



IGAD DROUGHT DISASTER RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE (IDDRSI)

South Sudan Implementation Progress Report

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AfDB	African Development Bank
ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
CAMP	Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CES	Central Equatoria state
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CPP	Country Programming Paper
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DP	Development Partners
DRSLP	Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Project
EES	Eastern Equatoria state
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HoA	Horn of Africa
IDDRSI	IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative
IDMP	Irrigation Development Master Plan
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MLF	Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
MWRI	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
NALEP	National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Policy
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Action to Climate Change
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NIC	National IDDRSI Coordinator
PIA	Priority Intervention Area
PSC	Platform Steering Committee
R-ACISS	Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WFP	World Food Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This South Sudan IDDRSI Implementation Progress 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), 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 three (3) chapters. Chapter one (1) captures the contemporary historical background of drought and its impact on humans and livelihoods in the Horn of Africa (HoA) 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 disasters 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. It has captured the six agro-climatic zones, namely; the Green Belt, the Hills and Mountains, the Flood Plains, the Ironstone Plateau, the Nile-Sobat Rivers, and the Semi-arid/ Pastoral Zones (Figure1), River Nile and the 'Sudd', the world's most extensive wetlands, that confers a huge irrigation potential that would increase the arable area and extend growing seasons in the young country.

Chapter two (2) reflects the progress of implementation of the IDDRSI in South Sudan since the last IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee virtual meeting on 23rd July, 2020. Update on the progress of all national and multinational projects have been highlighted and stressed on per IDDRSI Priority Intervention Area (PIA).

Chapter three (3) addresses the key operational challenges and lessons learnt during the implementation of IDDRSI. Key challenges are COVID-19 pandemic, insecurity and violence, massive population displacement and refuge, 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 country. There is a dire need for nation-wide COVID-19 vaccination campaign. One of the key lessons learnt is that the platform 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.

CHAPTER (1): INTRODUCTION

In response to the birth of IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) in the Horn of Africa (HoA) in 2012, South Sudan, like all other IGAD countries, developed her Country Programming Paper (CPP) in March 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.

The CPP that was reviewed in 2018 for IDDRSI phase (II) (2019-2024) 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 coordinate technical stakeholders at the component level. The National IDDRSI Platform Coordination Mechanism is mandated to provide leadership in coordinating the implementation of drought related projects and programs in the country.

South Sudan is endowed with six agro-climatic zones, namely; the Green Belt, the Hills and Mountains, the Flood Plains, the Ironstone Plateau, the Nile-Sobat Rivers, and the Semi-arid/ Pastoral Zones (Figure1). 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. Generally, mixed cultivation takes place in the Green Belt, and livestock rearing and extensive cultivation are practised in the Ironstone Plateau and semi-arid zones (EU, 2016). Rainfall varies by region, ranging from 500 mm a year in the north to about 1,500 mm a year in the southwest.



FIGURE 1. AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONES OF SOUTH SUDAN

Competition over natural resources is a prominent feature of chronic, local-level insecurity in South Sudan. This phenomenon has been compounded by violent conflicts for political power in December 2013 and July 2016, leading to severe economic shocks, disruption of productive capacities, employment opportunities, infrastructure and markets access in the country.

This report, that captures few projects, was rendered through profound efforts of a team of monitoring and evaluation experts, who were drawn from the National Experts Panel for strengthening the coordination and implementation of IDDRSI at national and subnational levels in South Sudan.

CHAPTER (2): PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION SINCE THE 11TH PSC MEETING

Since the 11th IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee Meeting that was conducted virtually on 23rd July, 2020, there has been significant progress in the implementation of IDDRSI projects, programs and recommendations in South Sudan, as follows:

2.1 Update on Progress of Projects:

Although faced by a number of challenges, relative progress has been made by the Government of South Sudan in implementation of the National Development Strategy (2018/2021), the Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (2015/2040) and its sub-plan, the Irrigation Development Master Plan (2015/2040). Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has been implementing few IDDRSI related projects since 2018, under the Country Programming Framework for South Sudan (2019/2021). This report covers progress on implementation of representative projects in the current turbulent environment due to COVID-19 impact, insecurity, instability and massive population displacement and refuge in the country.

