
	Male	25.0%	46.0%	63.2%	48.3%				

Wild fires	Female	16.3%	39.2%	36.6%	31.1%	16.5%	41.1%	37.4%	32.0%
	Male	17.0%	52.4%	38.4%	34.2%				
Strong winds	Female	10.7%	44.4%	34.7%	31.1%	11.5%	45.3%	35.4%	31.3%
	Male	13.4%	50.8%	36.2%	31.7%				
Cattle raiding	Female	1.70%	31.9%	41.3%	24.4%	1.50%	34.2%	43.5%	26.6%
	Male	0.90%	47.6%	45.9%	32.2%				
Livestock diseases epidemic	Female	13.8%	24.4%	29.6%	22.2%	14.5%	25.7%	25.9%	22.1%
	Male	16.1%	33.3%	21.6%	21.9%				
Intercommunal conflict/fighting	Female	0.00%	28.8%	9.90%	14.9%	0.00%	30.8%	8.80%	13.9%
	Male	0.00%	42.9%	7.60%	11.4%				
Inter-clan fighting	Female	0.00%	23.9%	4.20%	11.4%	0.20%	26.1%	4.00%	10.7%
	Male	0.90%	39.7%	3.80%	9.20%				
Child abduction	Female	1.40%	17.9%	1.90%	8.70%	1.20%	18.8%	2.00%	7.80%
	Male	0.90%	23.8%	2.20%	5.60%				
None	Female	11.1%	0.50%	0.00%	4.10%	10.7%	0.40%	0.50%	3.80%
	Male	8.00%	0.00%	1.10%	3.10%				
Other (specify)	Female	0.30%	0.00%	0.00%	0.10%	0.20%	0.00%	0.30%	0.20%
	Male	0.00%	0.00%	0.50%	0.30%				

Outcome 5: Reduced vulnerability to communal conflict

When asked, with reference to the past and the project whether community relations has improved or deteriorated, (94.9%) of total respondents mentioned that community relations had improved as a result of the current project activities with both male and female across all the counties saying community relations had improved with the current project as compared to the previous. There is improvement of 82.2% in Magwi, 72.3% in Gogrial West and 79.8% in Aweil North. The improvement in community relations implies reduced vulnerability to communal conflicts and this could be attributed to the project component of community cohesion.

Table 14: Improved community relations as a result of project activities

Gender	County	Response		
		Improved	Remained the same	Deteriorated
Female	Aweil North	96.5%	3.50%	0.00%
	Gogrial West	90.4%	9.40%	0.30%
	Magwi	99.5%	0.50%	0.00%
	Total	94.6%	5.30%	0.10%

Male	Aweil North	97.3%	2.70%	0.00%
	Gogrial West	82.5%	17.5%	0.00%
	Magwi	98.9%	1.10%	0.00%
	Total	95.6%	4.40%	0.00%
Total	Aweil North	96.8%	3.20%	0.00%
	Gogrial West	89.3%	10.5%	0.20%
	Magwi	99.2%	0.80%	0.00%
	Total (County)	94.9%	5.10%	0.10%

When asked if in the recent past there was inter-clan conflict in their location majority of respondents of 75.5% mentioned “NO” however among the total respondents who said that there was inter-clan conflict, Magwi reported the highest percentage responses of 44.7% compared to other counties.

Only 30.5% of total respondents mentioned that they experienced any violence in the past 6 months and 52.6% of the total respondents mentioned that they have functional structures (such as a peace committee) in their community for conflict resolution with the highest percentage response at 79.6% in Magwi compared to other Counties and less female at 48.7% than male who mentioned they have functional structures (such as a peace committee) in their community.

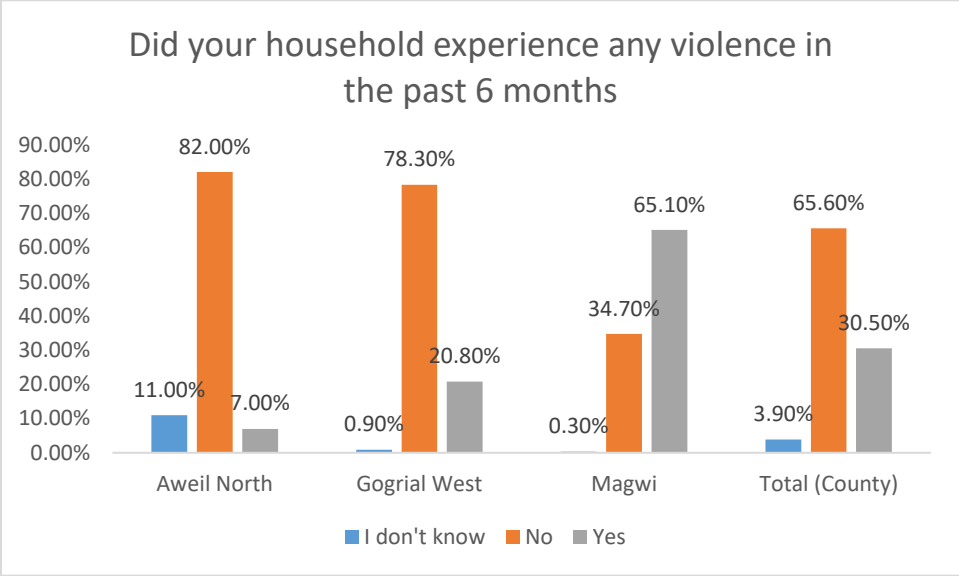


Figure 4: Experienced Violence in the past 6 months

In terms of feeling safe, nearly all (93.3%) of total respondents mentioned that they felt safe on the way to and from the collection center/distribution point and this was the same for both male and female and across all the assessed counties.

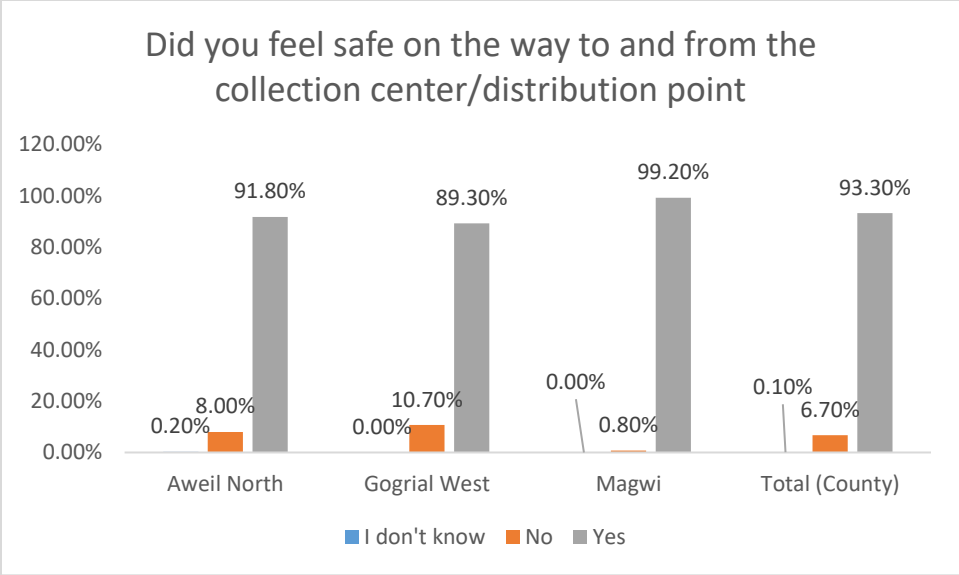


Figure 5: Feel safe

Intermediate Outcome: Increased capacity to absorb, anticipate and adapt to shocks and stresses (including climate variability and extremes)

Outcome 6: Number of people with improved resilience

When asked about the situation of food and nutrition security and resilience among food insecure households and communities before the project, 64.6% of total respondents said it “was bad”, 2.10% said it was “same as now” and 33.3% said it was good. In relation to this, 94.7% of total respondents mentioned that the project had improved the food and nutrition security and resilience in their household a “great deal” with high percentage responses found across all the Counties and similarly mentioned by both male and female compared to 0% baseline finding across all the counties. The findings point to the fact that the project improved the food and nutrition security and resilience of the targeted beneficiaries; this could be attributed to the project interventions.

Table 15: Improved the food and nutrition security and resilience in your household

Gender	County	Response		
		Improved a great deal	Did not improve at all	Made the situation worse
Female	Aweil North	94.5%	5.50%	0.00%
	Gogrial West	94.8%	4.90%	0.30%
	Magwi	93.9%	6.10%	0.00%
	Total	94.5%	5.40%	0.10%
Male	Aweil North	95.5%	4.50%	0.00%

	Gogrial West	90.5%	9.50%	0.00%
	Magwi	96.8%	3.20%	0.00%
	Total	95.3%	4.70%	0.00%
Total	Aweil North	94.8%	5.20%	0.00%
	Gogrial West	94.2%	5.60%	0.20%
	Magwi	95.2%	4.80%	0.00%
	Total (County)	94.7%	5.20%	0.10%

When asked what type of assets their HHs owned before the project, about 91.0% of total respondents mentioned they owned hoes, and both men and women owned this. The second highest asset owned by households are axes mentioned by 84.4% of total respondents. Other assets owned include: shovel/spade, sickle, ox-plough, machete, However, very few respondents owned agricultural machinery such as farm machinery (tractor, ploughs, maize Sheller, thresher, cassava Grater/Gari Processor, water pump, treadle foot pump, grainer/grain grinding machine and ground nut hauler. Those who owned them were mostly males compared to females. Similarly only 2.50% of total respondents owned fishing nets which indicates that fishing was not being heavily engaged in across the assessed Counties. Other assets such as watering can, hand tractor, rice mill, weaving toll, sewing machine, boat/canoe, and bicycle. Wheelbarrow, open hand dug well, electric generator and cell /mobile phone were also owned though negligible.

Outcome 7: Proportion of targeted households using good nutrition practices

Majority of 70.6% of the total respondents adopted good nutrition practice of eating variety (eat foods that contain vitamins and minerals) and 72.5% eating regularly. This includes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, dairy, and a source of protein with 53.1% in Aweil North compared to 50% baseline finding, 78.6% in Gogrial West compared to 43% baseline finding and 79.1% in Magwi compared to 73% baseline value. 74.4% of males adopted good nutrition practices compared to 69.0% females. This could be attributed to cultural practices where women are not allowed to eat some types of foods such as chicken/meat/eggs in some communities.

