

Progress Report of Resilience Projects in South Sudan January- June 2022

14th IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee and 8th General
Assembly Meetings
20-22 July 2022
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Executive Summary

This Progress Report of Resilience Projects, for a period starting from January to June 2022, was prepared through an inclusive and participatory consultative process with a number of 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, the Capital City of the country, and other capitals of the drought/ flood prone states in South Sudan.

Chapter (1) introduces the reader to the geographical location, size of inhabitants and the area of the Republic of South Sudan within the IGAD Region and Africa.

Chapter (2) captures the Progress on the Implementation of Recommendations of 13th IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings that were conducted in Naivasha, Kenya, on 30th November- 1st December 2021, depicting a number of implementable recommendations by both IGAD Secretariat, member states and development partners.

Chapter (3) includes Updates of the Implementation of the Resilience Projects in the current turbulent environment due to COVID-19 impact, insecurity, instability and massive population displacement and refuge in the country. Updates on the progress of all national and multinational projects have been highlighted and stressed on per IDDRSI Priority Intervention Area (PIA).

Chapter (4) unlocks the Challenges that impede the implementation of IDDRSI and the lessons learnt during the implementation of IDDRSI in the specified period of time in South Sudan. 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 (R-ARCISS) 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 (5) concludes the document by highlighting the Recommendations for the upcoming period of implementation of the strategy in South Sudan.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AfDB African Development Bank ASALs Arid and Semi-Arid Lands

CAMP Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan

CBOs Community-Based Organizations

CES Central Equatoria sate
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

GEF Global Environment Fund

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

MEF 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-ARCISS Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic 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

UNOPS United Nations Office for Project Services

WFP World Food Program

Chapter (1): Introduction

South Sudan is a landlocked country that falls almost entirely (96%) within the Nile River Basin in East-Central Africa. The country is bordered in the north by Sudan, by Ethiopia and Kenya in the east, by Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in the south, and in the west by the Central African Republic. It occupies an area of 658,842 sq. km (including Abyei). South Sudan is inhabited by 11,369,670 persons (UN Data November 2021) and administratively is divided in to ten (10) states and three (3) Administrative Areas. About 80 per cent of the population lives in rural areas where subsistence agriculture is the mainstay of people's livelihoods. The country's climate is characterised by extremes and it regularly experiences drought, torrential rains and seasonal flooding.

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. 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. Basically, that is covering an area of about 57,000 sq.km, has been designated as world heritage site under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in June 5, 2006.



The Sudd Region, 2021

The potential for renewable energy is huge, including biomass resources (forests, animal wastes, and agricultural residues), hydro, wind and solar energy; The use of wood fuel and charcoal is causing deforestation and polluting emissions that are responsible for respiratory diseases.

The majority of South Sudan's people rely on the natural resources, namely, land, water, grasslands, forests and mineral deposits for their daily survival. The effective management of South Sudan's natural resources could greatly improve the country's prospects for peace and stability. The South Sudan's natural environment provides abundant environmental goods and services that offer multiple opportunities for economic development and improved livelihoods; it is a fragile endowment, however, that must be managed sustainably to support the livelihoods of present and future generations. Just Peace, however, is the overarching goal for South Sudan's stability, sustainable development and prosperity.

Chapter (2): Progress on the Implementation of Recommendations of 13th PSC

The 13th IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings that were conducted in Naivasha, Kenya, on 30th November-1st December, 2021, recorded a number of implementable recommendations by both IGAD Secretariat, member states and development partners. South Sudan was able to implement the following recommendations:

13TH IDDRSI PSC RECOMMENDATIONS

13.2. Calls on Member States to translate their livestock development and rangeland policies based on inclusive value chain development that integrates and harmonizes all producers, service providers, in the areas of animal breeding, feed (water and forage), biodiversity, health services and marketing.

SOUTH SUDAN'S ACHIEVEMENTS

The Ministry of livestock and Fisheries, of the Government of South Sudan, has a National Development Policy Livestock focusing on all key policy areas ranging from herd improvement, health and safety, pastoralism, support services (research and extension, feed and rangeland and value addition plus cross cutting issues like gender. climate change, land tenure etc.) The implementation instruments of the policy are yet to be enacted or developed. The same Ministry has developed a National Rangeland Management Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2031) for South Sudan with the support from AU-IBAR and IGAD/ICPALD, to achieve sustainable rangeland management eradicating or alleviating ecosystems and biodiversity threats and related drivers in the rangelands. The Ministry is currently developing a livestock breeding policy with the support of FAOSS.

