



Norwegian People's Aid

Final Project Evaluation Report

**Cash Based Emergency Food Assistance and SGBV
Response in Rumbek East and Rumbek Centre of
Lakes State**

**Final Project Evaluation Conducted by
The Institute of Social Policy and Research (ISPR)**



Institute of Social Policy and Research
RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT

May 2022

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation team would like to thank Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), especially the project management for their professional conduct as well as entrusting us with this assignment. We would like to thank staff from in Rumbek East and Rumbek Centre for the technical and logistical support during the process of designing the endline evaluation, collecting data and report writing phase. Particular acknowledgement is attributed to Media rights Coordinators for facilitating the evaluation team to travel to Rumbek and undertake the evaluation task.

We thank NPA partners and staff for assisting us in conducting the project endline evaluation through helping us mobilize beneficiaries and key informants.

This endline evaluation report is a product of the views and perspectives of various stakeholders interviewed and we also thank the respondents for providing their valuable responses which made this evaluation possible. The results and conclusion presented in this report represent the consultants' analysis of respondents' views and perceptions and not necessarily those of NPA.

ABBREVIATION

| | |
|---------|---|
| FCS | Food Consumption Score |
| FGDs | Focus Group Discussions |
| GBV-IMS | Gender-based Violence – Information Management System |
| IDPs | Internally displaced persons |
| IPC | Integrated Food Security Phase Classification |
| IPV | Intimate Partner Violence |
| ISPR | Institute of Social Policy and Research |
| KII | key informant interview |
| NMFA | Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Norad | Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation |
| NPA | Norwegian People's Aid |
| PSEA | Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse |
| PSS | Psychosocial Support |
| SDC | Swiss Agency for Development and Corporation |
| SGBV | Sexual Gender-Based violence |
| UNMISS | United Nations Mission in South Sudan |
| WAV | Women Aid Vision |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) with funding from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA) implemented project titled Cash based Emergency Food Assistance and SGBV Response in Rumbek East and Rumbek Center Counties of Lakes State. The overall goal was to contribute to the reduction of severe food insecurity and the prevention and mitigation of SGBV risks with a focus on the protection of adolescent girls in South Sudan. The project had two components; the cash assistance which is directly implemented by NPA and Sexual Gender-Based violence (SGBV) component which was implemented by local partners Women Aid Vision (WAV) and Steward Women.

The cash assistance component provided humanitarian assistance to vulnerable households and SGBV survivors especially adolescent HHs were prioritized. Internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and vulnerable host community members were also targeted for the unconditional cash assistance. The cash intervention addressed the immediate food needs of the target HH's and empowered the targeted women thus promoting women's rights and choices, reduced risks, and barriers to women's access to resources and participation and potentially help to start, rebuild, or expand women's means of economic empowerment.

The SGBV component addressed adolescent girls' engagement in quality and age-appropriate Psychosocial Support (PSS) and skills building activities, improved access to information in safe spaces, strengthened their skills to seek healthy economic and livelihood opportunities. The project also increased access of survivors to justice through mobile courts, legal aid clinics and pro-bono legal services, so that they can safely transition to adulthood. In implementing the project and to ensure the achievement of results, NPA worked with two local partners, local government and communities including women and young girls.

Having successfully implemented the project; NPA sought the services of Institute of Social Policy and Research to conduct a project endline evaluation. The purpose of this endline evaluation was to assess the progress made by the project in fulfilling its agreed objectives through the planned activities and to evaluate the relevance of the project to the implementation areas; and to assess the efficiency and effectiveness with which resources have been used to generate results and achieve project objectives. It also aimed at documenting key lessons learned, highlight the key challenges that may have affected the program in achieving results and provide recommendations for improvements for future similar programs.

Methodology

The end-line evaluation design used both quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative data were collected using household questionnaires with project beneficiaries, key informant interview (KII) guides with key informant such as project staff and implementing partner staff as well as girls, caregivers, and women. Further, using interview guides, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with project beneficiaries and caregiver to children and young people.

SUMMARY OF KEY EVALUATION FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a) Relevance

The relevancy of the project is **Highly Satisfactory (HS)**. The evaluator is of the opinion that while the project strategy and activities implemented were relevant in responding to the needs of the beneficiaries. This project in responding to addressing high food insecurity, rampant displacements, high rates of returnees, inadequate livelihood opportunities situation of communities including **SGBV Response in Rumbek East and Rumbek Centre of Lakes State**.

The project was found to be highly relevant in addressing food insecurity among women and girls within the communities while also reduced the cases of sexual and gender-based violence. The Emergency Cash based Food Assistance and SGBV, is highly relevant in this context as it responded to the food security needs of the community and sexual and gender-based violence specifically because the majority of girls and young women live in unsafe environment characterized by sexual and gender-based violence. The project was found to have targeted household members who are extremely food insecure individuals including the IDPs, returnees and host communities. Female-headed households were specially targeted within the locations and SGBV survivor's especially adolescent headed households.

The project had a strong alignment to the theories of change, the project strategies, and underlying activities in the implementation context. The project component of cash-based intervention offered wider choice and flexibility to households in meeting dietary needs and accessing alternative markets for desired commodities. The cash-based transfer was found to be an effective way of responding to humanitarian needs while also adding value by boosting local economies through liquidity injections to the wider communities and markets, promoting further commerce and improved functionality of local vendors while reducing logistical costs and promoting ownership, dignity and resilience within target communities.

b) Effectiveness:

Overall, the project effectiveness has been moderately successful in meeting its immediate objective of providing Cash Based Emergency Food Assistance and SGBV Response in Rumbek East and Rumbek Centre of Lakes State. Key performance of the project is detailed below.

This evaluation established that to a very large extent, the approaches and strategies employed during project implementation were sufficient to foster the achievement of the desired change. Key approaches of provision of emergency food assistance led to improved livelihoods and reduced cases of gender-based violence.

Key findings are:

🚦 **Food availability & access in Markets** 214(88.8%) reported availability of food

markets in their locality and the main markets were Rumbek, Aduel, Cuiechok market, Akot, Pachong, Malengagok, Titchok market, Madol Akoc market and Chueichok market.

- ✚ **Food Consumption Score (FCS):** Acceptable food consumption has significantly increased baseline (5.3 %) to final evaluation (56.5%) calculated based on the past 7-day food consumption recall for the household and classified into three categories: poor consumption (FCS = 1.0 to 28); borderline (FCS = 28.1 to 42); and acceptable consumption (FCS >42.0).
- ✚ **Household Dietary Diversity:** Proportion of household with adequate dietary diversity has increased from a baseline of 135(34.1%) to 148(61.4%) among households at the final evaluation.
- ✚ **Sexual Gender based violence: The level of awareness on the gender-based violence presents no significant change for both** baseline 189(78.4%) and evaluation 187(77.8%).
- ✚ **Prevalence of gender-based violence: The evaluation** shows reduced reporting of GBV case; Baseline 129(32.4%) to final evaluation 48(22.5%). At evaluation, early planned marriages (32%) and domestic violence (18.8%) remain to be the most experienced among women and girls.
- ✚ **Trends and Sexual Gender Based Violence among adolescent girls: Minority** 40(16.6%) of the participants reported increase in security concerns affecting girls and women in the last 12 months. Forced marriage was the most mentioned concern among participants. Prevalence of sexual gender-based violence among adolescent with the last 12 months was reported to be 33(13.7%).
- ✚ **Preferred frequency of cash transfer:** Most participant prefer monthly cash transfer 175(72.6%)
- ✚ **Cost of Minimum Expenditure Food Basket:** The cost of minimum expenditure of food basket was established to be; baseline 231.62 and 243.01 USD and Evaluation 126.59 and 114.37 USD in Rumbek Central and East Respectively.

c) Efficiency:

The efficiency of the project is Moderate (HM). The evaluator is of the opinion that while the project's institutional and financial management was competent. Overall, the project has been efficient in the implementation of project activities using the available resources to achieve the project objectives and outcomes.

NPA exhibited competency in project management and coordination of the project. This was particularly visible from the way NPA monitored and reported on the project in a consistent and competent manner. The quality of the reports reviewed by the evaluator were of sufficient standard and captured accurately the developments in the project. It is evident that NPA's planning has taken into consideration and adapted to changing needs and opportunities. In the aspect of financial management, interviews and observation show that NPA has stable financial administration systems in place and followed through during the implementation of the project. NPA also took measures to protect grant funds by for instance terminating working relationship with one of the partners when alleged incompetence and mismanagement of project funds was

detected. The evaluators however were not able to ascertain the level of funds allocations and utilization.

d) Sustainability:

Findings on sustainability of the project present a mixed perspective. On the emergency food assistance, there is very little chances of sustainability after the end of the project while on the SGBV component, the project activities have built capacity of girls and women to protect themselves from cases of abuse. At community level, the project demonstrated the highest ownership of programme design and implementation as leaders of their respective community networks. The evaluator, based on an analysis of activities done and the views of stakeholders, has concluded that emergency food assistance activities cannot be sustained beyond the life of the project. The approach adopted by the project in life skills training, creation of safe spaces, girls' skills are strengthened to seek healthy economic and livelihood opportunities are likely to be sustainable. The girls and young women displayed signs of having owned their groups through their participation.

Lessons Leant:

Findings of the evaluation have shown that working collaboratively with partner's, government authorities, religious leaders, women leaders, police representatives and other relevant stakeholders to share information about the project and to enhance awareness and facilitate a protective environment for the adolescent girls through GBV risk mitigation and prevention. Two radio talk shows were conducted through a local radio station, Good News FM 89, in Rumbek Centre to raise awareness on GBV and inform the general public about the ongoing activities and services available at the two AGFS in Rumbek East. The radio talk show increased community access to information and participation through call-ins during the talk shows. WAV also shared the hotline for reporting SGBV cases in Rumbek East and as a result, three GBV cases were reported immediately after talk show.

One lesson learnt from the modality of the cash assistance component indicated that, the cash-based programming provided beneficiaries flexibility to purchase things of their choice and preference. Others spent the cash assistant in cultivating to produce food locally while some used the money for paying school fees of their children. Cash based support have provided many adolescents and women to started up small businesses such as tea selling n the two Counties

The project had a clear beneficiary criterion that made beneficiary selection effective and targeted the most vulnerable households.

The engagement of girls and young women in peer-to-peer activities enhanced their ability to own, support and advance girls and women protection initiatives.

Conclusion

The emergency cash-based food assistance and SGBV project was effectively implemented as positive changes were noted among girls and young women. There was increased SGBV knowledge, self-confidence, self-esteem, as well as positive decision making on gender-based violence. The skills were imparted using participatory approaches such as sports and drama.

Recommendations

From the findings of the evaluation, the following are the recommendations;

- ✚ **Expand the Program to accommodate more beneficiaries and also raise the amount distributed:** NPA and its donor should have to increase the number of beneficiaries on cash-based emergency food assistance in Rumbek from 450 to 2000 beneficiaries and also Increase the amount of money given to the beneficiaries from 35,000 SSP to 100,000 SSP in Rumbek. Scaling up of the project to other counties to benefit a wider population. Lake State has 8 counties however the project is being implemented in only two counties of Rumbek Center and Rumbek East.
- ✚ **Collaborate and strategically partner** with World Food Program (WFP) to provide food assistance to the IDP and the most vulnerable women and young girls in the community.
- ✚ **Encourage Market Linkages** through linking individuals and groups trained and engaged in different kinds of small-scale businesses to market outlets. Availability of microfinance institutions is limited in Rumbek, but an assessment should be carried out to identify opportunities. Use of banks for saving by the beneficiaries carrying out businesses may need to be encouraged.
- ✚ **Strengthen the capacity building** component of the project to enhance sustainability of the activities when funding comes to an end. Support the local government, the CSOs and community-based organizations through training, mentorship, and peer learning.
- ✚ **Support SGBV advocacy for access to justice** for survivors by working with courts and women rights organization to raise the voice of the vulnerable girls and young women. customary and local institutions including the courts, are seemingly ill-equipped to deal with complex cases such as GBV that result from the breakdown of traditional community and family structures. In order to achieve the increased access to justice through mobile courts, legal aid clinics and pro-bono services, the project will need to invest in building capacity of the court workers and the court system.
- ✚ **Safe spaces, psychosocial support and skills building:** Through the project, adolescent girls have been able to access safe places and psychosocial support. This should be expanded to the Payams supporting age specific mentoring groups for girls.
- ✚ NPA doesn't have GBV focal staff in Rumbek to support WAV in the implementation of the SGBV project. or future project, NPA need to have GBV staff on the ground in Rumbek to work closely with the partners through technical guidance and support.