2.1.1 PIA 1: Environment and Natural Resources Management:

The strategic objective of this IDDRSI Priority Intervention Area (PIA) is to Enhance Drought Prone Communities Access to the Sustainably Managed Natural Resources. The PIA covers a wide range of sub-sectors, namely, water, rangeland and pastures, environment, energy, mining and industry. Following is a brief of representative projects under this PIA:

2.1.1.1 Watershed approaches for Climate Resilience in Agro-pastoral Landscape Project:

The strategic objective of this project is to build Resilience to Climate Change Risks amongst Agricultural and pastoral communities of South Sudan. The Project has three components, thus:

- Institutional capacities for gender-responsive climate change adaptation across the agricultural sector.
- Climate smart agriculture and food value chains.
- Community-based natural resources management to offset the impacts of climate on ecosystem goods and services.

The Project will kick off in July 2021 and is expected to end in January 2026. It will cover Northern Bahr el Ghazal state, Awiel East County and Awiel Town. The population of the two counties will benefit from the Project. The Project total cost is \$ USD 9,389,041.00. Funds were sourced from Global Environment Facility. At the end of the Project, more than 85% of women and youth will be capable to adapt to climate change.



Dry season livestock watering in Aweil, MARF(April 2020).

2.1.1.2 Strengthening the capacity of Government and Communities in South Sudan to Adapt to Climate Change Project:

The strategic objectives of the project are as follows:

- To support some of the key NAPA priority areas for South Sudan.
- To support humanitarian and development agencies to better implement adaptation actions, to build a cadre of National Climate Change Professionals.
- To support disaster management planning and to pilot new innovations that support the private sector, women`s group and youth to improve Nation Climate Change Resilience.

The Project includes three components:

- Capacity development for climate change adaptation in South Sudan.
- Vulnerability to climate change being reduced in South Sudan.
- Knowledge created and transferred.

The Project is planned to start in June this year and will end in December 2027. The area of coverage is Terekeka in Central Equatoria state and Kapoeta in Eastern Equatoria state. It is going to benefit the population of the two counties of Terekeka and Kapoeta as well. The total cost of funds, that have been sourced from GEF Project Financing, is \$ USD 10, 049,411.00. More than 75% of the target beneficiaries will be capacitated for climate change adaptation in South Sudan. The Project is led by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and shall be implemented in partnership with UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO and sometimes WFP.



The Governor of Kapoeta state pointing the low quality of invasive species inter alia land degradation (MEF; June 2018).

2.1.2 PIA 2: Market Access, Trade and Financial Services:

The PIA strategic objective is to improve transport, market infrastructure and financial services in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs). Specifically, the PIA addresses issues pertaining to transport, markets infrastructure, roads and bridges, livestock mobility, trade and financial services. The Government of South Sudan has allocated huge funds from the Oil Revenue for the construction and development of roads and bridges in the country. Below is one of the vital programs under the PIA.

2.1.2.1 Construction and development of Major Roads in South Sudan Program:

The main objectives of the program are as follows:

- a) To construct and develop roads and bridges that are safe for mobility of goods and services all over South Sudan.
- b) To unite the people of South Sudan, social cohesion, social fabric through proper road network connectivity.

Below is a summary of four major projects under this ambitious program in the country:

Name of Project	Start Date	End Date	Length in Km	Implementing Company	Total Funds USD	Status
Juba-Terekeka-Rumbek Road	25/03/2019	36 months	392.7	SDHS	1.5 Billion	Under-construction
Juba-Bor Road	25/09/2019	36 months	212	ARC	5.8 Billion	Under-construction
Bor-Malakal-Renk Road	14/08/2019	36 months	800	ARC	7.8 Billion	Contract Signed
Juba-Torit-Kapoeta-Nadapal Road		36 months	365	Winners	5.23 Billion	Contract Signed
Total					20.33 Billion	

It is worth-mentioning that Juba-Torit-Kapoeta-Nadapal High Way Road is covering the Karamoja/ Ateker Cluster in South Sudan. Juba-Terekeka-Rumbek Road, Juba-Bor Road and Bor-Malakal-Renk Road covering large areas that are flood prone in the country.



Juba-Bor-Malakal-Renk Highway, Jan.2020.



Juba-Terekeka-Rumbek High Way, Jan. 2020.

