

Research Terms of Reference

Cash Feasibility Study

SSD2415

South Sudan

October 2024
V3

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

1. Executive Summary

Country of intervention	South Sudan					
Type of Emergency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural hazard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conflict	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)
Type of Crisis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sudden onset	<input type="checkbox"/>	Slow onset	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protracted
Mandating Body/ Agency	FCDO					
IMPACT Project Code	32GBK					
Overall Research Timeframe (from research design to final outputs / M&E)	November 2024 to April 2025					
Research Timeframe Add planned deadlines (for the first cycle if more than 1)	1. Pilot/ training: 10th of February			6. Preliminary presentation: TBD		
	2. Start collect data: 11th of February 2025			7. Outputs sent for validation: 28 th February		
	3. Data collected: 17th of February 2025			8. Outputs published: Beginning of April at the earliest		
	4. Data analysed: 21st February			9. Final presentation: TBD		
	5. Data sent for validation: 24th February					
Number of assessments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single assessment (one cycle)				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multi assessment (more than one cycle)				
	Milestone			Deadline		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donor plan/strategy			_/_/_/_/_	

Humanitarian milestones <i>Specify what will the assessment inform and when e.g. The shelter cluster will use this data to draft its Revised Flash Appeal;</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inter-cluster plan/strategy	_/_/_/_/_	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cluster plan/strategy	_/_/_/_/_	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	NGO platform plan/strategy	_/_/_/_/_	
	x	Other (Specify): SSD CWG	_/_/_/_/_	
Audience Type & Dissemination <i>Specify who will the assessment inform and how you will disseminate to inform the audience</i>	Audience type		Dissemination	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic x Programmatic x Operational <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]		x General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors) <input type="checkbox"/> Cluster Mailing (Education, Shelter and WASH) and presentation of findings at next cluster meeting x Presentation of findings (CWG meetings) x Website Dissemination (Relief Web & REACH Resource Centre) x CWG mailing list	
Detailed dissemination plan required	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	x	No
General Objective	To understand the appropriateness and feasibility of cash assistance and market-based interventions in flood-prone areas of South Sudan with poor market performance, in order to inform humanitarian programming in these locations.			
Specific Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To assess market capacity to meet the community's demand for goods and services. - To identify the critical barriers shock-affected communities face in accessing the local markets, including physical, financial, and security constraints. - To understand beneficiaries' assistance preferences. - To understand the availability and capacity of financial service providers in areas affected by shocks, and to assess how accessible they are for vulnerable communities. - To explore community acceptance of CVA and identify the protection risks associated with this type of assistance. 			

Research Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent are markets in shock-affected areas accessible and capable of meeting the community's demand for goods and services? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 What primary physical, financial, and security barriers hinder communities' access to markets? 1.2 Are existing markets able to provide the required goods or services to address the community's needs? 1.3 Can these markets respond to increased demand if CVA is applied? 2. What are the assistance preferences of communities in shock-affected areas? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 To what extent do communities in these areas use cash daily and how reliant are these communities on markets to meet their everyday needs? 2.2 How receptive are community members to meeting their needs through cash assistance? 3. What is the availability and capacity of financial service providers in shock-affected areas, and to what extent are financial services accessible to vulnerable communities? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. What financial service providers operate in these areas, and how do the community and market vendors access and perceive them? 4. To what extent are CVA programs socially acceptable in shock-affected areas? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 What are the perceived risks of cash assistance for relationships within households and communities?
Geographic Coverage	<p><i>The assessment focuses on three payams across the counties of Aweil North and Gogrial West</i></p> <p><i>In Aweil North County (Northern Bahr el Ghazal State) the assessment focuses on vendors in the market of Gok Machar town and households in Malual North Payam. It also includes vendors in the market of Ariath town and households in Ariath Payam.</i></p> <p><i>In Gogrial West County (Warrap State) the assessment targets vendors in Kuajok town market and households in Kuac North Payam.</i></p>

Secondary data sources	Section 3.3 below specifies the list of resources assessed for conducting a secondary data review to prepare this ToR.			
Population(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	IDPs in camp	<input type="checkbox"/>	IDPs in informal sites
<i>Select all that apply</i>	x	IDP in host communities	x	IDPs [Returnees]
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refugees in camp	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refugees in informal sites
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refugees in host communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refugees [Other, Specify]
	x	Host communities	x	[Other, Specify] Vendors
Stratification <i>Select type(s) and enter number of strata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geographical #: 2 Population size per strata is known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Group #: _ _ _ Population size per strata is known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other Specify] #: _ _ Population size per strata is known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Data collection tool(s)	x	Structured (Quantitative)	x	Semi-structured (Qualitative)
	Sampling method		Data collection method	
Structured data collection tool # 1 Household Survey Tool	x Purposive x Probability / Simple random <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Stratified simple random <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Cluster sampling <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Stratified cluster sampling <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]		<input type="checkbox"/> Key informant interview (Target #): <input type="checkbox"/> Group discussion (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ x Quantitative Household interviews (Target 107 per county, 214 in total): with household members responsible for market-related activities, such as purchasing goods or managing household supplies. <input type="checkbox"/> Individual interview (Target #): <input type="checkbox"/> Direct observations (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] (Target #):_ _ _ _ _	
Target precision	95% Level of Confidence 10% Margin of Error			
Disaggregation by gender and age	Gender (HoH) x Yes, indicative		Age (HoH) x Yes, indicative	

