D UNDP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2025

Reporting from 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPLETE THIS PIR

1. *Instructions in blue are directed to Task Managers / Administrative Officers*
2. *Instructions in red are directed to Project Managers and Executing Agencies*
3. When filling up the respective cells, use the Normal style from the template. The text will look like this.

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1. Project details

This entire table is to be prepared by Task Managers

Identification Table		GEF ID.: 10178	Umoja no.:: 10178
Project Title		Watershed Approaches for Climate Resilience in Agro-pastoral Landscapes	
Duration months	*Planned*	60	
	Extension(s)	NA	NA
Division(s) Implementing the project		Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience	
Name of co-implementing Agency		Ministry of Environment and Forest, UNDP, UNIDO, & World Vision	
Executing Agency(ies)		Ministry of Environment and Forest, Republic of South Sudan	
Names of Other Project Partners		VOSDO, Ministry of Environment and Forestry	
Project Type		Full-sized Project (FSP)	
Project Scope		National	
Region		Africa	
Countries		Republic of South Sudan	
Programme of Work		2024-2025 Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	
GEF Focal Area(s)		Multi Focal Area	
UNSDCF / UNDAF linkages		Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, benefit from and contribute to more sustainable and inclusive economic development, with increased economic diversification, improved climate change adaptation and greater resilience to economic shocks.	
Link to relevant SDG target(s) and SDG indicator(s)		SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG15 (Life on Land), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals)	
GEF financing amount		US$ 9,384,703	
Co-financing amount		US$ 24,007,632	

Date of CEO Endorsement		14-Dec-2023
Start of Implementation		23 December 2023
Date of first disbursement		23 January 2024
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2025		US$ 1,758,008.00
Total expenditure as of 30 June 2025		US$ 276,329.35
Expected Mid-Term Review Date		22 June 2026
Completion Date	*Planned*	22 September 2029
	Revised	NA
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date		23 May 2029
Expected Financial Closure Date		22 March 20230

1.2. Project description

The livelihoods of approximately 95% of South Sudan's population are intricately tied to climate-sensitive natural resources, including rain-fed agriculture, livestock raising, and forests, which provide essential energy needs for households. A significant proportion, 85%, of the workforce is employed in subsistence agriculture, with crop production largely managed by women on small, hand-cultivated plots. Around 60% of the population relies on livestock rearing and animal husbandry, alongside crop farming, which together constitute the primary sources of livelihood for 85% of households. In Northern Bahr El Ghazal (NBG) State, where the sites are located, approximately 85% of households engage in crop cultivation, 65% own livestock, and 12-15% rely on fishing for sustenance. These patterns underline the strong interdependence between livelihoods, food security, and climate change in South Sudan.

Women and vulnerable groups—such as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and persons with disabilities (PWDs)—face disproportionate challenges due to limited access to resources needed to adapt to climate change. A large proportion of South Sudan's population comprises these groups, particularly in rural areas where traditional laws and governance structures, often patriarchal in nature, impede women's access to and control over productive resources. This gendered disparity results in women bearing a heavy burden of non-remunerative family responsibilities, further exacerbating their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Women rely more heavily on natural resources, such as fuelwood and water, to meet daily needs and adopt distinct coping strategies during crises, often utilizing non-timber forest products (NTFPs) to supplement food. The consultation data (Annex 9: Stakeholder Engagement Plan and 9a: Stakeholder's Consultation Report) further highlights these gendered coping mechanisms. Likewise, IDPs and vulnerable groups, who often lack representation in traditional governance structures that control land and natural resources, face additional barriers, with limited access to productive resources, information, and services, leaving them highly dependent on natural resources for their income and food security. It is, therefore, essential for the proposed project to ensure the active participation of these groups, organizing them at all stages of implementation, and ensuring the project's responsiveness to their unique needs.

Climate change poses a significant threat to agricultural production and food security in South Sudan. Variability in rainfall, the primary determinant of agricultural productivity, exacerbates the frequency of both droughts and floods, which severely disrupt crop yields. Nearly 70% of the variability in the production of cereals and grains can be attributed to changes in rainfall patterns. Additionally, climate change is driving deforestation to meet rising demands for fuelwood and agricultural land, resulting in the loss of critical ecosystem services and heightened soil erosion.

Overgrazing, bushfires, and other land degradation factors further reduce agricultural productivity. Increased temperatures and evapotranspiration are contributing to lower water tables and drying up of vital water bodies, negatively impacting agricultural and pastoral productivity. In the project counties of Aweil Centre and Aweil East in NBG, desertification from the north further threatens productive agricultural land. Excessive rains and flooding in 2019 caused substantial crop and livestock losses, while erratic rainfall and pest outbreaks, such as the fall armyworm, compounded challenges in 2018. The overall trend indicates a 10-20% decrease in long rains since the 1970s, coupled with a warming rate two and a half times greater than global averages, leading to a reduction in rainfall that is expected to contract by 30% by 2060. This warming trend has further exacerbated water shortages and drought, with significant consequences for both crop harvests and pasture quality. If this trend continues, drying impacts are projected to extend into NBG by 2025, putting agricultural livelihoods at further risk.

The WACRESS project plays a crucial role in addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by agricultural and agro-pastoral communities in South Sudan by targeting 75,000 individuals (39,271 women and 35,729 men) across 12 Bomas within 6 Payams in Aweil Centre and Aweil East in Northern Bahr El Ghazal State. The project aims to bring 15,000 hectares of land under improved agricultural practices, contributing to long-term climate resilience. By adopting participatory watershed-based approaches, the project restores ecosystems while enhancing the livelihoods of communities through sustainable practices. Furthermore, it seeks to re-establish and strengthen market linkages and agricultural value chains, with a strong focus on gender-responsive and climate-smart agricultural practices. Extension agencies will be equipped with the necessary tools to support communities in diversifying livelihoods and adopting hands-on, farmer-field-based approaches. Climate change considerations are being integrated into management plans and programs in both agriculture and natural resource management, ensuring that communities are better prepared to adapt to changing environmental conditions. Collaborative efforts and knowledge-sharing with other relevant initiatives will enhance synergies, fostering greater impact.

In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) Outcome 2, the WACRESS project contributes to the recovery of local economies and the improvement of coping strategies to eliminate severe food insecurity. It also directly supports the UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome 1 by advancing efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions. The project is designed to contribute to multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). The project has been structured into three key components, each leading to measurable outcomes that will collectively build resilience and foster sustainable development in South Sudan.

Component 1: Institutional Capacities for Gender-Responsive Climate Change Adaptation: This component focuses on mainstreaming climate change adaptation strategies into national and state-level policies related to agriculture, natural resource management, and agro-industry. It strengthens the institutional capacities of extension agencies to support climate-smart agricultural practices and natural resource management through the development of policy frameworks, guiding materials, and training programs for community-level stakeholders. It promotes gender-responsive climate change strategies, ensuring that local communities, particularly women and vulnerable groups, are equipped with the necessary knowledge and resources to adapt to climate impacts.

Component 2: Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Value Chains: This component enhances the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, benefiting rural communities through the introduction of tested technologies and techniques adapted to local conditions. It encourages the use of diversified farming practices, including agro-forestry, crop diversification, and integrated crop-livestock systems. It also strengthens post-harvest management and storage technologies, creating market linkages that reduce losses, increase incomes, and build resilience against climate-related shocks. The component also supports livelihood diversification activities, such as beekeeping and small-scale poultry farming, targeting vulnerable households to improve food security and economic resilience.

Component 3: Community-Based Natural Resource Management and Ecosystem Restoration: This component promotes the sustainable management and restoration of 15,000 hectares of land across three micro-watersheds. Through a participatory approach, it engages communities in the restoration of rangelands and forests, utilizing modern geospatial technologies to support planning and management. It aims to enhance water retention, soil conservation, flood control, and increase resilience to drought by establishing water points. The component fosters community coordination and ensures that marginalized groups, especially women, are included in decision-making processes related to natural resource management, offering a model for sustainable land and water management in Northern Bahr El Ghazal.

1.3. History of project revisions

To be completed by Task Managers

Version	Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Rev0 (CEO ED)		
:		
:		
RevN (latest version at the time of this PIF)		

2. OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

To be completed by UNDP Task Manager

2.1. UNDP Subprogramme(s)

Insert the Subprogramme(s) and biennia of the PoW to which the project contributes	**Specify the relevant Expected Accomplishment(s) & Indicator(s)** Insert the Subprogramme's Expected Accomplishment(s) and Indicator(s) to which the project contributes
Describe any progress made towards delivering the stated PoW Expected Accomplishments and Indicators. State key changes since previous reporting period. (maximum one paragraph) [Section to be shared with relevant Regional and Global SubProgramme Coordinators]	

2.2. GEF Core Indicators (for all GEF 6 and later projects):

GEF Core Indicators	**Indicative expected Results**

Discuss GEF core indicators targeted by the project, as well as expected results. (maximum one paragraph)

Indicator	*Expected values at*	
	Mid-term	*End-of-project*
Mandatory LDCF Indicator 1: Direct project beneficiaries	*25,000 (11,910 male, 13,091 female)*	*75,000 (35,729 male, 39,271 female)*
Mandatory LDCF Core Indicator 2: Indicator 2: Area of land to be managed for climate resilience (ha)	*5,000 ha.*	*15,000 ha.*
Indicator 3: Number of agricultural and NRM policies that integrate climate change	*3*	*3*

Mandatory LDCF Core Indicator 4: Indicator 4: Total number of people trained	*3,820 (2,470 male, 1,350 female)*	*12,665 (8,226 male, 4,439 female)*
Indicator 5: Number of strategy documents and advisory packages developed for gender responsive CCA and value chains in the agricultural sector	*1 - Strategy paper (Ag. extension policy)* *3 - Advisory packages for farming, livestock and agro-forestry*	*2 - Strategy papers (Ag. extension & Ag. value chains)* *3 - Advisory packages for farming, livestock and agro-forestry*
Indicator 6: Institutional and grassroots capacities demonstrated in coordinating and implementing community based, gender responsive CCA in agriculture and NRM	*3 - NBG state, Aweil Centre and Aweil East County institutions*	*6 - NBG state, Aweil Centre and Aweil East County institutions, CBOs in Wardit, Aroyo and Akuem sites*
Indicator 7: Number of women and men in agro-pastoral communities adopting CSA and climate resilient livelihoods	25,000 (11,910 men, 13,091 women)	75,000 (35,729 men, 39,271 women)
Indicator 8: Number of agri-businesses and value chains established	1 value chain. 5 organized enterprises, MSMEs, cooperatives, associations	3 value chains. 20 organized enterprises, MSMEs, cooperatives, associations
Indicator 9: Number of hectares restored	*5,000*	*15,000*
Indicator 10: Number of micro-watershed committees established for sustainable management of catchment areas	*0*	*3, in Aroyo, Chel and Akuem respectively.*

2.3. Implementation status and risk

[complete the fiscal year and select: 1st PIR; 2nd PIR; …. Final PIR; select HS; S; MS; MU; U; HU; unknown; not rated to rate the progress towards outcomes and outputs in third and fourth lines; select H; S; M; L; to rate risks for the fiscal year you are reporting in the fifth line. Add more columns if needed]

	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 20__	FY 20__	FY 20__
PIR #	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	….
Rating towards **outcomes** (section 3.1)		S			
Rating towards **outputs** (section 3.2)		S			
Risk rating (section 3.3)		M			

Summary of status.

During the implementation period, significant achievements were noted that showcased the progress of different components of the projects as summarise below:

Component 1: Institutional capacities for gender-responsive climate change adaptation across the agricultural sector - (Outcome 1: Strategies and capacities to implement community based and gender-responsive climate change)

Indicator 5: Number of strategy documents and advisory packages developed for gender responsive CCA and value chains in the agricultural sector

During the reporting period, the WACRESS project successfully achieved all three (3) planned advisory packages-100% achievement (Training Modules and Advisory Packages for Agro-pastoral Communities, Climate Information Services and Early Warning Advisory Systems for Farmers and Pastoralists and Technical Guidelines on Environmental and Social Safeguards - Technical Guidelines for Trainers in English alongside 2 Strategy Papers(A Comprehensive Gender-Responsive Community Mobilization Strategy and Participatory Livelihoods Diversification Plan) designed to enhance climate resilience in agro-pastoral systems. In addition, a comprehensive training manual tailored for agro-pastoral communities was produced. This manual provides practical guidance on crop and livestock production, including modules on pest and disease control, nutrient management, land preparation techniques, and livestock husbandry practices.

To further strengthen the delivery of climate-responsive extension services, the project also developed a set of technical guidance materials to support extension agents and service providers. Furthermore, the project conducted a critical review of existing climate information services and early warning systems, culminating in the formulation of tailored recommendations aimed at improving decision-making among crop farmers and pastoralists in climate-sensitive contexts.

