****

 **PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** South Sudan

**TYPE OF REPORT: semi-annual, annual OR FINAL:**

**YEAR of report:** 2020-Up to 31st October

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Title:** Enhancing Women's Access to Land to Consolidate Peace in South Sudan**Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:** 00113057 |
| **If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:** [ ]  Country Trust Fund[ ]  Regional Trust Fund**Name of Recipient Fund:**       | **Type and name of recipient organizations:** **UN-Habitat****FAO** |
| **Date of first transfer:** 15 November 2018**Project end date:** Nov 30. 2020 **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** Yes |
| **Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:**[x]  Gender promotion initiative[ ]  Youth promotion initiative[ ]  Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions[ ]  Cross-border or regional project |
| **Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):** **Recipient Organization Amount**  UN-Habitat $ 1,000,000FAO $ 500,000 Total: $ 1,500,000 Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 95%\*ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE\***Gender-responsive Budgeting:**Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment:      $1.200.000.00   Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: 1.200.000 |
| **Project Gender Marker:** **Project Risk Marker:** **Project PBF focus area:**  |
| **Report preparation:**Project report prepared by: UN-Habitat South Sudan, FAO South Sudan, NRC South SudanProject report approved by: UN-Habitat, Headquarters Nairobi KenyaDid PBF Secretariat review the report: , PBF Focal Point, RCO South Sudan Benjamin Moore |

***NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:***

* *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.*
* *Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.*
* *Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*
* *Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*
* *Please include any COVID-19 related considerations, adjustments and results and respond to section IV.*

**PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS**

Briefly outline the **status of the project** in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1500-character limit):

The project is progressing satisfactorily despite the delays caused by the covid-19 pandemic resulting to halting of most project activities for about five (5) months. To remedy the situation, the Project embarked on working on those activities that did not require the participation of many project participants such as finalizing on manuals, land certificate designs etc., while innovatively implementing other activities considering the covid-19 measures. For instance, the project considered reducing the target numbers of meeting participants for certain activities and increased the frequency to meet the set targets. Below is a summary of the performance per outcome area between January and November 2020.

Outcome 1

1. Operational information centres established, (5 physical and 7 mobile). These are staffed, and equipped with awareness materials to increase access to relevant information on women’s land rights
2. A total of 4,500 beneficiaries reached (2,920 women, 1,580 men) through awareness campaigns and group information sessions both face to face and through radio talk shows (during the time of covid-19 restrictions).
3. Two community dialogues among community leaders and women held where 33 stakeholders (15 females and 18 males) benefitted.
4. Two collaborative dispute resolution skills (CDR) trainings conducted reaching 40 beneficiaries (21 Female and 19 Males)
5. Three Housing, land and property rights trainings held reaching 61 participants (39 females and 22 males)
6. A call center to aid on legal counseling opened with two active telephone lines provided. These run from 8 am to 5 pm and are managed by legal counselors who advise callers on land issues, existing local and legislative processes.
7. Capacity need assessment for traditional leaders on skills in land dispute resolution undertaken, report produced, curriculum developed.
8. Concept note, and training programme finalized, 60 trained.
9. On the legal support to women in land disputes,787 cases were registered at the information centres. Of these 650 cases will receive financial support to facilitate processing of their land tenure documentation, 90 cases are in reference to land access (landless) and negotiations are ongoing with regards to allocation of land to the identified persons, and 47 cases received individualized legal counselling on unclarified HLP issues.
10. Approx. 102 complex cases are being investigated by reliable law firms towards possible representation in courts of law.
11. Two papers were successfully submitted and published by the Federation of International Surveyors and the World Bank Land and Poverty Conferences (2020) on improving institutional capacity and enhancing sustainable development by improving women’s access to land respectively through the Project. Due to Covid, the two conferences were rescheduled to next year.
12. A total of 30 chiefs mobilized, and consensus reached on an improved and standardized Residential Certificates for various Blocks targeting issuance to women and men. Template of new certificates designed and approved by the Chiefs for printing and issuance.

Outcome 2:

1. Mapping of existing land administration systems undertaken and recommendations to improve the systems made. The report has been finalized.
2. On the support to land occupancy certificates towards improved tenure security, a total of 787 cases have been registered. Of these, 650 cases will receive financial support to facilitate processing of their land tenure documentation, 90 cases (landless), are being reviewed further for land allocation and 47 cases are on individualized legal counselling on unclarified HLP issues. Also, 102 cases have been identified as those requiring legal representation in courts of law.
3. Capacity needs assessment for state officials on skill in gender responsive land administration undertaken, training manuals have been prepared.
4. ToRs for Technical Committee on Land Governance and Administration and criteria for identifying 1,500 beneficiaries have been finalized.
5. Method (SOLA/Open Tenure) to document women’s land rights agreed on, preparatory work and assessment of feasibility concluded, and procurement processes initiated.

Outcome 3:

1. Studies on gender responsive land dispute resolution; land management and baseline assessment finalized and used to give evidence-based information to inform land policy undertaken.
2. Preparatory work for 2-days legislative scrutiny workshops completed.
3. Terms of Reference developed and hiring of a Land Tenure Consultancy to conduct the analysis of the land policy and roadmap for its implementation?? Recruited.