	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Structured data collection tool # 2 Market Traders Survey Tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purposive <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Simple random <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Stratified simple random <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Cluster sampling <input type="checkbox"/> Probability / Stratified cluster sampling <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]	<input type="checkbox"/> Key informant interview (Target 10 per marketplace, 30 in total): Market Trader <input type="checkbox"/> Group discussion (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> Household interview (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> Individual interview (Target #): <input type="checkbox"/> Direct observations (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] (Target #):_ _ _ _ _
Semi-structured data collection tool # 3 Focus Group Discussion Tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purposive <input type="checkbox"/> Snowballing <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]	<input type="checkbox"/> Key informant interview (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ - <input type="checkbox"/> Individual interview (Target #):_ _ _ _ _ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Focus group discussion (Target 2 per town (one all-male, one all-female), 6 in total). Each will have 6 community members that frequent the markets <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify] (Target #):_ _ _ _ _
Data management platform(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMPACT	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Specify]	
Expected output type(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Situation overview #: _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation (Preliminary findings) #: _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> Interactive dashboard #: _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> [Other, Anonymized dataset] #:	<input type="checkbox"/> Report #: _ _ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation (Final) #: 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Webmap #: _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> Profile #: _ _ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Factsheet #: 2: per county <input type="checkbox"/> Map #: _ _
Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public (available on REACH resource center and other humanitarian platforms) <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted (bilateral dissemination only upon agreed dissemination list, no publication on REACH or other platforms)	
Visibility Specify which logos	REACH [By default unless specified otherwise] Donor: FCDO Coordination Framework: South Sudan Cash Working Group	

should be on outputs	Partners: No
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2. Rationale

2.1 Background

In recent years, South Sudan has been heavily affected by flooding caused by above-average rainfall in Eastern Africa, with much of the country becoming inaccessible during the rainy season.¹ As of October 2024, the flooding has impacted over 1 million individuals across 42 counties and the Abyei Administrative Area and has displaced nearly 271,000 people in 17 counties.² Affected populations are expected to face disrupted livelihoods and loss of agricultural productivity. Although specific data on crop loss due to flooding remains inaccessible, multiple needs assessments have reported significant and widespread crop damage across flood-affected counties.³ This damage will likely lead to an agricultural deficit for the 2024 harvest, with areas hardest hit by flooding expected to experience the most severe consequences.⁴ The South Sudan Flood Preparedness and Response Plan for June to December 2024 highlights the critical role of cash assistance in responding to the current flooding.⁵ These cash grants aim to enable the impacted population to quickly address their most urgent needs as they define and prioritize them.

Furthermore, in line with the Grand Bargain commitment to increase the use of cash assistance, especially multi-purpose cash grants, as the standard for humanitarian response, South Sudan's 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) will incorporate multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) as a modality within sectorial cash programming targets. This decision intends to prepare the ground for the consolidation of an MPCA cluster by 2026. According to South Sudan's Cash Working Group (CWG), humanitarian cash interventions accounted for 7.5 million USD in South Sudan, reaching almost 900K beneficiaries across 59 counties and the Abyei administrative area from January to November 2024.⁶ These cash interventions have primarily responded to sectoral needs, with the Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) cluster having the most extensive cash programme. emerged as the second largest sector in value, with a value of 2.8M USD during the same period. Despite humanitarian actors' intentions to shift towards a more flexible

¹ International Crisis Group. (2022). *Floods, Displacement and Violence in South Sudan*. [Link](#).

² OCHA. (2024). *South Sudan: Floods Snapshot (as of 18 October 2024)*. [Link](#).

³ Food & Agricultural Organization. World Food Programme. Government of South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics. (2022). *South Sudan 2022 Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) Summary of Findings*. [Link](#).

⁴ Food and Agricultural Organization. World Food Programme. (2024. May 16). *Special report: 2020 FAO/WFP Crop and food security assessment mission (CFSAM) to the Republic of South Sudan*. [Link](#).

⁵ South Sudan Food Security Cluster. (2024). *South Sudan Flood Preparedness and Response Plan June-December 2024*. [Link](#).

