



IGAD DROUGHT DISASTER RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE (IDDRSI)

South Sudan Implementation Progress Report

July 2020

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

R-ACISS	Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan
ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
CAMP	Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan
CBOs	Community-based Organizations
CPP	Country Programming Paper
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DP	Development Partners
EAC	East African Community
EU	European Union
HoA	Horn of Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IDDRSI	IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
GRWG	Gender Resilience Working Group
GIZ	German International Service
GOSS	Government of South Sudan
IDMP	Irrigation Development Master Plan
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MARF	Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
MT	Metric Ton
MWRI	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NTT	National Technical Team
PIA	Priority Intervention Area
PSC	Platform Steering Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSP	South Sudanese Pound
TWG	Technical Working Group
WFP	World Food Program

Executive Summary

This report was prepared through an inclusive and participatory consultative process with different stakeholders like national and state institutions, development partners, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national civil society organizations (CSOs), through meetings, reviews of official documents and other means of communication in Juba, Central Equatoria, and other capitals of the drought/ flood prone states in South Sudan. The report covers four (4) chapters. Chapter one (1) captures the contemporary historical background of drought and its impact on humans and livelihoods in the region that prompted the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and East African Community (EAC) heads of Government and state and development partners to hold a Summit in Nairobi in September 2011. The summit very strongly recommended a paradigm shift in the management of drought events in the region. This Chapter has reflected the current South Sudan context that is dominated by violent conflicts, severe economic shocks and crisis and the likely environment for a better implementation of IDDRSI phase 2.

Chapter two (2) reflects the progress of implementation of the IDDRSI in South Sudan since the last IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee meetings in Kenya, in September 2019. Update on the progress of all national and multinational projects have been highlighted and stressed on.

Chapter three (3) addresses the key operational challenges and lessons learnt during the implementation of IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI). Key challenges are COVID-19 pandemic, insecurity and violence, desert locust (DL) invasion, economic shocks and crises, floods, animal and crop diseases out-breaks. A major solution is the realization of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS) that shall provide a conducive environment for investments in the Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP) and the Irrigation Development Master Plan (IDMP) in the country. Strengthening of IDDRSI Platform Coordination Unit (PCU) at national level will reinforce a devolution of the IDDRSI coordination mechanism to the subsequent levels of governance in South Sudan, is key in this context.

The last chapter presents recommendations for the next phase of IDDRSI. It is concluded that IDDRSI agenda is relevant to South Sudan's needs for development and prosperity.

Chapter (1): Introduction

The Horn of Africa (HoA) region is composed of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The region has a land area of 5.2 million sq. km and is inhabited by a population of 200 million, 30% of which is located in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). The ASAL area that covers about 70% of the total land receives less than 600 mm in annual rainfall. Over 80% of livestock are kept in the ASALs in the region. The HoA is characterized by recurrent droughts and unpredictable rainfall patterns. The 2010/ 2011 drought affected over 13 million people in the region, causing heavy losses of lives and livelihoods (Resilience Focus, March 2014). Despite the drought and its consequences, degradation of the rich environmental and natural resource endowment continues unabated largely due to increased human population, inadequate institutional frameworks for resource allocation, civil strife and high poverty levels in the region. The previous efforts of managing drought in the region focused on emergency/crisis response, firefighting approach, rather than its integrated management focusing on preparedness and drought mitigation and early warning (An IGAD Embarks on Drought Resilience Initiative, 2014). Mechanisms for engaging the key stakeholders are either inadequate or not available. This situation could be improved with a more proactive and integrated approach of drought and risk management. More importantly, the 2010/2011 drought inspired the call for a paradigm shift in the management of drought events in the region. It prompted the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and East African Community (EAC) heads of Government and state to hold a Summit in Nairobi in September 2011. The summit gave rise to the birth of IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) in 2012 and South Sudan, like all other IGAD countries, developed her Country Programming Paper (CPP-2014). This CPP, which was developed through a consultative process, articulates South Sudan's 15-year strategy for ending drought emergencies and building resilient communities, outlining priorities, and a path for coordinated action and resource mobilization.

