



FEED II MID-TERM EVALUATION REPORT

March, 2023



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Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the consortium members - World Vision South Sudan, CARE South Sudan and War Child Canada – whose staff members provided support and information that was crucial in the execution of this assignment. We are very grateful to all of them. We also received support and very useful information from Hailu Badhane, the Chief of Party, and Christine Bwogi, Quality Assurance Manager, together with all of the dedicated FEED II project staff.

We also thank very much government officials in all 19 counties in the seven states where FEED II is being implemented. We received excellent support and insightful information from them.

We spoke to representatives of NGOs and to faith leaders, we engaged community leaders and interacted with girls, boys. We held extensive discussions with female youth, male youth, women and men of South Sudan working as farmers, as extension workers or in micro-enterprises. We are enormously grateful to them since this report would not have been possible without their contribution.

We also thank field assistants, their supervisors and the Upward Bound lead team for this assignment, namely Abishai Mangie, Helen Neema Kawe, Joshua Wangunyu, Rono Tuimising, Sarah Maror Deng, Yohana Tong and Munaweza Muleji.

Upward Bound

March, 2023

Affirmation

Except as acknowledged by the references in this document to other authors and publications, this mid-term evaluation consists of our own work, undertaken to further the assessment and to implement the assignment as per the requirements of FEED II project.

Abbreviations

CAD	Canadian Dollar
CAMP	Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan
CDRMC	Community Disaster Risk Management Committee
CHAT	Community Hope Action Teams
CMC	Consortium Management Committee
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EU	European Union
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FFBS	Farmer Field Business School
FEED I	Fortifying Equality and Economic Diversification I
FEED II	Fortifying Equality and Economic Diversification for Resilience II
FFA	Food Assistance for Assets
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FIAP	Feminist International Assistance Policy
FMNR	Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration
FSL	Food Security and Livelihoods
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GEM	Gender Equitable Men
GoSS	Government of South Sudan
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
MIYCN	Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition
NALEP	National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Policy Framework
NDS	National Development Strategy
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage
PIP	Project Implementation Plan
PPS	Probability Proportional to Size
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SAA	Social Analysis and Action
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SER	Subjectively Evaluated Resilience
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SSP	South Sudanese Pound
TWG	Technical Working Group
UN	United Nations
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WFP	World Food Program
WVSS	World Vision South Sudan

Glossary

Terms	Meaning
Climate-smart agriculture	Agriculture that aims to tackle three main objectives: sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes; adapting and building resilience to climate change; and reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions
Conflict	A struggle or clash between opposing forces; battle. A state of opposition between ideas, interests, disagreement or controversy. It can happen in a household, in a community, between communities or at a national or international level. Conflict can be productive or destructive.
Conflict management	It is the process by which disputes are resolved, where negative results are minimized and positive results are prioritized
Coping mechanisms	Positive or negative strategies for responding to shocks or stressors. (For FEED II shocks or stressors can be related to food security, conflict, household dynamics and so on)
Crisis modifier	Early action and rapid response to new or emerging humanitarian needs that manifest in a project area intended to protect progress in implementing an ongoing development projects and the gains achieved. They are a practical means to avert or reduce the impact of a crisis on beneficiaries and protect progress made in building resilience.
Denial of resources, opportunities or services	Denial of rightful access to economic resources/assets or livelihood opportunities, education, health or other social services. Includes a widow prevented from receiving an inheritance, earnings forcibly taken by an intimate partner or family member, a woman prevented from using contraceptives, a girl prevented from attending school and so on; but does not include effects of general poverty.
Disaster	A sudden or slow onset, calamitous event that seriously disrupts the functioning of a community or society and causes human, material, and economic or environmental losses that exceed the community's or society's ability to cope using its own resources
Early warning systems	The set of capacities used to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning information that enables individuals, communities and organizations who are at risk to prepare and act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce harm or loss
Emergency	A serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action. A situation that poses an immediate threat to life, health, property, or environment. Has already caused loss of life, health detriments, property damage, or environmental damage. Has a high probability of escalating to cause immediate danger to life, health, property or environment.
Food security	The state of having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food
Forced marriage	The marriage of an individual against her or his will.

Gender-based violence (GBV)	Any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will based on socially-ascribed (i.e. gender) differences between males and females. Types of GBV include •Sexual violence (rape· sexual assault· sexual harassment) • Physical violence (hitting, slapping, beating) • Emotional violence (psychological abuse) • Economic violence (denial of resources) • Harmful traditional practices (forced marriages, female genital mutilation)
Gender equality	When people of all genders have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration—recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men.
Gender equitable men (GEM) scale	A collection of statements developed to measure attitudes towards gender norms in intimate relationships and related differing social expectations and is applicable for men and women, female youth, male youth, boys and girls. It is broadly applicable and easily administered yet culturally sensitive, so indicators can be applied in and compared across varied settings and are sufficiently relevant for specific cultural contexts.
Inclusive market systems development	A market development approach involves both indirect producer-focused facilitation to improve the functionality of markets using a direct producer-focused facilitation to broaden market access and participation. It involves and benefits a range of actors including the poor and marginalized groups such as remote populations, women, youths and persons with disability who are often not included or even exploited by prevailing market systems.
Physical assault	An act of physical violence that is not sexual in nature. Includes hitting, slapping, choking, cutting, shoving, burning, shooting or use of any weapons, acid attacks or any other act that results in pain, discomfort or injury; but does not include FGM/C.
Psychological or emotional abuse	Infliction of mental or emotional pain or injury. Includes threats of physical or sexual violence, intimidation, humiliation, forced isolation, stalking, verbal harassment, unwanted attention, remarks, gestures or written words of a sexual and/or menacing nature, destruction of cherished things.
Post-harvest loss	The degradation in both quantity and quality of a food production from harvest to consumption. Quantity loss includes decrease in mass or volume while quality loss includes decline in the nutrient and caloric composition, acceptability and edibility of a given produce.
Rape	Non-consensual penetration, however slight, of the vagina, anus or mouth with a penis or other body part. Also includes penetration of the vagina or anus with an object.
Resilience	The ability of households and communities to absorb and recover from shocks, whilst positively adapting and transforming their structures and means of living in the face of long-term stresses, change and uncertainty. Resilience is about anticipating, planning and reducing disaster risk to effectively protect persons, communities and countries, their livelihoods, health, cultural heritage, socio-economic assets and ecosystems.
Sexual assault	Any form of non-consensual sexual contact that does not result in or include penetration. Includes attempted rape, as well as unwanted kissing, fondling, or touching of genitalia and buttocks; and FGM/C since it is an act of violence that impacts sexual organs; but does not include rape.

Shocks	Sudden events impacting the vulnerability of a community.
Sustainable livelihoods	A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living; a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the household and local levels and in the short and long term.
New market	New geographical areas, counties, states or regions, or new set of customers, that the individual was not selling their goods or services in the period exceeding the preceding 12 months.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ultimate outcome of Fortifying Equality and Economic Diversification for Resilience II (FEED II) is reduced inequalities between women and men in access to and control over resources in relation to food security in South Sudan. It is a five-year (2020-2025) women's empowerment initiative that uses a food security and livelihoods platform working in seven states and 19 counties in South Sudan at a cost of approximately \$39.5million CAD with funding from Global Affairs Canada (GAC) targeting 223,890 people (145,528 women, 40,300 men, 26,867 female youth, 6,717 male youth, 2,239 girls, 2,239 boys). A mid-term evaluation of the FEED II project was conducted in February and March 2023 to monitor and assess progress on achievement of project outcomes and results; provide feedback to project management; evaluate performance; inform on initiative adjustments as appropriate; and contribute to learning and research.

During the evaluation, the key challenge was limited availability of household demographic survey and up-to-date census data but this neither hampered completion of the exercise nor limited the quality of its findings. Field assistants conducted 874 of the 880 planned household visits, yielding a response rate of 99% with 639 female and 235 male respondents. A youth survey reached a total of 456 youth – 214 female and 242 males - of a planned 440 yielding a response rate of 104%. A total of 116 key informant interviews were administered to 21 female and 95 male respondents- the planned number of interviews was 110. A total of 110 FGD sessions of an expected 98 were held in which 412 women, 361 men, 148 female youth and 153 male youth participated. A total of 16 child participation sessions, of an expected 16 sessions, were held with 64 girls and 64 boys of 9-14 years.

Relevance

FEED II is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and is in conformity with Vision 2040 of South Sudan and National Development Strategy (NDS). FEED II is also aligned with the Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP) and the National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Policy Framework (NALEP). It responds to GAC Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) and is aligned with the country strategic priorities for World Vision, CARE and War Child Canada. Importantly, it responds to the felt needs and priorities of communities and seeks to address their key challenges. Its interventions are based on responses requested by the target population.

Respondents' profile

Most women (63.9%) had never attended formal schooling, a slight improvement from 79.1% at baseline while 21.1% had primary school education up from 14.5% at baseline. This indicated that the education status of women had improved since baseline. Many men (28.1%) had never attended formal schooling, while 38.8% had primary level education. The education status for both female and male youth over the period under review improved and the proportion of youth who had attended vocational training was 18.6% (15.5% of female youth and 21.5% of male youth) an improvement on baseline when it was at 11.2% (9.8% for female youth and 12.5% for male youth).

Access to and control over resources

A notable 63.4% of women reported control over productive resources and assets for food security and livelihood. Compared to a baseline of 31.8%, this indicates growing access and control over productive assets by women. The proportion of men who were of the view that women can own and control seeds, fertilisers and other crop inputs rose to 44.7% from a baseline level of 40.9%. The proportion of men who were of the view that female youth can own and control agricultural resources rose to 26.8% from a baseline level of 12.9%.

Use of time

The time spent by women on unpaid domestic and care work increased to 5.8 hours (48.4%) at mid-term review from 5.2 hours (42.9%) at baseline. The time spent by women on unpaid domestic and care work combined with volunteer and communal work was 6.7 hours (55.8%) compared to 7.2 hours (59.7%) at baseline. The time spent by men on unpaid domestic and care work by men had increased slightly to 2.4 hours (20.3%) from 2.3 hours (18.9%) at baseline. The time spent by men on unpaid domestic and care work combined with volunteer and communal work was 4.4 hours (37.1%) compared to 4.3 hours (35.9%) at baseline.

The time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by male youth had decreased to 2.7 hours (22.7%) from 3.2 hours (26.3%) at baseline. The time spent by male youth on unpaid domestic and care work combined with volunteer and communal work was 5.4 hours (45.4%) compared to 5.3 hours (44.1%) at baseline. The time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by female youth remained at 4.6 hours (38.5% at mid-term review and 38.6% at baseline). The time spent by female youth on unpaid domestic and care work combined with volunteer and communal work was 6.5 hours (54.2%) compared to 6.8 hours (56.6%) at baseline

Overall, when compared to baseline, the time women spend on agriculture, business and leisure activities increased and so did the time they spend on unpaid domestic and care work. This was at the expense of time spent on volunteer and communal work which was reduced. For female youth, the time spent in agriculture, business and leisure activities increased at the expense of time spent on volunteer and communal work which was reduced.

Household food consumption

At mid-term, 25.7% of male headed households (baseline 45%) had food consumption scores of less than 21 a score which reflects poor dietary diversity and nutrient intake. This change reflected improving dietary diversity and nutrient uptake in the period under review. At mid-term, 44.6% of female-headed households (baseline 38.2%) had food consumption scores of less than 21. This change reflected worsening dietary diversity and nutrient uptake for female-headed households in the period under review.

Healthy nutrition practices

At mid-term review 89.4% of women reported equitable feeding practices, an increase from 87.8% reported at baseline while 93.2% of the men reported equitable feeding practices (baseline 82.5%). Knowledge of improved nutrition practices for girls, pregnant and lactating women was at 41.5% for female adults (baseline 32.4%), at 40.4% for male adults (23.6% at baseline), at 56.1% for female youth (27.5% at baseline) and at 58.3% for male youth (22.9% at baseline). These results indicate increase across all cohorts in knowledge of improved nutrition practices since baseline.

Managing threats to food security

The mid-term review showed that women contributed to climate mitigation efforts (57.8% compared to 41.2% at baseline) and so did female youth (66.4% compared to baseline 11.9%). At mid-term review, 40.7% of female adults reported they could manage natural resource-related shocks (baseline 21.9%); male adults were at 35.3% (baseline 19.7%). In addition, the proportion of women who were confident that if threats to their households became more frequent and intense, they would still find a way of adapting grew to 23.9% from a baseline of 21.9%, while for men it grew to 21.7% (baseline 19.7%). In managing conflict-related shocks, the awareness of conflict resolution mechanisms rose to 22.2% among female adults (baseline 18.8%) but fell among male adults to 22.1% from a baseline of 25.5%.

Awareness of conflict resolution mechanisms rose to 40.2% among female youth (baseline 19.4%) and among male youth to 43.4% from a baseline of 18.0%. However, confidence in using conflict resolution mechanisms among female adults was at 8.9% (baseline 16.3%). Among female youth overall confidence was 15.0% (baseline 15.0%). However, 65.7% of women (baseline 56.6%) cited ways of promoting non-violence in their communities. Among the men at mid-term evaluation, it was 74.5% (baseline 63.5%), among the female youth it was 86.4% (baseline 19.4%) and among the male youth it was 89.7% (baseline 18.0%).

Knowledge of post-harvest processes was at 99.5% among female farmers and 100% among male farmers. The four leading post-harvest practices cited by respondents were first drying followed by cleaning, storage and sorting and grading. Usage of at least one of the post-harvest management techniques was reported at 99.8% among women farmers and 100% among male farmers. The means of storage most in use were traditional granaries followed by plastic bags, sisal bags, earthenware pots, metal silos, Purdue improved crop storage (PICS) bags and lastly hessian sacks.

Agricultural practices

The use of environmentally sustainable or adaptive strategies, technologies or practices improved amongst female farmers which was reported at 57.8% at mid-term evaluation (baseline was 32.7%). It also improved among male farmers

to 74.5% from 29.4% at baseline. This is partly due to the training under Farmer Field Business Schools which had a total of 839 (542 female and 297 male) participants by the end of the third quarter of the third year of implementation. Change was also reflected in the increase in the proportion of women and female youth using improved agricultural practices to raise production and productivity. Among women, use of rainwater harvesting had risen to 47.4% (baseline was 43.7%) while among female youth it declined to 37.4% (baseline was 49.5%) largely due to the effect of floods in some of the FEED II operational area. There was notable change in value-chain activities and further efforts were underway with the potential to generate change in value -chain activities over the remaining implementation period of FEED II and beyond.

Sustainable livelihood practices

The proportion of women who reported that they had received training or support to use environmentally sustainable and adaptive strategies, technologies and practices was 34.0% at mid-term review (baseline 32.7%). For men, the proportion rose to 40.4% (baseline 29.4%). These results indicate that in its implementation sites, FEED II has contributed to notable changes in attitude on the part of men and a transition towards more equitable ownership and control of farming inputs.

Business practices

When asked about support for financial and business development from FEED II, results showed that such support had been received by 51.1% of female respondents and 17.8% of male respondents. . The predominance of female beneficiaries was in line with the women empowerment intentions of FEED II. In addition, the proportion of beneficiaries reached with financial and business development practices through the GAC-funded project was at 7% for women and 4% for men compared to target. However, the proportion of beneficiaries reached was only 7% of target for women and 4% of target for men, pointing to the very ambitious level of project targets. Further, although the youth appreciated FEED II interventions with vocational training, mentorship and apprenticeship they were of the view that there was a significant gap in addressing their needs for support in establishing livelihoods.

At mid-term review, the four typical leading sources of household income were sale of crop or produce (60% - baseline 47%), sale of livestock and livestock products (19% - baseline 11%), trading and micro-enterprises (10% - baseline 23%) and casual employment (5% - baseline 8%). Overall household income dropped by 12% to an annual average of SSP 92,572 from SSP104,287 at baseline. This drop was compounded by the high inflation rate, estimated at 21% in 2022 and 10.5% in 2021 and means that living standards in households in the operational areas dropped over the period under review.

Access to markets

The proportion of women who identified new clients for their produce or services in the period of 12 months preceding the mid-term evaluation was 27.2% (baseline 19.6%); for female youth it was 17.8% (baseline 14.3%) and for male youth it was 29.8% (baseline 20.9%). These results, attributable to FEED II training and support, indicate a growing willingness of female adults and youth in business to venture out in search of new markets for their products and services, especially bearing in mind that this was happening in an economically difficult context of high inflation and falling household disposable incomes. The proportion of women who reported that they were able to obtain supply of trading goods for their business or income generating activity was 19.7% (baseline 8.8%) while for female youth it increased to 34.1% (baseline 15.9%).

Household resilience

The resilience of households was assessed using their absorptive, transformative, adaptive, financial, social, political, learning and anticipation capacities together with the extent to which they benefited from early warning. The subjective scoring by each household generated household resilience scores. Overall, those households which scored 0.8 – out of scale with a maximum of 1.0 for fully resilient and 0 for completely non-resilient - were 43.5%. The level of household subjectively evaluated resilience was lowest in Eastern Equatoria (22.8%), followed by Jonglei (32.5%) and Central Equatoria (34.9%).

Participation in leadership and decision-making

In operational areas, FEED II carried out gender transformative social analysis and action (SAA) training for a number of groups and by mid-term review the number of households reporting shared decision-making in at least half of the productive spheres at household level stood at 19.4% for women and 16.2% for men. This was a significant drop from baseline where 42.9% of women and 53.8% of men reported shared decision making at household level. The drop was because at mid-term, in addition to asking for joint-decision-making, the question went further to ask whether there was equal say during the joint-decision-making. In addition, the use of peaceful dialogue in resolving disputes at household level at all times stood at 36.0% (baseline 24.7%) among female adults, 35.7% (baseline 28.1%) among male adults, 31.8% (baseline 22.1%) among female youth and 28.1% (baseline 27.8%) among male youth. Overall women participation in leadership in all states increased to 55.5% (baseline 21.6%). There was a notable rise in confidence to lead project and local organisations among women which increased to 54.3% (baseline 18.8%) and among female youth which increased to 40.7% (baseline 12.4%). The proportion of men with an outstanding or very positive experience with women in leadership positions improved to 35.3% (baseline 27.2%) while for male youth it improved to 43.4% (baseline 25.1%).

Prevention and response to harmful traditional practices

Through awareness and training interventions FEED II contributed to a remarkable improvement in the ability of adults and youth to identify harmful practices including GBV. The ability to identify the consequences of harmful traditional practices including GBV was among women at 71.7% (baseline 15.8%), among men it was 68.5% (baseline 13.3%), among female youth it was 79.4% (baseline 20.0%) and among male youth it was 78.9% (baseline 14.7%). FEED II also contributed to raising local awareness about local GBV response service providers and referral systems. Consequently, at mid-term review 96.4% (baseline 30.4%) of female adults and 75.2% (baseline 33.4%) could identify local GBV response service providers.

Attitudes that support gender inequality persist in the FEED II operational areas and additional work on them is required. For instance, among women the most prevalent attitude at 64.3% (baseline 49.1%) was the view that a woman should obey her husband in all things. This was also the leading attitude among male youth, among whom 60.3% (baseline 63.5%) were of the view that a woman should obey her husband in all things. Among men 63.0% of them (baseline 53.5%) were of the view that a woman's role is taking care of her home and family. Among female youth 72.0% (baseline 64.5%) were of the view that a woman's role is taking care of her home and family.

Coherence

FEED II demonstrated internal coherence while externally the project worked in coherence with other significant livelihood interventions by the government, World Food Programme (WFP) and other United Nations (UN) agencies, development partners, international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Efficiency

FEED II has active governance organs and a full staff complement. Project staff had a good understanding of the key aspects of the project and of their respective deliverables. Multiple deliverables and numerous concurrent activities led to a delay in the delivery of some of the activities as envisioned in the project implementation plan (PIP). Overall, however, FEED II was on track to accomplish its implementation as planned.

Impact and sustainability

Early indications of project success included improved gender equality; women and female youth spending more time on agriculture, business and leisure activities; participation of women in leadership together with a rise in confidence among women to lead projects and local organisations; and improved farming practices with use of environmentally sustainable or adaptive strategies, technologies or practices. The project encouraged ownership by the community through involving them in beneficiary targeting. Sustainability measures that have already been adopted are likely to facilitate persistence of the results of the project's work well after the end of FEED II.

Design and theory of change

FEED II has a robust design and theory of change. The theory of change is still valid and relevant to the food security, livelihoods, gender equality and SGBV context in South Sudan. There is a need to strengthen attention to two other issues (i) intersectionality and (ii) inclusive market systems development.

Lessons learnt

Based on the implementation of the project, a number of lessons stand out: (i) synchronize FEED II internal processes and delivery mechanisms with the farming seasonal calendar to ensure that farming inputs are delivered to farmers in time for them to utilise them during the planting season (ii) where there are multiple and pressing activities, their implementation needs to be carried out in a harmonised manner with the establishment of clear priorities so that implementation is not unnecessarily delayed (iii) it is crucial to deepen the strong working relationship with state governments who are a crucial enabler for delivery of the project at local and community level and (iv) the effects of the socio-cultural challenges such large extended families and numerous dependants threaten survival of VSLA and need to be addressed for the long-term viability of VSLA and micro-enterprises.

Conclusion

FEED II has contributed to improved participation of women and girls in managing common threats to food security. It has contributed to improved use of female-friendly agricultural and business practices that promote sustained income generation and management of natural resources. FEED II has also contributed to improved equal and safer environments for women's participation in leadership. The project is on an implementation trajectory to further contribute to reducing inequalities between women and men in access to and control over resources in relation to food security in South Sudan.

Key indicators

	MID-TERM EVALUATION		Mid-term	Baseline	Change
Ref.	Description	Disaggregated			
	ULTIMATE OUTCOMES				
1000.1	% of women and men who report having control over productive resources and assets for food security and livelihood.	Women	63.4%	37.7%	25.7%
		Men	56.6%	31.8%	24.8%
1000.2	Proportion of time spent (a) paid work (b) unpaid domestic and care work (c) voluntary community work, by sex, age and location (for individuals five years and above).	Women	55.8% 6.7 hours	59.7% 7.2 hours	(3.9%) (0.5 hours)
		Men	37.1% 4.4 hours	35.9% 4.3 hours	1.2% 0.1 hours
		Female Youth	54.2% 6.5 hours	56.6% 6.8 hours	(2.4%) (0.3 hours)
		Male Youth	45.4% 5.4 hours	44.1% 5.3 hours	1.3% 0.1 hours
1000.3	Food consumption score in (a) female headed and (b) male headed households.	Male-headed households			
		Poor	25.7%	45.0%	(19.3%)
		Borderline	31.2%	16.0%	15.2%
		Acceptable	43.1%	39.0%	4.1%
		Female-headed households			
		Poor	44.6%	38.2%	6.4%
		Borderline	23.0%	17.6%	5.4%
		Acceptable	32.3%	44.2%	(11.9%)

Recommendations

Based on the foregoing, FEED II should maintain its current implementation trajectory, take into account lessons learnt during implementation, especially those highlighted in this report, and consider the following recommendations:

- (i) FEED II should develop a suite of tailored training, exchange visits and mentoring interventions that will help some of the VSLA to survive and thrive despite the challenges they face;
- (ii) FEED II should consider more emphasis on Inclusive Market System Development (IMSD) which is a facilitative approach that looks to identify and address the systemic constraints in a market which hinder inclusive growth;
- (iii) Post-harvest loss interventions by FEED II should emphasize interventions particularly around efficient harvesting and threshing, then address effective transportation from farm to home and improved storage practices.
- (iv) FEED II should consider including questions to gauge changes in post-harvest losses at household level during end-term evaluation;
- (v) FEED II should consider also using FAO's Resilience Index Measurements and Analysis (RIMA) model to supplement the subjective measurement of resilience with objective measurements;
- (vi) FEED II should emphasize working with youth in promoting non-violent conflict resolution in relationships and homes;
- (vii) FEED II should eliminate the effect of seasonal variations on sensitive indicators by holding end-term evaluation in months of January and February;
- (viii) FEED II should utilise the opportunity provided by the mid-term evaluation to revisit and adjust accordingly all targets – some of which are unrealistically high - as informed by an assessment of performance to date;
- (ix) FEED II should revise timing of delivery of farm inputs to farmers;
- (x) FEED II should consider developing an exit and sustainability plan;
- (xi) FEED II should revisit its risk matrix to take into account threat posed by high inflation and drop in living standards to progress made towards raising household incomes;
- (xii) FEED II should commence research while the project is being implemented in order to benefit from the opportunity to tailor collection of valuable monitoring data; and
- (xiii) FEED II should consider research on crisis modifiers and on FFBS.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 BACKGROUND

Fortifying Equality and Economic Diversification for Resilience II (FEED II) is a five-year (2020-2025) women's empowerment initiative that uses a food security and livelihoods platform working in seven states and 19 counties in South Sudan at a cost of approximately \$39.5million CAD with funding from Global Affairs Canada (GAC). The proposed intervention targets 223,890¹ people (145,528 women, 40,300 men, 26,867 female youth, 6,717 male youth, 2,239 girls, 2,239 boys). It is the companion project to WFP's Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) initiative which will together provide a comprehensive food security resilience framework. For FEED II World Vision South Sudan (WVSS), along with CARE and War Child Canada formed a consortium that builds on learnings and experience implementing Canadian-funded food security, livelihoods and gender projects in South Sudan. FEED II builds on the accomplishments and lessons learned through FEED I, implemented in similar localities from 2015 to 2018.

2.2 MID-TERM EVALUATION PURPOSE

The mid-term evaluation was done to monitor and assess progress regarding project outcomes and results, provide feedback on project management, evaluate performance, inform initiative adjustments as appropriate and contribute to learning and research.

2.3 MIDTERM EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

The FEED II project had been implemented for two years and nine months, from April 2020 to December 2022, consequently, the objectives for the mid-term evaluation were:

- i. To assess the status of project indicators at the ultimate, intermediate, and immediate outcome level;
- ii. To assess the extent to which project interventions are aligned with the project's theory of change and contributing to the proposed pathways of change related to building agency, changing relations, and transforming structure;
- iii. To assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the project intervention;
- iv. To generate and provide additional knowledge and learning, as it relates to gender equality and make recommendations to improve implementation towards the achievement of the project's long-term impact (strengthening resilience); and
- v. To inform future research into the household resilience benefits of World Food Programme's Food-for-Assets programming and livelihoods and food security support.

In assessing the status of project indicators vis-a-vis indicator targets, the mid-term evaluation was also to assess the effect of the difference between the project proposed start date and the actual start date.

3. FEED II PROJECT

The ultimate outcome of FEED II is **reduced inequalities between women and men in access to and control over resources in relation to food security in South Sudan.**

The intermediate outcomes are:

- I. Improved participation of women and girls in managing common threats to food security.

¹ FEED II Program Implementation Plan (PIP) target as adjusted by the second annual report

2. Improved use of female-friendly agricultural and business practices that promote sustained income generation and management of natural resources.
3. Improved equal and safer environments for women's participation in leadership.

The immediate outcomes are:

1. Improved knowledge of healthy nutrition practices for girls and pregnant and lactating women.
2. Equitable improvement in knowledge and skills among women and men to manage natural resource-related shocks.
3. Equitable improvement in knowledge and skills among women, men, boys and girls to manage conflict-related shocks.
4. Increased capacity of women and female youth to participate in sustainable livelihood practices and technologies.
5. Improved equitable access of women and female and male youth to conventional and innovative markets.
6. Increased awareness of the need for women's equal participation in leadership and decision-making.
7. Improved attitudes among women, men and female and male youth to lead the prevention of harmful traditional practices, including gender-based violence (GBV).
8. Increased knowledge of women, men, female and male youth to appropriately prevent and respond to GBV.

4. LIMITATIONS

During the mid-term review, the key challenge was limited availability of household demographic survey and up-to-date census data and so the evaluation team carried out preliminary corroboration of data available.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 DESIGN

A mixed methods design was used in the evaluation due to the need for both qualitative and quantitative data. Therefore, it was comprised a quantitative cross-section survey design and a qualitative phenomenal approach. This generated information on contextual perspectives, customs and practices that are associated with gender equality, gender-based violence, women's economic empowerment, food security and livelihoods.

5.2 DOCUMENT REVIEW

A number of documents were reviewed including the FEED II Baseline report, FEED II Supplementary Baseline report, annual outcome monitoring reports, South Sudan's GBV Sub-Cluster reports, Food Security and livelihoods (FSL) Cluster reports and Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) reports and documents.

5.3 SAMPLING AND SAMPLE SIZE

The sampling was done as follows:

Households

Households were used to capture data from (a) female and male youth (15 -24 years)² and (b) parents, guardians and responsible adults (25 years and above). Upward Bound computation in order to establish significant change in the outcome indicators, at a design effect of 2.0; z-score for probability of committing type I error of 1.96;

² It should be noted that according to the South Sudan Youth Policy – youth is defined as a person under the age of 35, however for the purposes of FEED II project, groups have been divided according to life phase for targeted interventions. Nonetheless, during implementation some of the youth reached by FEED II were persons older than 24 years.

statistical power of 80%, yielded a sample size of 1,254 which, with adjustment of 5% for non-responses error, generated a sample of 1,320 households. We used the optimal design approach to calculate sample size to compare prevalence estimates from two surveys where both have equal sample sizes. We used the expression:

$$n = \text{DEFF} \times \frac{[1.96\sqrt{2p(1-p)} + 0.84\sqrt{\{p_1(1-p_1) + p_2(1-p_2)\}}]^2}{(p_1 - p_2)^2}$$

Where n=sample size for each survey

DEFF = design effect

1.96 = z value for significance level of 0.05

0.84 = z value of power of 0.8, that is, 80%

p = (p₁ + p₂)/2 (prevalence in combined surveys)

p₁ = prevalence in survey 1 (mid-term)

p₂ = prevalence in survey 2 (targetted at end-term)

Sampling was done by a two-stage cluster process with the boma as a sampling unit. The first stage was cluster random sampling in which all payams in the county were listed in a sampling frame with their respective population and randomly sampled. The required sample size was distributed among the sampled payams using probability proportional to size (PPS). The second stage was by compact segment sampling. A boma where FEED II was being implemented was randomly sampled in the county and, working with the local chief, households which fulfilled the survey criteria were visited until the sample size was achieved. The survey criteria included provision, as far as practically achievable, for collection of data from male and female respondents alternating from one qualifying household to the next. The first house in the boma was randomly sampled. The field team used a zig-zag walk of selecting one house on the right-hand side, followed by one house on the left-hand side, then back to right, followed by left. The skipping pattern used was one in two households.

