

Final Project Evaluation Report



Strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable population to conflicts and chronic crises in Gumbo, South Sudan, with an emphasis on internally displaced women and girls

SOLHUM/2022/0011

Granted by: GENERALITAT VALENCIANA
Entity: JÓVENES Y DESARROLLO
Local partner: SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO - BOSCOAID

Prepared by;
eAexcellent Ltd, Atlabara Juba South Sudan.

Temporal scope of the evaluation:
The evaluation covers the implementation period 15th March 2023 to 14th June 2024

Date of the report: 29th, July, 2024

Recommended Citation

Endline Evaluation for Strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable population to conflicts and chronic crises in Gumbo, South Sudan, with an emphasis on internally displaced women and girls Project, July 2024, Gumbo town, Juba, EES, South Sudan. Bosco Aid

Acknowledgements

This endline Evaluation report was prepared by a eAexcellent Ltd partnering with Destiny University College, Juba, South Sudan with support of individual consultants of the university including; Dr. Simon Mwesigwa, Mr. Ssesanga Peter, Mr. Kabuye Gerald, and Mr. Alex Bagabo. This report and the Project is made possible by the generous support of Generalitat Valenciana under the Code SOLHUM/2022/0011. The contents in this report are the responsibility of Bosco Aid and its partners.

We greatly appreciate the support from the project staff, enumerators, local authorities (Payam, Boma and Village levels), and beneficiaries.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction.

This report presents findings of an independent external end of project evaluation conducted by eAexcellent Ltd on behalf of Boscoaid. The project under review was a humanitarian Project **SOLHUM/2022/0011** implemented by Boscoaid in Gumbo, Juba South Sudan. The project's overall objective was to contribute to the protection of the rights of people affected by conflicts and chronic crises in South Sudan by strengthening the resilience capacity of the most affected population in the IDP and the host community. The target persons, were women, men, adolescents, youth, boys and girls, as well considering particularly the most vulnerable among the IDP and host community households. The project aimed to strengthen capacities, knowledge and resources of families while improving their food security, improve the housing of the most vulnerable families, as well as their knowledge and resources for the use of water, hygiene and sanitation which then would contribute to the reduction of diseases and their well-being, make aware of all forms of violence against women and girls, harmful traditional practices, coexistence and culture of peace among the population of the intervention area. The evaluation aimed at measuring the impact of the project to the targeted population in achieving the intended results and indicators that establish changes in their lives, draw key learnings from project design, implementation and sustainability then generate recommendations for future improvement and or replications. The evaluation also purposed at measuring the adequacy of the strategy followed, and compliance with the regulations of the funding organisation.

The evaluation adopted a cross-sectional descriptive design using a mixed-method approach in assessing all the components of the evaluation. A total of 379 respondents were interviewed in this evaluation including; learners, Boscoaid project staff, village chief (Sultan), IDP camp leader, women group representatives, community dialogue volunteer leaders, while, FGDs on the other hand included project beneficiaries; IDPs and the host community leadership.

Summary of Evaluation Findings

Appropriateness of the interventions - Overall the humanitarian project implemented by Bosco aid has to a great extent been relevant to the needs and priorities of the targeted populations. The most appreciated components of the project were; agriculture which provided skills, tools, land and inputs for the target population, provision of emergency housing materials, WASH, rights awareness and food distribution. The project addressed the basic needs of the IDPs, and the host community. The project was implemented based on the most vulnerable beneficiaries' needs identified through joint assessments conducted by Salesians of Don Bosco (Boscoaid), local leaders (Camp leaders, Boma, Payam and county stakeholders) and JyD.

Effectiveness – Still, to a great extent, the project delivered on the expected outcomes and results exceeding mostly the planned indicators. The project enabled the targeted 1800 people to have access to food assistance to take them to the next season. The intervention was able to exceed the envisaged number by enabling extra 389 people making the total beneficiaries equal to 2,189 as evidenced from the distribution sheets and final report of the project making more than 100% achievement. Households' improvement items reached out to 521 beneficiaries exceeding 100% over the intervention target. Over 99.3% having been reached out for agricultural activities, 99.9% having improved knowledge on WASH. respectively.

Nearly all respondents (99.3%) received agricultural training, indicating extensive outreach efforts, vegetables and crops by production indicated about 96.6% and 92.5% of all

beneficiaries who were involved respectively with slight variations across household sizes and genders.

A significant over 98.60% having received awareness and training on all forms of violence against women and girls. while 91.4% and 84.9 % participation level in training regarding peace building and peaceful existence, discussion on harmful traditional practices in both IDP camp and the host community was registered across the community and youth respectively. It is worth noting though, that regarding violence against women, physical violence is the most commonly reported form of violence against women, with 91.2% of respondents acknowledging its prevalence.

Regarding sanitation and hygiene, soap distribution, rakes, gloves and dustbins were among the distributed items as observed from the accountability distribution sheets. and nearly universal (99.2%) coverage. Female beneficiaries received these items more higher rates compared to male counter parts as evidenced on the accountability sheets and data collected.

Efficiency – The project had no major delays in its implementation and this was attributed to; the level of preparedness of Boscoaid office, the established team working with the humanitarian support that supported the implementation in terms of mobilisation and recruitment of the project team. Salesians of Don Bosco (Boscoaid) established the IDP camp thus familiar with the challenges and leadership of the camp.