(Source: Ministry of Roads and Bridges, Jan.2020)

2.1.3 PIA 3: Enhanced Production and Livelihoods Diversification:

The main strategic objective of this PIA is to increase adaptive capacities of households in drought prone communities. The PIA is cutting across issues of livestock, crop, and fisheries production and productivity in the drought prone communities. Under this PIA, a number of projects have been identified, namely:

2.1.3.1 Fawligen Pilot Project in South Sudan for combating the Fall Armyworm (FAW):

Fawligens (Bio-pesticides) have categorically lower risk option and are Highly effective alternative to FAW management. FAO South Sudan, through its various projects with USAID support, in collaboration with CABI, AgBitec LTD, is running a pilot project for the use of fawligen (Bio pesticides) for the control and management of fall armyworm in South Sudan. FAW is a pest that can cause significant huge damages to crops, including maize and sorghum. The Project has a number of specific objectives, namely;

- a) To combat FAWs that are negatively impacting the major crops of the famers in South Sudan.
- b) To contribute to fighting the food and nutrition insecurity in South Sudan.
- c) Introduce and sustain the adoption of the best practices and proven technology for better yield and quality.
- d) Increase the adoption of fawligen, a biological control for FAW as part of an integrated pest management program.
- e) Give access to information and training on the use of crop production and protection technology.

The Project started on 1st April, 2019, and will end on 1st August, 2021. The area of coverage includes Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal State (WBG); Yambio, Western Equatoria State (WES); Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBG); Bor, Jonglei State; and Juba, Central Equatoria State (CES). Farmers and Farmer Groups are the target beneficiaries of the Project. USAID South Sudan CABI, AgBitec LTD has committed \$ USD 430,327.00 to the Project which is currently being implemented very smoothly.



Healthy Crop after treatment; FAW Infested crop; Training, Scouting, Demos, Distribution

(Source: MAFS. 2020)

2.1.3.2 Upgrading the Fisheries Sector in the Republic of South Sudan Project:

The main objective of the Project was to increase food and nutrition security of children, men and women in targeted states of South Sudan. The Project was funded by the Government of Canada, implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and supervised by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries of the Government of South Sudan. A total of \$11,500,000.00. was committed to the implementation of the Project in five years, starting from June, 2014 and ending in June 2018. The Project had a positive impact on major fishing communities along the entire Nile River corridor in the country.



Fish Cold Box supplied by UNIDO, Nov.2020. Fish Market in Terekeka, Nov.2020.

(Source: IDDRS NEP/ M&E Team, Nov.2020)

2.1.3.3 Building Resilience and Enhancing Livelihoods (BREL) of Conflict Affected Households in South Sudan Project:

The key objective of the project was to improve food and nutrition security, enhance livelihoods and resilience of conflicted household in Terekeka county, Central Equatoria state. The project was implementing a series of interventions that promoted household and/ community food and nutrition security and livelihoods resilience in the target locations of South Sudan. The BREL project was desired to improve the resilience of the target households to shocks (economic, natural and conflict related) and contribute to livelihoods through improved household's production and increased/diversified income sources. That was done firstly by strengthening the capacity of smallholder farmers, groups and associations and local actors to provide an enabling environment for target households that were engaged in more sustainable climate smart agriculture hence contributing to improved household production and productivity. The Project started in January 2020, and ended in December 2020. The Project was partly funded by EUTF Contribution (EU 28,000,000.00) and Co-financing of EU Trust Fund for Africa (EU 10,123,003.00). The implementation was carried out with partnership of FAO and Norwegian Peoples' Aid (NPA). The Project covered Terekeka, Nyori and Maridi counties in Central Equatoria state and Western Equatoria state, and had a positive impact on the target communities.



Processed Vegetables in Terekeka; Okra growing in Terekeka Farm, Nov.2020.

(Source: IDDRS NEP/ M&E Team, Nov.2020)



Cattle Vaccination Campaign in Terekeka County, Nov.2020.

(Source: IDDRS NEP/ M&E Team, Nov.2020)

2.1.3.4 Strengthening the Resilience of Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Communities in South Sudan's Cross-border Areas with Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda Project:

This Project had a main objective pertaining to strengthening the resilience of households to food and Nutrition Insecurity.

Strengthening the Livelihoods Resilience of Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Communities in South Sudan's Cross-border Areas with Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda" was a three-year project that aimed to improve governance and conflict prevention to reduce forced displacement and irregular migration in the cross-border areas of South Sudan. The Project was targeting the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in the project's target locations of Abyei cluster, with specific supporting activities in northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap, along the border with Sudan; north-east cluster, including Maban, Melut and Renk; the south-east/east cluster with Torit, Ikotos, Kapoeta East and South; and the Akobo cluster. The Project started in July 2017 and ended in July, 2020. The Project was totally funded by EUTF Contribution (EU 28,000,000.00) and Co-financing of EU Trust Fund for Africa (EU 10,123,003.00).



