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Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihoods for Economic Recovery (SALER)

FINAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT

August 1, 2013 – October 31, 2014

For

THE UNITED STATES AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

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Program Goal: Increased food security and economic recovery for recently displaced IDPs and returnees (<2 years) and their host communities.

Introduction

SALER project is a successor of another OFDA funded Projects, Sustainable Economic and Agricultural Recovery (SEAR I &II). SALER built on the achievements of the previous project by introducing the aspect of sustainability to allow the beneficiaries to be self-reliant.

The project had two sectors: Agriculture and Food Security and Economic Recovery and Market Systems and six subsectors: Fisheries, Seed systems, Improving Agricultural production, Livelihood Restoration, New Livelihoods and Microfinance. The goal of the project is to increase food security and economic recovery for recently displaced IDPs and returnees (<2years) and their host communities.

The objectives are:

- (a) Improved access to food through increased agricultural production and post- harvest preservation.
- (b) Increased access to business opportunities through capacity building

Although a few challenges were faced in the project life, we managed to implement most of the planned activities in time and in most cases exceeded the planned targets of the indicators.

Two major events disrupted the implementation of the project and stalled the implementation. In October 2013, there was an armed robbery the field office and the staff were held captive and harassed by thugs, traumatizing the staff. This incident led to temporary closure of the office. The second incident is the December 2013 conflict that led to prolonged closure of the office. Delays were seen in implementation, especially implementation of activities related to dry season farming.

The results of the project are quite impressive. The project managed to exceed the targets under most of the indicators as a result of committed staff and good design and implementation strategy employed. In total the project reached 8862 individuals. Under Agriculture and Food Security Component 2,435 individuals were reached and 6,427 individuals reached under Economic Recovery and Market Systems.

The project staff enjoyed overwhelming support from the OFDA South Sudan staff and other stakeholders in the field. There was close collaboration with key partners at all levels.

In the last quarter of the project, WCDO requested a three-month no-cost-extension as some activities were delayed due to floods and security threats that disrupted transportation of some of the equipment, mostly ploughs.

Overall, the feedback received from the beneficiaries and other stakeholders was appreciation of the project. They were happy with the choice of intervention and the effort of the staff in ensuring delivery of the planned activities.

Achievements

The project had impressive results in all sectors. In spite of the two incidents reported which disrupted the implementation, the project managed to meet its target. The performance of each of the sub sector is reported below.

Overall, the project touched the lives of 8862 individuals in the two counties of Gogrial East and Gogrial West. There were 4,415 men and 4,447 women reached with different interventions. The project also reached 1,429 recent IDP/Returnee. Part of the reason for exceeding the total number was due to the overwhelming participation of the communities in all the different planned activities.

	No. of beneficiaries targeted in program		No. of beneficiaries served since beginning of project	
	Total	IDP/Returnee	Total	IDP/Returnee
TOTALS	8414	2095	8862	1,429
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	4565	3849	4415	4447
	Adult	Under 18 yrs	Adult	Under 18 yrs
	N/A	N/A	8,693	169
1 AFS	Total	IDP/Returnee	Total	IDP/Returnee
	1750	585	2435	771
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	1200	550	1161	1274
	Adult	Under 18 yrs	Adult	Under 18 yrs
	N/A	N/A	2267	168
2 ERMS	Total	IDP/Returnee	Total	IDP/Returnee
	6664	1510	6427	698
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	3365	3299	3,254	3,173
	Adult	Under 18 yrs	Adult	Under 18 yrs
	N/A	N/A	6,426	1

SECTOR 1. *Agriculture & Food Security (AFS)*

Objective: Improve access to food through increased agricultural production and post-harvest preservation.

The Agriculture and Food Security sector had three sub components: Fisheries, Seed Systems and Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security.

SUB-SECTOR: *Fisheries*

There is untapped potential for fishing as fish harvest is far below the potential in South Sudan. Under SEAR project, WCDO trained and distributed fishing nets to fishermen in order to help the fisherfolk increase their catch. The SALER project built on the achievement of the SEAR project and aimed at equipping fisherfolk on preservation techniques to reduce post-harvest losses. It was realized that most of the fishermen had huge losses due to spoilage. There was also untapped market for the fish and some of the fish consumers preferred smoked fish to fresh fish.

The project purposed to train 520 fisher folks in preservation techniques and provided necessary ingredients for preservation and to train 250 fishery stakeholders in conservation and regulations, totaling 770 fishery beneficiaries.

