**Baseline survey Terms of Reference**:

Building Resilience of Crisis affected communities in Jonglei and Lake state.

Oxfam South Sudan

December 2022

1. **Baseline Summary**

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| **Project Name** | Building Resilience of Crisis affected communities in Jonglei and Lake state. |
| **Target Location** | Nyirol, Akobo West and Rumbek |
| **Project Goal** | Building resilience of targeted crisis-affected communities through improved food security, income and basic infrastructure and management of risks and shocks for inclusive and peaceful societies. |
| **Key Partners** | * Community Action Organisation (CAO) * Disabled Agency for Rehabilitation and Development (DARD) |
| **Project Lifespan** | 1st September 2022 – 31st August 2025 (36 months) |
| **Support Office** | Oxfam South Sudan |
| **Baseline Purpose** | Overall purpose of the study is to provide benchmarks against key indicators of the project and gives a reference point for tracking the project progress. Moreover, the baseline survey is also expected to refine the project theory of change and indicators. |
| **Primary Methods** | * Quantitative survey in the target areas * Qualitative interviews with key partners and stakeholders * Document review including relevant secondary data |
| **Baseline start** | 21st Feb 2023 – 20th March 2023 (4 months) |
| **Anticipated Baseline Report Release Date** | Baseline report will be released 20th Mar 2023 |
| **Baseline survey commissioning manager** | Abreham Fisseha, Programme quality Coordinator |

**2. Country Context**

According to the Fragile States Index of 2021, South Sudan is ranked 4th with a score of 109.4 following Yemen, Somalia and Syria. The conflict that started in 2013 [[1]](#footnote-1)displaced nearly 4 million persons (1.71 million internally displaced and 2.3 million refugees and 34 thousand seeking protection in protection of civilian sites (OCHA, August 2021). According to the recent HNO[[2]](#footnote-2), 8.9m people in need of humanitarian assistance and 7.7million in food insecure. Although the signed peace agreement known as Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of conflicts in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) has contributed to some peace, there is still no hope due to slow implementation of this agreement. Approximately 90% the fiscal budget of South Sudan depends on oil revenue, while agriculture contribute the 10%. Despite vast of virgin land with a total area size of 248,777 square miles but approximately 6% of the arable land is being utilised. (World Bank 2020). World Bank in 2011 estimated that 82% of the population in South Sudan are poor according to $1.90 Purchasing Power Parity Poverty Line. The low literacy rate with GPI of 0.98 increases vulnerability in agriculture, coupled with lack of extension service. This has affected access to technical advice and support for women in agricultural production. In addition, violence has affected agriculture production as population are cut off from accessing their land, agriculture extension workers and services, information, rights and goods. This has also affected freedom of movement and access to markets.

The targeted project locations face two crises, floods and inter communal violence that create a vacuum in government’s capacity to address overarching community grievances. The issues related to access to local resources and conflict resolution manifested by revenge killings are not being addressed. Lakes and Jonglei state have legacy of Inter-Communal Violence (ICV) such as revenge killings and cattle raids and child abduction, in [[3]](#footnote-3)2020 ICV was the main source of violence affecting civilians, this led to 658 deaths, 452 injuries, 592 abductions and 65 cases of sexual violence and 266 women.

In 2021, the fifth flood in following affected already vulnerable communities in South Sudan. In 2021, unprecedented flooding washed away crops, destroyed homes and contaminated water supplies impacting over 834,000 people, and more impact mostly felt in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states. According to the HNO 2022, more than 37,000 tons of crops were destroyed and nearly 800,000 livestock were killed. Year on year flooding make it impossible for people in some affected areas to fully recover and rebuild their lives, deepening vulnerability. Inadequate disaster risk management and mitigation measures both at national and local level will continue to expose communities to these risks.

Agricultural production has remained stagnated mainly because of conflict, lack of extension services, access to quality and timely inputs and application of traditional methods of production. The end line report of the project Fortifying Equality and Economic diversity (FEED), which is implemented in a consortium of World Vision, Oxfam, and CARE, for Lakes revealed that 88.2% of population was engaged in agriculture with 67.8% farming field crops through use of traditional methods and practices. Yields per acre were estimated at 350Kgs far below the 1200Kg average yields per acre in South Sudan. Access to markets has remained a constraint in most parts of South Sudan both in terms of access to productive inputs and goods. In South Sudan 2 of 3 youth age between 15-24 years have entered the labour market in which a total of 60% are engaged in substance farming and rearing animals. Of the total population of age bracket (15-24) years, 58% percent are employed in non-wage work in the agriculture sector (World Bank October 2020). Weak organization of rural farmers cooperatives and market development for the agricultural sectors accounts for stagnation of the agricultural sector in which rural population have not been able to fetch good income from their produce and this in turn has forced youths who are the most energetic segment of the population to engage in other livelihoods such as charcoal burning, Boda-Boda rides, constructions work, etc. which are quick wins yet high environmental footprints.