Table 16: Nutrition Practices

Gender	County	Nutrition Practices (Multiple Response)				
		Eat variety	Eating regularly	Eating less added sugar/salt	Limit alcohol and food with saturated fats	None of the above
Female	Aweil North	51.6%	72.3%	25.3%	13.5%	11.4%

	Gogrial West	79.0%	64.4%	35.6%	25.7%	6.20%
	Magwi	74.6%	84.0%	5.60%	32.9%	7.50%
	Total	69.0%	71.7%	25.0%	23.4%	8.20%
Male	Aweil North	57.1%	69.6%	29.5%	12.5%	14.3%
	Gogrial West	76.2%	65.1%	33.3%	31.7%	9.59%
	Magwi	84.3%	80.5%	4.30%	34.1%	4.30%
	Total	74.4%	74.4%	17.2%	26.9%	8.30%
Total	Aweil North	53.1%	71.6%	26.4%	13.2%	12.2%
	Gogrial West	78.6%	64.5%	35.3%	26.6%	6.70%
	Magwi	79.1%	82.4%	5.00%	33.4%	6.00%
	Total (County)	70.6%	72.5%	22.8%	24.5%	8.30%

In regard to any member of their household having received training on improved nutrition practices, 68.6% of total respondents mentioned yes and more of them were recorded in Magwi compared to other Counties. More males than females at 73.6% mentioned to have a member of their HH who received training on improved nutrition practices.

Outcome 8: Proportion of targeted households using improved and climate-sensitive agricultural practices

When asked if members of their household adopted improved agricultural management practices or technology, 88.3% of total respondents mentioned “yes” with Aweil North at 84.3% compared to baseline finding of 10%, Gogrial West at 83% compared to baseline finding of 33% and Magwi at 98.2% compared to baseline finding of 95%. The improvement could be attributed to the interventions of the project of training farmers and provision of farming tools.

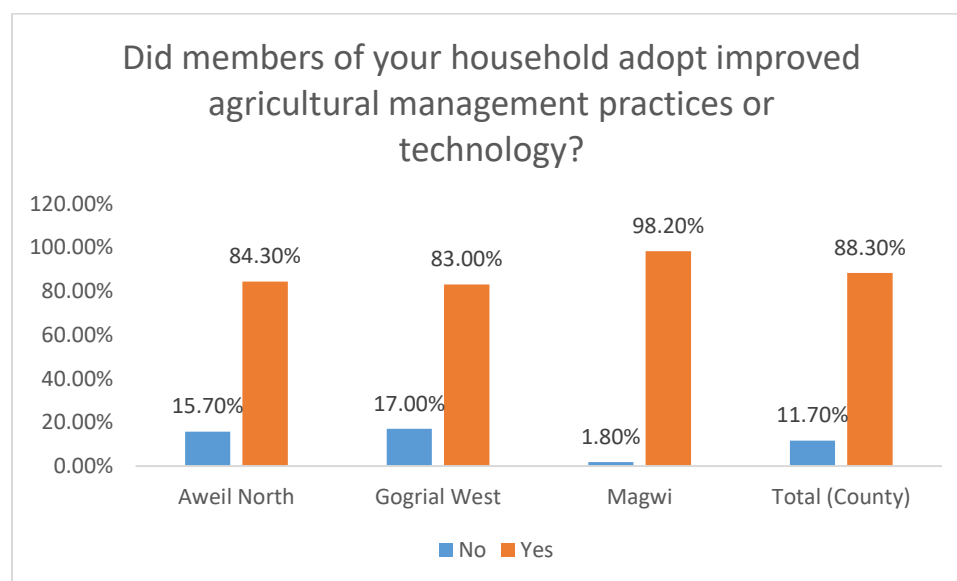


Figure 6: Improved Agricultural Management Practices

On Smart Agricultural practices and technology, 85.1% of total respondents mentioned the use of crop rotation; followed by 47.5% who mentioned the adoption of crop diversification, 38.3% mentioned row planting of crops, while 35.1% mentioned the use of certified seed varieties. Other improved agricultural management practices mentioned included conservation agriculture and post-harvest management mentioned by 23.6% and 25.9% of total respondents respectively. Notably, processing was adapted by only 11.0% of the total respondents.

Table 17: Practices and technology

Practices and technology (Multiple Response)	Gender	County							
		Aweil North	Gogria I West	Magwi	Total (Gender)	Aweil North	Gogria I West	Magwi	Total (County)
Crop rotation	Female	64.2%	89.8%	96.6%	83.6%	65.4%	90.9%	96.7%	85.1%
	Male	68.4%	96.6%	96.7%	88.5%				
Crop diversification	Female	20.8%	70.4%	44.0%	47.6%	23.1%	69.9%	47.2%	47.5%
	Male	28.6%	67.2%	50.8%	47.2%				
Row planting of crops	Female	24.2%	39.5%	55.1%	38.9%	21.9%	40.6%	50.3%	38.3%
	Male	16.3%	46.6%	44.8%	36.9%				
Use of certified seed varieties	Female	6.70%	52.2%	40.1%	34.6%	7.10%	53.5%	41.8%	35.1%
	Male	8.20%	60.3%	43.7%	36.3%				
Post-harvest management	Female	26.7%	27.4%	23.7%	26.1%	26.3%	28.2%	23.3%	25.9%
	Male	25.5%	32.8%	23.0%	25.4%				
Conservation agriculture	Female	5.00%	42.0%	23.2%	25.2%	5.30%	43.8%	20.3%	23.6%
	Male	6.10%	53.4%	16.9%	20.1%				
Use of organic pesticides	Female	5.00%	29.9%	15.0%	18.0%	4.10%	31.2%	14.1%	16.8%
	Male	2.00%	37.9%	13.1%	14.2%				
Processing	Female	19.2%	9.20%	5.80%	11.4%	19.2%	8.30%	6.40%	11.0%
	Male	19.4%	3.40%	7.10%	10.0%				
Other (Mulching, use of compost manure)	Female	0.40%	0.60%	0.00%	0.40%	0.90%	0.50%	0.00%	0.50%
	Male	2.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.60%				

For those who adapted improved agricultural management practices or technology, when asked how many Hectares/Feddans they currently had under improved management and technology, 49.5% and another 49.5% of total respondents mentioned that they had 1 to Less than 2 Feddans and 2 to Less than 4 Feddans under cultivation. 24.4% of total respondents mentioned that they cultivated Less than 1 Feddan.

Respondents who mentioned to have adapted improved agricultural management practices or technology on more than 5 Feddans recorded very low percentages across the assessed Counties. Female respondents seem to capitalize on cultivating an average of one to Less than 2 Feddans as compared to their male Counterparts across all the Counties.

In Aweil North, the FGD with mix farmers group revealed that the skills and knowledge they gained from the training was utilized during the farming activities. However, most of the farmers got little harvest due natural disaster such as *aboor* (floods) and crop (millipedes). One of the respondents said that: “... *I did apply the skills and knowledge during my farming activities but harvested only one bag of Rap (Sorghum) which is not enough to push my family to the middle of the year.*”

The participants in female only group in Gogrial West confirmed that they have received and benefited from the trainings provided by the project. Hence, they were able to recall trainings such as agricultural practices like crop spacing, weeding, crop rotation and seed bed management. The trainings were primarily on basic agronomy which also covered pesticides and pest management and control, post-harvest handling and minimum tillage. They indicated that all the 5 farmers groups in the Boma were trained and had benefited from the BRACE II project. “... *we are used to broadcasting our crops here in our community and we were taught new practices from the trainings. So, I learned new skills to plant crops in rows or lines and leaving adequate spaces between them and this farming practice is good,*” explained one female participant. And added that the trainings were good as they gained skills which they have to practice in order to improve productivity.

In a key informant interview with County Department of Agriculture in Magwi, the Director mentioned that “... *there was an increase in areas cultivated with cereals at the household levels in 2021 compared to 2020 since the farmers were formed in groups therefore, the cultivation increased*”. When further asked whether there was increased in the cereal production in 2021 compared to 2020, he said: “... *when the farmers were formed in groups, they cleared large piece of land making them to produce cereals in large quantities compared to 2020 when they used to cultivate individually.*”

Outcome 9: Proportion of households giving or receiving support from other households (Social cohesion)

When asked if their community readily helped each other in times of need, 41.6% and 47.6% of total respondents “strongly agreed” and “agreed” respectively with only 2.70% and 0.20% of total respondents who mentioned they “disagreed” and “strongly disagreed” to the fact that their communities readily helped each other in times of need.

On whether People in the community actively took care of those that are poor, weak or marginalized, 37.0% and 49.7% of total respondents “strongly agreed” and “agreed” respectively with slightly more males agreeing to this statement than females

Regarding whether their household, give any support to other households in the past 6 months, 65.8% of total respondents mentioned “yes” with a higher percentage score as relates to more males at 76.1% giving some support to other households as compared to female respondents. In comparison to the assessed Counties, Magwi County had more respondents at 89.2% who gave support to other households. Majority of 65.8% agreed to have given support to other households with 53.4% in Aweil North compared to baseline finding of 33%, Magwi at 89.2% compared to baseline finding of 33% and Gogrial West at 56.2% compared to baseline finding of 32%.

Table 18: HHs giving any support to other households in the past 6 months

Gender	County	Response		
		I don't know	No	Yes
Female	Aweil North	1.40%	47.1%	51.6%
	Gogrial West	0.00%	45.5%	54.5%
	Magwi	0.00%	11.7%	88.3%
	Total	0.50%	37.9%	61.7%
Male	Aweil North	2.70%	39.3%	58.0%
	Gogrial West	0.00%	33.3%	66.7%
	Magwi	0.00%	9.70%	90.3%
	Total	0.80%	23.1%	76.1%
Total	Aweil North	1.70%	44.9%	53.4%
	Gogrial West	0.00%	43.8%	56.2%
	Magwi	0.00%	10.8%	89.2%
	Total (County)	0.60%	33.6%	65.8%

On whether their household received any support from other households in the past 6 months, 65.1% of total respondents mentioned “yes,” with the highest percentage in Magwi at 88.2% compared to baseline finding of 49%, Aweil North at 54.4% compared to baseline finding of 32% and 54.2% in and Gogrial West compared to baseline finding of 32%.