Selected areas are within South Sudan bordering Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and the entire country for food security (FAO 2020)



Cattle Herders in Abyei, March, 2020 (Source: USAID 2020)

2.1.4 PIA 5: Research, Knowledge Management and Technology Transfer:

This PIA aims at Improved Utilisation of Knowledge for Drought Resilience in Member States. It addresses issues pertaining to Adaptive Research and Extension, Knowledge Management and Communication. One project has been identified under this PIA, namely:

2.1.4.1 National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) Project:

The main objective of the Project was to strengthen the capacity of Statistics Producers in South Sudan to produce and disseminate official statistics. More specifically, the project was to strengthen the national statistical system in production and dissemination of timely and robust statistics relevant for evidence based policy-making and other uses. The Project was started in February 2015, and ended in June 2020. The implementation of the Project benefitted a number of institutions, namely, Government line ministries, South Sudan Development Plan Monitoring System, Researchers and Academia, Business Community International Community including Development Partners (DPs). The Project was funded by the World Bank to the tune of \$ 4,533,922.00 USD.

2.1.5 PIA 8: Human Capital, Gender and Social Development:

The strategic objective of this IDDRSI PIA is to increase equitable access to basic social services in drought prone areas.

The PIA covers a wide range of sub-sectors, namely, health and nutrition, education, gender, safety nets, migration and displacement. The following projects are typically reflecting efforts of the Government of South Sudan on Pastoralists Education and Health in the country.

2.1.5.1 EU-IGAD COVID-19 Response Project:

The Project is objectively designed and implemented to achieve the following goals:

- Provide health and socio-economic support to cross border communities.
- Support measures for the safe circulation of goods and commodities (safeguard of corridors and cross-border flows).

The Project was started in April 2020 and is expected to end in April 2022. It is covering Nadapal Cross border area between South Sudan and Uganda, in the Karamoja/ Ateker Cluster. The Project is funded by the European Union and its cost is USD \$ 128,237.78. To date, it is 50% complete in status.

2.1.5.2 Pastoralists Education Program (PEP) Strategy Framework (2017/2022):

In line with the General Education Strategy Plan [2017-2022], the Ministry of General Education and Instruction, with partners [UNESCO, UNICEF and GPE] developed a Pastoralist Education Program [PEP] Strategy Framework for 2018-2022.

The Pastoralists Education Program (PEP) Strategy Framework (2018-2022) aims at achieving four important national education program priorities as espoused in The General Education Strategic Plan (GESP) of (2017-2018) with respect to the pastoralists communities in South Sudan. These priorities include:

- To increase equitable access to general education;
- To improve the quality of general education;
- To enhance the management capacity of the education personnel, and
- To integrate other issues that have a direct bearing in the promotion of education.

This strategy PEP (2018-2022) aims to provide alternative basic education as a practical solution to major challenges of providing education to the pastoralists through solely school based systems.

The ministry strongly encourages development partners to align their programs and projects with those described in this PEP strategy framework 2018-2022 and GESP 2017-2022. In that way, the combined efforts of the ministry and all its development and humanitarian partners will ensure that learners of all ages in the pastoralist communities are able to access education and improve the quality of their lives.

2.2 Update on Progress of Implementation of the 11th PSC Recommendations:

The 11th IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee (PSC) meeting that was conducted virtually on 23rd July, 2020, recorded a number of implementable recommendations by both IGAD Secretariat and member states. South Sudan was able to implement the following recommendations:

11 TH IDDRSI PSC RECOMMENDATION	ACHIEVEMENT
<p>11.1 Recalls recommendation 10.1 of the 10th IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee meeting that took place on 4-6 September 2019 to facilitate the development of a robust M&E and impact assessment framework for the revised CPPs and RPP, aligned with regional, continental and global result frameworks; and urges the IGAD Secretariat and Member States to undertake regular performance reviews at national and sub-national levels, and to continue; strengthening monitoring and evaluation to ensure continuous and effective tracking of progress at all levels</p>	<p>-South Sudan has established a National Experts Panel (NEP) that is composed of twenty-one (21) senior technical staff drawn from IDDRSI line institutions. Nine (9) NEP technical staff are experts on M&E. The NEP has assessed sectoral plans and results frameworks in order to identify the extent to which components of the CPP are included and implemented in national MTP of the National Development Strategy (2018/2021). -The NEP also developed a concise and appropriate compendium of indicators to monitor performance of projects, and programs that are being implemented under the CPP in the country. The NEP will continue strengthening monitoring and evaluation to ensure continuous and effective tracking of progress at all levels in South Sudan. A Team composed of four (4) NEP/ M&E Experts and NIC undertook a field visit to evaluate and report on the IDDRSI related projects in Terekeka County, CES in Nov., 2021. Another Team comprising two (2) NEP/ M&E Experts visited Luri Payam to undertake the same objective in same period. The two Visits had the following outputs: -A Draft Developed Compendium of Indicators tool on monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the CPP related projects tested in Terekeka County and Luri Payam in CES; -The Political Leadership and technical staff have been sensitized and made aware of the CPP and its strategic objectives as a buy-in process for ownership and leadership purposes at the county and payam levels, and -IDDRSI related projects have been monitored and evaluated and found providing positive outcomes and impacts on the livelihoods of the fishing, crop producing and livestock keeping communities in Terekeka County and Luri Payam in CES.</p>
<p>11.2 Recalls recommendation 10.5 of the 10th IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee meeting to further strengthen the regional, national, sub-national and cross border resilience coordination mechanisms in the region, and calls upon the IGAD Secretariat to support capacity development of the Member States institutions coordinating and implementing IDDRSI at all levels;</p>	<p>-South Sudan has strengthened its coordination mechanism at national level by establishing NEP/ M&E team, and a National Technical Committee. It conducted a National Technical Committee workshop in Juba, on 9th Nov., 2020, that was attended by fifty-nine technical staff from IDDRSI line ministries and UN-Agencies, Academia, Research Institutes and Private Sector. -Plans for devolving the coordination mechanism to state and county levels will be realized within the coming three months with the completion of formation of state and county governments.</p>

<p>11.3 Recalls recommendation 10.4 of the 10th IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee meeting on the intensification of resource mobilization to support humanitarian interventions and resilience projects in “hot spot” areas in ASALs, by holding of a resilience investment conference, to include new partners and improved access to the climate adaptation funds;</p>	<p>The Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Government of South Sudan has mobilized funds (\$ 10.5 million USD) from Global Environment Facility (GEF) for implementation of a project titled: “Strengthening the capacity of Government and Communities in South Sudan to Adapt to Climate Change (2021/2027) with special emphasis on ASALs in SS. The project has three components, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity development for climate change adaptation in South Sudan; • Vulnerability to climate change being reduced in South Sudan, and • Knowledge created and transferred.
<p>11.4 Further calls upon the IGAD Secretariat and Member States to promote investments in the ASALs and cross-border clusters, including in sustainable land and water management, market access and trade, and livelihoods diversification, as well as supporting engagement of the private sector in the development of ASALs infrastructure, in order to realize sustainable development and equitable regional integration;</p>	<p>-South Sudan High Level Team participated in the Launch of a Resilience Program for the Karamoja Cluster titled: ‘<i>Enhanced Resilience of Communities in the Karamoja/ Ateker Cluster from Drought and Related Disasters-Program Document (2020/2025)</i>’ in Entebbe, Uganda in March 2020.</p> <p>-Subsequent to the launch of the Karamoja/ Ateker Cluster Development Program, a Nyakiriket Consortium of nine (9) local Non-governmental Organizations, was established in Kapoeta in June 2020, for implementation of the program ‘to contribute to enhanced resilience of communities in the Karamoja Sub-cluster in South Sudan’.</p>
<p>11.5 Calls on the IGAD Secretariat and the Member States to document information about IDDRSI related projects and share with IDDRSI stakeholders at sub-national, national and regional level for purposes of knowledge exchange and transfer;</p>	<p>-The NEP members documented information about IDDRSI related projects, programs and strategies that will be shared with IDDRSI stakeholders at sub-national, national and regional levels for purposes of knowledge exchange and transfer.</p>
<p>11.6 Urges Member States and Development Partners to put in place the fiscal stimulus to support recovery from the multiple hazards that hit our region, and strengthen the food security and peace processes in the region by simultaneously addressing resilience-enhancing interventions.</p>	<p>-The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) of the Government of South Sudan in partnership with FAO, is implementing a 5-year <i>Strategic Action Plan for the Management and Control of the Desert Locust (2020/ 2025)</i> with an estimated grand total budget of about USD \$ 10 million.</p> <p>-MARS and FAO are, also, implementing a one-year project titled: ‘<i>Emergency Desert Control and Management Project</i>’ (July 2020/ June 2021) with a grand total budget of about USD \$ 3.12 million.</p> <p>-The MAFS and FAO have implemented a project titled: “Support to Management of Fall Armyworm (2019.2020)”.</p>