Food insecurity has deepened in the targeted locations with Akobo, Nyirol (Jonglei) and Wulu and Rumbek Centre (lakes) counties classified in IPC phase 3 and 4 respectively. Oxfam Multisectoral Needs Assessments (MSNA) conducted in August 2020 revealed that in Akobo West and Nyirol county already 18%, 43% and 39% of households falls under Poor, Borderline and Acceptable Food consumption thresholds based on the scale of (0-21), (21.5 -35) and (>35) respectively and the report also confirmed that some households have already adopted some coping strategies such as reliance on wild foods (82%), Food assistance (63%) and increased sale of household assets (25%). It is also important to note that there has been marked movement of population and the assessment revealed that population demographics such as on residential status, 56% of the total respondents are host community composed host communities and 23% are new arrivals 11% are returnees while 10% are IDPs.

South Sudan has one of the lowest sanitation coverages in the world with about 77% of the population with poor or no access to safe latrines with an open defecation practiced by an alarming 73% of the population. This limited access to appropriate and dignified sanitation in rural, urban, and peri-urban settings increases the risk of cholera and other diarrheal or vector-borne diseases. According to the HNO 2022, Only 39 per cent of the population reported having enough water to meet their household needs countrywide, dropping to 34 per cent in rural areas. The recurrent waves of floods continue to destroy water facilities and contamination of water making the population to rely on open water surfaces such as swamps and ponds. Oxfam multisector assessment (August 2021) findings revealed that 49% queue for at least 1 hour before fetching water, 38% it takes them up to half an hour to get water, 12% respondents said they wait for more than 1 hour.

The complex humanitarian crisis and COVID-19 have aggravated existing vulnerabilities, exacerbated poverty and reinforced gender inequalities. A 2021 Oxfam Gender and Protection Analysis reinforced the continued gendered differences in behavioural expectations based on traditional gender roles and harmful cultural practices[[4]](#footnote-4). These differences affect health, acute food insecurity, access to education, access to WASH, SGBV, armed conflict and COVID-19. Prevalent deeply rooted customs and patriarchal tendencies make it challenging to address the strategic interests of women such as empowerment, decision making, and representation. A 2022 Oxfam Gender and Protection Analysis[[5]](#footnote-5) revealed women, girls, men and boys are perceived to have strict gender roles. Cultural beliefs mean that household decision-making power lies with men. Women have very limited decision-making power, and this is primarily concentrated around select tasks considered the women’s responsibility restricted to the domestic sphere. Women bear the burden of any food shortages due to pre-existing gender roles and the division of household labour, as they are responsible for childcare, preparing the household food, and household essentials. According to the HNO 2022, food insecurity and malnutrition across South Sudan have been exacerbated by several causes, including protection, with the increase of negative coping mechanisms, Gender Based Violence (GBV), child labour, child marriage, and human trafficking. According to the HNO 2022, an estimated 2.6 million people risk facing gender-based violence in 2022, which represents a 25 per cent increase compared to 2021 estimates. Climate shocks, severe drought, massive flooding, and conflicts have contributed to the increase in GBV risks.

The targeted project locations (Nyirol, Akobo and Wulu) have a very poor road network and even more worse during the peak rainy season to deplorable conditions. The terrain is quite flat and characterised with a very low altitude that makes the locations flood risk. There is existence of schools, health facilities and very limited water infrastructure and most of the services in the public facilities such as health, education and safe water is covered by the humanitarian partners as the government has limited capacity in terms of human resources and funding to these critical sectors. The transport link is very weak due to poor road network, water navigation and lack of road transport services.

**3. Project background**

BMZ project, is planned to be implemented in Jonglei state (Akobo and Nyirol counties) and Greater Lake state Wulu county, with an overall objective of Building resilience of targeted crisis-affected communities through improved food security, income and basic infrastructure and management of risks and shocks for inclusive and peaceful societies. The project targeted host communities 75%, internally displaced persons 15% and returnee population 10%. At least 60% of the total households to be supported will be women headed households. The project will target a total 45,444 (of which men 21,813 and women 23,631 including 2,272 persons living with disability).

**3.1 Overall objective**

Building resilience of targeted crisis-affected communities through improved food security, income and basic infrastructure and management of risks and shocks for inclusive and peaceful societies.

**3.2 Desired Impacts**

* Enhancing market-oriented agricultural, livestock and fishery production through provision of inputs and capacity building to rural farmers and fisher folks towards increasing productivity to meet local demand for food and market.
* Targeted communities have improved access to Climate friendly Sustainable Water, sanitation, and Hygiene promotion services.
* Targeted communities have strengthened their local capacity and mechanisms for the management of threats, Risks and Local Conflicts.

