Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Government of the Republic of South Sudan

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

EMERGENCY LOCUST RESPONSE PROJECT (P174546)

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP)

November 2021
Juba, South Sudan

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
BDC	Boma Development Committee
CAD	County Agriculture Department
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DG	Director General
E & S	Environmental and Social
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCV	Fragile, Conflict and Violent
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IP	Implementing Partner
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PDC	Payam Development Committee
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PWD	Persons with disabilities
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
TPM	Third-party monitor
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
VLD	Voluntary land donation
WHO	World Health Organization

1. INTRODUCTION

The World Bank's ESS 10 recognizes the importance of open and transparent engagement with all project stakeholders, based on the recognition that effective stakeholder engagement can improve environmental and social (E&S) sustainability of project activities, enhance project acceptance and implementation, and allow stakeholders to contribute to project design. The key objectives of stakeholder engagement include an assessment of the level of interest and support of the project by stakeholders to promote effective and inclusive engagement with all project-affected parties and to ensure that project information on E&S risks and impacts is disclosed in a timely and understandable way.

The South Sudan Access to Information Act No. 65 of 2013 spells out that every citizen shall have the right of access to information. It focuses on the right to access information held by public bodies in South Sudan. The purpose of the Act is to give effect to the constitutional right of access to information, promote maximum disclosure of information in the public interest and establish effective mechanisms to secure that right. The project shall adhere to the Act.

The WB's ESS10 also sets out that a borrower has to engage with stakeholders as an integral part of a project's environmental and social assessment and project design and implementation. The nature, scope and frequency of the engagement should be proportional to the nature and scale of the project. Consultations with stakeholders have to be meaningful and be based on stakeholder identification and analysis, plans on how to engage stakeholders, disclosure of information, actual consultations, as well as responses to stakeholder grievances and reporting back to stakeholders. Meaningful stakeholder engagement throughout the project cycle is an essential aspect of good project management and provides opportunities for Borrowers to learn from the experience, knowledge, and concerns of the affected and interested stakeholders, and to manage their expectations by clarifying the extent of the Borrower's responsibilities and resources.

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is designed to anchor all stakeholder engagement in a systematic way for the South Sudan Emergency Locust Response Project (ELRP). It lays out legal and policy requirements in regards to stakeholder engagements, lists engagements already undertaken, identifies and analyses stakeholders of all relevant project-affected parties to the ELRP and lays out means of dissemination of information to different parties, as well as means and ways to continue to consult different stakeholder groups throughout the project cycle. Furthermore, it contains a monitoring plan that ensures the implementation of the SEP.

The overall objective of this SEP is to define a plan of action for stakeholder engagement throughout the project life cycle, including through ensuring technically and culturally appropriate approaches for public consultation and information disclosure. The involvement of different stakeholders, including project-affected local communities and other interested parties, in the consultation and engagement process, is essential to the success of the project in order to ensure smooth collaboration between project staff and local communities and other interested parties. Meaningful, inclusive and effective stakeholder engagement will assist in avoiding, minimizing and mitigating environmental and social impacts and risks related to the proposed project activities. The SEP is designed to take into account the main characteristics and interests of the stakeholders and the different levels of engagement and consultation that is appropriate for different stakeholders.

This SEP is based on the guiding principles that stakeholder engagement should:
- Be timely
- Be independent (free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation)

- Have clear objectives
- Have the capacity to influence the stakeholders
- Obtain feedback
- Trigger provision of resources and other modifications, where needed
- Be properly documented and disclosed by the borrower
- Generate minutes from every meeting/interview
- Generate recordings or photos, if culturally accepted

As such, the stakeholder engagement process will provide a dual-way system of communication, especially in regards of Component 1 on desert locust surveillance and control measures; and Component 2 on livelihoods protection and rehabilitation.

1.1 Project Description

The worst desert locust (DL) upsurge in a generation threatens the food security and livelihoods of tens of millions of people across East Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. DL is the most dangerous migratory pest in the world, and since 2019, swarms have spread from the Arabian Peninsula to East Africa (ranging from Djibouti to as far south as Tanzania and as far west as the Democratic Republic of Congo), and to Western Asia. Desert locust could be the latest transboundary pest to become a continuing threat to South Sudan's food system. The Inter-governmental Authority on Development's Climate Prediction and Application Center (ICPAC) has identified the States of Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, and Upper Nile as very high risk for DL swarms and adult locust invasion, while Central Equatoria and Lakes are identified as high risk. South Sudan needs to rapidly build its knowledge and expertise on how to identify and manage desert locust, not just for this upsurge but for the potential increasing threat in the future.

### 1.2 Project Development Objectives and Components

The project's development objective is aligned with the PDO and results chain of the ELRP Multi-programmatic Approach (MPA), which is *to respond to the threat posed by the locust outbreak and to strengthen systems for preparedness.* In South Sudan, the PDO is *to respond to the threat posed by the locust outbreak and to strengthen systems for preparedness in South Sudan.*

Project Components

In line with the ELRP MPA program document, ELRP will have three technical components and one project management component. Component 1 will address the most immediate threat of damaging swarms of locust by supporting surveillance and control operations and managing the risk around those operations. Component 2 will safeguard the food security of affected households and aid in restoring the agriculture and pastoral linked livelihoods impacted by the swarms. Component 3 will support medium to longer-term objectives of building the information, institutions, and systems to increase the country's readiness to address any future transboundary pest shocks to its production systems.

The Project will target ten counties for implementation: Magwi, Torit, Lafon, and Kapoeta East (Eastern Equatoria State); Juba (Central Equatoria state); Pibor and Bor (Jonglei State); Aweil North (Northern Bahr el Ghazal State); and Renk and Melut (Upper Nile State).

Figure 1: Proposed Project Areas for the ELRP
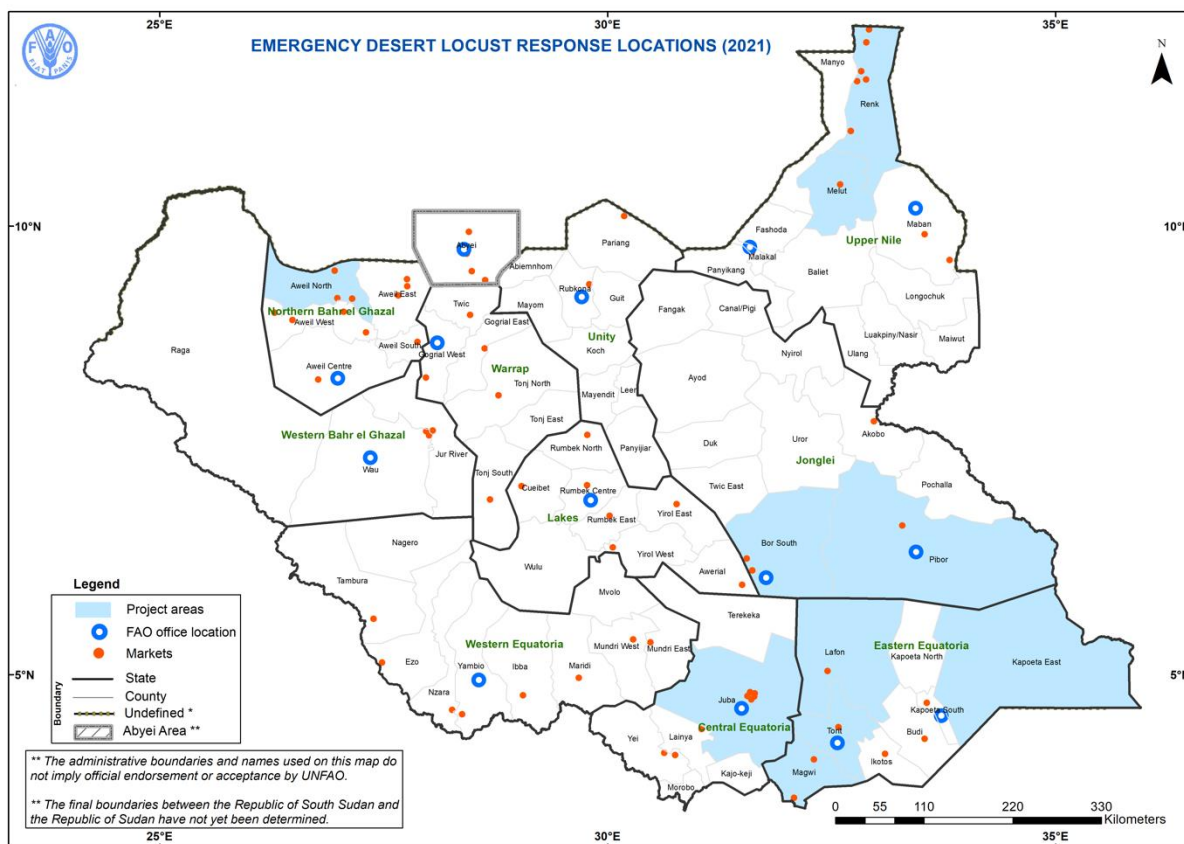
2. BRIEF SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DURING PROJECT DESIGN

Engagements and consultation on the project design and the planned activities and implementation arrangements have been conducted with key stakeholders including farming communities, the relevant Government agencies, and development partners such as UN agencies, as well as NGOs. A total of 136 stakeholders have been consulted so far in the course of project preparation, with 40 being female and 96 male. MAFS has also conducted consultations with the World Bank, FAO and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) as per the table below.