Focus group discussion participants

Focus group discussion (FGD) participants were purposively sampled from members of the following groups (i) female and male (25 years and above) community members in farmer producer groups (ii) female and male (25 years and above) community members in farmer field business schools (iii) women's groups and organizations (women-focused, women-led or Women Rights Organizations) (iv) female and male youth (15 – 24 years) from youth groups (v) payam disaster risk management committees (vi) female and male traditional leaders (vii) project implementation staff and (viii) village savings and loan association (VSLA) group members.

Key informants

Key informants were sampled purposively, based on stratification into implementing staff of World Vision, CARE and War Child Canada; community and faith leaders; women leaders; youth leaders; non-governmental organisational (NGO) representatives; government representatives; representatives of GBV service providers; and traditional justice actors. Representative community and faith leaders, women leaders, youth, civil society representatives, government representatives and representatives of GBV service providers in the county or payam were interviewed on a number of issues including livelihoods, gender equality, GBV and response to GBV. Representative traditional justice actors in the county were interviewed on administration of justice, disputes and conflicts; their engagement with issues around gender equality; and GBV and response to GBV.

5.4 SELECTION AND TRAINING OF FIELD ASSISTANTS

World Vision South Sudan, CARE and War Child Canada identified field assistants according to qualification criteria set by Upward Bound. Upward Bound conducted two-day training sessions on the use of the data collection tools. During the training data collection instruments were reviewed and revised to ensure they captured the intended data. Additionally, field assistants translated key terms into local languages. Field assistants were trained on conducting focus group discussions and familiarized with child protection and ethical standards.

5.5 PRE-TEST

As part of the two-day training, a pre-test was used to assess the preparedness of field assistants to effectively and accurately collect data. During the pre-test, consultants, supervisors and team leaders monitored all stages of data collection. The pre-test was also used to confirm the effectiveness of the field tools and the readiness with which data could be uploaded from mobile data collection devices. The team carried out an analysis of the pre-test data which confirmed that only a few typographical changes were required before data collection could commence.

5.6 KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

A total of 116 key informant interviews (KIIs) – 21 with female respondents and 95 with male respondents - were done out of an anticipated 110 interviews – Table 1.

Table 1: Key informant interviews

		Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei	Total
1	World Vision/ CARE/War Child Canada staff	2	1	2	2	3	1	1	12
2	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	2	1	1	2	4	1	1	12
3	Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs	2	1	1	2	3	1	1	11
4	Community leader/ Faith leader	1	2	5	9	8	2	2	29
5	Women-led Organizations/ Local NGO representative	1	1	3	3	4	1	1	14
6	GBV service providers	-	1	3	3	2	1	1	11
7	Traditional justice actors	1	1	3	3	4	1	1	14
8	Youth leaders	1	1	2	3	4	1	1	13
	Total	10 (1F, 9M)	9 (2F,7M)	20 (6F,14M)	27 (3F,24M)	32 (4F,28M)	9 (3F,6M)	9 (2F,7M)	116 (21F, 95M)

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

5.7 FOCUS GROUPS DISCUSSIONS

A total of 110 focus group discussions (FGDs) were held – Table 2. A total of 412 women, 361 men, 148 female youth and 153 male youth participated in the gender separated FGDs. In Central Equatoria, the information from traditional justice actors and from FEED II project staff members during key informant interviews provided adequate information that would otherwise have been gathered in FGDs.

Table 2: Focus group discussions

		Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei	Total
1	Female and male (25 years and above) producer group members	1 (4F,4M)	1 (4F,4M)	7 (27F,27M)	1 (4F,4M)	3 (24F,24M)	4 (32F,32M)	2 (8F,8M)	19

		Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei	Total
2	Female and male (25 years and above) farmer field business school members	1 (4F,4M)	1 (4F,4M)	7 (27F,27M)	1 (4F,4M)	3 (24F,24M)	1 (4F,4M)	1 (4F,4M)	15
3	Women's organizations	1 (8F)	-	-	1 (8F)	4 (32F)	1 (8F)	1 (8F)	8
4	Female and male youth (18 – 24 years)	2 (2F,2M)	2 (8F,8M)	10 (40F,40M)	3 (10F,15M)	6 (48F,48M)	4 (32F,32M)	2 (8F,8M)	29
5	Payam level disaster risk management committees	1 (4F,4M)	1 (4F,4M)	1 (4F,4M)	3 (13F,14M)	4 (32F,32M)	1 (4F,4M)	1 (4F,4M)	12
6	Female and Male Traditional leaders (mixed group)	-	1 (4F,4M)	1 (4F,4M)	1 (5M)	4 (32F,32M)	1 (4F,4M)	-	8
7	FEED II Implementation staff	-	1 (1F,4M)	-	1 (4M)	4 (32F,32M)	1 (2F,2M)	-	7
8	Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) Group members	-	1 (4F,4M)	1 (4F,4M)	3 (14F,10M)	5 (4F,4M)	1 (4F,4M)	1 (4F,4M)	12
	Total	6 (22F,14M)	8 (29F,32M)	27 (106F,106M)	14 (53F,56M)	33 (228F, 196M)	14 (90F, 82M)	8 (32F, 28M)	110 (560F, 514M)

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

5.8 CHILD PARTICIPATION

A total of 16 child participation exercises were held for children of 9-14 years of age- disaggregated between boys and girls – Table 3. They were given age-appropriate questions for response in a group discussion format. Consent was sought, and documented, from both the relevant responsible adult and children.

Table 3: Child participation sessions

	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei	Total
	Juba -2 (8F,8M)	Torit -2 (8F,8M)	Yambio -2 Ezo -2 (16F,16M)	Tonj East -2 (8F,8M)	Aweil East -2 (8F,8M)	Wau -2 (8F,8M)	Bor -2 (8F,8M)	16 (64F,64M)

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

5.9 HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE

Field assistants conducted 874 of the 880 planned household visits, yielding a response rate of 99% - Table 4. In each of the households, one of the adults and, where they were available, one young person (15-24 years) were interviewed using a questionnaire specifically tailored for each group. Among the adults there were 639 women and 235 men respondents. For youth, 456 interviews (214 female and 242 male) were carried out against a target of 440, yielding a response rate of 104%.

Table 4: Questionnaire response rates

	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr El Ghazal	Western Bahr El Ghazal	Jonglei	FEED II
Adults								
Target	40	160	160	200	160	80	80	880
Actual	43	158	136	190	195	72	80	874
Response Rate	107%	100%	85%	95%	122%	90%	100%	99%
Youth								
Target	20	80	80	100	80	40	40	440
Actual	20	80	81	110	86	37	42	456
Response Rate	100%	100%	101%	110%	108%	92%	105%	104%

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

5.10 QUALITY ASSURANCE

The team took several steps prior to commencing field work to ensure quality of data. These included pre-field briefings on sampling procedures, emphasizing the importance of collecting reliable data, setting targets for interviews to be completed per team and allocating supervisors to teams. While in the field, consultants and supervisors worked together with local mobilisers to identify sampled respondents in communities. In many cases, the staff of World Vision South Sudan, CARE and War Child Canada provided additional supervision of the field work. Consultants and supervisors monitored data collection and routinely assessed its quality. Quality of Data uploaded was also checked daily for adherence to quality requirements. Daily de-briefings were done in the evening after field work. Briefings were done in the morning before proceeding to the field. These occasions were used to instruct field assistants on remedial measures as necessary.

5.11 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Consultants, supervisors and field assistants signed and adhered to World Vision South Sudan, CARE and War Child Canada policies on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, child protection policies, and other protocols related to field work engagements. Sensitization on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse was done during the training of field assistants. Additionally, measures were taken to ensure that field assistants did not ask sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) questions in a manner that would identify, isolate, shame or cause harm to the respondent. Confidentiality of the information collected was underscored by informed consent documentation. All identifiable information was coded and data collection was done in accordance with relevant laws on data protection and privacy and in compliance with all relevant regulations including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679 of the European Union (EU).

5.12 COVID-19 AND EBOLA PROTOCOLS

Consultants, staff and field assistants took action to safeguard against the risk of COVID-19 and Ebola during training, pre-test and data collection. The training and data collection exercises were used to promote COVID-19 and Ebola prevention and response messaging.

6. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section sets out and discusses findings of the mid-term evaluation.

6.1 RELEVANCE

FEED II is aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in conformity with South Sudan Vision 2040 which seeks a diversified economy driven by agriculture, industry, mining, tourism, and services. The Vision 2040

document also seeks to consolidate peace in South Sudan. In addition, the objectives of FEED II contribute to attainment of the National Development Strategy (NDS). FEED II is also aligned with the Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP) and contributes to realization of the aspirations of the government as set out in the National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Policy Framework (NALEP).

The GAC has a Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) under which FEED II is in alignment with four action areas, namely, Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls; Human Dignity; Growth that Works for Everyone; and Environment and Climate Action. FEED II is also in alignment with World Vision's South Sudan strategic objective on food security, livelihoods and climate change. The project is in alignment with War Child Canada's overall goal of increasing the number of children and youth accessing quality interventions and improved psycho-social wellbeing. FEED II is also in alignment with CARE's focus in South Sudan on health and nutrition, food security and livelihoods, women's economic empowerment and gender-based violence prevention and response.

FEED II interventions are based on responses requested by the target population. The relevance of FEED II is underlined by the fact that its objectives are responsive to local needs and aligned with local context. This is demonstrated by the challenges prioritised by community members. These included, in natural disasters such as drought and flood. Female youth cited dropping out of schools due to lack of school fees and school materials, forced and early marriages and lack of employment opportunities after college education. Male youth cited lack of employment opportunities after formal education. A female youth FGD participant noted in Warrap, *"Households face challenges in getting adequate food when there was a drought or floods in the area as well as during conflict."*

In Central Equatoria, a youth FGD identified the effects of drought and insecurity as key community challenges. These were corroborated by IPC reports in the course of 2022 that indicated crisis phase of food insecurity with some violent skirmishes from time to time in parts of Central Equatoria. There was emergency and crisis phase of food insecurity with credible risk of famine in Eastern Equatoria in the course of 2022. In Western Equatoria there was crisis phase of food insecurity with violent clashes from time to time – such clashes led to suspension of FEED II implementation in Tambura payam of the state.

During the year, there was emergency phase of food insecurity with large numbers of flood-affected people and lower than expected harvest and credible risk of famine in Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states. In Western Bahr el Ghazal there was crisis phase of food insecurity and lower than expected harvest. In 2022, there was emergency and crisis phase of food insecurity, concurrent insecurity and flooding, cattle raids and credible risk of famine in Jonglei.

6.2 RESPONDENTS' PROFILE

Profile of Women

Women constituted 73.1% of the respondents to household surveys while male respondents were 26.9% since many men were out of the home - in farms, in other income-earning activities or participating in social activities - at the time of day when the surveys were being conducted. This compares favourably with the ratio of project beneficiaries of 78.5% female to 21.5% male (145,528 women:40,300 men) indicating that there was no need for weighting adjustments to the mid-term data.

A notable 54.1% of households were female-headed³, which is attributed to the disruption experienced by families due to the effects of conflict, together with a tendency for women in polygamous marriages to consider themselves as head of their household. Indeed, a majority (80.4%) of the women were married, 11.6% were widowed, 4.2% were divorced or separated and 3.8% were single. Most women (63.9%) had never attended formal schooling a slight improvement from 79.1% at baseline while 21.1% had primary school education (baseline 14.5%) and 4.4%

³ As head of the household such women have authority to exercise family control and to support dependent members based upon a moral obligation or duty

had secondary and post-secondary education (baseline 3.9%). These figures indicate that the education status of women improved over the course of the period under review. Higher education status of adult women is correlated ($p=0.034$)⁴ with a higher willingness to report cases of gender-based violence (GBV). Higher education status of adult women is strongly correlated ($p=0.007$) with a higher level of confidence in leading a project group or local organisation. It is also strongly correlated ($p=0.001$) with a better access to and control over land.

Table 5: Profile of respondents

Proportion of respondents			Education				
			Never attended	Post-Secondary	Pre school	Primary/Basic	Secondary
Adult Women	73.1%	(n=639)	63.9%	0.6%	10.6%	21.1%	3.8%
		Baseline	79.1%	0.9%	2.5%	14.5%	3.0%
Adult Men	26.9%	(n=235)	28.1%	2.1%	12.3%	38.8%	18.7%
		Baseline	38.0%	3.7%	5.0%	28.9%	24.4%
Total Adults	100.0%	(N=874)	54.2%	1.0%	11.1%	25.9%	7.8%
		Baseline	66.0%	1.8%	3.3%	19.1%	9.8%
Female Youth	46.9%	(n=214)	33.1%	1.4%	11.7%	42.1%	11.7%
		Baseline	29.2%	0.5%	10.0%	43.2%	17.1%
Male Youth	53.1%	(n=242)	12.0%	5.8%	8.3%	39.2%	34.7%
		Baseline	19.2%	3.0%	8.9%	37.0%	31.9%
Total Youth	100.0%	(N=456)	21.9%	3.7%	9.9%	40.6%	23.9%
		Baseline	24.0%	1.8%	9.4%	40.0%	24.8%

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Profile of Men

Men constituted 26.9% of the household respondents. A majority (87.2%) of the men were married with (10.2%) identified as single. Many men (28.1%) had never attended formal schooling, while 38.8% had primary level education and 20.8% had secondary and post-secondary level education, 5.0% had pre-school education and 3.7% had post-secondary education – Table 5.

These results show an improvement in the education status of men since at baseline, at which time many men (38.0%) had never attended formal schooling, while 28.9% had primary level education, 28.1% had secondary and post-secondary level education while 5.0% had pre-school education. As more men attained primary-level education and some could not proceed with education due to higher user fees associated with secondary and post-secondary education, the proportion of those with secondary and post-secondary education decreased.

⁴ Using Pearson Chi-square test, asymptotic significance or p-value, if $p < 0.05$, there is a statistically significant relationship between the two variables. A two-sided asymptotic significance test was used in this report.

Photo 1: Interview of youth survey respondent during the mid-term evaluation



Photo credits: Upward Bound Company Limited

Profile of Female and Male Youth

Among the youth (15-24 years) survey respondents 53.1% were male and 46.9% were female. Most female youth identified as married (61.2%) while others were single (32.2%). On the other hand, most male youth were single (50.4%) while others (48.8%) were married. The higher proportion of married female youth compared to married male youth points to a notable proportion of female youth in intergenerational⁵ and polygamous marriages.

Among female youth 42.1% had completed primary education (baseline 43%) while 13.1% had completed secondary and post-secondary education (baseline 17.6%). Higher education status of female youth is strongly correlated ($p=0.000$) with a higher perception that marriage of a girl before she reaches 18 years is a problem; it is strongly correlated ($p=0.000$) with a higher willingness to report cases of GBV; and is also strongly correlated ($p=0.000$) with a higher level of confidence in leading a project group or local organisation.

Among male youth a notable proportion of 39.2% had completed primary school (37.0% at baseline) while 40.5% had completed secondary and post-secondary school (baseline 34.9%) a drop attributable to the higher user fees associated with secondary and post-secondary education – Table 5. These results show improved education status for male youth over the period under review.

The percentage of youth who had attended vocational training was 18.6% (15.5% of female youth and 21.5% of male youth) and those who had undergone apprenticeship was 9.6% (8.9% of female youth and 10.3% of male youth). This compares favourably with the baseline status when youth who reported vocational training or had an apprenticeship was less than 11.2% - 9.8% for female youth and 12.5% for male youth. These results indicate growing exposure to vocational training and apprenticeship among both female and male youth over the period under review.

6.3 EFFECTIVENESS

This section examines the extent to which FEED II has been effective in its interventions.

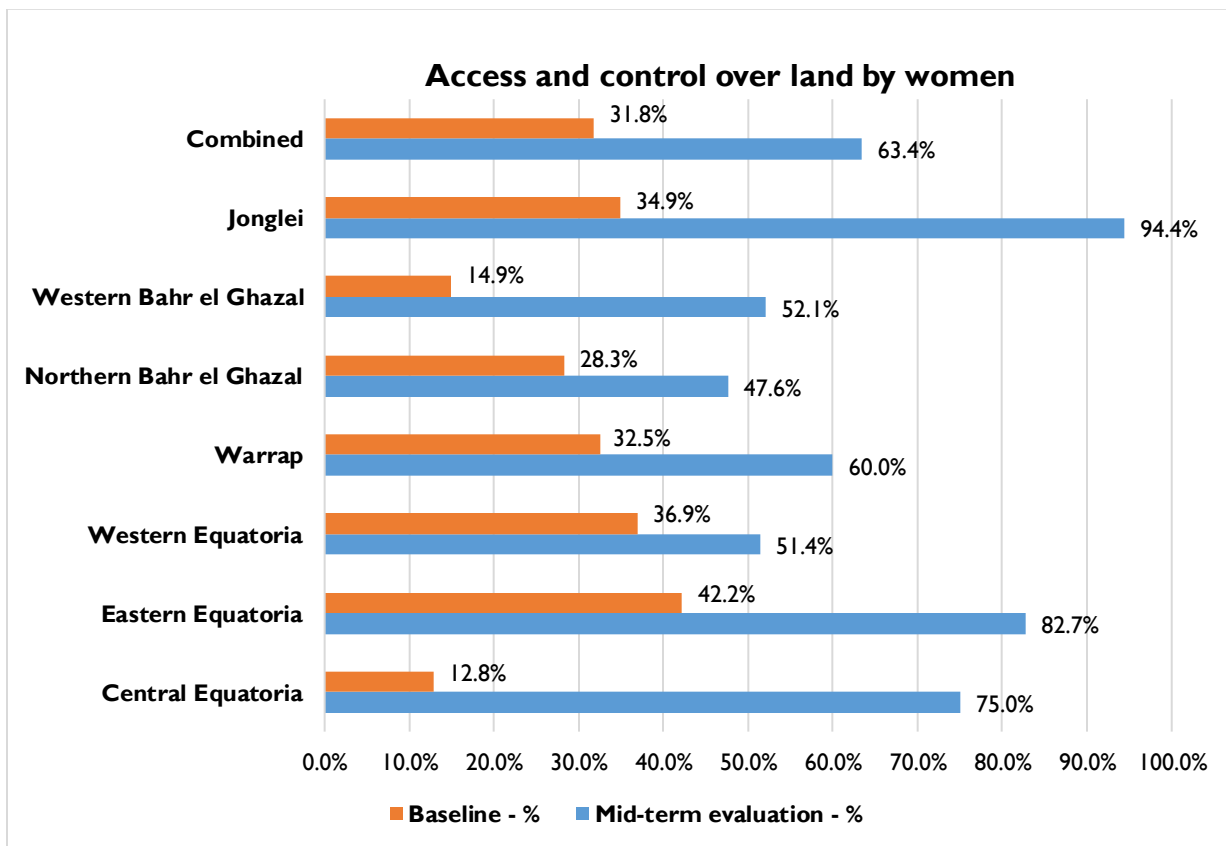
⁵ An intergenerational marriage is one in which the bride and groom's ages differ by more than a decade and a half.

6.3.1 ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OVER RESOURCES

Indicator 1000.1

A notable 63.4% of adult female respondents reported that the land they currently use cannot be transferred without their consent. In South Sudan agricultural land is communally owned⁶ and that households which require land for production of food are allocated pieces of land by the ‘chief or sultan’⁷. This is usually for short periods of three or so years of exclusive use of the land. Nonetheless, the mid-term evaluation results reflect an increase from 31.8% reported at baseline – Figure 1. This indicates growing access and control over productive assets by women and validates the effectiveness of the interventions by FEED II. The growth was most pronounced in Jonglei, and while it is possible that the responses in Jonglei were also affected by social desirability bias⁸, discussions with key informants indicated that, besides the work of FEED II, a number of women empowerment interventions by other actors are also being implemented. Notable change was also reported in Central Equatoria where the urban environment heightens exposure to gender transformation messages.

Figure 1: Access and control over land at mid-term compared to baseline



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

⁶ Schomerus M. and Aalen L. (2016) *Considering the State: Perspectives on South Sudan’s subdivision and federalism debate* Overseas Development Institute London

⁷ Local leader with authority to allocate land for utilization by households and members of the community and arbitrate disputes

⁸ The tendency to respond to questions in ways that will be viewed favourably by others, in this case, viewed favourably by a field assistant representing an organization and project known promote gender equality.

Response from households showed that men were the sole decision-maker regarding the use of improved seeds and fertiliser⁹ in 44.3% of households. They were the sole decision-maker regarding how much to of agricultural produce to sell, which buyers to sell to and when to sell in 37.1% of households; the use of new devises or technologies in 34.2% of households; and the purchase and hiring of mechanized and non-mechanized tools in 33.9% of households. Men were also the sole decision-makers regarding how much and what business priorities to reinvest or about starting a new income generating activity in 39.7% of households. Households in which joint decision making was reported regarding resources in all productive spheres were in the range of 19% - 29% of households – Table 6.

Table 6: Household decision-making regarding resources

Household decision-making responsibility		Men alone	Women alone	Men and women jointly	Other household members	Don't know
Decision making on						
Improved seeds, fertilizer, pesticides	Men (n=235)	53.6%	20.4%	22.1%	2.6%	1.3%
	Women (n=639)	40.8%	25.0%	24.1%	4.2%	5.8%
	Combined (n=874)	44.3%	23.8%	23.6%	3.8%	4.6%
How much and what business priorities to reinvest/ starting a new income generating activity	Men (n=235)	53.6%	16.6%	24.3%	2.6%	3.0%
	Women (n=639)	34.6%	25.0%	29.7%	4.7%	5.9%
	Combined (n=874)	39.7%	22.8%	28.3%	4.1%	5.1%
Purchase and hiring of mechanized and non-mechanized tools	Men (n=235)	46.8%	17.0%	24.7%	5.1%	6.4%
	Women (n=639)	29.1%	26.8%	23.2%	6.3%	14.7%
	Combined (n=874)	33.9%	24.1%	23.6%	5.9%	12.5%
Division of labour-Who will do what	Men (n=235)	39.1%	21.3%	28.5%	6.4%	4.7%
	Women (n=639)	30.2%	27.7%	28.2%	5.6%	8.3%
	Combined (n=874)	32.6%	26.0%	28.3%	5.8%	7.3%
Use of new technologies or devices	Men (n=235)	47.7%	16.6%	16.6%	6.4%	12.8%
	Women (n=639)	29.3%	25.2%	22.8%	5.0%	17.7%
	Combined (n=874)	34.2%	22.9%	21.2%	5.4%	16.4%
Hiring farm help or labour	Men (n=235)	37.9%	23.0%	24.7%	6.4%	8.1%

⁹ In South Sudan the fertilizer used is organic and usually manure, synthetic fertiliser is not used and the use of synthetic pesticides is rare.

Household decision-making responsibility		Men alone	Women alone	Men and women jointly	Other household members	Don't know
Decision making on	Women (n=639)	30.7%	24.3%	23.6%	5.3%	16.1%
	Combined (n=874)	32.6%	23.9%	23.9%	5.6%	14.0%
How much to sell / which buyers to sell to agricultural produce/ when to sell (if prices change over time)	Men (n=235)	49.8%	15.7%	26.8%	3.4%	4.3%
	Women (n=639)	32.4%	23.0%	29.1%	5.5%	10.0%
	Combined (n=874)	37.1%	21.1%	28.5%	4.9%	8.5%
Large livestock raising and selling	Men (n=235)	40.4%	24.7%	20.9%	2.6%	11.5%
	Women (n=639)	24.4%	27.5%	24.6%	6.9%	16.6%
	Combined (n=874)	28.7%	26.8%	23.6%	5.7%	15.2%
Medium livestock selling	Men (n=235)	46.8%	18.7%	19.6%	3.4%	11.5%
	Women (n=639)	26.9%	23.3%	24.7%	5.9%	19.1%
	Combined (n=874)	32.3%	22.1%	23.3%	5.3%	17.0%
Your own wages or salaried employment	Men (n=235)	54.9%	13.6%	15.7%	3.8%	11.9%
	Women (n=639)	31.0%	21.9%	20.3%	4.7%	22.1%
	Combined (n=874)	37.4%	19.7%	19.1%	4.5%	19.3%

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

In all the states, FGD participants and key informants observed that men were the head of the household with significant influence in the decision-making process. Nonetheless, in FEED II operational areas, perceptions about who should control resources shifted in favour of women during the period under review. It is noteworthy that compared to baseline more men were of the view women can control funding and credit (36.2% while baseline was 29.7%), land for growing crops (47.2% while baseline at 41.5%), farm equipment (43.4% while baseline was 33.3%), land for livestock (33.6% while baseline was 23.6%), land for growing cash crops (49.4% while baseline was 40.7%), seeds, fertiliser and other inputs (44.7% while baseline was 40.9%) – Table 6. It is only in the control of the storehouse and post-harvest handling facilities that the proportion of men who were of the view that control can be with women fell from 55.1% at baseline to 49.8% at mid-term review. Control of the store gave men more leverage in securing control of household income from sale of produce. This indicates that in addition to the progress being registered, there is still some work that needs to be done around equitable control of the returns and rewards of productive endeavour at household level – Table7.

Table 7: Adult respondent perceptions on who should control resources

MEN WHO THINK THAT -	Men	Women	Male Youth	Female Youth	WOMEN WHO THINK THAT -	Men	Women	Male Youth	Female Youth
	(n=235)	(n=235)	(n=235)	(n=235)		(n=639)	(n=639)	(n=639)	(n=639)
1a) Control of funding and credit for agriculture SHOULD BE with.....	65.5%	36.2%	24.7%	23.8%	1a) Control of funding and credit for agriculture SHOULD BE with.....	55.9%	48.4%	26.6%	24.3%
1b) Control of funding and credit for agriculture SHOULD NOT be with.....	34.5%	63.8%	75.3%	76.2%	1b) Control of funding and credit for agriculture SHOULD NOT be with.....	44.1%	51.6%	73.4%	75.7%
2a) Control of land for growing crops SHOULD BE with.....	89.8%	47.2%	30.6%	21.7%	2a) Control of land for growing crops SHOULD BE with.....	77.3%	57.9%	30.0%	26.9%
2b) Control of land for growing crops SHOULD NOT be with.....	10.2%	52.8%	69.4%	78.3%	2b) Control of land for growing crops SHOULD NOT be with.....	22.7%	41.5%	70.0%	73.1%
3a) Control of farm equipment SHOULD BE with.....	70.2%	43.4%	35.3%	24.3%	3a) Control of farm equipment SHOULD BE with.....	64.0%	45.9%	36.2%	26.9%
3b) Control of farm equipment SHOULD NOT be with.....	29.8%	56.6%	64.7%	75.7%	3b) Control of farm equipment SHOULD NOT be with.....	36.0%	54.1%	63.8%	73.1%
4a) Control of land for livestock SHOULD BE with.....	74.0%	33.6%	40.9%	22.6%	4a) Control of land for livestock SHOULD BE with.....	65.6%	37.6%	42.3%	21.9%
4b) Control of land for livestock SHOULD NOT be with.....	26.0%	66.4%	59.1%	77.4%	4b) Control of land for livestock SHOULD NOT be with.....	34.4%	62.4%	57.7%	78.1%
5a) Control of land for growing cash crops SHOULD BE with.....	76.6%	49.4%	25.5%	19.1%	5a) Control of land for growing cash crops SHOULD BE with.....	62.8%	54.8%	29.7%	22.4%
5b) Control of land for growing cash crops SHOULD NOT be with.....	23.4%	50.6%	74.5%	80.9%	5b) Control of land for growing cash crops SHOULD NOT be with.....	37.2%	45.2%	70.3%	77.6%
6a) Control of seeds, fertilisers and other inputs SHOULD BE with.....	68.9%	44.7%	31.1%	26.8%	6a) Control of seeds, fertilisers and other inputs SHOULD BE with.....	57.9%	53.2%	32.6%	28.8%
6b) Control of seeds, fertilisers and other inputs SHOULD NOT be with.....	31.1%	55.3%	68.9%	73.6%	6b) Control of seeds, fertilisers and other inputs SHOULD NOT be with.....	42.1%	46.8%	67.4%	71.2%
7a) Control of storehouse and post-harvest handling facilities SHOULD BE with.....	60.9%	49.8%	29.8%	26.8%	7a) Control of storehouse and post-harvest handling facilities SHOULD BE with.....	49.3%	60.3%	32.1%	30.5%
7b) Control of storehouse and post-harvest handling facilities SHOULD NOT be with.....	39.1%	50.2%	70.2%	73.2%	7b) Control of storehouse and post-harvest handling facilities SHOULD NOT be with.....	50.7%	39.7%	67.9%	69.5%

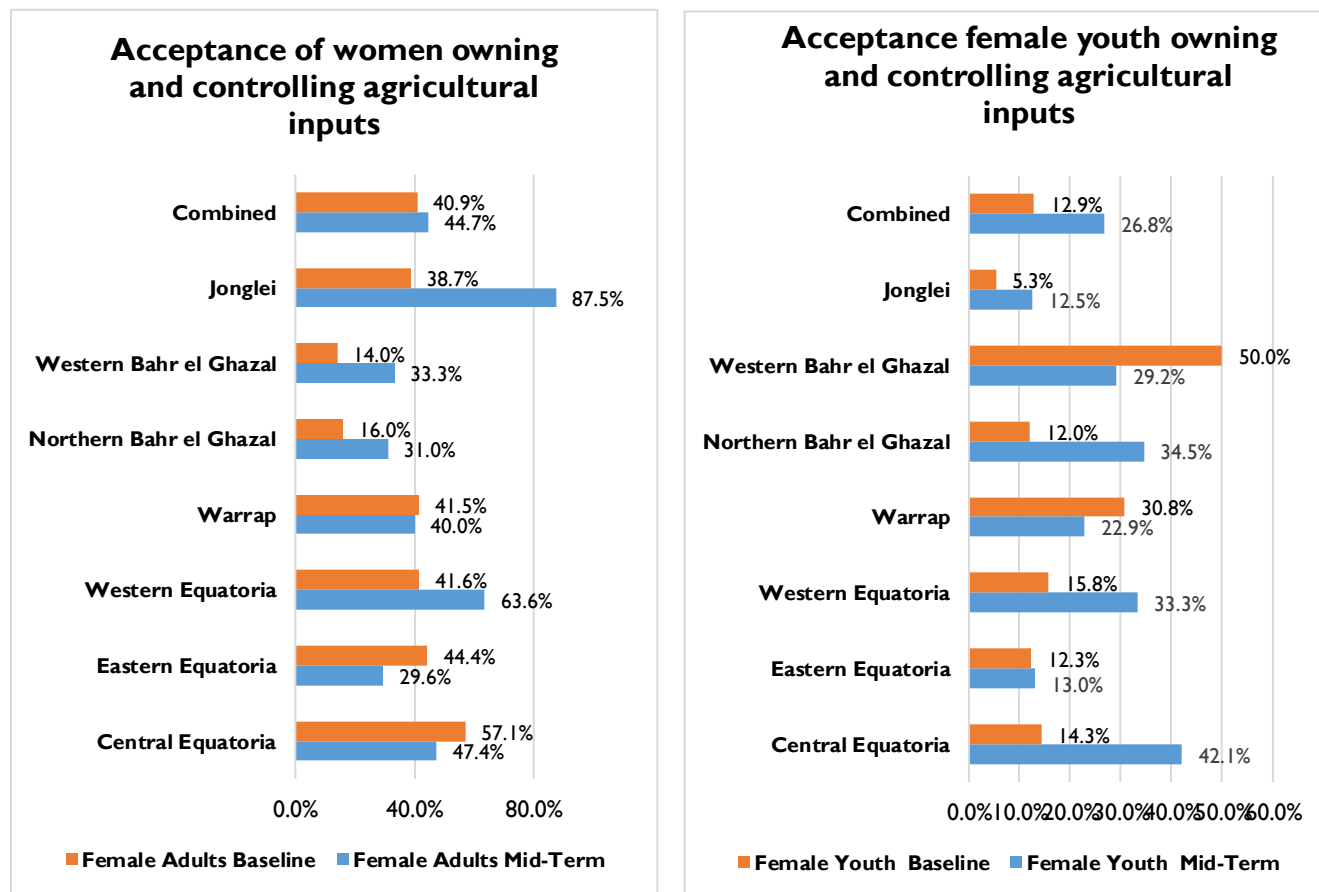
Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Acceptance of women and female youth owning and controlling agricultural inputs

Indicator 1210.2

The proportion of men who were of the view that women can own and control seeds, fertilisers and other crop inputs rose to 44.7% from a baseline level of 40.9%. The proportion of men who were of the view that female youth can own and control seeds, fertilisers and other crop inputs rose to 26.8% from a baseline level of 12.9% - Table 7 and Figure 2. These results indicate that in its implementation sites, FEED II has contributed to notable changes in attitude on the part of men and the transition towards more equitable ownership and control of farming inputs, though training and use of Social Analysis and Action (SAA).

