



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

South Sudan



Three Year 2020- 2022

Strategy on livelihoods and Economic inclusion

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List acronyms

AGD	Age, Gender and Diversity
r-CSI	Reduced Coping Strategy Index
GAEI	Global Agenda for Economic Inclusion
GFD	General Food Distribution
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSPs	Financial Service Providers
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
PoC	Persons/Person of Concern
SEEP	Small Enterprise Evaluation Project
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associations
WFP	UN World Food Programme

Definition of terms

Economic inclusion - access to labour markets, finance, entrepreneurship and economic opportunities for all, including non-citizens in addition to vulnerable and underserved groups

Livelihoods - capabilities, assets (including material and social resources) and activities required to provide the means of living. A livelihood is sustained when it can last through and recover from various stresses and shocks, and preserve or enhance assets and capabilities, while not undermining the natural resources base (SEEP Network, 2010)

Resilience - ability of individuals, households, communities, national institutions and systems to prevent, absorb and recover from shocks, while continuing to function and adapt in a way that supports long-term prospects for sustainable development, peace and security, and the attainment of human rights.

Absorptive capacity or the ability of households and communities to minimize exposure to shocks if possible and to recover quickly after exposure

Adaptive capacity or the ability of households and communities to make pro-active and informed choices about their lives and their diversified livelihood strategies in response to changing conditions;

Transformative capacity encompasses the system-level changes that ensure sustained resilience, including formal safety nets, access to markets, infrastructure and basic services

Executive Summary

South Sudan's 2011 Independence from Sudan; was preceded by decades of civil war, conflict, political and economic turmoil that displaced and disrupted lives and livelihoods. Not long after independence, the newly formed nation was plunged into civil war in late 2013 and another resurgence of armed conflict in July 2016 following collapse of comprehensive peace agreement signed in 2015. As a result, over 2.2 million South Sudanese were driven from their homes and are currently displaced in other countries. Even though a fragile and conflict state; South Sudan is home to approximately 299, 315 refugees, 1,47 million IDPs and approximately 262, 876 spontaneous refugee returnees.

The complex and protracted nature of refugee situations coupled with immense needs unmatched with available resources; has necessitated a need for comprehensive response anchored on resilience of refugees and hosting communities

The current UNHCR South Sudan Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion strategy situates itself within the framework of the new approaches following the external evaluation of 2016 to 2018 UNHCR South Sudan livelihoods strategy conducted. The strategy takes into account the major shifts underway that includes but not limited to: Global Compact of Refugees, cash-based interventions programming, Global Alliance for Economic Inclusion, Poverty Alleviation Coalition and dynamics in the current operational context following the launch of National Development Strategy July 2018 – June 2021, United Nations Cooperation Framework 2019 -2021 and formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity in February 2020. With a focus on food security, jobs and livelihoods and acknowledging the need to ease burden on hosting communities; the current strategy draws inspiration from UNHCR Global Strategy concept note 2019 to 2034 and envisions ***'inclusive economic opportunities and equitable socio-economic development in refugee hosting areas.***

The Theory of Change for proposed strategy is based on resilience framework with linkages to refugees' economic inclusion interventions, protection and solutions. The 3-year strategy will focus on consolidating gains achieved during 2016 to 2018 implementation year; strengthening absorptive and transformative capacity; and promoting adaptive capacity through existing UNHCR partners and leveraging resources from additional partners with multi-year development resources that can operate at scale.

1. INTRODUCTION

Globally, 70.8 million are forcibly displaced¹ and among them: 41.3 million are internally displaced persons; 25.9 million refugees – of whom 20.4 are under UNHCR mandate; and 3.5 are asylum seekers. 57% of UNHCR refugees come from 3 countries namely: Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan. South Sudan – the largest refugee crisis in Africa; ranks third behind Yemen and Somalia on the Fragile States Index for 2019².

South Sudan's 2011 Independence from Sudan; was preceded by decades of civil war, conflict, political and economic turmoil that displaced and disrupted lives and livelihoods. Not long after independence, the newly formed nation was plunged into civil war in late 2013 and another resurgence of armed conflict in July 2016 following collapse of comprehensive peace agreement signed in 2015. As a result, over 2.2 million South Sudanese were driven from their homes and are currently displaced in other countries. Even though a fragile and conflict state; South Sudan is home to approximately 299, 315 refugees, 1,47 million IDPs and approximately 262, 876 spontaneous refugee returnees.

The complex and protracted nature of refugee situations coupled with immense needs unmatched with available resources; has necessitated a need for comprehensive response anchored on resilience of refugees and hosting communities. As such, Global Compact on Refugees highlights the need for taking on a whole-of-society approach while engaging a broad range of stakeholders to support refugees towards self-reliance and resilience. Based on the Grand Bargain, UNHCR globally has committed to the New Way of Working and is piloting a Multi-Year Multi-Partner protection and solutions strategy aimed at reducing dependency on aid through a durable solutions and resilience approach.

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¹ <https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>

² World Bank (June 2019). South Sudan – Linking Agriculture and Food Sector to the Job Creation Agenda

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1.1. Contextual Background

South Sudan’s protracted conflict following 2011 independence; eroded development gains, increased vulnerability, and exacerbated the need for humanitarian and development assistance; amidst a shifting landscape where the immense needs far outweigh the available resources. Consequently, the resilience capacities of individuals and communities have been weakened overtime with every occurrence of conflict. By 2016, 83% of the country’s population were living below the poverty line³; with the negative impact evident in the remote refugee hosting areas where the local population prior to the conflicts were grappling with poor road networks, high illiteracy levels, weak market infrastructure, limited to no job opportunities and economic shocks. Progress for refugee’s self-reliance and resilience now and for the future; is directly linked to hosting community development and resilience. Inclusive access to economic opportunities and equitable socio-economic development that embodies humanitarian, development and peace nexus is thus paramount.

1.1.1. National Context

- **Social and economic context**

South Sudan represents a context with weak enabling environment; limited capacity of state level institutions in refugee hosting areas, nascent private sector, poor infrastructure, an aid dependent economy, high insecurity, economic crisis driven by year-to-year hyperinflation, limited market infrastructure and high unemployment among youth with a huge population in the informal labour market. Lack of education is a critical barrier to resilient livelihoods and economic inclusion. Scope and reach of essential services needed for human capital