13.4. Further calls on the IGAD Secretariat, Member States and Development Partners to expand the scope and scale of resilience investments in the region in the face quadrupling hazards - drought, floods, pests, human disease and conflicts that have undermined the progress made since the launch of IDDRSI.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security of the Government of South Sudan and FAOSS are implementing a Program to Build Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security (BREFONS) in the Horn of Africa (HoA) in Kapoeta and Aweil. The overall objective of the Program is to build resilience to food and nutrition insecurity in pastoral and agropastoral communities in the Horn of Africa. The Program was launched in April 2022 and the Stakeholder Consultative Meetings were conducted in the Program Sites in May 2022. The program is funded mainly by the AfDB.

13.7. Recalls Recommendation No. 11.1 of the 11th Platform Steering Committee meeting urging the IGAD Secretariat and Member States to continue to strengthen monitoring and evaluation, to ensure continuous and effective tracking of progress at all levels; and calls on the IGAD Secretariat to improve M&E units at technical ministries, enhance capacity on planning, data collection, data analysis and results-based reporting.

A Team of Experts from Djibouti participated in the operationalization of the CPP's M&E Plan (2019/2024) for South Sudan in Juba this year. The main objectives of that series of Workshops were as follows:

-To identify projects that were contributing to resilience in the country in line with the IDDRSI PIAs and administrative areas where projects were being implemented.

-To identify and prioritize project indicators for monitoring using standard monitoring format.

- -Filling gaps of project baselines and targets for effective performance monitoring.
- -To assess the degree to which the IDDRSI Indicators (regional strategy) match with indicators of the CPP.
- -To identify areas of support to improve the M&E System of the country in order to effectively monitor the performance of resilience projects in ASAL areas.
- 13.9 Recalls Recommendation No. 10.7 of the 10th Platform Steering Committee meeting and urges the IDDRSI Platform Coordination Unit to develop a database of people and resources using a robust programme portfolio management tool such as 3W Map, in order to effectively coordinate the activities of support actors that are implementing resilience building processes in the cross-border areas of the IGAD region.

A Team of Technical Experts from Diibouti undertook a 4-day Training on 3 W Tool in Juba last November for 16 National Experts Panel Members who were drawn from different IDDRSI Line Ministries in order to equip them with skills of monitoring and planning in their respective institutions. The Team is currently capable of using and owning the who-is-doing-what-where (3W) on drought resilience (including mapping of mapping tools). The main objectives of the training were to transfer the knowledge on how to insert, remove and update Investment project profiles and necessary information using the newly upgraded 3W mapping tool, visualize the inserted information using the dashboard, train the identified administrators to manage users and related access roles validate and the already uploaded information.

13.14 Recognizes the threat of COVID-19 and other pandemics on the social and economic sectors in the IGAD Region, such as reduced agricultural production, market and trade restrictions, and urges Member States to advocate for access to vaccines and expeditiously carry out country-wide vaccination campaigns.

In response to this recommendation, the Ministry of Health of the Government of South Sudan, with support from WHO, UNICEF, Health Pool Fund (HPF), and other partners, launched National COVID-19 has а Vaccination Campaign in ten states including 3 Administrative Areas. The vaccinations are also reaching 26 IDP sites and 22 refugee sites. As of 25 May 2022, 764,980 eligible people are fully vaccinated representing 5.6% of the population. The females constitute 50.6% of people vaccinated. The effectiveness of the ongoing activities is constrained by a shortage of vaccinators who also double up as routine immunization programme vaccinators, limited information, and mobilization for vaccination especially in far flung and remote locations and persisting low risk perception. Weak micro-planning and target setting continue practices undermining the scope of the ongoing vaccination activities coupled with weak health system in general, and weak coordination. The prevailing insecurity,

political, and infrastructure context and
environment are not enabling the rollout of
the vaccination activities. Poverty levels are
high and competing priorities for food and
livelihoods keep COVID-19 vaccinations low
on the agenda of most of the population in the
country.

Chapter (3): <u>Updates on the Implementation of the Resilience Projects</u>

Since the 13th IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee Meetings that were undertaken inperson, in Naivasha, Kenya, in November/ December 2021, there has been significant progress in the implementation of IDDRSI projects, programs and recommendations in South Sudan. The following 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.

3.1 PIA 1: Natural Resources and Environment 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 which include water, rangeland and pastures, environment, energy, mining and industry. Following is a brief of representative projects under each sub pillar:

3.1.1 Water Resources Development and Management:

The following are the only two projects under this sub-pillar of IDDRSI PIA (1):

3.1.1.1 Watershed Approaches for Climate Resilience in Agropastoral 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 kicked off in July 2021 and is expected to end in January 2026. It will cover Northern Bahr el Ghazal state, specifically, Aweil Centre, Aweil East, and Aweil West Counties. The population of the two counties will benefit from the Project. The Project total cost is \$ 9,389,041 USD. Funds were sourced from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). At the end of the Project, more than 95% of women and youth will be capable to adapt to climate change.