Please indicate any significant project-related events anticipated in the next six months, i.e. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc. (1000-character limit):

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, Project activities planned to take place between March and November 2020 have been re-organised and most of them already implemented as per the covid-19 guidelines. However, two activities (exchange visit in other countries on gender sensitive land management; and on gender responsive dispute resolution) have been cancelled due to covid-19 travel restrictions. Further, due to the delay in the appointment of new GoSS officials into public offices, and the formation of the new parliament, some activities dependent on the passing of the draft national land policy have been delayed. Hence, the below activities are planned to be conducted in the coming months (with possibility for either physical or virtual sessions:

1. Training on Gender Responsive Land Disputes Resolution
2. Training on gender responsive land administration and management
3. A webinar on women land rights and sustaining peace in South Sudan
4. Implementation of Open Tenure (SOLA) in Wau
5. Parliamentary Scrutiny Workshop
6. Workshop on implementation of Land Policy convened for line ministries
7. Regional advocacy workshops
8. National awareness raising workshop on women's land rights

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarize **the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to**. This is not anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (1500-character limit):

In line with the project goal of consolidating peace in South Sudan through enhancing women access to land to ensure women, (including men), the Project focused on raising awareness among communities and traditional leaders (male and female) on women’s land rights and gender responsive land dispute resolution mechanisms to promote peaceful coexistence between and within communities; and enhance land administration. So far, the project surpassed its target of 4,000 beneficiaries to register approximately 4,500 (2,920 women, 1,580 men) beneficiaries reached through awareness campaigns and group information sessions; information that has influence community knowledge, attitude and behavious change on the rights of women especially IDPs and returnees to land. It is through these awareness campaigns that project beneficiaries have come out and accessed assistance such as processing of land documents (650 cases, see one of the success stories in the next section), access to legal counsel on different housing, land and property issues (47 cases) while others (102 cases) have had their cases referred for legal aid in pursuit for justice in courts of law. Others (90 cases) have been identified as lacking land (landless) and efforts are ongoing to establish how they can be assisted including new land allocation. Since the first case of covid-19 was reported in South Sudan, all the awareness campaigns have included key messages about covid-19 and mechanisms the community can adopt to curb its spread.

Traditional authorities have embraced the project and are slowly changing their perception on women ownership of land. To note, 30 chiefs in Wau have through this project developed standardized residential certificates to manage tenure relations in Wau; a key steps towards securing women’s land rights through joint registration and empowering women as key decision makers in event of land transfer through consent. Further, this project is facilitating discussing that will see the design of new land registration books to be kept by Chiefs for recording the issued residential certificates. The Mayor’s office in Wau and the State Ministry of Physical Infrastructure are also in support of these efforts. These efforts have far reaching institutional strengthening to better deliver land administration including improving transparency and accountability; and securing women’s land rights.

The Wau Technical Committee on Land Governance and Administration in Western Bahr el Ghazal State has been initiated and is aimed at achieving greater policy coherence and enhanced coordination and to promote the efficient exchange of information between various authorities engaged in land management, administration, and dispute resolution in Wau. The Terms of Reference (TORs) were finalized and are only pending approval by the Committee.

The technical capacity of key leaders involved in land policy development and land management from local to national levels was enhanced for better protection of women’s rights in policy and gender responsive land management. These trainings were designed and informed by surveys carried out by this project highlighting the the status of women’s rights to land, land management and land dispute resolution, role of key and gaps in protection of women’s rights. Knowledge, skills and tools acquired have transformed the perception of key officers on the link between women’s land rights and peace, poverty and vulnerability; and why land policy must address gender issues. This is evident in their commitment and support to efforts on this project.

The establishment of the information centres (5 physical and 7 mobile) has provided the much needed, one stop-shop for women and local communities who need support and information on land tenure rights, dispute resolution and legislative processes. These are staffed, and equipped with awareness materials to increase access to relevant information on women’s land rights and have staff who provide reference of land dispute cases and or support to the project team, relevant organisations and governmental institutions. Access to such services did not exist before the project, as available centres only provided inadequate information and lacked materials and information support on women’s land rights. This is one sustainable milestone realized in this project and continue to serve those most at risk of losing their land or furthest in terms of access to land institutions that could help them with information, legal aid and support.

The project facilitated consultation by parliamentarians, CSOs and women leaders on the development of the draft land policy in South Sudan; a process that provided key recommendations and policy propositions in favour of women’s land rights, and dispute resolution mechanisms. From this consultation and other technical reviews done on the draft policy with the support of the project team, the current draft national land policy provides for gender equality in access and control over land. Despite the process for completion of this policy still pends review and passing through parliament, its provisions on gender already gives impetus to securing women’s land rights and will help revolutionize how land is governed and administered in South. This has a positive bearing on both structural and system barriers to securing women’s land rights in South Sudan; with this policy expected to provide the legal base to secure land and property rights for all.

In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive **human impact**. May include anecdotal stories about the project’s positive effect on the people’s lives. Include direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000-character limit):

Through this project, women and men have been able to access information on land and enhanced capacity to improve secure land rights. The awareness campaigns, radio talk shows, community dialogues, open air information dissemination, call centres and information clinics have provided avenues where community can get assisted on land issues. The brief accounts below attempt to show how some of the beneficiaries’ lives have been changed positively and how their journey towards securing land rights has been shortened and made easier because of this project.