Table 19: HH receive any support from other households in the past 6 months

Gender	County	Response		
		I don't know	No	Yes
Female	Aweil North	1.70%	44.3%	54.0%
	Gogrial West	0.00%	47.3%	52.7%

	Magwi	0.00%	11.3%	88.7%
	Total	0.60%	37.7%	61.8%
Male	Aweil North	1.80%	42.9%	55.4%
	Gogrial West	0.00%	36.5%	63.5%
	Magwi	0.00%	12.4%	87.6%
	Total	0.60%	26.1%	73.3%
Total	Aweil North	1.70%	43.9%	54.4%
	Gogrial West	0.00%	45.8%	54.2%
	Magwi	0.00%	11.8%	88.2%
	Total (County)	0.60%	34.3%	65.1%

Table 20: Case Study

Akol (not real names) is a 10-year-old class two girl in Ajiep Primary school in Mathiang Boma of Kuac North Payam in Gogrial West County in Warrap State.

Akol had a motorbike accident in Majok village. She was knocked and had sustained serious double fractures (above and below) the knee fractures. The Doctors demanded One Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand (128,000) South Sudanese Pounds for the medical bill for the surgery and treatment to be done in Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal State. The parents of this poor girl could not afford this kind of bill so as to save their daughter.

The cash transfer beneficiaries of Building Resilience through Assets Creation and Enhancement phase II (BRACE II) project were generous and step up to help Akol's parents. Hence, three (3) beneficiaries contributed Twenty -Eight Thousand (28,000) South Sudanese Pounds towards the treatment of Akol. This amount was still not enough to meet the medical requirements, so the family sold one bull at a cost of Ninety Thousand (90,000) South Sudanese Pounds to complement the beneficiaries' contributions.

Therefore, the generous support of the cash transfers beneficiaries towards Akol's family had helped raise sufficient money to facilitate the successful treatment of Akol. This action of the beneficiaries saved the life of Akol who can now walk again on and attends her classes normally. The mother of Akol was very impressed with the generosity and cooperation of the BRACE II beneficiaries and had expressed her appreciation to the BRACE II project which had made it possible for the community members to be able to support each other.

Outcome 10: Proportion of targeted communities where there is evidence of functional structures for conflict resolution

On whether there is a mechanism in their location for dispute resolution processes, 63.4% of total respondents mentioned “yes” with a higher percentage of 78.6% of total respondents in Magwi mentioning there is a mechanism in their location for dispute resolution.

Table 21: Is there a mechanism in your location for dispute resolution processes

Gender	County	Response		
		I don't know	No	Yes
Female	Aweil North	8.70%	28.4%	63.0%
	Gogrial West	5.70%	44.4%	49.9%
	Magwi	0.50%	21.6%	77.9%
	Total	5.40%	33.7%	60.9%
Male	Aweil North	8.90%	33.9%	57.1%
	Gogrial West	3.20%	33.3%	63.5%
	Magwi	2.20%	18.4%	79.5%
	Total	4.40%	25.8%	69.7%
Total	Aweil North	8.70%	29.9%	61.3%
	Gogrial West	5.40%	42.9%	51.8%
	Magwi	1.30%	20.1%	78.6%
	Total (County)	5.10%	31.4%	63.4%

In terms of perception on how quickly conflicts were resolved, 47.7% of total respondents strongly agreed that when conflicts or disagreements arose between community members, they are always resolved quickly as well 42.7% agreed to the same. This is compared to only 1.00% of total respondent who disagreed that conflicts were resolved quickly with no significant difference between female and male respondents. Similarly, 51.6% of total respondents agreed that when conflicts or disagreements arose between community members, other community members get involved to help resolve the issue, with a lower percentage response recorded in Gogrial West at 33.0% compared to other Counties.

The chief in Aweil North County revealed that they have established peace committees in the communities comprising of 30 members (15 males & 15 females) to address community violence such as land disputes, domestic violence livestock theft and so on. The chief said that the project has formed Boma project management committees to oversee and monitor the activities of the project beneficiaries as well as addressing their issues amicably.

KII with a women leader in Aweil North County indicated that the community structures that address violence included the Boma project management committee and complaint feedback desk established by the project to monitor the activities of the beneficiaries. However, there are peace committees formed by the Boma administrators to solve and reconcile disputes among households which are related to water points and domestic violence.

Similarly, the youth leader in Aweil North County said that there are peace committees established within the youths' associations to address violence caused by individual youths such as fighting, theft and domestic violence as a result of alcoholism and drug abuse. However, the project has also established complaints feedback desk to monitor the activities of the project beneficiaries.

Outcome II: Increase in agricultural production at household level, disaggregated by increase in production (MT), cultivated area (ha) and total value of production (MT)

Nearly all (95.5%) of total respondents engaged in crop farming in 2021 cropping season with both males and females heavily engaged in crop farming in 2021 across all the Counties assessed. Again, when asked if they planted any crops with tools, seeds and training etc. received as humanitarian assistance, 90.6% of total respondents mentioned yes and this was the same case for all the Counties assessed.

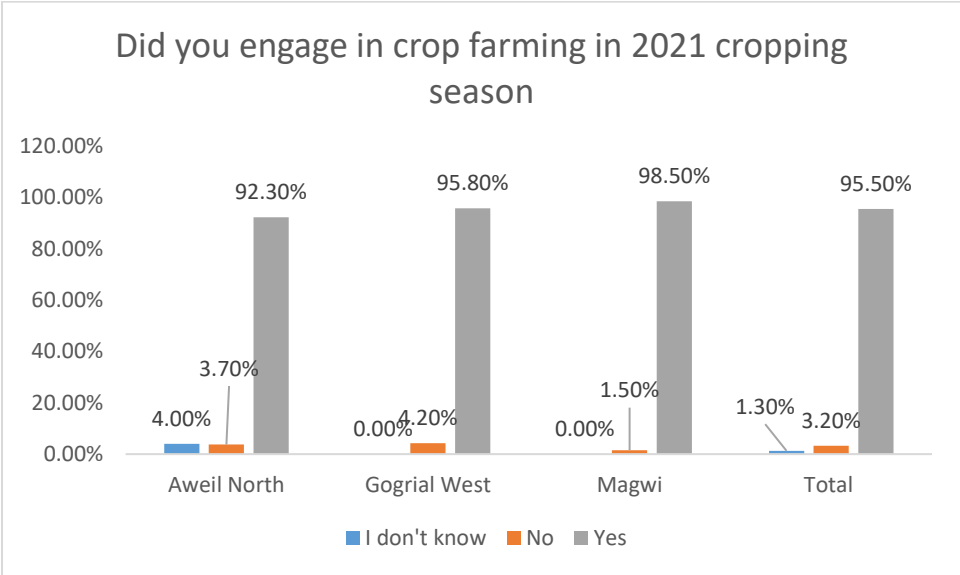


Figure 7: Engaged in crop farming in 2021

Table 22: Feddans with improved agricultural practices

Feddans	Gender	County							
		Aweil North	Gogrial West	Magwi	Total (Gender)	Aweil North	Gogrial West	Magwi	Total (County)
Less than 1 Feddan	Female	29.6%	15.3%	26.6%	22.9%	32.2%	14.5%	26.9%	24.4%
	Male	38.8%	10.3%	27.3%	27.7%				
1 to Less than 2 Fed	Female	61.7%	50.0%	46.9%	52.8%	56.5%	49.2%	43.6%	49.5%
	Male	43.9%	44.8%	39.9%	41.9%				
2 to Less than 4 Fed	Female	8.80%	26.8%	14.5%	17.7%	10.1%	27.2%	16.2%	49.5%
	Male	13.3%	29.3%	18.0%	18.6%				
5 to Less than 6 Fed	Female	0.00%	7.00%	2.90%	3.70%	0.60%	8.10%	4.10%	4.40%
	Male	2.00%	13.8%	5.50%	5.90%				
6 to Less than 8 Fed	Female	0.00%	0.60%	1.40%	0.70%	0.60%	0.80%	2.10%	1.20%
	Male	2.00%	1.70%	2.70%	2.40%				
8 to Less than 10 Fed	Female	0.00%	0.30%	3.90%	1.20%	0.00%	0.30%	3.60%	1.40%
	Male	0.00%	0.00%	3.30%	1.80%				
Above 10 Feddans	Female	0.00%	0.00%	3.90%	1.10%	0.00%	0.00%	3.60%	1.30%
	Male	0.00%	0.00%	3.30%	1.80%				

FGDs with farmers in all the locations confirmed that they received agro-inputs (tools & seeds) from the project. The field crops seeds included; groundnuts (*atom*), sorghum (*rap*), maize (*abou*) and cowpeas (*akuem*) while the vegetables seeds comprised of tomatoes, okra (*goum*). More so, the project also provided mango fruit trees seedlings to all members of the farmers groups in Lukluk Boma.

In addition to the provision of seeds, the project also supplied tools (*poor*) of different types which included; Panga, axe (*rep*), ox plough (*pour mior*), wheelbarrows (*kathuc*), hoes (*mathok*), *Maloda*, rakes (*makuar*), spades and hand compactors for the road projects.

Regarding yield and production of the main crops they planted from the seeds provided by the NGOs, 52.1% of total respondents mentioned that they were very good, 31.4% mentioned that they were good. 7.80% described the yield and production as moderate while 8.70% said they yield and production was poor with higher percentage of respondents in Aweil North describing the yield and production as poor as compared to other counties.

The majority (87.6%) of total respondents both male and female mentioned that they were satisfied with the agricultural inputs, while 7.90% mentioned that they were highly satisfied and only 4.10% of total respondents said they were not satisfied at all. This means that the level of satisfaction relating agricultural related assistance was high among respondents.

Outcome 12: Increase in number of food / incomes sources at the household level

49.7% of the total respondents think the number of sources they used to obtain their household income increased at the time of the evaluation compared to two years ago. With the highest increase in Magwi at 75.4% compared to baseline finding of 1.7%, followed by Gogrial West at 54.5% compared to baseline findings of 1.7% and Aweil North at 19% compared to baseline finding of 1.7%.