Table 1: Stakeholder Engagement Activities During   ELRP Design

Stakeholder Group	Location	Expected ELRP Project Engagement/Interest and Key Points Raised
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), World	Virtual (September, November, December,	• The World Bank is financing the project. • MAFS is the Borrower and Project Manager. • FAO is the lead technical partner and will provide key technical assistance and capacity building support.

Stakeholder Group	Location	Expected ELRP Project Engagement/Interest and Key Points Raised
Bank, FAO, and UNOPS	2020, January 2021)	• UNOPS is a partner in the planning and implementation of direct income support activities.
FAO, MAFS	MAFS offices August - November 2020	MAFS team highlighted the following needs; • Capacity building of MAFS staff in plant protection • Establishment of units in desert locust hotspots that can also address challenges from other pests • Upgrade storage facilities for pesticides as they are currently insufficient • Equipment and training to address human and animal health and environmental challenges arising from use of pesticides • Motorcycles to enable access to difficult-to-reach areas • Training communities to support existing MAFS staff and consider use of technology like drones for surveillance • Support development of guidelines on production of bio-pesticides including technical assistance for government on related policy and legislation • Integrate climate change considerations in livelihoods recovery approaches • Perennial crops would be a good option where land tenure is fixed Recommendations of prioritizing crops such as cashew nuts, citrus fruits, and date palm which are easy and fast to grow; and provide a source of income for farmers. Once they are grown animals will largely not destroy them The need to increase the country's capacity for preparedness against future locust outbreaks, including the establishment of effective early warning systems came up as a key concern.
UNOPS, FAO	Virtual (October – November 2020)	Partnership and leveraging of ELRP on South Sudan Safety Nets Project (SSSNP) as a conduit for the direct income support and payment for labour-intensive public works under Component 2
MAFS, WB, UNOPS, FAO	Virtual (November 2020)	Need to come up with clear criteria for identification of beneficiaries to receive direct income support in partnership with UNOPS, in light of limited resources available UNOPS to assist in confirmation of calculation for cash support to be provided to beneficiaries Integration of agroforestry activities in livelihoods recovery Need to agree on design specifications for pesticide storage facilities considering prevention of leakage and climate control, as well as security

Stakeholder Group	Location	Expected ELRP Project Engagement/Interest and Key Points Raised
		MAFS to confirm the nature and process of land to be allocated for construction of pesticide storage facilities
Community leaders	Torit, Magwi, Kapoeta, Renk Counties

(April – November 2020) | Community livelihoods are based on livestock rearing and agricultural activities. Project beneficiaries will benefit from interventions such as desert locust control measures, direct income support, training on good agricultural practices, and provision of agricultural inputs.

The local leaders expressed their readiness to take ownership and support of the Project interventions.

Concerns expressed over need for more awareness on Covid-19 prevention measures, and provision of hand washing facilities, soap, hand sanitizer, gloves and face masks where possible for leaders and officials. |

Additional engagements will be conducted with the beneficiary communities with a focus on vulnerable groups within the communities (widows, female-headed households and the disabled, etc.). Upon project effectiveness, priority for engagement will be given to Magwi, Torit, Lafon, and Kapoeta East counties in Eastern Equatoria State as they were hit by the 2020 swarms and are beginning to be hit by 2021 swarms. The additional counties of Renk, Melut, Aweil North, Juba, Pibor and Bor will be next based on modelling by DL experts and IPC ratings. Recent assessments show that all these areas are acutely food insecure all year round so the project will follow a horizontal scale up of the project starting with the initial counties in Eastern Equatoria, in view of the additional support for addressing food insecurity.

Consultation with vulnerable groups will be maximised through targeted consultations for those groups, or ensuring their views are well represented on their behalf through key spokespersons of their choice.

These will be done before cash transfers and labour-intensive public works commence, anchored on the existing operational tools, systems, procedures and arrangements established under the ongoing World Bank-funded South Sudan Safety Net Project (SSSNP) implemented by UNOPS.   The SEP will then be revised accordingly. While ensuring compliance with South Sudan government COVID-19 social distancing and related requirements, project stakeholder consultation and engagement activities will be designed to be fit for purpose to ensure effective and meaningful consultations to meet project and stakeholder needs. The Project will take a precautionary approach for consultations and other stakeholder engagement to prevent infection.

3. STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

Stakeholder engagement is the interaction with, and influence of project stakeholders to the overall benefit of the project and its advocates. ESS10 recognizes two broad categories of stakeholders: 1) those likely to be affected by the project because of actual impacts or potential risks to their physical environment, health, security, cultural practices, well-being, or livelihoods (project affected parties), and 2) other interested parties.

In view of the ELRP, affected parties will likely be in the ten counties proposed for project implementation.

Among these affected parties, beneficiaries will be identified through transparent community participation with verification being done by an independent third-party monitor (TPM). While not every affected party will also be a beneficiary, it is crucial to disseminate information and engage with all stakeholders on project modalities as well as on the selection criteria of beneficiaries in the affected areas.

3.1 Affected parties

Effective consultations and other stakeholder engagements with the project affected communities will be conducted by FAO Project Support Unit (PSU), through Project Implementation Units (PIUs), as well as UNOPS Project Management Unit, with oversight from the MAFS Project Coordination Unit (PCU), once the implementing agencies have been engaged and throughout implementation.

Table 2: Directly or Indirectly Project-Affected Parties

Stakeholder	Component	Expected ELRP Project Engagement/Interest
Small farmers, agro-pastoralist and pastoralist households in locust-affected areas	C1 / C2	Most affected by desert locust invasions and destruction of crops, pastureland and loss of livelihoods. Project interventions such as desert locust control measures, emergency cash transfers, training on good agricultural practices, provision of agricultural inputs and restoration of pasturelands have significant impacts on them.
Small farmers, agro-pastoralist and pastoralist households close to locust-affected areas	C1 / C2	May lose income as a result of unintended damages from accidental pesticides spray impacts on people, livestock, agricultural produce and livestock feed beyond the defined buffer zone will also be considered eligible for the emergency direct income support.
IDPs, in particular, those who are persons with disabilities, from ethnic/other minorities, and women	C1 / C2	Due to the internal conflict in the country, many people fled their home areas to more stable areas within the country for security reasons and would likely return to their places of origin as soon as stability and security is restored. Demand for basic services would increase. Among IDPs are persons who have suffered disabilities as a result of the conflict. The South Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview estimates a total of 1.3 million IDPs in need nationally[1].
Host communities	C1 / C2	Often tension is reported between IDPs and their host communities. In the thirteen respective counties there are several locations where IDPs meet host communities. It is therefore important to also attend to the needs of host communities.
Women and girls	C1 / C2	Although women play a critical role in the maintenance of household livelihoods and provision of labor in agriculture, they generally have less access to productive resources, services and employment opportunities. Women and girls in South Sudan suffer from significant discrimination, including in education, economic empowerment and public participation, and are

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[1] OCHA Humanitarian Needs Overview South Sudan 2020

Stakeholder	Component	Expected ELRP Project Engagement/Interest
		subject to widespread Gender-based Violence (GBV), including domestic violence, gang rape and other abuses.
Widows and female-headed households	C1 / C2	Given that more men die in the protracted conflict in South Sudan, a continuous increase in widows and female-headed households is taking place. This has resulted in changes of the intra-household roles. Widows in particular are often marginalized and vulnerable in host communities as well as among the IDP and returnee populations.
Vulnerable groups - orphans/people living with HIV/AIDS, people living with physical/mental impairments	C1 / C2	These groups are marginalised and struggle to access basic services, while suffering discrimination that hinders their participation in social, political and economic life. There are also a significant number of persons with disabilities, including those injured during conflict. Women with disabilities experience higher levels of physical, psychological and sexual violence. Elders with disabilities face greater challenges due to less access to food, wash facilities and other support.
Ethnic minority groups	C1 / C2	Some of these groups have suffered historic discrimination and economic and political marginalization and also more recently, the brunt of the conflict. They will need special attention.
Potential community workers	C1 / C2	Within the communities, some individuals with some level of education exist, but not enough to take up jobs in the cities. Therefore, they are important resources that could be used. The project will need to sensitively manage expectations among affected communities in relation to the actual numbers of persons who can be hired to work for the project.
Local community leadership including religious leaders	C1 / C2	With formal administration systems only developing and non-existent in some areas, community leaders including clan and religious leaders play a vital role in community entry and the attainment and social license to operate. They need to be engaged in community consultation and the endorsement of community decisions.

3.2 Other Interested Parties

These are stakeholders with an interest in the project activities or outcomes. Table 3 below identifies these groups and describes their expected project engagement.

Table 3: Other interested parties

Stakeholder Group	Expected ELRP Project Engagement/Interest
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) including Department of Plant Protection (DPP) and County Agriculture Departments (CAD)	MAFS is the Borrower, Project Manager and Implementing Agency. The Ministry will also receive technical assistance and capacity building support in various areas related to the core Project activities. Staff at County level will also have responsibility for extension service delivery to beneficiary communities.

