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# USAID/SOUTH SUDAN MONITORING AND EVALUATION SUPPORT PROJECT TASK ORDER 4

Annual Progress Report – Fiscal Year 2020



# USAID/SOUTH SUDAN MONITORING AND EVALUATION SUPPORT PROJECT TASK ORDER 4

## ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT – FY2020

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## ACRONYMS

AAR	After Action Review
ACF	Action Contre La Faim
ANC	Antenatal Care
BCG	Bacillus Calmette-GuŽrin Vaccine
BHC	Boma Health Committee
BEmONC	Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
CCM	Comittato Collaborazione Medica
CEC	Civic Engagement Centre
CFA	County Focus Area
CLA	Collaboration, Learning, and Adapting
CM	Community Monitor
CNV	Community Nutrition Volunteers
COC	Combined Oral Contraceptives
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CUAMM	Colleges Universitaires Aspirants et Medecins Missionnaires
DG	Democracy and Governance
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
EG	Economic Growth
EPI	Expanded Program on Immunization
EVD	Ebola Virus Disease
FFE	Food for Education
FFP	Food for Peace
FP	Family Planning
FSNALC	Foreign Service National Advisory Leadership Council
FY	Fiscal Year
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GFD	General Food Distribution
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HA	Humanitarian Assistance
HF	Health Facility
HPF	Health Pooled Fund
IEC	Information, Education Communication

IEEES	Integrated Essential Emergency Education Services
IMC	International Medical Corps
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IP	Implementing Partner
IPC	Integrated Phase Classification
IPV	Inactive Polio Vaccine
LLITN	Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets
KMOL	Knowledge Management and Organizational Learning
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MESP	Monitoring and Evaluation Support Project
MSI	Management Systems International
OPV	Oral Polio Vaccine
OTP	Outpatient Therapeutic Program
PEA	Political Economy Analysis
PfRR	Partnership for Recovery and Resilience
PHCC	Primary Health Care Center
PHCU	Primary Health Care Unit
PIRS	Performance Indicator Reference Sheets
PITT	Performance Indicator Tracking Table
PNC	Postnatal Care
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PPL	Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning
PPR	Performance Plan and Report
RAPID	Responsive Assistance for Priority Infrastructure Development
RTPM	Remote Third-Party Monitoring
SAFER	Sustainable Agriculture for Economic Resiliency
SPLM	Sudan People’s Liberation Movement
SUCCESS	Systems to Uphold the Credibility and Constitutionality of Elections in South Sudan
TPM	Third Party Monitoring
TSFP	Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program
UNFAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services

USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
WVI	World Vision International





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual performance report of the South Sudan Monitoring and Evaluation Support Project (MESP) covers progress achieved in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 for Task Order 4, fulfilling the contractual obligation between Management Systems International (MSI) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/South Sudan.

During FY20, MESP conducted quarterly Performance Indicator Tracking (PITT) reviews to inform the Mission about progress towards its set targets. MESP awaits feedback from the Mission and will deliver a presentation to the Mission on indicator progress in FY21.

MESP conducted a donor investment survey of eight (8) different donors and developed various donor investment maps showing the geospatial distribution of donor activities across the country in Humanitarian Assistance (HA), Democracy and Governance (DG), Health, and Economic Growth (EG). MESP also prepared county focus area (CFA) and COVID-19 maps to show the distribution of COVID-19 interventions across the country.

In response to the Mission's Collaboration, Learning and Adapting (CLA) agenda, MESP facilitated a data quality assessment (DQA) After Action Review (AAR) to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of 13 indicators reported to USAID/Washington. The exercise generated recommendations for improving future assessments, including early planning and preparation, conducting field level assessments, and strengthening coordination with implementing partners (IPs). The International Organization for Migration (IOM) indicator "Number of water and sanitation sector institutions strengthened to manage water resources or improve water supply and sanitation services as a result of USG assistance" was amended to focus instead on reporting the number of Water Management Committees trained.