1.1 Integration of climate change adaptation strategies in agriculture and natural resources management policies

To advance gender-responsive climate action, the WACRESS project commissioned a consultancy to assess the extent to which gender considerations are integrated into key agricultural and natural resource management policies and plans in Aweil East and Aweil Centre counties of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State. The assessment identified critical gaps and opportunities for strengthening gender inclusion in climate adaptation and resilience planning. Building on these findings, the project facilitated a state-level dialogue that brought together 83 participants (52 men and 31 women) from government institutions, civil society, and community groups to discuss the identified gaps and share practical strategies for improvement. The field findings were subsequently validated during a workshop held in Aweil, which convened stakeholders from relevant government departments, local communities, and interest groups. This inclusive process helped build consensus on actionable recommendations for mainstreaming gender in climate-resilient agriculture and natural resource governance frameworks.

During the period under review, the WACRESS project engaged 3 Local Consultants to conduct 3 assessments, namely: 1. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), 2. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) assessment, and 3. Watershed Management, Flood control, and Water Resource Utilization Assessment. These studies, initiated in December 2024, aimed at assessing different aspects of climatic impact on farmers and pastoralists, environmental changes, climate smart agriculture adaptation, and watershed management. The details of the different assessments are summarized below:

Watershed Management, Flood Control, and Water Resource Utilization: The watershed management assessment conducted in Aweil East and Aweil Center Counties provided an integrated framework for sustainable land and water resource management aimed at reducing flood risk, enhancing water availability and supporting resilient livelihoods. The study adopted a landscape-level, ecosystem-based approach, aligning with GEF's priorities on sustainable forest and land management and UNDP's commitment to climate-resilient development. It emphasized

the need for a multisectoral strategy that strengthens soil conservation, rehabilitates degraded land, and incorporates nature-based solutions (NbS) to safeguard critical ecosystem services. Key recommendations included expanding awareness and technical capacity on climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and sustainable natural resource management (SNRM), scaling up land restoration through community-based interventions and ensuring gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) by integrating the needs and leadership of women, youth, and other marginalized groups into the design and implementation of all watershed-related activities.

Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Assessment: The CSA assessment in Aweil East and Aweil Center Counties sought to advance climate-resilient agricultural systems by promoting sustainable land use practices that enhance productivity while reducing vulnerability to climate-induced shocks. Anchored in the principles of sustainable food systems and ecosystem resilience, the assessment provided practical recommendations for mainstreaming CSA into local farming systems through capacity building, inclusive knowledge dissemination, and technological adoption. It recommended the distribution of early-maturing, drought-tolerant seed varieties tailored to local agro-ecological conditions, establishment of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) for experiential learning on CSA techniques, implementation of soil and water conservation practices, and development of localized early warning systems. The assessment also called for the integration of environmental and social risk screening processes into agricultural planning to mitigate unintended consequences and align project activities with GEF environmental safeguards and UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES).

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA): The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was undertaken to ensure that proposed project interventions align with environmental sustainability principles and minimize potential adverse impacts on ecosystems and communities. In line with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards and GEF's safeguards policy, the assessment provided a systematic evaluation of biophysical and socio-economic impacts, recommending mitigation measures that uphold environmental integrity and promote social equity. The ESIA highlighted the importance of embedding climate-smart and resource-efficient practices across all interventions, including training on agroforestry, sustainable land management, water harvesting, and the proper disposal of hazardous waste. It emphasized the critical role of community engagement and inclusive governance in ensuring environmental compliance and accountability, particularly through the active participation of women, youth, and vulnerable groups in project design, implementation, and monitoring. These recommendations are aimed at enhancing the sustainability and social acceptability of project outcomes while reinforcing resilience at the local level.

Baseline assessment: During the period under review, the WACRESS project conducted a comprehensive baseline assessment to assess the socioeconomic, ecological, edaphic, and topographic characteristics of the project sites to inform site prioritization. Key findings from the baseline revealed that a significant majority (72%) of community members did not have knowledge regarding Natural Resources Management (NRM) that encompasses Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). Eighty-four percent (84%) of the respondents (71% female and 29% male) affirmed having adopted climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices. Additionally, 77% reported having engaged in land restoration activities. Among the individuals who took part in land restoration, 65% were involved in soil erosion control, 43% in tree planting, 42% in flood control, 28% in water conservation, 10% in reforestation, and 3% in various other forms of land restoration, depending on the specific context. Key recommendations from the baseline assessment included building awareness of policies to address information gaps, scaling up land restoration initiatives, and improving access to credit.

1.3: Guiding materials to support climate-responsive extension services developed, delivered and distributed

During the reporting period, the WACRESS project conducted a comprehensive review of three (3) national policy documents to assess their relevance, coherence, and alignment with current climate-resilient and sustainable development initiatives. The policies reviewed included the Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP), the Forest Policy (2012), the National Environment Policy (2015 –2025), and the National Fisheries Policy (2017). The review identified significant policy gaps, such as outdated provisions, limited dissemination, and the absence of sex-disaggregated data and gender-responsive indicators, highlighting systemic barriers to inclusive and equitable programming. The assessment adopted a gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) lens, leveraging tools such as the Social Norms Analysis Plot (SNAP) and the Access, Control, and Decision-making Matrix to unpack underlying norms and structural inequalities that impede effective policy implementation. To validate the findings, the project convened a high-level policy validation workshop in January 2025 in Juba, attended by 47 stakeholders (34 men, 13 women), including senior government officials, UNDP, World Vision leadership, and media representatives. The forum endorsed technical assessments on climate-smart agriculture, environmental and social safeguards, and watershed management, and generated consensus around the need for strengthened institutional capacity, policy harmonization, and community engagement. Building on these findings, the WACRESS project is developing user-friendly policy briefs and translating key content into local languages (Dinka and Arabic) to ensure accessibility and utility for grassroots stakeholders. The translated briefs will be disseminated in print and distributed through local governance structures and public platforms.

Indicator 6: Institutional and grassroots capacities demonstrated in coordinating and implementing community based, gender responsive CCA in agriculture and NRM

During the reporting period, the WACRESS project significantly enhanced local capacities by delivering a series of targeted trainings aimed at strengthening climate resilience in agro-pastoral communities. A total of 106 participants (77 men and 29 women), including extension workers, community animal health workers, traditional leaders, and government officials, were trained on climate-smart agricultural practices tailored to local agro-ecological conditions and seasonal calendars. The training covered key topics such as crop diversification, animal husbandry, agroforestry, and post-harvest processing and storage. The capacity-building initiative began with Training of Trainers (ToT) to enable extension staff to cascade knowledge to local farmers. In parallel, 12 participants (10 men and 2 women) from line ministries, NGOs, and community-based organizations were trained on livestock health, disease surveillance, and pastoral field school management. Another cohort of 12 participants received training on gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture, equipping them with tools to promote inclusive agricultural resilience-building at the community level.

Under the watershed restoration component, 13 technical leads (10 men and 3 women) from watershed management committees were trained in participatory watershed planning, mapping, soil and water conservation, and agroforestry. These leads are now working closely with watershed committees and local communities to implement restoration activities. Additionally, 20 participants from extension services and government institutions received training on climate change adaptation, with an emphasis on gender-responsive community mobilization and the empowerment of women and vulnerable groups in decision-making. Complementing these efforts, 48 participants (28 men and 20 women) were sensitized on gender gaps, representation of marginalized groups in community-based organizations (CBOs), and equitable resource allocation. This has resulted in increased gender parity across project-supported committees. Furthermore, 50 participants (38 men and 12 women) attended a training in Aweil on social and environmental safeguards, gender integration, and community engagement. This training contributed to improved environmental stewardship, with community observations indicating a reduction in tree cutting during land preparation and growing adoption of agroforestry practices. Inclusive participation of

both men and women has become increasingly evident across project interventions, marking a significant step toward gender equality and community-driven climate resilience.

1.4 Training of trainers and extension personnel delivered to support climate -smart agriculture and natural resources management

During the reporting period, the project enhanced the technical capacity of frontline agricultural service providers by delivering Training of Trainers (ToT) on climate-smart agricultural practices to 106 participants (77 men, 29 women). The training covered key modules including crop diversification, vegetable production, animal husbandry, agro-processing, and post-harvest management, tailored to the agro-ecological characteristics and seasonal calendars of the project areas. The ToT approach enabled extension workers and local authorities to effectively cascade knowledge to farmers, thereby accelerating the adoption of CSA technologies and practices at the community level.

To bolster livestock resilience and support pastoral livelihoods, the project trained 14(10 Male and 4 female) categorized as 12 extension personnel, 1 representative from the state ministry of Agriculture, and 1 representative from the community user groups. The training focused on livestock disease surveillance, animal health management, and facilitation of Pastoral Field Schools. As a result, trained personnel are now better equipped to deliver timely veterinary support and lead community-based animal health services, contributing to improved animal productivity and household incomes.

In support of sustainable land and water management, the project capacitated 13 watershed technical leads (10 men, 3 women) from three Watershed Management Committees, namely Akuem, Aroyo, and Wardit. Training modules included participatory watershed planning, surveying and mapping, soil and water conservation, and agroforestry techniques. These trained leaders are now actively working with community members to spearhead local watershed restoration efforts, aimed at reversing land degradation and enhancing ecosystem services.

A total of 50 participants (38 men, 12 women) received training on social and environmental safeguards, gender equality, and inclusive community engagement. The sessions raised awareness of the drivers and consequences of environmental degradation and promoted practical approaches to sustainability. Early outcomes include a noticeable reduction in tree felling during land preparation, signaling a behavioral shift toward agroforestry. Additionally, the training improved the inclusivity of community engagement, ensuring greater participation of both women and men in environmental governance.

The project continued to advance gender-responsive programming by training 12 participants (10 men, 2 women), comprising extension workers and CBO representatives, on gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture. The training built the capacity of local actors to design and implement inclusive agricultural services that reflect the distinct needs and priorities of women and other vulnerable groups. Furthermore, 48 individuals (28 men, 20 women) were trained in gender gap analysis, inclusive representation, and equitable resource allocation within community structures. This intervention contributed to a significant improvement in women's participation in project committees and decision-making bodies, supporting more equitable governance of natural and financial resources.

Component 2: Climate change resilient agriculture and food value chains – *(Outcome 2: Best practices in climate change resilient agriculture and food value chains adopted by rural communities)*

Indicator 7: Number of women and men in agropastoral communities adopting CSA and climate resilient livelihoods

During the reporting period, a total of 3,564 households (1,709 men and 1,855 women) adopted climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and climate-resilient livelihood practices, representing initial progress toward the project's target of 25,000 households. These individuals were actively engaged in a range of user groups tailored to their local contexts, including progressive farmer networks, farmer field schools (FFS), vegetable producer groups, beekeeping associations, and pastoralist groups. Through these platforms, communities were introduced to sustainable agricultural techniques, diversified income-generating activities, and climate-resilient practices that enhance food security and household resilience in the face of climate shocks. This adoption reflects growing community awareness and uptake of CSA principles promoted by the WACRESS project.

2.1 Integrated and diversified climate-smart farming practices adopted to reduce risk of crop failure through improved seeds, multi-cropping, crop diversification, crop-livestock systems and agro-forestry.

During the reporting period, a total of 65 farmers (34 women and 31 men) were trained in Good Agronomic Practices (GAP), focusing on climate-adaptive techniques such as proper land preparation, timely planting, appropriate seed spacing, integrated pest and weed management, crop rotation, and the application of organic manure. These training courses aimed to improve on-farm productivity and strengthen adaptive capacity in the face of climate change.

To scale impact and enhance peer learning, the project identified and supported 60 progressive farmers (48men and 12 women) across the 12 operational bomas. These farmers received agro - inputs, including improved seeds (groundnuts, sorghum, maize, sesame, and rice) and essential farm tools such as ox-ploughs, jembes and weeding tools locally referred to as makmak and Ajirai, enabling them to demonstrate improved techniques within their communities. Furthermore, these progressive farmers served as community-based facilitators, cascading CSA knowledge to their peers. For cross-learning and exposure, they also participated in an exchange visit to the Aweil Rice Scheme, fostering knowledge transfer and uptake of improved practices.

In support of inclusive agricultural production, the project registered and provided 720 farming households with tailored input packages. Each household received assorted seeds (groundnuts, sorghum, maize, rice, sesame, and cassava cuttings) and hand tools (hoes with handles) to enable timely land preparation and planting for the main cropping season. By the time of reporting, land preparation activities were ongoing, laying the groundwork for enhanced food and income security.

To promote diversified and climate-resilient livelihoods, the WACRESS project facilitated the formation and establishment of 154 community-based user groups across a range of value chains, including fishing, beekeeping, small ruminant rearing, vegetable production, agroforestry, and animal husbandry. Each boma hosted at least two groups per livelihood option, thereby expanding economic opportunities, especially for youth and women. In addition, gum Arabic user groups were established; however, their full operationalization is pending completion of suitability assessments in the target areas.