Figure 2: Acceptance of women and female youth owning and controlling agricultural inputs (Indicator 1210.2)



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

6.3.2 USE OF TIME

Indicator 1000.2

The mid-term evaluation established that time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by men had increased slightly to 2.4 hours (20.3%) from 2.3 hours (18.9%) at baseline. The time that men spend on volunteer and communal work was 2.0 hours (16.8%) which was unchanged from 2.0 hours (17.0%) at baseline. When the two are combined, time spent by men on unpaid domestic and care work and volunteer and communal work was 4.4 hours (37.1%) compared to 4.3 hours (35.9%) at baseline. The time that men spend on agriculture, business and leisure activities was at 7.6 hours (62.9%) which was slightly below 7.7 hours (64.1%) at baseline – Figure 3.

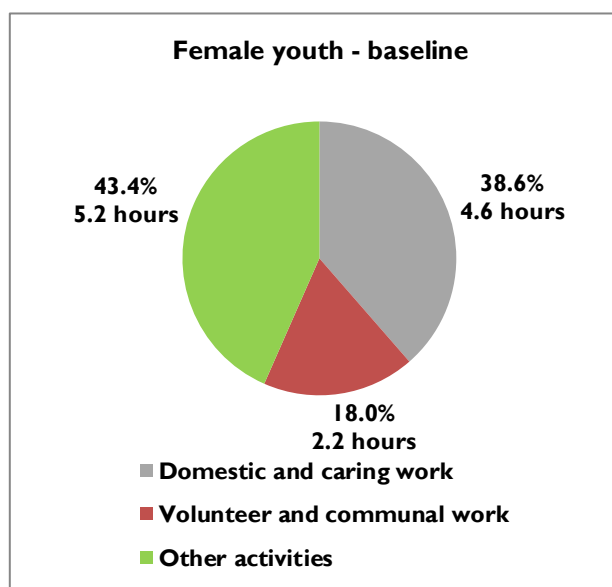
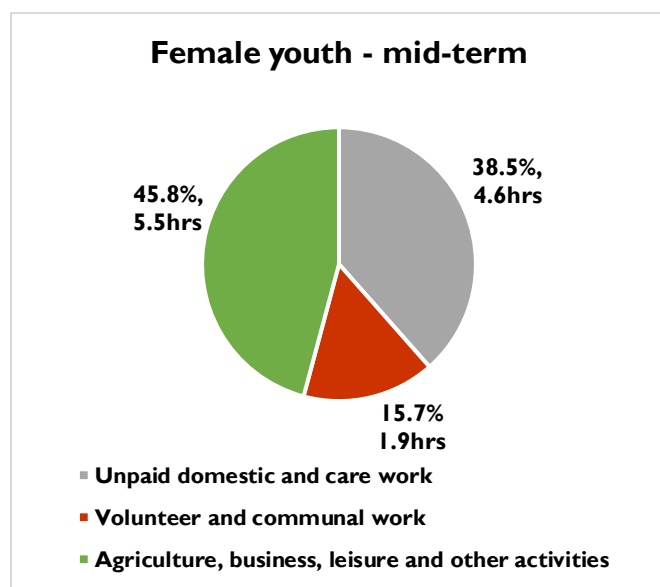
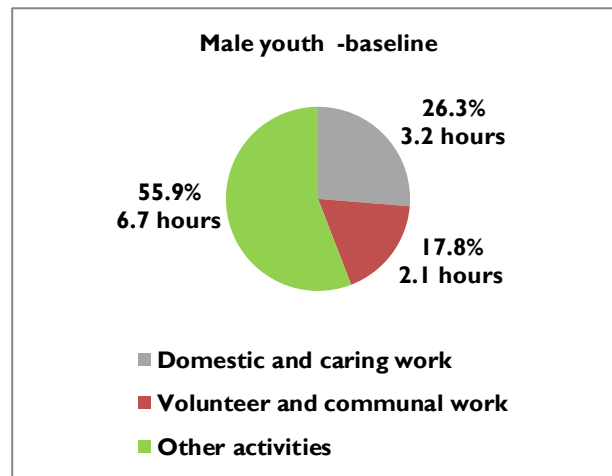
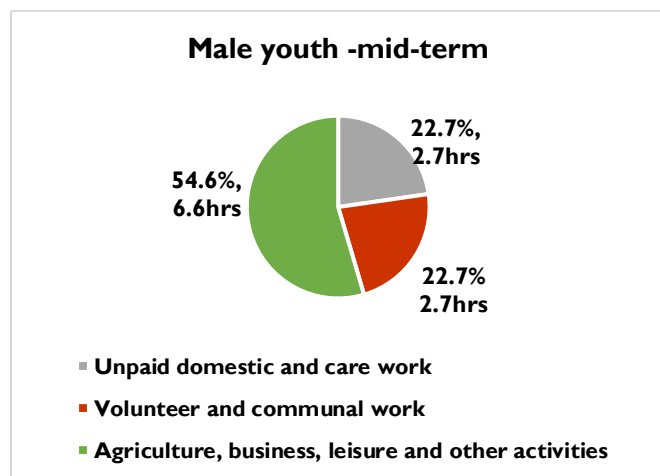
For women, the time spent on unpaid domestic and care work increased to 5.8 hours (48.4%) at mid-term review from 5.2 hours (42.9%) at baseline – Figure 2. The time that women spend on volunteer and communal work was 0.9 hours (7.4%) down from 2.0 hours (16.8%) at baseline. When the two are combined, time spent by women on unpaid domestic and care work and volunteer and communal work was 6.7 hours (55.8%) compared to 7.2 hours (59.7%) at baseline. The time that women spend on agriculture, business and leisure activities was at 5.3 hours (51.6%) an increase from 4.8 hours (40.3%).

Figure 3: Percentage of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work compared to baseline¹⁰



¹⁰ The International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Surveys distinguishes between three subcategories of unpaid care work, which are (i) household maintenance (ii) care of persons in one's own household; and services and (iii) help to households in the community.

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

As indicated by a female FGD participant in Western Equatoria, “We do housework in the morning like cleaning the compound, then we go for garden work.” In the operational sites of FEED II, both female and male adult FGDs detailed that in the course of a typical day women sweep the compound, fetch water, clean dishes, prepare morning bathing water for their husband, prepare breakfast including warming leftover food, go to the farm, collect fire wood, collect cassava leaves for supper, fetch water, shell groundnuts, make supper, wash clothes for children and husband, bath children and prepare bathing water for their spouses. Key informants indicated that disruption to usual farming activities during the period under review as a result of flooding and displacement, led to a higher proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care by women.

On the other hand, most of the time men spent at home was not spent on meaningful contribution to either domestic chores or care work. As a key informant noted, the bulk of domestic and care work is done by women,

“So long as men did not go to the market or bush for farming or other activities, they consider they have been home but they can’t say they were idle at home. Usually they do not play with children even when they are at home. However, they do help sometimes help carry the baby when the mother is too busy.”

The mid-term evaluation established that time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by male youth had decreased to 2.7 hours (22.7%) from 3.2 hours (26.3%) at baseline. There was an increase in the time that male youth spend in communal and volunteer work which was at 2.7 hours (22.75) at mid-term from 2.1 hours (17.8%) at baseline – Figure 3. This type of work includes building communal institutions like churches, opening water channels and clearing the grass around institutions like churches, schools and even health facilities so that they are not affected by likely bush fires. The mid-term review was carried out in February which was during the dry season when such activities are undertaken. In addition, in the course of the year, challenges experienced with floods required increased volunteer and communal work which was mainly done by male youth.

When the two items are combined, time spent by male youth on unpaid domestic and care work and volunteer and communal work was 5.4 hours (45.4%) compared to 5.3 hours (44.1%) at baseline. The time that male youth spend on agriculture, business and leisure activities was at 6.6 hours (54.6%) a decrease from 6.7 hours (55.9%) at baseline – Figure 3.

The time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by female youth remained at 4.6 hours (38.5% at mid-term review and 38.6% at baseline). The time that female youth spend on volunteer and communal work was 1.9 hours (17.7%) down from 2.2 hours (18.0%) at baseline. When the two items are combined, time spent by female youth on unpaid domestic and care work and volunteer and communal work was 6.5 hours (54.2%) compared to 6.8 hours (56.6%) at baseline. The time that female youth spend on agriculture, business and leisure activities was at 5.5 hours (45.8%) an increase from 5.2 hours (43.4%) at baseline – Figure 3.

Overall, when compared to baseline, the time women spend on agriculture, business and leisure activities increased and so did the time they spend on unpaid domestic and care work. This was at the expense of time spent on volunteer and communal work which was reduced. The time men spend on unpaid care and domestic work increased slightly while the time spent on agriculture, business and leisure activities reduced slightly. The time spent by male youth on volunteer and communal work increased while the time spent on unpaid domestic and care work reduced and so do the time spent on agriculture, business and leisure activities. The time spent by female youth in agriculture, business and leisure activities increased at the expense of time spent on volunteer and communal work which was reduced.

6.3.3 HOUSEHOLD FOOD CONSUMPTION

Indicator 1000.3

Food consumption score (FCS) is a food security indicator representing households' dietary diversity and nutrient intake. In the FEED II operational areas, at mid-term, 25.7% of male headed households (baseline 45%) had food consumption scores of less than 21 which is a score which reflects poor dietary diversity and nutrient intake – Table 8. This change represented improving dietary diversity and nutrient uptake in the period under review. A review by state also shows an improvement in all the states for male-headed households except in Jonglei where 62.1% of male-headed households (baseline 28.7%) and in Warrap where 32.3% of male-headed households (baseline 22.8%) had poor food consumption scores.

At mid-term, 44.6% of female-headed households (baseline 38.2%) had food consumption scores of less than 21. This change reflected worsening dietary diversity and nutrient uptake for female-headed households in the period under review – Table 8. A review by state also shows a deterioration in all the states for male-headed households except in Eastern Equatoria where 12.0% of female-headed households (baseline 53.7%), in Central Equatoria where 15.0% of female-headed households (baseline 40.0%) had poor food consumption scores and in Western Equatoria where 43.2% of female-headed households (baseline 52.20%) had poor food consumption scores.

Table 8: Food consumption scores compared by state (Indicator `1000.3)

	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei	FEED II
Male-headed households	(n=23)	(n=108)	(n=92)	(n=65)	(n=51)	(n=33)	(n=29)	(n=401)
Poor	26.1%	6.5%	20.7%	32.3%	41.2%	33.3%	62.1%	25.7%
Borderline	26.1%	23.1%	53.3%	27.7%	23.5%	36.4%	10.3%	31.2%
Acceptable	47.8%	70.4%	26.1%	40.0%	35.3%	30.3%	27.6%	43.1%
Female-headed households	(n=20)	(n=50)	(n=44)	(n=125)	(n=144)	(n=39)	(n=51)	(n=473)
Poor	15.0%	12.0%	43.2%	39.2%	58.3%	51.3%	58.8%	44.6%
Borderline	35.0%	28.0%	40.9%	18.4%	20.1%	15.4%	23.5%	23.0%
Acceptable	50.0%	60.0%	15.9%	42.4%	21.5%	33.3%	17.6%	32.3%
FEED II	(n=43)	(n=158)	(n=136)	(n=190)	(n=195)	(n=72)	(n=59)	(n=874)
Poor	20.9%	8.2%	27.9%	36.8%	53.8%	43.1%	81.4%	35.9%
Borderline	30.2%	24.7%	49.3%	21.6%	21.0%	25.0%	25.4%	26.8%
Acceptable	48.8%	67.1%	22.8%	41.6%	25.1%	31.9%	28.8%	37.3%

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

These results reflect the disadvantages women and female-headed households experience in securing livelihoods in the project implementation sites. It should also be borne in mind for most part of year 2022 households in South Sudan experienced high inflation¹¹ with the attendant disruption to household consumption patterns including purchase of foodstuffs. In states affected by floods – such as Warrap and Jonglei - food production was negatively impacted.

6.3.4 HEALTHY NUTRITION PRACTICES

FEED II trained groups of women, men, female youth and male youth about healthy nutrition practices. Women and men were trained on practical nutrition and appropriate child feeding practices. The awareness generated was intended to lead to better nutrition practices at household level. It was also intended to improve nutrition for girls, pregnant and lactating women. The training included equitable feeding practices in order to address disadvantages faced by girls, female youth and women and gender-based biases in the provision of healthy nutritious food at household level. In addition, FEED II worked at community level with volunteers to promote positive deviance methodologies for food preparation and dietary diversification.

6.3.4.1 Equitable feeding practices

Indicator I100.2

FEED II highlighted messages regarding gender equality messages into nutrition awareness and used SAA tools in Farmer Field Business Schools (FFBS) to help participants understand the impact of prioritization of food for girls or boys. This was intended to address by cultural and patriarchal attitudes. To reduce food insecurity caused by inequitable feeding practices, FEED II integrated messages regarding the benefits of equitable food consumption,

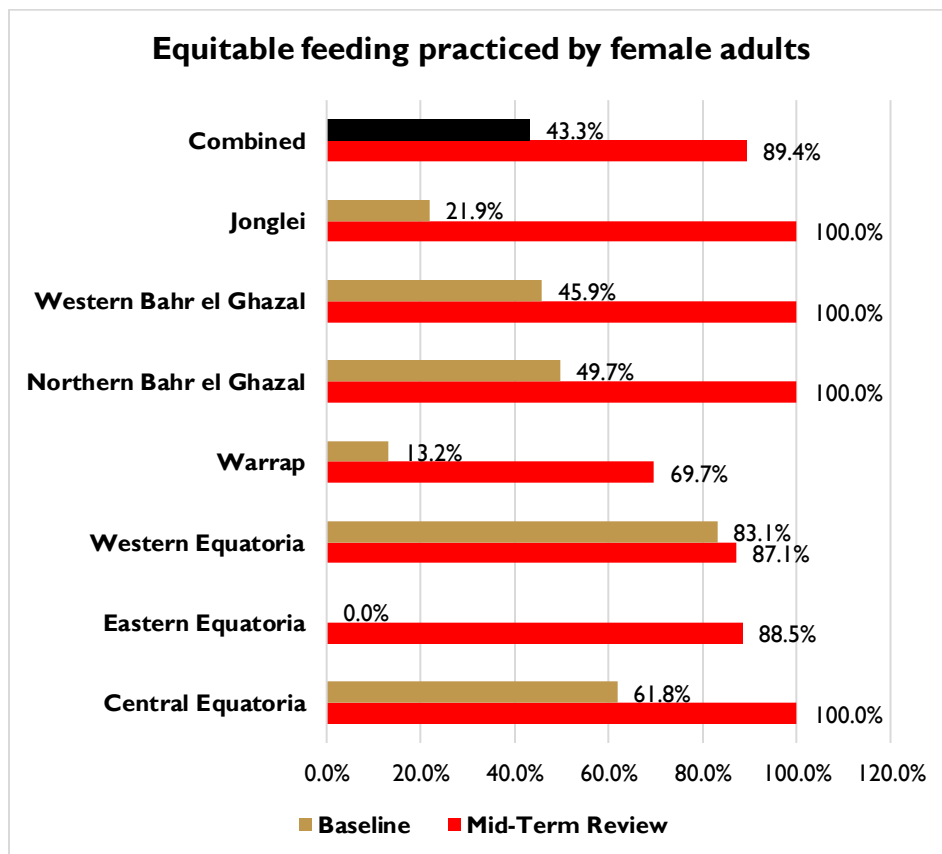
¹¹ Estimated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at 21.7 %

<https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/PCPIPCH@WEO/VEN/IRN/ARG/SSD/SDN/AFQ>

combining Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) information with SAA tools to link concepts of gender equality with nutrition. In nutrition trainings, topics included food preparation, food hygiene practices, food preservation, and nutrition for pregnant and lactating women.

At mid-term review, 89.4% of women reported equitable feeding practices which was an increase from 43.3% reported at baseline¹² – Figure 4. Among men, 93.2% reported equitable feeding practices which was a notable increase from 49.7% reported at baseline¹³ – Figure 5.

Figure 4: Equitable feeding practices - female adults (Indicator I100.2)



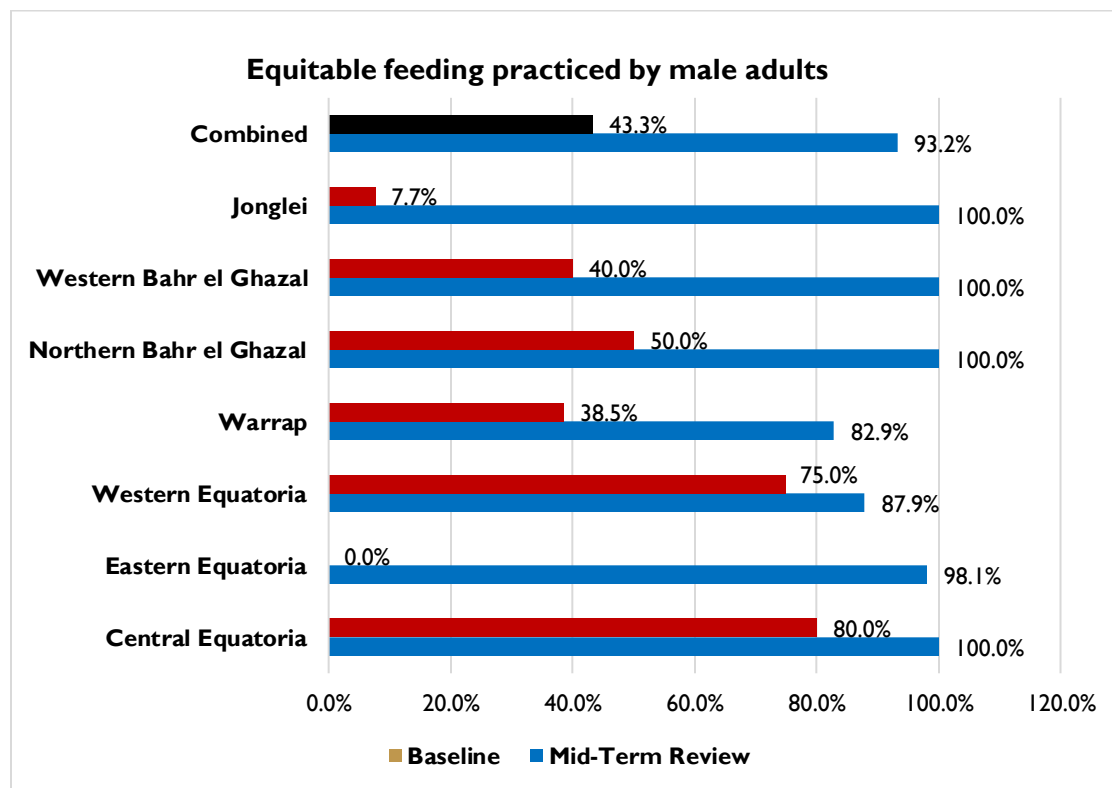
Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

In corroboration of this, in Western Equatoria for instance, children observed during their FGD that there were no significant differences in how boys and girls fed at home. As girls noted, “*In this area, we boys and girls eat the same food. Our parents don’t give us separate or different food.*” To establish equitable feeding practices for children under 15 years, three questions were asked on feeding priority regarding quality, quantity and timing. Households that reported no gender-based prioritisation between girls and boys regarding who gets the most quantity of food, who gets the best food and who is given food first to eat were considered to have equitable feeding practices.

¹² Supplementary baseline report of May 2021

¹³ Supplementary baseline report of May 2021

Figure 5: Equitable feeding practices - male adults (Indicator I 100.2)



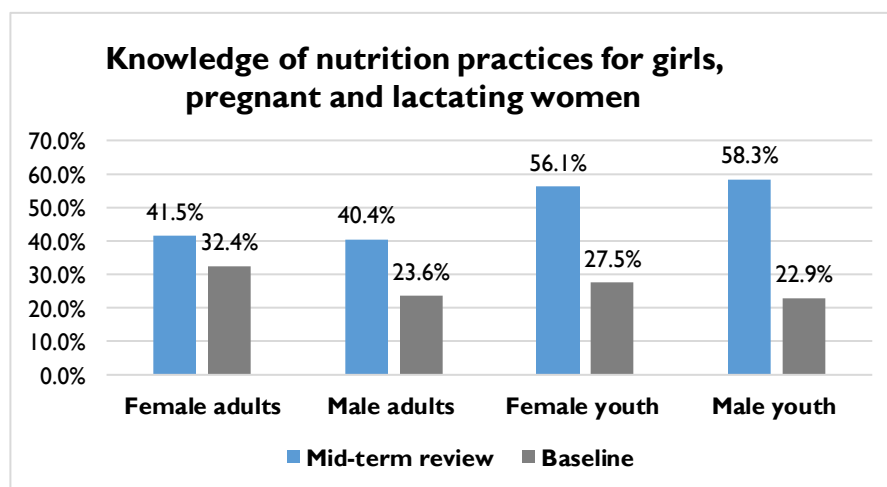
Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

6.3.4.2 Nutrition practices for girls, pregnant and lactating women

Indicator I 110.1

In food preparation demonstrations FEED II included information regarding the specific needs of girls, pregnant and lactating women. The nutritional practices prioritized most were balanced diet for pregnant and lactating women, adequate dietary intake for adolescent girls including foods rich in iron, and optimal breastfeeding practices.

Figure 6: Change in knowledge of nutrition practices for girls, pregnant and lactating women (Indicator I 110.1)



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

As a result, knowledge of improved nutrition practices for girls, pregnant and lactating women was at 41.5% among female adults (32.4% at baseline), at 40.4% among male adults (23.6% at baseline), at 56.1% among female youth (27.5% at baseline) and at 58.3% among male youth at the mid-term (22.9% at baseline) – Figure 6.

Respondents reporting awareness of nutrition practices for girls, pregnant and lactating women were those who could identify at least three healthy nutrition practices pregnant women should observe and could also identify at least three healthy nutrition practices that lactating women should observe. These results indicate increase across all cohorts in knowledge of improved nutrition over the period under review in the FEED II implementation sites. Notable growth took place in Central Equatoria state among both adults and youth.

However, a notable drop was recorded in Western Bahr el Ghazal especially amongst adults; in Northern Bahr el Ghazal among the male youth; and in Jonglei among female youth. This was partly because activities to train women and men on maternal infant and young child feeding practices could not reach the number anticipated – reaching only about 10% of the target - and those who were reached were predominantly women. This was compounded by displacement of some residents in these areas due to floods in the course of the year.

In addition, knowledge about optimal breastfeeding practices had improved. At mid-term 70.7% of households reported that family members were informed and involved in decision making on breastfeeding practices, an improvement on 69.7% reported at baseline - Table 9. As a staff member in Eastern Equatoria noted, “We have also seen under-nourishment going down; women now know how to properly breastfeed their children, they have been telling us that before the project we didn't know how to hold the baby when breast feeding and we didn't know what food to give our babies but through the cooking demonstrations, we are now able to feed them better.”

Table 9: Awareness of optimal breastfeeding practices

		Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei	Combined
Early initiation of breastfeeding- newborns put to the breast within 1 hour of birth	Female	75.0%	89.4%	81.4%	73.5%	75.9%	50.0%	72.2%	75.7%
	Male	89.5%	74.1%	81.8%	74.3%	62.1%	66.7%	87.5%	75.7%
	Combined	81.4%	84.2%	81.6%	73.7%	73.8%	55.6%	73.8%	75.7%
Exclusive breastfeeding during the first 6 months of life	Female	70.8%	87.5%	58.6%	76.1%	75.3%	54.2%	69.4%	73.2%
	Male	68.4%	79.6%	48.5%	80.0%	62.1%	41.7%	75.0%	63.8%
	Combined	69.8%	84.8%	53.7%	76.8%	73.3%	50.0%	70.0%	70.7%
Continued breastfeeding until 24 months of age	Female	79.2%	76.0%	57.1%	84.5%	69.9%	45.8%	63.9%	70.9%
	Male	78.9%	66.7%	47.0%	82.9%	55.2%	66.7%	50.0%	62.6%
	Combined	79.1%	72.8%	52.2%	84.2%	67.7%	52.8%	62.5%	68.6%
Taking on-folic acid supplements for anaemia prevention daily or weekly	Female	79.2%	84.6%	34.3%	51.6%	45.2%	37.5%	63.9%	54.8%
	Male	47.4%	72.2%	30.3%	57.1%	31.0%	33.3%	37.5%	46.0%
	Combined	65.1%	80.4%	32.4%	52.6%	43.1%	36.1%	61.3%	52.4%

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

6.3.5 MANAGING THREATS TO FOOD SECURITY

Discussions with key informants and comments from FGD participants indicated that food security was beset by threats to availability, to stability and to usage. Threats to access included significant rise in prices which was traced by key informant to the effects of COVID-19 compounded by the depreciation of the South Sudanese pound which affected the prices of imported foodstuff and other household commodities. Challenges regarding usage have been discussed under household food consumption and healthy nutrition practices above. Threats to stability mainly emanated from conflict, specifically sub-national conflict, which is further discussed below. A summary of the threats to food security are in Table 10.

Table 10: Threats to food security - access, availability and stability by state

	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei
Access	Poor roads Lack of money or resources High increase in prices	Poor roads Lack of money or resources High increase in prices	Poor roads Lack of money or resources High increase in prices	Poor roads Lack of money or resources High increase in prices	Poor roads Lack of money or resources High increase in prices	Poor roads Lack of money or resources High increase in prices	Poor roads Lack of money or resources High increase in prices
Availability	Dry spells Insecurity Cattle and goats grazing on crops in the field Pests and diseases	Prolonged and heavy rain, Floods Dry spells Pests and diseases Locust invasion Conflict Excessive consumption of alcohol	Insecurity Conflict Wild animals destroying crops in the field Cattle keepers allowing animals to graze crops Pests and diseases Locust invasion Fall army worms Wild fire outbreaks	Conflict Drought Floods	Floods Pests and diseases Dry spells	Insecurity Conflict Cattle keepers allowing animals to graze crops Drought Theft of food produce	Floods Insecurity Water and vector-borne diseases

	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei
			Excessive consumption of alcohol				
Stability	Lack of mechanisation Delayed rainfall	Lack of mechanisation Poor soils in areas cultivated for long Cattle raiding	Lack of mechanisation Poor soils in areas cultivated for long Delayed rainfall	Inter-communal conflict Long dry spells Floods Poor soils	Floods Poor soils Delayed rainfall	Floods Cattle raiding Delayed rainfall	Floods Delayed rainfall

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Threats to food availability manifested in all the states as exemplified by comments from the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) committee FGD in Warrap which pointed out that poor access to seeds and tools contributed to food insecurity in the area. Positive trends in the agriculture sector over the period under review included seed distribution to groups, distribution of ox ploughs to farmers which contributed positively to crop production. As a Ministry of Agriculture Officer in Warrap pointed out, *'I have noted that farm production has improved because the farm tools distributed by FEED II have enabled the farmers to till and use more land'*. Another positive development was pointed out by a key informant who noted, *"Due to the involvement of women in the Farmer Field Business Schools (FFBS), women have taken up vegetable gardening seed multiplication."*

It should be noted that although FEED II sought to address the lack of access to seeds by distributing seeds to farmers, in the FEED II operational areas FGD respondents and key informants noted that this was done after the optimal planting window.