As part of efforts to continuously monitor the context in which USAID activities were being implemented, MESP compiled weekly scenario reports which included updates about the security situation, commodity food prices, and COVID-19 awareness. Data for these reports were collected by Democracy International, the MESP Security Advisor and MESP Community Monitors (CMs).

MESP adopted a remote third-party monitoring (RTPM) approach due to the COVID-19 pandemic. MESP reviewed data collection tools for Food for Peace (FFP) (OTP, TSFP, GFD, Warehouse management and CNV activities), Health, DG (CEC and i-STREAM) and EG (SAFER and RAPID) to make them consistent with the RTPM approach. COVID-19 awareness and prevention questions were integrated into the tools to assess COVID-19 awareness in the communities. Data collection tools for Integrated Essential Emergency Education Services (IEEES) and Food for Education (FFE) were not reviewed because schools are closed.

USAID/South Sudan requested MESP to expand third-party monitoring (TPM) for FFP and Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) utilizing dedicated CMs. MESP will pilot the expansion in FY21 with initial staffing of two specialists and five CMs. The Mission intends to eventually scale up the expansion with five specialists and 25 CMs.

In FY20, the Mission began a Knowledge Management and Organizational Learning (KMOL) initiative to enhance the capture and harnessing of institutional knowledge for increased efficiency and effectiveness.

USAID/South Sudan, the Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning (PPL), the Program Office, and MESP collaboratively developed tools and processes to facilitate a seamless transfer of knowledge between transitioning USAID staff.

During Q3, MESP finalized the South Sudan Conflict Assessment study. The Mission also approved the Meta-Analysis Desk Review report, which was conducted to assist USAID/South Sudan to make informed decisions on how to effectively integrate key thematic issues into the development of its new Transitional Strategy.

MESP continued to provide the Mission with on-site conferencing facilities and logistical support for workshops, meetings and other stakeholder consultations. The project provided workshop facilities for 42 different meetings attended by approximately 1,000 participants who conducted Partnership for Resilience and Recovery (PfRR) technical and joint analysis group discussions, the NGO Forum national general meeting, the private sector envisioning workshop, learning activities with IPs, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) technical working group meetings and TPM debrief sessions. Additionally, MESP supported the Mission in the printing and delivery of 1,000 locally made USAID-branded face masks as a COVID-19 mitigation measure.

## **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- MESP conducted a Donor Investment Survey obtaining feedback from eight (8) different donors. With the data collected, MESP produced a series of donor investment maps depicting the geospatial distribution of donors' activities across the country.
- MESP conducted a DQA AAR to discuss strengths and weaknesses of 13 indicators reported to USAID/Washington.
- In response to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, MESP quickly rolled out RTPM approach in 23 counties across South Sudan.
- MESP conducted research for and delivered three important analyses supporting the development of the Mission's new Strategic Framework: a Gender Desk Review, the South Sudan Conflict Assessment study and the Meta-Analysis Desk Review report.
- MESP procured and delivered to the Mission 1,000 locally made USAID-branded face masks.
- MESP continued to regularly contribute to the Mission bi-weekly Reports and to deliver weekly Scenario Update reports.
- MESP helped institute and support the Mission's KMOL initiative.

## **CHALLENGES**

- The current global COVID-19 pandemic meant no field trips could be conducted for TPM for direct observation and verification from March 2020 onwards.
- Staff coordination was challenging at times as staff worked from home for much of the year. This necessitated greater coordination in the timely production of deliverables.
- Poor phone network coverage and high telephone costs presented data collection challenges for RTPM.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Early planning is essential for successful RTPM so that sufficient time is given for arranging interviews with IPs. In instances when IPs delay responding to TPM requests for information, the AOR will be requested to facilitate the receipt of the required information from partners.
- In light of ongoing challenges arising from COVID-19, seasonal flooding and recurring conflict and insecurity, MESP and the Mission should continue the current process of active and open communication and planning to quickly mobilize to support the Mission's information needs.