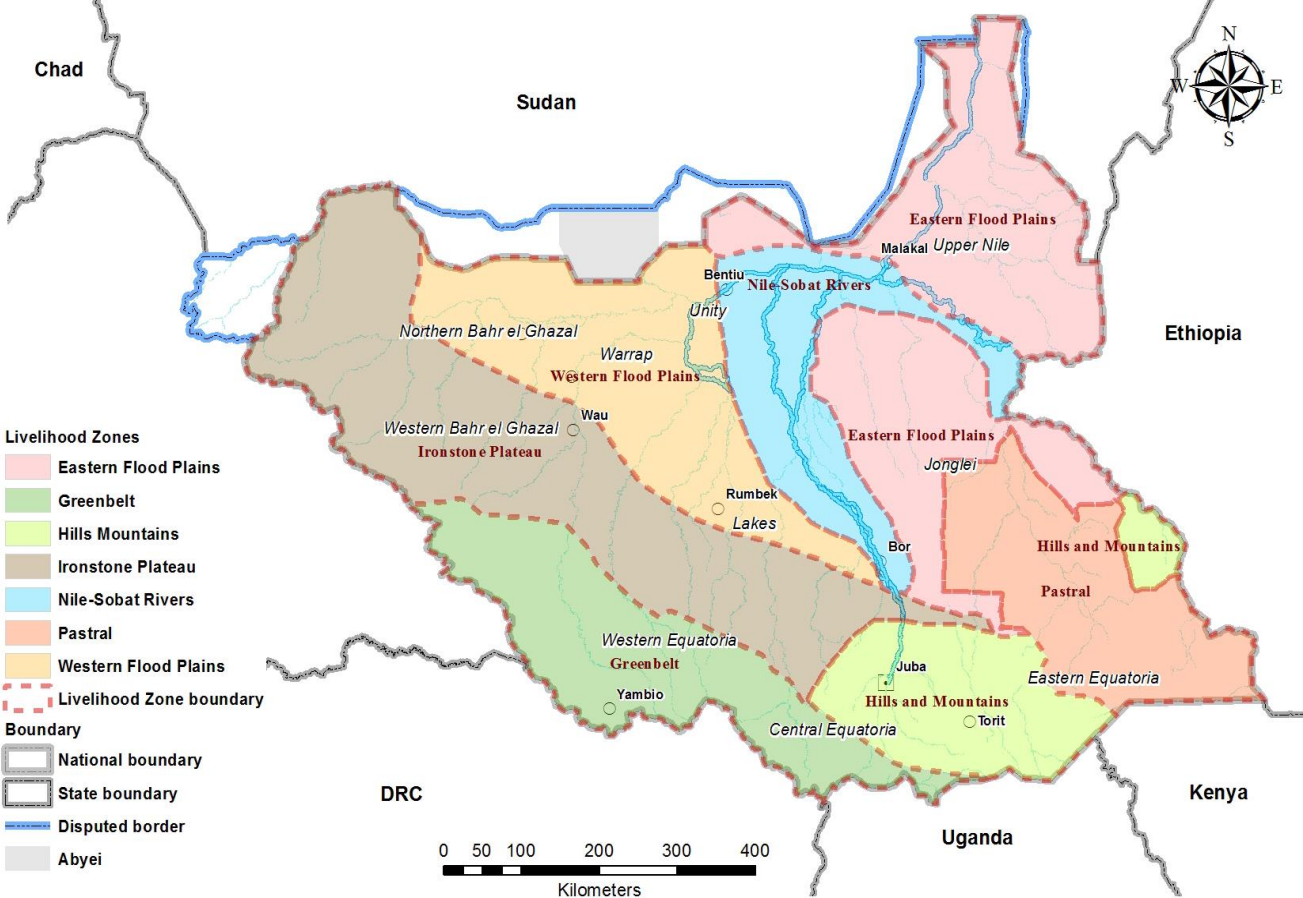
³ World Bank (June 2019). South Sudan – Linking Agriculture and Food Sector to the Job Creation Agenda

development is limited⁴. The mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling in South Sudan was just under 5 years each in 2017,⁵

South Sudan’s economy is dependent on crude oil exports owing to limited diversity, its vulnerable to economic shocks. As per ease of Doing Business 2019, South Sudan ranks 185 out of 190 economies. This ranking is due to, inter alia, insecurity, poor roads, lack of storage, and lack of market infrastructure.

Two-thirds of employment is in agriculture, and 83 percent of households list agriculture as their primary livelihood source (World Bank, 2018). South Sudan produces a large variety of agricultural commodities for local consumption. Sorghum, maize, rice, sunflower, cotton, sesame, cassava, beans, and peanuts are the major crops.

Figure 1: Livelihood zone map in South Sudan



⁴ Archibald (July 2019). CODI Mapping and Analysis of Social Protection in South Sudan

⁵ UNDP (2018).

1.2. Livelihood Zones in South Sudan

Farmers cultivate an average of one to three feddans of land (0.4 to 1.2 hectares)

Table 1: Livelihood zones in South Sudan

Column1	Livelihood Zone	Geographical Area	Refugee Hosting location	Suitable crops
1	The Greenbelt	(southern parts of Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria and the western parts of Western Equatoria), which has two rainy seasons and the most fertile arable land in South Sudan	Gorom and Pochalla; Yambio, Lasu	oil palm, tea, coffee, fruit, Irish potatoes, maize, vegetables, cassava and tropical forestry
2	Ironstone Plateau	most of Bahr el Ghazal, west of the River Nile		Sorghum, groundnut, sesame, sunflower, and livestock production
3	Nile Sobat zone	along the banks of the River Sobat which flows from Ethiopia and receives numerous tributaries before draining into the Nile		Sugarcane, rice, and sorghum
4	Flood Plains zones	including the Sudd a vast area of swamp	Maban and Jamjang	Sorghum, rice, sugarcane, sesame, groundnut
5	hilly and mountainous zone		Makpandu	tea, coffee, temperate fruits (apples and grapes), forest plantations and wheat
6	pastoral zone			gum Arabic, acacia

- **Political context**

South Sudan has been independent since July 9, 2011. Conflict between the government and opposition forces erupted in 2013, leading to food insecurity, displacement of over 2.2 million South Sudanese and fatalities. In August 2015, a peace agreement created the Transitional Government of National Unity in April 2016, but conflict broke out in July 2016⁶. In September 2018, a peace agreement was signed, and in the first quarter of 2019 to date; relative calm has been experienced even though the context remains complex and unpredictable amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **National policies and Frameworks**

- **The National Development Strategy** July 2018 – June 2021: Seeks to Consolidate Peace and Stabilize the Economy

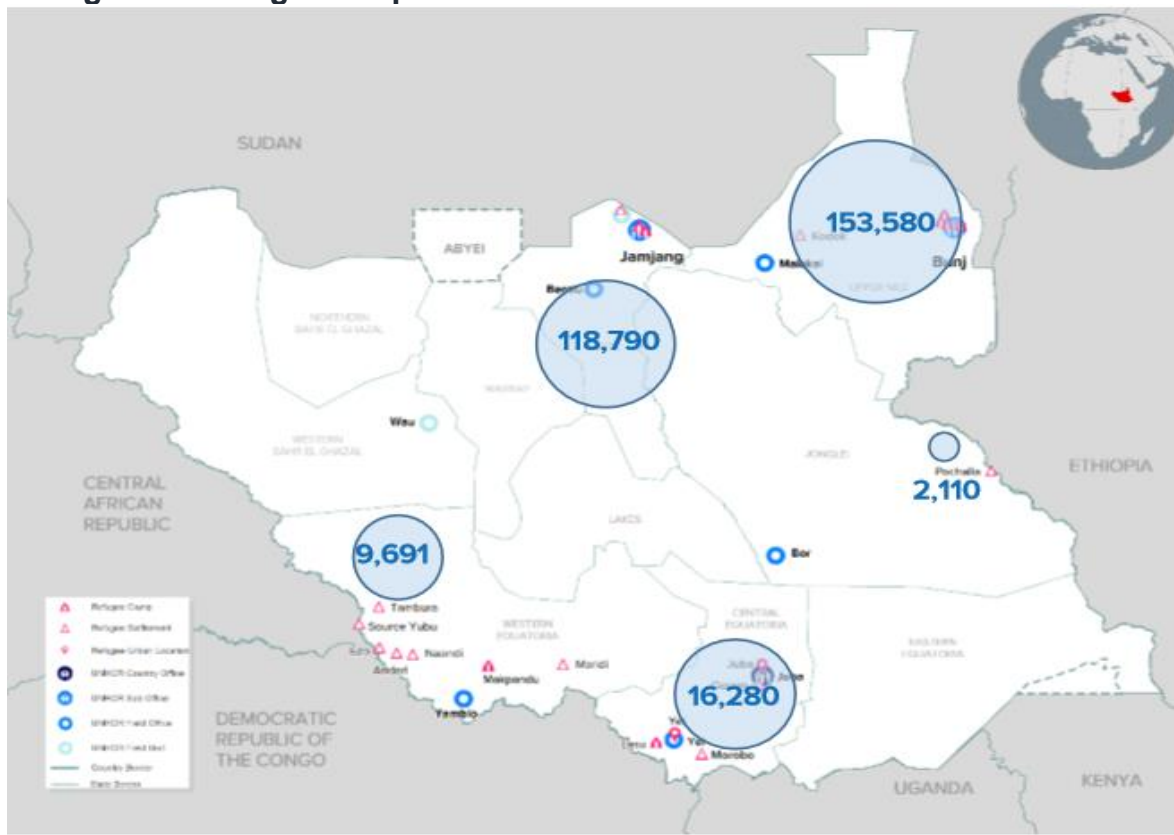
⁶ UNHCR (2019a). ToR.

