

Sustainable Economic and Agricultural Recovery (SEAR I & II)

ANNUAL REPORT
Year Ending September 30, 2012

For

**THE UNITED STATES AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

GRANT No. AID-OFDA-G-11-00167

Submitted by:

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ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012

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Program Goal: Sustainable reintegration and economic development for the returnees and their host communities.

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY:

The year under review (October 2011 through September 2012) covers the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters of SEAR I (October-December 2011, January-June 2012) and the 1st quarter of SEAR II (July-September 2012). The project is divided into two main sectors. Agriculture and food security is the first sector whose objective is to improve access to food through increased food production for sale and consumption. This sector promotes increased access to quality seeds, equipment and training. Twelve fishery associations have formed, composed of fisher folk, traders and fish net makers, with a total membership of 680. Seed fairs, a new concept, were so successful, that the 15 local traders sold out of their stock of seeds during the events. The International Labor Office (ILO) contributed funds to support seed multiplication activities for an additional 40 farmers in 2 counties, complementing the SEAR program activities. With this strategy, the project has reduced the hunger period by one month.

The second sector is economic recovery and market systems whose objective is to increase access among the returnees and their host communities to affordable financial services and productive assets. Rental recovery funds paid for 50 additional ox plows for the rent-to-own asset program. Floods during the rainy season and insecurity remain a major challenge to the project. Poor development of cash economy and low entrepreneurial capacity among beneficiaries slowed uptake of loans within the ASCAs.

SECTOR 1: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Objective: Improve access to food through increased food production for sale and consumption

SEAR I		SEAR II		CUMULATIVE	
1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2012	1 Oct 2011 to June 2012	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	1 July 2012 to 30 Sep 2012	1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2013	1 Oct 2011 to 30 Sep 2012
Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
16,525	35,220	21,350	3712	37,875*	38,932

*Of which 13,000 are IDPs

SUBSECTOR 1: FISHERIES					
Indicator 1: Number of people trained in fisheries					
SEAR I		SEAR II		CUMULATIVE	
1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2012	1 Oct 2011 to June 2012	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	1 July 2012 to 30 Sep 2012	1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2013	1 Oct 2011 to 30 Sep 2012
Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
275	300	600	454	875	754

During the three quarters of SEAR I, 300 people were trained compared to a target of 275 people, while 454 people were trained compared to a target of 600 people during the first quarter of SEAR II. Cumulatively, 754 people benefited from fisheries training. Trainings focused on fishing regulations as stipulated by the ministry of fisheries. They were also trained on fish-net making taking into account the right net sizes recommended by the ministry.

SUBSECTOR 1: FISHERIES					
Indicator 2: Number of people benefitting from fisheries activities					
SEAR I		SEAR II		CUMULATIVE	
1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2012	1 Oct 2011 to June 2012	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	1 July 2012 to 30 Sep 2012	1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2013	1 Oct 2011 to 30 Sep 2012
Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
275	300	4200	3632*	4475	3932*

* In SEAR II, Indicator 2 includes household members of trained and equipped fishermen, $454 \times 8 = 3632$.

During the three quarters of SEAR I, 300 people benefited from fisheries activities compared to a target of 275 people. During the first quarter of SEAR II, 3,632 people have benefited from fisheries activities compared to the target of 4,200. Eight fisher associations were formed as channels for training and delivery of support to the fisher folk. 300 fishers were provided with twines to make fishing nets.

SUBSECTOR 1: FISHERIES					
Indicator 3: Number of kilograms of fish caught per fisher per month.					
SEAR I		SEAR II		CUMULATIVE	
1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2012	1 Oct 2011 to June 2012	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	1 July 2012 to 30 Sep 2012	1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2013	1 Oct 2011 to 30 Sep 2012
Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
500 kg/mo	500 kg/mo	500 kg/mo	500 kg/mo	500 kg/mo	500 kg/mo

During the three quarters of SEAR I, on average, 500 kg of fish per fisher per month was caught. On average, a fisher catches two sacks of 25 kg per day. With an average of 10 fishing days a month, this translates to the 500 kg/fisher/month. The major fish types caught are eelfish, catfish and tilapia. On average, a sack of fish sells for 400 SSP (US \$130). However, during the first quarter of SEAR II, no fish was caught. Fishing is a seasonal activity and happens mainly from November through February.