Table 23: Sources you used to obtain your household income increased compared to two years ago

Gender	County	Response			
		I don't know	Decreased	Remained the same	Yes, Increased
Female	Aweil North	1.70%	65.4%	11.8%	21.1%
	Gogrial West	0.00%	33.8%	11.2%	55.1%
	Magwi	0.50%	23.0%	2.30%	74.2%
	Total	0.70%	41.5%	9.20%	48.6%
Male	Aweil North	1.80%	73.2%	11.6%	13.4%
	Gogrial West	0.00%	28.6%	20.6%	50.8%
	Magwi	0.00%	22.2%	1.10%	76.8%
	Total	0.60%	39.2%	7.80%	52.5%
Total	Aweil North	1.70%	67.6%	11.7%	19.0%
	Gogrial West	0.00%	33.0%	12.5%	54.5%
	Magwi	0.30%	22.6%	1.80%	75.4%
	Total (County)	0.60%	40.8%	8.80%	49.7%

Again when asked if in general, they thought there is enough food available in their household, 30.3% of total respondents indicated severe food shortages with more prominence in Magwi County as compared to Aweil North and Gogrial West and more males experienced severe food shortages as compared to females. While 55.3% of total respondents mentioned that there is not enough food available in their household and only 30.3% of total respondents mentioned that there is sufficient food.

Table 24: Do you think there is enough food available in your household?

Gender	County	Response
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		There is sufficient food	There is not enough food	There are severe food shortages
Female	Aweil North	3.40%	79.8%	3.40%
	Gogrial West	34.2%	47.4%	34.2%
	Magwi	52.6%	41.0%	52.9%
	Total	27.9%	57.0%	27.9%
Male	Aweil North	3.30%	80.4%	3.30%
	Gogrial West	27.3%	36.4%	27.3%
	Magwi	59.6%	38.5%	59.6%
	Total	36.6%	50.8%	36.6%
Total	Aweil North	3.40%	79.9%	3.40%
	Gogrial West	33.2%	45.9%	33.2%
	Magwi	55.9%	39.8%	55.9%
	Total (County)	30.3%	55.3%	30.3%

Outcome 13: Increase in incomes at the household level

About 64.2% of households (61.2% females and 71.4% of males) said that they earned net income from their livelihood activities. The majority being in Magwi (89.7%) and Gogrial West (68.5%) compared to 33.9% in Aweil North.

Table 25 Net income earned by household from its livelihoods

Gender	County	Response		
		I don't know	No	Yes
Female	Aweil North	6.60%	61.6%	31.8%
	Gogrial West	0.30%	32.5%	67.3%
	Magwi	0.50%	9.40%	90.1%
	Total	2.40%	36.4%	61.2%
Male	Aweil North	8.00%	52.7%	39.3%
	Gogrial West	0.00%	23.8%	76.2%
	Magwi	0.00%	10.8%	89.2%
	Total	2.50%	26.1%	71.4%
Total	Aweil North	7.00%	59.1%	33.9%
	Gogrial West	0.20%	31.2%	68.5%
	Magwi	0.30%	10.1%	89.7%

	Total (County)	2.40%	33.4%	64.2%
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The evaluation found that, 32.6% of the total respondents earned between 5,000 and 10,000 SSP, with an average income of 7,500 SSP per month, including the cash transfers received. About 18.0% of households earned 10,000-less than 15,000 SSP (an average of 12,500 SSP) whereas 17.8% and 16.2% earned below 5,000 SSP and 15,000-less than 20,000 SSP (an average of 17,500 SSP) respectively.

Table 26: Average income

Amount earned	Gender	County							
		Aweil North	Gogrial West	Magwi	Total (Gender)	Aweil North	Gogrial West	Magwi	Total (County)
Below 5,000 SSP	Female	34.8%	18.9%	16.1%	20.6%	28.7%	16.9%	14.3%	17.8%
	Male	15.9%	6.20%	12.1%	11.7%				
5,000-less than 10,000 SSP	Female	22.8%	40.9%	28.6%	33.5%	25.0%	39.1%	30.0%	32.6%
	Male	29.5%	29.2%	31.5%	30.7%				
10,000-less than 15,000 SSP	Female	7.60%	20.5%	17.2%	17.1%	12.5%	20.8%	17.9%	18.0%
	Male	22.7%	22.9%	18.8%	20.2%				
15,000-less than 20,000 SSP	Female	29.3%	12.0%	15.1%	16.0%	25.0%	14.0%	14.8%	16.2%
	Male	15.9%	25.0%	14.5%	16.7%				
20,000-less than 25,000 SSP	Female	3.30%	3.90%	6.20%	4.60%	3.70%	3.90%	7.30%	5.40%
	Male	4.50%	4.20%	8.50%	7.00%				
25,000-less than 30,000 SSP	Female	2.20%	1.90%	1.00%	1.70%	2.90%	2.90%	1.40%	2.20%
	Male	4.50%	8.30%	1.80%	3.50%				
30,000-Less than 35,000 SSP	Female	0.00%	1.20%	1.60%	1.10%	0.00%	1.00%	1.10%	0.90%
	Male	0.00%	0.00%	0.60%	0.40%				
35,000-less than 40,000 SSP	Female	0.00%	0.40%	1.60%	0.70%	0.70%	0.30%	1.40%	0.9%
	Male	2.30%	0.00%	1.20%	1.30%				
40,000-less than 45,000 SSP	Female	0.00%	0.40%	2.60%	1.10%	0.00%	0.70%	2.20%	1.20%
	Male	0.00%	2.10%	1.80%	1.60%				
45,000-less than 50,000 SSP	Female	0.00%	0.00%	2.60%	0.90%	0.70%	0.30%	2.50%	1.40%
	Male	2.30%	2.10%	2.40%	2.30%				
50,000 SSP and above	Female	0.00%	0.00%	7.30%	2.60%	0.70%	0.00%	7.00%	3.20%
	Male	2.30%	0.00%	6.70%	4.70%				

When asked whether there are Individuals in their household who received cash transfer from humanitarian actors, 50.8% of total respondents mentioned yes, with more female respondents mentioning yes compared to male. A higher percentage of respondents who received cash transfer were recorded in Gogrial West compared to other counties at 71.4%.

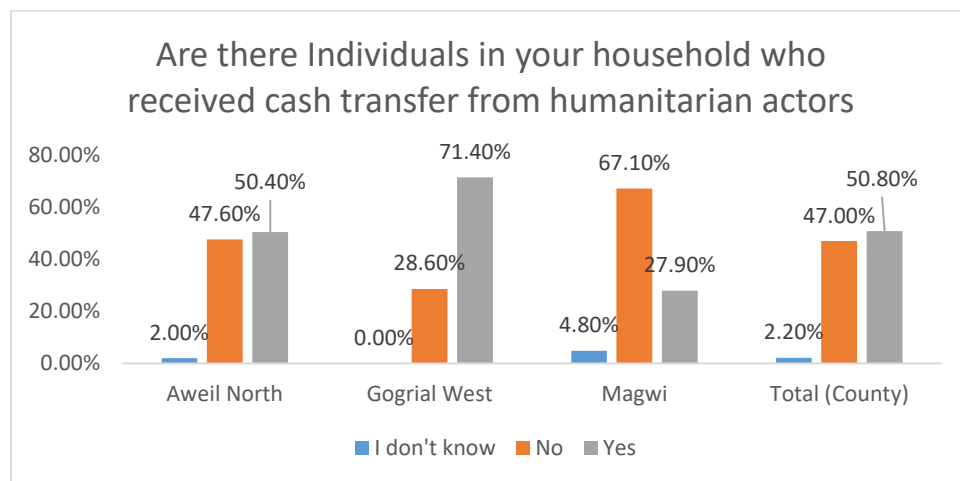


Figure 8: Received cash

On average beneficiaries aged under 18 years earned 5,515.85SSP compared to adult beneficiaries aged over 60 years who earned 9,942.07SSP. About 65.1% of the total respondents (66.9% females and 58.7% males) mentioned that the amount of cash disbursed were adequate to cover their needs, more female at 66.9% mentioned the cash disbursed was adequate as compared to their male counterparts. About 20.7% of total respondents mentioned that the cash disbursed was somewhat adequate to cover needs. The disbursed cash was more adequate to cover needs in Gogrial West compared to other Counties.

Table 27: The adequacy of the cash disbursed to cover household needs

Gender	County	Response		
		Adequate enough	Not adequate	Somehow adequate
Female	Aweil North	56.9%	25.5%	17.6%
	Gogrial West	74.1%	4.70%	21.2%
	Magwi	59.4%	17.2%	23.4%
	Total	66.9%	12.7%	20.4%
Male	Aweil North	46.9%	26.5%	26.5%
	Gogrial West	83.3%	2.40%	14.3%
	Magwi	48.9%	27.7%	23.4%

	Total	58.7%	19.6%	21.7%
Total	Aweil North	54.5%	25.7%	19.8%
	Gogrial West	75.3%	4.40%	20.3%
	Magwi	55.0%	21.6%	23.4%
	Total (County)	65.1%	14.2%	20.7%

Regarding training on improved nutrition practices, 68.6% of respondents (66.6% females and 73.6% males) admitted that they received the training with the majority of 86.7% in Magwi compared to Aweil North and Gogrial West at 60.7% and 56.0% respectively. The improved changes were observed in all the three targeted Counties.

Table 28: Receipt of training on improved nutrition practices by the respondent and/or any members of household

Gender	County	Response		
		I don't know	No	Yes
Female	Aweil North	7.60%	26.0%	66.4%
	Gogrial West	1.00%	43.4%	55.6%
	Magwi	0.50%	12.7%	86.9%
	Total	3.00%	30.3%	66.6%
Male	Aweil North	5.40%	33.9%	60.7%
	Gogrial West	0.00%	41.3%	58.7%
	Magwi	1.10%	12.4%	86.5%
	Total	2.20%	24.2%	73.6%
Total	Aweil North	7.00%	28.2%	64.8%
	Gogrial West	0.90%	43.1%	56.0%
	Magwi	0.80%	12.6%	86.7%
	Total (County)	2.80%	28.5%	68.6%

When asked if any member of the household receive any training on conflict mitigation by the project, 48.4% of households (44.5% females and 57.8% males) responded in the affirmative. About 70.6% of households in Magwi compared to 38.2% in Gogrial West and 37.7% in Aweil North said that they received training on conflict mitigation organized by the project.