- **National Social Protection Policy Framework:** seeks to safeguard dignity of South Sudanese in an inclusive manner while expanding livelihood opportunities and improving employment returns

1.2.1. Refugee Context

When the South Sudan Livelihoods Strategy (2016-2018) was drafted, as of 31 December 2015, the refugee population was approximately 263,000, of which about one-third were adults⁷. As at 31st March 2020, refugee population comprised 300451 individuals and 66863 households. About 82% are women and children and 52% are female. More than 90% of refugee caseload, primarily from Sudan are hosted in Upper Nile – Greater Maban and Unity. The refugees are hosted in camps and settlements dispersed in rural settings and urban areas in five locations, namely: Upper Nile, Unity, Jonglei, Western Equatoria and Central Equatoria.

Figure 2: Refugees Population in South Sudan



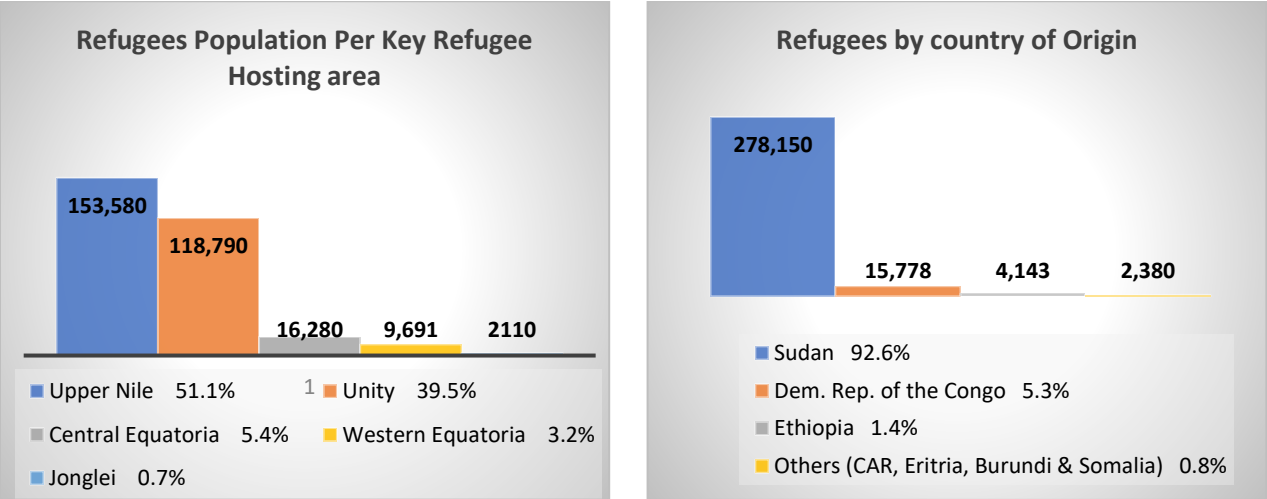
Source: UNHCR Refugee Statistics

⁷ UNHCR South Sudan 2016 - 2018 Livelihoods Strategy

The Ethiopian refugees arrived in South Sudan between 2003 and 2004 due to ethnic tensions and land disputes in the Gambella region. The Congolese and CAR refugees arrived in South Sudan between 2008 and 2009, fleeing the atrocities committed by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) during its border raids in the two countries.

The Sudanese refugees fled to South Sudan’s from South Kordofan and Blue Nile due to conflict between the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) and the Government of Sudan and have been arriving in the country since 2011 as both areas remain in active conflict. WFP general food distribution rations cover 70% of daily calories approximately 1476 Kilocalories against recommended 2100 Kilocalories; meaning that in the best case scenario many households’ food ration lasts 2-3 weeks of each month⁸. This leaves many refugee households relying on the scarce livelihoods’ opportunities in South Sudan and negative coping mechanisms to bridge gap in basic needs provision. Due to limited livelihood opportunities and overall very difficult context, PoC find themselves in dire socio -economic conditions that further exposes them to protection risks.

Figure 3:Refugees population per key hosting area (left) and country of origin(right)



Assistance delivery in the Yida refugee settlement in Unity is being phased out following the 2016 Government of South Sudan’s announced plan to close the settlement owing to its proximity to Sudan border and insecurity incidents.⁹ As of 2017, UNHCR started relocating refugees from Yida to Ajuong Thok and Pamir.¹⁰ Some refugee households are reluctant to

⁸ UNHCR-WFP Joint Assessment Mission
⁹ UNHCR and WFP (2018).
¹⁰ Muthoka, R and J. Mwangangi (2017).

move due to perceived better livelihoods opportunities around Yida.

- **Refugee policies, legal and regulatory frameworks.**

The **2012 Refugee Act** incorporates an internationally recognised definition of refugees, guarantees them rights established under the South Sudan constitution, and allows refugees to work and access primary education and basic health care.¹¹ Refugees also have access to land and have the right to own animals, though the amount of land allocated is insufficient to meet demand,¹² and access to allocated land is restricted by insecurity. In June 2017, the Minister of Interior signed the “Refugee Status Eligibility Regulations” to facilitate development of national asylum procedures in alignment with international standards. Refugees report having freedom of movement.¹³ South Sudan has an agricultural policy, which was not being implemented as of 2017, and did not have a comprehensive national strategy on livelihoods from 2016-2018¹⁴ but launched the South Sudan National Development Strategy (2018-2022) in late 2018.¹⁵

Right to work. South Sudan acceded to the **1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol on 28 September 2018** and refugees thus have the right to work. Unemployment and Under-employment in South Sudan are quite high with majority of refugee and host community youth not in education employment or training; further limiting productive participation in the labour market. The Refugee Act of 2012 indicates the relevant documentations and permits to participate in the formal economy and is intended to promote refugee protection as well as access to basic services.

Informal labour is the most common among refugees and nationals of South Sudan. The process of providing work permits and business licenses is mired with institutional challenges, not well structured and informal taxation is ad-hoc. Worse still, refugees lack information on how to apply for work permits and requisite documentations needed. As a

¹¹ UNHCR (2016).

¹² UNHCR and WFP (2018).

¹³ UNHCR and WFP (2018).

¹⁴ UNHCR and WFP (2018).

¹⁵ Government of the Republic of South Sudan (2018).

result, many refugees opt to participate in the informal economy.

Most refugees are traditionally small-scale farmers and undertake small scale agriculture for household food consumption and income during the planting season. Whereas South Sudan with support from local communities and Commissioner for Refugees Affairs; has provided 15000 acres of agriculture land for refugees to cultivate, much of the agriculture practiced is low-input and low-output making agriculture unreliable as a source of employment. Notwithstanding weak investments and infrastructure, agriculture remains a key source of income for refugees and host community; through seasonal casual labour and sale of agriculture produce.

Freedom of movement. Refugees have freedom of movement, but poor infrastructure and conflict act as disincentives to travel within the country. Insecurity and tribal/ethnic tensions also prevent temporary out of camp economic migration for some refugees. Convention Travel Document (CTD) is required for out of country travel. Refugees often seek employment far from the camps, as the camps are in remote areas with very limited markets and opportunities. This move is not without risk, and many take up dangerous informal jobs.

Business ownership. Refugees may own businesses by applying for a business permit and if they pay the relevant fees. Informal fees also exist together with informal ad hoc taxation, which in practice makes it difficult for refugees to run businesses formally.