⁶ South Sudan Cash Working Group. (2024). *Cash and Voucher Dashboard – Jan-Aug 2024*. [Link](#).

response through cash interventions, there remains a significant knowledge gap regarding the feasibility of cash-based approaches in South Sudan. A cash feasibility study conducted by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 2019, concluded that there is certainly potential for using cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to achieve various humanitarian objectives in South Sudan. However, humanitarian agencies should approach this carefully and avoid hastily implementing cash-based interventions without thorough planning⁷

Each year, the HNRP taskforce evaluates inter-sectoral needs and severity by county across South Sudan, ranking counties based on priority levels to guide the humanitarian response plan. In 2025, the humanitarian response will focus on counties with priority levels 1 and 2 throughout the year, while counties with priority levels three will be targeted only during the first six months. Market functionality will serve as a critical indicator for assessing the feasibility of cash interventions and determining prioritised locations for assistance. Although many flood-affected counties have been designated priority levels one, two, or three for 2025, data from the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMML) collected between September 2023 and August 2024 shows that most counties continue to experience poor market functionality.⁸ Despite this, the combination of agricultural deficits and reduced livestock production caused by flooding will likely heighten households' dependency on market purchases to meet their essential food needs in 2025. These factors, together with the increased focus on MPCA for the 2025 prioritized counties and the prioritisation of cash assistance for emergencies in South Sudan, highlight the need for an in-depth analysis of markets in flooded areas to provide conclusive evidence that cash assistance is the most appropriate and feasible form of aid in emergencies.

2.2 Intended impact

This research aims to understand better the market conditions and barriers that communities face to access markets in (1) Gogrial East County in Warrap State and (2) Aweil North County in Northern Bahr El Ghazal State, in particular. Given the current conditions of exacerbated humanitarian needs in these areas (please see 3.2 Population of Interest), by identifying the market dynamics, community access barriers, and preferences for assistance, the findings will build a strong and context-specific evidence base to guide and inform national discussions, awareness, and preparedness initiatives related to the use of cash transfers as a means to support humanitarian assistance for emergency response in South Sudan in 2025.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology Overview

⁷ International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. (2019). *Feasibility Study on South Sudan Cash and Voucher Modalities*. [Link](#).

⁸ REACH. South Sudan Cash Working Group. (2024). Joint Marketing Monitoring Initiative (JMML). [Link](#).

This assessment draws on primary and secondary data sources and will follow a mixed-method approach involving both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods.

Secondary Data Review: a secondary data review was conducted to provide insight into state-of-the-art cash feasibility studies and determine the locations of interest for this study (see Section 3.3).

Primary Data Collection: primary data collection will be conducted in three marketplaces and the communities the markets serve, in three different Payams located in two counties (see 3.2 on Population of Interest), and will include three components (see 3.4. Primary Data Collection)

- 1) **107 Household Interviews (HIs) per county (214 in total)** to explore:
 - Market usage and constraints faced by households to access markets;
 - Household assistance preferences and acceptance
 - Community access to financial service providers
- 2) **10 Market Trader Interviews (MTI) per town (30 in total)** – In each selected market, 10 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) will be conducted with market vendors (– food and non-food item retailers directly selling to consumers) –, to assess the current state of market functionality in the areas, the availability and access to financial service providers and the acceptance of CVA by the community.
- 3) **2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) per town (6 in total)** –In each town, 2 FGDs will be conducted with community members. Participants will be selected based on socio-demographic characteristics (gender). In the FGDs, participants will discuss:
 - the community's access to markets and the market's capacity to meet its needs;
 - its familiarity and acceptance of cash-based modalities;
 - its preferences for cash-based modalities and delivery mechanisms and the potential negative or positive impacts on household and community relations;

While the quantitative tools' household and market trader interviews cover similar topics, the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) are essential because they add more context, depth, and a broader community perspective. FGDs help to understand the reasons behind the survey responses, which might not always come out clearly in structured interviews. They also allow people to discuss shared experiences, common challenges, and any differences in individual answers. In addition, FGDs help to compare and validate the data from the quantitative tools, giving a complete and more detailed picture of the situation. Using both quantitative and qualitative methods makes the assessment more balanced and thorough.

Tools Development: A combination of data collection tools will be developed to address the assessment objectives and research questions comprehensively. Two structured tools will be developed for market trader interviews and household interviews. A semi-structured tool will guide Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), enabling an in-depth exploration of community perspectives.

3.2 Population of interest

- Geographical area assessed

South Sudan's administrative structure is organized into several levels. At the top is the **State level**, with the country divided into **10 States**. Each state is further divided into approximately **79 Counties**, which are subdivided into **Payams**, and finally into **Bomas**, the smallest official administrative unit. While settlements or villages exist, they are not recognized as formal administrative levels. It's important to note that South Sudan has not conducted a population census since 2008. As a result, population data at the county level is based on estimates rather than up-to-date figures.