Table 29: Any member of the household received training on conflict mitigation by the project

Gender	County	Response		
		I don't know	No	Yes

Female	Aweil North	11.8%	49.8%	38.4%
	Gogrial West	0.30%	63.4%	36.4%
	Magwi	0.90%	31.5%	67.6%
	Total	4.30%	51.3%	44.5%
Male	Aweil North	8.90%	55.4%	35.7%
	Gogrial West	1.60%	49.2%	49.2%
	Magwi	1.10%	24.9%	74.1%
	Total	3.60%	38.6%	57.8%
Total	Aweil North	11.0%	51.4%	37.7%
	Gogrial West	0.40%	61.4%	38.2%
	Magwi	1.00%	28.4%	70.6%
	Total (County)	4.00%	47.6%	48.4%

When asked whether they knew where to raise complaints/provide feedback to project management, 69.8% of total respondents (64.5% females and 83.1%) mentioned “yes” with Aweil North reporting at 83.3% and Magwi at 89.9% compared to Gogrial West at only 40.0%.

Table 30: Knowledge of where to raise complaints/provide feedback to project management

Gender	County	Response		
		I don't know	No	Yes
Female	Aweil North	13.8%	4.80%	81.3%
	Gogrial West	2.60%	60.0%	37.4%
	Magwi	2.80%	6.60%	90.6%
	Total	6.30%	29.2%	64.5%
Male	Aweil North	6.20%	5.40%	88.4%
	Gogrial West	4.80%	39.7%	55.6%
	Magwi	2.20%	8.60%	89.2%
	Total	3.90%	13.1%	83.1%
Total	Aweil North	11.7%	5.00%	83.3%
	Gogrial West	2.90%	57.1%	40.0%
	Magwi	2.50%	7.50%	89.9%
	Total (County)	5.60%	24.5%	69.8%

On whether they ever raised any complaint or provided feedback to management, only 38.3% of total respondents mentioned yes, with again a higher percentage of males at 48.1% compared to females. In terms of County distribution, Gogrial West scored lowest with only 13.6% of total respondents who mentioned they had ever raised some complaint or provided feedback.

Table 31: Proportion of people who raised any complaints or provide feedback to management

Gender	County	Response		
		I don't know	No	Yes
Female	Aweil North	5.50%	40.8%	53.6%
	Gogrial West	1.60%	86.5%	11.9%
	Magwi	1.90%	48.4%	48.6%
	Total	2.90%	62.5%	34.3%
Male	Aweil North	4.50%	28.6%	67.0%
	Gogrial West	6.30%	69.8%	23.8%
	Magwi	3.20%	53.0%	44.9%
	Total	4.20%	48.3%	48.1%
Total	Aweil North	5.20%	37.4%	57.4%
	Gogrial West	2.20%	84.2%	13.6%
	Magwi	2.50%	50.5%	46.9%
	Total (County)	3.30%	58.4%	38.3%

When asked what channel they used to raise the complaints, the majority (81.3%) of total respondents mentioned they use the Help desk with 79.2% males and 82.6% females' respondents across all the assessed Counties. This was followed by 14.3% of total respondents (15.0% males and 13.8% females) who mentioned that they provided feedback through community-based project committee. About 66.7% of males compared to 41.3% females in Gogrial West mentioned raising complaints through the Community based project committee. Other channels used by 2.50% and 1.70% of respondents to raise complaints were hot lines and suggestion/complaints boxes respectively.

Table 32: Channel did you use to raise the complaints

Gender	County	Channels				
		Help desk	Hot line	Suggestion/complaints box	Through community-based project committee	Not applicable
Female	Aweil North	94.8%	3.20%	0.60%	1.30%	0.00%
	Gogrial West	54.3%	4.30%	0.00%	41.3%	0.00%
	Magwi	76.7%	1.00%	1.00%	20.4%	1.00%
	Total	82.6%	2.60%	0.70%	13.8%	0.30%
Male	Aweil North	96.0%	1.30%	1.30%	1.30%	0.00%
	Gogrial West	26.7%	0.00%	6.70%	66.7%	0.00%

	Magwi	73.5%	3.60%	4.80%	18.1%	0.00%
	Total	79.2%	2.30%	3.50%	15.0%	0.00%
Total	Aweil North	95.2%	2.60%	0.90%	1.30%	0.00%
	Gogrial West	47.5%	3.30%	1.60%	47.5%	0.00%
	Magwi	75.3%	2.20%	2.70%	19.4%	0.50%
	Total (County)	81.3%	2.50%	1.70%	14.3%	0.20%

4.5.2: COVID 19

When asked if they believe that COVID 19 really exists, 94.3% of total respondents mentioned “yes”. On the measures, they took to avoid getting or transmitting COVID 19 to others, 42.7% of total respondents mentioned they avoided shaking hands. This is followed by 30.2% of total respondents who mentioned they washed hands regularly with soap and water, 16.8% mentioned they practiced social distancing: sitting at least 1-2 meters from another person and lastly 8.70% of total respondents mentioned they wore face mask at all times in public places.

Table 33: Respondents perception on the existence of COVID 19

Gender	County	Response		
		I don't know	No	Yes
Female	Aweil North	4.80%	3.10%	92.0%
	Gogrial West	8.30%	1.60%	90.1%
	Magwi	0.00%	0.50%	99.5%
	Total	5.20%	1.80%	93.0%
Male	Aweil North	1.80%	1.80%	96.4%
	Gogrial West	6.30%	1.60%	92.1%
	Magwi	0.00%	0.00%	100%
	Total	1.70%	0.80%	97.5%
Total	Aweil North	4.00%	2.70%	93.3%
	Gogrial West	8.00%	1.60%	90.4%
	Magwi	0.00%	0.30%	99.7%
	Total (County)	4.20%	1.50%	94.3%

When we asked about the symptoms of COVID - 19, respondents were able to clearly relay the symptoms of Covid-19 to include fever, coughing, sneezing, difficulty in breathing and sore throat. These obtained high percentage scores from total respondents across all the assessed Counties. Knowledge on symptoms related to COVID -19 was equally high among both male and female respondents.

4.6 Cash to Internally Displaced Persons.

The project provided unconditional cash to respond to the needs of returnees from the neighboring countries. The cash was distributed in three (3) cycles to 967 HHs with the first distribution conducted in December 2021. The support helped to respond to the most pressing needs of the population as they settle, and try to regain their livelihood. Households received multi-purpose cash unconditionally through money transfer agents with a value of US\$49 per household in line with CWG Survival Minimum expenditure Basket for South Sudan.

According to the SDC Returnee PDM report, the unconditional nature of the cash distributions, offered flexibility to spend on what each recipient household deemed as most pressing needs at the time. As noted, the responses from a multi-selection question administered to the respondents shows that among the most pressing needs for which the cash was used included: Food, (85%), followed by shelter (71%), education (64%), health (38%), land clearance (19%), and others (8%).

This finding therefore re-affirms the finding of the IRNA report where food and shelter were among others direly needed by the returnees and hence food and S/NFI intervention was recommended, this means that the cash distribution significantly provided option to meeting the needs identified according to the IRNA report.

The findings also showed that indeed the available cash resulted in increased markets purchase by 41% as the main source of food, while households settle to revive worn out livelihoods creating a boost to local markets with households recording improvements including reduction in Casual labor by 7%, hunting / wild food by 12% etc. Generally, households reported improving living conditions compared to before the interventions of unconditional cash distributions.

The report also noted an improvement in the coping strategies as they now started adapting positive copying strategies though this requires collaboration with other partners to sustain the returnees until they can fully re-gain their lost livelihoods and be able to sustain themselves.

4.7 Impact

To what extent did you benefit from the project activities? How did the project change your lives and the lives of the beneficiaries in any meaningful way?

4.7.1: Personal Perspective on the project

As high as 95.7% of total respondents reported that the project provided adequate services for communities in their location and 64.6% of the total respondents mentioned that they were very satisfied

with the services that were provided. While 29.6% and 3.90% of total respondents mentioned they were satisfied and somewhat satisfied, respectively.

Table 34: Satisfaction with the project

Gender	County	Satisfaction			
		Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Not satisfied
Female	Aweil North	61.5%	35.9%	2.30%	0.40%
	Gogrial West	65.8%	21.0%	7.80%	5.50%
	Magwi	64.5%	33.5%	1.50%	0.50%
	Total	64.1%	28.9%	4.40%	2.60%
Male	Aweil North	62.8%	35.1%	2.10%	0.00%
	Gogrial West	73.6%	17.0%	7.50%	1.90%
	Magwi	65.6%	33.3%	1.10%	0.00%
	Total	66.1%	31.2%	2.40%	0.30%
Total	Aweil North	66.8%	35.7%	2.20%	0.30%
	Gogrial West	66.8%	20.4%	7.70%	5.00%
	Magwi	65.0%	33.4%	1.30%	0.30%
	Total (County)	64.6%	29.6%	3.90%	1.90%

On whether they were satisfied with the quality of services provided to their child, 47.5% of total respondents mentioned that they were “very satisfied” and 44.8% said they were “satisfied”. The highest response was recorded in Magwi as compared to other counties with no significant variations between male and female. Farmers in all the locations acknowledged that there was a complaints mechanism or procedures in place for the beneficiaries to send feedback from the project management. The channel described as; the beneficiaries raise their complaints through the heads of groups to field technicians who were in charge of the project activities in the Boma who forwards the complaints to the Food Security and Livelihood Officer and lastly to the project management team. “... *I am happy with the channel for complaints, it was effective, though not all complaints were addressed but it worked well*”, a female respondent from Gogrial West during a FDG explained.

4.7.2: Communities experiences of improved food and nutrition security and resilience

The project trained communities on improved nutrition practices including eating diversified foods, eating regularly, eating less added sugar/salt and limiting alcohol and food with saturated fats. When asked about the extent to which the training had improved Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition practices in their household, 65.8% and 11.0% of total respondents respectively mentioned that the training had improved such practices a great deal and improved somewhat respectively, with no significant variance in responses for both male and female across the assessed counties.