Financial inclusion. Refugees do not have access to bank accounts or formal microfinance although there are no specific legal restrictions on this happening in the future. The issues are with Know-Your-Customer (KYC) and availability of formal financial service providers in remote refugee hosting areas. Currently most refugees rely on informal access to micro-credit through structured Village Savings Loans Associations (VSLAs), unstructured Rotating Saving Schemes (ROSCAs) and local traders. The interest rates charged by informal sources of micro-credit are quite high and, in some cases, exorbitant. Also, they come with significant risks that include fines when one defaults on payment schedule, confiscation of key assets and in worse cases arrest from police/traditional authorities. Overall, there is a huge 'unbanked' population in South Sudan with banking needs. Formal Banks whose financial product offerings are limited are concentrated in the capital of Juba with limited reach to refugee hosting areas.

Access to government services. Refugees have no legal restrictions on access to government services such as public education, Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) programmes or public health services. However, due to the remote location of many refugees, there are in practice very few government services available – including those of basic protection. TVET institutions allowing for recognized certification by Government of South Sudan is based far from the key refugee hosting areas where 92% of refugees are hosted in Unity and Upper Nile. In the remote hosting areas, there is no presence of service providers besides UN organizations and NGOs who can offer support to refugees to enhance their labour market access.

Most development agencies are concentrated in Juba with extremely limited operational presence in the key refugee hosting areas. The scarce humanitarian resources allow for minimal interventions in refugee hosting communities along with development agency respective mandates. In Key refugee hosting areas, the poverty levels are quite high and hosting communities with immense development challenges contend with sharing already scarce resources amidst dwindling humanitarian-development resources.

Figure 4: Skills based graduate of welding and metal fabrication course



Farida, a Sudanese refugee woman, proudly says after completing a welding and metal fabrication training and receiving a start-up kit. “Although people usually think that welding and metal fabrication are men’s jobs, women can also do it because they are as strong” says Farida.

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2. SUMMARY OF EXTERNAL EVALUATION FINDINGS

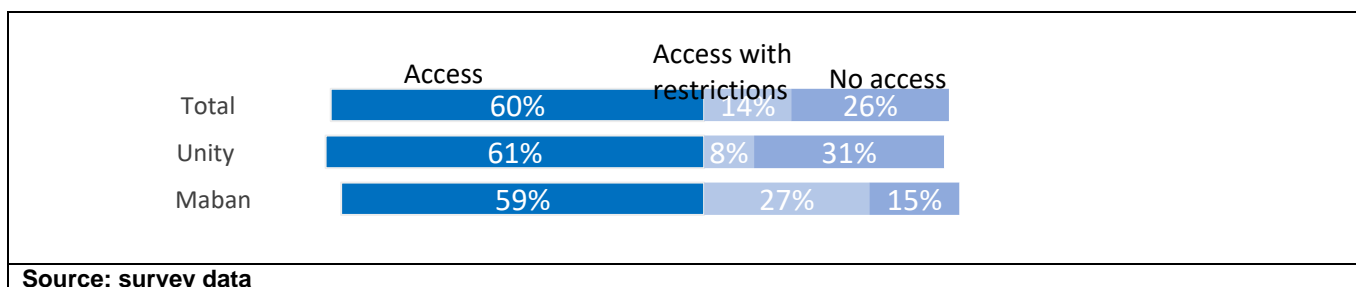
2.1. Basic Demographics

72% of respondents were female. Majority at 42% were illiterate with no year of schooling which is consistent with refugee household heads data where 62.7% are reported to have no education. Average number of household members employed was 0.8 (1) and respondents average age was 34.2 years. Average family size was greater than 5

2.2. Access to Agriculture Land, Water and Forest Resources

About 6 in 10 respondents have access to arable land without significant restrictions (5); of those with access to land, more than 9 in 10 cultivated crops in the last year. The majority of respondents have access to arable land without significant restrictions.

Figure 5: Percentage of households in Maban and Unity with access to arable land



On average the land cultivated ranges from 0.5 to 1 feddan. Average yields of the main cereals are 1.1tonnes/hectare. This yield is not enough to feed an average family of 6 people until the next harvest¹⁶.

Access to water for livestock remains a key challenge with limited water sources developed for livestock. The existing boreholes in both refugees and host community are mainly for household consumption with 2 boreholes within the existing water pipeline in refugee hosting area dedicated for dry season vegetable production. Overall, the water sources are insufficient to support livelihood interventions and water scarcity presents a key trigger for host – refugee tension.

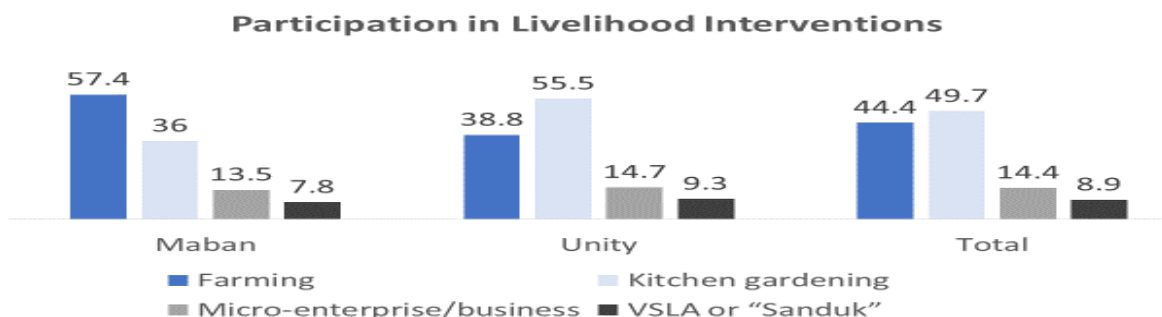
Access to forest resources including grass for fodder remains challenging for refugee households who rely on forest and sale of natural resources such as grass and poles for livelihoods. Additionally, the access is not adequately regulated and is unsustainably harvested. Currently, charcoal production remains a key income earner and is largely commercialized. The undue exploitation of forest and natural resources is a potential trigger for natural resource based conflict.

¹⁶ (CFSAM South Sudan, 2019)

2.3. Participation in Livelihood Interventions

Majority of households reported engagement in agricultural production interventions (Crop farming and vegetable production, followed by entrepreneurship and Village savings loans association aimed at informal access to micro-finance.

Figure 6: participation in livelihoods interventions per refugee hosting areas



2.4. Ability to meet food and non-food needs based on 2.3

75% of livelihood participants reported that they are able to bridge gap in essential food and non- food needs as a result of participation in livelihood interventions of whom 85% felt they have a better control of their own lives.

2.5. Primary Source of Income and Change in Income

In varying degrees per location, a majority of households reported agriculture and non-agriculture (entrepreneurial) activities as main source of income. Only 9.2 % of households reported sale of general food ration and less than 1% core relief items as part of their main income source. This contrasts with the baseline year for livelihood programming where main source of income was sale of natural resources (grass, poles and charcoal) as well as assistance (GFD and CRI). Outcome indicates diversification to sustainable livelihood strategies.

Table 2: Primary source of income by percentage

Main source of Income and Percentage employed			
Sector	Maban	Unity	Total
Non-Agriculture Sector (own business or wage work)	19.8	50.9	37.9
Agriculture Sector	49.6	18.3	31.3
Cash for work, including labour intensive temporary work	15.2	16.8	16.1
Relying on/selling general food ration	12.4	7	9.2

More than half of all respondents (55 percent) reported that they had made changes to how they earn money as a result of participating in livelihoods programming. The most common changes were to adopt improved business practices, start a business,

and engage in new income-earning activities. Most respondents (58.6%) reported increased income as a result of changes made.