Stakeholder Group	Expected ELRP Project Engagement/Interest
Line Government ministries, UN agencies, and development partners	These representatives will comprise the High-Level Committee (HLC), to supervise the creation and implementation of the Five-Year Strategy and One-Year Action Plan against desert locust and ensures overall coordination of desert locust surveillance, control, and follow-up.
Technical officers from the State Ministry of Agriculture including DPP and CAD, other line ministries, NGOs, and other stakeholders	These representatives will comprise the Desert Locust State Task Forces (DL-STF) to coordinate surveillance, control and/or preparedness activities within the state. A state-level rapid response team (RRT) comprising representatives of the relevant CADs will provide field support to county level RRTs for surveillance and control. The DPP at the state level will work with Technical Committee, FAO and other technical agencies to strengthen monitoring and early warning structures and customize, distribute, and disseminate awareness raising materials and messages, in collaboration with MAFS, universities, and organizations from within the communities (CBOs).
Academia and research institutions including ICIPE, CABI, IGAD and European Space Agency	These institutions will provide technical assistance, Applied research and training in desert locust control techniques.
International NGOs, local and national CSOs and NGOs operating in the agriculture, health, education, livelihood sectors	With most having invaluable experience in the successful delivery of a wide range of humanitarian services, their networks, delivery systems and knowledge of intricate community dynamics will need to be tapped for use by the project.
Local Business and Construction Companies	These are local enterprises that will provide various input supplies and construction services.
FAO	Lead technical partner
UNOPS	Implementing partner for direct income support and LIPW activities under Component 2
World Bank	Donor
Other UN agencies and entities (UNMISS, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UNEP)	All organisations working in project locations are stakeholders and close coordination would add value e.g.,, security (UNMISS), GBV referral services (UNFPA)

3.3 Disadvantaged / vulnerable individuals or groups

These are stakeholders that are considered to face challenges in participation or accessing project information, activities or benefits, by virtue of their circumstances. Table 4 below identifies these groups and describes the additional support they require.

Table 4: Disadvantaged / vulnerable individuals or groups

Vulnerable Group	Limitations to participation in/consultation with the Project	Additional support/resources to be made available
Women and girls	They are typically left out of decision-making processes and political representation, leading to local and community-based decisions that do not account for their unique needs and capacities. This produces a ripple effect on labor or economic opportunities and educational opportunities. Customary land tenure systems block women from securing and owning property[2]. The risk of sexual violence negatively affects women´s ability to access income and resources.	Work through female community representatives in the affected communities, to identify suitable venues and timing for dedicated consultations and support for childcare. Provide safe spaces to discuss GBV-SEA and provide information on Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and relevant referral pathways.
Female-headed households and widows	Women suffer greater food insecurity due to their cultural and social roles as caregivers and they may forego or pass on food within families. This places up to 80 percent of displaced households at risk, as they are predominantly female-headed. They are also limited in land tenure and access to productive assets for agricultural production.	
Youth	Young people have largely been excluded from political life, including through the age-based systems of authority that prevails in some parts of South Sudan. Approximately 30 percent of them also do not have access to education of economic activities, negatively affecting their capacity to contribute towards agricultural production and value chain services.	Targeted consultation to enable meaningful participation in the project implementation.
Minority ethnic groups	The ELRP will work in areas that are both government and opposition-controlled, conflict-affected or have significant minority populations. Ethnic minorities may occur at different levels, in the state or even inside the county. Here they may be dominated by authorities from other groups and may have little decision-making power.	Utilise Payam Development Committees (PDCs) and Boma development Committees (BDCs) and other local community representatives to identify and mobilise minority groups to participate in meetings and consultations. Also provide local language interpreters to ensure understanding and ability to give feedback during engagement.
Internally Displaced People (IDPs)	IDPs and refugees are likely to encounter challenges in accessing land for cultivation or adopting to new livelihoods, e.g., pastoralists in predominantly cropping host communities.	They will be kept informed about meetings and consultations via other community members in the area, and potentially through radio and social media. Meetings will only be held during day time in view of security concerns.

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[2] Shelter NFI Cluster South Sudan (2017) "Key Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Issues in Urban Areas of South Sudan".

Vulnerable Group	Limitations to participation in/consultation with the Project	Additional support/resources to be made available
Returnees	Returnees going back to their places of origin are also more likely to encounter competition in accessing basic resources like shelter and water, hindering their ability to participate in development activities.	Utilise PDCs and BDCs and other local community representatives to identify and mobilise minority groups to participate in meetings and consultations.
Persons with disabilities (PWD) and their caregivers	The main challenges faced by people with disabilities are access to basic services such as water, sanitation and hygiene and discrimination that hinders their participation in social, political and economic life, including agricultural production. Women with disabilities experience higher levels of physical, psychological and sexual violence.	All venues for consultations, workshops and meetings should be selected with a view to facilitate physical access for PWD. Where necessary avail sign-language interpreters.
Orphans/ child-headed households	Many orphans are forced to become responsible for themselves and their siblings after the separation or death of their parents/guardians. Lack of specific attention to these children and child-headed households exposes children to illness, rape and forced recruitment into slavery or armed groups.	Work through local community leadership and authorities to identify these children and suitable venues and timing for dedicated consultations. Provide safe spaces to discuss their needs.
People living with HIV/AIDS	They are marginalised and struggle to access basic services, particularly health care. They are also discriminated when it comes to economic opportunities and generally in social life.	Utilise PDCs, BDCs, other local community representatives and health workers to identify and mobilise them to participate in meetings and consultations.

Vulnerable groups within the communities affected by the project will be further confirmed and consulted through dedicated means designed in the communication plan for the project, as appropriate. A description of the methods of engagement that will be undertaken by the project is provided in the following sections.

Table 5: Summary of project stakeholder needs

Community	Stakeholder Group	Key Characteristics	Language requirements	Preferred notification means (email, radio, phone, letter)	Specific needs (accessibility, large print, child care, daytime meetings etc.)
Boma and Payam Level[3]	Small farmer households	Influencing Party - Local communities residing in project areas	Local languages	Word of mouth from local authorities, radio, telephone, community meetings	Clear information dissemination on project activities, hotlines and GRM mechanisms for enquiries and grievance lodging.
	Small pastoralist households	Influencing Party – Local communities with possible nomadic movement patterns	Local languages	Mobile phone, radio, community meetings	May require communication means that are independent of locality (e.g., mobile phone or radio).
	Women and girls	Vulnerable Group - Often not integrated in communal decision-making processes	Local languages	Word of mouth from local authorities, engagement with community officers, radio	Dedicated meetings / FGDs with women, and mechanisms to empower women to ensure their participation in meetings, including the sensitization of men so that the voices of women and girls are heard effectively. Flexible scheduling to be tailored to household responsibilities with support for childcare to enable women to participate optimally.
	Youth	Vulnerable Group - Often not integrated in communal decision-making processes	Local languages	Word of mouth from local authorities, engagement with community officers, radio	Meaningful inclusion in consultations and project activities to enable their empowerment. This will also require the sensitization of men and community leaders so that the voices of youth are heard effectively.
	IDPs and Returnees	Vulnerable Group - Residing mostly in IDP camps, which may be controlled by gatekeepers	Local languages	Word of mouth from local authorities and engagement with community officers	Security concerns e.g. hold meetings during day time. Consultations including FGDs.

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[3] COVID-19 will impact the feasibility of in-person meetings. The project will implement provisions on prevention of spreading the virus in line with WHO guidance and following also government instructions. The Project will also seek to learn from consultations-good practice under COVID-19 from World Bank and other sources and implement them accordingly.