Indicator 1 & 2: # of people trained in fisheries and benefitting from fisheries activities, by sex									
Target for life of project:		New Trainees this reporting period:		All Trainees to date:		Assets Distributed to date:		% of trainees served:	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
640	130	0	0	644	136	373	143	101%	105%
Indicator 3: Average # of kg of fish harvested per fisher in six month period, by sex									
Target for life of project:				Survey results:					
M		F		M		F			
2200 kg		220 kg		870 kg*		961 kg*			

*These results were modified from last quarter's report following further review of the data.

Registration of beneficiaries took place in the first quarter of the project. At the initial stages WCDO staff met with government officials and spearmasters to introduce the project to them and get their consent on some of the key element of the project. WCDO met with spearmasters to introduce SALER smoking and drying to ensure that there is no conflict with culture or traditional practices. With the approval of all key stakeholders, especially the opinion leaders,

beneficiaries were identified and registered. All who registered for the training were already involved in fishing. The project identified fisherfolk in four sites.

The training for fisherfolk was conducted within the third quarter of the project. A total of 529 individuals (393 men and 136 women) were trained. The participants received training on salting, sun drying and smoking. The training was aimed at equipping the fisherfolk in reducing post-harvest losses to contamination, rot and insect infestation. It was noted that fish mongers look for better quality fish and the need to meet the market demands. 516 fisherfolk who underwent the training received 3kg of salt.

In the third quarter, WCDO organized trainings for 251 individuals (all men), in fishing business practices, governance, conservation, government regulation on fishing especially around net sizes and protection of breeding sites. The selected individuals were government officials, spearmasters and fishmongers.

A rapid survey was conducted in the fourth quarter to assess the amount of fish harvested by the fishers. The results from the survey of the 104 fisherfolk (88 men and 16 women) interviewed shows that on average, women fishers recalled and reported an average fish catch of 960 kg of fish over 6 months (avg. 160kg/mo) and their male counterparts recalled and reported an average fish catch of 891 kg (avg. 148.5kg/mo). Since, the focus of the project was on post -harvest handling, no baseline or monthly data was collected.

Impact

The project did a rapid assessment of the impact of the project on the beneficiaries. Three groups of fisherfolk were interviewed to assess how they felt about the project.

- One of the key areas that came out is the skills attained. In all the three groups beneficiaries mentioned that they had received new skills in fish preservation, although a few were drying fish even before the trainings. They mentioned the previous drying techniques were not as effective and they lost much of their harvest to spoilage. The preservation method has helped them reduce these losses.
- The beneficiaries also mentioned that they now could store their fish, as drying and salting and smoking were very effective and affordable methods of fish preservation. They could sell the fish several days after. They also kept fish for their families even after the fish harvest season was over and they had fish to consume at home and sell in the market after the harvest season, which helped during the hunger gap.
- The fisherfolk mentioned that they are now able to better utilize the market. They mentioned they have formed an informal coalition where decisions on the amount to be sold are agreed on. They then sell only the amount that is needed to be sold based on the market demand and store the rest. This they mentioned had increased the fish prices and so their income.

- The fisher folks also mentioned that they also have got new markets for their fish. Traders from Northern Bahr El Ghazal (NBeG) state have come to buy fish from them and they have had a number of the fish sold to those markets. They mentioned buyers from NBeG paid better prices for the fish than the local market. They also mentioned that returnees from the Sudan (the north) preferred smoked fish and hence the sale increased even in the local markets.

SUB-SECTOR: *Seed Security*

The seed security subsector targeted two groups of beneficiaries. The first group of individuals was targeted to undertake vegetable seed multiplication and the second group of individuals trained on grain seed multiplication. Access to quality seeds in Warrap is limited and the project was aimed at equipping farmers to manage the seed multiplication and supply other farmers. It is envisaged that the farmers will develop the capacity to produce sufficient quantities for commercial purposes.

Indicator 1: Projected increase in # of months of food self-sufficiency due to seed systems activities/agricultural input for beneficiary families									
Target for life of project:		Baseline food security		Follow up food security		Increased # of months of food security			
(# of months)		(# of months)		(# of months)		(# of months)			
2 mo		---		4.5		---			
Indicator 2: # of people benefitting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, by sex									
Target for life of project:		New Trainees this reporting period:		All Trainees to date:		Asset Distributions to Date:		% of trainees served:	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
110	70	0	0	89	76	76	28	81%	109%

The selection and registration of beneficiaries took place within the first quarter of the project. The registration process was quite elaborate and identification of the beneficiaries was done in collaboration with the community leaders, payam and boma chiefs. The key criteria used for selection are:

- (a) Farmers who have access to land
- (b) Farmers willing to produce and sell seeds
- (c) Farmers willing to purchase ox-ploughs at subsidize rate

The project trained 89 men and 76 women under this sub sector. The training used Integrated Small Farm Management curriculum. The project hired six capable field extension workers and

five field assistants to deliver the training to the group. The modules targeted for training were: calendar and planning, seed preservation, soil and water, and market linkages.

