

FSL Project implementation

Lessons Learnt and Environment as a crosscutting issue



RuCAPD
Rural Community Action for Peace and Development

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- The project implementation went on smoothly and successfully (7100HH).
- All the two project seasons, that is the rainy/main/planting season and the dry/lean season, were completed successfully.
- The main season was implemented from June to December 2020 and the dry season was implemented between January and May 2021.

- RuCAPD did a door to door campaign and were able to register the most vulnerable households that majorly comprised of the returnees, displaced and severely food insecure.
- Assistance was particularly extended to those displaced and had not been absorbed by host communities as well as host communities receiving those displaced people and returnees.

- All the effort was made to ensure that the interventions catered for selected according to their vulnerability and that both genders segregated by sex and age (men, women, boys and girls) had access to inputs as targeted in the project plan.
- Based on the livelihood category of the beneficiary, registration and distribution of the livelihoods kits to beneficiaries HH was carried out with all the beneficiaries receiving fishing kits, vegetable kits, crop kits and tools for the main season and vegetable and fishing kits for the dry season.

- Training of beneficiaries was then carried out after the distribution of the livelihood kits, and later on project monitoring, assessments and farmers and fisher-folks extension were carried out.
- The impact seen with the project is positive.
- The vulnerable households were able to access livelihood kits to resume their normal livelihoods, produce their own food and earn some income from it.

- Knowledge gained by some of the beneficiaries were also used positively with reported success stories that we have documented and shared in this report.
- The relative peace in the area also provided a calm environment for carrying out daily livelihood activities.
- However, the floods in the area, pests and diseases, COVID-19 related restrictions and widespread hunger have been threats to the impact at the community we served.

- The project was implemented in two seasons, that is the rainy season and the dry season. Each season had their own unique challenges.
- During the rainy season, heavy rains made the airstrip not landable thereby delaying delivery of inputs to the field. We had to wait for at least three days for the airstrip to dry before an aeroplane could land.

- The poor road infrastructure was further made worse by the rains making it muddy and swampy. We had to wait for a few days for the roads to be a bit passable. Footing to some places for beneficiary registration and training was also done.
- Lack of twines and monofilament in the fishing kits. Hooks only were distributed and beneficiaries promised the other items if available during the dry season.
- Floods affecting farmers. Nothing much could be done except advising the affected farmers to plant in areas on higher ground and construction of dykes in future.

During the dry season, the challenges faced were as follows;

- Beneficiary movement to the river side which is less accessible. During the dry season, most beneficiaries had moved towards the river areas which are not easily accessible. Inputs were transported to the nearest areas where the beneficiaries could easily access for distribution.
- Lack of hooks and monofilament in the fishing kits. Twines only were distributed.
- Lack of poles to make granaries. Communities use maize and sorghum stokes to make granaries.
- Lack of fish in Kigile Payam. The swamps the communities were depending on dried up during the dry season.

Cross-cutting challenges

- Zain Network in Maiwut is not stable, on and off sometimes. And not fast like in other places because the Greater Maiwut has only one antenna. Use of the Zain network whenever available and thuraya satellite phones whenever the Zain network is off was used.
- Overwhelming number of beneficiaries in need. The local authorities were useful in identifying the most vulnerable among those in need. In future, the target number needs to be increased.

- Influx of returnees from the neighbouring country of Ethiopia (Gambella Refugee camp), Malakal PoC and other areas within Jonglei state putting pressure on the available inputs. The beneficiary selection criteria was devised together with the local authorities following the FAO recommended guidelines. Future intervention targets will be increased depending on available resources.
- Complaints from some beneficiaries for registering only one person (head) per household where households had even up to 10 members. We advised the communities to bear with us as we were trying to reach as many households in need as possible. We also told them that we will share this with our donors for future consideration if possible.
- Pests and diseases. Training of farmers on various ways of control of the pests and diseases.

- High expectations for high payments by communities especially recruited staff, volunteers and authorities. Only what was approved by the donors was provided.
- Political system of the area is still using the previous 32 states, affecting coordination of activities. We worked amicably with the local authorities of the respective areas.

- Transfer of money for the field activities as there are no money transfer agents or banks in the area. We used various plane companies plying the area whenever available when the airstrip was dry.
- Widespread hunger reducing the household's ability to engage in farming. This was complicated further by lack of jobs and lack of income to raise the families. Shared with other partners for possible lobbying for appropriate assistance.

