The FEED project is a highly integrative and collaborative program, focusing on the inter-relationship and implementation of different sectors and stakeholders. It seeks to foster partnerships, encourage participation, and engage in continual learning. The project aims to improve food security, livelihoods, and gender equality in South Sudan, working closely with local communities, beneficiaries, and international partners. The FEED consortium comprises three leading Canadian development agencies: CARE, World Vision, and Oxfam. The project is funded by the Government of Canada, targeting nearly 25% of the South Sudanese population. It focuses on reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience through various interventions, including community-owned vulnerability and capacity assessments, peacebuilding, gender strategy, power mapping, and humanitarian accountability. The project is implemented in seven states of South Sudan by a Consortium of three leading Canadian development agencies, aiming to benefit 215,144 people from April 2015 to March 2018. The FEED project is well positioned to tackle the growing crisis in South Sudan and make lasting impacts in the lives of the South Sudanese people. By being integrative, inclusive, and impactful, the project supports the absorption of shocks and builds resilience in vulnerable communities. It provides a unique opportunity for Canada's largest development agencies to collaborate, learn from each other, and establish best practices for South Sudan.
- **Extension services**: FEED provided beneficiaries with agriculture training through the use of agriculture extension workers. Support was provided in a variety of agriculture sectors including: Farmer Field School methodology, crop production, fish farming, farm tools management, and animal production, among others.

- **Post-harvest handling**: In order to ensure crops are cared for properly after harvesting, beneficiaries were trained to thresh, dry, and winnow crops to minimize losses.

- **Market access**: FEED aims to create linkages to introduce local farmers to local markets and vendors in order to provide the farmers with opportunities to sell their produce and begin to earn an income.

- **Peace building and Conflict resolution programming**: FEED is working closely with local religious leaders, traditional leaders, and government officials to dialogue on the importance of promoting peace in their communities.

- **Partnership**: The FEED project has launched a new initiative with the World Food Programme (WFP), whereby FEED links beneficiaries to the WFP food distribution program. The FEED project has also partnered with FAO to secure in-kind donations of agricultural inputs.

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**INCLUSIVE**

The FEED program is defined by its equitable and inclusive agriculture and protection policies for women, children, and the most vulnerable. The project was designed with gender equality as a priority and has been aligned with the gender priorities of Global Affairs Canada and South Sudan's Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. The project is committed to improving equitable participation of and enjoyment of benefits of food security among women, men, girls, and boys. This includes fostering equitable access to rights, benefits, obligations, and opportunities related to pillars of food security, which include availability, access, utilization, and stability.

- **Strategic Gender-related Goals**: The FEED project strives to ensure:
  1. Women and girls, and men & boys, are food secure.
  2. Women’s workloads are reduced.
  3. Employability of women is improved.
  4. Women’s groups are established.
  5. Women and men know about women’s rights.
  6. Women and men understand the importance of peace building.
  7. GBV prevention education is prioritized for both male and female beneficiaries.

  - **a) To improve equitable participation of and enjoyment of benefits of food security among women, men, girls, and boys. This includes fostering equitable access to rights, benefits, obligations, and opportunities related to pillars of food security, which include availability, access, utilization, and stability.**
  - **b) To reduce the persistence of deep-rooted social barriers to gender equality, particularly in relation to the economic roles of women and the consequences and improving access to services & GBV awareness through inclusive policies and programs related to food security.**
THE CHALLENGE

Gender: Women's Labour Burden

Project Messaging and Communication

Economic instability

Conflict

Climate change (Drought/rains)

THE RESPONSE

• Develop activities and working schedules that will allow women to manage the labour burden at home and in the fields;

• Provide shelters for the children at the fields so the women can bring their children with them to the field;

• Provide lighter, more manageable farming tools for women;

• Increase awareness of project activities through intentional community interaction with project staff and regular briefings for stakeholders;

• Beneficiary participation increases accountability and positively promotes beneficiary ownership of project activities;

• Continual monitoring of the exchange rates; periodic re-assessment of the impact to programmatic activities;

• Continual assessment of market prices for project related commodities;

• Proactively monitoring security situations throughout the project areas relying on proven channels of security assessment (UNDSS);

• Programmatic agility: FEED maintains the ability to adapt quickly to the changing environment and prioritizes staff safety;

• FEED attempts to build farmer's capacity through education and training (crop selection, DRR, irrigation methods, appropriate farming methodology).

THE SITUATION

• Adding “project” related work on top of the existing day-to-day demands will over burden women;

• Low awareness of FEED project among participants and stakeholders;

• Exchange rates and purchasing power of the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) continue to fluctuate;

• Regional flare-ups of internal conflict have sporadically displaced project participants and/or closed off project areas to humanitarian assistance;

• Unpredictable rain patterns have impacted agricultural productivity in South Sudan.

IMPACTFUL LESSONS LEARNED

Mitigation vs Resilience

The FEED project has moved away from simply attempting to “mitigate” the effects of natural or human-made shocks to building up the resilience capacity of the beneficiary population.

FEED strives to enhance the following:

• Absorptive capacities: the short term ability to handle a shock or its effects. In the sector of food security, this includes coping strategies, such as relying on extended family for additional food;

• Adaptive capacities: used on a longer term scale and support households to adjust to the conditions presented by shocks. In the case of FEED, an adaptive capacity would be the establishment and strengthening of community-based early warning systems;

• Transformative capacities: long term responses to the fundamental root causes of vulnerability, thus avoiding the shock altogether. One such transformative capacity is the sustained participation of farmers in market activity.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES – FORGING AHEAD

“I will not leave this work until my life is over. I am doing something that I never did before. We are eating green vegetables in the dry season.”

- Woman farmer, Malualkon Farmer Field School

“People come to our farm and buy our vegetables. We are on our second round now. We are hearing the issue of crisis, but we are not even thinking of crisis.”

FEED SOUTH SUDAN - DIRECT BENEFICIARIES