6.3.5.1 Climate change

Indicator 1100.1

Project implementation reports showed that FEED II had formed 60 Community Disaster Risk Management Committees (CDRMC) of which the reports indicated 41% had women in positions of leadership. Discussions with CDRMC members indicated that their CDRMCs had developed a plan, that they were involved in the development, and that they were involved in the implementation.

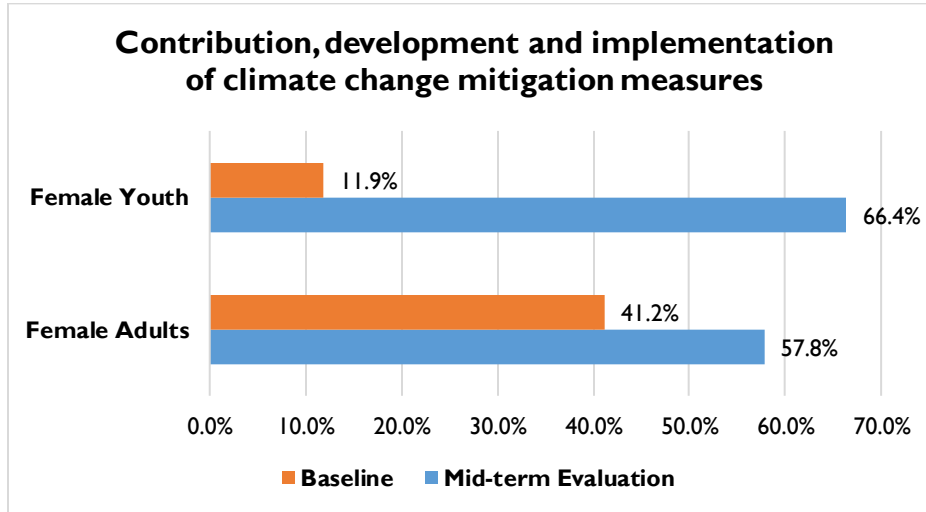
Crisis Modifiers

Although there was a prolonged challenge with flooding especially in Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal and with inter-communal violence in Warrap and Western Equatoria during the period under review, there seems to have been limited use of crisis modifiers by FEED II. However, in Eastern Equatoria payam level disaster risk management (DRM) committee members noted that there had been a man-made disaster in Nimule and Mugali payam of Magwi County due to cattle raiding. The event threatened the implementation of FEED II activities in the area. In response, action taken by FEED II was to give unconditional cash transfer to victims as a crisis modifier. They reported that this helped affected families to access basic survival needs.

There may be good cause to consider modifiers to mitigate the ongoing challenge with inter-communal violence in such areas as Tambura in Western Equatoria. Crisis modifiers could also be considered in Central Equatoria where an FGD with community members yielded the suggestion from community members to, *'Bring the feeding*

program because of the prolonged dry spell being experienced in this area. Food for work will enable us to have more energy to dig huge pieces of land. Food for work will attract many people to cultivate.”

Figure 7: Contribution to or development and implementation of climate change mitigation measures (Indicator 1100.1)



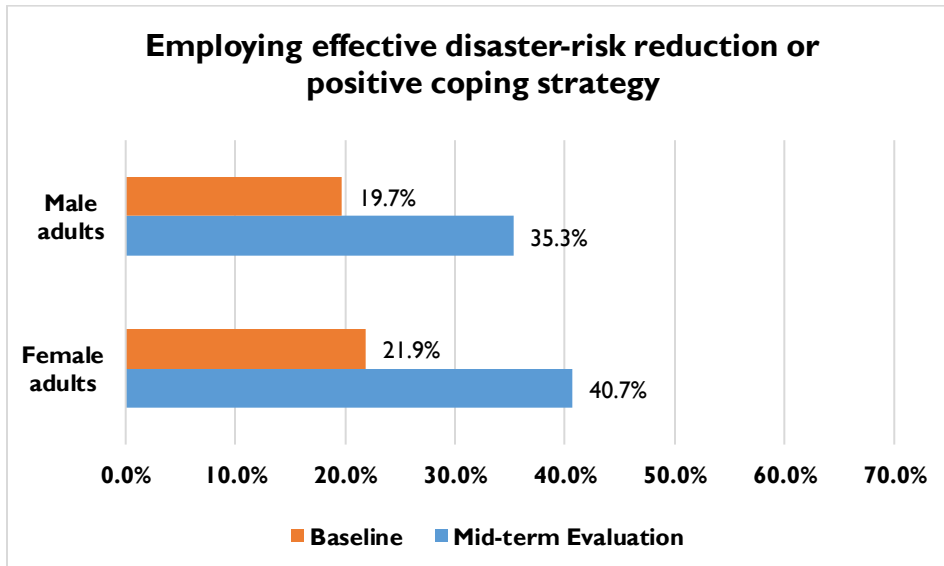
Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

6.3.5.2 Managing natural resource-related shocks

Indicator 1120.1

Natural shocks experienced in the FEED II operational areas included floods, dry spells, and wildfires. The project in line with its definition of effective disaster-risk reduction or positive coping strategy promoted building of buffer stock or savings, limited sale of household assets, engagement in casual labour, use of community support structures and social capital, and planting of drought-resistant crops.

Figure 8: Employing effective disaster-risk reduction or positive coping strategy (Indicator 1120.1)



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

At mid-term review 40.7% of female adult respondents reported that they could manage natural resource-related shocks, an increase from 21.9% at baseline. Among male adults 35.3% (baseline 19.7%) reported that they could manage natural resource-related shocks (Indicator I120.1) - Figure 8. These results show an increase in the perception of women of their ability to manage natural resource-related shocks. Households which employed disaster-risk reduction or positive coping strategy were those which reported that their household had been able to recover from a disaster and reported that children and women were protected during the disaster over a preceding period of 12 months.

Confidence in managing natural resource-related shocks

Indicator I120.2

Table 11: Confidence in managing natural resource-related shocks (Indicator I120.2)

	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei	Combined
Female	5	32	15	38	47	7	9	153
Total Female	24	104	70	155	166	48	72	639
Female %	20.8%	30.8%	21.4%	24.5%	28.3%	14.6%	12.5%	23.9%
Baseline	3.3%	44.4%	16.0%	46.7%	18.5%	34.6%	29.5%	21.9%
Male	4	16	12	5	11	2	1	51
Total Male	19	54	66	35	29	24	8	235
Male %	21.1%	29.6%	18.2%	14.3%	37.9%	8.3%	12.5%	21.7%
Baseline	20.0%	17.6%	18.5%	32.1%	40.5%	30.2%	26.8%	19.7%

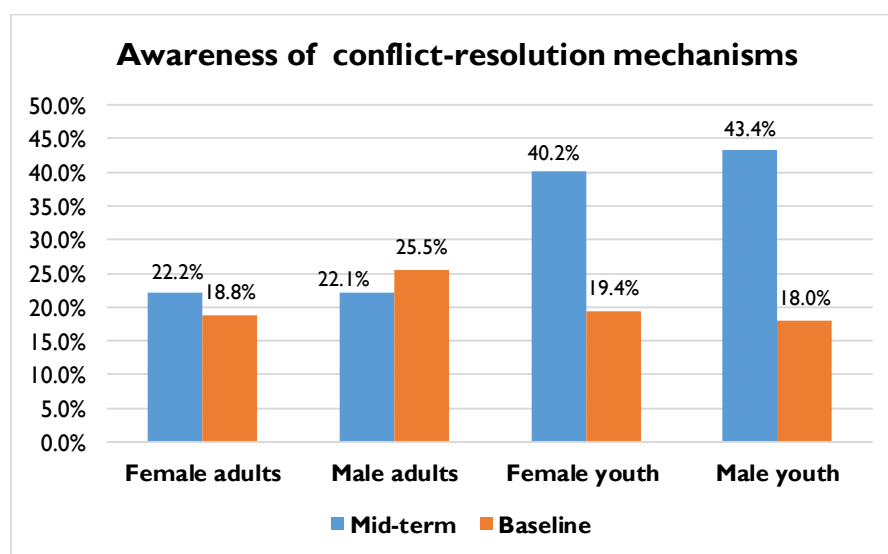
Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

The proportion of women who were confident that if threats to their household became more frequent and intense, they would still find a way of adapting grew to 23.9% over the period under review from a baseline of 21.9%. The proportion of men who were confident that if threats to their household became more frequent and intense, they would still find a way of adapting grew to 21.7% (baseline 19.7%) (Indicator I120.2) – Table 11.

6.3.5.3 Managing conflict-related shocks

Indicator I130.1

Figure 9: Awareness of conflict-resolution mechanisms (indicator I130.1)



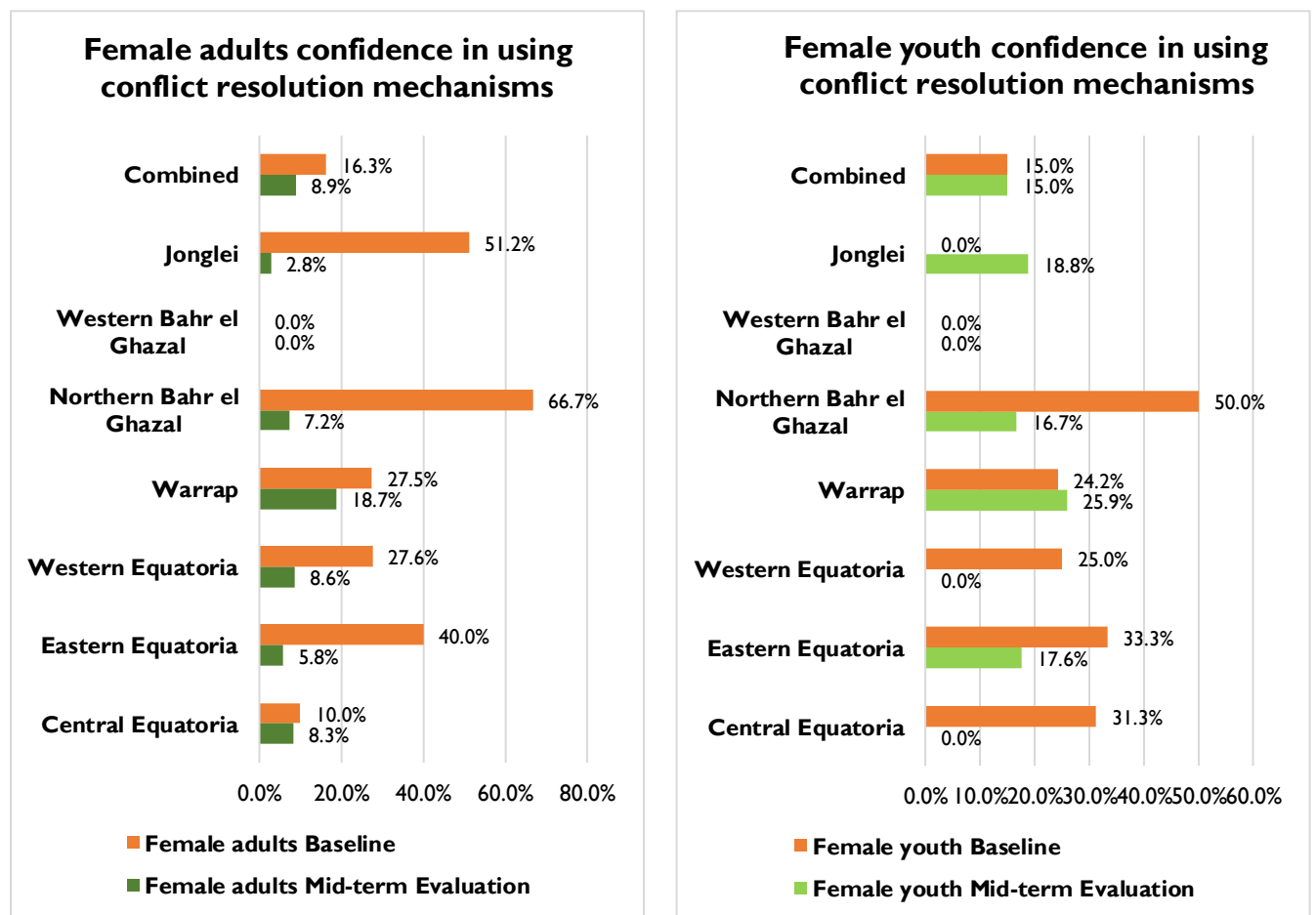
Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Knowledge and skills in managing conflict-related shocks begins with awareness of conflict resolution mechanisms. This rose to 22.2% among female adults (baseline 18.8%) but fell among male adults to 22.1% (baseline 25.5%). Awareness of conflict resolution mechanisms rose to 40.2% among female youth (baseline 19.4%) and among male youth to 43.4% from a baseline of 18.0% (Indicator 1130.1) - Figure 9. This increase was attributable Social Analysis and Action (SAA) sessions, engagement with groups such as CDRMCs and a general increase in awareness due to engagement of FEED II staff in the operational areas.

Confidence in using conflict resolution mechanisms
Indicator 1130.2

FEED II carried out interventions aimed at building confidence in the use of conflict resolution mechanisms. During the period under review such confidence among female adults decreased to 8.9% from a baseline of 16.3% - Figure 10. However, among female youth overall confidence remained unchanged at 15% - Figure 10. These results indicate that additional confidence building measures are required for women and female youth to use conflict resolution mechanisms. In addition, it indicates a need to explore building agency among women and female youth regarding conflict resolution since it appears that the confidence of women was undermined in some operational areas due to persistent conflict despite conflict resolution mechanisms. This was especially evident in Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal.

Figure 10: Confidence in using conflict resolution mechanisms female adults and female youth (Indicator 1130.2)



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Nonetheless, FEED II expended considerable effort in developing mechanisms for peaceful resolution of conflict.

For instance, the male and female youth in Warrap – corroborated by responses in FGDs with women-led organisations - noted that local conflicts were mainly inter-communal such as that between Noi and Leer communities, between Atok and Awan Parek , and between Nyang Akoch and Leer. The causes of these conflicts were cattle rustling, retaliatory killings, unequal sharing of power and resources. The FGD with women-led organizations added that availability of weapons to youths, high illiteracy rates amongst the youths, limited access to water points and to grazing land also contributed to the intercommunity conflicts. The DRM respondents added incitement by politicians as a contributing factor to conflicts in the community. While a key informant who was traditional justice actor also noted that there were hunger-related disputes such as cases in which a person would lay claim to his relatives or brother’s cow during a lean period and this would lead to violent conflict.

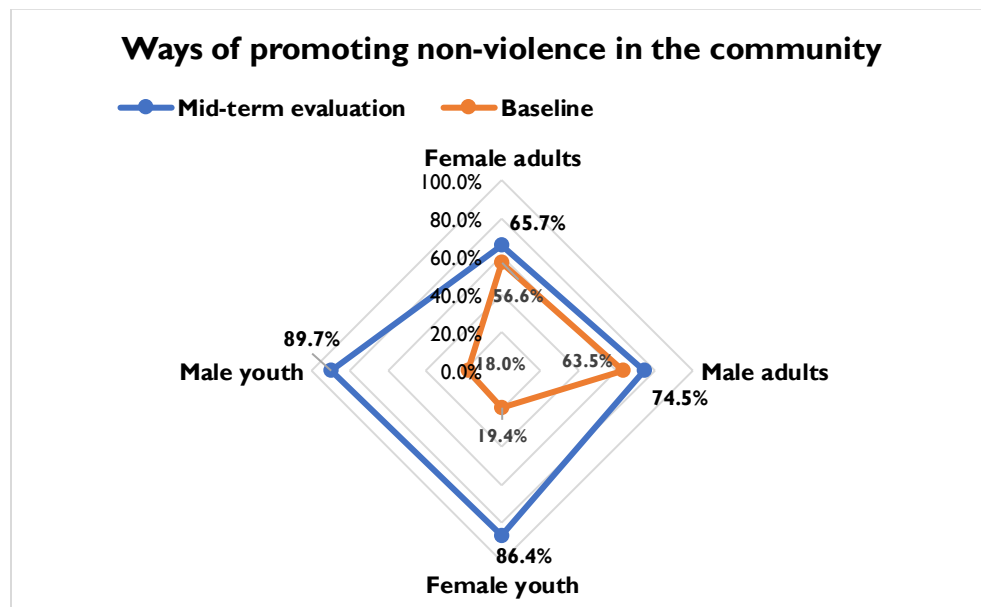
There were peace building initiatives that are being undertaken by organizations such as Tonj North Peace Initiative, Dotbai Women Group for Peace and Join Force Group for Peace. These groups motivate’d the communities to accept dialogue as a way of solving disputes. At the end of the conflicts, women, men, female and male youth travelled to different conflicting communities and held peace rallies. The DRM respondents indicated that the community used conflict resolution management skills based on local by-laws - known as Wanh-Alel By-Laws - to settle the conflicts. A youth leader, who was a key informant, indicated that some disputes were solved through local courts, disarmament, blood compensation and peace awareness within the communities.

Ways of promoting non-violence

Indicator 1320.2

Despite the lack of confidence in using conflict resolution mechanisms, a notable 65.7% (baseline 56.6%) of women cited ways of promoting non-violence in their communities. Among the men at mid-term evaluation, it was 74.5% (baseline 63.5%), among the female youth it was 86.4% (baseline 19.4%) and among the male youth it was 89.7% (baseline 18.0%) – Figure 11. These results reflected the effects of the work of DRM committees at community level in the FEED II implementation sites. The DRM committees trained community members and raised awareness to promote non-violent dispute resolution. These included dialogue and meditation, fighting the injustice in the community, addressing segregation among the community members, meeting in community group to discuss the major issues, creating activities which would bring people together, peace campaigns and engaging conflicting youth in sport activities like wrestling or playing football.

Figure 11: Ways of promoting non-violence in the community (Indicator 1320.2)



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

6.3.5.4 Post-harvest handling

Knowledge of post-harvest processes was at 99.6% (99.5% among female farmers and 100% among male farmers) – Table 9. Not much change was expected since at baseline nearly all the farmers (90.3% - 91.6% female farmers and 86.3% male farmers) reported knowledge of post-harvest handling practices – Table 12. The four leading post-harvest practices cited by respondents were drying followed by cleaning, storage and sorting and grading. Packaging, processing and treatment were less frequently cited – Figure 12.

Table 12: Knowledge of post-harvest handling practices

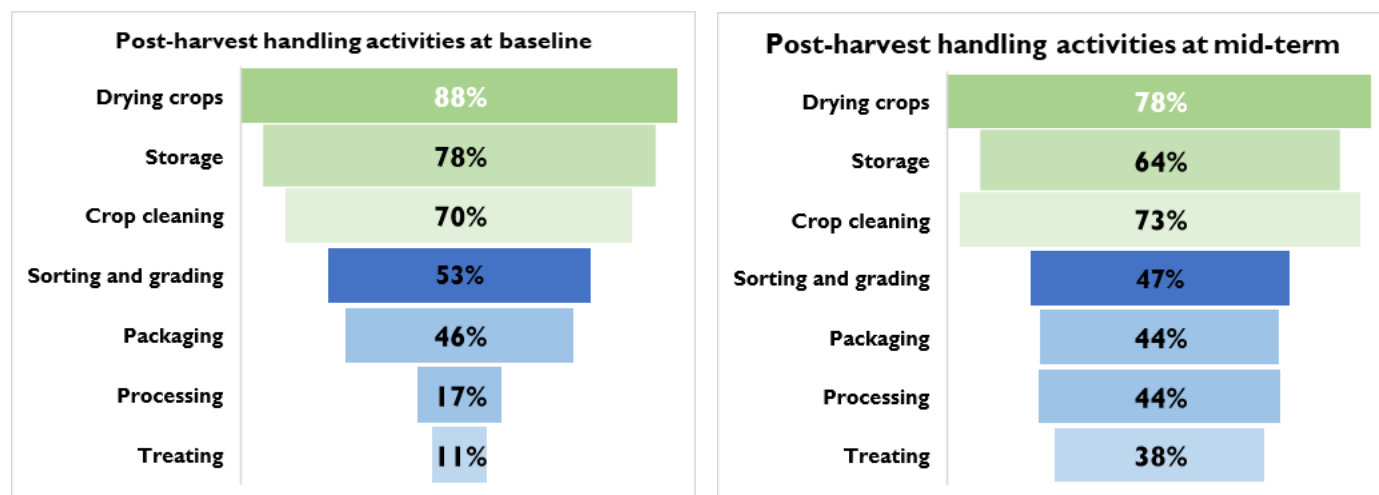
	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei	Combined
Female	24	104	70	152	166	48	72	636
Total Female	24	104	70	155	166	48	72	639
%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	98.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.5%
Baseline	100%	-	75.3%	92.9%	99.4%	81.8%	97.2%	91.6%
Male	19	54	66	35	29	24	8	235
Total Male	19	54	66	35	29	24	8	235
Male %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Baseline	100.0%	-	90.5%	86.2%	100.0%	73.6%	90.5%	86.3%
Total responses	43	158	136	187	195	72	80	871
Total households	43	158	136	190	195	72	80	874
Combined	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	98.4%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.6%
Baseline	100.0%	-	82.1%	91.5%	99.5%	78.7%	95.7%	90.3%

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Post-harvest handling process

Majority of the farmers (78% - baseline 88%) dried their produce, a large number (64% - baseline 78%) stored their produce. The difference between the two was accounted for by farmer who proceeded to consume the produce after drying before it could be stored. A notable number cleaned their produce (73% - baseline 70%). This means that a number of farmers stored their produce without cleaning, a practice likely to compromise post-harvest storage.

Figure 12: Details of post-harvest handling process



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Only about half of the farmers (47% - baseline 53%) sorted and graded their produce and since this is a proxy for participation of farmers in the market, it indicated that about half of the farmers were actively engaged in crop

production for the purposes of sale. This is further supported by the fact that 44% (baseline 46%) of farmers packaged their produce. However, it also indicated that half of the farmers were unduly exposed to post-harvest losses due to failure to package their produce. Processing was done by 44% some progress towards value addition when compared to 17% of farmers who processed their produce at baseline. Further indication of improving handling of produce was the fact that 38% of farmers reported treating their produce compared to 11% of farmers at baseline – Figure 12.

Usage of post-harvest management techniques

Indicator 1210.3

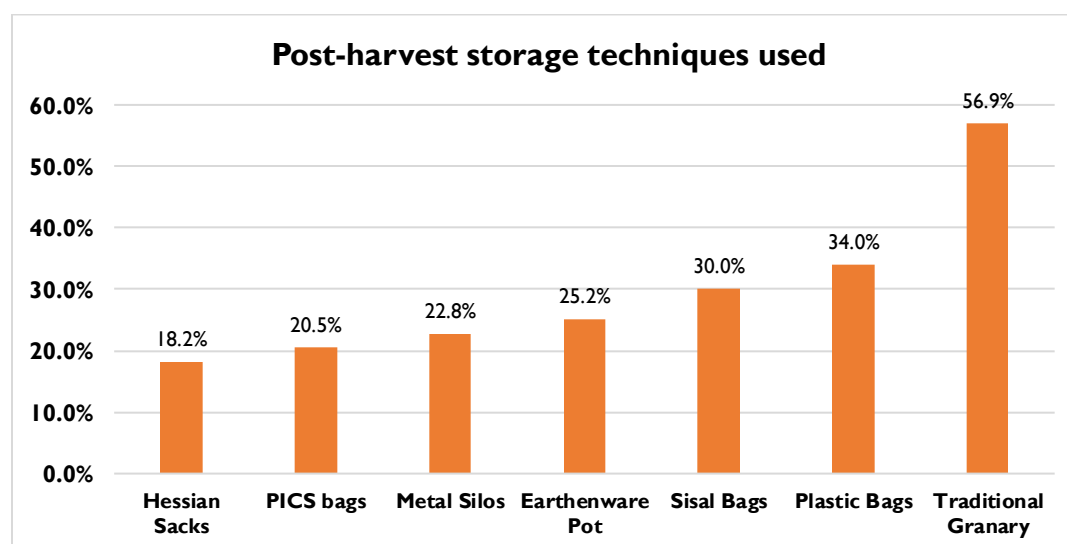
FEED II promoted a range of methods including traditional ones such as traditional granaries to modern methods such as metal silos and Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) ¹⁴ across its operational areas. Usage of at least one of the post-harvest management techniques was at 99.8% among women farmers and 100% among male farmers – Table 13. The means of storage most in use was traditional granary followed by plastic bags, sisal bags, earthenware pot, metal silos, PICS bags and lastly hessian sacks – Figure 13.

Table 13: Use of post-harvest management techniques (Indicator 1210.3)¹⁵

	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei	Combined
Female	24	104	70	154	166	48	72	638
Total Female	24	104	70	155	166	48	72	639
Female %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.4%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.8%
Baseline	24.5%	11.5%	0.0%	7.2%	16.0%	14.5%	4.1%	9.6%
Male	19	54	66	35	29	24	8	235
Total Male	19	54	66	35	29	24	8	235
Male %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Baseline	24.5%	13.8%	0.0%	9.4%	16.0%	12.0%	4.1%	10.1%

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Figure 13: Post-harvest storage techniques



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

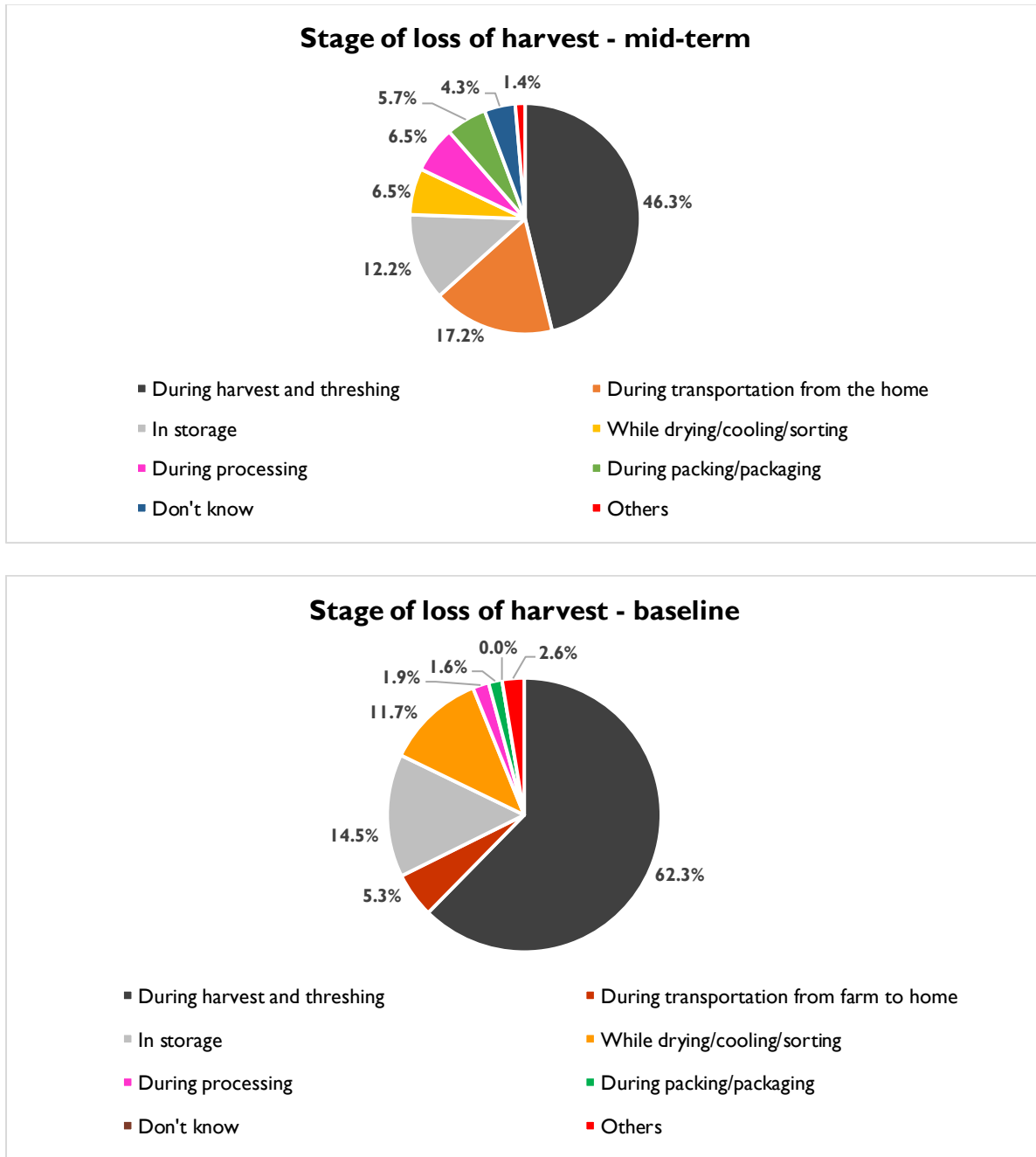
¹⁴ Usually triple-layered bags with two layers of polyethylene inside a woven sack

¹⁵ The Supplementary Baseline did not report usage of past-harvest management techniques, figures used here are those in the Baseline Report

6.3.5.5 Post-harvest losses

At mid-term, 46.3% of households lost their produce largely during harvest and threshing while 17.2% of households experienced loss during transportation or moving of the produce from farm to home and 12.2% experienced loss of their farm produce during storage – Figure 14. These three stages of harvest handling accounted for two-thirds (75.7%) of post-harvest losses experienced by households. At baseline, the three stages accounted for post-harvest losses experienced by eight out of ten households (82.1%). Losses during harvest and threshing were at 62.3% at baseline. Losses experienced during transportation from the farm to home were at 5.3% at baseline – Figure 14.

Figure 14: Stage of loss of harvest at mid-term compared to baseline



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

6.3.6 AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

FEED II implemented a number of interventions to improve agricultural and business practices in an effort to enhance and diversify incomes and livelihoods.