Fishing remains a key livelihood option for many households in Warrap state. With unpredictable climatic conditions, extended dry periods and floods experienced in the state demeans crop production to a great extent. Fishing therefore provides an alternative livelihood

option to these communities. It's expected that continued intervention will protect fish breeding sites and regulate fishing sizes. This will result in increased and sustainable fishing within Warrap state, and South Sudan in general.

SUBSECTOR 2: SEED SYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURAL INPUTS					
Indicator 1: (Projected) increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to distributed seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary families (target 1.5 months)					
SEAR I		SEAR II		CUMULATIVE	
1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2012	1 Oct 2011 to June 2012	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	1 July 2012 to 30 Sep 2012	1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2013	1 Oct 2011 to 30 Sep 2012
Target	(Projected)	Target	(Actual)	Target	(Projected)
1.5 months	1 month	1.5 months	1 month	1.5 months	1 month

On average, food self sufficiency increased by 1.0 month. A rapid survey at farm level in August 2012 revealed that households had one more month of food security. Dry season vegetable production had a great impact on this. Households, particularly women who are the majority involved in this activity can sell the vegetables to buy sorghum for a meal, apart from having ready vegetables for consumption.

Although the number of food deficient months has reduced in real terms by one month, in absolute terms, beneficiaries on average survived on one meal per day during the food insecure month, falling below a measure of food security defined as two meals a day. The one month reduction in food deficient months cannot as well be generalized in the project area. Some areas received rains much later in the year and experienced flooding as well. In such areas, crop production in 2012 was poor compared to 2011.

SUBSECTOR 2: SEED SYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURAL INPUTS					
Indicator 2: Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities.					
SEAR I		SEAR II		CUMULATIVE	
1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2012	1 Oct 2011 to June 2012	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	1 July 2012 to 30 Sep 2012	1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2013	1 Oct 2011 to 30 Sep 2012
Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
16,250	34,920	17,150	80	33,400	35,000*

*In SEAR I & II, Indicator 2 includes household members. 4375 farmers received seeds, benefitting 4375 households. $4375 \times 8 = 35,000$

Seed and input distribution were conducted through fairs bringing together households of Internally Displaced Persons, returnees and host communities. For the host communities, those most vulnerable were considered. This included female-headed households, those with more than three members under five years old, households caring for the old, the disabled, infirm or chronically ill. Seeds distributed included sorghum, groundnuts, maize and assorted vegetables. Seed samples from identified suppliers were tested for germination before they were allowed to sell.

Similarly, a total of 32 seed multipliers, mainly women, were selected and trained. These persons were to open up at least five fedans (one fedan = approximately 0.5 acre) for this purpose. They received support through the rent-to-own program for ox-ploughs and were trained on their use.

This was to facilitate them to open up more land. They also received labor support for clearing to increase acreage for seed multiplication.

Sixty (60) Farmers Field Schools (FFS) were established. These FFS were trained on group dynamics and management. They were also trained on both cereals and vegetable production. Cereals production focused on spacing, row planting, timely planting and weeding. Vegetable production included wet season and dry season farming. Attention was accorded to soil fertility management, composting, mulching, nursery establishment, crop rotation, pest and disease control, simple irrigation techniques and marketing. Dry season gardening involved communities living along River Jur who can easily access water for small scale irrigation.

Erratic rainfall, extended dry periods and floods pose a great challenge to farming in Gogrial East and Gogrial West counties in Warrap state where SEAR is implemented.

SECTOR 2: ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND MARKET SYSTEMS (ERMS)					
Objective: Increase access among the returnees and their host communities to affordable financial services and productive assets.					
SEAR I		SEAR II		CUMULATIVE	
1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2012	1 Oct 2011 to June 2012	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	1 July 2012 to 30 Sep 2012	1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2013	1 Oct 2011 to 30 Sep 2012
Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
7925	6178	7150	1584	15,075*	7762