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the South Sudan Monitoring and Evaluation Support Project (MESP) is to provide technical, analytic, advisory, training, M&E, special assessments, studies, strategic communications, logistics, and other related support services as requested by USAID/South Sudan to effectively monitor, evaluate, and communicate information about its activities in South Sudan. This task order began on October 1, 2019 and continues to provide technical, management and administrative support as required by the Mission under three main components:

- Performance Monitoring and Reporting.
- Support for Evaluations, Assessments, and Special Studies.
- Strategic Communications.

## COMPONENT I: PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

### BASELINES, INDICATORS AND TARGETS

#### PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TRACKING TABLE (PITT)

In FY20, MESP conducted PITT reviews to inform the Mission about progress towards set targets. At the end of the reporting period, MESP was awaiting feedback from the Mission prior to delivering a presentation on the indicator analysis. In FY21, MESP will continue updating the IPTT periodically as more data becomes available.

#### DATA/GIS SUPPORT

As part of its efforts towards supporting the Mission in developing its Strategic Framework, MESP produced geographic maps to show the spatial distribution of activities implemented by USAID and other donors. MESP produced a series of sector specific geographic and other maps showing actual and projected returns, climatic disasters including frequency of floods, frequency of abduction of aid workers, PfRR locations, historical territorial control for Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and opposition, integrated phase classification (IPC) levels, and economic potential.

Additionally, MESP conducted a donor investment survey of eight (8) donors and developed varied donor investment maps showing the geospatial distribution of donor activities across the country in HA, DG, Health, and EG. MESP also prepared CFA and COVID-19 maps to show the distribution of COVID-19 interventions across the country.

Using geospatial data (GPS coordinates) from USAID technical offices and IPs, MESP continued to update state-level maps of activities as new geospatial data became available. This process was at times delayed due to late submission of annual reports by IPs and incomplete GIS data reporting.

#### DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENTS (DQAS)

In FY2020 Q1, MESP submitted DQA reports for 13 Performance Plan and Report (PPR) indicators - two (2) reported by UNICEF under the Integrated Essential Emergency Education Services (IEEES)

program, three (3) reported by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and eight (8) reported by IOM.

MESP facilitated a DQA AAR to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of 13 indicators reported to USAID/Washington. The exercise generated recommendations for improving future assessments, including early planning and preparation, conducting field level assessments, strengthening coordination with IPs, among others. The IOM indicator “Number of water and sanitation sector institutions strengthened to manage water resources or improve water supply and sanitation services as a result of USG assistance” was amended to focus on counting the number of Water Management Committees trained.

At the Mission’s request, MESP conducted a DQA of four (4) PPR indicators reported by the Health Pooled Fund (HPF). The assessment found that the data reported are of good quality and suitable for the PPR. A recommendation was made for HPF to document data collection procedures in Performance Indicator Reference Sheets (PIRS) to standardize the data collection processes.

## REVIEW OF DATA COLLECTION, REPORTING AND INSTRUMENTS

In FY2020, MESP adopted RTPM due to the COVID-19 pandemic. MESP reviewed data collection tools for FFP (OTP, TSFP, GFD, Warehouse management and CNV activities), Health, DG (CEC and i-STREAM) and EG (SAFER and RAPID) to make them consistent with the RTPM approach. COVID-19 awareness and prevention questions were integrated into the tools to assess COVID-19 awareness in the communities. Data collection tools for IEEES and FFE were not reviewed because schools were closed. TPM for WCS activities could not be conducted due to lack of phone network coverage in Nyat-Boma.

The RTPM approach was piloted in Rumbek, Yei and Tambura to assess the status of health service delivery in HPF-supported facilities. The approach was scaled up to reach additional counties in various sectors. Challenges encountered included poor phone network coverage especially in Tambura, unavailability of health facility in-charge personnel, high telephone costs and at times, the necessity for further follow-up for supplemental data collection.

MESP recruited CMs for the seven (7) PfRR Partnership areas of Yei, Rumbek, Yambio, Wau, Aweil, Bor and Torit. The CMs were trained in data collection and interviewing techniques, COVID-19 preventive measures, photography, informed consent and do no harm principles.

