



Women Livelihoods Support Interventions in Eastern Equatoria State

Project Title: Economic Empowerment of Pastoralists Women in Kapoeta East County, South Sudan

Action for Gender Mainstreaming

ATEKER FOUNDATION SOUTH SUDAN (AFSS) and the state ministry of Gender and Child welfare worked collaboratively in sensitizing; organizing and supporting various women into entrepreneurial micro-groups for enhanced business production. Women entrepreneurs were training on basic business management skills, production and marketing of their products. Furthermore, the project provided grant seed capital for start-ups as well as for enterprise expansion resulting in increased income streams.



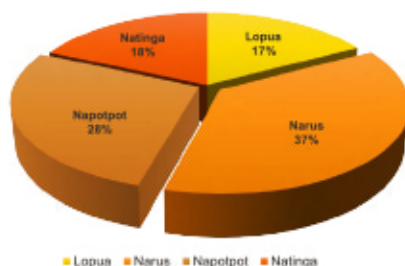
Greater Kapoeta women chairlady Mrs.Elizabeth Lopeyok displays locally made traditional skirts (TANURA) and beads for sale.



Mogila women association at Kapoeta East County headquarters posse for a photo after 5 days on entrepreneurship.

Beneficiaries

- Local pastoralist women in Kapoeta East County
- 175 young lactating mothers diversified livelihoods sources
- Enhanced household incomes for participating women
- Improved nutritional status amongst children
- Beneficiaries distribution is as depicted in the figure below:



**KINGARAK NYAKUJ NG'ABEUR TOGOGONG'IETO JIIK KA NAKWAPIA KADAANG!!
ALAKARA LOOWOI.**

Lessons Learnt

- The contextual national circumstances in South Sudan require adaptive and application flexible programming in the project implementation strategies and processes factoring.
- ATEKER FOUNDATION SOUTH SUDAN and the state ministry of gender and child welfare resolved to use some of the existing and functional Community-Based Centers to not only enhance community acceptance and stakeholders' ownership of the project interventions but also to expedite project implementation processes.
- Project focused on engagement of the women in skills development and livelihood improvement schemes. Observably, these interventions have remarkably contributed to economic development as well as reduction in SGBV and protection as women supplements household incomes.
- Cultural stigmatization of People Living with Disabilities (PLWDs) is deeply rooted in South Sudan. Most of these were neglected and shunned at the community level – leaving them to stay at home and grappling with low self-esteem and self-worth.

Future Plans

- ATEKER FOUNDATION SOUTH SUDAN and State ministry of gender and child welfare intends to continue to collaboratively engage with various development partners and stakeholders in mobilizing the required financial and technical expertise to expand the Pastoralist Women Economic programme. This will not only result in replicating and expanding the geographical scope but as well as deepening the project impact on the target communities in Greater Kapoeta and surrounding counties.

Partners

- These interventions were made possible with the generous support of Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and Trade Mark UK through their provision of financial aid. On the other hand, ATEKER FOUNDATION SOUTH SUDAN and State ministry of gender and child welfare collaboratively worked hand-in-hand on the implementation of the project activities. These coordinated and well-thought out strategies resulted in the attainment of the project outcomes amplifying its impact on the target communities.

Furthermore, the excellent relations established between ATEKER FOUNDATION SOUTH SUDAN and the local authorities as well community leaders has created a strong sense of project ownership and enhanced sustainability.