Case 1: Rosa Enyasion, a returnee and a 37-year-old widow and a mother of two sons and three daughters shares her story. *When my husband was still alive, I hoped he would one day acquire land for us. This did not happen especially after we were displaced to Sudan because of the protracted civil war in the South. When my husband died, I never thought of having property like land and at some point, I experienced complete hopelessness and I felt frustrated especially in terms of where I could settle with my family.*

When South Sudan became a state in 2011, Rosa returned from Khartoum to Wau. Luckily, Rosa and other returnees, who were identified as vulnerable, were allotted a piece of land by the government in New site, the Southern part of Wau. Despite being allotted this piece of land, she has been unable to process the documentation of her plot for the last 9 years due to her limited resources and vulnerability. Since she had no document to prove ownership of the land in New site, Rosa was worried that her land could be grabbed and illegally sold. *“I heard an announcement over the radio one day that Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is supporting vulnerable women on land ownership”* Rosa shares. Through this project’s support, and due diligence, Rosa confirmed the allotment and acquired the legal documents to prove ownership of the land. An excited and happy Rosa shares “*I am so delighted that I have got my legal documents. I am now free from the anxiety of having no land documents and can fully settle in my land and give my children a stable future*”

Case 2: Another beneficiary Lucia Thomas Garaza, 33 years old widow with six children tells her story.

“*I bought a plot in Aweil Jeded from the chief and stayed there for three years before the armed conflict of 2016. During the conflict, I ran to Protection of Civilian Adjacent Area (POCAA) in Wau. After the crisis, I got my residential certificate. I went to register my plot at the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure but was shocked to find that my neighbour had processed all the documents for my plot in his name. I went to the land dispute committee to report my case and seek assistance, but they kept telling me to come the next day. I think my neighbour was giving money to the people in the committee to silence my case. My friend who visited the information centre at the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure told me about this project and how it is helping vulnerable women. She directed me to the centre, and I am now getting support from the project to get my plot back”*.

Case 3: Ann Adam Joseph a 34-year old widow and mother of six children, is victim of land grab, she shares her story;

 *“I live in Hai Salaam with my mother on my late father’s land. The documents we have as proof of ownership were processed in 1977. Recently my neighbour processed new land document for the land without my knowledge. I have battled with my neighbour to get my land back in vain. I was almost giving up because my neighbour was using his powers to grab my land. Fortunately, I heard through the radio about a project targeting vulnerable women to secure their land. I immediately called the telephone numbers given during the radio talk show. As a result, my case has been forwarded to the land dispute committee with the support from the project. Although my case is not yet resolved, I am happy with the support I am receiving to secure my land.”*

**PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME**

*Describe overall progress under each Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration). Do not list individual activities. If the project is starting to make/has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context.*

* *“On track” refers to the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan.*
* *“On track with peacebuilding results” refers to higher-level changes in the conflict or peace factors that the project is meant to contribute to. These effects are more likely in mature projects than in newer ones.*

*If your project has more than four outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.*

**Outcome 1: Women’s groups have enhanced capacity to demand and secure accountability from government for women’s land rights and equitable access to land from traditional authorities and governments**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:** On track with peacebuilding results

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

Output 1.1 (Increased awareness among communities and traditional leaders)

Under the project review period, various information, education and communication (IEC) materials were designed, finalized and disseminated to increase awareness on women land rights. A total of 4,500 beneficiaries have been reached surpassing the target by 500 beneficiaries. Following the signing of the memoranda of understanding between NRC and Voice of Hope (FM radio station in Wau) regarding the hosting of radio talk shows and messaging on women land rights and gender responsive land disputes resolution, over 1000 men and women and youth have been reached. The radio talk shows are broadcast twice a day for one (1) hour with callers calling into the programme and getting to interact with the NRC project coordinator, Project officer and other stakeholders including: Director General for the Ministry of Gender, child and social welfare, Land Director for the Ministry of physical infrastructure and urban development, a lawyer representing the law firms taking up cases which require court representation, Sheikhs and community leaders. Additionally, promotional short messages and drama on housing, land and property issues were aired at intervals, on specific days in English, Arabic and in local dialects including Dinka, Jur-chol and Balanda. A call center to aid on legal counseling has been opened with two active phones provided with hotline numbers. These run from 8 am to 5 pm and are manned by legal counselors who advise callers on land issues. A total of 5 physical information centres at the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Urban Development, Ministry of Gender, Child and Social welfare, Women Association Office, Nazareth collective Site, and Protection of Civilians Adjacent Area were established and equipped, as well as 7 mobile centres to act as information clinics/centres. These were also provided with well trained counsellors to handle the different cases brought in by the community.

Output 1.2 (Enhanced skills and understanding of traditional authorities and their leaders on gender responsive land dispute resolution)

A training needs assessment and capacity mapping of women and men leaders was undertaken in Juba and Wau for both National and State officers, traditional authorities and leaders and women groups. Training tools on gender responsive tools were developed and shared among partners and stakeholders for consensus. Local dialogue with community leaders/ customary leaders/women have been held with land leadership structures and land authorities. During this reporting period, four community dialogues have been conducted reaching approximately 83 persons community leaders (42 female and 41 males) to increase the understanding of the gender responsive land dispute resolution. In addition, 2 training sessions were held to enhance skills and understanding of community leaders where 60 beneficiaries were reached (38 Females, 22 Males). Further, 2 Collaborative Dispute resolution skills (CDR) trainings reaching 40 participants (among whom 21 were females and 19 were males) and 3 specific trainings on Housing, land and property rights reaching 61 participants among whom 39 were females while 22 were males were conducted. Each training was attended by 15-20 participants in compliance with covid-19 measures. The CDR training was for three days while that of HLP was for two days. The participants of these two activities were drawn the Ministry of physical infrastructure, local associations, community leaders/sheiks, youth and women’s groups.