Data collection will take place in three Payams, each hosting a marketplace regularly monitored through the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI). The assessment will target these marketplaces along with the communities they serve, including households from the town where the markets are located and the nearby towns that access the markets to purchase key commodities. As reported by the JMMI, consistently poor market functionality was observed in these marketplaces in 2024⁹. Moreover, these Payams are located in two counties that have been significantly affected by the 2024 floods.

The assessment focuses on the following three payams: **Malual North Payam, Ariath Payam, and Kuac North Payam**. Malual North Payam and Ariath Payam are in *Aweil North County* (Northern Bahr El Ghazal State) and Kuac North Payam is in *Gogrial West County* (Warrap State).

Aweil North County is located in Northern Bahr El Ghazal and shares a border with Sudan. The county has been severely affected by this year's floods, with 20% of the total population impacted as of October 2024. Moreover, the food security situation in Aweil North County is particularly severe. According to the most recent Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted in October 2024, 25% of the population is projected to experience emergency (Phase 4) food insecurity between September and November 2024.¹⁰ The combination of these factors, among others, has led the HNRP decision body to designate the county as priority level 1 for 2025, with a humanitarian response aiming to target 71,040 PiN next year¹¹. The JMMI monitors markets in Gok-Machar and Ariath, where market functionality has been consistently below 50 between September 2023 and August 2024. Despite the ongoing poor functionality of markets and the predominant reliance on

⁹ JMMI Trend Analysis from September 2023 to August 2024

¹⁰ IPC Population Distribution September 2024 to July 2025

¹¹ South Sudan 2025 HNRP PiN Target and Severity Prioritization

farming as the main livelihood in the county, the 2024 FSNMS reported that a vast majority (94.2%) of households still depended on local markets to meet their food needs in July 2024.

Gogrial West County is located in Warrap State and is primarily an agro-pastoral region within the western floodplain zone. The communities in this area mainly depend on farming, cattle rearing, and fishing for their subsistence.¹² Since May 2024, significant rainfall has caused widespread flooding, affecting approximately 15% of the county's population. With a Priority Level 3 designation, the humanitarian response aims to target 122,024 People in Need (PiN) throughout 2025.¹³ The JMMI collects market data from the Kuajok marketplace, where the average market functionality score between September 2023 and August 2024 was 40.2¹⁴. Despite this consistently low market functionality, data from the 2024 Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) in Gogrial West indicates that more than 70% of surveyed households relied on market purchases for food during the peak of the 2024 lean season.

- Population assessed

The assessed population comprises community members from locations surrounding the target marketplaces, focusing on the household member who is traditionally responsible for market-related activities such as food purchasing. The key informant will provide information at the household level on the accessibility constraints to access the markets at the household level, as well as preferences, usage, and risks associated with cash assistance.

Moreover, market vendors—defined as retailers selling directly to consumers—will provide information on market operational efficiency. The FGDs with community members aim to provide in-depth information on the mechanisms and reasoning behind the quantitative component's findings.

- Unit of measurement

For **Household Interviews**, the person responsible for market activities will respond on behalf of the entire household. In **Market Trader Interviews**, selected market traders will respond based on their experience and operations. In **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)**, participants will discuss and provide insights reflecting the broader conditions and trends within the community of the towns assessed.

3.3 Secondary data review

¹² CSRF. South Sudan County Profile Gogrial West

¹³ South Sudan 2025 HNRP PiN Target and Severity Prioritization

¹⁴ JMMI Analysis Trend September 2023 to August 2024

A secondary data review was undertaken to highlight the need for a cash feasibility study in South Sudan and identify the locations of interest for the assessment. Moreover, the secondary data review, particularly the draft Analysis Framework for the Cash Feasibility Assessment Toolkit from REACH Ethiopia, was instrumental in identifying key areas of analysis for the assessment and in formulating research questions aligned with the study's scope.

Secondary source	Purpose of source
Joint Market Monitoring Initiative	Market and price trends
IPC Population Distributions – September 2024 to July 2025 ¹⁵	Food security classifications
Food Security & Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) ¹⁶	Food security outcome data, including the reduced Coping Strategies Index (CSI), Market challenges, and Market dependency by month.
OCHA (2024). South Sudan Floods Snapshot as of 18 November 2024	Updated information on the flooding in South Sudan
FEWS NET (2024). South Sudan - Key Message Update: Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes remain widespread as flooding expands.	Information on the effect of flooding crops and livestock production.
CRS Cash and Voucher Assistance Feasibility Checklist Guidance Document	Provide background on requirements for Cash Feasibility Assessment
UNHCR Cash Feasibility and Response Analysis Toolkit	Provide background on requirements for Cash Feasibility Assessment
South Sudan Cash and Voucher Dashboard	Cash Assistance Data from January to August 2024
South Sudan: Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025	Data on Prioritised Counties and PiN Targets for 2025
REACH. (October 2024). Draft Analysis Framework for Cash Feasibility Assessment Toolkit. REACH Ethiopia. ¹⁷	Provide background on key areas of analysis for cash feasibility assessments and standardized structured tools at the organization level.