A multi--sectoral and multi--stakeholder approach is needed to bring an end to drought and flood related emergencies. In line with the partnership principles in the New Deal Compact for Fragile States, that South Sudan signed with its development partners in December 2013, the CPP provides the basis for a Common Programming Framework, embeds leadership with government, coordinated action and mutual accountability among all stakeholders. The CPP therefore outlines a coordination mechanism that was developed through consultation and consensus building between government, development partners, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders. The Coordination Mechanism structure includes an Inter--Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC), a multi--stakeholder Technical Committee (TC), and a multi--stakeholder Task Team (TT). The Delivery of the CPP is led by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and designated lead ministries and government agencies will coordinate technical stakeholders at the component level.

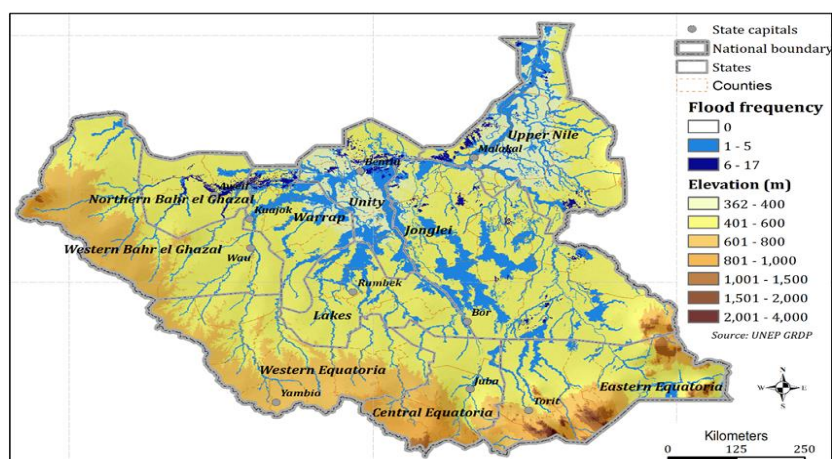
South Sudan borders Sudan to the north, Ethiopia to the east, and Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic to the south and west, respectively. It covers an area of approximately 640,000 square km (excluding Abyei) with a population estimate of 12.23 million inhabitants (NBS Projection, 2018), of which 82% live in the rural areas (approx. average of 13.5 persons per square km) (Statistical Yearbook for Southern Sudan, 2009). The Republic of South Sudan attained independence on 9th July, 2011, following secession from Sudan through a referendum in January, the same year. In December 2013, violent conflict broke out between key political groups. Roots causes of the

conflict include a fragile political settlement compounded by often--violent local competition over natural resources and wide spread unemployment of youth who comprise 70% of the population.



Map 1: Republic of South Sudan

The arable land constitutes 80% and 50% is the prime land. The arid/ semi-arid land covers 12-15% of the whole country. The country is well endowed with a wide range of natural resources: forests, livestock, fisheries and water resources, wildlife, minerals and petroleum/natural gas. The main source of livelihood in the country is crop farming and animal husbandry (76% of the population are involved). The country is gifted with six agro-ecological zones, namely; the Western Flood Plains, the Eastern Flood Plains, the Nile-Sobat Rivers, the Ironstone Plateau, the Green Belt, the Hills and Mountains, the Semi-arid/ Pastoral Zones. River Nile, and the 'Sudd', the world's most extensive wetlands, confer a huge irrigation potential that would increase the arable area and extend growing seasons. The water resources also have substantive freshwater catch and aquaculture fisheries potential. South Sudan has a potential sustainable freshwater capture fish production capacity that exceeds 200,000 metric tons (MT) annually. The most drought prone Zones are the Semi-arid/ Pastoral, the Western Flood Plains and the Eastern Flood Plains.



Map 2: Flood risk areas and frequency

Chapter 2: Progress of Implementation Since last PSC Meeting

Since the last IGAD IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee (PSC) meetings conducted in Kenya, September, 2019, there has been remarkable progress of implementation of IDDRSI projects and recommendations in South Sudan, as expressed below:

2.1 Update on Progress of Projects:

RESULT 1.1: IGAD Units Capacity Built as Reflected in Change in Attitude, Knowledge and Skills, Acquisition of Resources, Including Mobilization of Funds (PIA 8):