The farmers were trained on three different seed preservation techniques: use of metal silos, polybags and locally available items such as fired clay pots for grain seeds and soda and water bottles for vegetable seeds. The three methods were to be piloted to see how well they were received by the beneficiaries. WCDO provided some seeds at the six demonstration farms set up for the training and also provide six metal silos, polybags and pots to the farmers to preserve the seeds as practical demonstration of the training. The farmers were trained on the use of ash, neem leaves as preservation agents for the grain seeds. The seeds were stored for four months and germination test conducted before they were distributed for planting. The germination levels were determined by counting the number of seeds that were planted and number of this that germinated. The results from the test showed that the seeds were viable. The test revealed that seeds in all storage methods used germinated. The farmers were impressed by the outcome of the trials. In a focus group discussion conducted in the fourth quarter, the farmers mentioned that they were happy with all the three methods. Each of the methods had it advantages and shortcomings.

	Clay pots	Poly bags	Metal silos	Plastic bottles
Advantage	Affordable, availability	Easy to use, easily moved around, moisture proof, easily adopted	Large capacity , good for sorghum and ground nuts	Effective for vegetable seeds, affordable
Disadvantage	Breakable	No local traders selling the bags	Expensive, not available in market	Small size, must scavenge for supply

The project initially planned to distribute 110 ox ploughs to the grain farmers and 70 treadle pumps to the vegetable farmers. In the third quarter and fourth quarter 108 ox-ploughs were distributed to the grain farmers. After discussion with the vegetable farmers the program staff established the demand for ox-ploughs was greater than that for treadle pump. The farmers were not willing to pay for the treadle pumps but were eager to receive the ox-ploughs. A request was made to OFDA to modify this and purchase ox- ploughs. This request was granted and additional ox-ploughs were purchased in the fourth quarter of the project and distributed during the no-cost extension period.

Impact

1. A number of vegetable farmers had adopted the seed preservation method. Although no quantitative survey was done to ascertain the levels of uptake of the technology, the farmers reported that a number of the vegetable farmers had produced seeds during the dry season and stored the seeds for the following season, so that they would not have to

go to distant markets for seeds. At the time of the evaluation, the grain farmers had not harvested their produce, but interview with some of the staff at the end of the project suggest that some of the grain farmers stored seeds using pots for the following season.

2. The farmers gained skills on seed preservation. Most mentioned that the methods like pot use are quite handy and also liked the treatment methods for the seeds. They saw the effectiveness of the ash and neem leaves in pest control. They reported that in the past they were not willing to store seeds as the seeds would be destroyed by pests and they did not have access to pesticides. These pest control methods are quite friendly to their pocket books and easy to adopt.

SUB-SECTOR: Improving Agricultural Production/Food Security

The project planned to train 800 farmers using the ISFM curriculum. The farmers were to be trained on six modules. As in the case of the seed multipliers, the farmers were selected in collaboration with community leaders and payam and boma chiefs. The payam leaders insisted that beneficiaries be drawn from all the bomas in the payam to have equal representation of the training. Six payam were selected and beneficiaries were registered from this payams.

Indicator 1: Projected increase in # of months of food self-sufficiency due to seed systems activities/agricultural input for beneficiary families									
Target for life of project:		Baseline food security		Follow up food security				Increased # of months of food security	
(# of months)		(# of months)		(# of months)				(# of months)	
2		---		4.5				---	
Indicator 2: # of people benefitting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, by sex									
Target for life of project:		New Trainees this reporting period:		All Trainees to date:		Assets Distributed to date:		% of trainees served:	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
450	350			428	1062	428	1062	95%	303%

The selection and registration of the beneficiaries were completed in the first quarter of the project. Field-level staff accompanied the project managers to identify the beneficiaries.