Agricultural practices

Indicator 1200.1

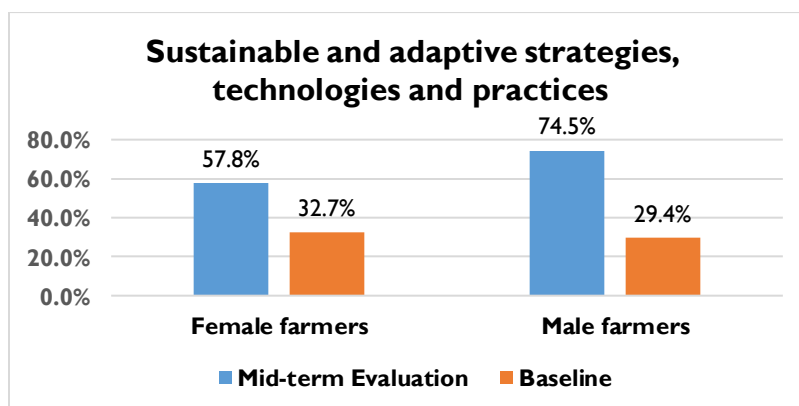
To improve the use of environmentally sustainable and adaptive strategies, technologies and practices, FEED II used Farmer Field Business Schools to disseminate such methods. The five categories of practices considered were (i) conservation agriculture, that is, minimum tillage, mulching, crop rotation and similar practices (ii) preserving natural trees and farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR), agroforestry including fruit tree planting, afforestation, and grassland or pasture rehabilitation and management. The improvement of agricultural practices received attention from FEED II in a number of avenues including the FFBS and in the producer groups. In addition, FEED II strengthened extension services. Consequently, the use of environmentally sustainable or adaptive strategies, technologies or practices improved amongst female farmers which was reported at 57.8% at mid-term evaluation (baseline 32.7%) – Figure 15. It also improved among male farmers to 74.5% (baseline 29.4%) (Indicator 1200.1)- Table 14. This indicated an uptake of improved practices by both female and male farmers with a higher rise amongst male farmers. The improvement was in all of the states except for female farmers in Central Equatoria. This call for more deliberate emphasis among women farmers in Central Equatoria to put into application sustainable strategies, technologies and practices they have learnt.

Table 14: Usage of environmentally sustainable and adaptive strategies, technologies and practices (Indicator 1200.1)

	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei	Combined
Female Count	18	75	51	67	103	30	25	369
Total Female	24	107	70	155	165	47	70	638
Female farmers - %	75.0%	70.1%	72.9%	43.2%	62.4%	63.8%	35.7%	57.8%
Baseline	82.1%	54.4%	29.5%	14.7%	34.2%	31.3%	3.2%	32.7%
Male Count	17	46	52	21	22	14	3	175
Total Male	19	54	66	35	29	24	8	235
Male farmers - %	89.5%	85.2%	78.8%	60.0%	75.9%	58.3%	37.5%	74.5%
Baseline	64.3%	43.1%	28.7%	20.0%	48.0%	18.0%	5.2%	29.4%

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Figure 15: Change in use of sustainable and adaptive agricultural strategies, technologies and practices



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Farmer Field Business Schools

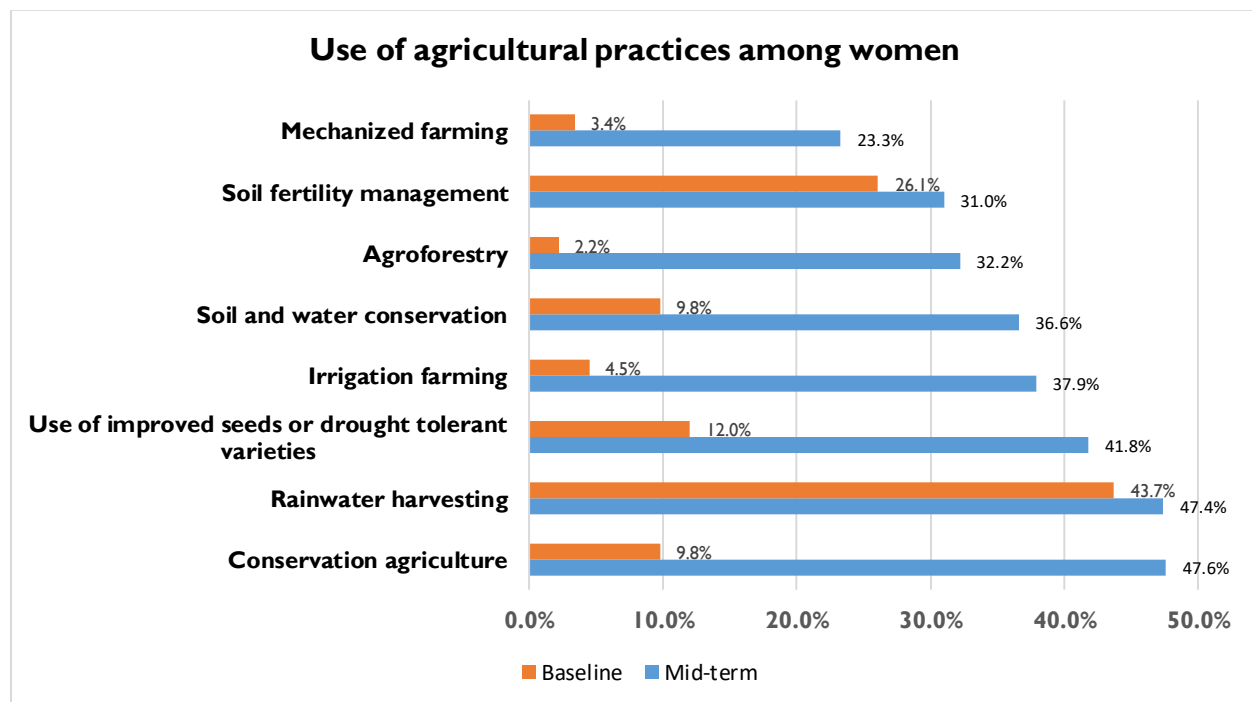
The training carried out by FEED II reached a broad range of members of the communities in the implementation sites. For instance, in Central Equatoria, youth who attended training on agriculture indicated that the training was useful to them both at individual and community level. A local chief commented, “I have attended training on agriculture which I found very useful to me. It has also been very useful to the community especially those who put what they learnt into practice.” By end of the third quarter of the third year of implementation a total of 839 persons were in the FFBS – 481 females, 257 males, 71 female youth and 40 male youth. The FFBS covered nutrition, agricultural practice, marketing and gender. On agricultural practices participants addressed pre-production, pre-sowing, sowing, weeding, vegetative, harvesting and post-harvesting field management practices and activities. The FFBS is organised so that farmers act, share and reflect on their experience, draw conclusions and develop general principles and then apply what has been learnt. However, there was no monitoring data on how and to what extent farmers implemented what they had learnt.

Women and Female Youth Using Agricultural Practices

Indicator 1200.4

The proportion of women and female youth using improved agricultural practices to raise production and productivity increased during the period under review. Among women, use of rainwater harvesting had risen to 47.4% (baseline was 43.7%), conservation agriculture had risen to 47.6% (baseline was 9.8%), use of improved seeds or drought tolerant varieties had risen to 41.8% (baseline was 12.0%), agroforestry had risen to 32.2% (baseline was 2.2%), irrigation farming had risen to 37.9% (baseline was 4.5%), soil and water conservation had risen to 36.6% (baseline was 9.8%) and soil fertility management had risen to 31.0% (baseline was 26.1%) – Figure 16.

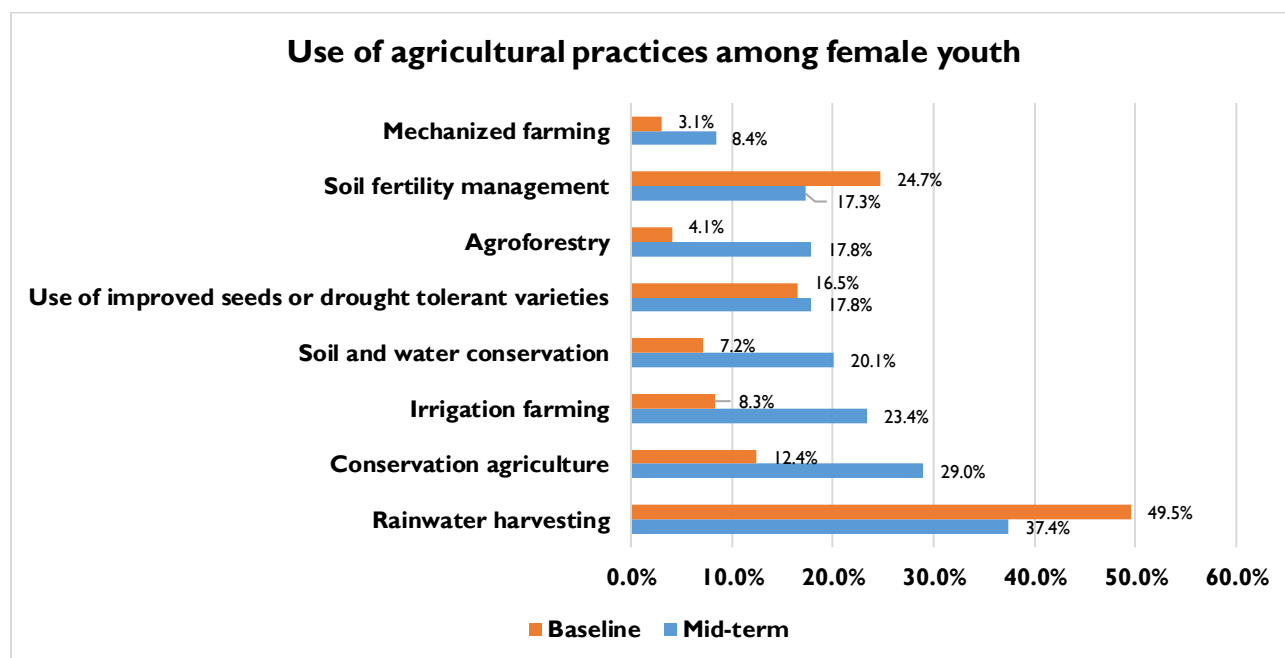
Figure 16: Use of agricultural practices among women (Indicator 1200.4)



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Further, mechanized farming was the agricultural practice least used by women at only 23.3%. In the FEED II operational areas, and the rest of South Sudan, there were numerous other supply constraints that severely limited use of mechanised farming.

Figure 17: Use of agricultural practices among female youth (Indicator I200.4)



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Among the female youth, use of rainwater harvesting declined to 37.4% (baseline was 49.5%) largely due to the effect of floods in some of the FEED II operational areas. However, due to FEED II interventions and training of farmers, particularly in the FFBS, conservation agriculture had risen to 29.0% (baseline was 12.4%), use of improved seeds or drought tolerant varieties had risen to 17.8% (baseline was 16.5%), agroforestry had risen to 17.8% (baseline was 4.1%), irrigation farming had risen to 23.4% (baseline was 8.3%), mechanized farming had risen to 8.4% (baseline was 3.1%), soil and water conservation had risen to 20.1% (baseline was 7.2%) and soil fertility management had dropped to 17.3% (baseline was 24.7%) – Figure 17.

Producer groups

FEED II's intention is that farmers would graduate from FFBS to form producer groups. Such groups would receive limited support from FEED II and would be focused on building production, productivity and solidarity among the producers. By end of the third quarter of the third year of implementation a total of 679 persons were in producer groups – 384 females, 229 males, 37 female youth and 29 male youth. The producer groups covered a broad range of agricultural produce including crop, livestock and fish. They also focused not just on aggregating produce but also on selling it. Some of the groups demonstrated efforts to develop market linkages. However, their efforts were limited by the lack of inclusive market systems development interventions by FEED II or any other significant actors in the operational areas. Partly as a consequence of this, there was limited value addition and limited development of value chains, the focus being mainly supply side -oriented and concentrating on lifting production and productivity.

Value Chains

Value chains evident during the mid-term evaluation included the following:

1. Groundnut which were sold in various forms as raw, seeds, cooked, ground and in food; and pressing groundnuts to obtain oil for sale.
2. Cassava leaves processing into cakes, cassava ground into flour.
3. Okra growing, harvesting and drying for sale.
4. Tomato growing, harvesting and drying for sale.

5. Maize sold as fresh, cooked, grain, milled into flour or cooked *ugali*¹⁶.
6. Sorghum which is sold as grain, or ground and used in preparation of *kisra*¹⁷, or used as part of ingredients in local alcoholic brews.
7. Catching, scaling, cleaning, drying and preservation of fish for sale.
8. Seed selection, preservation, propagation and sale.
9. Sesame roasting for sale or pressing to extract oil for sale.

Case study I: Farming enterprise - Luoi Pieth Producer Group

Luoi pieth producer group is located in Konbeek, Makuach Payam in Bor County. The group was established in May 2022 with a total membership of 25 active members (24 women and 1 man). They got information that CARE needed a group to work with so they selected 25 people from the community and submitted this list to CARE. The members came together so that they can support each other to generate incomes for their households. The management committee positions of chairlady, treasurer and secretary positions are held by women.

The main challenges faced by the group in Bor included the high cost of transport for their fish to the markets, lack of a speed boat and canoes that they can use when fishing, inadequate fishing equipment such as fishing nets. To address some of these challenges, CARE started supporting the group with fishing materials like fishing nets and fishing sheds. The members also managed to raise some money as a group to ease the burden of the high cost of fishing equipment. This has been implemented successfully with the group being able to purchase the much-needed fishing equipment such as fishing nets to supplement what CARE has supported them with. The group members agreed to eliminate the cost of transport by selling the fish within Bor market. The group members had to market themselves to their customers in Bor town as well as the surrounding villages. They have strategically located their fish sheds along the main road in Bor town and near the main public transport stage where their customers come to buy fish from the members. Amongst these customers are wholesalers who usually purchase in bulk and later transport the fish to other markets including Juba.

The members also manage to do the fishing by themselves to avoid the expenses of hiring people to do fishing “Hiring someone here to do fishing for you is very expensive, we decided that our own members will do the fishing; there are also times when we are also supported by our husbands in fishing and when they bring the fish we go to sell in the market”, a member noted.

The producer group also functions as a VSLA group where the members take loans from the group. The members are involved in savings in the group. The members do not need to go outside the group looking for money from shylocks or banks. Sometimes they take the loans as a group or as individuals. As a result of the group’s collective efforts the members have reported reduction of dependence on credit services, members are able to pay school fees for their children, members are able to feed their children well due to increase of their household incomes from fishing. In a typical month, an individual member can make up to SSP40,000 whilst the group makes up to SSP1,000,000.

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

There was some change in the value-addition and in value-chain activities since baseline. For instance, in Warrap and in Northern Bahr el Ghazal groundnut shelling was being carried out. In Western Equatoria, there was rice milling conducted by a group of farmers in Nzara which commenced in 2022 with support from FEED II. In Bor, a group of mainly women members was engaged in fishing and in fish drying. However, there was still room for further work in this regard as a male FGD participant in Eastern Equatoria noted “The project is focused so much more on production than processing. Then, after producing what's next, the project needs to focus more on processing, for example after producing the maize what next? They need to look for a processor for the maize to be processed, and packed and even branded, so that the produce can have greater value and bring more income to the farmers.” Nonetheless, notable efforts by FEED II were underway at various stages with a number of groups with the potential to generate even more value-addition activities over the remaining implementation period of FEED II and beyond.

¹⁶ A preparation of thick porridge of maize flour cooked into a semi-solid state

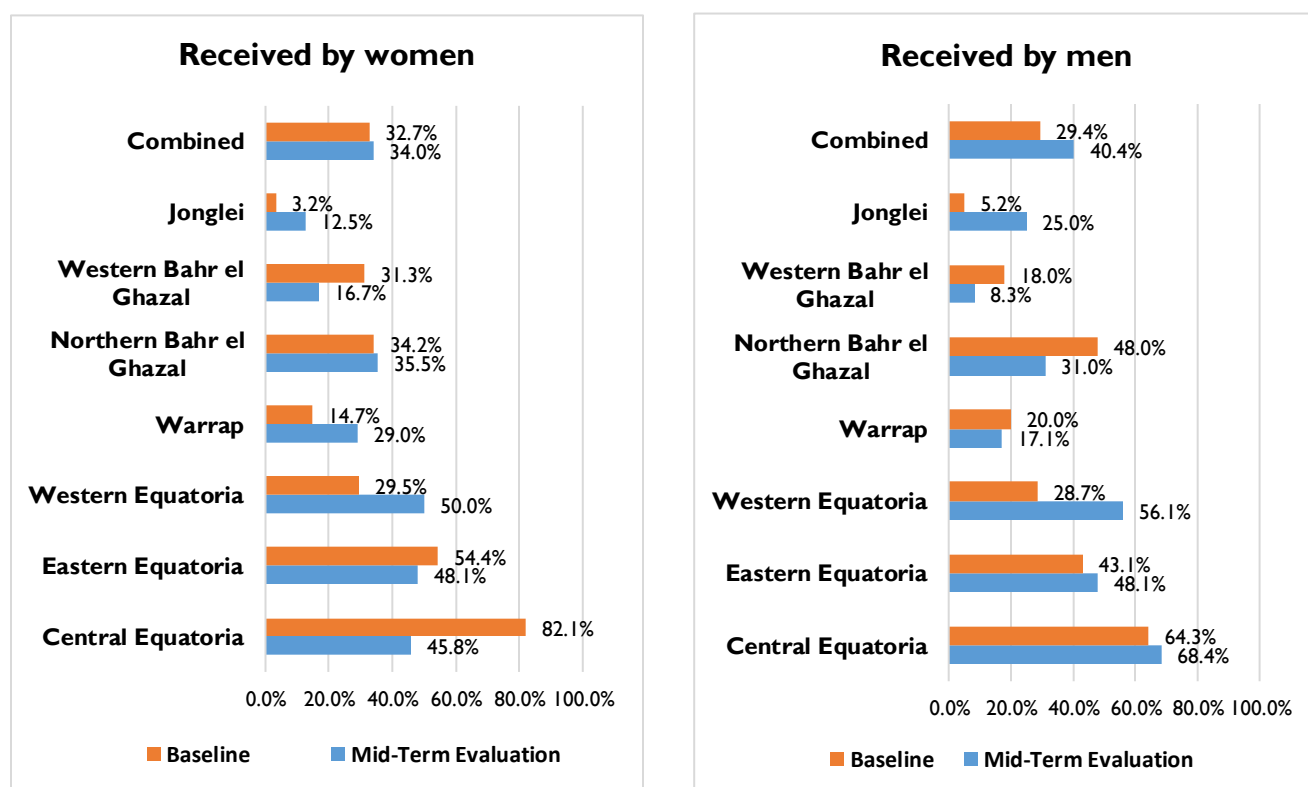
¹⁷ A thin fermented bread made from sorghum or wheat

6.3.7 SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PRACTICES

Indicator 1210.1

The proportion of women who reported that they had received training or support¹⁸ to use environmentally sustainable and adaptive strategies and practices was 34.0% at mid-term which had increased from 32.7% at baseline. The proportion of men rose to 40.4% from a baseline of 29.4% (Indicator 1210.1) – Figure 18. These results reflect the uptake of training among men and the need to continue measures to intentionally sensitize women on their importance.

Figure 18: Training and support on sustainable management of resources (Indicator 1210.1)



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

6.3.8 BUSINESS PRACTICES

Financial and business development practices through GAC-funded projects

Indicators 1200.3

FEED II provided financial and business development support in a number of ways which included through producer groups and through mentoring for the youth. When asked about such support from FEED II, which was the only GAC-funded project in the implementation sites, results showed that such support had been received by 51.1% of female respondents and 17.8% of male respondents – Table 15. The predominance of female beneficiaries was in line with the intentions of the women empowerment initiatives of FEED II.

However, the proportion of beneficiaries reached was far from target and was at 7% for women and 4% for men. This points to the very ambitious level of project targets. For instance, in the second year of its implementation, FEED II reached 7,349 women (project target 107,479) and 2,473 men (project target 57,750) with financial and

¹⁸ The training and support received has been used as a proxy for increase in capacity to use environmentally sustainable and adaptive strategies, technologies and practices as required by Indicator 1210.1

business development services. The persons reached include participants in participants in FFBS training on business skills, savings groups, vocational skills trainings, youth trained on agribusiness and members of women's groups trained in administrative and financial effectiveness.

Table 15: Support received from GAC-funded project (Indicator I200.3)

	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei	Combined
FEMALE	20	46	30	78	133	6	21	447
TOTAL	43	158	136	190	195	72	80	874
%	46.5%	29.1%	22.1%	41.1%	68.2%	8.3%	26.3%	51.1%
MALE	14	34	43	18	31	14	2	156
TOTAL	43	158	136	190	195	72	80	874
%	32.6%	21.5%	31.6%	9.5%	15.9%	19.4%	2.5%	17.8%

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Youth

Although youth appreciated FEED II interventions which included vocational training, mentoring and apprenticeship. However, they were of the view that there was a significant gap in addressing their needs for support in establishing livelihoods. The support that would, in their view, significantly boost their prospects include capital to start-up businesses, solar system for charging, masonry techniques and agriculture tools. The female youths cited getting support to purchase hair dryers, hair straighteners, hair curlers, hair clippers, machine for grinding groundnut, machine for grinding *dura*¹⁹, chairs for eateries, utensils for setting-up a tea business and wheelbarrows for fetching and selling water.

Access to finance

FEED II promoted the establishment of VSLA. The saving concept was introduced to FFBS members in the second year of implementation. During the third year of implementation, community members and local community leaders were sensitized about VSLA to help mobilize their respective communities and to stimulate interest among the FFBS and community members. The saving groups formed at FFBS sites were trained on VSLA methodology and provided with VSLA savings kits.

The objectives of the VSLAs were to improve members' livelihoods. They were also to unite community members, create a platform that could avail funds to meet emergency or unforeseen requirements and to act as a saving mechanism. Typically, VSLAs under FEED II also carry out other income generating activities including farming and off-farm micro-enterprises. These vary from one location to another as determined by local circumstances.

VSLA members cited a number of challenges including lack of encouragement – moral and technical support - from the government and NGOs. Those in farming added that they faced challenges with securing quality inputs and dealing with the effects of drought and floods on their production. Those with micro-enterprises cited challenges in securing stock, while those in soap-making and other cottage industries²⁰ cited challenges with reliable access to supplies of raw materials.

¹⁹ Local name for sorghum

²⁰ Cottage industries are household-based industries which are production units mostly based in homesteads, which make use locally available raw materials, are driven by fuel or manual power and skills, and whose products end up in the local market.

Case Study 2: Changing status of Anguec Gok



Anguec Gok, who is 23 years old and married, is a mother of two children. She used to operate her micro-enterprise under a tree, using a small bucket to sell and hawk her wares which included biscuits, roasted peanuts and similar items. Due to livelihood insecurity, she used to beg for financial assistance from relatives and friends, a practice that she says eroded her dignity. Through FEED II project, they were mobilized to form a savings group (VSLA) where members make weekly contributions and savings and take loans for investment at affordable interest rates. She joined VSLA in February 2022. She now owns her own restaurant that she constructed after joining the VSLA group and saving money that enabled her to get loans to buy land and build own premises.

Anguec's business before joining VSLA

Her business has also expanded from the biscuits and peanuts she used to sell. In her restaurant, she now sells tea, snacks and other food items. The security of her income has greatly improved. Over the last one year, Anguec has paid her own bills without begging for money from her husband as was the case previously. She has an average monthly income of SSP.180,000 yet before she joined VSLA it was SSP.30,000. She used to save nothing from her income but started saving and now sets aside an average monthly saving of SSP60,000.

Anguec now owns her business premises as well as a plot. Her household nutrition has also improved significantly because she is able to buy nutritious foods for her children without relying on erratic cash handouts from her husband. Anguec also dresses her two children without any struggle unlike before.

As a result of financial independence, her social status has improved greatly. She feels dignified as a woman and mother. She is planning to construct permanent building on her own plot for business and residential purposes.



Anguec's business premises after joining VSLA

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Additional challenges some of the VSLAs faced included delayed payments by borrowers and high default rates which were attributed to failed investments by borrowers. As a participant in an FGD in Bor noted, 'There is high expectation from relatives, you have to support many of them and your business cannot grow. This problem causes many businesses to collapse because you find you have no money and you have nothing to sell in the business. So you just close it.' In addition, FGDs with VSLA members noted that there was often a lack of clearly stipulated and well adhered-to group norms or by-laws. Active participation by members was influenced by their level of awareness and training

received. As a participant in an FGD noted, “There is need to train more interested members in VSLA so that all of us can be active in participating in the running of the group. We all need to be empowered, not some of us.”

Household income Indicator 1200.2

Household income was at an annual average of SSP 92,572 which was a drop of 12% compared to baseline when it was SSP104,287 – Table 16. This drop was compounded by a high inflation rate, estimated at 21% in 2022 and 10.5% in 2021²¹. This means that living standards in households in FEED II operational areas dropped over the period under review – (Indicator 1200.2).

Table 16: Household income (Indicator 1200.2)

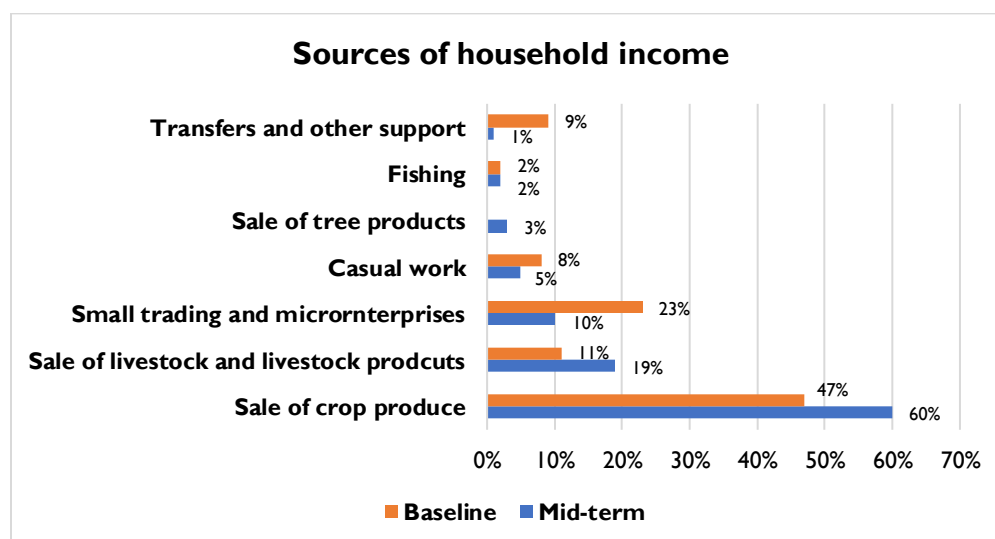
	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei	Combined
Income	1,284,406	12,676,140	1,790,500	1,977,202	563,800	898,011	1,361,000	20,551,059
Total Households ²²	19	95	51	15	21	8	13	222
Average Income (SSP)	67,600	133,433	35,108	131,813	26,848	112,251	104,692	92,572
Baseline	145,283	-	93,496	73,563	78,698	147,178	95,338	104,287

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Income diversification

At mid-term, sources of income were compared to supplementary baseline income data computed to identify the main sources of income. At mid-term, the four leading sources of household income were sale of crop or produce (60% - baseline 47%), sale of livestock and livestock products (19% - baseline 11%), trading and micro-enterprises (10% - baseline 23%) and casual employment (5% - baseline 8%). – Figure 19 and Table 17.

Figure 19: Sources of household income mid-term compared to baseline



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

²¹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FP.CPI.TOTL.ZG?locations=SS>

²² These are the households whose responses were usable after data cleaning

Case study 3: Income diversification – Nyakuron-Munuki Women Group

Nyakuron - Munuki Women Group has a membership of 30 women and is one of the women groups under Samaritan Mission Aid (SAMA), a women-led organization active in Central Equatoria. The group was formed in 2021 with the objective of uplifting women economically. The group approached World Vision South Sudan for support and were referred to the FEED II project. After assessment FEED II project decided to work with the group. One of the first things that was done was to re-organise and strengthen the group. As a result, the group elected a Chairperson, Vice chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Then the members of the group examined the income generating opportunities available and identified soap-making to meet the local demand. FEED II project organized for training in soap-making for the group and used a goods-in-kind donation to provide raw materials for soap making. Once the soap-making began, demand grew because the group produces multi-purpose soap, with an attractive scent and large size selling for SSP600 a bar. They also produce liquid soap packaged in 1.5-litre jerrycan selling at SSP1,000 and have a small bottle of 600ml which they sell at SSP500. Customers from the local community in the outskirts of Juba in Munuki collect the soap from the house where it is made. Monthly income for the group has grown from between SSP75,000 to SSP150,000 per month to over SSP250,000 per month.

The success of the project attracted the attention of the Chamber of Commerce in Juba whose representatives paid a visit to the group in 2022. The purpose of the visit was to explore ways in which the Chamber could help the group market their soap products. The visit by the Chamber of Commerce and the work of the group was documented by the media and featured on national television.

In February, 2023 the Nyakuron-Munuki group participated in a 6-day exhibition in Juba arranged by the Association of South Sudanese Entrepreneurs (ASSE). The exhibition exposed them to a wide range of entrepreneurs and their products were seen by many possible customers. The group is considering an opening outlet where it can reach a wider pool of customers in Juba city.

The future success of the soap-making venture depends on securing supply of raw materials. The group has been exploring suppliers from Uganda. However, the cost of the raw materials, transport and duties are likely to lead to a rise in the cost of their products and may affect their volume of their sales. The group has not yet developed a business plan. However, they are hopeful, as one of the leaders noted, “We will find a way of getting local materials to make soap even if we have to import from Uganda. We have hope and where there is hope you can succeed. In fact, there is a group we are talking to who are making soap using local ingredients. We are arranging for training for our members to know how to use local ingredients. We want to be ready by the time we can get reliable local supplies.” In the meantime, the proceeds are being saved and will be distributed to members to diversify into micro-enterprises of their choice. A portion of the savings will be retained so that the soap-making income generating activity can be sustained.

