



(GREAN)

# GREATER RESILIENCE THROUGH ENHANCED AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION PROJECT

South Sudan | Progress Brief  
(2020–2022)

**THIS MEANS THE WORLD**



### About this report

This brief summarises the results from the mid-term evaluation (MTE) of World Vision South Sudan's GREAN project (2020-2025), completed independently by Kenwill International Limited, between March and July 2022. The MTE design and data analysis was supported by Saba Mebrahtu Habte, Evidence Building Advisor, and was technically supported and reviewed by Rob Kelly, Senior Advisor Food Security & Resilience; Clay O'Brien, Financial Inclusion Advisor; Juliet Hanafie, Country Impact Manager for South Sudan, World Vision Australia; and Abrham Assefa, Technical Manager, Food Security and Livelihood, World Vision International in South Sudan.

Greater Resilience through Enhanced Agriculture and Nutrition (GREAN) Project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

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Front cover photo: Ayom Ater with her youngest child Nyandeng as she prepares to cook the vegetables she harvested from the garden.







The GREAN project aims to create holistic ‘resilience’ – resilient food security, nutrition, livelihoods, environment and social cohesion emphasising rights of girls and women.

## CONTEXT

### **Communities in South Sudan face one of the world’s most difficult humanitarian and food security situations fuelled by multiple and interconnected challenges.**

As per Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) classification,<sup>1</sup> 54% of the population (about 6.2 million people) is facing severe acute food insecurity; those most affected are among the most vulnerable, such as women and children, people with disability, internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees.

One of the consequences of food insecurity is prevailing chronic and acute malnutrition which affects children under five and pregnant and lactating women. Although South Sudan has made some progress towards achieving the global target for stunting (a measure of chronic malnutrition), 31.3% of children under five are still affected – higher than the Africa region average (30.7%).<sup>2</sup> In addition, 22.7% of children under five are suffering from wasting (a measure of acute malnutrition) – significantly higher than the Africa region average (6%). This reflects the country’s poor environmental health and acute food insecurity, which has been further exacerbated by COVID-19, natural disasters (flooding, locusts), and conflict.

Malnutrition is generally a result of multiple factors such as insufficient availability of (or access to) food, very poor-quality food that lacks diversity, a relatively high prevalence of disease, and poor childcare practices.

In South Sudan, the primary causes of food insecurity in these targeted communities are multiple and inter-related: intercommunal conflict and displacement, low crop production, low disposable income, poor market access, limited access to financial services,<sup>3</sup> a lack of access to technology (meaning crops are generally cultivated on small plots), a shortage of agricultural inputs, and limited access to safe water (for people and livestock). The Greater Resilience through Enhanced Agriculture and Nutrition (GREAN) project seeks to reduce food insecurity by addressing these underlying causes, and to enhance the resilience of farming families through improvements in agriculture, natural resource management, economic opportunity, and nutritional priorities.

1 <https://www.fao.org/emergencies/en#:~:text=Overall%2C%20in%20January%2C%205.3%20million%20South%20Sudanese%20were,hungry%20people%20remains%20dangerously%20high%2C%20and%20keeps%20rising>

2 <https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/africa/eastern-africa/south-sudan/>

3 According to the latest World Bank Global Findex, financial inclusion rate is just 6% and, unlike most other countries, it decreased - by a third - from 9% in 2017; <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/globalfindex>

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

**GREAN Goal:** **10,000 farming families in Juba and Warrap have improved resilience as a result of improved agriculture, natural resource management, economic opportunity and nutritional priorities.**

**Project Overview:** The GREAN project builds on the lessons learned from the Integrated Food Security and Livelihoods (IFSL) project in South Sudan, adopting similar intervention models but targeting different communities that are facing similar issues. The preliminary findings from IFSL's end-of-project evaluation showed the project had enabled vulnerable smallholder farmers to increase agricultural production and productivity sustainably, generating higher income through increased participation in markets, and contributing to food security in a sustainable way. Building on the successes of the IFSL project, GREAN uses an integrated project approach to achieve its goal, including natural resource management, seed production and multiplication groups, climate-smart agriculture (CSA),<sup>4</sup> local value chain development (LCVD)/inclusive market system development (iMSD),<sup>5</sup> Savings for Transformation (S4T),<sup>6</sup> and Empowered World View (EWW).<sup>7</sup> The GREAN project is being implemented by World Vision South Sudan in Rajaf County (Central Equatoria State) and Tonj North (Warrap State). The project is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Programme (ANCP).