The project planned to train the farmers on six modules: a) Calendar and Planning b) Soil and Water Conservation c) Live fencing and agro –forestry d) Rainy season crops and conservation tillage e) dry season vegetable farming f) fodder production and livestock integration

Fodder production training could only be conducted in the first quarter due to rainy season availability of productive grasslands. This window of opportunity closed due to security incidents during that quarter, which limited activities. The beneficiaries were thus trained on the other five modules. Six sites were identified for training. The sites were master farmer farms and were to be used for demonstration purposes and followed the planting calendar. Each module

was conducted over a two-day training. While individuals failed to attend all the modules, households received the benefit of all the module trainings by sending an available household member to the trainings. After completion of the training the farmers received some tools and seeds. The organization distributed malodas, hoes and sickles to the farmers.

A survey was conducted in the fourth quarter and the results from the survey indicate that the average number of months of food security for the farmers is over four months. Unfortunately, the indicator could not be determined from the baseline comparison to the final survey due to inadequate data collection. The farmers were however, interviewed in a focus group discussion and they mentioned that there was increase in the number of months that they could rely on their own production, especially for those involved in vegetable production. They mentioned that they were able to produce sufficient quantities for own consumption and for market. One group we interviewed in Gogrial Center said they were able to produce surplus and had good market in the area for their vegetables. They mentioned that they had enough money to buy sorghum for planting in the next season.

IMPACT

1. One of the key skills adopted is the dry season vegetable farming. Interviews with farmers revealed that several farmers had adopted the vegetable farming and in the last dry season most harvested sufficient quantities of seeds. They were able to consume vegetables at home and sell part of the seeds.
2. Although the uptake of some of the practices was quite low as observed in the focus group discussion and observation through a transect walk. The farmers mentioned some of the practices that they felt were useful. The row planting is one practice that was not adopted by farmers. They mentioned that row planting required a lot of labour and that they did not have enough labour to practice the method. Majority of the farmers were happy with methods such as mulching and pest control. They mentioned they used this when planting vegetables.
3. One other key issue mentioned during the discussion with the farmers is the usefulness of the calendar and planning sessions of the training. The farmers mentioned that they had realized the importance of early planting and weeding to increase produce. They mentioned that they would most likely harvest their sorghum before the floods would destroy them. Although the sorghum was not harvested at the time of the discussion, the farmers mentioned that they were seeing that those who planted early, they would harvest the sorghum early as they had already matured and were almost ready for harvest.

SECTOR 2. *Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)*

Objective: Increased access to business opportunities through capacity building.

This sector had three subsectors: Livelihood restoration, New Livelihoods and Microfinance. All the planned activities were completed in each subsector. The VTC training came a little late in

the project life but evaluation carried out, in January 2015, indicates that majority of the beneficiaries are either self-employed or hired by an employer.

Under Livelihood Restoration, the project planned to train 12 active welders and 12 active blacksmith to support farmers with implement repair and manufacturing ox plow blades. SALER also planned to train 40 active potters to make pots for seed preservation.

Under New Livelihoods, SALER planned to identify and train 100 unskilled youths in new, marketable vocations.

The third sub sector was aimed at empowering existing ASCA groups into growing into independence. All groups under SEAR were targeted for these trainings.

SUB-SECTOR: *Livelihoods Restoration*

The Livelihood Restoration sub sector targeted three groups of trade: blacksmith, welders and pottery. The identification of the welders and blacksmith was done through the existing workshops in Kuajok. The project trained 12 Blacksmiths, 15 welders and 27 potters. After they were selected, the artisans signed a MoU with the organization, committing to work on the identified items.

The project was training farmers on post-harvest storage methods such as metallic silos. Welders were trained in construction of the silos and produced 6 silos for the pilot test. WCDO theorized that as the farmers adopted this method, the welders would provide a supply to develop a market to meet demand.

The blacksmiths were trained to make ox plow blades. WCDO had recognized a demand for ox plow blades, as more farmers owned ox plows but did not have workshops that repaired them or produced spare blades. It was thus deemed necessary to promote this trade in Kuajok.

The selection of potters was done through networking among practicing potters, who invited others who were interested in learning the trade.

Indicator 1: # of people assisted through livelihood restoration activities, by sex									
Target for life of project:		New Trainees this reporting period:		All Trainees to date:		Assets Distributed to date:		% of trainees served:	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
24	40	0	0	27	27	0	0	113%	68%

Indicator 2: % of beneficiaries reporting their livelihoods restored within 3 to 6 months after receiving support.			
Target for life of project:		Survey results:	
M	F	M	F
85%	85%	100%	100%
Indicator 3: Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities			
Target for life of project:	Total this quarter:	Cumulative total:	% of money spent
\$6000	\$ -	\$2,810.00	47%

The blacksmith and welders underwent 8-day trainings while the potters underwent a 10-day training.