In a significant number of interactions with IGAD Units technical staff and IDDRSI implementation partners in different fora in the region, there has been clearer understanding of the context of South Sudan and its resources and challenges facing their exploitation for building resilience of her people. The South Sudan IDDRSI Coordination Platform Unit Team has been sharing information and knowledge with IGAD Units on the key man-made and natural disasters that impede resilience in South Sudan and the relevance of the IDDRSI agenda and a necessity of translating the Country Programming Paper into an Investment Plan to attract the national, regional, continental and international investment communities in the next phase of implementation (2019/2024). One of the most interactive and technical forum was a High Level Meeting to launch a Resilience Programme in the Karamoja Cluster (1)/ Ateker Cluster in Entebbe, Uganda, on 10th -11th February, 2020. The team had unlocked and shared major man-made and natural disasters and ranked them depending on their impacts on the population and environment as follows:

- The outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic in China in December, 2019 and its spread to the rest of the World, including IGAD Region and South Sudan.
- Insecurity and violent conflicts for political power and competition over resources, mainly, land, pastures, water and livestock.
- Economic shocks, with the political crises of December 2013 and July 2016, the disruption of productive capacities, employment opportunities, infrastructure and markets has resulted in a steady increase in commodity prices, with high food prices being the most common shock reported in community surveys.
- Climate change related disasters, spearheaded by floods and droughts.
- Progress in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on Conflict in South Sudan (R-ACISS) signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in September, 2019.

RESULT 1.2: Capacity and Resilience of South Sudan Built at National, State, County, Payam Levels/Cross Border Areas during the Reporting Period (PIAs 7 & 8):

In South Sudan, IDDRSI Coordination and Implementation Unit has been only existing at national level since the appointment of the IDDRSI National Coordinator in September, 2015. Due to lack of funds and political crisis that erupted in December, 2013 and June, 2016, cascading the unit to the subnational levels has been a challenge. However, several reflections have been made on the IDDRSI implementation in different fora at national and regional levels.

Out-put 1.2.1: Mainstreaming of CPP Elements in National Development Plans Promoted:

The IGAD Secretariat team of Experts and national IDDRSI Line Ministries Technical Staff organized a workshop to establish the national experts panel in Juba on 18th- 20th February, 2020. Members of the experts' panel were senior experienced staff selected from the ministries implementing or coordinating the implementation of CPP, the ministries of planning

and finance, and National Bureau of Statistics. The main function of the experts' panel is to assess sectoral plans and results framework in order to identify the extent to which components of the CPP are included and implemented in national Mid-term Plan (MTP). The national Experts Panel is mandated to serve as a technical advisory group for the national CPP Steering Committee in South Sudan.

RESULT 1.3: Gender Mainstreaming, Capacity and Partnerships for the Implementation of IDDRSI in Member States Improved (PIAs 7 & 8):

Mainstreaming gender in the IDDRSI RPP and CPPs, including monitoring and assessing gender mainstreaming are critical in promoting gender equality for ensuring the efficient utilization of resources and building sustainable resilience of the communities and households in the IGAD Region. Therefore, establishing regional gender and resilience platform is key.

Output 1.3.1 Regional gender and resilience platform established

A coordination meeting of the gender resilience working group (GRWG) was held virtually on 23rd June, 2020, to:

- Orient members about the IDDRSI frame-work at regional and country level
- Discuss and build consensus on the GRWG term of reference (ToR)
- Agree on feasible/priority actions of the GRWG for July-December, 2020 Introduce and establish working relations and linkages between IGAD GFPs in Member States and IDDRSI National Coordinators (and mechanisms) based in each Member State.

The outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

- IGAD GRWG operationalized and made functional (1 meeting held, TORs adopted, monitorable GRWG priority actions agreed upon)
- Members of the GRWG aware about IDDRSI programming frameworks and coordination mechanisms
- Working relations between GFPs and IDDRSI national coordinators established

The meeting was attended by members of the GRWG, namely, gender experts from IGAD Member State Ministries responsible for Gender Affairs, Gender experts and focal points from IGAD Secretariat, IDDRSI Platform Coordination Unit, representatives of donors/development partners and civil society organizations.

RESULT 1.4: Analytical Capacities and Institutional Mechanisms for Food Security, Nutrition Information and Resilience Building in the IGAD Region Strengthened (PIAs 7 & 8):

The Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) is an interactive forum for all stakeholders including climate scientists from the national meteorological and hydrological services, farmers, universities, research institutions and regional and international organizations engaged in climate prediction and applications as well as users from various socioeconomic sectors.