Table 35: Extent to which the training has improved maternal, infant and young child nutrition in the household

Gender	County	Extent			
		Did not improve	Improved a great deal	Improved somewhat	Don't know
Female	Aweil North	9.70%	63.3%	7.20%	19.4%
	Gogrial West	3.40%	64.4%	13.5%	18.7%
	Magwi	10.8%	72.3%	11.7%	5.20%
	Total	7.20%	66.0%	11.2%	15.7%
Male	Aweil North	9.80%	53.6%	11.6%	25.0%
	Gogrial West	9.50%	69.8%	7.90%	12.7%
	Magwi	14.6%	70.8%	10.8%	3.80%
	Total	12.2%	65.3%	10.6%	11.9%
Total	Aweil North	9.70%	60.6%	8.70%	20.9%
	Gogrial West	4.20%	65.2%	12.7%	17.9%
	Magwi	12.6%	71.6%	11.3%	4.50%
	Total (County)	8.70%	65.8%	11.0%	14.6%

On the extent to which the improved seeds, tools, equipment contributed to increased food production and food security for their household, majority of respondents of 83.7% mentioned that the improved seeds, tools, and equipment contributed a great deal to increase food production and food security in their households with Magwi at 89.7% compared to baseline finding of 76%, Gogrial West at 78.1% compared to baseline finding of 43% and Aweil North at 83.7% compared to baseline finding of 34%.The same satisfaction was expressed among both male and female respondents across all the Counties

Table 36: Improved seeds, tools, equipment contribute to increased food production and food security

Gender	County	Level of satisfaction
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		Contributed a great deal	Contributed somewhat	Did not contribute at all	Don't know
Female	Aweil North	83.8%	12.4%	3.00%	0.80%
	Gogrial West	77.0%	20.2%	2.70%	0.00%
	Magwi	88.6%	10.4%	0.50%	0.50%
	Total	82.2%	15.2%	2.30%	0.40%
Male	Aweil North	83.5%	14.4%	1.00%	1.00%
	Gogrial West	84.2%	10.5%	5.30%	0.00%
	Magwi	91.0%	6.80%	2.30%	0.00%
	Total	87.6%	9.70%	2.40%	0.30%
Total	Aweil North	83.7%	12.9%	2.50%	0.80%
	Gogrial West	78.1%	18.8%	3.10%	0.00%
	Magwi	89.7%	8.70%	1.30%	0.30%
	Total (County)	83.7%	13.6%	2.30%	0.40%

In Aweil North County, the Inspector of Agriculture in Aweil County during a KII revealed that the project trained the farmers on modern farming practices, and provided them with seeds and tools to facilitate their farming activities. The training of farmers on how to produce their food is an indication and/or an aspect of resilience among the targeted households and community at large. The project has therefore met the priorities needs of the target population in relation to food security, nutrition and resilience. However, the inspector said that, last year farmers had poor crop yields due to the floods.

Similarly, KII with a Youth Leader in Aweil North County indicated that the project provided trainings and agriculture inputs to the beneficiaries such as seeds and tools of different types to facilitate their farming activities geared towards food production and generation of household income to meet other dietary needs. The youth leader continued to say, "... households used to eat once but nowadays at least people can afford to eat twice because they have stocked some food in their granaries."

In a FGD with mixed group of male and female farmers in Magwi County, they mentioned that they received training on climate smart agricultural technologies and that they have adopted and are practicing modern farming technologies such as row planting, crop rotation, the cultivation of specific seeds as well as the cultivation of mixed crops. Again, during FGD with the Cash distribution Committee/ Project Management Committee in Magwi County, a young lady in the group confessed that, "...before the project, the communities were involved in heavy drinking of alcohol, but when the project was established, many people became beneficiaries, and this made them to neglect alcohol and became active farmers instead."

A young man added that, the distribution of the tools saved them a lot because some of them could not afford tools like wheelbarrow and the plough but because of the project, they were able to have them. When further asked to what extent they benefited from the input, they all said, they benefited to a greater extent, the reason been, some of the tools distributed by the project are still being used by the farmers.

According to a Chief in Gogrial West County, during KII, he noted that the project supported/introduced animal traction in the community; the use of ox-plough in farming boosted cultivation rate and productivity in the County/Payams. These inputs (tools & seeds) changed the way of cultivation in the community, the Chief added. The vegetables production and the training of farmers to grow and eat vegetables have improved the nutrition status of the communities. He also noted that the farmers were trained on vegetable production and also received vegetable seeds which has boosted the nutrition and diet of the community members", the Chief emphasized that the distributed ox-plough have been exceptional and instrumental to improve the farming methods and acreage of the land under cultivation in comparison to the local tools were not so effective.

4.7.3: Hunger gaps reduced through conditional cash transfers for work/assets

When asked to what extent did the cash assistance enabled them to meet their food and nutrition security needs, 77.6% of total respondents (80.0% females and 68.8% males) mentioned that the cash assistance enabled them a great deal to meet their food and nutrition security with the highest score in Gogrial West at 86.9% compared to Magwi and Aweil North. In terms of gender, more females at 80.0% than males mentioned that the cash assistance actually enabled them a great deal to meet their food and nutrition security.

Table 37: The extent to which the cash assistance enabled household to meet food and nutrition security needs

Gender	County	Response			
		Did not enable at all	Enabled a great deal	Enabled somewhat	Don't know
Female	Aweil North	9.20%	74.5%	14.4%	2.00%
	Gogrial West	1.10%	86.7%	11.9%	0.40%
	Magwi	20.3%	64.1%	15.6%	0.00%
	Total	6.10%	80.0%	13.1%	0.80%
Male	Aweil North	12.2%	67.3%	18.4%	2.00%
	Gogrial West	4.80%	88.1%	4.80%	2.40%
	Magwi	23.4%	53.2%	21.3%	2.10%

	Total	13.8%	68.8%	15.2%	2.20%
Total	Aweil North	9.90%	72.8%	15.3%	2.00%
	Gogrial West	1.60%	86.9%	10.9%	0.60%
	Magwi	21.6%	59.5%	18.0%	0.90%
	Total (County)	7.70%	77.6%	13.6%	1.10%

The participants during a FGD in Gogrial West indicated that they benefited greatly from the project on the food and nutrition security and the assets creation. One female respondent said:

"... I am happy with this project because I gained some skills in agriculture which I'm using to grow food for my household so that I can have enough food and money also community access roads have changed the way of life in the community. People have access to farms and transportation of farm produce has become easy. The cash helped the beneficiaries to send their children to the schools because they pay fees with the cash received from the project. So, this project has helped people a lot and had transformed the lives of people in the community."

According to a Chief in Gogrial West County, during KII, the cash given to the beneficiaries helped them a lot. For example, Twenty Thousand (20,000 SSP) paid after three (3) months had impact in lives of people in the community. "This money comes after every three months and we are working in our farms. This money was enough and has encouraged people to grow more food for their households.

In a FGD with Boma Project Management Committees in Gogrial West County, one respondent said: "... the beneficiaries now have improved access to food which is directly attributed to Building Resilience through Asset Creation and Enhancement phase II (BRACE II) project. The improvement in food accessibility was strongly linked to the inputs (seeds and tools) and cash distributed to the beneficiaries. "There were no ox ploughs in the community before, now people have ox plough and using them to cultivate big gardens making them to harvest more."

A women leader in Aweil North County during a KII said that the project contributed to improvement of food and nutrition among the households. For instance, she said that women vegetables farmers group at Abiacok at Malual center have cultivated enough food for their households and also got some income from the vegetables they have sold which is the result of the project, hence, the project has contributed to food security and resilience among the households in Aweil North County.

FGD with the mix farmers group in Aweil North County revealed that the cash assistance provided for assets enabled them to access food for the household and to do farming activities otherwise it would have

been difficult to farm due to severe food insecurity in the area. Similarly, she stressed that the project met the priority needs of the community through the provision of cash for assets simply because before the project households had no food in their houses and could not managed to work in the farms. However, the distribution of the cash grants to the beneficiaries, enable them to buy enough food and continued to work in the farm.

In addition KII with a Youth Leader in Aweil North County indicated that the project met the priority needs of the community in terms of food and nutrition. He continued that through the cash for food initiative, the beneficiaries bought food and got involved in cultivation in order to improve food security among households. In addition, he mentioned that some households are now trading in food produce which is an indication that they have food stuff in their houses and now selling the surplus for household income to meet other dietary needs.

In a FGD with the Cash Distribution Committee/ Project Management Committee in Magwi County, one particular older man mentioned that the cash distribution helped them a lot because some of them never had money to clear their farmlands. Another elderly woman added that, the cash reduced for them the burden of paying school fees since part of the money were used for paying school fees. In a KII with a male community leader in Magwi County, he admitted that cash was distributed to the beneficiaries, some of them used it in a proper way, for example, those who used to cultivate 2 Feddans were able to cultivate up to 5 Feddans through the cash support given to them by the project.

4.7.4: Communities benefitted from the project asset creation intervention

During FGD with female only farmers group in Aweil North County a respondent remarked that "... before the construction of the feeder road, we faced big challenge of accessing medical services but now things have improved and we are thankful to WVI/SAADO for extending the project to our Boma."

Similarly, in a FGD with the male farmers group in Aweil North County one of the participants stated that the community has indeed benefited from the feeder road because traders of food crops from Warrap state use to face difficulties of reaching to our community to buy our produce but now any type of motorist can come here being a lorry, motorbike, car etc. and people can also access the main market in Gokmachar.

A chief in Aweil North County during a KII revealed that the feeder roads are operational and the community members have benefited a lot because they can now access market and other social services easily. The chief had this to say "...before the project, my people could not travel to Gok Machar but

through this vital infrastructure they can travel easily with their food produce to the main market at Gokmachar."

KII with a Chief in Gogrial West County indicated that about two community access roads were opened by communities with the support of this project. The chief said that these community access roads are being used by the members of the communities providing access to services like health and learning facilities in the neighborhood. The children can easily access the schools in the communities. He continued to say that", these access roads are connecting people to service centers (schools, markets, health facilities, farms etc.) and to the main road to Kuajok". He also said that it has become easy to transport produces from farms to the households' storage facilities.

In a key informant interview with the community leader in Magwi County, he said that the community benefited to a great extent from the constructed roads; the roads have greatly eased the movement of *Bodaboda* and vehicles, however, before the project vehicles use to break down as a result of bad roads.

Similarly, during a focus group discussion with mixed group of male and female farmers in Magwi County, the participants said that road enabled the movement of agricultural produce with limited accidents. However, before the rehabilitation of the roads, vehicles (car and motorcycles/*Bodaboda*) used to breakdown and also there was rampant accident hence making transportation of the agricultural produce very difficult. The participants responded that the community asset (road) rehabilitated by the project were still in use even after the 6 months of construction.