Output 1.3 (Land documentation to improve tenure security for women),

A survey to review the existing system of documentation at the traditional and state levels was carried out to understand documentation requirements and propose their improvements to enhance tenure security to women and men. During this reporting period, a total of 787 cases have been registered at both the static and mobile counselling centres, of which 650 cases will be receiving financial assistance from the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Urban Development in processing their documents to attain security of tenure. A total of 90 cases were identified in need of land (landless) and 47 cases were on individualised legal counselling on unclarified housing, land and property issues. Besides registered cases, 102 cases have been registered as complex cases that require representation in the courts of law. The Project through NRC has contracted reliable law firms that handle land issue cases to follow up and establish how the persons can be assisted. Additionally, the Project has worked on standardizing Residential Certificates for local leaders in an exercise that has engaged 30 chiefs in designing an improved and standardized Certificate to be issued to women and men for submission to the relevant State Ministry to process tenure documentation.

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome: (1000 character limit)**

From the onset, this Project has been implemented with a gender equality and women’s empowerment focus which includes ensuring women and men are equally and fairly represented in all project activities and that project messaging is tailored towards improving women access to land and breaking the barriers that exist such as repressive social norms that impede upon achieving good land governance. Within this reporting period, several activities such as the collaborative dispute resolution skills (CDR) trainings, HLP trainings, community dialogues among others have ensured balanced participation of women and men as reported earlier in the report. Participants in these sessions were drawn from the Ministry of physical infrastructure, local associations, community leaders/sheiks, youth and women’s groups. Further, the project has managed to reach 4,500 beneficiaries of which 2,920 are women, and 1,580 are men. During the radio talk shows, women, men and the youth equally called in to inquire on various land issues to the panellists who included NRC staff and Director General for the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Land Director for the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Urban Development, a lawyer representing the law firms taking up cases which require court representation, sheikhs and community leaders. Also, youth and women participated in dramatization of skits and jingles that were aired on radio or done face to face (while observing covid-19 measures) to increase awareness on women land rights.

**Outcome 2: Improved land management and more gender responsive administrative system at state and county level, and reform of land policy at national level, facilitate/enhance secure access and ability of women to negotiate tenure security for the most vulnerable women groups returning from IDP camps**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On track**

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

Output 2.1 (Enhanced skills and understanding on gender sensitive land management, land administration and land dispute resolution for Government officials at national, state and local level)

Under this review period, a total of 51 (36 females while 15 were males) government officials including local government officials, Quarters’ local land committees, and other project stakeholders, i.e. community leaders, youth and women’s leadership were engaged in seminars on women land rights to enhance skills and understanding on gender sensitive land management, land administration and land dispute resolution in line with the Land Act 2009 and the draft national land policy yet to be approved by the new government. On the same vein, government officials including Director General for the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, Land Director for the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Urban Development were among the key panellists that engaged and discussed with callers during the radio talk shows on women’s land rights and on gender responsive dispute resolution mechanisms. This way, they elaborated on the provisions of women land rights as provided by the legislation of South Sudan and guided on the criterion of allocating land to landless women and other vulnerable groups (Internally Displaced People and returnees).

As reported in the preceding section, a total of 787 cases were registered among which 90 identified as ‘landless’. The Project partners have engaged with the state and local authorities to adopt a methodology for allocating land to landless women in a participatory planning land allocation process. Further, a criterion was designed and finalized on how to identify vulnerable women to receive financial support at the State Ministry of Infrastructure and Urban Development for processing of their land tenure documents. This is in line with the 650 registered cases as reported under Output 1.3.2

A survey on skills of government officials at national, state, county, and payam was done, with findings, recommendations, tools to enhance their skills established. A training curriculum, materials, and programme on gender sensitive land dispute resolution have been developed and shared with partners for improvement and/or finalization. However, the actual physical training has not been conducted due to government measures against the spread of covid-19. The training is planned to take place before the close of the project. Further, exchange visits on gender sensitive land management and on gender responsive land dispute resolutions have been cancelled because they involve international travel which is very difficult due to the covid-19 pandemic.

Output 2.2 (Participatory review of existing land management and administration system to identify the obstacles faced by women to access land)

Within this reporting period, a survey to identify relevant tools to elaborate land administration systems in government offices was carried out and the report is now finalized. The survey revealed that the government of South Sudan has an established legal framework for land and natural resources management and administration at all levels of government, but there exists gaps and overlaps in the laws. It goes on to recommend the need to address the gaps in legislation and to fully implement the law by developing operational manuals and service charters for all the land administration services, to not only reduce overlaps of functions but also promote interagency coordination and ultimately enhance service delivery. Additionally, a course curriculum on responsible land governance was developed with the target group being land governance officials at the national, state and local levels in South Sudan. The course introduces the concept of governance in relation to land, identifies gaps and overlaps in the land administration systems in South Sudan, elaborates on the understanding of the fundamental principles of gender responsive land administration and management. It also elaborates on various innovative land tools and approaches such as the continuum of land rights, participatory enumeration, gender evaluation criteria etc. Due to the covid-19 pandemic and the resultant government measures to curb the spread of the virus, actual training of government officials on the ground has not been possible. The training will be followed by the elaboration of land tenure tools through designing of service charters, system reforms and process manuals with Ministry of Physical Infrastructure staff. The project plans to carry out the training in the coming months as the covid-19 measures are eased.

Output 2.3 (State Ministry of Physical Infrastructure is more gender responsive to allocate land to landless women)

A Technical Committee (TC) on Land Governance and Administration in Western Bahr el Ghazal State, which acts as a project steering committee was established and in early Feb 2020. The first coordination meeting was also held. The TC will work within existing legal governance frameworks and with existing land management institutions. It does not seek to replace any existing mechanism but serve as a coordination body for activities foreseen under this project. It aims to achieve greater policy coherence and enhance coordination and promoting the efficient exchange of information between various authorities engaged in land management, administration, and dispute resolution in Wau. Its own terms of reference were finalized and need only final approval by the Committee.