Out-put 1.4.1: Climate Information on Rainfall Seasons Disseminated at Regional Climate Outlook Forums three times each year:

GHACOF is organized by IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) three times annually, before the onset of the 3 main rainfall seasons of March to May (MAM), June to September (JJAS) and October to December (OND). The main goal of the forum is to provide consensus regional seasonal climate outlooks for applications in key socioeconomic sectors in support of resilience building for sustainable development. Given the relevance of

climate change to drought and related environmental concerns, twelve (12) national technical experts involved in the planning and implementation of IDDRSI in South Sudan, participated in the GHACOF54 in Mombasa, Kenya, on 27-29 January 2020. The GHACOF55 under the theme "Climate Services for Early Action" was conducted virtually on 18 May 2020. The two regional events were convened in collaboration with the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) and other partners to share and document climate impacts across the region and to formulate responses to the regional climate outlook for the March to May 2020 rainfall season over the GHA. The participation of the national experts was necessary to:

- Facilitate their access to climate services and inform decision making and programming on the ground.
- Raise awareness about the use of climate services and to collectively address climate change and disaster risk, in order to improve livelihoods and build resilience.
- Mainstream climate related priorities into national policies, agriculture development plans and risk reduction plans at all levels.

Out-put 1.4.2: Uptake of Climate Early Warning Information and Early Response Capacity of Karamoja Cluster Enhanced:

ICPAC under WISER Support to ICPAC Project, in collaboration with CEWARN, ICPALD, IDDRSI-PCU, and IDDRSI-CBDFU, conducted a stakeholder engagement in climate services within Karamoja cluster in Lodwar, Kenya, on 24-26th February 2020. The objective of the workshop was to enhance the use and uptake of climate early warning information to build capacity for early response within the IGAD Cluster communities. The workshop was attended by fifty-three (53) IGAD experts in Climate, Agriculture and Livestock, Early warning and response, and cross border coordination with a range of stakeholders from Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda including planners and actors in the agriculture and livestock sectors, national climate producers, and international and regional humanitarian institutions and intermediaries. South Sudan was represented by two female and five male experts, in addition to the IDDRSI Coordinator. Key outputs of the training include:

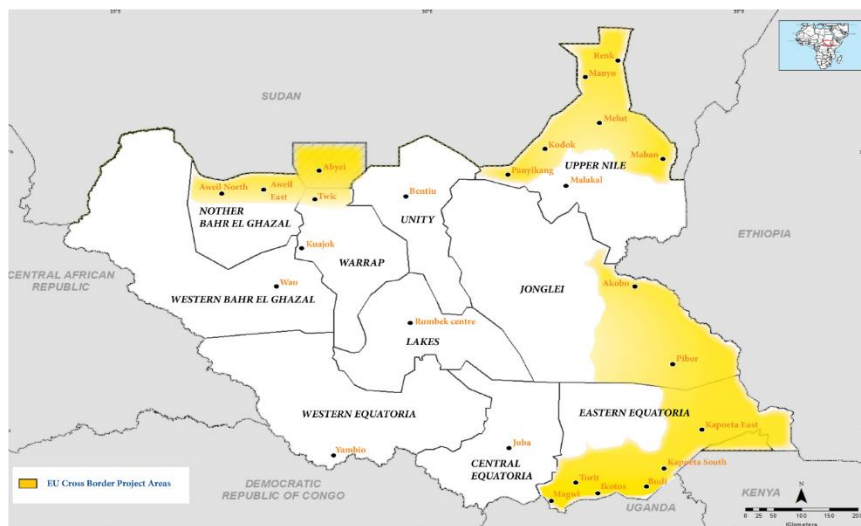
- Decision support tool (Climate data sets, technical reports, maps, manuals)
- Policy recommendations that would inform higher level.
- Increased awareness of decision makers on the importance of climate information for early response.
- Stronger partnership and Developed Framework of sharing accessing the data and climate information from the meteorological Agencies.

RESULT 1.5: Food security and nutrition and early warning systems are strengthened to improve regional and national policy and response capacity; transboundary animal diseases prevention, detection and control measures are strengthened and harmonised; crop production livelihood diversification and cross-border market access enhanced; and natural resources management in Cross-border regions improved **(PIAs 2, 3, 7 & 8):**

The Strengthening Resilience of Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Communities in South Sudan's Cross-border with Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda project is being implemented in selected areas within South Sudan that are bordering Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and the entire country for food security and nutrition information systems. The overall objective of the project is to improve governance and conflict prevention to reduce forced displacement and irregular migration in cross-border areas of South Sudan. And the specific objective is to improve household food security, nutrition and income and enhance livelihood resilience of

pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, particularly in cross-border areas of South Sudan. The project's implementation started in 2017 and it is expected to end in 2020. Its implementation authority is FAO- SS and its donor is the European Union (EU).