To strengthen local extension services and ensure sustained knowledge transfer, the project trained 14 extension agents and line ministry staff (10 men and 4 women) in advanced CSA techniques. The training modules covered soil and nutrient management, moisture retention practices, use of disease-resistant and high-yielding varieties, and agroforestry. These trained

personnel have since cascaded knowledge to farming communities, contributing to increased adoption of climate-resilient farming systems at the grassroots level.

During the reporting period, the project made notable progress in enhancing animal health service delivery through community-based approaches. A total of 48 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), comprising 42 men and 6 women, were identified and trained across the 12 Bomas of Aweil East and Aweil Centre. These CAHWs were equipped with comprehensive veterinary kits to enable the timely diagnosis, treatment, and management of common livestock diseases. The training modules covered key areas including disease surveillance, identification and management of internal and external parasites, vaccination protocols, and basic animal treatment procedures—thereby strengthening the frontline capacity for animal health services at the community level.

To bolster early warning and community surveillance systems, 30 individuals (28 men and 2 women) were trained as key informants in December 2024. This cohort received practical training in livestock disease monitoring and community mobilization techniques, enabling them to act as the first point of contact in identifying and reporting suspected disease outbreaks. Their engagement has enhanced linkages between pastoralist communities and CAHWs, ensuring rapid response to animal health concerns. 48 progressive pastoralists (47 men and 1 woman) were selected from the 12 operational Bomas to champion improved animal husbandry practices. These individuals played a critical role in mobilizing livestock owners and supporting CAHWs during mass vaccination campaigns conducted between July 2024 and June 2025. As part of peer learning and knowledge exchange, all 48 pastoralists, along with two CAHWs, participated in an experiential learning visit to established animal treatment points in Aweil East and Aweil Centre. The exchange provided valuable exposure to best practices in disease surveillance, treatment protocols, and community-led veterinary services, fostering replication and wider adoption at the grassroots level

Indicator 8: Number of agri-businesses and value chains established

During the reporting period, the WACRESS project successfully established five out of the six planned agri-business livelihood interventions, namely fishing, gum Arabic production, vegetable and main crop farming, animal husbandry, and agroforestry, across all 12 bomas in Aweil East and Aweil Centre counties. In each boma, two distinct livelihood groups were formed, resulting in the establishment of 24 functional agri-business groups. These interventions were tailored to local agro-ecological conditions and community preferences, with the aim of enhancing household income, promoting climate-resilient livelihoods, and supporting community-based natural resource management. The interventions serve as practical models for demonstrating climate-smart practices while catalyzing local economic development and improving food security in the project areas.

2.2 Farmer field schools established and community-based organizations (e.g. women self-help groups, farmer groups) strengthened to enable adaptive practices and provide local support to farmers with the adoption of low-cost techniques for climate resilient agriculture (such as micro-irrigation, tillage, soil moisture conservation, fertility management and composting).

During the reporting period, the project identified 12 tree nursery sites and 12 climate-smart agriculture (CSA) demonstration plots across the 12 Bomas of Aweil East and Aweil Centre counties. Each site underwent systematic land preparation, including site clearance and demarcation, laying the foundation for their operationalization as local knowledge hubs. These sites are strategically designed to serve as decentralized learning centers where farmers can access and adopt climate-smart technologies, practices, and innovations within their own communities, thereby reducing barriers to knowledge transfer and enhancing local ownership.

2.4 Alternative livelihood options such as bee keeping, backyard poultry, kitchen gardens and small ruminants made available to communities with a focus on vulnerable households.

As part of efforts to improve household livelihoods and enhance resilience through livestock production, the WACRESS project supported inclusive livestock-based livelihoods through the distribution of 370 small ruminants (190 sheep and 180 goats) and 540 chickens to 24 small ruminant groups composed of 720 participants, of whom 495 were women and 225 were men. This intervention not only enhanced household income and nutritional diversity but also contributed to women's economic empowerment. To ensure livestock survival and reduce disease-related mortality, all distributed animals were vaccinated by trained Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), reinforcing community-based animal health systems.

To facilitate safe and efficient livestock vaccination and treatment, the project constructed 36 animal holding facilities (crushes/races) across Aweil East, Aweil Municipality, and Aweil Centre counties. These structures were strategically established to support mass vaccination campaigns and veterinary outreach and were subsequently handed over to the Payam authorities to strengthen local ownership and long-term maintenance.

Additionally, 1,056 assorted veterinary supplies were procured and distributed to progressive pastoralists in the priority watersheds of Akuem, Wardit, and Aroyo. These inputs significantly enhanced frontline capacity for disease prevention and treatment. As a result, a total of 44,850 animals—including 24,818 cattle, 12,690 goats, 7,279 sheep, and 63 donkeys, were vaccinated during the period under review, contributing to improved livestock productivity, reduced disease burden, and strengthened resilience of pastoral livelihoods

Component 3: Community based natural resources management to offset the impacts of climate change on ecosystem goods and services – *(Outcome 3: Communities in micro-watersheds adopt natural resources management and restoration to reduce climate change impacts)*

Indicator 9: Number of hectares restored

To guide evidence-based implementation, the WACRESS project conducted a comprehensive baseline assessment to analyze the socioeconomic, ecological, edaphic, and topographic characteristics of targeted project sites. The findings informed the prioritization and selection of intervention areas for land and water resource restoration. This process was followed by inclusive community consultations, during which specific sites for land restoration were jointly identified and mapped with active participation from local stakeholders. Ahead of the physical works—including the excavation of ponds, haffirs, and river channel clearance—community members and local leaders were trained on the objectives and benefits of the interventions, as well as the necessary safety protocols to be observed during construction. These preparatory steps were essential in promoting community ownership, ensuring safety compliance, and laying the foundation for the sustainability of the project's natural resource management interventions.

3.1 Restoration plans based on ground surveys of micro-watersheds delivered, vetted and approved by micro-watershed-based committees comprised of representatives of all stakeholders

To strengthen local governance of natural resources, the WACRESS project established three watershed management committees tasked with overseeing the planning, implementation, and monitoring of watershed restoration activities. In parallel, 13 watershed technical leads (10 male, 3 female) were identified, trained, and officially inaugurated. The training focused on enhancing their technical capacity in watershed management, equipping them with knowledge on best practices for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and strengthening community resilience to

climate-related shocks. A validation workshop was subsequently organized to vet and confirm the appropriateness and community ownership of proposed water infrastructure interventions.

In support of reforestation and ecosystem restoration, the project distributed 10,000 assorted tree seedlings—including mango, mahogany, guava, and teak—to promote natural forest regeneration. These seedlings will be planted during the rainy season under the guidance of the Directorate of Forestry. The trees are expected to contribute to soil erosion control, improve microclimates through shade and moisture retention, and provide food and livelihood benefits to communities. Additionally, land restoration and productivity-enhancing tools were distributed across all 12 Bomas to support community participation in environmental rehabilitation and climate-resilient livelihood activities.

Indicator 10: Number of micro-watershed committees established for sustainable management of catchment areas

The project formed 3 micro-watershed management committees in Akuem, Wardit and Aroyo with each committee consisting of 15 members. From the three watersheds, 45 (20 Females and 25 Males) committee members were trained. The training covered: watershed restoration plans and surveys, participatory planning, surveying for catchment restoration, soil and water conservation methods. The training further elaborated on the designated duties and roles of water management committees. Additionally, 12 Boma level watershed management committees, with 13 (7 male and 6 females) members per boma, were established. A total of 156 (90 males and 66 females) Boma level committee members were trained on how to oversee the water utilization and management at the watersheds. Through the established watershed committees, the project has completed the construction of 4 shallow wells, excavation of 3 haffirs and 12 ponds.

3.2 Improved ground water recharge and soil moisture retention through community-based soil and water conservation measures in micro-watersheds

Further, under the leadership of the watershed management committees, the project facilitated the clearing of approximately 9 kilometers of riverbeds in five bomas of Aweil East County. This activity focused on the removal of the invasive plant species Awiir, along with accumulated silt and debris, to restore natural drainage flows and improve water retention. These interventions are critical to strengthening climate resilience, reducing flood risks, and enhancing water availability for both livelihoods and ecosystem services in the targeted communities.

3.3 Reduced impacts of floods through creation of water storage and spreading structures and drainage control measures in the catchment

To enhance community resilience and mitigate the impacts of climate-related hazards such as flooding, the WACRESS project established Community Tool Banks in each of the 12 bomas of Aweil East and Aweil Centre counties. These tool banks were equipped with essential working tools, which were prepositioned to enable communities to promptly initiate the construction of dykes and diversion channels aimed at flood prevention and water management. The tools are securely stored under the custody of boma administrators, with proper inventory records maintained to ensure accountability and facilitate timely mobilization during emergency and seasonal preparedness interventions. This initiative strengthens local capacity for anticipatory action and contributes to long-term climate adaptation efforts at the community level.

3.4 Increased resilience to drought through creation of water points from shallow boreholes

A total of four shallow wells were constructed in four bomas of Aweil Center, providing clean and safe drinking water for approximately 1,600 individuals and 800 livestock, in line with the Sphere Standards for water access in rural settings. These shallow wells are expected to significantly reduce water-related vulnerabilities while promoting improved health outcomes and reducing the burden on women and girls traditionally responsible for water collection.

During the reporting period, the WACRESS project made significant progress in improving community access to water resources through the excavation of three haffirs, each measuring 30 x 20 square meters, in Aweil East and Aweil Centre. These haffirs are designed to harvest and store rainwater, providing a reliable water source for both human and livestock consumption, while also supporting small-scale dry season irrigation. In addition, the project successfully constructed 12 rainwater harvesting ponds—one in each of the 12 bomas across the two counties—to collect and retain rainwater and excess floodwater for domestic use, particularly during the dry season.

Lessons learned

Community engagement enhances ownership and sustainability: Inclusive and continuous stakeholder engagement—particularly through the establishment of watershed committees and user groups—proved critical to fostering community ownership, transparency, and sustained implementation. Early consultation with local leaders, traditional authorities, and user groups enabled the project to align interventions with local priorities and ecological realities, thereby reducing resistance and improving uptake of climate-smart practices.

Institutionalizing local committees strengthens natural resource governance: The formation and training of micro-watershed and boma-level watershed committees institutionalized community-led governance of land and water resources. These committees provided a strong foundation for participatory planning, accountability, and coordination of restoration efforts. However, their long-term functionality requires continued capacity building, integration into local governance structures, and access to operational resources beyond the project lifecycle.

Gender-responsive programming increases impact and equity: Targeted gender interventions—including the Gender Action Plan, female-led user groups, and training on inclusive governance—significantly improved women's participation, leadership, and access to productive resources. Tailoring livelihoods to women's roles (e.g., small ruminants, poultry, vegetable production) proved highly effective in promoting women's economic empowerment. However, engaging men and boys in challenging social norms remains essential for sustaining gender-transformative change.

Climate-smart agriculture requires integrated extension support: The uptake of CSA practices improved when accompanied by farmer field schools, progressive farmer engagement, input distribution, and practical demonstrations. Extension agents and trained community facilitators played a vital role in translating knowledge into practice. The use of localized CSA demonstration plots and exchange visits was particularly effective in facilitating peer learning and contextual adaptation of techniques.

Environmental and social safeguards are strengthened by local capacity: Undertaking a comprehensive ESIA, coupled with training 50 stakeholders on environmental and social safeguards, enhanced compliance with UNDP SES and GEF safeguards. Community understanding and enforcement of environmental mitigation measures—such as reduction in tree cutting and improved waste handling—were bolstered through localized awareness sessions. Continued investment in institutional capacity and grassroots monitoring mechanisms is necessary to uphold safeguard commitments and mitigate unintended consequences.

Livelihood diversification enhances resilience in Agro-Pastoral Systems: Livelihood diversification—through integrated support to beekeeping, fishing, agroforestry, animal husbandry, and vegetable production—contributed to improved food security, income diversification, and climate adaptation. Embedding these options within existing community structures (e.g., women's groups, pastoralist associations) enhanced scalability. Future interventions should strengthen market linkages and value addition opportunities to enhance the economic viability of these enterprises

Challenges

Inflation and Currency Depreciation: One of the significant challenges encountered during implementation was the steep depreciation of the South Sudanese Pound (SSP), which severely constrained the project's purchasing power. As inflation surged, the cost of agricultural inputs—particularly farming tools and crop seeds—increased sharply, reducing the quantity of goods and services the project could procure within the allocated budget. This inflationary pressure disrupted planned distributions to beneficiaries and required reprioritization and reallocation of resources, potentially limiting the scale and timeliness of certain interventions.

Limited Availability of Key Materials in the Local Market: The project also faced constraints related to the limited availability of certain essential materials within the local market. Notably, there was a shortage of specific agroforestry tree seedlings such as pine and eucalyptus, which are vital for reforestation and land restoration efforts. This scarcity affected the ability to fully operationalize some components of the ecosystem rehabilitation plan. Addressing such supply-side constraints will require the development of local nursery systems and strengthened coordination with forestry institutions to ensure consistent access to climate-resilient planting materials.

