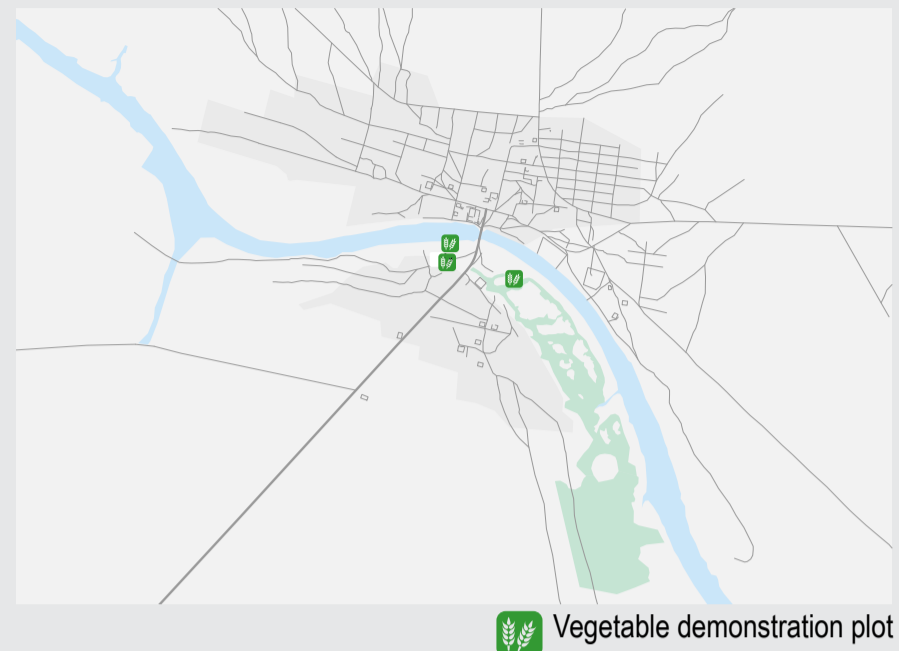



**Introduction**

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan has deteriorated since the onset of civil war in 2013, with an estimated 1,8 million internally displaced<sup>1</sup>, 1,18 million displaced in neighbouring countries<sup>2</sup>, and 3,7 million people food insecure<sup>3</sup>. DFID Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience Building in South Sudan (HARISS) programme is a five-year program seeking to save lives, alleviate suffering and support vulnerable communities' ability to cope with and recover from challenges. Upon request from DFID, IMPACT Initiatives provided short-term monitoring and verification of HARISS contracting partner activities from December 2016 through May 2017.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations supports improved food security and livelihoods globally. Rural Community Development Institute (RCDI) is a national NGO committed to promoting community development through capacity building. RCDI focuses on developing community agricultural skills to improve livelihoods, reduce poverty and strengthen food security. FAO is supporting RCDI with Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) programming with HARISS funding through a six month Letter of Agreement from November 2016 through April 2017 involving the provision of agricultural and fishing kits and establishment of agricultural and fishing groups for extension messaging<sup>4</sup>. This factsheet summarises the key findings of a monitoring and verification visit to an RCDI FSL programme in Mayom County, Unity on 3 April 2017.

Map 1: Site Visit Location - Three agriculture demonstration plots for RCDI in Mayom County, Unity State



 Vegetable demonstration plot

**Project Summary**

**Contracting Partner:** FAO  
**Implementing Partner:** RCDI  
**Sector:** FSL

**Site Visit Location:** Mayom County, Unity State

**Project Start Date:** 18 Nov 2016  
**Anticipated End Date:** April 2017

**Monitoring Methodology**

IMPACT utilised the following methodologies to assess this project:

- Secondary data review of contracting partner (FAO) and implementing partner (RCDI) proposals and logframes and implementing partner's (RCDI) most recent interim report
- Verification of project activities, outputs and outcomes through two Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with RCDI staff, two Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with beneficiaries, GPS mapping and physical verification of project location

KIIs provided insights into programme implementation including strengths, challenges and adherence to proposed indicators, and the FGD provided insights into beneficiary perceptions of RCDI programming.

**Overview of findings**

RCDI staff demonstrated strong technical knowledge in agricultural production. Staff were highly motivated, but resource constraints hindered their ability to roll-out the project as effectively as desired. While initial support from FAO was timely, at the time of the site visit in April 2017, FAO had not yet provided the proposed capacity building module in agriculture and fishing and had not provided proposed agricultural inputs for demonstration plots. RCDI reported that FAO had not provided a reason for this delay despite two requests. Another identified challenge was a lack of community consultation prior to project development.