I.0 CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

I.1 Introduction

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) with funding from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) implemented project titled; *Cash based Emergency Food Assistance and SGBV Response in Rumbek East and Rumbek Center Counties of Lakes State*. The overall goal was to contribute to the reduction of severe food insecurity and the prevention and mitigation of SGBV risks with a focus on the protection of adolescent girls in South Sudan. The project had two components; the cash assistance which is directly implemented by NPA and Sexual Gender-Based violence (SGBV) component which was implemented by local partners Women Aid Vision (WAV) and Steward Women. The project started in Oct 2020 to April 30, 2022. The initial project was for 12 months but a 6-month cost extension was made bring the project period to 18 months.

I.2 South Sudan Context

Several years after independence, South Sudan's communities continue to grapple with ongoing violence and human rights abuses leading to the need for humanitarian support. Momentum behind the 2018 revitalized peace agreement has slowed and key provisions remain unimplemented. Renewed inter-communal violence, often with ethnic undertones, continues due to unaddressed grievances and manipulation by politicians from the government and opposition. People in South Sudan continue to face the multiple compounding shocks of continued food insecurity, macroeconomic shocks, three consecutive years of flooding, disease outbreaks, increased sub-national violence, and threats and attacks on humanitarian workers and assets, resulting in an overall protection crisis.

South Sudan is facing its highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition since the country declared independence ten years ago. The Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) report released in February to March 2022 projected an estimated 6.83 million people (55.3% of the population) are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, of which 2.37 million people are facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity. An estimated 55,000 people are classified in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). The literature reviewed indicates that, the most food insecure states between February and March 2022 where more than 50% of most South Sudanese populations are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity are Jonglei (72.4%), Unity (67.6%), Warrap (62.9%), Northern Bahr El Ghazal (56.8%), Upper Nile (54.2%) and Lakes (52.0%).¹

It was reported that in the lean season projection period of April to July 2022, an estimated 7.74 million people (62.7% of the population) will likely face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, with 87,000 people likely to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). During this period, an

¹ 2022 IPC data <https://fscluster.org/south-sudan-rep/document/south-sudan-ipc-findings-period-february>

estimated 2.90 million people are likely to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity. Given the high levels of acute food insecurity in the South Sudan, immediate scale-up of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance is needed to save lives and prevent the total collapse of livelihoods in the affected counties, particularly those with a high share of populations in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Additionally, urgent action is also needed for populations in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to protect their livelihoods and reduce household-level food consumption gaps.²

I.3 Women Situation in South Sudan

Women account for over 60% of the population in South Sudan.³ Years of conflict deprived women of their male dependents and gave rise to the post-war society characterized by abject poverty that undermined the ability for women to actively participate in the development of the new nation. The situation is further exacerbated by continued post-independence inter-ethnic conflicts with many women and children being victims of sexual assaults. Most women in South Sudan are not socially and economically empowered due to existing cultural and customary barriers that prevent them from gainful employment, ownership of property and access to social amenities such as education and right to health.

Other wide discrepancies between men and women reflect on issues of unemployment, and access to credit facilities and resources to build and empower themselves socially and economically. Conflict has put the burden of the role of bread winner on women, resulting in women gradually engaging in businesses previously dominated by men, including cross-border trade with neighboring countries such as Uganda and Sudan. Disputes on marriage, property, and inheritance are often judged according to customary laws at the expense of women's rights. Child marriages coupled with lack of medical personnel and facilities cause high maternal mortality in South Sudan women and children are often a targeted for sexual assaults and abduction during cattle raids and other armed conflicts.

I.4 Women and Sexual and Gender Based Violence

According to the 2018 United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) survey on gender-based violence, from an estimated 1.3 million displaced women and girls in South Sudan, about 70% had experienced some form of sexual violence or physical assault. According to the Gender-based Violence – Information Management System (GBV-IMS) 98% of reported GBV incidents affected women and girls. The full magnitude of the problem remains under-reported; however, studies indicate that some 65% of women and girls have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in

²2022 IPC data <https://fscluster.org/south-sudan-rep/document/south-sudan-ipc-findings-period-february>

³ UN women -Building livelihoods and changing lives in South Sudan <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2019/07/building-lives-in-south-sudan#:~:text=Even%20though%20women%20account%20for,norms%20undermine%20their%20economic%20empowerment.>

their lifetime, and some 51% have suffered intimate partner violence (IPV). 33% of women have experienced sexual violence from a non-partner, primarily during attacks or raids. And arguably most shocking is that most girls and women experience sexual violence for the first time under the age of 18.⁴

The social status of women is largely shaped by the impact of the 22-year civil war and entrenchment of customary laws. Practices such as child marriage or arranged marriages lead to many girls dropping out of school. While women and girls have common experiences in terms of violence and abuse driven by poverty, conflict, and displacement, resulting in 65% of females in South Sudan having experienced some form of physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetimes, adolescent girls are often disproportionately affected when it comes to sexual violence which is often used as a weapon in both war and intercommunal disputes.

1.5 Project Background

The cash assistance component provides humanitarian assistance to vulnerable households (HHs) (minimum of 55% of the total target being female headed (HHs) and SGBV survivors especially adolescent HHs are prioritised. Internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and vulnerable host community members are also targeted for the unconditional cash assistance. The cash intervention was to address the immediate food needs of the target HH's and empower the targeted women thus promoting women's rights and choices, reduce risks and barriers to women's access to resources and participation and potentially help to start, rebuild, or expand women's means of economic empowerment.

The SGBV component addresses adolescent girls' engagement in quality and age-appropriate Psychosocial Support (PSS) and skills building activities, improve access to information in safe spaces, strengthen their skills to seek healthy economic and livelihood opportunities. Additionally, adolescent girls who are survivors of SGBV will benefit from increased access to justice through mobile courts, legal aid clinics and pro-bono legal services, so that they can safely transition to adulthood. NPA works with WAV to raise awareness and understanding amongst community members to facilitate an enabling and protective environment for adolescent girls while strengthening the civil society partners' Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) governance instruments and systems.

Outcome 1: Increased access to emergency food security through unconditional multipurpose cash payments to existing IDPs, returnees and host communities. This outcome looked at increased access to emergency food security through unconditional multipurpose cash payments to existing IDPs, returnees and host communities. This Outcome was directly implemented by NPA in the two counties of Rumbek

Outcome 2: Targeted adolescent girls are engaged in quality and age-appropriate psychosocial support (PSS) and skills building activities and have access to safe spaces.

⁴ South Sudan: 'hellish existence' for women and girls, new UN report reveals
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1114312>: UNMISS- 21 March 2022

Outcome 3: Adolescent girls who are survivors of SGBV, have increased access to justice through mobile courts, legal aid clinics and pro-bono services.

Outcome 4: Enhanced awareness and understanding amongst community members to facilitate a protective environment through GBV risk mitigation and prevention.

I.6 Purpose of the End-line Evaluation

The overall objective of the end line evaluation was to assess the progress made by the project in fulfilling its agreed objectives through the planned activities and to evaluate the relevance of the project to the implementation areas; and to assess the efficiency and effectiveness with which resources have been used to generate results and achieve project objectives.

I.7 Specific Objectives

- To assess the extent to which the project outputs have been achieved considering the indicators given in the project document.
- To evaluate the level of contribution of the outputs towards the achievement of the expected project objectives, goal, and impact.
- To assess the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of interventions as well as, the sustainability of the results, and the degree of satisfaction of the beneficiaries.
- To evaluate the appropriateness of the strategies and approaches used for implementing the project.
- To identify major external factors that influenced or impacted on the implementation of the project and evaluate their implication on future interventions.
- To highlight lessons learned from the project and make recommendations for future strategies.

I.8 Evaluation Criteria and Key Questions

This end term evaluation will focus on responding to the questions and these are;

Table 1: Evaluation Criteria and Key Questions

| Relevance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent was the project strategy and activities implemented relevant in responding to the needs of IDPs, returnees and host communities in the two project locations?• To what extent were project beneficiaries actively involved in the implementation, management, and monitoring of the project?• To what extent do beneficiaries (direct and indirect) feel a sense of 'ownership' of the project? |
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| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Effectiveness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent did the project meet its intended objective? • How appropriate was the project design to reach the intended results? • How well is the project positioned to meet its objectives? • To what extent is the implementation strategies appropriate? What could be improved? |
| Efficiency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent was partnerships/linkages between institutions/ Women led organizations encouraged and supported? • How efficient are partnership arrangements for cash-based Emergency Food Assistance and SGBV Response in Rumbek East and Rumbek North Counties of Lakes State? • Did the project efficiently utilize local capacity in implementation? • What lessons can be drawn regarding efficiency for similar projects in the future? • How could the project have more efficiently carried out implementation (in terms of management structures and procedures, partnerships arrangements etc.)? • What changes could have been made (if any) to the project in order to improve its efficiency? |
| Participation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent were project beneficiaries actively involved in the implementation, management, and monitoring of the project • To what extent do beneficiaries feel a sense of 'ownership' of the project |
| Impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the project cause impact on wider scope of development goal on the targeted beneficiaries? • What was the project's impact on indirect beneficiaries, the local community in general, local structures, CSOs and local authorities? • To what extent did IDPs, returnees and host communities experience the impact of the project differently? • What were the unintended consequences (positive and negative) resulting from the project? • What were the internal and external factors which contributed to the changes achieved through the project? |
| Sustainability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is likeliness that the results and benefits of this project will continue after the end of donor funding outcomes within the communities? • How are the achieved results, especially the positive changes generated by the project going to be sustained after this project ends? • To what degree has the project built on existing local capacities and coping mechanisms? |

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Approach and Methods

In this evaluation, participatory approach using both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection were utilized. The evaluation embraced longitudinal approach whereby the key respondents were identified based on having participated or benefited from the project interventions. The overall final evaluation approach will be based on mixed methodology where both qualitative and quantitative data will be gathered using descriptive cross-sectional survey. Throughout all phases of the evaluation, human rights, and gender-responsive approaches were applied in the design of the evaluation. The evaluation exercise was carried out in conformity with the ethical principles, standards, and practices of any study

The team used non-probabilistic purposive sampling to identify respondents at a position to provide qualitative information on an improved food security, GBV and Cash transfer.

The survey covered eight (8) Payams of Rumbek East such as Aduel, Akot, Atiaba, Cueicok, Malek-agok, Pacong, Mathiang kok and Paloch Payams were NPA Project Operated. In Rumbek Center the survey and data collection concentrated in 4 Payams namely, Matangai Payam, Jiir Payam, Malek Payam and Mayom Payam.

The evaluation also used both secondary and primary sources of data. Secondary data was collected through detailed document review from approved project documents such as annual reports, project proposal and Logframe, theory of change and the baseline report. Primary data was gathered through Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with children, caregivers, community groups and Key Informants Interviews (KIs).