Participants exhibiting their crops during Farmer Field Day.

4 <https://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture-sourcebook/en/>

5 [https://www.worldvision.com.au/docs/default-source/seed-docs/wva-imsd-5-page-overview-2020-final.pdf?sfvrsn=9f57b13c\\_2](https://www.worldvision.com.au/docs/default-source/seed-docs/wva-imsd-5-page-overview-2020-final.pdf?sfvrsn=9f57b13c_2)

6 World Vision's Savings for Transformation (S4T) project model builds resilience for vulnerable families. Through S4T groups, men and women in poor communities set up their own savings groups which enable them to save money together in small amounts and lend to each other when needs arise, such as family members' illness, children's education, and falling income due to droughts (<https://www.wvi.org/economic-development/savings-transformation>)

7 <https://www.wvi.org/faith-and-development/approaches/empowered-worldview-project-model>

**Figure 1: How GREAN achieves change**



**Increased sustainable crop yield and income**

- Farmer households take up improved agricultural and business practices
- Farmers partner in crop adaptation trials to support livelihood diversification
- Saving for Transformation (S4T) groups increase savings, income and resilience



**Improved nutrition knowledge and action**

- Mothers and caregivers strengthen their response to malnutrition in children
- Community gardens provide locally available nutritious food



**Inclusive, sustainable Water supply and hygiene services**

- Improved water supply, constructed to meet household, irrigation and livestock needs
- Families use and promote climate-smart irrigation practices
- Families use and promote good hygiene practices



# EVALUATION OVERVIEW

## EVALUATION PURPOSE

**The main purpose of this mid-term evaluation (MTE) was to assess the project achievements and progress to date, against its objectives and targets, and to examine its relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, and sustainability, including cross-cutting themes such as disability inclusion, gender equality and women’s empowerment.**

## METHODOLOGY

The MTE adopted a pre-post design without a control group to measure progress towards project outcomes against baseline findings and planned targets. Mixed methodologies were used, including quantitative (household participant survey) and qualitative (focus group discussions [FGDs], key informant interviews [KIIs] and Most Significant Change stories) approaches. The qualitative approach validated the quantitative findings, while a case study approach documented Most Significant Change stories, as well as issues of relevance, coherence, and aspects of effectiveness and sustainability.

The evaluation engaged a sample of 860 respondents, including 786 people (70.5% female, 29.5% male) from randomly selected participating farmer households that took part in a household survey and 74 (52.7% female, 47.3% male) purposively selected respondents to the qualitative inquiry. Quantitative respondents were selected using cluster sampling. Different farmer groups represented strata from which farmers were randomly selected. Of the 786 participating households who participated in the MTE, 28.1% had participated in the baseline survey.<sup>8</sup> The MTE revealed that 15.3% of the survey participants were people with a disability. The data from the midline household survey of 786 participating households was statistically compared with the baseline survey of 1,199 households using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 18). This analysis tested whether the difference between the baseline and midline household indicator values were statistically significant and to what extent. Qualitative data was analysed through thematic analysis using a free-format approach.

## LIMITATIONS

Data collected on some indicators (crop production and productivity, crop sales and incomes) was based on recall, which has a risk of under- or overestimation of the data. To mitigate the likely impact on accuracy of data, the team interviewed actual participants and used some methods which enable farmers to reasonably estimate variables (indicators) in question. In addition, some qualitative data was collected to triangulate quantitative findings. The sample size for water-related indicators is limited due to focus on a smaller geographical scope (three bomas in Tonj North) compared to other project activities which are implemented in all locations.