## COLLECTING AND ANALYZING DATA

### FFP/OFDA EXPANSION

In FY20, USAID/South Sudan requested that MESP expand TPM for FFP and OFDA through deployment of CMs in the target CFAs. MESP will pilot the expansion in FY21 with initial deployment of two (2) supervisory specialists and five CMs. Funding permitting, the Mission expects to scale-up the expansion with five (5) Specialists and 25 CMs in FY2021.

### THIRD-PARTY MONITORING & VERIFICATION

During the reporting period, MESP monitored 377 activities in 66 counties, initially using the traditional TPM approach and later pivoting to RTPM due to the COVID-19 pandemic (See Annex 1 to 3).

Debrief notes were circulated following all visits. Debrief presentations were conducted for all Education, Ebola virus disease (EVD) prevention and FFP activities. All debrief presentations were attended by the USAID/South Sudan Program Office, relevant USAID technical offices members, IPs, counterparts and donors. Through these sessions, MESP gained a better understanding of the needs of the client, leading to continued improvement in our methods and the information collected and presented. The debriefs also highlighted any service delivery gaps for follow-up by the IPs and the Mission technical teams. Some highlights from FY20 TPM are provided below.

## **HEALTH – YEI, RUMBEEK AND TAMBURA COUNTIES**

MESP conducted phone interviews in 18 health facilities (HFs) in Yei (Central Equatoria State), Rumbek (Lakes State) and Tambura (Western Equatoria State). All monitored facilities were found to be operational and key staff were on duty. Services provided at the health facilities included outpatient and in-patient care, Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), antenatal care (ANC), postnatal care (PNC), family planning (FP), nutrition, care of uncomplicated deliveries, laboratory services, dispensary services, surgeries at state hospitals and referrals.

### **YEI COUNTY**

Yei River County experiences recurring insecurity around neighboring payams and counties affecting service delivery. At the time of data collection, 18 health facilities were reported functional and 22 nonfunctional. Of the functional health facilities, 10 are supported by HFP3; some facilities such as Pakula, Pisak and Hi Goja primary healthcare units (PHCUs) have been relocated from their original locations due to insecurity. Eight (8) health facilities (1 hospital, 2 primary healthcare centers [PHCCs] and 5 PHCUs) were remotely monitored.

The quarterly drug consignment was not delivered to Yei due to road insecurity; however, plans were changed to airlift the drugs and distribute to various counties. Since 2018, expired drugs in Yei Civil Hospital were not disposed due to lack of finances and insecurity, while shortage of essential drugs such as amoxicillin, paracetamol, antimalarials, ferrous, metronidazole, among others, were reported across all facilities.

No refresher training was conducted in the previous six months or one year except for trainings on COVID-19. Of 88 staff trained, 48 were trained by HPF and 40 by the World Health Organization (WHO). Most facilities interviewed reported receiving non-body contact thermometers and personal protective equipment (PPE) including handwashing containers, sanitizers and soap. As a daily procedure, facilities normally take the temperature of patients before consultations.

Stock-out of mosquito nets for pregnant women and children under five years was reported. Similarly, there was stockout of vaccines including tuberculosis vaccine (BCG), inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) and oral polio vaccine (OPV) for over a month across all the facilities. Yei Civil Hospital lacks laboratory reagents for conducting different diagnoses. The hospital also charges user fees between 50-1000 SSP for consultations, surgical operations and laboratory services.

None of the facilities in the county provide youth-friendly services except for the “one stop center” at the hospital which is not tailored specifically for youth services. Most facilities reported missing one or more basic equipment in addition to treatment protocols and guidelines.

The county authorities, through the Ministry of Health and in partnership with UN, NNGOs, and INGOs, embarked on COVID-19 pandemic preventive and mitigation activities, which included training, distribution of PPE to health workers and support staff, and operationalization of the COVID-19 isolation site with 24-hour standby personnel.