The project donated the tools used during the training to the artisans. The blacksmith received hammers, pliers, chisels, mallet, tin snips. The tools were presented to the group for their workshops to aid them in their work.

The blacksmith received a bellow on a rent to own basis. The new bellow given to the blacksmith was more economical as it used less charcoal than the traditional ones that the blacksmith used. The groups paid 50% of the total cost of the bellow. They also received ox-plough blades that were made during the training.

The potters started making pots immediately after the training and the project bought pots from them as way of promoting their business and encouraging them. 87 pots were distributed to beneficiary farmers.

In addition to the skills training, the blacksmith and welders received a one-day training on business skills in February 2014.

IMPACT

1. A major impact of the project was in added skills. The blacksmiths learned to make ox plough blades. The potters learned how to make different sizes pots for seed storage and the welders were trained on fabricating metal silos.
2. The visit with the welders revealed that their business had expanded. At the time of the project inception there was only two welders workshop but at the end of the project the business had expanded and there were five workshops operating. Although, they were not able to fabricate the metal silos as there was no supply of the metal sheets. The welders mentioned that with the skills gained and tools received they were able to expand their business. They mentioned they were able to market their products to different people and

the skills helped them increase their production. Some of the welders who had been supporting others started their own workshops.

3. The blacksmiths mentioned that although the market for the blades was still low, they were able to sell blades before the rainy season. They mentioned that the next rainy season they expect to receive more customers for the products. They mentioned that they need a means to expand their business and market their products as few farmers know about their work.
4. The potters also mentioned that they have been selling their pots to people in urban areas. We met one of the potters, in the market on one of our visits. She shared her experience after the training. She makes between 8-10 pots every month and sells these to different buyers. She mentioned that she sell the normal medium pot for between 40-60ssp. She mentioned with the profits, she is able to buy food stuff for the family.

SUB-SECTOR: *New Livelihoods*

World Concern worked with an established youth center (Warrap Youth Center) to identify and register interested youth for the vocational training. The organization approached the youth center and asked to them to register a total of 100 youth to be trained in the identified vocation. They were to ask the youth to register in any one of the following vocations: Driving, Masonry, Tailoring, Mechanics and Carpentry. More youth presented themselves for the training but at the end of the exercise the youth center vetted and registered 100 youths. Most of the youth showed interest in driving, masonry and tailoring. None registered for the other two vocations. In total 100 registered but only 89 came for training. As part of the registration they were required to pay a registration fee 50 SSP. Priority was given to youth who were not at the time employed and willing to pay 50 SSP. The amount collected went to the youth center for their running costs.

The youth were completed 40 days of training, twenty days each month, for two months. After the training the tools used for the training were donated to the youth center.

Indicator 1: # of people assisted through new livelihood development, by sex									
Target for life of project:		New Trainees this reporting period:		All Trainees to date:		Assets Distributed to date:		% of trainees served:	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
65	35	50	39	50	39	24	34	77%	111%
Indicator 2: # of new MSEs started.									
M		F		M		F			
0		0		0		0			

Indicator 3: % of people, by sex, continuing in their new livelihoods by program completion.			
M	F	M	F
95%	85%	97%	100%
Indicator 4: Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities			
Target for life of project:	Total this reporting period:	Cumulative total:	% of money spent
\$19,930	\$ 8,011.00	\$ 8,011.00	40%

WCDO interviewed VTC graduates and only one graduate reported a lack of current involvement in activities related to their new vocation.

IMPACT

1. WCDO did a rapid assessment amongst this group in January; out of the 42 interviewed, 41 of them mentioned that they had some form of employment. Some were doing their own business and others were employed. Two drivers were employed with UNMISS in Kuajok and two others mentioned were working in Juba for the Government. Several of the tailors trained also mentioned that they had started their own business and were helping in mending cloths and making cloths from home using their machines. Our team visited two masons at work during the interview building a house in Kuajok.

SUB-SECTOR: Microfinance

The microfinance subsector built on the achievement of SEAR I and II. The key objective of the subsector was to empower the groups to be independent and self-reliant by training the groups on business skills, training at least two members of the group on literacy and numeracy, and having the groups review their constitutions and contextualize the documents to their context.

Under SALER, the project trained 398 individuals (191 males and 207 female) on literacy and numeracy training. The project hired 20 field animators to work with the ASCA groups. All the animators underwent a 12-day training on how to conduct the literacy and numeracy training. Most of the animators had worked with WCDO in the previous two projects and had a good understanding of the project. The staff then worked with the groups to identify those members to be trained in literacy and numeracy skills.