Dried up river in Kapoeta Area, June 2021

3.1.1.2 The 100 million Tree Planting Project in South Sudan:

The project will mitigate the effect of climate change and restore the degraded land-based ecosystem and create sustainable ways of living.

The project started in 2021 and will end in 2031 in the 10 states of South Sudan. GCF and GEF have allocated \$ 50 Million USD for thorough implementation of the project as planned.



Charcoal Production Impact in Eastern Equatoria state, September, 2021.

3.1.2 Environmental Management and Bio-diversity:

3.1.2.1 Capacity development in reducing Illegal Wildlife trade and improving protected areas management effectiveness in South Sudan project:

The strategic objective of the project is to combat Illegal Wildlife Trade by strengthening PA Legislative and management system through institutional strengthening, improved information management and monitoring, and community empowerment through both National and site level. The project that started on 25th July 2018, is expected to end in July 2022. The project is co-managed by the Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism and Ministry of Environment and Forestry at national level. It is executed to benefit the inhabitants of the Sudd Region and Wildlife protect areas of Game Reserve in the country. Funds were solicited from GEF and the total cost is \$5,319,452 USD. The project is currently 98% in completion.



Elephants in the Sudd Region, 2021.

3.2 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.

3.2.1 Access to Secure and Affordable Financial Services:

3.2.3.1 South Sudan Job Creation and Trade Development Project (JCTDP):

The project objective is to improve the livelihoods of the population and increase competitiveness of MSMEs and create employment opportunities with a focus on the youth and women in Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria states. The project started in 2021 and will end in 2024. It is currently 55%v in completion. It is funded by the European Union (EU) that has committed about \$ 5 million USD to the project implementation.

3.3 PIA 3: Enhance Production and Livelihood Diversification:

The main strategic objective of this Priority Intervention Area (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.

3.3.1 Crop production and Productivity:

3.3.1.1 Resilient Agricultural Livelihood Project (RALP):

The main objective is to strengthen capacities of farmers and their organizations and improve agricultural production. The implementation of the Project will benefit 140,000 HHs in Renk, Bor South, Magwi, Torit, Aweil East, Aweil South, Wau, Jur River, Melut, Akobo, Twic East, Yei and Maridi counties in South Sudan. The Project has started in 2022 and will end in 2026.

3.3.2 Fisheries and Apiculture development:

3.3.2.1 ECOFish: Baro-Akobo-Sobat Transboundary Fisheries Management Plan Project:

The project has five strategic objectives, namely:

- Establish fisheries co-management system for the sub-basin;
- Support bilateral cooperation for sustainable management of fisheries in the basin;
- Support cross border fisheries management and trade;
- Support exchange of data across the sub-basin, and
- Support climate change through smart fisheries in the sub-basin.

The beneficiaries of the project are fisherfolk, woman, youth and small-scale fisheries traders in Pibor, Akobo, Ulang, Fangak, Nasir and Malakal Counties in Jonglei and Upper Nile states. EU has allocated 967,215 Euro for the implementation of the project, that started in August 2020, and will end in August 2023. The implementation status is 90% in completion. It is being implemented by IGAD, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF) and State Ministry of Animal Resources, Fisheries and Tourism (MARFT) in the above-mentioned states.



Traditional Fishing in Akobo, 2021.

3.3.2.2 FishGov 2 Project on "Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS) for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (AU-IBAR)":

The project has three key strategic objectives, namely:

- Improve coordination among actors in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa;
- Improve coherence in governance instruments and approaches to reduce incidences of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing due to weak surveillance;
- Capacities development for evidence-based information to foster reforms and monitor of sector policies, and
- Improve infrastructure development and inclusive governance in the fisheries sector.

The beneficiaries of the project are Fisheries Institutions, Fishers' communities, woman, youth and small-scale fisheries traders in Member States (MSs). The project is financially supported by EU. It was started in April 2021 and will end in April 2023.



The Sudd Region, 2021.

3.3.2 Productive Safety Net:

3.3.2.1 South Sudan Safety Net Project:

The strategic objective of the South Sudan Safety Net Project is to provide Temporary income opportunities to the selected poor and Vulnerable households and to strengthen safety net delivery tools in the Republic of South Sudan. The project is targeting 65,000 Poor and Vulnerable Households in Juba, Torit, Tonj South, Gogrial West, Kapoeta East, Pibor, Bor, Melut, Raja and Yei. A total cost of about \$ 40 Million USD has been allocated by UNOPS for the implementation of the project as from May 2020 to November 2022. The project now 75% in completion status.