Group members are proud of the fact that they have saved their earnings and have maintained up-to-date and reliable records of activities and finances. The group maintains a savings account in a commercial bank. They acknowledge that demand for their soap is high and the potential to expand is there. The demand is so high that some customers book for soap in advance. The group members consider the soap-making business as far better than farming since it is a year-round activity that generates good returns and uplifts them financially.

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

The Herfindhal Income Diversity Index was 2.41 at mid-term evaluation but was 3.34 at baseline, indicating that income had become more concentrated and less distributed across the income sources over the period under review.

Table 17: Sources of household income

	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei	Combined Average	%
Sale of Crops or Produce	49,211	77,320	25,647	119,333	8,990	79,125	3,269	55,111	60%

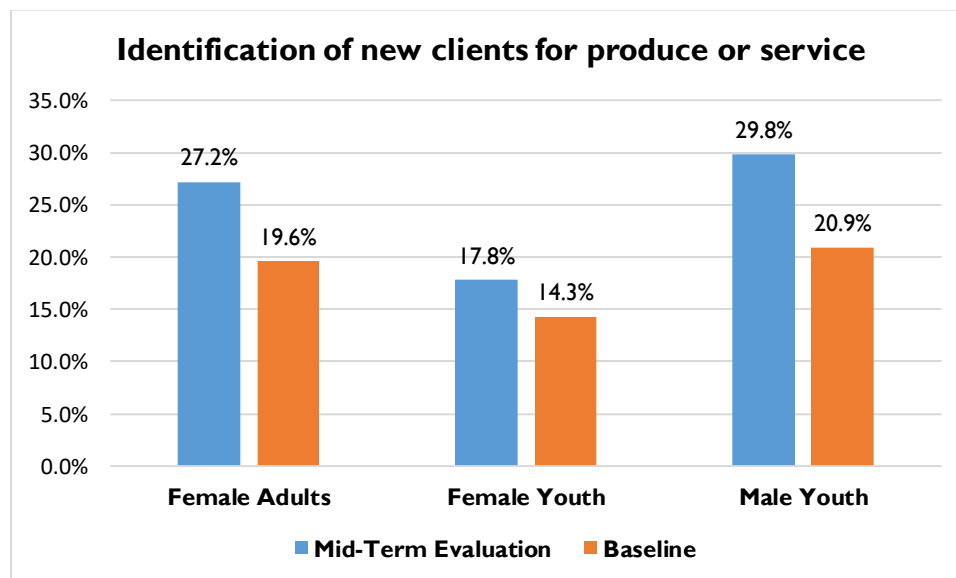
	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei	Combined Average	%
Sale of Livestock	2,263	25,811	3,118	467	8,286	25,000	72,154	17,896	19%
Fish Farming	895	16	1,510	1,180	1,214	-	20,346	1,816	2%
Sale of Tree Products	7,895	1,874	3,235	400	3,000	-	4,115	2,773	3%
Paid Employment	684	7,579	725	10,300	-	1,875	-	4,232	5%
Small scale Traders or Business	3,684	20,642	775	133	952	6,250	192	9,662	10%
Money Transfer	-	84	98	-	1,476	-	-	198	0%
Other Sources	2,632	105	-	-	2,857	-	4,615	811	1%

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

6.3.9 ACCESS TO MARKETS

The proportion of women who identified new clients for their produce or services in the period of 12 months preceding the mid-term evaluation was 27.2% (baseline 19.6%); for female youth it was 17.8% (baseline 14.3%) and for male youth it was 29.8% (baseline 20.9%) – Figure 20. These results indicate a growing willingness of female adults and youth in business to venture out in search of new markets for their products and services, especially bearing in mind that this was happening in an economically difficult context of high inflation and falling household disposable incomes. It also shows that implementation of FEED II initiatives such as the training on marketing under FFBS, as pointed out in FGDs, was contributing to growth in access to markets.

Figure 20: Identification of new clients for produce or services

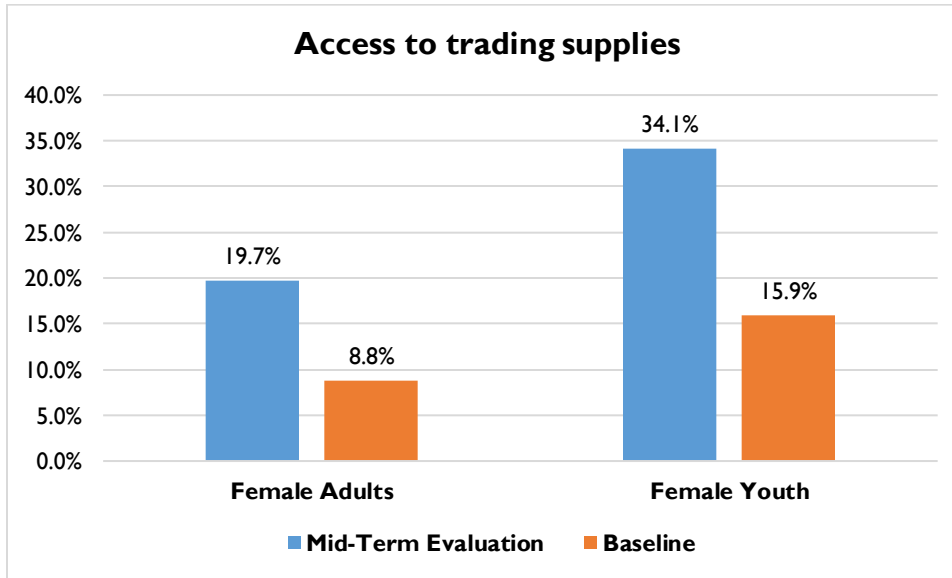


Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Access to trading supplies Indicator 1220.2

The number of women who reported that they were able to obtain supply of trading goods for their business or income generating activity was 19.7% up from 8.8% at baseline. The proportion for female youth increased to 34.1% from baseline level of 15.9% - Figure 21. These results show that in the FEED II implementation sites there was a notable improvement in the ability of female youth and women to obtain trading supplies over the period under review.

Figure 21: Access to trading supplies

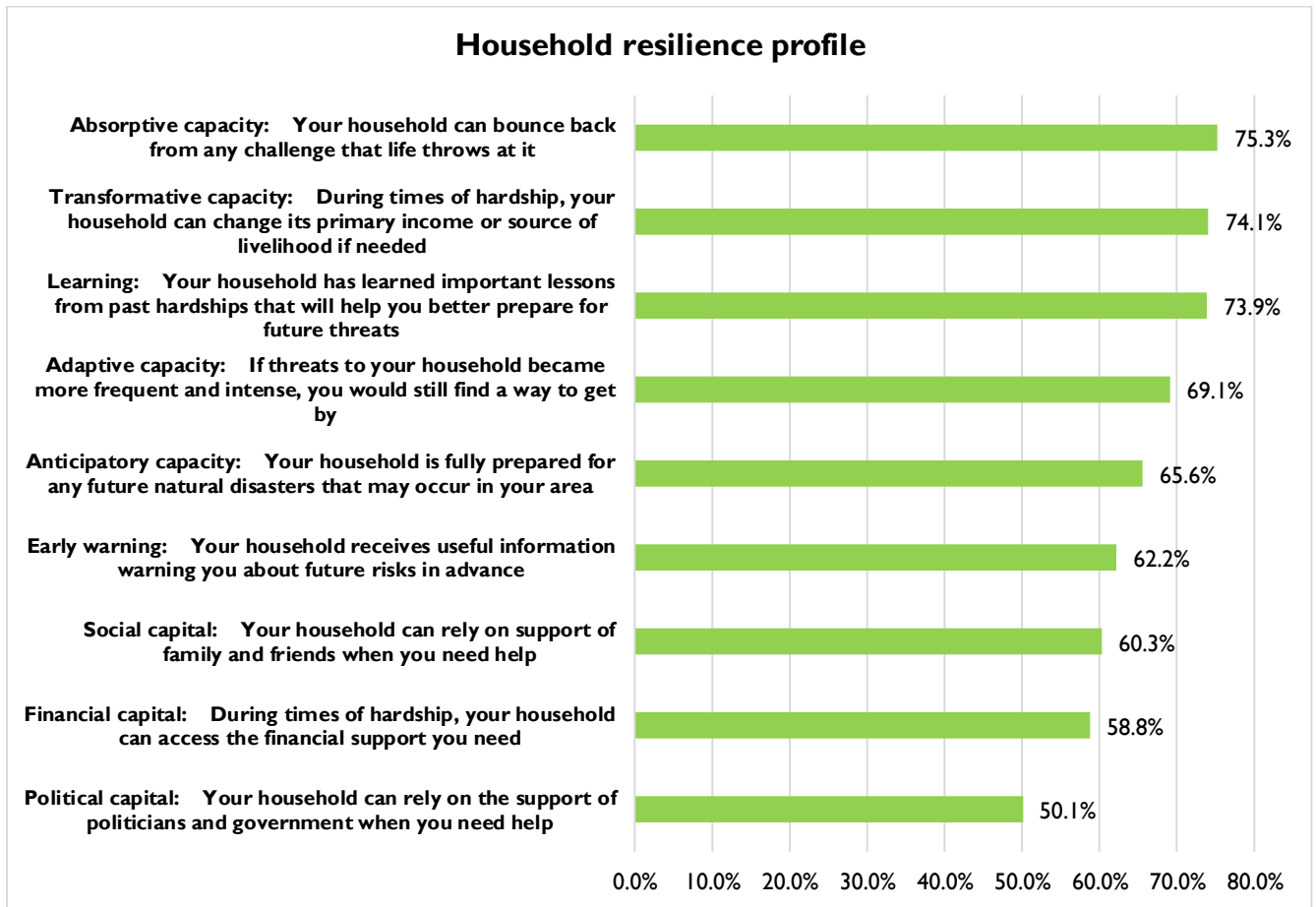


Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

6.3.10 HOUSEHOLD RESILIENCE

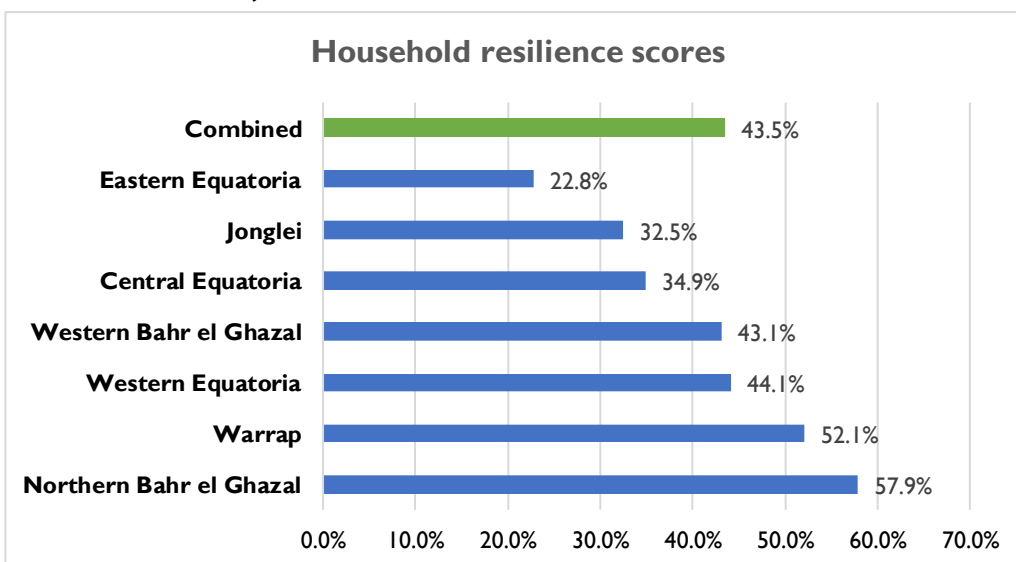
The resilience of households was assessed using their absorptive, transformative, adaptive, financial, social, political, learning and anticipation capacity together with the extent to which they benefited from early warning. Each household assessed these capacities regarding its ability to prepare and anticipate; absorb and recover; and adapt and transform (Bahadur et al., 2015) shocks, hazards and adversity. At mid-term household subjectively evaluated resilience (SER) was measured although this was not done at baseline. In the areas where FEED II is being implemented, 75.3% of the households agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that their household could bounce back from any challenge that life throws at it. A notable 74.1% of households agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that during times of hardship, their household could change its primary income or source of livelihood if needed. While 73.9% of households agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that their household had learned important lessons from past hardships that would help them better prepare for future threats. The results show that absorptive capacity, transformative capacity and learning are the strongest features of subjectively evaluated household resilience in the areas of FEED II implementation. The least was political capital since only 50.1% of households agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that their household could rely on the support of politicians or government when they needed help – Figure 22.

Figure 22: Profile of subjectively evaluated household resilience



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Figure 23: Household subjective resilience scores



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

The subjective scoring by each household was used to generate household resilience scores. Overall, those households that scored 0.8²³ – out of scale with a maximum of 1.0 for fully resilient and 0 for completely non-resilient - were 43.5%. The resilience was lowest in Eastern Equatoria (22.8%), followed by Jonglei (32.5%) and Central Equatoria (34.9%) – Figure 23.

Photo 2: Focus group discussion during the mid-term evaluation



6.3.11 PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING

FEED II promoted participation of women and female youth in leadership and decision-making at household, community and other levels.

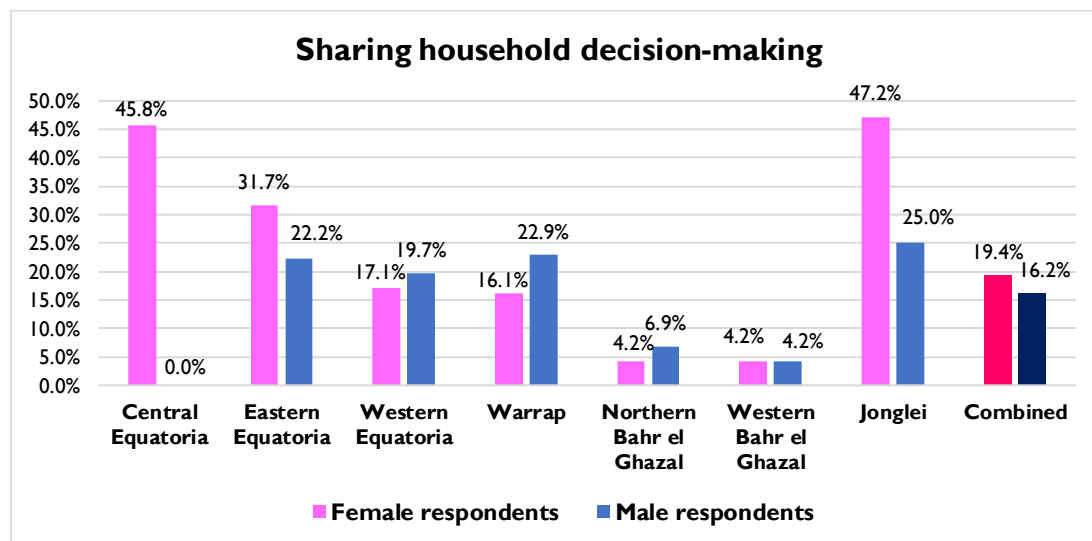
Household level

Indicator 1300.2

At mid-term review, the number of households reporting shared decision-making in at least half of the productive spheres at household level – including farming, trading and other income-generating activities - stood at 19.4% for women (baseline 42.9% recomputed to 37.1%) and 16.2% for men (baseline 53.8% recomputed to 37.2%) (Indicator 1300.2) – Figure 24. The relatively low score, compared to baseline was due to a change in the question posed to respondents which took into account not just whether or not they reported that there was joint decision-making but went further to determine whether or not men and women had an equal say in the decision-making process. At baseline, the questions sought only to know if the respondent was of the view that there was joint decision-making in various productive spheres. The baseline results were at marked variance with comments from key informants and FGD participants on male dominance in decision-making at household level. Indeed, the FEED II Gender Analysis Report showed that joint decision-making, as measured at baseline, did not translate to equal decision making since the final decision-maker would still be the man.

²³ A cut-off point established from practice in fragile environments where early warning mechanisms and political resilience, two out of the nine resilience capacities, may not be functioning as expected.

Figure 24: Sharing household decision-making (Indicator I300.2)



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

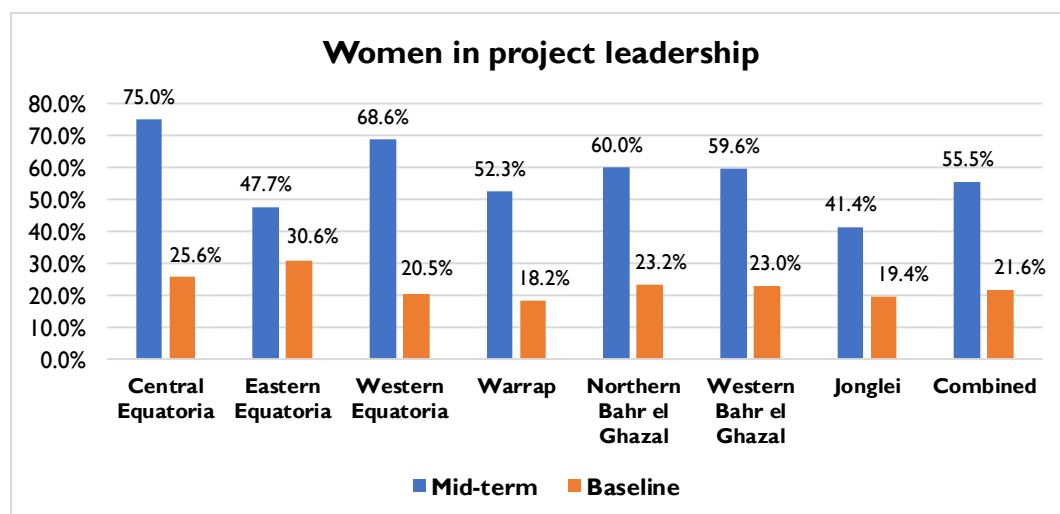
In Warrap, for instance, during the mid-term review, an FGD for male and female members of producer groups pointed out that barriers that prevent women from equal participation and decision-making in food security and livelihoods include poverty, communal conflicts and cultural norms. A key informant noted that, “In this community we do not consider women as leaders.”

Project leadership

Indicator I300.1

Overall women’s participation in leadership in all states increased from 21.6% at baseline to 55.5% during the mid-term evaluation. Women’s participation in leadership was highest in Central Equatoria (75.0%) followed by Western Equatoria (68.6%). On the other hand, women participation in leadership was lowest in Jonglei (41.4%) followed by Eastern Equatoria (47.7%) – (Indicator I300.1) Figure 25.

Figure 25: Women in project leadership



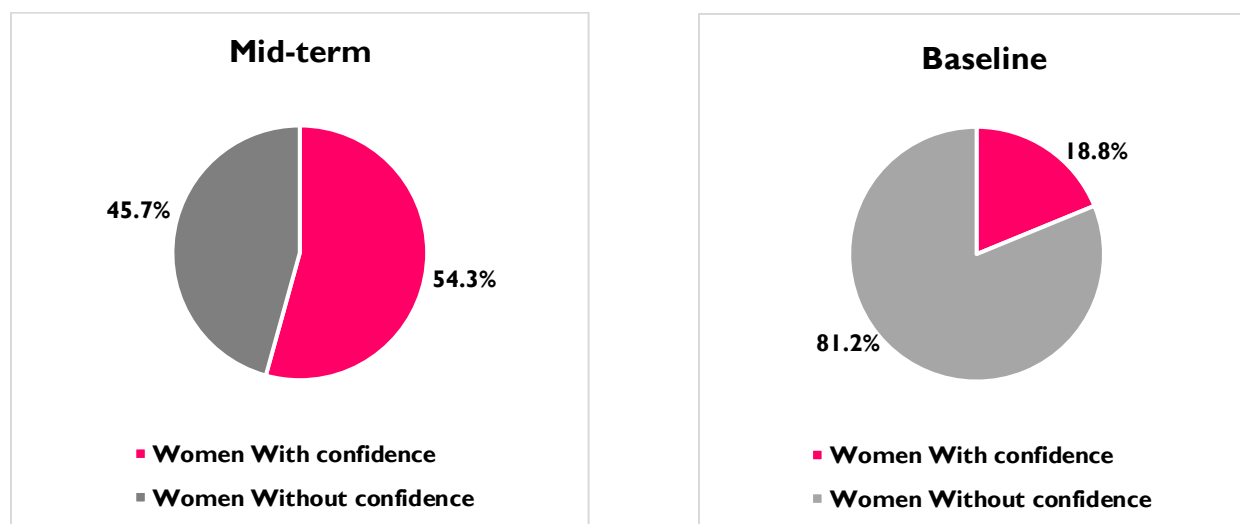
Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Confidence in leading project groups and local organisations

Indicator 1310.1

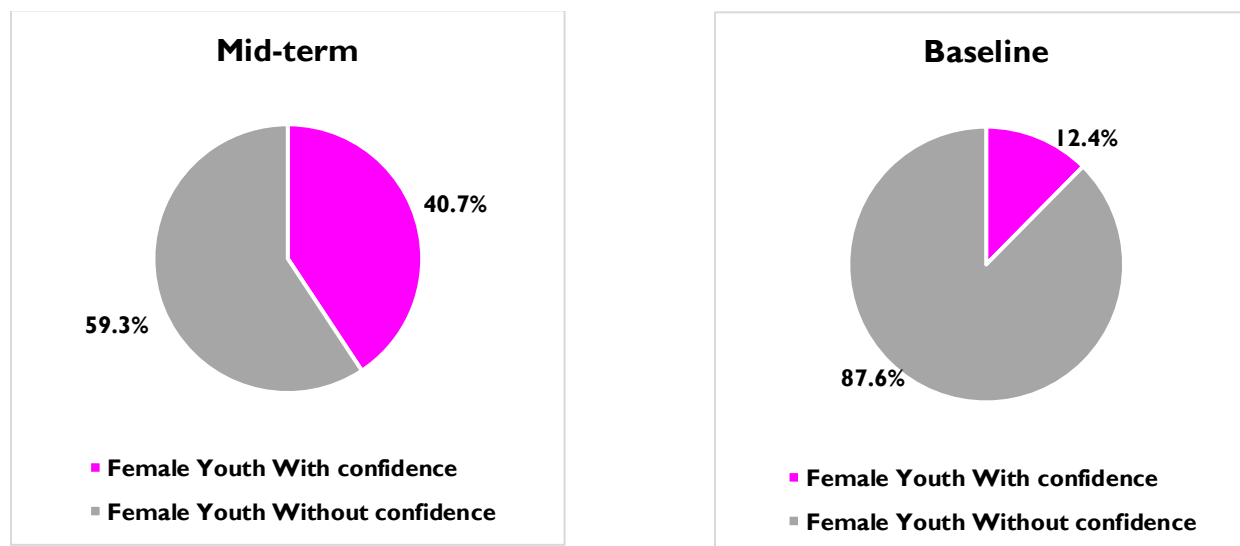
There was a notable rise in confidence to lead project and local organisations among women which increased to 54.3% (baseline 18.8%) – Figure 26. While among female youth it increased to 40.7% (baseline 12.4%) – Figure 27. As a participant in an FGD for women noted in Western Equatoria noted, “Women used to lead only when the group was full of women but when FEED II came it encouraged women to lead and we now have women who are leading our FFBS groups even where there are men.”

Figure 26: Confidence in leading project groups and local organisations – women (Indicator 1310.1)



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Figure 27: Confidence in leading project groups and local organisations – female youth (Indicator 1310.1)



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

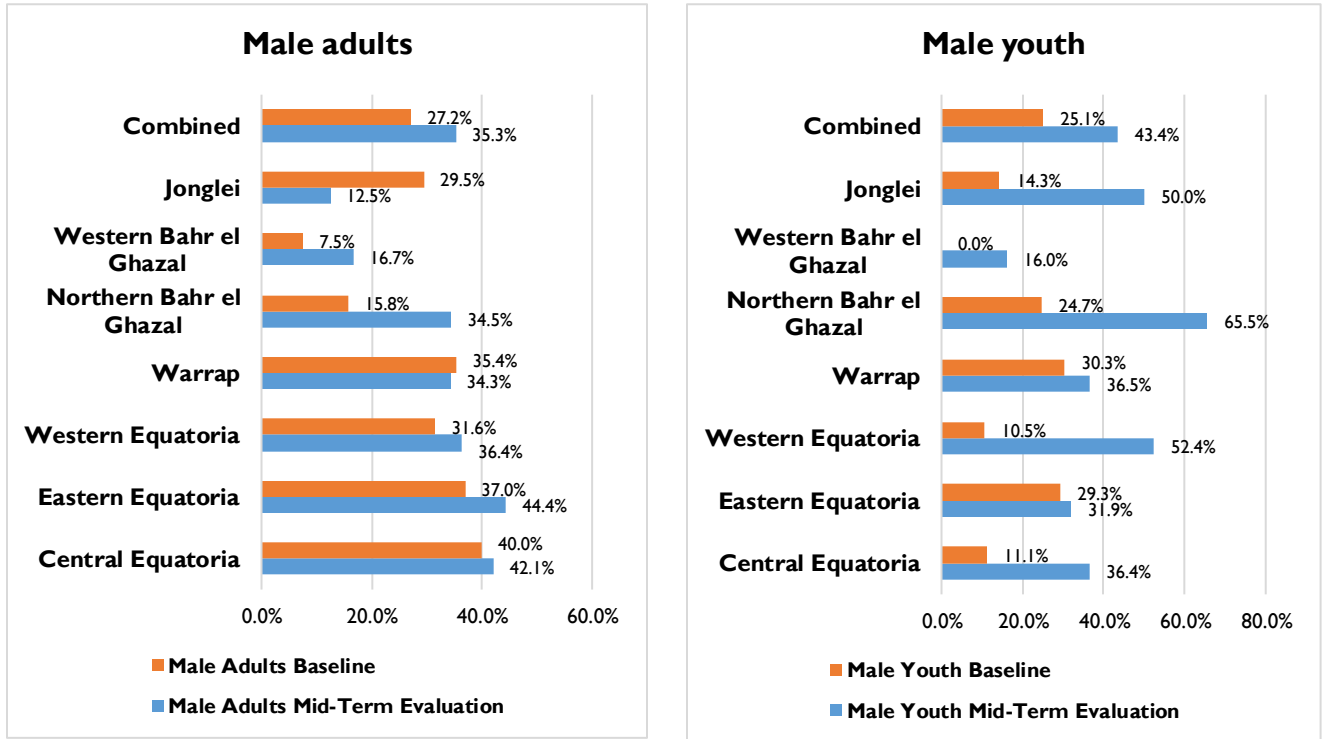
Positive experience with women and female youth leadership

Indicator 1310.2

While confidence to lead among women and female youth increased, the proportion of men with positive experience with women in leadership positions improved to 35.3% (baseline 27.2%) - Figure 28. The proportion

of male youth with positive experience with women in leadership positions improved to 43.4% from a baseline of 25.1% - (Indicator 1310.2) Figure 28.

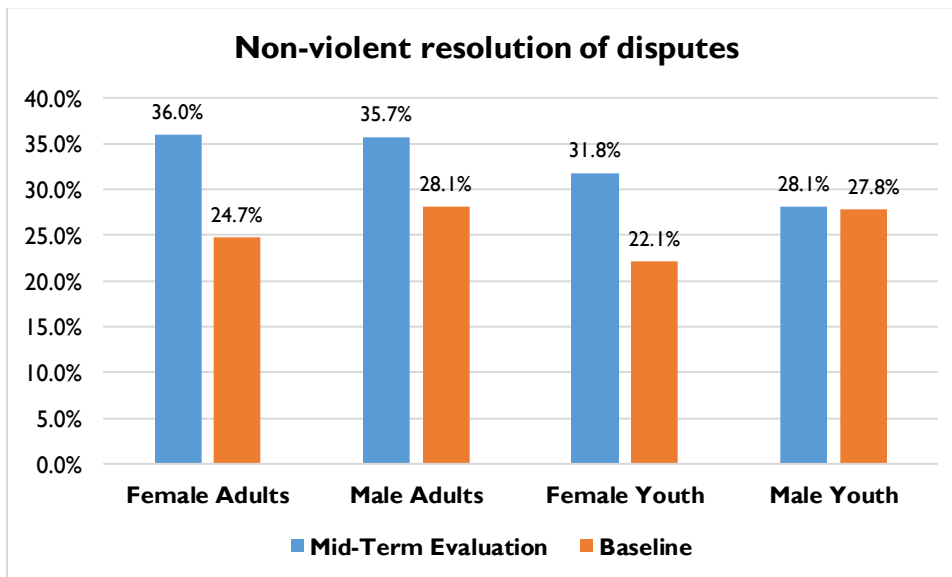
Figure 28: Positive experience with women and female youth leadership (Indicator 1310.2)



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Resolving disputes in relationships and at home Indicator 1300.3

Figure 29: Non-violent resolution of disputes in relationships and at home



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

The use of peaceful dialogue in resolving disputes at household level at all times stood at 36.0% (baseline 24.7%) among female adults, 35.7% (baseline 28.1%) among male adults, 31.8% (baseline 22.1%) among female youth and 28.1% (baseline 27.8%) among male youth - (Indicator I300.3) Figure 29. Such approaches were more frequently used by adults than by the youth and were least used by male youth. These results indicate the need to continue working with youth, especially male youth, in promoting non-violent conflict resolution of disputes in relationships and in homes.

6.3.12 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO HARMFUL TRADITIONAL PRACTICES

Identification of consequences of harmful traditional practices including GBV

Indicator I320.1

To support improved attitudes among women, men and female and male youth to lead the prevention of harmful traditional practices, including GBV, FEED II partners supported community events to promote gender equality, women's empowerment, and eradication of SGBV. The events were organized by the state, the GBV-Sub Cluster, or local institutions and centred around internationally celebrated days such as International Women's Day or 16 Days of Activism. Other FEED II interventions included Community Hope Action Teams (CHATs) which were formed and trained. The CHATs were formed with the support of religious leaders selecting active church members. The CHATs developed achievable plans with activities at community level. At FEED II staff level there were Gender Dialogues intended to support staff in their efforts to live out the goals of the project in their own homes.