Since the design and inception of the GREAN project, some changes have taken place which have affected implementation. These include the COVID-19 pandemic, economic downturn, flooding, drought, and security concerns in 2020-21 (Project Year 1) and 2021-22 (Project Years 2 and into 3). Tonj North has been affected by flooding and drought in all locations and communal violence in some payams (districts). Flooding affected crop performance while security issues led to the suspension of activities in insecure locations for the safety of the community, World Vision staff and assets. In Rajaf, insecurity has been in the form of conflict between crop farmers and pastoralists, where the latter graze livestock in crop fields. In addition, the civil conflict in Central Equatoria extended to project locations and has interrupted activity implementation. Some project participants have had to migrate to Juba City or to Uganda for their own safety.

The project has mitigated the negative impact of these activities in different ways. These included: adoption of standard operating procedures for prevention of COVID-19; supporting farmers and pastoralist communities through dialogue and agro grazing fields; early planting and planting quick-maturing crops; seeking security clearance before field activities; and the introduction of peacebuilding activities initiated in 2021/2022. However, the impact of these external factors on the evaluation results would have to be considered.

<sup>8</sup> A margin of error of plus or minus 3.45% applies to participating household survey results.

# FINDINGS

## EFFECTIVENESS

**Project Goal: MTE results showed fair progress** (Table 1). Overall, there has been good progress on equitable decision making for selected productive spheres in targeted households. The percentage of households with equitable decision making on spending income is up by 16 percentage points, while equitable decision making on selling cattle is up by 14 percentage points. However, equitable decision making on spending income from the sale of livestock has increased by less than a percentage point. Improvements were observed in both Rajaf and Tonj North counties, and included persons with disabilities and both male and female-headed households.

However, the ability of households to provide well for their children has declined from 68.9% at baseline to 61.7% at midline. While there has been an improvement in other indicators that would usually assist households

in providing for their children, these do not appear to have had a significant enough effect on the capacity of households. This can largely be attributed to external factors beyond the project's control. For example, food is obviously a priority for most households and the price of food has been consistently going up over recent years. Food inflation in South Sudan is estimated to have averaged 72.5% for the period 2018 to 2021.<sup>9</sup> When most of a household's disposable income has to be spent on food, there is often little to none left over for children's other basic necessities like clothing, health and nutritional care, and education. Yet, given improvements in the other indicators, it is most likely that the project was effective in protecting households' ability to provide well for their children from deteriorating even further.

**Table 1. GREAN Project progress towards goal targets**

Goal statement and indicators	Baseline result	Mid-term target	Mid-term achieved	Endline target	On track
<b>Goal:</b> 10,000 farming families in Juba and Warrap have improved resilience as a result of improved agriculture, natural resource management, economic opportunity and nutritional priorities					
<b>Indicator 1:</b> % HHs able to provide well for their children	68.9%	74.0%	61.7%	79.2%	<b>No</b> ↓
<b>Indicator 2:</b> % HHs with equitable decision making in productive spheres					
<b>a.</b> Spending income	39.1%	42.3%	55.5%	45.5%	<b>Yes</b> ↑
<b>b.</b> Decision making on selling cattle	42.0%	45.2%	56.0%	48.3%	<b>Yes</b> ↑
<b>c.</b> Spending proceeds of livestock sales/income	52.8%	56.8%	53.0%	60.7%	<b>No but likely</b> ↑

<sup>9</sup> <https://tradingeconomics.com/south-sudan/food-inflation#:~:text=Food%20Inflation%20in%20South%20Sudan,percent%20in%20February%20of%202021>

## OUTCOME 1: INCREASED, SUSTAINABLE CROP YIELD AND INCOME FOR 10,000 FARMER HOUSEHOLDS

**GREAN project has made some good progress towards achieving Outcome 1 targets** (Table 2), with the best performing areas being those associated with food security and resilience. For example, the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) declined from 16.3 at baseline to 12.6 at MTE, a reduction of 3.7 points (or 22.7%), far exceeding its mid-term target, and already close to the endline target.