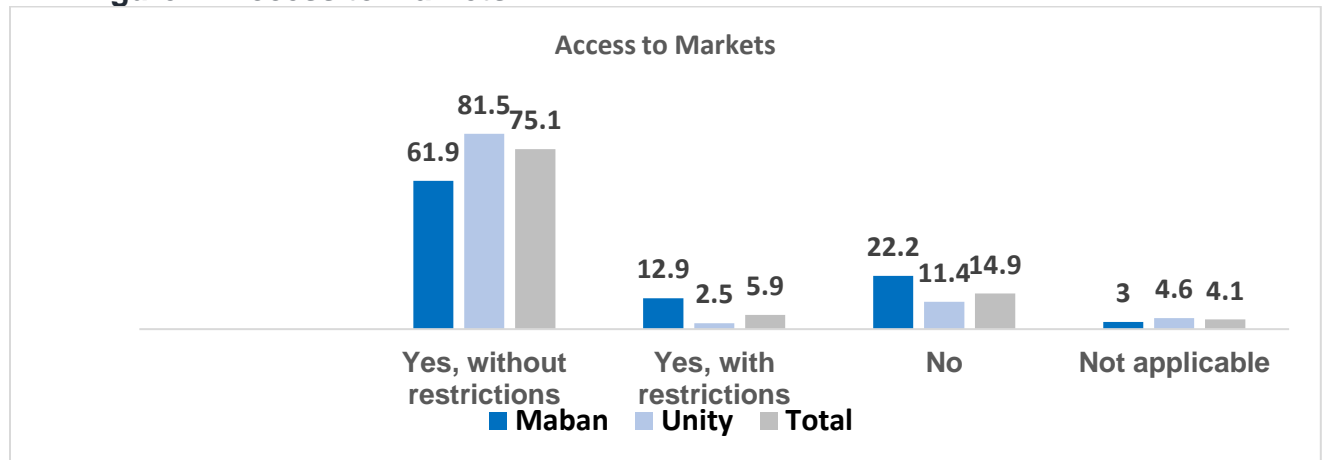
Table 3: % change in income over a year

How does your primary source of income from this year compare to the previous year?			
(% beneficiary employed)	<u>Maban</u>	<u>Unity</u>	<u>Total</u>
Increased	52.3	63.1	58.6

2.6. Access to Markets

Approximately 75% of households participating in the livelihoods survey reported that they had access to markets without restrictions and participation in livelihood programmes had strengthen access in terms of buying and selling of commodities for more than 75%

Figure 7: Access to markets



2.7. Access to employment

47.9% of livelihood participants reported being in employment with 95.7 % reporting participation in the informal economy. 88% of those employed were in self-employment and about 14.8% reported that they had employed others. Overall, 84% indicated that the livelihood programme was key in securing employment.

2.8. Asset Ownership

Asset ownership mainly stayed the same (for more than 50% households) or increased (for more than 30% respondent households with exception of livestock that increased at 16.7%) over the past 3 years for households participating in livelihood programmes.

Table 4: % change in assets ownership over three years

% change in assets over 3 years			
Assets [Top 3 listed]	Increase	Remain the same	Decreased
<u>Household assets:</u> 1. Poles/roofing materials 2. Sewing machines 3. Seed kits (Crops and Vegetables)	35.8	50.1	13.5
<u>Productive assets:</u> 1. Farm hand tools 2. watering can 3. Agriculture land	33.6	54.2	
<u>Livestock Assets:</u> 1. Poultry 2. Goats 3. Sheep	16.7	57.2	19.2

Persons involved in integrated livelihood interventions (a combination of VSLA and 1 other livelihood intervention or Agriculture and entrepreneurship/ VSLA) showed better outcomes in asset ownership/ accumulation in comparison to those only participating in a single livelihood intervention.

2.9. Food coping strategies:

Reduced coping strategy index scores showed relatively low negative coping measures to meet food needs with Maban slightly higher negative coping at 16.1 and Unity 14.1. This indicates that participation in livelihood programme contributed to curbing negative coping measures at household level with households relying on measures reversible over the short term: reducing number of meals eaten in a day; limiting portion size, relying on less preferred and less expensive foods; restricting consumption by adults and reducing essential non-food expenses. Extreme coping measures were not observed and particularly asset depleting stress as most households participating in livelihoods programmes reported assets remained the same or increased over the past 3 years. Approximately 10-17% reported sale of assets to purchase food and pay for emergencies.

2.10. Access to financial services

Formal financial services are generally lacking in the key refugee hosting areas. As a result, persons of concern get to access informal micro-finance/ financial services through Village Savings Loans Associations Groups and Rotating Savings Schemes.

2.10.1. Access to Credit:

17.6% of respondents indicated they had access to credit; of which 40.4 % was from VSLA, 33.9% relatives and just above 12% money lenders. Overall, 56.9% reported that VSLAs had improved their access to credit. The credit was mainly used to firstly, purchase food secondly, for emergencies and lastly, purchase productive inputs

2.10.2. Access to Savings:

40% reported having cash savings of which 66.5% were held at home and 47.7% reported savings in VSLA. 65.3 % reported increased savings of which 53.7% attributed the increase to livelihoods programming. The savings were mainly used for emergencies, secondly to purchase food and lastly for income generation.

2.11. Livelihoods and Protection Risks

65.3% respondent households reported perceived reduction in protection risks as a result of participation in livelihood interventions. Protection risks highlighted per group included:

1. Adult women: Domestic Violence, Rape and Sexual assault
2. Adult men: Substance abuse, death or serious injury
3. Girls: forced and early marriage
4. Boys: Child Labor and Family separation

2.12. Peaceful Co-existence and Social Capital

Among respondent households participating in livelihoods; 89% reported improved relationships among refugees (bonding social capital) and 81.4% improved relationship between refugees and host community (bridging social capital). Over 90% of respondents attributed the improvement in bonding and bridging social capital to livelihood interventions as well as peaceful co-existence interventions ongoing through peace dialogues and also joint livestock market trade. The peaceful co-existence and improvement in social capital

facilitated pursuit of agriculture livelihoods through greater access to land and markets for trade and purchasing commodities.

‘Social Capital promotes access to natural resources and agriculture land for cultivation’

“I am Mr. Charles Miabek a host community member in Jamjang County. In 2016 refugee farmers faced numerous challenges in accessing safe farming land. Safety and security of farmers was greatly hindered due to poor coexistence between refugees and the host community. Little was known about the contribution of refugees in food production as some community members thought that allowing refugees to farm, will deplete natural resources and grazing areas”, said Charles.

UNHCR and IRC sensitized our community and organized meetings between the host community and refugee leaders. It was through those meetings that we appreciated the need to live peacefully and coexist with our brothers and sisters from Nuba, Sudan. Thanks to UNHCR and IRC for supporting us to form the Peaceful Coexistence Committee. Under our team we have a subcommittee overseeing agriculture production (the Agriculture Production Committee (APC)) consisting of 42 members (20 refugee leaders and 22 host community leaders), and I was elected as the chairperson. Through this committee, we conducted peaceful coexistence meetings on refugee safe access to farming land, peaceful coexistence, and increased food production for both refugees and host communities. Beginning 2017, the committee has been able to facilitate and secure 13,013 feddans ‘1 feddan is slightly higher than an acre’ from the host community and refugee farmers have benefited. There is now free movement of refugee farmers, safety as well as peaceful coexistence with the host community ***Refugees are our relatives not foreigners. “We fought and worn many battles together and some of them lost their relatives on this soil as such there is no point of denying refugee access to land for farming, treating them as foreigners, or intimidating them when we are actually one people”. ‘The land is available and refugees, just like any other host community member will have access to more farming land in 2021 and beyond, the Ruweng administrative officer said during his recent visit to Jamjang refugee camps in 27th September 2020.***



2.13. Shocks impacting access to food and income

Shocks reported to be posing a negative impact on access to food and income include: Seasonal flooding, on and off thefts and insecurity; erratic rainfall and drought; sudden changes of prices in the market; pests and diseases; civil unrest in Sudan and conflicts by armed groups.

3. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

3.1. Approaches

- Multi-stakeholder and Multi-year planning and implementation

UNHCR will leverage expertise & resources through engaging multiple stakeholders and ensuring multi-year planning and implementation needed to strengthen resilience capacities. UNHCR will increase participation in humanitarian-development nexus space

- Coordination

UNHCR will strengthen coordination with different stakeholders including government and nontraditional actors - private sector actors. Through food security and livelihoods coordination forum; proposed strategic interventions will be coordinated with broader partnerships and structured collaboration with relevant UN agencies including WFP, FAO and UNDP

- Partnerships and Collaboration

Main partners for the livelihoods strategy are UNHCR Implementing Partners, operational partners, UN agencies, CRA and other government departments, the private sector, other humanitarian actors operating in refugee contexts, refugees and host community. The partnerships operational activities will vary depending on the type of intervention. Mapping of existing partners in respective areas of operation will be undertaken to facilitate structured collaboration at Juba Representation as well as field and sub offices

- Accountability to Affected Population/ Participatory Approaches

UNHCR will place refugees at the center of implementation of the 3 year strategy ensuring their meaningfully and continuously involved right from needs assessment, planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning.

- Age Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming

The strategy will seek to advance UNHCR's Age Gender Diversity approach by ensuring the active participation of diverse and representative groups of refugees. UNHCR will ensure inclusiveness and accessibility for specific groups of concern including women, adolescent girls and boys, older persons, the young, persons with disabilities, people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual or intersex, and women and men belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities or indigenous groups

- Conflict sensitivity approach, social cohesion through balanced and inclusive support for economic inclusion

The strategy will leverage expertise from development actor– FAO in promoting conflict mitigation approaches linked to sustainable natural resource management aimed at social cohesion and greater burden sharing with hosting governments and community

3.2. Strategic Opportunities and Guidelines

Over the course of strategy implementation, UNHCR will capitalize on ongoing strategic engagements underway which will add value to envisioned results and outcomes. These include:

- Global Compact of Refugees (GCR)
- Poverty Alleviation Coalition – Global Alliance for Economic Inclusion
- MADE 51 – Artisanal Value Chain and Enterprises
- ILO Inclusive Market Systems Approach and Value Chain Development
- Cash Based Interventions Programming
- 2019 – 2023 Global Strategy Concept Note: Refugee Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

Livelihoods impact on Increased Income, Education and Reduced Vulnerability,

“I am Mr. Yahiya Ngalo aged 63years, a lead farmer and seed producer in Pamir refugee camp block B12C6P5. ***I only have one arm and many think ‘disability is inability’.*** I joined the livelihood project in 2016 as a farmer and received training on basic crop and seed production practices like seed selection, crop spacing, crop and pest management (CPM), Post-Harvest Handling (PHH), collective marketing and seeds banking. ***In 2018 I became a lead farmer for Block 12 in***

fellow farmers through the technology demonstration and lead farmer to farmer approach. In 2018/2019 I planted 8 feddans with crops like sesame, groundnuts and cowpeas and produced 3.3MTs of cereals out of which, I sold 2.7MTs to the IRC during the local seed purchases to support other farmers. ***I earned 621USD from the sale and this helped me pay the tuition fees of my 4th year student studying in Khartoum Sudan”, said Yahiya.***



Pamir camp, Unity and trained more than 250

3.3. Results matrix: Impact - Outcome – Output

- **Impact:**
Equitable socio-economic development and resilient livelihoods through inclusive economic opportunities in refugee hosting areas
- **Outcomes:**
 - Outcome 1** - Advocacy on socio-economic rights and enabling environment
 - Outcome2** – Food security, sustainable agriculture, employment and market led entrepreneurship supported
 - Outcome 3** – Financial inclusion and access to financial services
 - Outcome 4** – Sustainable Land and Natural Resource Management
- **Outputs¹⁷:**

Socio - economic rights	Agriculture, Market Linkages and Business development	Financial Services
<u>Output1.1</u> mapping of socio-economic rights conducted	<u>Output2.1</u> Agriculture production and productivity supported	<u>Output3.1</u> Access to financial services promoted

¹⁷ Output areas highlighted for collaboration with FAO to strengthen Area Based approaches include: 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.3 & 4.1

Output1.2 Right to work in the local economy promoted	Output2.2 Self-employment and business development facilitated	Output3.2 Financial Literacy supported
Output1.3 Facilitated access to agriculture land for cultivation	Output2.3 Vocational/Skills based training supported	Natural resource Management
Output 1.4 Awareness on sustainable land use	Output2.4 Market linkages and Private sector investment promoted	

“Livelihood Programme demonstrate incremental gains in the wellbeing of Refugees”

Refugees contribute agriculture inputs to livelihood programmes through local seed production”

Mrs. Kaltuma Mohammed is a mother of 7 children, a refugee, and a progressive lead farmer in Ajuong Thok Block 13. She was involved in seed production in 2019 and produced 3.1MTs of ground nuts and sorghum. Kaltuma sold 780Kgs of cowpeas to IRC in 2020 earning her a total amount of 912 USD. My participation in the livelihood programme has reduced quarrels and conflict in my home as I am able to contribute to family basic needs like buying vegetables,

meat, bathing soap, clothes, and my personal items. ***“I am happy I can now provide basic needs and buy anything I want for my family”, said Kaltuma.*** She further stated, “Farming remains our main source of income and I have invested 420USD into agriculture to increase production. I am projecting to harvest about 1400Kgs of sorghum,980Kgs of ground nuts and 1000kgs of cowpeas by November 2020



“We are traditionally farmers and I have benefited from livelihood support to farmers here ‘country of asylum’. Through UNHCR/IRC support; farming is now the main source of income for my family. Through it ‘Farming’, ***I have been able to pay my husband’s school fees in Uganda after selling my farm produce.***

Refugees need more land for farming as a plan to expand agriculture for food and seed



production in 2021, ‘*insa-allah*’ (Arabic word –meaning by God’s Grace)”, **Said Hania Osman**

3.4. Theory of Change

The Theory of Change for proposed livelihoods and economic inclusion strategy is based on resilience framework with linkages to refugees’ economic inclusion interventions, protection and solutions. Livelihoods and economic inclusion complements protection and basic services provision to strengthen capacity of refugees to cope with the shocks and stressors in forced displacement.

Additionally, livelihoods and economic inclusion support enables refugees to gain resources and skills to recover from these shocks and prepare for the future. Lastly, it facilitates solutions through supporting refugees’ long-term resilience: ensuring advocacy for enabling environment where national systems guarantee protection and reinforce ability to earn a sustainable income, absorb and recover from future shocks.

Interventions proposed based on results chain will foster inclusive economic inclusion by reinforcing existing capacities and building new capacities across all three resilience areas to ensure the long-term sustainability of refugees’ economic activities.