Map 3: Selected areas are within South Sudan bordering Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and the entire country for food security



RESULT 1.6: Threat and risk to agro-pastoral production and vegetation cover posed by Fall Armyworm is managed and mitigated in South Sudan (PIAs 1,3 & 4).

In 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security of the Government of South Sudan, in partnership with FAO and JICA, developed a five-year (2018/2023) National Strategy for Sustainable Management of Fall Armyworm (FAW). The Strategy will cost USD 26 million. The Strategy's plan of action would include the following outputs:

Output 1.6.1: Community-based surveillance, monitoring, and early warning system for FAW used by farming communities and government at all levels to make FAW management decision.

Output 1.6.2: Improved smallholder farmers' access to and use of effective FAW management strategies.

Output 1.6.3: Improved intervention planning and implementation decisions on the management of FAW in South Sudan by resource development partners, and government at national and state levels.

Output 1.6.4: Resilience, decision making, and capacity of farmers to sustainably manage FAW guided and enhanced by government policies and regulations.

Output 1.6.5: A coordinated implementation of interventions and management strategies across South Sudan and with other countries and stakeholder institutions in Sub-Sahara Africa.

RESULT 1.7: Threat and risk to agro-pastoral production and vegetation cover posed by Desert Locust (DL) is managed and mitigated in a timely manner in South Sudan (PIAs 1,3 & 4).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) of the Government of South Sudan launched an agreement with Food and Agriculture of the United Nations in Juba, on 26th May, 2020. The objective of the Agreement was to manage and mitigate in a timely manner the threat and risk to agro-pastoral production and vegetation cover posed by Desert Locust (DL). While FAO would allocate USD 199,962.00 (One Hundred and Ninety-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Two USD) for realization of the strategy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, as a service provider, would deliver the following outputs:

Output 1.7.1: Desert Locust High Level Committee (HLC), Research Advisory Team (RAT), Technical Committee (TC), and Rapid Response Team (RRT) activities supported.

Output 1.7.2: Surveillance, Monitoring, and Forecasting systems established and reporting timely carried out.

Output 1.7.3: Desert Locust Control Operations established and effectively running.

Output 1.7.4: Impact Assessment of Control and Management Options for DL supported.

Output 1.7.5: Inventory of indigenous knowledge on available botanicals for DL management documented.

The initial intervention was focused at the following hotspots: Budi, Kapoeta South and Lafon counties of Eastern Equatoria state, and Magwi, Bor, Renk, Rumbek, and other emerging zones.

RESULT 1.8: The Capacity of the government staff for agriculture production and productivity improvement is strengthened (PIAs 7 & 8).

In 2017, JICA and the Government of South Sudan development a project entitled 'Project for the Capacity Development for the Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan/ Irrigation Development Master Plan (CAMP/ IDMP) Implementation. The overall goal of the project is to ensure that the government has the capacity to deliver public services to achieve Food and Nutrition security in the country. The executing bodies are the CAMP/ IDMP implementing ministries, namely: The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security; Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries; Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, and Ministry of Environment and Forestry. And the target group is the technical staff of those ministries.

The project has a number of outputs, namely:

Output 1.8.1: Coordination and resource mobilization capacity required for the CAMP/ IDMP implementation is strengthened.

Output 1.8.2: The environment to facilitate the CAMP/ IDMP implementation is created/ improved.

Output 1.8.3: Capacity of relevant government staff to implement and manage the annual work plan is strengthened.

2.2 Update on Progress of Implementation of last PSC Recommendations that concern South Sudan:

In compliance with the last PSC Recommendations numbers 3 & 5, in Nairobi, Kenya, on 4-5 September, 2019, the IGAD Secretariat team of Experts and national IDDRSI Line Ministries Technical Staff organized a workshop to establish the national experts panel in Juba on 18th-20th February, 2020. Eighteen (18) members of the experts' panel were senior experienced technical staff selected from the ministries implementing or coordinating the implementation of CPP, namely, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Health, Ministry of General Education, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Risk Management, and Ministry of Roads, Bridges and Dams, University of Juba, National Bureau of Statistics, Peace Commission. The main function of the experts' panel is to assess sectoral plans and results framework in order to identify the extent to which components of the CPP are included and implemented in national Mid-term Plan (MTP). The national Experts Panel is mandated to serve as a technical advisory group for the national CPP Steering Committee in South Sudan.