The median monthly household income rose from US\$11.45 at baseline to US\$30.06 at midterm, which is over twice the midline target of US\$12.88, and well above the

endline target of US\$14.31. Furthermore, the percentage of households in moderate or severe food insecurity declined by 17.7 percentage points between the baseline (71.6%) and MTE (53.9%) – 8.8 percentage points better than the midline target (62.7%), and already close to the endline target (53.7%). The good performance in food security is attributed to increased crop production and productivity over the baseline. The increase in household income is attributed both to the sale of more produce such as groundnuts and vegetables, and investment in income-generating micro-businesses using S4T loans, (the average savings per group member more than tripled).<sup>10</sup>

**Table 2: GREAN Project progress towards Outcome 1 targets**

Outcome 1 statement and indicators	Baseline result	Mid-term target	Mid-term achieved	Endline target	On track
<b>Outcome 1: Increased, sustainable crop yield and income for 10,000 farmer households</b>					
<b>Indicator 1.1:</b> % households resorting to negative coping strategies to access food (average rCSI)	16.3	14.3	12.6	12.2	Yes ↑
<b>Indicator 1.2:</b> Median household income					
<b>a.</b> South Sudanese Pound (SSP)	1,876.13	2,110.65	12,800.00	2,345.16	Yes ↑
<b>b.</b> US\$	11.45	12.88	30.06	14.31	
<b>Indicator 1.3:</b> % households in moderate or severe food insecurity	71.6%	62.7%	53.9%	53.7%	Yes ↑
<b>Indicator 1.4:</b> % households with one or more 'hungry months' in the previous 12 months	84.1%	73.6%	90.7%	63.1%	No ↓

<sup>10</sup> 25 S4T groups were formed compared to a target of 20 and this has contributed to the mobilisation of savings and micro-loans for members which are invested in small business for income generation.



These quantitative findings were confirmed during FGDs with participants and KIs with key project stakeholders, as shown in examples below:

*“Before in our home, we could not access fresh vegetables, but when the project was brought, my mother started growing vegetables which she sells and cooks some at home. The money which my mother used to get, she used it for buying basic needs for us at home. These basic needs include food (sorghum, groundnuts), sandals and clothes.”*

– FGD with children

*“This project is good. Why? It has been implementing vegetable gardens making seed multiplication. According to me, before this project, people were suffering from malnutrition due to lack of vegetables. Currently life is okay because people are no longer suffering from malnutrition and they are healthy. It has reduced food insecurity. There are enough vegetables in the market and people have access to these vegetables.”*

– KI with Agricultural Extension Service Provider.

However, while the project activities led to a marked increase in income for both women and men, areas of disaster risk reduction (DRR), gender and disability attitudes, and long-term resilience (reducing hunger months) performed poorly. The slow progress in these areas is attributed to different external factors mitigating the project’s achievements, such as widespread flooding and drought, low household crop production, and

deeply held cultural constructs unfavourable to women and persons with disabilities. The poor crop production outputs at the individual household level are due to flooding, while drought has had a negative effect on long-term resilience. The MTE household survey revealed that only two-thirds of farmers (67.6%) that cultivated crops in the 2021 season, managed a harvest to some degree, while one-third (32.4%) did not harvest as expected.

## **OUTCOME 2: 10,000 FARMER HOUSEHOLDS HAVE IMPROVED NUTRITION THROUGH KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

Under Outcome 2, one key midline target has been achieved, while three targets were close (and likely to be achieved), and one has significantly underachieved (Table 3). The project performed well at getting households to undertake actions aimed at improving nutrition (21 percentage points improvement from baseline to midline), while achievements around access to information

on nutrition, knowledge about good nutrition and getting households with sufficient diet diversity were also promising. At the intermediate outcome level, use of locally available or self-grown nutritious foods improved by 8.5 percentage points, as well as handwashing at critical times (13.9 percentage points improvement) and knowledge of childhood illnesses (12.3 percentage points improvement).