Consequently, at mid-term, the ability to identify the consequences of harmful traditional practices including GBV among women was at 71.7% (baseline 15.8%), among men it was 68.5% (baseline 13.3%), among female youth it was 79.4% (baseline 20.0%) and among male youth it was 78.9% (baseline 14.7%) – Figure 30. These results show that FEED II contributed through its awareness and training interventions to a remarkable improvement in the ability of adults and youth to identify harmful practices including GBV in its operational areas.

Sexual and Gender-based Violence

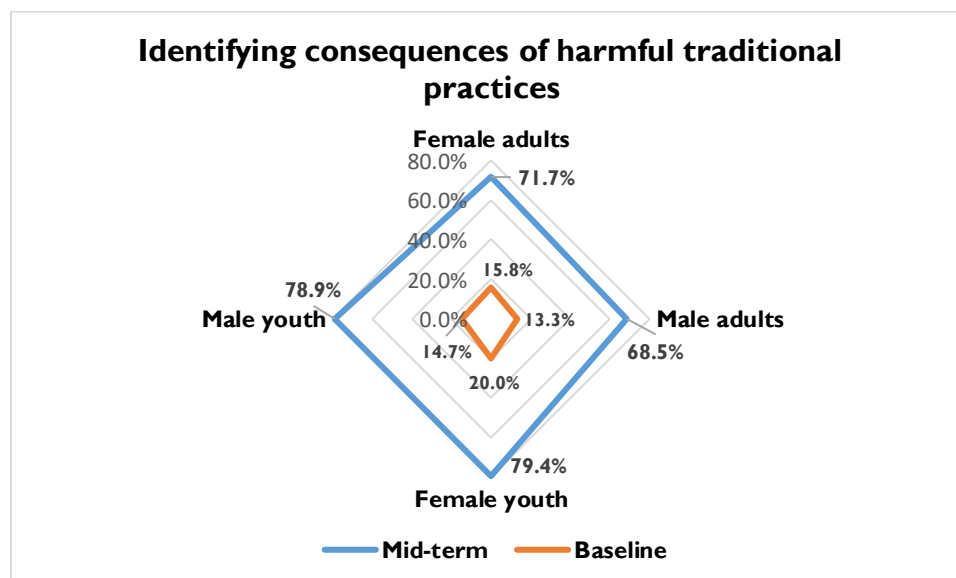
Analysis of discussions with key informants and in focus groups indicated that the drivers of SGBV in South Sudan fall into two main categories, first is culture around GBV - women are not expected to complain or report their husbands and even if they do, they will not be believed and will be seen as the problem in the relationship. The second is lack of referral and support systems to help women - majority of the women who go through GBV do not know the right avenues where they can seek help which worsens the problem. This was corroborated by some secondary sources²⁴.

FGD participants in Warrap noted that some of the traditional values which contributed to GBV included marrying many wives, providing for extended families with limited resources, adultery and denial of conjugal rights especially when the woman was pregnant. Respondents pointed out interventions which should be put in place to eliminate GBV and harmful traditional practices. These included educating the community, basic training on protection, raising awareness, law enforcement and opening more centres for training girls and women. These interventions were already part of what FEED II was doing, therefore validating and demonstrating the relevance of the project's interventions. A key informant offered, "We now need to form GBV committees in every payam. They will help in creating even more awareness". Key informants also pointed out that strengthening aspects of customary laws and a reduction of dowry were also interventions that would serve to curb GBV and harmful traditional practices.

²⁴

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/south_sudan_womens_empowerment_network_6.12.2021_I_002.pdf

Figure 30: Identifying consequences of harmful traditional practices including GBV



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Response to SGBV

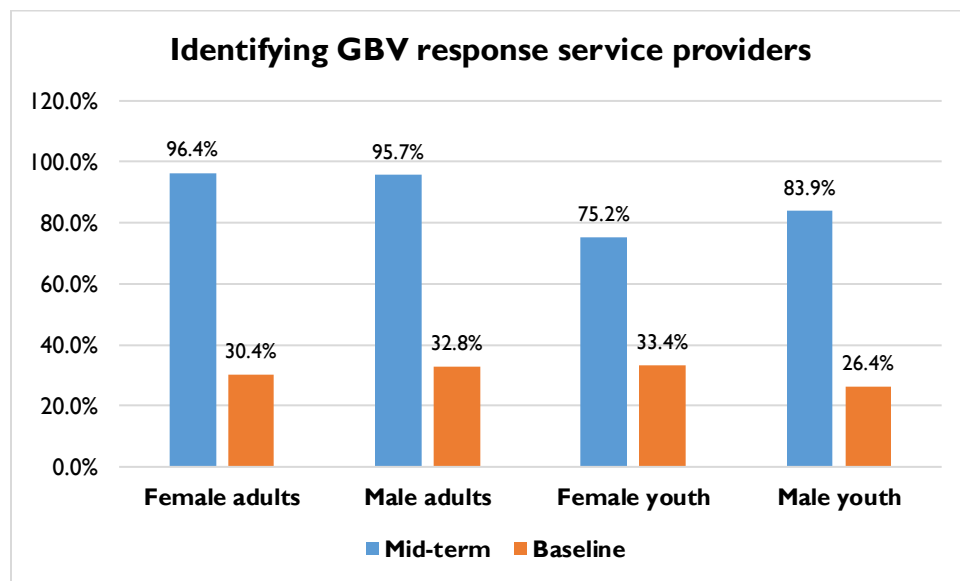
The Ministry of Gender was acknowledged by key informants for its efforts in seeking to curb GBV and harmful traditional practices. This was done through raising awareness, enforcement of laws and training and educating community members about child rights. GBV cases are handled through offering counselling and support to GBV survivors, referral services and provision of legal assistance.

Further, the Government of South Sudan responded to the prevalence of GBV by setting up a GBV and Juvenile court in December 2020. Nationally, the court managed to hear 668 cases and 180 cases had been concluded by 2022. However, a key informant indicated that people prefer the informal justice system, “*Traditional courts are the best because they allow people to express themselves*”. In addition, access to the formal justice systems was a barrier which rendered traditional justice systems comparatively attractive. Respondents noted that when a woman was raped, she reported to a trusted family member, chief or the police or could also approach the traditional courts.

FEED II contributed to raising awareness about local GBV response service providers and the referral system. Consequently, at mid-term review 96.4% of female adults could identify local GBV response service providers compared to 30.4% at baseline. For male adults, 95.7% could identify local GBV response service providers compared to 32.8% reported at baseline. Among the female youth it was 75.2% (baseline 33.4%) and for male youth it was 83.9% (baseline 26.4%) (Indicator 1330.1) – Figure 31.

FEED II trained community members so that they could help prevent, respond to and end sexual and gender-based violence including child and early and forced marriage. For instance, in Central Equatoria, a faith leader said, “*I have attended channel of hope training which discussed forced marriage and this has been useful to me at a personal level as well as in my interactions at community level.*” He explained that he was better able to identify and avoid actions and words that would amount to gender-based violence. During period under review FEED II trained 481 females, 257 males, 71 female youth and 40 male youth in FFBS.

Figure 31: Identifying GBV response service providers



Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Social Analysis and Action

FEED II conducted training using SAA tools for the groups it worked with over the period under review. These groups included the FFBS. Female and male farmers addressed negative gender norms at household level around issues of access to land, control of produce and household decision-making.

Rights of children

Children reported in their FGDs that where their rights are violated, they could get help from their parents, relatives, neighbours and village headmen. Children also mentioned the payam administrator, paramount chief, religious leader and County Commissioner.

Social Analysis and Action

SAA is a facilitated process in which individuals explore and challenge the social norms, beliefs, and practices that shape their lives. The goal of SAA is to help participants to surface and challenge restrictive norms and act together to create more equitable ones, while building support for sexual, reproductive, maternal health and economic rights. SAA is a critical component of FEED II's FFBS activities. Participants plan, implement and monitor their own plans, which include both individual behaviour changes and community led social change through collective action. Implementation of action plans is flexible to ensure that they are responding to changes in the context that occur during implementation.

FEED II recognizes the importance of social connections in transforming attitudes by working with families participating in the project, thus increasing their influence within the community. The project uses gender champions selected from FFBS that work with existing relationships to advocate for gender transformation changes through home visits and other ways and mobilizes the community to be accountable to each other in the prevention of gender-based violence at household level. Further, unique and central to SAA is that the process of critical reflection and dialogue begins with staff. It encourages them to reflect on their own biases and beliefs and how they affect their work, and to make them more comfortable discussing sensitive issues with others.

Gender Equitable Men Attitudes

Mid-term findings show that attitudes that support gender inequality persist in the FEED II operational areas. For instance, among women 71.7% (baseline 50.8%) were of the view that a woman's role is taking care of her home and family, while 64.9% (baseline 60.1%) were of the view that changing clothes, giving a bath, and feeding children is the mother's responsibility and 64.3% (baseline 49.1%) were of the view that a woman should obey her husband in all things – Table 18.

Among men 63.0% of them (baseline 53.5%) were of the view that a woman's role is taking care of her home and family, while 60.9% (baseline 50.7%) were of the view that a woman should obey her husband in all things and 59.1% (baseline 54.3%) were of the view that the husband should decide on the purchase of major household items – Table 18.

Table 18: Gender equitable attitudes responses from men and women respondents

	Attitudes		Agree	Partially agree	Do not agree	No answer
1	There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten.	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	35.7%	13.6%	49.8%	0.9%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	41.7%	13.9%	40.4%	3.9%
		Women – Mid- term(n=639)	32.6%	20.0%	46.2%	1.3%
		Women – Baseline (n=805)	39.4%	16.6%	42.2%	1.7%
2	A woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together.	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	34.0%	16.2%	48.1%	1.7%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	26.0%	13.6%	56.2%	4.2%
		Women – Mid- term(n=639)	35.2%	20.3%	43.7%	0.8%
		Women – Baseline (n=805)	24.1%	16.1%	55.0%	4.7%
3	It is alright for a man to beat his wife if she is unfaithful.	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	39.1%	11.1%	48.5%	1.3%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	45.7%	16.8%	34.6%	2.9%
		Women – Mid- term(n=639)	35.4%	19.1%	44.3%	1.3%
		Women – Baseline (n=805)	42.4%	19.6%	34.9%	3.1%
4	A man can hit his wife if she won't have sex with him.	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	23.0%	11.1%	63.8%	2.1%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	30.4%	12.1%	52.2%	5.2%
		Women – Mid- term(n=639)	19.7%	19.4%	57.4%	3.4%
		Women – Baseline (n=805)	28.0%	16.6%	49.9%	5.5%
5	If someone insults a man, he should defend his reputation with force if he has to.	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	20.9%	11.5%	66.4%	1.3%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	31.5%	16.0%	47.2%	5.2%
		Women – Mid- term(n=639)	22.7%	18.3%	55.7%	3.3%
		Women – Baseline (n=805)	30.1%	21.0%	43.1%	5.8%
6	A man using violence against his wife is a private matter that shouldn't be	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	40.0%	9.4%	48.5%	2.1%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	39.1%	16.8%	38.3%	5.8%
		Women - Mid-term(n=639)	33.2%	21.4%	43.3%	2.0%

	Attitudes		Agree	Partially agree	Do not agree	No answer
	discussed outside the couple.	Women – Baseline (n=805)	38.5%	21.1%	35.2%	5.2%
7	Men should be outraged if their wives ask them to use a condom.	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	23.8%	13.2%	60.4%	2.6%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	24.9%	15.2%	49.3%	10.5%
		Women – Mid- term(n=639)	24.3%	18.2%	51.0%	6.6%
		Women – Baseline (n=805)	24.8%	19.1%	44.7%	11.3%
8	It is a woman's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant.	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	33.6%	15.3%	48.1%	3.0%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	37.5%	16.3%	39.4%	6.8%
		Women – Mid- term(n=639)	40.8%	17.7%	38.5%	3.0%
		Women – Baseline (n=805)	41.2%	20.1%	33.2%	5.5%
9	Only when a woman has a child is she a real woman.	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	34.0%	10.6%	52.8%	2.6%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	34.4%	15.0%	44.6%	6.0%
		Women – Mid- term(n=639)	40.4%	16.3%	42.3%	1.1%
		Women – Baseline (n=805)	36.3%	20.9%	39.0%	3.9%
10	A real man produces a male child.	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	20.0%	10.2%	67.7%	2.1%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	53.5%	19.9%	21.3%	5.2%
		Women – Mid- term(n=639)	27.7%	16.4%	53.5%	2.3%
		Women – Baseline (n=805)	56.3%	22.9%	17.5%	3.4%
11	Changing clothes, giving a bath, and feeding children is the mother's responsibility.	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	54.5%	12.8%	31.9%	0.9%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	57.5%	19.7%	19.4%	4.4%
		Women – Mid- term(n=639)	64.9%	18.2%	16.6%	0.3%
		Women – Baseline (n=805)	60.1%	21.1%	16.1%	2.6%
12	A woman's role is taking care of her home and family.	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	63.0%	11.1%	22.6%	3.4%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	53.5%	16.8%	26.8%	2.9%
		Women – Mid- term(n=639)	71.7%	16.3%	11.6%	0.5%
		Women – Baseline (n=805)	50.8%	24.6%	22.4%	2.2%
13	The husband should decide to buy the major household items.	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	59.1%	14.9%	24.3%	1.7%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	54.3%	17.3%	24.4%	3.9%
		Women – Mid- term(n=639)	60.4%	20.0%	19.4%	0.2%
		Women – Baseline (n=805)	48.6%	23.5%	25.8%	2.1%
14	A man should have the final word about decisions in his home.	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	57.9%	17.0%	23.4%	1.7%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	59.3%	19.7%	17.3%	3.7%
		Women - Mid -term(n=639)	63.2%	17.5%	18.6%	0.6%

	Attitudes		Agree	Partially agree	Do not agree	No answer
		Women – Baseline (n=805)	57.9%	21.9%	18.6%	1.6%
15	A woman should obey her husband in all things.	Men – Mid- term (n=235)	60.9%	14.0%	23.4%	1.7%
		Men Baseline (n=381)	50.7%	14.4%	26.8%	8.2%
		Women – Mid- term(n=639)	64.3%	16.9%	18.2%	0.6%
		Women – Baseline (n=805)	49.1%	19.5%	24.6%	6.8%

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

Attitudes that support gender inequality also persist among the youth in FEED II operational areas. Among female youth, 72.0% (baseline 64.5%) were of the view that a woman's role is taking care of her home and family, while 63.6% (baseline 57.1%) were of the view that a woman should obey her husband in all things and 62.6% (baseline 61.7%) were of the view that changing clothes, giving a bath, and feeding children is the mother's responsibility – Table 19.

Among male youth 60.3% (baseline 63.5%) were of the view that a woman should obey her husband in all things while 57.9% (baseline 61.5%) were of the view that a woman's role is taking care of her home and family and 52.5% (baseline 59.0%) were of the view that a man should have the final word about decisions in his home – Table 19.

Table 19: Gender equitable attitudes responses from male youth and female youth

	Attitudes		Agree	Partially Agree	Do not agree	No answer
1	There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten.	Male – Mid-term (n=242)	39.3%	7.9%	52.1%	0.8%
		Male Baseline (n=243)	44.2%	19.0%	34.7%	2.1%
		Female – Mid-term(n=214)	39.3%	7.5%	52.3%	0.9%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	43.2%	15.9%	39.5%	1.4%
2	A woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together.	Male – Mid- term (n=242)	33.9%	16.5%	48.8%	0.8%
		Male Baseline (n=243)	51.8%	22.4%	23.7%	2.1%
		Female – Mid- term(n=214)	43.5%	14.5%	41.6%	0.5%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	53.0%	22.9%	21.7%	2.3%
3	It is alright for a man to beat his wife if she is unfaithful.	Male – Mid- term (n=242)	39.7%	19.4%	38.8%	2.1%
		Male Baseline (n=243)	44.0%	23.9%	30.2%	1.9%
		Female – Mid- term(n=214)	43.0%	16.8%	36.9%	3.3%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	43.2%	25.7%	28.5%	2.6%
4	A man can hit his wife if she won't have sex with him.	Male – Mid- term (n=242)	17.4%	14.9%	62.4%	5.4%
		Male Baseline (n=243)	22.2%	21.4%	50.3%	6.1%
		Female - Mid -term(n=214)	16.8%	20.1%	60.7%	2.3%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	25.0%	19.4%	48.8%	6.8%
5		Male – Mid- term (n=242)	22.7%	16.9%	57.9%	2.5%

	If someone insults a man, he should defend his reputation with force if he has to.	Male Baseline (n=243)	27.7%	27.9%	41.4%	3.0%
		Female – Mid- term(n=214)	26.2%	14.0%	55.6%	4.2%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	26.2%	27.1%	41.8%	4.9%
6	A man using violence against his wife is a private matter that shouldn't be discussed outside the couple.	Male – Mid- term (n=242)	39.7%	10.3%	47.5%	2.5%
		Male Baseline (n=243)	34.9%	29.2%	32.6%	3.4%
		Female – Mid- term(n=214)	37.4%	21.0%	37.9%	3.7%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	35.5%	26.2%	32.9%	5.4%
7	Men should be outraged if their wives ask them to use a condom.	Male – Mid- term (n=242)	26.4%	12.8%	50.4%	10.3%
		Male Baseline (n=243)	23.9%	26.0%	42.5%	7.6%
		Female – Mid- term(n=214)	19.2%	10.7%	56.5%	13.6%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	20.8%	21.3%	47.0%	11.0%
8	It is a woman's responsibility to avoid getting pregnant.	Male – Mid- term (n=242)	24.8%	8.7%	62.4%	4.1%
		Male Baseline (n=243)	33.0%	22.2%	41.4%	3.4%
		Female – Mid- term(n=214)	26.2%	14.5%	55.1%	4.2%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	36.7%	21.3%	36.0%	6.1%
9	Only when a woman has a child is she a real woman.	Male – Mid- term (n=242)	29.3%	11.6%	56.2%	2.9%
		Male Baseline (n=243)	35.3%	23.9%	37.8%	3.0%
		Female – Mid- term(n=214)	36.9%	12.1%	47.2%	3.7%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	35.7%	22.7%	38.6%	3.0%
10	A real man produces a male child.	Male – Mid- term (n=242)	18.6%	7.0%	71.9%	2.5%
		Male Baseline (n=243)	29.3%	20.8%	47.1%	2.8%
		Female – Mid- term(n=214)	18.7%	12.6%	64.5%	4.2%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	24.8%	20.6%	50.4%	4.3%
11	Changing clothes, giving a bath, and feeding children is the mother's responsibility.	Male – Mid- term (n=242)	49.2%	18.2%	31.0%	1.7%
		Male Baseline (n=243)	59.6%	24.1%	13.7%	2.5%
		Female – Mid- term(n=214)	62.6%	12.1%	24.8%	0.5%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	61.7%	21.0%	16.1%	1.2%
12	A woman's role is taking care of her home and family.	Male – Mid- term (n=242)	57.9%	17.8%	23.6%	0.8%
		Male Baseline (n=243)	61.5%	22.6%	14.2%	1.7%
		Female – Mid- term(n=214)	72.0%	12.1%	15.4%	0.5%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	64.5%	20.1%	14.5%	0.9%
13	The husband should decide to buy the major household items.	Male – Mid- term (n=242)	46.7%	17.8%	33.1%	2.5%
		Male Baseline (n=243)	54.5%	24.9%	18.8%	1.7%

		Female – Mid- term(n=214)	52.8%	11.7%	33.6%	1.9%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	50.0%	31.1%	16.8%	2.1%
14	A man should have the final word about decisions in his home.	Male – Mid- term (n=242)	52.5%	14.0%	32.6%	0.8%
		Male Baseline (n=243)	59.0%	20.5%	19.2%	1.3%
		Female – Mid- term(n=214)	54.2%	16.8%	27.6%	1.4%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	51.2%	23.6%	23.4%	1.9%
15	A woman should obey her husband in all things.	Male - Mid -term (n=242)	60.3%	22.7%	16.5%	0.4%
		Male Baseline (n=243)	63.5%	22.8%	12.2%	1.5%
		Female – Mid- term(n=214)	63.6%	15.9%	19.2%	1.4%
		Female – Baseline (n=428)	57.1%	26.5%	15.5%	0.9%

Source: FEED II mid-term evaluation, 2023

6.3.13 EBOLA AND COVID-19 PANDEMIC

COVID-19 contributed to an environment which constrained the implementation and effectiveness of FEED II. A male youth key informant pointed out that youth were no longer as actively participating as before COVID-19 due to lack of capital. Discussions in FGDs with youth showed that as a result of COVID-19, social support and connections had significantly reduced among youth. This especially affected trainings and other important events that brought youth together. Key informants noted that the effects of COVID-19 led to reduction in the volume of agricultural production due to lack of labour and high cost of tools and seeds.

6.4 COHERENCE

Internal

The mid-term review showed that FEED II interventions and activities did not undermine or hinder each other. In addition, FEED II was in synergy with other interventions undertaken by World Vision, CARE and War Child Canada in their areas of implementation. Furthermore, FEED II complemented with the strategic priorities of the consortium partners. FEED II synergised with World Vision South Sudan's work with partners in supporting the well-being of children and communities and with interventions in (i) food security, livelihoods and climate action (ii) food assistance (iii) health and nutrition (iv) water, sanitation and hygiene and (v) education and children's participation. It also did not hinder World Vision South Sudan's integration of (a) protection and advocacy (b) peacebuilding (c) faith and development in its interventions.

FEED II synergised with the key programs for CARE in South Sudan in (i) crisis response (ii) gender equality (which includes substantial work around GBV prevention) (iii) right to food, water and nutrition (iv) women's economic justice. For War Child Canada, FEED II synergised with its work in South Sudan which prioritises (i) protection of vulnerable children (ii) education (iii) livelihoods, especially for the youth and (iv) psychosocial support and protection programmes and (v) emergency humanitarian assistance for at-risk populations.

Additionally, FEED II operational areas were selected based on areas with pronounced livelihood challenges and notable gender inequality which provided an excellent environment to deliver and demonstrate change in the lives of girls, boys, female youth, women and men. The implementation of FEED II in areas where FEED I had been implemented strengthened the prospects of successfully demonstrating the innovative value and impact of FEED II.

External

A perusal of the operating context and actor analysis shows that FEED II worked in coherence with other significant livelihood interventions. These included those by the government as a primary duty bearer and interventions by World Food Programme (WFP) and other UN agencies, development partners, INGOs and NGOs as secondary duty bearers. For instance, support by United States government in the agriculture sector focuses on (i) building resilience at the household and community levels to help those that are affected by political and economic shocks (ii) restoring and diversifying livelihoods (iii) protecting and strengthening agricultural productivity of vulnerable households and communities and (iv) strengthening community and intercommunal resource-sharing and management practice. The United States government funded interventions which were active in Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Unity State and Upper Nile state. These objectives were in synergy with the interventions of FEED II and covered some of the states where FEED II was active.

European Union (EU)-funded interventions to improve food security and income were active in Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap which covered some of the states where FEED II is active. The objectives of the EU-funded program were to improve food security and income for rural smallholders, increase productivity of crops with sustainable use of resources, increase productivity of animal resources and increase literacy by improving incomes of households and money spent on education and enhancing good governance.

6.5 EFFICIENCY

FEED II had utilised 86% of its budget by the end of the second year of implementation and expenditure in the third year of implementation was on course to utilise nearly fully planned amounts. The utilisation of funds and resources was favourably comparable with FEED I and with the EU-funded Farm Enterprise Development Through Inputs And Services (FEDIS) project.

FEED II had an active Project Steering Committee (PSC) incorporating stakeholders co-ordinated by the Chief of Party. It also had five active Technical Working Groups (TWGs). It had an active Consortium Management Committee (CMC). Communication between the consortium members, between different implementation sites and between staff members were actively maintained. In addition, staff vacancies at the level of Quality Assurance Manager and Chief of Party which arose during the period under review were duly filled. Staff members had clear targets, a good grasp of the key aspects of the project and demonstrated strong understanding of their deliverables. However, the slightly late start of the project, and short-lived vacancies in key positions in FEED II added to the pressure to deliver within schedule. The multiple deliverables and numerous concurrent activities led to a delay in the delivery of some of the activities as envisioned in the project implementation plan (PIP). Overall, however, FEED II was on track to accomplish its implementation as planned.

6.6 IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Early indications of project success included improved gender equality with 63.4% of women reporting control over productive resources and assets for food security and livelihood representing a notable increase from 31.8% at baseline. Women were spending more of their time on agriculture, business and leisure activities which increased to 5.3 hours (51.6%) from a baseline of 4.8 hours (40.3%). Female youth too were spending more of their time on agriculture, business and leisure activities was at 5.5 hours (45.8%) an increase from 5.2 hours (43.4%) at baseline. In FEED II operational areas women's participation in leadership increased from 21.6% at baseline to 55.5% during the mid-term evaluation. Further, there was a notable rise in confidence to lead project and local organisations among women which increased to 54.3% (baseline 18.8%).

FEED II has contributed to improved farming practices among target communities with use of environmentally sustainable or adaptive strategies, technologies or practices among women at 57.8% (baseline 32.7%) and men at 74.5% (baseline 29.4%). This has contributed to improved food consumption patterns with the proportion of

households with poor dietary diversity and nutrient uptake falling from a baseline of 45% of male-headed households to 25.7% mid-term. However, for female-headed households, poor dietary diversity and nutrient uptake rose from a baseline of 38.2% to 44.6% at mid-term.

Sustainability measures that were employed included the participation of local communities in targeting of beneficiaries and in the implementation of the project. The training and capacity building of extension workers and other local actors transfers knowledge and skills to community members and significantly enhanced the likelihood that communities would continue to benefit long after the end of the project. Additionally, the learning gained in FFBS and in the application of the SAA tools will continue to catalyse change in the communities after the end of FEED II.

Thirdly, FEED II worked with already existing local organisations. Such organisations have a high potential of outliving the implementation period of FEED II. The project worked with them in a participatory and collaborative manner intended to generate a strong sense of ownership of the interventions so that they could in future carry on aspects of the work done by FEED II. The fourth approach that enhanced the sustainability of the interventions taken by FEED II was the collaboration with the government officers at national, state and county level. As primary duty bearers, the basis was being laid for the government - finance and capacity permitting - to carry on aspects of FEED II work. These include prevention and response to GBV, provision of extension services to farmers, promotion of local enterprise and the diversification of household incomes. In any case, such interventions fall within the scope of existing government policy provisions.

Although, during the period under review not much had been done in this regard, working with centres of learning and research as depositories of the knowledge gained in the course of implementation of FEED II will further strengthen the sustainability of the project and the likelihood of replication by other actors. Provisional research topics included investigating women's triple burden among the agriculture sector; the impact of coordinating FEED II and FFA activities; and the links between women's control of financial resources and GBV.

Sustainability measures that had already been adopted were positioned to facilitate the results of FEED II to persist well after the end of the project. However, an up-to-date sustainability and exit plan for the project was not available.

6.7 DESIGN AND THEORY OF CHANGE

FEED II has a robust design and theory of change. The mid-term review noted as follows:

Validity, coherence and relevance

The theory of change was still valid and relevant to the food security, livelihoods, gender equality and SGBV context in South Sudan. The main goal of FEED II is to contribute towards increased equal resilience of vulnerable women, men, female and male youth, boys and girls in South Sudan. The project therefore advances that; if women, men, female and male youth increase their knowledge on equitable healthy nutrition practices and improve their knowledge and skills to absorb and adapt to conflict and natural resource-related shocks then there will be improved and more equitable utilization of safety net and protective services by women, men and youths. Furthermore, if the capacity among women, men and youths in sustainable livelihood practices and technologies is strengthened and there is increased access to increased incomes through more equal and transformative participation in conventional and innovative market activity then there will be increased equitable diversification of livelihood options. If there is improved attitudes of women, girls, boys and men about women and girls' roles in leadership, improved knowledge in prevention of harmful traditional practices and there is increased absorptive capacity of women, men, female and male youth to respond to GBV then there will be an improved and equitable enabling environment for women, men, female and male youths.

For the success of this project, it is assumed that there would be strategic inclusion of men and male youth in dialogue and activities designed to reduce inequalities, women and female youth would find it safe to attend and participate in activities. That women and female youth would engage with the format and content of various project's training. That leaders would be willing to engage safely and meaningfully in discussions and that increased financial independence would help female survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) have greater opportunities to extricate themselves from violent perpetrators. However, the project appreciates that there are risks that might hinder the successful implementation of this project. These risks include lack of acceptance of the project by the project beneficiaries, insecurity, weakened value chains, pests, extreme weather events such as floods, health epidemics, consumption of seeds due to food insecurity.

Success factors

The mid-term review noted that the project was on a success trajectory facilitated by (a) the comprehensive problem analysis and crucial causal linkages that were captured in the conceptualisation of the theory of change (b) the mobilisation of key stakeholders from national to local levels to facilitate implementation of the project (iii) the relatively peaceful political environment characterised by increasing collaboration between hitherto competing national political factions (iv) the timely provision of required financial and technical support from GAC and other stakeholders (v) utilisation of transformative SAA tools and the innovative FFBS approach (vi) comprehensive documentation of internal guides to facilitate implementation and (vii) regular capacity strengthening of staff and partners.

Areas to consider for strengthening

While the theory of change traces power dynamics; accounted for context; and sought to challenge harmful customs, existing knowledge and conventions, it apparently did not place much emphasis on intersectionality especially around disability. Consequently, the vulnerability to SGBV for women and female youth with disability, and the challenges that they experience in securing farm-based or off-farm livelihoods were not clearly visible in the interventions by FEED II. Neither can persons with disability be heard in the implementation narrative of the project. This gap is not mitigated by the fact FEED II conducts Safety Audits for all FFBS groups, maps out vulnerability to GBV and produces safety perception maps and appropriate GBV risk mitigation measures identified.

Secondly, in addressing livelihood challenges the theory of change focused on the supply side and on production and productivity with some work around marketing of produce. While such a project cannot do 'everything', and while the FFBS approach has a very strong component on marketing which should be even more emphasized; the omission of attention to inclusive market systems development means that FEED II misses an opportunity to contribute to long-term systemic change around the livelihoods and economic empowerment of women in South Sudan.