Dialogues with the Deputy Governor of Wau State, and Minister of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare on allocation of land to women have been held with a positive response to support the process were held. The Project has also paid a courtesy call to the new Governor of Western Bahr el Ghazal State formerly Wau State, Hon. Sarah Cleto Hassan to brief her of the Project and seek her support henceforth.

Open Tenure, an open source software designed by FAO to help communities to better govern their natural resources will be used to test the gender responsive community mapping and documentation of land tenure rights.

The sustained restrictions implemented by the Government to reduce the spread of COVID-19 have been upheld throughout the reporting period and continue to affect project implementation on the ground. These restrictions have affected implementation of the Open Tenure component in that FAO’s Open Tenure Specialist was unable to travel to Juba and the documentation exercise in the field could not be conducted. In addition, procurement processes have also been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 situation, which also affected the operational efficiency of suppliers and the speed at which procured goods are being delivered.

However, preparatory meetings have taken place to evaluate how the implementation of Open Tenure could proceed with a remote 7-days capacitation training for the user of the system. The tablets for the documentation are expected in due time and installation will be done at FAO HQ in Juba. In view of the short time remaining, and the continued restrictions FAO decided to hold a Training of Trainers, which is currently in planning and aims at building up knowledge of the software at the local level.

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(1000 character limit)*

To enhance gender equality and youth inclusion, the training sessions carried out under this outcome have ensured to balance the participants and give equal representation on gender as reported above (2.1). Further, the project adapted a participatory planning land allocation criterion that has been used to identify over 600 beneficiaries to receive financial support in the processing of land documents from the Ministry of Lands and Physical Infrastructure.

In response to surveys carried out on engendering land disputes resolution, and Land Administration and Management in Wau, two training curricula have been developed on i) Gender responsive land dispute resolution, and ii) Land Administration and Management pending actual trainings after COVID 19. The curriculum on gender responsive land management and administration gives focus to equity in access to land rights for women, men and the youth as well as on how to improve land management and remove barriers that hinder women and the youth in accessing land administration services. Likewise, identification of the participants for the trainings will ensure gender balance and will include the youth too. Focus is also on ensuring participation of these key groups from the local to national level to enhance their understanding on equity in access of land rights and to learn together through discussions so as to come up with effective solutions for gender responsive land management.

**Outcome 3: Policy makers provide effective, strategic, support for gender**

**responsive land policies.**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On track**

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

Output 3.1 (Draft Land Policy reviewed to make it more gender responsive)

In January 2020, the Parliamentary Land Committee received a final version of the Draft Land Policy, which it distributed among Members of Parliament for scrutiny. The second reading of the policy was tabled, but no session dedicated to the policy has taken place to date (due to the extension of the pre-transitional phase under the peace agreement, that led to a re-constitution of the South Sudanese Government and a disbandment of the National Parliament). It is unclear if the draft will be re-tabled or if the request by the Ministry of Land to withdraw the Land Policy will be granted. Engagement with both the Parliamentary Land Committee and the Ministry are ongoing in order to support them in the process that will be chosen (i.e. identify entry points to support the Ministry; analyse practical steps to address and solve contentious issues; and/or support further consultation, if required).

Output 3.2 (Enhanced commitment among national actors for implementation of gender responsive land policies)

Since the inception of the project, extensive support has been provided through various workshops and write-ups; with more awareness campaigns and workshops for different groups of stakeholders planned. Delays in the finalization of the policy process, including the formation of a new pre-transitional government and COVID-19 restrictions have also forced delays in implementing awareness campaigns, workshops and conferences.

Preparatory activities for the implementation of the Land Policy include:

* preparation of outreach and awareness materials;
* shifting focus of Outcome 3 to more analytical activities, such as drafting a follow-up plan of actions that need to be taken and laws that need to be drafted and reviews to fully implement the provisions of the draft land policy, and ensure continued policy support to national level actors, including the Undersecretary in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and the Chair of the Parliamentary Land Committee; and
* finalisation and approval of Terms of Reference for the two-day Parliamentary Scrutiny Workshop on parliamentary scrutiny functions, procedures, and best practices to ensure that existing land legislation is amended to reflect the land rights and reforms set out in the Land Policy and to strengthen parliamentary oversight and scrutiny capacities.

The Project has finalized on the Terms of Reference for a Land Tenure Consultancy and a consultant recruited to conduct the analysis and deliver a roadmap for the implementation of the draft national land policy by recommending steps that need to be taken to realize full implementation of the policy. The report will include an extensive analysis on what additional laws will have to be drafted and what mechanisms will have to be put in place to ensure that the Draft Land Policy (DLP) can be fully implemented and its provisions made effective. The overall objective of the consultancy is to produce a report that addresses these questions and contributes towards the strengthening of the legal frameworks related to land in South Sudan and the implementation of the provisions in South Sudan’s Land Policy. Further, the report aims at answering questions on the way forward and provide actors with a strategy on how future engagement in Housing, Land and Property issues could look like. The report will also serve as a communication tool, a high-level document that helps articulate strategic thinking behind both the goal and the plan for getting there.

The report shall also dedicate an analysis of practicable solutions to track the implementation of the Land Policy and provide methodological solutions to do so, for various parts of the Land Policy, including qualitative and quantitative indicators, if possible.

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(1000 character limit)*

The project reports from the surveys on the baseline on the status of women’s rights to land, gender responsive land dispute resolution and land management provided factual information used as evidence on the need to improve the land policy to enhance protection of women’s rights. The reports were shared and discussed with key policy makers and further key government officials for their scrutiny, reference and to garner support for its adoption.