2.2 Project evaluation techniques

The primary and secondary data collection comprised HH survey, focused group discussions, in-depth interviews, visits and observations and market assessment.

a. Systematic desk-based review:

This evaluation employed systematic desk review throughout the evaluation process to collect high quality data sets on the project design, indicator targets and benchmarks. Thus, electronic, and physical databases, project documents and partners and organisations reports were identified and reviewed: project logical frameworks, Theory of Change, results framework as well as regular follow up monitoring reports. See table below for details:

Table 2:Project Logical framework

| Work Plan | NPA Project Log frame | NPA project Proposal |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| NPA Baseline Survey Final Report | <i>NPA Reports (annual)</i> | <i>Risk Analysis</i> |
| Previous assessment tools used | <i>Partners reports</i> | <i>Others reports and documents</i> |
| Post distribution monitoring (PDM) Reports | | |

b. Questionnaire Interviews:

Household questionnaires were administered by the research assistants who underwent three days training followed by a pre-test. The HH questionnaire formed one of the main methods in this evaluation. A total of 241 HH interviews were conducted with beneficiary households (121 from Rumbek Center and 120 from Rumbek East).⁵ The interviews focused on project relevance, effectiveness, sustainability, and impact in relation to program objectives. These also helped in establishing the post project knowledge, attitudes and practices, project strengths and challenges as well as social, structural, and economic factors that enabled and/or constrained the achievement of project results.

c. Focus Group Discussions (FGD):

A total of eight (8) FGDs were conducted to capture individual and group experiences on the project. The FGDs targeted Adolescent Girls (GBV Response), Care Givers, out of school Adolescent girls with all business supported and Adolescent Boys (GBV Response). FGDs were also used to assess the extent to which the outcomes of the project were achieved relative to the project design and outputs.

d. Key Informant Interviews (KIs):

30 Key informants in both counties including traders, -NPA partner staff, Mobile Courts representatives, Legal Aid Clinics representatives, Community Based Beneficiaries Selected Community leaders, Adolescent Girls' Friendly Centres/spaces Staff, Local Government Officials, Youth Leaders, Host Community leaders, NPA Field Project Staff. These included assessing project success, intervention approaches, partnerships, barriers, and efforts in delivering Emergency Food Assistance and SGBV project.

e. Market Assessment:

⁵ Determined using the Kish (1965) formula $(3.841 \times 450 \times 5.9 / 100)$ based on the beneficiaries HHs of 900 from Rumbek Center and East Counties.

The conducted market assessment to establish prices of basic commodities from the traders. The team visited and collected data from Aduel Market in Rumbek East and Tugamaret Market in Rumbek Central.

Summary of data collection

Table 3: Data Collection summary

| Project Location | HH Quantitative Survey | FGDs | KIIs | Market Assessment |
|------------------|------------------------------|------|------|----------------------|
| Rumbek Center | 121 | 4 | 15 | 5 |
| Rumbek East | 120 | 4 | 15 | 5 |

2.3 Analysis and data management

Quantitative analysis and presentation: Quantitative data were entered and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Data were scrutinized for erroneous and missing values that could have been entered during entry by counterchecking with the questionnaires. The analysis strategy in this evaluation was designed to establish the impact of the project on beneficiaries in the sampled project sites. This evaluation took a comparative approach, and the statistical outputs were compared and triangulated with the qualitative project evaluation data. Both inferential and descriptive statistics were used to describe the project beneficiaries' profiles and project impact. To evaluate program impact, selection of indicators addressing project component were selected and re-analyzed. These included: Food consumption scores, household diversity scores, coping mechanisms, hunger scores, food basket Analysis, the economic contribution of cash empowerment as a results of cash transfer target women at risk and the impact of SGBV awareness raising to case reporting.

Qualitative analysis and presentation: Interviews were recorded digitally and later transcribed verbatim. Data analysis followed thematic analysis which was a method for identifying, analysing, and reporting patterns (themes) within data. This method minimally organizes and describes data set in (rich) detail and goes further to interpret various aspects of the research topic. Finally, the themes were cross-checked with the interview transcripts in order to ensure that they apply to relevant responses found within and across the interviews. The focus was placed on identifying, summarising, and retaining the patterns and similarities, differences, and new emerging themes.

2.4 Ethical Considerations

To uphold ethics standard, all research assistants were trained in data collection, research ethics as well as on safeguarding and human rights. An information sheet was developed which contained the objectives of study and benefits of participating in the study which were given or read out to

the study participants before they were requested to sign the consent form or requested to assent or accepted to participate. The study objectives were clearly explained to the identified and selected study participants (Households, parents, and partners). The participants were informed that they were free to withdraw from the study at any point. Further, participants were also assured that none of their personal details or other identifiers would be included during the analysis and subsequent presentation of the findings. By withholding respondents' personal details, it is not possible for readers to attribute views or statements to specific individuals. During data collection, informed consent was sought from all eligible participants before they participated in the study. For participants younger than 18 years, parental and guardians' consent were sought, followed by assent which were ongoing throughout the interview.

2.5 Limitations of the evaluation

The consultant's experiences challenges in accessing data while carrying out the assignment. Collecting data from some of the stakeholders was difficult, delayed or not possible at all. The consultant could not collect data from the court users. The evaluation faced time limitation as it was conducted within a very short period. Effective collaboration and prior arrangement helped to manage this challenge. Further, the distances between project sites were long and the urgency to complete data collection was tight. This tight timeline affected effective mobilization of respondents according to targets. To mitigate this challenge, the team was split into two groups to make sure all the sampled households were covered within the limited time. More so, the team conducted revisits to ensure that the targets were achieved.

3.0 EVALUATION FINDINGS

This section of the report presents the findings of the final evaluation study in a systematic manner following the DAC criteria mentioned earlier in this report. It has five sub-sections addressing the components of project effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, sustainability, and impact.

The finding is a triangulation of data collected from the HH questionnaire, key informant interviews market survey and the Focus Group Discussions. A total of 241 beneficiaries randomly sampled from 12 Payams of Rumbek Center and East as indicated above.

3.1 Socio -Demographic information

The survey achieved the targeted sample size of 241 beneficiaries: female 191(79.2%) and male 50(20.7%). Table 3.1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of survey participants. High proportion of participants were aged between 30-39 years 74(30.7%), married 211(87.5%), unemployed 158 (65.6%), crop farmers 161(66.8%). High proportion have achieved other options of education 200 (83.0%). Regarding ability to communicate, only 40(16%) are able to read and amongst which 30(12.4%) can read in English.

Table 4: Socio-Demographic Information

| Variable | Category | Frequency | Proportion (%) |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Age | 16-19 | 7 | 2.9 |
| | 20-29 | 65 | 27 |
| | 30-39 | 74 | 30.7 |
| | 40-49 | 48 | 19.9 |
| | 50-59 | 32 | 13.3 |
| | 60 years and above | 15 | 6.2 |
| Sex | Female | 191 | 79.2 |
| | Male | 50 | 20.7 |
| Marital status | Divorced | 2 | 0.8 |
| | Married | 211 | 87.5 |
| | Separated | 1 | 0.4 |
| | Single | 5 | 2.1 |
| | Widowed | 22 | 9.1 |
| | above 1000 pounds | 1 | 0.4 |
| Highest Education Level | Certificate yr 1 | 1 | 0.4 |
| | Certificate yr 2 | 1 | 0.4 |
| | Class 1 | 1 | 0.4 |
| | Class 2 | 5 | 2.1 |
| | Class 8 | 14 | 5.8 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----|------|
| | Diploma | 1 | 0.4 |
| | Diploma completed | 3 | 1.2 |
| | Form 1 | 1 | 0.4 |
| | Form 2 | 1 | 0.4 |
| | Form 3 | 2 | 0.8 |
| | Form 4 | 6 | 2.5 |
| | Form 5 | 1 | 0.4 |
| | Others | 200 | 83 |
| | University yr 1-2 | 1 | 0.4 |
| | University yr 3-6 | 2 | 0.8 |
| | | | |
| Employment | Employed | 17 | 7 |
| | Self-employed | 66 | 27.4 |
| | Unemployed | 158 | 65.6 |
| | Total | 241 | 100 |
| Main occupation | Crop farmer | 161 | 66.8 |
| | Domestic help | 2 | 0.8 |
| | Farmer | 22 | 9.1 |
| | Housewife | 25 | 10.4 |
| | Livestock herding/farmer | 9 | 3.7 |
| | monthly | 1 | 0.4 |
| | Other farm activities | 1 | 0.4 |
| | Other specify | 3 | 1.2 |
| | Petty trade/shop keeper | 4 | 1.7 |
| | Retiree | 1 | 0.4 |
| | Salaried labor | 11 | 4.6 |
| | Vegetable vendor | 1 | 0.4 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Able to read | No | 201 | 83.4 |
| | Yes | 40 | 16.6 |
| Fluent language | English | 30 | 12.4 |
| | Mother tongues | 7 | 2.9 |
| | other-specify | 4 | 1.6 |
| Main source of income | Crops or Livestock trader | 6 | 2.5 |
| | Farmer | 167 | 69.3 |
| | Formal employment | 9 | 3.7 |
| | Informal employment | 5 | 2.1 |
| | Nothing/ Has no income | 24 | 10 |

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|----|-----|
| | Off farm Business | 11 | 4.6 |
| | Others | 19 | 7.9 |

3.1.2 Family characteristics

High proportion of beneficiaries were established to live with the extended 169(70.1%), Nuclear 34(14.1%) and polygamous 30(12.4%) family set up.

Table 5: Family Characteristics

| Type of family | Frequency | Proportion (%) |
|--|-----------|----------------|
| Extended | 169 | 70.1 |
| Nuclear | 34 | 14.1 |
| Polygamous | 30 | 12.4 |
| De Jure Female-Headed (No Husband) | 5 | 2.1 |
| De Facto Female-Headed (Husband Absent) | 2 | 0.8 |
| Single / Not Yet Married | 1 | 0.4 |

3.1.3 Family composition and size

The average household size is high 11 distributed across the age cohorts as shown in table 3 below.

Table 6: Family Composition and size

| Family composition and size | N | Minimum | Maximum | Mean | Std. Deviation |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---------|---------|------|----------------|
| Household size | 241 | 0 | 30 | 11 | 4.9 |
| Male adult(s) 20+ years | 241 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 1.5 |
| Female adult(s), 20+ years | 241 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 1.2 |
| Boys (5- 9 years) | 241 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 1.2 |
| Girls (5- 9 years) | 241 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1.1 |
| Girls (10-17) | 241 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1.0 |
| Boys (10-17) | 240 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1.0 |
| Boy children (under 5 years) | 241 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1.0 |
| Girl children (under years) | 241 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1.0 |
| Boys 10-19 | 241 | 0 | 20 | 1 | 1.6 |
| Girls 10-19 | 241 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 1.1 |

3.2 Project Relevance

The relevancy of the project is Highly Satisfactory (HS). The evaluator is of the opinion that while the project strategy and activities implemented were relevant in responding to the needs of the beneficiaries. This project in responding to addressing high food insecurity, rampant displacements, high rates of returnees, inadequate livelihood opportunities situation of communities including SGBV Response in Rumbek East and Rumbek Centre of Lakes State.

On the questions, to what extent was the project strategy and activities implemented relevant in responding to the needs of IDPs, returnees and host communities in the two project locations? And to what extent were project beneficiaries actively involved in the implementation, management, and monitoring of the project? And finally, to what extent do beneficiaries (direct and indirect) feel a sense of ‘ownership’ of the project? The following evaluation analysis are provided to response to the above questions.

3.2.1 Relevance to the South Sudan Context

In the current analysis period of February to March 2022, an estimated 6.83 million people (55.3% of the population) are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3)⁶ or worse acute food insecurity caused by conflict, climate shocks, COVID-19, and rising costs of living. The evaluators found that at the design stages of the project, the communities in both Rumbek Center and in Rumbek East reported that hunger was severe with majority consuming just one meal per day as part of a negative coping strategy. From the evaluation, the Emergency Cash based Food Assistance and SGBV, is highly relevant in this context as it responded to the food security needs of the community and sexual and gender-based violence specifically because the majority of girls and young women live in unsafe environment characterized by sexual and gender-based violence. The project complemented and was built on lessons learnt in NPA’s on-going emergency response and rural development projects funded by the NMFA and NORAD and therefore strengthen existing synergies between our life-saving emergency food assistance and early recovery livelihoods activities.