- Lack of UNHAS flights to Maiwut. The commercial flights are unreliable and mostly fly to Pagak. The commercial flights to Pagak were used due to lack of other options and connected to Maiwut centre via road transport.
- Inadequate and expensive food stuff in the local market. Staff were sent with food items from Juba to supplement with whatever they were getting in the field.

- Coordination is key to the successful implementation of any project whatsoever.
- This was clearly seen during project where all the stakeholders be it the community, the local authority, UNFAO, SSHF, transporters (truck owners), the FSL cluster, partners on ground and RuCAPD staff.
- Without proper coordination, we would not have implemented even one bit of this project.

- People are proud of their work.
- They feel honoured to be given an opportunity to plant their own.
- They are really happy that they can produce their own and do not have to entirely depend on or wait for food aid.
- It has increased their esteem.

- Knowledge and information sharing is key for the success of interventions.
- Last but not least, RuCAPD continues to learn that this work is a calling.
- One that takes us to paths that are seldom walked on.
- Yet our satisfaction comes from the hope that lights up the faces and hearts of the people we serve.
- It is servant leadership.

Environment as a cross cutting issue

- Looking at the agenda it's a flow of cross cutting issues.
- June 5th was world Environment Day.
- The theme is Ecosystem Restoration.
- Cross-cutting issues like the environment is key to food security.
- Food security and life itself is not possible if our streams, lakes and rivers are polluted, severe climate change (and shocks), land as well as soil depleted and biodiversity destroyed!

- It is official that 2021- 2030 is the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, beginning on this year's World Environment Day on 5th June, 2021.
- Pakistan was the host country for this year's World Environment Day.
- Pakistan is one of the very few countries committed to fighting climate change as well as a leader in the world of fighting climate change, environmental restoration and improvement.

- In June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, more than 178 countries adopted Agenda 21, a comprehensive plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable development to improve human lives and protect the environment.
- We are part of agenda 21 because S. Sudan was part of the UNCED (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, where "The Future We Want" in which they decided, inter alia, to launch a process to develop a set of SDGs of which UNEP is the Custodian for 25 of these SDG indicators - across SDG Goal 6, 8, 12- responsible consumption and production (S. Sudan is of part of the countries), 14, 15 and 17.
- In **South Sudan**, the Ministry Environment and Forestry is mandated with the Protection and conservation of the environment as well as ensuring sustainable utilization of the environmental resource base to meet the needs of both the present and future generations.

- We cannot expect the community to care about the environment as long as the family is facing food insecurity, the pandemic, and they are living in poverty.
- For us to achieve the goal of restoration in this decade of action, we need to actively involve women, men and all stakeholders.

- Mainstreaming environment is a strategy to make it an integral dimension of our interventions designs, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes.
- It calls for relevant analysis, research and studies conducted as the basis for integrating environment into designs of interventions, policies as well as programmes.

- This will involve innovation, flexibility, learning, unlearning as well as acceptance of new norms.
- In order to effectively mainstream cross-cutting themes in development co-operation, concerted and sustained action is needed at different levels which cannot be considered in isolation from one another.

Recommendations

1. Provision of full livelihood kits to beneficiaries. Some of the items were missing, and can be provided in future if available.
2. Formation of some commercial vegetable farmers from the active members in the community and provided with irrigation equipment. These farmers will directly or indirectly encourage others when they see something positive coming out of it.

3. Continued livelihood support to the communities as they are still facing different types of challenges right from the after effects of the flooding, inflation, effects of protracted conflict, loss of jobs and livelihood sources.

4. Provision of food assistance to the beneficiaries. This will help them to focus on farming, fishing and other sources of livelihoods.

5. Let's play our part as South Sudan | the decade of action. Advocate for funding towards environmental restoration initiatives.
6. Provide consistent leadership and sustained commitment.
7. Have a policy or strategic framework as well as mainstreaming environment objectives in all our plans
8. Engage in the policy and political dialogues

9. Practically Strengthen the culture of learning/ unlearning on mainstreaming

10. Put in place clear implementation guidelines, tools and practical applications

11. Measures to incentivize accountability to results of environment custodians

12. Ensure sufficient financial and human resources for delivering on commitments

Let us RE-IMAGINE, RE-CREATE. RESTORE.

Links

InforMEA

[Pakistan as World Environment Day 2021 Host - Why and How?](#)

<https://twitter.com/FoodSystems/status/1401297856045137921?s=08>

<https://m.dw.com/en/floods-destroy-livelihoods-in-south-sudan/av-55085163>

<https://youtu.be/U5neGkl-PYg>

<https://youtu.be/EPgBLolHeqq>