## **RUMBEK COUNTY**

Rumbek County experienced stability over the past five (5) months during RTPM, although cases of inter-clan conflicts were high during the annual migration season (November - April). Livestock remains a major element fueling conflict, manifested in the form of cattle raids and revenge killings between clans. This has consequently resulted in deaths, interrupted service delivery, and the looting of facility inventories and nutrition supplies, as well as instilling fear amongst communities and health workers.

The county has a total of 22 health facilities; out of which 15 are supported by HPF. In the last year, CUAMM provided refresher trainings on family planning, EPI, disability management, BEmONC, infection prevention and control, WASH and pharmaceutical management. On a separate note, no COVID-19 related training was provided to facility staff though they received an orientation on the pandemic from the taskforce. The comprehensive training for facility staff on COVID-19 was scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June. Boma Health Workers and the Boma Health Committees also received training on their roles.

Seven (7) health facilities were monitored (2 PHCCs and 5 PHCUs). Overall, facilities reported a shortage of essential drugs such as amoxicillin, ciprofloxacin, paracetamol, cotrimoxazole, and anti-malaria drugs (both injectables and oral), yet cases of malaria were rampant at the onset of the rainy season. Additionally, uterotonic drugs (oxytocin and misoprostol) for the management of post-partum hemorrhage, BCG vaccine and long-lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets were out of stock across all facilities. Challenges associated with pharmaceutical management included lack of drug envelopes, limited pallets and inadequate storage space.

The majority of facilities offer family planning services; the methods provided include implant, combined oral contraceptives (COC), Depo Provera and male condoms. However, FP uptake is very low due to deep cultural attitudes towards the use of contraceptives. According to facility leadership, the use of condoms is associated with prostitution, and community members also believe that the use of FP commodities would compromise the chances of a woman giving birth. None of the facilities provide youth friendly services.

Lack of water sources within the premises was reported in most facilities. Water is collected from nearby or distant water sources while others pay for water. For instance, Barchol PHCU depends on water from a nearby school. Malualbaab PHCC buys water at 10 SSP per jerrycan while staff of Balwau PHCU walk for approximately 30 minutes to access water. Matangai PHCC reported damaged water storage facilities. Inadequate waste disposal buckets and handwashing containers were reported with incinerators and placenta pits also missing in six facilities. One facility (Balwau PHCU) reported having no pit latrine while a significant shortage of IEC materials was reported across all facilities.

## **TAMBURA COUNTY**

Tambura County experienced a short period of peace with people moving out of town to farm until June 15, 2020, when an armed group attacked the town, killing some people and impacting the region's health service delivery and scheduled RTPM activities. The County also has very poor mobile network coverage making it difficult to monitor several facilities for RTPM.

The county has a total of 28 health facilities. HPF, through World Vision International (WVI) is supporting 20 health facilities (1 hospital, 3 PHCCs and 16 PHCUs). As reported by Tambura PHCC leadership, the current conflict halted service delivery but the actual number of facilities affected in the county is not yet known.

The three (3) health facilities (1 PHCC, 2 PHCUs) monitored reported offering services Monday – Friday, 8am-5pm, but do not work on weekends.

Tambura County is prepared to respond to COVID-19; however, the county did not report any cases during RTPM. Twenty health workers (one from each facility) were trained on COVID-19, including 20 Boma Health Committee (BHC) members. IEC materials on COVID-19 were available in all facilities; however, space for conducting counselling and health education remains a challenge. Moreover, no refresher trainings were provided in the last 12 months though on-the-job mentorship on FP, HMIS and pharmaceutical management was administered during IP visits.

The absence of water sources was noted in all three facilities monitored. Water is being fetched directly from nearby streams facilities do not have proper waste management mechanisms such as rubbish and placenta pits.

The facilities noted that the uptake of family planning services increased due to continued awareness of activities.

Since April 2020, all facilities reported stock out of BCG and Penta vaccines including long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITN) for both children under five and expectant mothers. Drugs are normally supplied on a quarterly basis; however, limited drug storage space was a concern highlighted across all facilities.