**Strengths**

1. KIIs with two staff members indicated that RCDI implements activities with minimal resources. The organisation reportedly had four staff working in Mayom County with no company car to facilitate transport. RCDI mitigated this by paying for a car rental. Despite these challenges, staff demonstrated a high level of training in their respective technical areas and demonstrated a strong commitment to programme objectives.
2. RCDI staff were resourceful in addressing delays in the receipt of the fishing training module from FAO (described in "Challenges" section), seeking external consultants to provide the training.
3. RCDI staff demonstrated strong technical knowledge in agricultural production and were equipped to provide agricultural production training to beneficiaries despite a lack of necessary inputs (described in "Challenges" section).

**Challenges**

**FAO Challenges<sup>5</sup>**

1. Food Security Officer reported that FAO had not provided the proposed capacity building module for RCDI in agricultural preservation (proposed for Feb 2017), utilisation and nutrition (proposed Feb 2017) and fishing production (proposed Dec 2016), preservation (proposed Feb 2017), utilisation and nutrition (proposed Jan 2017) as of the site visit date in April 2017. RCDI was seeking external consultants to conduct the agricultural preservation, utilisation and nutrition training and fishing production, preservation, utilisation and nutrition training.
2. Food Security Officer also reported that FAO had not yet provided the agricultural inputs (seeds, motorised or treadle pump and drip irrigation set) for demonstration plot production training proposed to begin in December 2016. RCDI intended to initiate agricultural production training without the necessary inputs (seeds) before the planting season begins in June<sup>6</sup>.

**RCDI Challenges**

1. FGDs with beneficiaries indicated that RCDI did not consult with community members prior to developing programming. FGD participants had received seeds during distribution, but were not aware of the planned capacity building programme.
2. While RCDI reported selecting participants for agriculture and fishing groups with the assistance of the Relief and Rehabilitation Coordinator (RRC) and payam chiefs, agriculture FGD participants shared that they already had an existing cooperative tending the demonstration plot and were approached about the provision of inputs by RCDI, indicating that external community members may not have been provided with the opportunity to participate.
3. RCDI reported limited human and technical resources to function effectively. For example, RCDI did not have an office space, electricity, Wi-Fi or a company car for transportation in Mayom.

1. OCHA. South Sudan: People Internally Displaced by Violence. Nov. 2016.

2. UNHCR. South Sudan Situation Regional Overview. Dec. 2016.

3. FAO. South Sudan: Escalating Food Crisis in 2017. Nov. 2016.

4. RCDI provided secondary documentation only for the agriculture and fishing component of FAO programming. Upon arrival to the site visit, a livestock vaccinator shared that RCDI was receiving FAO funding for livestock vaccination as well. Information

from this interview has been removed from this factsheet.

5. As reported by RCDI staff.

6. Food Security Programme Officer reported that the community would benefit from learning the production skills despite the lack of seeds as a number of beneficiaries had seeds remaining from the general seed distribution that occurred in January 2017.

# FAO1 Project Factsheet: FAO - RCDI FSL Programme

## Third Party Monitoring for DFID HARISS Programme

### Proposed, Reported and Verified Project Activities, Outputs and Outcomes

IMPACT collected data from both primary and secondary sources to compare proposed, reported and verified project activities, outputs and outcomes. Non-verified items do not indicate that these activities, outputs, or outcomes are not occurring, but rather that the methodology did not capture this information.