*Of which 2500 are IDPs

SUBSECTOR 1: ECONOMIC ASSET DEVELOPMENT					
Indicator 1: Number of people assisted through economic asset development activities.					
SEAR I		SEAR II		CUMULATIVE	
1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2012	1 Oct 2011 to June 2012	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	1 July 2012 to 30 Sep 2012	1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2013	1 Oct 2011 to 30 Sep 2012
Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
5525	4888	5950	832	33,400	5720*

*In SEAR I & II, Indicator 1 includes household members. 715 received economic assets, benefitting 5720 households. $715 \times 8 = 5720$

This program assists people to access economic assets through a rent-to-own process where beneficiaries pay only 60% of the market value of an asset on an installment basis. Being a new concept, staffs were trained on the rent-to-own scheme to be able to handle the project. The program has benefited people in both small businesses and farming. In small business, the major interest has been on sewing machines for dressmaking, bakery, groundnut shellers, solar chargers, bicycles, handcarts and restaurant tools/utensils. In farming, the interest has been on ox-ploughs and treadle pumps.

SUBSECTOR 1: ECONOMIC ASSET DEVELOPMENT					
Indicator 2: Number and percent of people utilizing economic assets created to support their livelihood pattern.					
SEAR I		SEAR II		CUMULATIVE	
1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2012	1 Oct 2011 to June 2012	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	1 July 2012 to 30 Sep 2012	1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2013	1 Oct 2011 to 30 Sep 2012
Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
765, 90% of 850	611, 100% of 611	765, 90% of 850	104, 100%	1530, 90% of 1700	715, 100% of 715

The concept of cost recovery is new in South Sudan. This concept similarly faces a challenge in a country where many other NGOs are operating and providing materials free. Similarly, the program initially faced a challenge of procurement. Most materials had to be outsourced from East African countries as they were unavailable in South Sudan. Delays in transport and cross border clearance hampered timely implementation. Lately, many of these materials can be sourced internally, including ox-ploughs from Eastern Equatoria State.

SUBSECTOR 2: MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION					
Indicator 1: Amount of market infrastructure rehabilitated.					
SEAR I		SEAR II		CUMULATIVE	
1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2012	1 Oct 2011 to June 2012	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	1 July 2012 to 30 Sep 2012	1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2013	1 Oct 2011 to 30 Sep 2012
Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
4	3	0	0	4	3

Market infrastructure development started with consultations at the community and state levels to sensitize these stakeholders on this initiative for them to buy in and commit themselves to the idea. Consultations involved the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries as well as the fisher associations. The community committed themselves to a 20% contribution to the development of the market centers. The local government administration allocated four sites; two in Gogrial east - Lietnhom and Maja Nyum and two in Gogrial west - Kuajok and Gogrial town. Each market structure was to measure 18Mx8M. They are comprised of slabs on which fish is sold as well as a storeroom to keep a refrigerator and store fish.

Indicator 2 (SEAR I & II): Number of cash grants to Small Micro-Enterprises -- There are no grants to be issued under this program in the three quarters of SEAR I or the first quarter of SEAR II.

Indicator 3 (SEAR I & II): Total USD amount of cash grants to Small Micro-Enterprises -- There are no grants to be issued under this program in the three quarters of SEAR I or the first quarter of SEAR II.

SUBSECTOR 2: MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION					
Indicator 4: Total USD invested in public market centers					
SEAR I		SEAR II		CUMULATIVE	
1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2012	1 Oct 2011 to June 2012	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	1 July 2012 to 30 Sep 2012	1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2013	1 Oct 2011 to 30 Sep 2012
Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
\$40,000	\$32,847	0	0	\$40,000	\$32,847

Three market infrastructures have been newly constructed or rehabilitated and are ready for use. The rising cost of materials and transportation costs increased the costs of rehabilitation and construction of market centers. The closure of the border between Sudan and South Sudan has negatively impacted materials supply to South Sudan. Negotiations are currently underway on the design of the one remaining market center to be built.