Rating Towards Outcomes: Satisfactory (S)

The project's impacts at the community level are beginning to take shape, with visible progress across multiple intervention areas. While it is still early to quantify long-term outcomes, the foundational activities and inputs have been successfully delivered, creating enabling conditions for sustained change. The project commenced implementation in May 2024 following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and despite the delayed start, the majority of activities planned for the reporting period were effectively executed. As such, the rating towards outcomes is Satisfactory (S), with promising signs that tangible results will continue to emerge as the project progresses.

Rating Towards Outputs: Satisfactory (S)

Implementation progress toward outputs is rated as Satisfactory (S) based on the high level of achievement of deliverables. Output 1, which focuses on institutional capacities for gender-responsive climate adaptation, has achieved over 75% of its planned deliverables, reflecting strong progress in policy development, training, and stakeholder engagement. Outputs 2 and 3, related to climate-resilient agriculture and watershed restoration respectively, have exceeded expectations, achieving over 600% of planned deliverables in some areas due to high community uptake and efficient implementation of interventions such as user group formation, livestock distribution, and water infrastructure development. This indicates robust execution and high responsiveness to community needs within the review period.

Overall Risk Rating: Moderate

The overall project risk rating remains Moderate, with ongoing implementation in a relatively stable environment. Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, the primary area of intervention, continues to experience relative peace, allowing activities to proceed as planned. However, residual political tensions and insecurity in other parts of South Sudan pose a potential indirect risk, particularly in terms of market disruptions, limited private sector engagement, and supply chain vulnerabilities. Furthermore, the compounded risks of climate change, particularly recurrent flooding and prolonged droughts, remain a critical threat to the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and pastoralist communities. These risks are being actively mitigated through the introduction of climate-resilient technologies, CSA practices, and the establishment of water harvesting and restoration infrastructure. Nonetheless, the limited availability of extension services to provide consistent technical support to farming and pastoral communities continues to constrain adaptive capacity. Strengthening these services, coupled with investment in early warning and anticipatory action systems, will be essential to reduce long-term vulnerability and safeguard development gains.

2.4. Co-financing

Planned Co-finance Total: *USD 24,007,632 (in 5 years)* *USD 3,603,683 (during first year)* **Actual to date:** *$0 (representing 0%) – Apart from the space allocated by MoEF for PMU (By June, 2024)*	What is the actual co-finance to date

2.5. Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement	**Stakeholder Engagements and Consultations:** During the reporting period, the WACRESS project adopted a participatory and inclusive engagement model, ensuring that diverse stakeholders were meaningfully involved in the design, implementation, and validation of project activities. Extensive consultations were conducted with national and sub-national government institutions, civil society organizations, traditional leaders, extension workers, women's groups, and youth representatives. High-level forums, such as the state-level policy dialogue in Aweil 45 (30 males and 15 females) participants) and the national validation workshop in Juba (47(34 males and 13 females) participants), facilitated multi-stakeholder consensus on climate-smart agriculture, watershed governance, and gender-responsive policy frameworks. At the community level, consultations guided the selection

	of intervention sites for haffirs, shallow wells, and restoration zones, strengthening local ownership and ensuring alignment with community priorities and ecological contexts. **Establishment or Strengthening of Community-Based Committees:** To institutionalize community participation and local governance of natural resources, the WACRESS project established and capacitated 3 micro-watershed management committees and 12 boma-level watershed committees, comprising a total of 201 members (111 men and 90 women). These committees were tasked with overseeing watershed planning, supervising restoration activities, and mobilizing community labor for infrastructure development such as haffirs, ponds, and riverbed clearance. In addition, the project facilitated the formation of 154 user groups across climate-resilient value chains, including fishing, vegetable production, beekeeping, and animal husbandry. These groups function as vehicles for peer learning, asset sharing, and sustainable livelihoods, anchoring community-based adaptation and resilience-building efforts in locally led institutions. **Women and Youth Participation:** The WACRESS project ensured that women and youth were at the forefront of planning, decision-making, and implementation processes. Women comprised 69% of the 720 small ruminant beneficiaries, while youth and women held leadership roles across all 154 user groups and community-based committees. Deliberate measures, including gender-sensitized training, representation quotas, and accessible training schedules, were put in place to address structural barriers to participation. Training sessions on gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture, gender gap analysis, and inclusive governance further empowered women and young people to contribute meaningfully to project planning and resource management. This inclusive approach has led to greater gender parity in committee composition and improved access to productive assets and decision-making spaces for marginalized groups. **Capacity Building:** Capacity building formed a cornerstone of the WACRESS project's approach to fostering community resilience and institutional sustainability. A total of 106 stakeholders were trained in climate-smart agriculture using a cascading Training of Trainers model, enabling the transfer of technical knowledge to over 3,500 farming households. In parallel, 13 watershed technical leads, 48 Community Animal Health Workers, and 50 participants in environmental safeguard training were equipped with practical skills in soil and water conservation, disease surveillance, and inclusive community engagement. Specialized training modules also targeted 12 extension agents and 48 community leaders in gender-responsive programming, resulting in enhanced service delivery, increased adoption of CSA practices, and improved environmental stewardship at the grassroots level. **Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM):** A community-based Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM) was instituted to promote transparency, resolve disputes, and ensure accountability to affected

	populations. Through established feedback channels, including community focal points, village consultations, and interface with boma administrators, grievances were collected, documented, and addressed in a timely manner. Stakeholder feedback led to concrete implementation adjustments such as relocating water points to underserved areas, modifying training schedules to accommodate women's needs, and enhancing gender balance in committee representation. By integrating community voices into decision-making and problem-solving, the GRM enhanced trust, strengthened social cohesion, and ensured that project delivery remained adaptive, equitable, and responsive to local realities.

2.6. Gender

Gender mainstreaming	**Gender Mainstreaming and Empowerment:** The WACRESS project adopted a comprehensive gender mainstreaming strategy that addressed systemic inequalities and advanced women's and girls' empowerment across all components. The approach was grounded in the principles of gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), ensuring that both women and men, including youth and other vulnerable groups, benefitted equitably from climate adaptation and resilience-building interventions. Gender integration was operationalized through participatory planning, sex-disaggregated data collection, targeted capacity building, and gender-responsive delivery mechanisms tailored to the unique needs, constraints, and priorities of women and girls. **Empowerment Approaches:** Empowerment of women and marginalized groups was pursued through a combination of knowledge transfer, leadership development, and equitable access to productive assets. The project supported 720 community members—of whom 495 (69%) were women—with small livestock (goats, sheep, poultry), improving their economic autonomy and household nutrition. Women were deliberately included in governance structures, constituting 43% of members across 12 boma-level watershed committees and assuming leadership roles within 154 user groups established for fisheries, agroforestry, beekeeping, vegetable production, and livestock management. Through these platforms, women were empowered to influence decision-making processes, manage natural resources, and lead local resilience efforts. **Tailored Livelihood Support**: Recognizing the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men, the WACRESS project designed and delivered tailored livelihood packages that addressed women's practical needs and strategic interests. These included the distribution of drought-tolerant seeds and hand tools to 720 households, with women receiving priority in targeting and training on kitchen gardening, poultry rearing, and small ruminant management. In addition, progressive women farmers and pastoralists were identified and trained to serve as community-based facilitators and champions of climate-smart agriculture (CSA). By customizing support to women's time use, caregiving responsibilities, and economic roles, the project enhanced their capacity to adapt to climate shocks while increasing productivity and income security. Engaging Stakeholders, Men, and Boys in Addressing Gender Norms: The project employed a socially transformative approach by engaging male stakeholders—traditional leaders, extension workers, and

	community members, in dialogue and training sessions aimed at challenging harmful gender norms and promoting shared responsibility. Training on gender gap analysis, equitable resource allocation, and inclusive governance was delivered to 48 participants (28 men, 20 women), fostering attitudinal change and collective buy-in for gender equality. Male champions were also involved in disseminating gender-sensitive CSA practices, while youth and male members of user groups received sensitization on women's rights and roles in natural resource management. These efforts contributed to increased male support for women's leadership, reduced gender-based exclusion, and stronger social cohesion. **Leveraging Women's Groups:** Women's groups were instrumental in scaling up grassroots mobilization, peer learning, and collective action. The project leveraged existing women's self-help structures and supported the formation of new user groups focused on female-led value chains such as vegetable gardening, backyard poultry, and beekeeping. These platforms enabled women to access extension services, engage in savings and credit activities, and advocate for inclusive service delivery. Additionally, women leaders from these groups were trained in climate-smart techniques and represented their communities in validation workshops and policy dialogues, strengthening their voice in public decision-making and sustainability planning. **Integrating GBV Risk Mitigation:** The WACRESS project recognized the potential for increased gender-based violence (GBV) risks in the context of resource scarcity and changing gender dynamics. To mitigate such risks, the project mainstreamed GBV considerations into all community-level planning and training activities. This included awareness-raising sessions on rights, referral pathways, and protection mechanisms, as well as the establishment of safe and inclusive spaces for women's participation. Extension workers and community facilitators were trained on safeguarding principles and conflict sensitivity, ensuring that project activities did not exacerbate tensions or expose women to harm. Through these measures, the project contributed to a safer, more enabling environment for women's engagement and empowerment.

2.7. Environmental and social safeguards management

Environmental and social safeguards management	**Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA):** In line with UNDP and GEF safeguard requirements, the project commissioned a comprehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) covering all planned interventions in Aweil East and Aweil Centre counties. The ESIA provided a detailed analysis of biophysical, ecological, and socio-economic contexts, identifying potential adverse impacts related to land use change, ecosystem degradation, water resource utilization, and community health and safety. It also assessed the cumulative risks associated with infrastructure development, including haffirs, shallow wells, and watershed restoration works. The ESIA generated actionable mitigation measures aligned with the mitigation hierarchy—avoid, minimize, restore, offset—and informed project design to ensure environmental integrity and social acceptability. Key recommendations focused on soil and water conservation, agroforestry, waste management, and inclusive community participation in implementation and monitoring.

	Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement: The safeguards process was underpinned by an inclusive stakeholder engagement strategy, ensuring that affected communities and interest groups were fully informed and actively involved in decision-making. Consultative forums were held prior to and during the ESIA, drawing input from community members, government authorities, women's groups, and traditional leaders. Field validation sessions and technical workshops facilitated consensus on priority sites, mitigation measures, and safeguard actions. The participatory approach helped enhance transparency, secure social license, and embed community ownership of environmental interventions, including the location and design of water infrastructure and land restoration activities. **Risk Screening and Mitigation:** All project activities underwent systematic environmental and social risk screening using UNDP's SES risk categorization tool. The project was classified as Moderate Risk (Category B) due to the nature and scale of interventions involving small-scale infrastructure and land-based activities. Key risks identified included land degradation, water overuse, exclusion of vulnerable groups, and potential exposure to environmental hazards during construction. Mitigation measures were embedded in workplans, with safeguards integrated into technical designs, training modules, and field operations. For example, early training in agroforestry and land management helped mitigate deforestation risks, while CAHW training addressed zoonotic disease risks linked to livestock handling. Regular monitoring and adaptive management approaches were employed to ensure risk responses remained effective and responsive to evolving local conditions. **Gender Action Plan:** To complement the safeguards approach, the project developed and implemented a Gender Action Plan (GAP) that addressed both gender inequalities and specific risks of exclusion and harm to women and girls. The GAP outlined concrete actions to promote women's leadership, equitable access to resources, and protection from gender-based violence (GBV) throughout implementation. It also informed the selection of livelihood interventions tailored to women's roles (e.g., poultry, vegetable gardening, beekeeping) and established quotas for women's participation in watershed committees and user groups. Through GAP implementation, the project strengthened gender-responsive delivery mechanisms, increased women's representation in decision-making (43% of committee members), and fostered more equitable control over productive assets and natural resources. **Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM):** A functional and culturally appropriate Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) was established to ensure timely and transparent resolution of complaints. The mechanism featured multiple reporting channels, including community feedback sessions, designated grievance focal points at the boma level, and integration with traditional dispute resolution systems. All grievances—whether related to land use, resource allocation, environmental impacts, or exclusion—were documented, investigated, and resolved in coordination with local authorities and project teams. Lessons from the GRM informed improvements in targeting, inclusion, and infrastructure siting. The mechanism not only mitigated conflict risks but also enhanced

	trust and accountability between communities and implementing partners. **Building Institutional Capacity for ESS Compliance:** To institutionalize ESS compliance, the project invested in capacity building of government counterparts, community leaders, and frontline implementers. A total of 50 participants (38 men, 12 women), including extension workers and local government officials, received training on UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards, safeguards compliance, and gender equality. These sessions emphasized environmental risk mitigation, inclusive stakeholder engagement, and application of safeguard tools such as checklists and monitoring templates. Training also strengthened local knowledge of climate change impacts and promoted adoption of environmentally sound practices like agroforestry, sustainable water use, and ecosystem restoration. As a result, implementing partners are now better equipped to manage safeguards requirements and ensure that future interventions continue to uphold environmental and social sustainability.