- Reported or verified items
- Non-verified items

|                   | Proposed   | Reported <sup>7</sup>   | Verified  |
|-------------------|--|---|---|
|                   | <i>Proposed items refer to activities, outputs and outcomes that were proposed by both FAO and RCDI.</i>   | <i>Reported items refer to activities, outputs and outcomes that were reported in standard reporting to DFID or internal documents shared with IMPACT.</i>  | <i>Verified items refer to activities, outputs and outcomes that were verified through KIIs, FGDs or physical observation.</i>  |
| <b>Location</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayom County, Unity  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayom County, Unity   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayom County, Unity   |
| <b>Activities</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mobilise, sensitise, identify and register beneficiaries</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Establish agricultural groups and fishing groups</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Establish vegetable demonstration plots</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collect, stock and distribute FAO emergency kits and pipeline livelihood inputs (crop and vegetable seeds, agricultural tools, fishing equipment, veterinary drugs and vaccines, animal health equipment)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conduct post distribution monitoring<sup>8</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dissemination of key extension messages regarding seeds and tools to implementing partners (i.e. vegetable and fish production, post-harvest and preservation training, utilisation<sup>9</sup> and nutrition training<sup>10</sup>)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Capacity building through training of implementing partners in technical and management topics</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Vaccination and treatment services for livestock<sup>4</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop local livelihood information, monitoring, and analysis system</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mobilise, sensitise, identify and register beneficiaries                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2,900 and 2,400 households registered to receive livelihood kits on 15 Jan 2017</li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collect, stock and distribute FAO emergency kits and pipeline livelihood inputs (crop and vegetable seeds, agricultural tools, fishing equipment, veterinary drugs and vaccines, animal health equipment)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distributed 2,900 vegetable and 2,400 fishing kits on 24-25 Jan 2017</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mobilise, sensitise, identify and register beneficiaries                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ KII confirmed RCDI met with RRC and payam chiefs to identify and register beneficiaries</li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Establish agricultural groups and fishing groups                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ KIIs with RCDI staff and FGDs confirmed three agricultural and two fishing groups in Mayom</li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Establish vegetable demonstration plots (eight proposed for Abiemnhom and Mayom in total)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ KII with RCDI staff and FGD confirmed three demonstration plots for 100 beneficiaries in Mayom</li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collect, stock and distribute FAO emergency kits and pipeline livelihood inputs (crop and vegetable seeds, agricultural tools, fishing equipment, veterinary drugs and vaccines, animal health equipment)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ KIIs confirmed RCDI collected FAO livelihood inputs in December 2016 and supported distribution of agriculture kits containing 10 vegetable types and fishing twine to beneficiaries on 24-25 Jan 2017</li> <li>▪ KII confirmed FAO funded purchase of tools (wheel barrows, wataer cans, garden lining, rakes, axes, water drums, water carriers and gum boots)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>Outputs</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency livelihood support provided to the most food insecure and vulnerable households</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Production and availability of livelihood inputs supported in Greater Upper Nile</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Evidence-based humanitarian response coordination, planning and monitoring</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency livelihood support provided to the most food insecure and vulnerable households                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2,900 and 2,400 households supported with vegetable and fishing kits respectively on 24-25 Jan 2017</li> <li>▪ 1,010kg of total seeds distributed</li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Production and availability of livelihood inputs supported in Greater Upper Nile                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2,900 and 2,400 households supported with vegetable and fishing kits respectively on 24-25 Jan 2017</li> <li>▪ 1,010kg of vegetable seeds distributed</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency livelihood support provided to the most food insecure and vulnerable households                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ KIIs and FGDs confirmed distribution of agriculture kits containing 10 vegetable types and fishing twine to beneficiaries on 24-25 Jan 2017</li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Production and availability of livelihood inputs supported in Greater Upper Nile                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Physical verification of two agriculture demonstration plots</li> <li>▪ FGD with members of two of three agricultural groups and one of two fishing groups indicated that both agricultural and fishing inputs had supported food production</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| <b>Outcomes</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Livelihoods of vulnerable farmers, fishers and pastoralists in Greater Upper Nile States protected and their food security enhanced <sup>11</sup>   | <i>Outcome indicators cannot be measured until all programme activities have been implemented to measure increase in production.</i>  | <i>Outcome indicators cannot be measured until all programme activities have been implemented to measure increase in production.</i>  |

Figure 1: Demonstration of improvised flotation device for fishing during FGD with fishing group



Figure 2: Plant growing near river in Mayom agriculture demonstration plot



7. RCDI Interim Report. 15 Feb 2017.

8. Planned for first week of April 2017.

9. Utilisation training refers to teaching beneficiaries how to cook and prepare crops for optimal nutritional value. For example, amarantha is an Equatorial plant that beneficiaries in Greater Upper Nile do not know how to consume.

10. KIIs indicated that RCDI staff members were already trained in vegetable production (land preparation, nursery, planting, seed rate, site selection, cultural practices and harvest) but planned to hire an external consultant for nutritional cooking and preservation training.

11. Due to agriculture cycle, outcome indicators (percentage of targeted households with acceptable food consumption score, increased production and livestock mortality rate) cannot yet be measured by RCDI.