The animators also met with the groups on a monthly training and trained the members on business skills. Sessions were held with groups to enhance the business skills.

The objective of the project was to support the group and provide the necessary support to grow them to self-reliance. By the end of the project, 86 groups were graduated and were functioning without the support of the project staff. Discussion with the staff reveals that all these groups are still fully operational and members have been growing.

Indicator 1: # of people, by sex, or MSEs newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support									
Target for life of project:		New ASCA members served this reporting period:		Total # of ASCA members served:		Training		% of trainees served:	
M	F	M	F	M	F	Literacy	Business	M	F
3276	3224	0	0	3,177	3,107	483	2265	97%	96%
Indicator 2: % of financial service accounts/groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly.									
Target for life of project:		Survey results:							
90%									
Indicator 3: Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities									
Target for life of project:		Total this reporting period:		Cumulative total:		% of money spent			
\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		0%			

At the conclusion of the project, access to widespread ASCA groups was limited due to insecurity; however field staff claimed that all ASCA groups formed during SALER were continuing to function after the project ended. Insufficient data exists to independently verify. They mentioned that most groups continued to meet and save money as scheduled in their constitutions. The meeting with some of the groups showed that group members have seen the benefit of the ASCA and were willing to be part of the groups and derive the benefits that come with it.

IMPACT

1. The impact of the ASCA groups is enormous. Interviews with the beneficiaries revealed several key benefits. Most of the ASCA members mentioned that they had at one point received money to meet an urgent need of the family. Some mentioned they had taken money to pay for medical treatment, most mentioned that they had taken money to buy

needed food for their families. They mentioned in the past they had no-where to go but with the introduction of the ASCA groups they are now able to borrow money when they need it.

2. A number of the ASCA members also mentioned that they are able to meet with other members and share their challenges. They see ASCA groups as social support structure where members not only meet to save money but also share challenges and receive advice.
3. One key benefit of the ASCA mentioned is the business loans that members received. Quite a number of the members mentioned that they started business with the loan they received. Most started some petty business, selling consumables within the villages. Most of the individuals mentioned that they have started some form of business and receive income from this business.
4. A number of ASCA members were trained on literacy and numeracy. Those trained mentioned the new skills not only help them keep records for the groups but has enlightened them to do much more for themselves. Some mentioned they can keep records for their business.

Program Challenges:

- The break in to the office – One of the challenges faced by the staff was an armed robbery incident in October. Thugs broke into the WCDO residence, held staff hostage for 3 hours and took electronics and cash. Although no staff was seriously hurt, this was traumatizing experience for the staff and the office was temporary closed.
- The December conflict – In December 2013 armed conflict occurred in several part of the country. Although the conflict did not move into Warrap state, the uncertainty that followed forced World Concern to close the office and implementation was delayed.
- Transportation/accessibility – The poor infrastructure was a major challenge. The first and second quarter was most difficult as the flooding made most villages inaccessible. In the fourth quarter, WCDO expected the delivery of ox plows from Juba but the shipment took over a month to get to the field and this necessitated an NCE request.
- Customs issues – The project found it difficult importing necessary items from Kenya. Changes in importation policies made it difficult for staff to negotiate importation of seeds.

Collaboration/Coordination:

The key Government of South Sudan Ministries that WCDO collaborated with are:

- Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Cooperative Development
- Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries
- Ministry of Culture Youth and sports – VTC

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Overall, the project had success and had positive impact on the communities. Part of the success is attributed to the project design the linkages between the different sectors and subsectors. The choice of intervention is quite relevant to the community and the Government officials we met with mentioned that key interventions, such as VTC trainings, seed multipliers training and training of blacksmith, were relevant and timely. The second reason for the success is the structure of the program. A number of the field level staff were based in the field and had close interaction with the communities and gave the necessary support on a daily basis. The organization's relationship with the communities and support derived from this group was also a major factor in the success of the project.

It was also noted from the beneficiaries that most of the training were quite short and they needed longer time to better grasp the messages well. It will be good in the future to have the program design to more days of training for the different modules.

1. WCDO recommends that follow-on training be provided for the artisans to equip them further expand their trade. The project should also look at developing marketing skills for this group to allow them tap into the market for their products.
2. A few pilots were done under this project and were well received. Seed multiplication and preservation method need to be scaled up as this has a lot of potential.