3.4 Primary Data Collection

Methods

¹⁵ Dataset on file with REACH

¹⁶ Datasets on file with REACH.

¹⁷ Document on file with REACH

This research employs a convergent parallel design, in which quantitative and qualitative data are collected simultaneously but analyzed independently. The findings from both data sets are then triangulated and merged to provide a comprehensive understanding of the research questions. A sequential data collection process will be prioritised across the three targeted locations, planned from the 11th to the 14th of February 2025. Two REACH teams will conduct simultaneous data collection in Gogrial West and Aweil North. In each location, the quantitative and qualitative data collection activities will be conducted in parallel. The AO will be responsible for supervising and monitoring the data collection, checking and cleaning incoming data in a timely manner throughout the data collection process. Only after all field activities are completed will a cleaned dataset be submitted for review, and data analysis for both types of data will be conducted.

Data collection tool	Target Sample Size	Sampling Strategy
Focus Group Discussions	2 FDGs per community (catchment area of that marketplace, defined as central town and surrounding villages) - 6 participants in total	Purposive Split by gender. The groups' compositions should aim to reflect community dynamics.
Household Interviews (HI)	107 per county (214 in total)	Multi-stage sampling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% CI and 10% MoE • Buffer of 10% per strata
Market Trader Interviews (MTI)	Minimum 10 per market (30 in total)	Purposive

Sampling

The sampling exercise for this assessment comprises three components:

- 1- A sample of marketplace-specific key informants comprising market vendors; and
- 2- A survey sample including households at the Payam level; and
- 3- A FGD sample of community members at the pPyam level.

Participants will be selected based on closeness to the targeted local market within the assessed Payams and their ability to provide insights into the study objectives.

Household respondent selection:

Actually, even though we are reporting at the town level, the way we did the sampling doesn't let us capture differences between the two counties. Since the counties and Payams were chosen purposely, the data isn't really representative at the Payam or county level.

Enumerators will follow a systematic sampling approach, such as selecting every n-th household beginning from a predetermined starting point, the central marketplace in each payam. With the assistance of local authorities and partners, the number of households in the town and surrounding villages will be estimated. The total number of households to be interviewed in each village will be calculated proportionally. Starting from the main marketplace in each payam, the enumerators will move systematically along the road of the town, interviewing every nth household. Once the number of interviews in the main town is achieved, the enumerators will move to nearby villages and continue following the same interval (n) and main route.

While the purposive selection of the first and second stages limits the sample's representativeness of the broader population, the random selection of households and the sample size is expected to be sufficient to cover most demographic groups within the assessed areas, providing valuable insights into the overall situation at the Payam level.

Market vendor respondent selection:

A single-purpose sampling will be used to select participants for the market vendor interviews. For this Cash Feasibility Study, a **market vendor** is defined as a retailer selling directly to consumers. In each location, field teams are responsible for identifying a sufficient number of retailers to interview: **at least 10 market vendors per marketplace** which match the following criteria:

- retailers must be **selling directly** to consumers;
- retailers **must sell either food, NFIs or both food and NFIs**;
- Traders with weight scales are prioritised.
- Traders are representatives of the local price level.

When approaching a retailer, the AO should first introduce themselves and their organization, clearly explaining the purpose and nature of the assessment and the amount of time they expect the survey to take to complete. They should also confirm whether the vendor will contribute information to the assessment.

Focus Group Discussion respondent criteria

Purposive sampling will be used to select participants for the FDGs. Community members will be selected based on their knowledge and experience related to market access and humanitarian assistance. Partners in the field and community representatives will identify individuals who hold

specific roles or have insights into the community dynamics, such as local leaders and frequent market users.

The focus groups' composition will aim to reflect broader community dynamics. Efforts will be made to include individuals from various demographic groups (age, gender, and legal status).

Data collection field team

Data collection will involve two separate REACH teams. Each team will be assigned to a different assessed county, conducting data collection concurrently. Each independent REACH field team will be comprised of:

- **One REACH Assessment Officer (AO):** Responsible for conducting Market Vendor Interviews (MVIs) and facilitating Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).
- **One REACH Field Officer (FO):** Responsible for team coordination and supporting the AO.
- **Minimum of six local enumerators:** Trained to conduct Household Interviews (HIs) using standardized questionnaires.
- **One note-taker and one translator.**

All enumerators will receive 1.5 days of training before data collection begins, covering data collection methodologies, conflict-sensitive approaches, the "do-no-harm" principle, and quality control measures.