Community	Stakeholder Group	Key Characteristics	Language requirements	Preferred notification means (email, radio, phone, letter)	Specific needs (accessibility, large print, child care, daytime meetings etc.)
	Ethnic minority groups	Vulnerable Group - Not represented in local authority structures, generally discriminated against by majority clans, and therefore often not considered in decision-making processes, and difficult to access services	English and Local languages – in particular language of the minority group	Word of mouth from local authorities, engagement with community officers, mobile phone, radio, community meetings	Depending on the group, some live in one location, whereas others are spread throughout communities, including living in IDP camps/settlements.
	Persons with disabilities	Vulnerable Group - Often not included in decision-making processes, and more likely to be excluded from public services and participation	Local languages	Mobile phone, radio, community meetings, and other media, depending on accessibility needs	Consider working with NGOs focusing on disabilities to ensure full reach of disabled persons in the affected States, including through use of media (e.g. Braille, sign language, etc.,) and locations that are accessible and appropriate to ensure their participation.
	Female-headed households	Vulnerable Group - Often not integrated in communal decision-making processes	Local languages	Mobile phone, radio	Inclusion in project benefits and access to GBV services as required.
	General community members	Potentially Influencing Party – Local communities in project areas	Local languages	Word of mouth from local authorities, notice board, community meetings, radio	Involvement in community engagement and information dissemination.
	Potential community workers	Potentially Influencing Party - Local communities in project areas	Local languages	Word of mouth from local authorities and notice board, community meetings, radio	Contribute to the workforce of subprojects and require involvement in community engagement and information dissemination
	Members of the BDCs and PDCs	Potentially Influencing Party –	English and local languages	Phone calls, word of mouth from local authorities, meetings	Very important body - link between the community, the county and development partners. Contact should be initiated on a weekly basis during implementation

Community	Stakeholder Group	Key Characteristics	Language requirements	Preferred notification means (email, radio, phone, letter)	Specific needs (accessibility, large print, child care, daytime meetings etc.)
		Usually have to deal with all concerns of the communities			
	Traditional leadership and local religious leaders	Potentially Influencing Party - Their authority will depend on the presence and strength of community leaders of other groups; they can have significant influence in the communities	Local languages	Phone calls, word of mouth from local authorities, meetings	Regular contact, at least on a monthly basis during implementation
County Level	Staff of County Agriculture Departments	Influencing Party - Usually work with communities to support agricultural activities	English	Email, telephone calls, meetings (in person or virtual)	Roles and responsibilities in project implementation including support in stakeholder engagements, information dissemination and grievance redress. Need for close coordination and two-way information sharing for smooth implementation and adaptive management throughout the project cycle. Contact should be initiated on a weekly basis during implementation.
State Level	Governors of participating States in the Project Steering Committee	Influencing Party	English	Email, telephone calls, meetings (in person or virtual)	Roles and responsibilities in project implementation including support in stakeholder engagements, information dissemination and grievance redress. Need for close coordination and information sharing for smooth implementation. Contact should be initiated on a monthly basis during implementation.
	Business community / Construction Companies	Potentially Influencing Party	English	Email, telephone calls, meetings (in person or virtual)	There are many business companies in the counties, though they would need some basic training on environmental, social and fiduciary safeguards. Contact should be established at least on a bi-annual basis
	Ministries involved in the High-Level Committee	Potentially Influencing Party	English	Memo/letter, email, telephone calls, meetings (in person or virtual)	Roles and responsibilities including support in stakeholder engagements, information dissemination and grievance redress. Meetings on at least semi-annual basis, Written briefs and project updates

Community	Stakeholder Group	Key Characteristics	Language requirements	Preferred notification means (email, radio, phone, letter)	Specific needs (accessibility, large print, child care, daytime meetings etc.)
National Level[4]	Project Technical Committees (technical specialists from MAFS, academia, and other line ministries)	Potentially Influencing Party	English	Memo/letter, email, telephone calls, meetings (in person or virtual)	Roles and responsibilities including support in stakeholder engagements, information dissemination and grievance redress. Meetings on at least semi-annual basis, Written briefs and project updates
	FAO, MAFS, UNOPS and the World Bank	Potentially Influencing Party	English	Email, telephone calls, memo, meetings (in person or virtual)	Preparation and implementation support as well as training and capacity building. Meetings on a regular basis
	Other Development Partners (donors, UN agencies etc.)	Interested Party	English	Email, telephone & radios	Meetings on a regular basis
	National NGOs, international NGOs	Interested Party	English	Email, telephone, meetings (in person or virtual)	Preparation and implementation support as well as training and capacity building. Communication and meetings on a regular basis

[4] On the national level, virtual meetings are possible and in case the situation on Covid-19 improves, in-person meetings will consider respective provisions on prevention of spreading the virus following guidance by WHO and instructions by the Government of South Sudan.

4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

4.1 Purpose and timing of stakeholder engagement program

The project is being processed as an emergency project under OP 10 paragraph 12 and thus there is no dedicated consultation beyond public authorities and experts at the MAFS, FAO and UNOPS.. However, site-specific planning and implementation will be essentially based on local community/stakeholder consultations. Undertaking meaningful stakeholder consultation and engagement including for environmental and social planning processes during project preparation has relied on consultations during preliminary desert locust control operations in Magwi, Torit, Lafon, Kapoeta. Restrictions occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic hindered more widespread consultations. The approach for stakeholder consultation during implementation is outlined below.

The FAO Desert Locust Control Guideline notes that the public must be informed about the impacts of pesticide before, during and after locust control operation including the hiring of a specialized Communication and Information Officer. The guideline states:

It is important to keep the public informed about possible environmental and health effects of insecticides, before, during and after locust control operations. This is to ensure that precautionary measures are taken whenever needed but also to reduce any misunderstandings that may exist about the risks of locust control. It is suggested that a specialized communication and information officer must be assigned to this task, especially if the campaign is expected to be large (FAO 2003).

Some of the most common methods of stakeholder consultation include (i) use of phone and email; (ii) interviews (one-to-one); (iii) distribution of leaflets and pamphlets; (iv) public meetings; (v) group discussion; (vi) use of local radios; and (vii) newsletters. When deciding the frequency and appropriate engagement technique to consult particular group of stakeholders, the following three criteria must be taken into consideration; (i) the extent of impact of the project, (ii) the extent of the influence of the stakeholder on the project, (iii) the culturally appropriate and acceptable engagement and information dissemination.

According to FAO (2003) guideline, during the campaign planning phase, detailed stakeholder's communication strategy/plan will be prepared and put in place in which the following issues are addressed:

- Location of treatments, general information on potential risks of pesticides, precautionary measures, re-entry intervals, pre-harvest intervals, etc.
- Appropriate and effective type of communication method to reach the target groups (e.g., radio, television, newspapers, extension service, locust survey/control teams).
- Means of informing the public in case of emergencies (e.g., insecticide spills, human intoxications, etc.).
- Reach all affected villagers in the operation area including medical information sources in case of intoxications.

It will also be important to ensure that vulnerable people, including children, either receive necessary information or that the community ensures that they follow the requirements under the locust control.

Consultations on the implementation of safety net response and livelihood restoration components of the project communities will be carried out in a fully participatory manner, guided by UNOPS and FAO harmonised approaches and structures.

The five purposes of consultations and information dissemination in the ELRP are:
  (a) Adapting project interventions to the evolving needs of the affected populations;
  (b) Ensuring of coordination between all implementers and government and community authority structures;
  (c) Reception of feedback and comments as well as grievances from all stakeholders on project design, and implementation, and to adapt the project accordingly;
  (d) Provision of transparent and accountable mechanisms on all aspects of Project implementation and monitoring; and
  (e) Ensuring that members of vulnerable groups from project affected communities are able to participate fully in the consultation process and enjoy project benefits. To ensure this, a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be in place throughout the life cycle of the Project and will be set up in a way that all affected individuals and groups can report on project-related grievances or can provide comments and feedback.

In addition, the ESCP and ESMF will be publicly disclosed on MAFS, FAO, UNOPS and World Bank websites as well as at the county level in counties targeted by the project to ensure that everyone is informed about social and environmental risks and respective mitigation measures. The project will innovate ways for consultations to be effective and meaningful to meet project and stakeholder needs, in consideration of Covid-19 restrictions, communities affected by floods, or desert locusts. Strategies to be employed include smaller meetings, small FGDs to be conducted as appropriate taking full precautions for staff and community safety. Where meetings are not permitted, traditional channels of communications such as radios and public announcements will be implemented. Other strategies will include one-on-one interviews through phones and Skype for community representatives, CSOs and other interest groups. Community facilitators, who will be part of this process, will also enable two-way communication by way of collecting views from community members of various key groups such as men, women and other vulnerable groups.

4.2 Proposed strategy for information disclosure
Information disclosure to the beneficiary communities and other interested parties will rely on the following key methods: radio broadcasting, community meetings in coordination with local authorities (county governments, BDCs and PDCs), phone communication (SMS), and notices at the payam and boma level. Information will be disclosed in English or the respective local languages, where appropriate. Local authorities, such as traditional authorities, religious leaders, and county governors will be requested to inform communities in community meetings and through disclosure at project locations. In addition, the ESCP, ESMF and other relevant environmental and social risk management instruments will be publicly disclosed on MAFS and World Bank websites. Stakeholders will also be encouraged to provide feedback, raise queries on gaps and suggest solutions to enable the improvement of project implementation.