The qualitative findings have confirmed that participating households were using locally available or self-grown nutritious foods as reflected in feedback from participants and key stakeholders, for example:

*“Before we used to feed on only dry okra and this could not manage to boost immunity. When the project came, we started growing vegetables and these have improved the health of both adults and children. The cases of malnutrition have reduced.”*

– FGD with project participants

*“Before in our home, we could not access fresh vegetables, but when the project was brought, my mother started growing vegetables which she sells and cook some at home.”*

– FGD with children

*“In terms of nutrition, mainly vegetable production, people are eating a balanced diet and started practising individual growing of vegetables. Farmers are able to dig their own wells and start growing of vegetables.”*

– KII with Local Leader

**Table 3: GREAN Project progress towards Outcome 2 targets**

Outcome 2 statement and indicators	Baseline result	Mid-term target	Mid-term achieved	Endline target	On track
<b>Outcome 2:</b> 10,000 farmer households have improved nutrition through knowledge and skills development					
<b>Indicator 2.1:</b> % of women reporting knowledge, skill and decision making on nutrition					
<b>a.</b> Access to information on nutrition	65.1%	73.2%	70.9%	81.4%	No but likely ↑
<b>b.</b> Knowledge about good nutrition	65.7%	73.9%	71.3%	82.1%	No but likely ↑
<b>c.</b> Action to improve nutrition of their households	69.1%	77.7%	90.1%	86.4%	Yes ↑
<b>Indicator 2.2:</b> % households with sufficient diet diversity	78.4%	88.2%	86.1%	98.0%	No but likely ↑
<b>Indicator 2.3:</b> % HHs with a child 6-59 months consuming nutritious target foods in the last 24 hours	59.2%	66.6%	45.2%	74.0%	No ↓
<b>Indicator 2.4:</b> % female participants consuming minimum dietary diversity in the last 24 hours	76.8%	86.4%	65.2%	96.0%	No ↓
<b>Intermediate Outcome 2.1:</b> Household food utilisation knowledge and practices improved					
<b>Indicator 2.1.1:</b> % HH using locally available or self-grown nutritious foods	65.7%	73.9%	74.2%	82.1%	Yes ↑
<b>Intermediate Outcome 2.2:</b> Improved community knowledge on Health, Nutrition and Hygiene					
<b>Indicator 2.2.1:</b> % HH with appropriate handwashing behaviour	45.6%	51.2%	59.4%	56.9%	Yes ↑
<b>Indicator 2.2.2:</b> % HH with knowledge of common childhood illness	45.0%	50.6%	57.3%	56.3%	Yes ↑
<b>Indicator 2.2.3:</b> Respondent perception of men's contribution towards HH chores and childcare	27.1%	50.6%	25.28%	56.3%	No ↓

Despite the positive developments, consumption of nutritious (or nutrient-dense) foods among young children, and minimum dietary diversity among female participants had declined in comparison to the baseline. The qualitative findings based on KIIs revealed that the lack of progress on access to food was due to insecurity, floods, the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic meltdown/high inflation, all of which reduced income levels and restricted the quantity and quality of food that families could afford. Regarding the lack of progress with gender equality surrounding household chores and childcare, the general feeling is that these kinds of changes are likely to take a long time, with fluctuations along the way, before the desired change is realised.

### **OUTCOME 3: INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO WASH SERVICES INCREASED**

Interventions for Outcome 3 have only been implemented in selected communities in Tonj North; these were selected based on the needs and access to water in project target areas. Therefore, Rajaf county areas and other non-targeted areas in Tonj North were excluded from this analysis.<sup>11</sup> The project achieved the midline targets for reduction in time spent on collection of water during the wet season (reduced by 0.39 hours) and dry season (reduced by 0.93 hours). These reductions were assisted by the construction of three boreholes and translated into a lot of time and effort saved in both the wet and dry seasons. The development and management of each borehole was facilitated by a committee, one of which was led by a woman.

However, access to safe water for human consumption year-round and access to water for crop production and livestock had declined across all project sites in comparison to the baseline. As revealed during the KIIs, there was a reduction in available water for vegetable production in the dry seasons due to scarcity and prioritising of livestock.