3.2.2 Relevance to the Target Groups

From the evaluation the project beneficiaries of outcome I were household members who are extremely food insecure individuals including the IDPs, returnees and host communities. Female-headed households were specially targeted within the project locations and SGBV survivors especially adolescent headed households were intentionally targeted in this project. The SGBV interventions will target adolescent girls between the ages of 10 and 19 years who either fall into an “at risk” category (including adolescent heads of households or those out of school) or have experienced some form of SGBV previously and can be categorized as “survivors” (and who may

⁶ UNOCHA <https://fscluster.org/south-sudan-rep/overview>

for example be displaying signs of psychosocial distress). In addition, the program targeted parents, caregivers, families, and community members (Host, IPD and returnees)– all of whom play an important role and have an influence – positive and negative – on and in the life of adolescent girls. The evaluators assessed that the project has been relevant to the target groups.

3.2.3 Theory of change alignment to the context

This criterion concerns the extent to which the project's approach to the four outcome areas has been aligned with the needs and priorities of the beneficiaries and, more specifically, the theory underpinning the cash assistance component of this project which was timely and appropriate to improve the food security situation of food insecure populations which, in turn, can strengthen, simultaneously the ability of the target population's resilience to future shocks. Overall, the evaluation finds that the project has been relevant to the general context in terms of the food security and its relationship with SGBV in the community.

Further, the alignment of the theories of change in the project strategies and underlying activities in the context has been evaluated to be very strong. If target populations can meet their immediate food needs, then they will be able to participate and engage in more productive activities thus improving their livelihoods; If there is direct cash injection in the target communities then this will boost the local economies through stimulation of the local markets. The theory behind the SGBV intervention is that if there is transformation of community norms at various levels then there will be safer communities where women and girls do not endure SGBV: If the state has primary responsibility for action on violence against women and girls by implementing laws, policies and services around violence against women and girls then there will change on violence against women and girls; If there is holistic and multi-sectoral approaches for SGBV with other actors over long term time frames then there will be greater impact on, tackling violence against women and girls; If women's rights partners (Steward Women and Women Action Vision) build localized strong and inclusive social movements then there will be sustainable change in the lives of women and girls; and If empowering women is used as both the means and the end focusing on the rights of, and being accountable to, women and girls is then gender inequality which is root cause of violence against women and girls will be tackled.

3.2.3 Relevance to Community needs

The project component of cash-based intervention offered wider choice and flexibility to households in meeting dietary needs and accessing alternative markets for desired commodities. The cash-based transfer was found to be an effective way of responding to humanitarian needs while also adding value by boosting local economies through liquidity injections to the wider communities and markets, promoting further commerce and improved functionality of local vendors while reducing logistical costs and promoting ownership, dignity, and resilience within target communities.

The provision of cash empowered the targeted women thus promoting women's rights and

choices, reduce risks and barriers to women's access to resources and participation and potentially help to start, rebuild, or expand women's means of economic empowerment. The amount of Cash transfer in Rumbek East and Rumbek Center Counties received by 450 (225 Rumbek East and 225 for Rumbek center beneficiaries) each beneficiary received 35,600 SSP per month over a period of 6 months. As reported by one direct beneficiary, the cash transfers of 35,000 SSP gave as an option and flexibility to meet our daily food need, payment of school fees, using the money to pay for medical requirements and use it as capital to start a business.

The beneficiaries were selected from the community based on vulnerability criteria. In addition, Registration of beneficiaries was done through a biometric system and the financial service provider carried out verification of the biometric registration before the cash disbursement. The project to a large extent benefited girls and young women from female headed households, disabled and those who have been internally displaced women and girls. The evacuation has established that the project focused on diversifying and improving beneficiary's food consumption and dietary diversity scores and the adoption of positive coping strategies through targeted cash-based assistance. The beneficiaries appreciated the cash-based support and most testified that they used the money received to hire ox-plough for cultivating gardens, pay school fees for their children and purchase of food stuff.

The evaluation was informed that NPA hired an external agent to perform cash transfers. The NPA choice of hiring Alpa Bank as financial service provider for the cash transfer promoted transparency and trust with the beneficiaries. It also minimized risk of fraud and high expectations from key stake holders at county and community level. Much as there was a challenge in delayed cash disbursement by the financial service provider. This is because of limited number of staff tasked to perform verification of bi-metric registration and cash disbursement to the beneficiaries.

3.2.4 Relevance for SGBV response to community needs

In the evaluators assessment of relevancy, the project component of SGBV has addressed adolescent girls' engagement in quality and age-appropriate Psychosocial Support (PSS). The skills building activities, support for improved access to information in safe spaces, strengthening of adolescent girls' skills to seek healthy economic and livelihood opportunities have all been found relevant. Additionally, adolescent girls who are survivors of SGBV have benefit from increased access to justice. As adolescent girls reported during FGDs and KIs the designed activities such as support for mobile courts, legal aid clinics and pro-bono legal services were all in line with their justice needs.

NPA choice of working with WAV to raise awareness and understanding amongst community members to facilitate an enabling and protective environment for adolescent girls while strengthening the civil society partners' Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) governance instruments and systems has been assessed as reinvent given the fact that WAV is a local organization with deep understanding of local Contextual dynamics and interactions with communities.

3.3. Effectiveness

Overall, the project effectiveness has been moderately successful in meeting its immediate objective of providing Cash Based Emergency Food Assistance and SGBV Response in Rumbek East and Rumbek Centre of Lakes State. Key performance of the project is detailed below.

3.3.1 Outcome and Objective Analysis

The project met its intended objectives based on the outcomes of the four objectives. The project was well designed according to the interest of beneficiaries in Rumbek East and Rumbek Center as it responded to the needs of the IDPs by providing cash of 100 USD equivalent to 35000 SSP which supported them buy food, pay school fees and medical requirements of their children. Through the project, the community has witnessed reduction of raping cases attributed the training of adolescent girls in sexual gender-based violence and the distribution of money to vulnerable households. The assertion of reduction in raping cases was also linked to when the evaluators compared baseline data gender-based violence which was 189(78.4%) and reduced during final evaluation to 187(77.8%). Statistical speaking there is some reduction given the level of awareness of communities on the danger of gender-based violence in the two counties.

It was reported by those interviewed that most of the beneficiaries who received money on cash-based transfer has improved their living standard compared to their previous life in the community because they managed to buy for themselves clothing, foods, started their businesses, because of little income they get they are able to afford mobility to attend and participate in community events thereby individually increase their space in the communities. The level of awareness among the community on SGBV has increased, girls are able to move freely, and cases of early marriages has also reduced as families have resources for basic needs and that fact that they are aware of the impacts of SGBV. **The adolescent girls who were trained exhibited improved self-esteem, courage and skilled in their various trade. The project has led to** increased abilities of community members to engage in issues of food, PSS, SGBV prevention, legal assistance, and economic livelihoods

Outcome 1: Increased access to emergency food security through unconditional multipurpose cash payments to existing IDPs, returnees and host communities.

The project adopted a participatory, vulnerability and rights-based approaches in selecting target beneficiaries through beneficiary targeting committees comprised of men and women from various villages who will be elected by the wider community. The committee were tasked to identify and register the beneficiaries according to NPA's vulnerability criteria for targeting female headed HHs, adolescent headed HHs, GBV survivor headed HHs, elderly and disabled headed HHs. 450 HHs benefited from the unconditional multipurpose cash grants. The project choice of navigating challenges was assessed by the evaluators as effective. As reported the challenge of poor road network especially during rainy season hindered access of other Payams such as Malek and Mayom. But NPA worked with beneficiaries and mobilized them to walk to other centers for

hours to receive their cash. According to most of the beneficiaries interviewed traveling long distance for hours to receive their cash present some protection concerns.

Outcome 2: Targeted adolescent girls are engaged in quality and age-appropriate psychosocial support (PSS) and skills building activities and have access to safe spaces.

Two functional Adolescent Girls' Friendly Centres/Spaces established and reinforced in Pacong and Aduel Payams in Rumbek East County supporting 600 girls and Matangai Payams in Rumbek Centre. The girls engaged in sports, games, arts activities, music and dance sessions, theatre and storytelling supporting the girls to release energy and anxiety through physical play, promote the development of important life-skills such as teamwork and cooperation, negotiation, empathy, and managing anger and stress, and building networks and trusting relationships among the participants. Other activities included life skills training, distribution of dignity kits, and enrolment of girls in literacy classes, peer to peer engagement and referral of SGBV cases.

Outcome 3: Adolescent girls who are survivors of SGBV, have increased access to justice through mobile courts, legal aid clinics and pro-bono services.

Through the project, NPA built the capacity of justice and law enforcement officers including police, lawyers, and judges on the rights of SGBV survivors, survivor-centered interviewing and investigation techniques, gender sensitivity as well as child sensitive procedures as well as advocate for private court hearings, support the establishment of a special desks for women and children at police stations administered by female police officers. The project also supported the high court to initiate mobile courts to reach SGBV survivors through provision of transport services for judicial officers. NPA partners supported survivors in accessing justice through provision of material and practical support, including legal aid, for survivors and follow up on cases within the informal justice sector and address any protection issues that arise.

The project raised awareness and understanding amongst community members to facilitate an enabling and protective environment for adolescent girls while also providing access to justice for SGBV survivors through facilitating mobile courts, legal aid clinics and pro-bono services. NPA supported the civil society partners to develop PSEA policies and practices aimed at ending sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and ensure that allegations of SEA are responded to in a timely and appropriate manner.

Outcome 4: Enhanced awareness and understanding amongst community members to facilitate a protective environment through GBV risk mitigation and prevention.

Through the project 3 male and 4 female community paralegals were identified and trained to conduct household-based legal education, create legal awareness and counselling, undertake community mediation, and sensitize the communities on their legal rights through neighbourhood assemblies and legal aid clinics. The paralegals provided pro-bono services; linkages to security and law enforcement actors; conduct household-based legal education and counselling; and mediation on issues that affect adolescent girls. The paralegals were trained on human rights provisions in the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan; Statutory and International laws against SGBV; competencies and powers of criminal courts; levels of courts in South Sudan; and functions

of existing courts in Lakes States. The paralegals were also trained on the ethics guiding their duties and how to provide services in adherence to GBV guiding principles.

Community engagements with community leaders, government authorities, religious leaders, women leaders, police representatives and other relevant stakeholders to share information about the project and to enhance awareness and facilitate a protective environment for the adolescent girls through GBV risk mitigation and prevention. Two radio talk shows were conducted through a local radio station, Good News 89 FM, in Rumbek Centre to raise awareness on GBV and inform the public about the ongoing activities and services available at the two AGFS in Rumbek East. The radio talk show increased community access to information and participation through call-ins during the talk shows. WAV also shared the hotline for reporting SGBV cases in Rumbek East and as a result, three GBV cases were reported immediately after talk show.

During interviews respondents affirmed that the project has led to reduction of severe food insecurity, prevention, and mitigation of SGBV risks with a focus on the protection of adolescent girls in Rumbek East due to the distribution of cash-based emergency food assistance given to the beneficiaries.