The National Experts Panel participated very instrumentally in the review of the South Sudan National Development Strategy (NDS-2020/ 2023), incorporating programs and projects that are related to the realization of IDDRSI Phase (II) agenda. Furthermore, these experts were able to identify key national development performance cluster indicators that are stipulated in the South Sudan National Development Strategy (NDS-2018/2021). There are four clusters in the South Sudan National Development Strategy, namely:

1. Governance Cluster that encompasses Accountability, Public Administration, Rule of Law, and Security Sectors;
2. Economic Cluster that is composed of Economic Functions, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Sectors;
3. Social Service Cluster that is comprising Education, Health, and Social and Humanitarian Affairs Sectors, and
4. Cross Cutting Issues that address Capacity Building, Local Service Support, Youth and Women, and Environmental Pollution.

Necessary efforts are underway to come up with sector performance indicators for easy incorporation in the reviewed NDS (2020/2023).

Chapter 3: Challenges and Lessons Learnt

3.1 Challenges:

In general, the most challenging shocks and stresses, ones which overlap each other, that impede the implementation of IDDRSI in South Sudan have been identified as follows:

Firstly, the outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic in China in December, 2019 and its Spread to the rest of the World, including IGAD region and South Sudan:

Upon a declaration from The World Health Organization (WHO) on 11th March 2020, that the COVID-19 was a global pandemic, IGAD Secretariat issued a COVID-19 IGAD READINESS AND RESPONSE PLAN to ensure the health, safety and well-being of every member of IGAD family are given the highest priority. With the guidance from WHO and AU Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), IGAD has been constantly adapting the measures taken to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 in the region. Therefore, all meetings and official international or local travel and missions were suspended until further notice. This state of affair has impacted very negatively on timely and quality services delivery in member states. As of 8th July 2020, cumulative numbers of COVID-19 cases confirmed in South Sudan were (2,106) patients, fatalities were (40) souls and recovered cases were numbering (954) persons.

Secondly, Local Insecurity, Youth Unemployment, Violence and Cattle Raiding:

Competition over natural resources is a prominent feature of chronic, local-level insecurity in South Sudan. In particular, inequitable access to land, pasture and water is a major source of continued violence that flares up with seasons and events such as influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs), nearly two million people, while outside the country, there are now over two million South Sudanese refugees, mainly in Ethiopia, Sudan, and Uganda. Many fear imminent attack or struggle with food insecurity. Conflicts between agriculturalists and pastoralists are also common and worsened by upheavals brought by the recent political conflict. Local insecurity is worsened by large numbers of unemployed youth. Over 70 per cent of South Sudan's population is under 30, and the very high youth unemployment is attributed to a range of factors including lack of marketable skills, insufficient labour demand, and high competition from more skilled or experienced workers from neighbouring countries (or diaspora returnees). Large numbers of rural youth have migrated to towns due to changing economic aspirations linked to schooling, and changes (as with the rest in the region) to the agro-pastoral economy. Criminal and violent youth in towns are widely cited, sometimes blamed on their exposure to near-continuous conflict in their whole lives. Cattle-raiding is another form of violent insecurity. It has a long history in pastoralist South Sudan, but the rise in small arms and light weapons in recent years and increased ethnic and social tensions has led to raids becoming more violent. In June 2020, more than 600 people were killed in Jonglei state due to cattle raiding. Climate disasters, like floods, have displaced more than one (1) million people in the country this year.

Thirdly, Low Institutional Capacity:

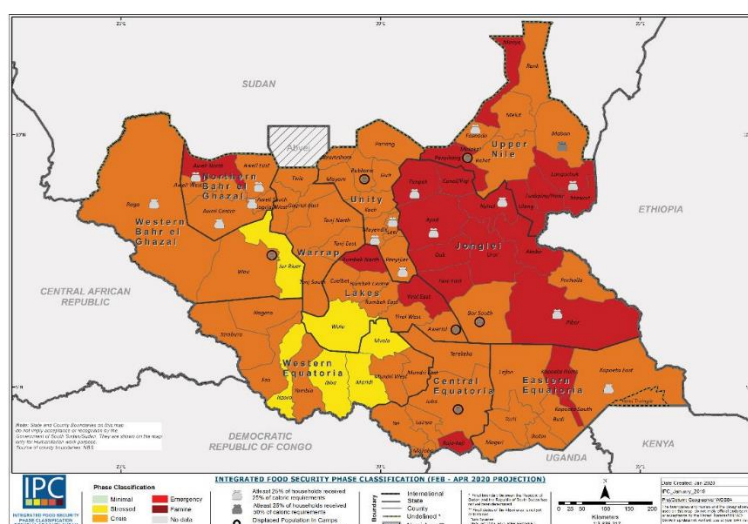
The specific challenges are inadequate staffing and facilitation of the IDDRSI Secretariat in South Sudan; weak system and capacity for monitoring and tracking IDDRSI project activities in the ministries concerned; poor communication infrastructure for the drought situation; low levels of motivation and incentives among personnel involved in the real work of drought resilience and response; adoption of supportive policy documents for IDDRSI with few

regulations and legislations being transformed into acts/laws; and focus on emergency and not development work by NGOs, hence sustainability of measures to address drought is low.

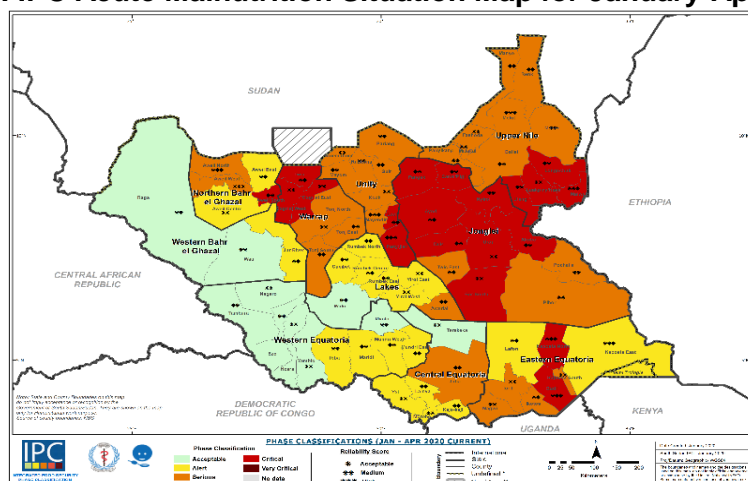
Fourthly, Food Insecurity and Malnutrition:

Persistence of extreme levels of food and nutrition insecurity as a result of widespread violent conflicts and massive displacements of the population is common in the country. Over 6 million people are food insecure at the peak of the lean season. Reference to Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Analysis (IPC), issued in January 2020, the food insecurity levels would remain elevated due to persistent poor macroeconomic conditions, intercommunal violence and impact of flooding on livelihoods. Map (4), below depicts a total of 22 counties that were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), 50 were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), and 6 were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). According to the IPC Acute Malnutrition (AMN) scale, 20 counties in South Sudan were classified as in Phase 4 (Critical GAM 15.0-29.9%), while 28 other counties were in Phase 3 (Serious GAM 10-14.9%). The IPC AMN scale, phase 4 and phase 3 indicate 'CRITICAL' and 'SERIOUS' acute malnutrition situation, which requires urgent action. Phase 2 indicates 'ALERT' level of acute malnutrition, which requires strengthening of existing response capacity and resilience (Map 5).

Map 4: IPC Acute Food Insecurity Situation Map for February-April 2020



Map 5: IPC Acute Malnutrition Situation Map for January-April 2020



Last and not least, Desert Locust Invasion:

Desert Locusts (DL) invaded South Sudan, targeting Magwi, Torit, Ikotos, Lafon and Kapoeta counties in Eastern Equatoria state in March, 2020. Spotted Desert Locusts were adults incurring damages to vegetable farms, range land and fruit trees. Around 3 million people are under threat of DL second wave of invasion. The South Sudan government has granted clearance until August 2020 for over flight, landing and exit of one aircraft operated by DLCO-EA for aerial spraying.

There are immediate and long term solutions to some of the above mentioned challenges. The implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ACISS) provides a conducive environment for the realization of a well-crafted South Sudan Vision 2040 that was designed as the plan for the new nation to address core development and state building agendas. Its vision of, "Realizing freedom, equality, justice, peace and prosperity for all" contains elements of a multi-dimensional and integrated resilience building agenda. This includes four pillars: Improving governance; Achieving rapid rural transformation; Improving and expanding health services, and Deepening peace building and improving security.