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000-character limit)Within this reporting period the project has employed the use of online meetings with the project partners to monitor project progress. This was necessitated by the covid-19 pandemic and the resultants measures taken to prevent the spread of the virus. Project officers were obligated to remain in their duty stations and any field activities were not permissible since the first case was reported in South Sudan early April this year. Project activities requiring large numbers of people and travel to project sites went into a halt since April. During this period, the Project adopted innovative approaches to ensure project continuity. One progress narrative and financial report was also submitted to PBF to report on activity performance in June. | Do outcome indicators have baselines? YesHas the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? Yes |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?No | Evaluation budget (response required): 105,000.00If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500 character limit)*: The project has been documenting data pertinent to the evaluation exercise that will be used as and when it takes place.  |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project.  | Name of funder: Amount:                                  |
| **Other:** Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(1500 character limit)* |       |

**PART IV: COVID-19**

*Please respond to these questions if the project underwent any monetary or non-monetary adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

1. Monetary adjustments: Please indicate the total amount in USD of adjustments due to COVID-19:

$

1. Non-monetary adjustments: Please indicate any adjustments to the project which did not have any financial implications:

The Project has requested for a no-cost extension to ensure there is sufficient time to implement some of the pending activities that have been affected by the covid-19 pandemic. Also, some activities dependent on the adoption of the draft national land policy have had to be postponed because of the delay in the appointment of new government officials in respective offices.

The project has also had to adjust to adopt to the covid-19 measures put in place by the government to curb the spread of the virus which included downscaling on some activities that required many number of people and to innovatively implement on other activities. For instance, some activities were done twice or thrice to meet the target numbers while strictly observing the social distancing and the wearing of masks. To disseminate information to large groups of people, the project utilized radio awareness and open-air campaigns with megaphones. A call centre was also made operational and the community was encouraged to call in and seek assistance on housing, land and property issues. In addition to this, bulk messaging was done in the town through big banners placed on 7 billboards hired from the Town Municipality and located along the main roads indicating key messages on the project. The billboards also included hotline numbers for women in need to receive free mobile legal counselling and legal assistance. These campaigns served to sensitize the community on the covid-19 pandemic and ways in which to prevent the spread of the virus.

1. Please select all categories which describe the adjustments made to the project (*and include details in general sections of this report*):

[ ]  Reinforce crisis management capacities and communications

[ ]  Ensure inclusive and equitable response and recovery

[ ]  Strengthen inter-community social cohesion and border management

[ ]  Counter hate speech and stigmatization and address trauma

[ ]  Support the SG’s call for a global ceasefire

[ ]  Other (please describe):

If relevant, please share a COVID-19 success story of this project (*i.e. how adjustments of this project made a difference and contributed to a positive response to the pandemic/prevented tensions or violence related to the pandemic etc.*)

The project adjusted in terms of implementation of activities following the government measures put in place to prevent the spread of the covid-19 virus. This involved downscaling on the target numbers to ensure that the local community is not exposed to situations that could cause an increase in the infections. Activities that could otherwise be done at one go such as community dialogues, housing, land and property seminars and collaborative dispute resolution skills training had to be done in two or three sessions. This meant that project messaging on increasing awareness among communities and traditional leaders on women land rights and gender responsive land dispute resolution mechanisms was an ongoing process even during such a time when most social activities were at a halt in Wau. Radio talk shows provided a platform to large numbers of community members and the project stakeholders to interact and discuss on the understanding of gender sensitive land management, land administration and land dispute resolution in line with the Land Act 2009 as well as the legal provisions in the draft national land policy that is yet to be adopted. The project also established a call centre with active phones provided with hotline numbers operated by legal counsellors who would provide legal counselling on HLP specific cases as well as referral for appropriate support and interventions. These were operational between 8 am to 5 pm. The use of billboards along the busy main roads to disseminate project information further enhanced there was no vacuum with regards to where the community could seek assistance on HLP issues, access free legal counselling and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. In these activities therefore, the Project has contributed to social cohesion through constant sensitization of housing, land, and property rights and by providing avenues where community can access information thus cultivating peace and preventing conflicts at the grassroots. In addition, the project emphasized on prevention of covid-19 by incorporating messages in all awareness campaigns to sensitize the community on this such as social distancing, washing of hands, wearing of masks etc.

**PART V: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

*Using the* ***Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments****- provide an update on the achievement of* ***key indicators*** *at both the outcome and output level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight). Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation.* Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (300 characters max per entry)