	<p>-In response to a wide scale flooding in Aug. 2020, the Government of RSS declared a state of emergency in the hard hit areas, mainly, Jonglei state and Pibor Administrative Area, calling for humanitarian support.</p>
<p>11.7. Welcome the plans and progress in the development of the next phase of the Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (DRSLP), to be funded by the African Development Bank; and urges all Member States representatives on the committee to check with their respective ministries of finance to ensure that drought resilience is included in the list of projects to be supported under the country's next allocation from the Bank.</p>	<p>-The Government of RSS, through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Ministry of Finance and Planning, has confirmed its willingness to commit resources from allocation of ADB-15, which will be co-financed from ADB regional window, to finance the implementation of drought resilience-enhancing projects in the next phase of DRSLP. An Expression of Commitment was signed in Juba, on 21st Jun. 2019.</p> <p>-On the Feasibility Study on the Program to Build Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security in the Horn of Africa, the National Team has undertaken the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Meeting to establish contacts with NIC and national stakeholders at MAFS on 21stJan 2021; -Meeting to introduce feasibility study consultants to IDDRSI PCU and NEP members, sharing of list of stakeholders and their contacts and submission of IDDRSI relevant documents at MAFS on 28TH Jan. 2021; -IDDRSI PCU, National Experts Panel and ECU-GAIC Team of Consultants Second meeting conducted. Agenda (1. To introduce the DRSLP (II) Consultancy Team to IDDRSI National PCU members in Juba; 2. To share policy documents that are related to DRSLP II project; 3. To revise and update the tentative work plan developed by country team of consultancy experts; - List of documents from line ministries shared with Country Experts include CAMP, IDMP, IGAD Karamoja Cluster documents, National Development Strategy, NALEP, revised CPP, National Fisheries Policy, National Adaptation Programs for Action (NAPA), Policy and Environmental Outlook, etc. - Tentative work plan was updated which mainly focused on selection of project/study sites. The study sites were drawn from the ten states in South Sudan, based on livelihood zones and government's priority areas for intervention, although some sites may currently be under separate administrative area. - Budget to be drafted and send to ECU/IGAD together with the tentative work plan.

CHAPTER (3): CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

3.1 Operational Challenges and Their Solutions:

There is a number of operational challenges that impede the implementation of IDDRSI in South Sudan:

- 3.1.1 Prevalence of COVID-19 Pandemic has distracted and disrupted response plans that were put in place for smooth implementation of IDDRSI related programs and projects in the country. COVID-19 lockdown and its associated control measures have placed enormous pressures on the already dilapidated economy in South Sudan as well as on the meagre livelihoods of the vulnerable population. Up to the 10th of March, 2021, cumulative numbers of COVID-19 cases confirmed in South Sudan were (9,205) patients, fatalities were (106) souls and recovered cases were numbering (7906) persons. There is a dire need for availability of vaccines and immediate launch of country-wide vaccination campaign.
- 3.1.2 The current turbulent environment is exacerbated by the protracted political and inter-communal violent conflicts that have been raging on for years in some quarters of the country most of which are now declared as emergency zone due to conflicts. This environment could be made conducive by immediate implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ACISS) to the letter and spirit. Key parties to the Agreement should avoid selective implementation approach of the Agreement.

3.2 Lessons Learnt

Lessons learnt exist in the process of IDDRSI implementation:

- 3.2.1 At national level, the platform 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.
- 3.2.2 At national level, IDDRSI PCU staffing, equipping and facilitation is crucial for effectiveness, efficiency and out-standing performances and quality services delivery.
- 3.2.3 Proper coordination of monitoring, evaluation and learning mechanisms is key to tracking progress and delivery and sharing of information by key stakeholders.