2.8. Knowledge management

Knowledge activities and products	**Baseline assessment**: To inform implementation, the WACRESS project conducted a comprehensive baseline to assess the socioeconomic, ecological, edaphic, and topographic characteristics of the project sites to inform site prioritization. The baseline assessment supplied essential information for the creation of (1) the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, (2) the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment, and (3) the Environmental and Social Management Plan, among other related thematic plans. During the period under review, the WACRESS project engaged 3 Local Consultants to conduct 3 assessments, namely: 1. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), 2. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) assessment, and 3. Watershed Management, Flood control, and Water Resource Utilization Assessment. These studies, initiated in December 2024, aimed at assessing different aspects of climatic impact on farmers and pastoralists, environmental changes, climate smart agriculture adaptation, and watershed management. The details of the different assessments are summarized below: **Watershed Management, Flood Control, and Water Resource Utilization:** The watershed management assessment conducted in Aweil East and Aweil Center Counties provided an integrated framework for sustainable land and water resource management aimed at reducing flood risk, enhancing water availability and supporting resilient livelihoods. The study adopted a landscape-level, ecosystem-based approach, aligning with GEF's priorities on sustainable forest and land management and UNDP's commitment to climate-resilient development. It emphasized the need for a multisectoral strategy that strengthens soil conservation, rehabilitates degraded land, and incorporates nature-based solutions (NbS) to safeguard critical ecosystem services. **Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Assessment:** The CSA assessment in Aweil East and Aweil Center Counties sought to advance climate-resilient agricultural systems by promoting sustainable land use

	practices that enhance productivity while reducing vulnerability to climate-induced shocks. Anchored in the principles of sustainable food systems and ecosystem resilience, the assessment provided practical recommendations for mainstreaming CSA into local farming systems through capacity building, inclusive knowledge dissemination, and technological adoption. **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA):** The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was undertaken to ensure that proposed project interventions align with environmental sustainability principles and minimize potential adverse impacts on ecosystems and communities. In line with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards and GEF's safeguards policy, the assessment provided a systematic evaluation of biophysical and socio-economic impacts, recommending mitigation measures that uphold environmental integrity and promote social equity. The ESIA highlighted the importance of embedding climate-smart and resource-efficient practices across all interventions, including training on agroforestry, sustainable land management, water harvesting, and the proper disposal of hazardous waste. It emphasized the critical role of community engagement and inclusive governance in ensuring environmental compliance and accountability, particularly through the active participation of women, youth, and vulnerable groups in project design, implementation, and monitoring. These recommendations are aimed at enhancing the sustainability and social acceptability of project outcomes while reinforcing resilience at the local level. **Policy review:** The project engaged a consultant to conduct a comprehensive review of national policy documents to assess their relevance, coherence, and alignment with current climate-resilient and sustainable development initiatives. After thorough reviews of 17 policies, the chief technical advisor considered only 4 (Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP), the Forest Policy (2012), the National Environment Policy (2015 –2025), and the National Fisheries Policy (2017). The review identified significant policy gaps, such as outdated provisions, limited dissemination, and the absence of sex-disaggregated data and gender-responsive indicators, highlighting systemic barriers to inclusive and equitable programming. The areas of strength and weakness were identified and recommended to government institutions for further studies and review. **Stakeholder validation and dissemination**: The project held workshops to engage stakeholders, including government officials, NGOs and community leaders, to review findings from different studies. Key themes for the validation included review of policies and their effectiveness, documentation of indigenous knowledge for project implementation and assessment of livelihood strategies for local communities. This collaborative approach ensured community voices influence project strategies, fostering a sense of ownership and alignment with local needs. Learning exchange visits were organized to allow participants share experiences and get practical skills. Examples of this learning visits was the visit to the Aweil Rice scheme. The exchange visit was also conducted for the CAHWs where they were taken to different auctions.

2.9. Stories to be shared

Stories to be shared	https://www.wvi.org/stories/south-sudan/restoring-hope-how-livestock-vaccine-enhancing-community-livelihood-northern  Success%20Story-A%20NEW%20DAWN%2

3. PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND RISK

*Based on inputs by the Project Manager, the **UNDP Task Manager**[1] will make an overall assessment and provide ratings of:*
(i) Progress towards achieving the project Results(s)- see section 3.1
(ii) Implementation progress – see section 3.2

Section 3.3 on Risk should be first completed by the Project Manager. The UNDP Task Manager will subsequently enter his/her own ratings in the appropriate column.

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

[copy and paste the CEO Endorsement (or latest formal Revision) approved Results Framework, adding/deleting outcome rows, as appropriate]

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2024	Progress rating[2]
Objective: Building resilience to climate change risks amongst agricultural and pastoral communities of South Sudan.	**Mandatory LDCF Indicator 1:** Direct project beneficiaries	0	25,000 (11,910 male, 13,091 female)	75,000 (35,729 male, 39,271 female)	3,204 households equivalent to 19,224(10,573f,8,651m) beneficiaries supported through animal husbandry, vegetable farming, crop farming and animal vaccination.	S
	Mandatory LDCF Core Indicator 2: Area of land to be managed for climate resilience (ha)	0	*5,000 ha*	*15,000 ha*	4,000 ha has been put under improved practices in the 3 watersheds through planting of tree seedlings and variety of crop seeds. The project distributed 1,0000 tree seedlings, 15.16MT of assorted crop seeds and 720 banana suckers, and cassava cuttings.	S

[1] For joint projects and where applicable ratings should also be discussed with the Task Manager of co-implementing agency.
[2] Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Marginally Satisfactory (MS), Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), and Highly Unsatisfactory (HU).

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2024	Progress rating[2]
	Indicator 3: Number of agricultural and NRM policies that integrate climate change	0	3	**1:** NALEP **2:** National Agricultural and Livestock Research Policy. **3:** NBG Policy for Community Based Forest and NRM	Four (4) policies (Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP), Forest Policy, November 2012, National Environment Policy, 2015-25, National Fisheries Policy, 2017 were reviewed. Gaps were identified and recommendations given on redress. The policy briefs will be worked on and rolled out for use.	S
	Mandatory LDCF Core Indicator 4: Total number of people trained	0	3,820 (2,470 male, 1,350 female)	12,665 (8,226 male, 4,439 female)	6,064 (2,281M: 3,783F) received training in different thematic areas.	S
Outcome 1: Strategies and capacities to implement community based and gender sensitive climate change	**Indicator 5:** Number of strategy documents and advisory packages developed for gender responsive CCA and value chains in the agricultural sector	0	1 - Strategy paper (Ag. extension policy) 3 - Advisory packages for farming, livestock and agro-forestry 3 - NBG state, Aweil Centre and Aweil East County institutions	2 - Strategy papers (Ag. extension & Ag. value chains) 3 - Advisory packages for farming, livestock and agro-forestry	Several strategy documents and advisories packages on Climate Change Adaptation were developed that include: • Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) WACRESS Health and Safety Plan (HSP) • Gender Action Plan (GAP) • Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) • ESMP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan	S

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2024	Progress rating[2]
	Indicator 6: Institutional and grassroots capacities demonstrated in coordinating and implementing community based, gender responsive CCA in agriculture and NRM	0	3 - NBG state, Aweil Centre and Aweil East County institutions	6 - NBG state, Aweil Centre and Aweil East County institutions, CBOs in Wardit, Aroyo and Akuem sites	The project has successfully enhanced institutional and grassroots capacities by fostering collaboration between local communities and government. Through targeted training sessions and workshops, stakeholders have been equipped with the necessary skills to implement community-based initiatives focused on watershed restoration. The project 3 micro watershed committees in Akuem (Aweil East), Aroyo (Aweil Centre) and Wardit. Additionally, 6 Boma level watershed committees were established in Aweil East, 4 in Aweil Centre and 2 in Wardit to strengthen community ownership, enabling communities to actively engage in decision-making processes that affect their environment and livelihoods. Moreover, the project built the capacity of the watershed committees, government staff at state level and 96 government extension staff from Aweil Centre and Aweil East. Additionally, the project coordinated with several institutions such as faith-based groups, other NGOs and local CBOs during mobilization of participants, consultation on activities, project information sharing and engagement on activities implementation. The Aweil Center County WASH Department provided technical guidance on the design of shallow wells and recommended the technician that supported the construction of the four shallow wells. The Director General in the state Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare provided guidance to the Gender expert during the Gender Action Plan. The Ministry of Agriculture consistently provided technical guidance in the selection of inputs and during crop and trees planting while the extension workers mobilized the participants during distribution schedules and during construction of haffirs and ponds. Watershed committees in both Aweil East and Aweil Centre led the prioritization of sites for haffirs, ponds and wells.	S

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2024	Progress rating[2]
Outcome 2: Best practices in climate change resilient agriculture and food value chains adopted by rural communities.	**Indicator 7:** Number of women and men in agro pastoral communities adopting CSA and climate resilient livelihoods	0	25,000 (11,910 men, 13,091 women)	75,000 (35,729 men, 39,271 women)	3,629 individuals comprising of 1615 men and 2014 women had adopted climate smart agriculture practices. They were drawn from households supported with agricultural inputs (4,320), distribution of small ruminant (4,320), and some who received trees seedlings. By the time of reporting participants who received seeds had been doing their land preparation and planting through climate smart agriculture practices such as use of organic manure, crop rotation and conservation tillage. The climate resilient seed package allows farmers to focus on intercropping legumes with cereals for nutrient management.	MS
	Indicator 8: Number of agri-businesses and value chains established	0	1 value chain. 5 organized enterprises, MSMEs, cooperatives, associations	3 value chains. 20 organized enterprises, MSMEs, cooperatives, associations		
Outcome 3: Communities in micro-watersheds adopt natural resources management and restoration to reduce climate change impacts.	**Indicator 9:** Number of hectares restored	0	5,000	15,000	4000 ha has been restored through planting of tree seedlings and a variety of crop seeds. The project distributed 1,0000 tree seedlings, 15.16MT of assorted crop seeds and 720 banana suckers, and cassava cuttings.	S
	Indicator 10: Number of micro-watershed committees established for sustainable management of catchment areas	0	3	3, in Aroyo, Chel and Akuem respectively.	The project successfully established 3 micro-watershed management committees in the 3 watershed sites of Akuem, Wardit and Aroyo. The 3 water micro-watershed committees were represented by 45 people (25 male and 20 female).	S

3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
Outputs/Activities7	*Expected completion date8*	*Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)*	*Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)*	*Progress rating justification9, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay*	*Progress rating 10*
COMPONENT 1: Institutional capacities for gender-responsive climate change adaptation across the agricultural sector.					
Output 1.1: ***Integration of climate change adaptation strategies in agriculture and natural resources management policies.***					
optional (to be decided by TM[11]) **Activity 1.1.1:** National dialogue on gender responsive climate mainstreaming in key policies and plans for agriculture and natural resource management at all levels of government.	October, 2025	0%	70%	After thorough reviews of 17 policies the chief technical advisor considered only 4(Comprehensive agriculture master plan, National forestry policy 2012, Fisheries and Environmental policies), because they are directly linked to the project components. The areas of strengths and weakness were identified and recommended to government institutions for further studies and review. The review process produced a comprehensive report with draft recommendations, but the project has not yet conducted dialogue at national level. The dialogues have been scheduled to the start of the next reporting period	S

[3] Outputs and activities (or deliverables) as described in the project logframe (and workplan) or in any updated project revision.
[4] The completion dates should be as per latest workplan (latest project revision).
[5] As much as possible, describe in terms of immediate gains to target groups, e.g. access to project deliverables, participation in receiving services; gains in knowledge, etc.
[6] To be provided by the UNDP Task Manager
[7] Outputs and activities (or deliverables) as described in the project logframe (and workplan) or in any updated project revision.
[8] The completion dates should be as per latest workplan (latest project revision).
[9] As much as possible, describe in terms of immediate gains to target groups, e.g. access to project deliverables, participation in receiving services; gains in knowledge, etc.
[10] To be provided by the UNDP Task Manager
[11] The Task Manager will decide on the relevant level of disaggregation (i.e. either at the output or activity level).