In Gogrial West, data collection will proceed in two phases. The REACH team assigned to this county will complete all data collection exercises, including HH interviews, market vendor interviews and FGDs in **Malual North Payam**, before moving to **Ariath Payam** and repeating the same process. Simultaneously, the REACH team in Aweil North will collect data in Kuac North Payam and finalise **all HHs interviews, market vendor interviews**, and FGDs before returning to Juba.

Upon arrival in the targeted location, the REACH field team will introduce the local authorities to the assessment's objectives to ensure acceptance and freedom to operate.

Data collection tools

A semi-structured data collection tool will be developed to conduct FGDs combining specific questions and sub-questions. This tool will allow facilitators to probe and adapt based on participant responses to answer the study's specific objectives.

The structured questionnaires for the market vendor interviews and household interviews will be adapted from the standard cash feasibility tools developed by REACH Ethiopia, which are drawn from the UHNCH cash feasibility and response analysis toolkit with adaptations from CALP's framework. This assessment will include the following areas of analysis: market functionality protection risks, financial risks, community acceptance and transfer mechanisms and delivery

options. Since the JMMI in South Sudan assesses the selected marketplaces monthly, the market functionality section will only incorporate those indicators within the five dimensions of availability, affordability, accessibility, resilience, and infrastructure that are not monitored through the JMMI.

The data collection tools will be developed in English and will be translated by the enumerators/translator to the preferred language during the KI interviews and FGDs as needed.

Data collection for HH interviews and Market Vendor Interviews will be conducted using KoBo Toolbox software. Enumerators will complete the interviews offline and save them for later submission once they return from the field. The REACH field team and AO(s) will be responsible for providing the enumerators with the necessary equipment (smartphone/tablet) to enable data collection. Moreover, the REACH team, following [IMPACT's minimum standards checklist](#), will be responsible for monitoring the data collection process to ensure data quality and that the guiding principles of informed consent, 'do no harm', and confidentiality are respected.

Data Processing & Analysis

Data processing and analysis of Household Interviews (HIs) and Market Vendor Interviews (MVI) will follow [IMPACT's minimum standards checklist](#). At the end of data collection, the team will run a Quality Assurance (QA) script in R, checking the data for survey and enumerator metadata, logical inconsistencies, and data protection concerns. Any issues the checklist identifies will be addressed according to the error type. Quantitative data will be analyzed in R, and findings will be reported on assessed households and vendors. Descriptive statistics will capture and illustrate trends and observations within the population evaluated, and where applicable, cross-tabulations will be used to explore relationships between variables.

For the qualitative component of the study (FGD), data processing and analysis will be performed following IMPACT's Minimum Standards Checklists for structured data collection tools. Following the data collection phase, the full interview transcript will be prepared and stored in the REACH SharePoint. Data will be analysed using a convergent design, where quantitative and qualitative data are analysed independently and then merged to triangulate findings. Qualitative data will be analysed using a thematic analysis, which will be applied to explore and identify patterns within the data. This process will involve creating a Data Saturation and Analysis Grid (DSAG), which will be generated using three distinct layers: Discussion Topics (DTs), Discussion Sub-Topics (DSTs), and Data Points (DPs). Discussion Topics will be deducted from the questions included in the qualitative data collection tool. Discussion Sub-Topics and Data Points will be derived inductively, emerging naturally from the analysis of the transcripts, allowing for a comprehensive exploration of key themes within the data.

3.5 Limitations

While this cash feasibility study aims to provide valuable insights into the various dimensions that make financial interventions feasible in South Sudan, several limitations should be acknowledged:

- The main limitation of this study is the sampling bias. The study employs a purposive and multi-stage sampling method for selecting both households and market vendors. This methodology makes the data representative only for the studied population, meaning the findings should not be generalized to broader areas. The results may not fully reflect conditions in other parts of the country.
- Another important limitation is respondent bias. In both Household Interviews (HIs) and Market Trader Interviews (MTI), respondents may provide answers that are seen as desirable or influenced by their perceptions of what the researcher wants to hear. Moreover, since some of the topics discussed are sensitive, willingness to discuss and under-reporting of issues might occur.
- The short timeframe within which this study is planned to be conducted represents an additional limitation. The fixed timeframe for data collection, which coincides with the peak of the dry season and the recession of the floods, limits the ability to capture season variations in the market functionality.
- Another limitation is that households and vendors might give different answers to the same questions. Since they have different roles and viewpoints, their responses could vary, which might create some inconsistencies in the data. These differences will need to be carefully considered and addressed during analysis to make sure we get a clear and accurate understanding of the situation.