It is worth-mentioning that the South Sudan National Development Strategy (NDS-2018/2021) is guided by the following principles: Peace, Security; and Rule of Law; Democracy and Good Governance; Socio-economic Development, and International Compacts and Partnerships. Furthermore, there are many investment opportunities related to IDDRSI implementation. These include implementation of the South Sudan National Development Strategy (FY:2019/2021), Policy Documents such as Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP-2015/2040), the Irrigation Development Master Plan (IDMP-2015/2040) of the Ministries of Agriculture and Food Security, Livestock and Fisheries, Environment and Forestry, Water Resources and Irrigation, the National Social Protection Policy Framework of the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare, the Disaster Risk Management Policy of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Risk Management, the Youth Development Policy of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, and the National Environment Policy of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and realizing the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for South Sudan.

3.2 Lessons Learnt:

A number of lessons learnt exist in the current phase of IDDRSI implementation:

- At national level, the platform and coordination mechanism needs to have a wider participation of both development and humanitarian partners, to adjust for the fluid borders between development and humanitarian in the current South Sudan context.
- Participation also needs to be more stable and regular. Focus should also be enhanced on more operational coordination. While information sharing is indeed extremely useful, there is a need to refocus on more practical coordination with a degree of decision making.
- At state, county and boma levels, coordination mechanism needs to be devolved to address the needs of the most disaster prone communities. There is a need for stronger platforms to support operations closer to the ground.
- Support by the Planning, Coordination and Partnerships Division is vital for operationalization of the national coordination platforms and mechanism. At national level, IDDRSI PCU should be staffed, equipped and facilitated for effectiveness, efficiency and out-standing performances and quality services delivery.
- COVID-19 pandemic has been a nightmare in coordination and physical implementation of programs and projects in their respective locations.

Chapter 4: Recommendations

The following priority recommendations are key to achieving the objectives of the IDDRSI in South Sudan in the second phase of implementation:

- The role of governments in coordinating efforts at national level is key, and several crucial policies can support this. These include the South Sudan National Development Strategy (2018/2021) that is aligned with Vision 2040, Policy Documents such as Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP-2015/2040), the Irrigation Development Master Plan (IDMP-2015/2040), the National Social Protection Policy Framework, the Disaster Risk Management Policy, the Youth Development Policy, and the National Environment Policy, and realizing the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for South Sudan.
- For high impact resilience investments across levels, key sectors include agriculture, food security and nutrition, infrastructure, basic social services (i.e. health, education, WASH and social protection).
- Partnerships are key in the resilience agenda, enabling vital changes not just in what is implemented but also, how it is implemented. Improvements can be made to coordination and alignment, both at national and state levels, particularly in information sharing, joint assessments and analysis, increased convergence of activities through joint planning and programming, multi-sector coordination mechanisms geared towards building sustainable systems, synergies across interventions supported by resilience focal points or working groups, mutual accountability, and aligned resource mobilization and funding.
- It remains essential to agree on monitoring of resilience-related indicators and to do so with a core but flexible set of indicators that can be derived (as much as possible) from existing monitoring systems.
- The Planning, Coordination and Partnerships Division needs to disburse funds, facilities and equipment to strengthen and devolve the national Platform and Coordination Mechanism at different levels of governance in South Sudan. Proper coordination and alignment is key to quality delivery of IGAD's Strategy in the next phase.
- Revise Terms of References to include new roles and responsibilities and expand the scope of the IDDRSI National Coordinators to include programming areas in Member States.
- There is a need for a formal discourse, between PCPD and respective MS, on housing of the IDDRSI PCU by a Government Agency with a coordination role and convening authority.
- The Government of the Republic of South Sudan and IDDRSI Regional Platform Coordination Unit should strengthen and operationalize IDDRSI Coordination mechanisms/ implementation of coordination structures at national and sub-national levels and provide avenues through which development partners can align and relate to the national IDDRSI coordination structures and share information on drought resilience programming.
- The Government of the Republic of South Sudan should create IDDRSI budget lines in its annual national budget to support the implementation of IDDRSI.
- Member States should promote investments in the ASALs, including supporting the engagement of the private sector in the development of ASALs infrastructure.
- Member States should promote investments in the cross border clusters in order to realize sustainable development and equitable regional integration.

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1. An IGAD Embark on Drought Resilience Initiative, 2014.
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