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
Activity 1.1.2: Building baselines of climatic, socioeconomic, ecological, edaphic and topographical characteristics of the project sites to inform site prioritization.	January 2025	0%	100%	The project engaged a Chief Technical advisor) who developed geospatial datasets, trained field staff in biophysical assessments, developed a framework for capacity enhancement of local partners, prepared a comprehensive social mobilization strategy and action plan, identified appropriate agriculture, animal husbandry, income and livelihood diversification options, and reviewed policies and plans.	S
Activity 1.1.3: Conducting field surveys on productivity potential of different land cover/use and developing site specific intervention strategies and plans for climate smart agricultural interventions and catchment restoration with communities.	January, 2025	0%	100%	Field surveys were conducted, including mapping biophysical characteristics, soil sampling from agricultural fields, and mapping resources used by communities including water, fuel, grazing grounds, NTFP, and cattle camps. Validation meetings were conducted with all communities and stakeholders.	S
Activity 1.1.4: Conducting a field-based assessment of income and livelihood diversification options.	October, 2025	0%	90%	The project engaged a consultant who developed a Participatory Livelihoods Diversification Plan following detailed field-based assessments. The plan summarizes the livelihood diversification options based on collection and detailed analysis at community level. The assessment included a desktop review, engagement with different stakeholders (individuals, groups, institutions and local leadership) through workshops, meetings, consultations, and surveys. The process identified challenges and recommendations that informed the livelihoods diversification plan. Key challenges included late distribution of agro-inputs, inadequate farming tools (hoes, sickle, panga, slashers, rakes, spades), unpredictable weather (floods and droughts) and lack of mobility for extension agents. Key recommendations were promotion of local tools manufacturing industries to produce specific farm tools, timely distribution of quality seeds and hand tools, refresher courses for extension agents and farmers before the rainy season and establishment of community-based agroforestry nurseries.	S

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
Activity 1.1.5: Knowledge sharing at all levels - from communities to county, state, national regional to global.	December, 2025	0%	75%	To inform implementation, the WACRESS project conducted a comprehensive baseline to assess the socioeconomic, ecological, edaphic and topographic characteristics of the project sites to inform site prioritization. During the period under review, the WACRESS project engaged 3 Local Consultants to conduct 3 assessments, namely: 1. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), 2. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) assessment, and 3. Watershed Management, Flood control, and Water Resource Utilization Assessment. These studies, initiated in December 2024, aimed at assessing different aspects of climatic impact on farmers and pastoralists, environmental changes, climate smart agriculture adaptation, and watershed management. The project engaged a consultant to conduct a comprehensive review of national policy documents to assess their relevance, coherence, and alignment with current climate-resilient and sustainable development initiatives. After thorough reviews of 17 policies the chief technical advisor considered only 4 (Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan (CAMP), the Forest Policy (2012), the National Environment Policy (2015 –2025), and the National Fisheries Policy (2017). The review identified significant policy gaps, such as outdated provisions, limited dissemination, and the absence of sex-disaggregated data and gender-responsive indicators, highlighting systemic barriers to inclusive and equitable programming. The areas of strengths and weakness were identified and recommended to government institutions for further studies and review. The project held workshops to engage stakeholders, including government officials, NGOs and community leaders, to review findings from different studies.	S

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
<u>Output 1.3:</u> ***Guiding materials to support climate-responsive extension services developed, delivered and distributed***					
Activity 1.3.1: Conducting site specific capacity assessment of line departments and extension services at county, payam and boma levels.	January, 2025	0%	100%	The project engaged a CSA consultant who engaged different institution such as the Government line ministries and extension departments, CBOs and community structures to assess their knowledge gaps and recommended different training needs for them. This was done through a desktop review, engagement with different stakeholders, and key informant interviews. Key findings from the assessment included absence of organized farmer cooperative societies, inadequate farming tools (hoes, sickle, panga, slashers, rakes, spades), lack of vegetable seeds (sukuma, tomatoes, cabbage, onions, amaranth species, egg plants, rigilla, cucumber, watermelon and green paper), and expensive machineries and equipments (tractors, ox-ploughs, water pumps). Among the trainings recommended were the responsive CCA in animal husbandry, fisheries and aquaculture, agroforestry, water harvesting, and vegetable farming. Recommendations form the assessment included promotion of local tools manufacturing industries to produce specific farm tools, encouraging farmers to save seeds from healthy crops for future planting, timely distribution of quality seeds and hand tools and refresher training for extension agents and farmers before the rainy season.	S

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
Activity 1.3.2: Developing a comprehensive social inclusion action plan and strategy that integrates gender and equity concerns into extension services and mobilization for CCA planning.	September, 2025	0%	60%	*The project engaged a Gender Expert (consultant)* who conducted an assessment and provided recommendations for mainstreaming gender and social inclusion. The assessment involved a desk review, community consultations, key informant interviews and a Social Norms Analysis Plot (SNAP) Framework. Key findings revealed that meeting time is an important factor that determines female participation, and that village savings and loans associations (VSLAs), locally known as the sanduk-sanduk, can play in the empowerment and economic transformation for women. Key recommendations from the assessment pointed to Intentionality in community mobilisation, adult and civic education for women and girls, a dedicated gender project officer for the project, and increasing Participation of PLWDs through Caregiving support. The consultant developed site specific gender and community engagement strategies and safeguards. The project also developed a comprehensive social inclusion action plan and strategy.	MS
Activity 1.3.3: Developing gender-responsive site-specific extension and advisory packages including input, implements and training materials.	September, 2025	0%	75%	The project tailored livelihood support to the specific needs of women in agriculture by supporting farmers with seeds that were prioritized by women in the Gender Action Plan. Such seeds include okra, eggplant, groundnuts and tomatoes. Additionally, the project engaged women in poultry production and in a bid to enable women to diversify their income sources, thereby enhancing their economic resilience against climate-related shocks. Additionally, women groups were encouraged to lead the tree nursery enterprise and have received material support which will be followed by training.	

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
Activity 1.3.4: Disseminating training materials and modules to communities and ground level institutions in local languages.	September 2025	0%	70%	The communication expert translated CSA modules and packages from English to Dinka and Arabic versions. The contents were produced as recordings and audio-visual versions for easy consumption by the project participants. Extension packages were also re-formatted to fit web pages, social media channels, and print. The materials were utilized for training Extension staff and progressive farmers. Distribution of training materials to extension agencies (govt. and NGO) as well as community-based organizations will be finalized in the third quarter of the year.	MS
MSOutput 1.4: ***Training of trainers and extension personnel delivered to support climate-smart agriculture and natural resources management***					
Activity 1.4.1: Identifying and training extension staff for climate smart agriculture among crop, vegetable and livestock farmers.	September, 2025	0%	100%	A total of 12 Staff (10 male and 2 female) from government. Agencies were identified and trained on gender responsive CSA principles, soil fertility, nutrient management, disease surveillance, tillage and moisture management. Participants were drawn from extension agents and community animal health workers. The training covered climate smart agricultural practices relevant to seasonal calendars, building on traditional knowledge and practices.	S
Activity 1.4.2: Training extension and line departments, NGOs and community-based animal-health workers.	September 2025	0%	100%	A total of 48 Staff from (47 male and 1 female) government Agencies were identified and trained on pastoral field schools and extension support to livestock (livestock disease surveillance and animal-health care).	S

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
Activity 1.4.3: Training on soil and water conservation and landscape restoration to extension staff and line departments, NGOs and community-based extension workers and volunteers.	August, 2024	0%	100%	The project identified and trained 13 Watershed development leads, including women, drawn from 3 watershed committees. The Watershed development leads were drawn from the community volunteers. Training focused on participatory planning and surveying for catchment restoration. These leads are overseeing the watershed restoration activities such as construction of haffirs and reforestation.	S
Activity 1.4.4: Training on income and livelihood diversification to extension and line departments, NGOs and community-based extension workers and volunteers.	August, 2025	0%	70%	The project trained 106 participants (77 males and 29 females) on crop diversification, animal husbandry, processing and storage of agricultural products. Trainees included Extension workers, Community Animal Health Workers, Chiefs, Community based Committees and Government staff.	S
Activity 1.4.5: Training on community mobilization for gender equity and social inclusion to extension and line departments, NGOs and community-based extension and animal health workers.	August, 2024	0%	100%	A total of 1,877 people (974 male, 903 female) were trained on social and environmental safeguards, gender and community based participatory planning (CBPP). All were drawn from the communities.	S
Activity 1.4.6: Training national and sub-national focal points on watershed approaches for CCA	November 2024	0	100%	20 State level ministries focal points (12 male and 8 female) were trained on watershed approaches for climate change resilience.	S
COMPONENT 2: Climate change resilient agriculture and food value chains.					
Output 2.1: ***Integrated and diversified climate-smart farming practices adopted to reduce risk of crop failure through improved seeds, multi-cropping, crop diversification, crop-livestock systems and agro-forestry.***					

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
Activity 2.1.1: Establishing demonstration sites for climate smart agricultural practices.	August, 2025	0%	75%	A total of 12 demonstration sites has been mapped and prepared and are currently awaiting planting pending the onset of seasonal rains. Additionally, 60 progressive farmers 48 male and 12 female) have been identified and supported with climate-smart seeds and agricultural tools to promote the adoption of climate-resilient farming practices. These demonstration sites will serve as platforms for practical learning and peer-to-peer knowledge transfer within the targeted agro-pastoral communities.	S
Activity 2.1.2: Establishing plant nurseries with women and youth groups and at the SMoAEF.	August, 2025	0%	70%	A total of twelve (12) sites has been strategically identified and mapped for the establishment of plant nurseries to support climate-resilient agriculture. Each site has been provisioned with essential materials for the construction of shade netting structures, designed to protect seedlings from harsh environmental conditions and enhance survival rates. Upon completion of nursery setup, targeted farmers will be supported with quality seeds to initiate nursery planting, thereby promoting sustainable seedling production and improved access to climate-smart planting materials at the community level.	S
Activity 2.1.3: Identifying pastoralists and hosting pastoral field schools for adaptive solutions.	March, 2025	0%	100%	Forty-eight (48) Progressive pastoralists (47 male, 1 female) identified in 12 bomas (Gaal, Makuei-Agep, Tong-Goi, Pariak, Tit-Chok Mareeng, Aroyo, Kur Chok, Chan-Anguei, Luang Aher, Hal bul, and Wardit) for hosting training camps and conducting demonstrations of climate-smart techniques to communities. Additionally, key informants from the progressive pastoralists have been trained on disease surveillance and have participated in exchange learning visits. All 12 operational Bomas were supported with animal handling facilities and Veterinary supplies. Progressive pastoralists have participated in exchange learning visits to local markets.	HS

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
<u>Output 2.2:</u> ***Farmer field schools established and community-based organizations (e.g. women self-help groups, farmer groups) strengthened to enable adaptive practices and provide local support to farmers with the adoption of low-cost techniques for climate resilient agriculture (such as micro-irrigation, tillage, soil moisture conservation, fertility management and composting).***					
Activity 2.2.1: Identifying and strengthening customary CBOs and mobilizing new user groups to ensure gender responsive and inclusive community-based mechanisms to implement project activities.	August 2025	0%	80%	A total of 154 user groups were identified and supported with small ruminants (314 male, 406 female), beehives (179 male, 181 female), main season crop seeds (1122 male, 642 female), tree and fruit seedlings and tools (285 male and 435 female). All were trained on climate smart agricultural practices to strengthen their production skills.	S
Activity 2.2.2: Selecting suitable cereal and vegetable crops based on in-situ tests cum demonstration plots and conducting seasonal farmer field schools for hands on training on CSA practices including use of implements.	October 2025	0%	70%	A total of 24 farmer field school sites were identified in 6 Payams (Aroyo, Chel South, Baach, Mangartong, Wunlang and Yargot and 12 bomas (Gaal, Makuei-Agep, Tong-Goi, Pariak, Tit-Chok Mareeng, Aroyo, Kur Chok, Chan-Anguei, Luang Aher, Hal bul, and Wardit payams , each supporting 30 farmers (14 male and 16 female). The farmer field schools were identified in Akuem, Aroyo, Wardit Bomas. Each site was supported with climate smart seeds and tools. Seeds were selected in consultation with farmers and line government ministries to ensure their adaptation to the local environment.	*S*

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
Activity 2.2.3: Conducting hands on training through seasonal pastoral field schools.	August 2025	0%	80%	Farmer groups attending farmer field schools received CSA inputs, including seeds, seedlings and agro-forestry species, for further distribution among their farmer groups. The project capacitated Community Animal Health Workers who in turn vaccinated 44,850 animals. Additionally, the project reached 24 groups (2 per Boma) supported with goats, sheep and chickens for distribution among their respective groups.	*S*
Activity 2.2.4: Holding seasonal camps in both crop and vegetable farming settlements.	December, 2025	80%	90%	A total of 720 crop farmers (435F, 285M) received extension support and agriculture inputs for Climate Smart Agriculture during the period under review. All these farmers received farming tools and locally adapted drought tolerant seed varieties including lowland rice, sorghum, cowpeas and groundnuts. Additionally, 60 progressive farmers (48 male, 12 female) received ox ploughs as part of mechanizing their farming practices. Additionally trained Extension staff will capacitate farmers with various techniques such as soil moisture and nutrient management, Disease and pest identification and control and agroforestry.	HS
Activity 2.2.5: Holding seasonal camps in pastoral and agro-pastoral settlements.	September, 2025	0%	75%	The project supported 720 (495 male, 225 female) pastoralists and livestock farmers with veterinary and animal health extension services. WACRESS trained 48 key informers (42 male, 6 female) on disease surveillance and community mobilisation for them to provide regular updates on livestock diseases and health and rangeland conditions. The project plans to design a mobile ICT based monitoring framework by October 2025. Additionally, the project supported the pastoralists with 4,840 assorted veterinary drugs and supplies which were used to vaccina*te 44,850* animals (24,818 cattle, 12,690 goats, 7279 sheep and 63 donkeys).	S