The project was effective in the utilization of the funds and resources with an overall project expenditure of 100% with no saving left on the budget. The quality of project products and services were of an acceptable quality attributed to strict supervision and follow up of the activities and supplies by the responsible officials.

The quality of project monitoring was also strong given that the project M&E system in place and was followed by all the concerned parties. The key stakeholders were always involved in the project.

Impact – The project made a significant impact in improving the living conditions of the target population through agriculture / farming activities, household living improvement, short term food distribution and rights awareness. The major impact was observed in improving agricultural production where farmers mainly women harvest for consumption and selling extra produce to earn some income for other basic needs. Safe and clean water, improved clean environment and personal hygiene were milestone impact that beneficiaries attested to. Rights awareness activities enhanced families' relationships, living in peace and promoted togetherness as many of the children no longer run away from their homes due to violence. Further, the community dialogue meetings steadily improved living relationships among the IDPs and the host community.

Connectivity – The intervention clearly succeeded in implementing short term activities such as food distribution and housing improvement activity both of which attained more than 100% achievement which then, effectively fostered participation in the agriculture activities achieving more than 99% participation. The food distribution indirectly contributed to the other activities of the intervention by acting as catalyst to attract the participants. This attributing to acquisition of knowledge and skills in the intervention long term results.

Coverage and coordination – The results indicate that the project coverage was achieved well by over 100% of the target population inclusive of extra participants. The coverage spreading out through all gender as planned and across the various age brackets up to the oldest member of the intervention while maximising all the activities as planned by the project bearer. The

internal coordination was done by the key stakeholders concerned, thus Boscoaid project management and JyD, while the external stakeholders supported in linking the project to the community, some of the key external stakeholders included; County, Payam, Boma/Village sultan, IDP camp leaders in great support of the project.

Summary of conclusions

- The evaluation showed over 100% achievement in respect to housing / hospitality improvement due to the project support. Several voices of discontent claiming discrimination and quick wear and tear of the materials noticed.
- The evaluation reveals more than 100% overall of the target population having received food support, sparring almost 99.8% of the target population embracing the agricultural activity.
- Beneficiary famers mostly engaged in vegetable farming than cash crops farming. Cash crops production has better and longer-term economical returns than vegetables.
- 86.5% among the project beneficiaries desirable to keep agriculture as their future engagement signals a potential success in attaining the resilience capacity.
- There was a success by the intervention in regards to WASH awareness among the targeted population registering a 99.2% satisfaction as from the findings.
- The evaluation was a success also on a activity of awareness campaigns for women and girls, co-existence and peace building. 91.2% of the respondents indicated that physical violence against women still existed, over 70% sexual and social violence still existed. indicating the rights abuse still existed.
- The evaluation established that 91% of the respondents agreed to having attended community dialogue meetings indicating success towards building social cohesion and inclusiveness of diversity.
- The intervention planned 150 Meters on land for agriculture expansion according to the project proposal as was seen by the evaluation team though fencing of the whole land area is required and necessary.

Summary of recommendations

- Consolidation of SOLHUM 2022/0011 achievements, expanding beyond the current intervention area, building on conclusions from the outgoing project, strengthening the niche of Boscoaid on empowering community resilience in general and inclusive development for the vulnerable communities.
- The need to continue rights awareness for women and girls is still evident as observed from the finding's indicators and conclusion in this report. Apply community friendly approaches so as to entrench wider coverage and sustainability.

- Consider enrolling the intervention across a significantly larger population over a specific time frame. Because the larger unreached population in effect negate the achievements of the intervention.
- Focused intervention in a WASH project for girls on menstrual hygiene most especially for young girls in and out school girls so as to alter the negative social norms surrounding menstrual and use of pads
- Allotting larger pieces of plots especially to the more enthusiastic farmers based on dedication and production volumes per seasons than having many redundant plots.
- Encourage farmers to engage more in cash crops production with ultimately better returns on sales, wider market and durability for better of incomes and financial independence.
- Complete the fencing of the remaining distance along the agricultural land so as to allow more plots' allocation to the serious participants and create more land for any further enrolment.
- There is need to share knowledge on the achievements and weaknesses with other partners. This is very key in implementing the project.

Summary of Lessons Learned

- Agriculture is a vital solution to address food scarcity and high prices amid dwindling food support from Boscoaid.
- Agriculture is certainly a major economic activity for the beneficiary population if actually done with all dedication and resolve.
- Overwhelmingly, the farmers are passionate in their request for assistance to attaining more land and expand their farming area.
- Capacity building through training for sustenance post project is crucial. Capacities of both individual farmers and community-based groups. By providing support longer than the short-term project has done, through extending more opportunities for growth to the farming group beyond providing farm seeds for planting.
- The need for more sustained and deliberate training in group dynamics (mainly planning, financial literacy and management, group cohesion and conflict resolution, among others).
- Seeds and other farm inputs, should be distributed at the appropriate time for planting, considering weather patterns and climate change when timing the distribution.
- Continued peace building and rights awareness campaigns by the community dialogue groups has had relative results, home to home visits are not sustainable, necessitating sustainable campaign approaches.
- Persistent WASH campaigns are very critical in the gradual changing of the target community and the entire community mindsets in the areas of sanitation, environmental and personal hygiene.