Table 6: Stakeholder Engagement Program

Project Stage	Information to be disclosed	Methods proposed	Timetable: Locations / dates	Target stakeholders	Responsibilities
Project Design	SEP (including GRM)	Email, websites, radio, community meetings, community boards, church/ mosque, markets etc.	Prior to project effectiveness	Affected and beneficiary communities (farmers, pastoralists), potential community workers, all vulnerable groups	MAFS
	ESCP	Email, websites, stakeholder meetings	Prior to project effectiveness	All national, state and county level stakeholders	MAFS
	ESMF including GRM,	Email, websites, stakeholder meetings	Within one month after the Effective Date	All identified stakeholders at all levels	MAFS
Project Initiation and Implementation	Activity – or site-specific screening reports and ESMPs	Community meetings, radio, mobile phone, email, website	Continuous	County level stakeholders and affected communities	FAO
	Community consultation focusing on awareness raising regarding timing of the spraying, potential impact of the pesticides/chemicals on during and after spraying human health, livestock and fodder,	Email, websites, radio, community meetings, community boards, church/ mosque, markets etc.	Prior, during, and after the spraying of pesticides	Affected and beneficiary communities (farmers, pastoralists), potential community workers, all vulnerable groups	FAO

Project Stage	Information to be disclosed	Methods proposed	Timetable: Locations / dates	Target stakeholders	Responsibilities
	water wells for humans and livestock, agricultural crops. -Location of treatments, general information on potential risks of pesticides, precautionary measures, re-entry intervals, pre-harvest intervals, etc. -Awareness on spraying mechanism (handheld, vehicle and aircraft), roles and responsibilities including that of the communities. - Disclosure of Voluntary Land Donation Guidelines, and Emergency Preparedness Response Plan.				
	Community consultation regarding criteria for selection of beneficiaries under the safety net and livelihood restoration components. There is need to sensitively manage expectations among affected communities in relation to the actual numbers of persons who will receive direct income support, and	Email, websites, radio, community meetings, community boards, church/ mosque, markets etc.	Prior, during, and after the direct income support and labour-intensive public works	Affected and beneficiary communities (farmers, pastoralists), potential community workers, all vulnerable groups	UNOPS

Project Stage	Information to be disclosed	Methods proposed	Timetable: Locations / dates	Target stakeholders	Responsibilities
	those who can be hired for labour-intensive public works.				
	Any project-related information (on activities, beneficiary selection etc.)	Community meetings, radio, mobile phone, email, website	Continuous	All identified stakeholders at all levels	FAO
	Disclosure of GRM	Community meetings, radio, toll-free phone line, email, website	Continuous	All identified stakeholders at all levels	MAFS and FAO
	Project Reports	Community meetings, radio, mobile phone, email, website	Bi-annual	All identified stakeholders at all levels	MAFS and FAO

4.3 Proposed strategy for consultation

This plan lays out the overall consultative processes of the project with its different stakeholders. In principle, MAFS, FAO, UNOPS and potential IPs that oversee sub-component activities will follow their existing participatory engagement and consultation methods, especially with affected communities and beneficiaries. These will make use of specific tools and methods of community consultations that FAO, UNOPS and IPs have developed in past experience. Reference will be made to the Starter Toolkit on Community Engagement and Capacity Building Plan[5] developed by UNOPS for the SSSNP, with the existing local level governance and coordination structures providing a strong basis for engagement.

The Project will ensure that these tools and methods fulfil the requirements outlined throughout this document and are in line with the ESF. In case any additional needs arise from identified deficiencies or from context changes, the project will update and adapt this SEP accordingly. The GRM will be another means of consultation, as complaints received will be filed, assessed and responded to.

The current COVID-19 crisis requires short-term adaptation of the consultation approach. The project will therefore follow (i) WHO guidance on prevention of the spread of the COVID-19 virus; (ii) respective instructions by the Government of South Sudan; (iii) FAO guidance on undertaking fieldwork under the Covid-19 pandemic, (iv) UNOPS Covid-19 adaptation strategies and guidelines, (v) international good-practice on consultations under Covid-19 and innovative approaches established by World Bank, UN, and other development agencies. The stakeholder consultation mechanism will evolve as the situation of COVID-19 improves or deteriorates.

Stakeholder engagement is an ongoing process. The PIU will conduct consultation with community members and other concerned stakeholders throughout the implementation of project activities using communication channels outlined above or deemed appropriate in relation to the specific stakeholder needs and circumstances. In addition, the PIU will conduct consultations during the preparation of the ESIA and the ESMF/ESMPs. The draft SEP will be disclosed prior to formal consultations, and finalised for approval and public disclosure within sixty days of project effectiveness.

The approaches taken will thereby ensure that information provided is meaningful, timely, as complete as possible, and accessible to all affected stakeholders, use of different languages including addressing cultural sensitivities, as well as challenges deriving from illiteracy or disabilities, tailored to the differences in geography, livelihoods and way of life. The project will also ensure the establishment of a Grievance Redress Mechanism. The project will also establish a worker grievance mechanism in line with ESS2, to enable all direct workers and contracted workers to raise workplace concerns, including in relation to workplace sexual harassment. The following table indicates the Project Stakeholder Consultation Plan.

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[5] UNOPS. 2020. Community Engagement and Capacity Building Plan: To support the implementation of the South Sudan Safety Net Project (SSSNP). https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/369041609735604205/pdf/Community-Engagement-and-Capacity-Building-Plan.pdf

Table 7: Stakeholder Consultation Plan

Responsible Party	Stakeholders	Channels of Engagement	Frequency	Engagement methods	Purpose
MAFS PCU & FAO	MAFS	Official internal and external communications Written requests via official letters and emails	At least Monthly	Project progress, budget and financing.	Sharing of information, reviews, clearance and seeking support.
	UNOPS	Official internal and external communications Written requests via official letters and emails	At least Bi-monthly during implementation of sub-component 2.1 and 2.2	Project progress, budget and financing.	Sharing of information, reviews, clearance and seeking support.
	Project beneficiaries and communities and other stakeholders	Stakeholder awareness and consultations campaigns	At least Monthly	Community leaders/ meetings/ boards, church/mosque, markets, radio, mobile phone, websites	With support of MAFS PCU clearly communicate the rationale of the project geographical targeting per component and identified stakeholders in communities. To keep informed about the project achievements. Disclosure of project benefits, list of beneficiaries, documents and GRM process To keep informed about the project achievements and challenges

Responsible Party	Stakeholders	Channels of Engagement	Frequency	Engagement methods	Purpose
					To receive input from stakeholders and feedback loops to stakeholders Disclosure of project benefits, criteria for identification of beneficiaries, project documents and GRM process
	State and County Governments	Operational meetings	At least Monthly	Monitoring reports, face-to-face meetings with Desert Locust State Task Forces (DL-STF) and Rapid Response Team (RRT)	Implement the project Components 1 and 3
FAO	Project beneficiaries and communities	Project GRM and GBV-SEA Action Plan	t least Bi-monthly	Community leaders/oversight Committees/ meetings/ boards, radio, AAP hotline	To ensure beneficiaries are informed about the GRM process, project level GBV-SEA Action plan and available reporting and referral pathways.
	All stakeholders including Project beneficiaries	Consultations and outreach campaigns	At least Monthly	Radios, community leaders/ meetings/ boards, social media and online platforms	To increase awareness, provide consultations and collect feedback. Disclosure of project results and benefits, list of beneficiaries, documents and GRM process

4.4 Proposed strategy to incorporate the view of vulnerable groups

FAO, UNOPS and all IPs will ensure that women, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities and other members of vulnerable groups are participating effectively and meaningfully in consultative processes and that their voices are not ignored. This will require specific measures and assistance to afford opportunities for meetings with vulnerable groups in addition to general community consultations. For example, women are usually more outspoken in women-only consultation meetings than in general community meetings. Similarly, separate meetings need to be held with young people, persons with disabilities or with ethnic or other minority groups. The more dominant groups will be sensitized so that they can accept the voices of the vulnerable. Further, it is important to rely on other consultation methods as well, which do not require physical participation in meetings, such as social media, SMS, or radio broadcasting, where feasible, to ensure that groups that cannot physically be present at meetings can participate. Where this is not possible, community facilitators will visit households of vulnerable people, in particular the elderly and persons with disabilities that are not able to attend communal meetings.

In view of promoting women's empowerment, it is most important to engage women's groups on an ongoing basis throughout the lifetime of the project. Women voicing their concerns and contributing in the decision-making process on issues such as community infrastructure should be encouraged, especially in governmental or traditional committees predominantly consisting of men. IPs are similarly encouraged to deploy female staff, in particular where staff interface with community members. GRMs will be designed in such a way that all groups identified as vulnerable (see below) have access to the information and can submit their grievances and receive feedback as prescribed.

4.5 Timelines

The project is planned for a duration of three years. The stakeholder consultations shall be conducted throughout the project lifecycle. It was conducted during the preparation of the project and will be conducted throughout project implementation. Information disclosure and consultations during project implementation will include monthly visits and meetings with community leaders and regular meetings with *payam* / county authorities. Activities under each sub-component will include further consultations prior to their commencement to ensure a good selection of beneficiaries, transparency and accountability on project modalities, and to allow community voices to form the basis of the concrete design of every intervention and consultations will continue throughout the project cycle.

The SEP will be updated, and the detail will be prepared prior to commencement of the subproject activities depending on the local context. The site-specific SEP, including mapping of stakeholders, engagement and integration of voices is linked to the ESCP. This SEP will be updated to outline specific community consultation and time for the different areas to be funded by the Project. Consultations will be done during voluntary land donation (VLD) and preparation of ESMPs as required.

4.6 Review and Integration of Stakeholder Consultations

FAO and the IPs implementing different sub-components of the project will gather all comments and inputs originating from community meetings, SMS, GRM outcomes, surveys and FGDs. The information gathered will be submitted to the FAO Social, Environmental and Gender Officers, who will liaise with the relevant UNOPS officers to ensure that the project has general information on the perception of communities, and that it remains on target. This will then be shared with the MAFS PCU for oversight purposes. It will be the responsibility of UNOPS and the IPs to respond to comments and inputs, and to keep open a feedback line to the communities, as well as the local authorities.