## **COLLABORATION, LEARNING, AND ADAPTING**

In support of the Mission's CLA agenda, MESP organized a DQA AAR in Q3 to discuss findings with the CORs, AORs and IPs. MESP presented findings from DQAs of 13 indicators reported to USAID/Washington and discussed recommendations for future assessments. The DQA AAR complemented the 13 reports submitted by MESP to USAID.

MESP also conducted a stock taking review of the Mission's CLA activities in Q3 and awaits the Mission's feedback on this report. The exercise involved dialogue with staff from the different technical offices to understand how CLA activities had contributed to collaborating, learning and adapting, and decision-making.

As part of efforts to continuously monitor the context in which USAID activities were implemented, MESP shared weekly scenario reports, which included updates about the security situation, commodity



food prices, and COVID-19 awareness. Data for these reports were collected by Democracy International, the MESP Security Advisor and CMs.

After each TPM exercise, MESP delivered a debrief presentation to the Mission and IPs and circulated debrief notes. This practice enhanced shared ownership of TPM findings and recommendations. Additional evidence-based analyses and research provided to the Mission during FY20 included the Thematic Meta-Analysis, Gender Analysis, and Conflict Analysis to inform the development of the Mission's Transitional Strategy.

Additionally, MESP assisted the Mission in facilitating the quarterly IP meeting, the FFP partner meeting and the communications workshop. MESP also worked closely with the Mission and its partners to plan and facilitate the December 2019 PfRR Learning Event in Juba.

### **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING (KMOL)**

The Knowledge Management and Organizational Learning (KMOL) initiative was in direct response to the Mission's commitment to capturing and harnessing institutional knowledge for increased efficiency and effectiveness. USAID/South Sudan, PPL, PRO, and MESP collaboratively developed tools and processes to facilitate the seamless transfer of knowledge from USAID staff who were transitioning out to those who were transitioning in.

These tools included a handover memo template intended to standardize handover notes from outgoing to incoming staff and guidance for writing onboarding emails to incoming staff. The MESP team also assisted the Mission with updating their Mission Look Book to include profiles of incoming staff. The Look Book is a resource containing names, photos, and roles of Mission staff. The MESP team also created a resource guide for the Mission's Foreign Service National Advisory Leadership Council (FSNALC), which provides an overview of USAID learning resources available on USAID University, ProgramNet, and the Learning Lab. The guide also includes available MESP learning opportunities, which ALC members can attend if interested.

## **COMPONENT 2: SUPPORT FOR EVALUATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, AND SPECIAL STUDIES**

The objective of Component 2 under TO4 is to further refine and expand the services provided in the previous Task Orders, focusing on analysis of key program technical areas, project evaluations, assessments and special studies. Past efforts have enabled the Mission to obtain data on the performance of its projects and information that is useful for project management, re-alignment/re-design and reprogramming of new activities.

### **PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT EVALUATION SUPPORT**

#### **APPLIED POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS (PEA)**

Work on the political economy analysis was put on hold in FY2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Implementation of one PEA linked to PfRR and including conflict analysis is expected to commence in FY2021.

## **SPPHC AND RAPID END-OF-PROJECT EVALUATIONS**

During FY2020, the SPPHC and RAPID activities were extended until April 2021. It is anticipated that MESP will implement a final performance evaluation of one of these projects in FY21.

## **CONFLICT ASSESSMENT**

During FY20, MESP conducted and submitted for review and approval a South Sudan Conflict Assessment. USAID approved this deliverable, noting that the report gives a helpful overview of the conflicts and various key actors and dynamics, including key drivers and mitigators of conflict.

## **GENDER DESK REVIEW**

MESP conducted a gender desk review during FY2020 Q2. The review was conducted to assist USAID/South Sudan to make informed decisions about how to effectively integrate gender considerations into its new Transitional Strategy.

## **META-ANALYSIS DESK REVIEW**

In Q3, USAID approved the Meta-Analysis Desk Review report. The desk review was conducted to assist USAID/South Sudan to make informed decisions about how to effectively integrate key thematic issues into the development of its new Transitional Strategy.