3.3.2 Food security and access

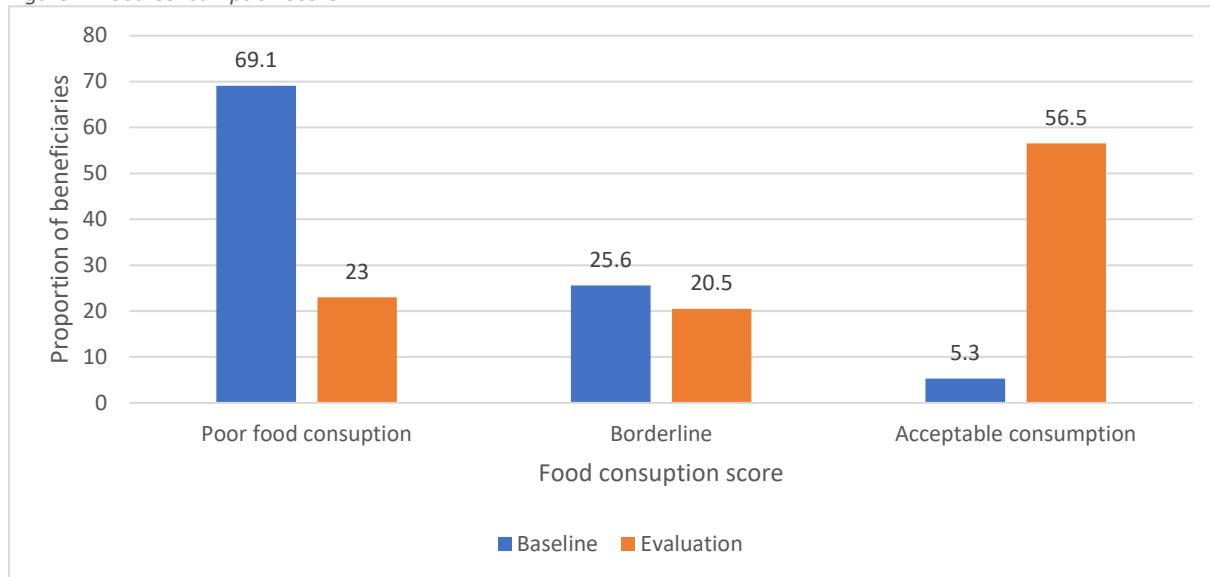
This was assessed by comparing the food consumption score, Household dietary diversity, hunger score and coping strategy index at baseline and evaluation.

a. Food Consumption Score (FSC)

This was measured using 7 days' recall of 9 food groups; 1. Maize, maize porridge, rice, sorghum, millet pasta, bread and other cereals, Cassava, potatoes and sweet potatoes, other tubers, plantains, 2. Beans. Peas, groundnuts, and cashew nuts, 3. Vegetables, leaves, 5. Fruits, 5. Beef, goat, poultry, pork, eggs and fish, 6. Milk yogurt and other dairy, 7. Sugar and sugar products, honey, 8. Oils, fats and butter 9. Spices, tea, coffee, salt, fish powder, small amounts of milk for tea.

The FCS was calculated based on the past 7-day food consumption recall for the household and classified into three categories: poor consumption (FCS = 1.0 to 28); borderline (FCS = 28.1 to 42); and acceptable consumption (FCS = >42.0). Figure 1 Presents comparison of the food consumption score as at baseline and end line. Proportion of household with Poor food consumption has significantly reduced baseline (69.1%) to Evaluation (23%).

Figure 1: Food Consumption Score



b. Household Dietary Diversity

This was measured using 12 food groups. The survey established household dietary diversity mean score of 5. Using a cut-off 5 the proportion of household with inadequate dietary diversity has reduced from 261 (65.9%) and 93 (38.6%) among households.

c. Coping Strategy Index

Table 4 below presents the coping strategy index for baseline and end line household remains to be experiencing high coping strategy index (CSI ≥ 10) both at baseline and evaluation, baseline, and evaluation.

Table 7: Coping Strategy Index

| Survey | N | Minimum | Maximum | Mean | Std. Deviation |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|-------|----------------|
| Baseline | 398 | 2 | 46 | 18.49 | 7.70 |
| Evaluation | 227 | 0 | 42 | 19.20 | 11.08 |

d. Source of Household income

Table 5 shows household source of income. High proportion of participants earn income from grains (25.8%), vegetables and fruits (16.4%), livestock and products (10.4%). Remittance from external source has reduced to (10.4%) among participants.

Table 8: Source of Household income

| Sources of income | Frequency | Percentage |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Sale of cereals (maize, sorghum, millet) | 107 | 25.80% |

| | | |
|--|----|--------|
| Sale of other crops and products (vegetables, groundnuts, tobacco, watermelon etc.) | 68 | 16.40% |
| Sale of livestock and animal products | 44 | 10.60% |
| NGOs/government cash remittances | 43 | 10.40% |
| Sale of Charcoal | 24 | 5.80% |
| Sales of firewood or grass | 21 | 5.10% |
| Salaried work | 19 | 4.60% |
| Other- Specify | 19 | 4.60% |
| Gifts from family/relatives | 14 | 3.40% |
| Domestic Labour | 11 | 2.70% |
| Tea Seller, catering | 9 | 2.20% |
| Motorcycle (Boda boda) business | 9 | 2.20% |
| Remittances | 7 | 1.70% |
| Other petty trade | 6 | 1.40% |
| Agricultural waged labour (casual labor) | 5 | 1.20% |
| Begging/borrowing | 4 | 1.00% |
| Kiosk | 2 | 0.50% |
| Remittances from family members | 2 | 0.50% |
| Sale of food aid | 1 | 0.20% |

e. Contribution from sources of income

Table 6 shows the average contribution per source of income segregated by gender. High contribution of income is established to be from livestock products and remittance.

Table 9: Contribution from sources of Income

| Source of income | Average amount (SSP) | | Total | % Contribution to total income |
|---|----------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------|
| | Female | Male | | |
| Cereals | 3499.2 | 4416.3 | 7915.5 | 4.8 |
| Other crops and products | 5159.5 | 3753.4 | 8912.9 | 5.4 |
| Livestock and animal products | 8311.4 | 22187.6 | 30499.0 | 18.6 |
| Remittances | 6862.9 | 9722.9 | 16585.7 | 10.1 |
| Gifts from family/relatives | 2825.4 | 10300.0 | 13125.4 | 8.0 |
| Sale of food aid | 2000.0 | 3000.0 | 5000.0 | 3.1 |
| Agricultural waged labour (casual labor) | 1644.0 | 3816.0 | 5460.0 | 3.3 |
| Salaried work | 847.4 | 2936.8 | 3784.2 | 2.3 |
| Domestic Labour | 1385.5 | 1869.1 | 3254.5 | 2.0 |
| Tea Seller, catering | 4767.9 | 5000.0 | 9767.9 | 6.0 |
| Motorcycle (Boda boda) business | 0.0 | 1237.3 | 1237.3 | 0.8 |

| | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Sales of firewood or grass | 5690.7 | 7476.5 | 13167.2 | 8.0 |
| Sale of Charcoal | 4791.7 | 3941.7 | 8733.3 | 5.3 |
| Other petty trade | 2008.5 | 3503.7 | 5512.2 | 3.4 |
| Begging/borrowing | 2500.0 | 2750.0 | 5250.0 | 3.2 |
| Remittances from family members | | 3000.0 | 3000.0 | 1.8 |
| NGOs/government cash remittances | 18145.4 | 4400.0 | 22545.4 | 13.8 |
| Total | 70439.2 | 93311.3 | 163750.5 | 100 |

3.3.3 Market Assessment

The market assessment presents the current status of markets availability, accessibility, food availability and source of supply and minimum food basket expenditure.

a. Food market availability and access

High proportion 214(88.8%) of participants reported availability of food markets in their locality. Mentioned markets were mainly Rumbek, Aduel, Cuiechok market, Akot, Pachong, Malengagok, Titchok market, Madol Akoc market and Chueichok market. Road networks to the markets was reported to be universally 237(98.3%) accessible; all weather roads 13(4.3%), dry weather roads 21(8.7%), marram roads 51(21.2%) and village paths 155(64.3%). The average distance to the markets was established to be 4.2Kms with most participants 152(63.1%) reporting to be walking to the market shown in table 7 The main currency of trade is South Sudan Pounds.

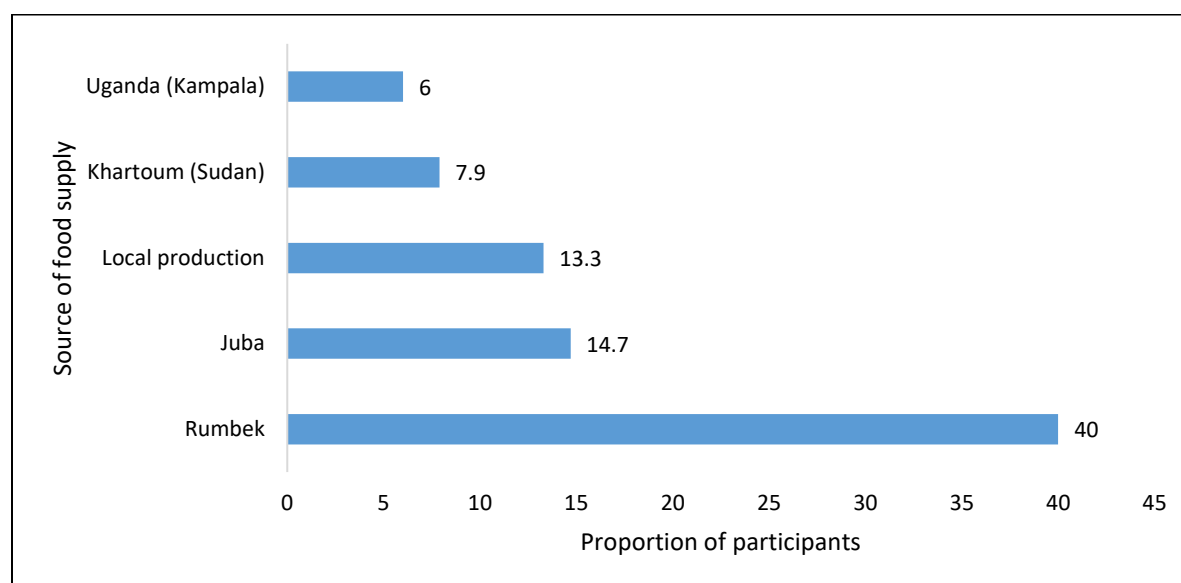
Table 10: Food Market Availability and Access

| Mode of transport to the market | Frequency | Proportion |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Walking (carrying on backs or head) | 152 | 63.1 |
| Motorcycles/ tricycles | 74 | 30.7 |
| Hand Carts (pushed by humans) | 13 | 5.4 |
| Hired trucks/lorries | 1 | 0.4 |
| Pick- ups/small tucks | 1 | 0.4 |

b. Source of food supply

The markets are for both food and non-food 100(41.4%) and food markets only 96(39.8%). Figure 2 the sources of food supply for the markets.

Figure 2 Sources of Food Supply



c. Food types and source markets

Table 8 shows the food traded in the various markets from both local and imported sources according to the participants. Sorghum 189(16.3%) and 229(15.6%), Groundnuts 183(15.8%) and 234(16.0%), fresh vegetables 78(6.7%) and 130(8.9%) are supplied from the local production.

Table 11: Food types and source markets

| Food varieties | Local and imported | | Local food | |
|------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Frequency | Proportion | Frequency | Proportion |
| Sorghum | 189 | 16.30% | 229 | 15.60% |
| Millet | 53 | 4.60% | 110 | 7.50% |
| Cassava | 13 | 1.10% | 9 | 0.60% |
| Groundnut | 183 | 15.80% | 234 | 16.00% |
| Dry Maize | 95 | 8.20% | 38 | 2.60% |
| Wheat | 33 | 2.80% | 10 | 0.70% |
| Honey | 28 | 2.40% | 45 | 3.10% |
| Fresh vegetables | 78 | 6.70% | 130 | 8.90% |
| Watermelon | 3 | 0.30% | 2 | 0.10% |
| Mangoes | 70 | 6.00% | 115 | 7.90% |
| Bananas | 8 | 0.70% | 6 | 0.40% |
| Oranges | 25 | 2.20% | 21 | 1.40% |
| Tomatoes | 34 | 2.90% | 34 | 2.30% |
| Fish | 69 | 6.00% | 97 | 6.60% |
| live cattle | 65 | 5.60% | 81 | 5.50% |
| Goats | 65 | 5.60% | 94 | 6.40% |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|----|-------|----|-------|
| Sheep | 54 | 4.70% | 84 | 5.70% |
| Beans | 39 | 3.40% | 34 | 2.30% |
| Eggs | 17 | 1.50% | 21 | 1.40% |
| Live chicken | 38 | 3.30% | 70 | 4.80% |

d. Challenges of market accessibility

Table 9 shows various challenges to market access by participants. The challenges reported among the participants were mainly high cost of transport (25.5%), long distance (20.6%) and lack of transport (20.1%).