The poor performance on some indicators under WASH was attributed to the limited scope of the project intervention in comparison to existing community needs. During the dry season, the availability of water for household use and crop production is reduced due to the needs of livestock. In these situations, interventions such as boreholes have limited impact in comparison to the domestic and livestock water requirements. Accordingly, the project's addition of new activities such as water yard construction is appropriate, as they are more likely to address the competing water needs in the community.

*“The project implementation has been done well except where there is insecurity.” – KII with project staff*

#### **Insecurity: Displacement of Participants.**

*“They were unable to implement activities. Staff could not move to implementation. This delayed implementation of activities in Marial Loul Payam, Rualbet and Kirrik Payam and Akop.”*  
– KII with project staff

#### **Flooding in 2020 & 2021.**

*“All locations were affected and the harvest was very poor. Even adaptive trials didn't do well.”*  
– KII with project staff

*“The vegetable seeds were distributed but water was not enough and they dried up, since plenty is given to animals and people to access water.”*  
– KII with local leader

*“As a chief I am requesting the project to fulfil their promise of water boreholes and water ponds access. This is because we have a challenge of water in our areas.”*  
– KII with local leader

<sup>11</sup> Baseline data was re-analysed to permit an assessment of performance of WASH-related indicators for communities which have directly benefitted from WASH interventions.



## CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

The project has mainstreamed gender, disability, environment, DRR and youth in its implementation. The MTE revealed that the project is benefitting persons with disabilities, although the level of change varies across different results areas. One example was a 121.8% increase in groundnuts yields for persons with disabilities, while the increase in sorghum yields was even bigger at 275%. The median monthly income for households with persons with disabilities increased by 232.3% between baseline (US\$6.36) and MTE (US\$21.14). There was also an increase in the percentage of young persons with disabilities who were more confident in continuing their livelihood activities and building their skills and capacity, from baseline (54.4%) to MTE (91.7%).

Female participants are also benefitting from the GREAN project in different ways. Findings on female participants during the MTE revealed a 137% increase in median monthly household incomes from baseline (US\$10.9) to MTE (US\$25.83), and a 424% increase in groundnuts yields from baseline (253 MT) to MTE (1,325 MT). The percentage of women from female-headed households who had taken action to improve nutrition in their households also increased by 23.2% from baseline (71.3%) to MTE (91.3%).

MTE findings also revealed that youth (16-24 years) were benefitting from project activities. Youth registered a very significant 1037.2% improvement in sorghum yields from baseline (156 MT) to MTE (832.49 MT), with groundnuts yields also improving by 432% from baseline (0.262 MT) to MTE (1,014 MT). Other positive improvements among youth include a 27% reduction in the rCSI from baseline (14.1) to MTE (10.3) and a 46.4% increase in median monthly household income from baseline (US\$ 20.86) to MTE (US\$30.53).

However, interventions aimed at addressing attitudes towards gender and persons with disability have been slow in triggering any anticipated change. The DRR interventions have also not worked well, with the capacity of communities to employ effective DRR strategies remaining low. Conflict resolution and peacebuilding have emerged as new cross-cutting issues due to the emerging security concerns and conflicts which are affecting project implementation in both Tonj North and Rajaf County, and these should be considered going forward.



A community that works together prospers together. Yom and part of her group members fetching water to irrigate the vegetables.

## SUSTAINABILITY

World Vision South Sudan has implemented different strategies to ensure the sustainability of project results in the community. Some of the strategies showing a lot of promise (which are in the design and confirmed by MTE qualitative data), include working through different groups such as farmer and seed multiplication groups, mother support groups and S4T groups, all of which promote social cohesion and build synergy among the members. Other models such as supporting access to key inputs (like ploughs) through cost sharing and close collaboration with government structures at national, state, county, and sub-county (payam, and boma) levels have contributed to local ownership of project support and initiatives. The government has seconded two national agricultural extension specialists in adaptive crop trials, and extension service providers to support farmers at payam level. The sharing of staff reduces costs, fosters ownership of different interventions and strengthens government extension support capacity at community level. Adaptive crop trials and sites are good avenues for farmers to learn about and adopt improved farming practices, while also assisting in the establishment of the national seed system in South Sudan. Successful trials will mean more local production of adapted

seeds as opposed to importing untested varieties from neighbouring countries. Other interventions such as market stalls are a good way of ensuring that participants deliver their produce to the market.