## **GBV ROADMAP**

In Q4, USAID circulated the questionnaire for the Gender IP Survey among its IPs. Data analysis and reporting for this exercise will be completed in FY2021.

## **ASSESSMENTS AND SPECIAL STUDIES**

### **SOUTH SUDAN AGRICULTURE ASSESSMENT**

By the end of the reporting period, MESP and IFPRI had completed a Desk Review and Inception Report and was concluding remote primary data collection for the study. MESP will submit the final assessment report and conduct a formal debrief of the study's findings, conclusions and recommendations, specifically addressing USAID's Evaluation Questions in FY221 Q1.

### **SOUTH SUDAN HOUSEHOLD SURVEY**

MESP awaits Mission feedback and further guidance on the Scope of Work for the survey to establish an engagement mechanism with the Central Statistics Bureau of South Sudan.

## **COMPONENT 3: STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS**

With travel restrictions imposed towards the end of FY20 Q2, MESP could not conduct any monitoring trips despite project field visits serving as an essential process in gathering first-hand information directly from communities and learning the impact of USAID projects on beneficiaries for USAID communication products. To mitigate this challenge, MESP pivoted to RTPM approach towards the end

of Q3 and continued to present RTPM findings through enhanced debrief documents and increased use of visual presentations to both USAID/South Sudan and IP staff.

### **WEEKLY SCENARIO REPORTING**

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, MESP continued to report weekly on the indicators the Mission proposed for the scenario reports. These reports provide the Mission with a weekly, evidenced-based overview of the South Sudan context focusing on indicators related to instability, conflict and market costs. MESP also continued to contribute to the Mission bi-weekly report.

### **PROVIDE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT**

During FY 2020, MESP continued to provide the Mission with on-site conferencing facilities and logistical support for workshops, meetings and other stakeholder consultations. The project provided workshop facilities for 42 different meetings attended by approximately 1,000 participants who conducted PfRR technical and joint analysis group discussions, the NGO forum national general meeting, the private sector envisioning workshop, learning activities with USAID IPs, MEL technical working group meetings and TPM debrief sessions.

Additionally, MESP supported the Mission in the printing and delivery of 1,000 locally made USAID-branded face masks to mitigate COVID risk.

MESP has also provided coordination and logistical support for the conduct of teambuilding Insights Discovery Profiles workshops for new Mission staff and for the accreditation training of three Mission FSN staff to enable them to lead future Insights Discovery Profiles workshops. These activities will be conducted during FY21 Q1.

## **STAFFING**

### **KEY PERSONNEL**

A new Senior M&E Advisor joined the project in January 2020. The former COP resigned in February 2020 and was replaced by a new COP in March 2020. Additionally, the former DCOP resigned effective September 30, 2020. The replacement DCOP candidate is pending USAID approval.