Table 12: Challenges of Market Accessibility

| Challenges of market access | Proportion (%) |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| High transport cost | 25.5 |
| Long distance | 20.6 |
| Lack of transport | 20.1 |
| Others | 9.6 |
| Flooding | 6.5 |
| Insecurity | 5.8 |
| Market Closure | 2.9 |

3.3.4 Sexual Gender based violence

The participants were asked if they were aware of women and girls rights on gender-based violence. Increased proportion of participants are aware of girl's rights on gender-based violence; baseline 189(78.4%) and evaluation 187(77.8%).

a. Common types of gender-based violence

Table 10 shows the common types of gender-based violence experienced by women and girls in the community. Early planned marriages remain to be the most common gender-based violence though slightly reduced from baseline (32.5%) to evaluation (28.1%).

Table 13: Common types of gender-based violence

| Types of violence | Baseline | Evaluation |
|----------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Early Planned Marriages | 32.5 | 28.1 |
| FGM/C | 3.9 | 2.6 |
| Rape/Defilement | 17.1 | 11.8 |
| Sexual Harassment | 12.9 | 12.3 |
| Physical Violence/Assault | 18.2 | 15.5 |

| | | |
|---|------|------|
| Domestic Violence (Wife Beating)⁷ | | 17.6 |
| Child Labor | 15.4 | 12.1 |

b. Prevalence of gender-based violence

Table 11 shows prevalence of sexual gender-based violence amongst households. Comparative analysis shows reduced report of GBV; Baseline 129(32.4%) to Evaluation 48(22.5%). At evaluation, early planned marriages (32%) and domestic violence (18.8%) remain to be the most experienced among women and girls.

Table 14: Prevalence of gender-based violence

| Type sexual violence | Proportion |
|---|-------------------|
| Early Planned Marriages | 32 |
| Domestic Violence (Wife Beating) | 18.8 |
| Physical Violence/Assault | 18 |
| Child Labor | 11.7 |
| Sexual Harassment | 10.9 |
| Defilement | 7.8 |
| FGM/C | 0.8 |

c. Gender based violence Survivors support

Table 12 shows sources of support for sexual gender-based violence Survivors. High proportion of participants reported to have received help from police (30.2%), community leader (27.8%) and family members (20.0%).

Table 15: Gender based violence Survivors support

| Source of support | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Police | 163 | 30.20% |
| Community leader/ elders | 150 | 27.80% |
| Family member | 108 | 20.00% |
| NGO working with women | 46 | 8.50% |
| Rescue center | 28 | 5.20% |
| UN Agency | 19 | 3.50% |
| Any female aid worker | 18 | 3.30% |
| Friend | 7 | 1.30% |

d. Services offered to sexual gender-based violence Survivors

Table 13 shows various support offered to sexual gender-based violence Survivors. Three types of support mainly offered include reporting to police (28.3%), guidance and counselling (23.7%) and arresting of suspect (23.1%).

⁷ The Domestic Violence value was not collected during the baseline assessment

Table 16: Services offered to sexual gender-based violence

| SGBV Services | Frequency | Percent |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Report and taken to police stations | 153 | 28.30% |
| Offered guidance and counselling | 128 | 23.70% |
| Suspects are arrested | 125 | 23.10% |
| Taken to rescue centers | 71 | 13.10% |
| Protected from abuses such as FGM | 24 | 4.40% |
| Survivors' family's education | 24 | 4.40% |
| Taken to school (if are young girls) | 16 | 3.00% |

e. Sexual gender-based violence risk minimization intervention

Table 14 shows the existing community interventions to reduce the risk of sexual gender-based violence among women and girls. High proportion of participants reported education of girls and women (28.0%) as one of the risk reduction interventions implemented at the community level.

Table 17: Sexual gender-based violence risk minimization intervention

| GBV Risk reduction intervention | Frequency | Percent |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Educating girls/women on how to report incidents | 121 | 28.00% |
| Police patrols around the community | 120 | 27.80% |
| Community safety groups | 113 | 26.20% |
| Firewood collection patrols | 55 | 12.70% |
| Increased number of female staff | 23 | 5.30% |

3.4.6 Sexual Gender Based Violence Safety and Security concerns

Table 15 shows potential safety and risk among girls and women. The participants reported violence within the home setting (26.4%) and sexual abuse (26.0%) as the most significant risk facing adult women and girls at the community level.

Table 18: Gender Based Violence Safety and Risk concerns

| Safety and Risk concerns | Frequency | Percent |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Violence in the home | 126 | 26.40% |
| Sexual violence/abuse | 124 | 26.00% |
| Being asked to marry by their families | 84 | 17.60% |
| Risk of attack when traveling outside the community | 66 | 13.80% |
| Unable to access services and resources | 37 | 7.80% |
| No safe place in the community | 27 | 5.70% |
| Trafficking | 13 | 2.70% |

a. Trends and Sexual Gender Based Violence among adolescent girls

Minority 40(16.6%) of the participants reported increase in security concerns affecting girls and women in the last 12 months. Forced marriage was the most mentioned concern among participants. Prevalence of sexual gender-based violence among adolescent with the last 12 months was reported to be 33(13.7%).

b. Perpetuators of sexual gender-based violence among adolescent girls

The SGBV among adolescent was reported by high proportion (36.4%) of participants to have been perpetrated by relatives as shown in table 16. The age of the perpetrator compared to the Survivors varies; much older (35.7%), same age (7.5%), slightly older (48.1%) and younger (8.7%) and only 49(20.3%) of the participants think adolescent feel safe from sexual gender-based violence.

Table 19: Perpetuators of sexual gender-based violence among adolescent girls

| Perpetuators of SGBV | Frequency | Proportion (%) |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Relative | 12 | 36.4 |
| A stranger | 8 | 24.2 |
| Someone they were in love | 7 | 21.2 |
| Someone they know | 5 | 15.2 |
| Someone who paid the or give them a token | 1 | 3.0 |

c. Occurrence of rape or forced sex among children

Occurrence of rape or forced sex among children was reported by only 34(14.1%) of the participants and 30(12.4%) of them know the perpetuates and less than half 106(44.6%) of the Survivors were reported to seek for help with less than half reporting availability of psychosocial support system 110(45.6%) compared to 100(25.0%) at baseline.

d. Psychosocial services

Table 17 shown the available psychological support services as was reported by the participants. Based on evaluation analyzed data, the project support to case management with individual counselling scored (31.90%) this followed by education and mental health referrals which each scored at 16.50 and 16.20 respectively. The project also supported Psycho-social services through drop-in centers which was scored at (15%).

Table 20: Psychosocial services

| Psychosocial services | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| Case management with individual counselling | 83 | 31.90% |
| Education | 43 | 16.50% |
| Mental health referrals | 42 | 16.20% |
| Drop-in Centers | 39 | 15.00% |

| | | |
|---|----|-------|
| Skills building | 23 | 8.80% |
| Income-generating activities/vocational training | 16 | 6.20% |
| Peer Support groups | 14 | 5.40% |

e. Challenges of access to Psychosocial support

The Survivors of sexual gender-based violence experience a number of challenges in accessing psychosocial support as shown in table 18 below. The main challenge to access of psychosocial support is fear of being identified (39.3%) and distance to the facility (27.3%).

Table 21: Challenges of access to psychosocial support

| Challenges of access of SGBVS services | Frequency | Percentage |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Fear of being identified as survivors | 154 | 39.30% |
| Distance to facility | 107 | 27.30% |
| No availability of confidential support | 55 | 14.00% |
| Lack of trained staff | 47 | 12.00% |
| No female staff | 29 | 7.40% |

3.3.4 Cash transfer program

The participants reported to have had an experience with GOK cash transfer 75(31.1%) and GoK transfer 137(56.8%). The type of cash transfers as shown in the table 19 below. The NGO cash transfer program was mentioned to have been implemented by WFP and NPA.

Table 22: Cash Transfer program

| Types of cash transfer | Frequency | Proportion |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Cash transfer (Conditional or unconditional) | 178 | 73.9 |
| Cash-for-work | 48 | 19.9 |
| Vouchers (cash and commodity) | 15 | 6.2 |

Over 1000 South Sudanese Pounds was universally 231(95.9%) suggested to be insufficient for monthly needs. But with the NPA cash transfer support, it was reported that cash transfer has led to flexibility in gender roles with some women who are female beneficiaries acting as bread winners for their families through brining home food for their children and husbands. However, other examples showed women being over-burdened with their conflict endures such as SGBV but even in this context, some men have started valuing their spouses, hence promoting shared interest.

a. Cost of Minimum Expenditure Food Basket

The cost of minimum expenditure of food basket was established to be; baseline 231.62 and 243.01 USD and final evaluation 126.59 and 114.37 USD in Rumbek Central and East Respectively. Recorded food commodities are fresh vegetables, Groundnuts, Honey, Grains, and sorghum. Animal as commodities include goats, sheep, chicken, and cattle. The food commodities considered for the analysis were as provided in Annex 2 blow.

b. Preferred frequency of cash transfer

Table 20 show participant preferred frequency of cash transfer. Most participant prefer monthly cash transfer 175(72.6%) as shown in table.

Table 23: Preferred frequency of cash transfer

| Preferred frequency of transfer | Frequency | Proportion |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Monthly | 175 | 72.6 |
| Weekly | 34 | 14.1 |
| After two months and 3 months | 32 | 13.3 |

c. Disbursement mechanism and available Delivery options

As shown in table 21 the preferred disbursement mechanism for cash transfer is Cash through mobile money, to goods/services 134(55.6%) and available option for high proportion 138(57.3%) of participants is Direct cash in envelope distribution by implementing agency.

Table 24: Preferred Disbursement mechanism

| Preferred Disbursement mechanism | Frequency | Proportion |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Cash through mobile money, to goods/services | 134 | 55.6 |
| To payments made via smart cards (ATM, credit, or debit cards). | 81 | 33.6 |
| Through mobile vouchers, | 26 | 10.8 |
| Available Delivery options | | |
| Direct cash in envelope distribution by implementing agency | 138 | 57.3 |
| Direct cash distributions by third party (e.g. bank or financial institution) | 70 | 29 |
| Mobile money | 32 | 13.3 |
| Bank account payments | 1 | 0.4 |

d. Appropriateness of cash transfer delivery option

High proportion of participants reported the cash transfer delivery option to have been very reliable, transparent, secure, and free from corruption, flexible fair and convenient.

e. Priority target for Cash Transfer

Table 22 show vulnerable household that were considered for cash transfer. High proportion 74(30.7%) of participants said that the elderly headed as a priority for cash transfer followed by extremely poor at 27.4 % and Female headed households

Table 25: Priority groups for Cash Transfer Program

| Perceived priority groups for CTP | Frequency | Proportion |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Elderly-headed | 74 | 30.7 |
| Extreme income poverty | 66 | 27.4 |
| Female-headed | 42 | 17.4 |
| Disabled headed, | 34 | 14.1 |
| Disaster- or conflict-affected or displaced | 12 | 5 |
| Extreme asset poverty, | 7 | 2.9 |
| Child-headed | 4 | 1.7 |
| Member of a marginalized group | 2 | 0.8 |

a. Perceived benefits of cash transfer

Table 25 shows perceived benefits of cash transferred program. High proportion of participants perceive that Cash transfer make beneficiaries feel listened to, can share their problems and solutions 136(18.20%) followed by fewer conflicts reported in the households.