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

The proposed research design meets/does not meet the following criteria:

<i>The proposed research design...</i>	<i>Yes/ No</i>	<i>Details of no (including mitigation)</i>
... Has been coordinated with relevant stakeholders to avoid unnecessary duplication of data collection efforts?	No	The literature review of publicly accessible cash feasibility assessments in South Sudan is limited, with few comprehensive studies available. A notable evaluation conducted by the ICRC in 2019 provides valuable insights, but gaps remain in understanding specific regional dynamics and evolving market

		conditions in the past few years. Given the scarcity of existing assessments, the probability of duplication of data collection efforts is negligible.
... Respects respondents, their rights and dignity (<i>specifically by: seeking informed consent, designing length of survey/ discussion while being considerate of participants' time, ensuring accurate reporting of information provided</i>)?	Yes	
... Does not expose data collectors to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	No	While the research design itself does not inherently pose risks, potential indirect risks—such as traveling to remote areas or navigating challenging environments—have been considered. To mitigate these, data collectors will receive adhere to strict travel protocols, and use safe transportation methods. Additionally, data collection activities will be conducted during daylight hours, and real-time communication with field supervisors will be maintained to ensure their safety.
... Does not expose respondents / their communities to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	Yes	
... Does not involve collecting information on specific topics which may be stressful and/ or re-traumatising for research participants (both respondents and data collectors)?	Yes	
... Does not involve data collection with minors i.e. anyone less than 18 years old?	Yes	

... Does not involve data collection with other vulnerable groups e.g. persons with disabilities, victims/ survivors of protection incidents, etc.?	Yes	
... Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of personally identifiable information ?	Yes	

5. Roles and responsibilities

Table 3: Description of roles and responsibilities

<i>Task Description</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Accountable</i>	<i>Consulted</i>	<i>Informed</i>
<i>Research design</i>	AO	RM	Impact HQ, FCDO, Data Officers	Impact Country Coordinator, CWG
<i>Supervising data collection</i>	AO	RM	RM	Impact Country Coordinator
<i>Data processing (checking, cleaning)</i>	AO, Data Officer	RM	IMPACT HQ Research Design & Data Unit (RDDU)	IMPACT HQ RDDU
<i>Data analysis</i>	AO, Data Officer	RM	IMPACT HQ RDDU	IMPACT HQ RDDU
<i>Output production</i>	AO, Data Officer	RM	IMPACT HQ RDDU, IMPACT DCC, FCDO, CWG	IMPACT HQ RDDU, FCDO, CWG
<i>Dissemination</i>	AO	RM	IMPACT HQ RDDU, IMPACT DCC	IMPACT HQ, FCDO, CWG
<i>Monitoring & Evaluation</i>	IMPACT PD	IMPACT PD	RM, IMPACT HQ	IMPACT HQ
<i>Lessons learned</i>	AO	RM	IMPACT DCC	IMPACT HQ, FCDO

Responsible: the person(s) who executes the task

Accountable: the person who validates the completion of the task and is accountable of the final output or milestone

Consulted: the person(s) who must be consulted when the task is implemented

Informed: the person(s) who need to be informed when the task is completed

NB: Only one person can be Accountable; the only scenario when the same person is listed twice for a task is when the same person is both Responsible and Accountable.

5. Data Analysis Plan

Preliminary DAP can be found in a separate file.

7. Data Management Plan

Administrative Data			
Research name	Cycle	Cash Feasibility Assessment	
Project Code	32GBK		
Donor	FCDO		
Project partners	N/A		
Research Contacts	Veridiana Pedrosa Merino – veridiana.pedrosa@impact-initiatives.org Elijah Makau - elijah.makau@impact-initiatives.org		
Data Management Plan Version	Date: 17/01/2024	Version: 02	
Related Policies	IMPACT Minimum Standards for Qualitative Data Processing and Analysis IMPACT Minimum Standards for Quantitative Data Processing and Analysis IMPACT Guidelines for SOPs for Management of Personally Identifiable Data		
Documentation and Metadata			
What documentation and metadata will accompany the data? <i>Select all that apply</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data analysis plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Cleaning Log, including: x Deletion Log x Value Change Log
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Code book	<input type="checkbox"/> Data Dictionary

