

**Terms of Reference**

**Research on the impact of famine on women and girls in Pibor**

**Introduction**

Akobo county in the Jonglei State South Sudan has seen increased levels of Man-made and natural disasters between 2019 and 2020 leading to unprecedented numbers of households with high levels of Food insecurity. According to the analysis released by the IPC Global Unit (GU)[[1]](#footnote-1) on the 11th of December 2020, Akobo county and its Payam’s (Bilkey Dengjok, Pualtok , Nyadith, Gagadok) which make up about 80% of the population of Akobo county was classified in IPC PHASE 5 (**Famine Likely)**  based on the findings from the IPC Acute food insecurity conducted in South Sudan between October 26th and November 16th 2020. In 2020, Akobo was hugely affected by Sub-national localized violence and flooding which affected over 60,000[[2]](#footnote-2) people. An escalating cycle of intercommunal violence involving the Murle and Nuer communities in Jonglei left hundreds dead and thousands of cattle raided, homes burnt. This Violence also led to constraint on access to basic services like education, Health facilities, WASH facilities and Markets.

The Unprecedented 2020 flooding in Akobo further exacerbated the already stretched population who barely recovered from the 2019 floods, experienced one of the most violent ICV spells in history while also dealing with the harsh economic impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic coupled with lack of access to humanitarian aid as a result of insecurity and floods leading to high levels of inflation, hunger. Protection and Gender based violence including abduction and forced marriages and gender inequity are deeply rooted in these communities and account for major humanitarian and protection risks that increase the populations’ vulnerability to food insecurity and starvation. In addition, cattle raiding remains one impediment to sustainable livelihoods of the agro-pastoral communities in Jonglei while perpetuating a virtuous circle of violence. Much of the conflict is over basic resources of food, grazing land, power, water for both domestic and animal use, personal revenge grudges related to children and women abduction, and cattle raids. As part of the response, Oxfam is implementing various projects in Akobo and surrounding areas and in line with the response, Oxfam has planned to conduct research on the impact of famine on women and girls that will contribute to policy discussions and changes to improve the status of women and girls.

**Objectives**

To conduct research on the impact of famine on women and girls that will trigger policy discussions and recommendations on how the needs of women and girls can be highlighted and addressed

**Scope of work**

* Design qualitative research methodology to assess the impact of famine on women and girls using focus group discussions and key informant interviews. (Data will be collected by Oxfam staff at field level)
* Conduct desk research
* Analyse data collected by Oxfam staff
* Draft report using desk research and field data

**Expected deliverables**

* The research report including targeted recommendation to relevant stakeholders
* Draft a policy briefing, for external publication

**Duration** **and** **Tentative schedule of activities**

The consultancy assignment is to be completed within 20 working days, with the following of tasks

* Design of the research methodology & tools
* Review of documentation
* Period of the research in the field Pibor in the following payams Bilkey, Dengjok, Gagadok and Nyadith.
* Data analysis and report writing
* Preparation and submission of the first draft report
* Meetings with Oxfam and other relevant partners on initial findings and key deliverables
* Incorporation of comments and finalization of the research report
* Presentation of research findings.

**Management of the Consultant**

Oxfam will support the consultant remotely throughout the survey. The consultant will work with community structure and protection and gender team will commence the inception process by:

Ensuring that the consultant fully understands the scope of the study, including the fact that the study is NOT seeking to document prevalence or incidents of GBV but rather only general trends related to the types of actors receiving GBV in relation to food insecurity. Oxfam will also ensure that the consultant fully understands what information is and is not relevant to the study, is aware of and able to implement safe and ethical approaches to collection of information and ensure that the consultant will NOT collect any information not needed for or relevant to the specific research purpose noted above

**Data analysis**, Support analysis to focus on concepts/ theories upon which the study is designed.

Writing up the brief technical study report that includes conclusions in key areas and areas of intervention focus.

**Lessons Learned**,

The lessons learnt through the entire study shall be documented and shared with the Project team and program quality department for future programing in similar projects. The documentation of these lessons will be vital for reflection, growth and continued improvement.

**Limitations**, This study will be undertaken with some limitations which may include but not limited to; Travel Schedules: International and domestic travel between states is mostly by air using UN Flights. Thus, changes in travel schedules due to flight cancellation, weather and other technical issues may interrupt the conduct of this assignment.

**Core Competencies**

* People Skills: Ability to deliver assessment results within the shortest period of time.
* Integrity: Exhibits trustworthiness, integrity and has a clear commitment to Oxfam core values and humanitarian principles.
* Resilience/Adaptability and flexibility: Ability to operate effectively under extreme circumstances including stress, high security risks and harsh living conditions. Works and lives with a flexible, adaptable and resilient manner.
* Awareness and sensitivity of self and others: Demonstrates awareness and sensitivity to gender and diversity. Have experience and the ability to live and work in diverse cultural contexts in a culturally appropriate manner. Has a capacity to make an accurate self-assessment particularly in high stress and high security contexts.
* Knowledge and skills: knowledge of Oxfam policies and procedures, safe guiding policy, Code of Conduct.

1. http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\_South\_Sudan\_Famine\_Review\_2020Nov.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/wfp-south-sudan-situation-report-274-14-august-2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)