Table 26: Perceived Benefits of Cash Transfer

| Benefits of cash transfer | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| Beneficiaries feel listened to, can share their problems and solutions | 136 | 18.20% |
| Fewer conflicts reported as reducing domestic violence | 120 | 16.00% |
| Women feeling strong, confident, respected, independent, and able to negotiate | 118 | 15.80% |
| Reduction of tension largely attributed to last during the period of CTP | 94 | 12.60% |
| Resilience to gender-based violence (GBV) | 90 | 12.00% |
| Fewer arguments/conflicts reported over money | 71 | 9.50% |
| Skills acquired in dealing with changing dynamics among family members | 65 | 8.70% |
| Expanded social networks and improved social cohesion between host and refugee community at a more individual, micro level | 54 | 7.20% |

b. Risks associated with Cash Transfer

The perceived risk of cash transfer was measured using 5 questions with five as shown in table 25. The outcome was categorized as high risk (very high, high, moderate) and low risk (low and very low). Minority of the participant perceived cash transfer as high-risk program in the context of the statement except that transfer value is always insufficient to meet needs of target group

which is perceived to be high risk by more participants as shown in table 23 That some beneficiaries misused cash transfers on non-essential good (60.9%).

Table 27: Perceived Risk of Cash Transfer

| Perceived risk of cash transfer | Proportion (%) |
|---|----------------|
| That some beneficiaries misuse cash transfers on non-essential good | 60.9 |
| That food assistance poses a security risk for staff and/or beneficiaries during distributions | 51.2 |
| That food assistance will destabilize market prices due to significant increase in demand | 41.9 |
| That transfer value is always insufficient to meet needs of target group | 26.2 |
| That the food assistance will increase tensions between the non-beneficiaries and beneficiaries who receive cash transfer | 40.3 |

3.4 Project Efficiency

The efficiency of the project is Moderate (M). The evaluator is of the opinion that while the project's institutional and financial management was competent. Overall, the project has been efficient in the implementation of project activities using the available resources to achieve the project objectives and outcomes.

3.4.1 Use of Financial and Human Resources

The way NPA has monitored and reported on the project shows consistency and competency. NPA has established a comprehensive set of tools to support the partner level reporting. Reports have been of good quality. It is evident that NPA's planning has taken into consideration and adapted to changing needs and opportunities.

In the aspect of financial management, interviews and observation show that NPA has stable financial administration systems in place. The evaluators however could not establish how funds were allocated and utilized.

The organization conducted audits of the partners' books of accounts regularly and performed financial controls of its implementing partners. Of the two CSOs implementing partners that NPA has worked with during the lifespan of the project, relations with one had to be ended due to challenge in grant mismanagement. It is safe to say that NPA human resources were adequate and equal to the task.

3.4.2 Management of Implementing Partners

It is clear that the capacity of NPA partner (WAV) has been systematically built with the aim of ensuring successful implementation of the project. It has also conducted training aimed at ensuring

better and timely reporting on activities conducted. WAV as NPA partner reported that feedback was given timely on project related concerns, which facilitated resolution of problems before they escalated and also fostered mutual agreements on the way forward.

While the picture looks good, during the evaluation, the team learnt of some dissatisfaction from WAV as partner who felt that certain processes during the life of the project were not handled well. Some of the management issues was that NPA did not work strongly with WAV on updating beneficiaries and providing feedback after beneficiary orientation and Dignity Kits distribution. However, information obtained from NPA was that all SGBV Result 2 activities were sub-granted to WAV therefore NPA had no direct role with beneficiaries.

Another distinct example was the project closeout process including lack of Community Extension Agents supported by NPA in the community has created a big gap mentoring and coaching communities constantly on key farming practice under the cash for work since NPA provided support on life skills activities in the agricultural demonstration gardens.

3.4.3 Partnership and linkages

The project developed partnerships/linkages between institutions/ partners, structures that encouraged and supported the implementation of the project. The project worked closely with the local government, local partners, and the community leadership. Norwegian People Aid (NPA), RRC and public service verified the selected beneficiaries.

3.4.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

The project exhibited well developed monitoring and evaluation systems including clear selection criteria, post distribution monitoring of cash, market traders price monitoring. NPA local partnered closely with the Community Leaders' Committees, GBV Sub-Cluster, the Judiciary and Police for GBVMIS data and reported cases to follow trends in decreases or increases in the incidence, severity and/or risk of harm and violence. The implementation was also based on the Logframe, and a baseline survey was conducted.

3.5 Participation

3.9.1 Gender

In regard to gender, overall, the project was highly gender sensitive and as such it resulted into majority of the beneficiaries (60%) being female. It was gender sensitive at three different levels; involvement of both sexes in project activities, selection of beneficiaries While the project selected the most vulnerable households, by nature of the situation on the ground, majority of the beneficiaries turned out to be females with a comparative advantage in that having a motherly heart puts the women in position to focus on household needs when making decision

In addition, the evaluation made it evident that the aspect of gender was systematically considered

by the project right from its design.

From the assessment, the evaluation team found out that the project beneficiaries were actively involved in the entire project cycle including during beneficiaries' selection, distribution of cash-based emergency food Assistance and all the project activities implementation in the County. The beneficiaries were well informed on the project activities, were aware of the distribution process and part of the sexual and gender-based violence advocacy activities. Most of the respondents felt that they had a sense of ownership and dignified when they received their cash-based emergency food assistance which was in term of money 35000 SSP per beneficiaries,

As indicated by one beneficiary;

*“Among the many organizations working in Rumbek, its only NPA that implements a cash-based program of 35,000 SSP to the selected beneficiaries. This provides options and choices on how to spend the money on food items”
(Project beneficiary)*

Other were involved in the process of participant recruitment for trainings, mobilized and identified beneficiaries and involved in monitoring of the Cash Based Emergency Food Assistance.

Another beneficiary indicated that

“WAV supported girls and young women in acquiring vocational skills in tailoring, liquid soap making, hair dressing among others”

In order to increase participation of women and girls in the planning and implementation of such activities, the respondents feel that women and girls should be involved decision making, needs assessment, project activities such as distribution of money and creation of awareness on SGBV

Most of the respondents believe that there is strong correlation between reduction of severe food insecurity and the prevention and mitigation of SGBV risks with a focus on the protection of adolescent girls in the community. When women and girls are food secure, the rate of SGBV is reduced.

“I was involved during selection and registration of beneficiaries for cash-based emergency food assistance, was a witness during distribution of cash-based emergency food assistance, was in charge of NPA to give out the policies of cash and orientation session for cash to the local authorities and beneficiaries and part of d SGBV prevention and response during the cash assistance to local authorities and beneficiaries” (Community leader)

3.6 Impact

By and large the project has contributed to extremely reducing food insecure individuals including the IDPs, returnees and host communities. Putting considerable focus on female-headed households in the project locations and SGBV survivor's especially adolescent headed households was remarkable given the context in Rumbek East and Rumbek Centre of Lakes State.

In evaluating impact, this evaluation answers the following questions: Does the development intervention contribute to reaching higher level development objectives (preferably, overall objective)? What is the impact or effect of the intervention in proportion to the overall situation of the target group or those effected?

According to most respondents, the cash given to the beneficiaries resulted in positive change because it sougthed the urgent needs of the most vulnerable and also it has contributed to reduction of severe food insecurity, increased the self-worth and dignity of the beneficiaries and this led to prevention and mitigation of SGBV risk in the community.

In addition, the project supported skills development of adolescent girls on hairdressing, education, liquid soaps, tailoring and catering. They were also trained in life skills, peer to peer and SGBV. Based on the evaluation interviews with adolescent girls the skills development support has contributed to structural transformation and economic participation of adolescent girls in the two counties. Furthermore, the skills development support has enhanced their employability and self-employability in their households and communities. The skills development support has improved the adolescent girls labor productivity as they engaged in hairdressing, education, liquid soaps, tailoring and catering.

According to different beneficiaries they used the Cash based Emergency Food Assistance to meet their immediate needs.

- *Cash based emergency food assistance helped me to buy clothes for my children and my wife*
- *This money helped me to buy food items for my household.*
- *Cash Based Emergency Food Assistance helped me to buy Ox-plough to enable expand my farm production*
- *Cash based helped me to pay for treatment when any member of the family falls sick.*
- *Cash based Assistance help me in hiring some men within my community to dig my garden*
- *Many beneficiaries who received cash-based emergency food assistance managed to send their children back to school.*
- *Due to the cash-based emergency food assistance many beneficiaries who received this assistance has started their small retail businesses and roadside*

shops selling teas and other items.

- The project led to the reduction of food insecurity because those who has receive cash bought food and non-food items from the local market*
- My life improved compared to the previous time when there was no Cash based emergency food assistance provided by NPA in Rumbek East*
- Reduced cases of risk associated to walking to the market as beneficiaries could afford to pay fare to the market to purchase food items.*
- From the cash assistance, I was able to start a small business that now supports my family.*
- The project also improved sanitation in my family since am now able to buy for myself soap with the money I received from cash-based emergency food assistance money distributed by NPA in Rumbek East*

NPA and project partners were involved in information sharing and initiatives on issues of reduction of severe food insecurity and the prevention and mitigation of SGBV risks with a focus on the protection of adolescent girls in your community through the local authorities, beneficiaries, and selected project support management committees and through the local radio.

From the survey, IDPs were the greatest beneficiary of the cash-based assistance. And this supported their basic needs such as food, cloths, and treatment. The evaluation finding suggested that the Internal Displace Persons (IDPs) benefited the most from the project activities because there were 125 beneficiaries in the centers identified by NPA in Rumbek East County while the host Community benefited had only 100 beneficiaries that were drawn from different Payams of Rumbek East County. There were no returnees considered during the identification and registrations of beneficiaries in the County.

Most of the respondents interviewed during FGDs said Cash Based Emergency food assistance money distributed to the beneficiaries led to a great positive change since the money solved their immediate needs. Though the project only reached out to the intended beneficiaries, the community were part of SGNBV awareness and the beneficiaries of cash-based assistance brought items within the local market and improved the local money circulation and local economy.

The involvement of young people and men in the project execution has brought some changes given the fact that youth who are trained on gender-based violence are able to proactively responses to SGBV cases.

The project strengthened the ability of beneficiaries as they are now able to buy for themselves basic needs and paying their children in the school, reduced cases of fighting between husband and wives.

As reported, cash-based transfer and SGBV response has contributed to reduction of poverty to the supported beneficiaries while SGBV has reduced due to the introduction of cash-based transfer in the community because some respondents were giving a testimony that no force

marriages and misunderstanding again to some of the families who received cash-based transfer in the two Counties.

The project impacted more women and young girls who were able to buy food, clothes for children and school fee and using the money they set up their businesses on roadside retail trade and sell their tea. Some of the beneficiaries bought for themselves with goats, chicken and sleeping material.

Though the project improved beneficiaries living standard albeit for a short time, reduced the level of household level conflicts attributed to available resource and access to basic needs, and some beneficiaries started business and other bought for themselves goats, chicken and sleeping material. On the other side, due to the limited number of selected beneficiaries, the competition for selection was high and this resulted into conflict and complaints. This was solved by providing clear information of the beneficiaries and the selection criteria.

3.7 Sustainability

From the assessment, the respondents had mixed opinions on the sustainability of the project. The cash-based component will possibly end with the project and the beneficiaries are most likely to go back to their original status except for those who started business, bought livestock, and engaged in farming. The component of skills development where beneficiaries gained vocational skills and knowledge of SGBV protection and mitigation will be sustainable over time with little support for mentorship and coaching. Through the project, the local community developed high local capacities and coping mechanisms as a result of the activities.

On the other hand, the awareness raising effort of the project will have a level of sustainability, but those community structures and supported with awareness raising are to sustainability engage in public debate on SGBV. Ideally the project should have built a SGBV network to champion and advocate on the dangers of SGBV. The project supported local structures and initiatives to complement which included project management committees, working with Local authority such as chief, and Payams administrators, women leaders, youth leaders and religious leaders.

The community identified several activities that could continue to be supported in the project locations. These includes;

- Support for gender-based violence awareness and advocacy,
- Training of farmers to be self-reliance and crop production
- Support for meetings between communities' representatives and local authorities to discuss SGBV and best practices;
- Integration of SGBV activities with other projects result into immediate results. According to information obtained during FGDs and KIs interviews respondents suggested that it is important to integrate anti-GBV messages into future behavior change communication campaigns, mobilize communities, including traditional and national leaders, to challenge norms that sanction and perpetuate violence, engage boys and men to eliminate GBV in

their own lives and speak out against it with peers. Further suggestion was also provided for consideration to be made on raising awareness about the impact of GBV in communities, also there encourage collaboration among civil society organizations working on GBV and human rights.

