

*SEADS – South Sudan FTM*  
**Semi-Annual Progress Report 2020**

---

## **1. Summary**

In South Sudan, over 11mn people, with 95% agro-pastoralists depend on farming, fishing or herding to meet their food and income needs. Agriculture activities are extremely sensitive to climate and weather conditions and over 90% production depending on rainfall. South Sudan has LEGS, the Livestock Emergency Guidance and Standards, which has become a community practice and people are engaged in livestock development over a decade now, but for agriculture, there's no such equivalent of LEGS, in the development of emergency agriculture standards to guide humanitarian practice and funding.

It is in this context, World Vision South Sudan (WVSS) was invited by SEADS Global Steering Group to engage SEADS work in South Sudan as Field Team Member (FTM), supporting agriculture livelihoods in emergencies. World Vision, being NGO Co-Lead for FSL Cluster, with field experience and its geographical footprint across South Sudan, committed to support the development, promotion, outreach and effectiveness of SEADS, working with Tufts University in Boston, the lead on the SEADS project. Accordingly, a letter of commitment, along with South Sudan FSL Cluster's Agriculture Portfolio and a brief work plan for SEADS related activities for 6-months was submitted. Progress against the plan is narrated below as semi-annual report.

## **2. Progress of SEADS project and result(s) achieved**

As the Field Team Member, WVSS/FSL Cluster involved in the following key tasks; interviewing stakeholders, contributing evidence and developing case studies, promotional materials, including social media, feedback on SEADS process, contributing to public consultations, organize simulation events.

### **2.1 Promotion of SEADS Project**

Presented and promoted SEADS in various humanitarian forums / meetings that include;

- Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC) Coordination meeting
- Agriculture Technical Working Group (ATWG)
- Livestock Technical Working Group (LTWG)
- FSL Cluster's Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and
- Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG)

Partner NGOs / humanitarian forum members were introduced to SEADS project, which coordinates the review process, in the development of standards and design for emergency agriculture, to guide humanitarian practices and enable the best possible programming for agricultural livelihoods in emergencies.

Also about World Vision's engagement on SEADS work in South Sudan, joining hands with the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster in contributing to create best global standards. FSL cluster partners were also encouraged to be involved in two major areas of SEADS Project: 1) Contribute evidence and 2) Serve as Consultants.

Humanitarian Forum/Meeting	Held on	No. of Participants	Reference / Source
Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG)	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	48 Participants	Inter-Cluster Coordinators, Donors, UN Agency representatives. <a href="#">Presented by Alistair FSL CC.</a>
FSL Cluster's Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)	25 <sup>th</sup> . June 2020	12 Members	USAID, SDC, WFP, FAO, SCI, VSF-G, CMD, AHC & four FSLC team members
Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC) (Presentation and updates on SEADS)	29 <sup>th</sup> May	83 Participants	<a href="#">Minutes of the Meeting</a>
	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	65 participants	<a href="#">Minutes of the Meeting</a>
	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	78 participants	<a href="#">MoM &amp; SEADS video clip</a>
Livestock Technical Working Group (LTWG) (SEADS Presentation and Greg's Video Speech)	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	23 Members	SEADS orientation <a href="#">Greg's Video</a> played
Agriculture Technical Working Group (ATWG)	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	27 Members	<a href="#">SEADS Orientation</a>

## 2.2 Stakeholder engagement with FAO / EU / partners

FAO, being the global partner to SEADS and instrumental in this process in South Sudan, the FSL Cluster/FTM engaged with the Programme Head (FAO, South Sudan) who has designated a focal point for SEADS initiative, in the country. It was collectively decided to make SEADS Project as a standing agenda item at the monthly Agriculture Technical Working Group (ATWG), enables the FTM to update FSL Cluster members and mobilize partners accordingly, just as on the Desert Locust situation and response. Also, FSL cluster (joint Agriculture and Livestock Technical Working Group) engaged in a discussion initiated by EU to revise and harmonize extension manuals for crops, (which were launched on the Agriculture Extension Day in 2016).

## 2.3 Resource links for evidence review

Theme based online resource links, on emergency agriculture practices, from FSL partners operating in South Sudan have been located, organized and presented. The resource link includes video documentation on evidence / experience, evidence documents: assessment / impact reviews / case studies / success stories and documents on eight thematic areas.

## 2.4 Partners contributing evidence for global review and South Sudan FSL Cluster Repository:

FSL Partners across South Sudan were asked to share the evidence of timey interventions and have positive impacts on livelihoods, markets, systems and services. Many partners responded positively and shared with the FSL cluster the evidences, such as evaluations, impact assessments, or reviews - the evidences of impact and cost effectiveness of agriculture interventions undertaken in the context of different kinds of crises including rapid onset, slow onset, complex and protracted crises. Those resources were shared with Global SEADS to consider while developing standards to support emergency agriculture.

The online SEADS repository was organized in accordance with the eight thematic areas, 1) Seeds & Seed Systems, 2) Agriculture Knowledge and Skills Transfer, 3) Pest or Disease Control, 4) Soil Fertility, 5) Agriculture infrastructure, tools and machinery, 6) Agriculture market systems, 7) Agriculture Production methods and 8) Securing Land Access. Evidences and contributions (evaluations, assessment reports, impact stories etc.) from FSL partners were sorted according to the thematic areas and documented.