Training on environmental and social standards facilitated by WB, FAO and UNOPS will be provided soon after the project becomes effective to ensure that all implementing staff and the MAFS PCU are equipped with the necessary skills.

This SEP provides the overarching guidelines for the rolling out of stakeholder engagements. The Environmental, Social and Gender Safeguards Specialists within the MAFS PCU and FAO will continue to monitor the capacity of the IPs, and recommend appropriate actions, e.g., refresher trainings.

5. RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

5.1 Resources

Stakeholder engagement is core to the project interventions, and will be the daily responsibility of project staff working at community level when facilitating the organization of groups and other activities. Therefore, all human resources mobilized by the project (MAFS, FAO, UNOPS and implementing partners) will be primarily engaged in the process on an on-going basis. The project will recruit five FAO Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Officers dedicated to guiding the process of stakeholder engagement with particular groups such as women, IDPs/returnees; minority groups. The project budget will cover their costs.

Budgetary resources will be dedicated to the implementation of the SEP. While there will be an overall budget administered by the FAO PIU to monitor the SEP and other ESMF activities, FAO and IPs will have dedicated budget resources to implement the SEP as part of the integral project costs for each activity.

5.2 Management functions and responsibilities

The overall responsibility for the implementation of the SEP lies with the FAO PSU Project Manager, overseen on a day-to-day basis by the Environmental and Social Risk Management Officers, and Gender Officer, and supported by the AAP Officers. This will be done in close collaboration with the Environmental and Social Specialists from UNOPS, as well as the Environmental, Social and Gender Specialists from the MAFS Project Coordination Unit (PCU), who will also play a key role in facilitating engagement with local authorities and other players. The Officers will maintain a stakeholder database for the overall project and will lead a commitment register. However, while FAO and the MAFS PCU will oversee all coordination and disclosure-related consultations, UNOPS, FAO and IPs will implement the location specific SEPs elaborated in accordance with the SEP at the community level in their respective project sites. The FAO IPs and UNOPS will report on their activities to the PSU Social, Environmental Risk Management Officers and Gender Officer, with the PIU subsequently preparing consolidated quarterly reports and submitting them to the MAFS PCU. The PSU and PCU officers will undertake field verification activities jointly with IPs – at least every other month, or during planned events.

Each IP will identify dedicated staff responsible for the implementation of the SEP within the organization. Staff names will be submitted to the PIU. Selected staff must have ample qualifications to implement the SEP, as stipulated by terms of reference jointly developed with FAO. They will also receive training cascaded from FAO Training of Trainers on stakeholder engagement. The reporting lines between community liaison staff and senior management will be defined by FAO's organizational structure. IPs will also commit to communicate the stakeholder engagement strategies for their respective sub-components, in accordance with the principles laid out in this SEP.

IPs who will contract local companies for construction work, or local NGOs or CSOs for the implementation of their activities will submit SEPs to the PSU Social, Environmental Risk Management and Gender Officers, who will verify the implementation of those plans as well as their alignment to this SEP during field visits.

6. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

6.1 Objective

The main objective of a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is to assist resolve complaints in a timely, effective and efficient manner. Project-level GRMs can provide the most effective way for people to raise issues and concerns about project that affect them. The project-level GRM will be culturally appropriate, effective, accessible and should be known to all affected population. FAO will conduct awareness raising for the affected communities about the presence of the GRM and inform their right to file any concerns, complaints and issues they have related to the ELRP. The GRM provides a transparent and credible process for fair, effective and lasting outcome. It also builds trust and cooperation as an integral component of broader community consultation that facilitates corrective actions.

FAO and IPs will develop and implement GRM guideline that details the procedure, timing, referral system, etc. Resources will be allocated for the GRM in the project. The overall ELRP environment and social progress report will have a distinct section on GRM that include the complaints recorded, resolved and referred to the formal court system.

As per World Bank standards, the GRM will be operated in addition to a separate GBV Action Plan, which includes reporting and referral guidelines. Additionally, in line with the provisions of ESS2, a grievance mechanism will be provided to all direct and contracted workers to raise workplace concerns. Workers will be informed of this grievance mechanism at the time of recruitment and the measures put in place to protect them against any reprisal for its use. This worker grievance mechanism is included in the project's Labour Management Procedures (LMP). Given the small-scale nature of works and focus on locally sourced labour, the intake mechanisms of the overall GRM will also allow intake of grievances under ESS2. Note that for Sexual Harassment at the workplace, provisions under the GBV/SEA Action Plan apply.

6.2 Guiding principles

6.2.1 AAP Guiding principles

Accountability to Affected Populations guiding principles are:

- ▪ Ensuring that AAP is applicable to all of FAO's programmes, whether humanitarian, resilience-building or development, requires FAO work to be guided by the following principles.

- Understanding the context, the conflict and/or power dynamics, gender roles, people's needs, priorities, vulnerabilities, concerns, perspectives, preferences and local capacities where FAO is intervening.[6]

- Maintaining proximity with FAO beneficiaries and members of host communities where FAO is working in.

- Establishing effective two-way communication channels.[7]

- Enabling participation throughout the project life-cycle.

UNOPS also abides by the AAP Principles and is a co-chair of the Prevention against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse network in South Sudan.

6.2.2 GRM Guiding principles

Guiding principle of GRM systems are:

- AAP Guiding principles;

- Early information on GRM systems through AAP local focal point and Implementation partners message before any activities;

- Readily accessible for all project-affected parties and does not prevent access to judicial and administrative remedies;

- Designed in a culturally appropriate way and is able to respond to all the needs and concerns of project-affected parties;

- Seeking feedback or complaints from beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries;

- Multiple channels to insure objectivity and triangulation of information;

- System sensitive to women, men, boys and girls, as well as people living with disabilities, with attention to access by the most vulnerable and marginalized;

- Confidentiality and prevention against retaliation;

- Regular information and feedback to grievance situation either to affected parties and mains stakeholder.

6.2.3 GBV-SEA Guiding principles

As part of the measures to protect staff and beneficiaries of assistance and the populations of South Sudan, FAO and UNOPS adheres to the IASC Accountability to Affected Population Commitments which aim to translate aspirations into action and results among humanitarian and development actors: leadership; participation and partnership; information, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, feedback and action; and results. FAO and UNOPS are already acting to pursue Gender Based

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[6] FAO. (2020). *The Programme Clinic: Designing conflict-sensitive interventions – Approaches to working in fragile and conflict-affected con-texts. Participant's workbook*. FAO

[7] A communication channel is a medium or method used to deliver a message to the intended audience. A variety of communication channels exist, and examples include: Mass media, such as television, radio (including community radio) and newspapers, Community engagement, also known as social mobilization with two-way participation that fosters community ownership, such as community dialogues, listening groups or action planning

Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and pursues a ''zero tolerance'' policy towards sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

The FAO SOP on Prevention of sexual exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) defined guiding principle states that:

- The principles of integrity, professionalism, respect for human rights and the dignity of all peoples underpin FAO's commitment to preventing and addressing acts of SEA. These principles are enshrined in the FAO Staff Regulations and Rules, as well as in the Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service[8], which require the highest standards of integrity from all employees.

- FAO has a zero-tolerance policy towards acts of SEA that are committed by its employees or any other personnel associated with the work of FAO[9] Such acts constitute serious misconduct and may therefore provide grounds for disciplinary measures, including summary dismissal, or termination of contract.

  o According to FAO, "Employee" refers to all those holding an employment contract with FAO, including Consultants, PSA holders, as well as those performing non-remunerated services such as Volunteers. It also includes Government provided staff.

  o This also includes acts committed by FAO contractors' employees, or any other person engaged and controlled by the contractor to perform any services agreed upon with FAO. It also includes any entity financed by FAO or involved in the execution of FAO activities, including suppliers and service providers bidding for or contracted in commercial relationships with FAO, or partner organizations receiving, under Letters of Agreement (LoAs), financial or other resources from FAO in respect of its programs and operations.

- Whilst the emphasis of FAO activities in the area of PSEA will be on prevention and protection from SEA, the SOP establishes responsibilities and a formal reporting mechanism for SEA complaints, as well as related procedures for their investigation and subsequent follow-up[10]

- Safety: To avoid any additional harm, the safety of SEA victims will be ensured at all times, and the safety of all parties involved in PSEA must be fully considered.

- Confidentiality: The confidentiality of complainants, victims and other relevant parties must be respected at all times.

- Transparency: The functioning of reporting mechanisms will remain transparent.

- Accessibility: SEA reporting mechanisms are available to anyone who may have reason to allege a SEA incident, including local populations and staff and non-beneficiaries. Establishing

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[8] Standards of Conduct for international civil servant (Manual Section 304).

[9] This includes acts committed by FAO contractors' employees, or any other person engaged and controlled by the contractor to perform any services agreed upon with FAO. It also includes any entity financed by FAO or involved in the execution of FAO activities, including suppliers and service providers bidding for or contracted in commercial relationships with FAO, or partner organizations receiving, under LoAs, financial or other resources from FAO in respect of its programs and operations.