3.5. Profile of refugee resilience capacities

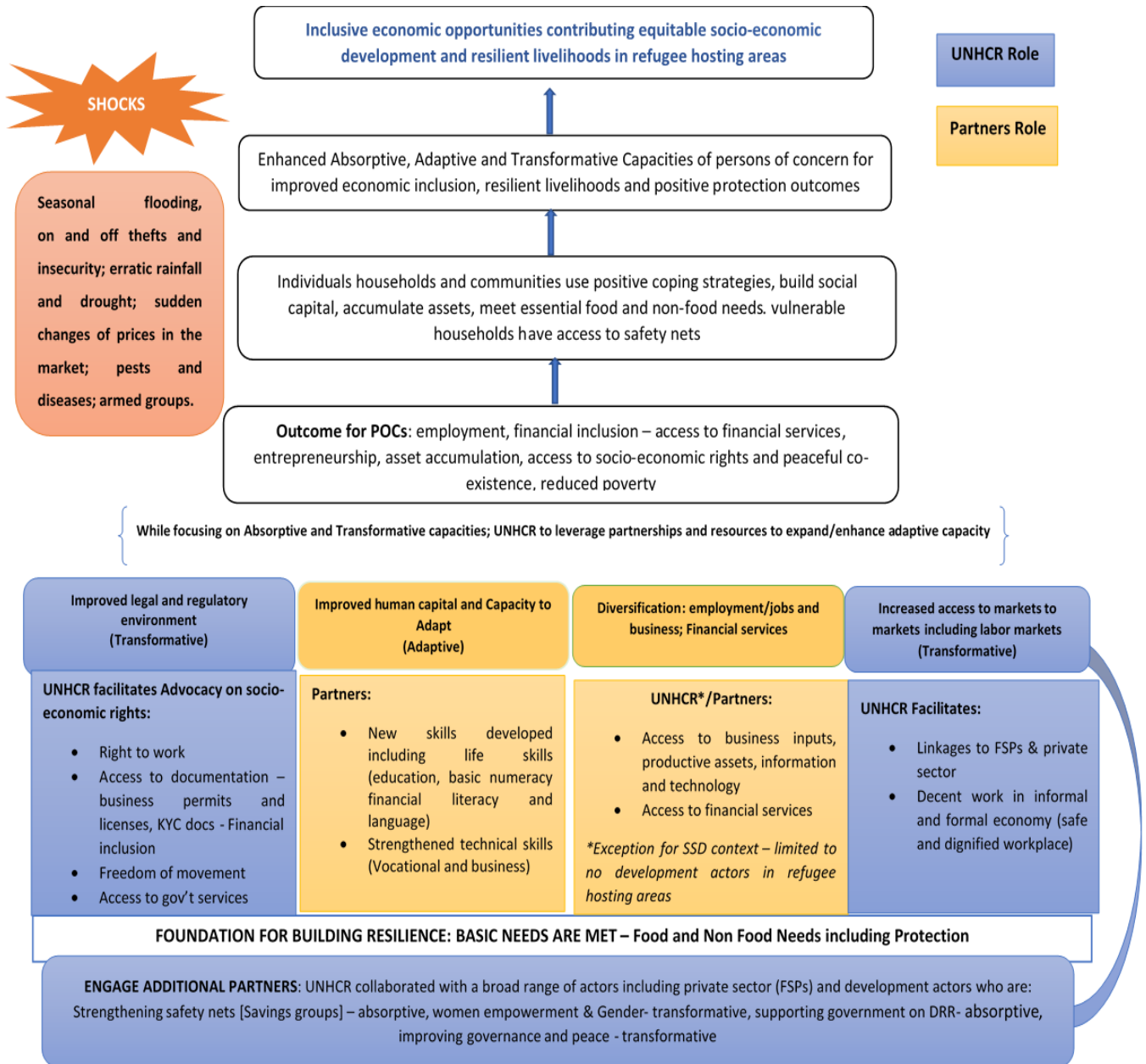
Table 5: Refugees Resilience Capacities

Refugees in South Sudan who have the following are 'better off'...		
Absorptive Capacity	Adaptive Capacity	Transformative Capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bonding social capital was built through the VSLAs and the farmer groups -Assets were accumulated through gains made through livelihood activities -Savings were generated through the VSLAs -Peace-building committees helped reduce the tension with the host communities -Access to informal safety nets increased through the VSLAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Human capital was built through the entrepreneur training and farmer group training and garden work -Bridging social capital was strengthened with the host community through the peace committees and economic activities -Confidence to adapt, mindset and psychosocial health improved through participating in program -Livelihood diversity increased -Access to productive assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Women's empowerment and gender equity in the HH/ community -Access to informal safety nets was strengthened, allowing options to further pursue access to formal safety nets -More secure environment in in Maban and Jamjang -Government support of livelihood programme in Jamjang -Local government and refugee leaders' support through established environment task force for natural resource management in Maban

Thus, 2020 – 2022 UNHCR South Sudan Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Strategy; will focus on strengthening absorptive and transformative capacity, and to promote adaptive capacity through existing UNHCR partnerships and leveraging additional partners with multi-year development resources that can operate at scale.

Figure 8: Theory of change illustration

Theory of change highlighted reflects changes to be realised within the context of comprehensive responses as highlighted in the Global compact of refugees and to realize the changes, UNHCR will seek to draw on its catalytic role to convene, work with and alongside a broad range of actors – humanitarian, development, government and local community based structures.



4. Annexes

Table 6: Monitoring and Evaluation Results Matrix

Monitoring Matrix for 2020 - 2022 Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Strategy							
Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline year	Baseline Value	Cumulative Target (2020 to 2022)	Mid Review Target July 2021	End Review Target Nov - Dec 2022	Source/ Means of Verification
A	Impact:						
Inclusive economic opportunities contributing equitable socio-economic development and resilient livelihoods in refugee hosting areas	A.1 % of persons of concern who own businesses/are employed for more than 12 months	2020	A.1 44%	A.1 50%	A.1 47%	A.1 50%	Impact Assessments Reports at Mid-Year and End line Survey
	A.2 % of persons of concern who report increased livestock assets [Proxy for financial capital accumulation]		A.2 17	A.2 30%	A.2 33%	A.2 47%	
	A.3 % of targeted persons of concern who report capacity to supplement food for 2 weeks every month		A.3 0%	A.3 40%	A.3 20%	A.3 20%	
B	Outcomes:						
1. Advocacy on socio-economic rights and enabling	B1.1 % of POCs reporting unhindered access to markets	2020	B1.1 75%	B1.1 80%	B1.1 78%	B1.1 80%	Partner Survey - Mid Review and End line Survey
	B1.2. % of POCs reporting			B1.2 65%	B1.2 62%		

	environment for economic inclusion	unhindered access to agriculture land B.1.3 % of host community who report inclusive and harmonious access to natural resources		B1.2 60% B 1.3? (Unknown)	B 1.3 80%	B 1.3 30%	B1.2 65% B 1.3 50%	Indicator to be tracked through context based rapid conflict or natural resources assessment
	2. Increased access to food, employment and market led entrepreneurship support	2.1 r-CSI 2.2 a. % targeted persons of concern reporting access to employment 2.2b. Average number of employees hired per business supported 2.3a % targeted persons of concern who report change in income 2.3 b % targeted persons of concern who receive business grants	2020	2.1 r-CSI 15 2.2a 2.2b 1 2.3a 58.6 2.3b 40%	2.1 r-CSI 17 2.2a 2.2b 3 2.3a 65 2.3b 50%	2.1 r-CSI 16 2.2a 2.2b 2 2.3a 60 2.3b 45%	2.1 r-CSI 17 2.2a 2.2b 3 2.3a 65 2.3b 50%	Partner Survey - Mid Review and End line Survey Partner Business Performance trackers
	3. Financial inclusion and access to financial services	3.1 % of POCs who report access to credit 3.2 % of POCs who report access to savings		3.1 17.6% 3.2 40%	3.1 25% 3.3 45%	3.1 20% 3.4 42%	3.1 25% 3.5 45%	Partner Survey - Mid Review and End line Survey Partner VSLA Participatory Impact Assessment report
	4. Sustainable land and natural resource management	Extent indicator¹⁸ on natural resource management (Agreed weighting based on 4 context relevant criteria each apportioned 25%)	2021	0	100%	25%	75%	Joint stakeholder consultative report on status of land and natural resource management
C	Outputs							

¹⁸ FAO-UNHCR and Livelihood Partners to agree on a select 4 criteria within coordination forum/ working group to be used to measure the outcome

	1.1 mapping of socio-economic rights conducted	1.1.1 socio-economic rights mapping report						Rights mapping report
	1.2 Right to work in the local economy promoted	1.2.1 Number of refugees who report access to jobs post skills based and entrepreneurship training 1.2.2 Number/estimated % of POCs who receive business permit and licenses to operate businesses						Entrepreneurship and grants monitoring reports Monthly Business trackers
	1.3 Secure access to agriculture land facilitated	1.3.1 Number of feddans provided by host community per location for agriculture production 1.3.2 Number of advocacy meetings held with local communities on access to agriculture land						Monthly activity reports
	1.4 Awareness on sustainable land use management	1.4.1 Advocacy with government on refugee hosting area sustainable land use planning 1.4.2 Partner with FAO to support local government to undertake refugee hosting area land use planning						Mission and activity completion reports
	2.1 Agriculture production and productivity supported	2.1.1 Number of refugee households who receive agriculture productive kits/ productive assets 2.1.2 Average yield per hectare per cereal produced						Monthly activity reports; Harvest data collection