However, there is a need for a formal project exit strategy to ensure sustainability practices are deliberately embedded in project activities. In addition, the grain stores constructed by the project are too small to encourage large-scale expansion in production. GREAN ought to focus on aspects which address long-term resilience such as savings (S4T), safe and secure storage of harvested produce, and investment in other assets such as livestock. These assets will enable households to maintain food stocks during lean months and hopefully reduce the number of households that have experienced one or more hungry months over the last year. Furthermore, the approach of working with groups can be strengthened as the project continues to work with them over (at least) the next three years. Working with farmer groups for one to two years and then weaning them off project support is not enough to instil a sense of ownership and encourage the continued existence of such groups.

## RELEVANCE

Overall, the project is proving to be extremely relevant in the current context. The project is aligned with several Government of South Sudan (GoSS) policies and strategies (South Sudan Development Plan and Comprehensive Agriculture Development Master Plan), as well as to World Vision South Sudan's strategic plan and other international policies including DFAT's Partnerships for Recovery strategy (particularly the stability, health security and economic recovery pillars). The project is currently addressing the key constraints to economic growth in South Sudan including skills shortages, food insecurity and low agricultural productivity, along with gender and other social inequalities. Furthermore, findings revealed that 76.5% of sampled participating survey respondents affirmed that the project responded to humanitarian needs. The findings also confirmed that the project adapted and provided appropriate responses to the context such

as the movement of cattle keepers (which has caused displacement and migration to safe places/corridors), flooding in some project areas, and the outbreak of COVID-19. Some of the project responses included:

- The suspension of activities in some *payams*.
- Advice to farmers to do early planting.
- The encouragement of co-existence among cattle keepers and farmers.
- The delivery of inputs in time to ensure that harvests are complete before cattle arrival.
- Advice to continue with horticulture during the dry season.
- Advice to plant more drought-resistant crops to withstand the dry spell.

## COHERENCE

The coherence of the project is demonstrated by the links between the various components, and how they contribute directly to the project's objectives. Some examples of this include:

- Seed multiplication groups (SMGs) are linked to agro-dealers, with the SMGs also setting up S4T groups and providing other value additions.
- Male champions are being trained to support mother support groups (MSGs) on spreading information on maternal and child health, and nutrition.
- Child malnutrition is being addressed through the Positive Deviant Hearth (PDH) component using a food-based approach towards enhancing dietary diversity.
- Mothers in MSGs with malnourished children participated in PDH.
- Adaptive crop trials attract members of different groups to learn improved farming practices.
- The setting up of Mother Gardens is done by agriculture components and also contributes to nutrition, and farmers are given information on nutrition.
- Mothers in support groups are linked to S4Ts, giving them access to micro-loans and the opportunity to invest in micro-businesses. This assists them in increasing income which then enables them to access nutritious food from the market.

In addition to the above examples which demonstrate the internal compatibility of the project's components, the project is also compatible with projects being implemented by other agencies. For example, Islamic Relief is implementing the Emergency Response Project in Tonj North with interventions that include food distribution, WASH and non-food item distribution, distribution of farm inputs, training of farmers on agronomic practices and agribusiness skills, and awareness on gender equality and gender-based violence.

Nevertheless, some gaps were observed in line with how coherent different components of the project were. Initial planning made it mandatory for SMG members to be included in S4T but not all are interested. In addition, the time for participation in the project is not enough, for example, a one-year period with groups is not sufficient. This makes it difficult to make market-based approaches work within a short period of time. In addition, value chains are not well developed and do not detail strategies for upgrading different value chains. Farmers lack market information, that is, information available is very scarce. The intervention only focuses on training of male champions, and it does not follow up to ensure that such champions are promoting what they were trained in.