3.3.3 Trans-Boundary Disease Control & SPS Measures and Standards:

3.3.3.1 Establishment of Livestock Quarantine System Project in Nadapal, Nimule and Joda in South Sudan Project:

The project is objectively planned to monitor Zoonosis and Trans-boundary Animal diseases in the Country, while developing the capacity at international border crossings to control livestock movement to ensure that only disease-free animals travel into and out of the country. The project is planned to start in 2021 and will end in 2022. It will be established in Nimule and Nadapal, Eastern Equatoria state, and Joda (Wunthau) in Upper Nile state. The beneficiaries of the project are the Local Farmers and Livestock owners, Livestock Traders and National and State Governments of South Sudan. Funds, totalling about \$ 240,963 USD, will be solicited from the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Republic of South Sudan for the implementation of the project.

3.4 PIA 4: Disaster Risk Management, Preparedness and Effective Response:

Strategic Objective of this PIA is to enhance drought disaster management in IGAD Member States.

Disaster Risk Management is the application of disaster risk reduction policies and strategies, to prevent new disaster risks, reduce existing disaster risks, and manage residual risks, contributing to the strengthening of resilience and reduction of losses. Disaster risk management actions can be categorised into; prospective disaster risk management, corrective disaster risk management and compensatory disaster risk management (also referred to as residual risk management).

3.4.1 Early Warning Systems and Response:

3.4.1.1 Capacity Augmentation for Early Warning (EW) System and Disaster Risk Management Project:

The project is planned to:

- Enhance government institutional capacities on EW coordination, assessment and documentations;
- Improve technical capacity for famine prevention, preparedness and early response capability;
- Increase awareness among the public on early warning risk information for early action, and
- Increase investment in cost effective and innovation interventions, and use of modern technologies.

The project targets the relevant Government Institutions and End Users of information disseminated by the Directorate of Early Warning and Disaster Risk Management in the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM) of the Government of South Sudan. The project is being implemented at national level and in the ten (10) states in the country. A total amount of about \$ 342,368 USD has been disbursed by the World Food Programme (WFP) for the implementation of the project. The project started in April 2013 and will end in August 2023. It is now 75% in completion.



Flooding in Upper Nile state, August 2021

3.5 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.

3.5.1 Support to Adaptive Research:

3.5.1.1 Building Back Better: Rural Livelihoods Recovery Initiative for the Greater Horn of Africa Project:

The strategic objective of the project is to test new seed varieties for quick release and increase the foundation seeds of adapted varieties for production of certified seeds by local seed companies in South Sudan. The project benefits a number of farmers. NGOs, Government Institutions and Community in Yambio, Palotaka, Juba, Yei, Wau and Maridi. The World Bank has allocated \$ 45,000 USD for the implementation of the project that started in June, 2021 and ended in June, 2022. It was implemented by AGRA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS).

3.5.1.2 Gene-bank Platform Targets collection in South Sudan Project:

The strategic objective of the project is to compile, refine and combine geographical/trait analyses of relevant crops for collecting in South Sudan, review and enhance relevant Diversity trees and identify priority crops (and traits) in RSS for two-way flow of germplasm (collecting/exchange from IITA, ICRISAT, AfricaRice). The project benefits a number of Seed Breeders and Farmers in Magwi and Torit in Eastern Equatoria state, in Juba and Terekeka, in Central Equatoria state, and in Ibba, Mundri West, Nzara and Yambio, in Western Equatoria state. The World Bank has allocated \$ 16,000 USD for the implementation of the project, that started in December, 2020, and ended in June, 2022. It was implemented by AGRA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS).

3.6 PIA 6: Conflict Prevention, Resolution and Peace Building:

The strategic objective of this PIA is to guarantee peace and stability in IGAD region.

6.1 Peace Building and Mediation Mechanisms:

6.1.1Training on Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Project:

The strategic objective of the project is to train the pastoralists on the impact of drought on their migratory movements for pastures and water for animals and humans' consumption in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) in South Sudan. The project benefits Local Peace actors, Local authorities, Women, Youth and people with disability, NGOs and UN agencies in Ikotos of Eastern Equatoria and Yirol West of Lakes States. Funds totalling \$7,500 USD has been provided by UNDP. It was started in October 2021 and will end in October 2022. The project is 85% in completion status.