**4. Purpose of the study**

The purpose of the baseline is to clearly identify, articulate, and document the existing situation/ context of the people and communities that the project targets to work with from the onset. The products of the assessment will further provide the benchmarks on which any changes resulting from the interventions and achievements could be measured. The outcome will also inform any modifications in the result framework but also changes that may be made during project implementation to realise optimum results.

**4.1 Specific objectives of Tasks are as follows:**

Assess the current situation of the project areas, in terms of access to livelihood infrastructure, income generating opportunities, skill-based solutions for sustainable livelihoods, inclusive participation and gender responsive local leadership, capacities of local authorities on inclusive basic infrastructure management and CMDRR, positive gender behaviours, status of resilience and livelihood initiatives as well as agricultural productive capacities and resilience of the local farming communities. Thus, study shall:

* + - To establish benchmarks for target setting within each specific outcome, as per the indicators set out which will be used to assess progress once implementation starts.
    - To articulate, an up to date and clear identification, and document the existing situation/ context of the people and communities that the project targets to work with from the onset in 2022
    - Review the level of public and community participation in policy level discussion and policy makings and peace building processes.
    - Examine the extent to which the local leadership is participatorily inclusive, gender responsive and enhances resilient sustainable livelihoods.
    - Assess the knowledge and practice of women on participation at household and community level and awareness about SGBV and challenging harmful social norms.
    - For each of the thematic areas assessed provide concrete recommendations
* with clear criteria for improving the existing situation to realise better and sustainable out-puts and out-comes
* identify simple but reliable methods which should be used in each thematic area and to implement the recommended actions by the community, local institutions, and the project
* identify ways of disseminating results of findings and recommendations to local authorities, institutions and communities for awareness and support for implementation.
* map out similar/ relevant initiatives implemented by other actors working in the same areas and recommend ways of building synergies with this project.

**5. Scope of the Baseline survey**

Geographic focus of this survey includes all the project areas Jonglei sate (Akobo and Nyirol counties) and Lakes state (Wulu county). The survey is expected to provide point of reference against the key indicators in the result framework of the project which are mainly quantitative indicators (see Annex II). However, the baseline study is also expected to give due focus on developing some key qualitative indicators for the project as well.

**6. Baseline survey Methodology**

In the assessment, Oxfam South Sudan expects the consulting firm to deploy a mix of both quantitative and qualitative methods for collection of data/information, using appropriate participatory tools and techniques which may include but not limited to in-depth interview, Key informant interview, Focus group discussions, etc. Appropriate scientific methodologies should be employed in the sampling techniques and further data analysis.

* Comprehensive desk review of relevant documents i.e. project proposal, literature from related on-going projects (e.g. the project proposal, implementation strategy, project risk assessment, partner description document, and/ or others), related Government policy documents including strategies for development of the thematic areas of the project.
* The consultant firm will interact with staff of Oxfam South Sudan, and relevant government institutions and other stakeholders on a sample basis.
* The consultant(s) will fully engage a sample of target Water infrastructure departments, community members, and Counties agriculture stakeholders (i.e. Water Management Committees, Pump Mechanics, Women/youth lead organizations, etc. officials from pertinent government offices and ministries.

**7. Procedure**

It is expected that the consultant or firm will:

* Expand and further define the method of the study in consultation with Oxfam and as part of the inception phase.
* Consult the various partners that are to deliver the Project in the context of working with Government Ministries, local partner organizations, etc.
* Whenever relevant, disaggregate data by sex (male, female), age (children, adolescent, young people), conflict profile (IDPs, refugees, returnees, host communities), and disability
* Whenever possible and relevant, work with researchers which are resident in the locations (Akobo West, Wulu, Rumbek and Nyirol) in order to conduct the interviews with key informants
* Have the ability to work in English
* Process, analyse and present the data in a user-friendly format
* Produce a report that will be widely shared with partners and stakeholders as an important tool for mapping and guiding the implementation of the project.

**8. Expected deliverables and payment schedule**

The following are key deliverables of the baseline survey exercise.

* Development of an inception report highlighting details of the deliverables and methodologies, detailed tools, and instruments (First of all the inception report will be approved by Oxfam before allowing any baseline activities. The agreement with the consulting company can be cancelled if the inception report is not approved). This would include all practical operational tools that would be deployed in the survey, the enumerators to be engaged in the survey and the work plan including survey and report deliveries.
* Enumerators Training and Survey Questionnaire Testing - the consultant will be responsible to train the enumerators agreed as per inception report and test the data collection tools.
* Survey Execution - According to the agreed sample size and area, beneficiary /community, and stakeholder coverage. If possible, the data collection should be conducted with the support of GPS to map the respondents for future reference.
* Final draft Baseline survey Report together with the raw data set.