## EFFICIENCY

So far, the GREAN project has proved to be efficient in implementation and achieving output targets. The evaluation findings reveal that out of the 33 output indicators, 25 of them already have achievement/completion rates of at least 50%, and out of the 33 end-of-project targets, 27% were already 100% achieved. This shows that there has been good progress made towards achieving planned outputs. The outputs for Outcome 1 had completion rates of almost 50% in comparison to mid-term targets,<sup>12</sup> while the output indicators for Outcomes 2 and 3 show more than 50% completion. The evaluation findings also established that there were opportunities for reaching out to

more participants which the project has successfully followed up on. Some of these opportunities included:

- Registering more willing households as participants;
- Good collaboration with government ministries and structures in areas such as peacebuilding, extension service provision and adaptive trials; and
- Good collaboration with other World Vision South Sudan projects (FORESITE, R-Life and FEED II) in areas such as adaptive crop trials, gender mainstreaming, and setting up S4T groups.

<sup>12</sup> Outcomes 2 and 3 had fewer activities compared to Outcome 1 because the concentration of activities of the project has been largely focused on Outcome 1.



## CONCLUSIONS

As indicated, the GREAN project has made good progress on more than half of its outcome and output indicator targets, which is a good sign that it is likely to achieve its objectives. Out of the three outcomes, Outcome 1 (food security) has so far performed the best. This outcome is supported by a high concentration of activities, staff competencies and financial resources. Some areas of the project such as gender-related indicators, nutrition and WASH have either made slow

progress or stalled and therefore require a review and refocusing of strategies. The project remains relevant in terms of addressing the needs of the community, while contributing to the strategies of World Vision South Sudan, GoSS and DFAT. In addition, there is good coherence within the project as illustrated by the sharing of competencies between World Vision projects, and the integration of activities and collaboration with GoSS ministries and community-level structures.



Farmers admiring their crops.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## Overall and cross-cutting

1. In addition to community-level peace activities, World Vision should link with peacebuilding agencies in South Sudan to assist in addressing the wide causes of conflict in South Sudan and bring about reconciliation and peace in targeted communities.
2. The project should focus on outcome monitoring to detect gaps and take early corrective action.
3. Target Setting: There is a need to review how project outcome indicator targets are set. The increase of the baseline value by 25% is not a very good approach to target setting as the values are not uniform and have different bases, which need to be taken into consideration.



## Outcome 1:

1. Review existing approach and strategy for addressing gender-related constraints to empowerment of women. The project should identify specific interventions aimed at addressing gender biases among men. For now, the current package of activities does not directly address gender issues affecting the empowerment of women.
2. Undertake a deeper analysis of the value chains between Warrap and major markets in Wau, Khartoum and Juba and identify practical strategies for upgrading different elements of the value chains. Aspects of value addition for crops such as groundnuts ought to be deliberately encouraged.
3. Support farmer groups with large stores or bulking centres to address storage problems due to small stores, and support bulking of produce for larger markets.
4. Provide information on how to create farmer associations which can manage produce stores. Contact older farmer groups and connect them to new ones to support them in their efforts to organise themselves better, including forming associations or cooperatives. Associations can absorb all farmers targeted by the project.
5. Provide market information to farmers on viable crops, inputs and prices in different markets.
6. Increase awareness among project participants on existing complaint response mechanisms for the project.



### Outcome 2:

1. Review level of staffing with focus on nutrition and WASH components. If possible, increase the number of community nutrition volunteers to ensure that all activities are implemented with better quality and efficiency.
2. The project should assess availability of water before setting up Mother Gardens to avoid any water-related conflict between farmers and pastoralists.
3. The project should closely monitor activities of men champions and gauge how their work is contributing to changing perceptions related to the involvement of men in domestic chores and childcare. The project should track and report the number of women involved in taking children for nutrition sessions and health care (including immunisation).



### Outcome 3:

1. World Vision should either increase funding for WASH and nutrition interventions, or design a purely standalone WASH and nutrition project to be implemented in GREAN project locations. This will bridge the gap that exists in GREAN regarding adequate WASH and nutrition interventions. Alternatively, WASH indicators should be measured for only targeted communities at endline, instead of the entire project area.





Trials of different adaptive seeds for the South Sudan environmental context are under way.

## For more information, contact:

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