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
<u>Output 2.4:</u> ***Alternative livelihood options such as bee keeping, backyard poultry, kitchen gardens and small ruminants made available to communities with a focus on vulnerable households.***					
Activity 2.4.1: Identifying and developing participatory livelihood diversification plans.	October, 2024	0%	100%	The Participatory Livelihoods Diversification Plan was developed and summarizes the livelihood diversification options based on collection and detailed analysis at community level. The project conducted a detailed assessment (through a consultant) that included a desktop review, engagement with different stakeholders (individuals, groups, institutions and local leadership) through workshops, meetings, consultations, and surveys. The process identified challenges and recommendations that informed the livelihoods diversification plan. Key challenges included late distribution of agro-inputs, inadequate farming tools (hoes, sickle, panga, slashers, rakes, spades), unpredictable weather (floods and droughts) and lack of mobility for extension agents. Key recommendations were the promotion of local tools manufacturing industries to produce specific farm tools, timely distribution of quality seeds and hand tools, refresher courses for extension agents and farmers before the rainy season and establishment of community-based agroforestry nurseries.	S
Activity 2.4.2: Holding seasonal camps in both agricultural and pastoral/agro-pastoral settlements for hands on training and material support for agro-processing and value addition for income diversification.	August 2025	0%	70%	To enhance the capacity of groups engaged in fishing for livelihood and supplementary income, the project procured fishing gear which will be distributed to fishing groups in August 2025 following practical training of groups. To increase income and improve livelihoods for vulnerable livestock farmers small ruminants (sheep and goats) and poultry have been distributed to groups and training on rearing and management of small livestock will be conducted from August 2025.	S

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
Activity 2.4.3: Facilitating access to credit to agro-pastoral communities and entrepreneurs	NA	0%	0%	N/A	
Activity 2.4.4: Establishing linkages and facilitate transactions between rural producers and entrepreneurs and shopkeepers in markets for sales of produce.	NA	0%	0%	N/A	
Activity 2.4.5: Participatory monitoring and assessment of activities and their impacts involving user groups and selected households.	September 2025	0%	70%	61 people (46 males, 15 females) were trained in M&E reporting tools. This training was attended by 3 all male project staff, 58 extension workers (43 male, 15 female), Additionally, 48 key informers (42 male, 6 female) on disease surveillance, community mobilization. This is done to capacity build local people to identify sick animals and provide treatment through community animal health workers. Key informers are expected to provide regular updates on livestock diseases and health and rangeland conditions using mobile ICT tools as part of participatory disease surveillance and monitoring of rangeland conditions and status of water points.	*S*
COMPONENT 3: Community based natural resources management to offset the impacts of climate change on ecosystem goods and services.					
Output 3.1: ***Restoration plans based on ground surveys of micro-watersheds delivered, vetted and approved by micro-watershed-based committees comprised of representatives of all stakeholders.***					

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
Activity 3.1.1: Mobilizing communities to create gender-equitable micro-watershed committees.	December, 2024	100%	100%	A total of two community meetings were conducted for forming watershed committees and selecting of office bearers. The meetings were attended by a total of 310 people (160 male and 150 female) The project successfully managed to mobilize communities for formation of 3 gender-equitable micro-watershed committees for Akuem, Wardit and Aroyo. Each committee is represented by 15 members from Akuem (8 male, 7 female). Aroyo (9 male, 6 female) and Wardit (9 male, 6 female). The watershed committees are responsible for implementation of watershed restoration activities The committees also included 4 government technical staff from the 4 Line Ministries. These technical staff provide expertise and guidance to the committee members.	HS
Activity 3.1.2: Developing site specific plans for interventions in the watershed.	December	0%	100%	A total of 3 site specific plans were developed. The plans were focused on flood control structures, water harvesting and shallow wells. An Agriculture Engineer (consultant) assessed the potential sites for interventions based on the soil and water conservation findings. The Engineer developed drawings and designs for dykes, shallow wells and haffirs, which are being used by the project.	S

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
Activity 3.1.3: Conducting participatory assessments and evaluations.	January 2025	0%	80%	The Agric/civil engineer mapped water points to determine their functionality status and shared recommendations on how repairs and rehabilitations could be done to enhance access potable water for communities. The assessment also included local streams and their tributaries linking up the various locations within watersheds. Based on assessments' recommendations, sites for haffirs and ponds were identified together with the communities and construction of 3 haffirs, 12 ponds and 4 shallow wells have been completed. The ponds and haffirs are part of soil and water conservation measures to harvest water to support small scale irrigation during dry season.	S
Activity 3.1.4: Developing site specific plans, designs, technical drawings and material/cost estimates for constructing water points and associated pumping systems with participation of relevant user groups. Plans include location of sites based on community priority the analysis of land form and pairing with existing/planned water conservation structures as well as cost sharing through provision of implements, materials and labor.	May 2025	0%	100%	Agriculture/civil Engineer assessed the sites for the construction of haffirs, ponds and shallow wells meant to collect water for the community usage during dry seasons as part of integration of CSA into Agriculture. A total of 38 water points were identified in 6 payams (Aroyo, Chel South, Baach, Mangartong, Wunlang and Yargot) and 12 bomas (Gaal, Makuei-Agep, Tong-Goi, Pariak, Tit-Chok Mareeng, Aroyo, Kur Chok, Chan-Anguei, Luang Aher, Hal bul, and Wardit). All sites were identified with the help of the communities based on their water needs/priorities and the suitability of the land for water retention. Labor was contributed by the community in excavation of the haffirs, ponds, shallow wells whereas the technical guidance on dimensions and depth were given by the state Ministry of Cooperative and Rural Development. The materials were provided by World vision in support of those community projects.	S
Output 3.2: ***Improved ground water recharge and soil moisture retention through community-based soil and water conservation measures in micro-watersheds.***					

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
Activity 3.2.1: Constructing soil and water conservation structures and stabilizing slopes on community lands with contributions of labour and material from communities.	May 2025	0%	100%	The project supported the construction of 3 haffirs,12 ponds and cleared an area of 9km in Akuem watershed. The riverbeds were covered by local plant called awiir, an invasive species. This allows free drainage in the rivers and reduce the attacks of small ruminants by dangerous reptiles like crocodiles and snakes. To reduce the effects of flooding in the watersheds, the project intends to construct dykes around community farms to safeguard the crops and tree seedlings for NRM activities.	S
Activity 3.2.2: Planting and seeding appropriate and indigenous multi-purpose species of trees, shrubs and grasses.	June 2025	0%	50%	The project procured over 10,000 different tree seedlings ranging from mangoes, guava, mahogany, lemon, teak, eucalyptus, pine. The seedlings/saplings will be planted in community lands near water points to ease irrigation challenges. Planting will commence in July 2025. As part of cost sharing, the community will provide local materials and labour whereas World Vision provided barbed wire, nails and working tools. The seedlings will be planted in enclosures to protect them from stray animals. Also 2 nursery sites are being set up per each Boma to raise seedlings to arrest erosion and increase infiltration while increasing available biomass.	S
Activity 3.2.3: Undertaking on-field soil and water conservation with farmer groups coupled with strengthening of structures through planting multi-use grasses, shrubs and trees.	July 2025	0%	50%	Soil and water conservation undertaken along with planting of agro-forestry species in farms and homesteads. Working tools were procured to support construct of dykes to control flood water from submerging the young seedlings and beneficiaries' crops. The seedlings will be planted in community lands and around water points to prevent erosion and increase resilience.	*S*

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
Activity 3.2.4: Involving communities in maintenance, protection and management of structures and planting efforts on community lands.	NA	0%	0%	The project engaged communities through micro-watershed committees to identify areas requiring maintenance or management. This included areas for planting of trees sits for dyke construction, and drainage channels opening. Watershed committees have also identified areas set up for no-grazing, which will be fenced with local materials and different tree seedlings planted. The micro- watershed management committees are tasked with integrated management of watersheds and enforce by-laws that protect the watershed and penalise the violators.	*S*
Output 3.3: ***Reduced impacts of floods through creation of water storage and spreading structures and drainage control measures in the catchment.***					
Activity 3.3.1: Constructing small dykes, diversion canals and water storage ponds and spreading structures on community lands with material and labor contributions from the community.	July	0%	50%	To combat the impacts of flooding, dykes will be constructed to protect farms and seedlings from high levels of flood water.9 Kms of riverbed has been cleared of invasive species to allow drainage. Construction of Water harvesting structures is in progress to harness the excess flood water for use during dry season.	S
Activity 3.3.2: Planting and seeding appropriate and indigenous multi-purpose species of trees, shrubs and grasses to stabilize slopes and sides of structures, arrest erosion and increase infiltration while increasing available biomass.	July 2025	0%	60%	Tree seedlings have been procured for planting in community lands and at individual homesteads. This will help increase infiltration and reduce erosion. Tree orchards are being set up in all the 12 bomas.	S
Activity 3.3.3: Undertaking construction of drainage channels and ponds on farmer lands with farmer groups coupled with strengthening of structures through planting multi-use grasses, shrubs and trees.	May 2025	0%	100%	Rivers clearing of invasive species completed (9 km) in Akuem Watershed to allow free water flow. the invasive species obstructed water flow, trapped sediments and reduced the efficiency of drainage. Additionally, 12 ponds and 3 haffirs were constructed to capture rain and flood water for dry season irrigation.	S

Outputs/Activities[3]	Expected completion date[4]	Implementation status as of 30 June 2024 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2025 (%)	Progress rating justification[5], description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating[6]
Activity 3.3.4: Cleaning and maintaining channels, streams, ponds and water spreading structures.	June 2025	0%	80%	9 Kms of riverbeds cleared in Akuem watershed, opening up drainage channels by removing the silt and debris. Maintenance is organized through watershed committees and farmer groups at regular intervals to repair and maintain channels, streams, and ponds.	S
Output 3.4: ***Increased resilience to drought through creation of water points from shallow boreholes***					
Activity 3.4.1: Constructing water points at strategic locations.	June 2025	0%	100%	Through involvement and engagement of communities in the watersheds, water harvesting structures restored and constructed strategically to improve access of drinking water for settlements and for livestock. Structures include 3 haffirs, 12 ponds and 4 shallow wells. The shallow wells were constructed with flood resilient elevated platform to protect from contamination and were also equipped with pulley system for drawing water from depth making it even simple children to fetch water. Treadle, diesel and solar pumps bought and connected to water points for small scale irrigation.	S
Activity 3.4.2: Operation, maintenance and monitoring of water points.	September 2025	0%	80%	The construction of 4 shallow wells has just concluded. To enhance proper administration for the benefits of all, water management committees will be set up and trained on basic maintenance and operation for the 4 shallow wells by the end of August 2025. The committee will run the daily operations setting rules and collecting user fees for maintenance.	S
Activity 3.4.3: Linking water points with small scale/micro-irrigation for vegetable gardening and life-saving irrigation.	June 2025	0%	70%	The project procured solar and diesel pumps for use in small scale irrigation and micro-irrigation. Installation of the pumps is planned for October 2025, after the rainy season. The installed pumps will provide water in vegetable gardens and for life-saving irrigation for crops and tree nurseries.	S

3.3. Risk Rating

Table A. Risk-log

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risk	Risk affecting:	Risk Rating							Variation respect to last rating	
	Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	MTR	PIR 3 (PIR)	PIR 4	PIR 5	Δ	Justification
Risk 1: The use by the project of degraded rangelands or low-productivity agricultural areas for more productive land-uses and for watershed management may reduce open access pastures and fields in project areas, and hence restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to vulnerable individuals or groups. These restrictions could potentially result in economic displacement.	Outcome 2	Moderate	M	M					=	There are challenges of access to community land for project activities mainly in Aweil East County due to population density, however, since the lands reclamation is happening in lands that were not in use, populations are still having access to their useful lands. The lands being claimed are susceptible to flooding more, especially in Aweil East County.
Risk 2: The project's support to agricultural and pasture activities could lead to adverse impact on the existing social tensions in the area – but not present in the selected localities - between land users, including Internally Displaced Persons. These tensions could also increase violent altercations which have arisen over the last years, and it may affect the repartition of benefits among beneficiaries, to the	Outcome 2	Substantial	S	M					=	Despite influx of returnees from Sudan to Northern Bhar El Ghazal State, the 12 operational Bomas have remained calm and stable with no social tension and competition over resources.