[10] Where persons specified in Footnote 2 are concerned, who are not subject to FAO Staff Regulations and Rules, investigation and follow-up action will be dealt with in accordance with specific procedures in place for the investigation of third parties involved in programs and operations of the Organization. In addition, specific PSEA clauses have been inserted into all LoAs and procurement of goods and services contracts, allowing FAO to immediately terminate any such LoA or contract in cases of SEA committed by this category (see Manual Sections 502 and 507).

women quotas at community-level grievance management to facilitate woman to woman reporting

▪ Accountability: FAO South Sudan is held accountable for their PSEA actions through regular reporting to the FAO Ethics office.

6.2.4 Traditional Authorities Conflict Management

In South Sudan the process of conflict management and resolution is subject to cultural diversity. Each of the major ethnic groups has rules and procedures for conflict resolution. Traditional mechanisms of conflict resolution are similar in South Sudan in that they rotate around the concepts of mediation, compensation and restitution. ELRP will respect traditional authorities' objectivity, representability and responsibility in grievance and redress management. Therefore, community grievances might be handled by traditional authorities. For a better understanding of traditional authorities, FAO will assess each traditional system in project intervention areas at the beginning of the project including their recognition by the community itself and rules alignment with national laws and World Bank ESF standards. Therefore, specific rules would be accordingly defined with traditional authorities and would apply for project related complaint. In case no agreement is made with local authorities to support the WB ESF within resolution rules, the Project GRM would apply.

Nevertheless, many factors constrain traditional mechanisms. The absence of codification is one of the main issues as each ethnic group applies traditional justice in the way it finds appropriate. Regarding the respect of the World Bank ESF, project will support a sensitization of broader consideration of codification included the ESF. Competition over traditional authority is likely to lead to and aggravate communal conflicts in many parts of post-conflict South Sudan. The Project will therefore ensure a Third party within each conflict resolution through the AAP focal point and Legal Third party. Then, claims of rights is expected to be on the increase due to the current war, therefore the project will particularly focus on vulnerable groups emerging from the actual and precedent situation. Finally, the lawlessness in the post-conflict peace agreement is a limit for the implementation of traditional resolution. The Project focal point (AAP focal point or Legal Third party) will play the role of objective member within conflict resolution.

Even if complainants apply for the traditional authorities to manage the grievance, AAP focal point would have priority for being informed during the activity of the necessity to submit a grievance to FAO channel for monitoring of the resolution. The FAO AAP local focal point will then be systemically involved in grievance mechanism managed by the traditional authorities and might request to involved a legal third party to support the process and insure both side rights. If a solution is found and the AAP local focal point agree that the solution is aligned with the most protecting rules according to the customary rules, national laws and minimum World Bank ESF requirement, the grievance will be closed. In all other cases, the AAP focal point has the responsibility to insure accessibility of the complainant to adequate GRM. All cases of GBV-SEA and SH should notwithstanding follow the specific mechanism.

The main project GRM steps are:

▪ Step 1: Collection and access through different channels. AAP focal point and PSU might be informed on any grievance.
▪ Step 2: Acknowledgement to the complainant of the received complaints and immediate measures to be taken by the IP if needed to protect complainants during grievance redress process.

- **Step 3:** Supporting traditional redress when available with implication, if relevant, of IP representative and key observatory actors as the AAP local staff and the Legal Third Party. A technical background from Technical Officer from PSU and PIUs will investigate the grievance and the resolution to ensure WB ESS compliance. A continuous update of the grievance situation will be managed by the E&S risk management officers
- **Step 4:** Local grievance resolution. Acknowledgement of the E&S risk management officers of the adequacy with the WB ESS. Complementary measures taken by PSU and PIUs to ensure ESS adequacy and respect for the complainant's rights. In case of agreement between parties, the case is closed.
- **Step 5:** If there is no agreement with the complainants, they can apply for an independent assessment by the OIG.
- **Step 6:** If there is no agreement with the decision from the OIG, the complainants can apply to the WB Grievance Redress Service (GRS).

The full Project GRMs are elaborated in the ESMF and are summarised in the figure below.

Figure 2: ELRP Grievance Redress Mechanism Flowchart
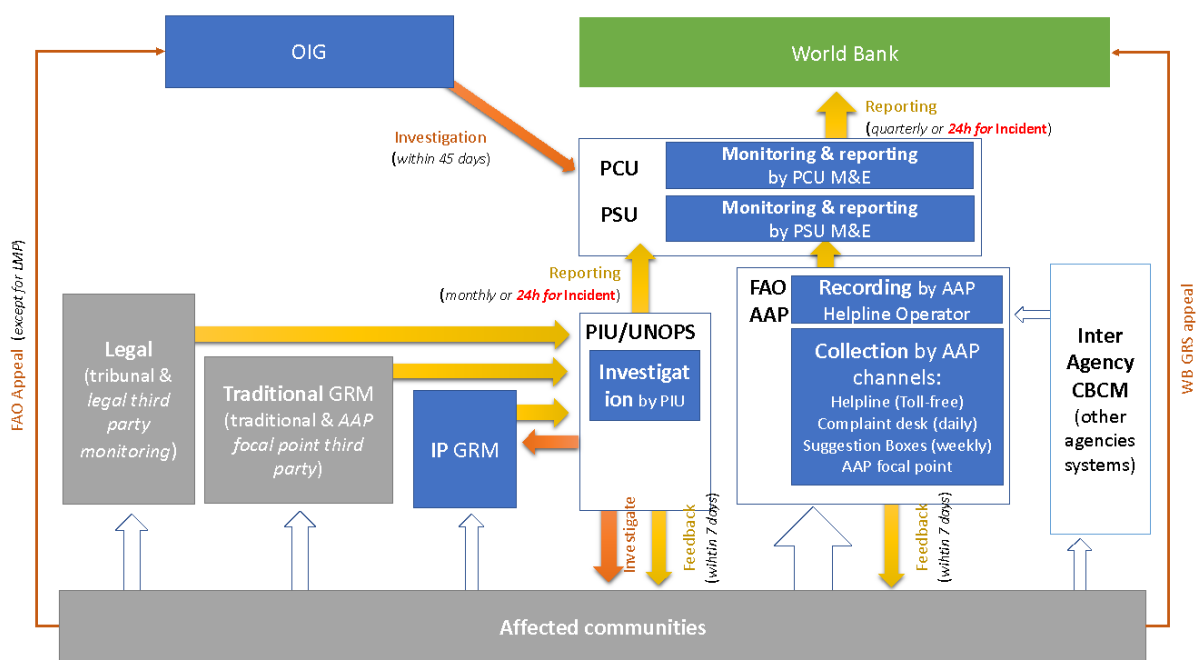
Cases of GBV-SEA can be reported through a FAO toll free number (882) solely dedicated for PSEA or through the general Project GRM. This will be made explicit in all community awareness sessions and be a part of the publicly disclosed information. The GBV-SEA referral system will guarantee that survivors receive all necessary services, including medical, legal and counselling, and cases will be reported to the police where applicable. All relevant staff of the PCU, PSU, PIU, FAO, UNOPS and contractors will receive training on receiving GBV-SEA complaints and referral systems including World Bank Good Practice Note on 'Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) in Investment Project Financing', ideally during the project initiation phase and as part of the staff welcome package. More information on the GBV-SEA GRM is in the main text of the ESMF.

Figure 3: GBV-SEA Grievance redress mechanism flowchart
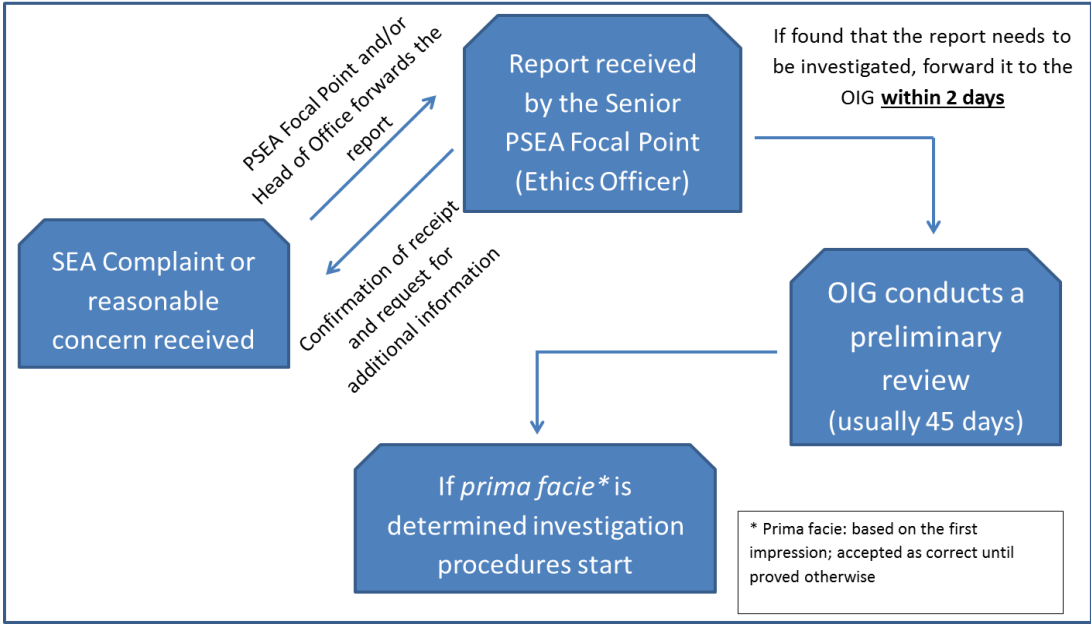
Table 8: Synthesis of Actors and responsibilities within the Project GRM