SUBSECTOR 3: MICRO CREDIT					
Indicator 1: Number of individuals/Small Micro-enterprises (SMEs) receiving loans					
SEAR I		SEAR II		CUMULATIVE	
1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2012	1 Oct 2011 to June 2012	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	1 July 2012 to 30 Sep 2012	1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2013	1 Oct 2011 to 30 Sep 2012
Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
2400	1290	1200	752	3600	2042

SUBSECTOR 3: MICRO CREDIT					
Indicator 2: Number and percent of micro-credit loan installments repaid according to schedule					
SEAR I		SEAR II		CUMULATIVE	
1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2012	1 Oct 2011 to June 2012	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	1 July 2012 to 30 Sep 2012	1 Aug 2011 to 30 June 2013	1 Oct 2011 to 30 Sep 2012
Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
6480, 90% of 7200	1207, 94.9% of 1272	3240, 90% of 3600	682, 87% of 782	9720, 90% of 10,800	1889, 92% of 2054

The program started with recruitment and training of animators. The animators were selected by their respective communities. Two animators were recruited per every Payam, owing to the vast nature of such an administrative area. The animators live and work within their communities. Training for these animators focused on mobilization, governance and reporting requirements for ASCAs. They were facilitated with bicycles to ease their movement. Mobilization has increased from 25 initial groups to the current 206 ASCA groups with a total membership of 3,761 people (1,716 females and 2,045 males). Loan and saving portfolios have also been on the rise, hitting \$76,866 and \$81,968 respectively. However, savings and repayment dwindle during the most severe hunger periods (July-September). During such a period, commodity prices are highest. Household resources are utilized for food requirements with little left for savings or loan repayment.

GROWTH IN ASCAs by Quarter					
	SEAR I, Qtr 2	SEAR I, Qtr 3	SEAR I, Qtr 4	SEAR II, Qtr 1*	Total
Borrowers	25	171	1094	752	2042
Loans, US\$	\$545	\$33,500	\$76,866	\$50,244	
Savings, US\$	\$1630	\$52,700	\$81,968	\$68,178	\$204,476.00

*Decrease due to hunger season which usually leaves household budgets drained. Most members were unwilling to take out loans due to uncertainties about the outcome of their harvests.

SECURITY

This has been a major concern throughout the reporting period. Although Warrap state was not directly targeted in the conflict between Sudan and South Sudan, closing of the oil pipeline greatly impacted on program activities. Fuel costs rose which limited mobility. Numerous checks on road blocks for program vehicles were experienced, sometimes halting movement.

Beneficiary Story

Beneficiary success story: sewing machine

Ayok Tong lived and worked in Khartoum for many years. He served as an apprentice to a master tailor for 3 years before beginning his own business. Business was good and he had a reputation for fine tailoring that kept his customers happy. Then, in 2009, as the south moved toward independence, Ayok began to feel insecure. His North Sudanese neighbors and customers were angry over politics, and Ayok Tong began to dream of returning home to the South.

He joined the thousands fleeing southward, hoping to escape the violence in Khartoum, imagining a better life in freedom. He carried with him almost nothing; he even had to leave behind his sewing machine and iron. But arriving in Kuajok he realized that it would be difficult to start over; as a returnee, he was allotted a small plot and a few plastic sheets for a shelter, with food rations monthly for the first few months. Beyond that, he was on his own.

Immediately he began looking for work. He was skilled, and a local tailor took him in as an extra pair of hands, paying around \$3 a day. It was hard to accept; Ayok was used to earning \$20 per day as his own boss. He and his family endured and saved what few pounds they could. At the end of 2009, he was able to rent a machine for \$30 per month and start out on his own.

In 2012 he heard about World Concern's rent to own program. He passed the selection process, and was able to rent a brand new sewing machine at a subsidized price over the course of a few months. He quickly paid off the contract, and took full ownership of the machine in July. Since then he has been able to expand his business, making school uniforms and trousers for the town of Kuajok. He also repairs sewing machines, and has tailors coming from other towns for his assistance.

One of his former students, also newly returned from Khartoum found Ayok. Delighted, Ayok arranged to purchase a second hand machine, and set the young man up as his junior partner. During the Christmas rush they are very busy.

"World Concern changed my life with this sewing machine," Ayok says. "I was very sad before, and struggled to pay my bills. Now my life has become easy and I even have an assistant. Thank you for taking me seriously. May God bless you."

World Concern is impressed with Ayok's skills and tenacity, and his heart for teaching others. We hope he will be one of our VTC trainers here in Kuajok when we offer a basics of sewing class in January. The privilege of helping one man may turn into a chance to touch so many more lives!