6.1.2 Conflict Early Warning and Response Monthly Forum Project:

The strategic objective of the project is to conduct Monthly Peace Actors Coordination Forum. The beneficiaries are Peace building partners in Juba, the Capital City of South Sudan. The project started in October, 2021 and will end in October, 2022. The total cost of about \$ 500 USD was provided by UNDP. The project status is 90% in completion.



Violent Clashes in Jonglei state, October, 2021.

3.7 PIA 8: Human Capital, Gender and Social Developments:

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.

8.1 Access to Health and Nutrition:

8.1.1 EU-IGAD COVID-19 Response Project:

The project has four strategic objectives of the Action, namely:

- Support IGAD in its mandate to coordinate national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic at the sub-regional level;
- Provide health and socio-economic support to target beneficiaries (migrants, refugees, Internally Displaced Persons-and their host communities, cross border communities);
- Support measures for the safe circulation of goods and commodities (safeguard of corridors and cross-border flows), and
- Promote digital solution relevant for the health COVID-19 response, with specific attention to regional surveillance systems and monitoring systems.

The project was launched on 29th April, 2020 and it was expected to end on 30th May, 2022. The project was mainly targeting the Karamoja/ Ateker Cluster communities and travel agencies. A total amount of about \$125,348.96 USD had been earmarked by EU for the smooth implementation of the project.

8.2 Access to education and training:

8.2.1 Technical, vocational education training mobile schools among pastoralist communities in greater Kapoeta project:

The strategic objective of the project is to build basic literacy and skills among women and youth to improve their livelihoods in greater Kapoeta in Eastern Equatoria state. The project was planned to benefit the youth and adults of the Kapoeta community. It started in July 2017 and will end in July 2022. It is funded by UNESCO and implemented by FAO, in partnership with, the Ministry of General Education and Instruction. A total cost of the project is \$ 400,000 USD. The completion status is 90%.

8.2.2 Alternative Education Systems that address Pastoralist Mobile Accelerated Learning Programmes for youth in Lakes, Terekeka, Kapoeta, Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity and Upper Nile states Project:

The project strategic objective is to open learning centres and transit learners to main stream formal schools and TVET schools in the livestock dependent communities in South Sudan. The project started July 2017 to end in July 2022. The project is funded by GPE (UNICEF). The total cost of the project \$ 36,315,789 USD and it is 89 % in completion status.

8.2.3 Construction of 2000 boreholes among communities hosting schools' project:

The project strategic objective is to improve access to clean water to attract learners to community schools in the ten (10) states of South Sudan. The project started in July 2017 and will end in July, 2022. The project is funded by GPE (UNICEF). It costs \$ 20,000,000 USD. The project is 85 % in completion status.

8.2.4 Agro-forestry clubs in schools' project:

The project's strategic objective is to advocate and practise Agro-forestry in the schools and communities.

The project started in July 2018 and will end in July, 2023. The project was funded by WFP and implemented by both FAO and the Ministry of General Education and Instruction. It costs \$ 25,000 USD. The project is relatively 69 % complete.

8.2.5 Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSF): A pilot of HGSF is done in Magwi and Yambio to be replicated to all states:

The project strategic objective is to support communities to produce local foods to feed schools. The project started in July 2017 and will end in July 2022 in the ten (10) states of South Sudan. The project will benefit School Children, Youth and Adults. It is funded by WFP and implemented by the Ministry of General Education and Instruction. The total cost: is \$ 324,913,593 USD. Its completion status 98%.



Basic School in Magwi County, August 2021.

Chapter (4): Challenges and Lessons Learnt

There are a number of operational challenges that impede the implementation of IDDRSI in South Sudan, namely:

4.1 Challenges:

- ➤ 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.
- > The current turbulent environment is fuelled by the protracted political and intercommunal 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.

4.2 Lessons Learnt:

Lessons learnt exist in the process of IDDRSI implementation, thus:

- 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.
- ➤ At national level, IDDRSI PCU staffing, equipping and facilitation is crucial for effectiveness, efficiency and out-standing performances and quality services delivery.
- ➤ Proper coordination of monitoring, evaluation and learning mechanisms is key to tracking progress and delivery and sharing of information by key stakeholders.
- > Just Peace is key to stability, investment and development in the country.

Chapter (5): Recommendations

A number of recommendations have been identified as follows:

- > There is a dire need for availability of vaccines and immediate launch of country-wide vaccination campaign.
- ➤ There is a dire need to expedite the 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. Security arrangements should be put in place as spelt out in the Agreement.
- ➤ IDDRSI PCU staffing, equipping and facilitation is crucial for effectiveness, efficiency and out-standing performances and quality services delivery.