|  | **Performance Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator Milestone** | **Current indicator progress** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay****(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome 1**Women’s groups have enhanced capacity to demand and secure accountability from government for women’s land rights and equitable access to land from traditional authorities and governments | Indicator 1.1Number of Women who get access to land by having land occupancy certificate in a gender responsive land dispute resolution mechanism by the traditional authorities’ leaders | 0 | 1,500 |       | 650 | The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted negatively on the number of women to be reached; the project has had to downscale on some operations in line with government directives.Changes in the leadership of the State government have caused a delay in the processing of land documents  |
| Indicator 1.2Number of Women leaders who participated and claimed women’s rights in land disputes resolution meeting/committee with their traditional authorities | 0 | 200 |       | 194 | The training curriculum on Gender responsive land dispute resolution was developed but the actual training is yet to happen due to COVID -19 restrictions. The consultant to conduct the training is based in Kenya and with travel restrictions in place, the project has explored online training. However, due to poor internet infrastructure in Wau, the project has decided to carry out a physical training once the environment is conducive for this.Some community dialogues with leaders have been held, both face to face and by the use of radio talk shows although with lesser numbers than the target as reported in Outcome 1 above. |
| Indicator 1.3% of traditional leaders, Women leaders and communities performed gender responsive land dispute resolution that enhanced women’s access to land | 0 | 50% |       | 47% | The full accomplishment of this target is dependent upon the training on gender responsive land dispute resolution which was postponed due to the COVID 19 pandemic. |
| Output 1.1Increasing awareness among communities and traditional leaders (male and female) on Women’s Land rights, Gender responsive land dispute resolution mechanism | Indicator 1.1.1% of women and men aware about women’s land rights | 0 | 75% |       | 100% | The project has surpassed the target set under this indicator which was 4,000 beneficiaries to reach 4,500 beneficiaries. During the months following the covid-19 outbreak in South Sudan, the project adopted innovative ways to reach masses while observing measures put in place by the government. These included the use of mega phones to disseminate project information in the grassroots, distribution of IEC materials, use of billboards stationed on main roads with key messages on the project, broadcasting programs through the radio and engaging callers to ensure they understand issues on women land rights, legal provisions as per the 2009 land Act and the draft national land policy. A call center to aid on legal counseling was also opened with two active phones provided with hotline numbers.  |
| Indicator 1.1.2% of the leaders (male and female) from traditional authorities are aware on Women’s land rights and Gender responsive land dispute resolution mechanism | 0 | 80% |       | 70% | Awareness campaigns targeting traditional leaders were scaled down due to COVID 19 outbreak, (radio talk shows and community dialogues with fewer persons)The training on gender responsive land dispute resolution is yet to be conducted to ensure the full accomplishment of this target.  |
| Output 1.2Enhanced skills and understanding of traditional authorities and their leaders (female and male) on gender responsive land dispute resolution | Indicator 1.2.1% of targeted women involved in land related dispute management | 0 | 50% |       | 40% | The training curriculum on gender responsive land dispute resolution has been developed but the actual training was postponed due to the out of COVID 19 and social distancing. |
| Indicator 1.2.2# of women leaders and their male counterparts with enhanced understanding, skills and received training | 0 | 300 (50% female and 50% male).  |  | 108 females and 66 males. | As reported above, the training on gender responsive land dispute resolution was postponed due to covid-19 pandemic. |
| Output 1.3Land occupancy certificate obtained from the traditional authorities for the women headed households | Indicator 1.3.1# of women who have received land occupancy certificates | 0 | 1,500 |       | 650 | A list of 650 beneficiaries has been submitted to the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure to be supported financially in the processing of land tenure documents.Changes in the leadership of state government has caused delay in processing of these documents. Additionally, covid-19 pandemic meant the closure of all public offices for a while. |
| Indicator 1.3.2of women who have received financial support | 0 | 1,500 |  | 650 | A total of 650 beneficiaries have been identified and the list submitted to State Ministry of Physical Infrastructure for financial support in the processing of land documents.Changes in the leadership of state government has caused delay in processing of these documents. Additionally, covid-19 pandemic meant the closure of all public offices for a while. |
| Indicator 1.3.3# of women received legal support | 0 | 500 |  | 138 (91 from previous report +47 current) | 138 beneficiaries have received individualized legal counselling on unclarified housing, land and property issues.Besides that, a total of 102 cases were identified as ‘complex’ to require representation courts of law. These have been contracted to reliable law firms with track records of handling land cases. |
| **Outcome 2**Improved land management and more gender responsive administrative system at state and county level, and reform of land policy at national level, facilitate/enhance secure access and ability of women to negotiate tenure security for the most vulnerable women groups returning from IDP camps  | Indicator 2.1Number of Women Headed IDPs & Returnees resettled with secure land title  | 0 | 1000 |       | 650 | A total of 650 beneficiaries have been identified to receive financial in the processing of land tenure documents.The COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying restrictions have slowed down the provision of group services. Also, government offices including Ministry of Physical Infrastructure have limited the working hours hence causing delays in achieving full target under this indicator. |
| Indicator 2.2Gender inclusive land management system in place that facilitate most vulnerable women’s access to land | 0 | Establishment at State and County level. |       | 1 | The technical Committee on Land Governance and Administration in Western Bahr el Ghazal State was established. The terms of references were also finalized.The establishment of county level committee has been delayed due to lack of existing government structures dealing with land in the counties. |
| Indicator 2.3Amount of land allocated from the government to resettle IDPs | 0 | 2 hectares |       |       |       |
| Output 2.1Enhanced skills and understanding on gender sensitive land management, land administration and land dispute resolution in line with land act 2009 of Government officials working at national, state and local level  | Indicator 2.1.1Gender inclusive land management system and land dispute resolution mechanisms in place at State Government and Local authorities | 0 | State and county level |       |       | The technical Committee on Land Governance and Administration in Western Bahr el Ghazal State was established. The terms of references were also finalized.The establishment of county level committee has been delayed due to lack of existing government structures dealing with land in the counties. |