## **2.5 Shared SEADS resources with humanitarian stakeholders – Partners, CLAs and Donors**

SEADS Project resource materials, evidence review TORs, SEADS flyer, online resource links, promotional materials and the standard presentation of this is two-year, inclusive, and consultative process has been shared with the Cluster Lead Agencies, Partners and Donor representatives. Receptivity was encouraging as this process culminates to develop evidence-based standards for supporting agricultural livelihoods in emergencies especially during the phase of preparedness and post-emergency recovery and increases resilience.

## **2.6 Ad-hoc interview with WVSS – FSL Coordinator**

WVSS as the Field Team Member and a strong linkage for SEADS initiative provides broader access to evidence and experience from South Sudan by conducting short, ad-hoc (e-mail) interviews, community focus groups that focused on the importance to support agriculture livelihoods in an emergency, the impact usefulness and importance of having standards for supporting agriculture livelihoods. Excerpts from one such ad-hoc interview is given (as it is) here:

### **(Interviewee, Berhanu Wolde, FSL Programme Coordinator, WVSS, ANCP & BMZ Project)**

**Q: How are farms, gardens, markets, and other agricultural activities affected by an emergency?**

*A: Emergency always affects the effort and concentration of farmers which affect the quality of the work or investment, stability of market.*

**Q: What happens to households' abilities to support themselves through agriculture in an emergency?**

*A: Household abilities always decline in the effort to cope up with any emergency based on the type of emergency and its magnitude. It includes all dimensions of HH capability (physical, economic, social etc.)*

**Q: Why is it important to support agricultural livelihood's in an emergency?**

*A: The majority of the communities' livelihood depends on agriculture and it is the key interventions for livelihood recovery.*

**Q: How will having standards for agriculture response in an emergency help you and your organization plan and implement a better response?**

*A: The existence of different humanitarian standard including Sphere will help all agencies to have harmonized approach on emergency response plan and avoid confusion and duplication of resources during emergency response.*

**Q: How will agriculture standards help you better work with donors and other actors?**

*A: Standards make easy the design, implementation and monitoring of different agriculture projects by putting clear accountability standard for all actors in the humanitarian industry (Donor, Implementing NGOs, Government and Community)*

**Q: Why is it important to consider long-term development issues when planning and implementing emergency response?**

*A: To reduce the cost and loss of life with similar emergency, it is good to consider the resilience building in order the community get prepared for the same emergency in the future.*

**2.7 Global SEADS webinar: Agricultural livelihoods in emergencies:**

To help SEADS determine how best to intervene, the Global SEADS organized a webinar on the 30<sup>th</sup> July. Participated as panellist and gave a talk on WVSS engaging SEADS project in South Sudan as the first Field Team Member. Adam Riddell (WVI Director for Emergency Funding) gave an overview of the SEADS Project, described the need standards for agriculture in emergencies, discussed how SEADS Global is developing the standards, and explained how people can get involved now and in the future. Sequel to SEADS webinar, another presentation was done on 4<sup>th</sup> August, on WVSS's experience in engaging SEADS work in South Sudan, with the Global Livelihood Staff team of Catholic Relief Service (CRS), which was a good learning opportunity.

**3. Activities planned but unaccomplished**

The following activities were planned but couldn't accomplish due to movement restrictions and current COVID-19 context, which will be addressed by finding alternative plans.

- 3.1. Roundtable discussion among the farming community / lead farmers to document experiences
- 3.2. Capturing lessons learnt by partners from different phases of emergency agriculture response
- 3.3. Continue to engage with FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and update SEADS Coordinator

**4. Partners presented their best agricultural practices in FSL Cluster meetings**

- 4.1. WVSS shared their experience on crop adaptive trials and seed multiplication in South Sudan.
- 4.2. Rapid internal evaluation of AVSI's support to farmer groups in Ikwoto and Torit counties.
- 4.3. Short-video, briefly narrating the approach, achievement & lessons learnt on crop adaptive trials.

**5. Challenges and Limitations**

- 5.1 **Consultants for evidence review:** Dearth of qualified agriculture expertise in South Sudan
- 5.2 **The current context of triple menace:** Inter Communal Violence, Desert Locusts & COVID-19
- 5.3 **Thematic focus areas:** Plenty of evidence for 4 or 5 thematic topics but not for all 8 topics
- 5.4 **Video documentation / field visits:** Movement restrictions & Q14 challenges due to COVID-19
- 5.5 **Time and awareness raising:** We can get more FSLC partners, since there's a big interest

## **6. Conclusion**

SEADS is in line with, and contributes to, FSL Cluster's core functions and helps in engaging with FSL Technical Working Groups (ATWG) as a capacity building exercise in the development of standards for agriculture in emergencies. SEADS is contextual and relevant to South Sudan and enabled FSL Cluster to facilitate partners in designing best possible emergency agriculture program. Cluster Team's support, especially the FSL Cluster Lead Agency Coordinator's support and guidance has added value in SEADS work in South Sudan.

### **Tentative 6 Monthly Work Plan (November – April 2021)**

- *Documentation on **evidence of impact on livelihoods from Farmer Field Days***
  - *FSL Partners **document and present agriculture best practices** in FSL Cluster meeting to **promote and inform the SEADS process***
  - ***Produce case studies**, compiling information on tools and cropping calendars that **helped to develop more impactful projects***
  - *Promote **SEADS to the donors and government agencies** in South Sudan*
  - ***Document the evidence of impact** of FAO's Emergency Livelihood Response Programme (ELRP) on the **eight thematic area***
  - *Conduct **round table discussions on "Emergency Agriculture Practices"**, in support to the development of SEADS*
  - ***Special consultation session with SEADS Coordinator**, on SEADS Standards with top 20 NGOs on Agriculture*
-