4.7.5: Capacity to anticipate, adapt and absorb changes in climate and disruptive events (natural disasters and conflict)

Reduced vulnerability of communities/farmers to climate risks and shocks

The Inspector of Agriculture in the County Department of Agriculture in Aweil North during a KII stated that climate risks and shocks experienced by households in the past 12-24 months included pest and diseases, floods, inadequate extension workers and lack of vegetables seeds among others. He continued that shocks such as crop pests have not yet been properly addressed by the project though some of the farmers have been trained and supported with agriculture inputs such as seeds and farm tools to facilitate their farming activities an indication that some of the risk and shocks have been reduced.

However, in a key informant interview with Acting Director for Agriculture, Environment and Forestry, in the County Department of Agriculture in Magwi he mentioned that in the months of July and August when farmers are planning to harvest their produce, sometimes it rains abruptly, therefore disrupting the

harvest hence they incur losses. He also added that, last year, there was flooding in the Bomas of Agata and Omeyo forcing the communities to relocate to a higher location hence their farms were destroyed by flood waters. Finally he added that, this year (2022) from April till date, there is no sufficient rainfall therefore people can't go for cultivations. When further asked whether there was reduced vulnerability to climatic risk and shock now compared to 12 months ago, he said there was no reduction vulnerability to climatic risk and shock compared to 12 months ago since this year, farmers couldn't cultivate on time as a result of limited rainfalls.

On perception of community members, about 94.9% of respondents mentioned that community relations have improved now compared to before as a result of the WVI project activities and outputs

Table 38: Perceptions of communities on changes in community relations as a result of project activities.

Gender	County	Response		
		Improved	Remained the same	Deteriorated
Female	Aweil North	96.5%	3.50%	0.00%
	Gogrial West	90.4%	9.40%	0.30%
	Magwi	99.5%	0.50%	0.00%
	Total	94.6%	5.30%	0.10%
Male	Aweil North	97.3%	2.70%	0.00%
	Gogrial West	82.5%	17.5%	0.00%
	Magwi	98.9%	1.10%	0.00%
	Total	95.6%	4.40%	0.00%
Total	Aweil North	96.8%	3.20%	0.00%
	Gogrial West	89.3%	10.5%	0.20%
	Magwi	99.2%	0.80%	0.00%
	Total (County)	94.9%	5.10%	0.10%

When asked about the effectiveness of the Community Structure for conflict resolution within the community only 30.9% of total respondents mentioned that the structures were very effective with more female mentioning so compared to male. While 40.7% of total respondents mentioned that the structures are somewhat effective with more males than women saying the structures are effective and there was

no significant variance between the Counties for those who said the structures were either very “effective” or “effective”

Table 39: How effective was the Community Structure for conflict resolution within the community

Gender	County	Response			
		Not effective at all	Somewhat effective	Very effective	Don't know
Female	Aweil North	7.30%	48.8%	29.4%	14.5%
	Gogrial West	15.3%	29.4%	36.9%	18.4%
	Magwi	21.6%	46.5%	25.8%	6.10%
	Total	14.2%	39.8%	31.8%	14.2%
Male	Aweil North	12.5%	50.9%	24.1%	12.5%
	Gogrial West	7.90%	52.4%	30.2%	9.50%
	Magwi	30.3%	35.1%	30.8%	3.80%
	Total	20.8%	43.1%	28.6%	7.50%
Total	Aweil North	8.70%	49.4%	27.9%	14.0%
	Gogrial West	14.3%	32.6%	35.9%	17.2%
	Magwi	25.6%	41.2%	28.1%	5.00%
	Total (County)	16.1%	40.7%	30.9%	12.3%

During KII with a Chief in Gogrial West County he revealed that in the event of violence, members of the community can engage in separation of the parties in active violence. He continued to say that “...we issue warnings, advice or counsel including punishments and fines to the perpetrators of violence in the community and sometimes seek police intervention”. He emphasized that, the local mechanisms put in place to deal with violence in the community have been effective because since they were adopted the behaviors of the people have changed and violence reduced greatly. "Alcohol is known to cause most conflicts and violence in the communities. So, we stopped and banned the consumption of hot drinks by local bylaws which are in full force and being enforced by the community leaders.

A women leader in Aweil North County during a KII said that the community is peaceful and there has not been reported cases of communal violence among the households for the last six months. However,

some cases of domestic violence perpetrated by irresponsible husbands who cannot provide their families with basic needs due to their economic vulnerability is commonly reported.

During a KII with a women leader in Aweil North County, she indicated there were peace committees formed by the Boma administrators to solve and reconcile disputes among households related to water points and domestic violence.

Similarly, a youth leader in Aweil North County said that there are peace committees established within the youth associations to address violence caused by individual youths such as fighting, theft and domestic violence as a result of alcoholism and drug abuse. However, the project has also established complaints feedback desk to monitor the activities of the project beneficiaries.

In a key informant interview with a community leader in Magwi County, he said the community has experienced violence from cattle keepers over the last 6 months. He said for the case of violence within the community, which includes domestic violence (GBV), this can be resolved by the sub chief (Mukungu). However, when there are physical injuries, they always refer to police but, in most cases, they have resolved such cases successfully. For the case of violence in the community, it's always hard to resolve as the perpetrators in most cases carry guns therefore it's only the government that can resolve such violence.

4.7.6 Extent to which complaints were addressed

On whether their complaints were addressed, 69.8% of total respondents mentioned yes, with more females than males saying that their complaints were addressed after raising them. 17.2% mentioned that their complaints were somewhat addressed and lastly 12.8% of total respondents mentioned that their complaints were not addressed after raising them.

Table 40: Extent to which your complaints were addressed

Gender	County	Channels			
		Not addressed	Addressed adequately	Addressed somewhat	Don't know
Female	Aweil North	4.50%	83.2%	12.3%	0.00%
	Gogrial West	4.30%	87.0%	8.70%	0.00%
	Magwi	19.4%	53.4%	27.2%	0.00%
	Total	9.50%	73.7%	16.6%	0.00%
Male	Aweil North	1.30%	84.0%	13.3%	1.30%

	Gogrial West	6.70%	60.0%	33.3%	0.00%
	Magwi	36.1%	44.6%	19.3%	0.00%
	Total	18.5%	63.0%	17.9%	0.60%
Total	Aweil North	3.50%	83.5%	12.6%	0.40%
	Gogrial West	4.90%	80.3%	14.8%	0.00%
	Magwi	26.9%	49.5%	23.7%	0.00%
	Total (County)	12.8%	69.8%	17.2%	0.20%

4.7.7: Extent to which members of household changed their social behaviour about COVID-19 prevention and control

About 91.3% of respondents believe that members of their household changed their social behavior after listening to radio programs about COVID-19 prevention and response. This is true for all the Counties and as well true for male and females.

Table 41: Believe you or/any member of your household changed their social behavior about COVID 19

Gender	County	Response		
		I don't know	No	Yes
Female	Aweil North	0.70%	13.1%	86.2%
	Gogrial West	0.50%	9.10%	90.4%
	Magwi	0.00%	0.50%	99.5%
	Total	0.50%	8.30%	91.2%
Male	Aweil North	0.00%	18.8%	81.2%
	Gogrial West	0.00%	15.9%	84.1%
	Magwi	0.00%	0.00%	100%
	Total	0.00%	8.60%	91.4%
Total	Aweil North	0.50%	14.7%	84.8%
	Gogrial West	0.40%	10.0%	89.5%
	Magwi	0.00%	0.30%	99.7%
	Total (County)	0.30%	8.40%	91.3%

4.8 Sustainability

Sustainability is related to whether the positive outcomes of the action and the flow of benefits are likely to continue after the project funding ends. Sustainability is an essential criterion to measure long term benefits of a project after it has ended.

There is the need for early involvement of key stakeholders in projects especially the government to ensure not only successful implementation of projects but importantly, their ability to ensure achieved results are sustained.

During KII with a chief in Aweil North County he had this to say "...the project taught the households to produce their own food and become self-reliant, creating a symbol of solidarity and cooperation among the households as they farm in groups and work together for the common good of the community in relation to food and nutrition sustainability". In addition, the leadership of the community ensured that the most critically vulnerable are selected to benefit from this project through the cash grants so that they can buy food and also afford treatment when they fall sick".

While the Women leader in Aweil North County during a KII, had this to say "...the implementation of project activities such as the provision of cash grants, training of the farmers and distribution of agriculture inputs have encouraged people to take farming activities seriously". She continued to say that "... farmers now support one another as they share the farming tools and advise each other on how to practice the skills and knowledge gained for improve food production". She continued to say that, "... sometimes with the support of the chief, farmer groups contribute food items to support the elderly and critically sick households in the communities which reflect a good sense of kindness and solidarity."

KII with a youth leader in Aweil North County revealed that the project has also empowered the youths through the cash grants and training on moderate agricultural practices, hence creating cooperation and unity among the young people. In addition, the youths are the ones who do the construction of the feeder roads because the elderly people are physically unable and that is how they help the old people. However, the youths also construct grass thatch houses for the elderly people in the community and those who lost their relatives during the wars in South Sudan.

KII with a project staff revealed that "... as an exit strategy, beneficiaries who have graduated and are in VSLA activities and continue to practice seasonal vegetable gardening are able to continue enhancing project results." He continued to note that, to support the beneficiaries further, the project has supplied

them with some tools such as watering cans and treadle pumps allowing them to continue cultivation all year round as a way of sustainability.”

In addition, the project has taught communities, basic leadership skills, good planning, strategy development and implementation of initiatives and activities that focus directly on resilience, management of natural resources and forecasting to reduce shock. As such, the project staff during a KII had this to say: “...the project has left good capital assets that the community will continue to use for years to facilitate continuous implementation of activities that BRACE II was doing with them if funding ceases.”

5 LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Lessons Learned

In the following sections, we discussed the main lessons that can be drawn from the project experience that may have generic application. We reviewed the best and worst practices in formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the project.

Alternative livelihood remains key if people are to be meaningfully engaged in income generating activities. For example, in Northern Bahr El Ghazal State, it was observed that family members who used to go to Sudan to look for jobs have decided to stay in the community because the project cash transfer they were getting through asset creation motivated them to get engaged on their farms and do other activities. This feeds into the recommendation for the project to diversify livelihood options for more community members towards increasing household incomes as well as ensuring availability of food and other services.

