August 2022

KEY HIGHLIGHTS - JULY 2022

- FSL Cluster team on 7th July participated in the global virtual event on “Data in Emergencies” (DIEM), assessing agricultural livelihoods in food crisis contexts. Showcasing the DIEM information system, this event explored the contribution of DIEM products and functionalities to decision-making in support of agricultural livelihoods in food crisis contexts.

- Plan International Global Hub, in association with South Sudan FSL Cluster and Child Protection sub-cluster, conducted a 3-day workshop on “Integrating Child Protection and Food Security Programming” from 19 – 21 July, to identify linkages between child protection and food insecurity, skills to design, implement and monitor CP-FS programs, strengthening collaboration and develop tools to support integration.

- FSL Cluster hosting the HDP nexus learning experience, initiated by gFSC and GNAFC, for which the scoping study was done, identifying 5 partners with resilience/peace building activities. Similar exercise of mapping of HDP partners was initiated by PfRR/CSR F. To ensure collaboration and avoid duplication, a joint meeting on 19th July, with gFSC and PfRR/CSRF platform was conducted virtually. FAO gave the overview and update on the revamped PfRR process and existing result framework on “Collective Outcome on Food Security and Agriculture”.

- FSL Cluster has facilitated emergency response in 4 counties through IOM managed Rapid Response Fund (RRF). Partner engagement process is ongoing and the response will start in couple of weeks, once the contractual formalities are over. A total of about 20,000 Households will be receiving emergency livelihoods support - vegetable kit, fishing kit, tools and training on agronomy and fishing practices.

- FSL Cluster contributed in the designing of FAO’s pilot project, “Supporting and Promoting the Localization Agenda for Food Security and Agriculture Emergency Response and Resilience”. Jointly with FAO’s point of contact for partners’ capacity assessment pilot project the national FSL cluster team oriented the enumerators that are involved in the data collection process held in Wau (Western Bhar El Gazal State) from 25 – 27 July.

- FSL Cluster meeting held on 6th July. The 3rd and 4th sessions of ToT for the ATWG partners conducted on 7th and on 28th July covering two important sub-sectors of agriculture, 1) Crop Value Addition and Marketing, 2) Agronomy and Crop Production. FSL Cluster conducted the Livestock Technical Working Group meeting on 22nd July.

- FSL national cluster conducted the first meeting with the sub-national cluster focal points to initiate a forum for communication to share experiences, challenges, operational recommendations and best practices to enable informed advocacy for better service delivery.

Seasonal /Weather Update

- Of the three Dekads, rainfall distribution across the country was better in the 1st and 2nd Dekads of July 2022 compared to the 3rd Dekad of June 2022.

- Isolated cases of heavy rainfall were experienced across the country in the 1st and 2nd Dekads of July 2022 with Equatorial and Bahr el Ghazal regions being the wettest.

- Parts of Unity state continued to experience dry conditions throughout the three Dekads. Dry conditions were observed in Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria states in the 2nd Dekad of July 2022.

- Compared to the long-term average (LTA, 1989 - 2015), the country mostly experienced below average rainfall in the 3rd Dekad of June 2022.

- In the 1st and 2nd Dekads of July 2022, despite the slight improvement in rainfall with many parts of the country experiencing above average rainfall, significant portion of the country also received below average rainfall.

- June to September outlook indicates wetter than normal conditions across the country.

- Temperature outlook indicates cooler than normal temperatures in most parts of the country.
The annual FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) was carried from 7 to 17 December 2021 to estimate the cereal production in South Sudan during 2021 and assess the overall food security situation in the country.

**Methodology**

- Special taskforce of 22 national experts has been leading rapid assessments on annual crop and harvest performance.
- County Crop Monitoring Committees (CCMC) provided updates on crop performance – 42 counties – Livelihood Zones based.
- Harmonization of crop assessment tools (ELRP + CFSAM Tools + piloted remote sensing in estimating cropped area).
- FAO/WFP team analyzed - remote sensing information, measuring NDVI, drought stress index, and rainfall anomalies.
- 35 missions, about 4,000 farmers and 280 case studies (interviews) were completed during planting and harvest season.

South Sudan 2021 Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission - Crop Component

The 2021 net cereal production is estimated at about 839,500 tonnes, 4% below the 2020 but 4% higher than past 5 year average (2016 - 2020) and still below pre conflict levels.

- The harvested area in 2021 is estimated at about 995,000 hectares, 1% higher than 2020 and 8% higher than 2016 - 2020 average but still below pre conflict levels.
- An improved security situation allowed return of some IDPs and refugees to their places of origin to engage in agricultural activities. About 1,162,808 farming HHs, 3.3% higher than in 2020.
- The overall cereal production deficit in 2022 is estimated around 541,000 tonnes, representing 40% of South Sudan’s cereal needs, 16% higher than for deficit estimated for 2021 and five year average (2017 - 2021).
- Production decrease is partly attributed to significant flood-induced losses in Jonglei, Warrap, Lakes, Unity and Upper Nile States and yield losses (4.7% loss compared to last year).
- With declined cereal production and increased cereal gap, impacts of floods are magnified in Jonglei, NGB, and Warrap for crop and Jonglei, Unity and Lakes for livestock.
- Excessive rains and river overflows, particularly in the areas along the River Nile and its tributaries, triggered floods in Warrap, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal, Jonglei, Upper Nile, Lakes, Unity and Central Equatoria states, affecting about 835,000 people and resulting in significant crop losses and livestock mortality.
- Western Bahr Ghazal which estimated to show surplus in 2022 and for the past four years.
- W. and C. Equatoria moved from surplus to deficit producing areas from 2015 to 2022.
- E. Equatoria have shown the largest deficit and Warrap the smallest.