		2.1.3 Estimation of contribution to GFD gap in months based on 2.1.2 and quantities of cereal per hh needed						
	2.2 Self-employment and business development facilitated	2.2.1 Number of refugees who receive entrepreneurship training 2.2.2 Number of refugees who receive business grants (cash and in-kind) 2.2.3 Number of enterprises created; Enterprises active post 12 months business cycle						Training Needs Analysis or Training Reports; Grants Post Distribution monitoring report; Partner Business Performance Report-income and expenditure tracker
	2.3 Vocational/Skills based training supported	2.3.1 Number of refugees who receive market oriented skills capacity development 2.3.2 Number of refugees who received certified skills training (Government recognized)- 72						Training Reports; Monthly progress reports
	3.1 Access to financial services supported	3.1.1 Number of Village Savings Loans Association established 3.1.2 Number of persons of concern active in Village Savings Loans Association						Monthly VSLA trackers Progress Reports
	4.1 Community action plans on sustainable natural resource utilization developed	4.1.1 Number of inclusive community action plans developed						Completion reports on action plans developed on sustainable natural resource use

Annex 2: STRATEGY VALIDATION INTERVIEW SUMMARY WITH PARTNERS				
	Date	Name of Agency Focal Point	Agency	Feedback/ Comments
1	14th October 2020	<p>1. Benson Adoko -Economic Recovery and Livelihoods, Country Coordinator (benson.adoko@rescue.org)</p> <p>2. Joseph Benea Lemi, Economic Recovery and Livelihoods Manager (josephbenea.lemi@rescue.org)</p> <p>3. Berihun Adamu, Field Coordinator (Head of field office), AJ. (berihun.adamu@rescue.org)</p>	IRC	<p>a. <u>Theory of Change</u>: Has included adaptive capacity aspects including Private Sector Engagement</p> <p>b. <u>Proposed Indicators</u> post evaluation are included and previously it was not possible to measure these:</p> <p><u>i) Financial Inclusion</u></p> <p>Amount of financial capital pooled by the saving groups Savings and Loans Income earned overtime</p> <p><u>ii) Access to food and employment</u></p> <p>Clear pathway to track both is included</p> <p>Additional <u>aspects to consider for Agriculture</u>:</p> <p>a. Land Access Advocacy linked to enabling environment to ensure local community and government support in strengthening access to productive land [GCR SSD Pledge Follow up]</p> <p>b. Average acreage per person of concern who has been supported</p> <p>c. Harvest data collection and linkage with GFD ration cereal provision to compare production and contribution to household cereal requirement</p> <p>Need to find long term solution for access to land</p>

2	19th October 2020	1. Stephen Mawadri (Livelihoods Officer)	ACTED	<p>a. Commended document for focusing on advocacy and communication as well as inclusion of education as key for economic inclusion [<i>Linkages to be explored in education strategy under development</i>]</p> <p>b. Requested inclusion of emerging cross-cutting issues such as climate change and global pandemics in the strategy. Also, the role of government and global leaders in tackling of the two cross-cutting issues [<i>Taken care of in enabling environment advocacy as reflected in theory of change</i>]</p>
3	4th November 2020	1. Henry Omony (Livelihoods Country Manager) 2. Daniel Nyabera (Country Director)	Relief International (R.I)	<p>Suggestions on additional focus areas:</p> <p>a. Economic Inclusion of Refugees - Market integration and linkages of both refugees and Host community</p> <p>b. Market for host and Refugees - [Linkage to development actors and private sector investment]; Multi-year resources</p> <p>c. Attracting Private Sector Investment for Market Development; Multi-year resources</p>
4	25-Nov-20	1. Pride Magwali (Pride.Magwali@fao.org) 2. Rahman, Mezbanur (FAOSS) (Mezbanur.Rahman@fao.org) 3. Shamsaifar, Leila (FAOSS) <Leila.Shamsaifar@fao.org 4. YevesDiCarlo, Alejandro (FAOSS)Alejandro.YevesDiCarlo@	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN	<p>a. Addition on page 3 section 1.2: average yields of the main cereals are 1.1tonnes/hectare. This yield is not enough to feed an average family of 6 people until the next harvest (CFSAM South Sudan, 2019)</p> <p>b. Results Outcome 2 to include Agriculture. Increased access to food, agriculture, employment and market led entrepreneurship support</p> <p>c. 2.6 Access to Markets: edit on tense: Had Strengthened</p>

		<p style="text-align: center;">fao.org> 5. Dzvurumi, Felix (FAOSS) <Felix.Dzvurumi@fao.org></p>		<p>access...</p> <p>Page 12: Under Livestock Assets - Elaboration to colleagues: Livestock in the context of evaluation used as a proxy indicator for financial asset accumulation. Over the course of implementation there was limited investment in livestock programmes and limited partners; However, among targeted refugees and host community - they expressed an immense need for support on livestock and animal health programmes</p> <p>Gender disaggregation on Primary sources of income</p>
			<p style="text-align: center;">Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN</p>	<p>d. Natural resources to be expanded to include a wide range of options that have a bearing on deforestation besides land. For instance, Forest resources in Maban that is a source of tension with host community</p> <p>e. FAO highlighted conflict assessment undertaken which provided insight on host refugee tensions as host community were reserved to have refugees included. Whereas this may be a function of scarce resources; there is an immense need to strengthen issues of governance and peaceful co-existence; including a mapping of support provided by whom in the context to ensure balanced resources to refugees and host. This will strengthen advocacy on economic inclusion</p> <p>f. There are key areas with potential for FAO-UNHCR Collaboration that need strengthening. The key areas include:</p> <p>i) Host - Refugee Relations/ Social Cohesion</p> <p>ii) How to bridge the gap in resource provision between the refugees and host community</p>

				<p>iii)How we can utilize host community to galvanize support linked to improving livelihoods for refugees</p> <p>g. Explore interventions with strong positive outcomes for social cohesion and economic inclusion. For example, FAO is currently working on an 80 acre model irrigated agriculture farm for cereal production. The plan is to be able to produce enough to sell to WFP (Key collaboration Area 1).</p> <p>Overall comments :</p> <p>FAO colleagues indicated that the strategy document was good and presented opportunity for collaboration especially in the key refugee hosting areas of Maban and Jamjang where currently 92% of refugees are being hosted.</p> <p>FAO colleagues underscored the need for integrated approaches between agencies and complementary programming [UNHCR Colleague highlighted discussions on cooperation framework initiated in South Sudan as well as the FAO-UNHCR Global MOU)</p> <p><u>Collaboration areas highlighted in the results framework include:</u></p>
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5			<p>Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN</p>	<p>3.5 Transformative capacity question: Does this also include the host community leaders? Feedback - Yes Its an inclusive taskforce of Refugee and host community leaders as well as government</p> <p>Figure 8: Theory of Change Illustration - Perhaps consider strengthening the governance and mediation aspects, particularly with a view to natural resource management and dispute resolution</p> <p><u>Strategic Framework - Approaches</u></p> <p>Multi-stakeholder and Multi-year planning and implementation: We are developing a bottom-up community-level planning tool. It would be wonderful if we could harmonize.</p> <p><u>Results Matrix</u></p> <p>A.2 % of persons of concern who report increased livestock assets [Proxy for financial capital accumulation]</p> <p>Feedback - While this is a good proxy for capital accumulation, this can also be a proxy for future disputes and degradation of scarce resources, including water and grazing land.</p> <p>B1.2. % of POCs reporting unhindered access to agriculture land</p> <p>Feedback - In my opinion and from a perspective of conflict sensitivity, I would suggest adding a set of other necessary indicator, aimed at portraying whether the host community agrees to refugees using this land / natural resource</p>
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