7. LESSONS LEARNT

Based on the experiences of the project up to the third quarter of the third year of implementation, a number of lessons stand out. These are:

1. Calendar synchronization

The activity calendar used by the project is such that farming inputs intended for farmers were delivered after the planting season. It is important that measures be taken to ensure that the project delivery mechanisms work to maximize the effects of time-critical and season-specific support such as farming inputs so that they are delivered to farmers on time for the planting season.

2. Prioritisation

Where there are multiple and pressing activities, their implementation needs to be carried out in a harmonised manner with the establishment of clear priorities so that implementation is not unnecessarily delayed. This means that in regular planning and review meetings, clear priorities for delivery during each quarter should be discussed, established and cascaded.

3. Unrealistic targets

There were notable gaps in achievements of activities vis-à-vis targets. In some cases, the targets at activity level were unrealistic.

4. Collaborating with government at its various levels

While establishing a strong profile at the national level for FEED II is important, it is crucial to establish a strong working relationship with state governments who are crucial enablers for delivery of the project at local and community level. Although FEED II works well with the government, state government officials, as they pointed out in key informant interviews, often feel 'side-lined' and are unwilling to fully co-operate if they perceive that the project activities are being implemented with them in a 'top-down' fashion.

5. Socio-cultural hindrances

Socio-cultural dynamics have the potential to undermine the success of some of VSLAs and micro-enterprises associated with them because project beneficiaries are weighed down by the responsibilities of financially supporting numerous beneficiaries and large extended families. Measures to counter the effects of such socio-cultural factors are a necessary part of support to affected VSLAs in order to ensure their long-term survival.

8. SUMMARY OF INDICATORS

Ref.	Description	MID-TERM EVALUATION								MID-TERM	BASELINE	CHANGE
			Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei			
	ULTIMATE OUTCOMES											
1000.1	% of women and men who report having control over productive resources and assets for food security and livelihood.	Women	75.0%	82.7%	51.4%	60.0%	47.6%	52.1%	94.4%	63.4%	31.8%	31.6%
		Men	21.1%	74.1%	60.6%	74.3%	37.9%	29.2%	62.5%	56.6%	37.7%	5.9%
1000.2	Proportion of time spent (a) paid work (b) unpaid domestic and care work (c) voluntary community work, by sex, age and location (for individuals five years and above).	Women	63.3%	55.1%	35.6%	40.6%	46.4%	33.3%	50.9%	48.4%	59.7%	(11.3%)
		Men	17.4%	23.0%	22.2%	33.7%	17.3%	8.9%	41.7%	20.3%	35.9%	(12.9%)
		Female Youth	40.5%	42.3%	34.0%	44.8%	51.2%	41.7%	32.1%	38.5%	56.6%	(18.1%)
		Male Youth	32.4%	25.2%	26.8%	16.7%	20.6%	15.3%	35.2%	22.7%	44.1%	(21.9%)
1000.3	Food consumption score in (a) female headed and (b) male headed households.	Male Headed Poor	26.1%	6.5%	20.7%	32.3%	41.2%	33.3%	62.1%	25.7%	45.0%	(19.3)%
		Borderline	26.1%	23.1%	53.3%	27.7%	23.5%	36.4%	10.3%	31.2%	16.0%	15.2%
		Acceptable	47.8%	70.4%	26.1%	40.0%	35.3%	30.3%	27.6%	43.1%	39.0%	4.1%
		Female Headed Poor	15.0%	12.0%	43.2%	39.2%	58.3%	51.3%	58.8%	44.6%	38.2%	6.4%
		Borderline	35.0%	28.0%	40.9%	18.4%	20.1%	15.4%	23.5%	23.0%	17.6%	5.4%
		Acceptable	50.0%	60.0%	15.9%	42.4%	21.5%	33.3%	17.6%	32.3%	44.2%	(11.9%)
	INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES											
	Participation of women and girls in managing common threats to food security											
1100.1	% of (a) women (b) female youth contributing to or responsible for developing and implementing climate change.	Women	75.0%	70.1%	72.9%	43.2%	62.4%	63.8%	35.7%	57.8%	41.2%	16.6%
		Female youth	77.8%	79.4%	71.8%	48.3%	60.0%	66.7%	81.3%	66.4%	11.9%	54.5%
1100.2	% of (a) men and (b) women using equitable feeding practices for girls and boys.	Men	100.0%	98.1%	87.9%	82.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	93.2%	82.5%	10.7%
		Women	100.0%	88.5%	87.1%	69.7%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	89.4%	87.8%	1.0%

Ref.	Description	MID-TERM EVALUATION								MID-TERM	BASELINE	CHANGE
			Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei			
	Use of male friendly agricultural and business practices											
1200.1	% of (a) women and (b) men using environmentally sustainable or adaptive strategies, technologies or practices.	Women	75.0%	70.1%	72.9%	43.2%	62.4%	63.8%	35.7%	57.8%	32.7%	25.1%
		Men	89.5%	85.2%	78.8%	60.0%	75.9%	58.3%	37.5%	74.5%	29.4%	45.1%
1200.2	Average annual household income (SSP)		67,600	133,433	35,108	131,813	26,848	112,251	104,692	92,572	104,287	(11,751)
1200.3	% of entrepreneurs, farmers and smallholders provided with financial and business development practices through GAC-funded projects.	Women	46.5%	29.1%	22.1%	41.1%	68.2%	8.3%	26.3%	51.1%	0	35.8%
		Men	32.6%	21.5%	31.6%	9.5%	15.9%	19.4%	2.5%	17.8%	0	(19.7%)
1200.4	% women and female youth using agricultural practices to improve production and productivity.	Women	58.3%	74.0%	70.0%	36.1%	42.8%	66.7%	5.6%	47.4%	45.1%	2.3%
		Female youth	66.7%	64.7%	10.3%	0.0%	63.3%	83.3%	59.4%	37.4%	15.5%	21.9%
	Equal and safer environments for women participation in leadership											
1300.1	% of women participating in leadership functions in and community organisations.	55.5%	75.0%	47.7%	68.6%	52.3%	60.0%	59.6%	41.4%	55.5%	21.0%	34.5%
1300.2	% of (a) men and (b) women who report sharing household decision-making.	Women	45.8%	31.7%	17.1%	16.1%	4.2%	4.2%	47.2%	19.4%	42.9%	(23.5%)
		Men	0.0%	22.2%	19.7%	22.9%	6.9%	4.2%	25.0%	16.2%	53.8%	(37.6%)
1300.3	% of (a) women (b) men (c) female youth and (d) male youth who use non-violent conflict resolution to resolve disputes in relationships and at home.	Women	16.7%	13.5%	35.7%	54.2%	44.6%	25.0%	23.6%	36.0%	24.7%	11.3%
		Men	36.8%	16.7%	37.9%	45.7%	55.2%	41.7%	12.5%	35.7%	28.1%	7.6%
		Female Youth	44.4%	23.5%	25.6%	36.2%	56.7%	8.3%	21.9%	31.8%	22.1%	9.7%
		Male Youth	0.0%	19.1%	33.3%	36.5%	38.2%	4.0%	40.0%	28.1%	27.8%	0.3%
	IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES											
	Knowledge of improved nutrition practices for girls and pregnant and lactating women											
1110.1	% of (a) women (b) men (c) female youth (d) male	Women	54.2%	76.0%	31.4%	43.2%	37.3%	2.1%	29.2%	41.5%	32.4%	9.1%

Ref.	Description	MID-TERM EVALUATION								MID-TERM	BASELINE	CHANGE
			Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei			
	youth who can identify at least 3 healthy nutrition practices for girls and pregnant and lactating women.	Men	36.8%	61.1%	31.8%	54.3%	31.0%	0.0%	75.0%	40.4%	23.6%	16.8%
		Female Youth	66.7%	58.8%	84.6%	62.1%	43.3%	33.3%	25.0%	56.1%	27.5%	28.6%
		Male Youth	90.9%	61.7%	88.1%	73.1%	23.6%	44.0%	30.0%	58.3%	22.9%	35.4%
I110.2	% of (a) female and (b) male farmers who can describe post-harvest handling practices.	Women	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	98.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.5%	58.1%	41.0%
		Men	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	56.8%	43.2%
Knowledge and skills to manage natural resource-related shocks												
I120.1	% of (a) women and (b) men able to employ effective disaster-risk reduction or positive coping strategy.	Women	54.2%	67.3%	31.4%	38.7%	25.9%	10.4%	65.3%	40.7%	35.3%	5.4%
		Men	21.1%	51.9%	28.8%	42.9%	31.0%	8.3%	75.0%	35.3%	36%	(0.7%)
I120.2	% of (a) women (b) men who report confidence to manage natural resource related shocks.	Women	20.8%	30.8%	21.4%	24.5%	28.3%	14.6%	12.5%	23.9%	21.9%	2.0%
		Men	21.1%	29.6%	18.2%	14.3%	37.9%	8.3%	12.5%	21.7%	19.7%	2.0%
Knowledge and skills to manage natural conflict-related shocks												
I130.1	% of (a) women (b) men (c) female and (d) male youth aware of one or more conflict resolution mechanisms.	Women	33.3%	72.1%	14.3%	7.7%	9.6%	2.1%	27.8%	22.2%	18.8%	3.4%
		Men	5.3%	55.6%	12.1%	22.9%	10.3%	4.2%	12.5%	22.1%	25.5%	(3.4%)
		Female Youth	22.2%	70.6%	53.8%	24.1%	20.0%	33.3%	46.9%	40.2%	19.4%	20.8%
		Male Youth	45.5%	68.1%	50.0%	36.5%	30.9%	12.0%	80.0%	43.4%	18.0%	25.4%
I130.2	Level of confidence among (a) women (b) female youth to resolve conflict	Women	8.3%	5.8%	8.6%	18.7%	7.2%	0.0%	2.8%	8.9%	16.3%	(7.4%)
		Female Youth	0.0%	17.6%	0.0%	25.9%	16.7%	0.0%	18.8%	15%	15.0%	0.0%
Increased capacity to participate in sustainable livelihood practices and technologies												
I210.1	% of (a) men (b) women with increased capacity to use environmentally sustainable and adaptive strategies, technologies and practices?	Women	45.8%	48.1%	50.0%	29.0%	35.5%	16.7%	12.5%	34%	32.7%	1.3%
		Men	68.4%	48.1%	56.1%	17.1%	31.0%	8.3%	25.0%	40.4%	29.4%	11.0%

Ref.	Description	MID-TERM EVALUATION								MID-TERM	BASELINE	CHANGE
			Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei			
1210.2	% of men who report acceptance of women and female youth owning and controlling agricultural inputs.	Women	47.4%	29.6%	63.6%	40.0%	31.0%	33.3%	87.5%	44.7%	40.9%	4.0%
		Female Youth	42.1%	13.0%	33.3%	22.9%	34.5%	29.2%	12.5%	26.8%	12.9%	14.0%
1210.3	% of (a) women and (b) men using post-harvest management techniques for increased food access.	Women	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.4%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.8%	9.6%	90.2%
		Men	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100%	10.1%	89.9%
Access to innovative and conventional markets												
1220.1	% of (a) women (b) female youth (c) male youth who report having identified new market avenues or new clients for their products or services in the preceding 12 month period.	Women	54.2%	54.8%	55.7%	15.5%	7.2%	14.6%	30.6%	27.2%	19.6%	7.6%
		Female Youth	11.1%	20.6%	20.5%	13.8%	26.7%	41.7%	3.1%	17.8%	14.3%	3.5%
		Male Youth	18.2%	25.5%	23.8%	23.1%	40.0%	52.0%	10.0%	29.8%	20.9%	8.9%
1220.2	% of (a) women and (b) female youth reporting that they can (i) access the necessary inputs for production (ii) access the market.	Women	29.2%	25.0%	22.9%	21.9%	19.9%	16.7%	2.8%	19.7%	8.8%	10.9%
		Female Youth	33.3%	29.4%	61.5%	19.0%	50.0%	58.3%	9.4%	34.1%	15.9%	18.2%
Awareness of the need for women to participate in leadership												
1310.1	% of (a) women and (b) female youth who report a high level of confidence leading project groups and local organisations.	Women	83.3%	32.7%	60.0%	54.2%	65.1%	60.4%	41.7%	54.3%	18.8%	35.5%
		Female Youth	66.7%	41.2%	38.5%	44.8%	53.3%	33.3%	18.8%	40.7%	12.4%	28.3%
1310.2	% of (a) men and (b) male youth who report having a positive experience with women and female youth in leadership positions?	Men	42.1%	44.4%	36.4%	34.3%	34.5%	16.7%	12.5%	35.3%	27.2%	8.1%
		Male Youth	36.4%	31.9%	52.4%	36.5%	65.5%	16.0%	50.0%	43.4%	25.1%	18.3%
Attitudes for prevention of harmful traditional practices including GBV												
1320.1	What is the proportion of (a) men (b) women (c) female and (d) male youth who identify project-defined minimum	Women	70.8%	80.8%	78.6%	74.8%	62.0%	41.7%	87.5%	71.7%	15.8%	55.9%
		Men	73.7%	79.6%	75.8%	74.3%	55.2%	25.0%	75.0%	68.5%	13.3%	55.2%
		Female Youth	55.6%	67.6%	92.3%	81.0%	83.3%	75.0%	78.1%	79.4%	20.0%	59.4%

Ref.	Description	MID-TERM EVALUATION								MID-TERM	BASELINE	CHANGE
			Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Western Equatoria	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Jonglei			
	consequences of harmful traditional practices, including GBV.	Male Youth	100.0%	74.5%	95.2%	76.9%	70.9%	64.0%	100.0%	78.9%	14.7%	64.2%
I320.2	% of (a) men (b) women (c) male youth and (d) female youth who cite ways of promoting non-violence in their communities.	Women	79.2%	83.7%	92.9%	54.2%	51.8%	39.6%	83.3%	65.7%	56.6%	9.1%
		Men	68.4%	77.8%	98.5%	57.1%	58.6%	45.8%	87.5%	74.5%	63.5%	11.0%
		Female Youth	100.0%	88.2%	92.3%	74.1%	83.3%	83.3%	100.0%	86.4%	19.4%	67.0%
		Male Youth	100.0%	85.1%	90.5%	86.5%	92.7%	88.0%	100.0%	89.7%	18.0%	71.7%
I320.3	% of (a) men (b) women (c) boys and (d) girls who report gender equitable attitudes?	Women	31.6%	35.2%	34.8%	34.3%	10.3%	29.2%	0.0%	29.8%	30.4%	(0.6%)
		Men	29.2%	26.9%	30.0%	21.9%	5.4%	33.3%	13.9%	19.6%	32.8%	(13.2%)
		Female Youth	72.7%	36.2%	40.5%	7.7%	30.9%	48.0%	0.0%	31%	20.8%	10.2%
		Male Youth	22.2%	35.3%	30.8%	13.8%	43.3%	58.3%	3.1%	25.7%	18.9%	16.1%
	Knowledge to appropriately prevent and respond to GBV											
I330.1	% of (a) men (b) women (c) female and (d) male youth who can identify GBV response services.	Women	100.0%	100.0%	98.6%	87.7%	98.2%	100.0%	100.0%	96.4%	30.4%	66.0%
		Men	100.0%	98.1%	98.5%	82.9%	96.6%	95.8%	100.0%	95.7%	32.8%	62.9%
		Female Youth	77.8%	85.3%	87.2%	56.9%	70.0%	91.7%	81.3%	75.2%	50.2%	25.0%
		Male Youth	100.0%	89.4%	95.2%	84.6%	67.3%	80.0%	90.0%	83.9%	35.9%	48.0%
I330.2	Number of people reached by projects that help prevent, respond to and end sexual and gender-based violence including child, early and forced marriage and/or Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	Women	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	481	0	481
		Men	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	257	0	257
		Female Youth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	0	61
		Male Youth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	0	40
I330.3	% of (a) female and (b) male traditional healers who can cite ways of promoting (i) gender equality (ii) GBV prevention and (iii) protection under the law?	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	85.7%	14.3%
		Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71.4%	55.9%	15.5%

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 CONCLUSION

The results of the project demonstrated that FEED II has contributed to improved participation of women and girls in managing common threats to food security, improved use of female-friendly agricultural and business practices that promote sustained income generation and management of natural resources and improved equal and safer environments for women's participation in leadership. The project has contributed, and is on a trajectory to further contribute, to reducing inequalities between women and men in access to and control over resources in relation to food security in South Sudan.

This has been largely achieved through its successful interventions – and by working with community members, partners and other stakeholders - to improve knowledge of healthy nutrition practices for girls and pregnant and lactating women; deliver equitable improvement in knowledge and skills among women and men to manage natural resource-related shocks; deliver equitable improvement in knowledge and skills among women, men, boys and girls to manage conflict-related shocks; increase capacity of women and female youth to participate in sustainable livelihood practices and technologies; support improved equitable access of women and female and male youth to conventional and innovative markets; increase awareness of the need for women's equal participation in leadership and decision-making; improve attitudes among women, men and female and male youth to lead the prevention of harmful traditional practices, including GBV; and increase knowledge of women, men, female and male youth to appropriately prevent and respond to GBV.

9.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the foregoing, FEED II should maintain its current implementation trajectory generating the changes already experienced by mid-term. FEED II should consider lessons learnt during implementation, especially those highlighted in this report, and work on the following recommendations.

9.2.1 Enhance monitoring and support for VSLA

FEED II should continue with training in VSLA offered to farmers and continue promoting the recruitment of more VSLA groups. However, there are some challenges which threaten the success of some of the VSLA groups. These arise from the socio-cultural context in South Sudan, weak business management skills, limited awareness and empowerment of members, weak group governance norms and weak adherence to existing norms. Since VSLAs play an important role in facilitating savings and mobilising funding for investment and other large expense items at household level, it is important to support them in addressing challenges that threaten – for some of the VSLAs - their success and, in some cases, threaten their continued existence.

Therefore, it is recommended that FEED II should develop a suite of tailored training - including problem tree analysis, behaviour modification and change approaches, appreciative appraisal and resource mobilisation - exchange visits and mentoring interventions that will help VSLAs to survive and thrive despite the challenges that some of them face. To further facilitate this FEED II will need to enhance the monitoring of the performance of VSLAs including their membership, savings and performance of their loan portfolio.

9.2.2 Consider inclusive market systems development

In addressing livelihood challenges the theory of change focused on the supply side, production and productivity with marketing of produce. While such a project cannot do 'everything', the omission of attention to inclusive market systems development means that FEED II misses an opportunity to contribute to long-term systemic change around the livelihoods and economic empowerment of women in South Sudan.

Therefore, it is recommended that FEED II considers more emphasis on Inclusive Market System Development (IMSD) which is a facilitative approach that looks to identify the systemic constraints in a market hindering inclusive

growth. Then, in addition of working with farmers to overcome them, FEED II will work to find established market actors that can be incentivized to address the problems. FEED II would work with existing producer groups on strengthening market linkages for farmers and in market development to sustainably, and over the long-term, contribute to raising the household incomes of small-scale farmers and other vulnerable community members.

9.2.3 Post-harvest losses interventions should go beyond improved storage

At mid-term, 46.3% of households lost their produce mainly during harvest and threshing while 17.2% of households experienced the loss during transportation or moving of the produce from farm to home and 12.2% experienced loss of their farm produce during storage. These three stages of harvest handling accounted for two-thirds (75.7%) of post-harvest losses experienced by households.

It therefore recommended that FEED II, in addressing post-harvest losses, should also emphasize interventions particularly around efficient harvesting and threshing, then address effective transportation from farm to home in addition to the work already being done on improved storage practices.

9.2.4 Assess changes in post-harvest losses at household level

Finding show that 37% of farmers store their produce without cleaning, a practice likely to compromise post-harvest storage. On the other hand, further indication of improving handling of produce was the fact that 38% of farmers reported treating their produce compared to 11% of farmers at baseline. However, while it is established that reduction in post-harvest losses²⁵ play a key role in promoting food security²⁶, there was no indicator or reporting on the change of the level of post-harvest losses.

It is therefore, recommended that assessment of the level of post-harvest losses by farmers should be included in the project implementation monitoring data. Further, that at end-term evaluation, FEED II should consider including questions to gauge changes in post-harvest losses at household level.

9.2.5 Strengthen further measurement of household resilience

Each household assessed these capacities regarding its ability to prepare and anticipate; absorb and recover; and adapt and transform (Bahadur et al., 2015) shocks, hazards and adversity. The subjective scoring by each household was used to generate household resilience scores.

Since the project aims to increase resilience, it is necessary to supplement the subjective measurement of resilience with other objective measurements. It is therefore recommended that FEED II should consider also using FAO's Resilience Index Measurements and Analysis (RIMA) model.

9.2.6 Emphasize working with youth in promoting non-violent conflict resolution in relationships and homes

The use of peaceful dialogue in resolving disputes at household level at all times stood 28.1% among male youth, lower than amongst all the other groups of men, women and female youth. In addition, discussions with key informants pointed out the role played by males in disputes and conflicts in households.

These results indicate the need, and therefore it is recommended, that FEED II should continue working with youth, especially male youth, in promoting non-violent conflict resolution of disputes in relationships and in homes.

9.2.7 Eliminate the effect of seasonal variations on sensitive indicators

²⁵ Bekele D (2021) Role of Postharvest Management for Food Security: A Review. ACST 9: 475. DOI: 10.4172/2329-8863.1000475

²⁶ SDG 12.3: By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

The food consumption score and use of time indicators are sensitive to seasonal variations. Consequently, indicators such as these are affected by the fact that the mid-term review was held in February while the baseline which was carried out in October.

We therefore recommend that the end-term evaluation should be conducted in the month of January and February to facilitate more reliable comparison between mid-term and end-term values for indicators which are sensitive to seasonal variations.

9.2.8 Revise targets

The targets established for activities were, in some cases, too high to be realistic. For instance, in Western Bahr el Ghazal a total of 4,986 women and men was the annual target for training on maternal infant and young child feeding practices during the third year of implementation. However, by the second quarter of the year only 311 had been trained. This means that if the target were to be fully met then 93% of the work needed to be done in half a year. This is unrealistic and could compromise the quality of delivery.

Therefore, it is recommended that FEED II utilise the opportunity provided by the mid-term evaluation to revisit and adjust accordingly all targets as informed by an assessment of its performance to date.

9.2.9 Revise timing of delivery of farm inputs to farmers

Key informants and focus group discussions participants noted that in 2022 FEED II did not deliver inputs required on time for planting during the onset of the rainy season in some parts of its operational areas.

Therefore, it is recommended that activities to support farmers with inputs should be planned for and procurement completed during the third quarter of an implementation year. Delivery to farmers should then be done in the fourth quarter of the project year. This will enable farmers to have inputs ready with them at the onset of the rainy season which falls around March.

9.2.10 Develop an exit and sustainability plan

Sustainability measures already employed are positioned to facilitate persistence of the results of FEED II well after the end of the project. However, there was no up-to-date sustainability and exit plan for the project. As the project has crossed the mid-point of its implementation period, it is critical to develop a comprehensive sustainability plan that will ensure all its efforts to strengthen sustainability are intentionally and systematically executed.

Therefore, it is recommended that FEED II consider documenting its sustainability and exit plan. Furthermore, that assessing adherence to the plan should part of its regular review and planning meetings until the close of the project.

9.2.11 Revisit the project risk matrix

Household income dropped by 12% from SSP104,287 at baseline to an annual average of SSP 92,536 at mid-term. Taking inflation into account, this means that living standards in households in the implementation sites dropped over the period under review. Indeed, worsening national economic conditions, high inflation and a fall in living standards pose a threat to gains made in raising household incomes in the FEED II implementation sites.

Therefore, it is recommended that FEED II revisit its project risk matrix to take into account this risk and develop risk mitigation measures designed to intensify livelihood diversification and further raise household income.

9.2.12 Commence research while the project is being implemented

Although, during the period under review not much had been done regarding research, provisional topics included investigating women's triple burden among the agriculture sector; assessing the impact of coordinating FEED II and FFA activities; and exploring the links between women's control of financial resources and GBV.


















Since FEED II was also intended to contribute to learning and research, it is recommended that efforts should be made to ensure that research work begins while the project is operational in order to benefit from the opportunity to capture valuable baseline and monitoring data while implementation is ongoing. This will be useful, for instance, in a longitudinal study of the benefits to household resilience of layering FEED II livelihoods and food security support with World Food Programme's Food- for-Assets programming.

9.2.13 Research on crisis modifiers and FFBS

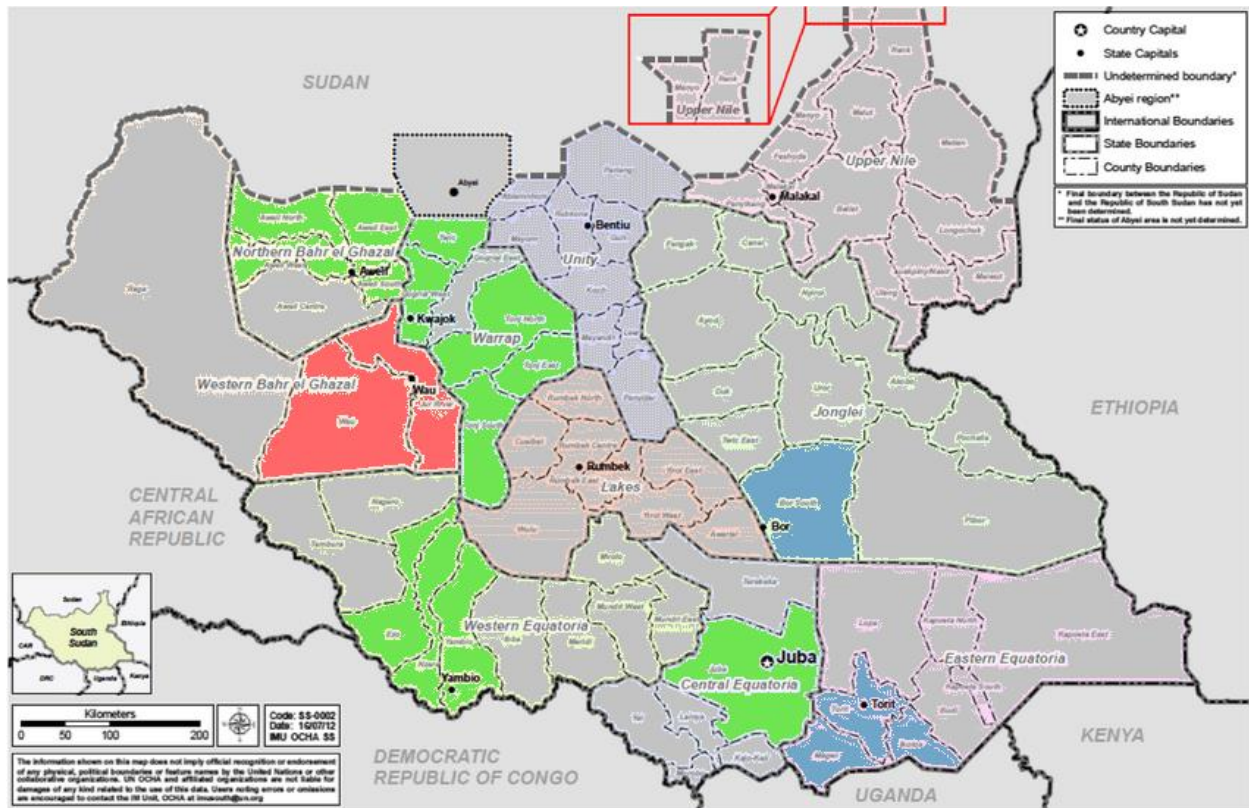
Whilst crisis modifiers have been implemented by FEED II, there was no quantitative data readily available on their effect on implementation of other FEED II activities and on household resilience. Since the combination of implementation circumstances in South Sudan provide a unique opportunity to deploy crisis modifiers it is recommended that their effect on project implementation and on the resilience of households should be the subject of further research.

Secondly, the farmer field business schools are organised so that farmers act, share and reflect on their experience, draw conclusions and develop general principles and then apply what has been learnt. However, there was no monitoring data on how and to what extent farmers implemented what they had learnt. Further, while FFBS is an innovative approach, there was no systematic learning question to guide and inform review and reflection of the results of FFBS implementation. It is therefore recommended that FEED II should research the impact of FFBS on improvement in farming methods and practices, on changes in livelihood diversification and income diversification, and on household resilience. A longitudinal panel study experimental or quasi-experimental research in this area would be very useful in building a systematic body of knowledge around the innovative FFBS.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Tools	Appendix II: Field Assistants	Appendix III: Survey Timeline	Appendix IV: List of References	Appendix V: Indicator Definition	Appendix VI: Indicator Confidence Intervals
 Tool 1 - HH Survey  Tool 2- KII Guide  Tool 3 - Case Study Guide  Tool 4 - Youth Survey Guide  Tool 5 - FGD Guide  Tool 6 - Scorecard	 CEQ - Field Assistants  EEQ - Field Assistants  WEQ - Field Assistants  Warrap - Field Assistants  NBeG - Field Assistants  WBeG - Field Assistants  Jonglei Field Assistants	 Mid-Term Review Timeline	 List of References	 Indicator Definition	 Confidence Intervals






















Appendix VII: Map of FEED II Counties in South Sudan



Key: FEED II Implementation counties

World Vision: shaded light green **Care:** shaded light blue **War Child Canada:** shaded red

Appendix VII: Summary Transcripts

	Key informant interviews	Focus group discussions	Child participation
Central Equatoria	 CEQ - KII	 CEQ - FGDs	 CEG - Children
Eastern Equatoria	 EEQ - KII	 EEQ - FGD	 EEQ - Children
Western Equatoria	 WEQ - KII	 WEQ - FGD	 WEQ - Children
Western Bahr el Ghazal	 WBeG - KII	 WBeG - FGD	 WBeG - Children
Warrap	 Warrap - KII	 Warrap - FGD	 Warrap - Children
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	 NBG - KII	 NBG - FGD	 NBEG - Children
Jonglei	 Jonglei - KII	 Jonglei - FGD	 Jonglei - Children

Appendix VIII: Statistical Abstract



Statistical Abstracts