detriment of women and indigenous peoples.										
Risk 3: The duty bearers of this project may have low capacities to (1) measure and manage the impact of climate change on agriculture, (2) to engage with all members of the communities in depth, and (3) to facilitate and monitor a grievance redress mechanism (GRM)	Outcomes 1, 2 and 3	Substantial	S	L					=	While duty bearers possess knowledge and technical capacity in climate change measurement, adaptation planning, and natural resource management, the enforcement of environmental policies remains weak. These actors have demonstrated the ability to effectively engage communities on climate-related issues and promote behavior change aimed at reducing vulnerability to climate shocks. However, existing policy frameworks and regulatory mechanisms are insufficiently robust, creating enforcement gaps that allow environmentally harmful practices—such as indiscriminate forest burning—to persist without consequence. In many instances, community members who engage in deforestation or land degradation are not held accountable due to lack of clear legal penalties or inadequate implementation of existing environmental laws. Strengthening environmental governance will require not only continued capacity-building of duty bearers but also the reinforcement of policy instruments, legal accountability systems, and community-based monitoring mechanisms to deter destructive practices and promote sustainable land management.
Risk 4: As women are traditionally excluded from decision-making processes, they could be excluded from the support planned for farmers and farmers organizations as well as in the national and regional institutions. This could inadvertently reproduce existing discriminations, including in the design of agriculture and natural resources management policies, and even gender-based violence against women in project implementation.	Outcomes 1, 2 and 3	Substantial	S	L					=	The project has consistently prioritized advocacy and dialogue to promote a proactive and transformative approach to gender mainstreaming, ensuring that interventions at all levels contribute meaningfully to the empowerment of women and girls. While deep-rooted social norms and gender-based discrimination continue to limit women's full participation in decision-making and community affairs, the project has made tangible progress in shifting these dynamics. This is notably reflected in the composition of community governance structures, where women are increasingly represented in both membership and leadership roles. Moreover, during the selection of project beneficiaries, deliberate measures were taken to prioritize women, particularly in the distribution of farm inputs. This strategic targeting has enhanced women's access to productive resources, contributing to improved agency, livelihood security, and more equitable resource ownership within households and communities. Continued engagement with traditional leaders, local institutions, and men and boys remains essential to sustain these gains and

										foster an enabling environment for gender-transformative change.
Risk 5: Even though the project aims at making agricultural practices more sustainable by improving their adaptation to climate change, the support to the development of agribusinesses triggered by the project could cause increased development in the area and potential demographic pressure, leading to degradation of the natural habitats, including to the neighboring Chelkou and Ashana game Reserve	Outcomes 1, 2 and 3	Moderate	M	M					=	Although there are agribusiness development milestones (identification of crop and livestock enterprises including the start up support for crops, goats, sheep and poultry) made in the project such as establishment of vegetable farms, construction of Haffirs, ponds, shallow, the project has not registered a significant demographic pressure or degradation of lands. Hence, there are no changes from the previous rating.
Risk 6: The afforestation activities, if not well designed, could potentially lead to an inadvertent introduction of invasive alien species	Outcome 3	Moderate	M	L					=	The project, in close collaboration with the Directorate of Forestry under the Ministry of Agriculture, identified and prioritized the use of locally adapted tree seedlings that are ecologically suited to the native environment. This approach supports ecosystem-based adaptation by promoting species with proven resilience to local climatic and soil conditions, while also reinforcing community ownership and the sustainability of reforestation and land restoration efforts.
Risk 7: Accidental release of products or waste from agricultural production units, uncontrolled use of herbicides and chemical fertilizers which can contaminate soils and surface water could happen during project implementation if used without proper protocols.	Outcome 2	Low	L	L					=	The project is promoting the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices that prioritize environmental conservation and long-term ecosystem health. Over the past year, the project has deliberately avoided the use of synthetic fertilizers, instead encouraging organic and regenerative farming approaches that reduce chemical inputs and preserve soil integrity. In line with international environmental and social safeguards, the project conducted a comprehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), and the findings have informed the development and implementation of an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). The ESMP outlines specific mitigation measures to ensure that project interventions are environmentally sound, socially inclusive,

										and aligned with national policies and GEF/UNDP safeguard standards
Risk 8: The Project envisages the construction of small-scale check-dams and other small soil and water conservation structures, including water storage, spreading structures and drainage, which could lead to alteration of soils, flows and impound water	Outcome 3	Moderate	M	M					=	The structures considered by the project are of low scale, mainly done by communities with small hand tools, hence do not result in massive alteration of soils or flow of water.
Risk 9: Climate change, which manifests itself mainly through more violent storms during the rainy season, has generated major shifts in the seasonal calendar, increased heat waves, perturbations in agricultural practices and among the fish populations, and has affected storage capacities – this can increase conflicts and social tensions, and lead to the loss of benefits among farmers' organizations.	Outcomes 2 and 3	Low	S	L					=	Despite the intensifying impacts of climate change in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, particularly in the project intervention areas, there have been no reported incidences of conflict or social tension associated with climate-induced stressors. Notably, while seasonal flooding occurred in August 2024, it did not escalate into disputes or undermine community cohesion. This outcome reflects, in part, the project's emphasis on conflict-sensitive programming, inclusive community engagement, and the strengthening of local capacities for resilient and cooperative resource management. Maintaining and enhancing this social stability will remain a key priority as climate variability continues to affect livelihoods and access to natural resources in the region.
Risk 10: The project might generate an increase of GHG emissions at the local level due to the expected increased agricultural production, on the short-term and especially on the long-term.	Outcomes 1, 2 and 3	Low	L	L					=	The project has developed an Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as part of its ESIA. The ESMP prioritizes Climate-Smart Agriculture practices that increase productivity while reducing emissions, such as integrated pest management and improved irrigation techniques. It also promotes composting, segregation and safe disposal of waste.
Risk 11: Aweil region's volatile security situation and general low level of labor safety standards, including UNDSS lists the security level of the Aweil regions as Moderate, may pose a risk for occupational health and	Outcome 3	Moderate	M	M					=	In every construction project, occupational health and safety were always major concerns. With that in mind, the project trained beneficiaries on construction safety measures prior to beneficiaries digging haffirs, ponds and shallow wells. Also, the project provided safety tools like gumboots and heavy-duty gloves. No accidents or safety issues were reported in the project areas.

safety with regard to any physical works (such as during construction, transporting materials). Project activities could lead to work-related accidents involving local workers during the construction of water storage and drainage control										
Risk 12: Most of the agricultural sector in the project area is informal and fails to comply with national and international labor standards. Hence there is a risk of violation of workers' rights within the cooperatives and small agribusinesses supported by the project, linked to forced labor and in particular to child labor.	Outcome 2	Substantial	S	L					=	No reports of violation of worker's rights were received by the project during the last year. The project worked with communities at small scale in the first year. The project is raising awareness on safeguarding and child protection and working closely with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. A GRM system has been established where participants can report concerns.
Risk 13: The project may act as a disease vector: small scale water storage may have potential to provide breeding areas for mosquitos which represent a nuisance and increase the prevalence of Malaria or other significant mosquito borne diseases.	Outcomes 1, 2 and 3	Substantial	L	L					=	To reduce the risk of water related diseases like malaria the project is establishing water harvesting structure in areas prioritized by communities based on local understanding of context. Additionally, the project is incorporating health and hygiene education for participants to reduce the incidence of diseases.
Risk 14: The project could adversely impact traditional indigenous knowledge by (1) sharing it in a way that is not culturally appropriate; (2) triggering its loss through the introduction of climate smart agriculture technologies and new practices	Outcomes 1, 2 and 3	Moderate	M	M					=	The project seamlessly passed filtered CSA messages that are consistent with local laws and cultures. The project has integrated indigenous knowledge into climate smart agriculture trainings including documentation of traditional watershed and soil management techniques and their applicability in modern interventions.
Risk 15: There is a risk that indigenous peoples, vulnerable or vulnerable		Substantial	S	L					=	The project is using a comprehensive project beneficiaries' selection criterion that considers the vulnerability status of the targeted participants. The project has also set up a

groups, might not be involved during the implementation of the project including investments in local adaptation measures for resilient agriculture and implementation of local level economic activities, and therefore not engaged in, supportive of, or benefitting from project activities.	Outcomes 1, 2 and 3									Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that allows communities to share feedback.

Table B. Outstanding medium & high risks

*List here **only risks from Table A above that have a risk rating of M or worse** in the **current** PIR*

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIR_{t-1}, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	Additional mitigation measures for the next periods		
			What	When	By whom
Risk					
Risk 1: The use by the project of degraded rangelands or low-productivity agricultural areas for more productive land-uses and for watershed management may reduce open access pastures and fields in project areas, and hence restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to vulnerable individuals or groups. These restrictions could potentially	No action was decided as this is the project's first PIR.	The project restored the degraded lands that were not in use and can become a settlement. Using participatory methods, the project developed resources use maps to guide implementation in community land.	More degraded lands will be reclaimed for use. Adopt resource use maps for future developments.	July 2025 -June 2026	WVI & Government

result in economic displacement.					
Risk 2: The project's support to agricultural and pasture activities could lead to adverse impact on the existing social tensions in the area – but not present in the selected localities - between land users, including Internally Displaced Persons. These tensions could also increase violent altercations which have arisen over the last years, and it may affect the repartition of benefits among beneficiaries, to the detriment of women and indigenous peoples.	No action was decided as this is the project's first PIR.	The project closely monitored the impact of the influx of returnees and refugees from Sudan Work closely with other humanitarian players to lessen the impact of competition on resources.	Closely monitor the impact of influx of the returnees and refugees due to the current war in Sudan as Aweil is located near South Sudan and Sudan boarder. Increase awareness on peaceful coexistence The extent of this risk to be reassessed at project inception will continue to be monitored.	Jul. 2025-June 2026	WVI & Government
Risk 5: Even though the project aims at making agricultural practices more sustainable by improving their adaptation to climate change, the support to the development of agribusinesses triggered by the project could cause increased development in the area and potential demographic pressure, leading to degradation of the natural habitats, including to the neighboring Chelkou and Ashana game Reserve.	No action was decided as this is the project's first PIR.	A Biodiversity Action Plan was designed by an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Consultant. The project strengthened institutional capacities to ensure effective and efficient management of agriculture and pastoral landscapes in regard to climate change, including the mitigation of potential adverse impacts to habitats. .	All activities will be carried out in accordance with the applicable management plan, and with conditions of approval for the activity as set out by the regulatory authorities	July 2025-June 2026	WVI & Government
Risk 8: The Project envisages the construction of small-scale check-dams and other small soil and water conservation structures,	No action was decided as this is the project's first PIR.	Comprehensive technical and feasibility studies were conducted to determine sites and interventions. This included environmental	All earthworks will be completed well in advance of rainy seasons to prevent any erosion or sedimentation of water bodies.	July 2025-June 2026	WVI & Government

including water storage, spreading structures and drainage, which could lead to alteration of soils, flows and impound water		safeguards. The community-based micro-watershed committees coordinated the construction of water harvesting/extraction structures, according to IEA. The construction of the ponds and haffirs were overseen by professional engineers after a comprehensive site survey.	A site supervisor will be appointed to oversee and direct construction and field activities including use of safe work practices, safe handling and disposal of waste, and other common construction issues and practices, storage and use of fuels and other		
Risk 11: Aweil region's volatile security situation and general low level of labor safety standards, including UNDSS lists the security level of the Aweil regions as Moderate, may pose a risk for occupational health and safety with regard to any physical works (such as during construction, transporting materials). Project activities could lead to work-related accidents involving local workers during the construction of water storage and drainage control	No action was decided as this is the project's first PIR.	The project trained beneficiaries on construction safety measures prior to beneficiaries digging haffirs, ponds and shallow wells. Also, the project provided safety tools like gumboots and heavy-duty gloves. No accidents or safety issues were reported in the project areas.	Continuous awareness on construction risks and mitigation measures Work closely with farmers organizations and agribusinesses, and responsible parties to ensure enhanced compliance with all national and international labor standards.	July 2025-June 2026	WVI & Government
Risk 14: The project could adversely impact traditional indigenous knowledge by (1) sharing it in a way that is not culturally appropriate; (2) triggering its loss through the introduction of climate smart agriculture technologies and new practices	No action was decided as this is the project's first PIR.	Assessments were conducted which clearly acknowledged traditional knowledge and practices found in use by the project at inception. Traditional knowledge was integrated into training manuals to facilitate better adoption and uptake.	The project seamlessly passed filtered CSA messages that are consistent with local laws and cultures. The project integrated indigenous knowledge into climate smart agriculture trainings including documentation of traditional watershed and soil management techniques and	July 2025-June 2026	WVI & Government

			their applicability in modern interventions Training and material support provided to farmers organizations and women's groups were based on intercommunity dialogue, ensuring that all local and indigenous communities participate equitably.		

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.
Medium Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.
Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.