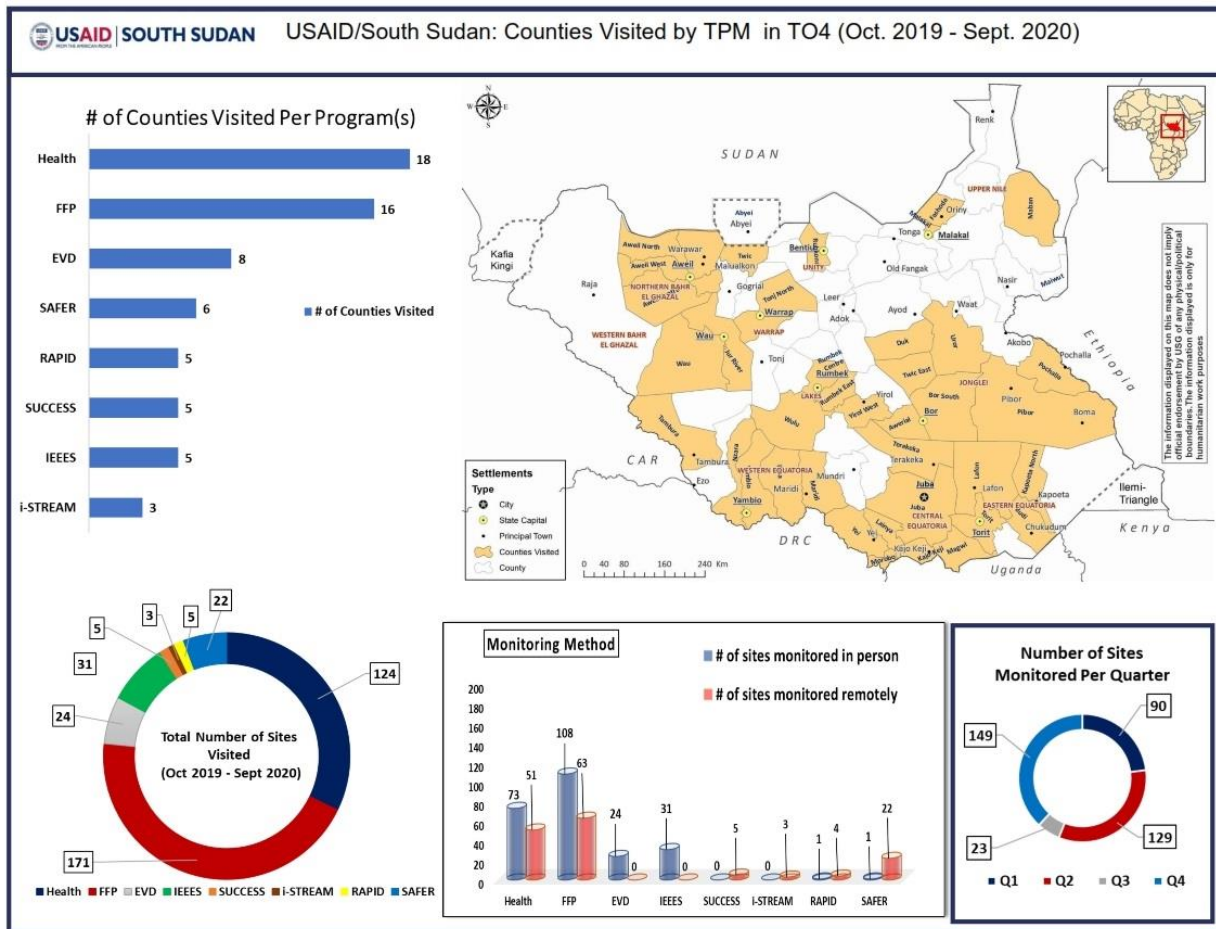
### **OTHER STAFF**

One M&E Specialist resigned in February 2020 and was replaced in May 2020. MESP also recruited a Senior Field Monitor, a Data Utilization and Reporting Specialist, a Field Monitor and a short-term technical specialist to support the agriculture assessment.

## ANNEX I: TPM SITES VISITED IN FY2020

S/NO	PROGRAM	TOTAL COUNTIES	TOTAL SITES
1	HEALTH	18	124
2	FFP	16	179
3	EVD	8	24
4	IEEES	5	31
4	CEC	5	5
5	i-STREAM	3	3
7	RAPID	5	5
8	SAFER	10	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>66</b>	<b>377</b>

## ANNEX 2: DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVITIES MONITORED IN FY2020



## **ANNEX 3: TASK ORDER 4 FY 20 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<b>QUARTERLY REPORTS</b>
FY20 Quarter 1 Progress Report
FY20 Quarter 2 Progress Report
FY20 Quarter 3 Progress Report
<b>EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT REPORTS</b>
Rapid Conflict Assessment Report Republic of South Sudan
Inception Report Agricultural Sector in South Sudan Assessment
Desktop Analysis Agricultural Sector in South Sudan Assessment
<b>DESK REVIEWS</b>
Gender Desk Review – January 2020
Meta-Analysis Desk Review – February 2020