In the context of South Sudan, success of projects or programming depends a lot on how effective a project coordinates its activities with relevant stakeholders. In this case, the good coordination and collaboration between the local community leaders, the local authorities and the project team was instrumental in the successful implementation and monitoring of project activities. As such, any follow up project should map out stakeholders and coordination structures that are relevant for the project and utilize the coordination structures to achieve project results but in a broader way place the project and the WVSS in a strategic position to influence the Triple Nexus arena.

Additionally, qualified and experienced staff often contribute a lot to project success. As seen the recruitment of project staff by implementing partners in terms of timing, qualification and experience contributed to the successful implementation of the project in all of the targeted counties. Additionally, as part of the recommendation is to retain trained and experienced staff longer in the project as with time, they become a knowledge base and are more acquainted with the context within which the project is operating making it easier for the project to achieve results.

Some communities have adopted the asset creation concept and have gone extra mile in ensuring more productive assets are created to mitigate their shocks. In Gogrial West, Maper and Nyokthiank Bomas, the communities never stopped working even after no more cash transfers were done. This reflects project ownership and sustainability as the local leaders have tapped from the CFA Knowledge and skills transfer. However efforts need to be made to strengthen the foundation to sustain these results.

The community based approach adopted during project implementation such as the formation of the Boma Project Management Committees (BPMCs) facilitated project implementation and instilled the spirit of community ownership of the project, this requires continuous capacity building and strengthening of community members especially the Boma Project Management Committees (BPMCs) so they remain functional through the project and even after funding ceases so as to sustain project results.

While the introduction of the animal traction and related trainings led to horizontal expansion of land under crops and the farming practices potentially contributing to high crop production and productivity. Some of the group members in Magwi never used the distributed ox-plough because they couldn't afford to acquire the oxen on the local markets. Meaning that a complete set needed to be distributed

As asset creation intervention involving the construction/rehabilitation of community access roads are a good way to facilitate improved access to markets, farms, schools, health facilities and other basic services for communities. Similarly. Cash for assets have equally motivated the people to actively participate in community assets creation activities like the roads construction and building flood dyke. This will require the project to diversify the component around asset creation and cash for assets to engage communities in other components such as WASH to include maintaining water points, local construction of latrines etc. as all these contribute to improving their livelihood.

Often when VSLAs are introduced for the first time, communities find it difficult to grasp the concept and operate it so well hence losing a lot of savings during the initial stages. In this case the Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA) component was successful beyond expectations. The VSLA's have really contributed towards household income and community social cohesion within the shortest time possible, it also encouraged farmers to avoid laziness and reduced abuse of alcohol. A follow up project should look into how the established VSLAs can be formally registered into formal financial institutions or even graduate into cooperatives.

The aspect of the communities identifying their own vulnerabilities and coming up with solutions that can mitigate that specific problem was a turning point in implementing the Asset Creation intervention. To make this more meaningful, a component on training communities to identify vulnerabilities may be through Disaster Risk Reduction Management approaches and introducing community friendly mapping tools will be an added value.

Provision of groundnuts and/or peanut butter processing machine /facility to add value to the raw groundnuts produced by farmers for improved product shelf life and market value of the processed product was a very profitable technology, meaning that including value addition component in products will help to increase incomes. Additionally given the production of animal products and dairy in Gogrial West and Aweil North, good if the project can explore opportunities for value addition along this product line

5.2 Conclusions and recommendations

5.2.1 Conclusions

In the backdrop of high levels of food insecurity and nutritional need in Gogrial West, Aweil North and Magwi in September 2017 coupled with high levels of vulnerability to climate change related shocks and stresses in Aweil North and Gogrial West the project strengthened food and nutrition security and resilience among food insecure HHs in former states of NBeG, Warrap and Eastern Equatoria in South Sudan.

5.2.2 Recommendations

Project Design

Consider changing the project design by increasing each cohort from two to three years, because it takes time for the benefices to adopt the acquired knowledge and skills for their lives and livelihood practices and strategies

Targeted households to be supported by the project without a break for three years with the last year focusing on business generation and provision of graduation packages and market linkages programs for greater impact

A future project could include agro forestry (fruit tree planting), poultry production, goats and piggery for the vulnerable farmers based on the environment, physical, social and economic context of the targeted County, to allow for diversification

There is the need for more involvement of the State/County Departments of Agriculture and Forestry in any future food security and livelihood interventions because to a certain extent they have some technical capacity to provide training and technical backstopping to project beneficiaries and in one way or the other they remain a great component for sustainability.

Facilitate the formation of common interest groups such as farmer groups for improved access to technical project services, formal loans/credits as well as inputs and outputs markets

Any future food security and livelihoods project should well be advised to mainstream gender in its activities as in most of the target locations there are cases of sexual and gender-based violence such as forced and/or early marriages, rape and domestic violence against girls and women

In any future intervention, ensure that the procurement and distribution of inputs like seeds to farmers both individuals and groups should be done early enough to dovetail with the planting season. This is important because it allows farmers to embark on early land preparations and planting to suit the cropping calendar.

Consider the local procurement of groundnuts and sorghum seeds for distribution to farmers in the communities. The local procurement through seeds fairs will also generate some income to the farmers and encourage the production of local seeds.

There is need to integrate other livelihoods components in food security for the farmer groups to diversify their livelihoods portfolio. These include, fisheries, restocking of livestock, including poultry and bee keeping.

Improved food and nutrition security and resilience

More training for farmer groups and individual farmers on Climate Smart agricultural practices and provision of simple irrigation equipment such as treadle foot pumps as well as training for communities on improved nutrition including maternal, infant and young child nutrition practices

In locations such as Magwi County, the introduction of ox-plough should be accompanied with the provision of oxen since the community is not pastoralist; vulnerable farmers may not be able to afford the purchase prices of the oxen

Provision of more ox-ploughs to farmers so as to reduce the sharing ratio to at least 1:4 households to ensure early and timely land preparation and planting by all households and/or farmers for increased crop production and productivity and enhanced food security

In line with encouraging farming in groups and engaging the beneficiaries in VSLA's, there is the need to support them to engage in farming as a business and to form cooperatives.

Build the capacity of farmers to gradually graduate from subsistence to commercial farming through training on and the provision of improved agricultural technologies, value addition and linking them to input supplies, formal credits and markets for their produce

Construction of storage facilities in the communities to reduce post-harvest losses and preserve the quality of produce/seeds

Train farmer groups and individual farmers on integrated pest management (IPM) and biological diseases control methods.

Support more vulnerable farmers with crops and vegetables seeds, farming tools and implements including treadle foot pump and watering cans.

Although poultry keeping is not regarded as a major livelihood sector in the communities, there is the need to promote small scale poultry production especially for vulnerable women for improved nutrition as well as for the market.

Train more farmer groups in value chains and value additions and provide value addition machinery and equipment (small peanut butter processors/facility), and required material inputs to process and add value to the product for enhanced marketing.

Support vegetable growing farmers in the community, train them on nursery seedbed establishment and management and provide vegetable seeds such as cabbages, onions, eggplants, tomatoes, okra, and watermelon and other nutritious and high value vegetables.

Nutrition and WASH promotion messages to be disseminate and delivered to mothers/women and to husbands/men.

Conditional/unconditional cash transfers and food for work

For future food and nutrition security and livelihood interventions, WVSS should consider Cash Based programming as it has a lot of benefits for both direct indirect beneficiaries and also acts as an additional motivator for beneficiaries.

The Asset based cash programming to be accompanied with un-conditional cash transfers for the most vulnerable members of the community who are not able to work,

Due to high inflation, consider increasing the cash value of unconditional cash grants to an average range of 36,000 - 40,000 South Sudanese Pounds only per beneficiary so as to adequately meet food and other basic needs of the food and nutrition insecure households.

Consider increasing the value of cash for work (cash for assets) from 17,000 to at least 50,000 South Sudanese Pounds per month of work on community assets taking into account the high rates of inflation in the country.

Food for Work delivery modality to be considered for assets creation interventions especially in locations where there are perennial low and deficit agricultural production on account of climatic and human-induced risks

Community assets creation

The construction and/or rehabilitation of additional community feeder roads in areas that were not served by the project for improved access to basic services, inputs and outputs markets

The construction and/or rehabilitation of flood protection dykes to protect dwellings and public structures since some of these areas are prone to floods.

Reduced vulnerability of communities/farmers to climate risks and other shocks

Incorporate community managed disaster risks reduction, planning and response to mitigate and/or prevent and reduce the impact of disasters on community livelihoods in disaster prone areas

Training for the local peace committee on conflict mitigation to ensure that they are effective in dispute resolution process

Build the capacity of Boma Project Management Committees through training in conflict mitigation and provision of means of transport and some cash incentives

The construction and/or rehabilitation of additional community feeder roads in areas that were not served by the project for improved access to basic services, inputs and outputs markets

Establish disaster early warning system and educate communities and create awareness initiatives on the application of Early Warning System and Early Response (EWERs) to provide warnings and information on disaster.

Support communities to establish community managed disaster risk management committees (CMDRC) in the targeted communities

Train the Community Based Disaster Management Committee (CBDMC) to prepare disaster risk reduction plans and initiate community or volunteer activity related to disaster preparedness or prevention, mitigation, response, rehabilitation and coping

Capacity building for the State/County Department of Agriculture

Consider building the physical, institutional and human capacity of the State/County Departments of agriculture through provision of vehicles, office communication equipment (computer, printers and photocopiers, etc.) and refresher training for extension staff to enable them to provide effective outreach services to farmers

Focus on capacity building to Payam or Boma level extension staff to facilitate the monitoring of the beneficiaries at community level for project ownership and sustainability.

6.0 ANNEXES - only on request

Annex 1: Analysed quantitative data



BRACE II_Analysed
data.xlsx

Annex 2: Data collection tools



Data collection tools.zip

Annex 3: Raw Kobo data



Raw
Data_BRACE_II-Evalu

Annex 4: Indicator Tracking Matrix



BRACE II Indicator
Tracking Table_upd

Annex 5: Photos



SAMPLE OF BRACE
II SUCCESS IN PICTU

Annex 6: ToR



ToR_BRACE II End
of Project Evaluatior

Annex 7: Raw Qualitative data



Qualitative data.zip

Annex 8: Inception Report