	<input type="checkbox"/>	Metadata based on HDX Standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]
Ethics and Legal Compliance				
Which ethical and legal measures will be taken?	x	Consent of participants to participate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent of participants to share personal information with other agencies
	x	No collection of personally identifiable data will take place	x	Gender, child protection and other protection issues are taken into account
	x	All participants reached age of majority		[Other, Specify]
Who will own the copyright and Intellectual Property Rights for the data that is collected?	IMPACT (REACH) and FCDO			
Storage and Backup				
Where will data be stored and backed up during the research?	x	IMPACT/REACH Kobo Server	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Kobo Server: <i>[specify]</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IMPACT Global Physical / Cloud Server	x	Country/Internal Server
	<input type="checkbox"/>	On devices held by REACH staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical location <i>[specify]</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]		
Which data access and security measures have been taken?	x	Password protection on devices/servers	x	Data access is limited to <i>Assessment officer, Research Manager and Data Officer</i>
	x	Form and data encryption on data collection server	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partners signed an MoU if accessing raw data
	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]		
Kobo Access Rights				
Kobo Access	Person		Account Name	
View form, submit data	Enumerators		Tbd	
View form, edit form	Data Officer (tbd)		Tbd	
View form, edit form, submit data	Khemis Moses		khemis_moses	
View form, edit form, submit data, download data	Veridiana Pedrosa Merino		veridiana_pedrosa	
Raw Data Access Rights				
Raw Data Access	Reason		Person	

Access	Responsible for Assessment		Veridiana Pedrosa Merino (AO)		
Access					
Preservation					
Where will data be stored for long-term preservation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	IMPACT / REACH Global Cloud / Physical Server	<input type="checkbox"/>	OCHA HDX	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REACH Country Server	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]	
Data Sharing					
Will the data be shared publically?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, only with mandating agency / body	
Will all data be shared?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, only anonymized/ cleaned/ consolidated data will be shared	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No, [Other, Specify]			
Where will you share the data?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REACH Resource Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	OCHA HDX	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Humanitarian Response	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other, Specify]	
Data protection risk assessment					
Have you completed the Indicators Risk Assessment table below?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, no information that potentially allows identification of individuals is to be collected.	
	[Please complete the first 4 columns in the Indicators Risk Assessment table below]				
Risk indicator	Type of identification risk	Disclosure implications	Benefits	Class	Required mitigation
Responsibilities					
Data collection	Khemis Moses (AO) – khemis.moses@impact-initiatives.org Veridiana Pedrosa Merino (AO) – veridiana.pedrosa@impact-initiatives.org				
Data cleaning	Veridiana Pedrosa Merino (AO) – veridiana.pedrosa@impact-initiatives.org				
Data analysis	Veridiana Pedrosa Merino (AO) – veridiana.pedrosa@impact-initiatives.org				
Data sharing/uploading	Veridiana Pedrosa Merino (AO) – veridiana.pedrosa@impact-initiatives.org Elijah Makau – Research Manager - elijah.makau@impact-initiatives.org				

• Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

Please complete the M&E Plan column in the table and use the corresponding Tools in the Monitoring & Evaluation matrix to implement the plan during the research cycle.

IMPACT Objective	External M&E Indicator	Internal M&E Indicator	Focal point	Tool	Will indicator be tracked?
Humanitarian stakeholders are accessing IMPACT products	Number of humanitarian organisations accessing IMPACT services/products Number of individuals accessing IMPACT services/products	# of downloads of x product from Resource Center	Country request to HQ	User_log	x Yes
		# of downloads of x product from Relief Web	Country request to HQ		x Yes
		# of downloads of x product from Country level platforms	Country team		x Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from REACH global newsletter	Country request to HQ		x Yes
		# of page clicks on x product from country newsletter, sendingBlue, bit.ly	Country team		x Yes
		# of visits to x webmap/x dashboard	Country request to HQ		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
IMPACT activities contribute to better program implementation and coordination of the	Number of humanitarian organisations utilizing IMPACT services/products	# references in HPC documents (HNO, SRP, Flash appeals, Cluster/sector strategies)	Country team	Reference_log	CWG strategy
		# references in single agency documents			

humanitarian response					
Humanitarian stakeholders are using IMPACT products	Humanitarian actors use IMPACT evidence/products as a basis for decision making, aid planning and delivery	Perceived relevance of IMPACT country-programs	Country team	Usage_Feedback and Usage_Survey template	
		Perceived usefulness and influence of IMPACT outputs			
		Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			
		Perceived capacity of IMPACT staff			
		Perceived quality of outputs/programs			
	Number of humanitarian documents (HNO, HRP, cluster/agency strategic plans, etc.) directly informed by IMPACT products	Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			
Humanitarian stakeholders are engaged in IMPACT programs throughout the research cycle	Number and/or percentage of humanitarian organizations directly contributing to IMPACT programs (<i>providing resources, participating to presentations, etc.</i>)	# of organisations providing resources (i.e.staff, vehicles, meeting space, budget, etc.) for activity implementation	Country team	Engagement_log	x Yes
		# of organisations/clusters inputting in research design and joint analysis			x Yes
		# of organisations/clusters attending briefings on findings;			x Yes