| Indicator 2.1.2# of Government officials enhanced their skills and understanding on gender sensitive/responsive land management and administration | 0 | 100 |  | 40 | A total of 40 government officials have been trained and 30 identified for the next training in the coming months. The number is lesser than the target set because the training is most likely to take place during the covid-19 phase, once most of the restrictions are eased.The training curriculum was developed but the actual training will take place on a later date as observed above. |
| Indicator 2.1.3Land tenure tools at state level in place with specific relevance for Women headed IDPs and returnees |  0 | 1 guideline published |  |  | A guideline on land tenure tools to enhance women's access to land based on the survey was developed. |
| Output 2.2Existing land management and administration system reviewed to identify the obstacles faced by women to access land and recommendations provided to make it more gender responsive | Indicator 2.2.1Existing land management and administration system reviewed, and recommendation provided | 0 | 1 report |       | 1 report | A comprehensive review of land administration & management systems in South Sudan was undertaken and the report has been finalized. |
| Indicator 2.2.2Gender inclusive land tenure tools developed | 0 | 0 |  | 4 | Gender inclusive land tools have been customized in the context of Wau South Sudan to enhance women's access to land rights and include the gender evaluation criteria; transparency in land administration: fit-for-purpose land administration and open source land administration software.The project has also been engaged in the designing of standardized residential certificates to be used in Wau and issued by the Chiefs to manae tenure relations. A total of 30 chiefs participated in these discussions. The project is also discussing the design of the registration books to be kept by Chiefs for recording the issued residential certificates. The Mayor’s office in Wau and the State Ministry of Physical Infrastructure are also in support of these efforts in conformity with enhancing their support to implement gender responsive land polices in South Sudan. |
| Indicator 2.2.3% of women involved in participatory planning process for land allocation | 1% | 70% |  | 30% | Women have been involved in the formation of a technical committee on land allocation and the formed committee ensures women's participation through inclusion of women leaders, women groups and a mandatory percentage of women in the committee panel. |
| Output 2.3Ministry of Land, Physical Infrastructure and Governor’s office at state level is more gender responsive to allocate land for land Less Women Headed HH (IDPs, returnees) | Indicator 2.3.1Numbers of women have access to land through gender sensitive land allocation process. | 500 |  |       | 650 | A total of 650 beneficiaries will be supported financially by the Ministry of Lands and Physical Infrastructure to process their land tenure documents  |
| Indicator 2.3.2Number of women involved in gender sensitive land allocation process | 0 | 200 |  | 65 | Women were involved in the formation of a technical committee on land allocation and the formed committee ensures women's participation through inclusion of women leaders, women groups and a mandatory percentage of women in the committee panel.5 women leaders were also involved in the discussions on a criteria that is gender sensitive to the land allocation process on allocating women Residential Certificates through the local authority. |
| Indicator 2.3.3Gender sensitive participatory land allocation process in place and implemented | 0 | 1 |  | 1 | A gender sensitive participatory allocation process was identified through a workshop in Wau and a scoping mission conducted to assess viability of using innovative land administration solutions (Social Tenure Domain Model-STDM). Also, a site to test this was identified, and a questionnaire developed for mapping and enumeration. However, the project decided to implement the Open Tenure (SOLA) tool in place of the STDM. Due to the covid-19 pandemic, this has not yet occurred but preliminary activities are underway. |
| **Outcome 3**Policy makers provide effective, strategic support for gender responsive land policies. | Indicator 3.1Draft gender responsive land policy prepared for tabling in parliament | N/A | Draft national land policy |       | 1 | Support was provided through the Project on drafting a gender responsive land policy through the Women's Workshop and Workshop for parliamentarians where protection of women's rights to land were prioritized and discussed. The suggestions were shared with the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for adoption in the Policy. Delay in formation of national level government coupled with COVID-19 outbreak slow down the progress of the land policy. |
| Indicator 3.2# of women engaged in workshop and other dialogue on gender responsive land policy | 0 | 50 |       | 220 | Achieved |
| Output 3.1Draft National Land Policy reviewed, and recommendations madeto make it more gender responsive. | Indicator 3.1.1Consensus reached on recommendations for gender responsive land policy. | 0 | Workshop report and participants’ list |       | Workshop report and participant list available | Workshop was held and consensus reached on gender protections in the land policy, a report detailing this is available  |
| Indicator 3.1.2Consultant’s report accepted as working draft by Parliamentary land committee. | 0 | 1 |  | 1 | The project supported the Parliamentary Workshop on the Draft Land Policy, and the consultant's report was finalized and submitted  |
| Indicator 3.1.3Number of women and men received training and contribute to draft gender sensitive land laws | 0 | 50 |  |  | Delay in formation of national level government coupled with COVID-19 outbreak stopped the discussion on and progress of the draft land policy.Workshop TORs drafted, but postponed due to COVID 19-restrictions. |
| Output 3.2Enhanced commitment among national and state actors for implementation of gender responsive land policies | Indicator 3.2.1Number of actors supported implementation of gender responsive land policies | 0 | 1000 |       |       | Implementation of the land policy has been delayed due to the postponement of adoption of the Land Policy by Parliament and the restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The Project partners will facilitate dialogue between Parliament and the Ministry of Lands to resolve the stalemate and reach consensus on adoption and implementation of the Land Policy  |
| Indicator 3.2.2Number of women and men aware on gender sensitive land policies and legal framework | 0 | 300 |  | 108 | Workshops to enhance awareness on gender sensitive land policies held with support of the project for women and parliamentarians. A workshop on strengthening parliamentary scrutiny in South Sudan planned, Workshop TORs drafted, but postponed due to COVID 19-restrictions. |
| Indicator 3.2.3Number of meetings held where women’s land rights and access issues are discussed | 0 | 14 |  | 20 | Meetings were held at the inception phase of the project to discuss women's land rights with government officials at national and State level, women groups and leaders and at the inception workshop. Further meetings were held at the women and parliamentary workshops. The surveys on the baseline, gender responsive land management and land dispute resolution held focused group discussions and meetings on women access to land rights with relevant stakeholders in government, local leaders, women groups and leaders. The Review Workshop held to review the land management system focused on women's access to land, the reports are available  |