**Highlights**

- Formations of PMCs for AAP as complaint and feedback mechanisms.
- Training, and orientation of the AAP committees to assist during beneficiaries registration, verification and inputs distribution.
- Inputs and supplies were procured and distributed.
- Demo gardens established and managed by volunteers under supervision of extension workers.
- Training of lead farmers and fisher-folks’ groups.
- Monthly monitoring visits and 1 PDM.
- The project was successfully closed on 7th May 2022.

Output Descriptions: 10,983 HHs vulnerable households identified, verified, registered and received assorted vegetable seeds and tools, fishing gears. Trained on dry season vegetable farming and carrying fishing activities including preservation.

**Main Activities**

**Key Challenges**

- Funding allocated was inadequate compared to the needs.
- The process for disbursement of project funds to facilitate implementation was slow.
- The procurement process of inputs was centralized thus took longer time to deliver the supplies.
- The budget for transportation of inputs was underestimated by all partners.
- Movement of project field staff to the target locations was difficult as were hard-to-reach areas.
- In most places, only means of transportation was waterways with exception in Gogrial West.

- For best quality seeds, IPs should be allowed to budget and procure seeds (The quality of seeds procured was excellent).
- IPs should apportion more funds for transportation and distribution of supplies. The use of water transport is very expensive. Hiring of local canoe for a day is between $80 and $100.
- At every stage of the project, IPs must constantly conduct robust community engagements (community meetings, AAP sessions etc.).

**Lesson Learned**

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- IPs should apportion more funds for transportation and distribution of supplies. The use of water transport is very expensive. Hiring of local canoe for a day is between $80 and $100.
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**South Sudan Humanitarian Fund - Reserve Allocation 1**

By May/June 2022, FSL Partners of SSHF 2021 Reserve Allocation, have successfully completed Flood Response scale up by reaching out to 19,500HHs in 7 Counties. CASS as the Signatory Partner in Leer (5,600HHs), with SAADO as Sub-IP in Gogrial West (2,033HHs) and Malakal (917HHs) and UNKIA in Fashoda (2,233HHs). CH as multi cluster response (S/ NFI and FSL) in Guit (1,167HHs) and HeRY in Aweil East (7,550HHs). Similarly, the Conflict Response in Tambura, Nagero, Ezo, Nzara, and Yambio has been successfully completed.

**Project Title: Provision of Integrated Health, Food Security and Livelihood emergency assistance to flood affected communities in Leer (Unity State), Gogrial West (Warrap), Malakal & Fashoda (Upper Nile)**

Output Descriptions: 10,983 HHs vulnerable households identified, verified, registered and received assorted vegetable seeds and tools, fishing gears. Trained on dry season vegetable farming and carrying fishing activities including preservation.
The workshop held from 19 – 21 July 2022 in Juba is part of a global initiative led by Plan International in collaboration with the Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility and the Global Food Security Cluster. A total of 24 participants (11 from FSL cluster and 13 from child protection AoR) attended the workshop.

**Workshop Objectives**
1. Develop a common understanding of the linkages between child protection risks and food insecurity in South Sudan.
2. Develop knowledge and skills to design, implement, and monitor integrated child protection and food security programs.
3. Identify opportunities to strengthen collaboration between child protection and food security sectors and develop tools to support integrated programming.

Participants found the sessions on key terminologies and concepts and designing and measuring integrated child protection and food security programming as the most useful.

Some of the key recommendations from the workshop included sharing of best practices and lessons learned from other contexts as well as provision of guidance material/tools on planning, design, implementing and monitoring integrated programs.

The workshop presentations are available on this link.

### How does Food Insecurity affect Children

- **Availability**: "supply side" of FS; determined by food production, stock level, trade, food assistance
- **Access**: economic and physical ability to procure safe and nutritious food.
- **Utilization**: metabolism of food; affected by preparing, processing, and cooking of food; feedback practices
- **Stability**: other pillars should not change due to cyclical events or sudden shocks

### FAO Pilot Project on “Supporting and Promoting the Localization Agenda for Food Security and Agriculture Emergency Response and Resilience” under SIDA funding in South Sudan

The project's overall objective is to strengthen the capacities of local partners (CSO and sub-national level technical institutions, extensions and local authorities managing technical agriculture sector interventions and disaster risks) to take the lead in implementing anticipatory actions, responding to humanitarian crises in food security and agriculture and promoting resilient livelihoods gains and disaster risk reduction.

- **Output 1**: Understanding capacity gaps and learning needs
- **Output 2**: Strengthening capacities
- **Output 3**: Scale up Community Based Approaches

The capacity needs assessment will be conducted at three levels (i) System/Enabling Environment level, (ii) Entity/Organizational level and at (iii) Individual level. The pilot phase is done in four states of Eastern Equatoria, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Abyei and Unity.

### World Humanitarian Day - 19th August 2022

**#ItTakesAVillage**

World Humanitarian Day is an international day dedicated to humanitarian workers and those who have lost their lives working for humanitarian causes. It is a global celebration of people helping people. The theme for 2022 World Humanitarian Day is **#ItTakesAVillage**. WHD 2022 campaign builds on this metaphor of collective endeavour to grow global appreciation of humanitarian work.

### Upcoming Events

- **Cash and Voucher Assistance Training** - 11 August
- **GBV Refresher Training** - 16 August (Virtual)