ACTORS	RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN PROJECT GRM
AAP OFFICERS	Sensitize communities and beneficiaries prior to any activity's implementation on GRM channel and rights Intake of feedback and complaint through AAP committee (daily) or suggestion boxes (weekly) and report to Helpline Operator Respond and contact with the Complainant
TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES	Intake of complaint Report to AAP Committee and AAP Officer Solution proposal including the Third Legal Party Monitoring and with agreement of ELRP Project Manager
FAO / UNOPS/ IP	Intake of feedback and complaint Report and refer to FAO / UNOPS Helpline Operator and E&S Risk Specialists Corrective measures definition and implementation with prior agreement of PSU and PIU
FAO / UNOPS HELPLINE OPERATOR	Record complaints from all channel sources (Inter Agency CBCM), AAP, Hotline, IPs Referring complaint to respective Project Technical Officer
FAO / UNOPS PIU TECHNICAL OFFICERS	Assess Complaint and Corrective measures definition Report to E&S Risk Management Officers
FAO PSU / UNOPS PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT E&S RISK SPECIALISTS	Monitoring of Complaints and feedback Triangulation of complaints through different channel (IP, IA-CBCM, etc.) Reporting to Project Coordinators and M&E Officers
PCU E&S AND PROJECT OFFICERS	Report semi-annually to World Bank Report in 24h for incident to World Bank Decision making
LEGAL THIRD-PARTY MONITORING	Assess court functionalities and accessibilities Follow Up complaints resolution through courts systems and traditional authorities Report to E&S Risk Management Officers
FAO - OIG	Independent Investigation
WB - GRS	Appeal and parallel Grievance system

7. MONITORING AND REPORTING

7.1 Participatory Monitoring

Adequate institutional arrangements, systems and resources will be put in place to monitor the application of stakeholder engagement in line with this SEP across the whole project. The goals of monitoring will be to measure the success rate of the activities, determine whether interventions have handled negative impacts, identify ideas for improvement of interventions, and whether further interventions are required or monitoring is to be extended in some areas. The goal of inspection activities is to ensure that sub-component activities comply with the plans and procedures laid out in the ESCP already prepared, and ESMF to be prepared, consulted on and disclosed within 60 days after project effectiveness. The ESMF will lay out environmental and social risks mitigation measures, with a dedicated E&S monitoring and reporting plan.

The main monitoring responsibilities will be with the PSU, as the administrator of the GRM, and overall project-related environmental and social monitoring and main implementer of the SEP. This will be led by the PSU Environmental and Social Risk Management and Gender Officers, with the support of the AAP Officers in the PIUs, and with oversight from the PCU Safeguards team. The PSU Project Manager will be overall responsible for the implementation of the environmental and social mitigation measures, including the SEP and location- or activity-specific SEP, as well as for monitoring and inspections for compliance with the SEP.

The GRM will be a distinct mechanism that will allow stakeholders, at the community level in particular, to provide feedback on project impacts and mitigation programs. The project will also establish and operate a separate grievance mechanism for all direct and contracted workers to raise workplace concerns, as provided under ESS2.

In addition, UNOPS and IPs will have their own dedicated means of monitoring impacts, administering mitigating measures and stakeholder involvement in consultation with FAO to ensure consistency in quality. These will be launched and implemented within the partners' specific sub-component activities. The IPs will share these means with the PIU and integrate stakeholder inputs into their regular monitoring and reporting activities. The IPs will report the number, locations and results of their SEP or SEP-related activities to the PIU on a monthly basis. The FAO PIU will then consolidate these reports for submission to the PCU quarterly. UNOPS will submit their monitoring reports to the FAO PSU for integration into the main reporting.

A third-party monitor (TPM) will be engaged by the PCU on a competitive basis to provide independent operational review of overall project implementation and project results, including the implementation of the SEP and GRM. The PSU will synthesise all reporting by TPMs , UNOPS and IPs, as well as its own findings, and produce an overall environment and social progress report with a distinct section on stakeholder engagement in line with a template to be provided in the ESMF. The project will follow a bi-annual reporting cycle to the WB for both regular and TPM reporting in line with World Bank requirements for Fragile, Conflict and Violent (FCV) environment projects. These reports will further be shared with all stakeholders, as defined in the SEP.

The PSU will also liaise with UNOPS to provide an annual review of project implementation, with the aim to: (i) assess the project performance in complying with ESMF procedures, learn lessons, and improve future performance; and (ii) assess the occurrence of, and potential for, cumulative impacts due to project-funded activities. Project stakeholders will be engaged in the review process. In addition, data from the GRM will be analyzed and presented. These reports will be the main source of information for the World Bank supervision missions, MAFS, FAO, UNOPS and national authorities, as needed.

7.2 Reporting back to stakeholder groups

Results of stakeholder engagements will be reported back to the affected communities, as well as the relevant local authorities and other stakeholders through quarterly project reports produced by FAO. It will be the responsibility of FAO, UNOPS and the PCU to ensure that all relevant reporting is shared through the above defined public means. At a sub-component and activity level, IPs will be responsible for disclosing their stakeholder engagement results and relevant reporting on a quarterly basis. The reporting will include feedback on how stakeholders' concerns are being addressed, and they and all stakeholders will be reminded of the availability of the GRM in case of any issues arising from the reporting.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Key considerations for stakeholder engagement and ESMF provisions

ESS 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure				
Is there a risk that the activity fails to incorporate measures to allow meaningful, effective and informed consultation of stakeholders, such as community engagement activities?				Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
Is there a historical exclusion of disabled persons in the area?				Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
Is there a lack of social baseline data?				ESMF
Are women likely to participate in decision-making processes in regards to the activity?				Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
Is there a risk that exclusion of beneficiaries leads to grievances?				Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM) – see ESMF
Is there a risk that the activity will have poor access to beneficiaries?				Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM) – see ESMF
Will the Covid-19 outbreak hamper proper stakeholder engagement?				WB and FGS guidance and regulations on Covid-19

Annex 2: List of Stakeholders Consulted

	Name	Organisation	Designation
1	Dr. John Kanisio -	MAFS	Undersecretary
2	Dr. Georgy Leju	MAFS	Director General for Agricultural Production and Extensions Service
3	Dr. George Tadu	MAFS	Senior Research Scientist
4	Lawrence Otika	MAFS	DL Operation Manager
5	Luka Kiwanocka	MAFS	Project Support Officer
6	Dr. Philip Wani Marchelo	Juba University	
7	Melissa Williams	WB	Senior Rural Development Specialist
8	Jeren Kabayeva	WB	Rural Development Specialist
9	Nadia Selim	WB	Social Protection Specialist
10	Xiaoyue Hou	WB	Climate-Smart Agriculture Specialist
11	Juliana Amal-Obonyo	UNOPS	Head of Programmes
12	Stephen Mbaluka Mwangangi	UNOPS	Partnerships Specialist
13	Mwatile Ndinoshiho	UNOPS	Communications Specialist and PSEA Focal Point
14	Lwanda Kahongo	UNOPS	Health Safety Social and Environmental Specialist - South Sudan Safety Net Project (SSSNP)
15	Leslie Mhara	UNOPS	Senior Project Manager - South Sudan Safety Net Project (SSSNP)
16	Felix Dzvurumi	FAO	Head of Programmes
17	Nicholas Kerandi	FAO	Technical Adviser – Food Security and Nutrition
18	Joseph Okidi	FAO	Agriculture Seed Specialist
19	Morris Tabiano	FAO	Plant Protection Specialist
20	James Wani	FAO	Natural Resources Management Officer
21	Wilson Makuwaza	FAO	Livestock Development Officer
22	Lemma Seifegebreal	FAO	Livestock Development Specialist
23	Lorraine Dixon	FAO	Environmental and Social Risk Specialist
24	Alexander Ali Natana	MAFS	Director Plant Protection MAFS
25	Mannix Agustine Oloya	MAFS	A/Director
26	Issac Taban Khamis	MAFS	Research Assistant
27	Apoko Susan	CAD	Extension Worker
28	John Kidega Komakech	CAD	Extension Worker
29	Kilama George Otabio	Magwi	Community
30	Chanwat Michael Lino	Magwi	Community
31	Amatura Group	Magwi	Farmer Group
32	Jok Oki United	Magwi	Farmer Group
33	DEDO BER	Magwi	Farmer Group
34	Martin Namula	Kapoeta	Community
35	Jackline Napathe	Kapoeta	Community
36	Philip Koriman	Kapoeta	Community
37	Peter Ohide	Torit	Community
38	Sarafino Okelo	Torit	Community
39	Savio Okilak	Torit	Community