- Engaging trained beneficiaries on life skills who have started businesses in adult literacy education enable them to have improved records and documentation.
- Working in collaboration with government authorities and community leaders to enable immediate result in reducing SGBV. Local chiefs, religious leaders and elderly people are the champions in steering up change through decision making within communities in Rumbek.
- There is need to increase Staff /Beneficiary Capacity for Story Telling (and documenting stories) there are a lot of success stories and good practices that can be shared widely to bring out the impact of the project, it can also be used for awareness raising.

The long-term sustainability of the project's achievements is threatened by long term availability of funding to continue the project, as currently the project is only for 18 months, and most activities are geared towards Gender norms transformation. The sustainability of the project is likely to be curtailed by the constant conflict among the community in Rumbek East, competing interest from the community leaders and the small number of beneficiaries in the project.

3.8 PROJECT LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES

At the initial stages of the project there was delay in start-up of the project in Rumbek North caused insecurity and inaccessibility. NPA and SDC consulted on the project relocation from Rumbek North to Rumbek Centre.

Though the project team did well on the identification of beneficiaries of the cash-based transfer through a well-defined criterion, the interest from the various stakeholders was very high, they complained of the amount and the small number targeted by the project. There were cases where local authorities and community leaders selected beneficiaries who were not vulnerable and based on the criteria.

Insecurity along the road to Rumbek East delayed start-up of the project and continues to affect implementation as NPA and partner staff movement is suspended from time to time based on the Security Management Plan and Risk Analysis.

There was a significant delay in implementation of activities by Steward Women while NPA and SDC consulted on change of location of the project from Rumbek North to Rumbek Centre due to insecurity and inaccessibility of Rumbek North. Steward Women commenced implementation of the project in March 2021.

Change of government structures as part of revitalized peace agreement presented a challenge in Rumbek Centre as new office bearers requested a repeat in identification of beneficiaries yet this had been undertaken by previous officials.

The emergence of COVID 19 led to slow pace of implementation and review of activities to ensure that all activities in the project adhere to MoH and WHO guidelines on hygiene and public order. All the planned training activities ensured adequate social distancing with up to 10 participants to prevent exposure to and spread of the virus.

The cash transfer attracted high expectation from the key local government and community stakeholders. There was desire from everyone to be included as beneficiary. It delayed the process as the team had to negotiate to strictly follow the designed beneficiary selection criteria.

3.9 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.9.1 Conclusions

The Emergency Cash Based Food Assistance Project has promoted women's and girl's rights and choices, reduces risks and barriers to women's access and participation and potentially help start, rebuild, or expand women's means of economic livelihood in Rumbek Centre and Rumbek East. The project has increased SGBV knowledge, self-confidence, self-esteem, as well as positive decision making on gender-based violence. The skills were imparted using participatory approaches such as sports and drama.

3.9.2 Recommendations

From the findings of the evaluation, the following are the recommendations.

- ✚ **Emergency Food Assistance: Expand the Program to accommodate more beneficiaries and also raise the amount distributed:** NPA and its donor should have to increase the number of beneficiaries on cash-based emergency food assistance in Rumbek from 450 to 2000 beneficiaries and also Increase the amount of money given to the beneficiaries from 35,000 SSP to 100,000 SSP in Rumbek. Scaling up of the project to other counties to benefit a wider population. Lake State has 8 counties however the project is being implemented in only two counties of Rumbek Center and Rumbek East.
- ✚ **Collaborate and strategically partner** with World Food Program (WFP) to provide food assistance to the IDP and the most vulnerable women and young girls in the community.
- ✚ **Encourage Market Linkages** through linking individuals and groups trained and engaged in different kinds of small-scale businesses to market outlets. Availability of microfinance institutions is limited in Rumbek, but an assessment should be carried out to identify opportunities. Use of banks for saving by the beneficiaries carrying out businesses may need to be encouraged.
- ✚ **Strengthen the capacity building** component of the project to enhance sustainability of the activities when funding comes to an end. Support the local government, the CSOs

and community-based organizations through training, mentorship, and peer learning.

- ✚ **Support SGBV advocacy for access to justice** for victims and survivors by working with courts and women rights organization to raise the voice of the vulnerable girls and young women. customary and local institutions including the courts, are seemingly ill-equipped to deal with complex cases such as GBV that result from the breakdown of traditional community and family structures. In order to achieve the increased access to justice through mobile courts, legal aid clinics and pro-bono services, the project will need to invest in building capacity of the court workers and the court system.
- ✚ **Safe spaces, psychosocial support and skills building:** Through the project, adolescent girls have been able to access safe places and psychosocial support. It was recommended that safe spaces, psychosocial support, and skills building so be maintained or extended to all (8) Payams of Rumbek East; Aduel, Akot, Atiaba, Cueicok, Malek-agok, Pacong, Mathiang kok and Paloch and 4 Payams of Rumbek Center; Matangai Payam, Jiir Payam, Malek Payam and Mayom Payam.
- ✚ NPA doesn't have GBV focal staff in Rumbek to support WAV in the implementation of the SGBV project. or future project, NPA need to have GBV staff on the ground in Rumbek to work closely with the partners through technical guidance and support.

Annex I: Minimum Food Basket Analysis Raw Data

| | | NAME OF MARKET: ADUEL MARKET RUMBEK EAST COUNTY | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Commodity | Unit | Price per unit during the survey | | | | |
| | | Trader 1 | Trader 2 | Trader 3 | Trader 4 | Trader 5 |
| Sorghum | 50Kg | 12,500 SSP | 12,500 SSP | 12,500 SSP | 12,500 SSP | 12,500 SSP |
| Pulses/beans | 1kg | 600 SSP | 700 SSP | 700 SSP | 600 SSP | 600 SSP |
| Vegetable Oil | 20 Litres | 20,000 SSP | 21,000 SSP | 21,000 SSP | 21,000 SSP | 21,000 SSP |
| Salt | 1 Kg | 600 SSP | 500 SSP | 500 SSP | 600 SSP | 700 SSP |
| Charcoal | 1 bag | 2500 SSP | 2500 SSP | 2400 SSP | 2500 SSP | 2500 SSP |
| Additional | | | | | | |
| Milk Nido/Safa | Litres | 6000 SSP small size | 12000 big sizes | 6000 SSP | 2000 SSP | 2500 SSP |
| Sugar | 50Kg | 21,000 SSP | 21000 SSP | 21000 SSP | 21000 SSP | 21000 SSP |
| Total SSP | | 65200 SSP | 72,700 SSP | 92,200 SSP | 62,200 SSP | 63,300 SSP |
| Total USD | | | | | | |

Annex 2: Endline Evaluation Traders Assessment

| DATE: TUESDAY 26 TH APRIL 2022 | | NAME OF MARKET: TUGAMARET MARKET (RUMBOK CENTRAL MARKET) | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Commodity | Unit | Price per unit during the survey | | | | | | |
| | | Trader 1 (Mr. Ismail Mix Goods Shop) | Trader 2 (Mr. Mohamed Mix Goods Shop) | Trader 3 (Mr. Achol Local Milk Seller) | Trader 4 (Mr. Malual Local Goods Seller) | Trader 5 (Mr. Ahmed Meat Seller/Butcher) | Trader 6 (Mrs. Hajja Mix Goods Shop) | Trader 7 (Mr. Abdallah Mix Goods Shop) |
| Sorghum | Kg | - | - | - | 1 kg @250 SSP (1 malua container is 1,000 SSP) | - | - | - |
| Pulses/beans | kg | 1 kg @ 700 SSP | 1 kg @ 800 SSP | - | - | - | 1 kg @ 800 SSP | 1 kg @ 800 SSP |
| Vegetable Oil | Litres | - | 1 litre @ 1,500 SSP | - | - | - | 1 ltr @ 1,500 SSP | 1 ltr @ 1,500 SSP |
| Salt | Kg | 500gm @150 SSP | 500gm @200 SSP | - | - | - | 500gm @200 SSP | 500gm @200 SSP |
| Charcoal | 50 kg bag | - | - | - | 1 heap is 200 SSP /50kg bag is 3,500 SSP | - | - | - |
| Additional | | | | | | | | |
| Fish/Meat | Kg | - | - | - | - | pure meat @ 2500 SSP /meat with born @ 2,000 SSP | - | - |
| Milk | Litres | 2,500g Almudish @ 9,000 SSP /fresh dairy 500ml @ 500 SSP | 2,500g Almudish @ 10,000 SSP /fresh dairy | 1 litre of local fresh | 1 litre of local fresh milk @ 1000 SSP | - | 1 litre of local milk @ 1000 SSP | 1 litre of local milk @ 1000 SSP |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------|----|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|--------------|--------------|
| | | | 500ml @ 500 SSP | milk @ 1000 SSP | | | | |
| Sugar | Kg | 1 kg @ 500 SSP | 1 kg @ 600 SSP | - | | - | 1kg @600 SSP | 1kg @600 SSP |

Average Prices of other items

- 1) Chicken average rate is 2500 SSP
- 2) Basin of ground nuts with covers is at 3,500 SSP / 1 liter of groundnut paste is 1,000 SSP.
- 3) Kilo of rice is 500 SSP
- 4) Kilo of brown sugar is 500 SSP / kilo of white sugar is 600 SSP
- 5) Kilo of lentils is 800 SSP
- 6) Kilo of baking flour is 500 SSP

Annex 3: Minimum Consumption Per HH Per Month

| Baseline | | | | | | | |
|------------|---------------|---------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| | Commodity | Unit | Minimum consumption per HH per month | Price during the baseline survey | | Minimum Expenditure Basket | |
| | | | | Rumbek Central | Rumbek East | Rumbek Central | Rumbek East |
| Mandatory | Sorghum | Kg | 90 | 100 | 112 | 9000 | 10,080 |
| | Pulses/beans | kg | 9 | 780 | 810 | 7020 | 7,290 |
| | Vegetable Oil | Litres | 6 | 1045 | 1150 | 6270 | 6900 |
| | Salt | Kg | 1 | 180 | 205 | 180 | 205 |
| | Charcoal | 50 bags | 1 | 59 | 56 | 2950 | 2,800 |
| Additional | Fish/Meat | Kg | 4 | 448 | 450 | 1792 | 1,800 |
| | Milk | Litres | 4 | 500 | 350 | 2000 | 1400 |
| | Sugar | Kg | 2 | 480 | 590 | 960 | 1180 |
| | Total SSP | | | | | 30172 | 31,655 |
| | Total USD | | | | | 231.62905 | 243.013972 |
| Evaluation | | | | | | | |
| Mandatory | Sorghum | Kg | 90 | 250 | 250 | 22500 | 22,500 |
| | Pulses/beans | kg | 9 | 800 | 600 | 7200 | 5,400 |
| | Vegetable Oil | Litres | 6 | 1500 | 1050 | 9000 | 6,300 |
| | Salt | Kg | 1 | 200 | 500 | 200 | 500 |
| | Charcoal | 50 bag | 1 | 3500 | 2500 | 3500 | 2,500 |
| Additional | Fish/Meat | Kg | 4 | 2500 | 2500 | 10000 | 10,000 |
| | Milk | Litres | 4 | 1000 | 1000 | 4000 | 4,000 |
| | Sugar | Kg | 2 | 600 | 420 | 1200 | 840 |
| | Total SSP | | | | | 57600 | 52,040 |
| | Total USD | | | | | 126.59 | 114.37 |

Annex 4: Pictorial



Women made Liquid soap at the Adolescent girls Center



Women In Rumbek Center engaged in Catering service



Young women in Rumbek Center enaged in Tailoring



Adult literacy class targeting women in Rumbek Center



Catering Group Support by WAV in Rumbek East



Adolescent girls engaged in Bedsheets making



WAV sign post of Adolescent Girls Friendly Space in Rumbek East supported by NPA



Hairdressing Group in Rumbek East