**9. Duration of the consultancy**

It is expected that the evaluation will start on **third week of February 2023** for an estimated duration of 4 weeks. This will include desk reviews, data compilation and report writing.

**10. Roles and responsibilities**

**The consultant should:**

* Agree with Oxfam team (management, technical leads and MEAL team) on the methodology of the baseline survey.
* Lead on the baseline survey process and outputs
* Draft, pilot and finalize different data collection tools
* Collect and analysis data
* Submit the draft baseline survey report to Oxfam
* Submit the final baseline survey report after incorporating comments and inputs from Oxfam and partners.
* Cover all the costs related to the data collection, analysis and report write up (except costs that are mentioned below and covered by Oxfam)

**Oxfam will**:

* Provide all key background documents on the project (Project Appraisal Document, special studies conducted by the project, background information on the project area, reports from participatory M&E studies, etc.).
* Will cover the cost of in country flight cost and local travel for data collection
* Facilitate the data collection in the field location and Juba through organizing meetings with the interviewees
* Will cover the cost of translators and enumerators related to the data collection.

**11. Budget**

Submit a financial proposal that indicates all-inclusive costs for conducting the survey except for commitments listed above.

The consulting firm shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the proposal. The consultant shall submit ONE (01) copy of technical and ONE (01) copy of financial proposal in electronic form or in a single envelope. The technical and financial proposals should be clearly marked and should include the name and detailed contact of the consultant/ firm.

All costs should be quoted in USD and will remain valid up to sixty days (60) from the day of proposal submission.

**12. Confidentiality and data protection**

All the out-puts – baseline reports, data base, etc, produced under this assignment will not be disseminated in part or whole without express authority from Oxfam South Sudan. Thus, the consultant firm shall not produce these materials in any form (electronic, hard copies, etc) to a third party without written permission from Oxfam South Sudan.

**13. Person specification and team composition**

* Be familiar with the resilience building and livelihood program in South Sudan and specifically in the response areas.
* Previous experience in conducting baseline studies; in quantitative and qualitative research methods and social science research
* Background in international development or displaced populations/ humanitarian work in South Sudan
* Knowledge of Rumbek, Wulu, Nyirol (Lankien) and Akobo West (Walgak) contexts in South Sudan
* Experience of working in multicultural contexts
* Excellent interpersonal skills
* Excellent planning and prioritization skills
* Proven ability to adapt the research plan to challenges and opportunities emerging during the research.
* Proven ability to multitask and work under tight deadlines
* Experience of work on multi sectoral programs which include resilience and governance, food security and livelihoods, WASH, gender and protection.

**14. Research management**

The commissioning manager is Dr Manenji Mangundu (Oxfam Country Director) supported by the country Programme quality team. The consultancy will also be coordinated with OXFAM Lankien APM and other relevant Oxfam BMZ colleagues who will constitute part of the review committee which will be responsible for overseeing the work of the consultancy firm and ensuring the effective implementation of the baseline. Interaction with the review committee will be at specific points such the inception, draft and final report reports.

**15. Expression of Interest**

Interested consultants may submit a cover letter, technical proposal with CV of team members and detailed financial proposal (including staff charges, travel, equipment, hardware, software, and other related activities). The technical proposal should be brief not exceeding 5-6 pages detailing the understanding of the ToR, proposed methodology and approach for the assignment and testimonial of similar undertakings (make sure copies similar assessments or evaluations are annexed) to [Jubaquotations@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:Jubaquotations@oxfam.org.uk)

Closing date for applications: 14th Feb 2023

**Annex 1. Recommended outline of the baseline survey report**

1. **Cover page**

* Title
* Project title /affiliate identification code
* Date that the report was finalized
* Oxfam and BMZ logo (unless not appropriate)

1. **Table of contents**
2. **Glossary**
3. **List of abbreviations.**
4. **Executive summary that can be used as a stand-alone document** (usually not more than 3–4 pages)
5. **Introduction, stating objectives of the baseline survey**
6. **The intervention and context**
7. **Methodology, including an indication of any perceived limitations of the evaluation**
8. **Presentation of the findings and their analysis**
9. **Conclusions**
10. **Learning and Recommendations**
11. **Appendices:**

* Terms of reference
* Summary table with list of indicators and baseline values
* A list of interviewees (name, function and working environment) and places visited.
* List of documents and bibliography used.
* Link to Methodological
  + instruments such as questionnaires and interview guides

**Annex II: RFW**

1. <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-humanitarian-snapshot-august-2021> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-humanitarian-snapshot-february-2022> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/05/1064792> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. South Sudan Gender and Protection Analysis Report, January 2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Oxfam South Sudan Gender and Protection Analysis Report, May 2022 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)